



Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



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VENUE CHANGE FOR BROOKINGS' PRESENTATION ON *BLUEPRINT FOR AMERICAN PROSPERITY*

The Jan. 31 presentation of the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program's *Blueprint for American Prosperity: Unleashing the Potential of a Metropolitan Nation* will be held in the city council chamber at the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St. The presentation was originally set to be held at the Raleigh Urban Design Center.

Bruce Katz, vice president and director of the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, will make the presentation beginning at 6 p.m. The City of Raleigh Department of City Planning is hosting Mr. Katz's appearance. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Registration is required to attend. To register, go to the City's website at http://www.raleighnc.gov/publications/Planning/Urban_Design/Blueprint_for_American_Prosperty.pdf

For additional information, contact Trisha Hasch at the Raleigh Urban Design Center, 807-8480, or email trisha.hasch@ci.raleigh.nc.us.

CALCULATOR LINKED TO HELP EXPLAIN WATER USAGE

At the Jan. 22 Raleigh City Council meeting, Mayor Charles Meeker challenged Raleigh public utilities customers to limit their daily water use to 35 gallons. In an effort to help explain to customers how much water they are using, the City of Raleigh has unveiled a water usage calculator on its Web site.

When the City of Raleigh bills customers for water consumption, it measures the water used in units called CCF, or a measure of volume totaling 100-cubic-feet. One CCF of water equals 748 gallons.

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Wake County

Residents should look at their water bill and enter their consumption number in the box and click on “calculate” to determine how many gallons of water they used during the last billing cycle.

The calculator is located at:

http://www.raleighnc.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_306_202_0_43/http:/pt03/DIG_Web_Content/category/Resident/Environment/WaterUsageCalc.html

CITY RENEWS CONTRACT WITH ACS FOR SAFELIGHT PROGRAM

On Jan. 22, the Raleigh City Council approved the negotiation of an extension with Affiliated Computer Services Inc. (ACS) for operational management of Raleigh’s Safelight red-light camera program. The City originally contracted with ACS in March of 2003 to manage the program.

The SafeLight cameras take photographs of the license plates of cars running red lights and as proof of a violation. Citations are sent to the registered owner of the vehicle and carry a \$50 fine with the possibility of an additional \$50 penalty if the fine is not paid within 30 days. Currently, the City maintains SafeLight cameras in 12 intersections. The locations were chosen based on having the highest rate of angle collisions in the city. These existing locations are:

- Dawson Street at South Street;
- Wilmington Street at Morgan Street;
- Dawson Street at Morgan Street;
- Six Forks Road at Rowan Street;
- Rock Quarry Road at Cross Link Road/Proctor Road;
- Brentwood Road at New Hope Church Road;
- Capital Boulevard at Highwoods Boulevard;
- Peace Street at West Street;
- Hillsborough Street at Dixie Trail/Friendly Drive;
- New Bern Avenue at Tarboro Street;
- Six Forks Road at Dartmouth Road; and,
- New Hope Road at Capital Boulevard.

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Web links

City of Raleigh
www.raleighnc.gov

Wake County
www.wakegov.com

Downtown Raleigh Alliance
www.godowntownraleigh.com

Greater Raleigh Chamber of
Commerce
www.raleighchamber.org

Greater Raleigh Convention
& Visitors Bureau
www.visitraleigh.com

NITROGEN DROPS TO RECORD LEVELS AT CITY'S NEUSE RIVER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Nitrogen discharged into the Neuse River has dropped dramatically to unprecedented levels, continuing a trend that began with the installation of denitrification facilities at the City of Raleigh's Neuse River Wastewater Treatment Plant (NRWWTP). Nitrogen levels remain far below State-mandated limits on nitrogen discharge for the Neuse.

In 2007, NRWWTP discharged a total of 233,061 pounds of nitrogen into the river, the lowest amount ever released into the Neuse since the City completed the first phase of the \$14 million denitrification project in 1998. The second phase was done in 2000. The 233,061 pounds of nitrogen discharged last year is a whopping 82.3 percent reduction from the 1995 total of 1,316,939 pounds. The North Carolina Division of Water Quality uses the 1995 figure as a benchmark level for nitrogen reductions required in Neuse River rules that took effect in 2003.

