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GARNER UPDATE

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IN THIS EDITION



White Deer Park gearing up for Groundhog Day celebration. See page 3.



Garner wins award for Big Sweep efforts. See page 3.

TOWN HALL CALENDAR

Jan. 26: Town Council work session (6 p.m., Council Chambers, 900 7th Ave.)

Feb. 1: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m., police station, 912 7th Ave.)

Starting Feb. 1, Town Council, Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment meetings will be held in a conference room in the new police station at 912 7th Ave. while the new Town Hall is under construction at 900 7th Ave. Council's regular meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTV11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).



/townofgarner

TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM



Town officials cut the ribbon for the new police station at a ceremony on Dec. 31. The station is part of a bond program approved by Garner voters.

Town Celebrates Opening of New Police Station

The Garner Police Department held the public grand opening for its new, state-of-the-art police station on Jan. 15 following a "soft opening" on Dec. 31. The ceremony featured the unveiling of a mural by Garner artist Vince Wood. The mural had been defaced with anti-police graffiti, but the community rallied behind Wood and the department to fund repair of the artwork.

The Police Department also held a community open house at the new

station, located at 912 7th Ave., on Jan. 16. That well-attended event included building tours, a child ID station, K9 team demonstrations and other activities.

The new police station is part of the \$35.7 million bond program approved by Garner voters in March 2013. The approximately 20,000-square-foot headquarters doubles the department's space and brings it under one roof. Previously, the department was spread

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To get the latest news from the Town, follow us on Twitter (@TownofGarner).



A Message from the Mayor



You can watch the mayor's 2016 State of the Town address at youtube.com/townofgarner.

One of the things I enjoy most about being mayor is putting together the State of the Town address. That's because there are always so



many things to recognize and celebrate.

The past year was especially noteworthy. We began 2015 by being named a Google Fiber community—one of only a few dozen in the nation. In the spring, we saw the opening of the state's first Cabela's

right here at White Oak. We also heard plans for the new YMCA facility on Aversboro Road.

As 2015 progressed, we approved a new subdivision off of Fayetteville Road, opened Garner's first dog park and celebrated when the Town's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department earned national accreditation.

We closed out the year by opening a new, state-of-the-art headquarters for the Garner Police Department. I want to thank Garner citizens for

approving that project as part of the bond program that was supported overwhelmingly in a March 2013 special election.

I am certain that, in the years ahead, we are going to celebrate many more successes and good times here in Garner, and I know that our town will flourish first and foremost because of its people. Happy 2016.

Ronnie S. Williams

Bond Projects —

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across three locations around town.

The police station is the biggest project to date to be completed as part of the Garner bond program. Later this year, construction will begin on a new Town Hall at the existing Town Hall campus at 900 7th Ave. Town staff have moved to temporary locations while the new Town Hall is under construction. (See the map to the right for more details.)

The Wake County Southeast Regional Library has begun offering limited services out of the old police station at 900 7th Ave. The library building next to the Town Hall campus is undergoing renovations and will reopen later in the spring. For more details about library services during the renovation, please visit wakegov.com/libraries/services/projects/Pages/serrenovation.aspx.

TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM

We've Moved!

A new Town Hall is under construction at 900 7th Ave., so staff and meetings have temporarily relocated, as indicated below:

914 7th Ave.
Administration
Economic Development
Engineering
Finance (bill payments)
Human Resources

400 Aversboro Road
Inspections
Planning

912 7th Ave. (Police Station)
Town Council, Planning Commission
and Board of Adjustment meetings



garnerbonds.com





Towne Players Present Comedy

The Towne Players' production of Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" continues with shows Friday-Saturday, Jan. 22-23 at 8 p.m. and a matinee on Jan. 23 at 2 p.m. The comedy presents a portrait of three couples successively occupying a suite at the Plaza. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the door.



We've Got the Place to be on Groundhog Day

Join us for one of the area's biggest Groundhog Day events on Feb. 2 starting at 10 a.m. at White Deer Park (2400 Aversboro Road). Snerd the Groundhog will reveal his prediction to the mayor at noon. There will be crafts, games and educational tables featuring live animals. Overflow parking will be at Lake Benson Park, across the street from White Deer Park. For more information, visit garnernc.gov/ParksWebpages/Groundhog/Main.htm.

Broadway Voices Show Jan. 30

Hugh Panaro comes to GPAC Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Individual tickets are \$35 and can be purchased online at garnerperformingartscenter.com. His long list of credits includes "The Phantom of the Opera," "Martin Guerre," "Gentleman Prefer Blondes" and "Les Miserables." He is a recipient of the prestigious Edwin Forrest Award.



Garner Wins Big Sweep Excellence Award

The Town of Garner was awarded the 2015 Big Sweep Excellence Award by the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors at its 50th Anniversary Conservation Awards Celebration in December. Wake County Big Sweep is a volunteer cleanup of local creeks, streams, lakes and wetlands countywide.

The Town conducts Big Sweep cleanups in both fall and spring, leading hundreds of volunteers in

removing tons of unsightly litter from the environment. This is accomplished by two zone captains from two Garner departments, Jaclyn Sumner in Engineering and Katie Spencer from Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources. Kendrick Mayes from Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources also assists the town's two Big Sweep zone co-captains.

Since 2006, the Town has engaged a total of 623 volunteers in removing

7,457 pounds of litter along Garner roadways and from White Deer and Lake Benson parks. The removal of trash improves Lake Benson, a drinking water reservoir for Garner and Raleigh, as well as Swift Creek, one of Wake County's largest tributaries to the Neuse River.

To volunteer or for more information on Big Sweep events in Garner, call White Deer Park at (919) 661-6982.

You can follow Garner PRCR on Twitter (@GarnerPRCR).



Dickerson Named Interim Town Manager

The Town Council has named Rodney Dickerson, who was previously serving as assistant town manager over operations, as Garner's



interim town manager. He replaces Hardin Watkins, who left the Town on Jan. 4 to become city manager in Burlington, N.C.

The Town Council made the appointment at its Dec. 15 regular meeting. Dickerson assumed his interim manager duties on Jan. 5.

Dickerson had previously served as interim town manager for several weeks before Watkins was named

town manager in 2007 and for two other brief stints while town managers were out for health-related reasons.

He joined the Town of Garner in 2001 and has over 14 and a half years of professional local government executive experience. He was appointed assistant town manager in 2004 after serving for over three years as assistant to the town manager.

“Rodney has a wealth of professional experience and has the trust and respect of staff and the Town’s elected leaders,” Mayor Ronnie Williams said. “It’s very reassuring that he has stepped in before as interim manager. He knows what to do, and he will

have the support of a talented and dedicated staff. Citizens can expect a continuation of excellent service from the Town.”

Dickerson earned a bachelor’s degree from Duke University in 1990 and a master of public administration from N.C. State University in 2001. He completed the UNC-CH Public Executive Leadership Academy in 2007.

Dickerson also recently received the credentialed manager designation from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

The Town Council has not yet announced plans for selecting a permanent successor to Watkins.



Read all of the Town’s news releases at garnernc.gov.

Town Seeks Appointees to Advisory Boards

The Town of Garner is currently accepting applications for appointments to three different volunteer citizens advisory bodies.

The first is the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. The committee serves in an advisory capacity with the Town of Garner in planning, coordinating and directing of programs and activities at the Garner Senior Center. (205 E. Garner Road). Committee members must be eligible to participate in senior activities by being at least 55 years of age. The committee meets bimonthly every third Friday at 9 a.m. at the Garner Senior Center.

The Town is also accepting applications for an appointment to the Planning Commission. This appointment is for a citizen who resides outside Garner town limits but within the town’s extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The commission

requires some candidates to have experience in fields such as architecture, planning, development, landscaping, the arts or other fields related to urban design or appearance. The Planning Commission will meet the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the new police station at 912 7th Ave.

The Town is also seeking to fill a vacancy on the Veterans Advisory Committee. This committee operates as a public interface between Garner residents and Town officials to explore ways to honor and recognize the service of area veterans. It assists the Town’s planning for ceremonies, observances, holidays and events honoring veterans. The committee also engages with local veterans organizations and assists in the preservation, operation, integrity, maintenance and upkeep of the Garner Veterans Memorial at Lake Benson Park. The committee meets

at 9 a.m. on the first Monday of a bimonthly schedule.

Citizens interested in any of these positions should contact the town clerk’s office for an application at (919) 773-4406 or by email at sgibson@garnernc.gov.

Applications are also available at garnernc.gov/Forms/Administration/Application_Bd_Comm.pdf.

2016 Solid Waste Brochures Mailed Out in December

The 2016 Solid Waste Brochure was mailed to Garner residents on Dec. 30. If you did not receive a brochure in the mail, please contact Public Works at (919) 772-7600.