



Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



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RALEIGH'S IN 'SEVERE DROUGHT'; WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES ALLOW TO CLEAN AND FILL POOL ONCE

The U.S. Drought Monitor now classifies the Triangle Areas in a "severe drought" due to the current rainfall deficit and the very low stream and river-flow conditions. As of April 4, the National Weather Service's rain gauge station at Raleigh Durham International Airport reflected a year-to-date rainfall deficit of 5.9 inches. That brings the total rainfall since Jan. 1, 2005 to 11.4 inches below normal.

According to the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, a La Nina condition has developed over the Pacific Ocean and is predicted to result in warm and dry conditions in the southeastern United States.

The National Weather Service's prediction for the next 30 to 90 days is for below normal rainfall and warmer than normal temperatures. The United States Army Corps of Engineers reports that stream inflow into Falls Lake during March set a record low for this time of year. As a result of the weather forecast and the reduced stream inflow, the Corps of Engineers is predicting that the lake level will not reach 251.5 feet this spring. Currently, Falls Lake stands at 250.78 feet. The projection as of April 4, is that Raleigh has water supply storage for 240 days, based on current 30-day rolling average pumpage.

Raleigh residents are allowed to clean and fill their swimming pools just once for the coming summer. The City is encouraging residents to clean and fill their pools promptly before hot weather sets in and water demand skyrockets.

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Regulations

These circumstances require the City of Raleigh to remain in mandatory water conservation status.

Under Stage 2 water conservation, lawn watering is allowed only twice weekly; Tuesdays and Saturdays for odd-numbered addresses and on Wednesdays and Sundays for even-numbered addresses. Residents are allowed to clean porches and decks of mold mildew and pollen for health reasons but not merely for esthetic purposes.

Vehicles may be washed only at professional vehicle washing establishments.

Fines of \$200 for first offense of unlawful use of water have been in effect in Raleigh since Nov. 16. Second offenses carry a \$1,000 fine. A third fine will result in water service being shut off. As of April 4, 231 violations have been cited. Most of the violations have been for washing vehicles at private residences.

For more information about the water restrictions or about water conservation, please call the City's Public Utilities Department at 857-4540, visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov or email waterconservation@ci.raleigh.nc.us.

COUNCIL ASKS PLANNING COMMISSION TO ADDRESS FACILITY FEE ISSUE

On April 4, the Raleigh City Council referred a proposed 72 percent increase in facility fees to the Raleigh Planning Commission. Currently, the average facility fee for a single-family home in Raleigh at the time of construction is \$682. The average facility fee in Cary is \$2,593 and in Durham, the average facility fee is \$3,155.

In February, the City received a report from Duncan & Associates evaluating the current state of the impact fees the City is currently authorized to impose on new development. Funds from the fees are used for thoroughfares and for parks and recreation projects. The report stated that facility fees have not stayed current with the increases in the cost of land and construction. Average new home prices have almost doubled since 1988 while the City's fees have essentially remained the same. Also, the current fee levels are approximately one-third the average road and park fees charged by other jurisdictions in the United States. (Continued on page 3)

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Downtown Raleigh Alliance
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Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
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Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.visitraleigh.com

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The Council also referred a proposed amendment to the City's sign ordinance to the Planning Commission as well. The proposal would allow additional wall signage on buildings in excess of 200 feet in height and located within the Downtown Overlay District.

The Planning Commission will address these issues at its next meeting on April 11 at 9 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the Avery Upchurch Municipal Complex.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS ACCESSIBLE PARKING ISSUE FURTHER

In response to reports and recommendations on accessible parking from the Raleigh Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities (RMCPD), Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker and City Council members James West and Philip Isley will meet with representatives of the Downtown Raleigh Alliance to discuss potential solutions.

The RMCPD recommended that the Council increase the number of accessible on-street parking spaces in the comprehensive and strategic plans of the Central District and the downtown area. The committee also recommended establishing a trained volunteer citizen parking enforcement program to ensure proper use of accessible parking spaces. The committee also recommended an education and public awareness plan be developed to help persons traveling to and working in downtown Raleigh understand the purpose for accessible parking.

COUNCIL APPROVES PONY EXPRESS FAST-TRACK SYSTEM

On April 4, the Raleigh City Council approved the implementation of the "Pony" Express Fast-Track system, an expansion of the Commercial Express Plan Review program operated by the City of Raleigh Inspections Department. The program enables applicants to reduce permit-processing time, thereby expediting the overall completion time of construction projects submitted.

The expansion of the program adds a plans-review service that focuses on less complex projects that were previously not large enough to warrant the expense and the express review or the regular review timeline. The program is limited to small commercial projects, such as minor alterations of existing offices and stores, in five days or less for a fee of \$250. The program is designed to take some of the backlog of projects in the normal Express Plan Review Program.

