

AKESIDEN EWS

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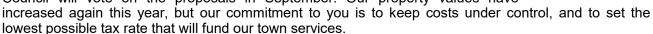
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A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

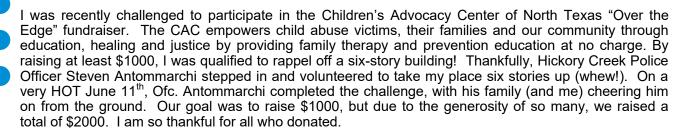
Dear fellow citizens.

I hope your summer is off to a great start. If our June temperatures are any indication, it looks like it's going to be a HOT summer, but hopefully not a repeat of 1980 or 2011!

In April, the Town Council held a strategic planning session for the upcoming budget year. In June and July, our Town Administrator and Town Secretary began preparing revenue projections, and once our department heads finalize their budget needs, a proposed budget will be presented to the Town Council. Council will discuss the budget, then propose an Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the next fiscal year. Public hearings on the tax rate and budget will be scheduled in late August, and the Council will vote on the proposals in September. Our property values have



As you may know, the Texas Legislature operates under the biennial system, convening in January of odd-numbered years, and remains in session for 140 days. Under the recent redistricting plan, Hickory Creek is in new House District 57. When I learned that Hickory Creek would be in the new district, with no incumbent, the first call I made was to local resident Richard Hayes. Richard founded Hayes, Berry, White and Vanzant Law firm in Denton, and is highly respected for both his legal knowledge and his volunteer service across Denton County. I am delighted to know that Richard Hayes answered the call to run for the open seat and will represent Hickory Creek, and all of District 57, in the Texas House of Representatives in the next legislative session.



The reconstruction of Sycamore Bend Road has begun and will continue for most of the next year. In discussions with the town engineer and construction company, it was determined that the best course of action is to close Sycamore Bend Park for the duration of the project. This was a difficult decision but was necessary to provide access to equipment and to ensure the safety of the construction crews.

TxDOT has announced improvements to I-35E which will cause lane closures from south of Corinth Parkway to US 380, every Sunday night to Friday morning through the end of the year. This work is the kick-off of an ongoing resurfacing project to improve driving conditions in the corridor. Lane striping will also be refreshed from President George Bush Turnpike to US 380 sometime this summer.

In early May, I received a phone call from Corinth Mayor Bill Heidemann, informing me that Corinth City Manager Bob Hart had passed away very unexpectedly. This is such a devastating loss for Corinth, and for all our Lake Cities. I admired Bob for his leadership, his wisdom, his humility, and his deep faith in God. I am grateful for his collaboration with the other Lake Cities Managers, but most of all, I am grateful for his friendship.

It's hard to believe that 2022 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



IN MEMORIAM BOB HART

Hickory Creek joins with the City of Corinth in paying tribute to Bob Hart, who served as city manager for Corinth from January 2017 until his passing in May 2022.

Hart was broadly recognized for his notable influence during his dedicated, 41-year career in city management. His service was a key factor in moving forward the cities of Sundown, Sweetwater, Pampa, Georgetown, Kennedale, and Corinth.



Those were the towns and cities he served directly, but his far-reaching contributions and visions weren't confined by city limit demarcations. During his tenure with Corinth, he also created opportunities and improvements for all the neighboring Lake Cities of Hickory Creek, Lake Dallas, and Shady Shores. During those 41-years, he also made positive impacts within the statewide framework.

Hart was an active, consistently contributing member of a long list of government organizations. His education set him on his career path in government, with a BA from Baylor and a Master's degree from UNT in Public Administration. His supporters were legion, and his accomplishments were recognized in 2017 by the Texas City Management Association's (TCMA) Lifetime Achievement Award. He was scheduled to receive another lifetime achievement award in June 2022 from the International City/County Management Association.

