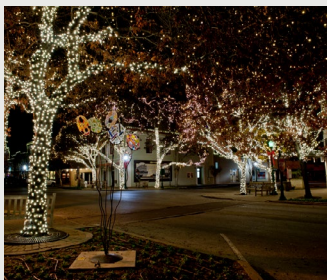


**LIGHTING OF THE SQUARE***{Details in City Events}***CITY EVENTS****Daylight Saving Time****ENDS NOV. 3**

Time to change your smoke alarm batteries and irrigation system battery.

Lighting of the Square**NOV. 29**

See the Most Beautiful Town Square in Texas at its holiday finest for this annual tradition on Friday, Nov. 29. 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.

**City budget focused on quality of life and safety**

Maintaining the safety and quality of life of our community as the City continues to grow are key themes of the proposed fiscal year 2020 budget plan for the City of Georgetown.

The City's property tax rate will be 42 cents per \$100 of property valuation. This is one of the lowest rates in Central Texas. However, home values continue to rise, so the average homeowner will pay approximately \$30 more in property taxes to the City.

New initiatives in the budget include parks projects such as the design of Phase 3 improvements to San Gabriel Park, Parks Master Plan updates, Heritage Community Gardens upgrades, as well as mobility projects including widening Leander Road from Norwood Drive to Southwest Bypass and widening Southwestern Boulevard from Raintree Drive to SE Inner Loop. The next phase of sidewalk improvements and continued funding for GoGeo transit are also included. Construction on the Northwest Boulevard bridge over I-35 funded in 2019 will continue in 2020.

Other initiatives in the City's utilities included in the 2020 budget are a new energy portfolio management contract, a new risk management policy, and a new general manager for the electric utility. The expansion of the Lake Water Treatment Plant water intake, a Round Rock supply pump station and ground storage tank, the Stonewall Ranch pump station, and other line upgrades are also included in the budget. Major wastewater projects include the next phase of the Berry Creek wastewater line, the San Gabriel wastewater line, and rehabilitation of the San Gabriel Wastewater Treatment Plant, and other lift station and line upgrades.

New public safety positions funded in the budget include two patrol officers, a community engagement officer, two communications operators, a digital forensics investigator, a code enforcement officer, and a fire protection engineer. Other new positions include a new director of community services to add focus to animal services, code enforcement, and emergency management; a director of communication and public engagement; staff for the Visitors Center, purchasing, and the Georgetown Public Library; and program managers for performance management, business improvement, and staff training. The 2020 budget includes a total of 15.5 new positions compared to 30 in the 2019 budget.

No rate changes are proposed for water, wastewater, electric, or drainage utilities. A 75 cent increase in the monthly solid waste and recycling fee for residential customers is proposed to reflect increased operational costs by Texas Disposal Systems.

The total budget is \$437 million and is available at finance.georgetown.org.

CITY EVENTS



Best of Georgetown, TX

NOV. 4

The winners of the Best of Georgetown, TX contest will be announced on Monday, Nov. 4, at 6 p.m. at the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center, 1101 Woodlawn Ave. The list of winners will also be posted at Bestof.Georgetown.org.



Youth Fishing Derby

NOV. 10

Georgetown Parks and Recreation sponsors this annual fishing fest at Garey Park, 6450 RM 2243, from 1–4 p.m. on Nov. 10. Participation is open to children age 12 and younger. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Tickets are \$3 per person. Garey Park admission fees will be waived during the event. Any fish caught wins a prize. (Prizes are first-come, first-served, and only registered participants wearing a wristband are eligible to win.) Details at parks.georgetown.org/fishing-derby.

Red Poppy Artwork

DEADLINE NOV. 22

The City of Georgetown Convention and Visitors Bureau is seeking entries of original artwork to be considered for the 2020 Red Poppy Festival Poster. The artwork selected will be featured on a poster and promotional pieces for the festival as well as street banners on the Square. The artist will retain ownership rights to their artwork. There is a \$500 cash award for the artist of the piece that is selected. The deadline for artwork is Nov. 22. For details, go to RedPoppyFestival.com.

Community Thanksgiving

NOV. 28

The Community Thanksgiving will take place from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 28. A traditional sit-down Thanksgiving meal will be served free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis 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 being planned and supported by the City of Georgetown Police and Fire departments, Georgetown Public Library, Alycia Tandy's Do Yourself a Flavor Catering, GW Pyro, CJ's Catering and The Salvation Army of Williamson County. This event is free and open to the public. No tickets required. For more information, please contact the organizing committee at gtxthanksgiving@gmail.com.

Cease the grease this holiday

The holiday season can be a pain for your pipes and drains, especially when it comes to fats, oils and grease used for cooking. When fat, oil and grease are poured down the drain, it can lead to clogged pipes and sewage backups. Do not pour cooking oil and meat fats into the kitchen sink or toilet or put food scraps down the garbage disposal. Instead, please properly dispose of your used cooking oils and fats by using paper towels to remove residual grease or oil off dishes, pots and pans before washing and pouring cooled cooking oil and meat fats in sealed containers and disposing in your garbage. Larger amounts of fryer grease, including oil used to fry turkeys, can be disposed of at the Transfer Station, 250 W.L. Walden Drive, at no charge.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

City offices closed Nov. 28–29. No solid waste or recycling pickup on Nov. 28. Thursday pickup slides to Friday, Friday slides to Saturday.

Be a Hero! Shop Small!

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Super shoppers are invited to be a hero in Georgetown on Small Business Saturday on Nov. 30 by supporting local businesses and participating in a fun Shop Small Game. Swing by the event headquarters starting at 10 a.m. at the Georgetown Visitor Center, 103 W. Seventh St., to pick up a map and Shop Small giveaways.



GEORGETOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SYMPOSIUM

2020 Vision: A Commercial Real Estate Forecast for 2020

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

The fourth annual Economic Development Symposium, "2020 Vision: A Commercial Real Estate Forecast for 2020," will be Nov. 1 from 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center. This year's keynote speaker is Revathi Greenwood, Americas head of research for Cushman & Wakefield. Tickets are \$25 and include a double-entrée plated lunch. Visit invest.georgetown.org for more information and to register.