

May 2016

GARNER

UPDATE

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IN THIS EDITION



Movie night set for May 27. See page 3.



Stevie Wonder tribute act comes to GPAC May 14. See page 3.

TOWN HALL CALENDAR

May 17: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

May 24: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

June 6: 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.



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



The Southeast Regional Library, located at 908 7th Ave., is reopening on May 21 following an extensive renovation project that started last October.

Library Set to Reopen on May 21 with Celebration

Southeast Regional Library, located at 908 7th Ave. in Garner, will reopen to the public on **Saturday, May 21** at 10 a.m.

The grand reopening celebration will feature a story time at 10:30 a.m. and a presentation, titled Reading is Magic: Inflate your Mind, by Clark Sides from Capital Balloon Studios at 2:30 p.m.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., teens can learn about the Teen Leadership Corp program, and adults can learn about personalized library services, including job search assistance, selecting books for book clubs, downloading library books to phones and

devices, and using library resources for research. Teens can enter to win Beats Headphones, and adults can enter to win a Kindle.

The library closed last October for renovation. The interior has been freshly painted and refurbished with new carpet, furnishings and shelving, and includes an updated floor plan. The renovation is part of the 2007 Wake County Capital Improvement Plan.

The Southeast Regional Library is open Monday-Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sundays, from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, please visit wakegov.com/libraries/events.



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.

I hope you'll be able to join us for Garner's annual Memorial Day observance on Monday, May 30 at 1:30 p.m. The setting—the Garner



Veterans Memorial—could hardly be more fitting. It's always an honor to preside over that fine event.

I also highly recommend the

Salute to the Troops performance at Aversboro Road Baptist on Sunday,

May 22. It's sure to be an outstanding, patriotic event.

While I'm on the topic of remembering the service and sacrifices of our veterans, I'd like to urge you to take a moment to consider the reasons why they have given so much—in some cases, including their lives—to our country. One of the most important reasons, I believe, is to guarantee that we keep the freedom to participate in the civic life of our nation. And participation at the local level is where you can make the

most tangible difference.

As a veteran and long-tenured local government official, I believe strongly in civic engagement. We affirmed the importance of civic engagement to our town when we won the All-America City Award nearly three years ago. As we come up on Memorial Day and the anniversary of winning All-America City, please consider how you can become a more engaged citizen.

Ronnie S. Williams

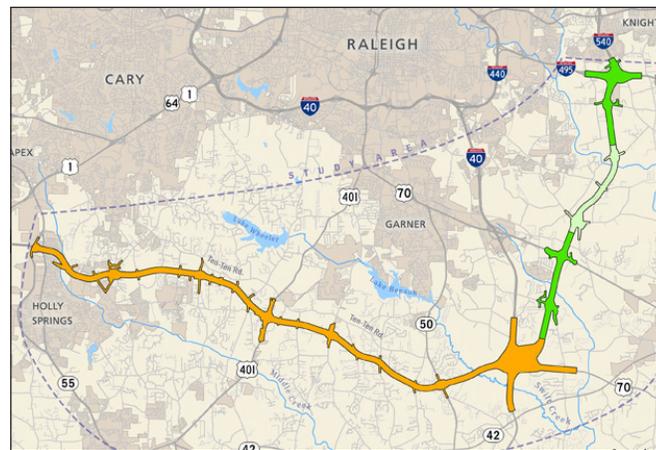
Garner Education Foundation Holding Two May Events

May is a big month for the Garner Education Foundation. The annual Marjorie Barefoot Celebration was held on May 9 at Garner Performing Arts Center. The foundation honored the Teacher of the Year and Teacher Assistant of the Year from each Garner school. It also recognized school employee retirees and awarded 13 scholarships to Garner Magnet High School seniors. This event is a collaboration involving the Town of Garner, Garner Chamber of Commerce and Garner Education Foundation.

On May 16, the foundation will hold the SCOR luncheon to honor the 60 volunteers who read with second-grade students each week throughout the school year.

The Garner Education Foundation is indebted to its major sponsors: Wells Fargo, FD Huebner (McDonalds), the Bell Family, the Duke Energy Foundation and the Town of Garner.

For more information, please visit garnered-foundation.com.



Orange Route Clears Another Hurdle

NCDOT announced in late April that Detailed Study Alternative 2 was selected as the preferred alternative for the Southeast Extension of the 540 Triangle Expressway project. The route goes from west to east and combines the proposed orange, green (southern portion), mint and green (northern portion) corridor segments. The route was selected as the preferred choice because it is formally supported by all local governments and because it minimizes the number of relocations of homes and businesses, compared to other alternatives. For more information, please visit ncdot.gov/projects/complete540.



The next Friday Family Flicks event (featuring "The Peanuts Movie") at Lake Benson Park is May 27 at 8:30 p.m. Residents and non-residents can also camp out overnight at the park on that evening. Register for camping at [this link](#) or call parks staff at (919) 661-6982. (No registration necessary for the FREE movie.)

Stevie Wonder Tribute Act Comes to GPAC on May 14

Hear the music of the legendary Stevie Wonder at Garner Performing Arts Center on **Saturday, May 14** at 7:30 p.m.

While most Stevie Wonder tribute artists rely on pre-recorded music, Natural Wonder rolls into town with the full band experience complete with a crack rhythm section, full-fledged horn ensemble and the formidable Gabriel Bello, a #1 Billboard-ranked vocalist, producer and multi-instrumentalist.

Bello channels the energy and artistry that have made Stevie Wonder an icon across decades and genres.



Gabriel Bello brings his Stevie Wonder show to GPAC on May 14.

Natural Wonder is the ultimate Stevie Wonder experience.

Tickets are \$20 in advance (\$23 at the door) and can be purchased at garnerperformingartscenter.com.

Downtown Sounds Promises Great Music, Food and More

The Downtown Sounds music/food truck festival comes to the back lawn of Garner Performing Arts Center on **Sunday, June 5** from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Music acts are Swivel Hip and Liquid Pleasure.

Food trucks include Ty's All Natural, Baozi, Captain Pancho's, King's Authentic Philly Cheesesteaks, Virgil's Jamaica, Two Roosters Ice Cream and Sweet Stacey Cakes. Local brewers Deep River and Double Barley also will be on hand.



Learn more by logging on to Facebook and going to the [event page](#) or visit downtowngarner.com.

Memorial Day Event, Salute to Troops Planned

Garner's annual Memorial Day observance will be held **Monday, May 30** at 1:30 p.m. at the Garner Veterans Memorial in Lake Benson Park (921 Buffalo Road). Mayor Ronnie Williams will preside. The event is free, and the public is welcome.

The Salute to the Troops performance, featuring the Second Marine Aircraft Wing Band, will be held **Sunday, May 22** at 6 p.m. at Aversboro Road Baptist Church (1600 Aversboro Road). This event is also free and open to the general public.

GPD Planning Cops on Top Event

The Garner Police Department will be hosting its semi-annual Cops on Top fundraiser event **Thursday, May 12 through Saturday, May 14** from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Garner Towne Square Chick-fil-A (2720 Timber Drive). There will be special family day activities on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. including a stuffed cow drop, inflatables, face painting, cornhole and emergency vehicles on display.

Cops on Top is an event where officers stand on the roof of a business to raise money and awareness for the Special Olympics. Garner PD will have various merchandise for sale and will be accepting monetary donations. Cash, check or credit card will be accepted. All proceeds will go directly to benefit the nearly 40,000 athletes of the Special Olympics.

For more information, please contact Officer Judy Benitez or Officer Kevan Anderson at (919) 772-8810.



You can follow Garner PD on Twitter (@Garner Police).



Pair of Town Publications Win Awards

The Town of Garner was among 14 North Carolina governments to earn recognition in the ninth annual North Carolina City & County Communicators' (NC3C) Excellence in Communications Awards on April 14 at the organization's annual conference. The Town won two second-place awards in the categories of marketing tools (direct mail or print advertising) and printed publications (brochure).

The award-winning publications were the 2015-17 Guide to Garner, which was mailed to all households within Town limits last fall, and a color brochure distributed to select economic development prospects last year. Rick Mercier, the Town's communications manager, led the Guide to Garner project and contributed written content. John Hodges, assistant town manager-development services, and Joe Stallings, the Town's economic development director, co-led the brochure project along with Mercier.

Judges for the NC3C Excellence in Communications Awards were government communication professionals from Texas, Colorado and Florida. Each judge had previously won state or national awards.

Since 2012, the Town has won 10 Excellence in Communications Awards from NC3C for a wide range of print, broadcast and digital products as well as for its Scotty McCreery "American Idol" homecoming event in 2011. The Town also has won numerous other state and national awards over that period for a variety of communications and marketing efforts.



Did you know that the Town of Garner is now on Instagram?

Dickerson Earns Alumni Honor from N.C. State

Town Manager Rodney Dickerson has been named N.C. State's Outstanding Public Administration Alumni for 2016.

Dickerson was the unanimous choice of N.C. State's public administration faculty, according to an award letter from Professor and Chair of Public Administration Jerrell Cogburn. He was formally recognized May 7 at N.C. State's graduation ceremonies for its master's in public administration (MPA) program.

The faculty noted Dickerson's longevity with the Town of Garner, saying it exemplifies his strong commitment to the community and, in turn, the community's trust in him.

"Clearly, your professional public service has made—and continues to make—an important difference," Cogburn wrote. "We are truly proud to claim you as an MPA alumnus and delighted to offer this award."

Dickerson graduated with a



Town Manager Rodney Dickerson last month was selected to be N.C. State's Outstanding Public Administration Alumni for 2016.

master's degree in public administration from N.C. State in 2001. He has served in executive leadership roles with the Town of Garner since 2001. Dickerson was appointed town manager in March after having been interim town manager since January. He had previously served as an assistant town manager since 2004.

GPD Seeks Participation in Citizen Survey

How well is the Garner PD doing? Complete the citizens survey and let us know.

Please take a few moments and answer the questions so that we may get your perspectives on how well your Police Department is doing. Your input and honesty is appreciated and will go a long way toward

improving the Police Department's service to you and our community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sgt. Sandlin with the Police Department at (919) 772-8810, ext. 5158 or ssandlin@garnernc.gov. You can find the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GPDCitizensurvey>. Responses will be accepted until May 20.