March 2026

Hickory CITY SNIPPETS

Information. Well Crafted.

WINTER'S IMPACT ON PAVEMENT: WHY POTHOLES FORM & WHO TO CALL

Winter weather is tough on Hickory's streets. Snow, ice, and freezing temperatures create conditions that weaken pavement, while treatments like brine, essential for safer travel, can accelerate the damage. Together, these factors lead to cracks, potholes, and significant wear and tear on city streets, making winter one of the most challenging seasons for roadway maintenance.

What causes potholes?

Potholes often form in winter due to precipitation, temperature swings, and road treatments that weaken pavement structure. When snow and ice melt, water seeps into cracks in the asphalt. As temperatures drop, that water freezes and expands, widening the cracks and weakening the pavement. Repeated freeze-thaw cycles, combined with the weight of vehicles, eventually break down these weak spots and create potholes.

Salt also plays a role. Before winter storms, Hickory Public Works crews apply a brine solution to major roads, bridges, and underpasses to improve safety and plowing efficiency. While effective for melting ice, brine can accelerate pavement deterioration. Water mixed with salt freezes at a lower temperature—around 15 degrees—so roads experience more freeze-thaw cycles during extreme cold. Each cycle expands cracks and compromises the asphalt, increasing the likelihood of potholes.

Reporting potholes

Potholes make driving uncomfortable and can even lead to costly vehicle repairs. If left untreated, they grow larger and become more expensive to fix. That's why it's important to report significant potholes as soon as possible. But who should you contact?

To report a pothole on a City-maintained street, call Public Services at 828-323-7500 or submit an online request through the City's website, www.hickorync.gov/report-issue. Please provide accurate details about the location so crews can respond quickly. The City's goal is to repair reported potholes within 24 hours.

Not all streets in Hickory are City-owned. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) partners with the City of Hickory to maintain other roadways and ensure safe travel conditions.

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HICKORY
North Carolina
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HICKORY CITY COUNCIL
1st and 3rd Tuesdays
April 7 & 21
6 p.m.
Hickory City Hall
HickoryNC.gov

CITY CLOSURES
Good Friday, April 3

GREEN FEST
Saturday, April 25
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
The Sails on the Square

HICKORY LITERARY FESTIVAL
Saturday, April 25
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
SALT Block

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL
Saturday, April 25
4-7 p.m.
Downtown Hickory

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Sign up for email newsletters and follow us on social media:

City of Hickory, NC - Government

@CityofHickory

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City of Hickory

SCAN ME

NCDOT maintains the following major roadways and streets:

- I-40
- U.S. 70
- N.C. 127
- Catawba Valley Blvd
- Clement Blvd NW
- Cloninger Mill Rd
- Fairgrove Church Rd
- Highland Ave NE
- Lenoir Rhyne Blvd
- McDonald Parkway
- Old Lenoir Rd
- Springs Rd
- 16th St NE (Sandy Ridge Rd)
- 1st Ave SW & 1st Ave SE
- Wandering Ln
- U.S. 321
- Tate Blvd
- Startown Rd
- Short Rd
- 2nd Ave NW & 2nd Ave SW
- 3rd Ave NW & 3rd Ave Dr NW
- 4th St SW
- 9th Ave Dr NW
- 12th Ave NE
- 21st St Dr SE (Sweetwater Rd)
- 22nd St Pl NE
- 29th Ave NE & 29th Ave Dr NE
- 30th Ave Dr NW
- 39th Ave Dr NW
- 8th St Dr SE
- 24th St NE

NCDOT is committed to repairing potholes on state-maintained roads within two business days when they are reported using the online pothole reporting system at www.ncdot.gov/contact. For other issues or concerns about state-maintained roads, contact NCDOT or call 1-877-DOT-4YOU (1-877-368-4968) on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Help keep Hickory's roads safe and in top condition by reporting potholes to the appropriate agency so repairs can be made quickly.

REMINDERS FOR POOLS & SPRINKLERS

With warm weather just around the corner, please keep these instructions in mind when filling up your swimming pool or turning on your sprinkler system.

Pool Fill Adjustments: Remember to call at least one business day BEFORE filling your swimming pool from the ground up so you may receive a one-time adjustment on the sewer charge on your next water bill. Call Collections at 828-323-7424 Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Lawn Sprinkler Meters: The City of Hickory must be contacted to activate irrigation meters to avoid the potential for tampering charges being added for meters that are found with consumption 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.