



Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



DowntownRaleigh

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FAYETTEVILLE STREET LIGHTING TO BE HELD FRIDAY

The start of the holiday season is often marked by a family effort in decorating the home. Lights are strung, and trees are decorated and wreaths are hung. On Friday, Dec. 8, the public is invited to join in the Raleigh family's decorating of its main street.

From 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., 13 Raleigh artists will be working sections of 18-inch-by-48-inch vinyl, each designing and painting the sections with an image of a seasonal angel in the spirit of the season. The public is invited to observe the creative process from the cozy comfort of the City of Raleigh Urban Design Center and the Raleigh City Museum. The paintings were originally scheduled to take place on the sidewalk but the frosty forecast has moved the artists to these locations. After 2 p.m., the panels will be hung from the lamp posts along Fayetteville Street.

At 5:15 p.m., residents are encouraged to join Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker in the first-ever holiday lighting of Fayetteville Street. In a combined effort between the City of Raleigh and the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, 500 white lights will be placed in each of the 64 trees lining Fayetteville Street. Carriage rides will be available and holiday carolers will be performing.

"We hope this is something that can become an annual event," said Tracey Lovejoy, vice-president of the Downtown Raleigh Alliance. "Since Fayetteville Street was reopened to traffic, it really has become Raleigh's 'Main Street'. We had tremendous success with the Christmas parade this year and we're looking forward to making the street beautiful for the holiday season."

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APPROVAL GIVEN TO DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR RBC PLAZA PARKING DECK

The Raleigh City Council on Dec. 5 unanimously approved a development agreement for a 1,050-space parking deck that will support the 33-story RBC Plaza, a mixed-used tower that is being constructed downtown at the corner of Fayetteville, Martin and Wilmington streets.

The development agreement formally outlines a partnership between the City of Raleigh, Highwoods Properties and Progress Energy for developing the parking deck. Highwoods Properties is the developer and owner of RBC Plaza, which will include RBC Centura Bank's corporate offices. Progress Energy currently owns the land for the parking deck but will turn the property over to the City. The parking deck will be located mid-block along East Martin Street between South Wilmington and South Blount streets.

The terms of the parking deck development agreement are essentially the same as those spelled out in a memorandum of understanding that the council approved in October. The following are terms of the development agreement:

- Progress Energy will convey the land for the parking deck to the City at no cost;
- Highwoods Properties will design, construct and finance the deck at a preliminary budget estimate of \$13,504 per space;
- Upon completion, the parking deck will be subject to a condominium regime with Highwoods Properties retaining 528 spaces. The City will own, manage and reimburse Highwoods Properties for the remaining 522 spaces. The parking deck will have 8,000 square feet of ground-level retail on East Martin Street; and,
- For up to 50 years, Progress Energy or an assignee maintains the right to purchase blocks of the City's parking spaces at the imbedded cost plus any operating losses.

The parking deck will not only support RBC Plaza, but also future development in the immediate area.

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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

ARTSPLOSURE'S FIRST NIGHT CELEBRATION RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM CITY

Due to an unanticipated shortfall in funding from several sources the Raleigh City Council has approved \$20,000 for Artsplosure's First Night celebration.

Artsplosure's revenue shortfall comes from reduced funding from United Arts and less sponsorships income than expected. This year's First Night celebration will be held on the newly reopened Fayetteville Street. For more information on the 16th annual New Year's eve celebration visit www.firstnightraleigh.com.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDING SUPPORT OF PROJECT PHOENIX

The Raleigh City Council approved \$30,850 from contingency funds to continue support of the Southlight, Inc. Project Phoenix program.

SouthLight is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to eliminate addiction, abuse and misuse of drugs and alcohol in the community. The funding will assist in maintaining the Project Phoenix awareness and outreach programs that include educational workshops and information and referral sources for substance abusers. Southlight, Inc. delivers comprehensive substance-abuse programs that address the needs of youth, adults and families. The services include education, treatment, counseling, housing, and court intervention.

FINAL DECISION ON HILLSBOROUGH STREET ROUNDABOUTS DELAYED

A final decision on the future of the Hillsborough Street roundabouts was delayed Dec. 5 as the Raleigh City Council elected to hold the item on Tuesday for further discussion until its next meeting on Jan. 9, 2007. The Council will wait for additional information from the City of Raleigh Planning Department on parking and design issues.

Designs for the project are currently 25 percent complete. The scope of the project will involve the planning and design of the street construction, streetscape and pedestrian facilities for two areas along Hillsborough Street from Gardner Street to Oberlin Road that will improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, improve the appearance of the street, promote economic development, improve

COUNCIL AUTHORIZES RETAILS USES IN DOWNTOWN OVERLAY DISTRICT

The Raleigh City Council on Dec. 5 approved a text change regarding the Downtown Overlay District regulations. The change allows the City Council to approve retail land uses within high density, mixed-use developments on properties currently zoned Office & Institution-1 and Office and Institution-2 that currently do not allow retail use.

Originally, one of the goals of the Downtown Urban Design Guidelines was to promote ground-level retail uses throughout the downtown area. However, many of the properties in the Downtown Overlay District are currently zoned Office and Institution. The text change protects existing residential neighborhoods located next to the Downtown Overlay District from inappropriate retail infringing on the neighborhood by prohibiting this retail option for properties located in the perimeter 100 feet of the Downtown Overlay District.

COUNCIL DELAYS DECISION EXEMPTIONS FOR DOWNTOWN OVERLAY DISTRICT

At its meeting on Dec. 5, the Raleigh City Council delayed a final decision on several exemptions for the Downtown Overlay District.

