



# Quality of Life

## Catawba County Chamber of Commerce



The Catawba County Chamber of Commerce has a cooperative membership of 900 businesses and a staff that is committed to creating, building and maintaining the most respected and visionary Chamber organization in the country.

The Chamber works in several ways: Advocacy and public policy on behalf of business on a local, state and national level; preparing our workforce for 21<sup>st</sup> century job skills; increasing educational attainment levels in our public schools to higher educational opportunities; providing networking opportunities for our member businesses to make new business contacts, expanding their customer base and access to new sales channels; being the leader in professional and leadership developing training for Catawba County; helping to engrain creativity and innovation into company culture; studying and preparing for the weak signals and future trends that are changing economies all across the world; improving the quality of life and livability of this county that will result in an increase in our population base; and helping our community become the most entrepreneurial friendly community in America.

## Sports & Recreation

Catawba County offers a wide range of Sports and Recreation for enthusiasts of every kind. Rock Barn Golf & Spa is home to the Greater Hickory Classic, a PGA TOUR Champions Tour Event. Other golf courses include the Catawba Country Club, the Lake Hickory Country Club, Hampton Heights Golf Club, Catawba Springs Golf Club, and Mountain View Golf Club. The Hickory Motor Speedway hosts the NASCAR Dodge Weekly Series and is known as the "Birthplace of the NASCAR Stars". 2004 South Atlantic League Champion Hickory Crawdads (Class A Affiliate-Texas Rangers) offer minor league baseball at it's best. The YMCA of Catawba Valley offers numerous athletic, daycare and health and fitness opportunities for all ages at several facilities in the county. Additionally, the Catawba River provides many opportunities for boating and other recreations. Catawba County is also home to numerous parks that include Bakers Mountain Park and Riverbend park and provide opportunities ranging from family picnics and playgrounds to hiking and fishing.

## Arts & Culture

Home to three community theatres, a college theatre, a symphony, a choral society, and a first class art museum, Catawba County provides an array of artistic and cultural entertainment. The Hickory Community Theatre is the third oldest and one of the largest community theatres in North Carolina. In addition to its productions and educational classes, the Hickory Community Theatre also provides entertainment opportunities ranging from karaoke to a series of movie nights. Like the Hickory Community Theatre, The Green Room offers a range of plays and musicals as well as educational classes and other opportunities for youth. The Lenoir-Rhyne University Playmakers offer productions each year as well. The Western Piedmont Symphony, a professional orchestra of 60+ members, presents an annual season of symphonic music featuring guest artists who are rising stars of classical music. The Western Piedmont Symphony is also well noted for its outreach to students. Each year, the Chamber Orchestra (a smaller version of the full orchestra) goes "on the road" to bring concerts to nearly 30,000 public, private and home-schooled children in four Hickory metro area counties. The Hickory Choral Society, a volunteer organization of over 150 voices, presents three concerts annually: a traditional Christmas Concert, a classical Winter Concert and a Spring Concert featuring a guest artist. The Hickory Museum of Art is the second-oldest art museum in North Carolina and the first museum in the Southeast to collect American art. The Hickory Museum of Art offers exhibitions, lectures, art classes, films and outreach programs to schools and other groups. Additionally Catawba County offers a Science Museum, a History Museum, several concert associations, a youth symphony and a wide variety of musical groups ranging from Barbershop to Bluegrass.

## Religion

There are over 200 congregations in Catawba County representing a variety of Jewish, Protestant, Catholic and other beliefs. All major protestant religions are represented with the largest number of adherents belonging to the Southern Baptist Convention, the United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In addition, there are numerous religious schools available in Catawba County encompassing grade ranges K-12. More information on these schools is available in the Education and Training section of this Fact Book.

## Retail & Shopping

### Valley Hills Mall

1960 Highway 70 SE, #244  
 Hickory, North Carolina 28602-5107  
 828.328.2436  
 Mon-Sat: 10:00 am - 9:00 pm  
 Sun: 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
[www.valleyhillsmall.com](http://www.valleyhillsmall.com)

Enjoy great one-stop shopping and a family-friendly environment at over 90 specialty stores and carts, 11 food court retailers, a sit-down restaurant, and four department stores, Belk, Dillard's, JC Penney, and Sears. Valley Hills Mall has a 28-foot antique carousel in the food court, a Speedway Soft Play Area for kids, carpeted, soft seating areas, family restrooms with a nursing facility, and two parking decks available to provide a pleasant customer experience.

