

January—March 2022

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A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

It's hard to believe that 2021 is over, and we've already turned the calendar page to 2022! I want to highlight some of the things our Council and staff have accomplished this past year, while also looking forward to plans for the New Year.

Residential Developments:

- Two new neighborhoods, Lennon Creek Estates and Sycamore Cove, are under development, which will help meet the strong demand for single family homes in Hickory Creek.
- The town recently approved a voluntary request for annexation for approximately 20 acres on the land just east of The Olana. High-end town homes will be built on the property.
- A voluntary request for annexation was also pre-approved for a portion of town homes that are under construction on North Hook Street. The annexation will occur in 2024.
- A multifamily project was approved on Swisher Road.

Citizen Amenities:

- New bathroom facilities have been installed in the Sycamore Bend Primitive camping area
- Additional street lighting has been installed on various streets around town
- Sidewalk, curb, and street repairs have been completed throughout town
- New playground equipment has been installed at Arrowhead Park, and fitness equipment at Point Vista Park is on the way

Commercial Development:

- A Special Use Permit has been approved for Action Water Sports Boat dealership at the corner of Lake Dallas Drive and Carlisle Street. Action Water Sports is a high-end retailer for Centurion Wake Boats, Bentley Pontoon Boats, and a pro-shop for wake and surf boards

Coming in 2022:

- We are seeking bids to add a small amphitheater to the Town Hall pond, and we have formed an Arts & Cultural Committee to help plan events for our community
- Construction of the hotel, restaurant, and spa will begin at The Olana
- The Hickory Creek Police Department will host the "Lakeside Hero Fishing Tournament" (May 14th)

Police Department News:

The Hickory Creek Police Department, led by Chief Carey Dunn, is staffed with 14 full-time officers and 2 reserve officers. We recently added our second K9 officer, a German Shepherd, with his handler, Officer Steven Antommarchi. The police department and town employees suggested names for the K9, then the community voted through Facebook comments, and selected the name "Axel." Our two K9's, Chico and Axel, are trained for Narcotics, Search and Rescue, Explosive detection, and felon apprehension. This Spring, we will deploy a new Marine Patrol Unit along the shore of Lewisville Lake, and a new UTV Patrol Unit which will provide access to remote areas, parks, and trails. In addition to regular duties, our officers also participate in the following Task Forces and activities:

- Full-time officer with the DEA in the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Task Force-Texoma
- Part-time officer with Homeland Security Investigations – Child Exploitation Unit
- Part-time officer with the Secret Service North Texas Electronic Crimes Task Force
- Part-time task force officer with the International Crimes Against Children Task Force – North Texas
- Child Safety Seat Technician and participation in the Safe Kids North Texas task force
- Serve on the board of Texas Association of Property and Evidence Inventory Technicians

At the start of the pandemic, North Texas Mayors were invited to participate via Zoom in an Economic Recovery Council, where we have shared best practices on a variety of topics. County Judge Andy Eads has invited Denton County Mayors to participate in a similar group starting this Spring. I consider it a privilege to represent Hickory Creek with these groups and across Denton County.

With best wishes for the New Year!

Lynn Clark



HICKORY CREEK MAY 2022 ELECTION

Hickory Creek's next election is scheduled for May 7, 2022 for the purpose of electing a Mayor, Councilmember Place 2 and Councilmember Place 4. Filing for inclusion on the ballot is January 19, 2022 to February 18, 2022.

Candidate packets, prepared for those wishing to run for office in the election, are available as of January 18, 2022, at Town Hall.

Residents must be registered to vote by April 7, 2022.

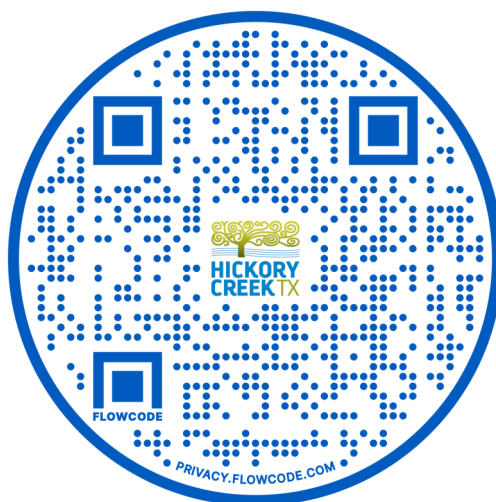
Early voting begins on Monday, April 25 and ends on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

MY HICKORY CREEK

The Town of Hickory Creek is excited to Launch '(My Hickory Creek)', a new mobile citizen engagement application powered by GOGov. This application puts the power of town hall in the palm in your hand.

