

First Quarter 2023

LAKE SIDE NEWS

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PHOTO CREDIT KRISTIN MILTON PHOTOGRAPHY

A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

It's hard to believe, but 2022 is in the past, and the calendar is set to 2023! I want to highlight some of the things our Council and staff accomplished in 2022, while also looking forward to plans for the New Year.

A recurring theme we hear in government circles is that "regional cooperation" is valuable for providing the highest quality services to our citizens. To that end, we signed agreements in August with Corinth and Shady Shores to bring internet service that will provide 1 Gig Upload & Download service to our communities. Government ARPA funds are being used to construct a fiber ring which will connect all government buildings in our three cities. You can follow the progress of this multi-year project at <https://lake-cities-broadband-corinth.hub.arcgis.com>. In line with this, our cities were honored to receive the North Texas Council of Governments "Regional Cooperation Award" at its Annual General Assembly meeting in June.

We also signed cooperative agreements with Corinth and Shady Shores to provide Animal Services through our Hickory Creek Animal Shelter and hired a second Animal Control Officer. Additionally, we signed an agreement with Shady Shores to provide Public Works assistance. These two agreements not only strengthen our relationships, but also bring added revenue to support these partnerships.

Public Works projects are underway, including the completion of Sycamore Bend Road and the reopening of Sycamore Bend Park this Spring. Additional sidewalks are planned in various areas as well. In cooperation with Lake Cities Municipal Water Authority and Lake Cities Fire Department, fire hydrants are being added in our Harbor Grove neighborhood and on Sycamore Bend Road. As part of our improvements after the winter storm in 2021, the Town purchased and installed backup generators for use at Town Hall and our Public Works and Animal Shelter facilities.

In September, I was privileged to speak at the dedication of Thousand Hills Church, the first church in Hickory Creek. Pastor Ben De Boeuf and his congregation are actively involved in our community, and recently hosted Hickory Creek, Corinth, and Lake Dallas Police Departments for "Coffee with a Cop."

This Fall, additional land in our Extra Territorial Jurisdiction along Swisher Road was voluntarily annexed into Hickory Creek, and the requested C-1 zoning was applied. Approximately 20 acres of land along Swisher is now available for future

commercial development. A multi-family complex will complete the area, and we expect permits to be issued in January, with construction following thereafter. The hotel for The Olana is undergoing final construction plans, which also call for a "Design District" on the northeast corner of the property. This French inspired "village" will house shops for bridal gowns, menswear, DJ services, wedding cakes, and flowers.

Our police department recently pinned badges on two new officers, Bryan Cavazos and Johnny Nguyen. And after the recent loss of our canine Axel, Officer Steven Antommarchi acquired a new canine, Bear. Please help me welcome these new officers!

In the November election, Hickory Creek Proposition A passed, allowing for alcohol sales in Hickory Creek. Additionally, Proposition A passed for all of Denton County. Our Denton County Commissioners asked each municipality to submit road projects for the bond, with over 100 projects totaling \$650 million approved by the voters. Hickory Creek's projects include South Hook & Garth, Harbor Lane to Harbor Grove Park, Point Vista south of Stamford, and Country Lane. These projects will total approximately \$10.2 million. The County will fund \$8 million of that amount, with Hickory Creek providing \$2.2 million. The County will exercise the bonds over the next several years to prevent a tax increase. We are incredibly grateful to our County Commissioners for their cooperation with all municipalities to fund projects that we could not afford on our own!

In December, volunteers from across Hickory Creek joined me in ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Mayor's Challenge. With their help, we raised \$3168, and initial results show that we raised more than the Mayors of Denton, Highland Village, Lewisville, and Flower Mound. Thanks to all who volunteered!

January will see the kick-off of an update to our Comprehensive Plan. Stay tuned!

Best wishes for 2023!

Lynn Clark, Mayor



HICKORY CREEK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The Town of Hickory Creek is currently in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan. This comprehensive plan looks 20 years ahead to establish a vision for the community. It will include the steps that are needed to make that vision a reality.

Share your Feedback! Participate in the following upcoming outreach opportunities to shape the future of Hickory Creek!

Online Survey—Coming Soon

(2/20/2023 to 3/12/2023)

www.hickorycreek-tx.gov

Community Workshop #1: Visioning

(3/25/2023)

Community Workshop #2: Goal Setting & Priorities (TBD)

Community feedback is critical to identifying the Town's current needs and defining the future priorities and direction for the community. A series of outreach opportunities have been designed to gain feedback and insights from the community throughout the planning process.

Stay tuned for more details about each of these events as they approach. We hope you join us in this important process of preparing the future of Hickory Creek!



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAMMIE SAVIDGE PHOTOGRAPHY

NEW MEMBERS OF TEAM HICKORY CREEK

Yes, it really does take a village to keep a town like Hickory Creek running smoothly (most of the time!) On top of that, the village is only as strong as its team members, which is why the town searches for the best individuals to fill existing, as well as newly created, positions.

