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INFORMATION:

Wake County 2024 Property Tax Revaluation Process

Staff Resource: Allison Bradsher, Finance, 996-4970, allison.bradsher@raleighnc.gov

Earlier this week the Wake County Commissioners received an update on the Wake County property tax revaluation process which will take effect for calendar year 2024. North Carolina State Statute requires real property to be revalued every eight years, Wake County elects to undergo this process every four years. The last revaluation was conducted in 2020 and as noted by Marcus Kinrade (Wake County Tax Administrator) during a recent Board of County Commissioner meeting, "Wake County's real estate market has changed significantly since 2020."

Revaluation Process:

A revaluation process is designed to ensure the assessed value of every residential and commercial property in the County reflects fair market value. The revaluation process adjusts each property's assessed value to reflect the most probable price that a property would sell for in a competitive and open market. If a

revaluation did not occur, some property owners would pay more than their share of property tax while others would pay less.

The Wake County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on October 2, 2023, associated with the Schedule of Values (SOV). The SOV sets the parameters for the process and at a high level describes the methodology and procedures for the revaluation and defines property values to be utilized until the next revaluation occurs.

Property Tax Rate and Calculation:

It is important for property owners to understand that property tax bills are made up of two components – 1) the property tax rates which are set by the City Council and Wake County Board of Commissions and 2) the property's assessed value.

North Carolina State Statute requires a property tax neutral rate be calculated and published, although the rate is not required to be adopted. The property tax neutral rate is designed to calculate a tax rate that applies for the City as a whole, in other words the City's property tax revenues would be equal to the revenue estimate if the revaluation process was not conducted. Given the change in each individual homeowner's property assessed value will vary, some homeowners may receive a higher tax bill even at the revenue-neutral rate. The City's tax rate is based on many factors and is considered by staff and the City Council during the annual budget process, and ultimately adopted by Council.

Communication and Outreach:

The County has increased its outreach to community partners and information available to residents. Please direct any citizen inquiries regarding the process to the below Wake County resources. Additional Information is highlighted below:

- Dedicated web site: wake.gov/revaluation
 - Which includes an FAQ and Timelines including steps to take if a citizen elects to file an appeal to their assessed value
- A 5-minute video explaining the process: [a comprehensive overview video](#)
- Information on the County's payment plans and available tax relief programs
 - [Wake County outreach](#)
- A fully staffed call center can be reached at 919-857-3800 or revaluation@wake.gov

Next Steps:

A public hearing has been set for the SOV on October 2, 2023, by the Wake County Commissioners. Specific to Raleigh, the Wake County Tax Administrator is scheduled to share results with City Council at a work session on January 16, 2024.

A few days later, assessed value notices will arrive in the mail to individual property owners.

(No attachments)

Moore Square Café Operations Update

Staff Resource: Troy Burton, PRCR, 996-4772, troy.burton@raleighnc.gov

Moore or Less Empire, LLC, the operator currently responsible for food operations at Moore Square Café known as *Square Burger* since 2019, recently notified the City that they have elected to terminate their license agreement with the City effective January 14, 2024. A lot of work is planned in and around Moore Square to create a safe and welcoming area of the downtown. This includes a review of options for City-owned real estate assets adjacent to Moore Square, public safety improvements, review of programming, and other initiatives. PRCR will seek proposals for a new food operator at Moore Square through public solicitation. It is expected the open solicitation will start later this fall. This solicitation will generally include selection criteria related to the values of inclusive programming, creativity, experience, and knowledge of managing a food operation. Staff anticipates the process will span several months and hope to have a new operator in place by late spring. The recommended operator will be brought to the City Council for review and approval in the future.

(No attachments)

Urban and Community Forestry Grant

Staff Resource: Zach Manor, PRCR, 996-4868 zach.manor@raleighnc.gov

The City was recently awarded a \$1,000,000 Urban and Community Forestry grant through the Inflation Reduction Act to help increase equitable access to trees and the many benefits they provide. Urban Trees deliver important benefits to society including cooling communities, improving mental health and wellbeing, increasing property values, and creating environmental jobs. Raleigh is one of 385 awarded projects where 100% of funding will go towards tree planting and maintenance in areas of greatest need.

As part of the award, the City will conduct community outreach and education, tree planting, pruning and removal of hazardous trees along the street, in City parks and other City properties in vulnerable communities. This work will provide new tree canopy, address safety concerns, improve tree health and resiliency, reduce extreme heat, and improve stormwater mitigation. This grant award comes at an opportune time as Wake County recently completed their county wide tree canopy assessment. More information on the canopy project and the results can be found [here](#).

Over the next several months, staff from multiple departments will work on an implementation plan that includes the assessment to address some of the City's goals including the Strategic Plan and Community Climate Action Plans and how best to use the grant funds to support these initiatives.

