

The

TOWN

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



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

October 2015

SQUARE

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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
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.

Blood Drive/Health Fair/Vision Van Saturday, October 17, 9:00AM – 1:30PM at Town Hall

The town is partnering with the American Red Cross and Pleasant Garden Lions Club to host the annual blood drive and health fair at Town Hall on Saturday, October 17, 2015. Donors are encouraged to visit the Red Cross website or call Town Hall at 674-3002 to make a convenient appointment so you won't have to wait to donate. Our goal is 20 pints of blood. Free vision and hearing screening will be offered in the state NC Lions Club Vision Van in the Town Hall parking lot. Health careers students from Southeast High School will be providing free blood pressure checks and you can drop off any unused/ discarded prescription drugs for safe disposal. Please join us on October 17th to provide the gift of life and to take advantage of these free health screenings!



Veterans Appreciation Day

2:00PM on Sunday, November 8, 2015

Pleasant Garden Elementary School Auditorium

Pleasant Garden's 17th annual Veterans Appreciation Day event will be held at 2:00PM on Sunday, November 8 in the auditorium at Pleasant Garden Elementary School. The town hosts this annual event to thank the many men and women in our community who have given of themselves and served our nation with pride, courage, and valor.

This year's featured speaker is Dr. Danny Nobles, headmaster of Oak Ridge Military Academy. An inspiring video starring local veterans will be shown. Program highlights include musical entertainment, memorial displays, recognition of the branches of the military by the Southeast High School NJROTC, and presentation of the Missing Man Table Ceremony by members of the Pleasant Garden Fire Department. Please remain and enjoy light refreshments after the event provided by the Pleasant Garden Lions Club.

Military Memorabilia Request

Anyone with military memorabilia to share for display as part of the program can drop off items at Town Hall during business hours or bring them to the school on November 8 starting at 1:00PM. Be sure to provide your contact information so we can safely return your items to you afterwards. If you have any questions, please contact the town staff at 674-3002.

Town News

Message from the Mayor

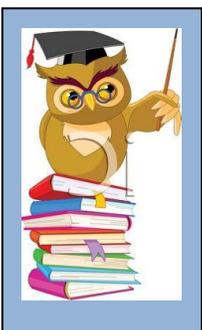
At the Regular Meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday, October 6, several important developments occurred. The first order of business was a presentation of the 2014-2015 audit report. By state statutes, every municipality is required to conduct a yearly audit. This year's audit was deemed "financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent and clear" per Victor Blackburn of Bernard Robinson, LLP. If you would like to see a complete copy of the audit, please contact Sandy Carmany at Town Hall or review it on the town website under "Financial Information."

Other important matters addressed at the October 6th meeting included the following:

- **Acceptance of the donation of the Pleasant Garden Community Center to the Town:** The Council received the "official" letter of donation from the Board of Directors of the PGCC late last week. This is just the beginning of the procedure before the Town accepts the deed. We will be seeking a PARTF Grant for upgrades to the property and offsetting the Town's match for the grant from the value of the property and buildings. However, before the deed can change hands, we must first seek a waiver from the NC Parks and Recreation Division after which we will have 18 months in which to prepare the application. Mrs. Carmany and I met with our regional PARTF Grant representative to understand the process and also to follow-up on our current application for recreational enhancements behind Town Hall. The Parks and Recreation Authority meets in Raleigh on October 30 to award this year's recipients. Hopefully, we will be approved this year.
- **Approval to purchase hand-held radios for communication during Town events or emergencies:** Mayor Pro Tem Steve Brandt and Councilman Alan Marshall met with Pleasant Garden Fire Department Chief Ray Smith to explore options for a radio communications system. With the increasing number of residents attending Town events, it's imperative that staff and fire safety officials have a reliable way to communicate. The Council unanimously approved the purchase.
- **Resolution of Support to add Walter Wright Road extension to the state road maintenance system:** You may remember that residents on Walter Wright Road petitioned the Town to loan funds for repairs to the road for repayment over 10 years. This became a very in-depth discussion and, in the end, the Town Council voted not to loan the funds. As a result, the residents met and decided to expend their own funds, repaired the road and are now eligible for state maintenance. I applaud their efforts from start to finish.
- **Approval of the Construction Contract for the Greenway:** The Council approved the contract to begin work on the greenway from Town Hall to Volunteer Park. This greenway is one more step in the overall plan for the Town's property. With good weather, it should be completed by the spring.

I would like to conclude with one final note of thanks to the entire Recreation Board for a successful Pet Day on September 26. Board Member Cheryl Pillow (and husband Barry Pillow) spent numerous hours fine-tuning the event to make it successful. Please listen to the phone tree announcements for upcoming events brought to you by the Recreation Board.

Mayor Carla Strickland



Fun Facts about Our Town

Date of Incorporation: November 7, 1997

Our 18th birthday is coming up next month!

First settled in 1786

Estimated population: 4,595 Median age: 45.5 years

Area: 15.5 square miles Population density: 307.2 people/square mile

Form of government: Mayor/Council (a mayor + four councilmembers)



TALK OF THE TOWN

Ban on Unattended Tethering of Dogs Now Being Fully Enforced

Full enforcement of the ordinance prohibiting the unattended tethering/chaining of dogs began on September 1, 2015. Residents were given 12 months after the ordinance became effective in March 2014 to comply with this ordinance. Civil penalties will now be issued to anyone in violation. The fine for the first violation is \$100, the second violation is \$300, and the third and subsequent violations are \$500.

Unattended tethering/chaining is restraining a dog with a chain, cable, wire or other device to a tree, post or similar object without its owner present while the dog is tethered or chained. Walking your dog on a leash or being outside while your dog is tethered or chained is allowed.

This ordinance was designed to improve public safety issues, reduce unwanted litters of puppies, provide increased safety and humane treatment of dogs and reduce accidental choking of dogs from unattended tethering or chaining. Other jurisdictions have reported decreases in the number of dog bites and animal cruelty cases with the adoption of similar ordinances.

Safe alternatives to unattended tethering or chaining include the following:



- ✓ Training your dog to be an inside dog,
- ✓ Installing a dog pen outside your home,
- ✓ Building a fence around your yard, or
- ✓ Remaining outside with your dog when it is tethered or chained.



For more information about the ordinance, contact Guilford County Animal Control at 336-641-5990 or visit www.guilfordhealth.org. Information is also available on the Guilford County website at www.myguilford.com.

(Information in this article was copied from the Guilford County Health Department website.)

Project Updates

- **Greenway Connector:** After finally receiving concurrence from the NC Department of Transportation, the Town Council awarded the construction contract for the greenway to the low bidder, P&S Grading, at the October 6 council meeting. Construction of a 12-foot wide paved corridor between the Town Hall parking lot and the athletic fields should begin in mid-October. Weather permitting, construction should be finished and the greenway open for use in the spring. The total estimated cost for the design and construction of this long-awaited connection between two town facilities is approximately \$155,000; federal transportation funding is covering \$120,000 of that cost.
- **PARTF Grant:** The Town Council will learn on October 30 if the town has been awarded a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant when the state Parks and Recreation Authority meets to make the funding decisions for this year. The town submitted an application in January 2015 but the approval process was delayed until the General Assembly adopted the state budget in late September that allocated the money for these grants. The state and the town would each contribute \$172,900 for the construction of a dog park, playground, and court games (bocce, horseshoes, and shuffleboard) near the picnic shelter, improve the walking trails and install a disc golf course in the wooded area behind Town Hall, and upgrade the athletic fields and add a playground at Volunteer Park.

Board Updates

- **Zoning Board:** Board members continue to discuss options to allow the development of senior/retirement communities using input from Town Attorney Hill, a developer, individual citizens, and Guilford County planners. They are searching for ways to best meet the changing housing needs of our older residents without destroying the rural character of the community. Once the board members reach tentative agreement on a viable concept, a public hearing will be scheduled to gather citizens' opinions before the board recommends text amendments to the Development Ordinance for the Town Council's consideration. The council must also hold a public hearing on the proposal before voting on the Zoning Board's recommendations.
 - **Recreation Board:** After successful completion of the Independence Day and Pet Day events, board members are now busy preparing for the upcoming Veterans Appreciation Day on November 8, the December 6 Christmas Parade, and the May 7, 2016 Discover Good Living Expo and 5K race.
 - **Long-Range Planning Board:** This lucky board has completed its current assignments from the Town Council and has not had a need to meet recently.
- Interested in serving on a town board?** Please contact a councilmember or Town Hall for an application. Appointments are for two years and will be made at the December 2nd council meeting.



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

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TOWN EVENTS



Dates to Remember

Senior Luncheon

October 20 and November 17
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.



Blood Drive/ Health Fair/Vision Van

Saturday, October 17 at Town Hall
9:00AM – 1:30PM

Free vision and hearing screenings, blood pressure checks, eyeglass adjustments, and collection of unused/discarded prescription drugs

Election Day

Tuesday, November 3

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

Election of mayor and two councilmembers



Town Council meetings

Thursday, November 5 at 7:00PM

(Date changed because of Election Day)

Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00PM

Regular monthly meeting

Veterans Appreciation Day

Sunday, November 8 at 2:00PM

Pleasant Garden Elementary School

Speakers, video, memorabilia and food



Christmas Parade and Tree-lighting

Sunday, December 6 at 3:00PM

Pleasant Garden Road

Bands, floats, performers and Santa

Holiday festivities will include food vendors, a Christmas tree lighting, carolers, and kids activities immediately following the parade

Successful Pet Day

“It was raining cats and dogs” at our September 26th Pet Day event, but it was still successful with over 150 animals receiving rabies vaccines. Many thanks are due to the staffs of the Guilford County Health Department and Southwoods Animal Hospital, Recreation Board volunteers, Assistant Clerk Tracy Cooper, and area pet stores for their generous donations of time, expertise, gift baskets and pet treats.



2015 Municipal Election

Don't forget to vote on Election Day on Tuesday, November 2! The polls at Town Hall (PG1) and Pleasant Garden Baptist Church (PG2) will be open from 6:30AM to 7:30PM. Voters will elect the mayor for a two-year term and two councilmembers for four-year terms. The only registered candidates are incumbent Mayor Carla Strickland and Councilmembers Alan Marshall and Ron Surgeon. Come to the polls and let your voice be heard!

Christmas Parade Sign-ups

Do you or your group want to join the fun and participate in the town's 36th annual Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 6th? Contact Town Hall at 674-3002 or visit www.pleasantgarden.net for a registration form. The registration fee is \$5 per entry and we must receive your form no later than November 17.

Protect our Water Supply

Everything that hits the ground eventually ends up in the water we drink – leaves, fertilizers, pet waste, oils, etc. Storm-water run-off is the #1 water pollutant in NC. Drop off used oil, paint, chemicals and other hazardous materials at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Center, 2750 Patterson Street in Greensboro Wednesday-Fridays from 10AM-6PM or on Saturdays from 8AM-2PM. Help keep our water clean and safe!

