

January—March 2021

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A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear Fellow Citizens,

As I look back over this past year, in spite of all of the difficulties that 2020 brought, we still saw many successes and a lot of progress in Hickory Creek. I'd like to highlight some of the many things we accomplished.



- Adopted Master Parks Plan
- Approved new Eagle Marine Boat dealership at 6060 S. Stemmons Frwy.
- Approved plat for Lennon Creek Subdivision at Swisher & Parkridge, including 10 acres of commercial development along FM 2181
- Approved plat for Sycamore Cove subdivision (developer donated right-of-way for park road expansion)
- Saw construction begin on The Alcove at Hickory Creek subdivision on Ronald Reagan Ave.
- Completed an additional access drive and overflow parking for new restaurants at Turbeville and I-35.
- Completed substantial upgrades to Town Hall over the past 3 years, following the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) guidelines, to reduce electricity on a yearly basis by 5%. Failing HVAC units were replaced with high efficiency units (2020), windows tinted (2019), foam roof installed (2017), light motion sensors installed throughout Town Hall (2019), LED lighting installed, or bulbs replaced, water heater replaced
- Completed asphalt preservation on all asphalt roads
- Issued Certificates of Obligations in the amount of \$4 million for the implementation of the master parks plan, drainage, road repair, sidewalk installation, and additional fire hydrants in Harbor Grove
- Completed joint venture with LCMUA to install fire hydrants on Lake & Meade Streets
- Completed an Interlocal Agreement with Denton County to fund over 2 million for Sycamore Bend Road
- Completed an Interlocal Agreement with Denton County for overlay of Highland Road and Sycamore Bend primitive campgrounds road. Chip sealed parking lot and roads in Sycamore Bend Park
- Reached new agreements for fire protection and refuse services
- Reduced the Hickory Creek Property Tax rate from 0.33042 per \$100 of value to 0.319943
- Held three town events: See You at the Station (support for first responders), July 4th Drive-Thru Dinner, Christmas Drive-Thru Dinner (In-N-Out Burgers *donated* over 1500 meals for the last 2 events)
- Provided 594 Dining Rebates totaling \$14,850 (so far) for our citizens through the Hickory Creek Economic Development Corporation. The second Rebate card is valid through 3/30/21, so there's still time to #DineLocal #GetARebate!
- Approved a Special Use Permit for Thousand Hills Church to acquire the AMC Theater. They will become Thousand Hills Church of Hickory Creek and will bring new vitality to our Turbeville commercial corner.
- Angelina's Don Louis Mexican Restaurant opened in December
- Don Camillo's Tuscan Grill will open soon (if not already!)

As you may know, our water is supplied through LCMUA via the Upper Trinity Regional Water District. After years of planning, construction will begin soon on Lake Ralph Hall, the first new reservoir to be built in nearly 30 years, and a much-needed new water source for the future of North Texas. If you would like to learn more, you can follow the construction progress at the dedicated website (www.lakeralphhall.com) on FaceBook (@LakeRalphHall), or on Twitter (@LakeRalphHall1).

It is such a privilege to serve as your mayor and to serve alongside our Town Council and staff. No matter where I go, I represent you, the citizens of Hickory Creek. I'm often asked what the "secret" is to the success of Hickory Creek, and I always say, "it's our citizens!" We have such a unique, friendly community, and there's no place I'd rather live than right here!

Best wishes for the new year!

Lynn Clark

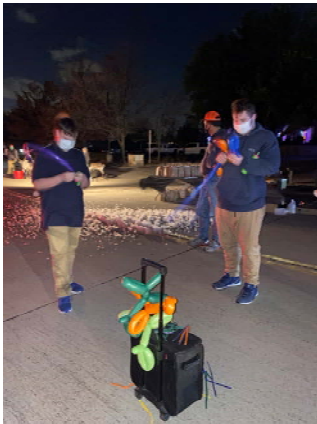
EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS



Eagle Scout candidate,
Dustin Mullen,
designed and built a
community garden at
the Public
Works/Animal Shelter.

