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City Offices Closed in Observance of Independence Day

Please note City administrative offices will be **closed** on **Tuesday, July 4** in observance of the **Independence Day** holiday.

INFORMATION:

Record Breaking Hotel Room Bookings for Convention Center Events

Staff Resource: Kerry Painter, Convention & Performing Arts Centers, 996-8500, kerry.painter@raleighnc.gov

Convention Center staff is pleased to report the Triangle's premiere event venue has been particularly in-demand this fiscal year, with nearly 90% of sellable dates already booked just six months in. From July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, the Raleigh Convention Center hosted 154 events, 64 of which were in conjunction with the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau. The 64 events generated 100,050 contracted hotel rooms, bringing \$7.4 million in direct economic impact tied to events associated with overnight visitation.

As staff closes the fiscal year and looks back at the variety of rental successes at the Raleigh Convention Center, a media release was issued this week and is included with the *Update* materials. The release outlines the record-breaking hotel room utilization rate and corresponding economic impact, and also highlights some of the more “interesting” conference bookings.

(No attachment)

Complimentary Parking for Visitors Attending Public Meetings

Staff Resource: Matthew Currier, Transportation-Parking, 996-4041, matthew.currier@raleighnc.gov

With the installation of the new parking deck equipment within the Raleigh Municipal Parking Deck, there is now a new and easier process for providing complimentary parking for public meetings.

Visitors and board members attending public meetings will receive a white entrance ticket from the parking deck equipment upon entrance into the Raleigh Municipal Parking Deck. To exit the deck free of charge, they will need to bring the white entry ticket into the facility and use the parking validator located outside of the Raleigh City Council Chambers in the 2nd floor lobby of the Municipal Building. To validate, the customer scans the barcode on the entry ticket using the integrated scanner located on the bottom of the validator and wait for confirmation.

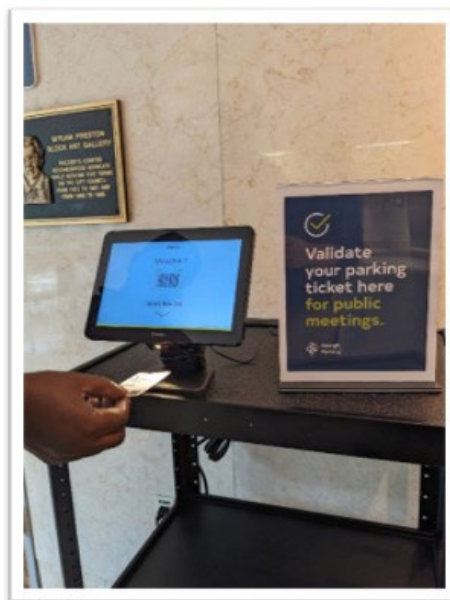


Image of integrated scanner

To assist with ensuring a smooth transition, Car Park staff will be on-site to assist all parkers and answer any questions about the new process during the July 5 City Council meeting.

(No attachment)

NCDOT Falls of Neuse Widening Project (U-5826) Update

Staff Resource: Kenneth Ritchie, Transportation, 996-4112, kenneth.ritchie@raleighnc.gov

NCDOT Project U-5826 will widen Falls of Neuse Road to a full 6-lane median-divided street section from I-540 to Durant Road ([U-5826 Falls of Neuse Road Public Map](#)). The project will include an 8’ multi-purpose

path along the east side for the entirety of the project and a 5' sidewalk along the west side north of the interchange to Durant Road.



This project had been delayed for a couple years due to funding but is now scheduled to begin construction in mid to late July 2023, with an estimated completion in Spring 2026. The project will be managed through the NCDOT Division 5 Resident Engineer's Office, under the oversight of Deputy Division Construction Engineer Chad Hinnant (cdhinnant@ncdot.gov; (919) 733-9499). The construction contract was awarded to the Fred Smith Company.

(No attachment)

Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Pilot Program Update

Staff Resource: B. Lamont Taylor, Housing & Neighborhoods, 996-4330, lamont.taylor@raleighnc.gov

The Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Pilot Program has served 36 households in total, to date. Triangle Family Services and Passage Home are administering the pilot program, and the agencies are providing the services below to program participants. 10% of the participating households were referred through the Coordinated Access System. 90% of the participating households engaged directly with Triangle Family Services and Passage Home to access the program. Both agencies recently updated their websites to include information about the pilot program, and links to both websites can be found below.

