



Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



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CITY TO OBSERVE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ON DEC. 24-25; HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE TO CHANGE

The City of Raleigh will observe the Christmas Day holiday on Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25. Most administrative offices will be closed both days. Emergency police, fire and rescue services may be reached by calling 9-1-1.

During the week of Christmas, the curbside collection schedule will change for garbage, recycling and yard waste. See the chart below.

Residential Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection

Monday, Dec. 24	Holiday. No scheduled collection.
Tuesday, Dec. 25	Holiday. No scheduled collection.
Wednesday, Dec. 26	Tuesday's curbside cart routes will be collected for garbage, recycling and yard waste.
Thursday, Dec. 27	Wednesday's curbside cart routes will be collected for garbage, recycling and yard waste.
Friday, Dec. 28	Thursday's curbside cart routes will be collected for garbage, recycling and yard waste.
Saturday, Dec. 29	Friday's curbside cart routes will be collected for garbage, recycling and yard waste.

Yard Waste Center

The Yard Waste Center will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25. It will reopen on Wednesday, Dec. 26 and operate on a normal schedule the remainder of the week.

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COUNCIL TO DISCUSS IMPACT FEES ON JAN. 8

The Raleigh City Council agreed to hold the issue of impact fees as a special item at the Jan. 8 Raleigh City Council meeting.

Impact fees are charges assessed on new development to help pay for capital costs created by the new development. The fees are based on a standard formula and a pre-determined fee schedule.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES RENAMING COMMUNITY CENTER IN HONOR OF RALEIGH SOLDIER KILLED IN IRAQ

The Raleigh City Council voted unanimously Dec. 4 to rename the Southgate Community Center in honor of a Raleigh soldier who was killed in Iraq. The facility's new name is the Sgt. Courtney T. Johnson Community Center.

Sgt. Johnson, 25, was killed in Besmaya, Iraq, on July 11 when his U.S. Army unit came under fire. He was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division based in Fort Benning, Ga.

The City Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board voted in November to recommend the council approve the name change. In addition, a citizens' petition containing more than 1,000 signatures was filed with the City in support of renaming the community center in honor of Sgt. Johnson.

As a child, Sgt. Johnson grew up in the Southgate area in southeast Raleigh and spent days at the Southgate Community Center, located at 1801 Procter St. As he got older, he started two-on-two basketball hoops tournaments, coached softball and helped latchkey children with homework - all at the community center.

In approving the name change for the community center, the City Council agreed to waive a three-year waiting period for renaming the facility because of Sgt. Johnson's significant contributions to the community.

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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

CITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS RESOLUTION ON TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

A proposed resolution on tax increment financing (TIF) was presented to the Raleigh City Council Dec. 4. The resolution, offered by Mayor Charles Meeker, outlines guidelines the City should use for evaluating TIF proposals.

Tax increment financing is a tool that local governments can use to improve blighted, deteriorated or economically depressed areas and to improve economic or community development. Here are the four major provisions of the resolution:

- TIF, or project development financing, may only be considered in areas of the city where development or redevelopment is not occurring and is not likely to occur in the foreseeable future;
- TIF will only be considered if a project cannot proceed without public funding for infrastructure, "and said infrastructure must be publicly owned and used for a public purpose";
- TIF will require that the public subsidy not exceed 75 percent of the taxes otherwise due on the incremental amount of development beyond that which otherwise would occur and no subsidy can extend beyond 20 years. Any such financing also will require a minimum tax agreement, guaranteeing cash flows to fund the public subsidy, and the public funding is to be repaid if the agreed upon development does not occur. If a project includes residential units, at least 5 percent of those units will be affordable housing for residents with low or moderate incomes; and,
- TIF will be used when Wake County participates with the same percentage of taxes due to the County as are due to the City of Raleigh.

The City Council will discuss the proposed resolution at its Jan. 8 meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE IS ANNOUNCED

Mayor Charles Meeker announced the following assignments for the City Council's committees:



Budget and Economic Development: Mr. Meeker, co-chair; Thomas Crowder, co-chair; James West and Nancy McFarlane.

Law and Public Safety: Philip Isley, co-chair; Mr. West, co-chair; and

Rodger Koopman.

Public Works: Russ Stephenson, chair, Mr. Koopman and Mary-Ann Baldwin.

Comprehensive Planning: Ms. McFarlane, chair; Mr. Stephenson and Ms. Baldwin.

