

The

# TOWN

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



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

August 2013

# SQUARE

Phone: 336-674-3002

Fax: 336-674-0923

Email: [Townclerk@pleasantgarden.net](mailto:Townclerk@pleasantgarden.net)

Website: [www.pleasantgarden.net](http://www.pleasantgarden.net)

## Town of Pleasant Garden, NC

### TOWN OFFICIALS

Carla Strickland.....Mayor  
Alan Marshall.....Mayor 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](mailto: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.



## Recreation Master Plan Survey

The Town Council is working with Joel Moulin from the consulting firm of WK Dickson to create a recreation master plan for the town. A master plan is a key component of most grant applications; without it, the town is not eligible to apply for outside funding for future recreation projects. The first step in the planning process is to inventory current programs and facilities throughout the community and provide a 20-year framework to fill in the missing pieces.

The most important part of the planning process is to learn which recreational activities town residents need or want. The enclosed two-page survey gives citizens a chance to voice opinions about what is needed. It asks about activities in which your family currently participates, where you go for recreation, what programs and/or facilities you would like for the town to provide in the future, and how you would be willing to pay for it.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and return it no later than August 30. You can mail it, bring it to Town Hall, or place it in a convenient drop box at Pleasant Garden Drug Store or at GasTown at the intersection of Spur Road and Pleasant Garden Road. Or if you prefer, complete the survey online at [www.pleasantgarden.net](http://www.pleasantgarden.net).

Mr. Moulin is also visiting various events throughout the town to gather as many opinions as possible. Once all data is compiled, he will conduct a community planning session at a **Community Cookout from noon to 3:00PM on Saturday, September 14 at Town Hall** to allow citizens to draw ideas on a map placed on the floor of the council chambers. Participants will be rewarded with a ticket for free hot dogs and fixings outside in the picnic shelter. The Pleasant Garden Fire Department plans to help with the cooking and there will be games for families to enjoy. Join us for an afternoon of fun!

**share your ideas – shape Pleasant Garden's recreational future**

## Pleasant Garden Pet Day

Rabies vaccines and microchips will be available in the picnic shelter behind Town Hall on Saturday, September 28 from 9:00AM-1:00PM. One-year vaccines cost \$5, 3-year vaccines cost \$10 and microchips are \$15. Vaccinations must be up to date to qualify for the 3-year shot. Rescue organizations will showcase animals being offered for adoption and vendors will offer a variety of pet products.

**For safety reasons, all pets must be controlled with a leash or be within a cage.**



# Town News and Updates

## Message from the Mayor

For those of you who didn't attend, Mayor Pro Tem Alan Marshall emceed a Town Hall meeting on July 11 for residents to ask State Senators Trudy Wade and Gladys Robinson questions pertaining to the extension of unemployment benefits, voter ID requirements, the new state tax laws, the Guilford County Board of Education elections and the like. The Senators spoke to a full house in the council chambers. We are in the process of scheduling another such event with your State Representatives. These are opportunities for your thoughts to be heard!

At the June 26, 2013 Greensboro MPO meeting (Metropolitan Planning Organization), the Town of Pleasant Garden submitted a request for the design and construction of a greenway project that will connect Town Hall and Volunteer Park and link to the existing walking trails behind Town Hall. The MPO added the project to the approved transportation plan and agreed to pay \$120,000 of the total project cost estimate of \$150,000 using specially-designated federal funds. The Town's portion of the costs will be \$30,000 which will be allocated from our Capital Reserve Fund. (For those of you not familiar with the Town's finances, the balance in the Capital Reserve Fund was \$1,654,397 as of June 30, 2013. By state law, monies in this fund cannot be used for anything other than capital improvements, building projects or construction, and nothing else. We cannot use any of these funds for any general and/or operating expenses, etc.) With all the federal regulations that must be followed, construction on the greenway should begin some time in the fall of 2014.

The \$32,000 NCDOT bicycle-pedestrian planning grant is the second grant ever awarded to the town. However, the Council has set our sights high – we are working toward a PARTF Grant for recreation projects. For years, councils had talked about submitting applications for PARTF Grants but nothing ever came to fruition. We hope to have all the pieces in place to submit an application in January 2014. Part of the process is conducting the recreation master plan survey, explained on page one of this issue and included in this issue. Please take the time to complete this survey as your opinions **DO** count.

Please contact me for any questions, comments or concerns about town issues at [carlastrickland@pleasantgarden.net](mailto:carlastrickland@pleasantgarden.net)

*Mayor Carla Strickland*

## Which Plan? What Money? A Quick Explanation of Town Plans and Projects

In addition to the adopted plans already on the books, there are a number of new planning efforts underway that are funded from different sources. Sometimes it's hard to remember "what's what" so here's a short summary of the previously adopted plans along with the projects that are just getting underway.

- **Comprehensive Land Use Plan:** Consulting firm Benchmark CMR developed this plan adopted by the Town Council in June 2008. It establishes a set of guidelines and procedures for implementing the long-range development objectives of the Town and provides direction for the conservation and growth of the entire town.
- **Town Hall Site Plan:** Paul Kron at the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments prepared this plan accepted by the Town Council in January 2009. It makes recommendations for the best use of the 48-acre Town Hall site and how it can be most efficiently developed and managed. The athletic fields parking improvements was one of the projects in this plan.
- **Recreation Master Plan:** Consulting firm WK Dickson is conducting an inventory of existing recreational offerings and seeking citizen input to develop a plan for future recreation programs and facilities within the Town of Pleasant Garden. The plan should be ready for the Town Council's adoption in late November 2013.
- **NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan/Grant:** NCDOT granted the Town \$32,000 to hire a consultant in 2013 to develop a town-wide plan for pedestrian and bicycles; the Town must provide \$8,000 in matching funds. The Town Council will select a consultant after the municipal agreement has been approved and signed. The planning process will include plenty of citizen input and is expected to take approximately a year to complete.
- **Town Hall-Athletic Fields Greenway Connector:** The Greensboro MPO allocated \$120,000 for the design and construction of a greenway between Town Hall and the athletic fields with the Town providing \$30,000 of the cost. Construction could begin in late 2014.
- **PARTF Grant:** The Town Council plans to apply for this grant in January 2014. If a grant is awarded, the state will provide a 50% funding match for a recreation project identified in the Recreation Master Plan.

