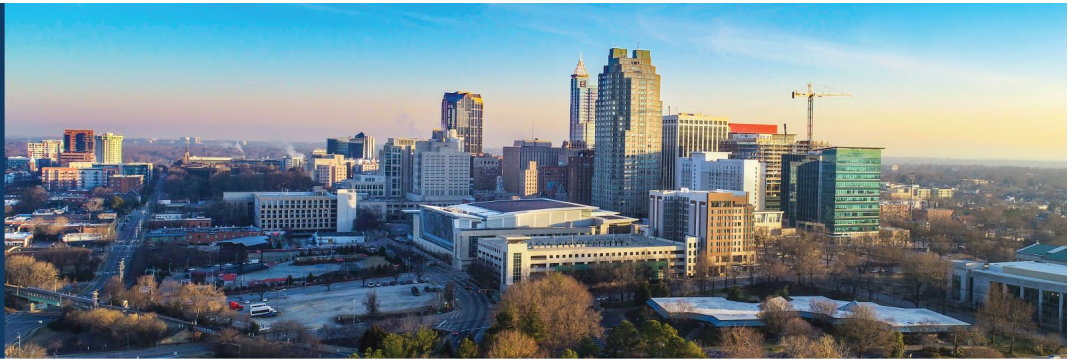


Manager's Update

raleighnc.gov



Issue 2025-46

November 21, 2025

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City Offices Closed in Observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday

Please note City administrative offices will be **closed** on **Thursday, November 27** and **Friday, November 28** in observance of the **Thanksgiving** holiday.

INFORMATION:

Raleigh Arts Artist Residency Programs

Staff Resource: Sarah Powers, Raleigh Parks, 996-3610, sarah.powers@raleighnc.gov

The Raleigh Arts *Artist-in-Residence* program embeds local artists within City departments and community projects to bring creativity into everyday government work. These partnerships reveal new ways to solve problems, share community stories, and engage residents. The program provides meaningful, paid opportunities for local artists to expand their professional practice, contribute to their community, and demonstrate how creative approaches can make City services more innovative, inclusive, and people focused.

This fall, Raleigh Arts launched two new residencies: the **Wayfinding Artist-in-Residence** and the **Performing Arts Creative Education Fellow**. These artists will work on projects to expand community engagement in

downtown cultural spaces and increase access to performing arts opportunities across Raleigh. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum detailing this program.

(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 September 27 Council Mid-Year Retreat

Wake County Joint Land Use Planning for Affordable Housing

Staff Resource: Nicholas Bambino, Housing & Community Development, 996-6974, nicholas.bambino@raleighnc.gov

During the retreat, Council had questions related to affordable housing, one of which asked about analysis being done on land owned by Wake County and the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS).

The Wake County Department of Housing & Community Revitalization and WCPSS are examining opportunities to develop affordable housing on excess WCPSS land. WCPSS policies seek to prevent high concentrations of low-income students at each school and ensure that base school assignments are within a reasonable distance of where families live. Developing affordable housing near public schools can help to address Wake County's housing affordability challenges.

In furtherance of these goals, Wake County and WCPSS have extended a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly plan and review opportunities to develop affordable housing. Staff from both organizations are examining sites for a proposed land swap and evaluating development feasibility at various sites. Affordable housing units can be marketed directly to school system and public employees, which is supported by legal precedent in North Carolina.

For more information, please visit the [Wake County website](#) to view the County Commissioners meeting [presentation](#).

(No attachment)

Follow Up from the November 4 City Council Meeting

Pickleball at Honeycutt Park (Council Member Patton)

Staff Resource: Ken Hisler, Raleigh Parks, 996-4823, kenneth.hisler@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting Council requested information on the potential to introduce pickleball courts at Honeycutt Park. The adopted master plan for Honeycutt Park includes space for two (2) tennis courts. These court designations were not included in phase one construction, which was completed in 2008. Based on program and community use information, both tennis and pickleball are valued recreation activities in this area of Raleigh. When constructed, a “blended court” application could be considered.

A community conversation about whether courts for tennis, pickleball, or both are preferred should be completed prior to the next phase of park development in order to build consensus on which path is preferred. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum which details the development of Honeycutt Park.

