

October—December 2022

LAKE SIDE NEWS

COMMUNITY BROADBAND

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PHOTO CREDIT SUZY FLUTE

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 Central Appraisal District's certified property total for this year is \$898.2 million, an increase of approximately 20.5% over last year's total of \$745.3 million. Last year, the property tax rate for Hickory Creek was 0.307280 per \$100 of value. For 2022, our Council once again *lowered our tax rate to 0.270317 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 tax roll).

I am pleased to announce that we have presented a balanced budget for the 2022-2023. In addition to providing all regular town services, the budget will allow us to add one new police officer position, bringing the total to fourteen officers. Cameras will be installed in the Council Chambers to allow for streaming of Council meetings, and outdated sound equipment will be replaced. In January, we will begin the process of updating our Comprehensive Plan. Hickory Creek will also collaborate through interlocal agreements with Corinth and Shady Shores for Animal Services, and with Shady Shores for Public Works services.

The final phase to bring additional fire hydrants to Harbor Grove will be completed in partnership with LCMUA. Sidewalks will be added on Point Vista Road south of Stamford, and the final sidewalk link will be added to connect Park Ridge to Ronald Reagan Ave.

Earlier this year, the US Government provided American Rescue Funds to each government entity. These funds are restricted, with broadband infrastructure being the only category which we could utilize. Through the Lake Cities Broadband Initiative, these funds will be used to bring high-speed broadband to government facilities in Hickory Creek, Shady Shores, and Corinth. As the fiber ring is constructed, Pavlov Media will build and offer residential service with speed of 1 gig (upload & download) to every home and business in participating cities.



For the second year in a row, our citizens participated in the "Red, White & Blue Freedom Walk" across the Lewisville Lake Bridge, in memory of first responders and all who perished on 9/11. Special thanks to the all our citizens who participated, and the Mayors & Denton County officials who supported this memorable event (left to right): Mayor Dan Jaworski (Highland Village), Mayor Gerard Hudspeth (City of Denton), Judge Andy Eads (Denton County), Precinct 3 Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell (Denton County), Mayor Lynn Clark (Hickory Creek), Mayor Bill Heidemann (Corinth), Mayor Cindy Aughinbaugh (Shady Shores), Mayor Andi Nolan (Lake Dallas), and Mayor TJ Gilmore (Lewisville).

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Mayor!

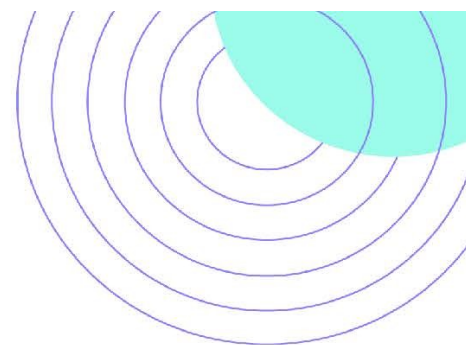
Lynn Clark



The Lake Cities, TX | Pavlov Media

Community Broadband

Availability, Access, Affordability



Partners

The Lake Cities, TX
Marketplace.city
Mighty River LLC

Partnership Features

- 22 mile dark fiber ring connecting The Lake Cities and over 200 miles of fiber to reach every home and business.
- 12 months to complete initial fiber buildout.
- 17 anchor institutions to be connected across the Lake Cities.
- Lit service rates to selected institutions of:
 - A: 1Gbps \$75.00
 - B: 5Gbps \$250.00
 - C: 10Gbps \$500.00
- Fiber/Internet Managed Service for Govt buildings for 5 years.
- 36 months to expand the network to every household and business in the Lake Cities.
- Service packages to include provision for low-income households and \$70-90/month for symmetrical gigabit service.
- 100% below-ground installation.
- IRU term of 30 years with two 10-year renewal options, providing service and cost certainty.

