



# Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



DowntownRaleigh

April 5, 2007

Volume 4, Number 89

## IN THIS ISSUE

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDING RELATED TO EXTENSION OF FAYETTEVILLE STREET PAGE 1

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CONSORTIUM LOCATION SET FOR MAY 1 PAGE 1

CITY COUNCIL DELAYS FINAL DECISION ON FUNDING FOR HILLSBOROUGH STREET ROUNDABOUTS PAGE 2

DOWNTOWN PERMITS OFFICE OPENS PAGE 3

CITY COUNCIL SELECTS CONSULTANT FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE PAGE 4

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR MAY 15 ON PROPOSED OPEN-SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR DOWNTOWN OVERLAY DISTRICT PAGE 5

CITY COUNCIL RECEIVES UPDATE ON POTENTIAL SENIOR CENTER SITES PAGE 5

VOLUNTEER FOR WORLD BEER FESTIVAL RALEIGH PAGE 6

ARTSPACE PAINTS FAYETTEVILLE STREET PAGE 7

## CITY COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDING RELATED TO EXTENSION OF FAYETTEVILLE STREET

The Raleigh City Council voted 7-1 on April 3 to approve \$1.46 million for early work on Phase II of the Fayetteville Street Renaissance Project. The funds will be used for waterproofing, drainage and earthwork.

Phase II of the Fayetteville Street Renaissance Project is extending Fayetteville Street to Lenoir Street and creating a City Plaza area in the 500 block of Fayetteville Street. Phase 1 was completed last July and included reopening four blocks of the Fayetteville Street pedestrian mall to vehicular traffic and converting Martin and Hargett streets from one-way streets to two-way streets. The Fayetteville Street Renaissance Project is an economic development and revitalization effort for the downtown street.

The Phase II work that the council approved will help the City provide access for construction of the Marriott convention center headquarters hotel. The four-star, 400-room Marriot hotel and the City's new 500,000-square-foot downtown convention center are both scheduled to be complete in the summer of 2008.

---

## PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CONSORTIUM LOCATION SET FOR MAY 1

The Raleigh City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed location for the African-American Cultural Consortium on Tuesday, May 1 at 7 p.m. in the council chamber at the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St. Citizens will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed site and on a plan to move the M.T. Pope House to the location if it is approved.

The African-American Cultural Consortium is made up of three groups -- the Pope House, the Martin Luther King Resource Center, and the African American Cultural Complex.

## Contacts

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

Urban Design Center  
133 Fayetteville Street Mall  
Dan Douglas  
(919) 807-8441  
Daniel.douglas@ci.raleigh.nc.us

Raleigh Convention and  
Conference 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

### Wake County

David Cooke, County Manager  
(919) 856-6160

Each currently operates separately in Raleigh but all three have agreed that a common location would be mutually beneficial. The consortium is intended to be a major destination for cultural tourism in North Carolina, offering visitors and residents a cultural and educational experience through the programs of the three member institutions.

The proposed location for the consortium is the southwest corner of the block bounded by South Wilmington Street, East South Street, Fayetteville Street and East Lenoir Street in the convention and hotel district. If the site is approved, the Pope House at 511 S. Wilmington St. would have to be moved about half a block to the consortium location, which is just north of Shaw University, or to another location in the vicinity of the Shaw campus.

The Pope House is the last surviving structure from a middle and professional class African-American neighborhood. The home was built by Dr. M.T. Pope, a Shaw University graduate who was the first African-American to be licensed as a physician in the state of North Carolina. The house is a rare example of a front-gable structure and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The City's Historic Districts Commission has recommended leaving the home on its present site, as much of its historic value derives from the location. The Pope House Museum Foundation has plans to open the house to the public as a museum.

---

## CITY COUNCIL DELAYS FINAL DECISION ON FUNDING FOR HILLSBOROUGH STREET ROUNDABOUTS

The Raleigh City Council on April 3 deferred a final decision on funding for the Hillsborough Street roundabout project. Council members decided to address the issue in the fall when design of the project is expected to be 75 percent complete. City Manager Russell Allen said construction estimates will be more accurate at that time.

The Hillsborough Street roundabout project is estimated to cost \$6.3 million under a plan approved by the City Council on Feb. 20. The City's adopted Capital Improvement Plan contains \$2.6 million for the project, leaving a funding shortfall of \$3.7 million. The shortfall is \$4.1 million if a standard 10 percent additional contingency is included. In 2005, Raleigh voters approved roundabouts, or traffic circles, for Hillsborough Street as part of a \$60 million bond referendum for road improvements.

dcooke@co.wake.nc.us

The Downtown Raleigh Alliance  
120 S. Wilmington St.,  
Suite 103  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
(919) 832-1231

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

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.downtownraleigh.org](http://www.downtownraleigh.org)

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

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

Hillsborough Street will be converted to a new three-lane section with at-grade median between Oberlin Road and Gardner Street, under the plan approved by the City Council. There will be two roundabouts, or traffic circles, with raised pedestrian medians: one of the roundabouts will be at the intersection of Hillsborough Street and Pullen Road and a smaller roundabout will be just north of Hillsborough Street on Oberlin Road at Groveland Avenue. The project will create more than 200 on-street parking spaces on both sides of Hillsborough Street to support local businesses. There also will be underground utilities and streetscape improvements.

The Hillsborough Street project is intended to enhance vehicular and pedestrian safety, improve the appearance of the street, promote economic development, improve pedestrian access and create a sense of place. Kimley-Horn and Associates is the City's design consultant for the project.

---

## DOWNTOWN PERMITS OFFICE OPENS

The City of Raleigh opened the new Downtown Permits Office (DPO) on April 3 to issue permits for private uses of public spaces in the downtown area. The DPO is located in the City's Inspections Department on the fourth floor of One Exchange Plaza, 219 Fayetteville St.

In addition to processing permit applications, the staff at the DPO will be responsible for providing citizens with information regarding the City's new rules for locating and operating in public spaces downtown. The DPO is designed to be a quick one-stop service facility.

On Feb. 20, the City Council approved updated uniform standards for private use of downtown public spaces. The revised standards took effect on Sunday and cover news racks, outdoor dining, street vendors, street performers, mail drop-off boxes and minor encroachments such as outdoor merchandise, street furniture, awnings, exterior lighting and signage. Citizens or businesses must obtain one-year permits, renewable every July 1, for these uses. The new rules cover areas in the Downtown Overlay District and in the nearby North Person, Peace Street and Glenwood South business districts.

The DPO is open from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday, and can be reached at 516-2550. Information about the updated standards for private uses of downtown public uses and applications for the new permit also can be found by visiting the City of Raleigh's website at [www.raleighnc.gov/pups](http://www.raleighnc.gov/pups).

---

## CITY COUNCIL SELECTS CONSULTANT FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The Raleigh City Council voted unanimously at its April 3 meeting to select HNTB as the consultant that will assist the City in updating its Comprehensive Plan. The City administration was authorized to negotiate a contract with the firm. If a contract is successfully negotiated, it would be presented to the City Council for its consideration.

The City received five proposals from qualified consultants in response to a request-for-proposals issued by the City's Planning Department. A five-person selection committee consisting of City and Wake County planning staff members evaluated each of the proposals and recommended HNTB.

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the City of Raleigh is set to begin 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 has grown significantly and has also had new growth patterns emerge. City leaders say the time has come to develop a new 20-year Comprehensive Plan that addresses urban form, land use, infrastructure, transportation and other elements, such as neighborhood conservation and environmental quality. The updated Comprehensive Plan will provide a vision of how Raleigh should grow over the next 20 years, according to City Planning Director Mitchell Silver.

The Comprehensive Plan update process is expected to take 18 to 24 months complete. Citizen participation and input will be an integral part of the update process, according to Mr. Silver.

---

## PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR MAY 15 ON PROPOSED OPEN-SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR DOWNTOWN OVERLAY DISTRICT

The Raleigh City Council and the Raleigh Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing on a proposal to reduce the open-space requirement for high-density residential developments in the Downtown Overlay District (DOD).

The public hearing will take place on May 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council chamber at the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St.

Currently, a minimum of 15 percent of the total land area of a residential development in the DOD must be set aside for open space. The open-space requirement would be lowered to 10 percent of the total land area, under a proposal before the City Council and the planning commission. Existing residential developments in the Downtown Overlay District would not be allowed to convert to the 10 percent threshold if the proposal is approved.

---

## CITY COUNCIL RECEIVES UPDATE ON POTENTIAL SENIOR CENTER SITES

The Raleigh City Council on April 3 received an update on recommendations from Taylor-Wiseman and Taylor regarding the feasibility of locating a stand-alone senior center in the Capital City.

At the March 20 meeting Council members asked staff to evaluate a site on Noble Road currently owned by Wake County Public Schools. The property is used as a school bus maintenance facility and for printing operations. In conducting the evaluation it was found that Wake County Schools will be using and expanding the use of the property. The City's Parks and Recreation Department received input from the 48 senior program clubs. The club leaders expressed their location preference and want to keep the option of locating the center in a City park available. The City Council will discuss the senior center again at the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 17.

On Jan. 3, 2006, the Raleigh City Council approved the preparation of a feasibility study for a senior center. Over the last several months the City's consultant has solicited public input in a variety of forms including a survey, public meetings and focus groups.

The key issues facing area seniors, top programs needs, distance or time seniors are willing to travel to get to a facility, the mode of transportation and their willingness to share a space for other uses and amount willing to pay in fees were considered in making recommendations for the senior center.

The study as presented to the City Council on March 6 recommends a stand-alone senior center to be potentially located at either Laurel Hills Park, Kiwanis Park, Lake Johnson Park, Kentwood Park or Leesville Road Park, with satellite senior center additions to existing neighborhood or community centers at the other locations.

The proposed facility construction budget estimate is \$7,157,800 for constructing a new 25,456 square foot senior center on a minimum of five acres of City-owned land. In addition to the projected development budget, the study researched other senior centers for potential revenue sources and operating costs. A new senior center would cost approximately \$250,000 for staff and operating expenses.

The City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department senior adult program serves over 4,500 senior adults in the Raleigh area. There are 47 senior clubs affiliated with the senior adult program. The clubs meet at area community centers, churches and senior housing facilities, and offer a range of activities such as bridge, speakers, community service projects and more.

---

## VOLUNTEER FOR WORLD BEER FESTIVAL RALEIGH

If you love beer and Downtown Raleigh - we want you to be a volunteer at the 2nd annual World Beer Festival Raleigh on Saturday, April 28.

Experience volunteering at its best! World Beer Festival volunteers get to enjoy a Saturday filled with live music, festive beer lovers and perks like a FREE Volunteer t-shirt, a subscription to "All About Beer", and an invitation to the post-event staff party where you will be offered sample beers and food from the festival and be entered in a raffle with great prizes.

Not only will you have fun, but you'll also be helping a great cause, Downtown Raleigh! The World Beer Festival Raleigh is helping to raise money for the Downtown Raleigh Alliance which is dedicated to revitalizing downtown.

Sign up today for the coolest volunteer job ever! Volunteers can register for one session or both sessions on Saturday, April 28th.

The event takes place in Moore Square on the corner of Blount and Martin streets. Applicants must be 21 years of age to volunteer.

Volunteer Referral Program: Win the Big Prize!-

This year the Downtown Raleigh Alliance is introducing a volunteer referral program. The volunteer with the most referrals to show up for either session will receive a \$50 gift certificate to a local restaurant and a mixed case of special beers to enjoy. Invite your friends to join you and volunteer for this fun and exciting event. Remind your friends to enter your first and last name on the volunteer form at "How did you find out about this volunteer opportunity?"

For more information contact: Ellen Fragola, Downtown Raleigh Alliance email: [ellenfragola@downtownraleigh.org](mailto:ellenfragola@downtownraleigh.org) phone: 919 832-1231

---

### ARTSPACE PAINTS FAYETTEVILLE STREET

Come outside and get inspired! On Saturday, April 21 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. come downtown and experience the creative energy of Artspace on Fayetteville Street.

Artspace paints the town with over 30 artists working outside and displaying their finest new work. Catch a glimpse of local celebrities as they have their portraits painted. Enjoy an art filled afternoon with live music, a wine tasting, art activities for children, and some great local art and food. Bring the family and immerse yourself in an exciting afternoon filled with creativity!

*Artspace Paints Fayetteville Street* will take place on Fayetteville Street between Davie and Hargett Streets. For more information, visit [www.artspacenc.org](http://www.artspacenc.org) or call Artspace at 919.821.2787.

04-10 10:30 AM	NC Symphony Educational Concert...	Meymandi Concert Hall
04-13 4:00 PM	Regional Dance Competition...	Fletcher Theater
04-13 7:30 PM	LA BOHÈME	Memorial Auditorium
04-13 8:00 PM	North Carolina Symphony: ...	Meymandi Concert Hall
04-14 7:00 AM	Regional Dance Competition...	Fletcher Theater
04-14 8:00 PM	North Carolina Symphony: ...	Meymandi Concert Hall
04-15 7:00 AM	Regional Dance Competition...	Fletcher Theater
04-15 8:00 PM	North Carolina Wind Orchestra...	Meymandi Concert Hall
04-16 9:30 AM	Mr. AI - Live In Concert	Meymandi Concert Hall
04-19 8:00 PM	Carolina Ballet - Swan Lake..	Memorial Auditorium
04-20 7:00 PM	Saint Mary's School Concert...	Fletcher Opera Theater
04-20 8:00 PM	Carolina Ballet - Swan Lake.	Memorial Auditorium
04-21 07:00 PM	St. Mary's School Concert	Fletcher Opera Theater
04-21 07:00 PM	NC Symphony Contributors ...	Meymandi Concert Hall
04-21 08:00 PM	Carolina Ballet - Swan Lake...	Memorial Auditorium
04-22 02:00 PM	Carolina Ballet - Swan Lake...	Memorial Auditorium
04-22 08:00 PM	NC Master Chorale – Mozart...	Meymandi Concert Hall
04-25 07:00 PM	Elementary Choral Society	Meymandi Concert Hall
04-25 08:00 PM	High School - The Musical	Memorial Auditorium
04-26 07:00 PM	Elementary Choral Celebration.	Meymandi Concert Hall
04-26 08:00 PM	High School - The Musical...	Memorial Auditorium
04-27 08:00 PM	High School - The Musical	Memorial Auditorium
04-28 01:00 PM	World Beer Festival	Moore Square
04-28 03:00 PM	High School - The Musical	Memorial Auditorium