Google Fiber Is Coming To Raleigh to Bring City Residents Ultra-High Speed Internet Access

Today, Mayor McFarlane announced that Google Fiber is coming to Raleigh. Improving broadband speed and choice for residents has been a priority for Raleigh for some time. Raleigh applied for Google Fiber in 2010, joined North Carolina Next Generation Network (NCNGN), and completed the Google Fiber checklist last year.

“Ultra-high-speed broadband is vital for our residents to participate in today’s global economy. Broadband is the next generation economic development infrastructure that supports the collaboration of communities and the advancement of education and research,” Mayor McFarlane said.

Today’s average American broadband speed is 11.5 Megabits per second. In contrast, Google Fiber will bring Raleigh residents access to “Gigabit” Internet connections up to 1,000 Megabits per second. And gig networks aren’t just about meeting today’s speed needs. The next leap in broadband speeds, to gigabit Internet, will lead to innovation that’s unimaginable today, just as the shift from dial-up to broadband did.

“Our communities and residents need access to high-speed broadband to participate in educational opportunities and our digital economy,” said Gail M. Roper, Raleigh’s chief information officer. “High-speed broadband can help cities enhance service delivery and increase civic engagement.”

Google will be working closely with Mayor McFarlane and city leaders on the next steps to build a brand new fiber-optic network capable of delivering gigabit speeds throughout Raleigh. The next stage of work includes designing and planning a new fiber-optic network down to a detailed level. After this process, which will take several months, Google Fiber and Raleigh will begin constructing the network.

“We are here because of the hard work, passion and commitment of the city and its leaders,” said Kevin Lo, Director of Business Operations for Google Fiber. “The next chapter of the Internet will be written at gigabit speeds. These new networks will lay the foundation for a wave of innovation and economic growth. Raleigh is the perfect city to show us what’s possible, and we can’t wait to see what Raleigh will do with Fiber.”

Google Fiber is an Internet and TV service that provides Internet speeds up to one gigabit per second. Google Fiber is currently available in Kansas City, Kansas, Kansas City, Missouri, Provo, Utah, and Austin, Texas. For more information about this announcement, visit the googleblog.blogspot.com

For more information, contact Gail M. Roper at 919-996-4645.

City Still Accepting Public Comments on Buffaloe Road-New Hope Road Draft Area Plan

The last day to submit public comments on the Buffaloe Road-New Hope Road draft area plan is Friday, Feb. 6. The City of Raleigh’s planning staff has presented a draft area plan for property at the intersection of New Hope Road and Buffaloe Road.

The plan area not only includes land at the intersection of New Hope and Buffaloe roads but adjacent neighborhoods as well.
Community Workshops Scheduled for Cameron Village and Hillsborough Street Small Area Plans

The public is invited to participate in and provide comments during community workshops that have been scheduled on the Cameron Village and Hillsborough Street Small Area Plans. Each of the small area plans encompasses large and diverse areas that have shared and unique needs.

Workshops have been scheduled to make it convenient for community members to discuss these needs in detail. The February workshops will focus on the Cameron Village area and the March workshops will focus on the Hillsborough Street area.

The workshops will focus on:
• Facilitated small-group discussion; and,
• Activities to explore land use and circulation.

Draft results from each Tuesday session will be presented for additional public input during the community presentation that will be held on the following Thursday. All work sessions and follow-up sessions will be held at the Chan-Poyner Dining Hall in Saint Mary’s School, 900 Hillsborough St. in Raleigh.

The workshop schedule is:

Cameron Village Area Workshop
Community Work Session: Tuesday, February 10, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Community Presentation: Thursday, February 12, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Hillsborough Street Area Workshop
Community Work Session: Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Community Presentation: Thursday, March 26, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Parking is free for all the sessions, and is available in the surface lot accessed from College Place. Dry weather parking also will be available around Smedes Hall Circle.

City Offers Free Business Financial Training for Small Business Owners

Learn to control your business financials, with Cherelle James, My Local CFO, LLC

Learn how to control your business financials and better understand the difference in record keeping in Excel vs accounting systems. We will also discuss tools that empower and focused decision making.

To attend, register online by Wednesday, February 25, 2015. Registration should take about 5 minutes to complete.

For more information, contact Luther Williams at 919-996-4278.

