

A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear fellow citizens.

I hope your summer is off to a great start, and you're enjoying the new sense of normal that this year has brought. I know we're all ready to have Covid-19 in the rear-view mirror!

Our council and staff are already preparing for the 2021-2022 budget year which begins October 1st. One of our most significant expenses is for fire service, provided through a contract with The Lake Cities Fire Department, which is wholly owned by the City of



Corinth. Our current contract with Corinth expires on September 30, 2021, but last July, we signed a new 5-year contract that takes effect October 1, 2021. Under our current contract, Hickory Creek pays \$613,633 per year, but under our new contract, the Year 1 cost will be \$913,475, or an almost \$300,000 increase. The cost continues to increase each year for the duration of the contract, with the final year cost being \$1,033,152.

In May, our Council placed an item on the ballot to reduce our Economic Development Sales tax collection by half and asked to reapportion that sales tax to our General Fund. Each year, our EDC collects approximately \$400,000 in sales tax, but those funds are restricted, and can only be used for certain projects. The voters approved the change. In simple terms, we moved money from one "restricted pocket" to an "unrestricted pocket." This helps us gain approximately \$200,000 in unrestricted funds, which will be applied to the excess cost of the new fire contract.

Our property values have increased again this year, but our commitment to you is to keep costs under control, and to set the lowest possible tax rate that will fund our budget. In 2008, our property tax rate was 0.445620 per \$100 value. In the intervening years, the Council reduced the tax rate, and for 2020, we set a record low rate of 0.319943 per \$100 value. Our tax rate is lower than any of the other Lake Cities and is one of the lowest in all of Denton County.

One of the highlights of our year is honoring outstanding scholars, student athletes, and Eagle Scouts who complete projects in our parks. Please see pages 6-7 for photos. And join me in congratulating these outstanding young citizens!

I was recently invited to serve on the Board of Directors of a new non-profit organization called Lake Cities Focus. The Mission of Lake Cities Focus is to strengthen families through communication, activities, and education in the midst of pandemics, stress and other uncertainties. The Vision is for every student to be valued, supported and thriving. I look forward to working with other Lake Cities mayors, pastors, and community leaders in this new endeavor.

It's hard to believe that 2021 is more than half over! I hope that you and your family have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing you around town!

Best regards, Lynn Clark

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP WINNERS





On Monday, June 21, the Parks and Recreation Board hosted a ceremony to congratulate the winners of the Great American Cleanup. The winner for the most unique find was awarded to the Oakmont Priest Group, most trash picked up was awarded to the LDS youth group, and largest liter find was Emma Gordon. Winners were presented with a gift card, day use passes to the park, and a certificate. Congratulations to all!



HICKORY CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT



THIS IS THE WATER SAFETY WAY!

Whether you are spending your summer fishing, jet skiing, or floating in a pool during a barbecue, we have compiled some water safety tips for your consideration:

- Wear a life jacket (Personal Floatation Device): According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 85% of the fatal boating accident drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket. There are many types and styles of flotation devices. Do some research and make sure you select the correct one.
- Learn how to swim: Formal lessons can help protect swimmers from drowning. Children swimming in lakes and rivers should wear life jackets.
- Closely supervise children: It only takes a moment for a child to slip below the surface. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death among children.
- Be aware of your surroundings: Lakes, rivers and streams are natural environments. Watch for sudden drop offs, changing bottoms and unseen limbs, rocks, and other objects.
- Stay Hydrated: Take breaks, wear sunscreen, drink water and avoid alcohol.
- Never swim alone: Even experienced swimmers can get tired or experience muscle cramps. Having a buddy helps.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911!



Together, we can help our children and ourselves stay safe near water and help reduce preventable accidents.

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!

