

MINUTES

City Council's Budget Retreat Meeting Friday, February 24, 2023 8:30 A.M.

Facilitator: Anthony Starr, Western Piedmont Council of Government.

Participants were: Mayor Joseph Gibbons, Mayor Pro-Tem Crissy Thomas, Councilmembers Kent Greer, David Stevens, Todd Perdue, Ralph Prestwood, Jonathan Beal, and Ike Perkins.

City Staff Participating were: City Manager Scott Hildebran, City Clerk Shirley Cannon, Finance Director Donna Bean, Deputy Fire Chief Kenny Nelson, Police Chief Brent Phelps, Economic Development Director Kaylynn Horn, Public Information Officer Joshua Harris, Interim Planning Director Hannah Williams, Public Services Director Radford Thomas, Public Works Operation Manager Jonathan Hogan, Public Utilities Operations Manager Jeff Church and Recreation Director Kenny Story.

Customer Service Team Participants were: Autumn Moffett and Joshua Harris.

Call to Order/Introductions/Opening Remarks

Mayor Gibbons welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He stated this retreat is the most important meeting for City Council due to Council establishing their priorities for FY2023-24. Mayor Gibbons also thanked City Staff for all of their hard work during the past year.

Mayor Gibbons introduced Anthony Starr, Executive Director, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, and Facilitator of the session. Mr. Starr reviewed the agenda and ground rules for the meeting.

Annual Review of Mission & Vision Statement

Mr. Starr reminded City Council that each budget year they have the opportunity to review the City's Mission Statement and Vision Statement for any changes and/or additions they would like to address.

Following the review and a brief discussion, City Council was in consensus to add the word "prioritize" in the second bullet point to the City's Mission Statement as listed below. The Vision Statement remains unchanged.

(Copies of both statements are listed below as information.)

Mission Statement & Vision Review

The mission of the City of Lenoir is:

- To serve our citizens and the community by providing a clean, safe, healthy, attractive living and business environment, through the efficient delivery of essential city services in a fiscally responsible and equitable manner.
- To identify, prioritize, plan and act on opportunities for preserving and improving the quality of life for all of our citizens and the community.

Vision for the City of Lenoir:

- We aspire to be the city of choice for ourselves and future generations - beautiful, clean and safe.

We will achieve our vision through:

- A healthy economy
- Strong businesses
- Vital neighborhoods
- A vibrant downtown
- Extensive recreational and cultural opportunities

We will preserve Lenoir's friendly, small town atmosphere and celebrate the diversity of our people.

We require a city government that is:

- Accessible and engaged with the public
- Accountable
- Efficient and responsive
- Employer of choice
- Forward thinking
- Honest and ethical
- Inclusive and equitable
- Innovative and collaborative
- Transparent
- Fiscally responsible

Customer Service Team Update

Autumn Moffett, Parks & Recreation, & Co-Chair, presented an overview of the Customer Service Team's 2022 Report. She reviewed the Team's mission, which is to encourage and equip all City employees to work together to exceed the expectations of our residents, businesses, and visitors, and to motivate our co-workers through support and recognition of a job well done.

Ms. Moffett reported the Team continued in their efforts during the year to provide resources to City staff in order to provide "Service beyond Measure" to the citizens of Lenoir. In addition, Ms. Moffett reviewed the City's ten (10) customer service keys and shared how the Team held new employee Customer Service Orientation sessions throughout the year. Joshua Harris showed three (3) videos the Team created as a new training resource for all City employees on providing customer service and shared City employees gave out 28 Golden Ticket nominations to their co-workers last year. The Customer Service Team will announce the 2022 Annual Golden Ticket winner in March.

On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons expressed appreciation to the Customer Service Team for their leadership and training regarding this program and remarked that great things have occurred over the past sixteen years because of the City's Customer Service program and employees taking part in providing "Service beyond Measure."

Chief Brent Phelps stated the Customer Service Program has changed the culture of city departments.

Lenoir Demographic & Economic Data Profile

Taylor Dellinger, WPCOG, presented a Demographic and Economic Data Profile for the City of Lenoir. This report is available on the City's website at www.cityoflenoir.com. Mr. Dellinger reported Lenoir's population was 18,228 in 2010 and 18,352 in 2020. He reviewed a comparison chart that showed Lenoir had an increase of 0.7% population while Caldwell County had a decrease of (2.9%) during this time-period. He discussed the City and County's population age groups, which has increased in the 35-44 age range by 26.5%. Mr. Dellinger remarked that Caldwell County's population is projected to be flat over the next twenty years.

Mr. Dellinger stated additional housing is needed and further reviewed economic and income statistics from 2017 – 2021. He remarked that poverty levels depend on the various household size. Lenoir's poverty rate including all persons is 17.1%, under age 18 is 30.9% and over age 65 is 13%. A brief discussion was held with Councilmember Beal commenting these individuals do not have the ability to move out of the city. In addition, Mr. Dellinger stated the median household income is \$42,411 and reviewed a listing of Lenoir's employment by industry. The percentage of people working in Education and Health Care is 22.7% during 2017 – 2021 and manufacturing is 19.04%. Lenoir's employed labor force for ages 16 and over is 7,255 or 49% and those not in the labor force is 6,947 or 47%. Mr. Dellinger reviewed a chart listing employment gains from December 2021-2022. Professional and Business Services had a gain of 1,000, Trade, Travel & Utilities 900, Health Care & Social Assistance 800, and Manufacturing & Retail Trade 600 each. As information, Mr. Dellinger reported that 84.6% of people in the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton area have a high school degree or higher.

Mr. Dellinger discussed residential development and stated the number of site built single-family homes from 2017-2021 was 5,819 or 69%, multi-family homes 2,059 or 24% and mobile homes 659 at 7%. He reviewed a comparison chart from 2000-2020 which shows Lenoir and Caldwell County having a (1.9%) change in housing. The median value of owner occupied units in Lenoir is \$119,700 and Caldwell County \$136,100. In addition, he reviewed a chart of residential real estate sales in Lenoir during December 2021-2022. In December 2021, there were 33 new listings and in 2022 there were 24 for a (27.3%) change. He also showed a map outlining new residential development from 2019-2021 within Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba counties.

HOME – ARP Allocation Plan

Ben Willis, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, reviewed the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. Director Willis stated as a part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD), allocated \$4.925 billion in supplemental ARP funds through the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) to support communities throughout the country with addressing homelessness. This newly created funding source is called the HOME-ARP Program. Eligible recipients include the 651 states and local participating jurisdictions (PJ's) that qualified for annual HOME Program Allocation in FY2021. The City of Lenoir received \$4,182,733. The City of Lenoir is the lead entity for the four county region.

Director Willis explained the City of Lenoir must provide for and encourage citizen participation in the development of its HOME-ARP allocation plan. Before submission of the plan, the City must provide residents with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed HOME-ARP allocation plan of no less than 15 calendar days. The City must follow its adopted requirements for reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment for six plan amendments in its current citizen participation plan. In addition, the City must hold at least one public hearing during the development of the HOME-ARP allocation plan prior to submission. In addition, for the purposes of the HOME-

ARP, the City is required to make the following information available to the public: 1) the amount of HOME-ARP the City will receive, and 2) the range of activities the City may undertake.

This funding is awarded for the purpose of addressing issues surrounding homelessness in the Consortium's jurisdiction and must be used to serve individuals that meet one of the following definitions, defined as "Qualified Populations."

- Homeless
- At-risk of homelessness
- Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking
- Other populations where providing supportive services or assistance would prevent family's homelessness or would serve those at greater risk of homelessness
- Veterans and families that include a veteran that meets one of the preceding criteria

As an example, Director Willis presented information regarding Sarasota, Florida's plan (Effective Homelessness Response Systems) as follows:

1. Require reframing how we think about public safety outcomes and the process of crafting and evaluating strategies intended to make our communications safer.
2. Require a comprehensive understanding of the system under analysis. To achieve this, it is vital that key stakeholders are involved from the outset who will be involved in the changes to the system.
3. Use data, analysis, and research to complement experience and professional judgment, in order to provide the best possible police service to the public.

Director Willis proposed to do a model like Sarasota's in order to assess the community's needs, inventory and gap analysis. As an example, he explained different situations that individuals may find themselves in and pointed out that non-profits operate independently of each other. The goal is to connect people with the resources they need with an effective homeless response system. Director Willis led a discussion regarding hiring a "navigator" "who is a person who has been there, done that, and cares about homelessness." In addition, he briefly mentioned churches, public participation, the HOME-ARP program and the WPCOG could all take a roll to coordinate efforts in order to be more effective.

Director Willis stated that hiring a navigator to cover the four (4) counties to collect data depends on both DHUD and funding and noted it would probably be late 2023 before the City is notified whether these position(s) would be funded. He reported the first step is having City Council approval and also coordinate with Rick Oxford, Plan Administrator, WPCOG, to come to a City Council meeting to present a report and recommendation to Council.

Much discussion centered on managing the problem. Chief Phelps stated many people are falling through the cracks and said churches are dealing with these people differently. In addition, Chief Phelps mentioned he has attending meetings with other local non-profit organizations about this issue.

Mayor Gibbons and Anthony Starr thanked Mr. Willis for the good information and report.

Update of The Campus – City Manager Hildebran and David Maurer, President, Maurer Architecture

City Manager Hildebran reviewed a map with numbered photos of The Campus which includes 7 buildings as follows: 1. Auditorium, 2. Gymnasium, 3. Band Building, 4. Trades/Masonry Building, 5. Mack Cook Stadium, 6. Farmers Market, and 7. City Building and a section of private property as

outlined in pink on the attached map. Mr. Maurer also reviewed a Parking Legend map that outlined LHS's existing parking, existing public parking lots, proposed parking, on-street parking and walkable range for parking. Mr. Maurer also led a discussion about proposed improvements to the 10,000 square foot facility and shared the building is in good shape and structurally sound. The proposed upgrade/improvement project for the LHS Historic Theater/Auditorium and Gymnasium includes furniture, fixtures, equipment items, new lighting, infrastructure for new lighting, new sound equipment, window treatment – blackout curtains, acoustic panels and new seating. Mr. Maurer discussed having a new handicap ramp, new handicap bathrooms located behind the stage along with the new seats for the auditorium. Next, he mentioned having a second floor would allow for storage and a multi-purpose room. He agreed with having blackouts or shade available for productions. Mr. Maurer suggested the City wait until the Downtown Master Plan is complete before finalizing ways to use this facility. Councilmember Beal mentioned capacity issues along with visibility, sound issues, and not being ADA accessible. He also suggested having something invisible or folding back for the stage during performances and further mentioned an issue with the size of the opening of the curtain.

Mr. Maurer said the handicap ramp could be made 10-feet wide and stated they received a lot of feedback from the public. A brief discussion was also held regarding the loading dock located there.

Recreation Director Kenny Story pointed out LHS is a City facility and a City employee should be present and available to monitor all events. He also inquired what level of flooring should be installed. Public Services Director Radford Thomas shared that Brownfield funding could possibly be used to cover the cost of the flooring.

State of the City Presentation – City Manager Hildebran and Mayor Gibbons

City Manager Hildebran along with Mayor Gibbons reviewed a power point presentation “2022 Lenoir in Review.”

A copy of the 2022 State of the City Slide Show is available online at www.cityoflenoir.com and attached to these minutes. A complete copy of all the presentations for the Strategic Planning Meeting are on file in the City Clerk's office.

Review of 2022-23 Strategic Priorities-City Manager Scott Hildebran

City Manager Hildebran reviewed Council's priorities as listed below and other areas of focus from 2022-23 and stated that employees were the City's number one asset.

2022 City Council Priorities

1. Continue Efforts to Offer Competitive Compensation and Benefits for Employees
2. Increase Funding & Support for Minimum Housing & Code Enforcement
3. Develop Strategies to Support Affordable, Workforce, and Market-Rate Housing
 - Continue to Fund & Support Street Paving Plan
 - Develop Master Plans for The Campus, Downtown, and Park & Recreation
 - Establish a Human Relations Commission (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion)
4. Implement Wayfinding Plan, including Greenway Signage
 - Establish Area Plans for Whitnel & West End
 - Continue to Fund & Support Technology/Cybersecurity/Digital Services
5. Share State of the City Presentations/Re-establish Community Meetings
6. Continue to Fund & Support Water/Sewer Capital Improvements Plan
7. Continue to Fund & Support Sidewalks/Greenway/OVT

Other Areas of Focus:

Employee Recruitment/Retention:

- Increase Employee Engagement
- Incentivize/Reward Efficiencies
- Develop Continuing Customer Service Education

Housing:

- Market City-owned Properties to Sell
- Encourage Downtown Living
- Continue to Promote Shovel-ready Residential Subdivisions
- Participate in WPCOG Vacant & Substandard Housing Task Force

Community Beautification:

- Continue Implementation of North Main Area Plan & Fairfield South Plan
- Develop Strategies to Address Commercial Blight (city-wide & downtown)
- Address Major Appearance Issues (city entry corridors)
- Develop Plan to Address Litter in Community (State, Local Partners)

Healthy Infrastructure:

- Continue to Fund & Support City Facilities/Fleet Plan
- Continue to Fund & Support Stormwater Improvements
- Implement Downtown 2-Way Traffic Plan
- Implement Bike/Ped Plan

Economic Development:

- Encourage Public/Private Partnerships
- Continue Partnership with Caldwell EDC

Public Engagement:

- Market Quality of Life Amenities
- Develop Strategic/Targeted Communication (multi-lingual)
- Promote Smart City, Online Interaction

Other

- Seek COVID-related Funding Opportunities to Help Citizens

Grant Funding Presentation – City Manager Scott Hildebran & Finance Director Donna Bean

City Manager Hildebran and Finance Director Donna Bean presented a review of Grant Funding/Projects Review.

A copy of the projects are attached to these minutes as information.

Discussion centered on each project, status and funding. Director Bean stated the City has 44 projects and gave the dollar amount the City has received in funding for projects. The City has projects that require a City match in addition to the ARPA allocation the City received from the Federal Government. Director Bean stated if funding for anticipated projects were taken from the Fund Balance, the City would have 60% left in remaining funding at year-end. Director Bean stated she needs to make sure the City can pay for projects and still retain its recommended percentage.

Department Directors discussed several of the projects. Public Services Director Radford Thomas stated MeterSys is working on a software problem with its meters as they will turn themselves back on after being cut off. Also, the Biosolids project is 95-100% being complete. The design plan for the Over Mountain Victory Trail intersections may be finished soon.

The Assessment for Water & Sewer project will help Staff with planning what a facility needs. Councilmember Perdue asked for a definition of asset inventory with Director Thomas saying it helps define the age of a facility, manholes, valves underground and the pump station as well as mapping assets.

Director Thomas pointed out Staff does work on projects when they have the capability, which results in cost savings for the City. Councilmember Beal commented Council doesn't want to overtax or overwhelm our work force.

Facilitated Discussion

Mr. Starr asked Council to choose their priorities and decide which priorities they wish to retain and which they wish to omit. He listed Council's priorities on a chart and next they completed a ranking exercise as listed below.

Mayor Gibbons chose Water & Sewer Capital Improvements, Sidewalks & Greenway and Code Enforcement. David Stevens stated to continue to offer Employee Compensation & Benefits. Jonathan Beal stated to develop a Parks & Recreation facility in the Whitnel area. Crissy Thomas stated plan for succession, continue employee development, vehicle maintenance and wayfinding signage. Mr. Hildebran reported the City has a plan for vehicle maintenance.

Ike Perkins stated to add an Area Plan for the Whitnel and West End areas. Mr. Hildebran and Director Thomas clarified the West End area is already being funded. Todd Perdue stated to add a Master Plan and update the City's Comprehensive Plan since it is around fifteen years old. Mr. Starr pointed out the City may have some legal risk with an older plan. It was noted the City would begin the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan and start prioritizing projects plus keep a maintainable list of ongoing projects.

Ranking Exercise Upon Completion by Council for 2023 Priorities

1. Continue Efforts to Offer Competitive Compensation and Benefits for Employees
2. Develop a new Comprehensive Plan (which will include a focus on neighborhood planning including West End, Whitnel, and other neighborhoods) and Parks & Recreation Master Plan
3. Continue to develop Strategies to Support Affordable, Workforce, and Market-Rate Housing
4. Continue to Fund & Support Water/Sewer Capital Improvements Plan
5. Continue to Support Minimum Housing and Code Enforcement
6. Continue to evaluate organizational staffing needs, and encourage succession planning and professional development. Following a brief discussion, City Council was in consensus with the 2023 Council Priorities list as outlined above and commended City Staff for all of their accomplishments. Councilmember Beal remarked our City works because of how efficient each department operates. It makes everything better and our jobs easier.

Facilitator Starr asked Council if they had any closing comments regarding today's session.

Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas stated Council recognizes all of the City's accomplishments as Staff prioritizes projects and plans well.

Jonathan Beal stated everything is great and to keep employees at the top of the list. He stated to continue planning and look at all of our residents.

David Stevens referred to former Councilmember Lewis Price who said Council does big planning and lets Staff decide how to get it done.

Ike Perkins stated the City should provide citizens with information about how we obtain grant funding which keeps us from raising taxes. He referred to Radford Thomas' comment about using Staff for projects, which makes Council's job easier. He emphasized the City has qualified people who do a great job. Councilmember Stevens agreed with Mr. Perkins comments.

Kent Greer stated City Staff are self-sufficient and they all do a great job.

Todd Perdue stated this was the 20th year he has participated in discussions and remarked Council has benefited from prior Council's visions. He remarked Council sees the bigger picture and has been able to attract industries to Lenoir. He referred to our economy's current inflation and pointed out you can't outpace it.

Mayor Gibbons stated he is the Chair of the NCLM's Risk Management Executive Committee who works with boards across the state. He stated it is a blessing to work with the City for the past 36 years and he is honored and proud to serve. Mayor Gibbons said he is proud of Staff and the City is moving forward with all of the accomplishments that Staff has completed. In addition, he stated The Campus (former LHS) will serve future generations and he is proud to be a part of it.

City Manager Hildebran thanked Mayor Gibbons and Council for their comments and asked Council to let him know if they have any suggestions for any changes.

Facilitator Starr thanked everyone for the good meeting and great partnership between the Western Piedmont Council of Governments and the City of Lenoir. He stated City Council and Staff cooperates really well, which yields results.

Mayor Gibbons thanked Mr. Starr and remarked the City appreciates the WPCOG Staff. City Manager Hildebran thanked City Council and stated we appreciate you.

The next Budget Session will be held at the Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, March 28 at 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, Third Floor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Attachments

State of the City Slide Presentation

Grant Funding/Projects Review



¹¹
Western Piedmont
Council of Governments

Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

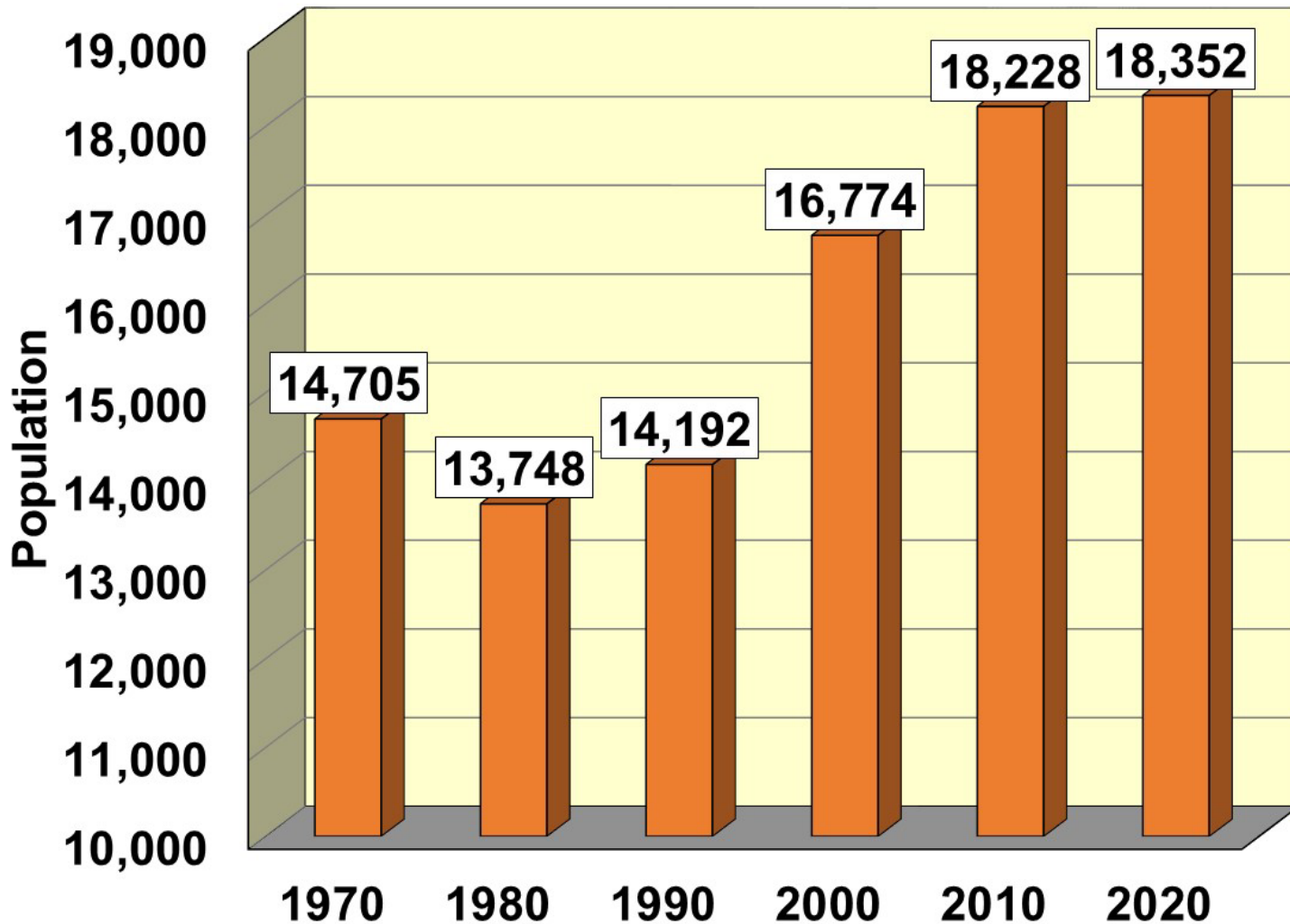
“Lenoir Demographic and Economic Data Profile”

