



APPLICATION Special Event Permit

Planning and Economic Development Division
101 E. Orange St., PO Box 429, Hillsborough, NC 27278
919-296-9470 | Fax: 919-644-2390
planning@hillsboroughnc.gov
www.hillsboroughnc.gov

Please review Chapter 7, Article 3 of the Hillsborough Code of Ordinances to determine if your event requires a special event permit. **The application must be received 60 days in advance of the event.**

Name of event: 2026 Solstice Lantern Walk & Market

Event location address: 140 E Margaret Ln, Hillsborough, NC 27278

Date(s) of event: Saturday, Dec 19, 2026

Event setup time: 1-5 PM Event hours: 5-8 PM Event breakdown: 8-9 PM

Date(s) of event: _____

Event setup time: _____ Event hours: _____ Event breakdown: _____

EVENT ORGANIZER AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of organization/company: Hillsborough Arts Council

Organization/company mailing address: _____

Organization status: ☐ Formal ☐ Informal ☐ For-profit ☒ Not-for-profit

Event organizer name: _____

Event organizer phone: _____ Event organizer email: _____

On-site contact(s) during the event:

Name: _____ Cell phone: _____

Name: _____ Cell phone: _____

GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

Type of event:

- ☐ Private event on private property ☒ Public event on public property
☐ Private event on public property ☐ Public event on private property
☒ Street or greenway event (includes parades, marches, rallies, and foot and bike races)

General event description:

Please outline the event purpose and elements, including items such as food trucks, car shows, races and vendors.
The Hillsborough Arts Council invites participants to craft handmade lanterns and join a lantern-lit procession along Riverwalk in celebration of Winter Solstice. Around the lantern walk, visitors can attend the 2026 Solstice Market, under the Farmers Market Pavillion, featuring local artisans, live music, hot drinks, warm food, and family-friendly activities. This is a self-guided event, with attendees encouraged to enjoy the Riverwalk throughout the duration of the event and keep right to support traffic flow. With support from the Alliance for Historic Hillsborough, we're providing a circulator bus to connect the Solstice Market with West Hillsborough and aid crowd circulation. One of the bus stops will be located in front of Cup a Joe on King St.

Last revised: November 2023

Estimated number of people who will attend the event: 4-6k

Estimated peak time(s) of attendance: 6 PM

Maximum capacity of event location (number of persons, if applicable): N/A

For annual events, the estimated attendance of the last event of this kind: 5-6k

GENERAL EVENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Will tickets be sold or admission or fees charged as part of the event? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Will alcohol be sold or provided as a part of this event? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes regarding alcohol:

Indicate the vendor(s) and/or ABC permit holder(s) responsible for the alcohol sales or distribution and attach a copy of the ABC permit(s) for each vendor:

Note: Alcohol may only be sold by vendors with an off-premise permit or by event organizers with a special one-time ABC sales permit. Alcohol sales may be subject to the prepared food and beverage tax.

Will vendors be on site selling goods, crafts or wares during the event? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Will vendors be on site selling food or beverages during the event? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Note: Vendors without a physical location in town and food trucks without Town of Hillsborough Food Truck Permits must pay the food and beverage tax in advance of selling prepared food or beverage. For the tax application, see the Financial Services Department page on the town website, hillsboroughnc.gov.

List name(s) of the vendors:

4-5 Food vendors TBA

Will you solicit donations as part of the event? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, for what cause or organization? Hillsborough Arts Council

Will you bring additional equipment, such as stages, microphones and amplification? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Please explain: Heaters, event lighting, band equipment (microphone and small speaker), ADA portalets

Will any items be left at the event site overnight? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Please explain: Heaters for next day pick-up

Will signs or banners be displayed on site or around town? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Note: Special event signage *must be applied for and permitted separately BEFORE signage is placed around town. See the Reservations page on the town website, hillsboroughnc.gov.*

Will tents be erected for the event? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how many and what size? up to 10; 10x10 tents.

Note: Tents may require a permit and inspection by the Orange County Fire and Life Safety Division depending on size and number. Tents should be shown with location and dimensions on the event map or layout.

Will you provide (portable) restroom facilities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Note: Depending on attendance numbers and duration, restroom facilities must be provided by special event organizers. Restrooms of local businesses and town and county facilities may complement but not be a substitute for providing adequate restrooms for the event.

Will you provide (portable) handwashing facilities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Note: Handwashing facilities are required for events that include on-site food preparation and/or sales without direct or immediate sink access.

Will the event require any street closures or change in traffic flow? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Will the event require additional trash and recycling facilities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Will you request that the town board sponsor specific services in conjunction with this event? ☒ Yes ☐ No

☐ Road closures

☐ Traffic control

☒ Police coverage

☒ Trash and recycling rollouts

Number of rollouts 6

EVENT MAP AND LAYOUT REQUIREMENTS

With this application, you must attach a map of the area that the event is to take place and indicate the following:

- Traffic flow — Include any streets requested to be closed or obstructed (law enforcement will determine locations of barriers and officers).
- Event route — Clearly show route if the event includes an event such as a parade or greenway closure.
- Parking areas — Note areas where event attendees will be directed that are adequate for the event attendance. The Eno River Parking Deck has 400 parking spaces.
- Pedestrian access and flow.
- Location of —
 - Any concession stand, food truck(s), booth, or other temporary structures, tents, stages or facilities.
 - Proposed fences, stands, platforms, benches, or bleachers.
 - Restroom and handwashing facilities.

