



# Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



DowntownRaleigh

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## MAYOR TO DELIVER STATE-OF-THE-CITY ADDRESS ON FEB. 11



Mayor Charles Meeker will deliver Raleigh's state-of-the-city address on Feb. 11 at noon at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

The public is invited. A lunch will be offered for \$12, payable at the door.

For more information: Public Affairs Director Jayne Kirkpatrick, 890-3100

## RALEIGH GROWS PAST MINNEAPOLIS

According to biannual population estimates released by the Growth Management Division of the City of Raleigh Department of City Planning, Raleigh has grown to become the 49<sup>th</sup> largest city in the country, surpassing Minneapolis, Minn., in population.

Raleigh's estimated population as of Jan. 1, 2008 is 374,320, an increase of 6,325 persons since July 1, 2007 when the city's population was estimated to be 367,995. The city's population increased by 14,988, or 4.17 percent, from Jan. 1, 2007 to Jan. 1, 2008. Estimates are based on the number of dwelling units, the average number of people per household and the dwelling occupancy/vacancy averages.

In 2006, Raleigh passed Tampa, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and St. Louis to become the 51<sup>st</sup> largest city in the country. In 2007, Raleigh passed Wichita, Kan., to become the 50<sup>th</sup> largest city.

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Wake County

Raleigh's growth rate and numerical increase continues to surpass cities of similar size. In July 2006, the population of Arlington, Texas, was the 49<sup>th</sup> largest nationally at 367,197 and averaged an increase of 5,000 persons per year. The 48<sup>th</sup> largest, Colorado Springs, Colo., had a population of 372,437 and averaged an increase of 3,000 persons per year. Minneapolis' population was the nation's 47<sup>th</sup> highest at 372,833. Minneapolis had a flat growth rate. By contrast, Raleigh's population was 356,321 and averaged an increase of 12,000 persons per year.

"We thought Raleigh's growth rate would drop slightly in 2007 given the national economy. However, Raleigh's job growth and quality of life continue to attract new residents," City of Raleigh Planning Director Mitchell Silver said.

Mr. Silver said Raleigh's 49<sup>th</sup> rank is unofficial and is based on the Department of City Planning's projections. The U.S. Census Bureau's estimates lag one year behind local estimates.

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## PUBLIC COMMENTS TO BE TAKEN ON BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY ON FEB. 5

During its Feb. 5 meeting, the Raleigh City Council will take comments from the public on the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility proposed for Butner. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the council chamber of the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St.

As part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility would research animal and animal-to-human diseases.

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**Web links**  
City of Raleigh  
[www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov)

Wake County  
[www.wakegov.com](http://www.wakegov.com)

Downtown Raleigh Alliance  
[www.godowntownraleigh.com](http://www.godowntownraleigh.com)

Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce  
[www.raleighchamber.org](http://www.raleighchamber.org)

Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau  
[www.visitraleigh.com](http://www.visitraleigh.com)

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## La Nina's Staying Until Spring; Use Is Rising

The La Nina effect that has kept the Triangle in the grip of the worst drought in history will likely keep its stranglehold on the area until spring, according to the long-term update from the National Weather Service (NWS) and the North Carolina Climatology Office. This prognostication, along with paltry forecasts for precipitation in the coming week, suggests strongly that the exceptional drought status will be retained for the foreseeable future.

The City Council will be prepared to consider heightened water conservation measures at its Feb. 5 meeting.

Falls Lake is down to 242.85 feet, which is 8.65 feet below full. Adding the 2007 rainfall deficit of 7.2 inches to the 2.5-inch deficit that we have racked up in 2008, brings the current rain deficit to 9.7 inches.

The current 30-day pumpage demand average is 40.5 million gallons daily (MGD), which is 0.9 MGD more than last week's average and 0.2 MGD more than the average for the past 13 weeks when Amended Stage 1 mandatory water use restrictions went into effect. Falls Lake's 109-day water supply pool projects to May 17 and reflects a three-day extension over last week's projection. (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 24 percent reduction. A reduction of 39 percent has been realized since Aug. 28 when mandatory water use restrictions were implemented. A total of 417 citations, which carry a \$200 fine and 13 \$1,000 penalties have been issued for the 23 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.

The City Council has set 35 gallons per day as the goal for individual water consumption. The council unanimously supported a motion to ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (which operates Raleigh's water

Mayor Charles Meeker pointed out that presently only 13 percent of the lake's water is used for consumption and that raising that to 17 percent would be enormously beneficial.

Mayor Meeker reminded all Raleigh water customers that low-flow devices are to be in place by March 1. The City is purchasing the devices in bulk and will work with church and civic groups in disseminating them to residents with lower incomes.

The City also is working with its largest water customers, North Carolina State University, the State of North Carolina, Wake County and the Wake County Public Schools, as well the Homebuilders Association of Wake County, the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau to further encourage water conservation.

The National Climatic Data Center has reported that 2007 was the driest year in 113 years of recorded weather history in North Carolina.

For more information on ways to conserve water, telephone the City's Public Utilities Department at 857-4540.

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## **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](http://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](mailto:lmj301@bellsouth.net)

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## **COMMUNITY 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Sheila.lynch@ci.raleigh.nc.us).

### Downtown Events Calendar

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