

# LAKE SIDE NEWS



## Arbor Day Foundation Names Hickory Creek Tree City USA®

On February 23, Hickory Creek, Texas was named a 10 year Tree City USA® by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

The Tree City USA® program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Hickory Creek achieved Tree City USA® recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities

like Hickory Creek make smart investments in urban forests," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits." Trees are assets to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

In December 2017, the Town Council approved the planting of twenty-five Cedar Elm trees throughout the Town. These trees will be planted at Town Hall, Hickory Creek Boulevard, Sycamore Bend Park, and Point Vista Park.

**ABOUT THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION:** The Arbor Day Foundation is a million-member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information on the program is available at [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).

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## HELLO FROM THE HICKORY CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT

We hope everyone is doing well and is having a great year so far. Spring is coming which means it's storm and tornado season. Here are a few safety tips to help keep you safe!

Do you know the difference between a Tornado Warning and Tornado Watch?

*Tornado Warning* - Tornado Expected! Seek shelter. A tornado is occurring or will shortly occur.

*Tornado Watch* - Tornado possible. Be prepared. Weather conditions favor thunderstorms capable of producing tornadoes.



### BE PREPARED! DON'T LET TORNADOES TAKE YOU BY SURPRISE

Preparation is key to staying safe and minimizing impacts.

**Be Weather-Ready:** Check the forecast regularly to see if you're at risk for tornadoes. Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings. Pay attention to the Tornado Siren. Take shelter immediately if you hear the warning.

**Create a Communications Plan:** Have a family plan that includes an emergency meeting place and related information. Pick a safe room in your home, such as a basement, storm cellar, or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.

**Practice Your Plan:** Conduct a family severe thunderstorm drill regularly so everyone knows what to do if a tornado is approaching. Make sure all members of your family know to go there when tornado warnings are issued. Don't forget pets if time allows.

**Prepare Your Home:** Consider having your safe room reinforced. You can find plans for reinforcing an interior room to provide better protection on the Federal Emergency Management Agency website.

**Help Your Neighbor:** Encourage your loved ones to prepare for the possibility of tornadoes. Take CPR training so you can help if someone is hurt.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your police department. We are here to serve you!

### DENTON COUNTY ALERT

Denton County switched providers for our mass notification system. If you previously signed up for alerts using CodeRED, Nixle, or our oldest system Reverse 911, it will be necessary for you to create a new account on the Everbridge system.

Any data provided to CodeRED, Nixle, or Reverse 911, has been deleted from their system. Your current up to date information will ensure we have a means of contacting you.

To get signed up go to [www.dentoncounty.com](http://www.dentoncounty.com). Under Departments Click on Emergency Services, Emergency Services/Fire Marshal and then Emergency notification. You will need to set up a new account even if you had been previously signed up with CodeRed.



Denton County Alert

Please sign up for Denton County Alert to receive timely and critical messages to your choice of communication method including landline, mobile text, E-Mail, and TTY devices. Do not rely on social media as your only source of information. It is recommended every citizen, business, and school purchase a NOAA All Hazards Radio with SAME technology. The Denton County FIPS Code for your radio is 80221.

SMART Weather messages from Everbridge are automatically sent when the National Weather Service issues a severe weather warning message. This system is automated and is not controlled by Denton County. Questions about SMART Weather should be directed to Everbridge at 888-366-4911.

Standard data fees, text messaging rates, and phone minutes may apply based on your carrier plan.

Denton County offers a number of alert subscriptions that you may sign up to receive, these are all individually customizable by you on when and how you would like to receive them, including setting up quiet hours. Due to a number of requests to be able to receive alerts on a mobile phone, we have added a new option to receive alerts on a mobile phone. The Denton, Texas and Emergency Alerts message, powered by Emergency Services, will allow you to receive alerts on a mobile phone. Denton County does not have the ability to delete a user from the system. This is a safety feature to prevent us from accidentally deleting a user. If you truly wish to be deleted please contact Everbridge at 888-366-4911.

