



Georgetown Reporter



Lighting of the Square

See the Most Beautiful Town Square in Texas at its holiday finest for this annual tradition on Friday, Nov. 24, 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.

Community Thanksgiving NOV. 23

Community Thanksgiving will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 23. 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.

Daylight Saving Time

Ends Nov. 5

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

Thanksgiving Holiday

CITY OFFICES CLOSED
NOV. 23-24

No solid waste or recycling pickup on Nov. 23. Thursday pickup slides to Friday, Friday slides to Saturday.

City budget focused maintaining service levels

Major themes of the proposed budget are investments in transportation and utility infrastructure, public safety, and customer services, as well as building the infrastructure needed to keep pace with growth, responding to development pressures, and retaining and recruiting high-caliber employees.

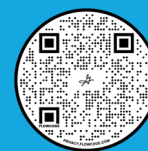
The adopted budget totals \$868 million and keeps the City's property tax rate at 37.4 cents per \$100 valuation. The proposed tax rate was expected to be approved Sept. 26. (This newsletter was printed Sept. 18.) The City's rate is among the lowest of all cities in the Austin area with a population greater than 20,000. By keeping the rate at 37.4 cents per \$100 of valuation and with increasing property values, the average property tax bill is expected to increase by about \$125 per year, or \$10.42 a month.

Following a solid waste and a water and wastewater rate study, Georgetown residents and customers can expect solid waste, water, and wastewater rates to increase, as well. The budget includes a proposed solid waste rate increase of 4.5 percent for residential customers, or about \$0.98 per month, and 9.5 percent for commercial users. Water and wastewater rates are projected to increase 13 percent for all customer types, or approximately \$6 a month for a family using 6,000 gallons of water per month.

More information is available at finance.georgetown.org.

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.



GET MORE INFORMATION

Use the QR code to find additional news from the City of Georgetown and sign up for the Georgetown Weekly.

City of Georgetown bond election

On Nov. 7, Georgetown residents will vote on four City bond propositions that would provide funding to build a new Customer Service Center; renovate and expand the Georgetown Recreation Center on Austin Avenue; increase the City's animal sheltering capacity; and partner with the YMCA of Central Texas to build a jointly owned recreation center.

Important election dates:

Oct. 23-Nov. 3: Early in-person voting

Oct. 27: Last day to apply for Ballot by Mail

Nov. 7: Election Day

For details about the four bond propositions and the election, go to georgetown.org. Polling places, dates, and times are available at www.wilcotx.gov/185/Elections.

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 to 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, for no charge.

Small Business Saturday

Shoppers are invited to show their support for their favorite local businesses during the annual Shop Small event on Nov. 25. The event kicks off with free shopping totes, giveaways, and prizes.

The Georgetown Main Street Program will also host the inaugural Coffee & Cocoa Crawl event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Downtown coffee shops, cafes, and sweet shops will have tasting opportunities for ticket holders. Tickets are sold in advance for \$20 and include a keepsake mug, cookie, and samples at 10 locations downtown. A limited number of 500 tickets will be sold for the event.

For all the details, go to mainstreet.georgetown.org/shop-small.



Blue Santa helpers already at work

The Georgetown Police Blue Santa 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. Blue Santa accepts monetary contributions as well as new/unwrapped toys. Find out how you can donate at bluesanta.georgetown.org.



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.

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 2024 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. 17.

For details, go to RedPoppyFestival.com.