(No attachments)

GoRaleigh Access – Taxi Payments

Staff Resource: David Eatman, Transportation-Transit, 996-4040, david.eatman@raleighnc.gov

The GoRaleigh Access Program began using a new reservation and dispatch software (Ecolane) on August 1, 2023. Transit staff continue to receive feedback and educate Access riders and participating taxi companies on the intricacies of this new tool. In addition, RATP Dev, GoRaleigh's prime contractor, has been preparing the processes needed to pay all taxi vendors with the data generated from Ecolane.

As the Access system entered the second month of operation, vendor billing reconciliations for the first month revealed that Ecolane, by default and by industry standard, uses the shortest on street routing of a trip from origin to destination in lieu of the fastest routing. Historically, taxi companies have used Google maps to verify their trip distances. Google uses real-time variables in routing and provides options for shortest or fastest routing. Fastest routing calculates the use of interstates and highways that reduce time but results in greater mileage.

Taxi companies have traditionally used the fastest route option when performing and billing for trips. The trip mileage variance between the shortest and fastest routing in the Ecolane software can account for up to 3 to 3.5 percent of a taxi companies monthly billing. In order to get all taxi companies paid as quickly as possible, RATP Dev is processing all taxi company payments for the month of August as the shortest route (RATP Dev payments are net 30 days). Once this payment is made, the default within the software will be changed for the month of September and beyond to the fastest routing in lieu of the shortest routing. A second payment will be processed for all taxi companies to account for the variance in August and all future billings will be paid based on the fastest routing.

We have provided this updated information to all taxi companies.

Previous information regarding this item may be found in *Update Issue [2023-35](#)* (September 8) and *Update Issue [2023-31](#)* (August 11).

(No attachments)

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 September 19 Council Work Session

Downtown Newsrack Kiosks Converted to Art (Council Member Melton)

Staff Resource: Whitney Schoenfeld, Office of Special Events, 996-2204, whitney.schoenfeld@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Council asked staff to address the aesthetics of modular newspaper kiosks located on Fayetteville Street between Morgan Street and Lenoir Street.

In September 2021, staff created an *Update* item to highlight a City initiated project to enhance these nine double-sided kiosks. With over 150 publication slots available and only 20% being permitted, five of the kiosks were converted to provide a highly visible canvas for displaying local artwork. An open call to artists was issued, and nine artists were selected through a jury made up of City staff and community partners. Selected artists received a \$500 honorarium to have their work printed on large metal panels along this

main downtown corridor. Participating artists included: Sampada Agarwal, Sydney Baldwin, Jane Cheek, Mayanthi Jayawardena, Tim Lee, Suijin Li, Shamica Phillips, JP Jermaine Powell, and Wendy Spitzer.

As of July 2023, four additional sides of newsrack kiosks were converted to art panels. These new selected artists included: Leslie Bartlebaugh, Molly Chopin, Christopher Williams, and Jessica Wood.

Only three of 18 kiosk sides are purposed for newsracks, which provides 22 slots available to publications. 17 slots are permitted. Two sides function as waste and recycling receptacles, and 13 sides display local artwork.

Staff further worked to improve aesthetics of remaining newspaper slots by replacing broken or damaged doors and creating new labels for permitted publications. It is also important to note that several of these kiosks are multi-purpose and serve as utility access points to power and water.

Courts have held that municipalities have only limited authority to regulate the placement of private newsracks in right-of-way if alternative means of distribution are not made available by the municipality. At the opening of Fayetteville Street, the use of the kiosks for distribution of publications, both paid and free, allowed the City to prohibit the placement of private newsracks along Fayetteville Street. The City Attorney's Office can provide additional information to Council on this area of regulation if desired.

A diagram and photos of the panels are shown below; more information is on the [City website](#). Artwork displays on Fayetteville Street newspaper kiosks are a program of the Office of Special Events in partnership with Transportation, Facilities and Operations, and Raleigh Arts.

Newsrack Art Installed 2023:



Artwork by: Jessica Wood



Artwork by: Christopher Williams

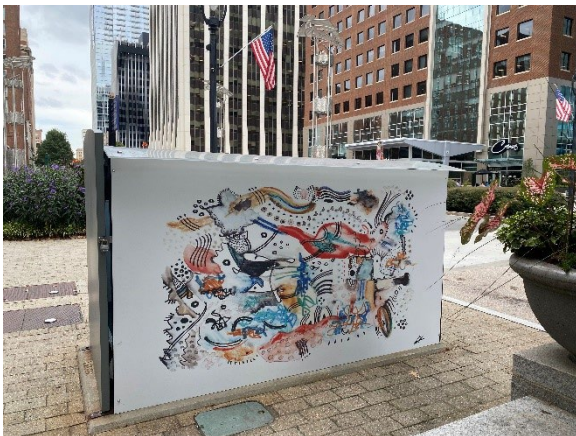


Artwork by: Molly Chopin

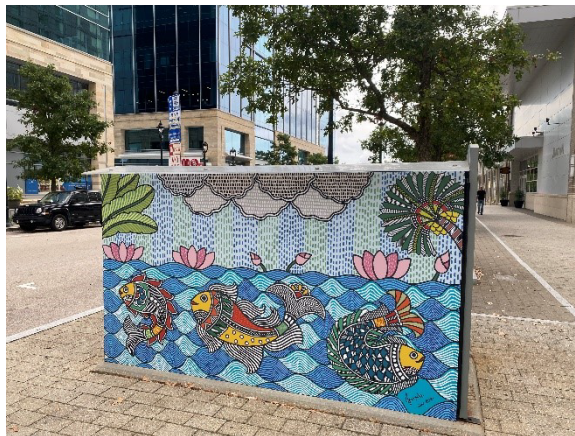


Artwork by: Leslie Bartlebaugh

Newsrack Art Installed 2021:



Artwork by: Wendy Spitzer



Artwork by: Sampada Kodagali Agarwal



Artwork by: Suijin Li



Artwork by: Sydney Baldwin



Artwork by: *Tim Lee*



Artwork by: *Shamica Phillips*



Artwork by: *Jermaine "JP" Powell*



Artwork by: *Mayanthi Jayawardena*



Artwork by: *Jane Cheek*

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, September 22 – Thursday, September 28

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

Permitted Special Events

[Gail Parkins Memorial Ovarian Cancer Walk & 5K Run](#)

North Hills & Shelley Lake

Saturday, September 23

Event Time: 7:00am - 1:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Roads will be closed from 8:15am until 9:15am for the 5K, and from 10:15am until 11:00am for the walk. Snelling Branch Trail and Mine Creek Trail will be used from 8:30am until 11:00am. Note that all cross-streets will be detoured during the event and view the [course route](#) for more information.

CANCELLED: [Festa Italiana](#)

Fayetteville Street

Saturday, September 23

Event Time: 11:00am - 7:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Martin Street and the south end of City Plaza, and Davie Street between Salisbury Street and Wilmington Street will be closed from 1:00am until 11:59pm.

[Cooperative Block Party](#)

Hargett Street

Saturday, September 23

Event Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Hargett Street between West Street and Harrington Street will be closed from 9:00am until 5:00pm.

[Milk Fest](#)

Tucker Street

Saturday, September 23

Event Time: 2:00pm - 10:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Tucker Street between Glenwood Avenue and the entrance to the 510 Glenwood parking deck will be closed from 9:00am until 11:59pm.

[Black Flea Market](#)

Raleigh Union Station Plaza

Sunday, September 24

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.

[IBMA Bluegrass Live!](#)

Fayetteville Street District

Friday, September 29 & Saturday, September 30 (road closures start 9-28-23)

Event Times: 12:00pm - 11:00pm on 9-29-23 & 9-30-23

Associated Road Closures: South Street between S. Salisbury Street and S. Wilmington Street will be closed from 10:00am on 9-28-23 until 7:00am on 10-1-23. The following roads will be closed from 6:00am on 9-28-23 until 7:00am on 10-1-23:

- Lenoir Street between S. Salisbury Street and S. Wilmington Street
- Lenoir Street between S. Dawson Street and S. McDowell Street

The following roads will be closed from 6:00pm on 9-28-23 until 7:00am on 10-1-23:

- Fayetteville Street between Hargett Street and Lenoir Street (note that local traffic will have access to the 500 block of Fayetteville Street)
- Martin Street between S. Salisbury Street and S. Wilmington Street
- Davie Street between S. Salisbury Street and S. Wilmington Street
- Cabarrus Street between S. McDowell Street and S. Salisbury Street
- Gale Street between W. Cabarrus Street and southern entrance of parking deck

Other Upcoming Events

[Shreya Ghoshal](#)

Friday, September 22
Memorial Auditorium

[Spanish Movie Night](#)

Friday, September 22
Peach Road Park

[Opening Weekend: Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4 – NC Symphony](#)

Friday, September 22 & Saturday, September 23
Meymandi Concert Hall

[Parker McCollum with Jackson Dean](#)

Saturday, September 23
Red Hat Amphitheater

[Firebird – Carolina Ballet](#)

Saturday, September 23 & Sunday, September 24
Fletcher Opera Theater

[Summer Concert Series](#)

Sunday, September 24
Fred Fletcher Park

[Moore Square Market](#)

Sunday, September 24
Moore Square

[Poetic Storytelling with Dasan Ahanu](#)

Tuesday, September 26
Sertoma Arts Center

[Preseason: Tampa Bay Lightning vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Tuesday, September 26
PNC Arena

[Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats](#)

Wednesday, September 27
Red Hat Amphitheater

[Preseason: Florida Panthers vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Wednesday, September 27
PNC Arena

[34th Annual IBMA Bluegrass Music Awards](#)

Thursday, September 28
Memorial Auditorium

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, September 22 – Thursday, September 28

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

Jazz in the Square

Thursday, September 28
Moore Square

Jonas Brothers

Thursday, September 28
PNC Arena

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 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.