

GARNER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 5, Number 1 – March 2023

Our mission: Preserving the history of Garner and nearby crossroads, educating youth and promoting Garner's story in and outside of the community.



Museum Hours Set to Change Beginning March 25

After surveying operating hours of other small museums, the GAHS Executive Committee will be changing the hours of Museum operation, beginning March 25. The new hours will be from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. We hope that these new hours will be more conducive to having parents bring their children to visit after school and for families who would like Saturday afternoon outings. As always, the Museum can be open by appointment at other times to accommodate visitors. We will also be open for most Downtown events. This information will be posted on our website and Google page.

New Museum Hours
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays & Saturdays
Other Times by Appointment

New Board Members Appointed

At its January 12th meeting, the Garner Area Historical Society Board of Directors voted to approve two new Board Members. Joyce Stephens and Joe Ben Johnson were appointed to fill the seats of two members who retired from their Board positions. The outgoing members are Anne Phillips Holland and Barbara Kennedy. Each has served several years on

the Board, and we appreciate the wisdom and insights they have shared with us. Barbara will continue to serve as a Docent and on the Museum committee.

New Board appointee Joyce Stephens is a long-time resident of Garner who has been involved in the Downtown area for several years. A retired educator, she is currently serving as the Chairperson of the Downtown Garner Association. Joyce has volunteered at our past events, as a Docent at the Museum and on our Marketing Committee. Welcome to the Board, Joyce!

Joe Ben Johnson is a Garner native and is well-versed in Garner history. He was approved by the Board as the new Treasurer when Karen Padgett stepped away from that position. (Karen will remain on the Board and on the Executive Committee.) We appreciate Joe's willingness to take on the Treasurer's position. His technical skill has already proved valuable to the museum, and his knowledge has brought our bookkeeping and record keeping into the "high-tech" era. Thank you, Joe!

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Garner History Museum at the Depot/
Garner Area Historical Society is a
501(C)(3) non-profit organization.
P. O. Box 156, Garner, NC 27529
Museum location: 106 Pearl St., Garner NC

Civitan Group Tours Museum

On Thursday evening, March 16, a group of Garner Civitan Club members visited the Garner History Museum at the Depot. We were delighted to show



these folks around the Museum! Call us or email us to arrange for your group to visit.



Old Garner High 100th Anniversary Celebration Set for September 2023

The Garner Area Historical Society is excited to participate in the 100th anniversary celebration of the historic Garner High School. Spearheaded by Amy Pridgen, Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Arts & Culture Superintendent, this year marks the opening of Garner’s “new” high school in September of 1923.



If you have visited the Garner History Museum at the Depot, you have seen the old High School featured prominently in our Schools exhibit; if not, please come to see it. Stay tuned for more information about this fun “Birthday Celebration” in September! Look for events to be announced on our website.

Street Improvements: A Temporary Inconvenience

Bump, bump, bounce, bump!! Yep, Pearl Street is a bouncy, bumpy mess—but not for too long! The planned townhome development across the street from the Museum is progressing, and sometimes progress is uncomfortable. The ultimate outcome will be new pavement, sidewalks, lighting and parking designated for the Museum; a very attractive streetscape is planned. Ultimately the Museum’s location will be more accessible to pedestrians; we will certainly welcome those walkers and strollers in to visit!

If you should visit and find the Main Street end of Pearl Street closed, take Montague Street to Parker Street to access both GBI and the Museum. By the same token, motorists can get directly onto Highway 70 by taking Parker Street to Montague Street. This will be helpful when construction is taking place in the Highway 50/Main Street area, as well.

1953 Class Ring Reunited with Family of Garner Graduate

The Garner Area Historical Society received an email a few months ago from someone who had found a 1953 Garner High class ring. Jamie Henegar had found the ring in another town some years ago and was attempting to reunite the ring with its owner. Through researching a 1953 Garner High yearbook, Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com, Judy Bass and Karen Padgett were “on the case.” Sadly, the Garner graduate had passed away a few years ago, but we were delighted to find her son and facilitate his receiving his mom’s class ring from the person who found it. We love historical happenstance, as well as happy endings! Thanks to all involved in solving the mystery.