CITY COMMITS \$20,000 TO SPORTS EXHIBIT AT RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM

On April 4, the Raleigh City Council agreed to commit \$20,000 to partially fund the Raleigh City Museum's keystone exhibit this year titled, "The Thrill of Victory: Sports and Recreation in Raleigh." The museum has promised to raise \$20,000 in matching funds through private donations.

The exhibit is expected to be displayed 18 to 24 months. The presentation will begin with an overview of sports and recreation traditions in America and early examples of recreational activities in North Carolina and Raleigh. The exhibit will also serve to conduct and preserve oral histories about sports and athletes in the area as well as photographs and exhibits making up Raleigh's athletic history.

Tracing the rise of organized sports from the 19th century to modern times, the exhibit will highlight the famous names of Raleigh's athletic history such as Everett Case, Jim Valvano, Kay Yow, George Williams, Pete Maravich and Carl Yastrzemski. The exhibit will also focus on Raleigh teams such as the Shaw University Bears, the North Carolina State University Wolfpack, the Raleigh Capitals, and the Carolina Hurricanes. Individual components of the exhibit that have been proposed include a 30-minute guided tour targeting children, a 45-minute slideshow and lecture for adults and a traveling exhibit for teachers to use in the classroom.

DEDICATION CEREMONY, PARADE FOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL SET FOR MAY 6

The new North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Nash Square in downtown Raleigh will be officially dedicated on Saturday, May 6. Festivities will include a parade that begins at 9 a.m. followed by the dedication and memorial service at 2 p.m. and a candlelight service at 7 p.m.

The N.C. Fallen Firefighters Memorial honors firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. The bronze memorial was built with government grants, private donations, corporate sponsorships, and contributions of services and materials from local contractors.

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The sculptor for the project is Carl Regutti, a North Carolina artist.

At its April 4 meeting, the City Council unanimously approved a request from organizers to hold a parade in conjunction with the dedication of the memorial. The parade route will be the same as the annual Christmas Parade, starting on Hillsborough Street just west of downtown and then proceeding east on Dawson Street to Nash Square. Some of the parade units will park on the streets surrounding Nash Square.

The entire parade route will be closed to traffic from 7 a.m. to noon. Detours will be posted to guide motorists around the parade. Also, parking spaces adjacent to Nash Square and one travel lane in the 200 blocks of South Dawson, West Martin and South McDowell streets will be closed throughout the event, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Parking spaces in the 100 to 300 blocks of South Harrington Street will be encumbered from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. for parade units. Furthermore, the 200 block of West Hargett Street and the northernmost travel lane in the 300 block of West Hargett Street will be closed to traffic from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information about the N.C. Fallen Firefighters Memorial, visit the website of the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation at www.ncfff.org.

COUNCIL ASKS ARTS BOARD TO RECONSIDER CHANDELIERS; EVALUATE PEDESTALS

The Raleigh City Council on April 4 unanimously agreed to ask the City of Raleigh Arts Commission to consider if a smaller number of the chandeliers than had been proposed for Fayetteville Street would be more appropriate, or if an alternative location, such as the new convention center or City Market may be more appropriate for the lighting fixtures.

Mayor Charles Meeker also won approval to send a proposal to the Arts Commission that would place stone art pedestals along Fayetteville Street when it is opened this summer.

For more information, contact the City of Raleigh Arts Commission at 890-3610.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES NEW RULES FOR MOBILE VENDING CARTS

The Raleigh City Council on April 4 gave the required second approval to a text change that provides a graduating scale for the number of mobile vending carts that can be located on the same lot as a principle building with a minimum lot size of two and one-half acres.

First passage of the text change was March 21. Sales of merchandise from these carts is limited to food and beverage items, fresh cut flowers and original artworks and handicrafts. A retail sales outdoor vending cart will be allowed in Neighborhood Business, Business, Thoroughfare, Industrial-1 or Industrial 2 zoning districts and must meet all of the requirements as out lined in the text change. In addition to the two and one-half acre minimum for a mobile cart, the maximum number of outdoor mobile vending carts allowed per lot include two carts on lots of five acres or greater but less than 10 acres, three carts on lots of 10 acres or greater but less than 15 acres, four mobile carts on lots of 15 acres or greater.

The hours of operation of the carts are limited to the hours of the associated principle use and is prohibited between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. All signage must be attached to the cart and is limited to 32 square feet. A zoning permit is required following a review of the site plan and all Wake County and City of Raleigh permits and licenses shall be clearly displayed on the vending cart. The cart may not be closer than 10 feet to any primary entrance

MORDECAI CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL TO HOLD MEETING TO FEATURE PLANS FOR SEABORD STATION

The Mordecai Area Citizens Advisory Council will hold its next meeting Tuesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m., at Hope Elementary School, 1116 North Blount Street.

