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Randolph-Lucas House nearing Buckhead departure

by Nicole Dow

November 06, 2013 10:21 AM | 579 views | 0  | 8  |  | 

It appears this will be the last month Buckhead residents will see the 1924-built Randolph-Lucas House while driving down Peachtree Road.

Its relocation south to the Ansley Park neighborhood quickly approaching.

"We still do not have a specific date [for the relocation], but we are getting very close," Erica Danylchak, executive director of the Buckhead Heritage Society, said last week. "It will probably be within the next week or so."

In preparation for the move, the dollies that will be under the house to help transport it from its current site at 2500 Peachtree Road to its new site at 78 Peachtree Circle arrived Oct. 30, she said.

The building's new owners, NewTown Partners' founders Christopher Jones and Roger Smith, plan to use the historic mansion as their personal residence, saving the home from demolition at its current site.

Danylchak said preparations for the relocation have been going on since July. The house will be split in two — just above the first floor with each section no more than 19 feet tall — so trucks can haul the home down Peachtree with less disturbance to low-hanging utility lines.

"The traffic signals — those hang pretty low — will have to be temporarily relocated as the house moves down the road," Danylchak said. "The house will move and utility companies will be in front temporarily moving those lines. As soon as the house moves through, those lines will be put back up."

While the Randolph-Lucas House sets to leave Buckhead, another local historic home in disrepair will be getting rehabilitated where it sits at 306 Peachtree Battle Ave. In a Facebook message posted last week, society president Wright Mitchell said the owners of the Evans-Cucich House, along with architect J. Ryan Duffey, will be restoring the home.

With these two historic homes in the midst of preservation, the society is working on a project to preserve the stories of the community's past.

The society is in the initial planning stages of an interpretive master plan, which is an outgrowth of District 7 Atlanta City Councilman Howard Shook's Buckhead Greenspace Action Plan, Danylchak said. The overall idea is for the community's stories to be highlighted at different outdoor sites across town.

"It's very interesting because so much of our history is really embedded in our landscape," Danylchak said.

"As people are walking along the trails that are already here or being envisioned or using the parks, people can learn more about the history of the community.

"We're going to be talking about what stories we want to tell, what sites are the logical sites to tell those stories and how we will actually tell them — whether that's signage or some kind of digital media or a printed guidebook. There are so many different interpretive tools out there right now."

Though a steering committee has been coming up with different ideas, Danylchak did not want to disclose them until plans were more solidified.



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"We'll be done by the end of August and we'll have our concept plans to share with the community," she said.

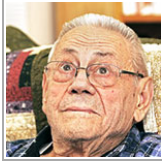
Danylchak said the society, along with community partners to be identified through the process, will then develop a list of prioritized projects to implement in the following five to 10 years.

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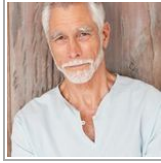
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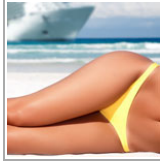
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