\$525,000 in ARPA and city funding was allocated to the pilot program, and \$262,500 was awarded to both Passage Home and Triangle Family Services. The agencies have expended a combined total of \$63,667 on direct assistance to households and program administration.

Services Provided:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Rent and rental arrears payments. | 5. Transportation/ride share services. |
| 2. Utility and utility arrears payments. | 6. Counseling on other housing resources. |
| 3. Short-term hotel stays. | 7. Gift cards for basic needs (food, clothes, etc.). |
| 4. Landlord and family mediations to enable a return to housing. | 8. Post-intervention case management to ensure housing stability. |

More information is available at the partner agency websites:

Triangle Family Services

<https://tfsnc.org/homeless-engagement-services-housing-assistance/homelessness-diversion-pilot-program/>

Passage Home

<https://passagehome.org/services/homeless-prevention/diversion-and-prevention/>

(No attachment)

Community Engagement Process for Parks Bond Projects in East and Southeast Raleigh

Staff Resource: Shawsheen Baker, Raleigh Parks, 996-4782, shawsheen.baker@raleighnc.gov

In order to conduct an equitable and productive community engagement process and bridge communication between the community and the project management team, staff proposes to establish the following Community Advisory Groups (CAG's) to collaborate with the project team during the project planning phase:

- One joint CAG for John Chavis Memorial Park Phase 2 Development, John "Top" Greene Center Improvements and South Park Heritage Walk Implementation.

CAG Interest Questionnaire: <https://publicinput.com/jointcag>

- One CAG for Tarboro Road Park Development.

CAG Interest Questionnaire: <https://publicinput.com/tarborocag>

The call for CAG membership will be advertised through in-person and multi-media communication methods in the east and southeast Raleigh neighborhoods, as well as citywide, and remain open July-August 2023. Residents and community group representatives are encouraged to submit the CAG Interest Questionnaires and express their interests in assisting with the planning of these significant park improvement projects in east and southeast Raleigh communities.

(Attachment)

APRA Arts Recovery Program: Phase 1 Program Update

Staff Resource: Sarah Powers, Raleigh Parks, 996-4685, sarah.powers@raleighnc.gov

At its April 18, 2023 meeting City Council authorized \$300,00 in City ARPA funds be allocated to first phase of the Raleigh Arts Commission ARPA Arts Recovery Program, the Venue Reactivation Support Initiative. In response, the Arts Commission developed an application process and set eligibility criteria for the Initiative.

The Venue Reactivation Support initiative was designed to reduce third-party costs for Raleigh nonprofit arts and cultural organizations to produce performances or events at the Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts, the Raleigh Convention Center, and Red Hat Amphitheater.

Eligibility

To be eligible, nonprofit arts and cultural organizations had to have 501(c)3 tax-exempt status and corporate headquarters located within the limits of the City of Raleigh. In addition, organizations must have demonstrated negative financial impacts from the pandemic, a pre-COVID record of producing arts and cultural programming on or before January 1, 2019, and substantial experience producing arts events/programs similar in scope to what they proposed.

Application & Allocation Process

Application forms and guidelines were posted on the City website May 8, with a submission deadline of May 26 at 4 PM. Raleigh Arts hosted a virtual workshop for local nonprofit arts and cultural organizations on

Tuesday, May 9. During the workshop, staff reviewed the application process and eligibility requirements, then answered questions from attendees. Because this was a streamlined and simple application process, applications were reviewed on a rolling basis in the order they were received. As applications came in, support was allocated according to organizational budget size and estimated third-party costs until the program budget was met. The program stipulated that, if all Venue Reactivation Support was allocated prior to the deadline, any eligible applications received before the deadline but after the program budget was expended would go on a waiting list should recipients not fully use their support. Applications received after the deadline would be denied.