The Hickory Creek Police Department is at the top of the list. Sergeant Mike Miller claims 15-years of law enforcement experience, with 14 of those years spent with Hickory Creek. In addition to his regular duties, he's also in charge of recruiting those young, fresh faces you see around town, proudly sporting their uniforms.



"Recruiting is more difficult now than it was just a few years ago," Miller admitted. "There was a time when I could place ads on-line and get some excellent potential officers. Not now, though. The last recruitment round, I went to the training academies and asked to be made aware of all non-sponsored graduates.

"We put potential recruits through low-stress interviews with the Board. Other law enforcement departments in larger cities base their interviews on high-stress questions, but we come from a somewhat different direction. We look for moral integrity first and *then* we evaluate stress management capabilities."

Miller says most of HC's young recruits stay with the town well into the future. Why?

"I think a large part of the reason is our work culture," he answered. "Our mayor will walk up to the officers, give them a hug, and ask about their families. If Chief Dunn knows a recruit is really interested in a particular area, such as working with kids or drug addiction, he's generous about allowing us to pursue training in that field.

"We're 100 percent supported by our Mayor and our Council members, which is more important than I can express.

"Whether you're a veteran or a recruit, we want people who are excited about coming to work in the mornings. There's been a lot of demoralization directed toward Police Departments recently, and it's affected the hiring process."

NEW RECRUITS: JOHNNY NGUYEN AND BRYAN CAVAZOS

Nguyen was born and raised in Dallas, while Cavazos was born and raised a world away in Los Angeles. Yet, both graduated from the same Texas high school (a couple years apart), attended the police academy, and joined the HCPD at the same time via Sgt. Miller.

“Ever since I can remember, I’ve always wanted to give back to people,” said Nguyen. “I’m of Vietnamese descent and was born and raised in Dallas. I thought about the giving back concept, off and on, as I got older, and finally decided the best way for me to do that was through law enforcement. I graduated from the academy in August of ’22 and was recruited by Sgt. Miller. I feel completely grateful and blessed to be here. It’s exactly where I want to be.”



Nguyen started his work on the HCPD with two weeks of riding with a field officer, learning the physical lay of the town and communicating with residents whenever the opportunity arose.

“I haven’t met everyone on the force yet,” Nguyen revealed, “but I’ve met more than enough to know this will be my home for a long time.”

BRYAN CAVAZOS



“I’m 25 years old with a BA degree in criminal justice. I’d never heard of a town named Hickory Creek prior to meeting Sgt. Miller,” explained Cavazos. “I started researching and one of the things I picked up on during that time was a beautiful relationship between the town and the police. I could see those relationships and how they work while riding with Sgt. Miller during my field training. I knew I’d made the right decision, and I’m grateful to be here.”

The two recruits met one another after Cavazos and his family moved from Los Angeles to Dallas in the early 2000s. Something important happened, however, prior to the relocation.

“My dad had a good friend who was with the Los Angeles Police Department,” recalled Cavazos. “I was maybe seven or eight years old and everything about him inspired me. I even started carrying myself like a police officer. There’s never been anyone in law enforcement in my family prior to my joining. I’d like to eventually impact kids, and maybe inspire at least one of them the way I was inspired.”

THE HC WORLD OF ANIMAL PROTECTION

Effective October 3, 2022, a partnership agreement for top level animal services became effective between Hickory Creek, Shady Shores, and Corinth. Hickory Creek leads the effort from its 970 Main Street location, shouldering the responsibility for all animals found and impounded by any of the three cities. (Contact at 940.465.7444 www.hickorycreek-tx.gov/animal).