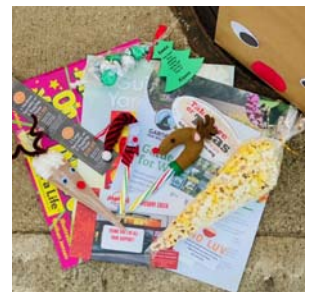


DRIVE-THRU TREE LIGHTING



The Town of Hickory Creek hosted a Drive-Thru Tree Lighting on Friday, December 11 . Santa, his reindeer, and the Grinch welcomed participants who drove through snow and received In-N-Out for dinner.

Town Council and staff passed out goody bags for all drive-thru participants. Goody bags consisted of yummy holiday treats, information regarding our town and various programs associated with the town were included. Some bags had a “winning notecard” inside. Winners are required to bring the notecards to town hall to receive a gift card.





*Thank you for
lighting up our
town during the
holiday season!*

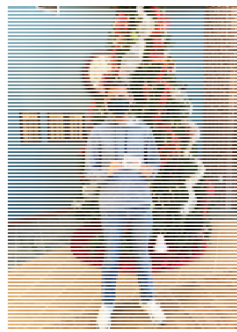
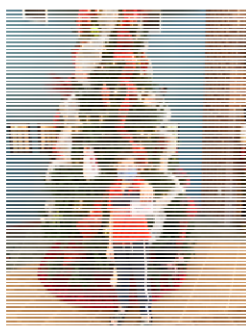
During the holiday season our town was definitely glowing with some beautiful and very creative light displays!



Our top 12:

- 4 Whispering Circle (1st place)
- 6 Whispering Circle (2nd place)
 - 110 Shasta
 - 26 Lakewood
- 33 Robins Nest
- 112 Arabian
- 245 Barkley
- 112 Whitney
- 120 Shasta
- 223 Barkley
- 287 Eagle Mountain
- 141 Shasta

SOME OF OUR GIFT CARD WINNERS





HICKORY CREEK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

DINE LOCAL VOUCHERS

The Hickory Creek Economic Development Corporation implemented a dine out voucher rebate program to help Hickory Creek restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents may bring (or mail) a receipt from any Hickory Creek Restaurant listed on the voucher with a minimum purchase of \$25 to town hall. Please include your

name and contact number. If you do not have the voucher, please also include your address. The deadline for redemption for the voucher is March 30, 2021. Please allow 7-10 business days for processing. Please contact town hall at 940.497.2528 with any questions.



TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE TREE MD

Texas A & M Forest Service is excited to share the updated version of TreeMD! The application helps users quickly identify the root of a tree's problem, whether it be caused by insects diseases or other factors.

TreeMD's main feature is a diagnosis tool which allows users to quickly find results from the vast database of insects, diseases and other harmful factors to trees. Included in the update is the new suite of other, abiotic factors. Users are prompted to enter the tree species, prominent symptoms exhibited or even the specific part of the tree that is being affected to help diagnose the problem. In the event there are still questions on the actual cause, users can upload pictures and connect with a professional.

Users can also filter lists of suspected causes by potential health problems. Once a pest or environmental factor has been selected, additional information, images and possible treatment options are provided by the user-friendly application.

While TreeMD is a useful tool in investigating potential tree problems, it is not intended to be a substitute for the recommendations and management planning of a professional service provider.

For users who need assistance in identifying their trees, we have an app for that too! Texas A & M Forest Service's My Tree ID application helps identify tree species based on leaves, flowers, seed, bark or location using a key, descriptions and full-color images.

To access Tree MD directly, go to <https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/TreeMD/>. To view other Texas A&M Forest Service applications on the Texas Forest Information Portal, go to <https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu>.

PRIMROSE STUDENTS LEARN IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC INVOLVEMENT AND CITIZENSHIP

On November 2, 2020 Mayor Clark had a wonderful time reading "Duck for President" to the students at Primrose School in Hickory Creek. After reading and learning about the importance of voting the students were able to cast their own vote for their new school mascot. Mia the Mouse was elected as the first school mascot.