Lenoir City Council Retreat
February 24, 2023

Lenoir Demographic/Economic Data Profile

Population Trends

Lenoir Population, 1970 to 2020



Population Comparisons, 2000-2020

Location	2000 Census	2010 Census	Change 2000-10	% Inc.	2020 Census	Change 2010-20	% Inc.
Lenoir	16,774	18,228	1,454	8.7	18,352	124	0.7
Caldwell County	77,708	83,029	5,321	6.8	80,652	-2,377	-2.9
Hickory MSA	341,851	365,497	23,646	6.5	365,276	-221	-0.1
NC	8,049,313	9,535,483	1,486,170	18.5	10,439,388	903,905	9.5
US	281,421,906	308,745,538	27,323,632	9.7	331,449,281	22,703,743	7.4

Lenoir Population by Race/Ethnic Group, 2010 to 2020

Race/Ethnic Group	2010 Census	% of Pop.	2020 Census	% of Pop.	Change 2010 to 2020	% Change 2010 to 2020
Total Population	18,228	100.0	18,352	100.0	124	0.7%
White	14,282	78.4	13,493	73.5	-789	-5.5%
African American	2,311	12.7	2,141	11.7	-170	-7.4%
American Indian	76	0.4	91	0.5	15	19.7%
Asian American	167	0.9	190	1.0	23	13.8%
Two or More Races	437	2.4	1,289	7.0	852	195.0%
Some Other Race	955	5.2	1,148	6.3	193	20.2%
Hispanic (Any Race)	1,640	9.0	2,058	11.2	418	25.5%
White, (Not Hispanic)	13,776	75.6	13,147	71.6	-629	-4.6%

Lenoir Population by Age Group, 2010 to 2017-2021 ACS

Age Group	2010 Census	2017-2021 ACS Estimate	Change 2010 to 2017-2021	% Change 2010 to 2017-2021
Under 5 Years	1,108	1,240	132	11.9%
5 to 9 Years	1,126	976	-150	-13.3%
10 to 14 Years	1,171	954	-217	-18.5%
15 to 19 Years	1,213	1,319	106	8.7%
20 to 24 Years	949	1,313	363	38.2%
25 to 34 Years	2,042	2,008	-34	-1.7%
35 to 44 Years	2,351	1,780	-571	-24.3%
45 to 54 Years	2,565	2,356	-209	-8.1%
55 to 59 Years	1,184	1,269	85	7.2%
60 to 64 Years	1,145	1,275	130	11.4%
65 to 74 Years	1,652	2,064	412	24.9%
75 to 84 Years	1,180	1,196	16	1.4%
85 Years & Over	541	455	-86	-15.9%
Total	18,228	18,205	-23	-0.1%

Median Age Comparison, 2000-2021

Location	2000	2010	% Change	2021*	% Change
Lenoir	39.0	41.5	6.4	42.6	2.7
Caldwell County	37.5	41.3	10.1	43.8	6.1
Hickory MSA	36.7	40.5	10.4	43.2	6.7
NC	35.3	37.4	5.9	39.4	5.3
US	35.3	37.2	5.4	38.8	4.3

*Lenoir Data is from the 2017-21 American Community Survey.
Source: 2000, 2010 Census and 2021/2017-21 ACS, US Census Bureau.

Caldwell County Population Projections by Age Group, 2022-2042

Age Group	2022 Estimate	2042 Projection	Change 2022-42	% Change 2022-42
Under 5 Years	3,900	4,158	258	6.6%
5 to 9 Years	4,029	4,362	333	8.3%
10 to 14 Years	4,386	4,635	249	5.7%
15 to 19 Years	4,939	4,670	-269	-5.4%
20 to 24 Years	5,375	4,225	-1,150	-21.4%
25 to 34 Years	10,353	8,893	-1,460	-14.1%
35 to 44 Years	8,491	10,737	2,246	26.5%
45 to 54 Years	10,997	10,926	-71	-0.6%
55 to 59 Years	5,927	4,323	-1,604	-27.1%
60 to 64 Years	5,725	4,464	-1,261	-22.0%
65 to 74 Years	9,626	9,728	102	1.1%
75 to 84 Years	5,473	7,343	1,870	34.2%
85 Years and Over	1,754	2,795	1,041	59.4%
Total	80,975	81,259	284	0.4%

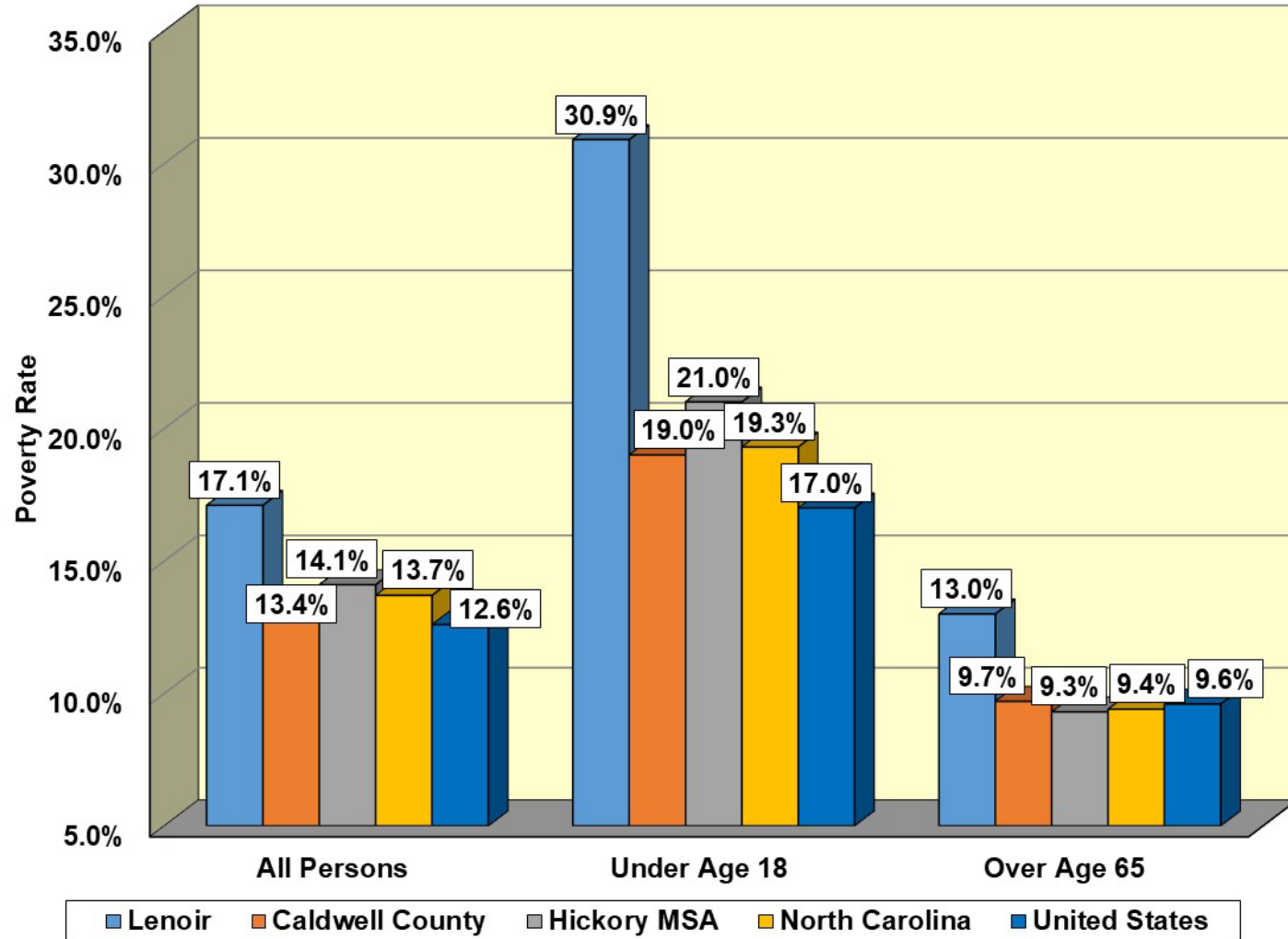
Lenoir Demographic/Economic Profile

Household Income and Poverty Levels

Lenoir Income Statistics, 2017-2021 ACS

Households	2017-2021 ACS	% of Households
Total Households	7,397	100.0
Households Earning Less than \$25,000	2,178	29.4
Households Earning between \$25,000 and \$50,000	2,168	29.3
Households Earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000	1,913	25.9
Households Earning more than \$100,000	1,138	15.4
Median Household Income	\$42,411	

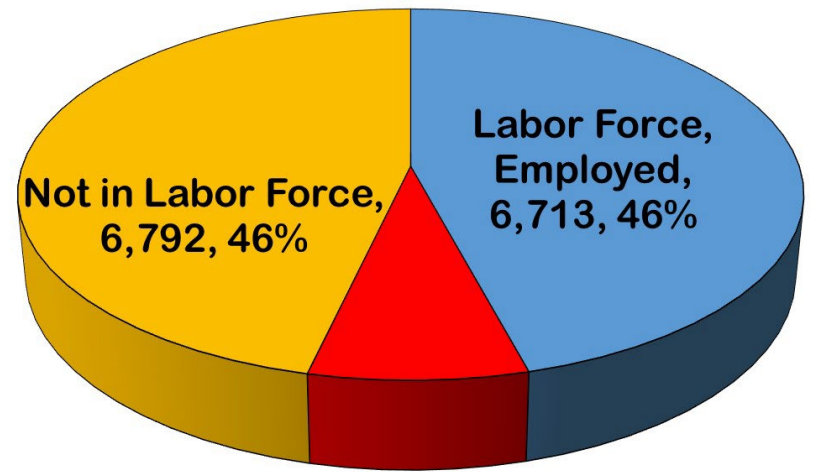
Poverty Rate Comparisons, 2017-2021 ACS



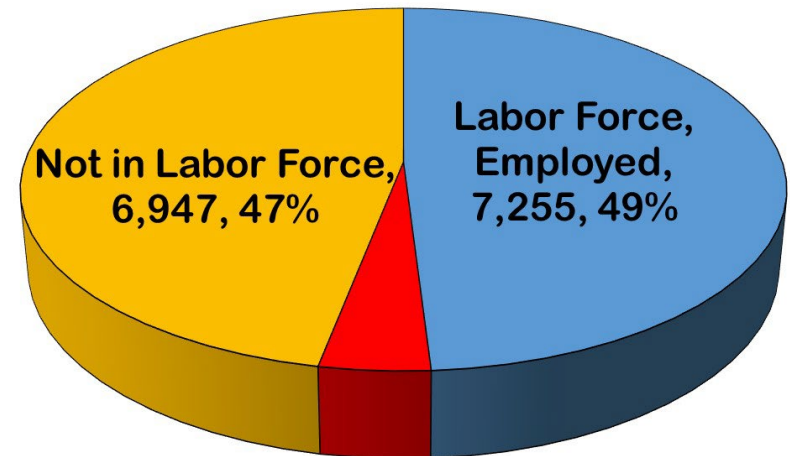
Lenoir Demographic/Economic Profile

Lenoir and Caldwell County Employment
and Wages

Lenoir Employment Status for Population Age 16 and Over, 2007-2011 and 2017-2021 ACS



Labor Force,
Unemployed,
1,144, 8% **2007-
2011 ACS**

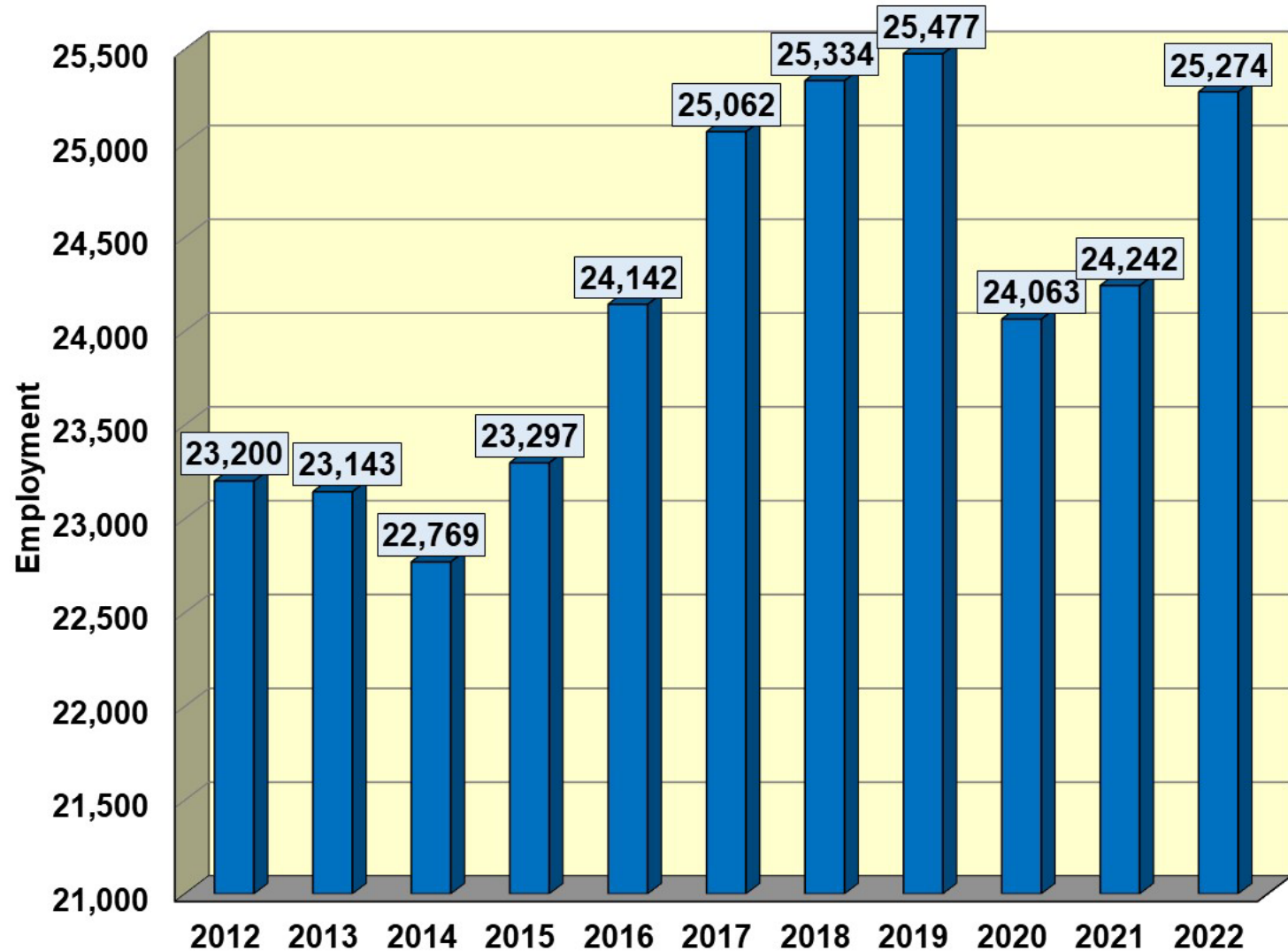


Labor Force,
Unemployed,
601, 4% **2017-
2021 ACS**

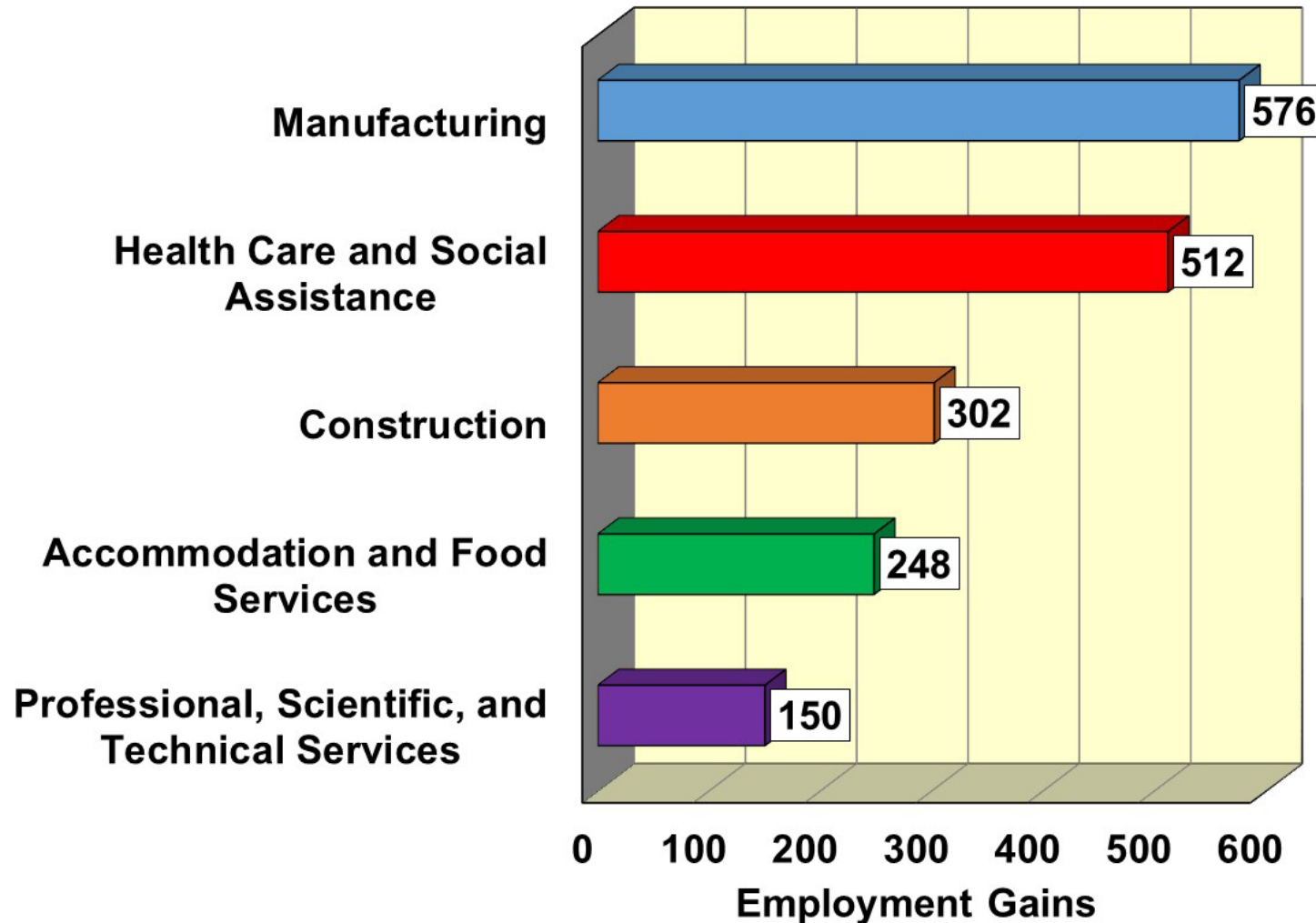
Lenoir Employment by Industry, 2017-2021 ACS

Industry	2017-2021 ACS	% of Employed Population
Employed Population	7,255	100.0
Agriculture	11	0.2
Construction	422	5.8
Manufacturing	1,408	19.4
Wholesale Trade	563	7.8
Retail Trade	805	11.1
Transportation/Warehousing/Utilities	350	4.8
Information	212	2.9
Finance/Insurance/ Real Estate	358	4.9
Professional Services	253	3.5
Education and Health Care	1,646	22.7
Arts/ Entertainment/Recreation	569	7.8
Other Services	533	7.3
Public Administration	125	1.7

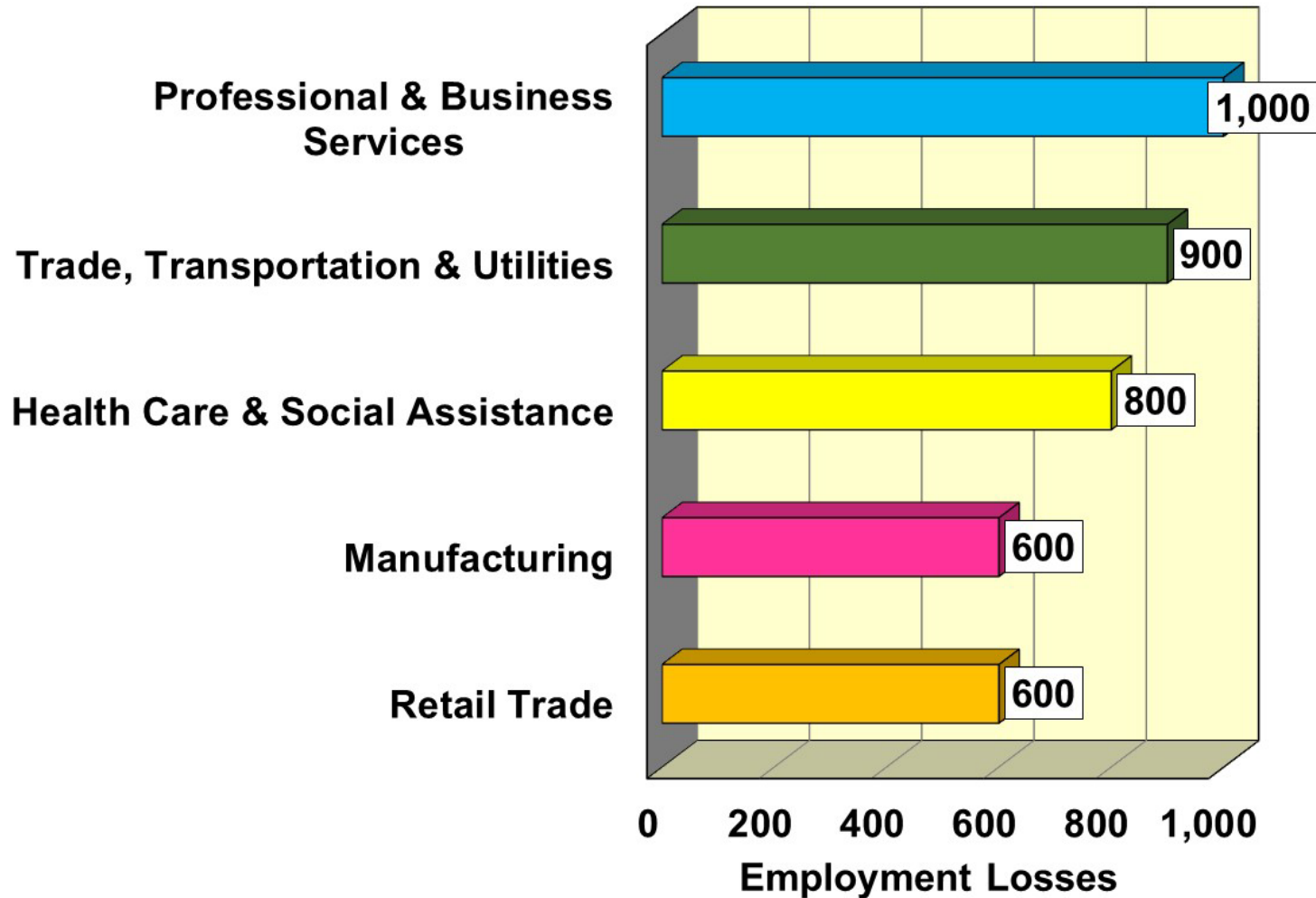
Caldwell County Employment, 2nd Qtr. 2012-2022



