

Lakeside News

Second Quarter 2026

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COUNTING**

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A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR



It's been a busy spring in Hickory Creek! As our community continues to grow and thrive, we have had many opportunities to celebrate accomplishments and look ahead to exciting things to come.

First, I want to thank everyone who took the time to vote in the May election. Strong communities are built through involvement, and we appreciate the engagement and support of our citizens as we continue working together for the future of Hickory Creek. Council members who were re-elected were sworn in at our May Council Meeting and began new terms of service.

Also at our May meeting, we recognized several outstanding individuals and organizations in our community. We were honored to recognize our 2025 Business of the Year, Chick-fil-A, along with the 2026 Lake Dallas High School Scholar of the Year, Teresa Carruth, and Female Athlete of the Year, Karly Linneman. Male Athlete of the Year, Brayden Bragg, was unable to attend and will be recognized at a future Council meeting. We also celebrated Eagle Scout August Pruitt for his service project, a life jacket station at Harbor Lane Park. Congratulations to each of these deserving honorees!

We also had the opportunity to celebrate our exceptional Hickory Creek employees and volunteers at our Appreciation Dinner. Our town is truly blessed with dedicated individuals who give their time, talents, and energy to serve our community.

In late April, we officially broke ground on our new recreation-focused area across from Town Hall. This exciting addition will provide new opportunities for residents to gather and enjoy time together. Planned features include pickleball courts, a covered pavilion, pond, sand volleyball courts, putting greens, and more.

Following the recent purchase of the Olana Stables property, we have partnered with Dunnaway and Associates to help develop a vision and long-term plan for the site. As part of that process, we will work closely with Dunnaway to gather citizen input and ensure the final plan reflects the needs and priorities of our community.

We have a lot of exciting new dining options coming to Hickory Creek! The Hickory Creek Food Truck Park, located at the former IHOP site, is now home to E. Ruth's BBQ, Groovy Chicken & Waffles, Pans & Platters, Los Canelos Tacos, and Fried Ribs & More. Operating hours vary, so be sure to check the Hickory Creek Food Truck Park Facebook page for current days and hours of operation.

The Victory Group at Hickory Creek, located near the corner of Swisher and Park Ridge, continues to bring exciting new dining options and businesses to our community, including Smoothie King, Wayback Burgers, Jersey Mike's, Little Caesars Pizza, Dunkin', Avenir Nail Lounge, and Alta Family Dental. There's even more to look forward to as well, with a new building planned on the property for HTeaO, bringing another exciting addition to Hickory Creek's growing business community.

Additionally, Onyx Dine & Drinks has recently opened at 6060 N. Stemmons Freeway, adding even more options for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Finally, thanks to the Lake Dallas High School and Crownover Middle School Jazz Bands for a wonderful evening of Jazz in the Park at the Hickory Creek Amphitheater. Thanks to everyone who joined us and made it such a special evening!

Like I said, it's been a busy spring in Hickory Creek! Thank you for your continued support and for the many ways you contribute to our community. Hickory Creek is special because of its people, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside you as we continue building an even stronger future together.

See you around town! Mayor Lynn Clark

J. Zehetner 20 Years of Service to Hickory Creek

Jim began his service with the Town of Hickory Creek Police Department in 2006 and has dedicated over 20 years to law enforcement and to this community. Throughout his career, he has served with professionalism, integrity, and a strong commitment to excellence, earning advanced certifications and becoming a trusted leader in property and evidence management.

In addition to his work in property and evidence, Jim has served as the department's investigator, a role that carries significant responsibility and complexity. As the sole investigator, he has consistently taken on that burden with professionalism and determination, managing complex cases and systems that have a direct and lasting impact on people's lives. He has done so exceptionally well, repeatedly going above and beyond in service to this community.

His contributions have played a key role in modernizing departmental processes and ensuring they align with evolving technology, best practices, and legal standards. Jim's dedication has made a lasting impact on both the department and the Town of Hickory Creek.

We are grateful for his years of service, his continued commitment, and the example he sets for others. We are also excited for the future as he continues his career here and the continued impact he will make.