City Venue Reactivation Support Initiative Recipients

Twelve organizations applied for Venue Reactivation Support and met the eligibility requirements. The Raleigh Arts Commission Grants Committee reviewed and approved recommendations for support at their June 5 meeting. The committee presented recommendations to the full Commission June 13. Eleven applicants were approved for support. One organization, the African American Cultural Festival, did not receive support at this time in part because their production plans were not finalized when the application was submitted. Please see the list of beneficiary arts and cultural organizations below:

Organization Name	Date Received	Time Received	Maximum Support Eligibility	Estimated 3rd Party Costs	Approved Support
Theatre in the Park	5/8/23	6:34am	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
North Carolina Opera	5/8/23	8:57am	\$30,000	\$58,380	\$30,000
North Carolina Master Chorale	5/8/23	1:35pm	\$7,000	\$4,600	\$4,600
The Raleigh Ringers	5/8/23	1:50pm	\$7,000	\$5,800	\$5,800
Performance Edge	5/8/23	3:08pm	\$7,000	\$4,500	\$4,500
Educational Growth Across Oceans	5/8/23	7:13pm	\$15,000	\$39,000	\$15,000
PineCone	5/9/23	12:14pm	\$15,000	\$14,400	\$14,400
Triangle Youth Music	5/9/23	2:43pm	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
North Carolina Symphony	5/9/23	11:19pm	\$65,000	\$186,660	\$65,000
North Carolina Theatre	5/11/23	12:39pm	\$65,000	\$67,500	\$65,000
Carolina Ballet	5/11/23	2:27pm	\$65,000	\$145,312	\$64,700
African American Cultural Festival	5/26/23	3:28pm	\$7,000	\$2,800	-
TOTAL					\$300,000

The Venue Reactivation Support Initiative will reduce program costs for these Raleigh nonprofit arts and cultural organizations to produce performances or events at specific City venues between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Future phases of the ARPA Arts Recovery Program will address the post-pandemic needs of arts and cultural organizations throughout Raleigh. This summer, the Arts Commission Grants Committee will determine how best to address the most pressing arts community needs identified in the 2023 needs assessment. The Raleigh Arts Commission plans to present the next phases of the ARPA Arts Recovery Program to City Council this fall as part of the annual work plan of the Commission.

(No attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

Included with the Update materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

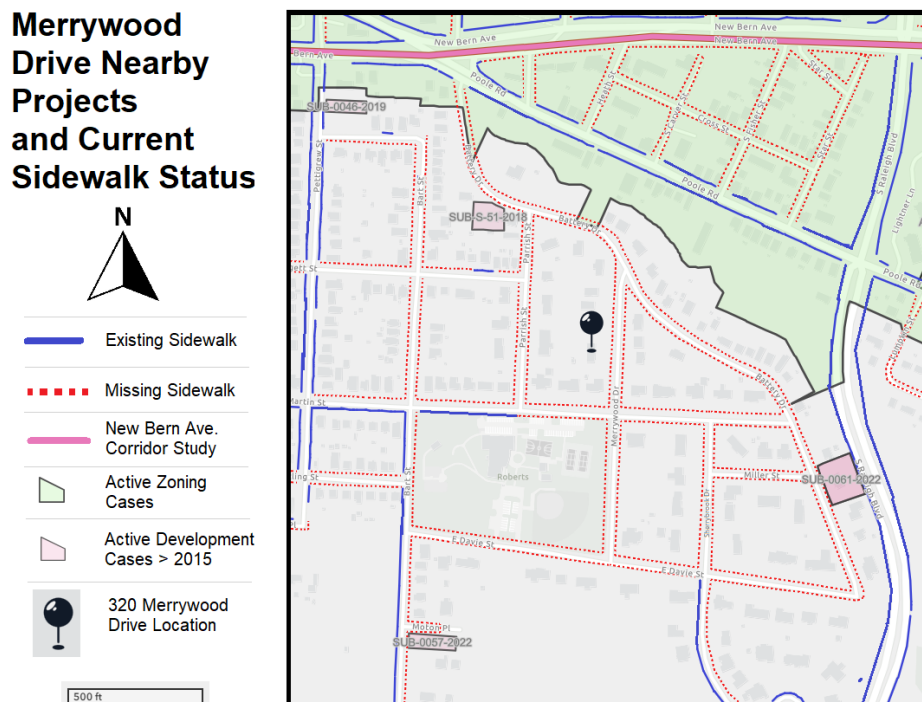
Follow Up from the June 6 City Council Meeting

Public Comment - Merrywood Drive Area Sidewalks (Mayor Baldwin)

Staff Resources: Kenneth Ritchie, Transportation, 996-4112, kenneth.ritchie@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting Ms. Brenda Williamson, resident at 320 Merrywood Drive, provided public comment conveying concerns about the lack of sidewalk connectivity in the community and neighboring Roberts Park. Council requested a follow-up report on the status of sidewalks in this area.

Consistent with comments by Ms. Williamson, sidewalks and sidewalk connectivity in the area of Merrywood Drive and Roberts Park is limited (see map below):



Prior to the suspension of the Petition Sidewalk Program ([Petition Sidewalk Program](#)) in conjunction with the FY22 budget due to the accumulated unfunded project backlog, a request of this nature could have been addressed via the petition program. The backlog was funded in FY23 with appropriated capital fund reserves from FY22. In addition to the now funded backlog and as part of the Strategic Plan initiative work, a

multi-departmental team has been assessing recommendations for the future of the petition program to promote better equity. Recommendations from that strategic effort are anticipated to be presented to the Council this fall.

Absent a formal program to direct this request, staff has added these streets to the comprehensive project list for consideration with future fiscal year capital improvement programming and/or a future transportation bond initiative.

(No attachment)



Raleigh Convention Center Attracts the “Wow!” and the “Who Knew?”

With a wide variety of events from the typical to the obscure, RCC “brings the world to Raleigh”

Raleigh, NC – Approaching the July 4th holiday and the very brief lull in venue activity that comes with it, the Raleigh Convention Center is releasing the latest information on bookings and economic impacts – with a note about the often obscure or unexpected events that are drawn to the City of Oaks.

“I just signed a contract booking the 8th International Soft Matter Conference at the Raleigh Convention Center, and it dawned on me,” says Kerry Painter, director and general manager of the Raleigh Convention + Performing Arts Complex. “I have no idea what soft matter is! We book so many unique, one-of-a-kind events, I am constantly learning something new about what people are passionate about.”

The Triangle’s premiere event venue has been particularly in-demand this fiscal year, with nearly 90% of sellable dates already booked just six months in. From July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, the Raleigh Convention Center hosted 154 events, 64 of which were in conjunction with the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau. These 64 events generated 100,050 contracted hotel rooms and brought \$7.4 million in direct economic impact tied to events associated with overnight visitation.

Many bookings are the kind of event one would expect in the state capitol: GalaxyCon, Pendo’s annual companywide kick-off, the NC South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo.

Others, though, stretch the imagination and the city limits, attracting visitors with unconventional interests and from around the world:

- **The 8th International Soft Matter Conference**, which brings together researchers in basic and applied sciences to study synthetic and biologically complex materials. Raleigh is one of three cities to host the conference in a three-year span – the other two are Poznan, Poland, and Osaka, Japan.
- **The World BioAg World Congress 2024** – an event for sustainable smart farming that “moves across continents every year.” The last host country was Brazil; for their very first visit to the United States, they chose Raleigh.



“North Carolina and Raleigh Durham in particular is the proven ecosystem of ideas, thought leadership and innovations for the BioAgTech segment,” says Roger Tripathi, CEO and founder of Global BioAg Linkages. “North Carolina is geographically well connected for global entrepreneurs and innovators, therefore it is the innovation gateway of the U.S. There could be no better place than Raleigh to share, brainstorm, network and celebrate the BioAg industry.”

- **The World Anti-Bullying Forum** – a meeting place for researchers, policymakers and practitioners in the work against bullying; the first three Forums were held in Stockholm, Sweden, and Dublin, Ireland.
- **The National Academy of Inventors 2024** – an annual gathering of inventors with U.S. patents (and hopefuls!) who drive innovation and creative problem-solving in their fields. Their Annual Meeting has previously been hosted in Houston, D.C., Boston, and the California Institute of Technology.

“With our convenient, engaging location and our technologically nimble facility, the RCC brings the world to Raleigh,” Painter says. “We’re booking sports tournaments and esports tournaments; first-responders and sustainable smart farmers; fans who research their favorite character’s costumes and scientists who research matter, energy and quantum physics.”