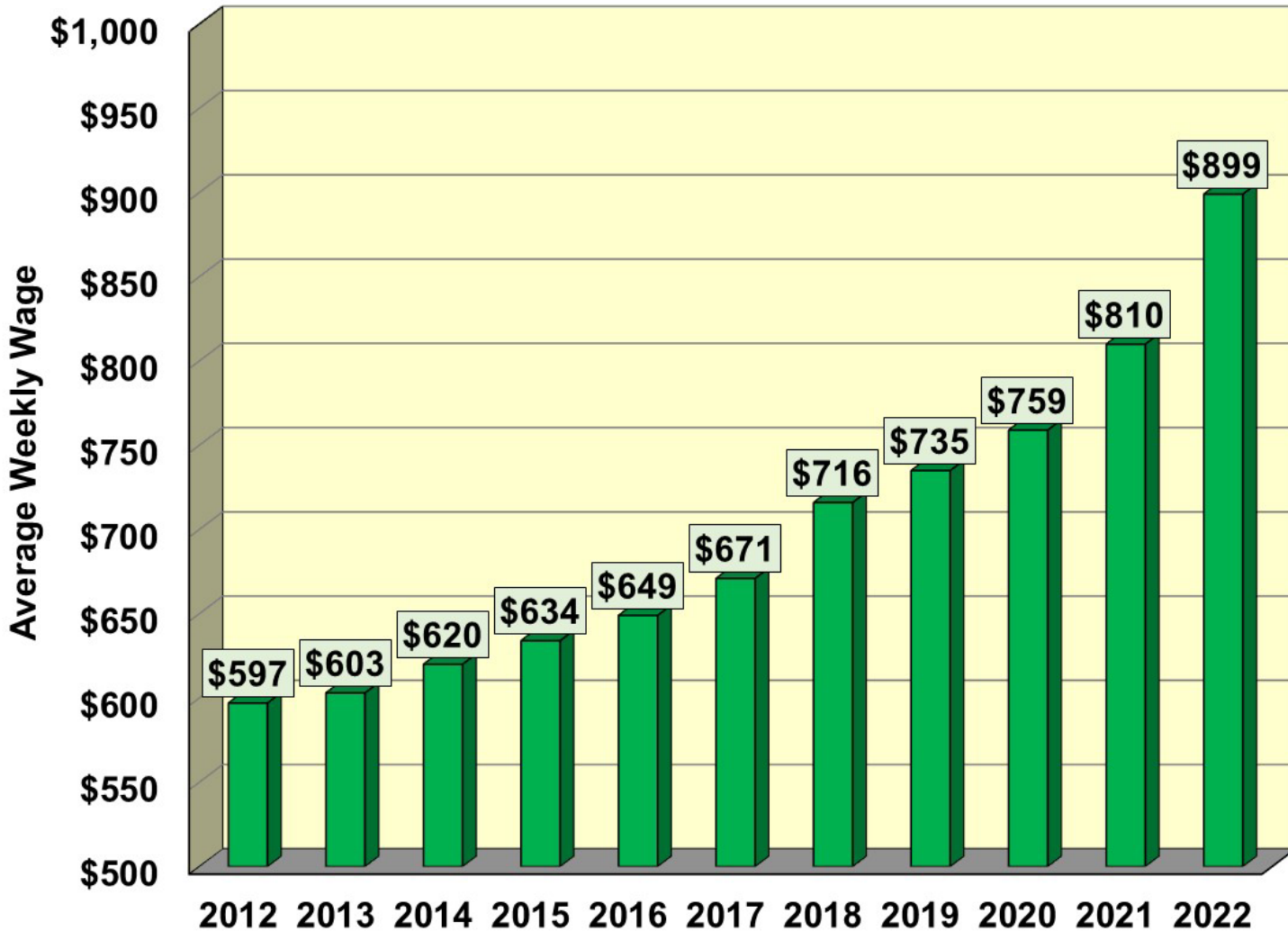
Caldwell County Employment Gains by Sector, 2nd Quarter 2012-2022



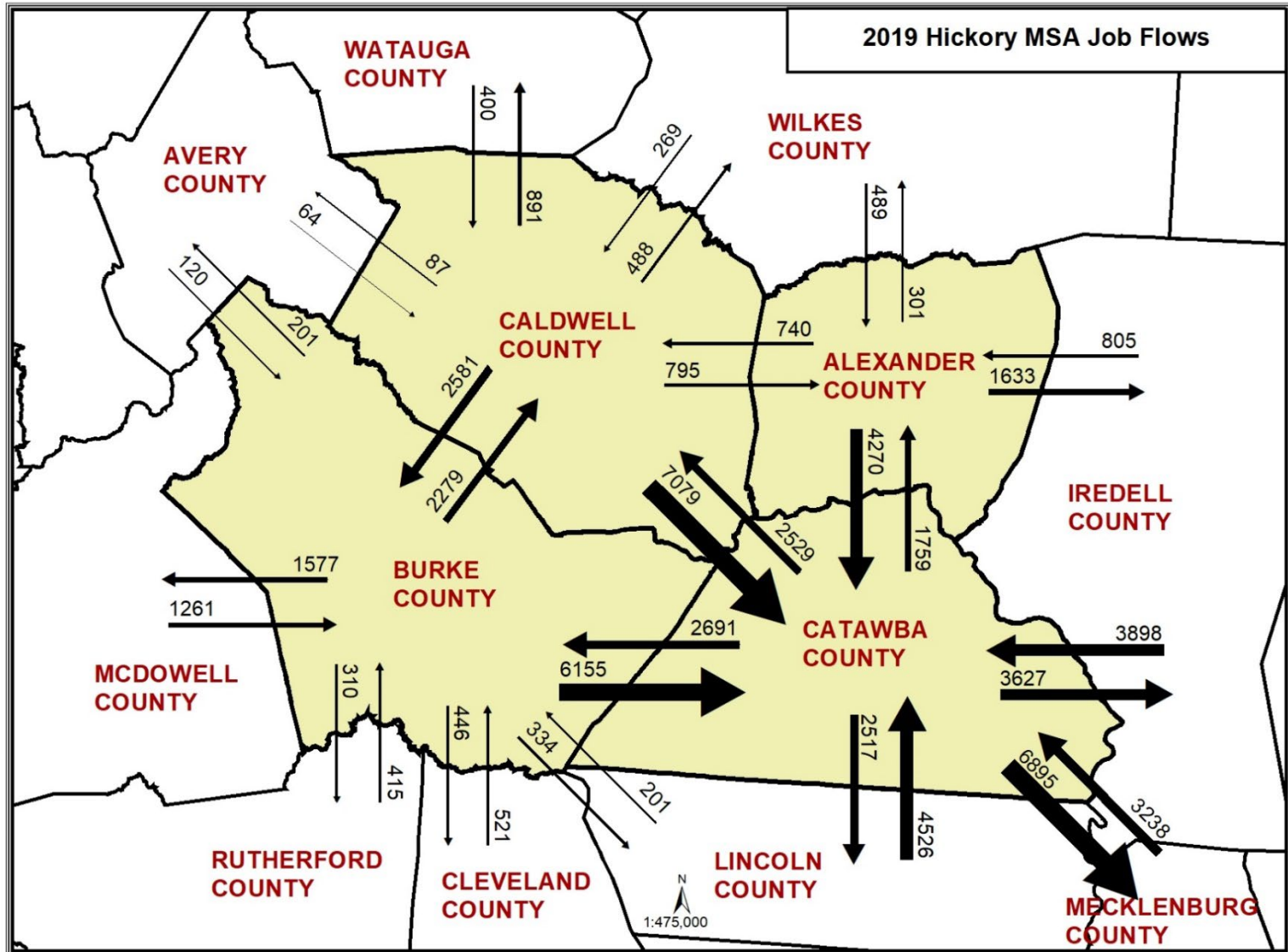
Hickory MSA Employment Gains December 2021-2022



Caldwell County Average Weekly Wage, 2nd Quarter 2012-2022



Hickory MSA Commuting Patterns



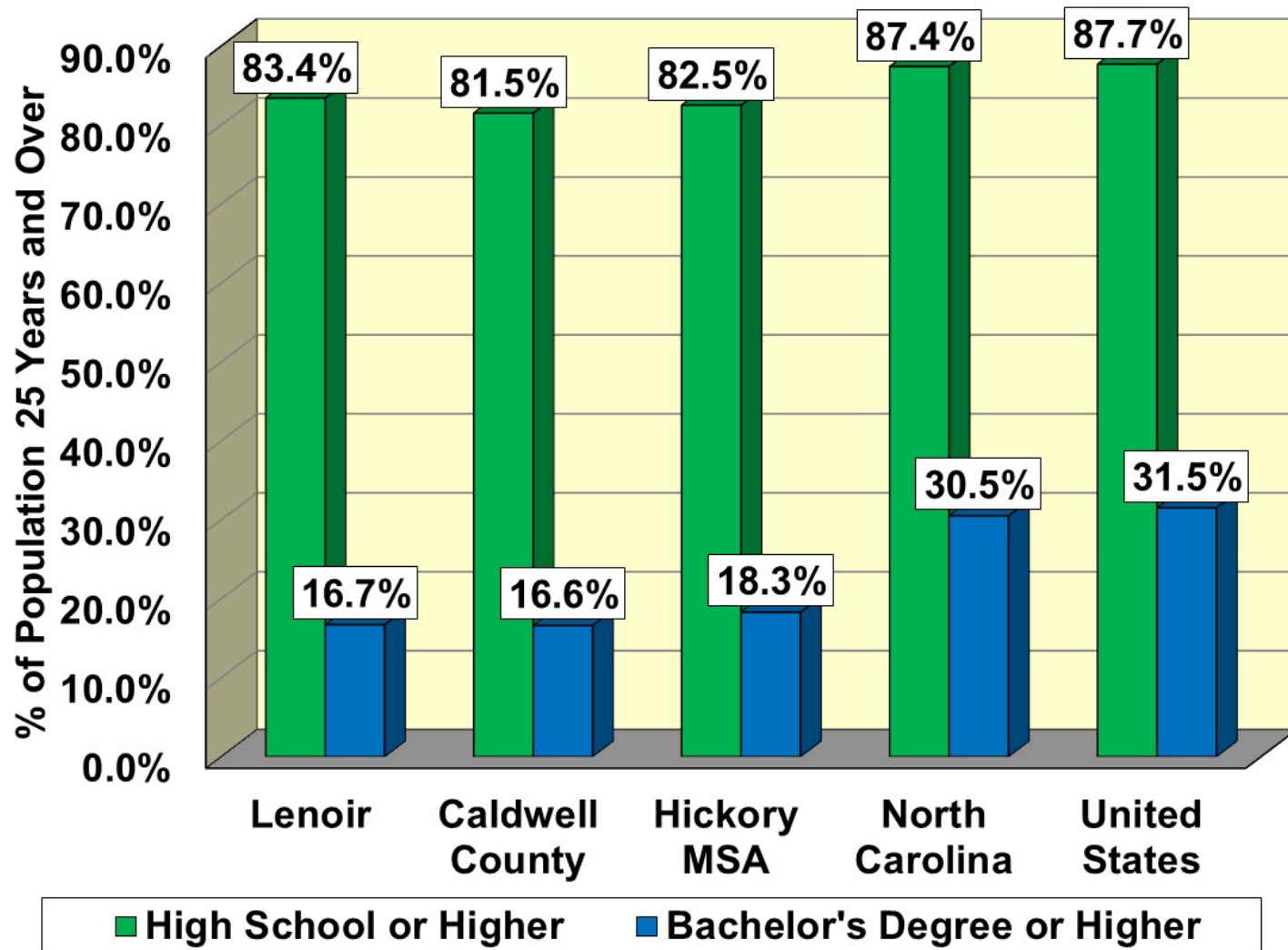
Hickory MSA Unemployed Persons and Number of Job Openings by County, September 2022

County	Number of Unemployed (Not Seasonally Adjusted)	Number of Job Openings	Number of Unemployed Persons per Job Opening
Alexander	497	583	0.85
Burke	1,244	2,717	0.46
Caldwell	1,149	1,619	0.71
Catawba	2,442	7,670	0.32
MSA Total	5,332	12,589	0.42

Lenoir Demographic/Economic Profile

Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment for Population Age 25 and Over, 2017-2021 ACS



NC MSA Educational Attainment Comparison, 2021

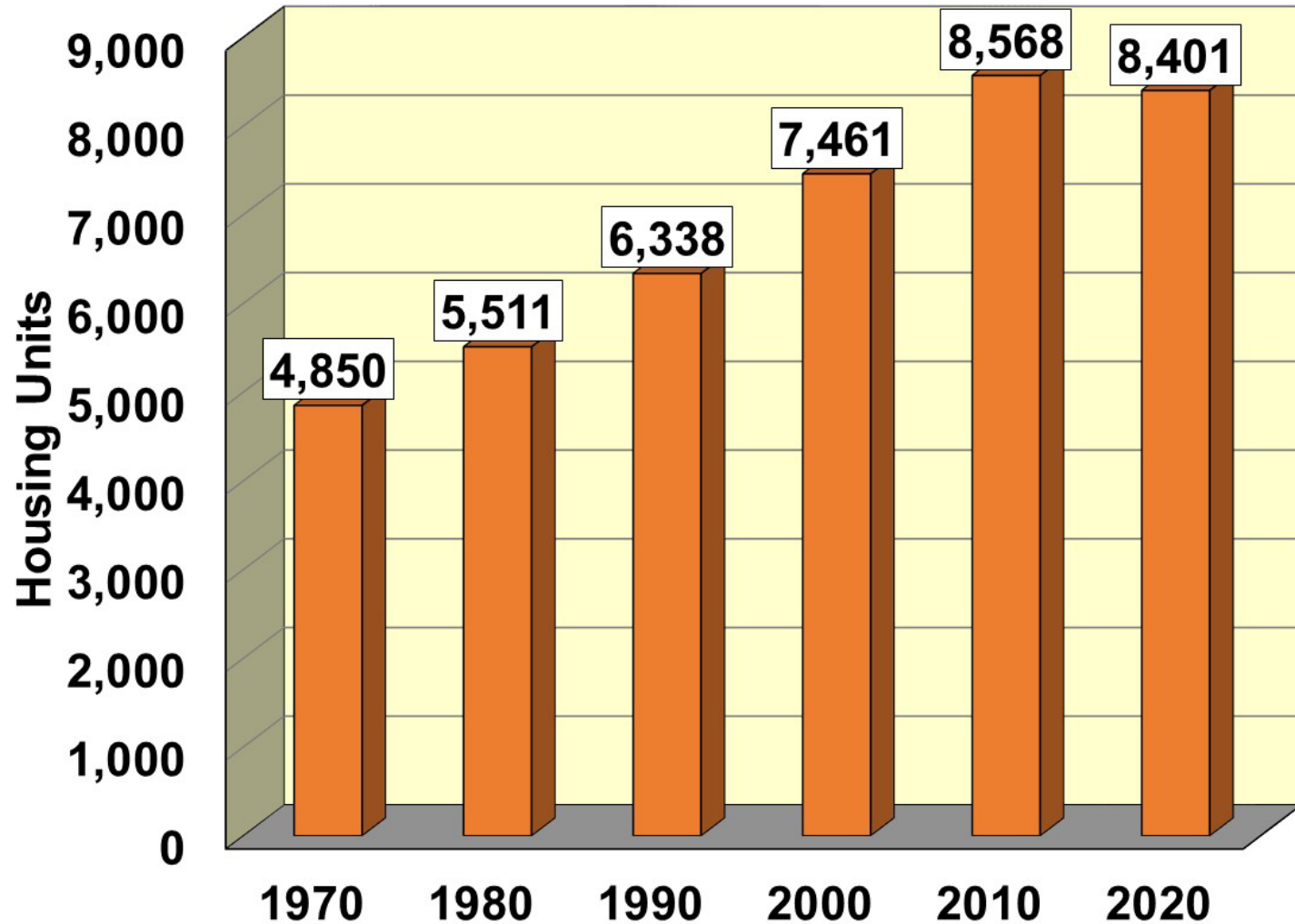
MSA	% High School Degree or Higher	Ranking (1=Highest %)	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Ranking (1=Highest %)
Asheville	92.0	3	40.5	3
Burlington	88.0	12	28.9	9
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia	90.3	9	39.3	5
Durham-Chapel Hill	91.0	7	50.8	1
Fayetteville	91.9	4	26.6	11
Goldsboro	84.8	14	20.3	15
Greensboro-High Point	89.0	11	31.5	7
Greenville	91.4	5 (Tie)	33.6	6
Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton	84.6	15	21.5	13
Jacksonville	90.7	8	23.8	12
New Bern	91.4	5 (Tie)	27.7	10
Raleigh	92.7	2	50.7	2
Rocky Mount	87.9	13	21.2	14
Wilmington	92.8	1	39.7	4
Winston-Salem	89.3	10	30.1	8

Source: 2021 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau.

