

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 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 MarshallMayor Pro Tem
Bill Greene.....Councilmember
Nancy Jo Smith.....Councilmember
Ron Surgeon.....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.

Opportunities for Citizen Feedback and Input

The Town Council is working on several issues that may be of interest to Pleasant Garden citizens. Councilmembers are eager to hear what citizens think about various proposals under consideration and hope that you will take the time to give your input and share your opinions, either by contacting them directly or speaking at a council meeting.



➤ **2013-14 Budget:** The General Fund budget will guide town programs and operating expenses for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2013 and ends on June 30, 2014. Possible new expenditures include hiring a consultant to develop a recreation master plan to support applications for grant funding, replacing the banners that once hung near the Pleasant Garden Road-Neelley Road intersection, improving the lawn at Town Hall, and providing a required 20% funding match if NCDOT awards a bicycle-pedestrian planning grant to the town. Members of the council have already agreed that there will be no property tax increase.

Citizens are welcome to attend budget work sessions. There is a public input session for the budget at the beginning of the May council meeting and a public hearing will be scheduled before the final budget is adopted.

➤ **Amendment to Chapter 61–Emergency Declarations in the Town Ordinances:** After the General Assembly changed the state law last year, it became necessary to amend the town’s ordinances to comply with those changes. The minor proposals re-define what a dangerous substance is, provide for voluntary and involuntary evacuations, and clarify that restrictions do not apply to lawfully-possessed firearms.

The proposed amendments can be reviewed at Town Hall or on the town website on the “*Legal notices*” link. A public hearing will be held at the May 7, 2013 council meeting to receive citizens’ comments.

➤ **Possible Recreation and Bicycle-Pedestrian Plans:** There will be several public meetings and focus groups to solicit citizens’ ideas and comments on recreational activities and transportation options in the town later this summer and fall **IF** those planning efforts move forward. Please stay tuned for more information on how you can participate!

Speak with State Legislators at Town Hall

State Representative Jon Hardister is hosting a Town Hall Meeting at 7:00PM on Friday, April 26 at Pleasant Garden Town Hall. He and any other members of the Guilford delegation who may be present will talk about what the General Assembly is doing and will respond to citizens’ questions and concerns. Come learn what is happening on the state level!

Town News and Updates

Message from the Mayor

Happy Spring! Since being elected as your mayor, the Council has held a retreat/planning session at the start of each new year. This year's session was held on Saturday, February 16 at Town Hall. The public was invited to attend, participate and offer project ideas. During that time, the Council "brainstormed" any and all ideas that were presented. Ideas that the Council felt worth pursuing were added to a "goals" list from last year and assigned to the various boards to research and bring back recommendations for Council action. In some cases, the Council made decisions and acted directly on projects after doing thorough research. If you would like to have a copy of the goals, please call Town Hall at 674-3002.

In the meantime, the Council has completed and/or is researching the following:

- Approved a letter of support to amend the Jordan Lake Rules;
- Approved a resolution restricting use of the net proceeds from the timber sale for restoration and/or improvement of the nature trail and for implementation of other possible projects included in the *Town Hall Site Plan*;
- Signed a Proclamation in support for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;
- Voted to replace Pleasant Garden banners at the elementary school.
- Installed a well and water lines on the soccer fields for irrigation;
- Met with staff from the NC Department of Commerce about economic development in Pleasant Garden
- Obtaining quotes for improvements to the front lawn area of Town Hall;
- Contracted for the repair of erosion problems at Volunteer Park;
- Obtaining RFQs (*Request for Qualifications*) for a PARTF grant consultant. The selected company will first conduct a Needs Assessment Survey and then prepare a recreation master plan that will be used to support a PARTF grant application;
- Obtaining potential designs for bathrooms at the athletic fields.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact me at carlastrickland@pleasantgarden.net or call Town Hall at 674-3002 and leave a message for me to call you. It's my pleasure to serve as your Mayor!

Mayor Carla Strickland



E-Cycle 2013 a Big Success!



March 23rd was a cold day with a few occasional snow flurries. However, that did not hinder 334 Guilford County residents from driving through the Town Hall parking lot to drop off **over ten tons of e-waste** and have **3.95 tons of old documents** shredded. A large tractor trailer was crammed full with discarded TVs, computers, monitors, etc. and the recycler had to bring in a second truck to haul it all away.



This free annual event was sponsored and staffed by Guilford County Environmental Services, the Town of Pleasant Garden, the Guilford County Prison Farm, Synergy, and Shred-Safe. Volunteers from the Town Council, the Sheriff's Department Volunteers in Police Service (*VIPS*), and Explorer Post 592 wrote down participant information and kept traffic moving smoothly.

Many thanks are due to everyone who helped to make this event a big success – both e-cyclers and workers.

It's not too early to start saving up your e-waste and documents for the spring 2014 event!



