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## INFORMATION:

### **October 28 – Envision Charlotte Launch Event**

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Envision Charlotte, powered by Smart Energy Now, is hosting a celebration to launch the plan to make Charlotte the most environmentally sustainable urban core in the nation. The Smart Energy Partners – Duke Energy, Cisco and Verizon Wireless – will host this event on October 28, at 11:30 a.m., at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Tryon Street on the plaza outside of Mimosa Grill.

The press release for the event is attached. (*Scroll down to: Envision Charlotte*)

### **Curb Lane Management Study**

*Staff Resource: Doreen Szymanski, CDOT, 704-336-7527, [dszymanski@charlottenc.gov](mailto:dszymanski@charlottenc.gov)*

In July 2011, the City Manager referred the Curb Lane Management Study to the Transportation and Planning Committee. The Study's purpose is to evaluate curb lane usage in the Uptown area including signage, parking, enforcement, and management. Staff expects the study will reveal practical improvements that create a more inviting and appealing Uptown experience.

Thus far, staff have made two presentations to the Transportation and Planning Committee. The first presentation in July gave an overview of the Study's recommendations noted below:

- Standardize the usage of curb space from block to block.
- Clarify curb use rules through improved signage.
- Establish permanent public parking spaces.
- Develop a pilot project that tests the recommended concepts. Designated pilot project areas are Tryon Street, Trade Street in the Gateway area, and 6<sup>th</sup> Street between Caldwell and College.
- Update the on-street parking program (managed by a private contractor) to further enhance the customer experience, and improve business and on-street operations.

The second presentation given in October focused on the development of new signs for clearly communicating allowed uses along the curb lane. Sign concepts have been developed, and will be used in the pilot project areas.

City Council can expect to see changes in the pilot study areas in November. The pilot will run through February. Staff will be soliciting comments from the public to gauge effectiveness, and present findings to the Transportation and Planning Committee.

In the meantime, staff will review the parking operation recommendations with the Transportation and Planning Committee at a future meeting. Once the entire study has been reviewed, staff will ask the Committee to make recommendations to the full Council.

**Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant Awarded to Storm Water Services**

*Staff Resource: Jennifer Frost, E&PM, 704-432-0970, [jfrost@charlottenc.gov](mailto:jfrost@charlottenc.gov)*

On October 10, 2011, Storm Water Services was awarded a grant of \$400,000 to complete a watershed enhancement project at a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools campus. The project involves the installation of several stormwater filtration devices on the Myers Park High School, Alexander Graham Middle School and Selwyn Elementary School campus. A pond, two rain gardens, a sand filter and a grass swale will be constructed to remove pollutants, reduce stream bank erosion, detain water to slow down the flow of storm water running into nearby Briar Creek and serve as educational amenities. The total project cost is \$3.2 million. The balance of the project will be paid for with Storm Water fees.

Demand for grant funding from the State of North Carolina is extremely high. More than 160 governments or agencies submitted nearly \$157 million worth of grants and only \$1.6 million was actually available to be granted. Projects are ranked and awarded based on the effectiveness of the project to remove pollutants, the ability of the project to serve as an educational tool and the qualifications of the requesting agency, among many other criteria.

This project is currently scheduled to be in construction next summer.

**Big Sweep**

*Staff Resource: Jennifer Frost, E&PM, 704-432-0970, [jfrost@charlottenc.gov](mailto:jfrost@charlottenc.gov)*

On October 1, more than 400 volunteers collected 11,063 pounds of trash from local waterways as part of Big Sweep, Charlotte-Mecklenburg's annual cleanup of creeks and lakes.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services organized the day-long cleanup at eight staffed locations. Volunteers could select any creek convenient to them and report their Big Sweep collection results online.

Volunteers collected more than 5 tons of trash, mostly bottles, cans, food wrappers and other litter. The Big Sweepers hauled in 572 bags of garbage and 16 tires.

Trash in creeks and lakes isn't just ugly. It can cause blockages, threaten wildlife and impact Charlotte Mecklenburg's drinking water supply. Storm Water Services encourages citizens to be Water Watchers year-round by calling 311 to report pollution.