



Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



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REDBIRD SCULPTURE TO BE DEDICATED SUNDAY AT FRED FLETCHER PARK

Raleigh residents are invited to Fred Fletcher Park on Sunday for an afternoon of festivities surrounding the dedication of the "Redbird" sculpture. The dedication will take place on the corner of Glenwood Avenue and Washington Street beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The celebration will begin at 4:30 p.m. The first 150 children to attend will be given free redbird kites for a kite-flying ceremony. The Arts Together Pre-School Children's Chorus will also perform. At 5 p.m., Mayor Charles Meeker will officially dedicate the statue and light refreshments will follow. Following the dedication, a "Redbird" procession will take wing to the concert stage to hear the Raleigh Concert Band perform beginning at 6 p.m. The dedication will give families and individuals a chance to welcome Raleigh's newest public art sculpture as well as an opportunity to learn more about the water garden and landscape plans for Fletcher Park.

The sculpture is the creation of Asheville artist Harry McDaniel. The 13-foot-tall statue uses North Carolina's state bird as a spring board for the graceful and elegant piece that Mr. McDaniel has said is a puzzle for the viewer to solve. The sculpture was purchased using funds raised through the Raleigh Red Wolf Ramble, a public art project presented by the City of Raleigh Arts Commission. "Redbird" is a 30th anniversary public art project of the City of Raleigh Arts Commission.

Established in 1977, the City of Raleigh Arts Commission was the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. The commission serves as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the Raleigh City Council. For more information, contact the Arts Commission at 890-3610.

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COUNCIL APPROVES CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR PEACE STREET STREETScape PROJECT

The Raleigh City Council, on June 5, unanimously approved a contract amendment that expands the scope of services of the Peace Street Streetscapes project and facilitates the implementation of the streetscape improvements. Council members increased the City's contract with ColeJenest & Stone by \$130,400, to a total of \$184,900.

ColeJenest & Stone is the City's consultant on the Peace Street Streetscapes project regarding conceptual design and construction drawings. The additional services that the consultant will provide under the contract amendment are:

- Coordinating the preparation of a subsurface utility exploration;
- Preparing plat maps for the City's use in acquisition of easements for existing sidewalks outside the right-of-way;
- Construction administration for the project; and,
- Construction engineering and inspection services for the project

The Peace Street Streetscapes project will cover both sides of Peace Street from West Street to St. Mary's Street. Improvements will include streets trees, driveway consolidation, sidewalk replacement and overhead utility consolidation. The purpose of the project is to improve the pedestrian safety and appearance of the street and to support economic investment and redevelopment in the Peace Street area.

CONSULTANT CONTRACT APPROVED FOR RBC PLAZA PARKING DECK

The Raleigh City Council on June 5 unanimously approved a contract with Stewart Engineering to be the City's technical engineering representative for a 1,238-space parking deck that will support the 33-story RBC Plaza. The contract amount is \$202,000. The RBC Plaza is a mixed-used tower that is being constructed downtown at the corner of Fayetteville, Martin and Wilmington streets.

Stewart Engineering was one of two consultants that responded to the City's request for qualifications for a technical engineering representative. A City selection committee reviewed the proposals

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and ranked the firms, with Stewart Engineering rated first. At its April 17 meeting, the City Council voted to authorize the City administration to negotiate a contract with Stewart Engineering.

As the City's technical engineering representative for the RBC Plaza parking deck, Stewart Engineering will be responsible for reviewing the design and construction of the parking deck for conformance with the City's design requirements in accordance with terms of a development agreement for the project, City building and zoning codes, and City policies and directives.

The parking deck is a joint effort of the City of Raleigh, Highwoods Properties and Progress Energy. It will be located mid-block along East Martin Street between South Wilmington and South Blount streets, just north of Progress Energy's corporate headquarters. In addition to the RBC Plaza, the parking deck will support future development near the plaza.

COUNCIL APPROVES 2007 PARKS BOND COMMITTEE

The Raleigh City Council approved the formation of a 2007 Parks and Greenways Bond Advocacy Committee. The board would serve as advocates for this year's proposed \$88.6 million bond issue for parks and greenway improvements. The bond package will appear on the Oct. 9 ballot.

If approved by Raleigh voters, the bond referendum would include approximately:

- \$16.1 million for unfunded projects that voters approved in the 2003 parks and greenway referendum;
- \$16 million for greenway development;
- \$15 million for park land acquisition;
- \$4.9 million to expand the capacity of current facilities; and,
- \$36.6 million for new facility development.

The members of the board will be finalized by the Council's next meeting by June 19. The committee will also work in conjunction with Wake County and the promotion of its open space bond issue.

CITY OF RALEIGH ISSUES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR REVIEW OF RALEIGH'S OFF-STREET PARKING STANDARDS

The City of Raleigh Planning Department is seeking proposals from qualified consultants to undertake a thorough review of the City's off-street parking standards and make recommendations to update the parking ordinance. The deadline for submitting proposals is June 22. City staff will recommend a consultant to the City Council for its consideration.

The City of Raleigh wants to update its parking regulations to more accurately reflect recent empirical research regarding parking generation and to incorporate the latest in best practices regarding off-street parking standards. The updated regulations will, among other things, address shared parking for mixed-use developments, which are becoming more common throughout the Capital City. Additionally, parking lot and parking structure placement and design and parking standards for the City's pedestrian business districts will be included in the review of the City's off-street parking standards.

AGREEMENT WITH INTERACT APPROVED FOR OBERLIN ROAD FACILITY

On June 5, the Raleigh City Council approved a memorandum of agreement with Interact to locate its facility at 1012 Oberlin Road by the first part of 2008.

The agreement enters the City into a joint project to provide services to victims of domestic violence in a partnership between Interact (a non-profit family violence prevention center) and the City of Raleigh Police Department's Family Violence Intervention Unit.

- Under the terms of agreement, Interact will:
Provide staff to assist with the development and implementation of the program;
- Provide approximately 1,200 to 1,500 square feet of office space for the police department's Family Violence Intervention Unit; and,
- Refer families who are seeking law enforcement services to the police department.

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The City of Raleigh agrees to:

- Assign staff to work with Interact;
- Provide expertise and consultation on law enforcement matters; and,
- Make referrals to Interact for families to receive counseling services.

CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER CROWN SIGN TEXT CHANGE

The Raleigh City Council voted at its June 5 evening meeting to authorize the City Attorney to draft a proposed text change on crown signs.

Mack Paul, an attorney representing the Soleil Group, asked the council to consider applying the City's crown sign regulations to all areas of Raleigh. The regulations currently apply to buildings over 200 feet in the Downtown Overlay District. The Soleil Group plans to construct the Soleil Center, an upscale mixed-use tower, on Glenwood Avenue near Crabtree Valley Mall.

After the City Attorney's Office drafts the text change, it will be presented to the City Council for its consideration.

DOWNTOWN EVENTS CALENDER

06-09- 07:00 PM	Dancer's Corner School of...	Fletcher Opera Theater
06-09- 07:30 PM	Raleigh Ringers	Meymandi Concert Hall
06-09- 08:30 PM	Movies In The Park	Moore Square
06-10- 07:00 PM	Dancer's Corner School of...	Fletcher Opera Theater
06-13- 10:30 AM	Moore Square Farmers Market	Moore Square
06-16- 02:00 PM	Budlight Downtown Live	Moore Square
06-16- 07:30 PM	Performance Edge	Fletcher Opera Theater
06-20- 07:30 PM	Miss North Carolina Pageant.	Progress Energy Center
06-21- 07:30 PM	Miss North Carolina Pageant	Memorial Auditorium
06-22- 08:00 PM	Miss North Carolina Pageant	Memorial Auditorium