

Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, April 15th, 2025

Board Members: Cheryl Hardwick: Present
Katherine Ward: Present
Vicki LeBlanc: Present
James Garfield: Present

Melissa Hegemeyer: Present
Kenneth Pilcher: Present
Raul Villarreal: Present

Call to Order:

President Cheryl Hardwick called to order the monthly meeting of the Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association at 6:04 P.M. on Tuesday, April 15th, 2025, at the St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was done by President Cheryl Hardwick and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Raul Villarreal.

Welcome Visitors:

President Cheryl Hardwick welcomed all the HCCA members and visitors present.

Sign in Sheet:

President Cheryl Hardwick asked everyone to please be sure and sign in on the attendance sheet and for the door prizes.

Approval of the March 2025 Minutes:

A motion was made by Board Member Kenneth Pilcher and a second motion by Secretary Katherine Ward to accept the March 2025 minutes. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

April 2025 Treasurers Report:

A motion was made by Board Member James Garfield, and a second motion was made by Secretary Katherine Ward that we accept the April 2025 Treasurer's Report. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Honor and Recognize Veronica Klausmeyer with the Hempstead City Council Position 2 for being this year's sponsor of the HCCA's Easter in the Park:

HCCA honored and recognized Veronica Klausmeyer with the Hempstead City Council Position 2 for donating to the HCCA's Easter in the Park. A gift basket was presented to her, and a picture was taken.

Report on the HCCA Easter in the Park that was held on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at the Downtown Gazebo:

President Cheryl Hardwick gave special thanks and recognized Hegemeyer Realty and Associates, Citizens Coffee and Wine Café, the Lions Club, and Brian and Amber Trafton with Hunt for Community, and the Watermelon Queen and Court, and volunteers for helping with the Easter in the Park Event.

Donation of \$1,000.00 to be Presented to Rick Branek with Meals on Wheels:

The HCCA made a presentation to Rick Branek with Meals on Wheel for a donation of \$1,000.00. The check was presented, and a picture was taken with the HCCA board.

HCCA's Easter Bags for Meals on Wheels to be given out:

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that the Watermelon Festival Queen and her court and other volunteers had made Easter Bags to be given out to the citizens that receive Meals on Wheels meals, and they will be given out the week of Easter by Jack Gibbs.

Donation of \$1,000.00 to be Presented to Dustin Stanley for the Texas Chrome Hero's Foundation for the Texas BBQ Throwdown:

The HCCA made and presented a donation of \$1,000.00 to Dustin Stanley with the Texas Hero's Foundation for the upcoming Texas BBQ Throwdown. Mr. Stanley talked about the Texas Chrome Foundation and a picture was taken with the HCCA Board.

Recognize and Introduce the New Hempstead High School Athletic Director Damian Judge:

This item was tabled since the Hempstead High School Athletic Director Damain Judge was not able to make the meeting.

Recognize Dakota and Rylee Smith for their Outstanding Wins in their BBQ Cooking Competitions:

The HCCA Board honored and recognized Dakota and Ryle Smith for their outstanding BBQ Cook-off wins that they have received. Winning at the Humble Rodeo & BBQ Cook-off. Dakota received a First Place Walk in the Senior Division and Rylee received a First Place Walk in the open. Dakota also won the Grand Senior Division and the Real Smoke East Texas Smoke Cruz for the Grand Champion Junior Division at the Austin Rodeo. At the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Championship BBQ Cook-off Dakota won 4th in the Kids Division and Rylee won 7th place. The girls were both given a gift basket and a picture was taken with the HCCA board.

Recognize 8 Time World Champion BBQ Cooker Robert Smith with First Class BBQ:

The HCCA Board Recognized and Honored Robert Smith as an eight-time World BBQ Champion and he is chasing to go to the Jack Daniels BBQ Competition in Lynchburg, Tennessee. He will be traveling to Memphis in May for the BBQ World Championship to compete. In 2024 he won first place at the Rodeo Austin Cook-off. This year at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo the Chicken Shack Team won a 9th place brisket and 11th place overall. An add on to Champions Row Robert had an 11th place brisket and was 35th overall. This year at the Austin Rodeo BBQ Cook-off Robert was the Reserve Grand Champion. Robert represents Pit Boss Grills as the Brand Ambassador as well as Blue Hog Sauces, rubs, and charcoal. Robert and his family are doing lots of traveling this year representing these brands. The HCCA board presented him with a gift basket and a picture was taken.

Recognize Tanya Simons, the Coordinator of Advanced Academics and CTE with the Hempstead Independent School District to discuss the strides that the Hempstead Career Technical Education is making:

President Cheryl Hardwick recognized and introduced Tanya Simons, the Coordinator of the Advanced Academics and CTE Program with the Hempstead Independent School District. She talked about the strides that the Hempstead Career Technical Education is making at our school district. The HCCA Board gave her a gift basket, and a picture was taken.

Recognize Melissa Carter the HCCA Watermelon Festival Queen and Royalty Chairperson with information on the 35th Watermelon Festival Royalty Contest:

President Cheryl Hardwick introduced Melissa Carter. She is the Chairperson for the HCCA Watermelon Festival Queen and Royalty. She talked about the 35th Watermelon Festival Royalty Contest and there would be two different dates for mandatory meetings. The meetings would

be on Thursday, May 8th and Thursday, May 15th, 2025, at the Episcopal Church at 6:00 P.M. The contestants would need to attend one of the meeting dates to participate.

Recognize Individuals Running for a position on the HISD School Board. Current School Board Vice President Position 1 Tressy Wilson running for re-election, Current Board Trustee Position 2 James Glover running for re-election, and also running Candice Adams for School Board Trustee Position 1 and Vana Daveta running for School Board Trustee Position 2:

President Cheryl Hardwick introduced each candidate that was running for a position on the HISD School Board, and each candidate was given 10 minutes to talk. Each candidate was given a gift basket from the HCCA Board.

Recognize individuals Running for a position on the Hempstead City Council. Current Mayor Pro Tem Lonnie Garfield is re-running for Position 3, Nora Hodges current Council Member is re-running for Position 5, running also for City Council Position 5 is A. C. Collette, and running for City Council Position 4 is Rooster Smith:

President Cheryl Hardwick introduced each candidate that was running for a position for City Council. Each candidate was given 10 minutes to talk. Each candidate was given a gift basket from the HCCA Board.

HCCA is Teaming Up with the St Katharine Drexel Catholic Church for their Cinco de Mayo Parade, on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, and the celebration will begin after the parade at the downtown Gazebo to 6:00 P.M.:

President Cheryl Hardwick talked about the HCCA teaming up with the St Katharine Drexel Catholic Church and encouraged everyone to go to the parade and the Cinco de Mayo Celebration at the downtown gazebo on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025.

HCCA is Sponsoring the Memorial Day Parade and Program to Honor Our Fallen Waller County Veterans on Monday, May 26th, 2025, with a parade at 9:30 A.M. and the Memorial Day Program will be after the parade. HCCA could use some Volunteers:

President Cheryl Hardwick talked about the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and Program to Honor Our Fallen Waller County Veterans on Monday, May 26th, 2025. She encouraged everyone to enter the parade that begins at 9:30 A.M. and the Memorial Day Program that will be at the downtown gazebo after the parade. She asked for volunteers to help with the event.

35th Annual Watermelon Festival on Friday, July 18th, and Saturday, July 19th, 2025. HCCA could use some Volunteers for the Watermelon Festival:

President Cheryl Hardwick talked about the upcoming 35th Annual Watermelon Festival and asked for volunteers to help with the event.

HCCA Membership – Business Membership is \$100.00, Non-Profit Membership is \$50.00, and Individual Membership is \$25.00:

President Cheryl Hardwick talked about the different levels of HCCA Membership and welcomed all to join.