Keep me signed in (checkback if on a shared computer)

Don't have an account? [Sign up](#)

## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Fellow citizens,

For the past couple of years, our council has placed major emphasis on streets in Hickory Creek. We have applied a "micro-surface" overlay to asphalt streets in Harbor Grove, Hickory Hills, Lakewood Gardens and Royal Oaks neighborhoods. We recently completed the reconstruction of Main Street in partnership with the Denton County Commissioners Court and Lake Dallas. Next we completed the reconstruction of Hickory Hills Boulevard and a portion of Oak Circle, Royal Oaks, the main thoroughfares that feed our east side neighborhoods.

The next project is the widening and concrete reconstruction of Turbeville Road from I-35 to the corner of Point Vista Road. Included in this project will be the concrete reconstruction of Point Vista Road south to the entrance to our Lakeview subdivision at Stamford Drive. When this project is completed, all major streets in Hickory Creek will have been improved, and we will have accomplished all of this without raising taxes.

I know we're all tired of construction detours, but we ask your patience as we work to improve these vital thoroughfares in Hickory Creek!

Best regards,  
Mayor Lynn Clark



## RADAR SPEED SIGNS

The Town of Hickory Creek has implemented a new way to help motorists be cautious with their speed. Next time you are driving down Point Vista or Turbeville, you will see brightly lit speed signs. They are radar speed signs. They are intended as a friendly reminder to pay attention to your speed at all times because residential areas are some of the most dangerous because of kids and pets outside and often near or on roadways while playing. They will also collect necessary data for the city to use such as traffic rates, average speeds, and peak traffic times. If you go above the speed limit, you will get a reminder to slow down. If your speed is within the speed limit, you will be thanked for driving safely. There will be more signs coming soon, so keep an eye out for one near your home!

**PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY AND WATCH YOUR SPEED.**

**DON'T TEXT & DRIVE.**

## GARAGE SALE PERMIT

Spring is the perfect time to go through your house and get rid of unwanted items. If you want to hold a garage sale in Hickory Creek there are a few things to remember:

- ⇒ A permit is required. The permit fee is \$5. Only two sales may be held at an address per year.
- ⇒ The sale may last for 3 consecutive days and may open at sunrise.
- ⇒ The only items that can be sold are the used personal property of the residents holding the sale. Items purchased for resale or made specifically to be sold at an occasional sale are prohibited.
- ⇒ A total of 5 signs may be placed out. All signs must display the address, dates and times of the sale, and the permit number. They may be no larger than 4 square feet, be posted on a wood or metal spike in the ground and must be placed on private property. Any signs found on public right-of-ways, attached to any other signs, posts, poles or traffic control devices, or that do not have a valid permit number will be removed.
- ⇒ Signs may be placed out 24 hours before the sale starts and all signs and sale items need to be picked back up the morning after the sale closes.



If you have any questions about how to have a garage sale, please contact Code Enforcement at 940.497.2528 or pick up a copy of the Garage Sale Brochure at Town Hall.

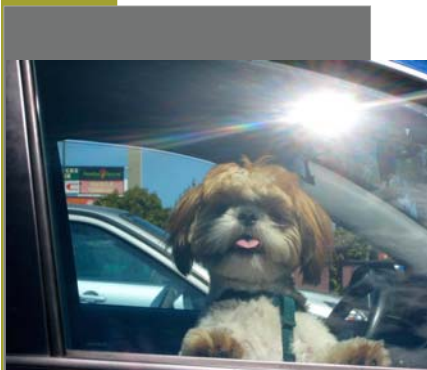
## GROCERY SHOPPING JUST GOT EASIER

Your local Hickory Creek Walmart now offers grocery Pick-up. Start by ordering online at [Walmart.com/grocery](https://www.walmart.com/grocery). Choose a location and time for pick-up. The experts pick the freshest items and will load them in your car. You still get the same great prices with the convenience of staying in your car!



## KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE-LEAVE THEM AT HOME

**NEVER** leave your pets alone in a parked car, it's the law! It is unlawful for any person to intentionally or knowingly confine or allow to be confined any animal under such conditions or for such a period of time as many endanger the health or well-being of the animal due to heat, lack of food or water or any other circumstance which causes suffering, disability or death of the animal.



