

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 2015

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

TOWN STAFF

Sandy Carmany....Administrator/Clerk
Kathleen Hennebury...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.



Seeking Your Input and Suggestions!

Citizens have the opportunity to share their opinions on several issues at the upcoming March 3 Town Council meeting. First is a public hearing on the adoption of the Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan that includes projects on several town roads that enhance walking and biking options. There is also a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Development Ordinance regarding bona fide farms, deletion of water and sewer connections requirements, conditional zoning, lighting standards, and screening of dumpsters. Councilmembers are also seeking feedback on an amendment to the nuisance ordinance that would require property owners to remove graffiti visible to the public in a timely manner or face fines. The public is also encouraged to offer ideas and suggestions for consideration in the 2015-16 town budget. Everyone is encouraged to attend this (and all future) council meetings to participate in the planning for your town.

E-Cycle 2015



Saturday, March 21, 9:00AM – 2:00PM at Town Hall

The Town of Pleasant Garden and Guilford County are again partnering to provide Guilford County residents with a free, convenient way to discard broken or unused electronics and to safely shred old documents and personal information. Here's the perfect opportunity to get a head start on your spring cleaning, guard against identity theft, and protect the environment in one easy stop. You don't even have to get out of your car – just drive through the parking lot and let us unload your discards! Please join us on March 21!

E-Cycle 2015

March 21st

Free, easy Disposal of your e-waste! **9:00AM-2:00PM**

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

Message from the Mayor

Each year in January, the Council participates in a planning retreat to discuss possible projects for Pleasant Garden. This year's retreat was held on Saturday, January 17 and was open to the public for their input. The first item on the agenda was a detailed discussion on the road issue in Pleasant Garden. There are several roads within the Town limits that are eligible to become state-maintained but require repairs before the state will add them to the state system. One road in particular, Walter Wright Road, has petitioned the Town (*per NC General Statute 160A-217*) to use Capital Funds to repair their road and then assess the property owners the cost of repairs and collect the assessment over the next 10 years. There are 20 houses on the road and 6 undeveloped properties. The petition contained 15 signatures – over the required 50%. Repair estimates from NCDOT are approximately \$120,000. Another Town road, Cynthia Road, contains an old culvert that is at the point of collapsing. Fire officials advise that if a fire were to occur, they may not be able to cross the culvert with larger fire equipment due to the deterioration of the culvert. There are three property owners affected by this culvert. It is obvious that three property owners would not be able to repay the approximately \$201,500 needed to make the repairs before eligibility for the state system. Upon the attorney's advice, the Council decided that if we authorize repairs of one road, we must do so for all the roads.

At this point, the Council has directed the Town Attorney to work with NCDOT to determine the approximate cost to repair all non-state-maintained roads and to obtain their guarantee they will add all the roads to the state system once the repairs have been made by the Town. If the council eliminates assessing the property owners, three options remain:

1. Hold a public referendum to issue bonds. That is, if a majority of voters approve doing so, the Town would sell bonds/take out a loan to proceed with the project. An increase in property taxes would be required to repay the bonds.
2. Increase property taxes. If the Council chooses this route, residents would have a chance to voice their opinions during upcoming Council meetings and budget work sessions. (*The Council must approve a new budget by June 30, 2015*).
3. Use the Town's existing Capital Reserve Fund to pay for the improvements outright.

Previous estimates to repair all eligible roads obtained by the Long Range-Planning Board last year were approximately \$587,500. The Town Attorney has been directed to obtain a more precise figure through NCDOT and report at the March Town Council meeting.

Other items discussed at the planning retreat included the following:

- Assigned the Long-Range Planning Board and the Town Attorney the responsibility for determining the process to acquire the Pleasant Garden Community Center. In addition, the town will seek funding sources for improvements such as a PARTF Grant, USDA Rural Development Program, Major League Basement grants, etc.
- Adoption of a social media policy for publicizing Town events
- Adoption of an amendment to the nuisance ordinance to require the timely removal of graffiti
- Assigned Councilman Alan Marshall and a committee to develop an emergency plan specific to Pleasant Garden using the county plan as the basis
- Hold a joint meeting of the Long-Range Planning Board and the Zoning Board to discuss a senior citizen community in Pleasant Garden.
- Follow-up with state officials for their support of the Town's PARTF Grant submitted the last week in January.

Councilmembers need to hear from you on these and any other issues. Please make plans now to attend the March 3, 2015 Town Council meeting to state your opinions.

Mayor Carla Strickland

Community Center Acquisition

At the January 6, 2015 Town Council meeting, councilmembers voted unanimously to move forward with the process of acquiring and operating the Pleasant Garden Community Center. The community center board must now decide whether to accept the offer. If their decision is "yes," the Long-Range Planning Board will begin working on their recent assignment from the Town Council to make recommendations about the operations, programming and possible repairs or improvements needed to the facility.

PARTF Grant

The Town submitted an application for a 2015 grant from the state Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for a variety of recreation projects throughout Volunteer Park totaling \$345,800. If the town is awarded a grant, the state and the town will each pay one half of the total cost. The projects proposed in the application include installation of two playgrounds, 10 fitness stations, court games, a disc golf course and a dog park in addition to improvements to the nature trail and athletic fields. Grant awards will be announced in June or July 2015.

TALK OF THE TOWN



Seeking Your Input on Hazards in the Community/Emergency Planning

Guilford County is currently engaged in a planning process to become less vulnerable to disasters. Your participation in this process is important to the emergency planning staff.