Hart's dedication to supporting city government extended far beyond the present. His vision showed him ways to also influence and expand the future. His favorite way to make his mark on the generations to come was through teaching. He was an adjunct faculty member in the Master of Public Administration program at UTA, teaching the Capstone Seminar. This was the final applied research program leading to receipt of the Master's degree. He was a well-versed mentor who was credited frequently with shaping the lives and careers of his students.

The Hart legacy is broad and will, no doubt, be enduring. Some of his more significant successes across the six cities where he served included a half-cent sales tax to benefit economic development in Georgetown, legislation directed toward the protection and preservation of historic buildings in Sweetwater, legislation to improve public safety in Pampa, and the amendment of the Texas Municipal Retirement System to allow retirees to work for other TMRS cities.

In Corinth, Hart worked tirelessly with the managers of all the Lake Cities to create regional Broadband partnerships in order to open access to Internet options. He did all he could to promote economic growth. For Hart, both Broadband and the development of The Agora at Corinth came under that heading.

Hart leaves behind wife Lois, five children, and eight grandchildren. The loving, loyal, lasting friendships and relationships he nurtured throughout his life are far more than can be measured.

His services were held May 10, 2022 at the Denton Bible Church.







The Animal Shelter hosted a low cost vaccine event Saturday, May 7.
Councilmember Dupree served hotdogs and hamburgers for attendees. Thank you to Dr. Eddy and staff at the Corinth Veterinary Clinic who helped make this event possible.

EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE CORBIN BURLEY

Eagle Scout candidate Corbin Burley was recognized by the Town Council for the creation of bug hotels and bee houses. The bug hotels are placed in Sycamore Bend and the bee houses are mounted in trees throughout the parks. The bug hotels offer bugs and insects pest protection for safety from weather and to lay eggs.







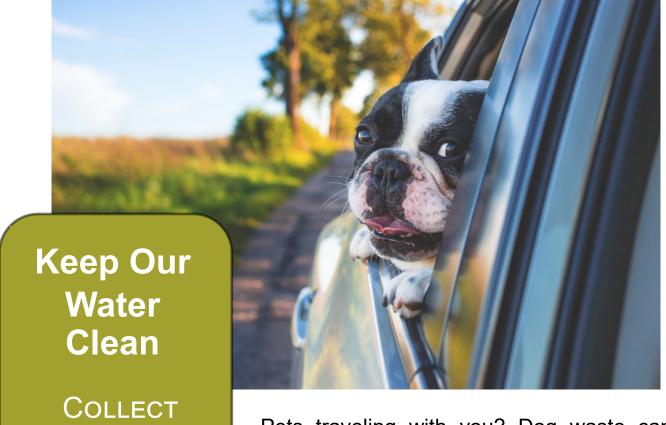
EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE GATLIN SMITH

Eagle Scout candidate Gatlin Smith was recognized by the Town Council for building the trail head to the new hike and bike trail in Sycamore Bend Park. Gatlin placed markers along the trail designating trail mileage points for emergency services in the event of an accident. He also built a platform for sitting along the trail and handrails across the stream crossing.





TAKE CARE OF TEXAS



COLLECT YOUR PET'S WASTE

Pets traveling with you? Dog waste can contribute to bacterial pollution in urban watersheds. Take bags with you to collect your pet's waste. Deposit it in a trash can or dump it in the toilet (without the bag). Never throw pet waste into a storm drain or waterway.

Thank you to those who participated in the Great American Cleanup and to the Hickory Creek Whataburger for providing breakfast for the volunteers.





The Hickory Creek Economic Development Corporation decided it's time for another night out on the town, approving a one-time, \$25 dining voucher per Hickory Creek household beginning April 1, 2022.

Hickory Creek residents must make a minimum purchase of \$25 at one of the locations listed.

In the past, postcards were mailed to town residents to inform them of the \$25 voucher. That is not the case this time. Instead, notifications are on the new Our Hickory Creek app, Facebook and, of course, in the town's newsletter. (If you do not have Our Hickory Creek on your cell phone, go to the App Store and download it. It's an easy way to keep current with town news.)