MEET COUNCILMEMBER RANDY GIBBONS

Randy Gibbons has worked for Southwest Airlines for almost 24 years and is currently working as the Sr. Manager of Payment Strategies and Risk in Treasury. He is responsible for executing Company's the consumer vision payment across all products, channels and Randy previously currencies. served 6 years on the Corinth City Council before moving to Hickory Creek in 2015. He



currently serves on the Steeplechase HOA Board of Directors and served over 9 years as Board President of his previous HOA. Randy is passionate about serving his community and trying to make a difference for his family. He loves spending time with his family and working with computers in his spare time. Randy is honored to serve in a leadership capacity in his local Church and minister to people in their time of need.

Town Council Reappointments



Congratulations to Chris Gordon, Town Council Place 3 and Ian Theodore, Town Council Place 5 who were reappointed to the Town Council due to being unopposed.



COUNCIL RECOGNITIONS



A huge Thank you and Congratulations to Jackson Moss for completing an Eagle Scout project at Arrowhead Park. Jackson completed his project by painting the pavilion, iron railing, and restrooms at leg 2.





May was Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month in the Town of Hickory Creek! Please remember to be cautious of our friends on two wheels!

Proclamation

by the

Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas

WHEREAS, today's society is finding more citizens involved in motorcycling on the roads of our country; and

WHEREAS, motorcyclists are roughly unprotected and therefore more prone to injury or death in a crash than other vehicle drivers; and

WHEREAS, campaigns have helped inform riders and motorists alike on motorcycle safety issues to reduce motorcycle related risks, injuries, and, most of all, fatalities, through a comprehensive approach to motorcycle safety; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all who put themselves behind the wheel, to become aware of motorcyclists, regarding them with the same respect as any other vehicle traveling the highways of this country; and it is the responsibility of riders and motorists alike to obey all traffic laws and safety rules; and

WHEREAS, urging all citizens of our community to become aware of the inherent danger involved in operating a motorcycle, and for riders and motorists alike to give each other the mutual respect they deserve;

NOW, THEREFORE, 1, Lynn C. Clark., Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month in the Town of Hickory Creek. Further, 1 urge all residents to do their part to increase safety and awareness in our community.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the official seal of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas to be affixed this the 26th day of April, 2021.

Lynn C. Wach Lynhoft, Clark, Mayor

ATTEST

Kut & Ag

2021 AWARDS





During the May 12, 2021 Town Council meeting, council members presented the Town Of Hickory Creek's 2021 Scholars of the Year, Sportswoman of the Year and Sportsman of the Year. Patrick Wenger (top left) was named 2021 Sportsman of the Year and Ivelyn Jimenez (top right) was named 2021 Sportswoman of the Year. Addison Buesing and Gillian Stinson were named 2021 Scholars of the Year. Congratulations to all recipients.





How to Care for Your Tree During a Texas Summer

HELPING YOUR TREE SURVIVE AND THRIVE UNDER HARSH CONDITIONS

By Eric Wettengel, Urban Forestry Coordinator for the Texas Trees Foundation

It's Summertime in Texas, and that means one thing: it is hot. While older, more established trees are well adapted to the heat and humidity, younger and newly planted trees will struggle to thrive under these harsh conditions, causing stress to the tree that can lead to stunted growth, decay and even death.

Learn more about two easy things you can do at home to help relive the stress on your tree during the Summer, helping it reach its full potential:

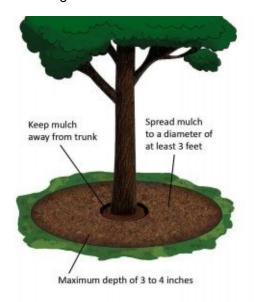
PROPERLY WATER YOUR TREE

Like us, water is important in the basic life functions of a tree. Young or newly planted trees have not had the time to grow an extensive root system that older trees have. While the tree is growing this root system, it is important to supply it with a regular, deep watering. While temperatures stay above 90 degrees, you should water your tree for 2-3 minutes every 2 to 3 days, ensuring that the area directly around the trunk of the tree gets thoroughly saturated.

