

The **TOWN**

Kirkman Municipal Building
PO Box 307
4920 Alliance Church Road
Pleasant Garden, NC 27313



*"Remembering the Past,
While Moving Towards the Future"*

December 2013

SQUARE

Phone: 336-674-3002
Fax: 336-674-0923
Email: Townclerk@pleasantgarden.net
Website: www.pleasantgarden.net

Town of Pleasant Garden, NC

TOWN OFFICIALS

Carla Strickland.....Mayor
Alan Marshall.....Mayor Pro Tem
Steve Brandt.....Councilmember
Ron Surgeon.....Councilmember
Rick Wallace.....Councilmember

TOWN STAFF

Sandy Carmany....Administrator/Clerk
Kim Vazquez.....Assistant Clerk

TOWN HALL HOURS

Monday – Friday...9:00AM - 5:00PM
(We often close at 1:00PM on Fridays as needed to avoid overtime hours.)

TOWN MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the Kirkman Municipal Building/Town Hall located at 4920 Alliance Church Road and are open to the public. All citizens are invited and encouraged to attend.

Agendas for all Town Council and board meetings are available by email in advance of the meeting. To receive meeting agendas, send an email to Townclerk@pleasantgarden.net

Town Council

First Tuesday of each month

Zoning Board

Third Monday of each month

Long-Range Planning Board

Third Tuesday of each month

Recreation Board

Fourth Tuesday of each month

All regular meetings begin at 7:00PM.

Special meetings may be called as needed. 48-hours public notice will be given for such meetings.

2013-15 Town Council

The newest members of the Town Council Steve Brandt and Rick Wallace took their oaths of office on December 3, 2013 along with re-elected Mayor Carla Strickland. They joined Alan Marshall and Ron Surgeon who have two years remaining on their current terms. The new team is eager to work together to keep the town a great place to live, work and play.



Citizens are encouraged to contact your councilmembers with suggestions and concerns. They are ready to work for Pleasant Garden!

- Mayor Carla Strickland 674-7220 carlastrickland@pleasantgarden.net
- Mayor Pro Tem Alan Marshall 674-2450 alanmarshall@pleasantgarden.net
- Councilman Steve Brandt 210-0619 stevebrandt@pleasantgarden.net
- Councilman Ron Surgeon 674-7071 ronsurgeon@pleasantgarden.net
- Councilman Rick Wallace 508-4407 richardewallace@pleasantgarden.net

Departing Members Honored



Mayor Strickland thanked Bill Greene and Nancy Jo Smith for their valuable service to the town during their years on the Town Council. Wooden benches crafted by Boy Scout Levi Walker will be placed in their honor in Volunteer Park next spring.



2013 Christmas Parade

The 34th annual Christmas parade marched down Pleasant Garden Road a week later than planned because of cold wet weather on the original date, but the delay did not dampen holiday spirits. The Snowball King and Queen essay contest winners were Tyshad Henderson and Hannah Brown, 5th graders at Pleasant Garden Elementary. Leading Way Baptist Church won the trophy for Best Float, dance troupe Anda 5678 was judged to be the Best Performance, and the Chairman's Trophy was awarded to the Freedom Biker Church.



Town News and Updates

Message from the Mayor

During November's Council Meeting, we approved the Recreation Master Plan as prepared by design specialists WK Dickson. As you know, this plan is a culmination of focus group meetings and the resident surveys returned. The plan calls for an 18-hole disk golf course, (without disturbing the natural tree area), a playground for ages 2-5 at Volunteer Park, a playground next to the gazebo at Town Hall, a bocce court, shuffle board court, horseshoe pits and a dog park. This Master Plan will support the town's application for a PARTF grant in January 2014. The estimated cost to construct these facilities is approximately \$376,000. A PARTF grant is a 50-50 grant. That is, the government funds 50% and the Town funds 50%. However, since we have already received a grant of \$120,000 from the State to construct a greenway connector between Town Hall and Volunteer Park, the Town's portion would be approximately \$68,000. Roger Bardsley, now retired but previously a recreation planner for Guilford County, is writing the grant application for the Town Council's submittal. He is doing this as a service to our Town free of charge. He is also investigating if we can apply the price of the land donation as leverage against our \$68,000 match. We will hear the outcome of our application in June 2014.