Lenoir Demographic/Economic Profile

Housing Trends

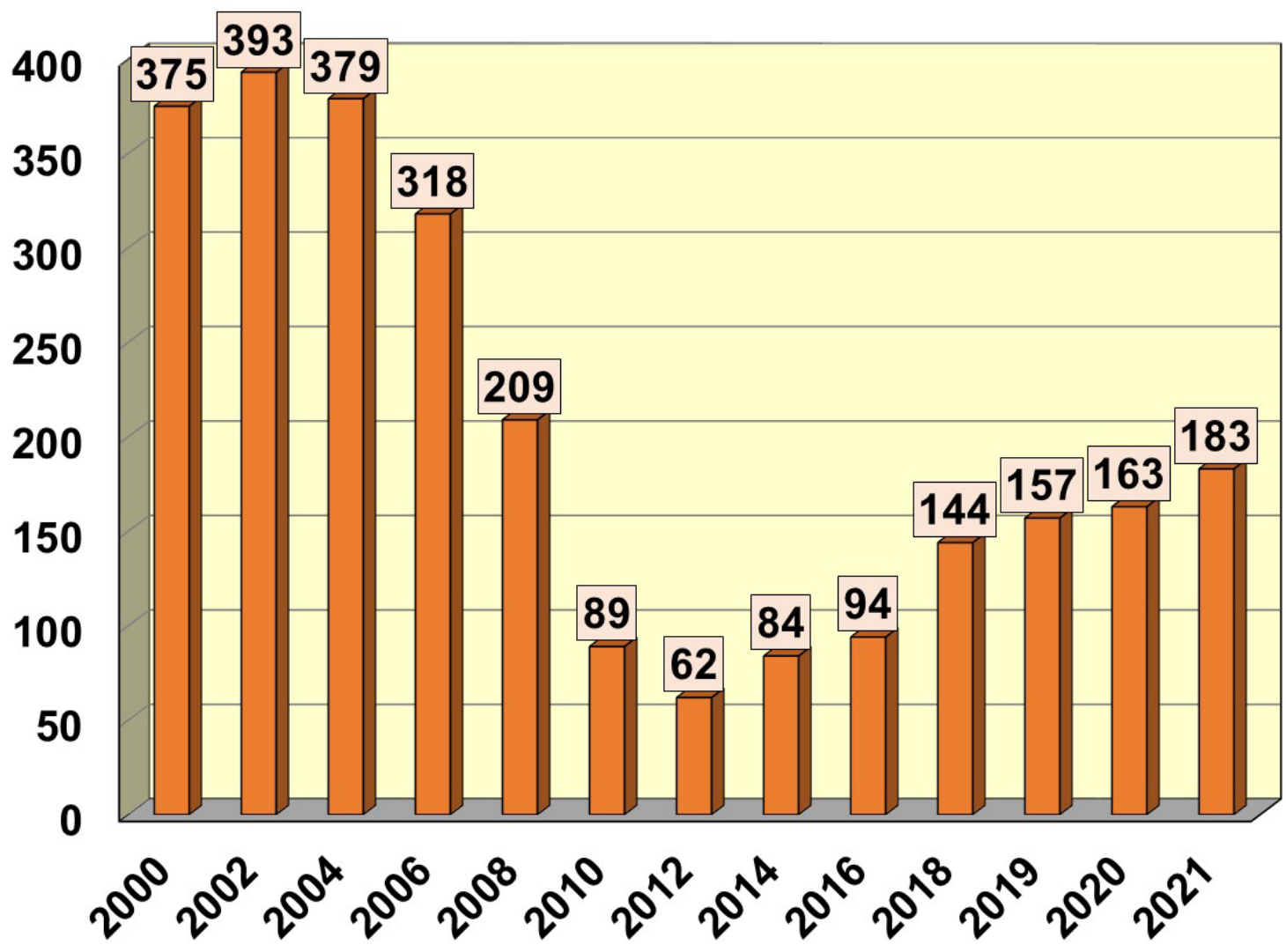
Lenoir Housing Units, 1970-2020



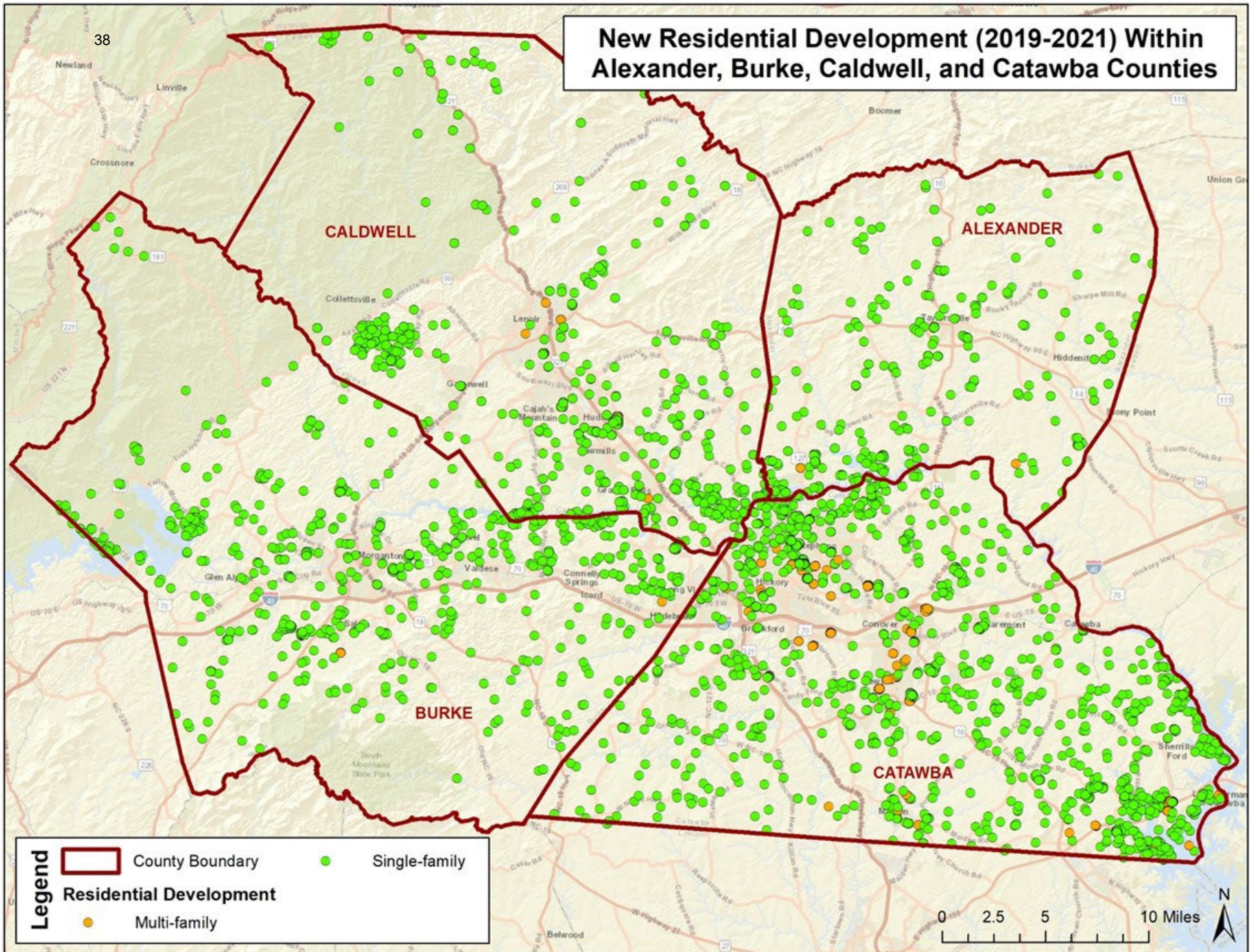
Housing Unit Comparisons, 2000-2020

Location	2000	2010	Change 2000-2010	% Inc.	2020	Change 2010-2020	% Inc.
Lenoir	7,461	8,568	1,107	14.8	8,401	-167	-1.9
Caldwell County	33,430	37,659	4,229	12.7	36,931	-728	-1.9
Hickory MSA	144,874	162,613	17,739	12.2	163,160	547	0.3
NC	3,523,944	4,327,528	803,584	22.8	4,708,710	381,182	8.8
US	115,904,641	131,704,730	15,800,089	13.6	140,489,736	8,785,006	6.7

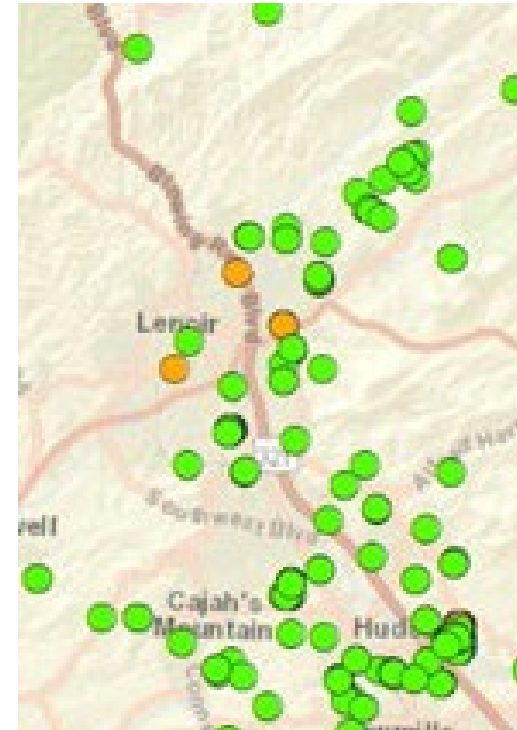
Caldwell Co. Single-Family (Site-Built) Permits, 2000-2021



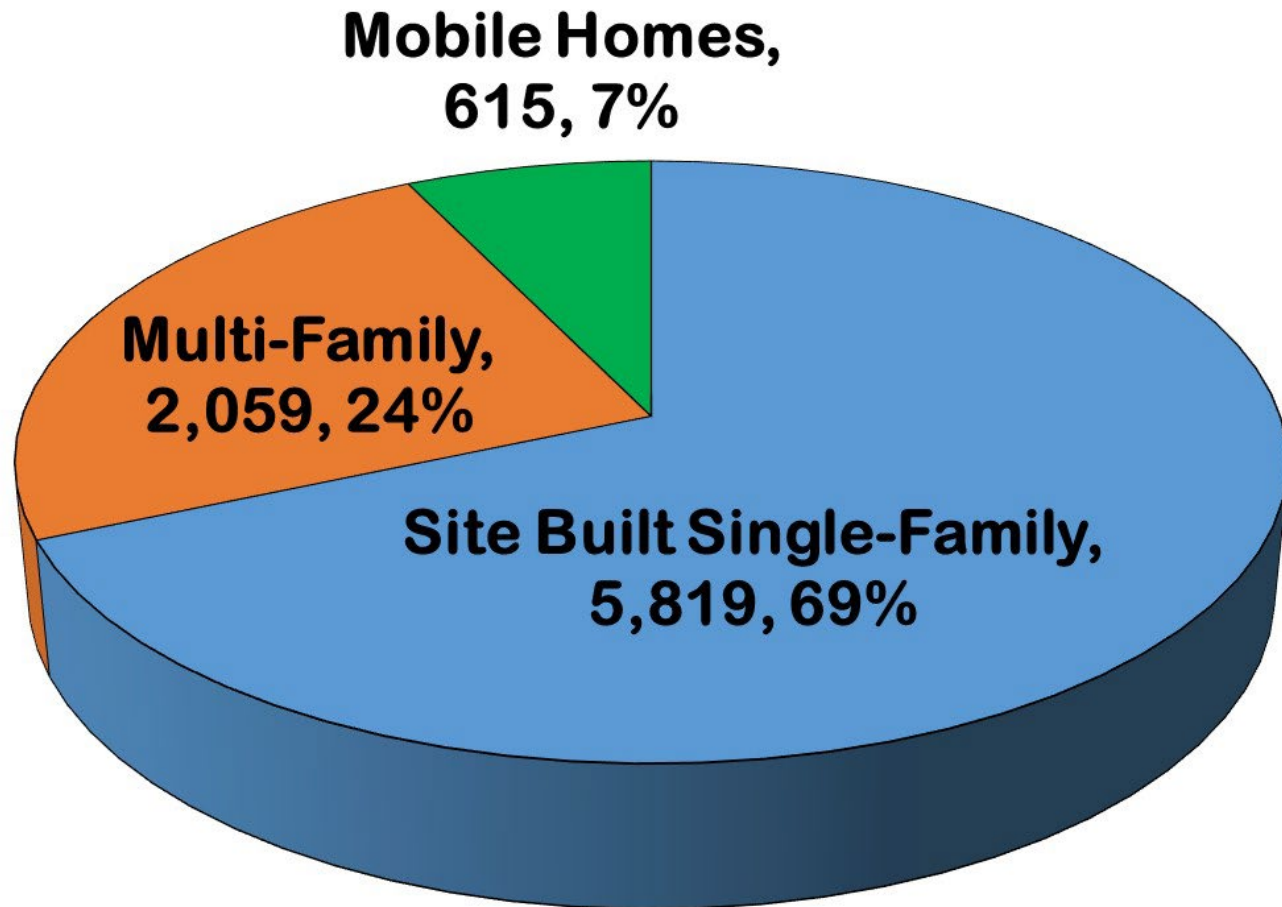
New Residential Development (2019-2021) Within Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba Counties



Lenoir New Residential Development, 2019-2021



Lenoir Housing Distribution, 2017-2021 ACS



Percent Renter Occupied Units, 1990 to 2017-21 ACS

Location	1990	2000	2010	2017-2021 ACS
Lenoir	36.9	36.9	40.7	38.1
Caldwell County	25.2	25.1	26.1	25.8
Hickory MSA	25.3	25.7	26.6	26.5
NC	28.6	27.2	33.3	34.1
US	35.8	33.8	34.9	35.4

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Units, 2000 to 2017-2021 ACS

Location	2000	2007-2011 ACS	% Change	2017-2021 ACS	% Change
Lenoir	\$79,800	\$99,400	28.5	\$119,700	20.4
Caldwell County	\$86,700	\$106,800	23.2	\$136,100	27.4
Hickory MSA	\$93,500	\$118,700	27.0	\$147,800	24.5
NC	\$108,300	\$152,700	41.0	\$197,500	29.3
US	\$119,600	\$186,200	55.7	\$244,900	31.5

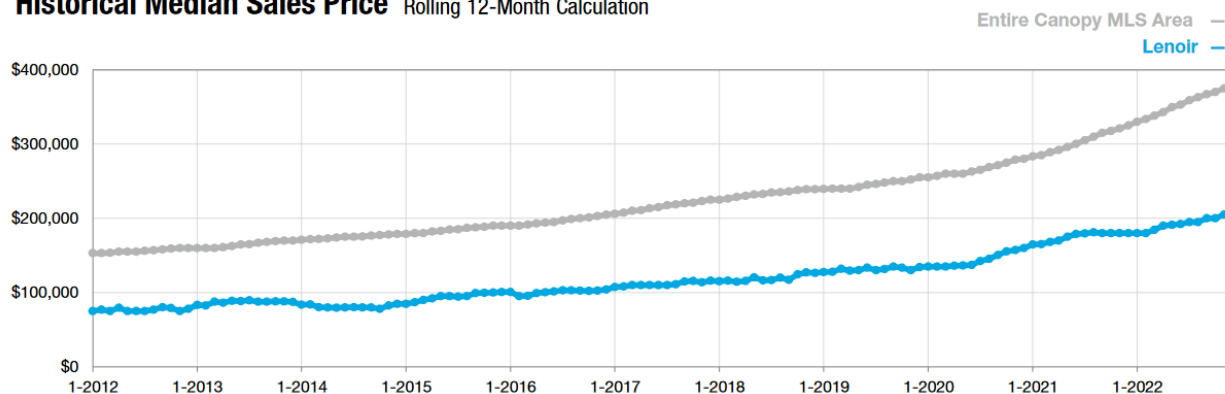
Lenoir

North Carolina

Key Metrics	December			Year to Date		
	2021	2022	Percent Change	Thru 12-2021	Thru 12-2022	Percent Change
New Listings	33	24	- 27.3%	534	521	- 2.4%
Pending Sales	31	28	- 9.7%	494	443	- 10.3%
Closed Sales	34	29	- 14.7%	486	450	- 7.4%
Median Sales Price*	\$179,900	\$192,500	+ 7.0%	\$179,900	\$205,000	+ 14.0%
Average Sales Price*	\$215,191	\$227,240	+ 5.6%	\$216,404	\$244,003	+ 12.8%
Percent of Original List Price Received*	98.7%	97.0%	- 1.7%	98.0%	97.6%	- 0.4%
List to Close	61	58	- 4.9%	73	62	- 15.1%
Days on Market Until Sale	14	22	+ 57.1%	25	22	- 12.0%
Cumulative Days on Market Until Sale	14	21	+ 50.0%	26	23	- 11.5%
Average List Price	\$277,424	\$258,017	- 7.0%	\$234,935	\$261,166	+ 11.2%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	42	42	0.0%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	1.0	1.1	+ 10.0%	--	--	--

* Does not account for sale concessions and/or downpayment assistance. | Percent changes are calculated using rounded figures and can sometimes look extreme due to small sample size.

Historical Median Sales Price Rolling 12-Month Calculation



Lenoir Residential Real Estate Sales December 2021-22

Questions?



HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Introduction:

- ▶ As a part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), allocated \$4.925 billion in supplemental ARP funds through the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) to support communities throughout the country to address homelessness. This newly created funding source is called the HOME-ARP program. Eligible recipients included the 651 states and local participating jurisdictions (PJ's) that qualified for an annual HOME Program Allocation in FY 2021.



The City of Lenoir serves as the Lead Entity for a HOME Consortium of local governments that includes twenty-eight (28) local governments covering four counties. These twenty-eight local governments are:

Alexander County
Burke County
Caldwell County
Catawba County
City of Lenoir
City of Hickory
City of Morganton
City of Claremont
City of Conover
City of Newton

Town of Taylorsville
Town of Connelly
Springs
Town of Drexel
Town of Glen Alpine
Town of Hildebran
Town of Rutherford
College
Town of Rhodhiss
Town of Valdese
Town of Gamewell

Town of Cajah's
Mountain
Town of Granite Falls
Town of Hudson
Town of Sawmills
Town of Brookford
Town of Catawba
Town of Longview
Town of Maiden
The Village of Cedar
Rock



- ▶ The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the City of Lenoir \$4,182,733 through the HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP).

- ▶ This funding is awarded for the purpose of addressing issues surrounding homelessness in the Consortium's jurisdiction and must be used to serve individuals that meet one of the following definitions, defined as "Qualified Populations":
 - *Homeless
 - *At-risk of homelessness
 - *Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking
 - *Other populations where providing supportive services or assistance would prevent the family's homelessness or would serve those at greater risk of homelessness
 - *Veterans and families that include a veteran that meets one of the preceding criteria

HOME-ARP Plan

- ▶ To receive funding, the City of Lenoir must develop and submit to HUD a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, which describes the distribution of HOME-ARP funds and identifies any preferences for eligible activities. The development of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan must also be informed through stakeholder consultation and community engagement





Eligible Activities

- ▶ HOME-ARP funds may be used towards funding the following eligible activities to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability across the country:
- ▶
 - Production or Preservation of Affordable Housing
- ▶
 - **Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA):** Assists a household with payments to cover the entire or insufficient amounts that the qualifying household cannot pay for housing and housing-related costs, such as rental assistance, security deposits, and utility deposits
- ▶
 - **Supportive Services**, including services defined at homeless prevention services, and housing counseling services.
- ▶
 - **Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter:** A non-congregate shelter is one or more buildings that provide private units or rooms as temporary shelter to individuals and families and does not require occupants to sign a lease or occupancy agreement. Includes acquisition and renovation or construction of units. HOME-ARP funds may not be used to pay the operating costs of the non-congregate shelter.



Consultations

Before developing its plan, a Participating Jurisdiction (The City of Lenoir) has consulted with the following:

- *All City, Town and County Managers
- *Police
- *Code Enforcement
- *Non-Profit Organizations
- *Public Housing Agencies
- *Mental Health
- *Veteran's Groups
- *Homeless Shelters
- *Housing Providers
- *Support Groups
- *Employment Services
- *Continuum of Care

Homeless Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis Table

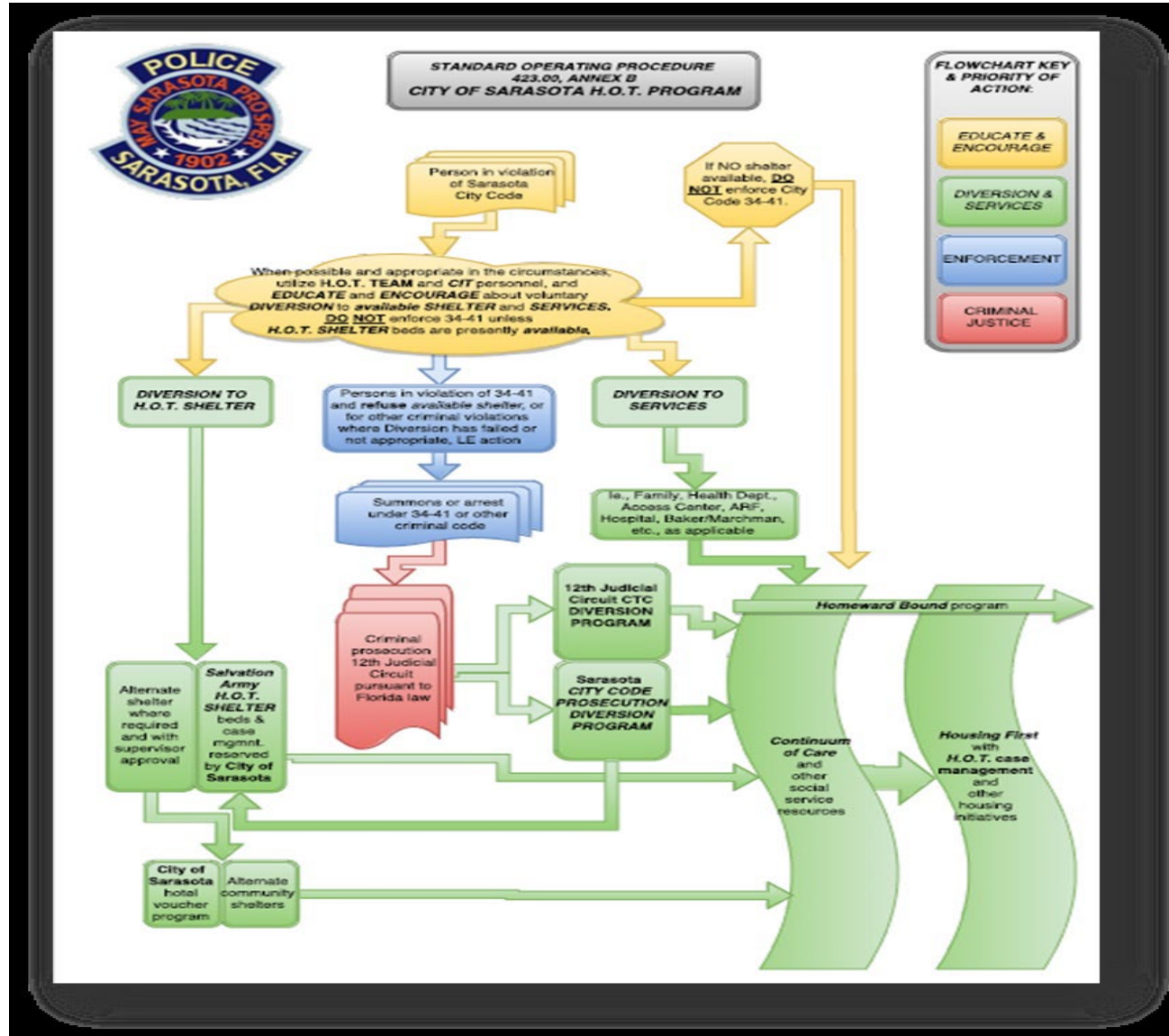
	Homeless								
	Current Inventory					Homeless Population			
	Family		Adults Only		Vets	Family HH (at least 1 child)	Adult HH (w/o child)	Vets	Victims of DV
	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds				
Emergency Shelter	130	34	100	#	0				
Transitional Housing	59	16	#	#	0				
Permanent Supportive Housing	16	5	48	#	22				
Other Permanent Housing	68	16	14	#	20				
Sheltered Homeless						35	149	11	28
Unsheltered Homeless						16	65	6	12
Current Gap									
	273	71	212						

Sheltered = 255
 Unsheltered = 112
 Total = 367

Family HH = 51
 Adults Only = 214
 Vets = 17
 Domestic Violence = 40



Sarasota's Operating Procedure



EFFECTIVE Homelessness Response Systems



Western Piedmont
Council of Governments

Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

#3 Use data, analysis, and research to complement experience and professional judgment, in order to provide the best possible police service to the public



#1 Require reframing how we think about public safety outcomes and the process of crafting and evaluating strategies intended to make our communities safer.

#2 Require a comprehensive understanding of the system under analysis. To achieve this, it is vital that key stakeholders are involved from the outset who will be involved in the changes to the system.