Talk of the Town

Community Cookout

Saturday, May 11, Noon-3:00PM

Picnic Shelter behind Town Hall

Construction on the new restroom facility near the picnic shelter, grills and gazebo is almost finished. Mayor Pro Tem Alan Marshall and Councilman Bill Greene are sponsoring a Community Cookout to give everyone an opportunity to inspect the newest addition to Town property. They want everyone to see how the enhanced facilities will provide a place to have parties, receptions and gatherings. All Pleasant Garden citizens are invited to stop by and socialize, meet other people, and just have fun. The “chefs” will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, snacks and water at no cost. No other activities are planned at this time.



Please call Town Hall at 674-3002 if you would like to reserve the outdoor facilities.

Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

NC Department of Commerce Meeting

Several members of the Town Council and Business Focus committee met with Sherry Adams of the Small Town Main Street Program and Cari Hobson of the Division of Community Assistance (DCA) of the NC Department of Commerce on April 12 at Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to explore options for supporting local businesses and attracting more economic development opportunities to the town.

The group identified available land, volunteers and good community spirit, active churches, a low tax rate, recreational activities and our close proximity to good transportation as a few of the town’s assets. The lack of a well-defined business district, the absence of public water and sewer, not having any restaurants in town, and some business properties not being well-maintained by owners were listed as potential challenges.

Ms. Hobson was given a copy of the *Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. She said the Division of Community Assistance could assist Pleasant Garden in developing strategies and recommend possible programs and funding to carry them out. The only cost to the town will be to pay mileage and meal costs for DCA staff when they come to town for meetings. The Town Council will further discuss this option at the May council meeting and decide whether to proceed. The Business Focus Group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis with the next meeting scheduled for August 20.

Farmers Market to Open on June 6

Saturdays, 7:00AM-Noon,

Wednesdays, 4:00-7:00PM

The summer Farmers Market will open on Saturday, June 6 and run through September 7. Local farmers and crafters will offer fresh produce and hand-crafted items for sale. NOTE:

Some farmers have expressed concern they may not have many vegetables to sell at first because the cold weather delayed their plantings. Therefore, there may be limited amounts of fresh produce for sale the first couple of weeks.

Please contact Town Hall if you would like to participate as a vendor at the Farmers’ Market.



Updates on Possible Grants

NCDOT Bicycle-Pedestrian Planning Initiative Grant:

The town will learn in early June if we have been awarded this grant to hire a transportation planning consultant to develop a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the town. NCDOT would provide \$32,000 and the town would be responsible for a 20% match of \$8,000. The resulting plan will identify possible improvement projects that could enhance pedestrian and bicycling safety such as sidewalks in the central business district, intersection improvements at the Pleasant Garden Road-Neelley Road intersection, connections to existing walking trails in Hagan Stone Park, a greenway connector between Town Hall and Volunteer Park, and shoulder improvements to various roads for bicycle lanes.



PARTF Grant: The Town Council will select one of the seven consulting firms that responded to a “Request for Qualifications” to develop a recreation master plan, a key component of the grant application. The consultant will conduct surveys and public meetings to find out what recreational activities and facilities citizens want and prepare a plan based on those responses. This information will be used to support a PARTF grant application to be submitted in January 2014 to implement selected parts of the master plan. The master plan can be used over the next 10 years to guide various recreational improvement projects.



Keep America Beautiful Recycling Bin Grant: The town applied in March for this grant that will provide free recycling bins to use at the athletic fields, nature trails, picnic shelter and various town events to collect metal cans and plastic bottles. Applicants have not yet been notified of the awarding of the grants.



Town of Pleasant Garden
 PO Box 307
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TOWN EVENTS



Dates to Remember

Spring Soccer Season

Games are played on Saturdays from April 6 through May 18 at the town fields at 4920 Alliance Church Road and the field behind the Idol Building at Pleasant Garden Elementary School.



Senior Luncheon

April 16 May 21 June 18
10:00AM – 1:00PM
Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church

This monthly program is sponsored by the Town of Pleasant Garden. It is free and open to citizens 60-years-old and older. Please call 674-3002 no later than the Friday before each event to make your reservation.

Legislative Delegation Town Hall Meeting

Friday, April 26, 7:00PM
 Town Hall, 4920 Alliance Church Road



Community Cook-out

Saturday, May 11; Noon – 3:00PM
 Picnic shelter at Town Hall
Free hot dogs, hamburgers and snacks!



Farmers' Market

June 8 – September 7, 2013
 Saturdays, 7:00PM – noon
 Wednesdays, 4:00-7:00PM
 Picnic shelter at Town Hall

Independence Day Celebration

Saturday, June 29, 2013
6:00-10:00PM
Pleasant Garden Community Center



Live music and dancing, children's games, inflatables, food, fun, and fireworks! This annual event is provided by the Town of Pleasant Garden.

How Does Jordan Lake Affect You?

The water in many of Pleasant Garden's creeks and streams eventually ends up in Jordan Lake. New state laws require the town to reduce the pollution running into our streams. If we aren't successful now, the town will have to spend tax money on expensive projects in the future to correct the problems. Here are some easy things everyone can do to help the town meet our nutrient reduction goals.



10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
- Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- Compost your yard waste
- Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil
- Pick up after your pet
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency
 For more information, visit
www.epa.gov/nps or
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater