

NOTE: This newsletter was printed Oct. 19. All information is current through that date. Please visit georgetown.org for the latest information.

Collectible Christmas Ornament and artwork

A limited-edition collectible brass Christmas ornament featuring Main Street will be available in early November. The cost of the ornament is \$20. The 15th annual ornament sale is a project of the Georgetown Main Street Program. Ornaments may be purchased at the Visitors Center, 103 W. Seventh St.

The Main Street Program is also selling art featuring limited edition art from local artist Leslie Kell. "Down on Main Street" features architecture from five buildings in downtown that reached a milestone year in 2021. To purchase a piece of art, visit mainstreet.georgetown.org/main-street-program/fundraising.

All proceeds fund Main Street projects and the Façade Fund Grant Program.

Blue Santa

The Georgetown Police Blue Santa program is asking residents to help make the program a success. Blue Santa asks to please consider making monetary contributions in lieu of unwrapped toys, but unwrapped toys are always appreciated.



Checks to "CPAAA Blue Santa" should be sent to the Georgetown Police Department, c/o CPAAA Programs, 3500 D.B. Wood Road, Georgetown, TX, 78628. This year's distribution day will be a drive-through event. For application and donation information, email bluesanta@georgetown.org or visit BlueSanta.Georgetown.org.

City budget focused on infrastructure, public safety, growth

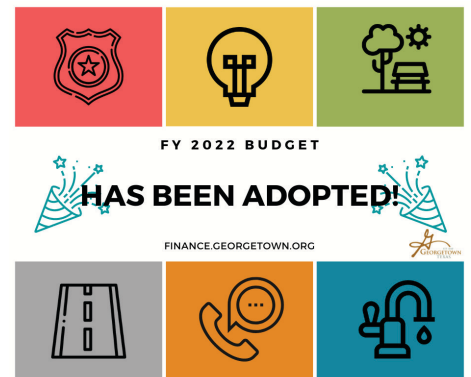
Investing in infrastructure, public safety, and customer services, particularly in response to continued, record-setting growth, are key themes of the adopted fiscal year 2022 budget for the City of Georgetown.

The City's property tax rate will be 40.1 cents per \$100 of property valuation. This is among the lowest rates of all cities in the Austin area with a population greater than 20,000. Council also voted to increase the homestead exemption to the greater of \$5,000 or 3 percent, contributing to \$370,000 in additional taxpayer relief. However, because property values in Georgetown increased 15.4 percent, the average homeowner in Georgetown is expected to pay \$56 more in property taxes 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. Other initiatives included in the 2022 budget include \$113 million in capital improvement projects, including investments in transportation and water and wastewater infrastructure.

New public safety positions funded in the budget include 11 in the Fire Department and five in the Police Department. The 2022 budget includes a total of 53 new positions, which will be critical in helping the City adequately fund its priorities of transportation, water, public safety, and customer services.

The total budget is \$483 million and is available at finance.georgetown.org.



Dec. 3-4: Christmas Stroll

The 40th annual downtown Christmas Stroll will feature artisan, craft, and food vendors, as well as children's activities, live entertainment and a parade at 10 a.m. Saturday. Festival hours are Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. See details at thegeorgetownsquare.com or on Facebook at facebook.com/GTXChristmasStroll. The Stroll is brought to you by the Downtown Georgetown Association with support of the City of Georgetown.

Dec. 11: Breakfast with Santa

The 21st annual Breakfast with Santa is from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Community Center, 445 E. Morrow St. Participants will be able to drive by and wave at Santa and Georgetown firefighters and grab a goodie bag. No food will be served. The event is sponsored by the Sun City Rotary, Extended School Enrichment Program, and the Georgetown Fire Department. For more information, visit bit.ly/3AfIM88.

Holiday Closings

City offices closed Dec. 24-27 in observance of the Christmas holiday and Dec. 31 in observance of New Year's Day

There is normal solid waste or recycling collection on Friday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 31.

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. 29 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.



Art in the Library

The Georgetown Public Library hosts "Carved in Stone x2," a two-person exhibit featuring stone-carved art by Stuart Simpson and Mary Paige Huey. The exhibit will be in the first floor lobby from Dec. 3-Jan. 5. An artist talk will be from 2-2:30 p.m. Dec. 5 in the Hewlett Room. The talk will be followed by a reception in the library lobby. For more information about the exhibit and artists, visit library.georgetown.org.



Holiday fire safety

Nearly half of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

- Inspect holiday lights for frayed or pinched wires before putting them up.
 - Water your Christmas tree every day. A dry tree can catch on fire easily.
 - Consider using battery-operated flameless candles.
 - Make sure lit candles are in stable holders where they cannot be knocked down easily and keep away from pets and children.
 - Overloaded electrical outlets are a major fire hazard.
 - Some lights are for indoor or outdoor use only—not both.
- Be sure to check packaging before installing them.

By following a few simple practices and precautions, you can create a fun and perfectly fire-safe holiday for you and your loved ones. And remember, have working smoke alarms in your home and create a home escape plan. For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit usfa.fema.gov.

Seasonal check: Irrigation Systems

During the winter months when grasses are dormant, the City encourages you to turn off your irrigation system. You'll save on water and lower your utility bill.

When you turn off your system for the winter, it's also a good time to replace the battery on the controller. For tips on conservation and optimizing your irrigation system, go to gus.georgetown.org/conservation-programs.