HICKORY North Carolina

CITY SNIPPETS

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2020 HIGHLIGHTS

The year 2020 was certainly one for the history books. Now, as we embark on a new year, let's reflect back on the City of Hickory's top ten milestones of the previous year.

1 **150th Anniversary**: January 3, 2020 marked the City of Hickory's 150th "Sesquicentennial" Anniversary. The historic milestone year was kicked off with a proclamation by Mayor Hank Guess and a birthday celebration in Council Chambers. Although the pandemic prevented further celebratory events in 2020, stay tuned for more details about rescheduled #Repeat150 events planned for June 2021.

2 **Riverwalk Construction**: During its January 7, 2020 meeting, Hickory City Council approved a construction contract with David E. Looper & Company for the City portion of the Riverwalk bond project. Subsequently, Riverwalk construction started on January 10, 2020, and progressed throughout the year. In October 2020, Hickory City Council approved a construction contract with W.C. English, Inc. for the remaining Riverwalk components, including the trail entrance, parking lot, and overwater bridge.

3 **New Artificial Turf Field**: In January 2020, the City started construction of its first artificial turf field at Henry Fork River Park. The artificial turf field was completed in March 2020, with Hickory becoming the first municipality in the United States to install revolutionary T°Cool® evaporative cooling technology for cooler and safer play.

4 **Trivium Corporate Center Tenants**: On May 28, 2020, Stonemont Financial Group (SFG) announced plans for a 192,000 sq. ft. speculative building in Trivium Corporate Center and quickly started construction on the spec building. In December 2020, Cataler North America, another Trivium tenant, celebrated the official groundbreaking for its new manufacturing facility in the business park.

5 **New Website and Online Payment System**: The City's website, www.HickoryNC.gov, received a major overhaul and was relaunched with a vibrant new design in July 2020. In conjunction with the website redesign, the City also implemented a more secure, convenient, and user-friendly online payment system by Paymentus.

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HICKORY CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 2 & 16
7 p.m.
Julian G. Whitener
Municipal Building (City Hall)
www.HickoryNC.gov

GOOSEBUMPS: THE SCIENCE OF FEAR
Exhibit Now Open
Catawba Science Center
www.CatawbaScience.com

NOISES OFF!
February 5 - 21
Hickory Community Theatre
www.HickoryTheatre.org

WORKS BY WARHOL
February 6 - June 6
Hickory Museum of Art
www.HickoryArt.org

VISITING WRITERS SERIES: EMILY NEMENS
Thursday, February 25
7 p.m.
P.E. Monroe Auditorium - LRU
www.LR.edu/VWS

For more events,
www.HickoryEventsCalendar.com

COVID-19 UPDATES
For a listing of Hickory operational changes and updates regarding the pandemic, please visit the COVID-19 Updates webpage:
https://www.hickorync.gov/coronavirus-covid-19-updates

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6 **Ridgeview Library Expansion and Renovation**: In July 2020, Hickory City Council accepted the bid and approved the contract with Neill Grading & Construction for the Ridgeview Branch Library renovation and expansion project.

7 **Class 1 ISO Rating**: In September 2020, Hickory Fire Department received the distinction of earning a Class 1 Public Protection Classification rating, commonly known as an ISO rating, by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). An ISO Class 1 rating is the highest rating possible and ranks the Hickory Fire Department among the nation's best. Hickory's ISO Class 1 rating went into effect on December 1, 2020.

8 **Hickory's Single Largest Private Investment**: In late September 2020, Merchants Distributors, LLC, a wholesale grocery distributor founded in Hickory in 1931, announced plans to invest $120 million to expand its services and operations to create 111 jobs. At $120 million, this project is the single largest economic development announcement in the City of Hickory's history.

9 **City Walk Construction**: Contractor Neill Grading & Construction worked diligently throughout 2020 on construction of the City Walk. Hickory residents and visitors watched month after month as sections of the trail neared completion.

10 **Hickory Pedestrian + Bicycle Plan**: City staff worked with Alta Planning + Design, stakeholders, and the community throughout 2020 to develop a comprehensive plan to guide the future of walking and biking in Hickory. In December 2020, Hickory City Council adopted the new Hickory Pedestrian + Bicycle Plan.