



## CITY SNIPPETS

Information. Well Crafted.

### HICKORY MSA HOLDS “MOST AFFORDABLE METRO” SPOT AND MOVES UP LIVABILITY RANKINGS

Hickory, North Carolina tops the list for the second year in a row as America’s most affordable metro and ranks 25th among the country’s best places to live, according to the latest report released by U.S. News & World Report.

U.S. News analyzed the 150 most populous metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) to find the best places to live and released the new 2023-2024 rankings on Tuesday. To make the top of the list, a place had to have good value, be a desirable place to live, have a strong job market, and provide a high quality of life.

With a low cost of living, the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton MSA ranked No. 1 in Most Affordable Places to Live in the United States. This ranking factors in both housing affordability, which looks at the cost of living compared with median household income, and price parity, which examines the cost of goods and services as they compare to the rest of the U.S.

In addition to ranking as the cheapest place to live, Hickory climbed six spots to become No. 25 in Best Places to Live in the United States. Hickory also held its strong ranking as No. 3 in Best Places to Live in North Carolina, just behind Raleigh-Durham and Charlotte.

“A walk or drive through Hickory today reveals a vibrant, revitalized community, abundant with opportunities for a well-crafted life. And it keeps getting better!” said Mayor Hank Guess. “This repeat recognition in the U.S. News rankings reflects Hickory’s high quality of life, economic vitality, and affordability compared to other metros. The Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton area is a great place to call home thanks to its natural beauty, thriving downtowns, and collaborative partnerships to enhance living.”

To review the full 2023-2024 U.S. News & World Report Best Places to Live rankings report, visit <https://realestate.usnews.com/places>. Learn more about Hickory’s rankings at <https://realestate.usnews.com/places/north-carolina/hickory>.



- #1 Most Affordable Place to Live in U.S.
- #25 Best Place to Live in U.S.
- #3 Best Place to Live in N.C.
- #40 Best Place to Retire in U.S.

ADDRESS

WEBSITE

PHONE

ISSUE

76 North Center Street

HickoryNC.gov

828-323-7400

June 2023

## HICKORY CITY COUNCIL

July 18 at 7 p.m.

Julian G. Whitener

Municipal Building (City Hall)

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



## INDEPENDENCE DAY

Tuesday, July 4

City Offices Closed



## 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)

## INDEPENDENCE DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Sunday, July 2

Game: 6:30 p.m.

Fireworks After the Game

L.P. Frans Stadium

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

## TEEN NIGHTS

Friday, July 7 & 21

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Registration Required

Drop Off (5 p.m.) at Highland

Recreation Center

## SATURDAY SCREENINGS

Saturday, July 8: The Sandlot

Saturday, July 22: Jumanji

8:30 p.m.

Union Square, Downtown Hickory

## THE FUN FACTORY

Tuesday, July 11

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Ridgeview Branch Library

## SKATE JAM COMPETITION

Saturday, July 15

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

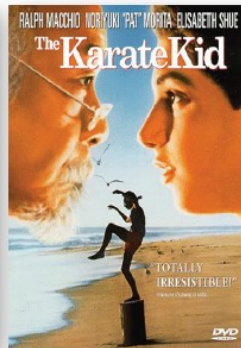
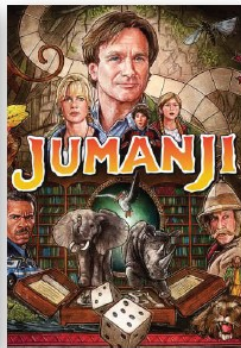
Stanford Skate Park

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



# SATURDAY SCREENINGS

Sit back, relax, and enjoy free movies this summer! Saturday Screenings take place at 8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of July and August.



## The Sandlot



Showing On:  
**JULY 8**



UNION  
SQUARE,  
Downtown  
Hickory

## Jumanji



Showing On:  
**JULY 22**



UNION  
SQUARE,  
Downtown  
Hickory

## The Karate Kid



Showing On:  
**AUG. 12**



UNION  
SQUARE,  
Downtown  
Hickory

## Remember the Titans



Showing On:  
**AUG. 26**



SAMUEL  
WILLIAM DAVIS  
FIELD,  
730 3rd St. SW

All movies are rated PG. Concessions and games will be available before each movie begins. Audience members are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, please contact the Hickory Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Department at 828-322-7046.

# YMCA SWIM PROGRAM

The Hickory Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Department partners with the Hickory Foundation YMCA to offer free swim lessons to City of Hickory residents. The YMCA swim program is for youth ages 6 months to 12 years old. There will be four summer sessions offered:

### Session Dates

Monday-Thursday, June 5-15

Monday-Thursday, June 19-29

Monday-Thursday, July 10-20

Monday-Thursday, July 24-August 3

### Registration Window

May 30-June 3

June 12-17

June 26-July 1

July 17-22

City of Hickory residents must complete an online Residency Verification Form at [www.hickorync.gov/ymca-swim-program](http://www.hickorync.gov/ymca-swim-program) and provide a copy of the child's birth certificate. For more information, contact Recreation & Special Events Coordinator Angela Carson at 828-261-2249 or [acarson@hickorync.gov](mailto:acarson@hickorync.gov).