

Sept. 9, 2019

## County Pursuing Air Quality Improvement Projects in a VW Funding Application

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality is currently accepting applications for N.C. Volkswagen Settlement Program funding (VW funding). This funding is available through the VW Settlement Mitigation Trust Fund, which was established to mitigate the excess vehicle emissions resulting from emission control overrides installed on some VW vehicles.

<u>LUESA-Air Quality</u> has worked with other LUESA divisions, Asset & Facility Management, and <u>Park and Recreation</u> to identify air quality improvement projects that are eligible for VW funding. The application will request funding to replace seven County-owned, diesel trucks with newer, less-polluting trucks and to install a charging station for electric vehicles at the Valerie C. Woodard Center.

These projects will reduce ozone-forming NOx in Mecklenburg County and help put "Breathing Room" between local air quality data and the ozone health standard. The Board's Environmental Stewardship Committee will receive an update on Breathing Room, including a list of prioritized actions to continue ozone improvements, at its Sept. 10 meeting. The full Board will see the VW Funding application and the plan for Breathing Room on the Sept. 17 consent agenda.

For more information, contact Megan Green, Air Quality Program Manager, at 980-314-3368.

## Livable Meck Annual Partners Meeting Set for Sept. 25

Mecklenburg County is the convener of <u>Livable Meck</u>. Since its inception in 2012, Livable Meck has been an engagement infrastructure bringing private businesses, nonprofits, and elected bodies together to protect and enrich the quality of life in our community.

This year, Livable Meck's "Voice of the Community" hosted a series of forums, online surveys, and other engagement opportunities to find out what matters most to residents. Residents' voices will determine Livable Meck's priorities and actions for the future. The results of this research will be shared at the annual Livable Meck Partners meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 9-11 a.m. at the CPCC Harris Campus. In addition to receiving the "Voice of the Community" results, success stories will be shared that demonstrate the power of collaboration in addressing quality of life issues.

Commissioners interested in attending the meeting are asked to contact Rebecca Herbert, Community Engagement & Strategy Manager, at 980-314-3631.

## Second Ward Gym Receives Major Honor

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Mecklenburg County has received a prestigious accolade for its effort to preserve a major part of Charlotte's history.

In late August, the Charlotte Museum of History presented its top honor of the year -- the Excellence in Preservation Award -- to <u>Park and Recreation's</u> Second Ward Gym during its 2019 Historic Preservation Awards ceremony. The ceremony serves to recognize projects that preserve and protect Charlotte's unique architectural legacy.

Second Ward Gym was one of five award-winning residential, commercial and community projects, in addition to two honorable mentions. Award recipients were selected by a panel of architects and preservationists from among 27 nominees. All winning projects are located in Mecklenburg County.

The circa-1949 gym is the only remaining structure of Charlotte's first public high school for African-Americans, which served the Brooklyn neighborhood of Charlotte from 1923-1969.

The gym, which is a designated landmark, was renovated and restored by Asset & Facility Management and Park and Recreation for recreational use. It reopened in 2018 and currently offers fitness classes, camps and other recreational programs.

Learn more about Second Ward Gym here.

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Tuesday, Sept. 10, 12:30-2 p.m. BOCC Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting, CMGC 11th Floor Large Conference Room
- Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2:30 p.m. BOCC Budget/Public Policy Workshop, CMGC Room 267
- Tuesday, Sept. 10, 6 p.m. County Assessor's Office staff will speak to the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association about the 2019 Revaluation.

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