

Second Quarter 2024

LAKESIDE NEWS



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A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear Fellow Citizens,

I'm delighted to share some updates on the progress of several key initiatives shaping our community!

The Denton County TRIPP22 Road Bond Projects are advancing rapidly. Engineering is nearly complete, paving the way for construction to begin on South Hook, Garth, Country Lane, and Harbor Lane in July or August. Additionally, construction on Point Vista Road and Carlisle Road is projected to begin this coming fall.

In addition to these road improvements, plans for the Pratt land in Sycamore Bend Park are moving forward. A water well will be operational by mid-May, enhancing park amenities and ensuring sustainable access to water resources. Plus, the addition of a nature trail, with 100 tons of decomposed granite which will be laid by two Boy Scouts for their Eagle Project. The Town has also partnered with UNT, and will install a "mezzanine" which will hold a Celestron Telescope and observatory. Additionally, the Council continues to explore some type of recreation-focused space-, as we work to implement some elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Our Police Department will soon receive two new vehicles, and our police boat is ready to begin lake patrols, enhancing safety on our waterways. To prepare for these patrols, three HCPD officers will undergo training in collaboration with the Lake Cities Fire Department.

In May, our Police Department will host a "meet & greet" event in Sycamore Cove, providing residents with the opportunity to connect with local law enforcement officers. Additionally, neighborhood meetings will be held throughout the summer, offering residents the opportunity to connect with our law enforcement officers.

I'm happy to announce the expansion of broadband access in our community. Pavlov Media has completed the fiber ring that connects government buildings in Hickory Creek, Corinth, and Shady Shores. Currently, they are installing "last mile" fiber to residences & businesses, ensuring high-speed internet access for all. If it's not in your neighborhood yet, it soon will be!

Chick-fil-A's relocation to Hickory Creek is progressing smoothly! The land sale has been finalized, and construction is in full swing. Contractors anticipate the project will be finished within 5 to 6 months.

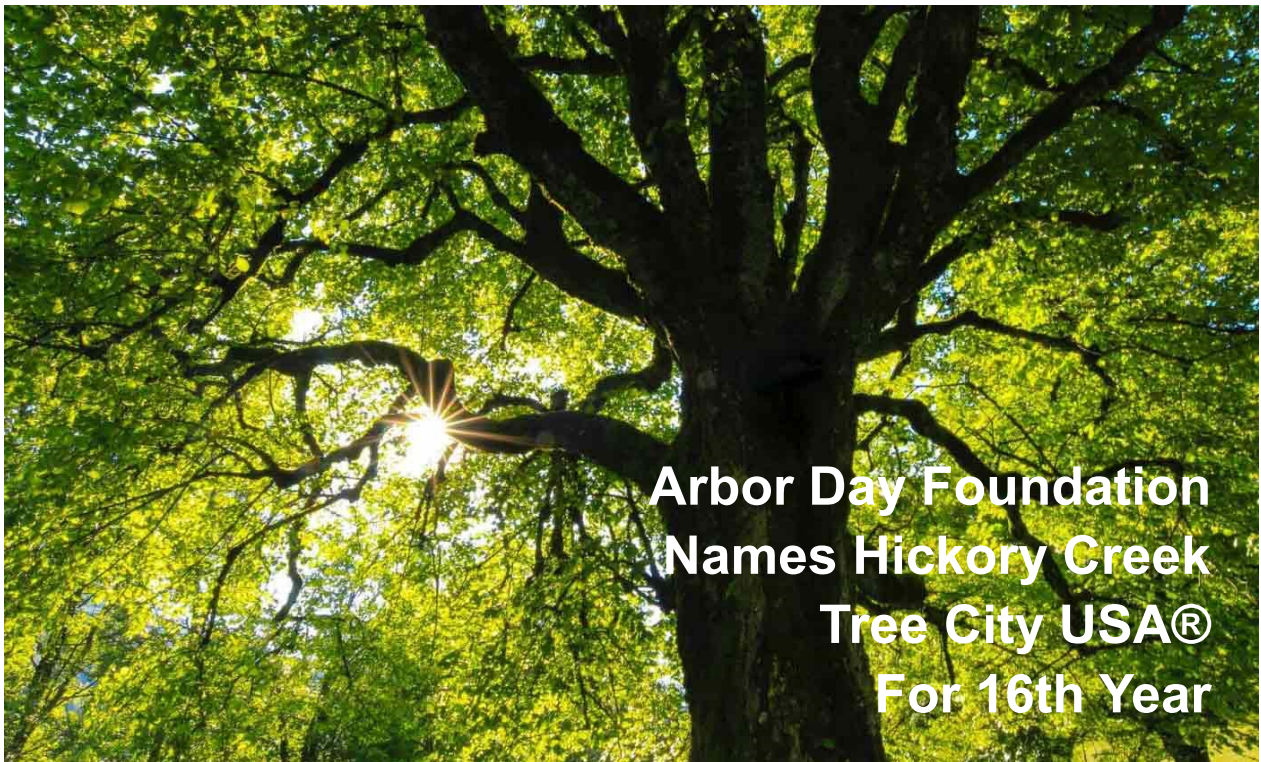
Texas Governor Greg Abbott recently appointed Denton County Precinct 3 Commissioner Bobbie J. Mitchell to the Commission on State Emergency Communications with a term expiring September 1, 2029. This Commission manages vital programs like the state 9-1-1 service program and the statewide poison control program. Commissioner Mitchell's collaboration with Hickory Creek has been exceptional, and her appointment is well-deserved. I congratulate her on this appointment!