# Talk of the Town



## Recreation Board News

This year's Independence Day celebration had the highest attendance in recent memory. The crowd enjoyed the music of The Groovin' Band, great food, and the fantastic fireworks show. Kids bounced on inflatables and kept the balloon man and the face-painting artists busy. A big "Thank-you" goes to the hard-working Recreation Board volunteers who shared their energy and talents to make this event a huge success!

The Recreation Board is now busy planning upcoming events: Pet Day, Veterans Appreciation Day and the Christmas Parade on December 8.



## Long-Range Planning Board News

Cari Hopson of the Division of Community Assistance is working with the Long-Range Planning Board to update the Town's *Comprehensive Land Use Plan* adopted in 2008. The challenge board members are tackling is: How to attract business growth while preserving Pleasant Garden's unique sense of community. The Plan is the tool to guide that growth.

Board members are also working on an assignment from the Town Council to research and make a recommendation on a design and placement locations for new and/or updated "Welcome to Pleasant Garden" signs. New signs could possibly display the town seal or slogan. Officials from the NC Department of Transportation briefed the Board on the types of signage that can be placed in the road right-of-ways.

## Town Council Elections

Voters in Pleasant Garden will choose the mayor and two members of the Town Council at the election to be held on Tuesday, November 4. The mayor will be elected to a two-year term and the members of the Town Council for four-year terms. The new officials will be sworn into office at the December 3 council meeting and begin their terms of office. They will join Councilmembers Alan Marshall and Ron Surgeon who have two years left in their current terms.

The following persons filed for the 2013 election:

### Mayor

- Anne Hice
- Carla Strickland

### Member of Town Council

- Steven Brandt
- Chris Johnson
- Nancy Jo Smith
- Rick Wallace



## Proposed Nuisance Ordinance Zoning Board Public Hearing 7:00PM on August 19 at Town Hall

The Town sometimes gets complaints from citizens about tall weeds and grass, dilapidated buildings, and unsightly junk in yards. There is nothing the Town can do to remedy these problems since there is no public nuisance ordinance that puts restrictions on the appearance of property. To address these complaints, the Town Council assigned the Zoning Board to draft a nuisance ordinance to deal with these problems. The Board started working on this assignment in February and has scheduled a public hearing at its August 19 regular meeting to receive citizen comments on the draft ordinance.

Once it receives the board's recommendation, the Town Council will review the proposal and has the option to adopt the ordinance as presented, change some of the provisions, or choose not to adopt an ordinance at all. Another public hearing will be held if the Town Council decides to move forward with enacting a nuisance ordinance.

The following are listed as nuisances in the Zoning Board's draft of the ordinance:

- Any condition which constitutes or may become a breeding ground or harbor mosquitoes.
- An open place of concentration of man-made combustible items.
- An open place of collection of garbage, food wastes or any other rotten or putrescible (*capable of rotting or decaying*) matter of any kind.
- Any furniture, appliances or metal products of any kind or nature openly kept which have jagged edges of metal or glass, or areas of confinement.
- Motor vehicles abandoned and/or junked, within the meaning of N.C.G.S. 160A-303, on a public street or public or private property or found in violation of Pleasant Garden Development Ordinances.

An Enforcement Officer would follow up on complaints submitted by citizens and cite the property owner if violations were found. The owner would be given 10 days to abate the problems. If the violator does not comply, the Town has the option of having the work done and billing the owner for the cost. Failure to pay this bill would result in a tax lien on the property. There is an appeals process to the Town Council for owners who want to dispute their citation.

Citizens are encouraged to attend the August 19 public hearing and voice their opinions on the proposed nuisance ordinance.



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

Prsrtd Std  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 Greensboro, NC  
 Permit # 717

# TOWN EVENTS



## Dates to Remember

### Farmers' Market

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



### Senior Luncheon

August 23 September 17 October 15  
 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Pleasant Garden United Methodist  
 Church fellowship hall

This monthly program 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.

### Recreation Plan Map Exercise & Community Cookout

Saturday, September 14, 2013

Noon to 3:00PM

Town Hall and Picnic Shelter

Map your ideas for town recreational programs and facilities; free food and family fun



### Fall Soccer Registration

Registration closes 5:00PM on August 12

Onsite registration at Town Hall

Mail-in or business hours at Town Hall

Saturday, August 10 from 9:00AM – 2:00PM

\$45 per player, \$10 for accident insurance

### Pet Day

Saturday, September 28

9:00AM – 1:00PM

Picnic shelter behind Town Hall

Rabies vaccines, micro-chipping, rescue groups, pet product vendors



### 2013 Election

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

Polls open from 6:30AM to 7:30PM

Elect the Mayor and two Councilmembers

## Clean Water Tips

The chemicals we use on our lawns and gardens can negatively affect water quality. Please apply as little as possible and carefully follow the manufacturers' instructions to protect everyone's water supply.



# HERE TOMORROW

Many things you put on your yard end up in the water near you. Stormwater runoff is North Carolina's #1 water pollutant. Learn more at [www.ncstormwater.org](http://www.ncstormwater.org)



Pollute Your Water, Pollute Yourself