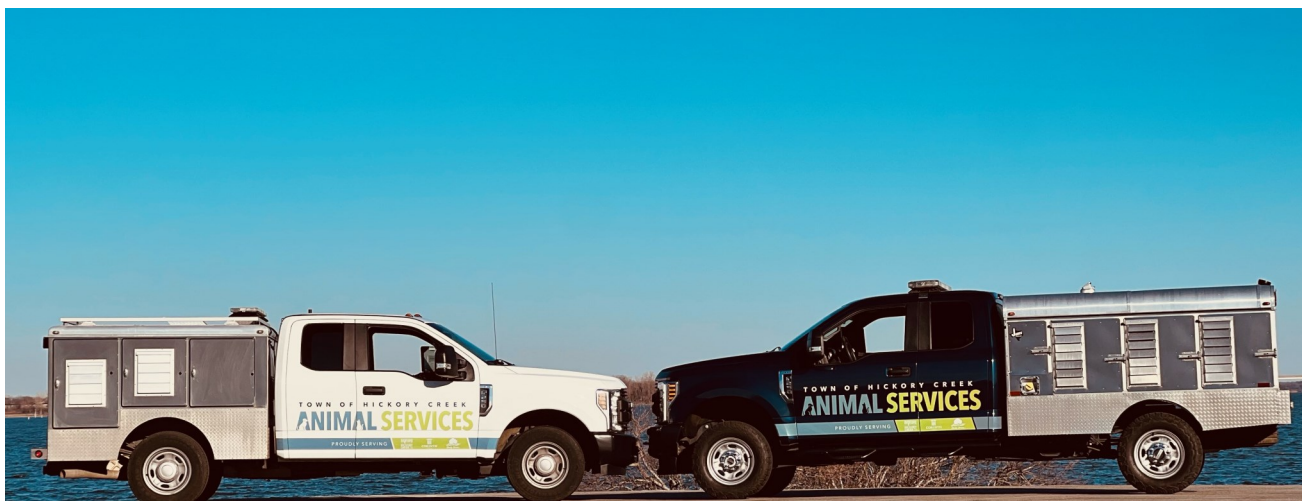
To handle the expanded scope of Lake Cities animal protection, veteran animal services officer Alyssa Benner was joined by animal services officer Hannah Breaux, formerly with Corinth. Jeffrey McSpedden is the Director of Animal Services, along with serving as Director of Public Works.



Hickory Creek now has two trucks patrolling within the tri-cities area. It's far safer for animals to be in one of those trucks as opposed to roaming the roads and/or woods. Don't forget, we have resident wildlife, such as coyotes and bobcats, always poised for a free meal.

Breaux has always had a love for animals and began working with them at 15 -years-old. Both she and Benner have tremendous compassion for four-legged welfare.

If your pet goes missing, call the shelter and/or check its Facebook page. All pets must be registered with the city, which is free. There is a \$150 fee for an owner to release a pet to the shelter. Any pet requiring quarantine at the shelter is \$15 per day. Traps are available for strays or wildlife for a \$50 deposit.



DO I NEED A PERMIT FOR THAT?

Often the answer is “YES.” If you are doing any of the following projects, you DO need a permit:

- Building a shed, garage, hobby shop, etc.
- Replacing or repairing a roof
- Any project that makes structural changes to a building, such as adding a room or removing walls or beams
- Foundation repair
- HVAC repairs
- Electrical work
- Replacing a water heater or any other plumbing work
- Replacing a fence or changing its location, size, or materials
- Concrete work, including paths, driveways, patio slabs, culverts, etc
- Putting in an inground or above ground pool or spa
- Installing a generator or solar panels
- Patio covers, pergolas, arbors, decks, outdoor kitchens, etc
- Removing a tree
- Irrigation systems
- Having a garage or estate sale
- Door to door solicitation,
- Operating a short term rental

If you have any questions about whether a permit is required or the permitting process, please contact the Building Department at Town Hall, 940.497.2528 or inspections@hickorycreek-tx.gov

Applications and the master fee schedule are available on the permits page of the town website www.hickorycreek-tx.gov. All plans must meet the zoning standards for the neighborhood. Projects started without a building permit are subject to double permit fees.



Where We Live

The History of Swisher

There's an old saying that familiarity breeds contempt and, sometimes, that's true. Other times, it breeds a form of devaluing or a discounting of importance.

Think about how many times in one week you may say the word "Swisher." Eg: What grocery store do you use? "Oh, I just run over to Walmart on Swisher." What veterinarian do you use? "We like Corinth Vet on Swisher." Have you had coffee at Starbucks over on Swisher? "Yep, we have."

How many times do you stop and wonder if there are real Swishers out there?

It all began with H.(Henry) H. Swisher.

Mr. Swisher was born in 1797 in Knoxville, Tennessee. His parents were Henry and Annie Gibson Swisher. He moved to Texas in the winter of 1833, with his brother James Gibson Swisher and James' family. They settled in the Sterling C. Robertson colony at Viesco. They moved again the following year to the newly (1831) settled Tenoxtitlan in what is now Burleson County, just five or six miles below Nashville in Milam County. Interestingly, Tenoxtitlan was originally established as a Mexican fort.

For whatever reasons, Tenoxtitlan became a jumping-off spot for several new Texans, who eventually became prominent in the state's history. They didn't, as a rule, live there for long but it did seem to give them a few months to think about their next steps.

The Swishers were on the move again in a few months, pulling up stakes in the fall of 1834 to trek over to Gay Hill in Washington County. From there, H.H. Swisher enlisted in the army. The following information about Swisher was shown on the official roll: His birthplace, as already noted, was Knoxville, Tennessee in 1797. It said he stood 5' 10", with a dark complexion, black eyes, and black hair.