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Animal Advisory Board Member: Jane Talcott



After seven years of dedicated service, we proudly recognize and thank Jane for her outstanding commitment as a volunteer member of the Animal Advisory Board. Throughout her tenure, she played an important role in supporting animal welfare initiatives, advocating for responsible pet ownership, and helping shape policies that positively impacted both animals and the community.

Her passion, thoughtful leadership, and willingness to serve made a lasting difference. Whether assisting with community outreach, contributing to important discussions, or supporting local animal programs, Jane consistently demonstrated compassion and dedication.

The Animal Advisory Board and community are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and care Jane devoted over the past seven years. Her service has left a meaningful legacy that will continue to benefit animals and residents alike for years to come.

We extend our appreciation and best wishes in all future endeavors.

SHOW
FEATURES

18th ANNUAL
Faith Presbyterian
Hospice Event

CLASSES

JUDGED BY JUDGES:

- 2010 & Newer Car
- 2000 thru 2009 Car
- 80's & 90's Car
- 70's Car
- 60's Car
- 50's Car
- Pre 50's Car
- Muscle Car
- Corvette 82 & Older
- Corvette 84 & Newer
- Mustang 79 & Older
- Mustang 80 & Newer Original
- Camaro 81 & Older
- Camaro 82 & Newer
- Mopar
- Street Rod / Rat Rod
- Open Car
- Convertible
- Import
- Jeep / 4x4
- Pre-80's Truck
- 80's & Newer Truck
- Open Truck
- Under Construction

PREMIUM AWARDS

- Best Engine, Paint & Interior
- Best of Show Car 79 & Older
- Best of Show Car 80 & Newer
- Best of Show Truck 79 & Older
- Best of Show Truck 80 & Newer
- Huffines Subaru's Pick
- People's Choice
- Hospice Pick
- Special Interest

2026
CAR
SHOW

AUGUST 30th

6940 S. I-35E (Exit 460)
in Corinth

Events Schedule
12 pm - 4 pm

Registration
11:00 am

\$25 entry fee per class

Maizy's Backyard Dog Park in Hickory Creek

BY DIANE CIARLONI

It was Christmas Eve, 2007. Most people scurried around, tying up loose ends on last-minute projects, hanging stockings in the final few hours before the jolly man in the red suit arrives with his toy-filled bag.

Dining rooms in thousands of homes were smothered in wonderful smells for those who chose to hold their biggest feast on Christmas Eve, leaving Christmas Day open for unwrapping gifts and savoring all the sweet emotions and traditions of the season.

Some grocery stores were open, including Albertson's on Swisher Road. The parking lot was sparsely populated, making it easy for Shirley to pull her Mercedes into a space. Her mission was simple, just a quick pop in and pop out for some lettuce and tomatoes for sandwiches. Nothing elaborate, since no holiday festivities were scheduled for the massive mansion on Turbeville Road. At least, that's the way things were supposed to work, but that was before Shirley spotted the black pickup. It was backed into a corner of the lot, standing solo, with one man sitting on the truck's tailgate and a second man, with a woman, off to one side. The couple seemed to be arguing, while the woman held something quite small in her hand.

Shirley, a naturally curious person, felt a true need to know what was going on in that Albertson's parking lot on Christmas Eve. Besides, it felt quite inappropriate for people to argue on such a special day. So, not known for being bashful, she redirected her car toward the pickup.

"I saw the man on the tailgate," she recalled. "When I got closer, I saw the woman was holding a tiny puppy, so small it could fit comfortably into the palm of her hand. She and the man with her were arguing."

Shirley parked the Mercedes, got out, and walked to the pickup. Being a Texas, farm-raised girl, hoisting herself onto the tailgate next to the first man was no problem. Neither was striking up a conversation.

She settled in and asked the man, "What are you doing out here on Christmas Eve?"

He looked at her, motioned over his shoulder with his chin and answered, "I'm just trying to sell some puppies." He nodded in the direction of the lady and said, "She's holding the last one. If you want it, you can have it and the cage for \$45. There's stuff I need to do at home, and I've wasted enough time listening to them argue."

