

The

TOWN

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



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

April 2014

SQUARE

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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
(Vacant)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.

Discover Good Living Expo Run with the Hogs for the Dogs 5K Saturday, April 26 8:00AM-Noon

Saturday, April 26, 2014 marks the date for the first annual Pleasant Garden 5K walk/run to benefit the not-for-profit organization Susie's Hope. Animal cruelty is a problem in North Carolina and across America. The recent passage of Susie's Law provides animal protection after violence has been done. However, the best solution is to stop animal abuse before it even occurs. Susie's Hope is aimed to stop animal abuse through education by speaking to organizations and schools on how to properly care for pets.



This dog-friendly event is a local fun walk/run that supports a great cause. The race begins at 8:00AM at Pleasant Garden Volunteer Park located at 4930 Alliance Church Road in Pleasant Garden. The Riders of the Freedom Biker Church will lead the walkers/runners from start to the finish line.

As an added bonus there will be a Four-Legged Walk/Run for you and your best buddy, along with a Toddle Waddle for children ages 5 and under.

Please register for the Hogs & Dogs 5K at <http://www.pleasantgarden5k.com>. Mail-in registration forms are available at www.pleasantgarden.net. **Register by April 11 to guarantee getting a shirt and to avoid the \$5 late fee.**

This family fun event will be part of the "Discover Good Living" EXPO that will be held from 9:00AM– 12:00PM that same day. People of all ages can find out what the Southeast Community has to offer. In addition to the 5K walk/run, there will be a "Staying Strong Zone" for those over 50, choices for family outings and events, a Kids Inflatable Zone sponsored by the Pleasant Garden Elementary School PTA and demonstrations by some of the leading Martial Arts, Dance and Clogging teams in the area.

Come for the run and stay for the fun!

Storm Debris Pick-up Continues



NCDOT contracted with CERES Environmental to clear tree damage caused by the March 6-7 ice storm. Workers began the first of two sweeps through the county on March 31 and hope to complete the second sweep by early May. Residents on state-maintained roads can place their wood debris near the edge of the roadway for pick-up; please make sure nothing is sticking out into the road itself. Any debris put out after the second sweep through your neighborhood will not be picked up. FEMA will be reimbursing the state for the costs of this clean-up.

Town News and Updates

Message from the Mayor

As you already know, the recent ice storm hit the Town of Pleasant Garden especially hard. Some say we were in the “epicenter” of the storm. There are so many things we take for granted until we are without them. As an example, water. On Thursday evening, March 6, I began receiving text messages from Fire Chief Ray Smith updating me on the road situation in and around Pleasant Garden. He had placed a call for every available volunteer to report to the station. No one turned him down. They began trying to remove trees across the roads in order for emergency vehicle access. At 6:22AM he called in all personnel for their own safety. Chief Smith had had experience with these types of situations – I had not. On his advice, I declared Pleasant Garden to be in a State of Emergency, thus involving the coordination of the Guilford County Emergency Services. Director Don Campbell, his very capable assistant Rachael Faucette and I were in constant contact. I asked if there was any way to have water brought into our area and they said, “we’ve never requested that but we will try.” That Sunday morning, a trailer-truck load of water was delivered and distributed from the South Elm Baptist Church and the Pleasant Garden Baptist Church. The state then called upon the services of the North Carolina Baptist Men’s Disaster Relief Team. According to their website, “Volunteers responded to the ice storm event beginning March 7, 2014. In that time period, hot meals were prepared for a shelter in Graham the first weekend. A POD (Point of Distribution) team working in cooperation with Guilford County Emergency Management and Pleasant Garden Baptist Church provided bottled water and hot showers to residents of Pleasant Garden Community. The POD team distributed 1,440 bottles of water to 529 vehicles and some homes in the area. Assessment teams worked diligently to provide the kind of information needed to mobilize a response. All in all, over 1,200 volunteer days have been put in since starting.” For more information about this wonderful group of volunteers, please visit their website at: <https://www.baptistsonmission.org/Projects/Type/Disaster-Relief.aspx>. Our residents were so happy to receive a case of bottled water and the opportunity for a hot shower.