Mr. West was re-elected by the council members to serve another term as mayor pro tem. Mr. Crowder was chosen to lead the council's neighborhood empowerment efforts and Ms. Baldwin is to be the council's legislative liaison.

RALEIGH SET TO GO TO STAGE 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS

Raleigh is set to go to Stage 2 Mandatory Conservation Measures should the water supply dip below 90 days. The water supply currently is at 101 days. At the Dec. 4 City Council meeting, City Manager J. Russell Allen sought and received the council members' go-ahead to implement the measures should Falls Lake shrink to a 90-day supply.

The measures:

- prohibit the use of public water for irrigation;
- prohibit filling new swimming or wading pools. Water may be added to pools to maintain sanitary operating conditions. Filling of pools drained for repair is prohibited;

- prohibit washing vehicles at any location, except at car-washing facilities that have been certified by the City to be in compliance with the requirements of the conservation certification program. A total of 19 car washes have been certified under the conservation program. (They are listed at the bottom of this release.) A placard issued by the City must be displayed on the car wash facility. Also, the City may approve the washing of some vehicles for sanitary purposes (such as solid waste trucks);
- prohibit washing of areas such as sidewalks, patios, decks, driveways, parking lots, streets and exterior building surfaces, except for soiled areas for the maintenance of public health and sanitary conditions;
- require that leaking water services or plumbing must be repaired within 24 hours of written notification by the City's Public Utilities Director or service will be interrupted;
- prohibit the serving of drinking water in restaurants, except upon request;
- prohibit all non-essential use of water for commercial or public use;
- prohibit use of water-cooled air conditioners or other equipment that does not recycle cooling water, except when health and safety are adversely affected;
- requires innkeepers to ask guests spending more than one night to use their towels and bed linens more than once between laundering; and,
- directs commercial and industrial customers to review water uses and implement industry specific best management water conservation practices.

First violation of the Stage 2 ordinance carries a fine of \$1,000. Any recurrence of the violation may result in interruption of water service. A two-week grace period, in which the initial fine will be \$250, will be observed if the Stage 2 restrictions are enacted.

Current Conditions

Falls Lake currently stands at 242.13 feet, which is 9.37 feet below full and .65 feet below the previous record low set before this drought on Nov. 27, 1993.

The current 30-day pumpage demand average is 40.8 million gallons daily, which is the same as a week ago. Falls Lake's water supply pool is 28 percent, which projects to a 101-day water supply pool, which is March 15, 2007. (This assumes the worst case scenario of no rain during the period and demand at the current level.)

Amended Stage 1 water restrictions, which went into effect Oct. 23, have resulted in a 23 percent reduction. A reduction of 38 percent has been realized since August 28 when mandatory water use restrictions were implemented. A total of 390 citations, which carry a \$200 fine and 12 \$1,000 penalties have been issued for the 12 weeks Raleigh has been under mandatory water use restrictions.

According to the National Weather Service's rain gauge at Raleigh Durham International Airport, the area is 8.9 inches below normal rainfall in 2007. Raleigh remains in an exceptional drought and no significant rainfall is forecast.

The water conservation restrictions apply to all City of Raleigh water customers, including those in towns that have merged water and sewer systems with Raleigh. Those towns are Garner, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Knightdale, Wendell and Zebulon.

For more information on Stage 2 water restrictions, visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov or telephone the City's Public Utilities Department at 857-4540.

Certified Car Washes

The following is a list of car washes the City has certified as in compliance with its water conservation requirements. These facilities may continuing operating if Stage 2 measures are enacted:

- American Pride on Atlantic Avenue
- American Pride on Millbrook Road
- American Pride in Wake Forest
- American Pride in Knightdale
- American Pride on Capital Boulevard
- American Pride in Brier Creek
- American Pride on Highway 70
- Autowash Express on Signet Road
- Autowash Express on Six Forks Road
- Auto Bell on T.W. Alexander Drive
- Auto Bell in Knightdale
- Auto Bell on Highway 70
- Bunky's Carwash on Glenwood Avenue
- Northridge Auto Spa on Sandy Forks Road
- Wake Forest Auto Spa in Wake Forest
- Big B's Carwash
- Family Carwash on Western Boulevard
- Mr. Carwash Auto Spa.