Proposed Use of HOME-ARP Funding

	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ 2,927,953.10	70%	
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters			
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ 627,409.95	15%	
Development of Affordable Rental Housing			
Non-Profit Operating			5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building			5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 627,409.95	15 %	15%
Total HOME ARP Allocation	\$ 4,182,773.00		



Public Participation

- ▶ The City of Lenoir must provide for and encourage citizen participation in the development of the HOME-ARP allocation plan. Before submission of the plan, the City must provide residents with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed HOME-ARP allocation plan of no less than 15 calendar days. The City must follow its adopted requirements for “reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment: for 6 plan amendments in its current citizen participation plan. In addition, the City must hold at least one public hearing during the development of the HOME-ARP allocation plan and prior to submission.
- ▶ For the purposes of HOME-ARP, the City is required to make the following information available to the public:
 - ▶ • The amount of HOME-ARP the City will receive,
 - ▶ • The range of activities the City may undertake



Questions and Comments

The Campus

1. Auditorium
 2. Gymnasium
 3. Band Building
 4. Trades/Masonry Building
 5. Mack Cook Stadium
 6. Farmers Market
 7. City Building
- Private Property



PARKING LEGEND

-  EXISTING LHS PARKING
-  EXISTING PUBLIC PARKING LOTS
-  PROPOSED PARKING
-  ON-STREET PARKING
-  WALKABLE RANGE FOR PARKING



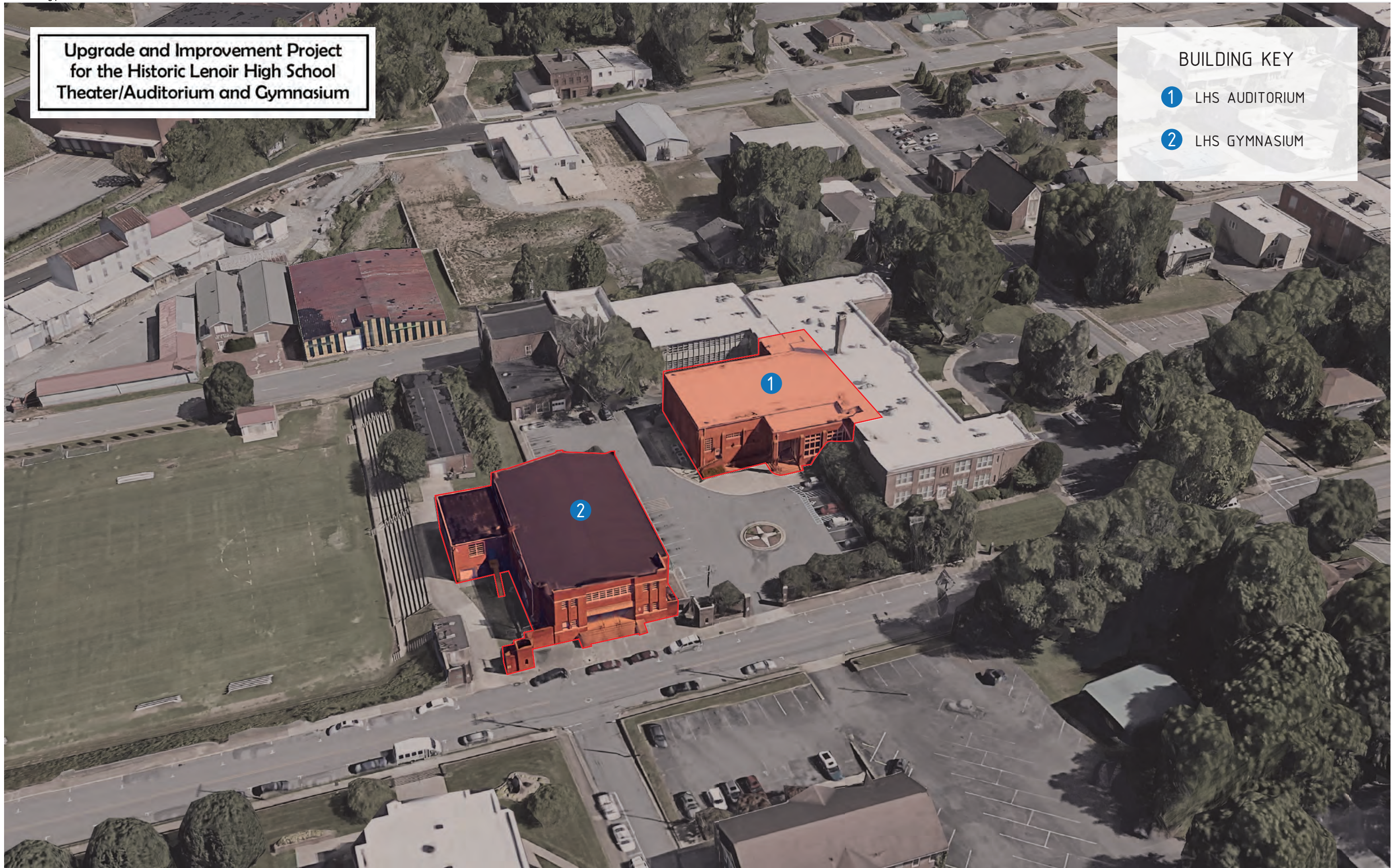
Upgrade and Improvement Project
for the Historic Lenoir High School
Theater/Auditorium and Gymnasium



**Upgrade and Improvement Project
for the Historic Lenoir High School
Theater/Auditorium and Gymnasium**

BUILDING KEY

- 1** LHS AUDITORIUM
- 2** LHS GYMNASIUM



Upgrade and Improvement Project for the Historic Lenoir High School Theater/Auditorium and Gymnasium

FURNITURE, FIXTURES, & EQUIPMENT ITEMS

- NEW LIGHTING - SEE SEPARATE BREAKDOWN
- INFRASTRUCTURE FOR NEW LIGHTING - WENCH SYSTEM/NETWORK OF CABLING
- NEW SOUND EQUIPMENT - SEE SEPARATE BREAKDOWN
- WINDOW TREATMENT-BLACKOUT CURTAINS
- PROVIDE ACOUSTIC PANELS
- REPLACE SEATS



EXISTING LOWER LEVEL
RESTROOMS TO REMAIN

NEW ADA COMPLIANT
BATHROOM AND
DRESSING ROOM

WIDEN EXISTING
OPENINGS

TO PROVIDE CURTAINS
TO REDUCE SIZE OF
PROSCENIUM

NEW ADA COMPLIANT
RAMP ENCLOSURE
WITH ROLLING DOOR

(2) EXISTING SINGLE
OCCUPANT RESTROOMS
TO REMAIN

1/8" = 1'-0"

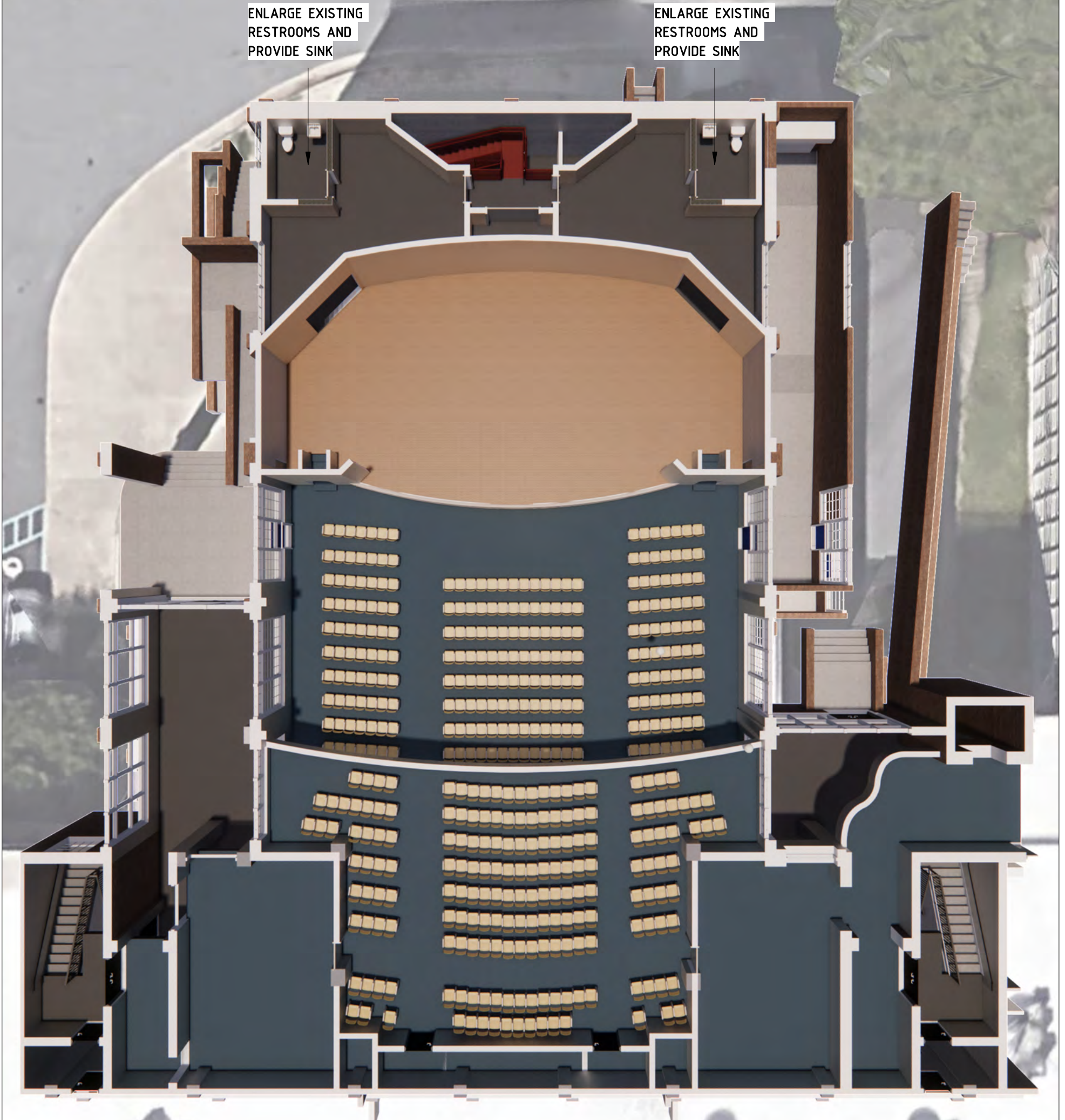
LENOIR HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM FIRST FLOOR PROPOSED PLAN

OP-1

Upgrade and Improvement Project
for the Historic Lenoir High School
Theater/Auditorium and Gymnasium

ENLARGE EXISTING
RESTROOMS AND
PROVIDE SINK

ENLARGE EXISTING
RESTROOMS AND
PROVIDE SINK



LENOIR HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

OP-2

BALCONY/SECOND FLOOR GREEN ROOM PROPOSED PLAN

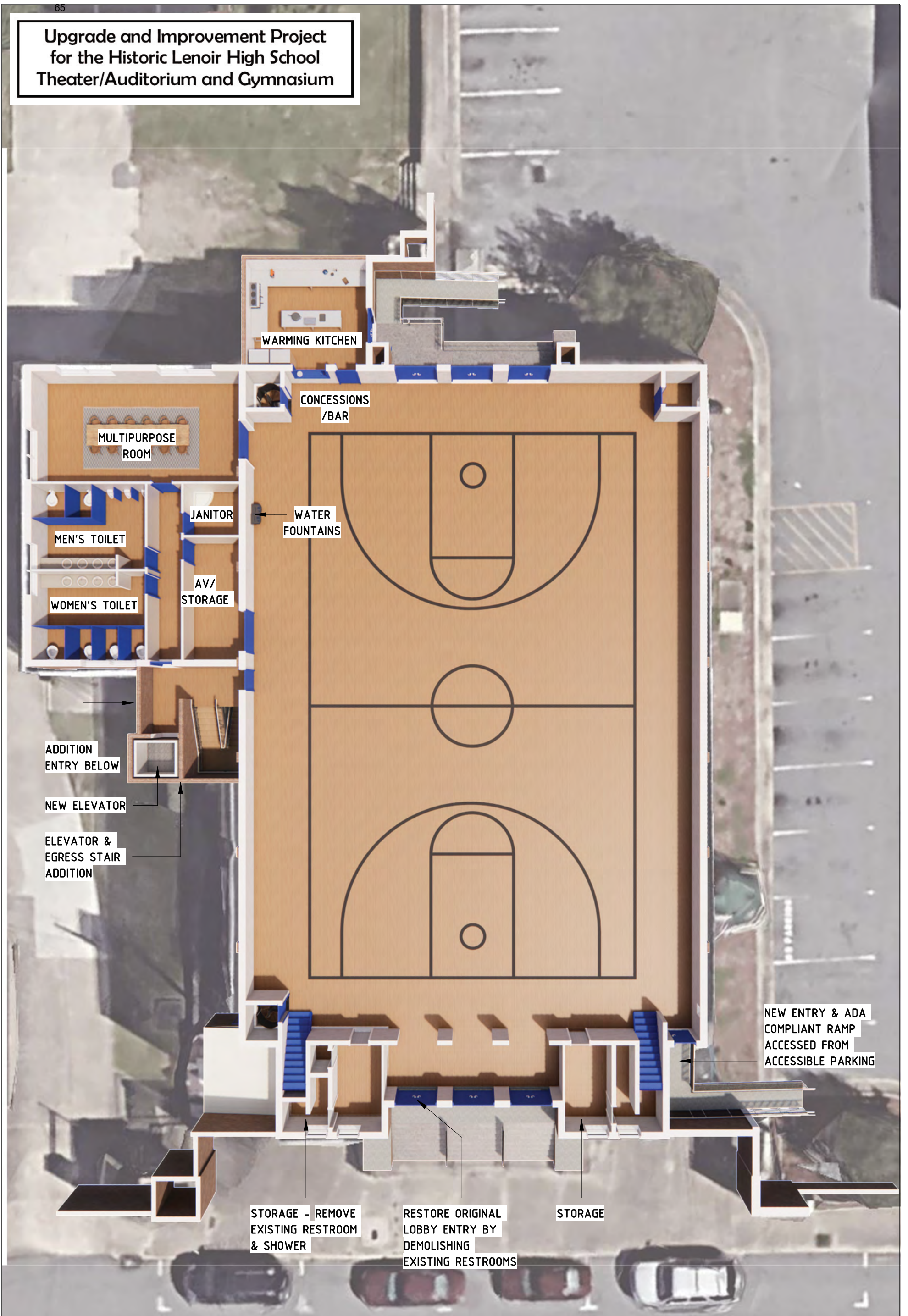


1922

LHS

1977

Upgrade and Improvement Project
for the Historic Lenoir High School
Theater/Auditorium and Gymnasium

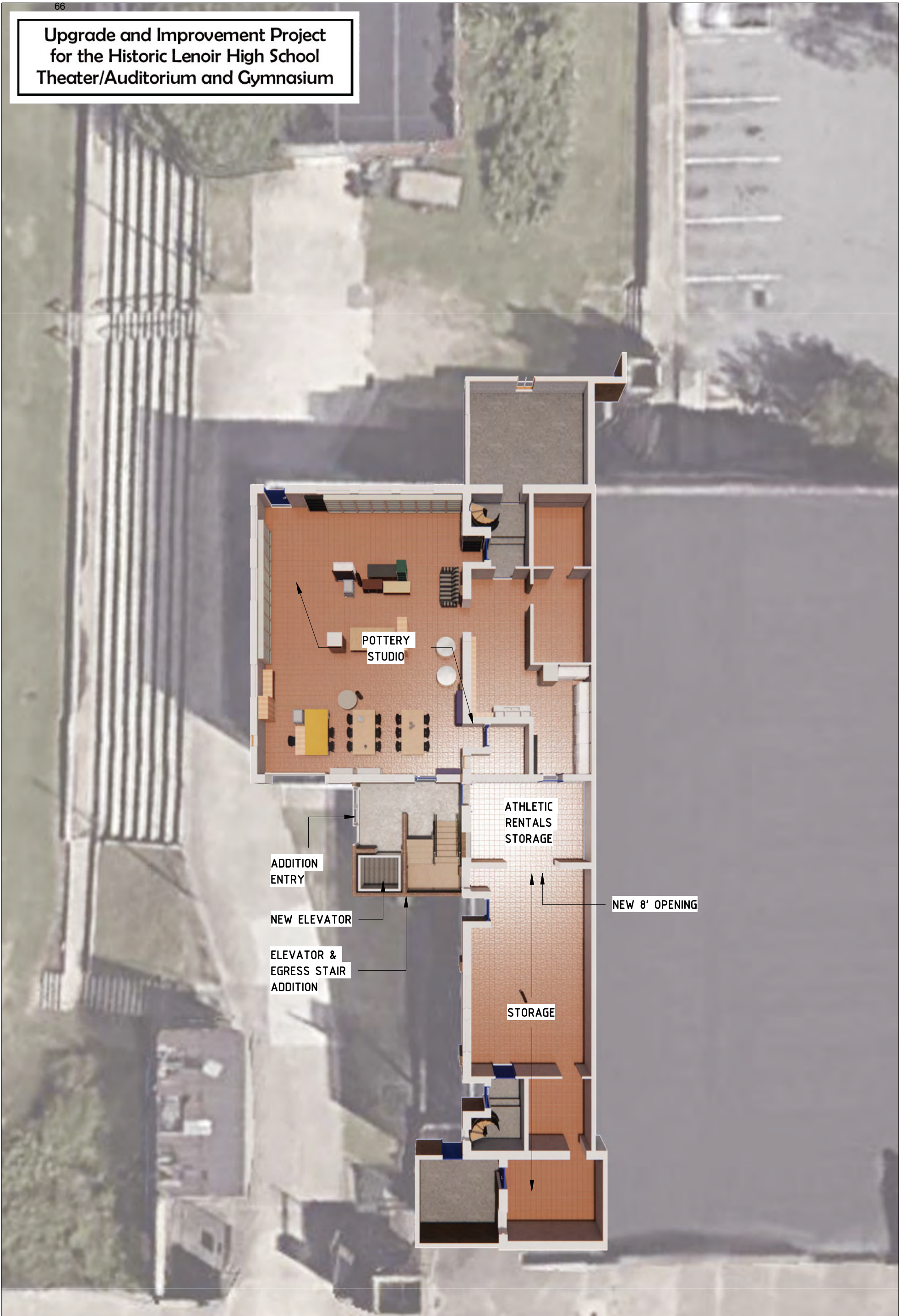


LENOIR HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

OPTION 4 - MAIN FLOOR

OP-4

Upgrade and Improvement Project
for the Historic Lenoir High School
Theater/Auditorium and Gymnasium



OP 4-A

LENOIR HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
OPTION 4-A - LOWER LEVEL



2022 In Review

February 2023



Private Investment

Housing, retail, commercial

2/23/2023

Jersey Mike's



- ▶ January 2022 - Jersey Mike's opens in the newly renovated Lenoir Crossing shopping center at Smith Crossroads.

Kids World



2/23/2023

Aary's Ice Cream



- ▶ March 2022 - Aary's Ice Cream opened at 108 Main St NW in Downtown Lenoir.
- ▶ They serve ice cream, nachos, street corn, and more!

Love the Spring Festival

- ▶ March 2022 - Moonjoy Meadery hosted the first annual Love the Spring Festival in Downtown.
- ▶ The free event brought in 64 total vendors including local breweries, wineries, businesses and 45+ local artists and crafters to celebrate the beginning of Spring.
- ▶ It was sponsored several downtown businesses.



2/23/2023

Dodge City Steakhouse



- ▶ March 2022 - Dodge City Steakhouse opened at 954 Blowing Rock Blvd.
- ▶ The owners renovated the old Sagebrush building and opened the new restaurant.

El Tacorriendo #2

- ▶ March 2022 - The owners of the El Tacorriendo Food Truck opened a dine-in location, El Tacorriendo #2, at 1115 North Main St.
- ▶ The owners still operate the El Tacorriendo Food Truck at 502 Mulberry Street on Wednesdays.



2/23/2023

Blue Bell at Lenoir Mills

- ▶ April 2022 - Blue Bell at Lenoir Mills officially opened at 1241 College Avenue.
- ▶ Blue Bell offers 46 market-rate loft apartments within walking distance of Downtown Lenoir.
- ▶ Thank you to Mr. Yorke Lawson and Mr. Tom Niemann on a successful project that saved an historic mill and brought more upscale residential units to the city.



2/23/2023

Time Capsule Vintage Store

- ▶ May 2022 - Time Capsule Vintage Store opened at 808 West Ave. in Downtown Lenoir.
- ▶ The shop sells fun, funky vintage items and specializes in clothes and memorabilia from the 1950s-1990s.



2/23/2023

Hwy55 Burgers, Shakes, & Fries



- ▶ May 2022 - Hwy55 opened in Lenoir at 1095 Hickory Blvd (the corner of US 321 and McLean Drive SE).
- ▶ Hwy55 offers fresh, never-frozen burgers, cheesesteaks and frozen custard.

Lenoir Legends



- ▶ June 2022 - The Old North State League (ONSL) brought the Lenoir Legends back to Walker Stadium in Downtown Lenoir for a second season.
- ▶ ONSL is one of the largest Summer Collegiate Baseball Leagues in the United States.
- ▶ The league operates with 14 collegiate baseball teams, spanning from the mountains to the coast.

The Thrift Shop Grand Reopening

- ▶ June 2022 - The Lenoir Service League Thrift Shop held a grand reopening for their store at 906 West Ave in Downtown.
- ▶ This year is 80 years of the league serving the community and more than 60 years of having a store in Downtown Lenoir!



2/23/2023

The Highland Thistle



- ▶ June 2022 - New owners reopened the bed and breakfast at 1344 Harper Ave as The Highland Thistle.
- ▶ www.thehighlandthistle.com

4440 Ranch & Cattle Company

- ▶ June 2022 - 4440 Ranch and Cattle Company opened at 215 North Main St. in Downtown Lenoir.
- ▶ The company sells F1 Wagyu Beef that is pasture raised and grain fed right here in Lenoir. They also sell to the public and local restaurants.



2/23/2023

Mavis Discount Tires & Brakes



- ▶ June 2022 - Mavis Discount Tires & Brakes opened at 675 Blowing Rock Blvd beside Aaron's Rent To Own.

Wolf Moon Salt Cave and Stress Reduction Center



- ▶ July 2022 - Wolf Moon Salt Cave and Stress Reduction Center holds a grand opening at 814 Harper Ave. in Downtown Lenoir.
- ▶ In addition to salt cave sessions, Wolf Moon offers a yoga studio and lessons, massage service, esthetician services, and acupuncture.

The Buckin' Babe Boutique

- ▶ July 2022 - The Buckin' Babe Boutique opened at 221 North Main St. in Downtown Lenoir.
- ▶ The shop sells western-inspired fashion for men and women.