Bring your restaurant receipt to Town Hall, along with your name, address, and phone number. Remember: one redemption per address. You may also mail the receipt to: Hickory Creek Town Hall, 1075 Ronald Reagan Avenue, Hickory Creek, TX, 75065. Vouchers must be redeemed by Friday, September 30, 2022. Please allow 7-10 business days for reimbursement.

For questions, please call 940/497-2528.

Angelina's 101 Baize Blvd 940.321.1133

Domino's Pizza 1043 Hickory Creek BLVD 940.321.1226

> Don Camillo's 1225 Turbeville RD 940.321.1100

ELM FORK TAPHOUSE 1221 TURBEVILLE RD 940.279.7100

ELY'S MEXICAN GRILL 6060 SOUTH STEMMONS 940.279.4001

McDonald's 8300 South Stemmons 940.321.0728

PALIO'S PIZZA CAFÉ 4080 FM 2181

PHO LUV
1029 HICKORY CREEK BLVD
940.326.9122
RICE POT
4000 FM 2181
940.497.2221
SONIC
4150 FM 2181
940.498.0140
STARBUCKS
4600 FM 2181
940.498.4880

SUBWAY (FM 2181) 4030 FM 2181 940.497.0856 WHATABURGER 4250 FM 2181 940.498.9377

HICKORY CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT GROWS

The Hickory Creek Police Department has grown by another officer, Caleb Burke, bringing the total force number to 14.

Burke spent four years with the Sherman PD before deciding it was time for a career move. He found out Hickory Creek was hiring and decided to do some investigating. He liked what he found.

"I've had several important life changes recently," Burke revealed. "My son was born mid-November 2021 and I changed from the Sherman PD to Hickory Creek the end of February 2022.

"There are a lot of differences between the two jobs simply because of the 40,000 population in Sherman compared to the approximately 5,000 in Hickory Creek. What I like best is HCPD's close involvement and interaction with the town's residents. They sponsor several community-focused events dealing with issues such as suicide, domestic violence, and mental health. They honestly try to meet the citizens, to get to know them, and to serve them. All that is important to me."

Officer Burke can't help but chuckle if you ask him why he decided on law enforcement as a career. It's reminiscent of one of those "aw shucks" moments when he says, "Okay. I know it sounds like a cliché, but I really did want to help people. I decided becoming a cop was one of the best ways of doing that."

"But it can also be frustrating," he added. "Do you know it takes four to six hours to process all the paperwork for a DWI? I could be helping a lot of people during that time. Of course, I suppose I should consider those hours as helping because I'm getting someone who shouldn't be driving out of his car and off the road."

Officer Burke's home is filled frequently with music since his wife is a piano teacher. He said he's sure his son will eventually sit on that bench as soon as he can reach a few things – such as the keys!



OVER THE EDGE



Officer Antommarchi & family with Mayor Clark



Ofc. Antommarchi on the ledge of a six-story building

Mayor Clark participated in the Children's Advocacy Center of North Texas "Over the Edge" fundraiser. After raising \$1000, she qualified to rappel off a six-story building, but K-9 Officer Steven Antommarchi stepped in and volunteered to rappel on her behalf. Mayor Clark raised a total of \$2000. Rumor has it next year Officer Antommarchi could take his K-9 partner Axel.



During the May 23, 2022 Town Council meeting, council members presented the Town of Hickory Creek's 2022 Scholars of the Year, Sportswoman of the Year and Sportsman of the Year. Jorja Elliot was named 2022 Sportswoman of the Year, Brendan Sorsby was named 2022 Sportsman of the Year, Landry Billingsly, 2022 Lake Dallas Scholar of the Year and Hayden Hiatt, 2022 Founders Classical Academy Scholar of the Year. Congratulations to all recipients.

Also during the Council Meeting, Mayor Clark, and Councilmembers Kenney and Dupree administered Oaths of Office for their new two year terms.









During the June 27, 2022 Town Council meeting, council members presented the Town of Hickory Creek's 2022 Business of the Year to the Olana and 2022 Citizen of the Year to Richard Hayes. The Council also recognized Eagle Scout Candidates Gatlin Smith and Corbin Burley.

We are pleased to share all four Lake Cities were awarded the Regional Cooperation Award at the North Central Texas Council of Government General Assembly luncheon. Each of the four Lake Cities earned this award for our work on the Broadband Project and our continued efforts to bring accessible high speed internet service to each of our communities. We are proud to share this award with our Lake Cities neighbors Corinth, Lake Dallas and Shady Shores.







Do you live on Lewisville Lake or Lake Lewisville? That's a tough one, since the two names seem interchangeable – even on the Internet. Consequently, there's no shame in telling someone you live on Lake Lewisville, while your next-door neighbor tells those who ask that *he* lives on Lewisville Lake.

The 28,980-acre body of water was, for a brief time, referred to as Lake Dallas. That, as you probably can understand, is a bit complicated when discussing the broadly recognized landmark in everyday conversation. What would you say? Lake Dallas Lake? Or maybe Lake Lake Dallas? Neither one works well.

Following is an abbreviated, but factual, history of Lake Lewisville.

According to Wikipedia, Lake Lewisville was known as Garza-Little Elm Reservoir. As the name establishes, it was (is) a reservoir on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River in Denton County near Lewisville, TX, in the northern portion of the state. It was originally engineered in 1927 as the Garza Dam by the city of Lake Dallas and the resulting lake christened Lake Dallas. Its primary purpose was water supply.

Communities grew rapidly, with water needs increasing at an almost alarming rate. The Galveston District of the Corps of Engineers took over the expanding project, beginning construction of the Lewisville Dam in 1948. There was no Fort Worth District for the Corps at that time.

Dallas and Denton stepped up with most of the financing. It was 1955 before the dam was completed, resulting in the creation of what was named Lewisville Lake (or Lake Lewisville). A major modification was made later when the dam for the old Lake Dallas was breached, thereby allowing those waters to combine with Lewisville Lake.

The current dam is 32,888' long – more than six-miles – with a 560-foot spillway at the eastern end. The lake's two most important functions are flood control and water conservation. Ancillary roles are fish and wildlife management, and recreation.

Those are interesting facts, although somewhat dry and boring. But here's something most people don't know about Lewisville Lake:

There's a town buried underneath all that water. It was called Ritter Lake Community.

Ritter Lake Community never truly prospered. Even at its zenith, it consisted of a school, the Ritter cemetery, a general store, and approximately 100 families. Land for the private homes, as well as the handful of public buildings, currently lines the bottom of the southeast corner of Lewisville Lake.

The cemetery is the only remaining, physical reminder of the town that was founded by the Ritter family, Texas pioneers who hailed from Illinois. John Ritter was born in 1795 and had six children with his wife Elizabeth when they arrived in Texas. One of those children was Columbus, who was only 14-years-old when he received a 320-acre land grant in 1843-44. It was a perfect tract for the Ritter Community and cemetery.

The first census for the settlement was taken in 1850.

The Ritter family had several land grants. Brothers Columbus and William searched each acre diligently, looking for the most beautiful site for the cemetery. Their brothers-in-law joined them and, together, they found three acres on what is now Fish Hatchery Road. The exact location is approximately five miles east of Lewisville and two miles north of Highway 121.

The cemetery is surrounded by Corps property, and physically overshadowed to the north by the levee and dam of Lake Lewisville.

Many of the gravestones are no longer legible. Of those that can be read, the earliest is 1860 for the five-year-old Elizabeth Ritter, named after her grandmother. It's almost certain many of the other stones were earlier.

It's impossible to construct family trees to trace ancestry within the boundaries of Ritter, since everybody there was somebody else's cousin or aunt or uncle or..... Few people answered to Mr. or Mrs. "Anybody." Instead, just call out Uncle Charles or Aunt Lizzie and there would be three or four responses. And it didn't matter if they were or were not your blood-kin. Most kids in Ritter grew up not knowing their true relatives!

The first homesteads in Ritter were surveyed in 1855, 100-years before the completion of Lake Lewisville. By 1940, the community offered a way of life that was far different from Dallas or Fort Worth and their suburbs. Ritter was not incorporated. There was no formal governmental structure. The residents were, literally, neighborsfamilies. Ladies met in their homes to piece together birthday quilts, and men gathered at the general store for dominoes when it was too wet to farm.

Late in the autumn months, when the air had a crisp edge, a day and a place were selected for hog-killing. Each family brought several hogs and, when they left at the end of the full day, they carried a load of wrapped meat.

There are still some Ritter descendants. They're determined to somehow maintain at least an isolated echo or two of the community that rotted long ago under the waters of Lake Lewisville. They founded the Ritter Cemetery Association, Inc. in 1973. Every now and then, on a Sunday, these descendants gather and the echoes of those close-knit families become louder.

Maybe, just maybe, this is why some insist that nights on Lake Lewisville can be....well....let's just say they can be a little....different. They are adamant about the "shadow people," who bob silently from the depths of the water to spend time next to the shoreline.

Shadow people may be nothing more than a dark shape you glimpse from the corner of your eye. You know. Those times when you jerk your head to the left or right because you think you saw something. But there's never anything there. Some say, with dead certainty, you're seeing shadow spirits or shadow beings. They have been recorded for thousands of years and are said to be phantom-like.

That may, or may not, be true. But, if you want to do your own exploring, make a night-time lake visit. If you see anything, call out, "Columbus? Is that you?"

If there's no answer, try, "Uncle Charles? Aunt Lizzie? Is that y'all out there?"

You may be surprised.

*Only two keys exist for the padlocked gate protecting Ritter Cemetery. If you'd like to participate in the next memorial gathering, contact The Ritter Cemetery Association, Inc., 509 Pine St., Lewisville, TX 75057 972/436-8010



COMPOSTING

The last newsletter included an article about keeping our water clean. It contained some serious warnings, such as telling everyone to not use garbage disposals. Instead, it said, we should collect our food scraps, oil, and grease since this can cause back-ups and plumbing emergencies. That's usually followed by a wastewater back-wash into homes, commercial buildings, lawns, parks, and streets. It can even reach the lake. The resulting problems can include contaminated drinking water and wallet-numbing plumbing bills.



That's all well and good but what are we supposed to do with all that stuff if it no longer goes into the garbage disposal or down the sink drain?

Good question! For some people, the answer is composting.

Composting is one of those words that sounds like trouble but you can choose how basic or how advanced (how easy or how complicated) you want it to be.

Four basic elements are required for successful composting: water, oxygen, nitrogen, carbon. The first two ingredients are easy. Nitrogen (referred to as greens) generally come from food wastes, grass, coffee grounds, etc. Carbon, called browns, balances the greens and come from dry, brittle materials such as leaves, straw, newspaper, and wood chips.

Here's a cheat sheet:

GREENS	Browns	No
Food waste	Soiled napkins/paper plates	Plastic
Coffee Grounds	Newspaper	Glass
Vegetables & fruits	Leaves/Straw	Metal
Manures	Wood Chips	Styrofoam
Grass	Yard debris	Meat, Dairy, Oily and/or Fatty Products

The final four items under the NO column may be used but are encouraged for experienced composters only, since they require strict management.

A Container

A pile on the ground works but isn't recommended. Think rats and odors. There are a variety of pre-made, moderately priced containers; and there are several DIY projects that include materials such as welded wire, wood pallets, chicken wire, cinder blocks, drums, and trash cans. Welded wire bins win the title of Most Cost Effective. Experts recommend a minimum size of 3X3X3, since it improves heat retention. Yes, there are temperatures of 130-degrees or higher at the peak of the composting process. That temp will decrease automatically to the air temperature as more material breaks down.