Swisher was a first lieutenant in Captain Hill's Company. The newly transplanted Tennessean fought courageously at the Battle of San Jacinto, and was quickly awarded Donation Certificate No. 1159 for 530 acres of land for his dedicated participation in the battle. He became a land-owning Texan on May 11, 1841. That was followed by Bounty Certificate No.1495 for another 320 acres as a thank you for serving in the army for 60 days. He was promoted to First Lieutenant in April 1836.

The land known as the Swisher survey in Denton County was presented to H.H. Swisher in gratitude for the part he played in the war with Mexico, resulting in Texas' independence. H.H.'s son, Captain A.P. Swisher, inherited a good portion of his father's acreage, including the portion donated for use as the Swisher Lake Dallas Cemetery. Initially, it was to be used as a burial site for the families in the French Settlement.

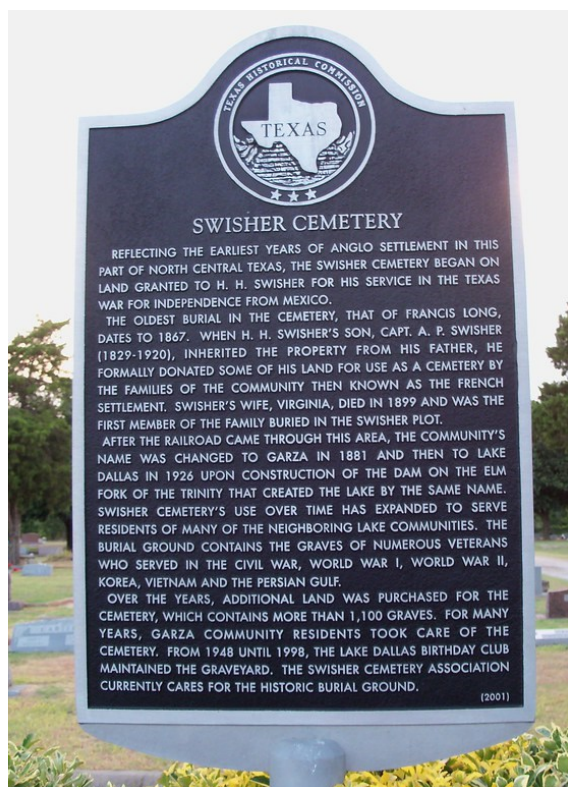
Captain A.P. Swisher, who received his military title During the Civil War, lost his wife Virginia in 1899. She was buried in the space recognized as the Swisher lot. He planted two cedar trees, one on the Northwest corner and the other on the Southeast corner. Both trees still stand as a testament to the Tennessean who became a recognized Texan, and whose name is still a household word in 2023.

Some of the contemporary Swishers may know how H.H. and his family made their way into Florida, but the answer wasn't revealed in the research for this article. We know they were there, however, because an article in a local newspaper said they attended a Christmas bridge party in the Sunshine State. They even walked away as the winners of the couple's high score prize, which was a set of hand-painted glasses. Their hosts served a supper plate of chicken salad sandwiches, and fruit

cake with whipped cream. Really! Just how long has fruit cake been gracing holidays?!

H.H. Swisher's brother, James Gibson Swisher, made several indelible marks during his life in Tennessee, Texas, and Florida. He was active in the military, including the Texas Revolution. He signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the Republic of Texas. He served as a Ranger, as a Justice of the Peace, and later operated a tavern, a hotel, and a ferry. He also farmed until his death in 1862.

This is only a surface peek into the Swisher world, but it gives you a few things to think about the next time you head to Walmart, or Starbucks, or the Vet clinic, or.....





SALVATION ARMY MAYOR'S RED KETTLE CHALLENGE

Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was a caring man, who was determined to provide Christmas dinner to 1,000 of the most impoverished people in San Francisco in 1891. But....he had no financial funds.

He thought about his problem and remembered the big pots he'd seen as a kid in Liverpool, England. They were placed at the docks where people unloaded from the ships. That memory was all he needed to build a kettle empire of faith and compassion.

COVID spawned the Red Kettle Challenge. More money was needed but the availability and access were both down. Lewisville Mayor Rudy Durham pushed the envelope by Challenging the mayors of Flower Mound and Highland Village to a "ring-off," to determine which mayor could ring-in the most money.

Hickory Creek Mayor Lynn Clark picked up the challenge in 2021 and competed for the second consecutive year in 2022. Where were she and husband Bob stationed from 9:30 am until 6:00 pm? In front of Walmart, of course! Assisted for an hour by volunteers, they rang their tiny bells for a big donation total of \$3,169, which was more than the mayors of Denton, Lewisville, Highland Village, and Flower Mound! They painted huge Christmas smiles on the faces of a lot of hurting people, which is precisely what working together in caring compassion does.



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 2023 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 registration 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 20

Friday, April 7

President's Day

Good Friday

CONNECT!

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

IT'S IMPORTANT!