

# GARNER

# UPDATE

## IN THIS EDITION



Light Up Main, parade set for Dec. 2-3. See page 3.



Fire department gets great news. See page 4.

## TOWN HALL CALENDAR

Nov. 22: Town Council meeting (7 p.m.)

Nov. 24-25: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY; TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

Nov. 29: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

Dec. 5: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Dec. 20: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

*Town Council meetings are held in the training room in the police station at 912 7th Ave. 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**

## TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM



**Town elected officials and staff broke ground on the 40,000-square-foot Garner Recreation Center at an Oct. 19 ceremony.**

## Town Breaks Ground on Downtown Recreation Center

Town of Garner elected officials, staff and dignitaries officially broke ground Oct. 19 on the Garner Recreation Center, which will be located at the corner of Main and Montague streets in historic downtown Garner.

The nearly 40,000-square-foot facility will include a gymnasium with three regulation-size high school basketball courts, a raised, indoor exercise/walking track, aerobics/fitness, art and multipurpose rooms and administrative offices for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources staff. Outdoor features will include a

multi-purpose field, open gathering and play spaces, reading and seating areas and multi-use paths for walking, jogging and biking.

The budget for the project is approximately \$8.8 million. The center is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

“This center is highly anticipated. It has been a long time coming,” Mayor Ronnie Williams said. “It will be accessible to all members of our community, and it will enable our Parks,

**Please see REC CENTER, page 4**



A video simulation of the new recreation center can be found at [youtube.com/townofgarner](https://www.youtube.com/townofgarner).



# A Message from the Mayor



Episodes of the mayor's "Great People in Garner" can be found at [youtube.com/townofgarner](https://www.youtube.com/townofgarner).

It has been a year since Council Members Johns, Kennedy, Marshburn



and I won re-election, and, as I noted at the Nov. 7 Town Council meeting, a great deal has been accomplished in the past 12 months. Highlights include opening the new

police station, breaking ground on the

new Town Hall and Recreation Center, hiring a new town manager and purchasing a major piece of property for future park development. The Town continues to be on the right track, and we'll need strong citizen engagement in the months and years ahead.

I want to take the opportunity in this brief message to thank outgoing Public Works Director Paul Cox for his outstanding service to our town. Paul

and his team do so much behind the scenes to make Garner look good and run smoothly. Under Paul's leadership, Garner's Public Works Department became the first public works agency in the state to earn national accreditation from the American Public Works Association. Congratulations and best wishes, Paul.

Ronnie S. Williams

## PRCR Staff Member Wins National Honor

Marketing and Events Coordinator Kendrick Mayes recently was awarded the National Recreation and Park Ethnic



Minority Society Young Professional Award during the 2016 National Recreation and Park Association Annual Conference.

The award is given to a member of the National Recreation and Park Ethnic

Minority Society who has a minimum of five years of experience in the organization and has displayed leadership in the field of parks and recreation.

"Receiving recognition on the national level is quite an accomplishment," said Cultural Arts and Events Manager Debbie Dunn, who is Mayes's supervisor in Garner's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

"Kendrick's dedication to the Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is evident in his

work ethic and his ability to communicate to a wide audience. We are fortunate to have such a devoted young professional on our team," Dunn said.

Mayes graduated from the parks and recreation program at Catawba College and has a master's degree in recreation administration from North Carolina Central University. He started in his current role with the Town of Garner in July 2014 after having interned with the Town for approximately a year.

### Free Personal Finance Workshops Scheduled for Dec. 5 at GPAC

The Town of Garner will host two personal finance workshops on **Monday, Dec. 5**. A money management workshop focusing on helping people discern their spending habits, titled "It's Your Money, It's Your Goals," will be held starting at 10 a.m. at Garner Performing Arts Center (742 W. Garner Road). The sec-

ond workshop, "Good Debt, Bad Debt: Using Credit Wisely," will start at 1:30 p.m., also at GPAC. Both workshops are free.

For more information or to register, contact Neighborhood Improvement Manager Reginald Buie at [rbuie@garnernc.gov](mailto:rbuie@garnernc.gov) or (919) 773-4446.

### Waste Pickup Schedule Altered Due to Holiday

Thanksgiving falls on Thursday, Nov. 24 this year. There will be no solid waste collection on that day; Thursday routes will receive service on Friday, Nov. 25. Friday routes will receive service on Saturday, Nov. 26. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday routes will be worked on schedule.

For more information, contact Public Works at (919) 772-7600.



Retiring Public Works Director Paul Cox will have time to take it easy in his new rocking chair.

## Cox Retires After 24 Years with Town

Paul Cox retired as the Town of Garner's public works director after 24 years with the Town. The Garner native served for 12 years as director of the Public Works Department, overseeing it as the Town grew by leaps and bounds.

Under Cox's leadership and guidance, Garner's Public Works Department in 2014 became the first public works agency in North Carolina to be nationally accredited by the American Public Works Association—and one of only 108 agencies nationwide.

Earlier this year, the APWA presented Cox with the Robert S. Hopson Leadership Service Award.

Cox served the APWA North Carolina Chapter in several leadership capacities including president of the Streets Division in 2010. He also served as a director on the APWA-NC Executive Board and chaired the Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE) Committee.



Light Up Main, Garner's annual tree-lighting festival, includes entertainment by local schools, churches and others.

## Light Up Main, Christmas Parade Set for Dec. 2-3

Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources and the Garner Revitalization Association will kick off the holiday season at Light Up Main, our annual downtown Garner Christmas tree lighting, on **Friday, Dec. 2** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Join friends and neighbors for great food, crafts and entertainment from Garner residents and businesses. And, of course, no Christmas event would be complete without a visit from the North Pole's two most prominent residents—Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

On the next day, **Saturday, Dec. 3**, Garner will have its annual Christmas Parade at 2 p.m. Marching bands, floats, classic cars, Santa Claus and many other entries will make their way through downtown Garner, bringing together thousands of Garner residents, businesses and entertainers for a true show of community Christmas spirit.

Both events will be held rain or shine. Learn more by visiting [garnernc.gov](http://garnernc.gov).



Learn more about what's happening downtown at [downtowngarner.com](http://downtowngarner.com).

## Pop Up Market Slated for Nov. 26

Downtown Garner celebrates Small Business Saturday on Nov. 26 with the last Pop Up Market of the year from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Garner Recreational Park (221 E. Garner Road). Get a jumpstart on your Christmas shop-



ping while supporting local artisans and crafters.

This month's market features 40 vendors selling hand-crafted home goods, jewelry, bath and body products, coffee and baked goods, clothing, florals and more. Visit the Downtown Garner tent to pick up a free Shop Local tote bag while supplies last.



## Garner Fire-Rescue Earns Improved Insurance Ratings

Garner Fire-Rescue has improved its current insurance (ISO) rating from a class 4 in the Town of Garner to a class 2 and its Wake County area rating from a class 6 to class 4. The class 2 rating for in town puts Garner Fire-Rescue in the top 1.6 percent of fire departments in the country.

and State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin said.

The rating system ranges from 1 to 10. Most rural departments fall into a 9 category across the state. The lower the numerical rating, the better equipped, trained and prepared the department has been determined to be, and that significantly lowers property owners' insurance ratings.

The successful inspection evaluated Garner Fire-Rescue's staffing levels, equipment inventory, maintenance of resources, communication capabilities and water supply system.

"I'd like to congratulate Chief Poole for the department's performance and for the hard work of all the department members. The citizens of these districts should rest easy knowing they have a fine group of firefighters protecting them and their property in case of an emergency." Insurance Commissioner

## Rec Center

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Recreation and Cultural Resources Department to significantly expand its already-stellar programming."

In 2009, ConAgra donated \$2.5 million to the Town for a recreation center. In 2013, Garner voters overwhelmingly supported Parks and Recreational Bonds that included \$3.9 million for a new center. The Town also received over \$400,000 in grants for the project from the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Authority and John Rex Endowment.

## Interim Public Works Director Named

Town Manager Rodney Dickerson announced on Nov. 16 that he had appointed Forrest Jones as the Town of Garner's interim public works director effective Nov. 19. Jones will hold the position until there is a permanent replacement for retiring Public Works Director Paul Cox.



Jones was hired in August 2001 as the Public Works Department's streets supervisor, promoted to operations manager in July 2005 and was elevated to assistant public works director in March 2010.

Town Manager Dickerson noted that Jones has done an admirable job supervising operations, assisting with budgets and contributing to the long-range plans of the Public Works Department. He also observed that Jones played a key role in the department's national accreditation in 2014.



Learn more about Garner Fire-Rescue at [garnerfire.com](http://garnerfire.com).

## Second Garner Industrial Site Gets AT&T 'Fiber Ready' Status

AT&T and the Town of Garner announced on Oct. 31 that the Garner Technology Center (the former ConAgra site) has been designated AT&T Fiber Ready. It is the second business park in Garner to receive this designation. Greenfield South Business Park earned the designation earlier in the year.



message that Garner is ready to help businesses grow and succeed while providing a quality of life that is second-to-none."

The AT&T Fiber Ready designation helps economic development leaders to more effectively position their communities for site selection by emphasizing the availability of high-speed, fiber-based services.

With almost 100 acres adjacent to Interstate 40, the Garner Technology Center is considered the premier industrial site in Wake County.

"In an Information Age economy, we are in direct competition with large cities and metro regions across this country for the technology-driven jobs of the future," said Mayor Ronnie Williams. "Having two parks with this certification sends a strong

For more information about the Garner Technology Center and other economic development opportunities in Garner, please contact Garner Economic Development Director Joe Stallings at (919) 773-4431 or at [jstallings@garnernc.gov](mailto:jstallings@garnernc.gov).