Residents of nearby neighborhoods will learn first hand about the plans for Seaboard Station which will be opening soon. Development plans include restaurants, retail stores and the long awaited downtown supermarket. Ty Thomas of Trammell Crow, Ron Bold of the new Capital City Grocery, and Jason Smith of the new 88 Seaboard restaurant will outline their vision and details of the business for the Seaboard Station complex as the first-stage nears completion.

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The evening will be a unique opportunity for residents to provide feedback and ask questions on the project. Parking for the meeting is available on Blount Street or behind the building on Poplar Street.

The Mordecai CAC includes the area between West Street and Brookside Drive, north of Peace Street and south of Atlantic Avenue. Regular meetings are held each month on the second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at Tucker House, 418 North Person Street. All residents from this area and nearby neighborhoods are welcome to attend the meetings.

RALEIGH CYCLING CRITERIUM SET FOR MOORE SQUARE MAY 26

The City of Raleigh and Capital City Cycling Club will hold the Raleigh Downtown Cycling Criterium in Moore Square 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 26.

A criterium is a bicycle race consisting of laps on a course of about one mile in length. The race passes repeatedly past spectators' vantage point along the race course. Viewers can see the race develop as riders continually turn up the speed and attempt to break free of the field.

The riders will assemble in the 200 block of East Martin Street and proceed to travel south on East Street to Cabarrus Street, then turn on to Bloodworth Street heading north to Davie Street to Person Street, then turn south on Person Street to Cabarrus Street to Blount Street, from Blount Street the racers will return on East Martin Street to the start/finish line.

COUNCIL VOTES TO SELL 8 HOUSES IN MARTIN-HAYWOOD AREA AS PART OF REDEVELOPMENT EFFORT

As part of a short-term redevelopment strategy for the Martin-Haywood area, the Raleigh City Council voted unanimously April 4 to sell eight City-owned, single-family houses in the neighborhood.

Plans calls for the homes to be sold to St. Augustine's College Community Development Corporation.

The corporation will sell the houses to qualified buyers with low or moderate incomes.

Preference will be given to buyers currently living in the Martin-Haywood area or the Thompson-Hunter redevelopment area. State law allows municipalities to sell property to non-profit organizations -- such as the St. Augustine's College Community Development Corporation -- for redevelopment purposes.

The sale includes four recently rehabilitated houses on East Martin Street and East Hargett Street. Each of the homes has three bedrooms and two full bathrooms, and range in size from 1,125 to 1,530 square feet. Below are the locations of these homes, along with their listed sales prices based on appraisals:

- 611 E. Martin St., \$135,000;
- 614 E. Hargett St., \$136,000;
- 612 E. Hargett St., \$156,000; and,
- 615 E. Martin St., \$156,000

Also planned to be sold are four houses located at 210, 211, 216 and 218 Haywood Street -- all of which will be rehabilitated by the City's Community Development Department. Appraisals will be done on these properties prior to the sale. The sales price for each house is not expected to exceed \$160,000.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING PROJECTS; ONE IS DOWNTOWN

