

First Quarter 2024

LAKE SIDE NEWS

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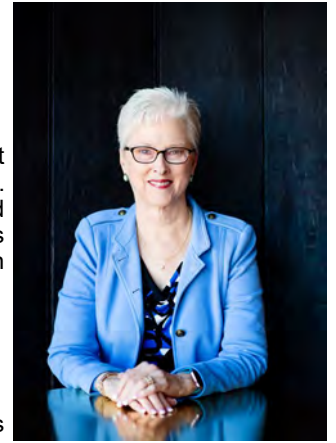
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LOCATION: POINT VISTA PARK

A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear Fellow Citizens,

I am pleased to announce that the Town of Hickory Creek has once again received an excellent audit by Carl Deaton of Hankins, Eastup, Deaton, Tonn, Seay and Scarborough Accounting Firm. The town's financial statements of governmental activities and all accounting activities are audited annually to ensure compliance with standards contained in the Governmental Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The following statements can be found in the 2023 Town of Hickory Creek Financial Statements and Accountant's Opinion:



Financial Highlights

- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town of Hickory Creek exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows at September 30, 2023, by \$24,079,943. Of this amount, \$9,561,776 may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The Town's total net position increased by \$5,801,679 during the fiscal year from the results of current year operations.
- As of September 30, 2023, the Town of Hickory Creek's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$12,916,586, an increase of \$2,208,307 in comparison with the beginning of the period. Approximately 75 percent of this total amount, \$9,718,590, is available for spending at the government's discretion (*unassigned fund balance*).
- At the end of the current period, unassigned fund balance for the general fund of \$9,718,590 was 163.5 percent of total general fund expenditures.

The fund balance of the Town's general fund increased by \$4,761,423 during the current year compared to a \$951,261 increase in the prior year. Key factors are as follows:

- Revenues increased \$4,299,226 or 82.5% from the previous year, primarily due to an increase of \$1,589,832 in building permit revenue, plus new sources of revenue from tree mitigation fees (\$570,625) and Denton County funding for a road project (\$1,026,091)
- Expenditures increased \$632,437 or 11.9% from the previous year, primarily due to additional public works expenditures (primarily engineering) and capital outlay expenditures.
- The fund balance of the capital projects decreased by \$1,988,583 during the current year due to \$3,081,560 capital outlay expenditures.

Hickory Creek's annual budget and full audit report can be found on our town website, www.hickorycreek-tx.gov > Departments & Services > Administration and Finance > Audits (or Budgets).

In response to citizen input for our Comprehensive Plan, the Council is currently exploring construction of some type of recreation-focused facility on land across the street from town hall, so watch for further information to come.

And finally, the BIG NEWS! The rumors are true! Due to capacity restraints at their current location, Chick-fil-A is relocating to a new site at 3550 FM 2181 in Hickory Creek. The new restaurant will be 6,000 square feet, approximately double the size of the current location, and will feature a two-lane drive-through and parking spaces for 128 cars. Plans were approved in December by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Council, and construction will take four to six months. We look forward to welcoming Chick-fil-A later this year!

As always, it's my privilege to serve as your mayor. I look forward to seeing you around town!

Best regards,

Lynn Clark
Mayor

HOLIDAY IN THE PARK



HICKORY CREEK TOWN SECRETARY KRISTI ROGERS



Kristi Rogers, who hooked her star to the coattails of Hickory Creek 24 years ago, grew up in Tennessee as a Baptist preacher's kid. No one knows for certain, but surely the years she spent in close family and church environments made huge contributions molding and shaping her into the person she is today. "My parents instilled in me as a child to always do my best." Kristi said. This without a doubt is apparent in her work for the Town.

Begin with her laugh. Unembarrassed. Free. Seldom, if ever, is it muffled or held back. Infectious. You're definitely going to react, in some way, when it rings out.

She's ridden the tide of changes with Hickory Creek. She began when Town Hall was located on the I-35 service road; squeezed and stuffed into an old, small house that held its head up to better days many years earlier. Today, all that is gone with the wind; replaced by a state-of-the-art Town Hall.

Kristi never says much about the differences between then and now but takes tremendous pride in witnessing firsthand the collaborative efforts of the residents, employees, and elected officials in the growth of Hickory Creek. "Hickory Creek has a lot of elements that stand out to make it special. At the very top of the list is its sense of community, which spills over to the Mayor, Town Council, and all of us at Town Hall."

