







### Welcome to Catawba County, NC!

Ranked the most affordable US metro and the third best place to live in North Carolina by U.S. News, the Hickory metro area offers all the qualities people seek when looking to make a good life: good value, a desirable place to live, a strong job market and a high quality of life. With its moderate climate, sweeping mountain views and southern charm, Catawba County and the Hickory Metro region, nestled in the North Carolina foothills and the Catawba River Valley, has an array of amenities one can enjoy – from robust arts, history and cultural attractions, to a fresh culinary scene and a diverse landscape one can take in by hike, bike or paddle. With an innovative education system rooted in workforce development and the second lowest tax rate in the surrounding region, families and businesses in Catawba County are actively building a solid foundation for the future.





We are ideal for those who have a sense of adventure and a heart for hard work. We appreciate where we've been and look forward to where we're headed, and we approach life with warm hospitality, humility, strong loyalty to family and community with a fierce commitment to making a difference for the people who live and work here.

It's an honor to be one of the first to welcome to you to your new home – we're better because you are here. Additional information can be found on our website at www.catawbachamber.org or within this packet. Please allow us to assist you further with any additional needs as you make important decisions for your family and get settled.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Keisler, President/CEO, IOM, CCEC

The Chamber of Catawba County

#### How to use this guide:

- -Click on the photo icons to access linked web pages in each section.
- -Anything that is underlined is also clickable.
- -Prefer a mobile experience? You can the QR codes with your camera app.

#### Join our online communities!













Social Media









### **Welcome to the Hickory Metro!**

A place where genuine Southern hospitality comes naturally...





It's an exciting time in the Hickory Metro as new outdoor amenities are being crafted, exceptional local restaurants, wineries, breweries, and distilleries are multiplying, the legacy of artisans creating furniture flourishes, and sports and cultural arts are in abundance.

There's something for everyone in the Hickory Metro, no matter why you are here or what season of life you are in.

Whether it's a vacation, a sporting event, furniture shopping, business, or a stop on your way to your final destination that has you exploring the Hickory Metro, we're here to help.

As a hometown gal of Hickory and on behalf of the hospitality community, it's my privilege to invite you to the Hickory Metro, a place that is full of genuine Southern hospitality.

Mandy Pitts Hildebrand, CEO Hickory Metro Convention Center & Visitors Bureau

## Visitor's Guide Hospitality and Tourism



### Things to Do!



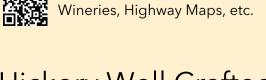
■ Festivals, art shows, sales, events, and more



#### NC Travel Guides



State guides, Civil War Trails,

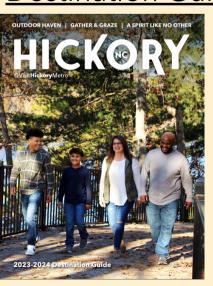


### <u> Hickory Metro</u> <u>Destination Guide</u> 🖺

Click on the images or headings to link directly to web pages or scan the QR codes with your



camera app!



Places to eat, stay, shop, and explore. Over 60 pages of content including a Points of Interest Map, History of the area, tips, and more.



### <u> Hickory Well Crafted</u>



Get to know Hickory. Meet Doers and Makers, learn about our neighborhoods, purchase merchandise, read trending news.

# Relocation

**#1 Best Places to Live in NC** #31 Best Places to Live in the U.S. #45 Best Places to Retire **#1 Most Affordable Place to Live** 





### **Property Tax Rates**



Current taxes for towns and 🕶 cities, sales tax, income tax, state incentives



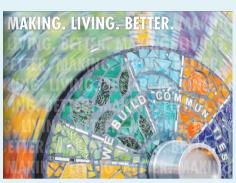






utilities, sanitation, voting, DMV, municipal offices, schools, parks







### <u>Real Estate Partners</u>



Looking for an apartment, realtor, or place to live?



#### abor Market



■ ₩■ Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board provides a comprehensive regional labor market overview each month.





### Regional Data



Census data, regional commuting patterns, commerce, transportation, and American Community Survey data.





Free resources for business start up, expansion, counseling, and seminars.

**Small Business &** 



### <u> County Profile</u>



NC Department of Commerce database includes population and growth, age, education, housing, income, unemployment rates, etc. Updated monthly.





#### <u>Featured Catawbans</u>



 ∃■ Hear from some of your future neighbors!

Who We Are







■ Read more about how we're making Blog Living better in Catawba County.