CEREMONY MARKS BEGINNING OF 32ND RALEIGH CITY COUNCIL; MAYOR MEEKER'S FOURTH TERM

A swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected Mayor and City Council was held Dec. 3 marking the installation of Charles Meeker's fourth term as Mayor of Raleigh and the 32nd Raleigh City Council under the council/manager form of government. This is the 18th City Council under the district system, with direct election of the mayor.

At-large Member Mary-Ann Baldwin, Rodger Koopman representing District B and Nancy McFarlane representing District A are the new members on the council. Returning Council Members include: James West, who has been representing District C since 1999; Philip Isley, who has been representing District E since 2001; Thomas Crowder, who was first elected to represent District D in 2003; and Russ Stephenson, who is beginning his second at-large term of office.

Mayor Meeker was first elected mayor in 2001. He served four terms as a council member, being elected in 1985, 1987, 1991 and 1993.

In his remarks, Mayor Meeker stated that the City of Raleigh has a responsibility to set an example and be a pioneer in environmental protection and sustainability.

Superior court Judge Paul Ridgeway administered the oaths. An invocation, delivered by the Rev. Jerry Layton opened the ceremony which was held in the lobby of the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts. Rev. Layton is the minister at New Hope Baptist Church.

Vocal renderings were offered by Virginia Ward, with guitarist Byron Paul, and Laura Ridgeway with pianist Lindsay Rosebrock. Mrs. Ridgeway is the wife of Judge Ridgeway. Andrew Leager concluded the ceremony by leading the audience in the singing of "America the Beautiful."

RTN BROADCAST TIMES

The swearing-in ceremony will be shown on Raleigh Television Network's cable channel 11 at the following dates and times:

The swearing-in ceremony will be shown on Raleigh Television Network's cable channel 11 at the following dates and times:

- Sunday, December 9, 10:30am; Monday, December 10, 2:00pm;
- Tuesday, December 11, 2:00pm; Wednesday, December 12, 8:00pm;
- Thursday, December 13, 10:00am; Friday, December 14, 7:00pm;
- Saturday, December 15, 8:00pm; Sunday, December 16, 10:30am;
- Monday, December 17, 8:30am; Tuesday, December 18, 10:00am;
- Wednesday, December 19, 9:00; Thursday, December 20, 7:00pm;
- Friday, December 21, 10:00am; Saturday, December 22, 9:00pm;
- Sunday, December 23, 10:30am; Sunday, December 30, 10:30am

MAYOR LIGHTS UP FAYETTEVILLE STREET

Another holiday season brings another Fayetteville Street holiday tradition. The holiday season of 2006 was the first Raleigh had enjoyed since reclaiming its main street. The city celebrated with the first ever lighting of the trees lining Fayetteville Street.

Mayor Charles Meeker continued that tradition by throwing the switch on the more than 30,000 twinklers on the south side of the 100 block of Fayetteville Street. At least 500 bulbs enlighten and enliven each of the 64 trees that flank Fayetteville Street. Victorian carolers and free horse-draw carriage rides completed the Dickensian scene. The lighting and the event are being sponsored by the Downtown Raleigh Alliance.

The new holiday tradition to join the street lighting is the Countdown to First Night, which is an outdoor visual art display of 30 banners created by local students, professional artists and community organizations. Each banner will depict a way in which the citizens of Raleigh celebrate the joys of the season. A banner will be unveiled at 5 p.m. each day leading up to First Night 2008. The banners will festoon the Alexander Square Parking Deck in the 100 block of Fayetteville Street.

Among the creators of the banners are Broughton High School Art Club students, Millbrook High School Art Club students, Athens Drive High School students, members of the Southwest Wake YMCA Teen Program and the Washington Boys and Girls Club, Jason Craighead, Keith Norval, Matthew Curran, Loaves and Fishes, Marbles Kids Museum and George Le Chavellier.

Downtown Events Calendar

12-07- 05:30 PM	First Friday	Downtown Raleigh
12-07- 07:00 PM	Theatre In the Park: A Ch...	Memorial Auditorium
12-07- 07:30 PM	Cinderella	Fletcher Opera Theater
12-08- 01:00 PM	Cinderella	Fletcher Opera Theater
12-08- 02:00 PM	Theatre In the Park: A Ch...	Memorial Auditorium
12-08- 05:00 PM	Cinderella	Fletcher Opera Theater
12-08- 07:00 PM	Theatre In the Park: A Ch...	Memorial Auditorium