Sec. 2.06.004 Improper confinement

## LOCAL EATERIES GET A MAKEOVER

Some of Hickory Creek's favorite fast food chains did some renovating. Late last year, McDonalds renovated the inside, including an updated play place, and added an additional drive thru lane. This January, Whataburger closed down for a few days to remodel and repaint the inside and outside, and they also added an additional drive thru lane. So whether you sit and watch the kids play in a new play place for a while or drive thru one of the added lanes in the drive thru you are still enjoying the same great food!



## HICKORY CREEK ELECTIONS

The Town of Hickory Creek will hold a General Election on Saturday, May 5, 2018 for the purpose of electing a Mayor, Council Place 2, and Council Place 4. Residents will also vote on a proposition repealing the sales and use tax of one-fourth (1/4) of one percent for the maintenance and repair of municipal streets; increasing the local sales and use tax from the rate of one (1) percent to a rate of one and one fourth (1 1/4) percent. Early voting begins Monday, April 23 until Tuesday May 1. On Election Day, Hickory Creek residents will vote at Town Hall, 1075 Ronald Reagan Avenue from 7 AM to 7 PM. Prior to Election Day residents can vote locally at Corinth City Hall or Lake Dallas City Hall. You can go to [www.votedenton.com](http://www.votedenton.com) for times and other locations.



## WAYS YOU CAN HELP ELIMINATE MOSQUITO BREEDING GROUNDS



Did you know that only female mosquitos bite humans and animals. Male mosquitos feed on flower nectar.

With all the news about mosquitos and the diseases they can spread, everyone needs to take extra steps to remove potential mosquito breeding grounds around their homes. Please remember to:

- Fill rot holes in trees and hollow stumps that could hold water.
- Drill drainage holes into the bottom of tire swings.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Dispose of old tires, buckets, ceramic pots and other containers in your yard that may collect water.
- At least once per week, empty standing water from containers, including birdfeeders, on your property.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outdoors. Drainage holes placed in the sides of containers only allows enough water to collect for mosquitos to breed.
- Clean clogged roof gutters, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug up the drains.
- Turn over wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Store boats covered or upside down or remove rainwater weekly.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools that are not being used. Be aware that mosquitos may also breed in the water that collects on swimming pool covers.
- Keep drains, ditches and culverts free of grass clippings, weeds, and trash so water will drain properly.
- Fill in low areas on your property to eliminate standing water.

To help prevent mosquitos, the standing water in your yard has to go.

**ZEBRA MUSSELS. DON'T BE A CARRIER.**



**CLEAN,  
DRAIN  
AND DRY  
YOUR BOAT.**



## ENJOY THE PARKS

Everyone is encouraged to visit Hickory Creek's beautiful parks but please remember that Arrowhead, Point Vista, and Sycamore Bend Parks all require a pass for their use. Annual passes are available at Town Hall or a voucher may be purchased at any of the park pay stations. Each resident of Hickory Creek is eligible for a free day use pass. You must come to Town Hall to pick the pass up. Annual passes are valid for the calendar year, January 1 - December 31. Same day passes for boat launch, day use, and Sycamore Bend camping are available at the pay stations located in the parks.



**SYCAMORE BEND**

All annual passes and one day use receipts must be clearly displayed in the vehicle. Passes must be affixed to the windshields near the registration sticker. All other receipts must be placed on the dashboard, face up, in a location that is not obscured by any stickers, tinting, items on the dashboard, sun visors, etc. Any vehicle found that is not properly displaying a park pass will be issued a citation.



**HARBOR LANE**

## TREES SAVE ENERGY

Strategically placed trees can be as effective as other energy saving home improvements, such as insulation and the installation of weather-tight windows and doors. Trees can help reduce your heating and cooling costs.

Trees save energy through cooling in the hotter months. They provide a windbreak during winter. This results in burning less fossil fuels to generate electricity for cooling and heating.

Strategically placed shade trees, a minimum of three large trees, planted around your home can reduce air conditioning costs up to 30 percent. Shade trees offer their best benefits when you:

- Plant deciduous trees, which shed their leaves during winter. These trees provide shade and block heat from the sun during hotter months. By dropping their leaves in the fall they admit sun-light in the colder months.
- Place these trees on the south and west sides of buildings.
- Shade all hard surfaces such as driveways, patios and sidewalks to minimize landscape heat load.

