



Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



DowntownRaleigh

October 30, 2006

Volume 4, Number 77

IN THIS ISSUE

SIR WALTER RALEIGH AWARD
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
PAGE 1

CONVENTION CENTER
CELEBRATES SAFETY AND
SELLING
PAGE 2

MAYOR PLANTS PROGRAMS
5000TH TREE
PAGE 4

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR
STREET VENDING
DOWNTOWN
PAGE 8

HEARING SET TO DISCUSS
RETAIL USE IN DOWNTOWN
OVERLAY DISTRICT
PAGE 8

SIR WALTER RALEIGH AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

A cutting-edge green building and the first-phase renaissance of “North Carolina’s Main Street” are among the 2006 winners of the City’s Sir Walter Raleigh Awards for Community Appearance.

For 24 years the Sir Walter Raleigh Awards, sponsored by the Raleigh Appearance Commission, have honored projects, groups, or individuals that have contributed in an exemplary fashion to improving the visual or natural environment of the Capital City. To qualify each honoree must exhibit a new standard for design excellence, environmental stewardship, community involvement, preservation of natural features or historic resources, and/or surpassing city regulatory standards.

Nominations were submitted by local citizens, developers, and design professionals in late summer. An independent jury selected this year’s winners following intensive review.

The Sir Walter Raleigh award winners were cited for their respective contributions toward making Raleigh a more attractive and livable city. Recipients are grouped by several distinct categories. The 2006 winners include:

RESIDENTIAL

- Boylan Condos—505 Florence Street
- The Dawson on Morgan—317 W. Morgan Street
- Gateway Park—701 Gateway Park Drive

HISTORIC PRESERVATION/ REHABILITATION

- Broughton High School Renovation—723 St. Mary’s Street
 - Leonidas L. Polk House Restoration—531 N. Blount Street
 - Raleigh Times Building Renovation—14 E. Hargett Street
- (Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from Page 1)

COMMUNITY

- Cameron Village Regional Library—1940 Clark Avenue
- Fayetteville Street Renaissance Project (Phase I)—100-400 blocks of Fayetteville Street

INSTITUTIONAL

- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters—1751 Varsity Drive
- Wolf Village Apartments of NCSU—2717 Western Boulevard

TREE AND LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

- Prairie Ridge Ecostation (Phase I)—Reedy Creek Road

INDIVIDUAL

- Annie Louise Wilkerson, M.D.

For more information: City Planning Department, 807-8519 or visit the City's website online at www.raleighnc.gov/sirwalterraleighawards.

CONVENTION CENTER CELEBRATES SAFETY AND SELLING

It's going to take 2 million man hours to construct Raleigh's new convention center. On Oct. 25, those building the convention center, City officials and convention center staff cheered passing 500,000 of those man hours without a lost-job-time injury.



The group also celebrated some significant bookings for the center that is scheduled to open in the summer of 2008. Mayor Charles Meeker applauded the four international conferences, 11 national conventions and 18 state and regional conventions that have reserved the 500,000-square-foot facility. The Mayor said that 10 of the state and regional conventions have booked multiple occasions that total 42 events that will result in 142,049 hotel nights.

(Continued on page 3)

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Web links

City of Raleigh
www.raleighnc.gov

Wake County
www.wakegov.com

Downtown Raleigh Alliance
www.downtownraleigh.org

Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
www.raleighchamber.org

Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.visitraleigh.com

(Continued from page 2)

The gathering at the construction site also marked the placement of the beams marking the highest points of the building. Mayor Meeker invited everyone to sign the beam, signifying how the convention center's degree of success depends on the dedication of the citizens of Raleigh.

"We've got to work toward the goal of bringing our business associates, professional colleagues and social acquaintances to meet in this fabulous facility in the heart of this rejuvenated downtown," he said. "Sign the beam and sign on as part of the convention center's team."

Mayor Meeker quoted Rick Weddle of the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina as saying: "The development of world-class convention facilities will enable Raleigh to be a destination for national and global events." The Mayor said that the foundation has attracted the International Association of Science Parks to Raleigh for its 2009 world conference, marking the first time in the association's 22-year history that its annual meeting will be held in the United States.

Cherie Berry, commissioner of the North Carolina Department of Labor (DOL), was on hand to present an award to Skanska/Barnhill, the project's contractor, applauding its half-million man hours of safe work. She identified the convention center project as the forerunner for the DOL's public/private partnership on project safety.