Finally, it's with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of long-time Town Councilman Richard Dupree. After 14 years of outstanding service to Hickory Creek and our entire community, Richard will be stepping down at the end of his current term. Since his election in 2010, Richard has been a driving force behind numerous community initiatives, including the Animal Advisory Board, Citizens on Patrol program, and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). On behalf of the Town Council, Town Staff, and all our citizens, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Richard for his dedication and service to our community.

It's my privilege to serve as your Mayor, and I look forward to seeing you around town!

Best regards,

Lynn Clark
Mayor



Picture Credit Tree Shepherds

Hickory Creek Texas was named a 16th year Tree City USA ® by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Hickory Creek achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Hickory Creek make smart investments in urban forests," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, amount many other benefits."

About the Arbor Day Foundation: The Arbor Day Foundation is a million-member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information on the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.



JEFFREY MCSPEDDEN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

BY DIANE CIARLONI

Jeffrey McSpedden knows every nook and cranny in the Town of Hickory Creek. He knows each pothole by location and can pinpoint from memory the uneven breaks in the sidewalks. He even knows if a taillight is out on one of the police cars. And, if for some reason, he doesn't know about one or two of these things, his phone is always at the ready to take calls.

McSpedden joined Hickory Creek on August 7, 2003, after serving three years with Denton Animal Control. "I wasn't actively looking for a new job," McSpedden said, "but I happened to see an ad for the Hickory Creek Public Works department. I applied for a general labor position and was hired."

McSpedden's tenure with the town stretches over an impressive 21-years. That kind of job longevity almost always indicates somebody is doing something right. In this instance, major contributions come from both sides of the desk.

It didn't take long for the town to recognize McSpedden's value, prompting the administration to offer him the position of Public Works Director in 2005, just two years after he signed on.



Public Works Director Jeffrey McSpedden pictured with his wife, mother, and two of his three sons.

"We talked about it in detail," McSpedden recalls. "It meant a huge increase in responsibilities. My dad owned a construction company in Sanger since I was a little kid. That gave me broad exposure to many of the situations I'd face in the new position. Nothing about it made me uncomfortable, so I accepted."

"I have three sons and the oldest is 21. That means I've raised my entire family with Hickory Creek. We have several employees throughout our various departments who've been with the town for decades. There are reasons for that. The town asks for our attention and dedication, and in return, we know we'll have their respect and 100 percent support. It's a combination that puts everyone in a spot to win. That means a lot."

McSpedden has no desire for slow days and counting the ticks of the clock's slow-moving hands. Instead, variety and fast-paced days are his preference.

"Every day brings up different tasks and challenges," he said. "I take care of the police department's fleet of vehicles, making sure scheduled maintenance issues are done on time as well as unexpected repairs. I do a lot of building inspections, monitor projects such as new sidewalks and road work, and keep tabs on new residential and commercial development. Animal Control also comes under my oversight, so I keep track of animal in-takes and adoptions. We do everything we can to have quick turn-arounds with the dogs and cats. Public Works also shoulders responsibility for certain aspects of our parks. Believe me, it's more than enough to make the days overflow."

Longevity lends a special perspective to long-term employees. It's rather like accepting a "See how far we've come" slant on the town's growth.

McSpedden was one of the strongest advocates for the new animal shelter, which was built in 2010. Modern and efficiently designed, the clean and pleasant-smelling facility makes long-time residents wonder how we ever managed in those early days of the town's development.

McSpedden appreciates the things he's already seen in the past 21 years and looks forward to the new strides on tomorrow's horizon. Whatever they are, he'll keep them moving in the right direction.



HICKORY CREEK ANIMAL SHELTER

If you are looking for a furry friend to add to your family check out the current list of available pets at the Hickory Creek Animal Shelter Facebook page or on Pet Finder under shelters.

If you aren't planning to add an animal to your family but would still like to help with a donation to the Hickory Creek Animal Shelter, check out the Hickory Creek Animal Shelter Amazon Wishlist. (www.hickorycreek-tx.gov—Departments and Services—Animal Services—Amazon Wish List). Our Animal Services Officer regularly updates the wish list based on the needs of current animals.