2/23/2023

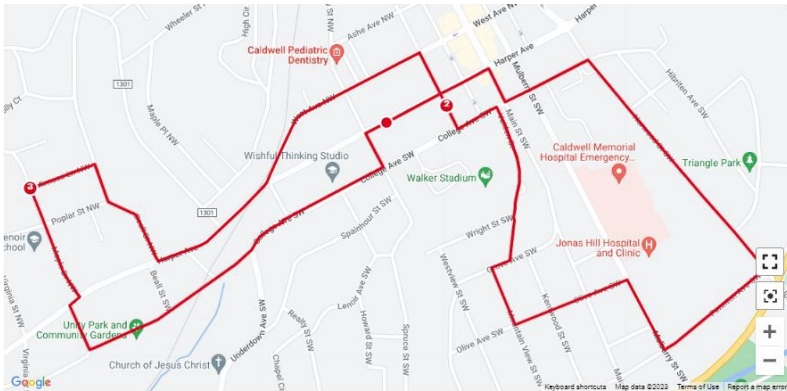
Mi Molcajete



2/23/2023

Southern Sundown 4 Miler

- ▶ August 2022 - The Southern Sundown Four Miler returned to Downtown Lenoir for the fourth time. The race takes place in downtown and ends with an after party at Liquid Roots.



2/23/2023

Taste of Havana New Location

- ▶ August 2022 - Taste of Havana moves to a new location in Downtown Lenoir - 819 West Ave.
- ▶ The restaurant serves authentic Cuban cuisine including sandwiches, rice and beans, traditional juicy pork, palomilla steak and many other old-time favorite dishes.



2/23/2023

The Rum Bar



- ▶ September 2022 - Taste of Havana opened The Rum Bar in the lower level of the restaurant at 819 West Ave. in Downtown.
- ▶ The bar can be accessed from Church Street or the main floor.
- ▶ The Rum Bar serves a limited menu including appetizers, sandwiches, desserts, and drinks.

Carolina Tattoo & Art Gathering

- ▶ September 2022 - Golden Cardinal Gallery hosted their annual Carolina Tattoo & Arts Gathering at their new location - 1016 Harper Ave.
- ▶ The 3-day event features local artists as well as tattoo artists from across the country.
- ▶ Attendees pay \$15 per day or \$30 for a weekend pass.



2/23/2023

UNC Ortho

- ▶ October 2022 - UNC Health Caldwell held a ribbon cutting and open house at UNC Ortho's new clinic space at Mulberry Medical Park.



2/23/2023

Popeyes



2/23/2023

Kattz Corner



- ▶ October 2022 - Kattz Corner officially opened on Wilkesboro Boulevard.
- ▶ Kattz Corner offers one, two, and three bedroom affordable-housing apartments.
- ▶ Staff said they should have all unit 68 units rented by the end of January.

Dairi-O



- ▶ November 2022 - Dairi-O opened at 102 Harper Ave. on the corner of Harper Avenue and Blowing Rock Boulevard at Smith Crossroads
- ▶ Dairi-O has 10 locations in North Carolina, including the new location in Lenoir.
- ▶ The restaurant serves burgers, hot dogs, wraps, salads sandwiches, ice cream and more.

Frye Regional HealthPark

- ▶ November 2022 - Frye Regional HealthPark opened Nov. 1 at 1041 Morganton Blvd. SW.
- ▶ Staff offer cardiology and family medicine practices, and Frye Regional Hospital plans to grow with needed services in the 25,000-square-foot, multi-specialty outpatient facility.



2/23/2023

118 Mulberry Street

- ▶ Fall 2022 - Gail and Eugene Perricone invested nearly \$425,000 to renovate 118 Mulberry St.
- ▶ The renovation used Historic Tax credits and the owner secured David Maurer Architecture for design and to work through the Tax Credit process.
- ▶ There is a dental lab in the basement. The first floor is office/commercial rental space, and the second floor is a luxury apartment Airbnb.



2/23/2023

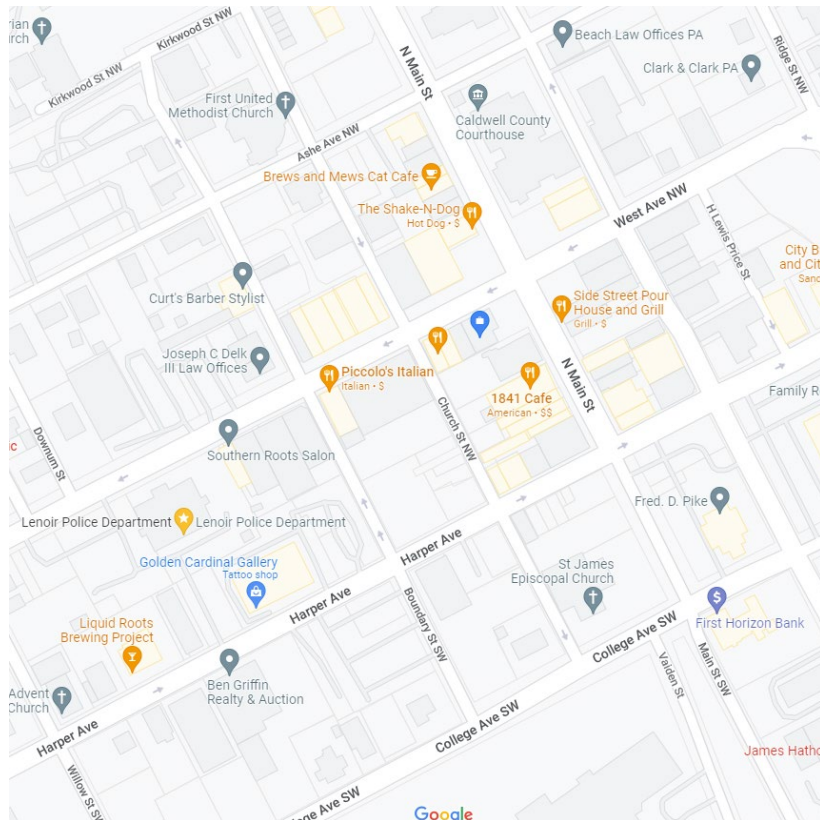
The Boomerang

- ▶ January 2023 - The Boomerang opened at 309 Main St Suite C in Downtown Lenoir beside Anything Office.
- ▶ The shop sells antiques, vintage items, clothing, and more.
- ▶ They also sell on consignment.



2/23/2023

Other New Business / Relocations



- ▶ **Brews & Mews**
219 N Main St.
- ▶ **Ben Griffin Realty & Auction**
1035 Harper Ave. (old Forbes Printing)
- ▶ **R & R Salon at the Courtney**
818 West Ave. NW

McCreary Cancer Center Expansion

- ▶ Underway - McCreary Cancer Center on Mulberry Street is expanding in Lenoir, bringing a brand new Elekta Infinity linear accelerator to the city.
- ▶ The Elekta unit delivers high-energy x-rays to treat a diverse range of cancer patients with simple-to-complex radiotherapy needs.



Chipotle and Aspen Dental



- Underway - Chipotle and Aspen Dental are currently under construction at 139 Blowing Rock Blvd. in Lenoir.

Planet Fitness

- ▶ Underway - Planet Fitness plans to open a new location in Lenoir beside the Big Lots at 935 Blowing Rock Blvd.
- ▶ Staff issued zoning permits in February 2023. Their next step is a building permit through Caldwell County.
- ▶ The company hopes to have the new location open this spring.



Marvin's One Stop



- ▶ Underway - Local architect Jesse Plaster purchased Marvin's One Stop located at 815 West Ave.
- ▶ Plaster is working on renovations to the building.

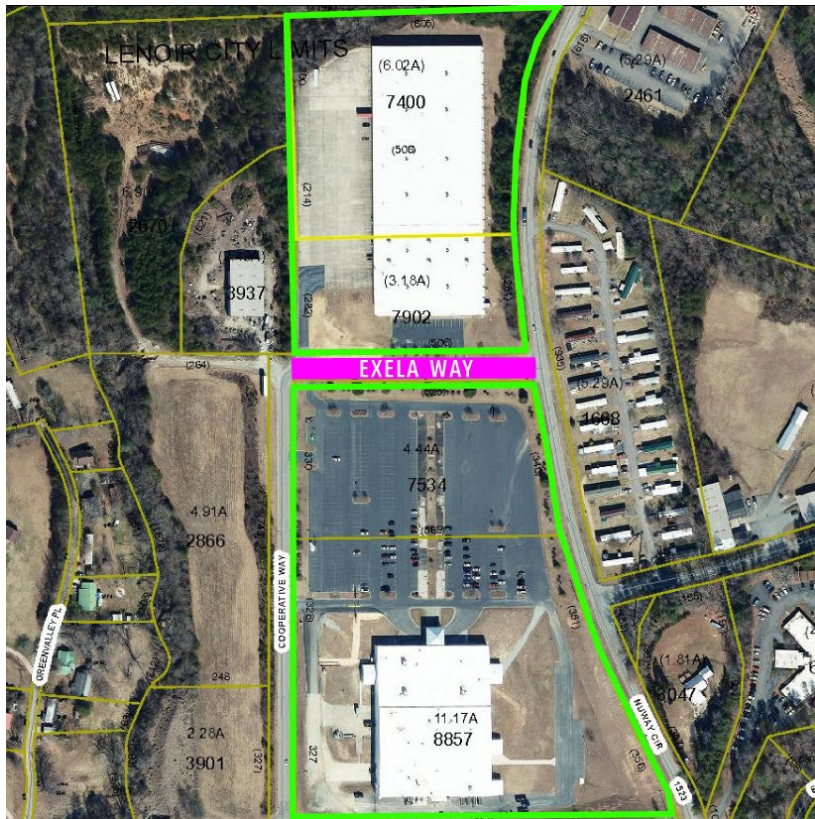
Downtown Dentist Office

- ▶ Underway - Paresh Patel, DDS, is renovating the property located at 107 Norwood St. for a new dentist office.



2/23/2023

Exela Investments



- ▶ Exela continues to expand in Lenoir.
- ▶ The company expanded into the building a 1170 West Ave. in Downtown near the greenway (old Ben Griffin warehouse).
- ▶ The company also purchased and expanded at 1201 Exela Way, which Council recently renamed.

Single-Family Housing

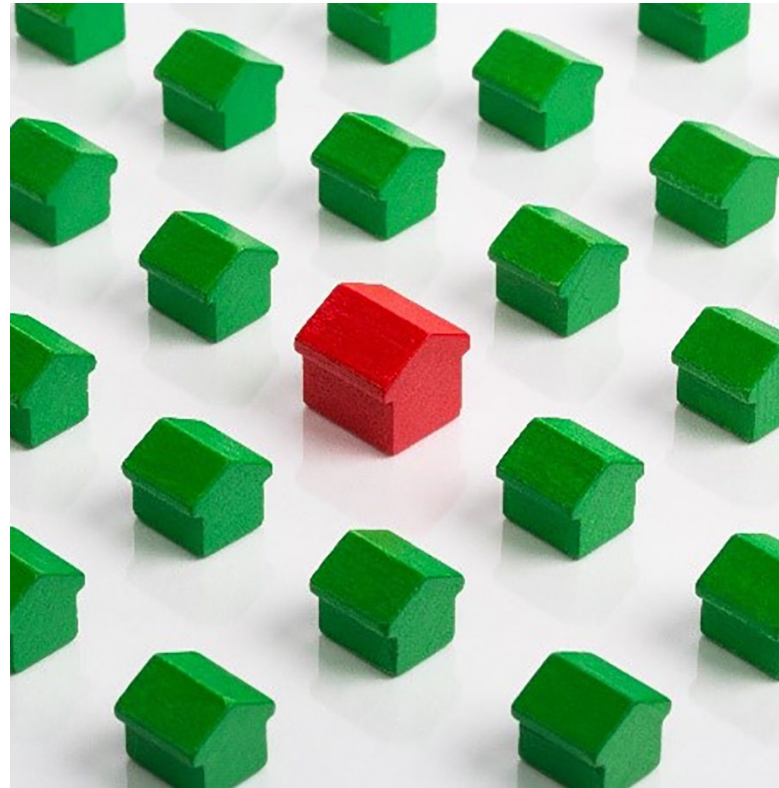
- ▶ The public pulled more than 50 permits for new single-family housing in 2022.
- ▶ Contractors are building new homes across Lenoir and in subdivisions including Georgetown Estates, Park View, Powell Park, Summerhill, Huntington Woods, and West End.



2/23/2023

Housing Permits

- ▶ Staff issued **231** zoning permits in 2022, up from 163 issued in 2021. This is largely due to the residential development market.
- ▶ 59 single family home permits have been issued in 2022, a **75% increase** over 2021.
- ▶ Many of these permits are issued in the Huntington Woods and Parkview neighborhoods. About 20 more single family permits are pending approval in the Summerhill subdivision.



Public Investment

New events, facility improvements, paving, plans

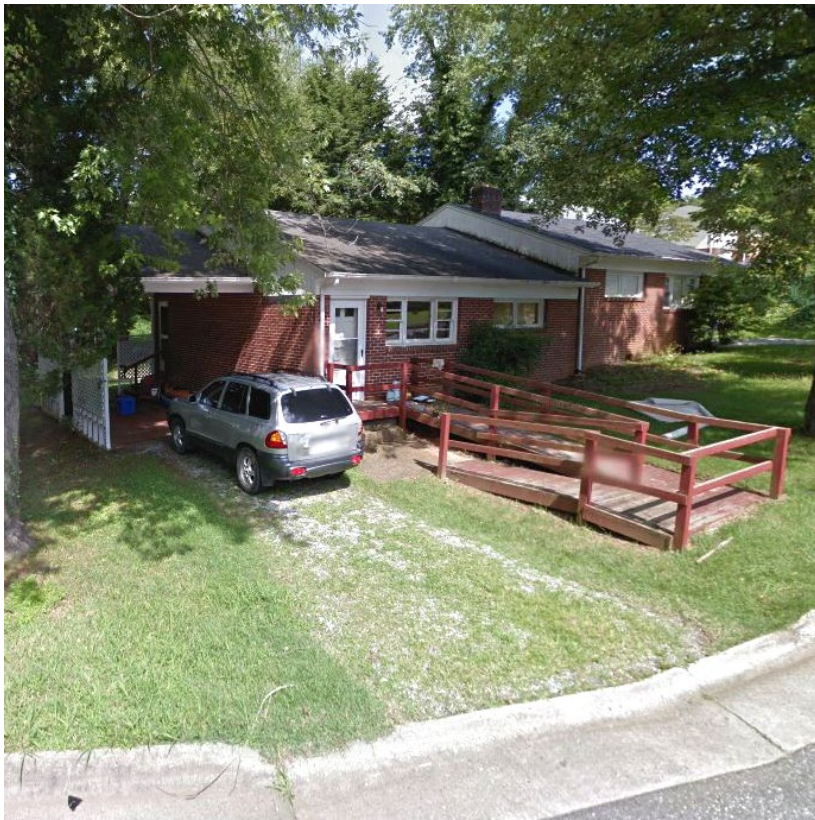
Code Enforcement

- ▶ Hired new Code Compliance Officer in October 2022.
- ▶ 41 Banner Sign violations abated
- ▶ 2 city-abated properties (Jolly Place and 530A Wheeler)
- ▶ 3 bids accepted on city-owned property
- ▶ Joint effort with Police, Code Compliance, and ALE's task force to abate chronic nuisance property at 507 Oak Street.



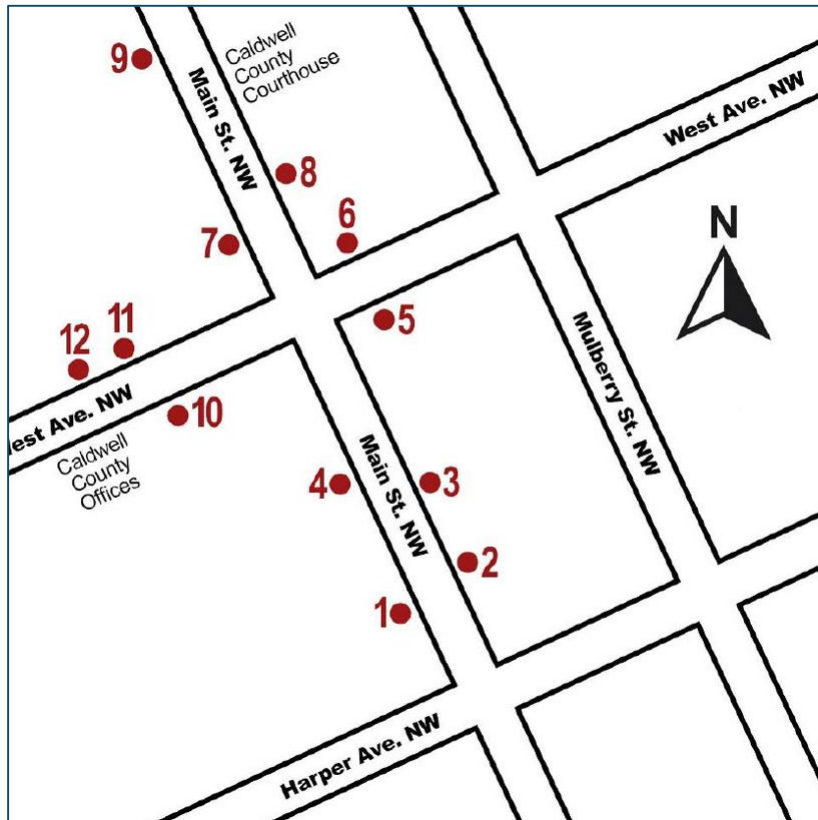
2/23/2023

Oak Street and Circle Drive



- ▶ Staff worked with NC Alcohol Law Enforcement to deal with two problem properties in the City:
 - ▶ 507 Oak St. SW
 - ▶ 716 Circle Dr. NE
- ▶ Police calls related to issues with these properties have decreased dramatically.

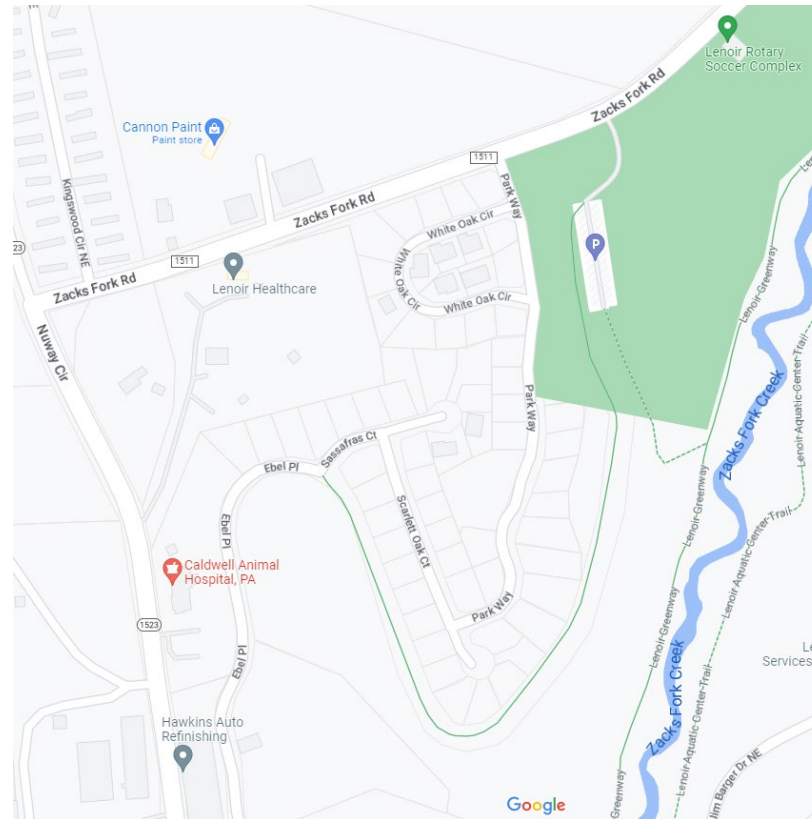
Tucker's Gallery Improvements



- ▶ In early 2022, Public Works completed improvements to the Tucker's Gallery art bases to make it easier for artists and the Caldwell Arts Council (CAC) to display sculpture in Downtown Lenoir.
- ▶ Tucker's Gallery includes 12 pedestals located on Main Street and West Avenue.
- ▶ "The new bases are wonderful."
- Ellen Ball, CAC Director

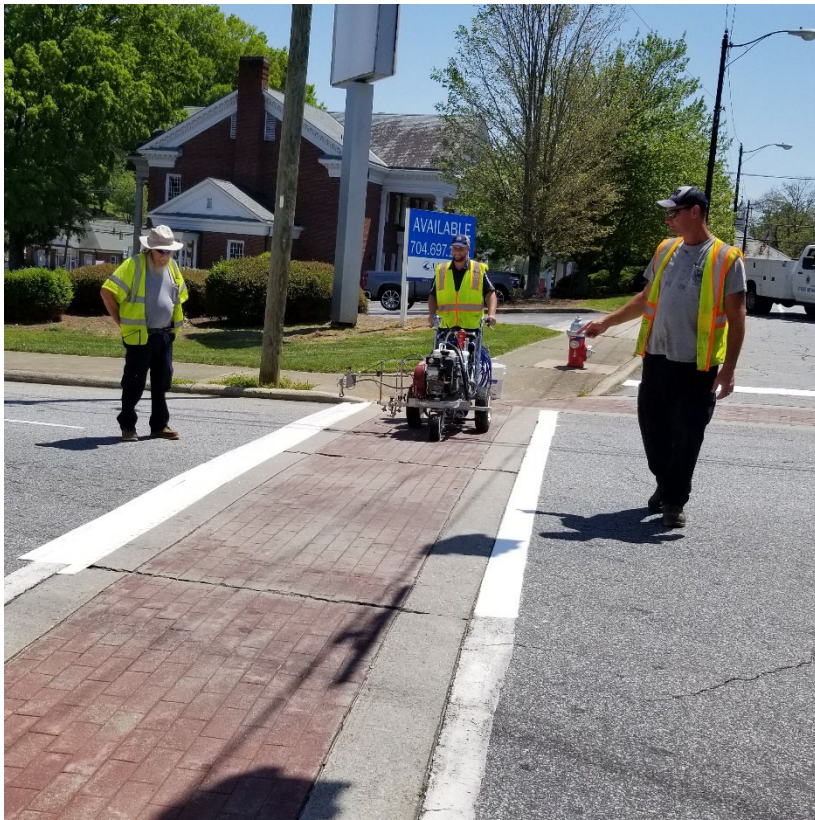
Parkview Lots Sale

- ▶ February 2022 - Council accepted an offer from Wild Winds Farms, LLC to purchase(9) lots in Parkview Subdivision owned by the City of Lenoir. The City acquired the lots through tax foreclosure.
- ▶ In 2021, the City expanded the greenway from the western parking lot at the Lenoir Rotary Soccer Complex south around Parkway and Scarlett Oak Court and north to Sassafras Court.