Note: A street map and Gold Park map are available on the town's website. Google Maps is another resource and can be easily marked up. Contact staff if you need assistance with providing an event layout or route map.

EVENT LIABILITY INSURANCE

Event organizers and/or property owners need to insure themselves from liability in case event attendees injure themselves during the course of the event. Events occurring on public property (town or county) are required to carry event liability insurance with the public property owner listed as "additionally insured."

Copy of event liability Certificate of Insurance is attached: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Name of insurance company providing liability coverage for the event:

Herring & Bickers Insurance

Contact information for broker/agent providing coverage:

EVENT PROPERTY USE PERMISSION

If the event will be on property not owned or managed by the event organizer, then the property owner must indicate consent below for the use of the property:

Name of property owner

Phone

Signature of property owner

9/8/2026

Date

TOWN LIABILITY AGREEMENT

I, the applicant, agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Hillsborough, its employees, and its agents from and against any and all liability for any injury that may be suffered in connection with this special event approval or park reservation. I also hold harmless the Town of Hillsborough, its employees, and its agents from and against any liability for any equipment or supplies lost, damaged, or stolen that are stored or otherwise as a result of this special event.



Applicant signature

9/8/2026

Date

SUBMITTAL DIRECTIONS:

The following methods may be used:

- Submit electronically to Planning Technician Dakotah Kimbrough at dakotah.kimbrough@hillsboroughnc.gov
- Submit paper copy to:
Hillsborough Planning Department
ATTN: Planning Technician Dakotah Kimbrough
PO Box 429
101 E. Orange St.
Hillsborough, NC 27278

FOR OFFICE USE ONLYApplication received by: Dakotah KimbroughDate: 9/22/2026 Fee paid: TYLX124879194Date information emailed out: 10/6/2026**Permit Status**Approved: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Explanation: _____

Date permit issued: _____

Approved with any conditions: _____

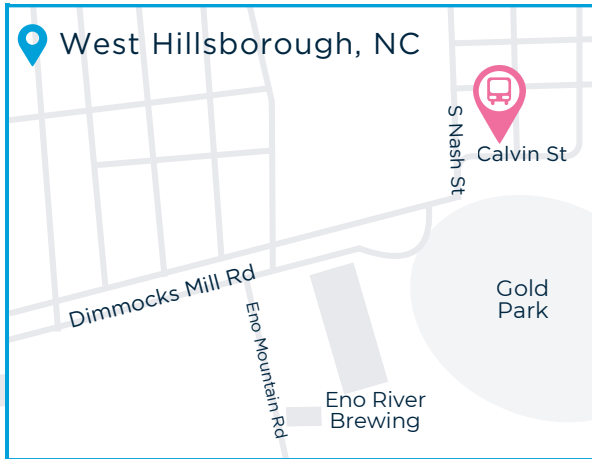
By: _____

Name of town staff member

Date

Forwarded to:

- ☒ Hillsborough Communications Division
- ☒ Hillsborough Financial Services Department (Food and Beverage Tax)
- ☒ Hillsborough Police Department
- ☒ Hillsborough Public Space Manager
- ☒ Hillsborough Public Works Division
- ☐ North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT road closures)
- ☐ Orange County Asset Management Services (Visitors Center, library, courthouses)
- ☒ Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture and Parks and Recreation (River Park)
- ☒ Orange County Fire and Life Safety Division
- ☒ Orange County Sheriff's Office
- ☒ Orange Rural Fire Department



Entertainment	Safety Volunteers	Two-Way Traffic
Watch Zone	Police Security	Rest Area
Circulator Bus Stop	ADA Accessible Entrance	Restrooms & Hand Washing



 **HOSTED BY:**
HILLSBOROUGH
ARTS COUNCIL

Dec. 19, 5-8 PM
Walk at your own pace!

SUNSET: 5:05 PM

Farmers
Market
Pavilion

↑
♂ ♀ ♿

F3

↓

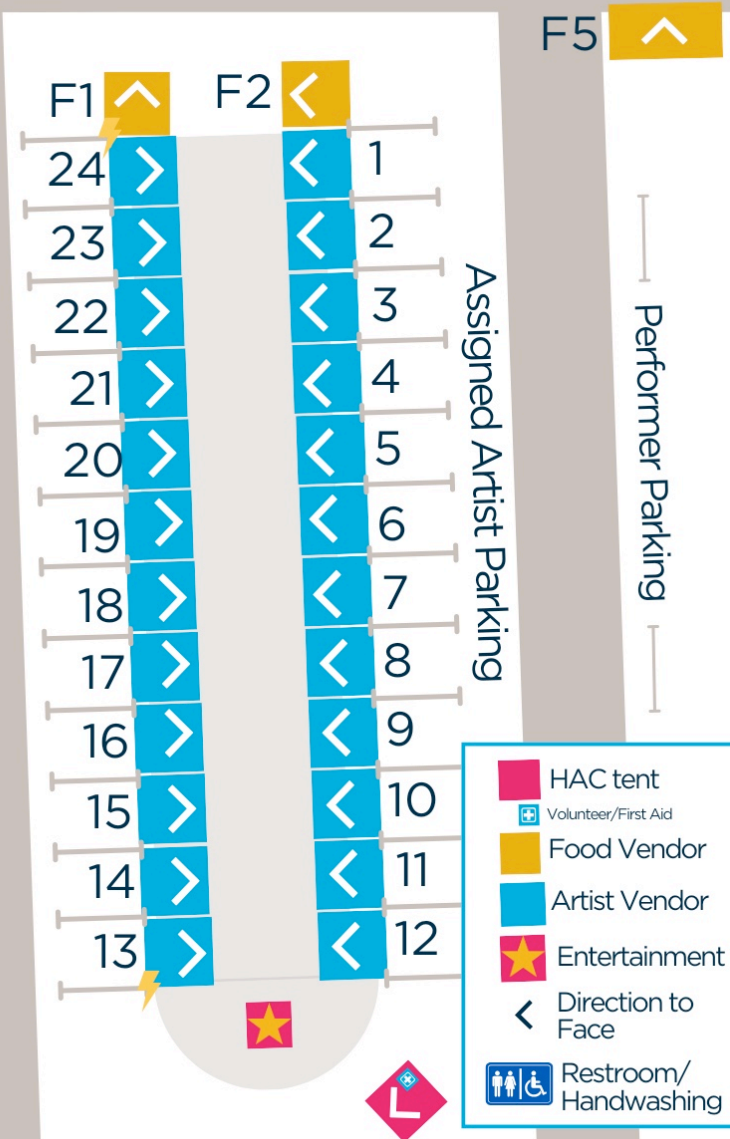
F4

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⚡
♂ ♀ ♿

♂ ♀ ♿

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HAC tent

⚡

Volunteer/First Aid

↗

Food Vendor

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Artist Vendor

★

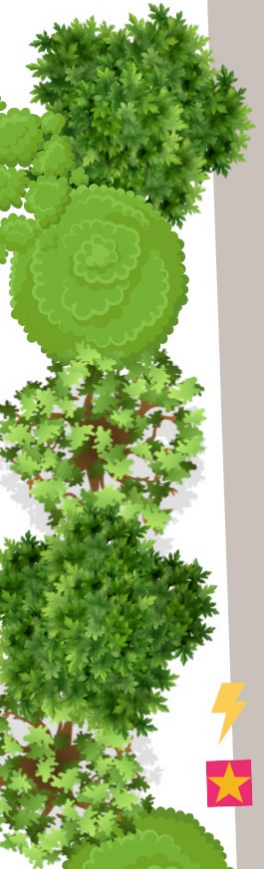
Entertainment

↖

Direction to Face

♂ ♀ ♿

Restroom/
Handwashing





CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

09/10/2026

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER Herring & Bickers Insurance 2344 Operations Dr., Ste. 101 Durham NC 27705		CONTACT NAME: Lee Hammond PHONE (A/C, No, Ext): 919-479-9900 E-MAIL ADDRESS: lee@herringbickers.com FAX (A/C, No):	
INSURED Hillsborough Arts Council 102 N Churton St Hillsborough NC 27278-2534		INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE INSURER A: United States Liability Insurance Company INSURER B: Erie Insurance Exchange INSURER C: INSURER D: INSURER E: INSURER F:	
		NAIC # 25895 18457	

COVERAGES**CERTIFICATE NUMBER:****REVISION NUMBER:**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSR	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS
A	GENERAL LIABILITY ☒ COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY ☐ CLAIMS-MADE ☒ OCCUR GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: ☒ POLICY ☐ PRO-JECT ☐ LOC	Y		NBP1568325	8/10/2026	08/10/2027	EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000 DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ 100,000 MED EXP (Any one person) \$ 5,000 PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ 1,000,000 GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ 2,000,000 PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG \$ 2,000,000 \$
	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY ☐ ANY AUTO ☐ ALL OWNED AUTOS ☐ HIRED AUTOS ☐ SCHEDULED AUTOS ☐ NON-OWNED AUTOS						COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$ \$
	UMBRELLA LIAB EXCESS LIAB ☐ OCCUR ☐ CLAIMS-MADE DED RETENTION \$						EACH OCCURRENCE \$ AGGREGATE \$ \$
	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory in NH) If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below Y / N ☐ N / A						☒ WC STATUTORY LIMITS E.L. EACH ACCIDENT \$ 500,000 E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ 500,000 E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$ 500,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (Attach ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, if more space is required)

Town of Hillsborough is an additional insured as respects general liability arising from the insured's operations when required by written contract.
Re: Solstice Lantern Walk 2026

CERTIFICATE HOLDER**CANCELLATION**

Town of Hillsborough PO Box 429 Hillsborough NC 27278	SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
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