DENTON COUNTY ALERT-GET SIGNED UP!



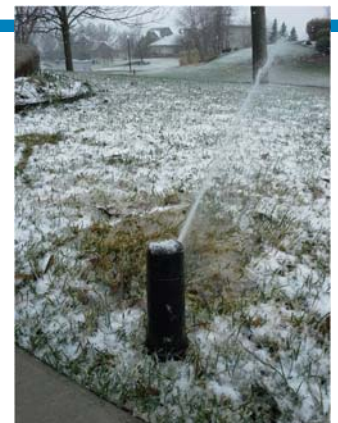
Spring in Texas means unpredictable weather and we want our residents to be prepared! SMART Weather messages from Everbridge are automatically sent when the National Weather Service issues a severe weather warning message. To get signed up go to www.dentoncounty.com Under Departments Click on Emergency Services, Emergency Services/Fire Marshal and then Emergency notification. You will need to set up a new account even if you have been previously signed up with CodeRed.

WINTERY WEATHER

Every winter, on days with freezing temperatures, multiple complaints are received about water from sprinkler systems and other sources creating icy conditions around town. The Town of Hickory Creek's Drought and Water Usage Plan States:

"A person commits an offense if he knowingly or recklessly irrigates, waters, or causes or permits the irrigation or watering of a lawn or landscape located on premises owned, leased, or managed by the person in a manner that causes....the formation of ice or any other hazardous condition."

If you have a sprinkler system, disable the system anytime the forecast calls for freezing temperatures or install a rain/freeze sensor to prevent future problems. Also, eliminate any other ways that ice may form and create a hazard. Violations can result in the issuance of citations.



HICKORY CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT

WELCOMES NEWEST OFFICER

Officer William Townsend comes to the Hickory Creek Police Department with almost 20 years of law enforcement experience. In 2001, he began working at the Denton County Sheriff's Department, as both a Sheriff's Deputy and a Detention Officer. Townsend left the Sheriff's Department in 2003, after accepting a full-time position with the Aubrey Police Department. While in Aubrey, Officer Townsend was a Reserve Officer, School Resource Officer, Patrol Officer/Supervisor, Criminal Investigator, Interim Chief of Police, and Administrative Commander. He retired from the department as a Captain, while assigned as the Administrative Commander.

Officer Townsend possess both a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science degree and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Midwestern State University. He has a military background with the United States Marine Corps, where he was assigned to 4 separate deployments as an Amphibious Assault Vehicle Crew Chief from 1993 to 1997. Afterwards he moved to Phoenix Arizona and graduated from the Motorcycle Mechanics Institute while majoring in Late Model Harley Davidson, as a certified Harley Davidson Technician. He is a multi-term past Region 1 Director for the Texas Police Association as well as a member of the Texas Police Chief's Association and North Texas Police Chief's Association. He is a former board member and 2nd Vice-President of the Leadership Command College Alumni Association.

Officer Townsend is married to Desydelia Townsend, who is also in law enforcement as a Patrol Sergeant for the Krum Police Department. Together, they have and are currently raising 5 children; Brenda 22, Desy 21, Brianna 17, Sophia 9, and William 5. His interests include riding motorcycles, working around the house and JiuJitsu. He and his daughter Sophia are active students at Top Game JiuJitsu in Corinth Tx, each participating in tournaments around the state.





HICKORY CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT'S HOME SECURITY SAFETY TIPS



A review of your home's security plan is essential to identifying weaknesses in your physical security that might provide an easy opportunity for a crime to occur. We have compiled a non-inclusive list of home safety security tips which you may find helpful.

DOORS Make sure to close and **LOCK** all your windows and doors at night and when you are away from home



For the extra mile, consider adopting a "closed door, locked door policy; all outside doors are locked while they are not actively being used.

DEADBOLT LOCKS Have deadbolt locks installed with a strike plate.



For the extra mile, consider replacing all the door strike plate screws with 2"-4.5" steel-hardened wood screws. The screws typically included in the kits are shorter and therefore easier to defeat.