### Hickory Furniture Mart

2220 Hwy 70 SE  
 Hickory, NC 28602  
 phone 800.462.MART  
 phone 828.322.3510  
 Mon-Sat: 9:00am – 6:00pm  
[www.hickoryfurniture.com](http://www.hickoryfurniture.com)

Hickory Furniture Mart presents a complete selection of domestic and imported furniture and furnishings. Largest of its kind in the nation, the Mart complex features 100 factory outlets, stores and galleries selling more than 1000 well-known manufacturing lines such as Broyhill, Thomasville, Lane, Henredon, La-Z-Boy and others. In addition to the four-level main building, the complex includes a hotel, restaurant, coffee shop, shipping service, lounge and tearoom. Throughout our idea-rich showrooms, attractively discounted prices are offered on bedroom, dining room, living room, office, family room and patio furniture, as well as rugs, window coverings, lighting, art, antiques and a huge selection of accessories

### Catawba Furniture Mall

377 US Highway 70 SW  
 Hickory, North Carolina 28602  
 1-800-789-0686  
 828-324-9701  
 Monday-Saturday 10am-7pm  
[www.catawbafurniture.com](http://www.catawbafurniture.com)

Hickory NC furniture shopping for home furnishings with discount pricing. Located in the Furniture Mecca of the World, Hickory, North Carolina, we have over 8-acres of discount sale furniture, 100's of manufacturers, High Point furniture showroom floor samples, home furnishings, free decorating ideas, bedding, specialty shops, and an online furniture search. Everything you need to make all your furniture and decorating dreams come true are here in one easy-to-shop place.

### Other Major Retailers

A. C. Moore	K Mart	Ross Dress for Less
Babies R Us	Kohl's	Shoe Carnival
Barnes & Noble	Lowe's Home Improvement	Shoe Show
Bed Bath & Beyond	Warehouse	Steinmart
Best Buy	Marshalls	T J Maxx
Dicks Sporting Goods	Michael's	Target
H. H. Gregg	Party City	Toys R Us
Hobby Lobby	Petco	Tuesday Morning
Home Depot	PetSmart	Wal-Mart

## Restaurants

Catawba County's more than 100 restaurants represent an extremely wide variety available to suit any taste and budget. Fast Food restaurants include McDonalds, Bojangles, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Hardee's, Taco Bell, Jack in the Box, Backyard Burgers, Cook Out, Subway, Chik-fil-a, Burger King, Checkers, Wendy's, Panda Express, Zaxby's and Sonic. Other restaurant styles include Steak, Seafood, Cafeteria-style, Chinese, Mexican, Thai, Italian, Greek, Jamaican, and Vietnamese.

## Housing Availability & Costs

Catawba County offers a wide range of housing choices. From newly constructed subdivisions, townhomes, and condos to historic homes to a variety of apartment choices, there are numerous available housing options. According to the Sperling's bestplaces.net, the median cost of a single-family home in 2010 was \$109,400. 75.36% of the population owned their homes, while 24.64% of the population rented. Home appreciation costs in 2010 were -5.31%.

## Accommodations

With 20 hotels and 3 Bed and Breakfasts, Catawba County has a variety of accommodations to meet any taste and budget. Over 1800 rooms are available at hotels including the Choice Hotels Family, the Marriott Family, Jameson Inn, Hampton Inn, Days Inn, Red Roof Inn, and La Quinta Inn & Suites among others.

## Health Care

### Catawba Valley Medical Center

Catawba Valley Medical Center is a 258-bed hospital with approximately 1,450 employees, a medical staff representing all the major specialties of a regional referral center, with 9300 admission, and surgical cases totaling 12,900 procedures annually. CVMC provides a broad range of general acute and specialty care services as well as owns and operates eight primary care practices in the area. The CVMC Emergency Department is the region's busiest, serving more than 46,000 patients annually. A 16-room surgical suite, a Women's Center with advanced neonatal services and a comprehensive cancer center assure patients access to the latest technology and treatment, including IMRT guided radiation therapy. Although the medical center is at the heart of the services offered by CVMC, the organization also offers a comprehensive program of health outreach and community support programs, including The Health First Center at Valley Hills Mall. The medical center operates a CARF accredited inpatient rehabilitation unit, was the 32nd hospital in the nation to achieve Magnet Hospital status, the first in the area to achieve comprehensive community hospital cancer center designation, identified by Solucient as a Top 100 hospital: Performance Improvement Leaders Award, and The American Alliance of Healthcare Providers (AAHCP) named Catawba Valley Medical Center as a Hospital of Choice Award recipient for 2005. CVMC has also been recognized for a second consecutive year for service excellence under the J.D. Power and Associates Distinguished Hospital Program. To learn more about the hospital, visit [www.catawbavalleymedical.org](http://www.catawbavalleymedical.org).

