

April 2016

# GARNER

# UPDATE

Vol. 87, No. 93

## IN THIS EDITION



Big Sweep/Litter Sweep rescheduled for May 7. See page 3.



Towne Players presenting 'Godspell.' See page 3.

## TOWN HALL CALENDAR

April 19: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

April 26: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

May 2: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Town Council, Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment meetings are held in the training room in the new police station at 912 7th Ave. while the new Town Hall is under construction. The Town Council's regular meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTV11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99). They can also be watched on demand at [garnernc.gov](http://garnernc.gov).



[@townofgarner](https://twitter.com/townofgarner)



**Rodney Dickerson, previously assistant town manager and interim town manager, was appointed town manager on March 29.**

## Town Council Appoints Dickerson to be Manager

The Town Council named Rodney Dickerson as Garner's new town manager at its March 29 work session.

Dickerson had been serving as the interim town manager since Jan. 5, when former town manager Hardin Watkins left to take the city manager job in Burlington. He previously had served as Garner's assistant town manager and assistant town manager-operations since 2004. Prior to that, Dickerson was assistant to the town manager for over three years. He joined the Town of Garner in 2001.

Dickerson began his career in local government with Cary, where he worked for eight years in Inspections.

"The Council and I place great value

on Rodney's well-demonstrated commitment to Garner," Mayor Ronnie Williams said. "He is a consummate professional and has helped move Garner forward in a multitude of ways. He led the Town's budget team for several years, has crafted important Town policies and has overseen essential operations."

"Rodney is well-known and well-respected throughout the Garner community," the mayor added.

In his role as assistant town manager-operations, Dickerson oversaw the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, Public Works and Information Technology departments as well as the neighborhood improve-

**Please see Dickerson, page 2**



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](http://youtube.com/townofgarner).

Leadership comes in different forms, and it takes many kinds of leadership to build a strong, vibrant community.



I am proud of the decision our Town Council made in selecting Rodney Dickerson to be Garner's new town manager. Over the years, I have observed Rodney's strong

leadership skills and his outstanding rapport with Town staff. I am confident he will do an outstanding job in

leading the Town in this next chapter of its history.

In order to have a great community, you also need citizens to step forward as leaders. One of those leaders in our community has been Pam Cash. As the article on page four illustrates, Pam has been a strong advocate for downtown Garner, and her leadership on downtown revitalization has helped position that area for a fantastic rejuvenation.

We are thankful for citizens such as Pam. In fact, we value citizen lead-

ership so much that we are starting up a new, free academy to develop citizen leaders. More information about that worthy program is also on page four, located (quite appropriately) right under the article about Pam.

Garner is a great place to be because of the efforts of many leaders—not only those in the Town government, but also its citizen leaders. See you around!

*Ronnie S. Williams*  
Ronnie S. Williams

## Dickerson

Continued from page 1

ment manager. In addition to having served as interim town manager since this January, he also filled that role for the Town for other brief periods.

"As a senior leader in our Town for 15 years, Rodney has built strong, positive relationships with our employees," Mayor Williams said. "He has a great rapport with staff across all departments."

Dickerson earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Duke University in 1990 and a master of public administration degree from N.C. State University in 2001. He completed the UNC-CH Public Executive Leadership Academy in 2007. Last fall, Dickerson received the credentialed manager designation from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

Dickerson is married and has a young son.

### New to the Force

Chief Brandon Zuidema (second from right) welcomes (from left) Officers Nathan Price, Silvestre Mendoza and Kevin Peña to the Garner PD. They were sworn in April 4.



## Medicine Drop Event April 29

The Garner Police Department is holding a medication take-back event on Friday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Garner Police Station, located at 912 7th Ave. The service is free, anonymous, and no questions will be asked.

By providing safe and secure ways for people to get rid of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications, Operation Medicine

Drop helps prevent accidental poisonings and drug abuse while also protecting our waters.

Please do not bring any liquids or syringes to the event, and leave medications in their original containers if possible. More information about Operation Medicine Drop can be found at [ncsafekids.org](http://ncsafekids.org) or by calling Sgt. Sophia Sandlin at (919) 772-8810, ext. 5158.



## Summer's Around the Corner

It's hard to believe, but it's time to start thinking about summer camp options. Learn what Garner PRCR offers at [apm.activecommunities.com/garnerprcr](http://apm.activecommunities.com/garnerprcr).



## Big Sweep/Litter Sweep Cleanup Reset for May 7

Join the Town of Garner for its spring Big Sweep/Litter Sweep event on Saturday, May 7 (rescheduled from April 2). This semi-annual event relies on volunteers from the Garner area to help pick up trash along Garner roadways and along waterways in the town.

Participants will receive their assignments and equipment (gloves, bags, etc.) at 9 a.m. at the Holly Shelter at White Deer Park (2400 Aversboro Road) on the day of the event.

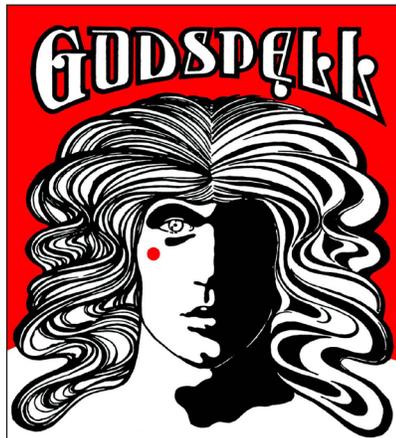
Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. Registration can be completed online at [apm.activecommunities.com/garnerprcr](http://apm.activecommunities.com/garnerprcr) or by calling White Deer Park Nature Center at (919) 661-6982. On-site registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Holly Shelter on the day of the event.

Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and bring sun protection. Breakfast and water will be provided.

For more information, contact White Deer Park Nature Center at (919) 661-6982.

## Towne Players Present 'Godspell'

The Towne Players of Garner are presenting Stephen Schwartz's musical "Godspell" with shows April 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 8 p.m.—as well as 2 p.m. matinees on April 16 and 23. "Godspell" is a timeless tale based on the Gospel According to Matthew. Jesus's messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life in this show. Tickets are available at the door and are \$15—only \$12 for the matinee performances. For more information, visit [garnerperformingartscenter.com](http://garnerperformingartscenter.com) or follow the Towne Players of Garner on Facebook.



## 'Wicked' Star at GPAC for April 30 Show

David Burnham, who was last seen on Broadway in the mega-hit musical "Wicked," comes to Garner Performing Arts Center on April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the next show in the Broadway Voices series.



Burnham played Fiyero in "Wicked," a role that he originated in the developmental workshops of the show. He is an original Broadway cast member of the musical "The Light In The Piazza," performing both

on the Tony Awards and the PBS telecast "Live From Lincoln Center." He is the recipient of the prestigious Helen Hayes Award for best actor as well as the Garland Award best actor winner for his portrayal of Fabrizio in the national tour of "The Light In The Piazza." Burnham first gained critical acclaim when, after a two-year search, he was chosen to replace Donny Osmond as Joseph in the national tour of "Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased online at [garnerperformingartscenter.com](http://garnerperformingartscenter.com).

## Town Seeks July 3 Vendors, Partners

The Town of Garner is now accepting applications for nonprofit food vendors, community organizations and craft partners for our July 3 Independence Day Celebration. Spaces are limited, and all applications must be received by Friday, May 20. For more information or to receive an application, please contact Jill McAllister, events and box office coordinator, at [jmcallister@garnernc.gov](mailto:jmcallister@garnernc.gov) or by phone at (919) 661-4602.



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



## Pam Cash Named Main Street Champion

Pam Cash was honored last month as a 2015 Main Street Champion during the North Carolina Main Street Conference in Goldsboro. Cash was selected by the Garner Revitalization Association (GRA) for this special recognition in appreciation of her long-term dedication to downtown revitalization in Garner.

In recommending Cash for the honor, the GRA said that she “spent 20 years championing downtown revitalization in Garner, spurred by her strong desire to contribute and make her community better. Pam was a catalyzing force behind early redevelopment activities.”

Cash “started a community watch to combat perceptions that downtown was the ‘bad’ side of town and helped found the Friends of Historic Garner, which evolved into the Gar-



**Pam Cash, a 2016 North Carolina Main Street Champion, was instrumental in the creation of the Garner Revitalization Association.**

ner Revitalization Association,” the GRA recommendation said. “Once Pam discovered the Main Street Program, she began attending conferences on her own dime to bring ideas back to the community.”

The GRA said that perhaps Cash’s

biggest contribution was her constant lobbying of Town Council “to pay attention to Main Street when everyone else hoped downtown Garner would simply wither away.”

“Pam’s special talent was pulling people together and building coalitions through the power of suggestion; without her, downtown Garner would not be the place it is today,” the GRA said. “Her behind-the-scenes activism left a great legacy to our current Main Street revitalization program.”

The GRA is a non-profit organization that supports the development of the downtown area as a vibrant business, residential, entertainment and cultural center in partnership with government and private organizations following the Main Street Four-Point Approach.



Follow downtown Garner on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

## Town Launching Citizen Leadership Academy

Want to become a leader in your community? Then sign up now for the inaugural session of the Garner Leadership Academy.

The academy is a series of classes offered to help citizens develop skills as a neighborhood or community leader. Graduates of the academy will be positioned to go on to leadership roles in neighborhood organizations, the Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Committee, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and the Veterans Advisory Committee.

### Who Can Attend

The academy is free for residents of the Town of Garner and its area of extraterritorial jurisdiction. The program is not open to residents outside

of the Town of Garner. Completion of Garner 101 is not a prerequisite for this course but is highly recommended. Preference may be given to people who have served in leadership roles in homeowners associations or similar community groups as well as those in the business community. Class size will be limited to 15 to encourage participants to interact with each other and with instructors.

### Class Schedule

**June 9** – Leadership Development; Defining Personal Leadership Style (including True Colors Assessment)  
**June 16** – Understanding Group Dynamics; Understanding Group Dynamics/Group Facilitation  
**June 23** – Understanding Group Dynamics; Conflict Resolution  
**June 30** – Asset-Based Community

Development; Principles of Asset-Based Community Development  
**July 7** – Asset-Based Community Development; Asset Mapping  
**July 14** – Asset-Based Community Development; Mobilizing Groups to Act/Leading by Stepping Back  
**July 21** – Graduation Ceremony

All classes, including the graduation ceremony, will be held from 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. at White Deer Park Nature Center (2400 Aversboro Road).

An application for the class can be found at [bit.ly/clacademy](http://bit.ly/clacademy). Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, contact Neighborhood Improvement Manager Reginald Buie at (919) 773-4446 or [rbuie@garnernc.gov](mailto:rbuie@garnernc.gov).