City Only Accepting Online Applications For Summer Youth Employment Program

Starting Feb. 16, teenagers interested in summer jobs with the City of Raleigh’s Summer Youth Employment Program (RSYEP) can submit online applications through the City’s website on our Employment Opportunities page. Paper applications no longer will be accepted. After online applications have been submitted, youth applicants are required to take part in an RSYEP interview from March 3-31.

RSYEP helps teens between the ages of 15 and 18 develop skills and prepare for future employment. Those selected will work 20 to 30 hours a week as office staff, light laborers, staff assistants, and recreation counselors. The program runs from June 15 to Aug. 14, and the pay is $7.25 an hour.

The program provides not only work experience but life skills training and mentoring by local lawyers and law-enforcement officers. Teens in the program attend workshops on topics such as employment readiness, communication, budgeting, decision-making and conflict resolution.

To be eligible, a teen must live in the Raleigh city limits and be at least 15 and no older than 18 as of May 31. To prove age and residency, applicants must submit a clear photocopy of a North Carolina driver’s license, learner’s permit or State of North Carolina identification card at the time of interview. (Copiers will not be available at the interview sites.) Temporary driving certificates, receipts for state identification cards, passports, military identification cards, and school identification cards will not be accepted.

Applicants will be required to submit an online application prior to attending an interview session. Names and contact information for references also are mandatory on the online application.

All interview and application sessions will be from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the following locations and dates:
• Tuesday, March 3, Millbrook Exchange Park, 1905 Spring Forest Road;
• Thursday, March 5, Biltmore Hills Community Center, 2615 Fitzgerald Drive;
• Tuesday, March 10, Lake Lynn Community Center, 7921 Ray Road;
• Thursday, March 12, Lions Park Community Center, 516 Dennis Ave.;
• Monday, March 16, Roberts Park Community Center, 1300 East Martin St.;
• Wednesday, March 18, Chavis Community Center, 505 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.;
• Friday, March 20, Tarboro Road Community Center, 121 Tarboro Road;
The Community Services Division of the City of Raleigh Housing and Neighborhoods Department administers the Raleigh Summer Youth Program. For more information, contact Youth Services Coordinator Cathey Ector at 919-996-6100 or Cathey.ector@raleigh.nc.gov.

For more information, contact Cathey Ector, Youth Services Coordinator, Community Services Department, 919-996-6100.

**Public Meeting Is Feb. 5 on Peace St. West Streetscape**

The public is invited to a public meeting on the Peace Street West Streetscape project Thursday, February 5 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in room 305 of the Raleigh Municipal Building. Attendees are encouraged to offer comments on the project.

The project will consist of construction of streetscape improvements along Peace Street between Saint Mary's Street and West Street. The project will include installation of new brick paver sidewalks along both sides of the corridor, street trees with grates, pedestrian ramp upgrades, traffic signal upgrades with mast arms, driveway consolidation, and the moving underground of some overhead utility lines.

Initiated in 2005, the $2,000,000 project was put on hold in 2007 until funding could be arranged to cover the cost of right-of-way acquisition and construction. The project later was included in the 2014-2015 City of Raleigh Capital Improvement Program, completing the funding needed to proceed. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2016.

For more information, contact Chirs Johnson at 919-996-4112.

**Human Relations Commission Seeks Nominations for Human Relations Awards**

The City of Raleigh Human Relations Commission is inviting nominations for its annual Human Relations Awards. The awards recognize those who contribute to positive human relations in Raleigh.

The Human Relations Commission has given the awards each year since 1989. In choosing award recipients, the commission looks for those whose activities advance its mission of enhancing human dignity, equal opportunity, mutual respect and harmony among Raleigh residents.

The Human Relations Commission issues awards in the following categories:
- Individual;
- Organization;
- Business; and,
- Student (middle school or high school)

Any member of the public may submit a nomination. Download the nomination form or submit at SurveyMonkey.

**Nominations are due by Jan. 30.**

Award recipients will be honored at the annual Human Relations Commission Awards Banquet on Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Raleigh Convention Center.

For more information, contact Marionna Poke-Stewart at 919-996-6100.

**City of Raleigh Museum to Host Exhibit, Lectures for Black History Month**

On Jan. 20, the Raleigh City Council authorized the City Manager to execute loan modification documents for Garden Spring Associates, LLC, and Meadow Spring Housing Associates, LLC.