The amount of water and frequency of watering will vary based on your soil, location and species of tree, so pay close attention as you water it. If there is standing water puddling around the tree that doesn't drain between watering, consider watering less, letting the pooled water soak in. If the tree is in a shady spot that doesn't get exposed to direct sunlight all day, the tree may not require as much water as a tree in direct sun all day.



Some species of tree require more water while others don't need much at all. There are plenty of resources available to help identify and find the water needs of your tree online that should help you create the perfect watering schedule..



MULCH YOUR TREE

Often overlooked or improperly executed, mulching a tree is very important step when planting and maintaining a tree. A layer of mulch, about 1-2-inch thick, should be placed around the tree to the same radius as the tree's canopy. The edge of the mulch ring should be mounded to form a donut shape around the tree so water will get funneled toward the tree.

This layer of mulch will help retain moisture around the roots of the tree, letting the roots absorb the water that would otherwise be lost through evaporation.

DO NOT mound the mulch up around the trunk of the tree. Covering the trunk retains too much moister, allowing fungus and bacteria to thrive that lead to rot and decay in the tree as well as providing hiding spaces for insects that could harm the tree.

A mulch bed will also help suppress grass and weeds that would compete with the tree for water and resources. Mulch should be kept away from the trunk and used to cover the soil containing the tree's roots.

Maintaining a regular water schedule and mulching to help retain water will help ensure your trees health and happiness over these next hot months.

The conditions a tree endures while its young effects its future, so it is important to give your tree all the help it needs now to grow and become established for generations to come. Your tree will appreciate anything you can do to remove stress from its life as it grows to become another member of your home.

Our Public Works Department is Hiring!

The Town of Hickory Creek is accepting applications for a position in Public Works. Ability to operate equipment such as a backhoe, dump truck, mower, weed eater and front end loader to perform various job duties maintaining streets and parks. Skilled in the use of hand and power tools. Inspect equipment before and after use, perform minor maintenance activities and report exceptional problems to supervisor. Perform other duties as assigned. Have the ability to perform physical tasks and handle moderate to heavy lifting. Ability to work in all kinds of weather and follow safety regulations. Qualified applicants must have a High School Diploma or GED; experienced in



backhoe operations; possession of or ability to readily obtain a valid CDL Driver's License issued by the State of Texas; within one year of hire. Successful applicants must submit to a background investigation and drug screen.

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH FUNDRAISER-



The Hickory Creek Police Department is happy to announce that over \$1300 was raised for UNT Kristin Farmer Autism Center. Investigator Loughry and Sergeant Causseaux delivered the donation Monday, May 10 and the wonderful staff gave them a tour. Investigator Loughry and Sergeant Causseaux had the chance to meet some of the amazing children that receive various services from KFAC. They are grateful for the relationships made, the training received, and the resources they have available to better help them serve our community.

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.

DENTON COUNTY ALERT-GET SIGNED

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. You will need to set up a new account even if you have been previously signed up with CODERED.

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. Texas' moratorium expired April 15th so this includes cars without current registration stickers or plates.
- 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 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 actively unloading and not blocking traffic.
- Except in a few specific instances, 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 the Code of Ordinances, Article 12.06.

Parking regulations may be found in the Code of Ordinances, Article 12.05. Contact Code Enforcement at 940/497-2528 ext.225 with questions or violations may be reported at www.hickorycreek-tx.gov/code-compliance.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Do you have a green thumb, love spending time outside, and have some free time on your hands? Well, we have the perfect volunteer opportunity for you! Our public works department planted in the community garden for the first time ever this spring and had a very successful season. We are looking to pass the garden down to a group of residents who



enjoy being outdoors and want to take part in giving back to their community. If this sparks your interest and you would like to participate in the fall garden season please email your contact information to ashley.vinson@hickorycreektx.gov.