Documents

[Lake Cities IRU](#)
[Final Briefing Packet](#)

Approaching the Challenge of Connectivity

In September of 2020, The Lake Cities, comprised of three communities – the City of Corinth, Town of Hickory Creek, and Town of Shady Shores – established a Broadband Committee to do a physical inventory of broadband assets in the Lake Cities and chart a path forward based on local sentiment on broadband and connectivity issues. Following this review of the state of connectivity in The Lake Cities, it became clear that the existing providers were not meeting consumer needs. The Cities determined cost-effective, ubiquitous, high-speed broadband needed to be a priority to support the present and future needs of The Lake Cities for education, economic development, and government services. To do this, The Lake Cities wanted to make judicious use of, and leverage ARPA funds with a public-private partnership to ensure quality broadband for multiple generations.

Creating an Efficient Path Forward

With a general idea of the outcomes that they wanted, The Lake Cities engaged Marketplace.city and Mighty River LLC to source and procure the solution. Through this partnership, the Cities rigorously evaluated the technology, the partnership model, the partner, and the contract structure in a 6-month period to final selection. The process gave them an informed, compliant procurement process that leveraged outside expertise to fit their community's needs.

Navigating Broadband Solutions

Sample of Different Community Broadband Models:

Privately Operated:

- Public Policy Project
- Infrastructure Project
- Public-Private Partnership (P3)

Government Operated:

- Public Services Provider
- Wholesale Open Access
- Retail Provider

An Expedited and Compliant Process

A local solution to connectivity issues can take on many different forms, and so rather than picking different technologies and models out of a vacuum, the teams at Marketplace.city and Mighty River navigated the broadband landscape through the structured process of sourcing and procurement. This process started with providing data on more than 50 companies with fiber, broadband and operating capability, ranging from some of the largest broadband providers in the United States to emerging companies offering creative new solutions. Through discussions between The Lake Cities' Stakeholders, Marketplace.city, and Mighty River, the



Select Solution Deployments

Denton, TX
Champaign, IL
Mahomet, IL

Who should use this solution?

Universities, Municipalities, Counties, and States interested in pursuing local solutions to fiber/connectivity issues

Contacts

Andrew@marketplace.city
jfreddoso@mightyriverllc.com
john.smith@hickorycreek-tx.gov
LeeAnn.Bunselmeyer@cityofcorinth.com

Timeline

- **06/09/21:** The Lake Cities adopt the Connected Nation Strategic Plan
- **08/21:** Partnered with Marketplace.city & Mighty River
- **09/01/21-09/30/21:** Request for Qualification window
- **11/02/21:** City Stakeholders shortlist Pavlov Media and Sprocket
- **11/04/21-11/16/21:** Request for Proposal sent to shortlisted vendors
- **11/30/21 and 12/06/21:** In-person meetings with vendors
- **01/12/22:** Lake Cities Tech Committee adopts Pavlov Media as the preferred solution
- **01/26/22:** Lake Cities Councils vote to approve going to contract with Pavlov Media

Cities determined what outcomes were most important to them – long term broadband certainty in the last mile, speed of deployment, cost, and avoidance of new responsibility or cost of maintenance for the government.

Following discussions with The Lake Cities Stakeholders, Marketplace.city and Mighty River crafted a Request for Qualification tailored to The Lake Cities' specific concerns but designed to encourage a wide range of solution models and approaches. The RFQ was distributed publicly but also marketed to appropriate vendors to obtain the right degree of exposure. This approach resulted in six complete vendor responses with solutions including fiber-to-the-home networks, mixed fiber and wireless solutions, and mesh/wireless solutions. Marketplace.city and Mighty River analyzed the vendor responses and summarized them for The Lake Cities Stakeholders, allowing them to downselect two qualified candidates to submit final proposals. Through that analysis the Cities were also able to refine their thinking on the best technology, partnership model and key KPIs for the contract

A Qualified Solution Within 6 Months

Following a detailed analysis of the vendor responses and discussions with The Lake Cities' Stakeholders, Marketplace.city crafted a Request for Proposal for the two qualified candidates that allowed The Lake Cities to clarify open questions and to receive detailed proposals for the project, including contract structure, partnership structure, and pricing. Marketplace.city and Mighty River again provided analysis on the proposals and enabled The Lake Cities Stakeholders to break down their selection into thirteen weighted criteria.