### Frye Regional Medical Center

Since 1911, Frye Regional Medical Center has prided itself on delivering quality medicine and compassionate care. The 355-bed private facility offers the skill and experience of over 300 active physicians representing over 35 specialties, as well as a professional staff of more than 1,700 dedicated to providing quality healthcare services. The hospital's main campus includes a heart center, orthopedics, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, center for neurosciences, cancer center and women's pavilion. Frye has several extended campuses to serve families throughout the area including: South campus for psychiatric services; Viewmont and Tate Surgery Centers; Vein and Wound Center/Infusion Care; Pain Center; Piedmont Therapy, offering sports and industrial rehabilitation; two urgent care facilities; FryeCare, an outpatient diagnostic facility; Alexander Campus, which provides emergency care along with diagnostic and laboratory services; plus HeathPoint, which provides extensive industrial services and programs to employers.

Frye Regional Medical Center is accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency. To learn more about the hospital, visit [www.fryemedctr.com](http://www.fryemedctr.com).

## Libraries

### Hickory Public Library

The Hickory Public Library's main branch is the Patrick Beaver Memorial Library in Hickory. There is also a branch library located in Ridgeview. Catawba County residents may use Hickory's libraries free of charge. For anyone outside Catawba County, there is an annual fee of \$55.00. Registration for a card requires some form of identification. To be able to check out videos or use the Internet, anyone under 18 must have a parent or guardian sign their application. Temporary residents of Catawba County may obtain a library card for a fee of \$55.00, which is reimbursable upon returning the card. This card is only valid during your stay in Catawba County. Out-of-county residents who do not wish to pay the yearly \$55.00 per person fee may still have access to the Internet with the purchase of a \$5.00 Computer User's Card. Hickory Public Library's cards may also be used in the Catawba County Library System. Further registration at one of those locations will be required on your first visit.

Patrick Beaver Memorial Library  
375 3rd Street NE  
Hickory, NC 28601  
(828) 304-0500

Ridgeview Branch Library  
706 1st Street SW  
Hickory, NC 28602  
(828) 345-6037

### The Catawba County Library System

The Catawba County Library Systems has its main branch in Newton, with additional branches in Claremont, Conover, Maiden, Sherrills Ford, Mountain View, and St. Stephens. Online cards can only be issued for residents of Catawba County and will be verified by the address. However, any resident of North Carolina may apply for a free Catawba County Library card in-person at any Catawba County Library branch. Proof of identification and NC residency is required for you to receive the card on the day of your visit. (A North Carolina driver's license or state ID is the preferred source of identification). Parents may apply for cards for their minor children and are responsible for the materials checked out on their own and their children's cards.

Catawba County Library – Main Branch  
115 West C Street  
Newton, North Carolina 28658  
Phone & TDD: (828) 465-8664  
Fax: (828) 465-8293

Sherrills Ford Branch Library  
8456 Sherrills Ford Road  
Sherrills Ford, North Carolina 28673  
Phone & TDD: (828) 478-2729  
Fax: (828) 478-5837

Claremont Branch Library  
3288 East Main St.  
Claremont, North Carolina 28610  
Phone & TDD: (828) 459-9311

Southwest Branch Library  
2944 Highway 127 South  
Hickory, North Carolina 28602  
Phone & TDD: (828) 294-2343  
Fax: (828) 294-2477

Conover Branch Library  
101 First Street East  
Conover, North Carolina 28613  
Phone & TDD: (828) 466-5108  
Fax: (828) 466-5109

St. Stephens Branch Library  
3225 Springs Road  
Hickory, North Carolina 28601-9700  
Phone & TDD: (828) 256-3030  
Fax: (828) 256-6029

Maiden Branch Library  
11 South A Avenue  
Maiden, North Carolina 28650  
Phone & TDD: (828) 428-2712  
Fax: (828) 428-3845