



Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



DowntownRaleigh

Jan. 11, 2008

Volume 5, Number 105

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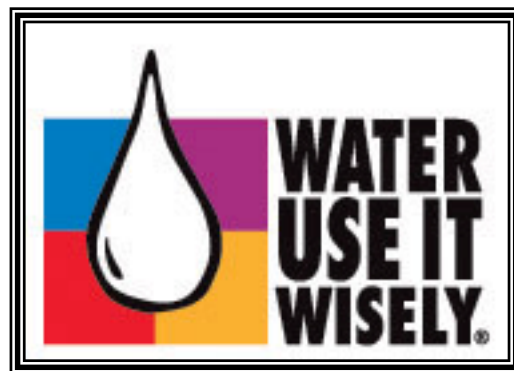
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NEW YEAR BRINGS NO RELIEF TO EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT

The rains of Dec. 15, Dec. 26 and Dec. 30 added a foot to Falls Lake and 25 days to Raleigh's water supply pool. However, these late-year showers have brought no relief from the exceptional drought. No measurable rain has fallen in 2008 and Falls Lake now has dipped to 243.09 feet, which is 8.41 feet below full.



The lake level reached a new all-time low on Christmas Day when it fell to 241.52, which is 1.26 feet below the previous record low set before this drought on Nov. 27, 1993.

Adding the 2007 rainfall deficit of 7.2 inches to the 0.9-inch deficit that we have racked up in 2008, brings the current rain deficit to 8.1 inches.

The current 30-day pumpage demand average is 39.2 million gallons daily (MGD), which is the same as a week ago. Falls Lake's 121-day water supply pool projects to May 8. (This assumes the worst case scenario of no rain during the period and demand at the current level.)

Raleigh's water supply shriveled to 91 days on Dec. 25. Stage 2 Water Conservation Measures will be implemented should the lake's water supply pool drop to 90 days. 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.

Contacts

City of Raleigh
Planning Department
Mitchell Silver, Director
Mitchell.silver@ci.raleigh.nc.us
(919) 516-2626

Raleigh Convention and
Performing Arts Center
(919) 831-6011
Roger Krupa, Director
roger@raleighconvention.com

City of Raleigh
Public Works Department
Carl Dawson, Director
(919) 890-3030
carl.dawson@ci.raleigh.nc.us

Regulatory Reform
City Of Raleigh
City Attorney
Thomas McCormick, Jr.
(919) 831-6560
Tom.McCormick@ci.raleigh.nc.us

Newsletter &
Communications
City of Raleigh
Public Affairs Department
Jayne Kirkpatrick, Director
(919) 890-3100
jayne.kirkpatrick@ci.raleigh.nc.us

Ending Homelessness
Ken Maness
(919)460-8687 ext:273
KManess@unitedwaytriangle.org

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 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;
- require innkeepers to ask guests spending more than one night to use their towels and bed linens more than once between laundering; and,
- direct 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 when Stage 2 restrictions are enacted.

Amended Stage 1 water restrictions, which went into effect Oct. 23, have resulted in a 24 percent reduction. A reduction of 39 percent has been realized since Aug. 28 when mandatory water use restrictions were implemented. A total of 409 citations, which carry a \$200 fine and 13 \$1,000 penalties have been issued for the 18 weeks Raleigh has been under mandatory water use restrictions.

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.

Wake County

David Cooke, County Manager
(919) 856-6160
dcooke@co.wake.nc.us

The Downtown Raleigh Alliance

120 S. Wilmington St.,
Suite 103
Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 832-1231
David Diaz
President and CEO
Daviddiaz
@downtownraleigh.org

Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce

800 S. Salisbury Street
(919) 664-7000
Harvey Schmitt,
President & CEO
hschmitt@the-chamber.org

Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau

421 Fayetteville Street Mall,
Suite 1505
Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 834-5900 or
(800) 849-8499
Denny Edwards,
President & CEO
dedwards@visitraleigh.com

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

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 continue operating when 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.

CITY TO PARTNER WITH CHARLOTTE ON PURCHASE OF HYBRID-ELECTRIC BUSES

The Raleigh City Council agreed on Tuesday to waive its competitive bidding requirements and accept a bid for three hybrid-electric transit buses. The bid was originally made by the City of Charlotte in August of 2007.

The contractor, Gillig Corporation, has offered the same price to the City of Raleigh for three low floor diesel hybrid-electric buses. The buses will cost approximately \$550,000. The hybrid-electric buses offer reduced emissions, reduced noise, and improved fuel economy than standard transit buses.

As required by statues, the City of Raleigh advertised this piggyback opportunity on its Web site in December of 2007, offering public notification that the Council was considering waving the competitive bidding process.

HILLSBOROUGH/MORGAN STREET IMPROVEMENTS MOVE FORWARD

The Raleigh City Council has approved a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Hillsborough Street and Morgan Street.