The county, along with all the cities and towns in Guilford County, is now working to prepare a multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The purpose of this plan is to identify and assess our community's hazard risks and determine how to best minimize or manage those risks. Upon completion, the plan will represent a comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan for the entire county.

A survey has been created to provide citizens an opportunity to share opinions and participate in the mitigation planning process. The information you provide will help staff better understand your hazard concerns and can lead to mitigation activities that should help lessen the impact of future hazard events. Please take a moment to share your thoughts and suggestions at <http://www.readyguilford.org/mitigation>

Once the county completes the update of the plan, the Pleasant Garden Town Council will be asked to adopt it in late 2015. In addition, one of the goals from the Town Council's planning retreat is to prepare an emergency operations plan specific to the Town of Pleasant Garden. Councilman Alan Marshall will be working with Pleasant Garden Fire Department Chief Ray Smith and other emergency planning officials to develop that plan.

Emergency Preparedness Tips

It's that time of year again! Approximately one year ago, our community was hit with a major ice storm that left many citizens stranded without power, water and heat for several days. Let's hope we don't have a repeat of that any time soon, but it is always wise to be ready. Here are some tips from the American Red Cross to help you be better prepared to weather the next storm.

How to Prepare for a Winter Storm

- ❖ Winterize your vehicle and keep the gas tank full. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.
- ❖ Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.
- ❖ Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.
- ❖ If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.



Put Together a Supply Kit

- ❖ Water: at least a 3-day supply; one gallon per person per day
- ❖ Food: at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food
- ❖ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ❖ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- ❖ First aid kit
- ❖ Medications (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc.)
- ❖ Multi-purpose tool
- ❖ Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- ❖ Family and emergency contact information
- ❖ Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- ❖ Cell phone with chargers
- ❖ Extra cash
- ❖ Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- ❖ Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- ❖ Tools/supplies for securing your home
- ❖ Sand, rock salt or non-clumping kitty litter to make walkways and steps less slippery
- ❖ Warm coats, gloves or mittens, hats, boots and extra blankets and warm clothing for all household members
- ❖ Ample alternate heating methods such as fireplaces or wood/coal-burning stoves





Town of Pleasant Garden
 PO Box 307
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 US Postage
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 Permit # 717

TOWN EVENTS

Dates to Remember



Senior Luncheon

February 17 March 17 April 21
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 2015 soccer

Registrations open until 5:00PM on Monday, March 9, 2015
 Onsite registration at Town Hall, 4920 Alliance Church Road:

- Monday-Friday, 9:00AM-5:00PM
- Saturday, February 21, 9:00AM-2:00PM
- Saturday, February 28, 9:00AM-2:00PM
- Saturday, March 7, 9:00AM-2:00PM



Town Council meeting

Tuesday, March 3

Public hearing on Development Ordinance amendments and Town Ordinance amendments and adoption of the Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan

E-Cycle 2015

Saturday, March 21; 9:00Am – 2:00PM

Town Hall parking lot
 Household electronic waste accepted
 Limit of 5 boxes of documents for shredding



Highway Safety Week

March 23 – 29, 2015

Free programs and information on safe driving choices from the Crash Prevention Network of North Carolina

5K Race/Community Expo

Saturday, May 2, 2015 at Volunteer Park

5K Race/Walk/1-mile Fun

Run at 8:00AM: Run with the Hogs to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation of the Triad (*JDRF*)

Discover Good Living Expo, 8:00-11:00AM: The focus is on families and a healthy lifestyle; exhibits will include a Demo Zone, Recreation Zone, and a Business Expo. Please contact Town Hall for information on sponsorship opportunities.



Soccer Time Again!



The spring 2015 season for the youth soccer league runs from March 18 to May 16. Registration is open for children ages 4-17; the fee is \$60 with accident insurance offered for an additional \$10. There are three easy ways to register: 1) Download the form on the soccer link at www.pleasantgarden.net and mail it, 2) Visit Town Hall during normal business hours, or 3) Come to Town Hall between 9:00AM -- 2:00PM on Saturdays, February 21, February 28, or March 7. No registrations will be accepted after the registration deadline of March 9.

2015-16 Budget Preparation Begins

Work sessions on the 2015-16 town budget will be held March through May with the goal of having a budget ready for adoption at the June Town Council meeting. There is an opportunity for citizens to provide input and suggestions on the draft budget at the beginning of every council meeting. You are encouraged to attend one or all of these meetings and voice your opinion.

Highway Safety Week

At the request of local resident Michael Jackson who established the Crash Prevention Network of North Carolina (CPN), the Town Council proclaimed March 23-19, 2015 as Highway Safety Week. This community has experienced many tragedies due to traffic accidents over the years, most of which could have been avoided if the right choices were made behind the wheel. CPN will provide free programs and information to schools, youth groups, churches and civic organizations to educate drivers on safe driving practices.

Do You Know the Symptoms of Diabetes?

With 28 diagnosed cases in our local schools, our community is at a critical stage with Type 1 Diabetes. Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial to the successful management of the disease. A vital first step is to know the early warning signs which include the following: extreme thirst, frequent urination, drowsiness or lethargy, sugar in the urine, sudden vision changes, increased appetite, sudden weight loss, fruity/sweet/ wine-like odor on breath, heavy labored breathing, stupor, and unconsciousness. More information is available at <http://triad.jdrf.org>.