

The

TOWN

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



August 2015

SQUARE

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Email: Townclerk@pleasantgarden.net

Website: www.pleasantgarden.net

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

Town of Pleasant Garden, NC

TOWN OFFICIALS

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

TOWN STAFF

Sandy Carmany....Administrator/Clerk
Tracy Cooper.....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.



Pleasant Garden Pet Day

Saturday, September 26, 2015, 9:00AM-12:00PM

SPOT Mobile Spay and Wellness

September 29, September 30 and October 1, 2015

(by appointment only)



PET DAY: Rabies vaccines and microchips will be available at the 12th annual Pet Day at Town Hall on Saturday, September 26th. Guilford County will provide one-year rabies vaccines for \$5 and Southwoods Animal Hospital will offer 3-year rabies vaccines for \$10 and microchips for \$26. In order to qualify for the 3-year vaccine, please bring proof that your pet's vaccinations are up-to-date. Staff will vaccinate your pet inside your car if it does not behave in crowds or get along well with other animals. No appointment is necessary on Pet Day.

SPOT: The SPOT van will be parked at Town Hall on September 29-30 and October 1 and offer convenient, on-site services for pets include spaying and neutering, rabies vaccines, other shots and vaccines, heartworm testing and medication, wellness check-ups and nail trimming. Only pets being spayed or neutered are eligible for the additional shots and services. Some costs will vary depending on the animal's weight; reduced prices are available for those who meet low income qualifications. Payment is due at the time of check-in and credit cards are accepted. To see a price list for these services or to download an application for financial assistance, please visit the Guilford County Animal Shelter's website at www.spotmobilespay.com/Services.html. You must have an appointment to use the SPOT van's services. A limited number of appointments are available each day. Please call 336-279-0563 as soon as possible to make your pet's reservation.

*** * For both events, all pets must be on a leash or inside a cage. * ***

We are pleased to partner with the Guilford County Health Department and Southwoods Animal Hospital to provide these services for our furry friends. Many thanks to the Recreation Board members who planned these events!

Introducing the New Assistant Clerk

Please welcome the newest addition to the Pleasant Garden staff, Ms. Tracy Cooper. Tracy previously worked for Palmdale, California and has lots of customer service experience. As Assistant Clerk, she provides support to the Long-Range Planning Board and Recreation Board. She is already busy working on the fall soccer program and upcoming events such as Pet Day, Veterans Appreciation Day, and the Christmas Parade. We're happy to have Tracy on board as a member of the Pleasant Garden team!



Town News

Message from the Mayor

Even though it has been over a month ago, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize several of the individuals who worked so hard to bring you the best Independence Day Celebration yet.

- ✓ The first is the Recreation Board chaired by Dean Maddox with members Lisa Marion, Cheryl Pillow and Cyndi Rice. These four individuals spent countless hours planning and executing the entire event.
- ✓ David Loftis, Minister of Worship with the Pleasant Garden Baptist Church, approached the Recreation Board about the addition of Amerifest to the program. His idea was to involve the local church choirs and present music to honor our freedom and our country. I couldn't have been more proud of our Town when 3,000 people stood to sing along with the community chorus.
- ✓ Our own Pleasant Garden Fire Department Chief, Ray Smith, along with his crew, had a plan for any emergency that may have occurred the day of the event. In addition, he involved surrounding fire stations for added protection.
- ✓ Joe McLaughlin, also a volunteer from Pleasant Garden Baptist Church, was responsible for coordinating the transportation of almost 1,000 people throughout Pleasant Garden by shuttle van to the event.
- ✓ Gary Davis, his team and the Freedom Biker Church members were responsible for the presentation of the colors.
- ✓ The Pleasant Garden Lions Club provided the flag placement at the event and surrounding the event.
- ✓ And, I need to recognize our Town Clerk, Sandy Carmany, for the detailed support work surrounding the entire event without one hitch!

We received an email from David Osborne who attended our event. David is the Past District Governor, 31D of the Lion's Club. He writes, "Thank you to the entire Pleasant Garden Community for a great 4th of July celebration. We had a great time and enjoyed the music and the food. Thank you for the shuttle buses that provided transportation." In addition, we received a handwritten note of thanks from a Pleasant Garden resident.

Those instrumental in this event held a debriefing session to discuss the event and how to make it "bigger and better" for next year. Events of this magnitude take a lot of hard work. We need your help! You don't have to join a board or commit to meetings but we need volunteers. If there is a particular event the Town organizes (*Christmas Parade, Veteran's Day Recognition, Pet Day, Independence Day Celebration, 5K Run/Walk*) that is of interest to you, please volunteer some time on the day of the event. You may do so by calling Town Hall, 674-3002.

Town updates are below:

- The Council accepted the apparent low bid for the construction of the greenway connector from Volunteer Park to Town Hall. Federal transportation funds awarded to the Town will cover 80% of the cost for this walking path. This project should be completed by the end of the year.
- The nature trails behind Town Hall have been cleared and the trails re-marked. They are ready for your use.
- The Farmer's Market is now open on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings.
- A new "Welcome to Pleasant Garden" sign has been designed and purchased and will be placed on the new overpass at Neelley Road when completed.

On a side note, the Southeast Guilford Community Association held a meeting August 13, 2015. At this meeting a representative from Cone Healthcare announced that a lease had been signed for three outparcels on the Liberty Road side of the Food Lion anchor store. They are in the process of recruiting a doctor and will provide family medical care. The exact opening date has not yet been announced.

As always, please feel free to call me and/or email me with your ideas and thoughts.

Mayor Carla Strickland



TALK OF THE TOWN

Handling Door-to-Door Salesmen/Solicitors

**NO
SOLICITING
PLEASE!**

Many people are bothered by door-to-door salesmen or solicitors who come to the door trying to sell you goods or services. Sometimes they are legitimate, sometimes they are not. Some may be trying to scam you out of your money or to scope out your home for things to come back and steal later. The Guilford County Sheriff's Department advises citizens to ask thorough questions, write down their information, and even take pictures.

Tell the unwanted visitor you are calling the authorities and do not hesitate to make that phone call if you are uncomfortable or feel threatened.

What can you do to let salesmen know they are not welcome to your home? The best legal way to keep solicitors from knocking on your door is to display "No Soliciting" signs. The Supreme Court has upheld that free speech for commercial purposes is protected by the First Amendment and has repeatedly ruled that many local laws that restrict solicitation (*such as prohibiting religious canvassers, imposing time restrictions, or outright banning solicitors*) are unconstitutional. However, the court has also ruled that privately posted signs are a legitimate way to tell salespeople to leave you alone. By posting a sign that says you do not want to receive solicitors, you are effectively telling them that they are not welcome on your property and you do not wish to be disturbed. Once you ask them to leave, they are legally required to get off your property. Those who remain on your property against your express instructions are trespassing and breaking the law.

Unfortunately, some salesmen will still ignore the signs. To maximize their effectiveness, experts recommend posting your "No Soliciting" sign at the entrance of your property – on the gate if you have a fence or on a stake at the end of your driveway. By doing so, you drive home the point that you do not wish to be bothered. Solicitors may be less likely to expend the effort to walk all the way to your front door if they know ahead of time they will likely be rejected.

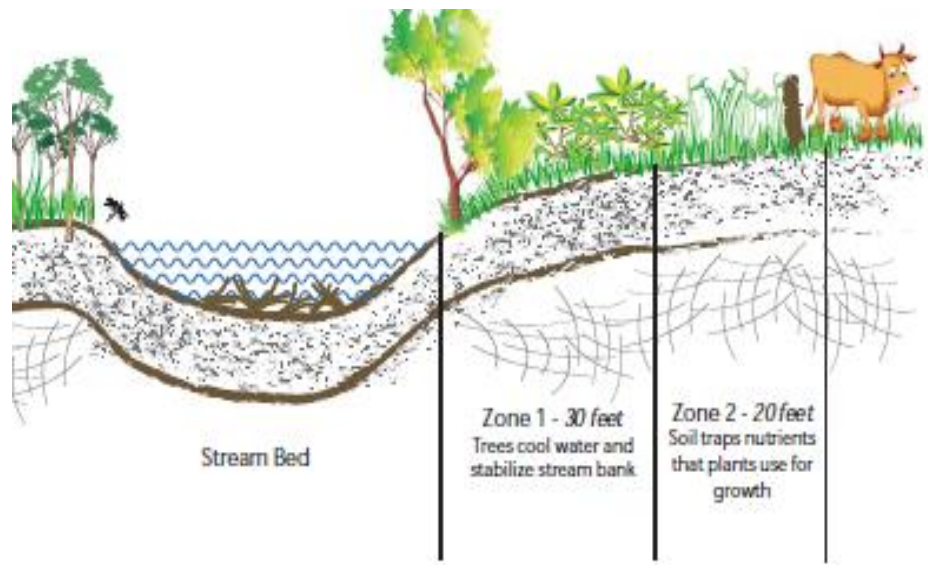
A Pleasant Garden citizen recently asked the Town Council to consider adopting a town ordinance to regulate salesmen/solicitors. His suggestion was to require solicitors to obtain a license from the town and to place limitations on the times on when they can go door-to-door. In response to the request, councilmembers discussed the difficulty in drafting an ordinance that would be in compliance with the various court rulings, how the licensing process would possibly be handled, who would enforce the ordinance and respond to complaints, and how effective an ordinance would actually be. After taking all these issues into consideration, the council decided not to move forward on adopting an ordinance at this time. Instead, councilmembers directed that information on how to deal effectively with solicitors be made available to citizens. As noted above, installing your own "No Soliciting" signs appears to be an effective strategy citizens can implement themselves.