A public meeting was held Dec. 11 where several alternatives were presented for the intersection. The original proposal was to retrofit the intersection as a part of the Morgan Street two-way conversion. The City Council directed City staff to work to preserve on-street parking, preserve mature trees, especially the oak tree on the southeast corner and make pedestrian safety a priority.

CITY REQUESTS THAT CUSTOMERS INSTALL WATER-SAVING DEVICES

The Raleigh City Council is requesting that Raleigh water customers take the following measures to conserve water during this exceptional drought:

- Use rain barrels for any watering of shrubs, flowers or vegetables. (It is highly unlikely that drinking water will be available for irrigation purposes in 2008);
- Install low-flow shower and faucet devices by March 1. The Council also requested that volume-reducing inserts be placed in the tanks of non low-volume toilets; and,
- Wake County builders use low-flow devices and omit exterior irrigation devices that use drinking water.

The City is offering 80-gallon and 60-gallon rain barrels for sale at the City's Solid Waste Services offices at 400 W. Peace St., from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, contact Linda Leighton, waste reduction specialist at 831-6890 or linda.leighton@ci.raleigh.nc.us.

CITY COUNCIL DEFERS ACTION ON RESIDENTIAL INFILL REDEVELOPMENT

The Raleigh City Council has deferred regulation of residential infill redevelopment to the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

The City Council had requested the City of Raleigh Planning Commission to consider and make an interim recommendation for regulating residential infill development prior to the Planning Department's completion of their comprehensive study on this issue. Planning Department director Mitchell Silver reported on the number of infill residential projects:

Year	Number of Infill Projects
2002	28
2003	51
2004	89
2005	136
2006	210
2007 through October	74

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES MATCHING GRANT TO OPTIMAL TECHNOLOGIES

The Raleigh City Council has approved a matching grant to a One North Carolina Fund grant of up to \$325,000 for Optimal Technologies to move its headquarters operations to downtown.

Optimal Technologies has committed to create 325 jobs over the next three years. The match was approved with the understanding that disbursement of funds would be on the same schedule as the State grant with the understanding the city would not be obligated to more than one payment per year.

The One North Carolina Fund was formerly known Governor's Industrial Recruitment Competitiveness Fund. The fund assists in recruiting and expansion of quality jobs in high value-added, knowledge-driven industries.

It also provides financial assistance to those businesses or industries deemed vital to a healthy economy that are making significant efforts to expand in North Carolina. The fund currently consists of nonrecurring appropriations made by the N.C. General Assembly for companies seeking to undertake new expansion or locate new operations in the state. The fund is competitive and the location or expansion must be in competition with another location outside the state.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES RESOLUTION ON SCHOOL IMPACTED PLANNING AND ZONING ISSUES

The Raleigh City has approved a resolution that establishes guidelines for the City to use to evaluate the impact of pending planning and zoning cases on Wake County public schools.

The proposed resolution, offered by Council Member Nancy McFarlane, states that:

- When there is a zoning case involving potential for the construction of more than 100 dwelling units, the staff of the City Department of City Planning staff will ask the Wake County Board of Education to comment on the proposed zoning regarding school facilities and related matters;
- The City Council and the City Planning Commission will consider the impact that the proposed zoning cases have on the use of current public school facilities and the need for additional facilities; and,
- The City of Raleigh Planning Department is directed to prepare a text change a public hearing that would require the Wake County Board of Education be given notice of any zoning case involving the construction of 100 or more dwelling units.

In early 2007 the Planning Department began including school impacts on every zoning case. Currently the Planning Department tracks school impacts and school enrollment in zoning cases, preliminary site plans and residential subdivisions. The Planning Department can add school impact analysis to the information sent on a regular basis to the Wake County Public Schools System.

In addition the Planning Department requires applicants for preliminary subdivisions and residential site plans to submit a form to the Wake County Planning Department and the head of student assignment with Wake county schools.

The information includes the number of units that may be developed. The planning directors within Wake County meet with the Wake County Planning Department, Wake County Public Schools and the Triangle J Council of Governments every two months to discuss planning issues.

COUNCIL APPROVES HORSESHOE FARM PARK MASTER PLAN

On Tuesday Jan. 8 the Raleigh City Council approved The Horseshoe Farm draft master plan as unanimously recommended by the Horseshoe Farm master plan committee with adjustments in keeping with the environmentally sensitive and sustainable theme of the park.

Horseshoe Farm Park is an undeveloped 146-acre park located off of Ligon Mill Road on a bend of the Neuse River just north of U.S. 401. The master plan conserves the park's sensitive floodplain habitat, thus allowing patrons sweeping views of the spacious park. Included in the master plan are trails, wildlife meadows, canoe and kayak access to the river, picnic shelters, playground, restrooms, parking and improvements to the access road.