About that time, the conversation between the couple seemed to gather fresh steam. Finally, the man told the woman point-blank he didn't want a dog.

"That was enough for the man who was selling the puppies," Shirley said with a chuckle. "He got up, walked over and took the puppy from her. He handed it to me and said, 'Here! You got yourself a dog.' He put her in my hand and turned quickly to get the cage."

At that precise moment, even though no one realized it, Christmas magic flooded the Albertson's parking lot.

"I took the puppy to my car," Shirley continued. "I looked at her closely, running a finger through the soft fur on her back. I couldn't say she was black or white or brown. Instead, she was like looking through a maze of colors, blending in and out. That's why I named her Maizy. Maizy to everyone else, but just between us, she was Maizy Mae.

"I figured the guy probably had a puppy mill at his house and needed some extra money for the holidays. I guess he needed it quickly because the puppy was, at most, only six weeks old. Definitely too young to be away from her mama.

"Anyway, I forgot all about the tomatoes and other sandwich things I was supposed to buy. My entire focus was taking care of Maizy. After all, I had my Christmas present!"

Maizy grew quickly. She was curious, like Shirley, and everything was an adventure. She appointed herself Shirley's defender well before she was six months old. Her coat of many colors flashed around the property on Turbeville and, every time the black Mercedes started, Maizy was sitting inside, ready to go.

"I've loved all my animals through the years," Shirley said, "but the connection between Maizy and me was incredible. Her eyes were amazing. Always alert and vigilant, but filled with constant love.

"One of her favorite pastimes was to herd the cows roaming on the pastureland behind the mansion. It was fun for her but there was also a serious element, as if she had a focus and knew what she was doing.

"My curiosity got the better of me. Why did herding come so naturally to her? The only way to answer my questions was through a DNA test."

Shirley was correct. Maizy's herding talents weren't just happenstance. Her gene pool traced to some of the most historic herding bloodlines of Turkey, including the Andalusian and/or Anatolian shepherds. Another strong marker in the pool was Kangel (Kangal) shepherds. All were bred to herd and to protect sheep in the wilds of Turkey. If necessary, they were prepared to sacrifice their own safety without so much as a second thought.

The test also identified Maizy's prominent personality traits, explaining her profound attachment to Shirley, her non-judgmental love, her loyalty and determination to protect Shirley, even if it meant offering her own life in return.

The years passed. A quilt of complexities and unavoidable circumstances tried to suffocate the steadfast friends. But it didn't work. They were too resilient and too dedicated to one another. Eventually, Shirley and Maizy moved from the mansion. Two ladies, devoted to one another. Two who knew about almost-empty parking lots, pickup trucks, the luxury of Mercedes and mansions, and the peaceful humility of limitless love.

Shirley tried not to see Maizy's steps slowing just one tiny bit at a time as each year turned the last page of the calendar, but it was there. One day, after she and Maizy were gone from the Mansion for 13 years, Shirley phoned the management there and asked if Maizy could come for a visit. The answer was yes and the dog with the coat of many colors was welcomed warmly.

“After 13 years, she still knew her way around,” Shirley revealed. “She went to her place for water and she looked for the cows. I was so glad I took her.”

Maizy suffered a stroke one night soon after her visit, falling from Shirley’s bed to the floor. She received intensive medical attention. Her health improved but a few of her magical lights grew dim. The fall left her afraid to be on the bed, so Shirley made her a sleeping place on the floor. “She became very dependent on me,” Shirley said. “She could look up and see me from her spot on the floor and I could look down and see her.

“In May of 2023, I was taking her out to the bathroom and she fell. I called for help and then I dropped to the floor beside her. She died in my arms. We had one another 15 years.”

There are thousands of people out there who have never experienced the kind of soul-shaping relationship shared by Shirley and Maizy. Many of those people tend to scoff, insisting this is over-dramatization of a relationship between a human and an animal. But, in a recent issue of *Scientific Reports*, there were 717 dog owners asked to relate their relationship with a pet to their relationship with a close relative, a child, a best friend, or a romantic partner in 13 key areas including reliability, companionship, and affection. In the fields of nurture and companionship, pets ranked higher than best friends and romantic partners. In affection, support, and reliability, pets scored higher than best friends and close relatives. Those statistics may provide some scientific food for thought about the meaning behind a dog being “man’s best friend.”

Grief comes after death. It’s the natural progression. Shirley grieved. Her heart was sore. A huge part of her life was gone – until she found a way to bring back the Christmas magic.

Shirley donated a parcel of land behind the old mansion to the town of Hickory Creek. The discussion for its future use focused on a map of walking trails for the community. Great idea. But wait a minute. This was once Maizy’s backyard. She played here. She ran here, with her coat of many colors dappled by the sun and softened by the shade during the changing hours.

“I knew what Maizy wanted, and I agreed with her,” Shirley said. “Why not add a dog park to the trails? The sounds of dogs barking and children laughing would be welcomed. We could name the park Maizy’s Backyard.”

The typical dog park design and layout were followed. One beautiful, open area for small dogs and another area for large dogs. Fencing separates the two. Benches scattered around for humans to rest. Water stations. Typical, except for an expansive pergola near the entrance. And mounted on the pergola is a life size statue of Maizy Mae. Standing. Alert. Watching the dogs in her backyard. Knowing how they felt, as if they had wings under their feet and free joy spiraling through their hearts.

The sculptor giving Maizy new life is Jewett, Texas artist, Terry M Jones, a brilliant man with his own brand of magic. Like Maizy, Terry sees things through a special pair of eyes. He may spot a piece of metal glinting from the sun. Maybe it’s a lost watch casing. Or maybe some other piece of trash, which Terry sees as something with the potential of an enchanting treasure.

Shirley saw Terry’s magic and knew he was the perfect choice to put breath back to her beloved dog. And what better way for Maizy to spend the coming years than guarding those who visit her backyard? Perfect!

Dog parks are nothing new. As a matter of fact, they've been the rage for a number of years. Most share common denominators, but there's a stand-apart difference for Maizy's Backyard. It's drenched in Maizy's special magic, a magic which becomes even stronger as the days grow shorter and the sparkle of Christmas miracles begins to shine.

Test it for yourself. Visit the park often, especially as holiday magic begins intensifying the joy of happy spirits and laughing hearts. Visit the park. Run and play and laugh with your pets. Then, as you leave, stop. Stand still and quiet. Look at Maizy Mae's statue, standing on top of the pergola. Listen. She's saying something to you....something magical. Grab it cause we all need magic in our lives and, now, in Hickory Creek, Maizy makes it's yours for the taking.



*Maizy,
You came
into our lives
and left
pawprints on
our hearts*





Maizy's Backyard Grand Opening



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.

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.

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.

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, no need to reapply.

BOAT RAMP & DAY USE PASSES

Boat ramp and day use passes for 2026 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.

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 driver's 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.

Arts & Culture Future Events: Feedback Appreciated

Residents are invited to complete our community survey and share their interests, ideas, and vision for our Arts and Culture Board! Your feedback will help guide future programs, events, and creative opportunities that reflect the diverse talents and interests of our residents. We encourage everyone to participate and help shape a vibrant and inclusive arts and culture experience for all.



**HICKORY CREEK
TOWN HALL
1075 Ronald Reagan
Avenue
940-497-2528**

**Monday - Thursday
7:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**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 - 5 PM**

**Saturday - Sunday
By Appointment Only**

VISIT YOUR TOWN HALL

Parks & Recreation Board - Third Monday

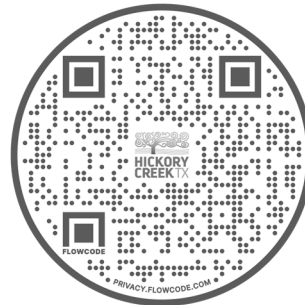
Planning & Zoning Commission - Third Tuesday

Arts & Cultural Board—Third Wednesday

Economic Development Corporation - Third Thursday

Town Council - Fourth Monday

ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6 PM



UPCOMING TOWN CLOSURES

Thursday, June 18

Juneteenth

Thursday, July 2

Independence Day