



HOLIDAY STRING LIGHTS RECYCLING

{Details on Reverse}

Note: This newsletter was printed Sept. 17. All information is current through that date. Please visit georgetown.org for the latest information.

City budget focused on preserving and maintaining City services in wake of pandemic

FISCAL YEAR 2021 CITY BUDGET

Preserving and maintaining City services, in response both to continued growth and uncertainty from the COVID-19 pandemic, are key themes of the proposed fiscal year 2021 budget plan for the City of Georgetown.

The City's property tax rate will be 41.8 cents per \$100 of property valuation. This is the lowest rate of all cities in the Austin area with a population greater than 20,000. The average homestead property in Georgetown has decreased in taxable value by 2.3 percent. Coupled with the decrease in the property tax rate, it is anticipated the average homeowner in Georgetown will pay \$34 less in property tax in the upcoming year.

The 2021 budget addresses public and Council priorities through utility and transportation infrastructure development, public safety improvements, long-range planning initiatives, economic development achievements, and sustaining City service levels. The budget takes a conservative outlook for the next fiscal year, coming in 10 percent lower than the 2020 budget. The General Fund, which pays for several, critical services like public safety, streets, library services, and parks and recreation, will increase by 3.7 percent—lower than the city's population growth of 7.2 percent.

Other initiatives included in the 2021 budget include \$77.4 million in capital improvement projects, including investments in transportation, water and wastewater, electric, and the public safety complex and initiating design for improvements to D.B. Wood Road, the last, large project from the 2015 bond.

New public safety positions funded in the budget include two patrol officers and six firefighters to staff the new Fire Station No. 7. The 2021 budget includes a total of 15.5 new positions, the same as was added in the 2020 budget. However, 14 positions were frozen for at least part of the year in response to COVID-19 projections.

The 2021 budget includes a \$1.37 increase to the monthly solid waste and recycling fee for residential customers to help pay for increased costs with Texas Disposal Systems, reconstruction of the transfer station, and improvements to the household hazardous waste program. Additionally, the City is working with a contractor to study the costs to provide water and wastewater service and will likely recommend rate increases as a result.

The total budget is \$396 million and is available at finance.georgetown.org.

CITY EVENTS

City Council Election

The City Council Election typically held annually in May was moved to Nov. 3 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The election includes races for Mayor and Districts 2 and 6.

For updates about the City Council Election, go to georgetown.org. Polling places, dates, and times are available at wilco.org/elections.

OCT. 13–20

Early in-person voting period

NOV. 3

Election Day



Be a Hero!
Shop Small!
SMALL BUSINESS
SATURDAY

Super shoppers are invited to Small Business Saturday on Nov. 28 by supporting local businesses. For all the details about how to Shop Small during the holidays, go to mainstreet.georgetown.org/shop-small.

Make your holiday fireproof

Cooking fires are the No. 1 cause of home fires, and Thanksgiving is the peak day for cooking-related fires, especially when frying turkeys.

MAKE SURE YOUR HOLIDAYS STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY BY FOLLOWING THESE SAFETY TIPS:

- Use your turkey fryer only outdoors on a sturdy, level surface, well away from things that can burn.
- Make sure to have a 3-foot kid- and pet-free zone.
- Determine the correct amount of oil needed by first placing the turkey in the pot with water.
- Make sure your turkey is completely thawed before you fry it.
- Check the temperature often with a cooking thermometer so the oil won't overheat.
- Use long cooking gloves that protect hands and arms when you handle these items.

HOLIDAYS

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

- Ends Nov. 1
- Time to change your smoke alarm batteries and irrigation system battery

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

- City offices closed Nov. 26–27
- No solid waste or recycling pickup on Nov. 26. Thursday pickup slides to Friday, Friday slide to Saturday

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 from dishes, pots, and pans before washing. Pour cooled cooking oil and meat fats in sealed containers and dispose 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.

Holiday string lights recycling

The City has again partnered with Texas Disposal Systems to continue its free holiday string light recycling program to Georgetown residents. Drop-off broken or old holiday string lights Nov. 27 through Jan. 31 at one of three collection stations, including the City of Georgetown Collection and Transfer Station, 250 W.L. Walden Road; Georgetown Municipal Complex, 300-1 Industrial Ave.; or Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. Eighth St. Sun City residents may also drop off old or broken string lights at the Cowan Creek Pavilion, 1433 Cool Spring Way, in Sun City. Only string lights will be accepted. For more information, visit recycle.georgetown.org.

Blue Santa seeks monetary donations this year

The Georgetown Police Blue Santa program is asking residents to help make the program a success despite the obstacles presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program's goal each year has been to ensure every child in need of toys in the community receives special gifts from Blue Santa during the Christmas season, and this year will be no different. This year the police department is asking for monetary contributions in lieu of donations of unwrapped toys to help keep our volunteers safe. Find out how you can donate at bluesanta.georgetown.org.



Red Poppy artwork

The City of Georgetown Convention and Visitors Bureau is seeking entries of original artwork to be considered for the 2021 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. 20.

For details, go to RedPoppyFestival.com.