February 2026

Hickory CITY SNIPPETS

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ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER RICK BEASLEY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

After 32 years of dedicated service in local government, Assistant City Manager Rick Beasley will retire from the City of Hickory on Feb. 28.

For the past eight years, Beasley has served as Assistant City Manager for the City of Hickory, leading the Office of Business Development and driving initiatives that have strengthened Hickory's economic foundation. The office functions as a catalyst for growth, dedicated to attracting new businesses, supporting existing enterprises, and fostering innovation to create a thriving environment for investment and job creation. Through strategic planning, collaborative partnerships, and targeted marketing, the team has advanced redevelopment projects, enhanced workforce development, and positioned Hickory as a premier destination for business and talent. By championing efforts that improve quality of life and expand economic opportunity, the Office of Business Development plays a vital role in shaping Hickory's future.

Under his leadership, the City of Hickory reached significant milestones and completed transformational projects that will benefit the community for generations. Among his major accomplishments were the implementation of the bond program, the recent expansion and renovation of the Hickory Metro Convention Center, and the designation of the Hickory Innovation District.

"Rick has been an invaluable member of our leadership team, stepping in during a pivotal time and immediately making a lasting impact," said City Manager Warren Wood. "Rick's deep understanding of local government operations and ability to foster strong, collaborative relationships have advanced key initiatives and strengthened our city. We are grateful for his dedication and the legacy of progress he leaves behind. Rick has a way of making everyone around him better, and Hickory is a better place because of him."

Reflecting on his career, Beasley stated, "I would like to thank the City Council, Manager, and staff for the opportunity to be part of the City of Hickory's outstanding team. It has been a pleasure and one of my greatest honors to serve the citizens of Hickory. I've been lucky to have two different careers in my life, working with citizens to make their communities better and helping student-athletes have the same experience I had."

Visit the City website to read more about Beasley's public service in local government and higher education.

HICKORY
North Carolina
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HICKORY CITY COUNCIL
1st and 3rd Tuesdays
March 3 & 17
6 p.m.
Hickory City Hall
HickoryNC.gov

EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE 5K
Saturday, March 28
9 a.m.
Registration Required
Hickory City Park
RunHKY.com

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday, March 28
6 p.m.
Henry Fork River Park

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City of Hickory

SCAN ME

JOIN A CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION

Raise your hand if you want to make a difference and serve your community! The City of Hickory thrives when residents like you share their time, talents, and ideas. Volunteering to serve on a city board or commission is one of the most impactful ways to get involved in local government. These advisory groups play a vital role in shaping the future of our community by providing recommendations to Hickory City Council on important topics such as recycling, parks and recreation, economic development, and neighborhood beautification. Your voice matters, and this is your opportunity to help guide decisions that affect the quality of life in Hickory.

Hickory City Council has 13 advisory groups, each with a unique purpose and focus. Members come from different wards and diverse backgrounds, bringing valuable perspectives to the table. Most terms last between three and six years, with appointments ending in June. There are currently vacancies, and we encourage you to consider applying. Whether you're passionate about sustainability, growth, or community improvement, there's a place for you to make a difference. To learn more and submit an application, visit www.hickorync.gov/boards-and-commissions. Your involvement today helps shape Hickory's tomorrow!

THINK BEFORE YOU POUR: KEEP FOG OUT OF DRAINS

FOG stands for fats, oils, and grease, and it's one of the biggest culprits behind clogged pipes and sewer overflows in North Carolina. When cooking grease, butter, oils, and food scraps go down the drain, they harden and build up inside pipes—just like plaque in arteries—eventually causing costly blockages and even raw sewage spills into streets and waterways. These spills harm the environment, threaten public health, and drive up maintenance costs for everyone. Do your part: never pour FOG down the drain. Instead, let it cool, scrape it into the trash, or recycle where possible. A little care goes a long way toward protecting your home, your community, and our water quality.