Even more impressive in 2007 is that the average nitrogen concentration for the year was 1.82 milligrams per liter, the first time the annual average has fallen below 2 milligrams per liter.

"This is a tremendous technological and operational achievement for the City of Raleigh - and the Neuse River is the main beneficiary," said City Public Utilities Director Dale Crisp, whose department oversees NRWWTP.

Nitrogen pollution levels at NRWWTP have been significantly lower than the State-imposed limits every year since the State-mandated limits went into effect in 2003. In fact, the City of Raleigh actually began abiding by the rules in 1999, four years before they took effect. This is because the City has long explored with new scientific measures, including addition of the denitrification process, that aim to further enhance the quality of water it returns to the Neuse from the wastewater treatment plant. As such, 2007 marked the ninth straight year the City has been below the 1995 benchmark level for nitrogen loading into the Neuse.

The denitrification process reduces nitrogen levels in treated wastewater discharged into the Neuse. Nitrogen is a natural element concentrated in sewage, fertilizer and farm products. According to the State, nitrogen contributes to the growth of algae blooms in the

Neuse estuary and kills fish.

The State rules that took effect in 2003 required 26 municipalities and industries along the Neuse to reduce their levels of nitrogen put into the river by more than 30 percent compared to 1995 benchmarks. Specifically, NRWTP had to decrease nitrogen by at least 49 percent. Last year's 82.3 percent nitrogen reduction from the 1995 benchmark is the largest by the City of Raleigh since the denitrification facilities were installed. This is 33.3 percentage points lower than the 49-percent threshold established for Raleigh in the State's nitrogen-reduction rules for the Neuse.

CITY TO NEGOTIATE BUILDING SENIOR CENTER ON WHITAKER MILL ROAD

The City of Raleigh will begin negotiations with Wake County on building a City-owned senior center on Whitaker Mill Road near the county's Whitaker Mill Senior Center. The City Council voted unanimously Jan. 22 in favor of directing City staff to start the negotiations.

Council members also authorized City staff to move ahead with design of the new senior center while negotiations are under way with Wake County. The senior center, according to the council, will not exceed 20,000 square feet in size and two stories in height. City staff will determine the best size of the senior center within the council's parameters based on programming recommendations by a City consultant. Council members said the site for the new senior center should result in "as little disturbance as possible to trees and natural areas" during the construction phase.

Last October, Raleigh voters approved \$7.7 million in funding for a City-owned senior center as part of an \$88.6 million parks bond issue.

Also as part of its discussion on the new senior center, the City Council directed City staff to compile a list of potential sites for satellite senior centers throughout Raleigh. The list will be presented to the council's Public Works Committee for its consideration. City staff may proceed with design services for satellite senior centers when the Public Works Committee approves any future sites. Any bond money left over from the senior center will be used for the satellite centers. The City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department serves 47 senior clubs located across the Capital City. The clubs are affiliated with the City's senior adult program, which serves more than 4,500 senior adults. The senior clubs meet at area community centers, churches and senior housing facilities, and offer

a range of activities such as bridge, speakers, and community service projects.

CITY COUNCIL AGREES TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED TEXT CHANGE REGARDING RESIDENTIAL INFILL DEVELOPMENT, DELAYS FORMING GROUP TO STUDY ISSUE

The Raleigh City Council voted unanimously Jan. 22 to hold a public hearing on a text change that addresses residential infill development. The text change would expedite the neighborhood conservation overlay district process. It was one of the options presented by the Planning Commission and the Planning Department regarding residential infill development.

The City Council and the Raleigh Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed text change on April 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the council chamber of the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St.

Also on Jan. 22, the council held for two weeks consideration of a proposal to form a study group that would be charged with reviewing best practices in other cities regarding residential infill development. The study group would develop recommendations for the council to consider. Council members will discuss forming the study group at its Feb. 5 meeting.

CITY AMENDS CHARTER SQUARE PARKING AGREEMENT

The Raleigh City Council approved an amendment to the parking agreement with TMC Development for the 1.8-acre parcel of property between Fayetteville and Wilmington streets.