HICKORY CREEK HOMETOWN HERO DENNIS DAY

Dennis Day was drafted into the US Army in 1969. He attended Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and AIT (Advanced Infantry Training) at Fort Lewis, WA. He then received orders for the Republic of Vietnam where he was assigned to a QRF (Quick Reaction Force) platoon in the 1st Air Cavalry Airmobile.





DENNIS DAY IS LOCATED ON THE LEFT

Mr. Day received three (3) Bronze

Stars for Heroism, two with "V" device, the Combat Infantry Badge, Presidential Unit Citation, Air Medal and the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for Heroism. During his time in Vietnam he was promoted to Sargent E5. During his time there he made hundreds of combat assaults into enemy territory in Cambodia as well as Vietnam.

After leaving the Army in October 1970, with an Honorable Discharge, Mr. Day and wife Pamela

moved to Texas in 1973. He spent nearly 40 years in Telecom working for Collins Radio, MCI Telecommunications, WorldCom and Verizon communications before retiring in 2011.

He and his wife then found Hickory Creek in 2016 and moved there from Garland and love every minute of it. Mr. Day currently serves as an alternate on the Board of Adjustments for the Town of Hickory Creek.



Volunteer Spotlight

"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer." James Doolittle

Brian Engle

My family and I moved to Hickory Creek in 2017, and we absolutely love the small town we call home. I retired from the Air Force in 2016 and found a job at Southwest Airlines shortly after. In 2019, I received my MBA from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and am currently working towards a Master of Science degree in Aviation & Aerospace Sustainability. My wife Becky, who is a teacher for Lewisville ISD, and I have been married for 14 years and we have 2 children, Charles who is 9, and Madison who is After being stationed in Oklahoma, Texas, and Hawaii, finding a small town in the DFW Metroplex was not easy. However, finding a great house in a great town has been a true blessing for our family. We love our neighbors and really feel that Hickory Creek is a town where residents care about each other

Spending time with my family is my greatest hobby. Any time spent with them makes or a great day. We enjoy living near the lake and visiting Sycamore Bend and Arrowhead Park. We also like to find local attractions that allow us to learn about our communities and history. Personally, I love to play/coach basketball and table tennis. I also enjoy practically anything related to aviation and airports.

Serving on the Board of Adjustments has allowed me to feel a sense of service, just like my time in the Air Force. I was often involved with community concerns for military members while being stationed away from home or while deployed. I am glad to bring that service to the residents of Hickory Creek. I look forward to serving this wonderful town for many years to come!









Voluntger Spotlight

"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer." James Doolittle

Sugene May

I've been in Hickory Creek for almost 20 years. We love the 'small town' feel of it and appreciate the beauty. We dearly love our current government and the staff!

I began volunteering with the town in 2006 by serving on the Ethics Committee for four years. In 2010 there was an opening on the EDC board and I asked the Town Council if I might join. Ever since then I have served on the EDC board. I have enjoyed olaying a very small part of bringing businesses into our town.

My husband, $\operatorname{Jim},$ and I both enjoy giving back. We took care of the Lake Cities Spirit of Christmas for almost 18 years. It was truly an honor to help so many children who might not have had Christmas. When my health began to decline, we had to give it up. Then, as my health began to improve, we have become more active at church and with our children and our grandchildren. Together we have 5 children and 9 grandchildren; which we see 8 of those on a regular basis.

Fun fact about myself is I love my trucks! When I became ill, we had to sell my ruck because I could no longer get in and out of it. Since I have improved so much, we bought another truck and I am so happy!









"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."

Nancy Koket

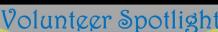
I am a HC resident for 17 years though I lived in the Lake Cities area years ago, left and then moved back. It is a beautiful lake community to live in and that is specifically why volunteer for my community. I want HC to stay beautiful and I want to be a part of the community leadership and problem solving to serve our residents best. I feel so grateful to work with all the other volunteers in our community who have a vision and continue to work with all the other volunteers in our community who have a vision and continue to work towards that vision even if it feels like it could take years to complete. I currently serve on the EDC board for over 8 years. I have previously served on the recent parks committee and prior to that on the new town logo committee. I am a Real Estate agent for about 18 years and do most of my business here in Hickory Creek and surrounding Dentor County. I also serve on a board with my local real estate MLS.