Commissioner Berry gave tours of Labor One; a new DOL mobile classroom that provides free, on-site workplace safety and health training aimed at reducing workplace deaths and injuries. "Labor One eliminates travel time for the workers and allows us to customize the training to the type of work being done at the site," she said. "We have an obligation to educate and train these workers who are doing some of the most dangerous work in this country."

Skanska/Barnhill, the project's construction manager, has provided 1400 workers safety training over the past two years of the project. National statistics indicate that, based on 7 million workers in U.S. construction each year, 113 workers sustain work-loss-injuries every hour. That equates to one injury every 32 seconds. Based on these statistics, the Raleigh convention center project should have nine lost time injuries, yet it has none.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Speaking at the event, Scott MacLeod, executive vice president of Skanska USA Building, Inc., said that the contractor had stressed the importance of safety every day to every worker on the job.

"I'm delighted that we're a quarter way through without injury," Mr. MacLeod said. "And every person involved in this project will endeavor every day, every hour that we work on this project with the goal of being able to stand with you in two years, here in this gorgeous new facility to celebrate a job, not only well done but safely done."

The \$215 million convention center will feature a 150,000-square-foot exhibit hall, 16 meeting rooms and a grand ballroom with a seating capacity of 2,400. The building will front onto Salisbury Street with a grand public plaza.

To this point, \$100,063,927 of the budget has been committed. More than \$18.39 million in project costs have been committed to Minority Women Business Enterprises. Projected participation for the project sees \$96,200,000 going to subcontractors in the 13-county Triangle region and another \$25,400,000 going to subcontractors outside the region but in North Carolina. Skanska/Barnhill reports that 90 percent of the project's subcontractors are North Carolina businesses.

To view the construction of the new convention center or for more information on the project, visit www.rccproject.com.

For more information: Roger Krupa, Director, Convention Center/Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, 831-6011

MAYOR PLANTS PROGRAM'S 5000TH TREE

The Capital City on Oct. 24 celebrated the fourth anniversary of its street tree program - NeighborWoods. The goal of the program is to add street trees to Raleigh's thoroughfares annually, with the end result making it the most beautifully canopied city in the United States.

To mark the "5,000 Trees and Growing" anniversary Mayor Charles Meeker and program supporters gathered in Nash Square to plant the program's 5,000th tree, a Nuttall oak, just a few feet from the program's first tree, also a Nuttall oak, which the Mayor planted on Oct. 17, 2002. The Parks and Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board Chair Gail Till joined the Mayor in the milestone planting.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

PROGRAM CHAMPIONS

As part of the anniversary celebration, Mayor Meeker presented awards to Haven House Services and Standard Pacific Homes.

From NeighborWoods' first days, Haven House has assisted Raleigh residents that want to be part of the street tree program but are physically unable to plant and tend a tree. Six to 15 student volunteers give one to two Saturdays a month during planting season - October to March -- to plant hundreds of trees across the city.



NeighborWoods leading benefactor, Standard Pacific Homes, was honored by the Mayor for having given \$25 for every home the company has built in Raleigh. The total donations exceed \$10,000. Mayor Meeker said he was proud to report that Raleigh's participation rate is just above 38 percent, which is above average when comparing to other municipal street tree programs across the nation.

The Mayor complimented the program's staff members for their efforts to plant a diverse urban forest, selecting more than 30 different species of trees.

At age four, Raleigh's NeighborWoods Program is producing \$1.89 in tangible benefits for every \$1 that is invested into the trees' planting and care, he said. He pointed out that the program saves taxpayers an average of \$112 per tree because the planting and caring is done by citizens and the staff labor, expense and travel time is reduced tremendously.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Mayor Meeker reminded those celebrating the program's anniversary that urban trees contribute so much more than just the obvious beauty and comfort.

"Every responsible person has to be concerned for our environment," the Mayor said, "and no single thing can do so much good for our community as a street tree."

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

He illustrated that a large yard tree can provide the following benefits annually:

- Savings of \$29 in summer air conditioning, which is about 9 percent of a typical residential building's total annual air conditioning costs;
- Absorption of 10 pounds of air pollutants, including four pounds of ozone and three pound of particulates;
- Collection of 760 gallons of rainfall in its crown, thereby reducing runoff of polluted stormwater and flooding;
- Cleaning 330 pounds of CO2 from the atmosphere through direct sequestration in the tree's wood and reduced power plant emissions due to cooling energy savings; and,
- Adding about one percent to the sales price of property, or about \$25 each year when annualized over a 40-year period.

