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## INFORMATION:

### **Charlotte Water Hydrant Flushing Program**

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As the Charlotte region moves into drought conditions, Water staff want to provide Council with some background about Charlotte Water operations that are sometimes perceived as wasteful. Today's information deals with fire hydrant use. Staff will provide additional information soon about how its responds to leaks.

One of the more useful tactics used in the water industry is to open a hydrant to let water flow. Referred to as "flushing", it is often seen as a waste of water especially when conservation is so important. However, flushing hydrants is one of the most important things Charlotte Water does to ensure that water used by businesses, industries, hospitals, residents, and fire fighters is safe, clean, and reliable.

Hydrant flushing is done for a variety of important reasons, including:

- Flushing clears older water from water pipes. This is essential to maintain water quality.
- When main breaks are repaired, flushing can clear air and sediment from pipes and ensure water quality is high.
- Newly constructed water pipes must be disinfected and tested before they can be used; this requires flushing.
- Analyzing water system capacity to accommodate new customers often requires flushing hydrants to obtain critical measurements.
- Fire Department Operations also require routine flushing of hydrants to obtain data and assure proper operation.

Water flowing from a hydrant represents a very small fraction of the millions of gallons pumped to customers daily. Charlotte Water maintains over 4,000 miles of water mains and more than 16,000 fire hydrants covering about 520 square miles.

Water conservation is encouraged every day but hydrant flushing continues to be a vital part of Charlotte Water's procedures. The resulting water flow is only done for the least amount of time necessary. On July 2, the Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Group announced a Stage 0, or Drought Watch, status for our region. Conditions may continue to warrant more aggressive water conservation efforts in the coming days. Charlotte Water can take steps alongside customers to reduce water consumed by decreasing the number of hydrant flushing events and durations as much as possible. However, flushing will always be a very necessary part of a management strategy that provides a reliable supply of safe and clean water to its customers.

### **Small Business Administration Start up in a Day – Start Small Competition**

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Neighborhood & Business Services has submitted an application to participate in the Small Business Administration's Start up in a Day – Start Small Competition. The competition is designed to encourage the development of online tools to reduce the length of time to learn about and complete the process of starting a business. Staff's current work in seeking an online solution to assist the community with permitting and other steps to starting a business will be furthered with this opportunity to participate in this national contest.

Staff will come back with more information as the competition continues. For additional information about the competition please visit [SBA Initiatives - Start up in a Day](#).

### **Community Investment Plan Newsletter**

*Staff Resources: Ken Brown, Corporate Communications & Marketing, 704-336-5863, [kebrown@charlottenc.gov](mailto:kebrown@charlottenc.gov)*

Attached is the latest issue of the Community Investment Plan (CIP) newsletter. This newsletter highlights the efforts around the CIP projects, provides status reports and notifies Council of any upcoming meetings with residents and stakeholders. If Council members are aware of additional engagement opportunities, please contact Ken Brown.



CIP Newsletter July  
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July 15, 2015

## [Whitehall/Ayrsley Area Update](#)



The Whitehall/Ayrsley Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Program (CNIP) project team held two community meetings in the spring where the team received feedback from stakeholders to help prepare for the upcoming project prioritization phase.

Attendees were asked at the first meeting to provide specific recommendations on needed infrastructure improvements through active participation at multiple work stations focusing on specific geographic areas. The second meeting allowed attendees to discuss and prioritize infrastructure projects.

Attendees identified several overall themes, including:

- Enhancing the community's transportation connections with employment centers and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Providing locations for more parks and/or greenways across the area to provide recreational activities and amenities for daytime workers and area residents.
- Fostering additional community and public sector support for enhanced mobility and transportation options (widen and improve area roads with bike lanes and sidewalks) to increase access into, within and out of the area.



Attendees were asked to identify trail preferences such as amenities, where the trail should be built in sections where options exist, and how and where they would travel along the trail. Staff also provided an introductory presentation on how trails improve quality of life through recreation, commuting, and connectivity options while encouraging economic development and tourism.



The team asked attendees, "How do you think the XCLT will benefit Charlotte?" [Here's how residents responded.](#) Three outlets covered the XCLT meeting including [Time Warner Cable News](#), and two popular blogs; [Charlotte Five](#) and [Charlotte Agenda](#). A [Wiki map](#) is available online for residents to provide feedback relative to specific areas of the trail. For trail updates, residents can receive information through [Notify Me](#) or follow along on social media by using the #XCLT hashtag. On July 21, Charlotte Talks will feature XCLT team member Joe Frey who will provide an update on the trail.

The team is developing the XCLT master plan and continues to identify priority segments of the trail. Mecklenburg County is completing design of the Cordelia Park area, and the XCLT team will present the county interlocal government agreement and contract amendments to council in August or September.

## [Independence Boulevard Area Joint Public Meeting](#)



The Southeast Corridor Land Acquisition & Street Connections and Sidewalk & Bikeway Improvements project teams held a joint public meeting on June 23 at Ovens Auditorium. Nearly 130 people participated in the event to provide feedback regarding potential CIP projects to improve safety, mobility and economic development within the Independence Boulevard area.

During the meeting, staff displayed several maps to illustrate potential projects that were recommended in the *Independence Boulevard Area Plan* (2011) and identified by key stakeholders and neighborhood leaders during focus group meetings held in early 2015. The next steps in the process include compiling community input and developing a list of prioritized projects to share for additional feedback at the next public workshop, tentatively scheduled for early fall 2015. An [online survey](#) is available that will remain open to the public through July 24. Results from the survey will be compiled with feedback from public meetings.

### Future Community Investment Plan council items

The following table includes a list of noteworthy upcoming CIP related Council items. These dates are tentative and subject to change.

<p><b>July 27, 2015</b> <b>Business Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>South Bridge Over I-85 (University Pointe Connection)</b></p> <p>RCA: Inter-local agreement with CMS to purchase land</p> <p>RCA: Real estate acquisition and condemnations</p>
<p><b>August 24, 2015</b> <b>Business Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Northeast Corridor Infrastructure (NECI)</b></p> <p>RCA: Engineering services contract for design of Rocky River Road West improvements</p> <p><b>Cross Charlotte Trail (XCLT)</b></p> <p>RCA: Inter-local agreement with County for the entire trail and Cordelia Park addendum</p> <p>RCA: Design contract amendment for Brandywine-Tyvola segment</p> <p>RCA: Engineering services contract to study Little Sugar Creek Greenway connection across U.S.74</p>

For more CIP and CNIP information, and a list of upcoming meetings, click [here](#).