The app allows residents to have a direct line of communication to request services and report issues such as potholes, graffiti and more. The app will also be a great source of information with links to the town website, news, and ongoing events.

Town staff will leverage powerful dashboards and reporting tools to identify hot spots, increase productivity, streamline communications, and prioritize projects.



HICKORY CREEK HOMETOWN HERO WILLIS LOGAN

Willis Logan served in the United States Marine Corps in World War II and in the United States Air Force in the Korean Conflict. His Marine Corps tour of duty started with boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina and included Amphibious Combat training at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California. He was assigned to a replacement battalion for mopping up operations on Guam. He was wounded during that time.

The troops on Guam were in training for the final invasion of the Japanese mainland. The invasion was cancelled after two atomic bombs were dropped, one on Hiroshima and the other on Nagasaki, to end the war in 1945. Logan was then assigned to the Seventh Service Regiment of the Fleet Marine Force, attached to the First Marine Division, and sent to China to repatriate the Japanese troops who were there back to their home country. Many of the troops had been in China since 1937 and did not want to return to Japan. Further complicating the situation were several Chinese war lords, led by Mao Tsetung, who did not like the American Marines being in their country. As retaliation, they ambushed the U.S. troops whenever they could.

Logan traveled throughout North China, Manchuria, and Mongolia, seeking troops who wanted to be repatriated. On one such mission he accidentally wound up in Valdivostok, Russia!



Logan's list of accomplishments also included aiding in the recovery of the Chinese Imperial Jewels, which were hidden in Mongolia when the Japanese invaded China. For his service in China, Logan received honors from Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. While in Shanghai waiting for transportation back to the U.S., Logan took lessons from the Navy and qualified as a Deep Sea Diver, earning a Certificate of Completion.



Upon returning to America, Logan attended SMU for three years. He joined the Air Force and entered the Aviation Cadet program at the 3545th Training Squadron when the Korean War broke out. On completion of Basic and Advanced Flying school, he was assigned to the B-29 Combat School at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas and the 301st Air Bomb Wing at Kadena Air Force Base on Okinawa. Logan flew five missions over Korea. The Strategic Air Command (SAC) formed a new wing of Atomic Carriers at the Second Air Force base at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, the 376th Bomb Wing to which Logan was

assigned. He trained in all aspects of atomic weaponry. He was assigned combat status, standing in air watches as a retaliatory strike force in case of surprise attack. The assignment took him all over the world including being based at the top secret strike base at Sidi Slimane, French Morocco.

During his tour of duty in the Air Force, Logan qualified in many types of aircraft including the F-86 and the B-47. His flying experience opened the door for him to fly as a career pilot for commercial airlines after he separated from the Air Force.

Logan's decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, American Expeditionary Force Medal, World War II Victory Medal, China Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

ARBOR DAY

Arbor Day is set aside throughout the world to raise awareness of trees and the important role that they play in our environment. The day is celebrated on different dates around the world, depending on local seasons and temperatures. In Texas, Arbor Day is celebrated in early November since fall is one of the best times to plant trees in Texas.



The Hickory Creek Parks and Recreation Board hosted an Arbor Day celebration on Saturday, November 13 at the Animal Shelter.

The event included tree giveaways, K-9 Demonstrations from the Hickory Creek Police Department, animal shelter tours, gifts for Hickory Creek Veterans, and informational handouts on the National Wildlife Federation.

The Tree Shepherds were available for questions regarding proper tree care.

Thank you for all those who participated.



TREE LIGHTING WRAP UP

On Thursday, December 3, the Town of Hickory Creek hosted our annual tree lighting. The event kicked off with Santa's arrival and the lighting of the tree. Guests enjoyed dinner from In-N-Out, sugar cookies, rock climbing, prize walk, face painting, snow pit, lollipop tree and more.



