

October— December 2021

# LAKESIDE NEWS

## 9/11 WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

PAGE 3

## NEW MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

PAGE 11

## HICKORY CREEK PARKING REGULATIONS

PAGE 8

## HICKORY CREEK TREE LIGHTING

PAGE 12

# A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear Fellow Citizens,

Summer is gone and fall has arrived, at least that's what the calendar says! Our Council and town staff have had a busy summer planning for the coming budget year, which starts October 1.

Over the past dozen years, property values in Hickory Creek have risen, and we have seen continued increases this year. Denton County Appraisal District's certified property total for this year is \$745.3 million, an increase of approximately 11.75% over last year's total of \$667 million. Last year, the property tax rate for Hickory Creek was 0.319943 per \$100 of value. For 2021, our Council once again *lowered our tax rate to 0.307280 per \$100*, adopting the "No New Revenue Tax Rate," meaning the town will raise approximately the same amount of revenue as in the prior year (except for new properties added to the roll).

Our Council is committed to fiscal responsibility, and we understand the financial impact our property tax has on individual budgets. Since 2008, the Council has lowered the property tax rate almost 0.14 per \$100 of value. As overall values have increased, our tax rate has been reduced. Our rate is the *lowest of all the Lake Cities*, and one of the lowest in all of Denton County. We have no control over property values, school, or county taxes, but we strive to reduce the impact of the Hickory Creek portion of your tax bill.

I am pleased to announce that we have presented a balanced budget for the coming year. In addition to providing all regular town services, the budget will allow us to address several items. We will add two new police officer positions, bringing the total to fourteen officers. Three new patrol cars will replace high mileage units (to reduce high maintenance costs), and two additional speed monitoring signs will be added. Funds are also set aside for improvements to the Town Hall pond to create a small "amphitheater" style setting for events, and a new Arts and Cultural Events committee will be formed.

During our debrief after the February freeze event, we identified several needs which include the following: emergency mass notification system, above ground fuel tank for public works, and a back-up generator for town hall. Addressing these needs will allow us to be better prepared for future severe weather events.

Construction plans for the Sycamore Bend Road reconstruction are 100% complete. The road will be improved from the Turbeville intersection to the park entrance and will include a sidewalk the entire length of the project. We are awaiting the final permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers, but once received the project will be sent out for bid. Denton County Commissioners have not only provided most of the funds for this project but have also provided new paved surfaces in Sycamore Bend and Arrowhead parks.

Our Park Board is working to implement portions of our Parks and Open Space Master Plan. New playground equipment with a shade canopy and synthetic turf is being installed at Arrowhead Park to replace aging equipment. New fitness equipment, including Pull-Up, T-Bar, Sit-up, Knee-Lift, Balance Beam & Hurdles stations with shade canopy & synthetic turf is being installed at Point Vista Park. These will be excellent new amenities for our parks!

It's such an honor to serve as your Mayor. I look forward to seeing you around town!

Lynn Clark





# 9/11 WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

On Saturday, September 11, 2021, officials and residents from Hickory Creek, Lake Dallas, Corinth and Shady Shores met midway on the Lewisville Lake Bridge to join the Cities of Highland Village and Lewisville to honor and remember all who perished on September 11, 2001. Those participating in the event were encouraged to bring American flags, city flags, county flags, Texas flags, first responder flags and 9/11

Remembrance flags. The walk commemorated the 20th anniversary of the four coordinated terrorist attacks against the United States of America by the militant Islamist terrorist groups. The attacks resulted in nearly 3,000 fatalities, tens of thousands of injuries and remains the deadliest terrorist attack in human history and the single deadliest incident for firefighters and law enforcement in the history of the United States.

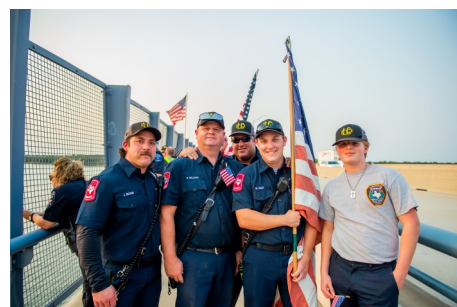
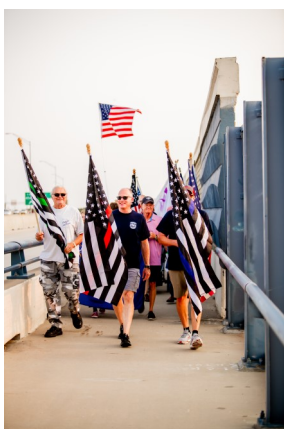
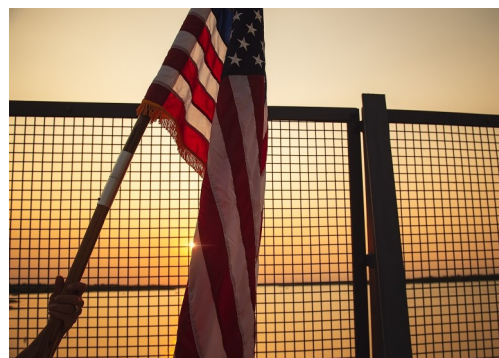


Photo Credit: Blackall Photography

# Hickory Creek Police Department

## Suicide Awareness/ Prevention/ Help

Suicide can be a tough topic to talk about, and sometimes an even tougher topic to understand. The recent uncertain times have brought upon us unprecedented situations which can be overwhelming to some. We can all help prevent suicide.

According to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline ([www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)), some warning signs may help you determine if a loved one is at risk for suicide, especially if the behavior is new, has increased, or seems related to a painful event, loss, or change. Talking about wanting to die or to kill themselves. Some of the warning signs to watch out for include, but are not limited to:

- Looking for a way to kill themselves, like searching online or buying a gun
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increasing the use of alcohol and/or drugs
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or isolating themselves
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Extreme mood swings



If you or someone you know exhibits any of these, you can seek help by contacting:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1 (800) 273- 8255 or

Hickory Creek Police Department (via Denton County Sheriff's Office Dispatch): (940) 349- 1600  
(for non-emergencies, not in- progress) or as always, **911** (for emergencies)

Our Hickory Creek Police Department Officers are ready and equipped with resources to respond to mental health emergencies.

## IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911

Together, we can check on each other to make sure we get the help we need.



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!



# PURPLE PATCH PROJECT

## DID YOU KNOW

- 1 in 4 women, 1 in 9 men in the United States are victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives
- On the average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends every day.
- 3 out of 4 respondents personally know someone who is or has been a victim of domestic violence.
- 1 in 5 female high school students reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner. Abused girls are significantly more likely to get involved in other risky behaviors. They are 4 to 6 times more likely to get pregnant and 8 to 9 times more likely to have tried to commit suicide.



Beginning October 1, 2021, the Hickory Creek Police Department will be partnering with Denton County Friends of the Family to join forces against domestic violence by selling purple patches and t-shirts. Patches will be \$10 and t-shirts will be \$25. All proceeds will benefit Denton County Friends of the Family. Patches may be purchased at Town Hall or online and will be mailed out. T-shirts may be purchased online and may be picked up at town hall at a later date. Follow the **Hickory Creek Police Department** on Facebook for more information.

## Denton County Friends of the Family Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events:

- 10/07: Participating in Octoberfest at the North Texas Fair Grounds
- 10/09: Speaking at Hispanic Heritage Month event with City of Denton at MLK Rec Center
- 10/14: Healing Through the Arts event at the Greater Denton Arts Council, 6 p.m.
- 10/21: Dogs Against Domestic Violence event in partnership with Oak Street Draffhouse and the City of Denton Animal Shelter
- 10/28: Batter Intervention and Prevention Virtual Mini-conference (<https://www.dcfof.org/bippconference>)
- 10/29: Virtual Candlelight Vigil for those killed by an intimate partner in 2020.



Denton County  
Friends of the Family

# COUNCIL RECOGNITIONS



During the June 29 Council meeting, Mayor Clark presented the 2021 Business of the Year award and Hickory Creek Citizen of the Year Award for 2021. Business of the Year Award went to Elm Fork Taphouse & Kitchen.

Congratulations to Hickory Creek Citizen of the Year Melissa Shipe. Melissa served the community by sewing masks for medical and military personnel, friends and neighbors and even the Hickory Creek Police Department. Prior to COVID, Melissa had never sewn a stitch or owned a sewing machine!



Eagle Scout candidate Kyle Simmons built a life preserver station for swimmers and boaters at Arrowhead Park. The station serves as a place to borrow and return life vests while visiting the park.

Eagle Scout candidate Dustin Mullen received recognition for the design and built of a community garden at the Public Works/Animal Shelter. Residents interested in planting or assisting in the community garden may reach out to Ashley Vinson through email [Ashley.vinson@hickorycreek-tx.gov](mailto:Ashley.vinson@hickorycreek-tx.gov)



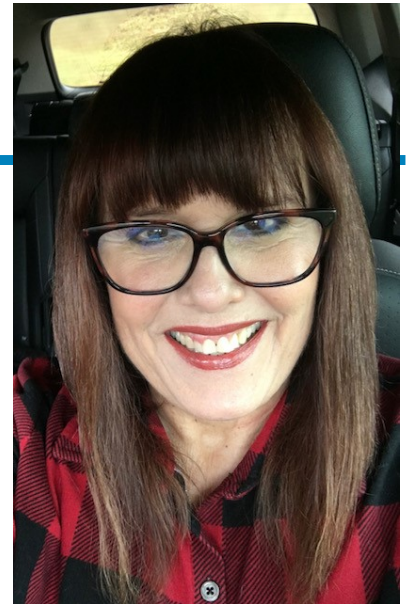


# MEET DEBBI FUTUJMA

If you've ever been to the court or called into the court regarding a citation then you've probably met Deputy Court Clerk Debbi Futujma.

Debbi retired from the City of Lewisville with 27 years of service, serving in various roles such as Animal Services and the Municipal Court. She came to Hickory Creek to fill in for a few weeks, which has turned into four years. She'll be the first to tell you she is currently retired and only works "part-time," which is how she affectionately received her nickname, "Part-Time Debbi." Debbi's quirky and sometimes sassy sense of humor is always open for business. She has indicated it's an "age thing" and she can't control it.

In her spare time, Debbi enjoys cooking and baking treats for her coworkers and spending time with her fur babies. Debbi enjoys working in the Hickory Creek Municipal Court so much she may never fully retire.




## WINTERY WEATHER

Every winter, on days with freezing temperatures, multiple complaints are received about water from sprinkler systems and other sources creating icy conditions around town. The Town of Hickory Creek's Drought and Water Usage Plan States:




"A person commits an offense if he knowingly or recklessly irrigates, waters, or causes or permits the irrigation or watering of a lawn or landscape located on premises owned, leased, or managed by the person in a manner that causes...the formation of ice or any other hazardous condition."

If you have a sprinkler system, disable the system anytime the forecast calls for freezing temperatures or install a rain/freeze sensor to prevent future problems. Also, eliminate any other ways that ice may form and create a hazard. Violations can result in the issuance of citations.



## Volunteer Spotlight







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

**Kyle Knop**  
Parks and Recreations  
Place 4

Kyle is currently serving on the Parks and Recreation Board. After graduating from Kansas State with a degree in Park Resource Management Kyle was a Park Ranger and environmental educator for 6 years before joining the corporate world.

He has lived in Texas for 25 years, 16 of which being in Hickory Creek. Kyle enjoys volunteering with his wife and two daughters for Young Lives in Denton as well as occasionally volunteering at the animal shelter.

Pre-Covid, he was an active volunteer at his children's school where he was the Watch Dog coordinator for two years. Kyle and his family are 'Chicken Tenders' as they raise chickens in their backyard and give most of the eggs away to neighbors.

# HICKORY CREEK PARKING REGULATIONS

---

In addition to saying that motorized vehicles may not be parked on the street over 48 hours, the Hickory Creek parking ordinances say that a vehicle not legal to operate on a Texas roadway may not be parked or stored on the street. The moratorium on Texas Vehicle Registrations expired on April 14th. There is no grace period, so if your vehicle has not been inspected and registered, you can receive citations.

Since the moratorium's expiration, Code Compliance has responded to over 90 parking citations.

To avoid a parking citation, please remember:

- Cars may only be parked on the street for 48 hours without being moved.
- Non motorized vehicles (trailers, boats, etc.) may not be parked or stored on the street. If a vehicle is being actively loaded, it may be parked for no longer than 24-hours.
- Sporting equipment, such as ramps, basketball goals, etc., containers, or other property, excluding vehicles, can not be stored or put in or next to the street, sidewalk, or any other public right of way.
- Any vehicle that can not physically or legally operate on a public street may not be parked or stored in the street. This includes cars without current registration stickers, plates, missing parts, on jacks, leaking fluids, etc.
- Vehicles may not be parked on dirt or grass, on a vacant lot or drive across a curb.
- Please be considerate of your neighbors and do not block sidewalks, driveways, mailboxes, or garbage pick up.
- Do not park within 15 feet of a hydrant, 20 feet of an intersection, 30 feet of a stop sign, or any other traffic sign or signal, or 50 feet of a railway crossing arm.
- Vehicles being advertised for sale or being used to advertise products or services may not be stored in the street. This does not include regularly used company work vehicles weighing less than 1 ton parked on private property for less than 72 hours.
- Large commercial vehicles may not be parked or stored on any street unless they are actively unloading and are not blocking traffic.
- Farm equipment may not be stored on lots of less than 1 acre unless the property is used primarily for agriculture.
- Temporary paving such as bricks, blocks or stones, may no longer be used to create a parking area.

If you have any questions contact 940.497.2528 ext. 225 or any violation may be reported anonymously at [www.hickorycree-tx.gov](http://www.hickorycree-tx.gov).





## Congratulations Chief Dunn and Sergeant Miller!



Congratulations to Chief Dunn and Sergeant Miller for graduating with their Masters of Science Criminal Justice & Criminology from Texas Christian University.



## MAYOR CLARK PROCLAIMED SEPTEMBER 2021 “LIVE UNITED MONTH”



### Proclamation

by the

Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas

WHEREAS, United Way of Denton County has been identifying Denton County's needs and responding to them for over 68 years; and

WHEREAS, United Way of Denton County is unparalleled in the power to assemble partners, providers, and resources to address the needs of neighbors in crisis; and

WHEREAS, United Way of Denton County works with a network of nonprofits across Denton County to address a variety of needs, including feeding those who face food insecurity; preparing children for success in school, work, and life; and connecting those in crisis with resources to pay bills, stay in their homes, and find employment; and

WHEREAS, United Way of Denton County remains committed more than ever before to bring people together to help our communities recover, rebuild and thrive;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lynn C. Clark, Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas, do hereby proclaim September 2021 “LIVE UNITED MONTH” and ask you to join United Way of Denton County in calling on all residents of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas to LIVE UNITED.

## LAKE CITIES FOURTH OF JULY



The Town of Hickory Creek participated in the Lake Cities Fourth of July parade on Saturday, July 3. The Town Council float placed First and the Hickory Creek Golf Cart Gang placed third.



## Volunteer Spotlight

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

**Dustin Jensen**  
Planning & Zoning  
Position 1

I grew up in Missouri and moved to Texas over 20 years ago. I have lived in the Lake Cities area since 2001. My wife, Jennifer, and I have 3 children: Ashley, David, and Nathan.

I am a partner in a local CPA firm and my wife teaches kindergarten at Lake Dallas Elementary. We love living in Hickory Creek. I serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission for Hickory Creek. I also serve as the Treasurer for the Lake Cities Football and Cheer Association and also serve in my church.

I love sports and try to get out to play golf as much as I can. My family has been so blessed and I feel it is important to try to serve to give back and try to do what I can to make the future bright for my family, friends and neighbors.



## Republic Services Notice of Annual Rate Adjustment

Republic Services continues to be grateful to serve the solid waste and recycling needs of Hickory Creek.

In accordance with the 2020 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Agreement, Section 10.02 Annual Rate Adjustment, Republic Services respectfully notifies the Town of the annual rate adjustment of 3.44%, effective October 1, 2021 on all rates. This number was calculated from the percent change from July 2019 to June 2020 and then July 2020 to June 2021 in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)- Water, Sewer, Trash.

## Republic Services Senior Discount

Hickory Creek provides a 30% senior discount on trash and recycling services for residents over 65. To receive the discount, 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.



## Volunteer Spotlight

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

**Dennis Day**  
Board of Adjustments  
Alternate #2

Dennis Day is a retired telecommunications executive having worked for Rockwell International – Collins Radio, MCI Telecommunications and Verizon Business for nearly 40 years and is currently serving on the Board of Adjustments for Hickory Creek.

Dennis grew up in a small farming community east of Kansas City, MO. After graduating high school Dennis served with the US Army in 1969/1970 and is a Vietnam combat veteran. Dennis and his wife Pamela moved to Garland Texas in 1973. They have two children ages 39 and 42. After living in Garland 43 years, they built a new home and moved to Hickory Creek in 2016.

Dennis had a desire to be more involved in city government and volunteered for the Board of Adjustments in 2020. Dennis enjoys hunting, shooting sports and recently started Kayak fishing on Lake Lewisville.





# NEW MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

At their meeting on June 12, 2021, the Town Council approved the appointment and swore in Hickory Creek Municipal Court Judge, Cynthia Burkett and Associate Judge Nicholas Wohnr due to the unexpected passing of Hickory Creek's Municipal Court Judge Kyle Knapp in early June. Judge Knapp served the Hickory Creek Municipal Court for five years.



Judge Kyle Knapp



Judge  
Cynthia Burkett



Associate Judge  
Nicholas Wohnr









# HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR TREE DURING THE WINTER

Help Your Tree Survive in Cold Conditions  
Texas Trees Foundation

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

## PRUNE

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

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

## MULCH

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

Mulch also helps to retain moisture in the soil around the tree. This is particularly helpful if we have a dryer winter and the tree gets very little ambient moisture. Remember to spread your mulch around the base of the tree. Too much mulch piled up around the trunk of the tree holds too much moisture in and creates a perfect environment for insects, fungi, and other pests to feed on your tree.



## WATER

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

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

## FREEZE PREVENTION

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

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



# KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN

Take Care of Texas-Conservation Tips

## IRRIGATE EFFICIENTLY TO REDUCE RUNOFF AND EROSION

Most lawns receive twice as much water as they require. Watering too heavily or too rapidly weakens your lawn, causing erosion and runoff. Water applied too rapidly is lost as runoff, which may carry polluting fertilizers and pesticides to streams and lakes. Excess irrigation can leach nutrients deep into the soil away from the plant roots, increasing the chances of groundwater pollution.



1. Apply water infrequently, yet thoroughly. A general rule is to water up to one inch, once a week. When watering, always comply with your water system's restrictions.
2. Water in the morning to save water from being evaporated by the midday heat.
3. Sprinkler systems offer an effective method for irrigation, if used properly. Use larger drops close to the ground. The water in misters can evaporate quickly.
4. Select grass carefully. Planting the turf grass adapted to your region that uses the least water is an effective way to reduce the need for irrigation.
5. After mowing, leave grass clippings on your lawn to reduce your watering needs.
6. Compositing and grass cycling can reduce runoff pollution by preventing erosion, increasing the soil's ability to absorb and retain water, and reducing the need for fertilizers.
7. Planting native Texas plants increases the soil's capacity to store water and reduce runoff.

## 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.





# COMMUNITY REMINDERS



## ANIMAL REGISTRATION

Residents are required to register all cats and dogs with Animal Services. There is no charge to register but you must have a valid copy of their rabies vaccination certificate. Residents may register animals at the animal shelter, town hall or online.

---

## ALARM PERMITS

All commercial and residential alarm systems are required to register every January. First time residential alarm systems require a \$50 application fee. Renewals are free. Applications may be found online or at Town Hall.

## BOAT RAMP & DAY USE PASSES

Boat ramp and day use passes for 2022 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, October 11**

**Columbus Day**

**Thursday, November 11**

**Veterans Day**

**Thursday, November 25**

**Thanksgiving Day**

**Friday, November 26**

**Day after Thanksgiving**

**Thursday, December 23**

**Day before Christmas Eve**

**Friday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve**