



## CITY SNIPPETS

Information. Well Crafted.

### JULY IS NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION MONTH

Since 1985, people in the United States have celebrated Park and Recreation Month in July to promote building strong, vibrant, and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation and to recognize the more than 160,000 full-time park and recreation professionals — along with hundreds of thousands of part-time and seasonal workers and volunteers — that maintain our country’s local, state, and community parks.



This year's theme — “Where Community Grows” — celebrates the vital role park and recreation professionals play in bringing people together, providing essential services, and fostering the growth of our communities.

Take advantage of Hickory’s 26 parks and abundant recreational opportunities this month and throughout the year.

### HICKORY TRAIL TAKES SHAPE

The Hickory Trail is one of the Crafting Hickory projects transforming our community. When complete, the Hickory Trail will span 10 miles across the city, providing bicycle and pedestrian safety while connecting popular destinations and amenities.

The Trail, along with the City’s culture of providing an atmosphere for dynamic growth and robust development, will be a major asset in Hickory’s efforts to craft a strong economy, provide good jobs, and create a desirable quality of life for residents.



Riverwalk along Lake Hickory

The Hickory Trail currently includes five major segments: City Walk, Riverwalk, Aviation Walk, Historic Ridgeview Walk, and OLLE Art Walk. To learn more about each segment, view an interactive map of the trail system, and discover new points of interest along the way, visit [www.hkytrail.com](http://www.hkytrail.com).

### NEIGHBORHOOD COLLEGE OFFERED THIS FALL

The City of Hickory will offer its popular Neighborhood College program this fall for citizens wishing to learn about the functions of local government.

The 2023 Neighborhood College program is a free series of professionally led sessions designed to teach citizens about City of Hickory government and the many services it provides. The immersive, 9-week program is an educational experience that gives participants insight into how the City operates on a day-to-day basis, as well as how it plans for the future.

Classes will be held Monday evenings from 5:30-7:30 p.m., beginning on September 11. Each class will feature a different City department or function and will

ADDRESS

76 North Center Street

WEBSITE

HickoryNC.gov

PHONE

828-323-7400

ISSUE

July 2023

## HICKORY CITY COUNCIL

August 1 & 15 at 7 p.m.

Julian G. Whitener

Municipal Building (City Hall)

[HickoryNC.gov](http://HickoryNC.gov)



## DOWNTOWN HICKORY FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Sails on the Square

[HickoryFarmersMarket.com](http://HickoryFarmersMarket.com)

## ALL TOGETHER COMMUNITY MURAL

Saturday, August 5

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Ridgeview Branch Library

## SATURDAY SCREENINGS: THE KARATE KID

Saturday, August 12

8:30 p.m.

Union Square, Downtown

## RIDGEVIEW COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

Friday, August 18

5-8 p.m.

Taft Broome Park

## LIGHTNING BUG BOOGIE 5K NIGHT TRAIL RUN

Friday, August 18

9-11 p.m.

Lake Hickory Trails

## RANDOM FANDOM: RETRO GAMING

Monday, August 21

5-6:30 p.m.

The Learning Lab at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library

## SATURDAY SCREENINGS: REMEMBER THE TITANS

Saturday, August 26

8:30 p.m.

Samuel Davis Multipurpose Field

For more events, please visit [HickoryEventsCalendar.com](http://HickoryEventsCalendar.com)

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include behind-the-scenes tours of City facilities. The program will conclude with a graduation ceremony held on Tuesday, November 7, in conjunction with the Hickory City Council meeting.

The Neighborhood College program is open to individuals who live or work in the City of Hickory and is limited to 20 participants. Visit [www.hickorync.gov/neighborhood-college](http://www.hickorync.gov/neighborhood-college) for additional information and applications. The deadline to apply is Friday, August 18. Please contact Communications Specialist Sarah Killian at 828-261-2290 or [skillian@hickorync.gov](mailto:skillian@hickorync.gov) with any questions about the program.



## FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET

The City of Hickory's fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30. The new budget for fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024 totals \$136,914,727 for all City operations, capital improvements, and debt service requirements for the upcoming year. The entire budget is available online at [www.hickorync.gov/budget](http://www.hickorync.gov/budget).

Key components of the budget include:

- **General Fund (Main Operating Fund):** A budget of \$68,564,275 represents an 8.6% increase over the current year's budget. The property tax rate for FY2023-2024 will be reduced from 62.75 cents to the revenue neutral property tax rate of 45.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The new tax rate reflects the significant increase experienced in market-driven real estate values following the county-wide revaluation of real property.
- **Water and Sewer Fund:** An increase in water and sewer rates is needed to improve infrastructure and maintain the enterprise fund's self-sufficiency. This will equate to about a \$2.35 per month increase on the average residential water and sewer bill.
- **Solid Waste Fund:** An increase of \$1 will bring the monthly sanitation rate up to \$27 per month for the upcoming fiscal year. This increase will help offset increases in fuel and labor costs.

"Despite Hickory and our region's economic challenges between 2001 and 2013, we have since witnessed a steady economic upturn," said City Manager Warren Wood in his budget message. "The Inspiring Spaces Initiative's success and the strategic investments made through the City's bond program have strengthened our economic position. The resulting private sector investments, job opportunities, and residential growth have contributed to the overall prosperity and economic well-being of the Hickory Metro area."

He added, "Hickory's economic growth shows no signs of tapering off or slowing down. With ongoing private sector projects, continued public infrastructure improvements, ample water and wastewater capacity, and the region's ability to attract new investments, we are well-positioned for sustained economic advancement. These positive indicators instill confidence in Hickory's future economic prospects. All of this has been made possible through City Council's vision and bold action."