

The

TOWN

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



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

January 2016

SQUARE

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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
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.

Senior/Retirement Communities in Pleasant Garden?

Zoning Board Public Hearing

Monday, January 25, 2016 at 7:00PM at Town Hall

The Town Council began discussions in 2013 about allowing senior communities in Pleasant Garden in response to concerns raised by older citizens of our town. Those seniors loved the town and wanted to stay but were no longer physically able to perform the upkeep on a large home. They wanted smaller homes on smaller lots with the burden of outside maintenance being handled by someone else. The current ordinances do not allow this type of development so amendments were needed to allow it with standards to ensure a fit with the town's small-town atmosphere. Councilmembers and the Zoning and Long-Range Planning boards researched and debated benefits and pitfalls over the past three years. The Guilford County Planning Department and Town Attorney Bill Hill drafted an option based on the ideas and concerns identified during these discussions. The Zoning Board is seeking public input on this option before making a formal recommendation to the Town Council. A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, January 25th at 7:00PM at Town Hall; citizens are encouraged to attend and share their opinions. The proposed amendments are available for review at Town Hall and on the town website.

Key features of the proposed ordinance amendments include the following:

- The minimum lot size is 6,000 square feet.
- The maximum size of a development area is 25 acres.
- The maximum density is one unit per acre.
- Single, duplex and triplex structures are allowed with a minimum of 500 square feet of open space required for each residential unit.
- Senior communities would be allowed in the RS-40, Central Business (CB), and Limited Business (LB) zoning districts.
- Sidewalks on at least one side of the street and links to any nearby trails are required. Adequate parking must be provided.
- A homeowners association will be responsible for maintenance of common areas and enforcing age restrictions (preferred 55 and older).
- A builder can offer voluntary conditions to make the proposed development more compatible with surrounding properties.

Below are photo examples of similar development in the Forest Oaks area.



Single



Duplex



Triplex

Message from the Mayor



December 6, 2015 marked another successful event for our Town! The 36th Annual Christmas Parade offered something for all ages – from the floats and the Christmas Carolers to the visit with Santa and bicycle drawing at the annual tree lighting. Each year, the Recreation Board adds something new and exciting to each Town event and 2015 was no different. The Recreation Board consists of only four members: Chair Dean Maddox and members Lisa G. Marion, Cheryl Pillow and Cyndi Rice. The work, time and energy they expend for the Town is enormous. Please take the time to thank them by attending their monthly meeting, the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:00PM at Town Hall. And, they are always seeking new members for help. Please consider volunteering for this Board.

With that being said, I received questions about the change in the parade route. Allow me to explain one miscommunication. When we advertised the parade, it stated that the parade would start at Ryegate Drive. Actually, the dignitaries, floats and cars staged on Nesbitt Road as usual, proceeded down Pleasant Garden Road and then anyone walking in the parade, i.e. the bands, and performance teams, were filtered in at Ryegate Drive. This change in the parade route was not a “snap decision.” This decision had been discussed for the past four parades but this year was the time for a change. The decision was based on the following:

- ✦ The original staging area for walkers in the parade had been at Garden Plaza which was open for business during the staging timeframe. We worked with the owners of the former daycare center on Spur Road behind Garden Plaza to establish satellite parking and drop-off points to alleviate congestion. But we still had to contend with the dynamics of a congested area as teams were assembling, practicing and getting ready to march. For the past two years we have had close calls with vehicle traffic and kids staging for teams. Safety was a major factor for the change.
- ✦ We also had a number of comments from those walking participants that the route was too long to walk and perform along the way and, at the end, have to turn around and walk back to the daycare center where their cars were parked. We were seeing a progressive reduction in walking team participation and floats as many of the floats have walking teams behind them. Participation dropped to a level in 2014 that we had to reach out in an effort to boost the number of participants. Another reason for previous years’ low participation was that many stated they had previously voiced their position and no action was being taken to address their concerns. They reminded us that participation in parades is voluntary and there is a lot of parade competition during this time. During the weekend of our parade, there were 12 other parades taking place. We were seeing parents electing to participate in parades in Liberty, Ramseur and Randleman vs. Pleasant Garden. If we didn’t make this change to the staging area, we would have continued to receive pushback and continued drop in parade participants.
- ✦ The comments also addressed that the first part of the parade passed in front of private residences so the crowd attendance was low. During the debriefing meeting after the parade, it was noted that in 2014 the viewing attendance between Garden Plaza and Ryegate was a total 51. In 2013, the viewing attendance was in the mid 40’s. Visualize, if you will, 51 or less spectators spread across approximately 1/2 mile and you get a feel for what the parade participants were experiencing. Contrast that to this year's positive of having both sides of the road lined with people and seeing a steady growth along the route to where people were 10 -12 deep or greater at the end of the parade. Many of the performing groups entering from the new staging area made the comment "Now this is what a parade is supposed to look like!"
- ✦ We were also hearing from parade viewers that the entertainment value of the parade was decreasing. With the support of our community partners, Parade Chair Lisa G. Marion worked to increase excitement with Christmas Carolers, the tree lighting area and new additions focused on family fun.

Since the parade, we have heard extremely positive comments from all the performance teams, i.e. the Sapphire Dancers, the Rockin' Ropers, the Southeast High School Band members, etc. They have all stated that this year’s parade delivered a sense of high energy and endorsed the change in the parade route. As we suspected, the shorter route did not equate to a shorter parade time duration as we had 107 entries this year as well as more performance teams.

I would also be remiss if I didn’t thank all the community partners that made this parade a success. Something else that makes this parade special was that all our community partners (local churches, Pleasant Garden Elementary School, the Pleasant Garden Lions Club) collected cans of food for the food pantry located at Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church. We were able to collect enough cans of food to help approximately 200+ families for a month.

For a small Town, we sure delivered big results! Happy New Year to you all and if you have any comments, please feel free to call me through Town Hall (336-674-3002). The staff will deliver your message to me if I’m not available.

Mayor Carla Strickland

TALK OF THE TOWN

Project Updates



Greenway Connector: Construction of a 12-foot-wide paved corridor between the Town Hall parking lot and Volunteer Park is finished except for any minor “punch-list” items. This connector provides safe access between the two town facilities in addition to being a great recreational walking track. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be scheduled soon. This is the town’s first construction project using federal funding. The total cost for the design, construction, and oversight services is approximately \$177,583; federal transportation funds are covering \$110,119 of that cost.



Pleasant Garden Community donation: The Town Council voted at their October 6, 2015 meeting to accept the community center Board of Director’s offer to donate the facility to the town at no charge. In late December, the state granted the town a waiver to acquire the property now and claim its value as the town’s monetary match for a future PARTF grant application. At their January 16th planning retreat, councilmembers will discuss next steps in the process which could include conducting a survey and environmental assessment of the land, having the buildings inspected to assess their conditions and needs, and applying for grant funding for future improvements to the buildings and grounds.

2015 Christmas Parade Highlights

We have received numerous positive comments from both spectators and participants that the December 6th Christmas Parade was “the best ever!” With 107 entries that included local dignitaries, two marching bands, 25+ floats, a dozen performing groups, and lots of fancy cars, it was one of the largest in the 36-year history of the annual parade. Paige Davis and Jacob Petty were selected as the Snowball Queen and King based on their winning essays. This year’s trophy winners were the following:

- ◆ Best Float: Upward Ministry from Pleasant Garden Baptist Church
- ◆ Best Performance: Christmas Carolers
- ◆ Chairman’s Trophy: The Polar Express, Cub Scout Pack 368



After the parade, attendees enjoyed the lighting of a live Christmas tree donated by the Lions Club, a bicycle raffle, Santa’s house, kids’ activities and carolers at the Pleasant Garden Fire Department. Also, our community demonstrated its true holiday spirit by contributing large quantities of canned goods for the local food pantry.

December 29, 2015

Dear Mayor Strickland,

On behalf of the Church and our Food Pantry, I’d like to thank the Town of Pleasant Garden for organizing and giving emphasis to food collection during the holidays. Our Food Pantry Committee estimates a whole month’s worth of dry and canned goods were donated! That means 200+ families will be given food distributions in January because of it. It is such an amazing blessing to the people in the SE Guilford area! Financial gifts were given for future needs too. Hats off especially to Lisa Marion and Dean Maddox of the town’s Recreation Board for coordination of the drive to coincide with the parade. Job well done!

Sincerely,

Pastor Mark Weekly, Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church



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

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TOWN EVENTS

Dates to Remember



Senior Luncheon

January 19 February 16 March 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.

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Closing

Town Hall closed on Monday, January 18



Town Council Planning Retreat

Saturday, January 16; 9:00AM - noon
 Town Hall

Goal-setting for 2016; citizen participation is welcomed and encouraged.



Zoning Board Public Hearing

Monday, January 25th at 7:00PM at Town Hall
 Public input on the senior community proposal



Spring Soccer Registration

February 1 – March 7, 2016; \$60 per player
 Saturdays at Town Hall: February 27 & March 4
 9:00AM – 2:00PM



Town Council meetings

Tuesdays, February 2 and March 1
 7:00PM at Town Hall



Primary Election

Tuesday, March 15; 6:30AM – 7:30PM
 President, US Senate and US House; NC
 Governor and Council of State seats, NC
 House; Guilford Board of Education, District Court seats



E-Cycle 2016

Saturday, March 19 from 9:00AM–2:00PM
 in the Town Hall parking lot

Drive-thru collection of household electronics – anything with a chip or plug. Document shredding available – limit of five boxes. No business waste accepted.



2016 Town Council and Boards

Town Council: Carla Strickland was sworn in as the mayor of Pleasant Garden at the December 1, 2015 council meeting along with re-elected council members Alan Marshall and Ron Surgeon. They joined Councilmembers Steve Brandt and Rick Wallace who have two years remaining on their current terms. Councilmembers elected Alan Marshall as the Mayor Pro Tem.

The council is holding a planning retreat on Saturday, January 16 from 9:00AM to noon at Town Hall to set goals for the coming year. If you have ideas you would like to have considered, please share them with councilmembers at or before the retreat on the 16th.

Town Boards: The Town Council appoints citizens to three boards appointed that advise and assist the council on various issues, events and projects. To be eligible, a person must be at least 18 years of age, live within the Pleasant Garden town limits, and must never have been convicted of a felony.

❖ **Zoning Board:** This board acts upon all requests to changes involving the zoning/development ordinances, including the approval of site plans. The members of the 2016 board are Alan Carroll, Bill Greene, Jamie Lockhart, James Sealey and Jim Siske. The chairman and vice chairman will be elected at the January 25th meeting.

❖ **Long-Range Planning Board:** This board makes recommendations to the Town Council on overall planning and community development issues. The members of the 2016 board are Edgar Phillips, David Seel, and Dick Winn. The chairman and vice chairman will be elected at the January 19th meeting. There are two vacancies on this board; please contact a councilmember or town staff if you are interested in serving.

❖ **Recreation Board:** This board plans and carries out special events such as the Christmas Parade, 5K, Pet Day and the Independence Day celebration. Members of the 2016 board are Dean Maddox, Lisa G. Marion, Cheryl Pillow and Cyndi Rice. There is one vacancy on this board; if you are interested in being appointed, please contact a councilmember or town staff.