(Soft matter, by the way, is a subfield of condensed matter comprising a variety of physical systems that are deformed or structurally altered by thermal or mechanical stress of the magnitude of thermal fluctuations. It includes polymers, gels, foams and biological membranes. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soft_matter)

The data released this week show the extraordinary impact the RCC has on Raleigh and its downtown businesses, but it also points to a challenge: as visitors continue to seek out the Convention Center to host their events, and as work-of-mouth and media coverage continue to boost the city’s popularity, the RCC is running out of room. “Our greatest limitation is space,” Painter explains. “Clearly, people from across the globe want to spend time in our city and spend money with our hotels, restaurants and other businesses. Expanding to meet this demand will allow us to continue our role as a leading economic driver for downtown and Wake County.”



To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Stephen Bentley, Director
From	Shawsheen Baker, Interim Assistant Director Capital Projects Superintendent
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR)
Date	June 26, 2023
Subject	Community Engagement Process for parks bond projects at John Chavis Memorial Park, John “Top” Greene Center, South Park Heritage Walk, and Tarboro Road Park

The 2022 Parks Bond includes the following significant capital improvement projects in east and southeast Raleigh communities:

- John Chavis Memorial Park Phase 2 Development
 - New aquatic center development
 - Heritage Plaza improvement
- John “Top” Greene Center Improvements
 - Building renovation and expansion
 - Site enhancement
- South Park Heritage Walk Implementation
 - Approximately 2.6 miles of pedestrian circulation
 - Interpretive and public art amenities
 - Streetscape enhancement
- Tarboro Road Park
 - Park redevelopment including new community center and site amenities
 - St. Monica Teen Center upgrades

Community Engagement:

A cross-departmental project team has collaborated to explore appropriate level of participation and identify external stakeholder groups for outreach and engagement for these projects. The participation level for these projects will be “Collaborate” as specified in the City’s Public Participation Playbook. This process emphasizes the partnership between community members and city project team, where a level of decision-making control is delegated to the community involved. The project team will partner with community members in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

Community Context Situation Assessments for these projects are being developed to help the project team understand the social context of project areas and identify the best methods to effectively engage the community in a collaborative process.

During preliminary research, the project team identified area community groups for outreach and engagement including, but not limited to, the following:

- For John Chavis Memorial Park, John “Top” Greene Center and South Park Heritage Walk:
 - Area businesses
 - Area renters and homeowners
 - Faith-based community groups
 - Central Citizen Advisory Council
 - Former Public Leadership Group for John Chavis Memorial Park Master Plan
 - K-12 Schools and day cares
 - Park patrons and program registrants
 - Raleigh Youth Council
 - Shaw University
 - South Park East Raleigh Neighborhood Association
 - The Friends of Chavis

- For Tarboro Road Park:
 - Area businesses
 - Area renters and homeowners
 - Faith-based community groups
 - North Central and South Central Citizen Advisory Councils
 - K-12 Schools and day cares
 - Park patrons and program registrants including Saint Monica Teen Center patrons
 - Raleigh Youth Council
 - Saint Augustine’s University

Community Advisory Groups (CAG)

The collaborative partnership will be achieved through the establishment of Community Advisory Groups (CAG) with diverse members representing their communities and/or neighborhoods. The CAG members will assist with the project planning process and bridge communication between the project teams and the general public.

Interested residents are encouraged to respond to the “Community Advisory Groups Interest Questionnaire” either electronically or via hardcopies.

- Joint CAG for John Chavis Memorial Park, John “Top” Greene Center and South Park Heritage Walk: In order to respect community resources and conduct an efficient and productive community engagement process for these three projects with overlapping service areas and project scopes, staff proposes to establish one joint Community Advisory Group (CAG) to serve as the steering committee and provide oversight of the project planning process and ensure that decisions include a broad representation of the

community for all three projects. The joint CAG membership will also include representatives from multiple Boards: Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board, Historic Resources and Museum Advisory Board, Arts Commission and Public Art Design Board. A multi-Board and cross-departmental project team will compile and review volunteer information. The Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board will present the recommendation of CAG membership selection, along with the Community Context Situation Assessment, to City Council for approval and appointment.

- CAG for Tarboro Road Park: In addition to community members, the CAG membership will also include representatives from Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB). The Community Advisory Group membership, along with the Community Context Situation Assessment, will be reviewed and approved by the PRGAB.

CAG Recruitment Communication Strategies

The call for CAG membership will be advertised through in-person and multi-media communication methods in the east and southeast Raleigh neighborhoods as well as city-wide, and remain open July-August 2023.

Print:

- Signs at park sites and adjacent parks and public facilities (English & Spanish)
- Posters & information cards sent to area businesses, faith-based facilities and nearby Wake County Public Library (English & Spanish)
- Posters & information cards (English & Spanish) and hardcopies of the “Community Advisory Groups Interest Questionnaire” at the following city facilities:
 - John Chavis Memorial Park Community Center, 505 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
 - John P “Top” Greene Community Center, 401 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
 - Tarboro Road Community Center, 121 North Tarboro Street
 - Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, 222 W. Hargett Street, Suite 608

Digital:

- Websites at raleighnc.gov and publicinput.com
- Social Media announcements
- Raleigh Parks weekly digital newsletter
- Email outreach to identified community stakeholders
- Web links to the questionnaires:
Chavis/Top Greene/SPHW CAG Questionnaire: <https://publicinput.com/jointcag>
Tarboro PublicInput CAG Questionnaire: <https://publicinput.com/tarborocag>

In-Person Contacts:

- Contacting identified area community groups as listed above
- Attending community events at parks and other public accommodation facilities

Proposed Project Timeline

- 09/2023 Chavis/Top Greene/SPHW proposed CAG membership and Community Context Situation Assessment presented to PRGAB
- 10/2023 Chavis/Top Greene/SPHW proposed CAG membership and Community Context Situation Assessment PRGAB recommendation to Council for approval
- 10/2023 Tarboro CAG membership and Community Context Situation Assessment PRGAB approval
- Fall/2024 Chavis/Top Greene/SPHW and Tarboro Schematic Design PRGAB and Council review and approval
- 2025-2026 Top Greene and SPHW construction
- 2026-2028 Chavis and Tarboro construction

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, June 30 – Thursday, July 6

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events
specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

Permitted Special Events

[Black Flea Market](#)

Raleigh Union Station Plaza

Sunday, July 2

Event Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Union Station Plaza will be used from 12:00pm until 6:00pm every Sunday through 10-29-23.

[Raleigh 4th of July Fireworks](#)

Dorothea Dix Park, Big Field

Tuesday, July 4

Event Time: 5:00pm - 10:00pm

Event Details: Gates open at 5:00pm and fireworks are scheduled for 9:30pm. Free event parking will be available at downtown parking decks and NC State Centennial Campus, and free shuttles will operate from downtown's Moore Square Park to and from Dix Park starting at 4:30pm. There will be No Parking on the Dix Park campus July 4th. [View the event webpage](#) for information about food trucks and activities.

Other Upcoming Events

[KIDZ BOP](#)

Friday, June 30

Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

[An Evening with Omari Dillard: Soul Violinist](#)

Friday, June 30

Fletcher Opera Theater

[Adult Recess](#)

Saturday, July 1

Fred Fletcher Park

[Don Toliver with Pi'erre Bourne and Kaliiii](#)

Sunday, July 2

Red Hat Amphitheater

[Star-Spangled Block Party](#)

Tuesday, July 4

Brier Creek Commons

[Barenaked Ladies](#)

Tuesday, July 4

Red Hat Amphitheater

[Community Mural Art Making Workshop](#)

Thursday, July 6

Lions Park

[The Revivalists + The Head and The Heart with Jamie Wyatt](#)

Thursday, July 6
Red Hat Amphitheater

Public Resources

[Pilot Text Alert Program](#): Sometimes spontaneous events happen downtown and in other areas that could affect local businesses. If you'd like to receive notifications when those events happen, including unpermitted ones, sign up for text alerts.

[Event Feedback Form](#): Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome citizen and participant feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Emergency Management and Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

[Road Closure and Road Race Map](#): A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

[Online Events Calendar](#): View all currently scheduled events that impact city streets, public plazas, and Dorothea Dix Park.