(Attachment)

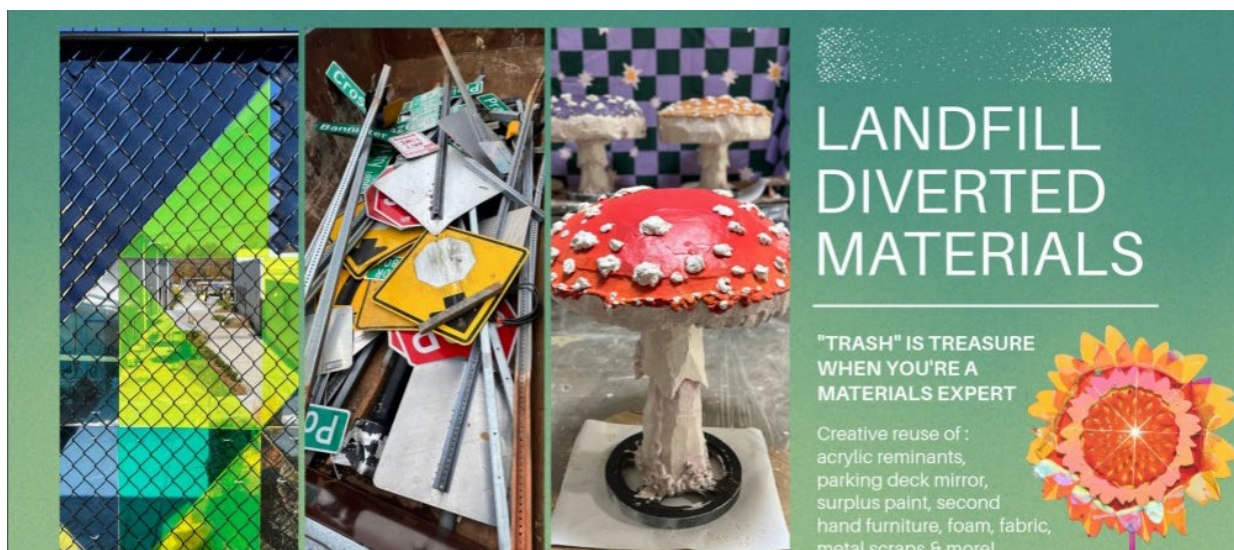
To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Stephen C. Bentley, Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
From	Sarah Powers, Executive Director Raleigh Arts, PRCR
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Date	November 2025
Subject	Raleigh Arts launches two new Artist-in Residencies

The Raleigh Arts Artist-in-Residents Program embeds local artists within City departments and community projects to bring creativity into everyday government work. These partnerships reveal new ways to solve problems, share community stories, and engage residents. The program provides meaningful, paid opportunities for local artists to expand their professional practice, contribute to their community, and demonstrate how creative approaches can make City services more innovative, inclusive, and people focused.

This fall, Raleigh Arts launched two new residencies: the **Wayfinding Artist-in-Residence** and the **Performing Arts Creative Education Fellow**. These artists will work on projects to expand community engagement in downtown cultural spaces and increase access to g arts opportunities across Raleigh.

Wayfinding Artist-in-Residence Katie Stewart

As Raleigh's new Wayfinding Artist-in-Residence, Katie will collaborate with the Department of Transportation's Traffic Services Division of Signs and Markings, which creates and maintains street signs throughout the City. Over the course of the year, she will design artistic wayfinding features that help pedestrians navigate downtown, define districts and routes, and encourage family-friendly exploration of Raleigh's cultural landmarks. Her work will highlight the beauty of transportation infrastructure while fostering civic pride and a stronger sense of place. The residency will include community events and classes, inviting residents to participate in shaping the look and feel of downtown through creative engagement.



Performing Arts Creative Education Fellow Renée Wimberley of Seed Art Share

The Performing Arts Creative Education Fellowship is a new initiative designed to expand access to performing arts and music education in community centers and public facilities. Working with PRCR-Raleigh Arts, the Office of Strategy & Innovation, and PRCR-Recreation, the Fellow will develop new strategies to connect local artists and teaching professionals with City spaces and residents.

Seed Art Share, led by Executive Director Renée Wimberley, will serve as the City's inaugural Performing Arts Creative Education Fellow. Renée is a Triangle-based actor, director, and arts educator with more than 30 years of experience teaching theatre in Wake County schools and local programs such as Raleigh Little Theatre and Applause Youth Theatre. Seed Art Share's mission is to build community through interactive theatre, arts education, and caregiver-artist support. The organization is known for site-specific productions with partners including the City of Raleigh Museum, Dix Park, and the Downtown Raleigh Alliance. It also offers theatre classes and programs that integrate drama skills with academic learning, making the performing arts accessible and inclusive.