SECURE SLIDING GLASS DOORS Use a piece of wood or metal rod in the track and install vertical bolts to prevent lifting it off the track.

ELIMINATE HIDING PLACES Keep shrubbery trimmed near entrances and windows.

EXTERIOR LIGHTING Make sure the exterior of your home is well-lit at night. Consider using motion floodlights around the perimeter.

MAKE HOME LOOK OCCUPIED Create the illusion you are home by using timers on lights, radios, and TVs



For the extra mile, consider using WIFI-enabled "smart" plugs to assist you in creating those automatic schedules.

SUSPEND DELIVERIES If away on vacation, put a hold on newspaper and mail/package deliveries, and plan to have your lawn and property appear neat and taken care of. Also, remember to submit a vacation watch/security check request through our website at www.hickorycreek-tx.gov

SPARE KEYS Leave a key with a trusted neighbor. Do not leave a key in an obvious place, such as under the doormat.

CAMERAS If you have cameras installed around your house, make sure they are functioning as they should. A camera will not help you if it does not work.

PROMPTLY REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY If you see something, say something. Neighbors are the first line of defense against criminal activity in our neighborhoods.

While nothing can make your home absolutely "burglar-proof," these security tips are intended to create security layers that, if followed, can serve to reduce criminal opportunity and make it more difficult to attempt unauthorized entry into your home.

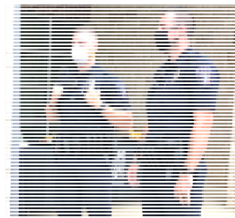
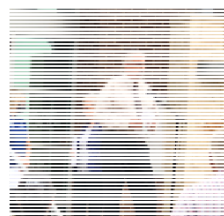
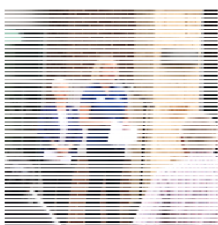
If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your Hickory Creek Police Department. We are here to serve you.

SEE YOU AT THE STATION



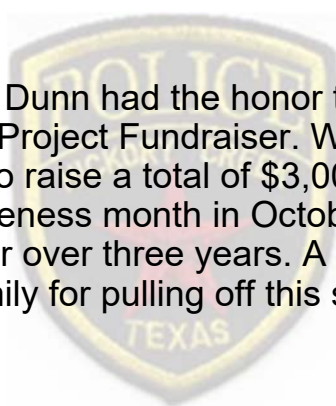
On Wednesday, September 23rd the Town of Hickory Creek hosted the 5th Annual "See You At the Station." This event, originally founded in 2015 by a citizen in Robinson, Texas was sponsored by the pastors of Antioch Christian Fellowship, Thousand Hills Church and First Baptist Church Lake Dallas.

Police officers from Corinth, Hickory Creek, and Lake Dallas, firefighters from the Lake Cities Fire Department, town and city staff members, local pastors, Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce members, and elected officials joined together in support of our men and women in uniform. These men and women are first to respond when tragedy invades our communities and sometimes their efforts go thankless, but certainly not without notice.



PINK PATCH PROJECT FUNDRAISER RECIPIENT

On November 10, 2020 Chief Dunn had the honor to recognize Kera Clark as our recipient from the Pink Patch Project Fundraiser. With the help of the community, the Police Department was able to raise a total of \$3,000.70 by selling pink patches and t-shirts for Breast Cancer Awareness month in October. Kera is a local resident who has been fighting her battle for over three years. A huge thank you to all those that participated and to Kera's family for pulling off this surprise!



UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION

The Town of Hickory Creek General Election is scheduled for May 1, 2021 for the purpose of electing Councilmember Place 1, Councilmember Place 3 and Councilmember Place 5.



GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP



Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup is the nation's largest community improvement program, engaging more than 5 million volunteers and participants every year to create positive change and lasting impact in local communities. Watch for details on our website and social media regarding a spring Great American Clean-up.