My fun fact is I am a first generation American. My dad was born in Latvia and became a US citizen a few years before I was born. I was born and raised in Boston, a city still near and dear to my heart, but have now lived in TX for 37 years. My husband and I will celebrate 40 years of marriage this year. I have 2 children, one of which is a native Texan. We used to joke he was the only native Texan in the family, but now we have a grandson too! I have one grandson who fills my heart with joy! My favorite place to be when I'm not i Texas is near the ocean. I am lucky enough to own a cottage near the ocean in Maine. So, you see me a little less in HC in the summer time!









"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer." Tames Doolittle

Pavid Gilmorg

I was raised in North Louisiana (think Duck Dynasty.) Graduated Cum Laude from LA Tech University with a BA in Music Education. I then graduated Summa Cum Laude with a MA in both Conducting and Vocal Performance from Northeast Louisiana University. I did doctoral work in Choral Music at Arizona State University and taught at colleges and high schools in Louisiana, Arizona, Mississippi, Oklahom

Michele and I have been married 39 years in June, we have three children and five grandchildren, all in the immediate area. I made a change 26 years ago and went into the business world. I am a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones where I get to guide folks to their dreams and goals.

I am still involved in music, though. I sing in a professional chamber choir, The Texas Voices, band serve as Music Director at St John Paul II Catholic Church in Denton. Currently, I serve on the board of McMath Band Scholarship Foundation. In the past I was on the board and President of Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce and on the board of NCTC Denton County Education Foundation. I serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission because it helps me know what's happening in the community and let's me get to know more of my neighbors.











GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP









The Town of Hickory Creek Parks and **Recreation Board** hosted a social distanced Great American Cleanup from March 1 through April 30. Participants picked up cleanup supplies at Town Hall and submitted pictures to be considered for prizes. Thank you to all those who participated and to Clean and Green Carwash who donated a free carwash voucher in each supply bag. Over nine bags of trash were cleaned up from our parks!









KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN

Take Care of Texas-Conservation Tips

Water is an essential part of our lives,. In addition to quenching our thirst, we depend on it for recreation, to irrigate our farms and water our livestock, and to run our businesses. The job to protect water quality is complex. Governmental organizations and citizens must all work together to protect and restore water resources.

Misapplication of fertilizer poses a significant threat to surface water and groundwaters. More is not always better when fertilizing your yard. Excessive watering or a rainstorm can wash away the chemical excess-wasting your money and endangering nearby waterways.



- Apply pesticides and fertilizers according to the label's directions and only to plants that are specified on the label. Only use the recommended amount of pesticide or fertilizer.
- Use the least-toxic pesticide first.
- Choose natural or organic fertilizers.
- After mowing, leave grass clippings on your lawn. These clippings act as a slow-release fertilizer for your grass.

 Plants that are native or well adapted to Texas require less pesticides and fertilizers when managed properly.

Thank you to Alyssa Martinez, our Animal Services Officer, who rescued this abandoned dog, Maximus. If you are interested in adopting Maximus, please contact the animal shelter.



Public Works Director Jeffrey
McSpedden, Councilmember Kenney,
Councilmember Dupree, Councilmember
Gordon, Town Administrator, John Smith,
Denton County Commissioner, Bobby
Mitchell, Judge Andy Eads,
Councilmember Gibbons, and
Councilmember Theodore pictured in
front of the Hickory Creek float from the
Lake Cities 4th of July Parade. The
Hickory Creek float featured the band
Groove Collective and won first place in
the Lake Cities Independence Day
Parade.





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, September 6

Labor Day

Monday, October 11

Columbus Day

Thursday, November 11

Veterans Day