



Jim Hrouda
Mayor

Silas Clarke
City Administrator - Economic
Development Director

Kelly Oelke
City Clerk - Finance Director

Bob Lovorn
Public Works
Facilities Director

Trent Georgiana
Parks & Recreation Director

Dale Stertz
Building Inspector
& Zoning Administrator

Dan Mechtenberg
Zoning & Codes Director

Kory Lehr
City Deputy Sheriff

Stacy Dorn
Deputy Clerk - Utility Billing

City Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

24 Hour Drop Box

EMERGENCIES - 911

Police & Fire Dispatch
Center - 402.441.6500

City of Hickman

115 Locust Street
P.O. Box 127
Hickman, NE 68372

402.792.2212

www.hickman.ne.gov

City Council Members

Mayor Jim Hrouda
Dave Dykmann
Phil Goering
Doug Hanson
Richard Harms
Steve Noren
Doug Wagner

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City Newsletter: November 2013

Wanted: Developers to Help Hickman Grow

Reprinted from Voice News, Thursday, Oct. 31, 2013 By Gerry Baksys

Of all the challenges with his job, Hickman City Administrator Silas Clarke loves to have this one: the city is quickly running out of room to grow. "We have around 75 single family residential lots left," Clarke said, "which is very minimal because we've had 43 houses built since January 1. There's commercial and residential property out there, and it's my job as economic development director to push these properties."

Residential growth

Clarke said he is trying to pique developer's interest in a tract of land north of Arbor Ridge and west of Woodland Plaza. "We already have an initial concept drawing," Clarke said. "The concept allows for 157 lots available for development. Of course, the potential developer still has to buy the property from the (City Bank & Trust in Crete), and get the preliminary and final plats approved by the city council." Clarke said he's been working the phones, trying to get developers to Hickman to showcase the town and the area. Besides, Clarke said, if a developer comes in and does build more single family homes, that also helps the city out in other areas as well. "Hickman has put in a lot of infrastructure to meet the current and future needs," he said, "including new water and sewer facilities. The more lots we get developed, the quicker we can pay off those bonds."

Commercial growth

More roofs in Hickman could also mean more commercial development in town as well. A large swath of land along S 68th Street in the Woodland Plaza development is zoned commercial, but to date, only one lot has been sold, and there's no indication the owners have immediate plans to build. "In the last month," Clarke said, "I've had some very positive conversations with people that have a lot of big ideas, and people are starting to feel a little more confident in the economy, so hopefully some of those ideas will stick." Just in the last two weeks, Clarke said he's had seven conversations with potential business developers. Most of his conversations have been with businesses in the "service" industry. And at this point in Hickman's growth, that's what should be expected. "If you look at Gretna, for instance," Clarke said, "when they reached 3,000-3,500 people, businesses just showed up everywhere. The service businesses did come in around that 2,000 mark, which we are getting close to." Of course, in order to grow, Hickman needs more residential lots to develop.

Breakout: Hickman growth statistics

When Hickman city administrator and economic development director Silas Clarke tries to pitch the city to developers, he uses these growth statistics:

In 2010, the City of Hickman was determined to be the fifth fastest growing community in Nebraska (Census Data: 1,084 residents in 2000 and 1,657 residents in 2010). Since this time (beginning of 2010) Hickman has added another 101 single family residential units; Hickman has approximately 670 rooftops (based on water service data); and, Hickman has less than 75 single family residential lots available and the need has continued to increase.



City Office Holiday Hours

The City Office will be closed on
Monday, November 11, 2013 for Veteran's Day and
Thursday and Friday, November 28-29, 2013 for Thanksgiving.

Snow Removal Courtesy and Fire Hydrant Accessibility

Please be courteous to your neighbors by not blowing or throwing snow onto other citizen's property, sidewalks, driveways or in the City Streets.

You can assist City Public Works & the Hickman Volunteer Fire Department by removing the snow around Fire Hydrants in your neighborhood. By locating and exposing Fire Hydrants the Fire Department can save valuable time in an emergency situation.

The City Public Works Department, starting with the main thoroughfares, will plow the city streets and trails when there is an accumulation of three or more inches of snow. Please move your vehicles off of the City Streets within 48 hours of any winter storm to assist the Public Works crews with continuous snow removal.



WIN A KINDLE FIRE E-READER

and help buy new picture storybooks for the Hickman Area Reading Centre!

Raffle tickets are \$1 a piece or six for \$5.

Call 402.792.2003 or stop by the Reading Centre located at 103 Locust, Hickman Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 3, 2013

Do not forget to turn back your clocks one hour on Sunday, November 3rd, 2013.



Funny Filler



What key won't open any door?
Turkey!

Why did the police arrest the turkey?
They suspected it of fowl play!

What's the most musical part of a turkey?
The drumstick!

22nd Annual "Coats for Folks" Collection Drive

The VOICE NEWS is accepting clean and nice blankets, coats, stocking hats, gloves, mittens, snow suits, long-sleeved shirts and any other clothes for men, women and children.

Non-perishable food items can also be donated.

Clothing Donations will go to the People's City Mission. Non-perishable food donations will go to the Norris Food Pantry.

All donations should be placed in sacks or boxes and can be brought to the Voice News at 108 Locust Street in Hickman or to the City Mission Distribution Center at 2615 O Street in Lincoln by Friday, November 15th. If you have any questions please call 402.782.6060 or 402.792.2255.

Thanks again for your support of our Coats for Folks program.
- **Bill and Linda Bryant, Co-Publishers • VOICE NEWS**