Based on the needs of The Lake Cities and the relative strengths of the proposals, the City Stakeholders chose Pavlov Media's proposed solution as the one that provided the desired functionalities and best met the needs of their community: Pavlov Media's experience building fiber to the home and the company's vertically integrated structure minimized the business risk for the Lake Cities, who were selecting their partner for the project in the middle of supply chain disruption and a new wave of Covid-19. Throughout the selection process, Marketplace.city and Mighty River continued to support the Lake Cities by evaluating and evolving the proposed partnership model to include service and cost certainty over a 30-year IRU (Indefeasible Right of Use) lease on the dark fiber.

Key Outcomes and Benefits

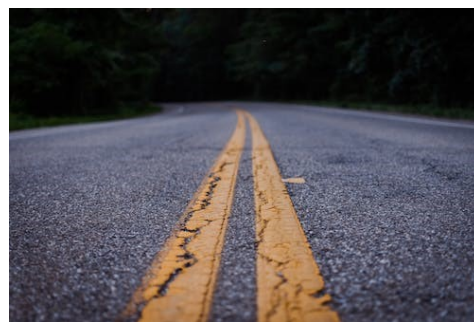
- Government Private WAN for 30 years with two 10-year renewals for a \$3.025 million dollar investment – a fraction of the total buildout cost (~\$25million)
- Contractual commitment to deliver market rate fiber to every residence and business in The Lake Cities by 2024 with a 22-mile dark fiber ring and 200 miles of FTTH. The Cities have 48 dedicated fiber strands
- Fiber/Internet Managed Service for government buildings for 5 years
- Options to add additional government fiber needs at fixed rates as government service and/or smart city needs change
- Fixed price for additional "drops" if public sector/anchor institution footprint changes
- Built community support for the project across the leadership of the four cities
- Backbone, scalability, and cost certainty for a service that is increasingly critical. Government services, economic development, and education rely on connectivity, particularly since the advent of Covid. By ensuring fiber access for the next 50 years, The Lake Cities have taken an important step to securing the success of their community.



"The key to success of this project was regional cooperation," Ian Theodore, Chairman of Broadband Initiative, said. "Given the relatively small size of each of the communities, it is reasonable to assume that this project might never have gotten off the ground if each city had gone it alone. By pooling resources and coordinating efforts, the cities were able to attract a larger and more capable private firm to help address problems the residents are experiencing (with current Internet services.)"

SYCAMORE BEND ROAD UPDATE

Sycamore Bend Road construction continues to make huge strides in concrete paving in part due to great weather and McMahon Contracting moving our project to the top of their list. The north bound lane has been completed from Sycamore Bend Park to Turbeville. This has allowed us to move the traffic onto the north bound travel lane. Cement stabilization will begin at Turbeville going south on the west side of the road. Backfilling will continue along the entire road as culverts and drainage pipes are installed. Entrances to Eagle Aries and Maynard along with some private drives will remain open for entering and exiting. Sidewalk construction will begin over the next few weeks as well as the pouring of new concrete on the west side. The Lake Cities Fire Department and Hickory Creek Police Department have been notified of the construction plans. Thank you again for your patience and please be observant of construction workers present on the job. If you have any questions. Please do not hesitate to contact him at john.Smith@hickorycreek-tx.gov.



REPUBLIC SERVICES RATE ADJUSTMENT

In accordance with the Town's 2020 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Agreement with Republic Services they have notified the Town of a 3.5% annual rate adjustment, effective October 1, 2022. The percent change is calculated using the July 2020 to June 2021 to July 2021 to June 2022 Consumer Price Index (CPI)-Water, Sewer, Trash produced a 3.9% change. However, our contract only allows for a 3.5% maximum rate adjustment.



WINTER 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.