In December 1996, the City of Raleigh provided a loan to Garden Spring Housing Associates, LLC to construct a 33 unit affordable housing development for the elderly. The City also provided a loan to Meadow Spring Housing Associates, LLC to construct a 33 unit affordable housing development in December 1997. Both loans were set at 6.75 percent and continued to accrue interest each year. Both developments have passed the tax credit compliance period and are attempting to refinance the first mortgage on the properties to obtain lower interest rates and maintain project stability. Evergreen Construction is the general partner for both developments.

The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency has agreed to subordinate their liens on both developments to the new loans and extend their maturity dates to match the terms of the new loans from Community Investment Corporation of the Carolinas (CICCAR).

The City of Raleigh will extend the existing loans to match the new CICCAR loans and reduce the interest rate from 6.75 percent to two percent. In addition, the City will modify the annual payment amounts and defer interest owed on the loan to a balloon payment at the loans’ maturity. The City loans will be subordinate to the new CICCAR loans.

For more information, contact Larry Jarvis at 919-996-4330.

**Nominate Your Environmental Heroes**

Know an individual or organization that has demonstrated a commitment to the environment? If so, nominate them for a City of Raleigh Environmental Award.

The City of Raleigh is now accepting nominations for the 2015 Environmental Awards to recognize those who are accomplishing outstanding work in environmental stewardship in our community. Awards are given in 12 categories, including the Raleigh Environmental Stewardship Award and the Emerging Professional
Traffic will be affected downtown for a road race. S. Blount Street will be closed from E. Martin Street to E. Davie Street; S. Person Street from E. Hargett Street to E. Cabarrus Street; S. Blount Street from E. Martin Street to E. Davie Street; and, E. Martin Street from S. Wilmington Street to S. Bloodworth Street; and, E. Davie Street from S. Wilmington Street to S. Bloodworth Street.

First Friday Closings

On First Friday of each month, from 6 p.m. to midnight, the 00 block of Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and Wilmington Street will be closed. This closure will also include the south side sidewalk of the block.

February 14 Traffic will be affected downtown for a road race from 8:25 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Hillsborough Street will be closed from Pulled Road to Enterprise Street from 4:30 a.m. until noon. N. Person Street will be closed from Pace to Polk streets from 4:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

February 17 The 200 block of Fayetteville Street will be closed from Hargrett to Martin streets from 7 a.m. to 2 a.m.

March 7 Traffic will be affected downtown from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. for a road race. S. Blount Street will be closed from E. Hargett Street to E. Martin Street from 9 a.m. to noon. The following streets will be closed from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.: S. Blount Street from E. Martin Street to E. Davie Street; S. Person Street from E. Hargrett Street to E. Cabarrus Street; E. Martin Street from S. Wilmington Street to S. Bloodworth Street; and, E. Davie Street from S. Wilmington Street to S. Bloodworth Street.

Follow the City of Raleigh on Twitter

Looking for the most up-to-date information from the City of Raleigh? Follow your local government via Twitter! Twitter is a free services that allows you to “follow” people or subjects via short, frequent updates. The City of Raleigh has several Twitter accounts to give users the opportunity to stay informed about the latest City news and breaking events. The City’s Twitter handles are:

• @RaleighGov (City news releases and alerts);
• @RaleighBPAC (Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission);
• @RaleighParks (Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department);
• @RaleighPlanning (Planning and Development Department);
• @RalCommServices (Community Services Department);
• @RW911 (traffic accidents reported to the Emergency Communications Center);
• @RaleighGoGreen (Solid Waste Services Department Recycling program);
• @RaiPublicArt (Arts Commission Public Art Program). To follow any of these, simply find the “Search Twitter” field on Twitter’s home page (twitter.com) and enter any of the handles.

Follow the City of Raleigh on Facebook

The City of Raleigh has several Facebook Pages to help you stay informed about various topics and events. To “Like” any of our Pages, find the Search field at the top of Facebook’s home page (facebook.com) and enter any of our page names: City of Raleigh (main City page to keep you informed about events, holidays and other news items); Raleigh Planning and Development; Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department; Raleigh Community Services Department; Raleigh-Wake County 911; Raleigh Police Department; Raleigh Public Art. Once you are on the page, choose “Like.” You can also choose “Get Notifications” from the dropdown menu under the arrow on the Like button. This ensures you will never miss a post or status update.

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