Over the course of the Performing Arts Creative Education Fellowship, Renee will:

- Serve as a creative strategist and advisor to the City, identifying ways to embed performing arts education into community centers and public facilities.
- Build connections between local arts organizations, teaching artists, and City departments to create new educational opportunities.
- Pilot programs that expand access to performing arts experiences for all ages and skill levels.
- Develop recommendations for sustained performing arts education programming across the City.



Existing PRCR Arts Programs: Raleigh Children's Orchestra at Sertoma Arts Center, Music exploration at Worthdale Community Center Open House

Artist Residency and Fellowship Program Background

In 2020, Raleigh Arts launched its Artist-in-Residence Program. Since that time, the City has developed six artist residencies and creative fellowships that have embedded nine professional, local artists into City departments. These artists and creative professionals have partnered with departments such as Transportation, Planning, Parks, Community Engagement, and the Office of Strategy & Innovation. Through these collaborations, artists contribute to projects involving public infrastructure, wayfinding, ecological design, interpretive signage, storytelling, and arts education, helping the City connect with the community in meaningful, creative ways. Raleigh's growing portfolio of creative residencies includes:

- **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Artists:** Since 2020, Artists have led community engagement to help integrate public art into new transit infrastructure. All three artists have developed plans and projects that reflect community history and identity opportunities for enhance corridor public art.
 - New Bern Artist in Residence | Dare Coulter
 - Southern Corridor Artist in Residence | David Wilson
 - Western Corridor Artist in Residence | R Stein Wexler
- **Documentarians-in-Residence:** Johnny Andrews and Juli Leonard of StoryShed Studio document stories of Raleigh’s neighborhoods and plan programs to empower residents to capture the stories in their communities.
- **Dix Park Artist-in-Residence:** Preston Montague, an artist and landscape architect, is working on ecological and site-specific art that connects visitors to the park’s landscape and history.
- **Nature Preserves Artist-in-Residence:** Artist Scott Hazard is developing site-specific nature-based art installations and has hosted programs exploring human relationships with nature.



Rendering of Nature Preserves Artist-in-Residence Scott Hazard’s site-specific artwork designed to create habitat for chimney swifts. Installation is in progress at Durant Nature Park this fall.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, November 21 – Thursday, November 27

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

Permitted Special Events

[81st Annual Raleigh Christmas Parade](#)

Hillsborough Street & Fayetteville Street

Saturday, November 22

Event Time: 9:30am - 12:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Hillsborough Street between Glenwood Avenue and Boylan Avenue will be closed at 6:00am. The parade route will be closed no earlier than 7:00am, and all roads will reopen no later than 2:00pm. Note that all cross-streets one block in each direction will be detoured and additional closures and detours may be used to control traffic. [View the parade route map](#) and see below for turn-by-turn details:

- Start at Hillsborough Street and St. Mary's Street and head east
- Right onto Salisbury Street
- Left onto Morgan Street
- Right onto Fayetteville Street
- Right onto Lenoir Street to disassemble

[Skinny Turkey Half Marathon, 10K, 5K, & 1-Mile Walk](#)

Wakefield High School & Routes

Thursday, November 27

Event Time: 7:00am - 11:15am

Associated Road Closures: Roads along the routes will be used from 7:30am until 11:15am. View the [Half Marathon](#), [10K](#), and [5K](#) route maps for more details.

[Raleigh Turkey Trot](#)

Ridgewood Shopping Center & Route

Thursday, November 27

Event Time: 8:30am - 10:00am

Associated Road Closures: Ridge Road between Wade Avenue and Leonard Street will be closed from 5:30am until 11:00am. Roads along the route will be closed from 8:15am until 10:00am. Note that all cross-streets one block in each direction will be detoured during the race. [View the 8K route map](#) for more details.

[Trophy Trot 5K](#)

Dix Park

Thursday, November 27

Event Time: 9:00am - 10:15am

Associated Road Closures: Goode Street between Lake Wheeler Road and Biggs Drive will be closed from 7:00am until 10:30am. Roads along the route will be closed from 8:50am until 10:15am. [View the 5K route map](#) for more details.

