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March 19, 2020

Dear Fellow Citizens,

Good afternoon to each of you. Wow, what a week this has been. I wanted to reach out to let you know that the town staff and I are working together to maintain continuity of government during the COVID-19 outbreak. Town Administrator John Smith and I have participated in several conference calls with Governor Greg Abbott over the past week and have consulted with our Denton County Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell & County Judge Andy Eads. Yesterday, John Smith, Police Chief Carey Dunn, and I participated in two back-to-back conference calls. The first was with Judge Eads, County Health Director Dr. Matt Richardson, and Denton County Emergency Management Coordinator Jody Gonzales, to discuss measures the County is taking to maintain the safety of our citizens.

Our second conference call was with Governor Greg Abbott, for a statewide update regarding the latest information on what Texas is doing to respond to the novel coronavirus. The Governor and State Health Department Commissioner asked that each of us do our part **now** in order to limit spread of the virus.

Late last evening, Judge Eads amended his Emergency Declaration, which you will find on our website.

As of 1:55 p.m. today, Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order closing all dine-in restaurants, bars, and gyms across the State of Texas. Take-out/delivery will be allowed. All schools across the state are closed. The order starts at midnight Friday, March 19 through April 3, although it could be extended. [Governor Abbott's Press Conference](#).

In light of these changes, many of our local restaurants and retailers are making changes to their hours. I recommend you check the restaurant website or social media sites for their hours, but I urge you to support our local businesses as much as possible.

I'm praying for you and for our community as we move forward through the days ahead, and I want to assure you that we are in contact with all necessary agencies as we respond to this crisis.

Best Regards,

Lynn C. Clark, Mayor
Town of Hickory Creek

City-close, lakeside living!