Old Business:

No Old Business.

New Business:

No New Business.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 20th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at the St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church at 811 14th Street, Hempstead, Texas.

Upcoming Events:

- Hempstead Police Department and Municipal Court Annual Meet and Greet on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. at the downtown gazebo with food, fun, and games.
- HealthPoint Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. located at 215 FM 1488, Hempstead.
- Community-Family Day on Saturday, April 19, 2025, with an Easter Egg Hunt, fun, games, face painting, a craft corner, raffle, prizes, food, and music at the Hempstead City Park at 250 Blasingame Road, Hempstead and the fun begins at 11:00 A.M.
- Opening of the Bobcat Stadium Track and Field on Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. at 648 Donoho Street, Hempstead, Texas.
- Mudbug Crawfish Boil Dinner & Auction on Friday, April 25, 2025, at the Waller County Fairground located at 21988 FM 359, Hempstead beginning at 5:30 P.M.
- Texas Cotton Gin Festival on Saturday, April 26th, 2025, in Burton, Texas at 12601 West Washington Street, Burton, Texas beginning at 9:00 A.M.

- Power Wheels Demolition Derby on Saturday, April 26th, 2025, at the Waller County Fairgrounds, at 21988 FM 359, Hempstead, Texas. Check in begins at 3:30 P.M.
- 10th Annual Demolition Derby on Saturday, April 26th, 2025, at the Waller County Fairgrounds located at 21988 FM 359, Hempstead beginning at 6:00 P.M.
- Knights of Columbus 11th Annual Golf Tournament on Sunday, April 27th, 2025, at the Brenham Country Club on Hwy 105 East, Brenham, Texas. Registration, Lunch, and Putting Contest begins at 10:00 A.M.
- Texas BBQ Throwdown for the Texas Chrome Hero's Foundation on Friday, May 2nd and Saturday, May 3rd at the Barbecue Store at 850 HWY 290 North, Hempstead.
- St Katharine Drexel Catholic Church Cinco de Mayo Celebration on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, parade at 10:00 A.M. and the celebration begins after the parade till 6:00 P.M. at the downtown gazebo.
- Charlies Angels Dog Rescue 7th Annual Fund Raiser on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, at the Texas Thunder Saloon at 29460 FM 1488, Waller, Texas.
- 2025 Watermelon Festival Queens Court – Mandatory meetings on Thursday, May 8th or Thursday, May 15th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at the St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church at 811 14th Street, Hempstead, Texas.
- Waller Area Chamber of Commerce Bingo Night on Friday, May 9th, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. at the Edmonds Hall at the Waller County Fairgrounds, Hempstead, Texas.
- Waller County 4-H 73rd Annual BBQ & Fundraiser on Saturday, May 17th, 2025, at the Waller County Fairgrounds, at 21988 FM 359, Hempstead beginning at 11:30 A.M.
- HCCA Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Day Program on Monday, May 26th, 2025. The parade begins at 9:15 A.M. and the program will start after the parade at the downtown gazebo with free hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Free US Flags will be given out by the Winfree Family in Memory of Travis Winfree, a World War II Veteran.
- Waller County Sheriff's Office & Ranch One One Five's 5th Annual Sporting Clay Tournament on Friday, June 20th, 2025, at the Westside Sporting Grounds located at 10120 Pattison Road, Katy, Texas.
- 35th Annual Watermelon Festival on Friday, July 18th and Saturday, July 19th, 2025. You can sign up to be a BBQ Cook-off Judge by going to www.growhempstead.com. Need Volunteers to help with the Watermelon Festival.

Door prizes and refreshments were served. The door prize winners were Ida Campbell, A C Collette, Alicia Dominguez, and Tressy Wilson.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Board Member Kenneth Pilcher to adjourn the meeting and a second was made by Board Member James Garfield. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 P.M.

Submitted by Secretary Katherine Ward_____

Approved and signed by President Cheryl Hardwick_____