Raleigh City Council voted May 15 to approve the draft master plan for Horseshoe Farm Park with construction of certain elements to be deferred, preserving the bulk of the site in its current state.

City Council directed modifications to the master plan include:

- a. Do not allow any clearing or paving in the Significant Natural Heritage Area (SNHA) for the canoe launch or trails, as recommended by the NC Natural Heritage Program. Clearing in the SNHA is allowed for the specific case where it supports the implementation of environmentally sensitive Raleigh Greenway connectivity. Allow only a gravel road to the canoe drop off area outside of SNHA and investigate alternate sites for a more robust, hardened canoe launch facility (for example, across the river off Highway 401 close to the Neuse River Bridge area).
- b. Move the parking lots from the middle of the park to a location closer to the existing gate (but not in the "fenced horse pasture") in order to maintain the natural vistas of the park.
- c. Incorporate the environmental stewardship recommendations currently located in the master plan committee's cover letter - dated April 24, 2006, into the draft Master Plan under the section titled

"Environmental Stewardship."

d. After improvements to the access road have been addressed, trails, wildlife habitat enhancements, picnic facilities, and restrooms should have the highest priority for development.

e. The committee further recommends that Council adopt a resolution to clarify City Council's intent regarding the future of Horseshoe Farm Park.

The Horseshoe Farm Park master plan was drafted with considerable input from the public. A citizens' master plan committee was formed to lead the master planning effort. The City acquired Horseshoe Farm Park in 1994.

CITY COUNCIL SENDS REQUEST FOR EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION EXTENSION TO COMMITTEE

The Raleigh City Council sent a request to Wake County to extend the City's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), to the Council's Comprehensive Planning Committee.

The request to extend the ETJ covers approximately 6000 acres and consists of the following six areas; following existing ETJ lines, existing City limits, urban service area boundaries annexation agreement boundaries and property lines and road centerlines. State of North Carolina law allows the City of Raleigh to extend its ETJ up to three miles beyond the existing city limits subject to the approval by Wake County.

The last request to expand the ETJ was approved in 2001. Since then several large tracts outside of the Raleigh's ETJ have been annexed by the City. The extension of the City's ETJ would allow better management of the development and annexation of land within the City's short-and long-range urban service area. The City continually receives inquiries for new development in areas served by the City of Raleigh Public Utilities in the northeast and southeast urban service areas.

The extension also would allow a more orderly transition from Wake County to City of Raleigh regulations and services. The ETJ extension would allow the City to guide expected urbanization of these areas and ensure future growth and development are built to City standards.

The City Council also adopted an annexation policy that states the City of Raleigh will not accept annexation petition requests outside the existing Raleigh ETJ unless the petition meets one of the six exceptions.

The exceptions are:

- Existing developed property requiring emergency connection to the City's water or sewer lines;
- Property within Durham County identified through mutual annexation agreement as being in Raleigh's urban service area;
- Property in the area between I-540 and the Strickland Road and Falls of Neuse Road where development will meet The city's Falls Lake watershed development policies;
- Property in an adjacent municipality's ETJ that through an annexation agreement modification transfers the property to Raleigh's ETJ;
- Property that is publicly owned; and,
- Property that involves a parcel of land that is split by the existing ETJ lines.

City To Observe Martin Luther King Day On Jan. 21

The City of Raleigh's administrative offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 21 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Emergency police, fire and rescue services may be reached by calling 9-1-1.

Because no residential collections are scheduled on Mondays, the regular schedule for garbage, recycling and yard waste will not be affected. The City's Yard Waste Center will be closed on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, but will operate on a regular schedule the remainder of the week.

Capital Area Transit buses will not operate on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Regular bus service resumes Jan. 22.

Downtown Events Calendar

01-10 8:00 PM	Marty Stuart	Meymandi Concert Hall
01-11 8:00 PM	2007-08 Duke Medicine Cla...	Meymandi Concert Hall
01-12 8:00 PM	Duke Medicine Classical R...	Meymandi Concert Hall
01-18 8:00 PM	Fidelity Investments Pops...	Meymandi Concert Hall
01-19 8:00 PM	Fidelity Investments Pops...	Meymandi Concert Hall
01-20 3:00 PM	Fidelity Investments Pops...	Meymandi Concert Hall
01-20 4:00 PM	Martin Luther King All St...	Memorial Auditorium
01-22 8:00 PM	Cats	Memorial Auditorium
01-23 8:00 PM	Cats	Memorial Auditorium
01-24 8:00 PM	Cats	Memorial Auditorium

01-25 8:00 PM	Duke Medicine Classical R...	Meymandi Concert Hall
01-25 8:00 PM	Cats	Memorial Auditorium