Collecting Scraps

Keep a container in the kitchen and toss in the scraps. Empty into the compost when the container is full. Do NOT seal the container since, simply, it will stink. Chop the scraps but not so fine that excess moisture forms.

Building and Managing the Compost Pile

The container/bin should be elevated six to 12-inches off the ground. It can be placed on a pallet or, if left on the ground, put six to 12-inches of coarse material at the bottom. Alternate green and brown layers, with the brown levels being two to three times thicker than the green.

In case this is beginning to sound way too daunting, don't lie awake at night worrying about layers! Precision is not mandatory BUT all food scraps should be at the center of the pile and never showing at the edges.

Timetable

Be patient. Scraps don't become compost overnight. It may take as long as a year if we're talking about a monster pile of stuff, but we're not discussing Republic or Waste Management here.

You must turn the "baby" compost. Some say once per year if it's a large pile, dumping it from its first container to a second one. You can purchase a pre-made bin, with a handle for easy turning. That means you can turn more frequently (such as once per month), which will increase the speed of decomposition. Or you can use a shovel.

Compost "happens" when all the bits and pieces of stuff you saved and threw into your bin becomes dark brown and crumbly. There will be no disgusting smell and you won't be able to look, point, and say, "Oh, there are the scraps from the onions Aunt Maddie gave us!" That's when it's party time!

How to Use the Compost

The addition of compost to flower beds, to gardens, to fruit trees and berries will give you some of the richest possible growing soil. Remember to mix the dirt and the compost as thoroughly as possible.

The result will be cucumbers and petunias worthy of a magazine cover!

Eat your heart out, Miracle Gro!

SAVE THE DATES

FLAGS ACROSS AMERICA, BRIDGE TO HONOR 9/11

Join us again for "Flags Across America, Bridge To Honor 9/11" on Sunday, September 11, 2022 on the Southbound Lewisville Lake pedestrian bridge. Time TBD.



SEE YOU AT THE STATION



The Town of Hickory Creek will host the 7th annual "See You At The Station" on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 8 a.m. at town hall.. This is an opportunity for our community to gather and pray for our police officers, firefighters, and all first responders.



TREE WATERING



Tree watering is a key part of tree care and it is difficult to recommend an exact amount due to the varieties of climates But a few guidelines will help you to water your trees properly.

WATERING NEWLY PLANTED TREES: For new trees, water immediately after you plant a tree.

WATERING TREES DURING FIRST TWO YEARS:

During the first couple growing seasons, your newly planted tree is expending a lot of energy trying to get its roots established in the soil. Especially during the first few summers of your new tree's life, it will have a difficult time dealing with heat and drought. You can make

this easier by providing water and covering the soil with woodchip mulch. Deep watering can help speed the root establishment. Deep water consists of keeping the soil moist to a depth that includes all roots.

How Much Water and When: Not enough water is harmful for the tree but too much water is bad as well. Over-watering is common tree care

mistake. Please note that moist is different than soggy, and you can judge this by feel. A damp soil that dries for a short period will allow adequate oxygen to permeate the soil.

As a general rule, your soil should be moist. Usually 30 seconds with a steady steam of water from a garden hose with a diffuser nozzle per tree seedling is sufficient. Mulching is also key in retaining moisture in the soil.

You can check soil moisture by using a garden trowel and inserting it into the ground to a depth of 2", and then move the blade of the trowel back and forth to create a small narrow trench. Then use your finger to touch the soil.

If it's moist to the touch, no water is needed.

The different parts of a tree grow at different times throughout the year. Typically, most of the foliage growth happens in the spring, followed by trunk growth in the summer and root growth in the fall and winter.

Watering Trees After the First Two Years:
After your tree has been in your yard for two years the roots will be established. This will allow your tree to withstand a wider range of water conditions including on its own because it has a proper root structure.





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, September 5

Labor Day

Monday, October 10

Columbus Day

Friday, November 11

Veterans Day

CONNECT!

Check <u>www.hickorycreek-tx.gov/</u> for current information affecting your health, safety, and welfare. IT'S IMPORTANT!