COUNCIL RECOGNITIONS



Luke Davison (pictured left) earned his Eagle Scout Award for the renovation of the Pratt Fishing Cabin. Nate Prevost (pictured right) was presented a plaque of appreciation for dedicated five years of service on the Economic Development Corporation



MEET OFFICER STEVEN ANTOMMARCHI

The last 12 years were full for Steven Antommarchi as he fulfilled the duties of Patrol Officer, Canine Handler, Canine Supervisor, Canine Trainer and Interim Chief of Police.

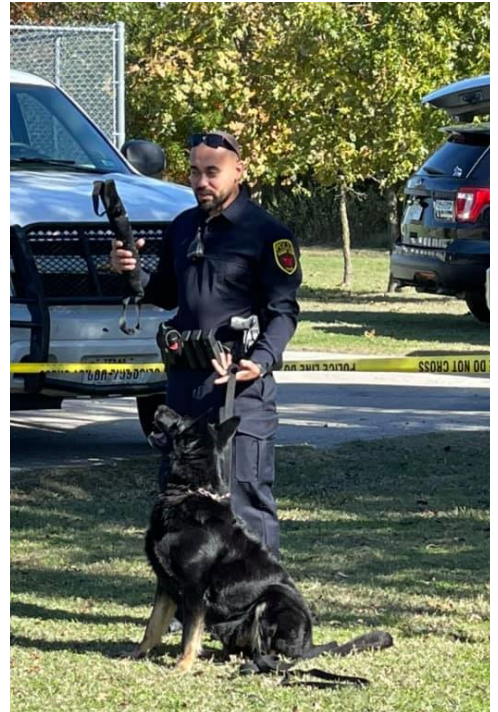
His first encounter with a K-9 team was in New York City on September 11, 2001 when he watched them fighting through horrible conditions, while overcoming serious injury for the sake of saving lives. The profound impression that made on him determined the future of his career.

Fifteen years later, on July 7, 2016, in Dallas, Texas, K-9 Officer Antommarchi was responsible for clearing the downtown area of improvised explosive devices following a deadly attack on local law enforcement. Finally, his original reason for working K-9s came full circle.

Mentored by Tony Guzman and Robert “Bob” Suarez, Antommarchi was an Instructor for Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University, a K-9 case study trainer for the International Forensic Research Institute (IFRI) and a trainer for Metro Dade K9.

He was also one of the lead trainers and co-designer of the training methodology for a scientific study through IFRI on “Hemp vs Marijuana,” to evaluate the ability for narcotic detector dogs to discriminate between the odor of marijuana and hemp. The study is headed by Dr. Kelvin Frank of Florida International University and is in the process of being submitted for publication.

Antommarchi was the K-9 trainer for more than a dozen north Texas law enforcement agencies and traveled across the United States with a team of K-9 instructors conducting workshops and seminars focusing on operational readiness and K-9 aggression instincts. He now works exclusively with Hickory Creek as a K-9 Officer, increasing our K-9 force to two.



HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR TREE DURING THE WINTER

HELP YOUR TREE SURVIVE IN COLD CONDITIONS

Article from www.texas-trees.org written by Eric Wettengel

Winter is here and for most of us that means taking out a blanket and cuddling inside next to the heater for a few months. Our trees, however, don't get that option and must endure what the Texas weather has in store. Here are a few measures you can take to ensure your tree endures the upcoming Winter months with as little stress and damage as possible:

PRUNE

Throughout the Winter, most trees go into a state of dormancy where they drop their leaves, put photosynthesis on hold, and hibernate while living off food stored away in the roots. This time of dormancy is a great time to prune your tree.

Have you noticed any dead, dying, or damaged limbs now that the leaves have fallen? Prune them out before a high wind knocks them out of the canopy and damages anything below. Even if you have a young, newly planted tree, now is a perfect time to do a little structural pruning to give it a good start at life.

MULCH

Another proactive step you can take to get your tree ready for Winter is by spreading mulch around your tree or refreshing an existing mulch bed. During the colder months, a nice 1-2-inch layer of mulch around the tree helps insulate the roots and soil against dramatic swings in temperature that can cause serious damage and death in a tree's root system.

Mulch also helps to retain moisture in the soil around the tree. This is particularly helpful if we have a dryer winter and the tree gets very little ambient moisture. Remember to spread your mulch around the base of the tree. Do not pile it up around the trunk of the tree. Too much mulch piled up around the trunk of the tree holds too much moisture in and creates a perfect environment for insects, fungi, and other pests to feed on your tree.



