



## GARNER REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION

111 West Main Street, Suite 200, Garner NC 27529  
Phone 919-773-4402 email: [downtowngarner@nc.rr.com](mailto:downtowngarner@nc.rr.com)  
Garner: A North Carolina Main Street Community



### NEWS RELEASE

#### **Garner Revitalization Association Receives National Accreditation**

*Garner's Main Street program recognized for meeting National Main Street Program standards by the National Trust Main Street Center®.*

Garner, NC – July 21, 2011 – The Garner Revitalization Association has been designated as an accredited National Main Street Program for meeting the commercial district revitalization performance standards set by the National Trust Main Street Center®. Each year, the National Trust and its partners announce the list of accredited Main Street® programs that have built strong revitalization organizations and demonstrate their ability in using the Main Street Four-Point Approach® methodology for strengthening their local economy and protecting their historic buildings.

Garner was accepted into the North Carolina Main Street Program in 2009. Over the past two years GRA, with the support of town staff and elected officials, has worked closely with the Main Street Center to develop an economic vision and strategic plan of work for its revitalization of Downtown Garner following the Main Street Four-Point Approach®.

“There has been a tremendous amount of work over many years, and by many people, to get us to this point” says Jeff Denny, Chairperson of the Garner Revitalization Association Board of Directors. “We’re incredibly appreciative of that effort, we’re thrilled with this accreditation and most of all, we’re excited about the future of downtown Garner.”

In the past two years, the North Carolina Main Street Center has provided over 120 hours of technical support to Garner and volunteers have invested over 325 hours in Main Street projects in our community. During that time, private investment in the downtown area has exceeded \$1 million, seven new businesses have opened and 27 jobs have been created.

“We congratulate this year’s nationally accredited Main Street programs for meeting our established performance standards.” says Doug Loescher, director of the National Trust Main Street Center. “Accredited Main Street programs are meeting the challenges of the recession head on and are successfully using a focused, comprehensive revitalization strategy to keep their communities vibrant and sustainable.”

The organization’s performance is annually evaluated by the North Carolina Main Street Center, which works in partnership with the National Trust Main Street Center to identify the local programs that meet 10 performance standards. These standards set the benchmarks for measuring an individual Main Street program’s application of the Main Street Four-Point Approach® to commercial district revitalization. Evaluation standards include developing a mission, fostering strong public-private partnerships, securing an operating budget, tracking economic progress, and preserving historic buildings.

## **About the Garner Revitalization Association**

The Garner Revitalization Association (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®.

For additional information about the Garner Revitalization Association or this news release, contact John Hodges, GRA Executive Director, at (o) 919-773-4402, (m) 919-395-8307, [downtowngarner@nc.rr.com](mailto:downtowngarner@nc.rr.com) or visit [www.downtowngarner.com](http://www.downtowngarner.com).

## **About the National Trust Main Street Center**

Established in 1980 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Trust Main Street Center helps communities of all sizes revitalize their older and historic commercial districts. Working in more than 2,200 downtowns and urban neighborhoods over the last 30 years, the Main Street program has leveraged more than \$48.9 billion in new public and private investment. Participating communities have created 417,919 net new jobs and 94,176 net new businesses, and rehabilitated more than 214,263 buildings, leveraging an average of \$16 in new investment for every dollar spent on their Main Street District revitalization efforts.

For more information about the National Main Street Center, visit [www.preservationnation.org/main-street](http://www.preservationnation.org/main-street).