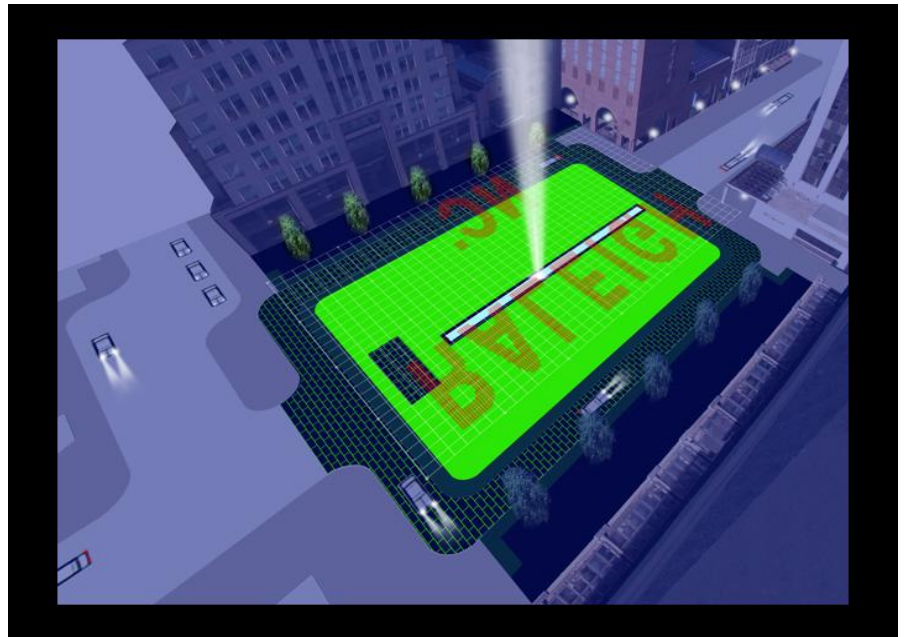
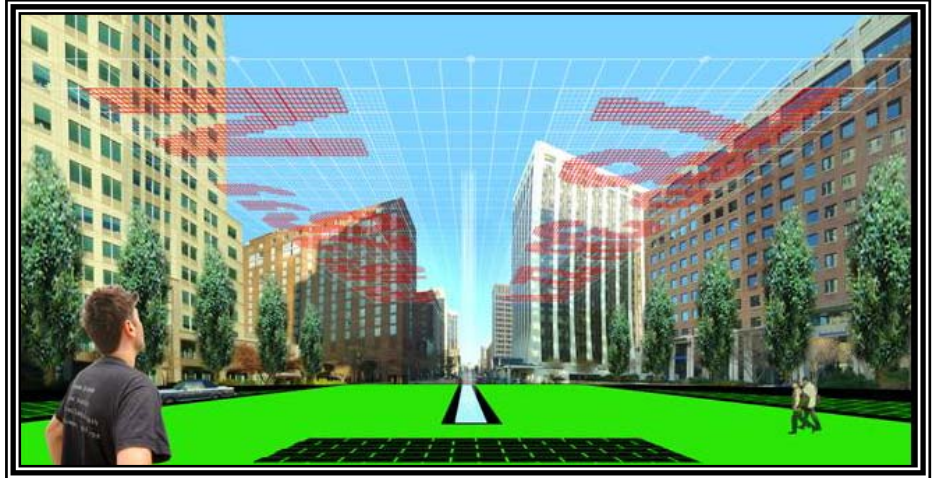
The City of Raleigh will be providing low-interest loans to the Downtown Housing Improvement Corporation (DHIC) for development of a new affordable rental housing project and rehabilitation of an existing affordable rental housing development. DHIC also will receive an additional \$200,000 from the City for an affordable rental housing project that is currently under construction.

The City Council voted unanimously April 4 to issue the loans to the projects through the City's Joint Venture Rental Program. Under the program, low-interest loans are given to private developers to construct or purchase and rehabilitate affordable rental units for persons or families whose incomes are at or below 60 percent of the Wake County median. The loans consist of City and federal funds, and are combined with private financing and equity created by the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit to provide the rental units.

Council members approved the following affordable rental housing projects being done by DHIC:

- \$1.2 million for Wakefield Manor, which will be a new development of 96 apartments for elderly citizens located at 10731 Common Oaks Drive in the Wakefield Plantation subdivision. The development will have 78 one-bedroom units and 18 two-bedroom units. It will accommodate 24 elderly persons making less than 30 percent of the area median income, 15 elderly citizens making less than 40 percent of the area median income, and 57 elderly citizens making less than 60 percent of the area median income; and,
- \$1.1 million for acquisition and rehabilitation of Dacian Glen, a development located at Dacian Road and Glenbrook Drive off of Poole Road. The development will provide 65 affordable units -- eight one-bedroom apartments, 49 two-bedroom units and eight three-bedroom units. The affordable housing development will accommodate 16 persons or families making less than 30 percent of the area median income and 49 persons or families making less than 60 percent of the area median income; and,
- \$200,000 in additional funds for Carlton Place, an 80-unit mixed-use development under construction at 400 S. East St. in downtown Raleigh. Of the 80 new units, 36 will have one bedroom, 34 will contain two bedrooms and 10 will have three bedrooms. Sixteen (16) of the units will be leased to families or individuals making less than 30 percent of the area median income and 48 units will go to those who are at or below 50 to 60 percent of the area median income. The remaining 16 units will be reserved for market-rate tenants

Jaume Plensa Public Art Concept for Fayetteville Street
WWW.RALEIGHNC.GOV



www.rccproject.com
Questions? Michelle Boyette 302-9062

THE FIVE IN FIVE GOALS

Complete a **Fayetteville Street Renaissance** to reinvigorate the



Street as the heart of Raleigh, our ceremonial corridor and the premiere address for office, events and cultural activity.

2. **Fund and build a new Convention Center & Hotel** to attract conventions and trade shows and improve the business environment for hotels, restaurants and other visitor services.

3. **Improve the pedestrian environment** making downtown accessible to everyone. Balance the needs of pedestrians against those of the car. Create an attractive, well lit, safe environment that links office and residential uses to amenities such as restaurants, museums and other venues.

4. **Undertake regulatory reform** to improve the business climate by removing regulatory impediments, making it just as easy to do business downtown as any place in the region. Explore adding incentives in the regulations.

5. **Expand downtown management** to take a one stop approach to management and advocacy.

Convention Center Marriot Hotel