In 2006, the City Council agreed to a memorandum of understanding with TMC Development that called for the sale of the property by the City to the developer for \$5,275,000 and the construction by the developer of an underground parking deck of 553 spaces that would be connected to the City's Phase I underground parking deck currently under construction. The deck will be leased to the City on a long-term basis.

At Jan. 22's meeting, the Council amended the agreement and the lease to include a single, post-construction, lease payment. The Council also granted a temporary access easement to the City for the Wilmington Street driveway and a temporary construction easement for the construction of the vehicular connector that will merge the Phase I deck and the Phase 2 deck. The Council also authorized the

issuance of a Certificate of Participation to finance the lease payment and the costs of the underground deck up to \$29.2 million.

COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ARTS PER CAPITA FUNDING DURING BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

The Raleigh City Council decided Jan. 22 to consider \$4.50 per capita funding for the arts during budget deliberations this spring. The council will receive a report from the Arts Commission on how the additional funds would be used if per capita funding for the arts is adopted by the council.

MEETING ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE SET FOR FEB. 11

A community meeting on the City of Raleigh's Comprehensive Plan update will be held on Feb. 11 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Church of God of Prophecy, 1200 S. State St. at the corner of Bragg Street.

The community meeting will include a presentation and small-group discussions. No pre-registration is required to attend the community meeting. On-site registration the day of the community meeting will begin at 6 p.m. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the City of Raleigh is updating its Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is the official long-range planning document adopted by the City Council. The plan contains a vision, goals and policies to guide growth and development in Raleigh. The current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1989. Since that time, Raleigh's population has increased by 70 percent. Furthermore, the city has had new growth patterns emerge. City leaders say a new 20-year plan is needed to ensure that Raleigh's quality of life continues to be protected as the city grows, emphasizing neighborhood preservation, a strong economy, ample parks and recreation, improved mobility for all modes of transportation, and the protection of the City's and region's natural resources and environmental quality. The Comprehensive Plan will serve as the policy framework for a wide range of decisions concerning land use, development patterns, urban design, and public investment priorities.

For more information about the Comprehensive Plan update, visit www.planningraleigh2030.com or contact Ken Bowers, the City of Raleigh's deputy planning director, at 516-2633 or email Kenneth.bowers@ci.raleigh.nc.us. For more information about the Feb. 11 community meeting, including directions to Church of God of Prophecy and other logistics, contact Sheila Lynch in the City's

Community Services Department, 831-6100 or email
Sheila.lynch@ci.raleigh.nc.us.

RALEIGH HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS ARE DUE FEB. 15

Do you know of a person or group that has contributed significantly to making this city we all love calling home special and unique? If so, it's time to speak up and nominate them for induction into the Raleigh Hall of Fame.

Nomination forms for individuals or organizations to the Raleigh Hall of Fame are due Feb. 15. Forms are available at the Cameron Village Library Customer Service Desk and the Raleigh Hall of Fame website at www.raleighhalloffame.org

Established in 2005, the Raleigh Hall of Fame's mission is to recognize and induct individuals, living or deceased, and non-profit organizations that are responsible for significant contributions to Raleigh.

In the past three years, some sixty-four individuals and organizations have been inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame. The following noteworthies were recognized this past September at the induction ceremony which was held at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Meymandi Concert Hall: John H. Baker Sr. and John H. Baker Jr.; Dr. Frederick D. Burroughs; Fred Fletcher Sr.; Seby B. Jones Sr.; LeRoy B. Martin Sr.; Nancy Olson; Dr. George W. Paschal Jr. and Beth C. Paschal; Susie Vick Perry; Sarah Denny Williamson; John W. Winters; Smedes York; Kay Yow; Raleigh Little Theatre and; Wake County Medical Society Alliance.

For more information contact L. Merritt Jones at 787-9617 or lmj301@bellsouth.net

CITY OF RALEIGH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD PROGRAM DEADLINE FEB. 1

Deadline for nominations for the City of Raleigh Environmental Awards Program is Feb. 1

The Environmental Awards Program was established to recognize outstanding work in sustainable development and environmental stewardship. A nominee honored with the overall award, the Raleigh Environmental Stewardship Award (RESA) will demonstrate a

commitment to the environment and will be recognized for leadership in sustainable development.