Other Upcoming Events

[Raleigh Tree Lighting & Holiday Market](#)

Friday, November 21

Moore Square

Rocky Mountain High Experience: A John Denver Christmas

Friday, November 21
Fletcher Opera Theater

Dolly Parton's Threads: My Songs in Symphony

Friday, November 21 & Saturday, November 22
Meymandi Concert Hall

The Wheels on the Bus (Theatre for the Very Young)

Friday, November 21 & Sunday, November 23
Raleigh Little Theatre

La Valse

Friday, November 21 – Sunday, November 23
Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

George Janko

Saturday, November 22
Fletcher Opera Theater

The Rink

Saturday, November 22 – Sunday, January 4
Red Hat Amphitheater

Historic Oakwood Neighborhood Trolley Tour

Sunday, November 23
Tucker House

Governor's Cup – UNC Tar Heels Hockey vs. NC State IcePack

Sunday, November 23
Lenovo Center

Triangle Youth Music – Fall Orchestra Concert

Sunday, November 23
Meymandi Concert Hall

Veterans Month Brunch

Monday, November 24
Five Points Center for Active Adults

New York Rangers vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Wednesday, November 26
Lenovo Center

Cirque Holiday Pops – NC Symphony

Wednesday, November 26 – Saturday, November 29
Meymandi Concert Hall

Public Resources

Event Feedback Form: Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome 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.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, November 21 – Thursday, November 27

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

Road Closure & 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 Dix Park.

New Amplified Noise Ordinance Takes Effect January 2026

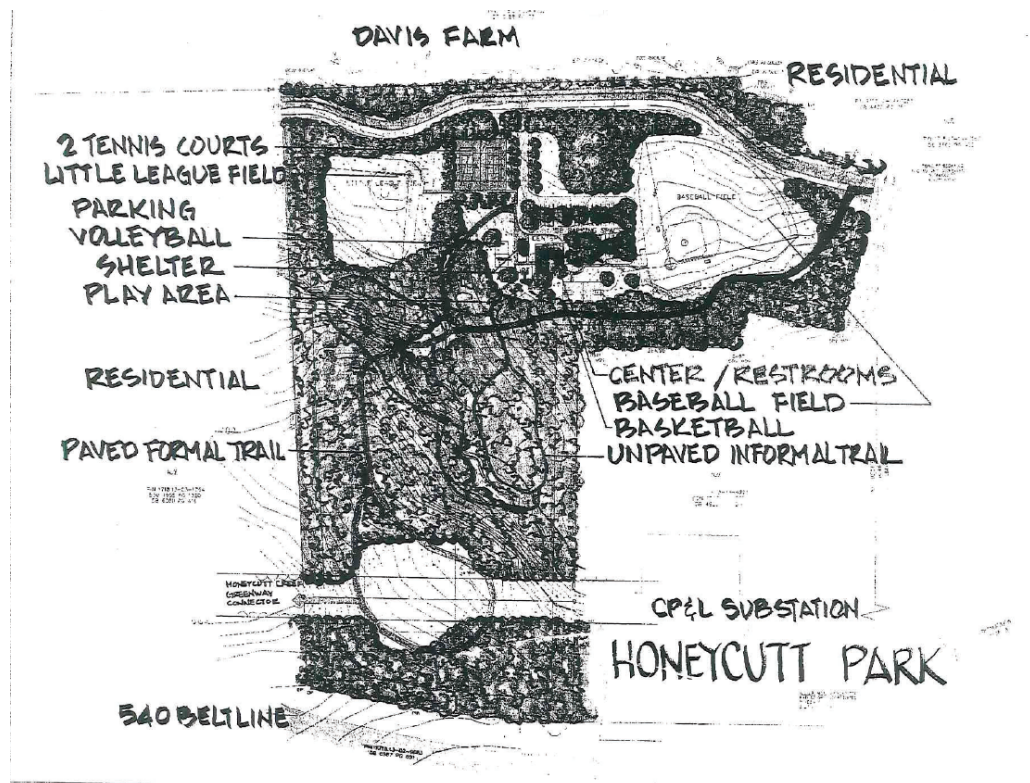
The City Council has approved a [new amplified noise ordinance](#), which will go into effect Jan. 1, 2026. Stadiums, arenas, and outdoor sports or entertainment venues, including amphitheaters, are exempt. Parades, outdoor events, races, festivals, and concerts that receive a permit from the Office of Special Events are also not subject to the ordinance.

Council Member Follow Up

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager Niki Jones, Assistant City Manager
Thru	Stephen C. Bentley, Director
From	Ken Hisler, Assistant Director
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Date	November 21, 2025
Subject	Pickleball Courts – Honeycutt Park

At the November 4, 2025 City Council meeting, Council Member Patton requested information on the potential to introduce pickleball courts at Honeycutt Park. Located at 1032 Clear Creek Farm Drive, Raleigh 27615, the 29+ acre park had its Master Plan adopted in August 2001. Staying true to the intent of the property acquisition, key elements of the adopted plan included those that support athletic programs in north Raleigh:

- Lighted ballfields (2)
- Playground
- Picnic shelter
- Restroom
- Sand volleyball courts
- Tennis courts (2)
- Basketball courts
- Paved and unpaved loop trails that provided connection to the greenway system



Phase 1 construction occurred in 2007-2008, opening for public use in the spring of 2008. Included in the first phase of development were the following elements. All amenities are available for walk up use by the community. For those that can be reserved, the use data from FY24 & FY25 is provided.