At its Oct. 3 meeting, the Raleigh City Council approved a series of amendments to the Raleigh City Code with the intention of encouraging high-density residential development in the downtown area. The council also agreed to consider downtown exemptions for stormwater, tree preservation, parking, and open-space issues after reviewing a report on the matters to be prepared by the Planning Department staff.

On Jan. 9, 2007, the Council will hold a public hearing to discuss the exemption for tree preservation. The Council's Budget and Economic Development Committee will discuss the parking and open space exemptions and the Stormwater Management Committee will discuss the stormwater exemption.

CITY OF RALEIGH APPROVES COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

The Raleigh City Council on Dec. 5 approved four community enhancement programs to be funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to serve persons with low or moderate income or aid in the prevention of neighborhood blight.

In July, the City of Raleigh Community Development Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for non-profit and faith-based organizations interested in applying for community enhancement funds. The department held two workshops in August to explain the application process. The RFP for community enhancement made up to \$175,000 available in CDBG funds and seven proposals were received. The proposals were reviewed based on a set of criteria that included documented fiscal responsibility, program eligibility, clarity of agency mission and proven track record.

The programs receiving funding are:

- First Baptist Church of Raleigh: \$91,413 for repair and renovation of an adult day care and Health Services Center located at 130 E. Morgan St. The renovation work will bring the building into compliance with the State of North Carolina adult day care and day health services standards for certification. The objective is to provide adult day care and health services for 30 citizens who are elderly or have disabilities and to develop an intergenerational program that brings seniors and youth together for programs that benefit both groups.
- Building Together, Inc.: \$3,600 to expand its service to provide a 10-week summer camp for women in two additional sites and serve an additional 200 women. Women from all walks of life will receive a meal and hear a speaker on topics such as life skills, finance, and motivation or inspiration. The camp will provide opportunities for personal development, fellowship, character development, the arts (choir and dance troupe) and completion of a General Education Diploma (GED) if needed.
- Interfaith Food Shuttle.: \$42,184 to fund the interns' work stipends and the food production costs in the culinary job training program extended internship program. The objective of the program is to have 70 percent of the interns to complete the training and work through the designated internship time and have 60 percent obtain employment and maintain employment for a minimum of one year.

- Urban Ministries: \$17,900 to purchase a commercial refrigerator and freezer for an expanded food pantry. The commercial appliances will allow the increase of storage and delivery capacity of perishable food by 130% to 37,700 bags of food a year.

JOINT MEETING PLANNED FOR CONVENTION CENTER

A joint meeting of the Raleigh City Council and Wake County Board of Commissioners will be held for the Convention Center project, Monday, Dec. 18, 8:30 a.m. at Progress energy Center for the Performing Arts.

'07'S FIRST COUNCIL MEETING RESCHEDULED

The first Raleigh City Council meeting of 2007 will be held on Jan. 9. The Council normally holds its meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. This date change was made to lessen scheduling conflicts with the New Year's holiday. To view the 2007 Raleigh City council calendar click the "Government" button on the homepage at www.raleighnc.gov. Then click "Council Meeting Schedule" or call the City of Raleigh's Public affairs Department at 890-3100

DOWNTOWN EVENTS CALENDER

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 12/5 - 12/13 | A Christmas Carol - Theatre In The Park | Memorial Auditorium |
| 12/7 - 12/17 | Cinderella - Raleigh Little Theatre | Fletcher Opera Theater |
| 12/8 | Cherryholmes with the Lovell Sisters - PINECONE | Meymandi Concert Hall |
| 12/9 | Joy of Season - NC Master Chorale | Meymandi Concert Hall |
| 12/15 - 12/23 | Nutcracker - Carolina Ballet | Memorial Auditorium |
| 12/16 - 12/17 | Raleigh Ringers Holiday Concert | Meymandi Concert Hall |
| 12/18 | Triangle Brass Band | Meymandi Concert Hall |
| 12/20 | NCSU Department of Computer Science Graduation | Meymandi Concert Hall |
| 12/26 - 12/31 | Cirque Dreams | Memorial Auditorium |
| 12/31 | New Year's Eve Concert - North Carolina Symphony | Meymandi Concert Hall |
| 12/31 | First Night | |

FIRST NIGHT® RALEIGH

2007

License To Thrill

FIRST NIGHT® RALEIGH 2007

Join **THOUSANDS** of friends in Downtown Raleigh for the area's only New Years Eve Celebration of the Arts!

On December 31, 2006 Artsposure will present its 16th Annual First Night Raleigh featuring over 100 performances.

Buttons will be on sale for \$9 (for adults and children ages 6 and up) beginning December 1 at over 100 area outlets including, Harris Teeter, Eckerd Drug and CARQUEST Auto Parts stores.

Purchase your button before December 31 and save on admission and receive coupons for local arts performances, including a discount to the North Carolina Symphony, Raleigh Little Theater, Carolina Ballet, Pine Cone, and Cirque Dreams at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

The **CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION** begins at 3 pm at the NC Museums of History and Natural Sciences and Bicentennial Plaza.

Then join 3,000 neighbors for the **PEOPLE'S PROCESSION**.

TWO COUNTDOWNS: 7 pm & 12 Midnight with Fireworks and Raleigh Acorn Drop at the 400 block of Fayetteville Street!

Volunteer for a 3-hour shift and receive an admission button for free! To volunteer, email volunteer@artsposure.org.

Check back here for more updates in late November!

Email us at info@artsposure.org or call 919-832-8699 for more information.