HICKORY CREEK HOMETOWN HEROES

The Town of Hickory Creek is looking to feature some of our hometown heroes. If you are or know of any Veteran living in Hickory Creek, please have them email a short biography and picture(s). Biographies will be featured in future editions of our Lakeside Newsletter. Please contact Kristina.smith@hickorycreek-tx.gov with questions or to submit a biography.

DISCONTINUATION OF SIMPLE RECYCLING

Due to the record-breaking rise in COVID-19 market conditions, global supply chains and financial impact of the of the initial outbreak, Simple Recycling has discontinued the curbside collection program. Simple Recycling is able to offer residents a convenient alternative FREE home pickup through www.donatestuff.com which would support The Military Order of the Purple Heart.*



*This was an additional recycling service for clothing donations that was provided to the citizens. Republic Services will continue to provide recycling services for paper, cardboard, plastic, etc.

REPUBLIC SERVICE CHANGES IN HICKORY CREEK

In November 2020, Republic Services made changes to the waste and recycling collection services to Hickory Creek customers. As part of the changes, Hickory Creek received new Republic Services carts.

Republic's color scheme for carts is BLUE for trash and GREEN for recycling.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Cart collection service schedules will remain on Thursdays.
- NEW! Bulk and bundled brush will be serviced EVERY THURSDAY. Customers can place up to 1 cubic yard (the size of a kitchen stove) curbside weekly.
- Curbside Household Hazardous Waste: Republic Services will collect electronic waste and hazardous chemicals from your home on an on-call basis. Call 817-317-2000 or email HickoryCreekHHW@republicservices.com to schedule a pick-up
- Renovating your home? Republic Services will offer a roll off container to residential customers at a 25% discount. Call town administrator, John Smith to start the order process.
- Residents may dispose of up to 3 cubic yards of items at the Camelot Landfill (580 Huffines Blvd, Lewisville, 75065) one time/month. Must show proof of Hickory Creek residency and billing account.
- Customers billing rates will remain the same.

Customers with questions about their waste and recycling collection services are encouraged to contact Republic Services at 817.371.2000.



ALL THINGS TRASH



REPUBLIC SERVICES SENIOR DISCOUNT

Hickory Creek provides a 30% senior discount on trash and recycling services for residents over 65. To get signed up, bring your trash bill and drivers 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. Senior discounts previously applied for with Waste Management will carry over to Republic Services.

As you clean out the medicine cabinet remember Hickory Creek Town Hall has a MedReturn Drug Collection Unit so you can properly dispose of expired and unused medicines. Below is a list of what can and cannot be deposited in the Med Return.

ACCEPTED

Prescriptions
Prescriptions Patches
Prescription Medications
Prescriptions Ointments
Over-the-Counter Medications
Vitamins
Samples
Medications for pets

NOT ACCEPTED

Thermometers
Hydrogen Peroxide
Inhalers
Aerosol Cans
Ointments, Lotions, or Liquids
Needles (Sharps)
Medication from businesses or clinics
Bloody or infectious waste



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. First time residential alarm systems require a \$50 application fee. Renewals are free. Applications may be found online or at Town Hall.

BOAT RAMP & DAY USE PASSES

Boat ramp and day use passes for 2021 can now be purchased or picked up at Town Hall, online or at pay stations located in Arrowhead, Point Vista, and Sycamore Bend. If you purchase the pass at the park pay station you will receive a receipt that requires you to stop by Town Hall during business hours to pick up a permanent sticker. If you purchase passes online, we send the pass to you in the mail. Hickory Creek residents receive a FREE day use pass but you must come by Town Hall to pick up the pass. Boat ramp passes for Hickory Creek residents are \$25. Please place all passes in the front windshield by the inspection sticker so they may easily be seen by officers.

**HICKORY CREEK
TOWN HALL**

1075 Ronald Reagan
Avenue

940-497-2528

Monday - Thursday

7:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday

7:00 AM - 11:00 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 - Thursday

6:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday

6:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Saturday - Sunday*

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

***FOR ADOPTIONS ONLY**

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 6:00 PM



UPCOMING TOWN CLOSURES

Monday, February 15

Presidents Day

Friday, April 2

Good Friday