Kristi is a numbers person. "My love for working with numbers began when I worked for a car dealership in Nashville, Tennessee," she said. "The comptroller took me under his wing. His mentorship and accounting knowledge he provided me was invaluable." "Numbers have always dictated my adult work life. The environments where I utilize those numbers have changed but the numbers are always the same, just in different orders and combinations.

She is also a reader and researcher, which is beneficial with her Town Secretary duties. In 2009 she graduated from the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program and completed recertification in 2014, 2019 and 2024. The program provides insight into state and local government laws, election laws and local government finance. If I'm looking for a specific answer to something, I know it's going to be between the first and last two covers of a book.

Kristi met her husband Jim, while working at Opryland in the summer of 1987. They've been married 35 years, with one daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren which are her pride and joy. She spends most of her free time at her grandchildren's sporting events.

After 24 years of service, some people might become a bit anxious that Kristi may begin thinking about the "R" (retirement) word. Rest easy, folks. She says, "I love my job and I at this point in my life retirement is not on my radar."

That's comforting to know because that clear, unabridged laugh would be sorely missed if it retired.

HICKORY CREEK PARKING REGULATIONS

Just a reminder of some of the parking rules:



- Motorized vehicles may not be parked on the street in the same spot over 48 hours.
- Non-motorized vehicles, boats, trailers, etc., may not be stored on the street.
- Any vehicle that cannot physically or legally operate on a public street may not be parked or stored in the street. This includes cars without current registration stickers or plates, wrecked or dismantled vehicles and those with flat tires, etc.
- Do not park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, 20 feet of an intersection, 30 feet of a stop sign or any other traffic sign or signal, and 50 feet of a railway crossing arm.
- No vehicle of any kind may park on the sidewalk.
- Sporting equipment (basketball goals, ramps, etc.), containers, or any other property may not be put in or next to the street, sidewalk, or any other public right of way.
- Vehicles being advertised for sale may not be stored in the street.
- Vehicles may not be used as signs. This does not include regularly used work vehicles displaying company information.
- Large commercial vehicles may not be parked or stored on any street unless they are actively unloading and not blocking traffic.
- With a few zoning exceptions, vehicles may not park on dirt or grass, on a vacant lot or drive across a curb.
- Golf carts must follow the same operation and parking rules as other vehicles. For more information on golf carts, see Article 12.06 in the Code of Ordinances.

Parking regulations may be found in the Code of Ordinances, Article 12.05. Violations may be reported by contacting Code Enforcement at 940-497-2528 or at www.hickorycreek-tx.gov/code-compliance.



Every year in the United States, 350 children aged 17 and under gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. More than 700 more die by suicide with a gun each year. We have the power to prevent tragedies like these from happening. Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund has developed the Be SMART framework to help parents and adults prevent child gun deaths and injuries.

Did You Know

4.6 million children in America live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked.

350 children 17 and under gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else—sometimes fatally.

More than 700 children 17 and under die by suicide with a gun each year.

Safety is Always an Adult Responsibility

Kids will be kids, so it's always an adult's responsibility to keep children safe. Always assume that curious or impulsive kids may find and touch an unsecured gun, even if they've been told not to. If a child handles a gun, a bad decision can quickly become a fatal one. Be SMART adults protect kids by making sure all guns are stored securely, which means they are inaccessible to kids, and by making sure children are never in the presence of unsecured guns.

Our Story

Everytown for Gun Safety launched the Be SMART campaign to take action to promote responsible gun ownership and reduce child gun deaths. The campaign focuses on education and awareness about child gun deaths and secure gun storage. Be SMART volunteers encourage parents and caretakers to "Be SMART" and take these five simple steps to help prevent shootings by children: **Secure** all guns in your home and vehicles; **Model** responsible behavior around guns; **Ask** about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes; **Recognize** the role of guns in suicide; **Tell** your peers to be SMART.

Be SMART

Secure all guns in your homes and vehicles;
Model responsible behavior around guns;
Ask about unsecured guns in other homes;
Recognize the role of guns in suicide;
Tell your peers to Be SMART

What Can You Do?

It's simple. Spread the Be SMART message. Talk to your friends and family about the importance of secure gun storage, and get the word out in your community. Volunteers all over the country are available to deliver a 20-minute presentation entitled "Be SMART: A conversation about kids, guns and safety" to local groups and organizations.