(Excerpts from a WGHP Fox8 news story and from the Signs.com website were used in this article.)

Stream Buffer Rules

Please remember the Jordan Lake watershed restrictions that apply to Pleasant Garden residents when you are mowing this summer:

- Leave a 50-foot buffer on both sides of a stream.
- Vegetation must not be disturbed in Zone 1, the first 30 feet from the top of the bank.
- Limited disturbance of vegetation such as pruning is allowed within Zone 2, the additional 20 feet next to Zone 1





Town of Pleasant Garden
 PO Box 307
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TOWN EVENTS



Dates to Remember

Senior Luncheon

September 15 October 20
 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.

Farmers' Market

Picnic Shelter behind Town Hall
Open Saturdays, June 13 – September 19

7:00AM – noon
Open on Wednesdays
 3:00 – 6:00PM

Fresh local produce and crafts



Pet Day

Saturday, September 26, 9:00AM – noon

Picnic shelter behind Town Hall
 Rabies vaccines and microchips



SPOT Mobile Spay and Wellness

September 29 & 30, October 1

Town Hall parking lot, by appointment only



Town Council meetings

Tuesday, September 1 at 7:00PM

Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00PM

Regular monthly meetings

Blood Drive/Lions Vision Van/Health Fair

Saturday, October 17 at Town Hall

Save the dates and watch for more details:

Veterans Appreciation Day

Sunday, November 8 at 2:00PM

Christmas Parade and Tree-lighting

Sunday, December 6 at 3:00PM

Registration will open in mid-October.



2015 Municipal Elections

Filing for the November 2015 elections for the Town Council closed on July 17, 2015.

Incumbent Mayor Carla Strickland and Councilmembers Alan Marshall and Ron

Surgeon were the only candidates to file for the open seats. Although there are no challengers for these positions, it is still important that voters cast their ballots on Election Day, November 3. See you at the polls!



Blood Drive/Health Fair/Vision Van

The town is partnering with the American Red Cross and Pleasant Garden Lions Club to host a blood and health fair at Town Hall on Saturday, October 17, 2015. Donors are encouraged to call Town Hall to

make an appointment so you won't have to wait to make your gift of life. Free vision and hearing screenings will be provided in the NC Lions Club Vision Van parked outside. We are working with other groups to provide flu shots (*bring your health insurance information with you*), free blood pressure checks, blood sugar testing, and collection of unused/discarded prescription drugs. Please join us on October 17!



Board Members & Volunteers Needed Opportunity for Student Service Hours

Citizens serving on town boards and/or helping with a specific event is the key to the town's ability to offer a wide variety of activities. It would be impossible for the town's two staff members to do everything alone for the Discover Good Living Expo and 5K, Independence Day celebration or annual Christmas Parade without the able assistance contributed by our hard-working volunteers.

Does your student need a way to earn hours for a service learning project? Time spent working at town events can help meet those school requirements and will provide valuable teamwork experience as well. If you or your student have time or talents to share, please contact a councilmember or town staff for an application and let us know you are interested in joining the Pleasant Garden team! We really need you!