At the December Council Meeting, we honored Nancy Jo Smith and Bill Greene for their tireless work on behalf of the Town. The Town owes both of these individuals a great debt of gratitude for their service on the Council. In addition, the Council welcomed two new members: Rick Wallace and Steve Brandt. Rick will serve as liaison to the Long Range Planning Board and Steve as liaison to the Recreation Board. Returning council member Ron Surgeon will continue as liaison to the Zoning Board.

These are exciting times for our town. Please consider getting involved on a Board in order for your voice to be heard. In the meantime, have a wonderful holiday season!

Mayor Carla Strickland

News from Town Boards

Long-Range Planning Board: With the able assistance of Cari Hopson from the state Division of Community Assistance, the board completed a review of the town's *Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. Their recommendations for updates were presented to the Town Council; the council will schedule a public hearing before voting on the adoption of these recommendations.



Recreation Board: After hosting the moving Veterans Appreciation Day ceremony and the fun-filled Christmas Parade, this board is now busy planning for a 5K Run and community expo highlighting what Pleasant Garden has to offer.

Details of this new event to be held on April 26, 2014 at Volunteer Park will be reported in future newsletters.

Zoning Board: This board continues to discuss a possible noise ordinance as requested by the Town Council. Members completed work on a nuisance ordinance but declined to recommend ordinance changes to allow for development of senior communities in the town. The board approved the site plan for restrooms/concessions building at Volunteer Park.

Appointments Made to Town Boards

The Town Council made appointments to the three town boards at the December 3, 2013 organizational meeting. Each board will elect its own chairman and vice-chairman at their January meetings. The Board Orientation session is scheduled for January 14.

The following is a list of the new and returning members of the town boards for 2014.

Zoning Board:

Alan Carroll
Bill Greene
Chris Johnson
Jamie Lockhart
Peter Rojas
James Sealey
Jim Siske
Liaison: Ron Surgeon

Long Range Planning Board:

Pam Lemieux
Gregory Pearsall
Steve Riley
David Seel
Jimmy Sheppard
Dick Winn
Liaison: Rick Wallace

Recreation Board:

Les Dula
Sharon Greene
Dean Maddox
Jordan Nelson
Liaison: Steve Brandt

There are openings on the Recreation Board. If you are interested in serving, please contact a council-member or town staff at 674-3002.

TALK OF THE TOWN



Public Nuisance Ordinance Adopted

In response to repeated citizen complaints about unsightly and unsafe properties in the town, the Town Council adopted a public nuisance ordinance at their November 12, 2013 meeting which took effect immediately. The ordinance will be enforced only through complaints received from citizens; town staff will not be patrolling to look for violations.

The following are defined as nuisances in the ordinance:

- ⊗ Any condition that is or may become a breeding ground or harbor rats, mosquitoes, harmful insects or other pests;
- ⊗ Dense growth of grass, weeds or noxious vegetation over eighteen (18) inches in height in a lawn excluding trees and ornamental shrubs, cultured plants, and flowers. Land in active farming or agricultural use is exempted.
- ⊗ An open concentration of combustible items such as mattresses, paper, automobile tires, refuse, rags, etc.
- ⊗ An open collection of garbage, food wastes or other rotten matter. Composting is exempted.
- ⊗ Openly kept furniture, appliances or metal products with jagged edges of metal or glass, or areas of confinement;
- ⊗ Dilapidated structures that constitute a health or safety hazard, are used by vagrants as living quarters, or attract rodents;
- ⊗ Abandoned or junked motor vehicles on a public street or private property or in violation of the Development Ordinance;
- ⊗ Any condition detrimental to the public health which violates the regulations of the county health department.

Complaint forms are available at Town Hall and on the town website. No anonymous complaints will be accepted. When a citizen submits a complaint, town staff will do a preliminary assessment of the situation to determine if the complaint is valid. If it appears there is a problem, staff will forward the complaint to N-Focus for follow-up. N-Focus will contact the property owner and hopefully that owner will promptly address the problem and fix the violation. If not, the ordinance authorizes the town to have the property cleaned up and the assessment of a fine to cover all costs of said clean-up. Failure to pay the fine could result in a tax lien being placed on the property.

Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan Update

The Town Council awarded the consulting contract for the bicycle-pedestrian plan to the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (*PTRC*) and Alta Planning + Design as a subcontractor. The town is receiving \$30,000 in grant funding from NCDOT for this project and must provide \$10,000 in matching funds. The following persons were appointed to the required steering committee of stakeholders to guide and respond to the consultants' work:

- Dan Amstutz, Greensboro MPO
- Roger Bardsley, retired from Guilford County Parks
- Shea Cox, Guilford County Health Department
- Rob Pawlik, bicyclist and Pleasant Garden resident
- Eddy Patterson, Pleasant Garden Road business owner
- Henry Tripp, walker/runner, Pleasant Garden resident

Additional persons are welcome to join this committee. If you have expertise or a special interest in bicycling or in trails, sidewalks, or other pedestrian amenities, you are encouraged to participate. Please contact a councilmember or town staff if you would like to become involved.

Recreation Master Plan/PARTF Grant



The Town Council approved the recreation master plan prepared by consultant Joel Moulin from WK Dickson. This plan is the basis of a state Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (*PARTF*) grant application due to the state on January 31. The grant application includes proposals to upgrade the Town Hall walking trails with exercise stations, add a playground at Volunteer Park and another near the picnic shelter, build a dog park behind Town Hall, lay out a disk golf course in the wooded areas near the walking trails, and install courts for bocce, shuffleboard and horseshoes behind the picnic shelter. If awarded, the state will provide 50% of the cost for these improvements and the town provides the other 50%. It is hoped the value of the 48 acres of land that was donated to the town for Town Hall can be counted as the town's monetary match.



Town of Pleasant Garden
 PO Box 307
 Pleasant Garden, NC 27313

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TOWN EVENTS



Dates to Remember

Holiday Closings

Town Hall will be closed on
 December 24 and 25, 2013
 January 1, 2014



Senior Luncheon

January 21, February 18, 10:00AM – 1:00PM
 Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church
 fellowship hall.

This monthly program is free and open to
 citizens 60 years and older. Please call 674-3002 no later than
 the Friday before each event to make your reservation.

Town Council Retreat

Saturday, January 11, 2014; 9:00AM – noon
 Town Hall
 Planning and goal-setting for the coming year



Board Orientation

Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00PM
 Town Hall
 Training for all members of town boards

Spring Soccer

Registration open:

February 3 – March 10, 2014

Onsite sign-ups: Town Hall, 9:00AM-2:00PM

February 22, March 1, and March 8

Games:

Saturdays, March 29 – May 17



E-Cycle Event

March 29, 2014
9:00AM – 2:00PM

Town Hall parking lot
 Discard unused electronic equipment
 Document shredding



Community Expo and 5K Run

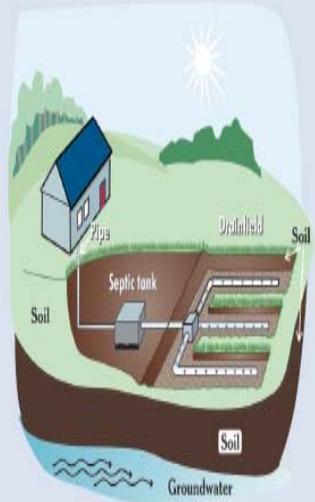
April 26, 2014; 8:00AM -- noon
 Volunteer Park at 4930 Alliance Church Road

Your septic system is your responsibility!

Did you know that as a homeowner you're responsible for maintaining your septic system? Did you know that maintaining your septic system protects your investment in your home? Did you know that you should periodically inspect your system and pump out your septic tank?



If properly designed, constructed, and maintained, your septic system can provide long-term, effective treatment of household wastewater. If your septic system isn't maintained, you might need to replace it, costing you thousands of dollars. A malfunctioning system can contaminate groundwater that might be a source of drinking water. And if you sell your home, your septic system must be in good working order.



Protect Your Septic System

- 1 Inspect your system (every 3 years) and pump your tank as necessary (generally every 3 to 5 years).
- 2 Use water efficiently.
- 3 Don't dispose of household hazardous wastes in sinks or toilets.
- 4 Care for your drainfield. Avoid driving or parking vehicles on your drainfield. Plant only grass over and near your drainfield to avoid damage from roots.