



SouthWest Sentinel – June 2006

monthly newsletter of the SouthWest Citizens Advisory Council

Next meeting: June 12, 2006 - 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. **District 26 Police report** – Officer Upchurch
2. **Parks and Recreation report** – Robert Stewart
3. **Historic Yates Mill County Park** - We have seen all the articles in the N&O about this wonderful park that is in our ETJ (extraterritorial jurisdiction), but now we have an opportunity to learn even more from Mike Smith, Wake County Parks. If you were not able to attend any events during Grand Opening Weekend, Mike will fill you in on the details.
4. **What really is happening downtown that costs \$1.5 billion** – Daniel Douglas is the City of Raleigh planning person who knows and will explain. We will see how far out from Fayetteville Street changes are occurring and how those changes will affect us. Also you will learn what the Urban Design Center is, where it is, or how, it too, affects our lives.
5. **The Tryon Road railroad bridge** – As Renaissance Park becomes a reality, the railroad bridge will change as well as that nasty curve between the bridge and Wilmington Street. The section of Tryon Road west of the railroad bridge is a design challenge because of the Delta Sigma fraternity house with its listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the Raleigh Golf Association across the street. Information about the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) that is being developed will be available at our meeting.
6. *Old business*
7. *New business*

Ways to get involved and improve your community during Spring/Summer:

1. Community Clean-ups:

This is the time of year when everyone wants their community to look clutter free, renewed and inviting. We assist you with coordinating your clean up. We currently have the months of July and August 2006 available, but that could change at any moment. For all ages. Call your Community Specialist today!

2. Community Association or Neighborhood Watch Group:

It can be your street, your block or just your surroundings. Start a group to seek over your neighborhood, network with different city departments, with the support of your community specialist. Crime stats drop when neighbors stand, unite and get involved. Call your Community Specialist today!

Others: a Community Festival; a Yard of the Month Program; an Adopt-a Street or Adopt –a Park; an Outreach Initiative? Call 831-6099 for details.

SWCAC meetings
2nd Mondays
7:00 p.m.
Carolina Pines
Community Center
2305 Lake Wheeler Rd.

Chairperson:
Mary Belle Pate
772-9460

Community Specialist:
Luis F. Olivieri-Robert
luis.olivieri-robert@ci.raleigh.nc.us
831-6099

City Council Office:
890-3050

City Manager's Office:
890-3070

Raleigh Police (District 26)
831-6170

Police Non-Emergency:
831-6311

Crime Prevention:
831-6740

Crime Stoppers:
834-4357

Parks and Recreation
Robert Stewart
831-6435

Housing Inspections
807-5110

Graffiti Hotline:
831-6001
graffiti@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Gang Tip Hotline
890-3904



CITY NEWS AND REPORT:

Fayetteville Street Opening Party Set For July 29

The City, the Downtown Raleigh Alliance and the staff of Artsposure are busy pulling together the party that will mark the opening of the four blocks of “North Carolina’s Main Street” from the State Capitol to the Sheraton Hotel. Details of the street party will be available by the end of the month. The four blocks are being converted to a 40-foot-wide thoroughfare with parallel parking on both sides of the street. Traffic signals at Davie, Martin, Hargett and Morgan streets will be modified. Hargett and Martin streets will be converted to two-way traffic. Mark your calendar: July 29 in the evening.

Call Progress Energy -- Not 911 -- To Report Power Outages

Unless the power outage involves a fire, medical emergency or downed electrical lines, residents should call Progress Energy -- not the ECC -- to report an outage. Progress Energy can be reached at 508-5400 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Calling the ECC to report outages slows 9-1-1 telecommunicators from handling real emergencies and delivering potentially life-saving assistance to citizens in desperate need of police, fire or ambulance service.

Water Conservation Remains A Priority

Despite recent rains, the need to conserve water remains a priority. On May 2, the City Council voted unanimously to lift mandatory water restrictions. However, the council members are encouraging all citizens to observe the voluntary water conservation measures.

Revisions To Public Nuisance Ordinance Approved

The Raleigh City Council on May 16 approved changes to the City’s public nuisance ordinance. The changes generally clarify terminology in the ordinance and update some of the provisions. The Raleigh City Code as well as North Carolina state statutes set out the procedures used to control and remove dangers to the public health. Fines are imposed against owners of property who allow these health and safety nuisances to exist on their property. Public nuisances include but are not limited to areas that serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes, rats and other pests; heavy dense growth of grasses or weeds over 8 inches tall; any place of growth of poison sumac, poison ivy, poison oak or other noxious vegetation; and abandoned and nuisance vehicles. Under an ordinance approved by the council last summer, a property owner who abates a nuisance when notified of its existence by the City does not have to pay a \$100 administrative fee unless that owner has had a nuisance code violation within the preceding 24 months. Repeat violators must pay the administrative fee plus a minimum \$250 civil penalty assessed by the City.