Sustainability has been defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The goal of sustainability is the relationship and continuity of the environment, economics, and equity or social justice aspects of human society.

Other awards will be selected based upon quantifiable results that positively affect the environment and include:

- **Environmental Awareness (Leadership or Teaching)** - demonstrated leadership or teaching others about the environment;
- **Legacy Award** - lifelong contribution to the environment by a person or an organization; .
- **Natural Resource Conservation** - water, wastewater, reuse water, residuals and biosolids, air quality, stormwater;
- **Green Design (Built Environment)** - Stormwater, recycling, sedimentation and erosion controls, construction debris reuse, energy innovation, ecological footprint;
- **Regional Award** - air quality, Neuse River basin or other regional issues;
- **Pioneering Efforts** - in any environmental area(s);
- **Youth** - primary or secondary school youth.
- **Urban Stewardship Award** - a volunteer individual or organization engaged in community building or conservation, and,
- **Market Transformation Award** - manufacturers, retailers, or marketers that promote products, services and choices that lessen the impact on the environment and health.

To be eligible for consideration nominees must either be residents of the City of Raleigh, operate within the Raleigh extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) or the utility service area. Elected officials are not eligible while they are serving in public office. The selection of award winners will be by an eight-person jury, selected by the City Council and consist of a the chairperson chosen from the membership of and nominated by the City of Raleigh Environmental Advisory Board. Representatives will be selected from the Planning Commission, the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board, the Appearance Commission, and the Stormwater Management Advisory Commission. A representative of the professional scientific community and two at-large members from the community will be selected two as part of the award jury. Members of the jury will be residents of the City of Raleigh and will rotate annually.

For more information contact Cindy Holmes, Administrative Services

Department, 890-3840 or visit the City's website at <http://www.raleighnc.gov/EnvironmentalAwards>

Downtown Events Calendar

01-29-2008 07:30 PM	High School Musical	Memorial Auditorium
01-30-2008 07:30 PM	High School Musical	Memorial Auditorium
01-31-2008 07:30 PM	High School Musical	Memorial Auditorium
02-01-2008 07:30 PM	High School Musical	Memorial Auditorium
02-02-2008 02:00 PM	High School Musical	Memorial Auditorium
02-02-2008 08:00 PM	Del McCoury Band	Meymandi Concert Hall
02-03-2008 01:00 PM	High School Musical	Memorial Auditorium
02-03-2008 06:00 PM	High School Musical	Memorial Auditorium
02-07-2008 08:00 PM	Carolina Ballet Presents ...	Memorial Auditorium
02-08-2008 11:30 AM	2007-08 Friday Favorites ...	Meymandi Concert Hall
02-08-2008 08:00 PM	Carolina Ballet Presents Cabaret..	Memorial Auditorium
02-08-2008 08:00 PM	The Devil and Kate	Fletcher Opera Theater
02-09-2008 02:00 PM	Carolina Ballet Presents Cabaret...	Memorial Auditorium
02-09-2008 08:00 PM	Carolina Ballet Presents Cabaret... ...	Memorial Auditorium
02-10-2008 02:00 PM	Carolina Ballet Presents Cabaret..	Memorial Auditorium
02-10-2008 02:00 PM	The Devil and Kate	Fletcher Opera Theater
02-12-2008 08:00 PM	Drowsy Chaperone – Broadway Series South.	Memorial Auditorium
02-13-2008 08:00 PM	Drowsy Chaperone – Broadway Series South.	Memorial Auditorium
02-14-2008 08:00 PM	Taj Majal Trio	Meymandi Concert Hall
02-15-2008 08:00 PM	2007-08 Duke Medicine Classical Raleigh...	Meymandi Concert Hall
02-15-2008 08:00 PM	Drowsy Chaperone – Broadway Series South..	Memorial Auditorium
02-16-2008 02:00 PM	Drowsy Chaperone – Broadway Series South.	Memorial Auditorium
02-16-2008 08:00 PM	Drowsy Chaperone – Broadway Series South.	Memorial Auditorium