

Hickory Fire Department becomes Internationally Accredited Agency

The Hickory Fire Department is now an Internationally Accredited Agency with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).

This designation is awarded to agencies that meet or exceed the rigorous standards and criteria established through the CFAI's voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program.



Hickory Fire Department (HFD) is one of approximately 300 agencies to achieve Internationally Accredited Agency status with the CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. (CPSE). HFD joins an elite group of just 17 accredited career departments in North Carolina.

Fire Chief Matt Hutchinson stated, "The achievement of Accredited Agency status demonstrates the commitment of our department to provide the highest quality of service to our community. We have been able to use the Commission on Fire Accreditation International's process as a proactive mechanism to

plan for the future and locate areas where we can improve the quality of the services we provide."

The CFAI accreditation process enables fire and emergency service agencies to examine past, current, and future service levels and internal performance and compare them to industry best practices. Accreditation allows the organization to determine community risk and safety needs, develop community-specific Standards of Cover, evaluate the department's performance, and establish a continuous improvement method.

Chief Hutchinson continued, "During this process, we focused on performance measures and learned to leverage technology to make data-informed decisions that prepare the department for future growth. One example has been the use of automatic vehicle location equipment, which identifies the closest vehicle to an emergency. As a result, that vehicle is dispatched to the incident and therefore allows faster response and resources to a scene. Other areas of focus included recommendations of exhaust removal systems and gear washers to assist with firefighter safety and wellness."

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller added, "This accreditation shows to the community that our fire department is data-driven, outcome-focused, strategic-minded, well-organized, adequately trained, and properly equipped."

In addition to the CFAI accreditation, Hickory Fire Department also holds an ISO Class 1 Rating through the Insurance Services Office. An ISO Class 1 rating is the highest rating possible and ranks the Hickory Fire Department among the nation's best, as less than 1 percent of fire departments achieve this distinction.

To learn more about Hickory Fire Department and its career opportunities, visit www.hickorync.gov/fire.

ADDRESS

76 North Center Street

WEBSITE

HickoryNC.gov

PHONE

828-323-7400

ISSUE

April 2024

Mulch Now Available

Ever wonder what happens with the yard waste collected by Hickory Solid Waste crews throughout the year? The tree limbs put to the curb are ground into useable material for your landscape! Each spring, the City of Hickory begins its sales of mulch to the general public. Single ground mulch is now available for just \$25 per 3-yard scoop (full-size pickup truck load) at the City's Yard Waste Facility on Cloninger Mill Road. The facility is only open on Fridays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and will operate with those hours until all supply is gone. For more information, call Hickory Public Services Department at 828-323-7500.



Sails Original Music Series Returns

The City of Hickory's Sails Original Music Series returns this spring and fall, bringing free concerts of live original music to The Sails on the Square in downtown. Performances begin at 7 p.m. every Friday in May, June, and September (except for a special Saturday concert in Ridgeview on Sept. 21). Special thanks to this year's presenting sponsor, Protection Products, and supporting sponsors Atriax, Bob Sinclair Music, Larry's Music & Sound, Pfahlert Creative Labs, Olde Hickory Brewery, and Crowne Plaza. Follow the Sails Original Music Series Facebook page, www.facebook.com/sailsmusic, and visit www.hickorync.gov/sailsmusic for more details and upcoming band information.

Fair Housing & Rehabilitation Programs

April is Fair Housing Month. The City of Hickory is committed to affirmatively furthering Fair Housing in the community. Two housing rehabilitation programs are offered to homeowners within Hickory city limits. If you need financial assistance to make urgent repairs or accessibility improvements to your home, contact the Community Development Division at 828-323-7414 to learn more and see if you qualify for these programs.

Spring Reminders

Pool Fill Adjustments: Call the Collections Division at 828-323-7424 at least one business day BEFORE filling up your swimming pool from the ground up so you may receive an adjustment on your water bill. City staff MUST read your water meter before and after the pool is filled to ensure an accurate volume.

Lawn Sprinkler Meters: The City of Hickory must be contacted to activate irrigation meters to avoid potential tampering charges being added for meters that were turned on by an unauthorized person. To activate a lawn sprinkler meter, call Collections at 828-323-7424 Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Also, remember to call Collections at the end of the season to inactivate the service and discontinue monthly base charges.

HICKORY CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 7 & 21

6 p.m.

Julian G. Whitener

Municipal Building (City Hall)

HickoryNC.gov

SPRING INTO SUMMER

Thursday, May 2

5-7 p.m.

Taft Broome Park

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, May 4

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Hickory American Legion

Fairgrounds

CITY WALK CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 4

4-8 p.m.

City Walk, Downtown Hickory

DowntownHickory.com

JAZZ LEGACY CONCERT SERIES

Sundays, May 5, 12, 19

2-4 p.m.

Union Square, Downtown Hickory

SPRING BARK FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 11

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Fairbrook Optimist Dog Park

HICKORY HOPS

Saturday, May 11

1-6 p.m.

Downtown Hickory

DowntownHickory.com

SINGING UNDER THE SAILS

Saturday, May 18

6 p.m.

Union Square, Downtown Hickory

HickoryChoralSociety.org

DRUM CIRCLE

Thursday, May 23

7 p.m.

The Sails on the Square

SWINGIN' UNDER THE STARS

Sunday, May 26

6:30 p.m.

Union Square, Downtown

HickoryMusicFactory.com

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES

Monday, May 27

HickoryEventsCalendar.com



City of Hickory, NC -
Government



@CityofHickory
@HkyWellCrafted



HickoryWellCrafted