Visit BeSMARTforKids.org to learn more and download resources. When it comes to kids' safety, we're all in this together!

For more information or to get involved
text SMART to 644-33

Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/BeSMARTforKids.org
 or on [Twitter@Everytown](https://twitter.com/Everytown)

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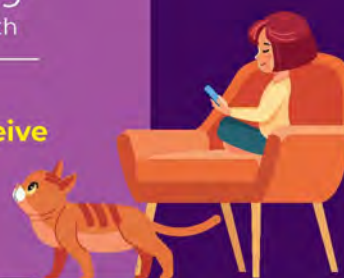
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DO I NEED A PERMIT FOR THAT?

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.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR LOVE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES?

That special someone can be resting his head on your shoulder in plenty of time for Valentine's Day! He/she is waiting for you at the Hickory Creek Animal Shelter.

Butch and Bruiser are two of the shelter's charming adoption candidates. From all appearances, they never felt much kindness prior to being picked up as they roamed in a creek bed. Judging from their neglected appearance, the shelter staff feels they were dumped. Fortunately, both boys have resilient personalities, and didn't allow their rough beginnings to alter their basic attitudes and expressions of love.

Both dogs are extremely sweet, which is amazing considering their physical appearance when they arrived at the shelter. Butch was covered head-to-toe in bite wounds, cuts, and bruises. A Mastiff/Pit mix, he weighs approximately 70 pounds and is filled with happiness and the joy of just being alive. His attitude is truly remarkable since he'd obviously not been on the receiving end of any of that joy.

Butch is open to life's simple pleasures – being around people, playing chase, and sunbathing. He's a dedicated cuddle bug and would gladly stay in bed all day if he could. But he can't 'cause he simply has too much to do.

Butch adores toys, kids, and food. He has a sharp mind and is fairly well-mannered. Approximately three years old, he knows some basic commands, is fully vaccinated, neutered, and microchipped. Please don't take our word for all his attributes. Make a quick trip to the shelter and see for yourself. You'll be rewarded with a ton of kisses, and a full measure of gratitude.

Bruiser was in a bit better shape when he arrived at the shelter. He had a few cuts, as well as a major ear infection and a painful skin condition. At the very top of his illness chart was a positive heartworm diagnosis, which is already being treated.

Bruiser is a Lab/Pit mix. He's also 60 pounds of pure energy. He's delighted to put that energy aside for a few minutes if someone in the room is interested in giving belly rubs or other expressions of love. He's working hard to improve his manners, such as not giving in to his energy when it's prompting him to jump on people. He's doing much better. It definitely helps that he's food motivated and willing to learn. He's being leash trained and enjoys learning.

He does well with bigger, balanced kids who wouldn't topple easily to his occasional exuberance. He'd be especially well-suited to an active family who enjoys outdoor fun. He is vaccinated, neutered, and microchipped.

These are both wonderful dogs and deserve much better than what life has given them so far.

Contact Hannah at the HC Animal Shelter

940.465.7444





State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

The State of Texas offers the option to register with the STEAR program, a free registry that provides local emergency management planners and responders with information related to your needs during an emergency.

Who Should Register?

- People with disabilities
- People who are medically fragile
- People with functional needs such as:
 - Limited mobility
 - Communication barriers
 - Require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
 - Require personal care assistance
- People who require transportation assistance



Register online at [Stear.tdem.texas.gov](https://stear.tdem.texas.gov)



Call 2-1-1 or use your video phone relay option of choice

Registering in STEAR **DOES NOT** guarantee you will receive a specific service during emergencies.



Hickory Creek Animal Services
970 Main Street
Hickory Creek, TX 75065
Saturday, April 27, 2024
9 AM - 12 PM

****First Come, First Served****



All pets must be in a carrier or on a leash.

Sponsored By:



Hickory Creek
Animal Services



**Corinth
Veterinary
Clinic**

For more information, contact Animal Services at 940.465.7444
or visit <https://www.hickorycreek-tx.gov/animal>

HICKORY CREEK CELEBRATES 60 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Denton County Commissioner's Court issued a Proclamation for the Town of Hickory Creek 's 60th Anniversary! The town was incorporated on November 25, 1963 with a total population of 219. A lot has changed over the years, but one thing that remains is the small town feel.



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 drivers 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

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day

Wednesday, June 19

Juneteenth