



PHOTO BY BRYCE ALBERGHINI

The Wall Street Garage became one of the new locations with city-provided electric car charging stations.

Asheville adds more electric vehicle charging stations with grant

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UNC Asheville received a grant from Duke Energy to install electric vehicle charging stations on campus, but these grants for establishments extend beyond the university.

“It’s just a way for Duke Energy to spur a greater adoption of EV charging, which you’re definitely going to need if you’re increasing the amount of electric vehicles on the road,” said Randy Wheelless, communications manager at Duke Energy.

As part of Asheville city council’s Vision 2036, the \$10,000 grant provided by Duke Energy led to

the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in Wall Street Garage and Rankin Avenue Garage. The city council’s operating budget provided the other \$10,000 used in this project.

“We still don’t have a huge number of electric vehicles here in the area, but we want to make sure we have the infrastructure as they develop,” said Harry Brown, Asheville parking services manager.

Vision 2036, started in January 2016, encompasses a 20-year plan to promote a clean and healthy environment alongside a diverse community with a thriving local economy.

“We’re hoping that by having infrastructure it will encourage more

folks to get them,” Brown said. “So I expect it to start off slow, but we’re hoping over time we’ll get a lot more use out of them.”

A third electric vehicle charging station was added to the Biltmore Avenue Garage, but is privately owned and operated, unlike the stations at Wall Street and Rankin Avenue which are accessible.

“I think one of the barriers to more adoption of EV is the lack of charging stations available to the public,” Wheelless said. “You might have one at home, but when you’re out in public driving around maybe there’s not one available. This was a way to spur that on, I think we tar-

Usage fee for STEAM studio discussed at board meeting

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Surveys and petitions circulate through the engineering department in this month as some students and faculty oppose the new enhancement fee approved by the Board of Trustees in December.

The engineering department at UNC Asheville partners with North Carolina State University where students pay a fee.

Andre Rucker, a senior engineering student, represented the faculty and staff from his major at the Board of Trustees meeting.

“They have an entirely separate campus — known as Centennial campus — multiple labs, multiple facilities, on-campus professors and such that we are not offered here,” Rucker said. “And on top of that they pay for the majority of materials and supplies for our labs and courses. So we were wondering why the severity of this fee was up to \$1,000.”

Possible numbers for the fee range from \$250 to \$1,000. Kennon Briggs, the chair of the Board of Trustees, said the board approved \$1,000 to be a maximum of the fee.

The process for the engineering department to meet with the Board of Trustees involved push from students, an initial meeting with the former dean of natural sciences and the current dean of natural sciences and later a meeting with the faculty senate.

Rucker started the petition to have a reevaluation of the proposed engineering fee.

“As soon as we found out about it, I had 90 people sign the petition within a day,” Rucker said.

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