

## Hickory to celebrate Oktoberfest this weekend

By Betty Stone

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Posted: Sunday, October 2, 2011

Hickory will celebrate Oktoberfest from Friday through Sunday at Union Square in downtown Hickory.

There will be two beer gardens, amusement rides, carnival games and juried arts and crafts.

The festival begins at noon Friday and continues until 11:30 p.m. Although the Seventh Annual Carolina Orthopaedic Oktoberfest Footrace starts at 8 a.m. on Saturday, the festival hours that day are 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m. On Sunday, the event resumes noon-5 p.m.

Several bands will perform on the Main Stage, dubbed "Beck's Beer Garden." The band Simplified is the headliner Saturday night. Expect elements of rock, reggae, funk and roots with a versatile stage show. Called a "Band on the Rise" by Relix Magazine, Simplified has performed more than 2,000 shows since it formed seven years ago.

WSNB and Jonathan Birchfield perform Friday night on the Main Stage. Saturday, Fraxured, The Extraordinaires, VIPs, Gigi Dover and the Big Love and 20/20 also perform.

There are concurrent performances on the Teen Stage, Pavilion Stage, the Kidfest Stage, and the Singer/Songwriter Stage. Accordionist Bob Wilusz will be roving much of the weekend.

The complete performance schedule and other information can be found at [hickory oktoberfest.com](http://hickoryoktoberfest.com).

### Girl Scouts do Big Sweep of Lakeside Park trail

Two Girl Scout troops from Granite Falls began their new term last month at Lakeside Park with a Big Sweep clean-up of the "Tater Hole," the local name for the park on Lake Rhodhiss.

Before heading out, the girls in Troup 10147 met with Pam Hamby, who is Caldwell County's Education Coordinator for the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

Twenty girls participated from Troops 10147 and 10238. With the help of two siblings and 11 adult leaders, the troops collected 11 bags of litter, a tire, a metal lid and a metal chair, all on the nature trail closest to the water.

Girl Scouts gathered at least 400 bags of trash last year across North Carolina during the Big Sweep months.

Tina Annas, Karen Bolick and Melanie Schmoyer lead the girls in Troop 10147. Troop 10238 is led by Sharon Miller and Anissa Wood.

Participating in this job were scouts Syndey Bussard, Krista Bolick, Veronica Miller, Haley Sabey, Catherine Huggins, Ruby Annas, Maci Annas, Chastyn Minton, Lily Wilson, Abby Fleri, Ysabelle Villacorte, Victoria Villacorte, Zarina Villacorte, Scarlet Porter, Zoey Lowman, Hannah Wood, Cheyenne Lee, Danielle Schmoyer, Tatum Reising, Kristen Eller.

## Carolina Thread Trail gets new markers

Four new markers on the Carolina Thread Trail were recently unveiled in Catawba County. There are approximately five miles of the Central County Corridor of the Carolina Thread Trail in Catawba County.

The whole trail traverses 15 counties in North Carolina and South Carolina. The network of trails provides walking and biking paths to encourage wellness of people and the environment.

The Catawba Lands Conservancy is the lead agency in developing the Thread since it was initiated in 2007. Additional funds for the local trails and markers came from contributions from the Catawba Valley Heritage Alliance and funding from the cities.

The new markers were placed along the trail, which runs through Hickory, Conover, Murrays Mill and Newton. First, the city of Hickory dedicated a 1.2-mile section of the greenway at the Jaycee and Hickory City Parks along 12th Street Drive N.W.

The .7-mile segment dedicated by the city of Conover runs parallel to First Street West, just south of Interstate 40. Then at 1489 Murrays Mill Road, the third marker dedicates a one-mile segment to David Lee Steward, who made part of his property available to the trail, which cross country teams and the community use.

The city of Newton unveiled the fourth new marker on the second phase of the Newton Heritage Trail Greenway, on the south side of Radio Station Road. It's on a 3/4-mile paved segment constructed using an enhancement grant from the N.C. Department of Transportation.

A map and details about the trail are at [carolina.threadtrail.org](http://carolina.threadtrail.org).

## Langley Winds to perform Sunday in Granite Falls

Next Sunday, folks in downtown Granite Falls can hear a performance by Langley Winds woodwind ensemble, a part of the U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band. The concert of popular, patriotic and chamber music will begin at 3 p.m.

Everyone is invited to bring chairs for the free performance. The Granite Falls Merchants' Association will sell food and drinks.

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<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2011/10/02/2649809/hickory-to-celebrate-oktoberfest.html>