



2012 – A Year of Anticipation



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Happy New Year from the City-County Planning staff! Everyone is wondering what kind of year 2012 will be. While I certainly

don't have the kind of crystal ball to answer that, there seem to be signs that things this year will be improving. Unemployment is gradually coming down, some companies and organizations are announcing new hiring plans, and people have been spending more in the stores. Construction activity, as evidenced by building permits, is up 41% over the last fiscal year as well. Rezoning activity in the last three months of 2011 also showed an increase to at least five new cases each month. For the entire year, 54 cases requiring a public hearing were filed, along with 15 site plan approval requests, 59 final plats for major subdivisions and 111 minor subdivision plats. Hopefully, these are all signs of better economic times to come.

As we look to this new year, a number of things are being put in place to position the community for a new period of growth. Downtown Winston-Salem appears ready to pick up where things left off at the beginning of the recession. New restaurants and stores have been opened and announced, the vacancy rate in downtown buildings continues to go down at a faster rate than other major cities, construction

continues on new uses and infrastructure in Piedmont Triad Research Park, and plans are in place for continued expansion of our downtown housing stock. An update to our Downtown Plan is taking shape, which will point to another set of initiatives in our Center City environment over the next several years.

Downtown is connected through the Strollway to our greenway system, and the *Greenway Plan* is currently being updated to build on the success of the last several years, when 5 more miles of trails were added, primarily by the City. The County has also gotten into trail expansion with the construction of greenway trails in Tanglewood Park over the last several months. Even before the asphalt cooled, people were using the new trails in the Park! Work is continuing by both the City and Kernersville to create a connection that eventually will reach across half of Forsyth County, from Downtown to Salem Lake, through Kernersville to Triad Park at the Guilford County line. Also, an active group of citizens has come together over the last year to promote the use and expansion of the greenway system. Added to that, our sidewalk network is expanding, as are the miles of bike lanes!

An expanded greenway and sidewalk network have provided additional opportunities for citizens to adopt more healthy lifestyles. Added to that healthy living trend this past year is a greater awareness of the value of local agriculture and how it can add to a healthy food supply

through farmers markets and local food offerings at restaurants. This gives more emphasis to the need to promote the preservation of our rural character in Forsyth County, as well as promote a growing interest in urban agriculture such as community gardens. Complementing these trends was the study completed early last year on the Western Rural Area of the county that examined the factors which may combine to help retain the rural character of that important area. A similar study will be done on the Northeast Rural Area later this year.

That brings us to our comprehensive planning efforts. This past year has seen the completion of all Area Plans for the city, county and small towns. Except for the rural areas, all parts of the county are now covered by a specific land use plan and other recommendations that will guide the growth, improvement, and where appropriate, the revitalization of our communities. We are also looking to complete this year, with the community's help, the update to the *Legacy Comprehensive Plan*, which will help define how we can best prepare for the next 20 years and 120,000 additional people who will call Winston-Salem and Forsyth County home.

All these efforts will help position our community for the growth that will resume here as the economy improves. Thank you for your contribution to these efforts and here's to our future in 2012!

Two New Historic Markers Unveiled This Fall

During October and November, the Historic Resources Commission held unveiling ceremonies for the newest City of Winston-Salem historic markers. Recognizing the Hotel Zinzendorf and the Salem Waterworks, dedication of these markers brings the total number of historic markers placed for the City's Historic Marker program to 25!

Hotel Zinzendorf

Opening in May 1892, the Hotel Zinzendorf was a resort hotel developed by the West End Hotel and Land Company. The hotel was a venture by local business leaders to add tourism to a booming industrial, and largely tobacco-based, economy. Designed by noted Boston architects Wheelwright and Haven, the hotel was named for Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf, patron of the Moravians who settled in what is now Forsyth County. The Hotel Zinzendorf was a monumental four-story, Shingle-style wooden structure, over 300 feet long with an 18-foot-wide front porch. Opening to great success for the summer and fall seasons of 1892, disaster struck on Thanksgiving Day of that year, when the immense hotel burned to the ground in two hours. The hotel stood at Glade and W. Fourth Streets in today's West End Historic District.



Hotel Zinzendorf dedication



*Hotel Zinzendorf under Construction, circa 1891
Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection*



Salem Waterworks dedication



Examining the old wooden water pipes

Salem Waterworks

In 1778, the Moravian Town of Salem completed construction of one of the first public waterworks systems in the American Colonies. Tapping natural springs located nearby, the system used bored logs, joined and buried underground, to deliver the water a mile away. The waterworks supplied water to public stand pipes in Salem's streets, and inside spigots in several of Salem's buildings. Completed in just two months, the system provided water not just for drinking, but for fire protection and commercial needs as well. George Washington stopped to view the waterworks in 1791 during his Southern Tour. In 1808, new ceramic pipes were installed, but eventually failed due to high water pressure. A pump-driven waterworks replaced the original system in 1828. The waterworks site is located on W. Second Street and Shady Boulevard in today's Holly Avenue Historic District.

Want more information?

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