- Lighted ballfields (1)
 - Reserved use:
 - FY24 = 227 reservations, 500.5 hours of rental use
 - FY25 = 204 reservations, 505 hours of rental use
- Playground
- Picnic shelter
 - Reserved use:
 - FY24 = 69 reservations, 320 hours of rental use
 - FY25 = 67 reservations, 296 hours of rental use
- Restroom
- Sand volleyball courts
 - FY24 = 3 reservations, 6 hours of rental use
 - FY25 = 4 reservations, 19 hours of rental use
 - Both basketball and volleyball get a good amount of walk up use that doesn't show as reservations or usage hours.
- Basketball courts
 - The basketball courts are not a rentable space so there are no actual reservations.

- Both basketball and volleyball get a good amount of walk up use that doesn't show as reservations or usage hours.
- Paved and unpaved loop trails that provided connection to the greenway system.



Raleigh Parks pickleball

Since 2012, Raleigh Parks has been engaged with the pickleball community. What started out as trend sport, being played at one location, has grown to include two dedicated six (6) court, outdoor facilities at Method Road Park and North Hills Park, and a ten (10) court facility at Sanderford Road Park. Looking forward, we are eager to add another six (6) court facility at Green Road Park. The new courts are included with the park improvements funded by the 2022 bond referendum. Construction should begin in the first half pf 2026 and wrap up in the 1st quarter of 2027.

In addition to the dedicated outdoor spaces, Raleigh Parks has nine (9) outdoor, “blended line” locations where the courts accommodate other recreation uses, the most rotatable at Baileywick Park, and as many as twelve (12) indoor locations hosting play on a regular basis. To learn more, go to [Raleigh Parks Pickleball](#). Evaluating our response over the past decade, we have been committed to providing the supply to meet the demand.

The challenge for Raleigh Parks, and agencies across the country, pickleball remains as one of the fastest growing sports in the United States. According to the 2024 report

produced by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)—the "[State of Pickleball: Participation & Infrastructure Report](#)". Approximately 19.8 million people participated in pickleball in the United States in 2024. This is a 45.8% increase in participants compared to 2023 and 311% increase in participation since 2021. Pickleball is a cross-generational sport. In 2023, players aged 25-34 comprised the largest age bracket. Interesting note, an additional one million kids (under the age of 18) joined the sport in 2023 alone. According to the APP, the average player age is just under 35. Gender wise, it's close, 59% male and 41% female.

Honeycutt Park – Potential for pickleball

Recognizing that the adopted master plan includes 2 tennis courts, space north of the basketball courts has been reserved for a racquet sport. In 2001, the time of master plan adoption, pickleball was still a “fad” sport that had not made its way to the east coast. For the purposes of this review, the space needed to construct two (2) tennis courts provides opportunity to introduce six (6) pickleball courts. However, a community conversation about whether tennis, pickleball or both are preferred should be completed prior to build consensus on which path is preferred.

Evaluating the potential for the introduction of pickleball at Honeycutt Park, considering the following variables informs possible next steps. An outcome that could support both the tennis and pickleball community is the introduction of a “blended court” facility.

- **Program Use** – *Based on court use data, the tennis courts closest to Honeycutt Park are some of the highest used in the system (Millbrook, Optimist & Lake Lynn). Two- court, neighborhood locations are used for league play, walk-up and possibly instructional programs.*
- **Community Use** – *The Baileywick “blended court” site is very popular for pickleball, and tennis is a highly valued recreation activity in this area of Raleigh.*
- **USTA guidelines** – *If blended lines, we could not conduct USTA sanctioned tennis activities*
- **Can the park accommodate both racquet sports?** – *Yes, through introducing a “blended court” concept.*
- **Geographic location** – *Closest access to pickleball is Baileywick Park – 4.5 miles, closest access to tennis is Millbrook Exchange Park – 4.1 miles*
- **Activation and benefit to the park** – *pickleball is an activity that is intergenerational and reaches a broad section of the community. Pickleball players are at the park all the time. Activity breeds activity and supports keeping negative influences away from the park.*
- **Cost** – *This is new construction. Funding is not currently planned to introduce a new amenity to the park.*