Parks and Recreation: A Great Alternative for Every Season

You may decide that you need something more to complement your life – friendship, community, adventure, or self-growth. You may need an escape from your daily routine. For whatever reason, the world around you offers itself to exploration. At Raleigh Parks and Recreation we understand that quality leisure, recreation, and cultural opportunities greatly enhance the lives of Raleigh citizens. Our parks and lakes are stomping grounds for friends and families to play, jog, fish, and relax. These natural spaces also preserve plant life, and improve air, water, and soil quality for all of us. Parks also promote high standards of living which in turn attracts tourism and business and enhances property values. Come to Carolina Pines Community Center or call 831-6435.

City of Raleigh COMMUNITY SERVICES



Citizens' Participation Leadership Institute - Fall, 2006 Session

The Community Services Department, in partnership with Shaw University, launched its first Citizens' Participation Leadership Institute on March 2, 2006. We have worked hard to design a leadership-training event for you and your neighbors. We have aligned a 15 week series of thought-provoking workshops geared to sharpen your skills in community building. The spring session is full, so now is the time to start thinking about signing up for the Fall 2006 session, which is scheduled to commence on August 31, 2006. Open registration has begun! For further information, please contact Charlene Willard at 831-6095, email her at charlene.willard@ci.raleigh.nc.us or visit us on the web at www.raleighnc.gov.



Neighborhood Association Registry

This program enhances citizen involvement by providing communication and partnering between various neighborhood organizations in the City of Raleigh, its extraterritorial jurisdiction and City government. The City desires to identify and support existing neighborhood organizations, while encouraging and assisting new neighborhood groups. Our ultimate objective is empowerment of neighborhoods. If you are a member of a Raleigh neighborhood organization, (neighborhood association, garden club, homeowners association, community watch program, etc.) we encourage you to contact your neighborhood leaders and have them complete a Neighborhood Association Registry Application. For details call 831-6100.



Raleigh Neighborhood College

The Neighborhood College is a program offered by the City of Raleigh in partnership with Wake County. The Fall 2006 session registration will start in August for a September start. It will last 13 weeks with classes that provide information on several different kinds of City services, as well as County services.

Students in the Neighborhood College will have a chance to meet and interact with City staff, County staff, and other Raleigh residents to learn the things about government you always wanted to know, but didn't know who to ask! Classes are either on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at various City locations. Only 25 students are accepted per session. For more details, including brochure or application, contact us at 831-6100.



Neighborhood Improvement Matching Grants 2006

The Neighborhood Improvement Matching Grant Program awards grants up to \$5,000 to neighborhood-serving or neighborhood-based organizations and individuals to initiate projects designed to benefit your neighborhood. Projects can be physical or social in nature, but must *emphasize neighborhood input and involvement* and be able to prove how the project will benefit the neighborhood. Let's do it! Call 831-6100 for details.

September: 'Neighborhoods Month'. September has been designated as Neighborhoods Month by the Raleigh City Council. In conjunction with this event, the Neighborhood Month Committee is working hard to devise an event to recognize this proclamation.

Raleigh Neighborhood Exchange: "Many Neighborhoods . . . One Raleigh Exchange"

The Neighborhood Exchange Citizens Committee in partnership with the City of Raleigh's Community Services Department will host the Raleigh Neighborhood Exchange. This event will be held on a Friday and Saturday in September. Stay tuned for additional information!

KNOWING YOUR CITY DEPARTMENTS : Community Services Department



We are people helping people. The Community Services Department provides a variety of programs to assist communities and individuals. These programs include the Raleigh Neighborhood College; Neighborhood Improvement Program; Retired and Senior Volunteer Program; the Foster Grandparent Program; and the Raleigh Youth Employment Program. Community Services also coordinates the Citizens Advisory Councils, 18 neighborhood-based advisory groups to the City Council, as well as working with the Human Resources and Human Relations Advisory Board and the City's Substance Abuse Advisory Commission. For more information about these programs or CAC meetings in your neighborhood, Call 831-6100 or visit www.raleighnc.gov/communityservices .

Knowing the communities inside SWCAC!

Caraleigh Community is the cornerstone of the southern gateway into Raleigh. With origins back in the 1940's, it is a community with its own unique characteristics, qualities and charm. Nestled within the boundaries of the Southwest CAC, this diverse neighborhood is committed to a sound quality for life for all its residents. Caraleigh Neighborhood Watch assists in determining how to meet the community needs as it relates to the physical, public safety and social aspects. It is a group of concerned, responsible, law abiding citizens working together to provide greater peace of mind and freedom from criminal activity. It is the eyes and ears of the community. Friends and neighbors volunteer their time and talent to perform community watch patrols and other duties to insure early detection and reporting of suspicious activity. The goals of such a program are improved safety, security, and crime prevention, through timely reporting of suspicious activity to local enforcement. They meet on the first Monday of each month at 118 Summit Avenue, Raleigh, 27603. You can visit their website at www.caraleigh.org to learn about community issues, get updates on gas, the weather, know about future events, and many other things of interest to the community.

