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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Town of Fuquay-Varina Recommended for Wake County Major Facilities Grant**

At the September 12<sup>th</sup> Wake County Board of Commissioners work session, Manager Jim Hartmann recommended that the Town of Fuquay-Varina be awarded a Wake County Major Facilities (Hotel/Motel and Prepared Food and Beverage Tax) Grant for \$500,000. Grant awards are subject to approval by the Wake County Board of Commissioners which are expected to consider final approval of grant awards in October or November. The grant will be used for improvement and upgrades at Fleming Loop Recreational Park.

The total cost of the Fleming Loop Project is \$2.68 million and upgraded amenities will include seven multi-purpose fields, a concession/restroom building, field lighting, playground, picnic shelters, walking trail, and an expanded, paved parking area with curbs and gutters. With these improvements, Fleming Loop Park will not only satisfy the current demands of park patrons but will also support continued hosting of festivals and expanded programming in the future.

In late August, the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) recommended to Governor Pat McCrory that the Town of Fuquay-Varina be awarded the maximum PARTF grant funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the Fleming Loop Recreational Park Project. The grant has gone to the Governor for signature and should receive final approval in November 2016. In all, PARTF received 66 applications with 33 being recommended for a grant.

Additionally, the Town is finalizing a partnership agreement that is expected to generate an additional \$500,000 in resources to go towards the development of Fleming Loop Recreational Park. The remaining \$1.2 million required to complete the project will be funded from Town Recreation Unit Fee revenues.

Fuquay-Varina Mayor John W. Byrne expressed his gratitude, "Within a two week period, the Town of Fuquay-Varina has positioned itself to receive \$1 million in grant funding. It is very gratifying to see that the State of North Carolina and Wake County recognize that Fuquay-Varina is one of the fastest growing towns in the state. The funds will help Fuquay-Varina better serve our citizens and prepare for the future." Byrne went on to say, "I want to thank the Town Board and our staff for proactively pursuing these grants and continuing to search for outside funding sources. It certainly benefits our citizens."