WATER

Just because it's cold outside and your tree is going dormant doesn't mean your tree has stopped needing water. By turning your sprinkler system off completely over the colder months, you cut your tree off from its normal source of water.

Younger and newly planted trees need to retain a regular source of water until they can grow a root system large enough to sustain themselves. If you look at the weather and don't see any rain in the 2-week forecast, plan to water your tree with 10-15 gallons of water within that two-week period.

Freeze Prevention

While you're checking the weather channel for possible rain, be sure to note any days that may approach freezing temperatures. Mature, indigenous trees will need little attention, but if you have any tree species that originate from warmer, more tropical climates, you should have a plan ready to either bring them inside or provide some form of protection from the cold.

An easy way to protect a young or tropical tree from the cold is simply by covering it with trash bags, tarps, or towels to provide a layer of insulation from the freezing temperature. Along with covering your tree, make sure the soil around the tree is thoroughly saturated with water. Water retains a greater amount of heat than air, so having moist soil helps keep the soil around the tree warmer.



SEE YOU AT THE STATION



On Wednesday, September 22, the Town of Hickory Creek hosted the 6th 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. Unfortunately, their efforts sometimes go thankless, but certainly not unnoticed.



WINTER'S HERE! HELPFUL TIPS

Residents of the Lake Cities are unlikely to forget February, 2021, especially Valentine's Day weekend.

That was when the Texas electrical grid fell off-line. We had no power. For most of us, that meant no heat....for more than three days. We were in the grip of a polar vortex – whatever that is.

We were like a herd of hungry deer caught in the headlights of a stalled car. The car wasn't moving, and we couldn't run. Teeth-chattering, bone-chilling temperatures plunged to record lows in 100 years. The windchill put us in the negative teens.

If anyone needed additional proof of our misery, they need only check the 67' deep Lewisville Lake. Large portions of that iconic body of water were frozen over on February 16. Local measurements taken in Little Elm recorded 2" thick ice at 150' from shore, with water depth at 11'. Ice was more than 5" thick closer to shore. The lake had never frozen prior to 2021.

Many people with not-too-distant relatives hit the road. Others managed to find motel/hotel rooms but, soon, those were out of the picture. Residents with fireplaces learned the value of wood, stretching hands and feet toward open flames. Some of us set up to cook over those same flames. And those of us with pets learned the meaning behind the song titled *Three Dog Night*.

As so often happens, the worst behavior of nature brought out the best behavior in humans. Local businesses such as Linny Bird Bakery, Joe's Bait and Tackle and others came together to cook, and to deliver, hundreds of frozen dinners to people who were hungry and cold. Money for the food came from their own pockets, supplemented with donations from complete strangers. Volunteers arrived in droves.

Some residents hauled gas grills into cul de sacs or corners of their yards, with signs saying they would cook for free the meat defrosting in their neighbors' powerless freezers. Others, with gas stoves in their homes, cooked full meals to be picked up by whomever needed feeding.

It was miserable but, with a little help from our friends (and strangers), we made it. At least, most of us made it. But it was a grimly serious situation and there were deaths.

Now it's mid-December, 2021. We've had some chill but, certainly, nothing significant. BUT....the Old Farmers' Almanac, along with a broad number of other prognosticators, say we're in for a repeat performance. Just the thought of going through that again makes most of us shiver. The silver lining is we can be far better prepared than we were a year ago.

For one thing, the town of Hickory Creek will be in a better position to assist its residents. Many of the town's plans are currently under development and are not included in this newsletter, which is why all citizens should get in the habit of checking the Hickory Creek website at least weekly. Checking daily (if you have power) is an excellent idea if we find ourselves in another critical weather situation. (www.hickorycreek-tx.gov/)

TIPS TO PREPARE

- Lay in a good supply of wood if you have a fireplace. It burns quickly, but it's a good source of heat and you can also cook on it. Make certain your chimney is safe to use. If you haven't made a fire in more than a year, Google chimney sweeps near you and have someone come out. The cost runs \$80 to \$300, depending on a number of variables.
- Wood doesn't go bad! If we get lucky and don't need it this winter, it'll still be there when we **do** need it. Don't wait until the last minute to purchase wood, since it will probably cost you more. Don't forget matches and/or a fire striker.
- There's nothing complicated about cooking over an open fire. Gather two to four stray bricks. Place them in the fire, top with a rack from a toaster oven or a cooling rack for cakes and cookies. Get it as level as possible. Get cookin'!
- Order/buy a propane cook stove or check garage/estate sales. A two-burner model works just fine, and it's not as messy as the fireplace.
- What to cook? **Keep it simple!** You'll have food thawing in the freezer. Cook it as it becomes available. Keep canned soup, canned chicken/tuna, veggies on hand. Anything you can reach, grab, cook in a hurry. This is not the time to go gourmet!
- Order extra propane canisters.
- Order/buy battery or propane-powered lanterns. The propane version also provides a heat source. Most of us relied on candles in February because that's all we had. They work but lanterns work better.
- Order/buy a portable, propane-powered heater.
- Make sure you have a large supply of extra batteries.
- You need to maintain lines of communication. For most of us, that means cell phones. Consider buying a battery power pack to keep the cell phones charged. Otherwise, you'll do what many of us did last year, which is run to the garage and charge the phone in the car.
- Fill your car with gasoline if you hear severe weather in the forecast.
- Some people had water problems back in February, so bring in the bottles/gallons.
- Wrap your outside faucets. You may as well do that now.
- As long as you have power, leave cabinet doors in kitchens and bathrooms open so heat can reach the pipes to prevent freezing. You may want to put a small lamp with a 40W bulb inside the cabinet with the pipes. Leave the faucets dripping. We don't want to discuss burst pipes. It's too horrible!
- **Bring ALL pets inside!**
- **BE CAREFUL!** You're dealing with propane, portable heaters, matches, fire. It's all potentially dangerous. Be cautious and leave nothing untended....EVER.
- You have neighbors. Check on them, especially if they're elderly. Yes, in such an instance as this, we *are* our brothers' keepers.

None of the items recommended for purchase is expensive. Take a look at Amazon and *a/ways* read the reviews. Some lanterns, extra batteries, a portable propane heater or two will be less than \$200.

Finally, the town has your back. Check the website: www.hickorycreek-tex.gov/.

WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

If you are doing any of the following projects, you DO need a permit. If you have any questions about the permitting process, please contact the Building Department at Town or call 940.497.2528 ext. 225. Applications and a copy of the Permit Fee Schedule are available on the Permits page of the town's website.

PROJECTS STARTED WITHOUT A BUILDING PERMIT ARE SUBJECT TO DOUBLE PERMIT FEES.

- Building a shed
- Replacing a roof
- Any project that makes structural changes to a building, such as adding a room
- HVAC repairs
- Electrical work
- Replacing a water heater or any other plumbing work
- Putting in a pool or spa
- Outdoor kitchens and patio covers
- Concrete work
- Replacing a fence or changing its location, size, or material, building an addition or garage
- Arbors and decks
- Tree trimming and removal
- Having a garage or estate sale



HICKORY CREEK PARK UPDATES



The Parks and Recreation Board approved funds for a new playground in Arrowhead. Also, a new restroom has been constructed in the primitive camping area in Sycamore Bend Park, and fitness equipment has been installed at Point Vista Park.

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 (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable 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 sheeting 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 a backup battery

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



KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN

Take Care of Texas

USE LESS-TOXIC CLEANING PRODUCTS



Using less-toxic cleaning products can reduce pollutants in both the air and water, and may help improve the air quality in your house. The EPA's Safer Choice program labels products that can help protect the environment and are safer for families. Products certified with the Safer Choice label have been reviewed for potential effects on human health and the environment.

1. Search for products that meet the Safer Choice standard.
2. Find Safer Choice products to use in your community.

PURPLE HEART PARKING

You may notice our new reserved parking sign for Purple Heart recipients the next time you stop by Town Hall. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who were wounded in combat. Pictured are Mayor Clark with Mr. And Mrs. Joe Beaver from Hickory Creek. Joe is a three-time purple heart recipient.



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. 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 2022 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 by the inspection sticker so they may easily be seen by an officer. Failure to properly display 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.

**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 21

President's Day

Friday, April 15

Good Friday

CONNECT!

Check www.hickorycreek-tx.gov/ for current information affecting your health, safety, and welfare.

IT'S IMPORTANT!