



Georgetown Reporter



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. 28 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.

Red Poppy Festival call for art

The City of Georgetown Convention and Visitors Bureau is seeking entries of original artwork for promotional use for the 2023 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. 18.

For details, go to RedPoppyFestival.com.

Small Business Saturday

Shoppers are invited to show their support for their favorite local businesses during the annual Shop Small event on Nov. 26. The event kicks off with free shopping totes, giveaways, and prizes.

For all the details about how to Shop Small during the holidays, go to mainstreet.georgetown.org/shop-small.



Street maintenance sales tax reauthorization election

Georgetown voters will be able to vote on the reauthorization of the quarter cent sales tax dedicated to street maintenance.

For more information, visit georgetown.org. Polling places, dates, and times are available at wilco.org/elections.

Oct. 24-Nov. 4: Early in-person voting period

Nov. 8: Election Day

Lighting of the square

See the Most Beautiful Town Square in Texas at its holiday finest for this annual tradition on Friday, Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. Sing along to Christmas carols as Georgetown lights up the Courthouse Square for the holiday season.

Daylight Saving Time ENDS NOV. 6

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

Blue Santa helpers at work

The Georgetown Police Blue Santa program's goal each year has been to ensure every child in the community receives special gifts from Blue Santa during the Christmas season, and this year will be no different. Blue Santa accepts monetary contributions as well as new/unwrapped toys. Monetary contributions allow us to limit the handling and transportation of toys which will help safeguard Blue Santa's helpers. It also allows us to purchase more toys in bulk buys which can stretch our donation dollars further and better focus our supply of toys to the specific ages we need. We expect the need this year will continue to grow as Georgetown continues to grow and your generosity is crucial to our meeting the needs in Georgetown. Find out how you can donate at bluesanta.georgetown.org.



GET MORE INFORMATION

Use the QR code to find additional news from the City of Georgetown and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter.

Community Thanksgiving | NOV. 24

Community Thanksgiving will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 24. A Thanksgiving meal will be served, free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. A sit-down dinner will be served at the Georgetown Community Center, 445 E. Morrow St. Community Thanksgiving is planned and supported by the Georgetown Fire and Police departments. Meals are open to the public and meals will be delivered to those that are homebound. For more information, please contact Deputy Fire Marshal Jonathan Gilliam at jonathan.gilliam@georgetown.org or gtxthanksgiving@gmail.com.

Make your holiday fireproof

Cooking is the main cause of home fires and fire injuries, and Thanksgiving is the peak day for cooking-related fires. You can prevent cooking fires. Take these steps to keep your family safe:

- Use caution when frying a turkey: Only fry them outdoors on a sturdy, level surface, well away from things that can burn, and only fry a thawed turkey.
- Stand by your pan: If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.
- Watch what you are cooking: Fires start when the heat is too high. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove: Then no one can bump them or pull them over.
- Keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby: Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will put out the fire.



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.



Thanksgiving Holiday

City offices closed Nov. 24-25

No solid waste or recycling pickup on Nov. 24. Thursday pickup slides to Friday, Friday slides to Saturday.

City budget focused maintaining service levels

Maintaining service levels in the face of record-setting growth and responding to nationwide economic pressure while implementing studies and projects initiated this year, addressing staff workload pressures, improving risk management practices, and responding to a tight labor market through retention and attraction efforts are key themes of the adopted fiscal year 2023 budget for the City of Georgetown.

The City's property tax rate will be 37.4 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 increased the homestead exemption to the greater of \$5,000 or 5 percent.

By lowering the rate from its current rate of 40.1 cents to 37.4 cents per \$100 of valuation and accounting for the increase in homestead exemption, the average property tax bill is expected to increase by \$56. Without lowering the tax rate or increasing the homestead exemption, the average taxpayer would see an increase of \$178 to their tax bill.

Following cost recovery analyses across multiple departments and a water and wastewater rate study, Georgetown residents and customers can expect several user fees and water and wastewater rates to increase as well.

New public safety positions funded in the budget include nine in the Police Department and four in the Fire Department. The 2023 budget includes a total of 79.5 new positions, which will be critical in helping the City adequately funding its priorities of transportation, water, public safety, and customer services.

The total budget is \$722 million. More information is available at finance.georgetown.org.