2/23/2023

Parking & Crosswalk Striping



- ▶ April 2022 - Public Works staff repainted parking and crosswalk striping in Downtown Lenoir.

Hotel Street opens

- ▶ April 2022 - City Council and staff held a ribbon cutting to officially open Hotel Street April 6.
- ▶ Hotel Street connects Linkside Court to Hibriten Drive. The road was paved in January and the fence between the road and the golf course was completed in February.



2/23/2023

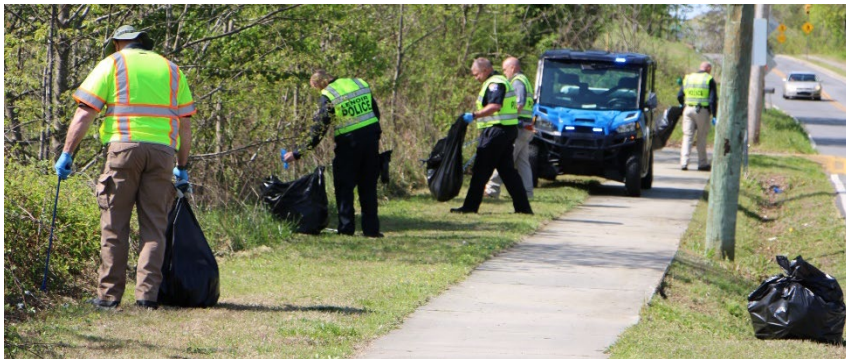
Leaf Compost Giveaway



- ▶ April 2022 - The Public Works division of Public Services held it's annual compost giveaway on April 2 and a second giveaway on April 23.
- ▶ Staff dump leaves collected during leaf season at the City property off Fairview Drive behind the radio station. The leave compost for almost two years before.
- ▶ The compost is free for residents if they load it themselves, or \$5.00 a scoop.

Employee Litter Sweeps

- ▶ April 2022 - City staff participated in two Employee Litter Sweep events. The first was in April and the second was held in September.
- ▶ Staff collected more than 110 bags of trash from several City streets during the events.



2/23/2023

Lenoir Bicycle Festival



- ▶ May 2022 - Staff launched a new festival - The Lenoir Bicycle Festival. About 300 people attended the first event.
- ▶ The festival offered a free-ride lane around Downtown on Main St, West Ave, Church St, and Harper Ave.
- ▶ Courageous cyclists conquered three different obstacle courses and competed in a time trial for prizes.

Police Catch Emu



- ▶ May 2022 - a female emu named Kevin showed up on Eastwood Park Drive SE and lay down beside a father and his three children. The dad called in Lenoir Police to assist in catching Kevin. Our officers not only managed to get a dog leash on Kevin, they fed her by hand and led her into a neighbor's fenced-in backyard.
- ▶ This story received A LOT of media coverage.

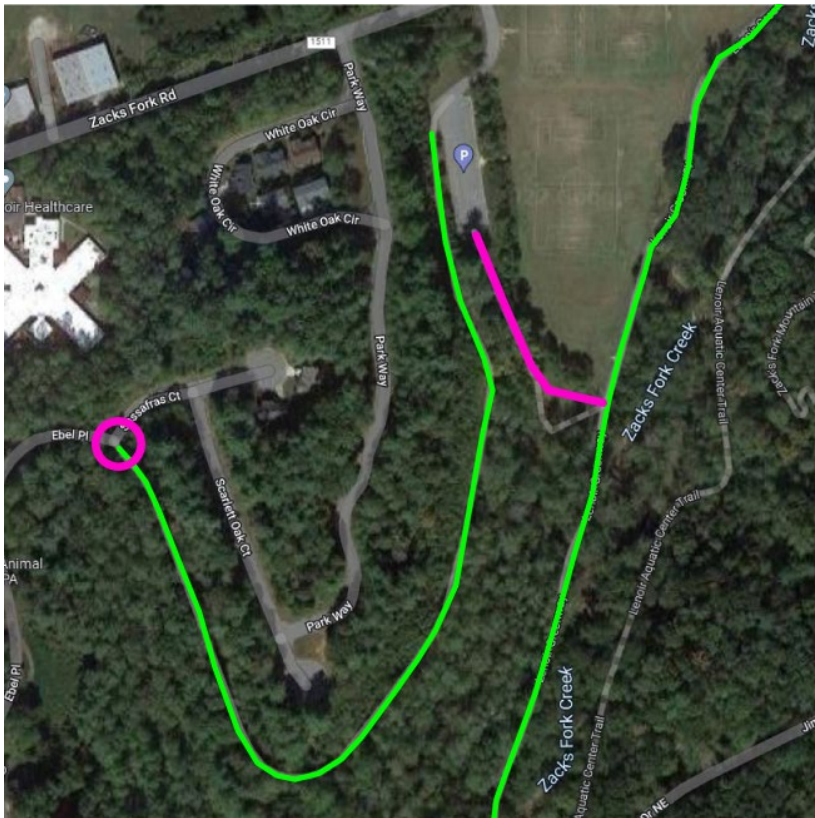
Communications Awards

- ▶ May 2022 - Staff won two Excellence in Communications Awards from North Carolina City and County Communicators (NC3C).
- ▶ Lenoir won second-place in "General Composition - Writing" for the article "Single-family homes going up in Lenoir." The City also won second place in "Social Media - General Use on a Single Platform" for the City of Lenoir Facebook page.



2/23/2023

Greenway Connections



- ▶ May 2022 - Public Works staff made two more greenway connections near the Lenoir Rotary Soccer Complex.
- ▶ Staff paved a section of greenway that connects the westernmost parking lot at the soccer complex to the greenway.
- ▶ Staff paved the greenway parking lot at Ebel Place and Sassafras Court in the Parkview subdivision. Residents in the Parkview subdivision now have easy access to the greenway near their neighborhood.

EPA Grant, \$500K



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

- ▶ May 2022 - the City received its second Brownfield Assessment grant from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this time for \$500,000.
- ▶ With the first grant, the City assessed several properties including the Virginia Street, the old City Service Cleaners, Blue Bell Inc., and more.
- ▶ City staff will use the new grant to assess more properties in Lenoir.

NCLM Law Enforcement Risk Management Review

- ▶ May 2022 - The Police Department successfully complete the North Carolina League of Municipalities Law Enforcement Risk Management Review.
- ▶ The purpose of the review was to assess the department's adherence to best practices, court decisions, and policies and procedures related to high liability activities in law enforcement.
- ▶ The goal of the review is to mitigate liability exposures, enhance officer safety, and validate that training and operating procedures are meeting industry standards.



2/23/2023

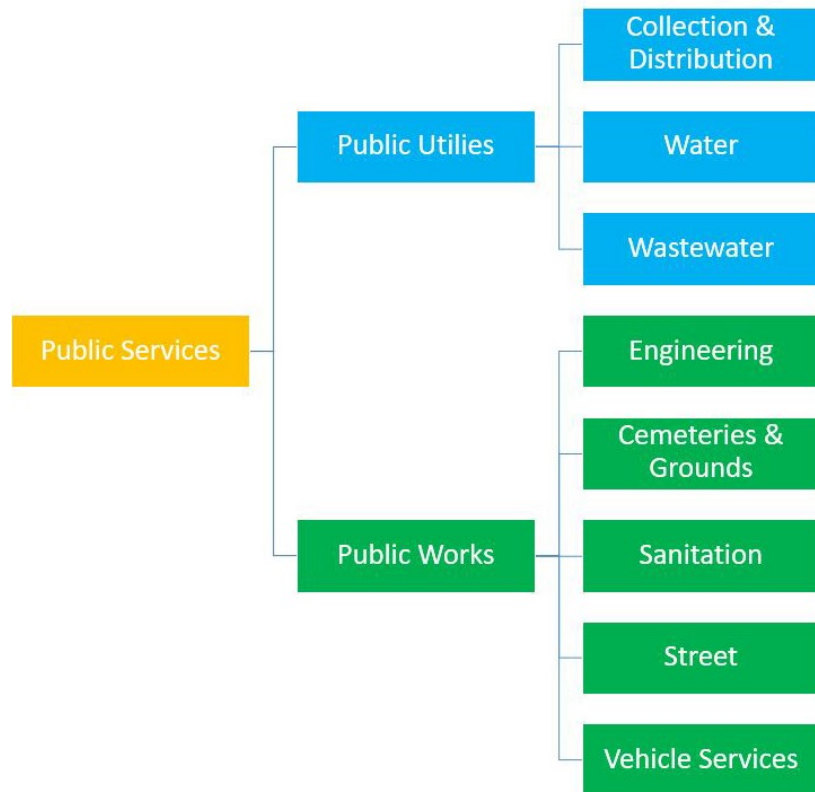
Neon Night Ride

- ▶ June 2022 - Staff holds the City's first ever Neon Night Ride at the Lenoir Rotary Soccer Complex on Zacks Fork Road to celebrate World Bicycle Day.
- ▶ Riders decorated their bikes and selves with glow sticks and lights, and rode a couple miles on the greenway.
- ▶ More than a hundred riders came out for the event.



2/23/2023

Public Services Department



- ▶ June 2022 - The City Manager Restructured the Public Utilities and Public Works Department in the Public Services Department.
- ▶ Day-to-day operations and are handled by the new Public Utilizes and Public Works Operations Managers
- ▶ The Public Services Director assists the Operations Managers while ensuring the City's many capital projects move forward to completion.

New Operations Managers



2/23/2023

Main Street Accreditation

- ▶ June 2022 - The City of Lenoir Main Street Department has been designated a Main Street America 2022 Accredited program. This accreditation status is Main Street America's top-tier recognition.
- ▶ Being an accredited program means that the City and Main Street staff have demonstrated a commitment to comprehensive commercial district revitalization.
- ▶ Lenoir became North Carolina's 12th Main Street America Community in 1984.



NC Blackberry Festival



- ▶ July 2022 - A record number of roughly 21,000 visitors attended the 2022 North Carolina Blackberry Festival in Downtown Lenoir.
- ▶ Attendees enjoyed vendors and exhibits, blackberries and cobbler, blackberry eating contests, the Blackberry Festival parade, and more.
- ▶ The City will take over the event this year.

Downtown Sidewalk Washing



- ▶ July 2022 - The City hires Fat Boy Pressure Washing to clean sidewalks in Downtown Lenoir.
- ▶ The cleaning was part of the continuing effort to keep Downtown and Lenoir looking great.

Central Barber Shop Centennial

- ▶ July 2022 - Council recognized and honored Central Barber Shop for the business' centennial celebration.
- ▶ Mayor Gibbons read and presented a resolution to Alan Hall during the July 19 City Council meeting.
- ▶ Central Barber Shop has been operating in Downtown Lenoir since May 1922.



2/23/2023

Part-Time Fire Inspectors



- ▶ July 2022 - After approval from Council, staff posted job openings and hired three part-time Fire Inspectors.
- ▶ The City has more than 1,500 businesses and multi-family properties that require annual fire inspections.
- ▶ The Part-time inspectors are averaging more than 100 inspections a month.

Outdoor Pickleball Courts



- ▶ August 2022 - The City opened four, new outdoor pickleball courts today at Mulberry Recreation Center.
- ▶ The outdoor courts are open from dawn to dusk.
- ▶ Indoor courts are available schedule is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. All courts are first-come, first-serve.

Downtown Sidewalk Repairs

- ▶ August 2022 - As part of continuing ADA improvements, public works raised many pavers in Downtown.
- ▶ Staff had to remove the sunken pavers, add sand to lift the pavers to be level with the sidewalk, and then replace the pavers.



2/23/2023

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

- ▶ August 2022 - The Finance Dept. received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 31st consecutive year from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).
- ▶ An impartial panel judged the City's most recent Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to meet the high standards of the program, which include demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story.



2/23/2023

Police Bike Patrols



- ▶ August 2022 - The Police Department restarted bike patrols in 2022. Bike patrol officers focus on community patrols, while other officers maintain their standard patrols in vehicles.
- ▶ Bike patrol officers usually attend city events and festivals, car shows, and Friday night concerts. They also patrol the City greenway and parks.

Stormwater Project at J.E. Broyhill Park

- ▶ August 2022 - Contractors built a new stormwater feature at J.E. Broyhill Park. The Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance slows down rainwater and reduces erosion at the lower end of park.
- ▶ The project was completed in the fall of 2022.



2/23/2023

Fire Rescue Pumper



- ▶ August 2022 - Council approved the purchase of a Sutphen Demo Rescue Pumper using American Rescue Plan funds.
- ▶ The new truck will allow the Fire Department to have rescue apparatuses at both Station 1 and Station 2, which should reduce the response times for rescue in incidents.
- ▶ The company hopes to deliver the truck in August.

Fire Department Improved Rating



2/23/2023

Lenoir Aquatic & Fitness Center Roof

- ▶ September 2022 - Contractors completed installation of a new roof at the Lenoir Aquatic & Fitness Center.
- ▶ In 2021, the City also installed new doors and siding at the facility.



2/23/2023

EV Charging Station

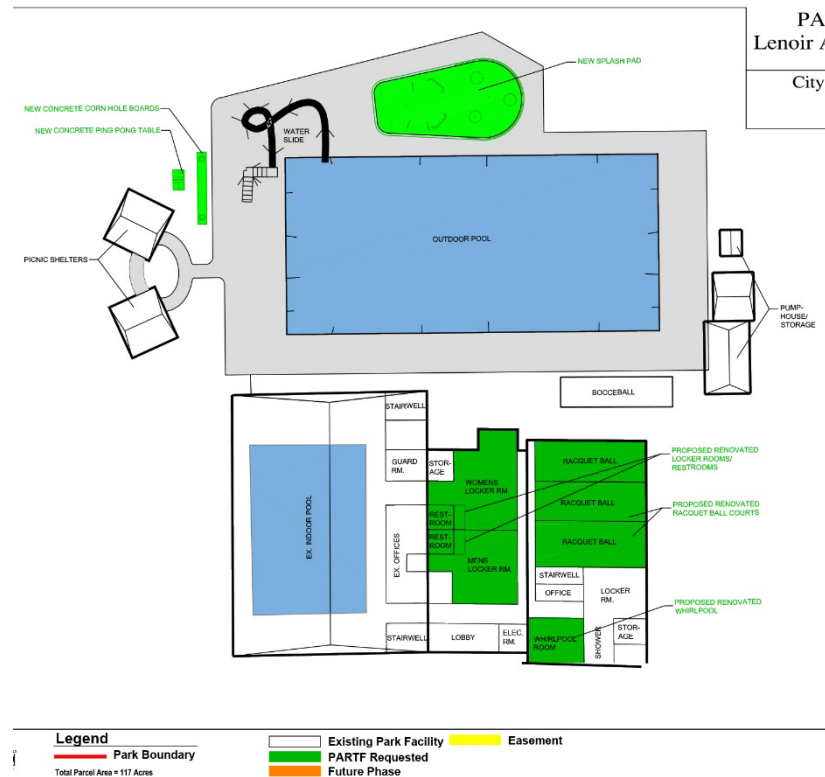
- ▶ September 2022 - the City received a \$10,000 grant to install a new 2-port electric vehicle (EV) charging station in Downtown Lenoir.
- ▶ The new charging station will be located behind Fire Station 1.
- ▶ The City opened the first EV station in March 2017 in the parking lot on the corner of Harper Avenue and Boundary Street.



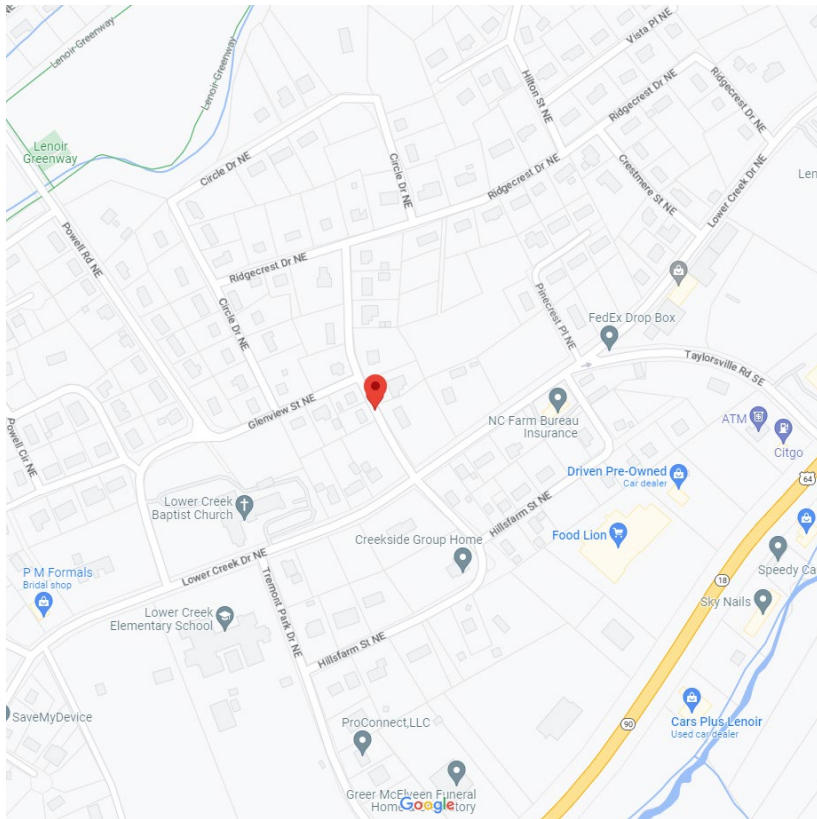
2/23/2023

Lenoir Aquatic & Fitness Center \$500K Grant

- ▶ September 2022 - The City was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) to build a new splash pad and make other improvements at the Lenoir Aquatic and Fitness Center and Lenoir Rotary Soccer Complex.
- ▶ The grant requires a local match, so the City will spend another \$500,000 on the project, bringing the total investment to just over \$1,000,000.



Pennwood Street Speed Limit



- ▶ September 2022 - After the Police Department completed a traffic study, Council agreed to reduce the speed limit for the entire lengths on Pennwood Street NE, Glenview Street NE, Circle Drive NE, and Ridgecrest Drive NE to 20 mph.
- ▶ Public Works staff also placed new speed limit signs and rumble strips in the area.

Police HQ Renovations

- ▶ September 2022 - Contractors completed most of the renovation to the Police Department entrance.
- ▶ Contractors installed a new ADA compliant ramp, new stone façade, a new stamped-concrete entrance, and a new sign.



2/23/2023

ADA Transition Plan

- ▶ October 2022 - Council adopted a new ADA Transition Plan for the City. The plan is posted on the City website at www.cityoflenoir/ada. The page includes contact information for the ADA coordinator as well as instructions on how to file an ADA grievance.
- ▶ The City also contracted with a company to perform sidewalk grinding and bring more sidewalks in Downtown Lenoir into ADA compliance.



2/23/2023

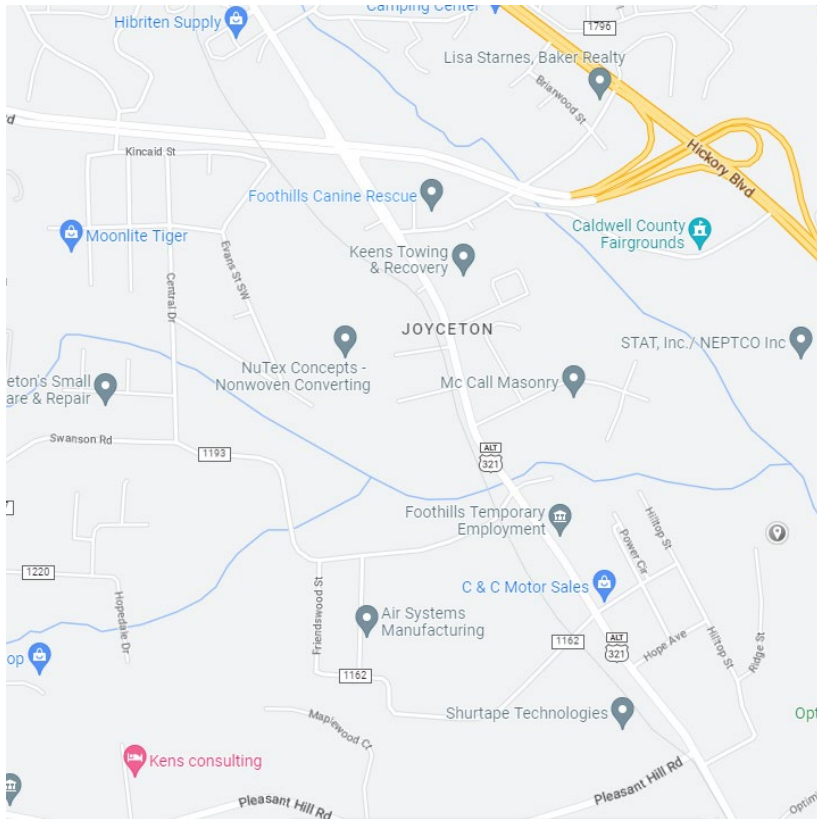
Wood, Fire, Smoke Festival

- ▶ October 2022 - Staff launched the reimagined Wood, Fire, Smoke Festival.
- ▶ The festival is a celebration of Lenoir's furniture heritage and commitment to art, design, and innovation.
- ▶ Skilled craftsmen, artisans, and chefs converged in downtown to carve with chainsaws, pour molten metal, and cook delicious barbecue.



2/23/2023

Joyceton Water System



- ▶ October 2022 - The North Carolina Utilities Commission approved the City's purchase of the Joyceton Water System.
- ▶ The purchase added about 125 customers to the City of Lenoir water system.

App State Baseball Clinic



- ▶ October 2022 - App State Baseball coaches and players once again partnered with the City to host a FREE baseball clinic for local second to eighth graders at Mulberry Recreation Center.
- ▶ This was the second free clinic App State has put on in Lenoir.

North Main Street Crossing

- ▶ November 2022 - North Carolina Department of Transportation removed the stop arms and paved the old railroad crossing on North Main Street between US 321 and Valway Road NW.
- ▶ The crossing is part of future greenway in the city.



2/23/2023

New lights at Mulberry Recreation Center



- ▶ November 2022 - Staff worked with a local electric contractor to take advantage of a Duke Energy incentive to replace all the lights around the playground, skate park, and tennis and pickleball courts at the center.
- ▶ The contractor installed more than 50 new, 300-watt LED area lights on about a dozen light poles.

Christmas Lights & Decorations

- ▶ November 2022 - The City bought a lot of new Christmas lights and decorations to celebrate the holidays in 2022.
- ▶ The lights were a big hit with the public and staff received many compliments about the beautiful decorations.



2/23/2023

Capital Asset Inventory



- ▶ Fall 2022 - Staff contracted with Freese & Nichols to create a capital asset inventory tool for City facilities.
- ▶ The inventory catalogues and rates City equipment such as generators, and HVAC system as well as roofs, doors, windows, and more.
- ▶ The inventory will help staff keep City assets in good shape and plan to replace equipment as needed.

Horticulture Specialist

- ▶ December 2022 - Public Services hired a Horticulture Specialist in the Public Works Division. This is a new position at the City.
- ▶ The Horticulture Specialist will create a landscaping plan for Downtown Lenoir and City properties. This position will also maintain the City's plants, shrubs, and decorative trees.



2/23/2023

Know Who To Call | Contact the City

City of Lenoir, NC

City of Lenoir staff are available to answer questions during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. City Hall is open from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. The Public Services Department (garbage, streets, water, sewer, storm drains) is open from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

For after-hours service issues such as water line breaks or sewer problems, call 757-2100.

To send City staff an email, visit www.cityoflenoir.com/email.

SERVICES	911	Anytime
Emergencies	757-2100	After normal business hours
After-Hours Service Issues	757-2207 757-2209	8:30 am to 5:00 pm M-F
Billing Questions	757-2190	8:30 am to 5:00 pm M-F
Fire	757-2154 757-2111	7:30 am to 4:00 pm M-F
Garbage & Yard Waste	757-2201 757-2177	8:30 am to 5:00 pm M-F
General Information	757-2202 757-6827	8:30 am to 5:00 pm M-F
Human Resources (Jobs)	757-2143	8:30 am to 5:00 pm M-F
Nuisances	610-8442	8:30 am to 5:00 pm M-F
Planner On Call	757-2100	8:30 am to 5:00 pm M-F
Police	Duke Energy: 800-769-3766	Blue Ridge Energy: 800-448-2383
Power Outages	757-2154 757-2111	7:30 am to 4:00 pm M-F
Storm Drains & Water Runoff	757-2154 757-2111	7:30 am to 4:00 pm M-F
Street Issues & Pot Holes	757-2154 757-2111	7:30 am to 4:00 pm M-F
Street Light Outage	757-2154 757-2111	7:30 am to 4:00 pm M-F
Water & Sewer Issues	757-2154 757-2111	7:30 am to 4:00 pm M-F

FACILITIES	Address
Bellevue Cemetery	610 Finley Ave. NW
Blue Ridge Memorial Park	2017 Wilkesboro Blvd.
City Hall	801 West Ave. NW
Fire Station 1	602 Harper Ave.
Fire Station 2	1927 Norwood St.
Fire Station 3	1015 Wilkesboro Blvd. NE
Lenoir Aquatic & Fitness Center	1031 Jim Barger Dr. NE
Martin Luther King Jr. Center	313 Greenhaven Dr. NW
Mulberry Recreation Center	720 Mulberry St. SW
Recycling Center	1121 Pennton Ave

www.cityoflenoir.com

LENOIR
NC • WE CREATE WITH US

- ▶ December 2022 - Due to some concerns about residents and businesses not knowing who to call for after-hours service and issues, staff created a City phone numbers contact sheet, posted the contact sheet PDF to an updated Contact Us page on the City website, and did a press release about the issue.
- ▶ Staff also sent the press release to Downtown business owners.
- ▶ www.cityoflenoir.com/contact

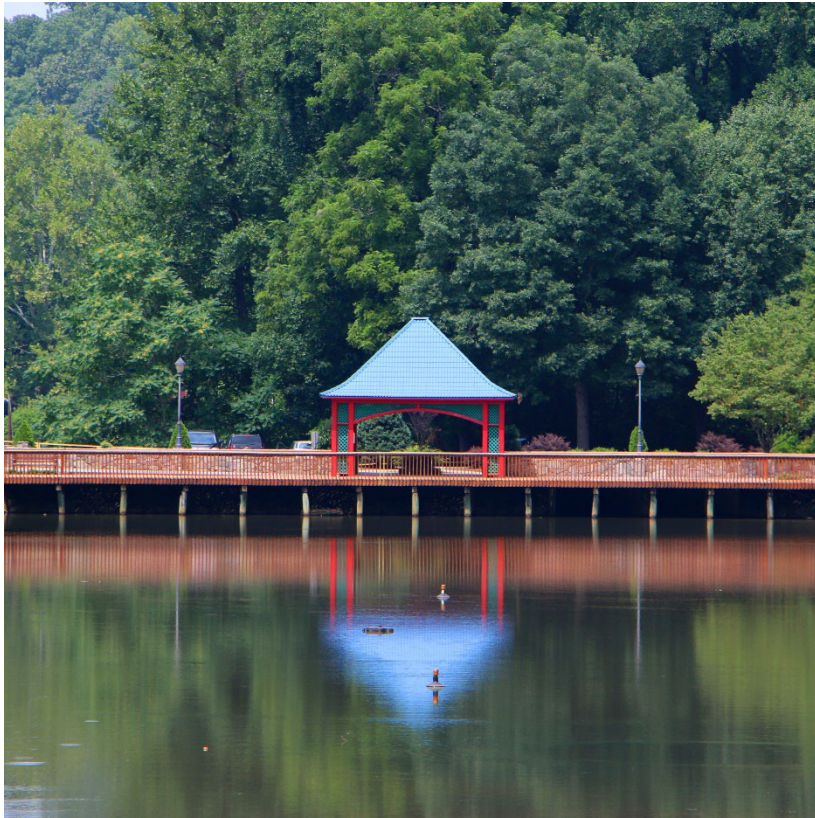
Santa on the Square

- ▶ December 2022 - Santa and Mrs. Clause made several visits to Downtown Lenoir during the holidays.
- ▶ The new sleigh and visits with Santa were a bit hit with residents.



2/23/2023

Broyhill Family Foundation Grant



- ▶ December 2022 - The Broyhill Family Foundation recently gave another \$100K grant to the City to dredge the lake at the T.H. Broyhill Walking Park and install a new fountain.

Street Paving



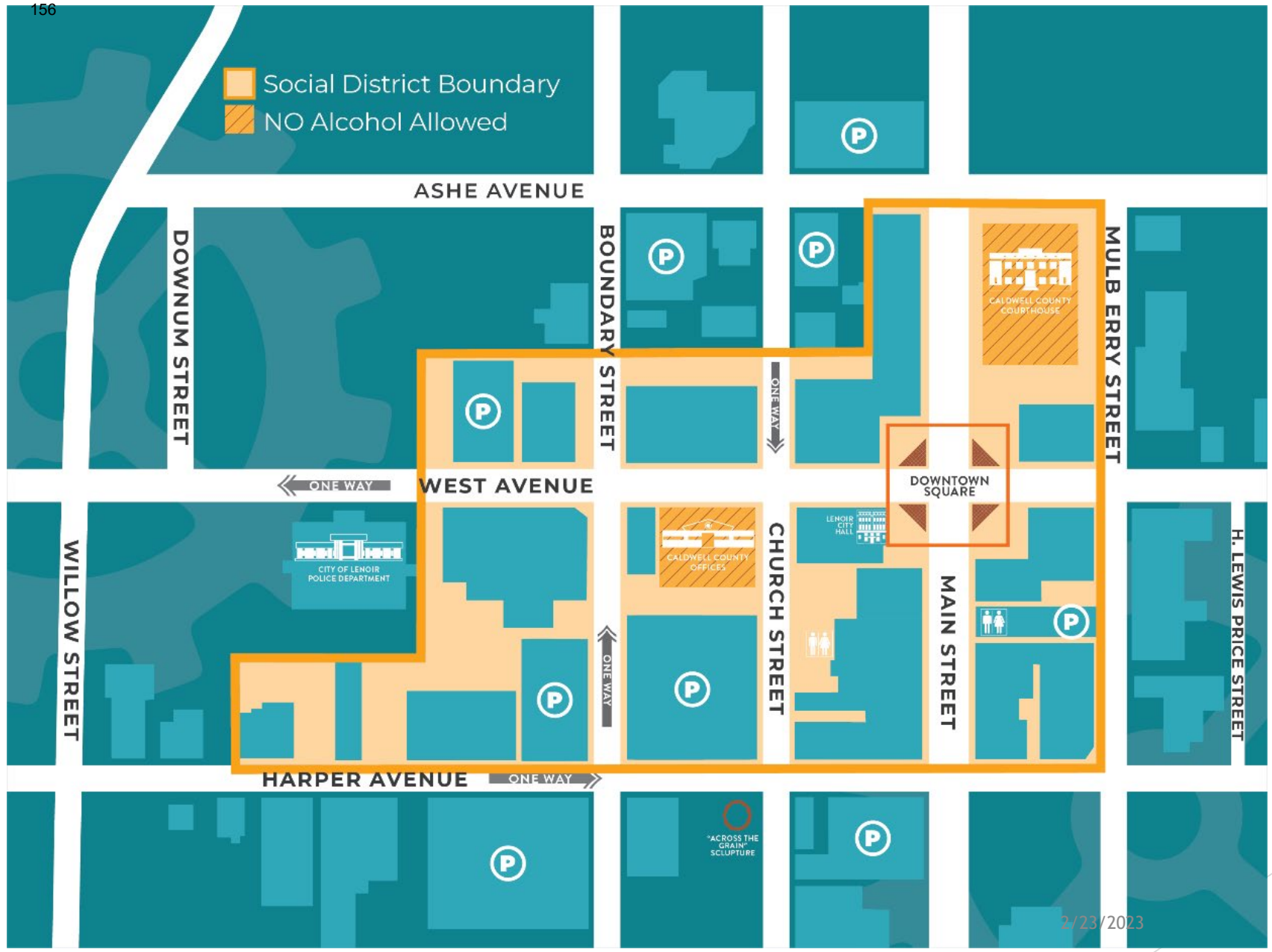
- ▶ Beall Street
- ▶ Finley Avenue
- ▶ Swanson Drive from Norwood Street to Central Drive
- ▶ Ronquil Park Place
- ▶ Stage Street
- ▶ Laurel Place

Downtown Lenoir Social District

- ▶ January 2023 - Last year, Council approved the new Downtown Lenoir Social District.
- ▶ The district allows the public to purchase alcohol and walk around downtown as long as they stay within the district boundaries.
- ▶ The district went into effect in January 2023.



2/23/2023



Mack Cook Stadium Lights



- ▶ Underway - Part of the improvements at The Campus include new lighting at Mack Cook Stadium.
- ▶ Contractors are installing four light poles, 16 lights per pole, 232 LEDs per light. That's 14,848 LED lights!
- ▶ The light poles have been set. Contractors still have to install power and wiring and then set all the lights in the right directions to cover the field.

2/23/2023

Mack Cook Stadium Bleachers

- ▶ Underway - In addition to the new lights, Council approved the purchase of two sets of five-row aluminum bleachers for the stadium.
- ▶ The bleachers were funded with federal Community Development Block Grant funds.
- ▶ Staff are currently assembling the new bleachers, which can seat about 200 spectators.



2/23/2023

Downtown Master Plan

- ▶ Underway - The Downtown Master Plan started Jan. 24, 2023
- ▶ The Master Plan will establish a cohesive vision for Downtown Lenoir and guide future development in the heart of the city.
- ▶ The City selected DLR Group to create the Plan, which could take up to a year. DLR Group will organize many visioning sessions with a diverse cross-section of the community.



2/23/2023

The Campus

\$580K Rural Transformation Grant

- ▶ Underway - The City of was awarded \$580,000 in December toward planning and development of The Campus at the Historic Lenoir High School Project.
- ▶ Staff contracted with Maurer Architecture to perform some preliminary reviews and assessment of three buildings at The Campus.



2/23/2023

The Campus



Farmers Market at The Campus

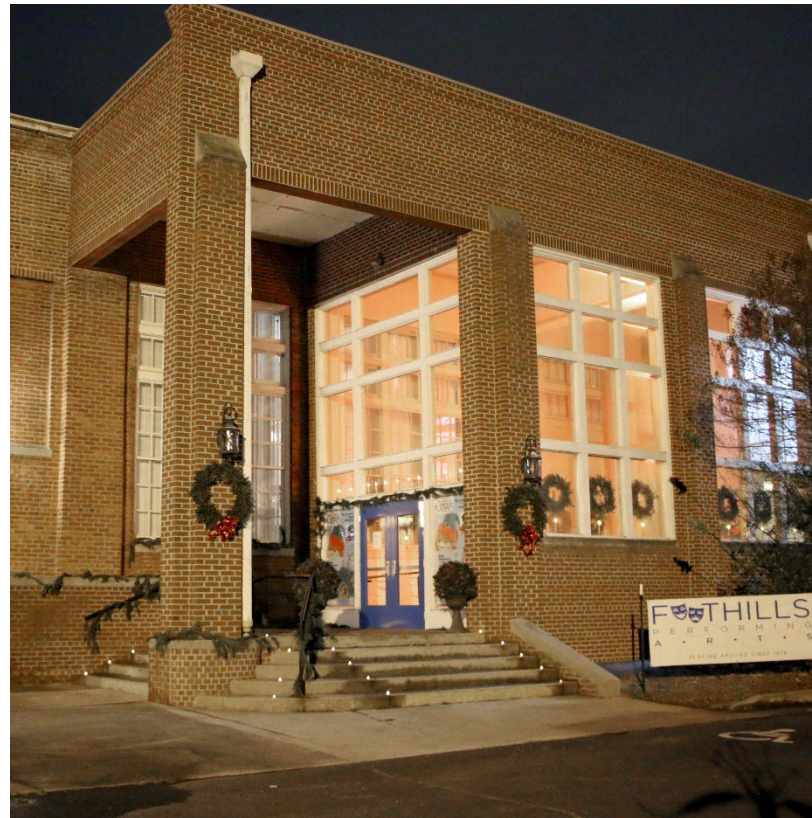
- Underway - The City purchased the property at 1136 Harper Ave. in June 2022. The plan is to use the property as a Farmers Market and incorporate the property into The Campus.



2/23/2023

Lenoir High School Auditorium Renovations

- ▶ Renovations continue at the Lenoir High School Auditorium.
- ▶ Phase 2 includes painting the walls and ceiling of the entry and main lobby area, repairing the roof over the entry lobby, painting the stage walls, replacing the HVAC units, and switching the existing lighting in the auditorium to LED. Workers will also replace the carpet in the lobby and install new roof gutters on the auditorium building.
- ▶ Phase 3 on the way.



2/23/2023

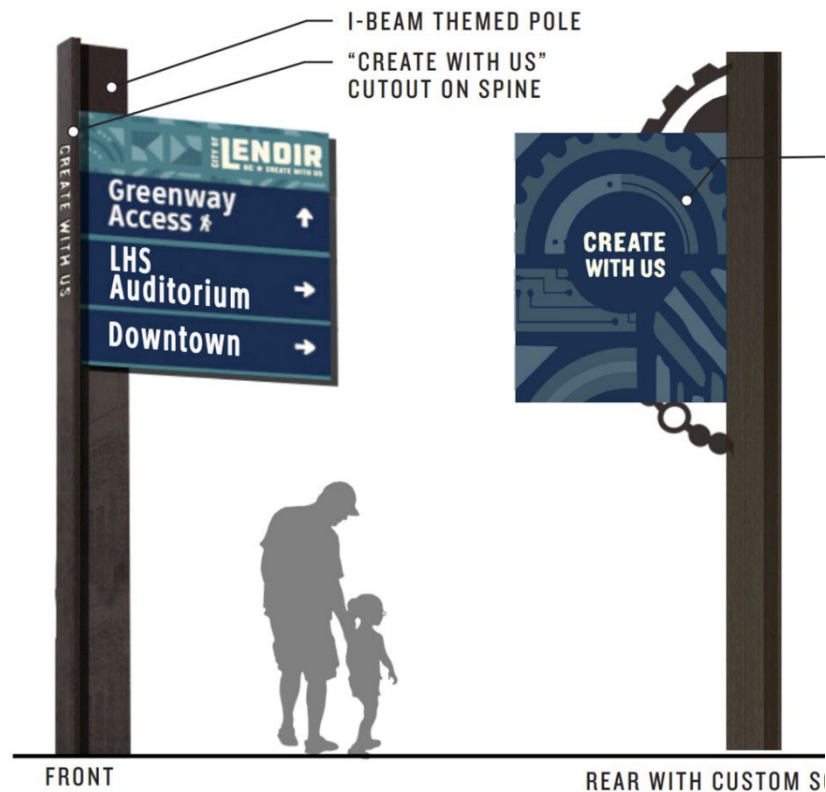
Finley Avenue Water System Improvements

- ▶ Underway - The City was approved for \$6.3 million in State Capital Infrastructure Funds to make improvements to the Finley Avenue water system.
- ▶ Staff must submit designs by August, and if all goes well, construction on the project could begin in the spring of 2024.
- ▶ The City has contract with McGill & Associates to design the improvements.



2/23/2023

Wayfinding Signs



- ▶ Underway - Work continues on the City of Lenoir wayfinding signs.
- ▶ Staff have submitted plans to North Carolina Department of Transportation.
- ▶ Staff has received some funding and is currently seeking other funding for the new signs.

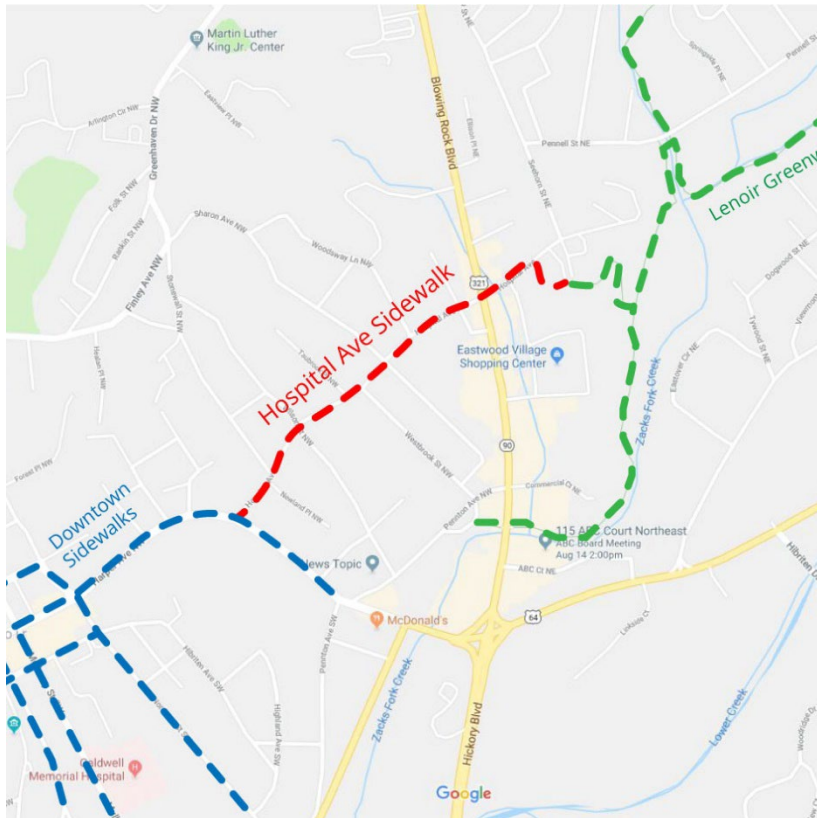
Smith Crossroads Sign

- ▶ Underway - Staff is working with Destination by Design, to develop contract documents for the Smith Crossroads gateway sign.
- ▶ This project, which includes installation of a back-lit decorative sign, requires coordination with NCDOT, Duke Energy, and others.
- ▶ Staff have submitted an NCDOT Right-of-way Encroachment Agreement.



2/23/2023

Hospital Avenue Sidewalk Project



- ▶ Underway - Staff have continued to work with Wetherill Engineering on the Hospital Avenue Sidewalk project.
- ▶ The City has completed all right-of-way acquisition for the project, and final plans and the bid proposal have been reviewed by NCDOT.
- ▶ Staff hope to bid this project by early spring 2023.

City Clock Tower



- ▶ Underway - Due to deterioration and safety concerns, City staff removed the clock tower on the square in November.
- ▶ Staff have contracted with a company to restore the clock.
- ▶ The City is working with Joe Bigley, Executive Director of the WNC Sculpture Center to design and new tower to hold the City Clock.

Smith Crossroads Sewer Project

- ▶ Underway - The Smith Crossroad Sewer Project is nearing completion.
- ▶ In 2021, Council approved a bid to replace more than 3,800 feet of sewer line that runs from Mayflower Seafood Restaurant to the Lenoir Golf Club parking lot.
- ▶ The project replaced an old 12-inch sewer pipe with a new 20-inch pipe, replaced about 20 manholes, and reconnected all sewer services tied to the main line.



2/23/2023

2022 Communication Metrics

2951

Photos

37

Videos

360

Alerts

332

Questions &
Answers

400+

Media Coverage

2/23/2023

NC Gravity Games returns April 29!



- ▶ The checkered flag will wave again at the NC Gravity Games & Street Fest, on Saturday, April 29 in Downtown Lenoir. The free, action-packed day of thrills is sponsored by Google, Appalachian State University, the University of North Carolina (via the NC Science Festival) and the City of Lenoir.
- ▶ The Gravity Games will celebrate its 10th running in 2023. The event did not occur in 2020-2022 due to pandemic precautions.

Questions and Comments

- ▶ Visit cityoflenoir.com/notifyme to sign up and receive notifications about City news, services, events, and more.