Mayor Meeker introduced some members of the newly formed City of Raleigh Environmental Advisory Board who were attending the celebration. The board is designed to promote communication between various government agencies and the public on environmental protection standards and policies. The citizen board's initial work plan is studying vehicle fuel efficiency regarding the City's motor vehicle fleet, energy efficiency in new and existing City facilities, and the Kyoto Protocol, and international agreement that calls for industrialized nations to reduce their collective emissions of greenhouse gases.

IT'S A CITIZEN-CITY CO-OP

Mayor Meeker pointed out that the success of the program depends on the participation of Raleigh residents. While the City budgets funds to plant 500 of these trees along thoroughfares and to staff the program, the remaining 1,500 trees are funded by citizen contributions.

Residents can make a one-time contribution or can use the City's water billing system to support the program by calling 890-3245. Many residents mark the form found at www.raleighnc.gov/resident/trees/howneighborwoodworks/pledgeform with a certain amount over the designated number of water/sewer payments, and that amount will be added to the resident's utility bill.

HOW NEIGHBORWOODS WORKS

Raleigh NeighborWoods is a cooperative effort between the City and the citizens.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

City staff identifies rights-of-way that are most in need of trees. Neighborhoods with the least canopy are selected. City staff also evaluates requests for street trees from neighborhood and civic groups. Requests for individual replacement trees are handled on an annual basis.

The City staff identifies the planting site in front of a house. This entails locating underground utilities, determining what types of trees will be the best to plant in that location, and placing a small white dot on the curb and a stake where the tree is to be planted.

The staff leaves a door-hanger at the residence that is adjacent to the identified right-of-way. The door-hanger explains the Raleigh NeighborWoods Program, asks the residents to choose the type of tree they prefer from the types of trees recommended for that location, and explains that the residents will be responsible for planting the tree in the specified location, and watering and mulching it. A return post card is attached to the door-hanger. Included on the card is a space to indicate if the residents will need to have the tree planted for them, due to a physical disability. When the card is returned to the City indicating that the resident wishes to participate in Raleigh NeighborWoods, the City staff delivers the tree, along with planting and maintenance instructions. The City staff monitors the tree's survival annually.

PROGRAM'S GENESIS

In early 2002, a Street Tree Committee was formed by the City Council to evaluate the need for a street tree program and to make recommendations on the program. The panel recommended Raleigh NeighborWoods, which is modeled after a street tree program in Austin, Texas.

The City completely eliminated funding for street tree plantings in 1995. The following year, more than 1,600 trees were destroyed by Hurricane Fran but not replaced. (Dec. 5, 2002, just six weeks after the initiation of Raleigh NeighborWoods, a major ice storm coated Raleigh, destroying an additional 5,000 trees.)

According to the City's Parks and Recreation Department, more than 130,000 spaces along 1,025 miles of City streets are available for new plantings.

For more information on Raleigh NeighborWoods, contact the program's coordinator, Liz Zimmerman at 872-4115 or elizabeth.zimmerman@ci.raleigh.nc.us.

To volunteer to plant trees for those wishing to participate in the program but are physically unable to plant a tree, contact the City's Community Services Department at 831-6100.

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR NOV. 21 ON STREET VENDING DOWNTOWN

The Raleigh City Council will hold a public hearing on November 21 to discuss a regulatory component of the Raleigh Livable Streets plan.

The proposed amendment establishes a streamlined approval process, a new Downtown Permits Office and the new standards for the private use of public spaces in the Downtown Overlay District and the North Person, Peace Street and Glenwood South business districts.

Under the standards and through the new Downtown Permits Office, permits would be expedited for news racks, outdoor dining, street performances, street vending, pushcarts and certain minor encroachments such as outdoor merchandise, signs, awnings, lighting, street furniture, accessories and façade grant elements.

HEARING SET TO DISCUSS RETAIL USE IN DOWNTOWN OVERLAY DISTRICT

The Raleigh City Council will hold a public hearing on November 21 to discuss proposed text changes regarding the Downtown Overlay District regulations. The proposed text changes would allow the City Council to approve retail land uses within high density, mixed-use developments on properties that currently do not allow retail.

DOWNTOWN EVENTS CALENDER

10/31 9:45 A.M.	Junie B. Jones - ...	Memorial Auditorium
11/03 08:00 PM	The Music Man	Memorial Auditorium
11/04 02:00 PM	The Music Man	Memorial Auditorium
11/04 08:00 PM	The Music Man	Memorial Auditorium