What hit home about the entire event was the sense of neighbors helping neighbors. Residents were checking in on our elderly residents, delivering water to them and taking time to cut trees and limbs on their neighbors’ property. This is the spirit of the great Town of Pleasant Garden.

Mayor Carla Strickland

Progress Update on Town Projects



Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan: The consultants did field work on March 19. This included observing traffic around the school at dismissal time, taking a look at the Pleasant Garden Road business district, and checking out possible locations for trails to connect various facilities and Hagan Stone Park. The citizen steering committee has met twice to provide input and guidance. If you want this plan to include recommendations you think fit in our town and make sense, please share those opinions and suggestions with us. You have two opportunities to do so – by completing the enclosed comment form and return it no later than May 31 or attending the public workshop at Town Hall on May 20.

Greenway Project: The engineering firm surveyed the proposed path for the asphalt walkway and has begun an environmental assessment of the soils and plant life in that area.



Athletic fields restroom/concessions: The foundation was laid the first week of April after replacement of the poor soil found on the site. Construction is estimated to take approximately 120 days.



Assistant Clerk Vazquez Departs

Assistant Clerk Kim Vazquez accepted a career opportunity in Florida which allows her to be closer to her aging mother. Kim’s last day with the Town of Pleasant Garden was April 2. Councilmembers presented a Certificate of Appreciation to her at the April 1 Town Council meeting and hosted a reception in her honor afterwards.



As assistant clerk, Kim staffed the Recreation Board and the Long-Range Planning Board, overseeing the development of the Recreation Master Plan and assisting with the update of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The board chairmen applauded her leadership in developing the town’s excellent PARTF grant application, the results of which should be announced by the state in May. Kim was also responsible for planning the Independence Day celebration, Veterans Appreciation Day, and the Christmas Parade as well as providing administrative support for the youth soccer program and the upcoming Discover Good Living Expo. Her professional expertise and work ethic will be hard to replace.

Applications for the Assistant Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant position will be accepted through April 15. Councilmembers hope to conduct interviews shortly after that date and get a new person on board as soon as possible.



From L-R: Donna Lawrence, Susie, Sherry and Randy Austin of Freedom Biker Church and Baby Girl

Run with the Hogs to Benefit the Dogs 5K Run/Walk Event

Benefiting Susie's Hope

Come join local dog celebrity Susie and Donna Lawrence of Susie's Hope as they are led out by the Freedom Biker Church on the 5K Run with the Hogs to Benefit the Dogs. Susie's Hope educates people of all ages about animal abuse and proper pet care. So come out! Enjoy spring! Support a good cause! Don't forget to wear Susie's signature colors of green, purple and Run with the Hogs to Benefit Dogs!

Saturday – April 26

Volunteer Park

4930 Alliance Church Road, Pleasant Garden

Featured Events

- 8:00am 5K Run/Walk - \$25 (no dogs please)
- 9:00am Four-legged 1 mile Fun Run - \$15 (dogs welcome)
- 9:30am Toddle Waddle – 5 & Under - Free

Late fee will apply after April 11th

9:00am - 12:00pm - Discover Good Living Community Expo

Demonstrations, exhibits, games and inflatables

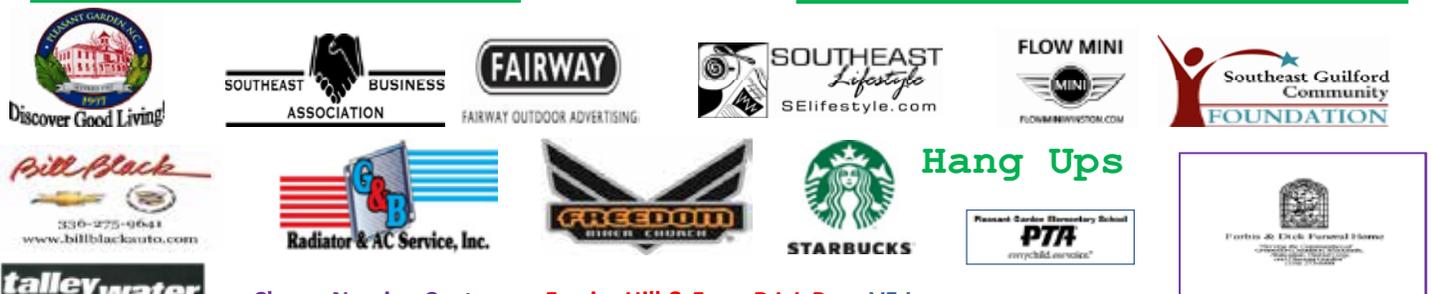
Race Information: Register at <http://www.pleasantgarden5k.com> or mail-in forms available at www.pleasantgarden.net

Packet Pick-up and Late Registration

Friday, April 25: 4:00pm – 7:00pm
Pleasant Garden Town Hall – Picnic Pavilion

Saturday, April 26: 6:30am --7:30am
On-site: Volunteer Park @ 4930 Alliance Church Road

EVENT SPONSORS



Clapps Nursing Center Frazier Hill & Fury, R.L.L.P. VF Jeanswear

Shamrock Environmental Corporation Wyatt Early Harris Wheeler - Attorneys at Law The Cutting Edge

Jack E Oliver/ Farm Bureau Insurance YMCA – Camp Weaver Tom's Tire & Auto



Town of Pleasant Garden
 PO Box 307
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TOWN EVENTS

Dates to Remember



Senior Luncheon
April 15 May 20 June 17
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.

Spring Soccer

Games:

Saturdays, April 5 – May 17
 One weekday night game



Primary Election
Tuesday, May 6, 2014
6:30AM – 7:30PM

State senator, US senator, US representative



Town Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 7, 2014
7:00PM at Town Hall

Rescheduled because of primary election

Discover Good Living Community Expo and 5K Run

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

Celebrate spring, have fun, support a good cause (*Susie's Hope*) and discover what our community has to offer.



Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan Public Input Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2014; 4:00-6:00PM
 Town Hall



Independence Day Celebration

Saturday, June 28, 2014; 6:00-10:00PM
 Pleasant Garden Community Center
 Family-friendly music, games, food
 Fireworks and Fun!!!



Nature Trail Closed



The nature trail behind town is closed temporarily because of damage caused in the March 6-7 ice storm. Numerous trees have fallen and broken limbs are overhanging some of the paths, making for unsafe conditions. The trails will be reopened once the trails have been cleared and it is safe to walk on them. With the federal disaster declaration for the ice storm, FEMA will reimburse the town for the cost of this clean-up.

Traffic Barricades and Signs

NCDOT is donating surplus traffic barricades to the town and the town has purchased "Detour" and "Road Closed" signs to be used in conjunction with them. This is a result of a suggestion from Pleasant Garden Fire Department Chief Ray Smith who pointed out the department uses their trucks to block off the roads for the annual Christmas parade. If the trucks were to be dispatched on a call during the parade, the parade route would no longer be protected. While this equipment officially belongs to the town, Chief Smith offered to store and maintain it at the fire department to be used by both as needed. This partnership will provide great safety enhancements for town citizens and events.

Repaving of Town Hall Parking Lot

Long, wide cracks developed throughout the parking lot at Town Hall this winter. In order to avoid further damage, the Town Council awarded a contract to Hannah Asphalt to repair the cracks and reseal/restripe the parking lot and driveway later this month.

E-Cycling Results

Despite the rainy weather on March 29, 221 people drove through the Town Hall parking lot to drop off unwanted electronics and/or shred documents. 9.3 tons of equipment were collected for recycling and 2.77 tons of paper were shredded. Thanks for the great participation, Pleasant Garden!