Use evergreens, which retain their leaves/needles yearlong, in a planned pattern. They will serve as windbreaks to save from 10 to 50 percent in energy used for heating. Evergreens offer their best benefits when you:

- Place them to intercept and slow winter winds, usually on the north side of your home.
- Do not plant them on the south or west sides of your home, because they block warming sunlight during winter. These trees also provide some shading benefits during summer.

Get professional assistance to assure correct selection of species and their placement to maximize energy savings.

# COMMUNITY REMINDERS

## MEDICINE DISPOSAL

As you clean out the medicine cabinet remember Hickory Creek Town Hall has a Med Return Drug Collection Unit so you can properly dispose of expired and unused medicines. Below is a list of what can be deposited in the Med Return.

**Accepted**

- Prescriptions
- Prescription Patches
- Prescription Medications
- Prescription Ointments
- Over-the-counter medications
- Vitamins
- Samples
- Medications for pets

**Not Accepted**

- Thermometers
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Inhalers
- Aerosol Cans
- Ointments, Lotions, or Liquids
- Needles (sharps)
- Medication from businesses or clinics
- Bloody or infectious waste

## LAKE CITIES 4TH OF JULY



This is a spectacular, one-of-a-kind celebration uniting the communities of Lake Dallas, Corinth, Hickory Creek and Shady Shores in celebration of our Nation's birth. The festivities begin with a patriotic parade followed by food, contests, vendors, and toe tappin' music. The day is brought to a close with one of the largest, most dazzling fireworks displays in the area.

For more information go to [www.lakedallas.com](http://www.lakedallas.com)

## TOWN OF HICKORY CREEK HOLIDAY CLOSURES



**Monday, May 28  
Memorial Day**

**Wednesday, July 4  
4th of July**

On behalf of the Town of Hickory Creek, a very special THANK YOU to military, past and present, for your service to our country. May we never take for granted the sacrifice you and your families have made.



**AMERICAN REALTY**  
*Kevin Sadowski*  
 214-507-2023 Call/Text  
 Free Monthly Home Tips Newsletter  
[www.CallTheAgent.com](http://www.CallTheAgent.com)

*"If you're not working with a Realtor you know and trust, please add me to your contacts"*  
 Military Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals



# MEET CHICO



Chico, Hickory Creek's new K-9, pictured with Sgt. Causseux, was introduced to the Town Council in December 2017.

Chico is a Belgian Malinois that was born on September 20, 2015 in the Czech Republic. In 2016, Chico was transferred to Mississippi to begin training with True Canine International (TCI) by Leos Drbohlav, the Director of K-9 training. After several months of training, Chico was transferred to a Sheriff's Office in Mississippi. After approximately eight months, the Sheriff's Office discontinued

the K-9 program. During the eight month period in Mississippi, Chico was reported to have been involved in over forty arrests. Chico was returned to TCI to continue training and work as a demonstration dog for the company. In October 2017, the Town

Council approved funding for the purchase of a K-9 unit and in November 2017, the Police Department began negotiations with TCI to purchase Chico. On December 1, 2017, Sargent Causseaux began the three week course to train and certify with Chico. After completing certifications for search and rescue and narcotic detection, Sargent Causseaux began patrols with Chico. As of today, Chico has been involved in nearly a dozen narcotics arrests and has been called to track wanted felons.

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 Waste Management for your discount on future bills. Once your information has been submitted, there is no need to reapply each year.



## CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS



The Town of Hickory Creek Citizen Satisfaction Survey measured public opinion on services provided and where priority should be focused in key areas of community livability. In each domain, residents reported their perceptions about the quality of their community and related services, as well as the importance level of specific qualities and functions. Hickory Creek's areas of success were in public safety regarding our Police, Fire/EMS, and Animal Control and the cleanliness and number of town parks. Some areas for improvement were street lighting, recreational programs, sidewalk maintenance, and code enforcement efforts. As an effort to improve street lighting in Hickory Creek, bids were accepted for street lights at the intersection of Turbeville and Point Vista. Lights will be placed on Point Vista and Turbeville in the coming months. The Town recently improved the sidewalks on Hickory Hills and will continue to make sidewalk improvements as needed. Code enforcement efforts will continue to ensure residents are compliant with Town ordinances. According to the survey, recommended priorities for the next couple years in Hickory Creek should be on increasing the sense of community within the actual community and more community activities and events would be welcomed. Safety, natural environments, and the economic health should also be a focus for Hickory Creek. To view the full report check out our website at [www.hickorycreek-tx.gov](http://www.hickorycreek-tx.gov) and search under News Flash.



