BY ANDY TAYLOR chronicle@taylornews.org

CANEY — Local wallets will be thinned if the City of Caney's proposed 2026 budget is adopted in September.

The City of Caney this week released its proposed 2026 budget, which is printed in a summary form on page 8 of this week's Montgomery County Chronicle.

If adopted, the budget will impose a nearly 20 percent hike on the City's share of local property taxes for 2026.

The budget plan calls for a proposed tax rate, which is expressed in terms of *mills*, of 56.00 mills. That is a more than 19.6 percent increase from the 46.784 mills that is assessed in the current 2025 budget cycle, which ends on Dec. 31, 2025.

What this equates to for a property owner with a home appraised at \$100,000 is an \$105.34 increase in their share of property taxes that are devoted to the City of Caney. This increase does not include tax dollars for the local school district, community college or county govern-

The proposed 2026 budget calls for maximum budget expenditures of \$6,939,440 and a tax levy of \$673,098. That means that about 10 percent of the City's budget is funded by local property taxes. The remainder of the revenue is derived through sales taxes, water and sewer fees, and a host of other fees.

For the sake of comparison, the current 2025 budget has an anticipated maximum expenditure of \$5,436,025 and a tax levy of \$555,474.

To keep the level of services and programs without reducing staffing will require about an additional \$117,000 in property tax revenue for 2026, Caney city councilors were told at a budget work session two weeks ago. The previous city administration lowered the tax rates to a level where new or additional tax revenue could not be created, which has caused a budgetary dilemma at a time when all expenses and goods have increased dramatically.

The City of Caney had the option of lowering its tax rate to a Revenue Neutral Rate of 46.214 mills. However, with a 2025 budget that imposed a reduced tax rate in the wake of a growing costs, city staff recommended not using the Revenue Neutral Rate and, instead, imposing a tax rate

The release of the proposed budget plan is only the first step in its adoption. The Caney City Council will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 15 at the Caney City Hall to hear citizens' concerns and questions about the proposed budget

After the hearing, the council will decide whether to adopt the budget as it was presented. It has the option of lowering the anticipated property tax rate, but the council cannot increase above its stated position of 56.00 mills.

The deadline for placing a classified advertisement is 5 p.m., Monday



Genesis of Coffeyville volunteer Donna Chambers explains the improved layout of the local food pantry during an open house on Saturday. ANDY TAYLOR / MONTGOMERY

Genesis of Coffeyville expands facility

COFFEYVILLE — Saturday was an era of new beginnings for the Genesis food pantry, which dedicated its new food warehouse and revealed the renovated and expanded food pantry.

At a ceremony to officially mark the Richard Keck Warehouse, Genesis leaders praised the community efforts in the ongoing support of the food pantry.

Linda Follett, Genesis director, spoke about the development of Genesis and her own personal involvement in the non-profit organization — as a client and as a director.

She spoke about how the organization has grown from a tiny office to a larger space that now allows for storage of larger quantities of food.

Additionally, the renovated Genesis office has a brighter, client-appealing grocery area — which makes availability of food more enjoyable for the clients.

In 2005, the Genesis site at 1312 W. 8th was deeded an adjacent warehouse that had been owned by CVR

Coffeyville Community College donated multiple shelving units after CCC obtained the former V&S Variety store. The shelving units are now in use inside the food warehouse, as well as in the pantry area, she said.

Follett said Genesis has received five grants in the past year, and another new grant will allow for state funds to pay local muralist Michael De Rosa to paint a mural on the exterior of the warehouse. The mural will encompass 1,100 square feet of wall space, she said.

The warehouse was named in honor of longtime Genesis volunteer Richard Keck, who died in 2024. Keck began his volunteer work at Genesis in 2004 as a procurement director. He was recognized by the Genesis board of directors in 2024 for his 20 years of volunteer service.

Genesis is located at 1312 W. 8th in Coffeyville and is open 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., Monday through Friday. The Genesis office's telephone number is 620-251-3004.

City of Coffeyville announces grant program updates

COFFEYVILLE — The City of Coffeyville's Community Development Department is celebrating major milestones in its grant programs, with several initiatives already fully utilized and more opportunities still available for residents, homeowners, and developers.

Coffeyville residents and property owners have been taking full advantage of available programs, helping improve homes, revitalize downtown, and support new homebuyers. As of August 2025:

- Paint the Town Program All 40 available spots are filled, giving homes across the city a fresh splash of color.
- Weatherization & Emergency Repair Grants -Fully utilized, providing urgent repair assistance to 40 households.
- Historic Downtown Revitalization Grants All funding awarded, with 9 downtown projects cur-
- First-Time Homebuyer Incentive All available spots awarded to new Coffeyville homeowners.

Opportunities still available

While some programs have reached capacity, funding remains for others designed to strengthen Coffeyville's housing and development opportuni-

- New Construction Single-Family Program 6 spots available
- New Construction Multi-Family Program 8
 - Developer Incentives 7 spots available

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Looking ahead

Community Development officials also announced that new grant programs will be unveiled this fall, expanding opportunities for investment and growth in Coffeyville.

'We are thrilled to see so many residents and developers engaging with these programs," said Amber Dean, Community Development Director. "Every project—whether it's repairing a roof, painting a home, or revitalizing a downtown building—adds to the momentum of Coffeyville's future."

For more information or to apply, visit www.coffeyville.com/87/Community-Developmen or contact Amber Dean a adean@coffeyville.com |or 620-252-

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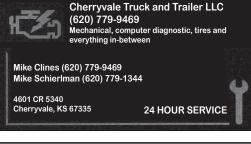
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