HICKORY CREEK ANIMAL SHELTER CARES-A LOT

Lake Cities has a reputation for caring, loving, and providing services for community animals. Evidence of Hickory Creek's animal investments includes their state-of-the-art shelter built a few years ago, and the volunteer involvement of the highly respected Dr. Carol Eddy, owner of Corinth Vet Clinic on Swisher Road.



It's not always easy for small towns/cities to provide top-notch animal services without assistance, which is why three (Hickory Creek, Shady Shores, Corinth) of the four Lake Cities reached an animal services partnership agreement that became effective October 3.

Hickory Creek spearheads the effort from its 970 Main Street location, assuming responsibility for any animals found and impounded by any of the three cities.

John Smith, Town Administrator for HC, understands the benefits of a united front in certain situations. "Regional cooperation is vital for the growth and success of our communities," he said. "We are proud of our shelter, and excited to assist our neighbors. In the end, the animals are the big winners." Wendy Withers, Town Administrator for Shady Shores, agreed with Smith and added, "We are excited to continue our partnerships with the nearby towns, and thankful to Hickory Creek for accommodating our animal services' needs.

With the partnership in full operation, Corinth and Shady Shores residents are encouraged to call the HC shelter directly for lost and found animals, and for free registration. The phone number is 940/465-7444. Email is www.hickorycreek-tx.gov/animal. Any situation involving an animal bite should be reported immediately to 911.

The Corinth Police Department manages animal services for their city. The partnership has greatly improved those services for residents, while also increasing the police department's efficiency and responsiveness.

Lake Cities residents are invited to attend a better-than-ever Arbor Day celebration on November 5, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, at the HC Animal Shelter. Tour the shelter and meet the staff. This year's Arbor Day is a joint project between Hickory Creek, Shady Shores, and Corinth. Spend time meeting representatives from all three. There will also be a rock-climbing wall, K-9 demonstrations by HC K-9 handlers and, of course, hot dogs!

Meet neighbors. Match faces to the names of people serving at the three town/city halls. Check out the community garden you probably didn't know was available. And, who knows? You just might walk away with a new, four-legged best friend. It'll be an adventure!

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.

SEE YOU AT THE STATION



The Town of Hickory Creek hosted the 7th Annual “See You At The Station” on Wednesday, September 21 at 8 a.m. The event, originally founded in 2015 by a citizen in Robinson, Texas was organized to pray for our police officers, firefighters, and all first responders.

Approximately twenty police officers from Corinth, Hickory Creek, and Lake Dallas, firefighters from the Lake Cities Fire Department, town and city staff members, pastors, Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce members, and elected officials joined together to support the men and women who put their lives on the line to serve and protect our community.



9/11 WALK OF REMEMBRANCE



On Sunday, September 11, 2022, officials and residents from Corinth, Hickory Creek, Lake Dallas 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 21st anniversary for the four coordinated terrorist attacks against the United States of America. 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.



COUNCIL RECOGNITIONS



At the August 22, 2022 Town Council meeting, Mayor Clark proclaimed September 2022 as “Live United Month.” The United Way of Denton County has been identifying Denton County’s needs and responding to them for over 69 years. United Way of Denton County leads the effort to provide greater opportunity for every person in Denton County and works with a network of nonprofits, governments, and businesses across the Country to respond to our community’s immediate needs and seek out better solutions for larger community-wide issues.

At the August 22, 2022 Town Council meeting, Mayor Clark proclaimed the first full week of September 2022 as Payroll Week. The American Payroll Association and its more than 20,000 members have launched a nationwide public awareness campaign that pays tribute to the nearly 150 million people who work in the United States and the payroll professionals who support the American system.



EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE JOHN PATRICK RONALD ANDERSON

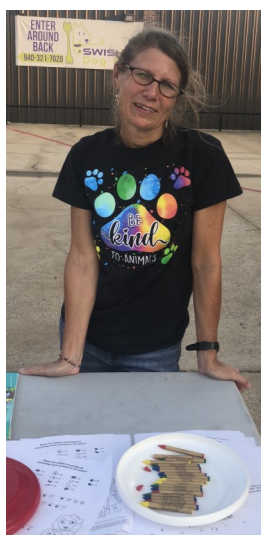
On October 2, 2022, Eagle Scout Candidate John P. R. Anderson, along with members from Boy Scout Troop 191 in Denton, remodeled the existing gardens surrounding the Hickory Creek Veteran's Memorial. The Scouts replaced old plants and gravel and added new flowers and mulch. Two new benches have been added to the site. One bench will feature a commemorative plaque dedicated to Specialist Payton Bachinski of the US Army 101st Airborne Division who passed away due to medical complications while on active duty.



DR. CAROL EDDY: CORINTH VET CLINIC

In 1989, during the 71st Texas legislature, the Health and Safety Code for Animals, Chapter 823, was passed. The new state law applied to counties with populations of 75,000 or more.

Obviously, Denton County was well over the numeric baseline and began formulating plans to implement the various requirements, including the appointment of four individuals to form the Animal Welfare Advisory Board/Committee. It was specified that one of those appointees must be a veterinarian, setting the stage for just a few years later when Hickory Creek had the good fortune to add Dr. Carol Eddy to its animal welfare team.



Anyone meeting Dr. Eddy is struck almost immediately by her compassion and empathy. She's a "pet parent," as is everyone else staffing her Corinth Veterinary Clinic. She always contends one of her primary goals is "Helping pets be as happy and healthy as possible, so they can extend the number of years they share with their families."

Dr. Eddy graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine on a full-ride scholarship (impressive!) in 1994. She practiced for several years in Illinois, Oklahoma, and a number of clinics in the DFW

metroplex. There are still some clients who travel from Oklahoma to Hickory Creek, with a squirming dog or loudly meowing cat in the car with them. There's no better illustration for her passion "for building lasting relationships with clients and pets" than that!

By state law, the Animal Welfare Board is required to meet three times per year. "We meet four times," Dr. Eddy said. "We discuss the shelter's intake and adoption rates. Fortunately, our intake is fairly low and our adoption rate is usually high as well as fast. The good thing about that is we can help other shelters who might be overloaded. (Elsewhere in this newsletter, read about the HC shelter handling adoptable animals from Shady Shores and Corinth, in an effort to make sure all homeless animals in the Lake Cities area receive proper care, welfare, and a strong chance of adoption.)"

"We also stay current with the population growth in the area," Dr. Eddy continued. "More people automatically mean more animals, raising the potential risk for more strays. Also, it's incumbent on us to make sure everyone knows there *is* a shelter

and how to reach it."

Dr. Eddy has practiced 28-years. She was hired as a staff vet at CVC in 2003. It didn't take long for word to spread among animal folks. "Have you met the new vet at Corinth Vet?" "Looking for a vet? Ask for Dr. Eddy at CVC. She's terrific."

The "new" vet's popularity soared and she purchased the clinic in 2007. There wasn't much space. Just two examining rooms, a small waiting area that became stacked almost every day. She added more vets on a staggered schedule as well as more techs. Before long, the little storefront in the Albertson's shopping strip bulged at the seams.

Dr. Eddy took the second huge leap-of-faith in her career when she built the new clinic more than a year ago on Swisher in the Texas Health Center. CVC has gone from one vet (Dr. Eddy) to 3 ½ (three fulltime and one part-time), with a superb tech team. The clientele continues growing. The full-service menu, which includes exotics, remains the same.

At the Hickory Creek shelter, the only animals *NOT* eligible for adoption are those with intense behavioral issues or those with certain health issues. CVC performs physical exams and evaluations, as well as spay/neuter.

Dr. Eddy also finds the time to lend her services to Hickory Creek's annual vaccination event. "The work takes on a different dimension when certain aspects are done through the community – such as the Animal Welfare Board," she said. "There's a special kind of bonding with the people and the pets. I feel as if I *really* belong here. It's impossible to explain that kind of feeling in words, so I'll just say 'Thank you from our hearts to all the people who have supported us for more than a decade.'"

But of course it's from her heart. That's where everything comes from with Corinth Vet Clinic.



DON'T "DRAIN" YOUR GRASS

Mowing season will be over very soon for most of us, unless you're one of those people who can't resist tossing out handfuls of winter seeds. It's true, that brilliant green hue of winter grass carries a whiff of luxury but, on second thought, parking the mower for a few months is nearly irresistible.

Whether or not we give the lawn mower a winter vacay, there's one very specific city ordinance we need to remember year-round. It's 6.02.003(2), and one of the most important things it concerns is city/town drains.

Very seldom can you mow and not follow with a clean-up. You're tired and sweaty at that point, and the wide open, unobstructed, yawning sidewalk drains are so inviting! They appear to be the perfect resting spot for all those grass clippings. And, later in the year, how tempting is it to blow leaves in the same direction.

According to 6.02.003 (2), those lovely drains are not there for anything but water. They are the town's stormwater system, and they are designed to serve *ONE* purpose, which is to protect citizens and their homes from stormwater. They cannot fulfill their single function if clogged with debris.

The ordinance clearly states no form of trash or rubbish may be swept, thrown, in any way be deposited on/along any drain, gutter, alley, sidewalk, public place, or thoroughfare. The ordinance further singles out "yard waste," which includes grass clippings, leaves, and tree branches.

Many people feel grass clippings left in the yard after mowing are offensive. It's true the yard doesn't appear as manicured as when the clippings are removed, but there are definite benefits from the clippings for the health of the yard.

The clippings decompose, releasing water and nutrients back into the lawn. In other words, it's free lawn food that includes nitrogen and potassium. There's also the benefit of reducing the workload of mowing.

One alternative is to bag the clippings. Bagging *should* be done if there is evidence of any lawn disease. They can also be kept for a compost pile or mulch (but not if a weed control product was used).

Remember, keep all yard waste out of the drains, gutters, alleys and off sidewalks, streets, and public places.



THE POWER OF TOWN HALL IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

The Town of Hickory Creek has launched a new mobile citizen engagement application-OurHickoryCreek, powered by GoGOv. This app puts the power of town hall in the palm of your hand.

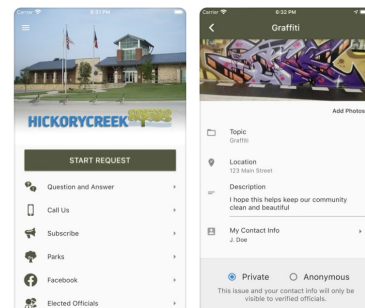


OurHickoryCreek
Utilities

GET

The app allows residents to have a direct line of communication to request services and report issues such as potholes, graffiti and more. The app will also be a great source of information with links to the town website, news and ongoing events.

Town staff will leverage powerful dashboards and reporting tools to identify hot spots, increase productivity, streamline communications, and prioritize projects.



NEW CHURCH IN HICKORY CREEK

Yes, it's true. Thousand Hills is a new, recently opened church in Hickory Creek. Pentecostal Assemblies of God by denomination, it also distinguishes itself with a couple of other merits.

For starters, it's BIG; 57,000 sq. ft. big and nearly seven-times the size of its previous location. Lead Pastor Ben DeBoef, his staff, and his 700-plus congregation moved from Corinth to HC, where they settled into the old AMC movie theatre. The pandemic threw a death punch to AMC (as it did to many other movie houses) and Thousand Hills was able to purchase the property in December 2020.

Renovation began Fall of 2021, and the first service was held August 7, 2022.

Second and third distinctions, Thousand Hills is Hickory Creek's *first* and *only* church. Both those facts come as a surprise to some people.

Thousand Hills needed more physical space in order to focus on expanding community involvement and fulfilling their mission, including being a blessing to the community and to the church members. The spirit of the church is vibrant, contemporary, high-energy, and forward-moving.

Established in 1999, Thousand Hills has been led for the past nine years by Pastor Ben DeBoef and wife Janet, who moved to Texas from Chicago after staff pastoring for 20 years.

"Our goal is to love God, love people, and change the world," Pastor Ben said. "We're a missional Christian community that is friendly, creative, and spirit-filled with a multi-generational congregation. We strongly believe in the fruit of the Spirit.

"We have joy-filled, contemporary praise and worship. Our intention is to share the good news of Jesus Christ through community outreach, service, and love. We're guided by our belief that we have a responsibility to function as the hands and feet of Christ.

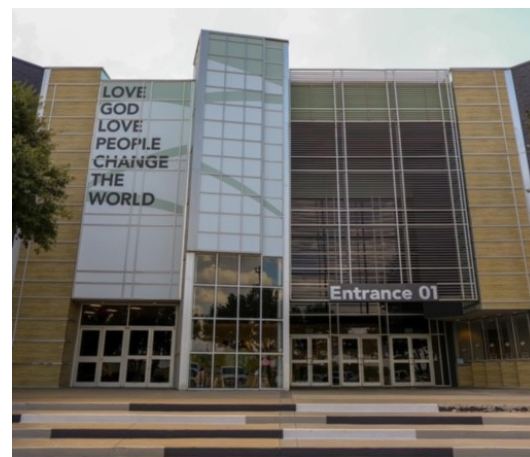
"Our excitement is an all-time high over being able to fulfill those responsibilities and goals in this building and in Hickory Creek. We want *all* of the Lake Cities to hear us and to come see us. We certainly have enough room!"

As noted, Thousand Hills is creative and especially in designing opportunities to increase their community involvement. In November there is a vendor fair and a car show scheduled. The Joy of Christmas is on the calendar for December 12. They've already presented a five-week series called "At the Movies." Popcorn was available and each week the message was constructed around a movie, showing film clips during the sermon. The church has a strong, fun social media presence and an outstanding website. All projects are backed up by a professional, high-spirited media team, making Thousand Hills is completely relevant in the technology of the digital age.

Pastor Ben and his staff were united in the decision to launch the AMC transformation by remodeling half of the 57,000 sq. ft. The lobby that once sold super-expensive popcorn and soft drinks is now a fellowship hall where people can meet, and hangout over free coffee.

The new sanctuary accommodates double the old facility's number of congregants. One of the star elements of the new location is a state-of-the-art safe and secure children's wing.

For details on times and dates, check thousandhillspeople.org or call 940/321-0488.



WALK RUN, YOU CHOOSE

The mental health community suggests the entire globe is crashing under the weight of stress, depression, and anxiety. It's a direct reaction, they say, to the pandemic, to staggering inflation, to political extremism, to pronounced individual isolationism, to social divisiveness, to Putin and his nuclear threats, to..... Go ahead. Add your own stress elements. Too hot. Too cold. Drought. Flooding.

Eventually, that same mental health community will take a much closer, detailed look at the depression-riddled globe and notice a tiny spot in Texas. It's brighter than all the rest. They'll investigate and find out the tiny dot is Hickory Creek and the surrounding Lake Cities area.

But why is it brighter?

The answer traces to a group aptly named Lake Cities Run Walk Group, the brainchild of 30-year Corinth resident Grace Ward.

Ward, a dedicated runner for several decades, is passionate about motivating people. "Seeing people connect with one another is exciting," she said. "We need more of that because we need one another. That people connection, combined with the built-in exercise, brings so much joy. You may be depressed or worried when you arrive, but you're guaranteed to feel *much* better when you leave."

Ward started LC Run Walk in January 2021. It's free. It's open to men and women, ages 18 to 65-plus. It's based on providing a safe environment for people to meet up and walk and/or run. It's connecting with other people and enjoying the community, which is already known for its safety and sense of adventure. Ward's vision said this was a fun method for uniting residents, supporting our towns, increasing the Lake Cities' overall health quotient, and grabbing back a big handful of the joy stolen from us by the villains listed in that first paragraph.



Did it work?

Remember that movie *Field of Dreams*? Remember Kevin Costner was told people would come if he built the field? Ward built her field and, in four months, 450 people came! Now, in less than two years, 1200 people have come, with more than half of those as consistent participants.

Visit the LC Run Walk Group on Facebook. There are people of all ages and sizes, displaying every possible physical difference. The primary common denominator is the huge, joy-filled smiles connecting everyone.

Ward keeps the group updated through Facebook, where she posts a weekly list of Meet-Ups, games and challenges that are free for the members as well as races and events from around DFW, and dozens of pictures.

Meet-Ups are a very important part of the group. There are several routes in place and more to come. A member decides he/she wants to walk/run route "D" on a certain day and beginning at a certain time. (Meet-Ups happen from early morning through the evening. Sunrise/before work. During the day, while pushing a baby stroller or using a walker because you're in physical rehab! After work. Before dinner, after dinner.) The member notifies Ward who posts on the LCRWG page, every Saturday, all Meet-Ups for the coming week on the group page. There could be several Meet-Ups in one day. Something is always happening.

"We're very flexible," Ward stresses. "Choose a time or route. Walk or run. Go the entire route or not. Set your own pace. This is for fun. We're not trying to see who's the strongest or the fastest or the most accomplished in any way. There's not the slightest hint of judgment in this group – just praise and encouragement."

There are special events, games, parties. There's not enough space here to enumerate. Check Facebook. There's a very good chance you'll be glad you did.

Life is drab and disappointing without joy, but we in Lake Cities are fortunate to live in that tiny spot where joy is easily available. Don't miss it and don't waste it! Get out there and find yours!

IPS BARK BEETLES

Clayton and Tami Geer from Tree Shepherds

We are noticing a quick and vast decline of the pine trees in Hickory Creek and the surrounding areas. This is due to the IPS bark beetle which will infest and eventually kill drought stressed trees. We believe in addition to the stresses of the current drought, many of the trees were already under stress due to the 2021 freeze. We predict losing up to seventy percent of our pine trees if not treated.

This Ips Beetle is a wood boring beetle that feeds on the vascular tissue layers just under the bark of pine trees. A male adult beetle creates a nuptial chamber under the bark in which the female lays its eggs. Upon hatching the larva borers follows the nuptial into the vascular tissue where it begins to feed on the live tissue creating galleries in the wood. These galleries disrupt the flow of nutrients in the tree which cause the symptoms that we are seeing in nearly all the trees (sudden death of small limbs, small candle development, and overall canopy thinness). After feeding for 40-55 days, the larva will pupate into an adult and emerge from the tree creating the exit holes which is the most telling sign that we see of the borer activity.



It is theorized that the sudden infestation of these beetles is due to the stress these trees incurred during the deep freeze in February 2021. All the needles on these trees were killed in that freeze, causing the tree to expend enormous amounts of energy replenishing them. This weakened the trees natural defenses against the Ips Beetle and gave the beetles an opening to begin thriving.

Due to the cycle and nature of the Ips beetles we are just now beginning to see the symptoms of these beetles feeding on these trees. Starting at the top and outer canopy limbs, the Ips beetle moves its way down the tree's limbs with each life cycle (2 cycles per year). As the beetle begins to get into the trunk, we start to see the entire tree begin to fail as we see in trees, the tree will eventually succumb to the vascular damage.

If any residents observe signs of stress in their pine trees, please contact your local certified arborist.





COMMUNITY REMINDERS



ANIMAL REGISTRATION

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

ALARM PERMITS

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

BOAT RAMP & DAY USE PASSES

Boat ramp and day use passes for 2023 are now available at Town Hall. Hickory Creek residents receive a FREE day use and boat ramp pass. Residents must come by Town Hall to pick up the passes. Passes are good in all Hickory Creek town parks -Arrowhead, Leg 1 and Leg 2, Point Vista and Sycamore Bend. Please place all passes in the front windshield by the 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

Thursday, November 24

Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 25

Day after Thanksgiving

Monday, December 26

Christmas Day Observed

Monday, January 2

New Years Day Observed

CONNECT!

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

IT'S IMPORTANT!