



Responding to growth

2019 CITY BUDGET

Roads, firefighters, and upgraded utilities are included in the fiscal year 2019 budget approved by City Council on Sept. 11. The proposed spending plan maintains the current tax rate while preparing the City for the incredible growth that is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

The City's property tax rate will remain 42 cents per \$100 of valuation. This is one of the lowest rates in Central Texas. However as home values continue to rise, the average homeowner will pay approximately \$57 more in property taxes to the City that will go directly towards improving Georgetown's quality of life.

Fire Station No. 7, located near Hwy. 29 and Inner Loop, is under design, and 14 new firefighters will be hired to help maintain response times across the City. This budget also includes the widening of three roadways; Leander Road, Southwestern Boulevard, and SE Inner Loop. The City is also planning to construct a new parking garage at Sixth and Main streets and a new parking lot across from the Public Library.

There will be a \$1.35 increase in the monthly wastewater fee to help cover the cost of new wastewater lines, expanding a treatment plant, and reducing our environmental impacts on the aquifer. While purchased power costs are fixed, this year the City will increase the monthly base electric charge to cover costs related to needed improvements in the electric system, including replacing poles, relocating electric lines, and increasing system capacity. Georgetown electric customers will see an increase of \$4.80 on their monthly bills, helping Georgetown maintain one of the most reliable electric systems in the state.

The City is also taking steps to plan for the future. The budget includes 31 new positions to enhance information technology security, expand the business process improvement team, as well as new parks maintenance. Resources for planning, permitting, and engineering to help respond to the City's growth are also included, as well as increases to financial reserves across the City and the first full year of operations for Garey Park.

The total budget is \$354 million and is available at finance.georgetown.org.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

City offices are closed Nov. 22-23.

No solid waste or recycling pickup on Nov. 22. Thursday pickup slides to Friday, Friday slides to Saturday.



San Gabriel Park Phase 1 complete, Phase 2 begins

The City broke ground on Phase 2 of improvements to San Gabriel Park in September while also celebrating the completion of the first phase of improvements. Phase 2 of the San Gabriel Park project includes a new basketball court, restrooms at the disc golf course, two new playgrounds and swings, additional pavilions, road improvements, restoration of two existing springs, and trail improvements.

The \$4.2 million Phase 2 project is expected to be completed in summer 2019.

CITY EVENTS

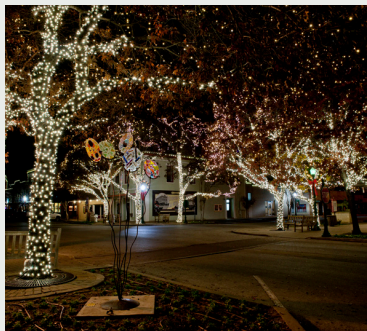


Best of Georgetown, TX NOV. 6

The winners of the Best of Georgetown, TX contest will be announced on Tuesday, Nov. 6, at 6 p.m. at the Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel and Conference Center, 1101 Woodlawn Ave. The list of winners will also be posted at Bestof.Georgetown.org.

Community Thanksgiving NOV. 22

Community Thanksgiving will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 22. A Thanksgiving meal will be served, free of charge, to 500 people at two locations. A sit-down dinner as well as boxed take-out meals will be served at the Georgetown Community Center, 445 E. Morrow St., and the Georgetown Housing Authority—Community Activity Learning Center, 210-B W. 18th St. Community Thanksgiving is planned and supported by the City of Georgetown Police and Fire departments, Georgetown Public Library, Alycia Tandy's Do Yourself a Flavor Catering, CJ's Catering and The Salvation Army of Williamson County. Meals are open to the public and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact the organizing committee at gtxthanksgiving@gmail.com.



Lighting of the Square NOV. 23

See the Most Beautiful Town Square in Texas at its holiday finest for this annual tradition on Friday, Nov. 23, the day after Thanksgiving. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. Sing along to Christmas carols and enjoy free cookies and hot chocolate as Georgetown lights up the Courthouse Square for the holiday season. The lights around the Square are supported by Georgetown Utility Systems, your community-owned utility.

Be a hero! Shop small! NOV. 24

Shoppers will have the chance to Shop Small with local merchants during the annual Small Business Saturday event on Saturday, Nov. 24. This year's theme celebrates how you can be a hero to a small business, by shopping local this holiday season. The day will kick off at 10 a.m. at the Georgetown Visitors Center, 103 W. Seventh St., where shoppers can pick up shopping bags, giveaways and compete for prizes. Shoppers are encouraged to dress the part and have fun while shopping small.

Red Poppy Artwork

The City of Georgetown Convention and Visitors Bureau is seeking entries of original artwork for promotional use for the 2019 Red Poppy Festival Poster. The artwork selected will be featured in a poster and promotional pieces for the festival and street banners on the Square. The artist will retain ownership rights to their artwork. There is a \$500 cash award for the artist selected. The deadline for artwork is Nov. 16. For details, go to RedPoppyFestival.com.

Daylight saving time ends Nov. 4

A message from the Georgetown Fire Department and Georgetown Utility Systems: It's time to change your smoke alarm batteries and irrigation system battery.



Rivery Boulevard extension breaks ground

City of Georgetown officials celebrated the groundbreaking for the Rivery Boulevard extension in August. The new segment will extend from the north end of the existing Rivery Boulevard at Williams Drive to Northwest Boulevard. The \$5.1 million project, approved by voters in the 2015 road bond, is expected to be completed in summer 2019.

#TurnItOff! Don't water down Georgetown

Did you know that turning off your automatic sprinkler system from Halloween to St. Patrick's Day can save you some serious green? And we're not talking about grass. Grasses are dormant in the winter months and don't need extra watering to make it until spring. For more information, call (512) 930-3640 or visit gus.georgetown.org.