

The

TOWN

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



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

February 2014

SQUARE

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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.

Town Council Sets 2014 Goals

Councilmembers held a planning retreat at Town Hall on Saturday, January 11 to identify their goals and define an action plan for the coming year. Numerous topics and ideas were discussed; the top two priorities were as follows:

- ✓ **Prioritize the work items in the PARTF grant application.** Decide whether or not to proceed with the implementation of any recreation improvements if the town is not awarded grant funding.
- ✓ **Develop rules for the use of the concession stand at the athletic fields.** At events such as soccer games, should the space be made available on a rotating basis to various vendors or community groups to sell pre-prepared foods and pay a fee to the town? Or is it better to contract with a single vendor who would pay a fee to the town for the privilege of operating the stand?

Other goals included developing a fee structure for the use of town recreational facilities, planning ahead for staffing/maintenance of new facilities and programs, creating a committee to formulate more activities for seniors, publicizing activities and resources in the community, adopting updates to the *Comprehensive Land Use Plan*, promoting small business in Pleasant Garden, providing for planned growth, continuing work with NCDOT to add roads onto the state maintenance system, creating an avenue for endowment funding for citizens to make tax-deductible contributions to the town, revisiting the senior community overlay district issue, hosting another Town Hall meeting with state elected officials, and addressing a number of administrative items.

E-Cycle 2014

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Pleasant Garden Town Hall
4920 Alliance Church Road
Pleasant Garden, NC

Materials Accepted:

- All types of electronics, computers, tv's, cell phones, electronic games. Anything with a chip or plug.
- Document shredding - maximum of 5 boxes per vehicle.

For more info contact the Guilford County Environmental Services Coordinator at 641-3792 or the Town of Pleasant Garden at 674-3002.

Town News and Updates

Message from the Mayor

Many Pleasant Garden residents are under the impression that the Town owns and controls the **Pleasant Garden Community Center**. This is not the case. In the 60's a group of residents felt the need for a community center and held fundraisers and events to raise money for its construction. At that time, shares of stock were issued to interested parties and it became a non-for-profit entity controlled by the elected board of directors.

You may have heard the rumor "the Town is taking over the Community Center" but please allow me to state the facts. Sometime in the fall of 2013, I was approached by two past board members of the Pleasant Garden Community Center asking if the town would consider taking over the Community Center. I told the two past board members that I would inform each member of Council to ascertain their thoughts about the proposal and respond. At that time, I also stated that while I would inform the Council of the conversation, the Town would not simply "take over" the Community Center since no one with authority had formally approached the Council. In addition, if there was interest, due diligence would have to be conducted before any decision could or would be made. I did as promised and polled each member of Council. All agreed the proposal was worthwhile to pursue but with caution.

I did not hear anything again until January 2014 when the current Treasurer of the Community Center called and wished to address the Town Council. At that time, I informed each member of Council and then contacted our Town attorney. Having no experience with the proper procedure to hear their proposal, I asked the Town attorney to speak directly with the Treasurer. As a result of their conversation, a Special Meeting was held this past January to hear their proposal. At the February Council Meeting, a decision was made to form a Committee to further study the proposal. This Committee consists of two members of Council, two members of the Long Range Planning Board, 2-3 residents and two members from the Community Center Board.

Please understand that this is in no way a "done deal." This Committee will be responsible for doing research and providing information. An example of the information to research consists of the following: Review the Financial Statements for the past five years; review the Audits for the past five years; determine the operating costs for the entire facility for the last five years; assess the structure of all buildings and infrastructure. This is just the start of this process. Further updates will be provided in the newsletter as well as at Council meetings. In addition, please feel free to call me at any time. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor.

Mayor Carla Strickland



Progress Update on Town Projects

PARTF Grant: The grant application was submitted to the state at the end of January; their funding decisions will be announced in May and August 2014. Proposed recreational projects on Town Hall property include improvements to the nature trail, a paved greenway with 10 fitness stations, two playgrounds, a dog park, a disc golf course, court games (*bocce, shuffleboard and horseshoes*) behind the picnic shelter and renovation of the athletic fields. The total cost for all the improvements is estimated at \$464,800 with the grant covering half and the town paying the other half. If the town receives the grant, the improvements must be completed within two years.

Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan: The Town Council appointed the following people to the steering committee: Daniel Amstutz (*Greensboro MPO*), Roger Bardsley (*retired recreation planner*), Shea Cox (*Guilford County Health Department*), Anne Hice (*citizen*), Lisa Jordan (*school principal*), Eddy Patterson (*business owner*), Rob Pawlik (*local bicyclist*), and Henry Tripp (*local runner*). Additional people can be added as the planning process moves forward. The first meeting of the steering committee is scheduled for February 24, 2014 at which time goals and direction will be established. There will be numerous opportunities for public outreach and citizen input throughout the process of creating the plan.



Greenway Project: Anderson & Associates was selected to do the design and engineering of this project. Those plans must be completed and submitted to NCDOT for review and approval by July 31, 2014. If the plans are approved by the state, construction funding will become available on October 1.

Athletic fields restroom/concessions building: The contracts for construction of the building and the septic system were awarded to Wright & Wray and to Ward Brothers, the same firms that built the restroom facility behind the picnic shelter at Town Hall. All permits are in place and they are ready to get started whenever the weather and ground conditions allow. Completion is expected approximately 120 days after the start of construction.



TALK OF THE TOWN

Upcoming Public Hearings

The Town Council will hold public hearings at the March 4 council meeting on proposed amendments to the animal control ordinance prohibiting the unattended tethering of dogs and on updates to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. A summary of those items is included below; the complete documents can be viewed by clicking on "Legal Notices" on the town website at www.pleasantgarden.net. Citizens are encouraged to participate in the public hearings and voice your opinions on these important issues.

Animal control ordinance - prohibition of unattended tethering of dogs: When Pleasant Garden was incorporated in 1997, the Town Council adopted Guilford County's animal control ordinance as part of the town ordinances and signed a contract with the county for enforcement of this ordinance. In November 2013, the Guilford County Commissioners amended the county's animal control ordinance to prohibit the unattended tethering of dogs. The county enforcement officer has requested that the Town of Pleasant Garden adopt these amendments which will involve amending the town ordinances. Councilmembers want input from citizens before making a decision on this request.

These amendments generally make it unlawful for any person to restrain a dog using a chain, wire or other type of tethering device unless the owner is outside with the dog and within visual range of the animal. There are limited exceptions for safety reasons, walking the dog on a leash, restraining stray animals, and shepherding, hunting, or training activities.

Updates to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan: This document establishes guidelines and procedures for long-range development in the town. It was adopted by the Town Council in 2008 after a 15-month process with lots of citizen participation and input. With the expert assistance of Cari Hopson, a planner with the Division of Community Assistance, members of the Long-Range Planning Board reviewed the implementation strategies section of the plan last fall and suggested several updates to those strategies. Public input on the updates is now needed.

Some of the recommendations address the removal of objectives that have already been accomplished or are no longer relevant. Others adjust the timeframe for work on certain tasks. Two new objectives were added: to facilitate the re-use/redevelopment of vacant industrial properties such as Hanson Brick and Hooker Furniture and to consider adding provisions in the Development Ordinance to allow for senior retirement communities within the town.

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Status Update on Town Roads

The Town Council is continuing to work with NCDOT to resolve the problem of roads within Pleasant Garden that are not currently maintained by the state. Some of these roads are in very bad shape and it is up to residents on those roads to make the repairs at their own expense. Officials from NCDOT met with interested citizens in meetings at Town Hall in July and September 2013, explained the process to get a road added to the state system, and reported on the status of each road.

Since the first meeting in July, the following roads have completed the process to be added to the state system for road maintenance:

- Garden Valley Estates Drive
- Beatle Drive Extension
- Fox View Drive
- Bethany Park Drive
- Lord Ashley Court



The next update meeting with NCDOT is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25 at 6:00PM at Town Hall.

New Development Headed Our Way

According to plans submitted to the town, several construction projects will get underway in Pleasant Garden within the next couple of months.

➤ In January, the Zoning Board approved the site plan for a Subway restaurant at 4810 Pleasant Garden Road. Developer Steve Majors hopes to be open for business by the end of June. The Pleasant Garden Fire Department plans to burn the existing structures on this property in fire training exercises on February 22. Motorists should be prepared for detours in this area on that day.

➤ Pleasant Garden Baptist Church plans to add a 10,000 square foot youth activities building behind the main sanctuary at 1415 Neelley Road. The Zoning Board will review the site plan for this project at their February 17 meeting.

➤ Preliminary work has begun on the new interchange at Neelley Road at US421 with the clearing of trees along Neelley Road and demolition of houses in the path of the new alignment of the road.



Town of Pleasant Garden
 PO Box 307
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TOWN EVENTS

Dates to Remember



Senior Luncheon

February 18 March 18 April 15
 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

Registration open:

February 3 – March 10, 2014 by mail or in-person

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

Saturdays: February 22, March 1, and March 8

Games:

Saturdays, March 29 – May 17



Town Hall Meeting

March 20 at 7:00PM

Town Hall

Chat with your state representatives

E-Cycle Event

Saturday, March 29, 2014

9:00AM – 2:00PM

Town Hall parking lot

Discard old electronic equipment and document shredding



Discover Good Living Community Expo and 5K Run

Saturday, April 26, 2014; 8:00AM -- noon

Volunteer Park at 4930 Alliance Church Road

Join us in the Garden - celebrate spring, have fun, support a good cause (*Susie's Hope*) and discover what our community has to offer.

- ✓ 8:00AM: 5K Run/Walk, \$25
- ✓ 9:00AM: Four-Legged Fun Run, \$15
- ✓ 9:30AM: Toddle Waddle (5 & under), free
- ✓ 8:00AM-noon: Community Expo

(Alliance Church Road will be closed between Ryegate and Talbot for short periods during the race)



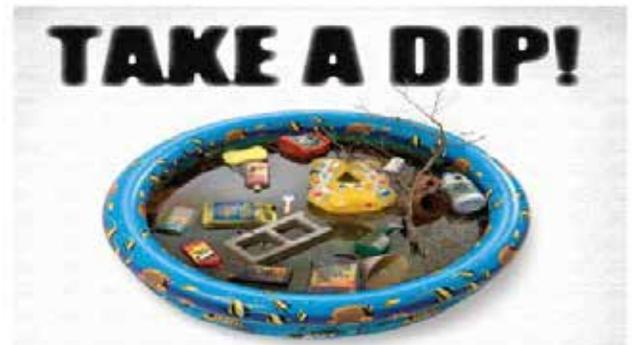
Meet with Your State Representatives

Members of the NC House who represent Guilford County in the General Assembly will hold a Town Hall Meeting from 7:00-9:00PM on Thursday, March 20, 2014 at the Kirkman Municipal Building/ Town Hall. Citizens are encouraged to attend and share your issues and concerns with these elected officials. Come hear the latest on what's happening in Raleigh!

2014-15 Budget Preparation to Begin



Councilmembers will soon begin discussion on the 2014-15 town budget that will guide town programs and operating expenses for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2014 and ends on June 30, 2015. A series of work sessions will begin in March to discuss specific revenue and expense details over the next several months. These are public meetings to which all citizens are invited to attend. A public input session on the budget is provided at regular council meetings and a formal public hearing will be scheduled before the final budget is adopted in June.



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