BILL BREWER

HOW TO WATCH THE STARS

By Diane Ciarlioni

Bill Brewer (affectionately referred to as Brother Bill by his many social media followers) is 86-years-old retired military, but don't allow his age to point you in the wrong direction. The numbers defining how many times he's revolved around the sun have little to do with his energetic community involvement.

Brewer is certainly not put off by the technical intricacies of 21st century computers and social media. As a matter of fact, he's not only mastered the technology but turned it into a vehicle for deep community service.

You've probably seen one of the many social groups he's established on sites such as Nextdoor, and some of you may have participated in a few of them. They all represent a piece of Brewer's heart.

One site assists neighbors by providing free equipment needed for recovery from medical issues. The site has gifted 720 pieces (crutches, walkers, shower seats, etc.), including 95 wheelchairs.

"One of the things spurring this ministry forward was that many neighbors had doctors' orders for electric wheelchairs but could not get them due to the cost. They can range from \$3,000 to \$9,000. I started acquiring and refurbishing them. When I'm done, I offer them to neighbors at a cost to cover just what I spent on parts, from \$450 to \$1,850.

"The chairs require a particular battery that costs more than \$200. I've provided three chairs to date and have 13 more ready to go. They come with rebuilt motors, new brushes, and renewed electrical systems."

Brewer's Rehoming group has assisted in finding loving, fur-ever residences for countless pets. The largest numbers, of course, are dogs and cats but the more exotic-type species are also accommodated – pigs, goats, horses, fish, birds, snakes, and lizards.

Another group is a Community Smoking site. The intent is to smoke succulent cuts of meat. Instead of paying Brewer for the task, people bring an extra roast (or whatever) that Brewer smokes for a neighbor in need. He includes under the "in needs" category a battered women's shelter, and day treatment programs.

There is a Food is Fun group to share recipes and happy experiences, a Local Flowers and Plant Group and a Bird Watchers Group. There are also four prayer groups who send thousands of supplications heavenward for anyone requesting.

One of Brewer's more recently formed groups is Friends Of Hickory Creek Observatory, with more than 200 founding friends and voting members.

If you remember, we told you about the coming observatory and nature reserve located on eight acres at the end of Sycamore Bend Road. It shares borders with the Corps property, and was formerly owned by the late Linda Pratt.

A \$10,000 telescope was donated to the observatory by the University of North Texas. That was a tremendous gesture, but we also needed someone familiar with telescopes to help with the project.

Enter Bill Brewer.

“I rebuild telescopes and microscopes, and then gift them to local students who are interested in astronomy but can’t afford a professional piece of equipment,” Brewer explained. “I start them with a basic model. I upgrade their equipment every 90 days, provided they show continued interest and return the first one in excellent condition. I also gift teachers and parents, who are home-schooling.” Brewer currently has 18 of these projects in action.

He plans to provide telescopes that will be positioned for public use at the Hickory Creek Observatory. He also intends to offer free introductory courses as the observatory nears completion.

We still can’t tell you when that completion date will be announced, but most of the puzzle pieces are ready to fall together.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: BASIC DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water, and other supplies to last for several days. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Make sure your emergency kit is stocked with the items on the checklist below.

- Water
- Food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra Batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheet and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local Maps
- Cell phone with chargers and backup battery



Once you take a look at the basic items consider what unique finds your family might have, such as supplies for pets, babies or seniors.

Council Recognitions



Mayor Lynn Clark placed First in the 2023 Denton Area Mayors Red Kettle Challenge.

Congratulations to Chief Carey Dunn for 20 years of service to the Town of Hickory Creek



Congratulations to Public Works Director Jeffrey McSpedden for 20 years of service to the Town of Hickory Creek.



SPRING TREE CARE CHECKLIST: PREPARE IN 3 PHASES

From Davey “Proven Solutions for a Growing World”

We'll bet you're ready for spring. We know we are!

Now is the time to make sure your trees are just as prepared. Follow the phases of spring care below to boost tree nutrients and strength for a healthy growing season.

PHASE I: BEFORE WAVING WINTER GOODBYE

Inspect your trees for signs of winter damage or disease while they are still bare. Prune dead, diseased or unsafe branches before spring growth. Waiting to prune in warmer weather may lead to an unwelcome spread of pests and diseases.

Phase II: A Pre-Bloom Prep

Remove fallen leaves, branches and waste from your landscape to set the stage for healthy growth.

Feed your trees the nutrients they crave after winter. A slow release fertilizer helps trees defend against pests and diseases.

Phase III: During Springtime Sprouts

Plant new trees to maximize energy saving and property enhancing benefits. Before planting, make sure to secure an ideal growing spot.

Add 2 to 4 inches of mulch around your trees to improve soil moisture and control weeds.

KEEP YOUR FURRY FRIENDS SAFE

Do you ever wonder why there are animal related laws and why the laws are strictly enforced? An animal services officer's main purpose is to enforce animal laws. They help animals and humans live together safely in the same environment, protect humans from wild, diseased, or dangerous animals that may live or move near citizen's homes, they protect animals from humans and other animals by rescuing them from harmful situations and they advocate for animals in cases of cruelty and neglect.

One way the Animal Services Officer's help animals and humans live together safely is by enforcing Town Ordinance Section 2.01.002- running at large. This is when any animal (dog or cat) that is not on a leash and is freely roaming inside the town limits. The only exception are feral cats that are part of the TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) Program. These TNR cats are identified by ear tips being docked. If you see a stray dog or cat roaming, please call Denton County Sherriff's Department immediately to get the proper Animal Services Officer dispatched to capture the loose animal.

Another way the Animal Services Officer's serve the residents of Hickory Creek is by ensuring the cats and dogs in town limits are registered with the Town (Section 2.03.031). This helps Animal Services Officers quickly identify where a found animal lives if it is microchipped. This can help prevent your animal from being brought to the shelter and save you impound fees. Animals can be registered online, at the animal shelter or town hall and are to be worn on the animal's collars. The Animal Services Officers strongly enforce the Texas Penal Code which requires all dogs and cats in Texas to be Rabies Vaccinated as soon as they hit 4-6-months. The rabies vaccine is the best and most effective way to safeguard your pet from contracting rabies. It will help protect your animal, other animals, and your family from a fatal outcome.

If you are ever unsure about an animal-related incident, we always recommend giving us a call. We are here to help citizens and better educate all those we interact and encounter.

Animal Control Officer Robert Paterson



Animal Service Officer Hannah Breaux



COMMUNITY REMINDERS

ANIMAL REGISTRATION

Residents are required to register all cats and dogs with Animal Services. There is no charge to register but you must have a valid copy of their rabies vaccination certificate. Residents may register animals at the animal shelter, town hall or online.

ALARM PERMITS

All commercial and residential alarm systems are required to register every January. Renewals are free. Applications may be found online or at Town Hall.

BOAT RAMP & DAY USE PASSES

Boat ramp and day use passes for 2024 are now available at Town Hall. Hickory Creek residents receive a FREE day use and boat ramp pass. Residents must come by Town Hall to pick up the passes. Passes are good in all Hickory Creek town parks-Arrowhead, Leg 1 and Leg 2, Point Vista, and Sycamore Bend. Please place all passes in the front windshield so they may be seen easily by an officer. Failure to properly display current year passes may result in a citation. Nonresidents may purchase boat ramp and day use passes at Town Hall, online or at pay stations located in Arrowhead, Point Vista, and Sycamore Bend. Pass holders require a code to access the parks. Codes will be given when passes are picked up.

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Curbside Household Hazardous Waste Republic Services will collect electronic waste and hazardous chemicals from your home on an on-call basis. Call 469.451.3713 or email HickoryCreekHHW@republicservices.com to schedule a pick-up.

REPUBLIC SERVICES SENIOR DISCOUNT

Hickory Creek provides a 30% senior discount on trash and recycling services for our residents over 65. To receive the discount, bring your trash bill and driver's license to Town Hall and let us know you're eligible for the discount. The Town will contact Republic Services for your discount on future bills. Once your information has been submitted, there is no need to reapply each year.

LIBRARY CARD REIMBURSEMENT

The Town of Hickory Creek offers our residents Denton and Lake Dallas library card reimbursements! The Town will reimburse residents up to \$50 per household. To receive the refund, bring the receipt from the Denton or Lake Dallas Library and a copy of your driver's license with your Hickory Creek address (or a utility bill with your address) and we will send a check to you in the mail for reimbursement.

**HICKORY CREEK
TOWN HALL**

1075 Ronald Reagan
Avenue
940-497-2528
Monday - Thursday
7:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday
7 AM - 11 AM

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1075 Ronald Reagan
Avenue
940-497-3520

Police/Fire Emergency 911

Non Emergency
940-349-1600

**HICKORY CREEK
ANIMAL SHELTER**

970 Main Street
940-349-1600
Monday - Friday
7 AM - 6 PM
Friday
Saturday - Sunday
7 AM - 11 AM

VISIT YOUR TOWN HALL

Parks & Recreation Board—Third Monday
Planning & Zoning Commission—Third Tuesday
Town Council—Fourth Monday
Economic Development Corporation—Third Thursday

ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6 PM



UPCOMING TOWN CLOSURES

Monday, May 27	Memorial Day
Wednesday, June 19	Juneteenth
Thursday, July 4	Independence Day