

LAKE SIDE NEWS



**LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

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WORK**

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First Quarter 2025

A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear Fellow Citizens,

I am pleased to announce that the Town of Hickory Creek has once again received an excellent audit by Carl Deaton of Hankins, Eastup, Deaton, Tonn, Seay and Scarborough Accounting Firm. The town's financial statements of governmental activities and all accounting activities are audited annually to ensure compliance with standards contained in the Governmental Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The following statements can be found in the 2024 Town of Hickory Creek Financial Statements and Accountant's Opinion:



Financial Highlights

- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town of Hickory Creek exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows at September 30, 2024 by \$25,108,105. Of this amount, \$9,118,903 may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The Town's total net position increased by \$1,028,162 during the fiscal year from the results of current year operations.
- As of September 30, 2024, the Town of Hickory Creek's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$13,616,394, an increase of \$699,808 in comparison with the beginning of the period. Approximately 79 percent of this total amount, \$10,756,701 is available for spending at the government's discretion (*unassigned fund balance*).
- At the end of the current period, unassigned fund balance for the general fund of \$10,756,701 was 177 percent of total general fund expenditures.

The fund balance of the Town's general fund increased by \$1,170,631 during the current year compared to a \$951,261 increase in the prior year. Key factors are as follows:

- Revenues decreased \$3,497,659 or 32.5% from the previous year, primarily due to an decrease of \$2,438,926 in building permit revenue, and a decrease in Denton County funding for a road project (\$1,026,091).
- Expenditures increased \$132,876 or 2.29% from the previous year. Decreases in the capital outlay expenditures were offset by increases in police department expenditures.
- The fund balance of the Town's debt service fund remained unchanged from the prior year. Revenues and expenditures were comparable to the prior year and \$16,654 was transferred from the general fund to cover the excess of expenditures over revenues.
- The fund balance of the capital projects decreased \$244,849 during the year primarily due to \$260,200 capital outlay costs.

Sales tax revenues continue to increase due to commercial growth.. Chick-fil-A opened in October 2024, and the construction of approximately 35,000 square feet of retail space near the corner of Swisher/2181 and Parkridge will be under construction in 2025.

Denton County's TRIP22 Bond Road projects are set to make significant progress this year. Construction has already begun on Harbor Lane, with work on South Hook and Garth slated to follow. The Carlisle Road project, a collaborative effort between Denton County and the City of Lake Dallas, is scheduled to start in early spring, with additional road improvements coming in 2025 & 2026.

The 2024-2025 budget prioritizes enhancing amenities for residents, including a nature preserve observatory, an amphitheater at Town Hall Pond, and a recreation-focused center.

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

Best regards,

Lynn Clark
Mayor

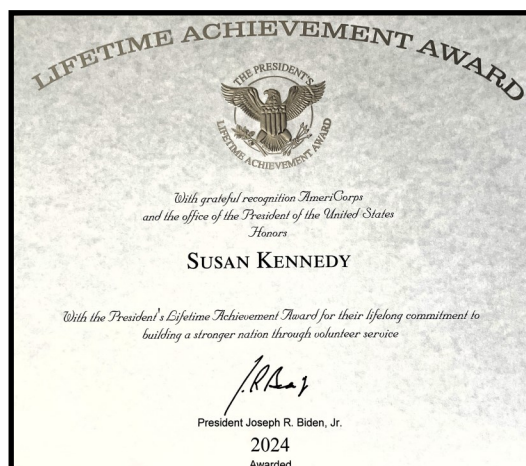
USA PRESIDENT'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD GOES TO: SUSAN KENNEDY

Susan Kennedy of American Realty was honored at the PMI Dallas' 40th Anniversary celebration to receive the USA President's Lifetime Achievement Award for volunteer service with the PMI Dallas Chapter. The recognition was for work she has done with the organization during the past 22 years. The PMI Dallas Chapter is a professional association with 5,000 members in the Dallas area. Through this business group, Susan has been involved in helping others advance their knowledge and careers in project management.

Here is some info about the award:

"The President's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteerism is the highest level of recognition for volunteer service in the United States, awarded by the President of the USA. The award acknowledges significant, long-term contributions in areas such as community service, education, health, and environmental conservation. Recipients often include individuals, groups, and organizations whose work has had a positive, lasting impact on their communities."

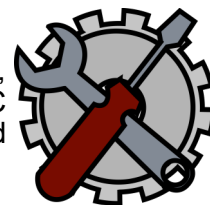
(Award Information provided by ChatGPT, OpenAI, Nov 2024)



Honey Dos and Home Repairs

It's the time of the year that many Hickory Creek residents have started rebuilding, remodeling and repairing. While many of projects are simple homeowner tasks, not many are aware that a permit is often required prior to construction. Obtaining a permit sets in to motion a series of inspections that will ensure you have a safe and compliant project while also keeping our town a great place to live.

Permits are required to construct: additions, outdoor kitchens, arbors, patio covers, decks, pools, sheds, or any other additional structural changes. They are also required for HVAC repairs, reroofs, concrete, tree removals, garage sales, among other trades, repairs, and upgrades.



If you have any questions about permitting or any type of construction project, please contact the Building Department at (940) 497-2528 or permits@hickorycreek-tx.gov. Failure to obtain a permit prior to construction will result in double permit fees and possible citations.

Scouts Hard At Work!

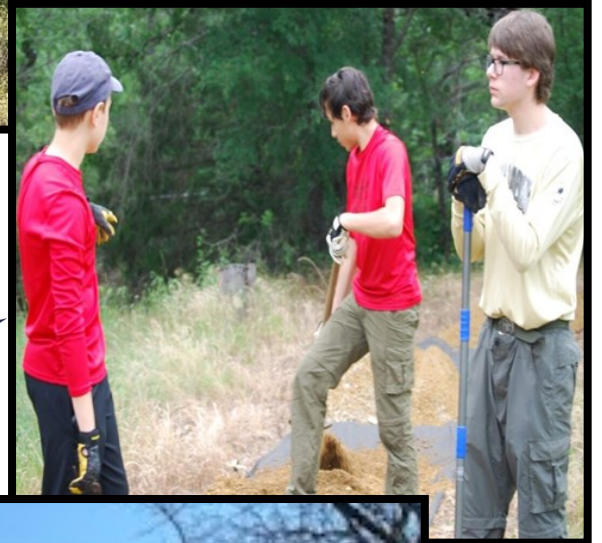
Pratt Nature Preserve & Observatory
Walking Trail

Landon Fehrenbacher and Michael Pierce



Landon and Michael worked hard to complete their Eagle Scout Project at the Pratt Nature Preserve and Observatory. They started by marking out the walking trail, laying the foundation, and spreading crushed granite along the trail.





2024 Tree L



Lighting Event



BE PREPARED : UNDERSTANDING OUTDOOR SIRENS

By: Diane Ciarloni

More than 350 people died in Texas tornadoes in 2011, a particularly violent year. Fifty-four people died in 2024.

Tornadoes are considered one of the most vicious acts of nature. They are rotating columns of air that begin at the bottom of a thunderstorm, twisting in the grip of an invisible power until they reach the ground. Some are enormous, with the hungry, sometimes miles-wide open mouth of the funnel cutting a swath of destruction along the ground.

They are capable of stripping bark from trees and picking up entire brick buildings from their foundations and depositing them a mile away in perfect condition. They are darkly mysterious in their power, and one of the scariest phenomena anyone could unfortunately experience

Happily, Texas is usually not the hardest hit target on the tornado map. While it suffers its sad share, states such as Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas rank higher on the list. Still, since all 50 states have been struck at least once by these super destructive natural disasters, everyone should be prepared.

According to Hickory Creek/Lake Cities Fire Chief Chad Thiessen, the outdoor weather warning sirens were installed in Hickory Creek in 2008. "They are," he said, "literal life savers. For them to do their job, though, people must understand them.

"If you're outside and you hear that three-minute blare, go inside immediately. But don't rely on the sirens exclusively for your safety. Once inside, you should have a pre-determined destination along with a NOAA weather radio or a TV."

Televisions are frequently unreliable since viewing can be knocked out by the same storm you're trying to track. A radio is more stable, but make sure you keep the batteries fresh. On a regular radio, stations 1610 AM and 89.1 FM carry severe weather news.

As far as the safest locations in your home are concerned, choose the lowest story in a room with no windows. You hear frequently of people sheltering in a windowless bathroom, in the tub covered by pillows. That works, too. Remember, objects can become deadly projectiles during the fury of a tornado. Wherever you are, make sure you position your body as close to the floor as possible and use your arms and hands to cover your head.

If you're in your car and hear that three-minute wail begin, accept the fact that you cannot outrun a tornado. Pull over, get down on the floorboard, crouch and cover your head. If you see a ditch or other low-lying patch, and if you have time, make a run for it and lie down. But only do that if you have time.

"We have a total of nine sirens in the Lake Cities and they all mesh at the fire department's main building in Corinth," Thiessen said. "The sirens are designed to be heard for a 5,000-ft radius but that also depends on certain factors. For example, how many walls must the sound penetrate before it reaches the person who's outside at the 4,000- foot mark?

"We've had tremendous growth since our sirens were installed, with significantly more homes and other buildings. Can the sirens still get through that growth or do we need to add more? That's one of the topics in our current discussions."

"Some people can hear the sirens in their homes, but the basic intent is for outdoor warning. It's telling you to go inside, go to a safe place, and find out more details through your television or radio."

If you've watched a weather map on TV during severe conditions, you've probably seen a polygon. It's sometimes seen in red to stand out. Polygon means "many sides," which is what it is; a figure made of straight, not curved, lines with one or more angles. A polygon on a weather map indicates the location of the storm and/or tornado and the direction it's traveling.

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"Understand the tornado terminology," Thiessen stressed. "When you hear you're under a 'tornado watch,' it means the weather conditions are right for a tornado. Be prepared. Know where your safest place is and where your family is."

"If you hear you're under a 'tornado Warning' it means a tornado has been spotted and you need to take action IMMEDIATELY. Gather your family and head for your designated safe place. Don't put yourself in undue danger but try your hardest to gather your pets along the way."

A tip for pets: when the weather turns ominous and you've been warned of a chance of tornadoes, you might put your dogs on leashes and your cats in carriers to get them to safety with you.

In Hickory Creek (and the entire Lake Cities), sirens are tested the first Wednesday of every month at 1pm.

Please register for Denton County Emergency Alerts at:
<https://member.everbridge.net/892807736725777/login>

If you would like to read more, check www.ready.gov/make-a-plan, the Federal Emergency Management Agency website, and Weather-Ready Nation.



Upcoming Events

Chick-fil-A Easter Community Event

April 17th
4 PM - 7 PM

Event will be held in the Chick-fil-A parking lot with games and prizes.

Wal-Mart Wing Introduction

April 12th
9 AM - 12 PM

Come see the new Wal-Mart delivery drones up-close! Event will be held in Wal-Mart grocery pick-up parking lot where drones are located.

Fox Family Legacy Continues



Descendants of Cassandra Fox were honored with a proclamation for their long time residence in Denton County. The Fox family will celebrate 200 years of residency in what is now Hickory Creek in 2031. Their Texan roots are 7 generations deep and a lot of their family history can be found at Denton County's African American Museum. Thanks to Councilman Theodore for collaborating and connecting with the family.

Red Kettle Challenge



Mayor Clark was presented with a certificate and bell for taking first place in the Salvation Army Mayor's Red Kettle Challenge in December.

Pictured Mayor Lynn Clark with representatives from The Salvation Army, and citizens who helped ring the bell.

COMMUNITY

REMINDERS

ANIMAL REGISTRATION

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

ALARM PERMITS

All commercial and residential alarm systems are required to register every January. Renewals are free. Applications may be found online or at Town Hall.

BOAT RAMP & DAY USE PASSES

Boat ramp and day use passes for 2024 are now available at Town Hall. Hickory Creek residents receive a FREE day use and boat ramp pass. Residents must come by Town Hall to pick up the passes. Passes are good in all Hickory Creek town parks-Arrowhead, Leg 1 and Leg 2, Point Vista, and Sycamore Bend. Please place all passes in the front windshield so they may be seen easily by an officer. Failure to properly display current year passes may result in a citation. Nonresidents may purchase boat ramp and day use passes at Town Hall, online or at pay stations located in Arrowhead, Point Vista, and Sycamore Bend. Pass holders require a code to access the parks. Codes will be given when passes are picked up.

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Curbside Household Hazardous Waste Republic Services will collect electronic waste and hazardous chemicals from your home on an on-call basis. Call 469.451.3713 or email HickoryCreekHHW@republicservices.com to schedule a pick-up.

REPUBLIC SERVICES SENIOR DISCOUNT

Hickory Creek provides a 30% senior discount on trash and recycling services for our residents over 65. To receive the discount, bring your trash bill and driver's license to Town Hall and let us know you're eligible for the discount. The Town will contact Republic Services for your discount on future bills. Once your information has been submitted, there is no need to reapply each year.

LIBRARY CARD REIMBURSEMENT

The Town of Hickory Creek offers our residents Denton and Lake Dallas library card reimbursements! The Town will reimburse residents up to \$50 per household. To receive the refund, bring the receipt from the Denton or Lake Dallas Library and a copy of your drivers license with your Hickory Creek address (or a utility bill with your address) and we will send a check to you in the mail for reimbursement.

**HICKORY CREEK
TOWN HALL**

1075 Ronald Reagan
Avenue

940-497-2528

Monday - Thursday

7:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday

7:00 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 - Friday

7 AM - 3:30 PM

Saturday - Sunday

7 AM - 11 AM

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 PM



UPCOMING TOWN CLOSURES

Friday, April 18

Good Friday

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day

Thursday, June 19

Juneteenth