## TIPS TO KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Many of us will be traveling or making plans to travel in the upcoming months. While many vital details go into making sure you and your family have a memorable vacation, it is just as important to safeguard your home while you are away. Obviously, there are instances where no amount of preparation would prevent a break in, but with these simple tips, you can lower your homes risk of being targeted.

**HIRE A HOUSE SITTER** Consider having a friend, family member, or neighbor stay at your home while you are away. A house sitter would be able to take care of your mail, a pet, and other daily tasks to give the impression that someone was home.

**STOP THE MAIL** Having the mail collect in the mailbox is a sure way for someone to know that you haven't been home. Before you leave, consider stopping the mail. By going to [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) you can have your mail stopped while you are away and the mail carrier can deliver all of your accumulated mail when you return.

**LOCK EVERYTHING** While this is probably a given, before you leave town walk through the house to make sure all windows, doors (including the garage), and any deadbolts are secure. If you have a safe, consider putting smaller valuables inside while you are away.

**DON'T LEAVE SPARE KEYS OUT** If a prospective burglar figures out you are away, most likely they will look around the outside of the house for a spare key. Under the mat, under a rock or yard figurine, around the door frame, and even in a flower pot are all likely places homeowners hide a spare key. Consider putting your spare away until you return from vacation.

**USE CAUTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA** While social media can be a great tool for sharing your child's most recent milestones or family pictures, it can also be a way to inform the wrong friend you will be away from home. Consider waiting until you arrive back home to post pictures or update your status about your amazing vacation.

**PUT LIGHTS ON A TIMER** Turning off all of the lights before you leave town will help your electricity bill, but a dark house might tip off a prospective burglar, just as keeping a light on during the middle of the night might raise suspicion. Placing lights on a timer gives the appearance that someone is home and that life is going on as usual.

**VACATION WATCH** Go to our website at [www.hickorycreek-tx.gov](http://www.hickorycreek-tx.gov) and fill out a vacation watch. While you are away an officer will drive by and check the residence.

**Bring your dog or cat for vaccines and a microchip!**

**May 19, 2018**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Hickory Creek Animal Shelter**  
**970 Main Street**

**Vaccines (Rabies, DHLPPC & FVRCP): \$10.00**  
**Microchip with lifetime monitoring: \$20.00**

**Please make sure all pets are leashed or crated!**

For more information, please contact Animal Services at 940.465.7444





FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION, FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!



@hickorycreekpdx & Instagram @hickorycreek\_pdx



@hickorycreekanimalshelter

Not on Facebook? Go to our website at www.hickorycreek-tx.gov. Click on Notify Me and receive updates by e-mail or text from the Town of Hickory Creek.

# VISIT YOUR TOWN HALL

Parks & Recreation Board—2nd Monday @ 6:30 PM  
Planning & Zoning Commission—1st Wednesday @ 7 PM  
Town Council—3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 PM  
Economic Development Corporation—4th Thursday @ 5:30 PM  
[www.hickorycreekEDC.com](http://www.hickorycreekEDC.com)

## HICKORY CREEK TOWN HALL

1075 Ronald Reagan Avenue  
940-497-2528  
Monday – Thursday  
7:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Friday  
7:30 AM – 11:30 AM

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

1075 Ronald Reagan Avenue  
940-497-3520  
Police/Fire Emergency 911  
Non-Emergency 940-349-1600



## HICKORY CREEK ANIMAL SERVICES, SHELTER & ADOPTION CENTER

970 Main Street  
940-349-1600  
Monday-Friday  
7:00 AM -3:30 PM  
Saturday – Sunday  
9:00 AM -1:00 PM