

»» NEWSLETTER ««

# ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



**THE GREATEST AMERICAN CLEANUP - A.C.E. NEIGHBORHOOD CHALLENGE**

»»» **READ MORE (PG. 2)**

Think your neighborhood has what it takes? Gather your neighbors, clean up your space, and snap a photo to be featured in the newsletter!

**READ MORE (P.4)** «««

Make a difference in your city! Citizen Committees offer residents a chance to get involved, stay informed, and support community initiatives.

**GET INVOLVED! JOIN A CITIZEN COMMITTEE**

**UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

»»» **READ MORE (P.7)**

A lot is happening in our community this Spring. Check out events and opportunities happening across the city.

It's time for the...  
**The Greatest American Cleanup**  
 hosted by Keep Gastonia Beautiful  
**March 20, 2026 - June 20, 2026**  
*ACE Neighborhood Challenge*

Think your neighborhood has what it takes?  
 Grab your neighbors.  
 Pick your location.  
 Clean it up.  
 Weigh your haul.  
 Snap a team photo.



Let's get our city and county looking clean and green for **America's 250<sup>th</sup>!**



To sign up, use the QR code and we will reach out to confirm.  
 For more information you can contact:  
[juliann.lehman@gastonianc.gov](mailto:juliann.lehman@gastonianc.gov)



# Farmers Market Opening Weekend

## Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>



*Gastonia*

# FARMERS MARKET

Opening weekend, Saturday, April 4th  
410 E. Long Avenue, Gastonia

# CITIZEN COMMITTEES

The City of Gastonia has a variety of boards and commissions. These committees, established by the Gastonia City Council, are a way for Gastonia residents to provide input on the policies that shape their government and their city. Serving on a Citizen Committee provides a meaningful opportunity to contribute time, talents and expertise to our community. If you are interested in serving on any of the below boards, please contact the Deputy City Clerk's office at 704-866-6720 or by email at [candice.owenby@gastonianc.gov](mailto:candice.owenby@gastonianc.gov).

Applications are now open until May 22. A few open committees include:

- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY (3-Year Terms)**
- **ARTS COMMITTEE (3-Year Terms)**
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD (2-Year Terms)**
- **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (3-Year Terms)**
- **RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION (3-Year Terms)**
- **SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (3-Year Terms)**



**Get involved!**

Sign up for a City Council  
Citizen Committee.



# CALLING ALL GARDENERS

Applications are available for our  
2026 Growing Season

at the Aunt Charlotte McClee  
Community Garden  
604 N. York Street, Gastonia



To Plant a  
GARDEN  
is to believe  
in tomorrow

Submit your application to reserve your  
plot today!  
First come, first serve!



**KEEP GASTONIA BEAUTIFUL IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS TO RENT OUT GARDEN BEDS AT THE AUNT CHARLOTTE MCCLEE COMMUNITY GARDEN, LOCATED AT 604 N. YORK STREET, GASTONIA.**

- 1. SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A PLOT IN THE AUNT CHARLOTTE MCCLEE COMMUNITY GARDEN TO KEEP GASTONIA BEAUTIFUL.**
- 2. KEEP GASTONIA BEAUTIFUL SELECTS GARDEN MEMBERS FOR THE GROWING SEASON (APRIL-DECEMBER).**

**GARDEN APPLICATIONS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTED FOR GARDENERS WHO:**

- A. LIVE IN OR HAVE TIES TO THE HIGHLAND COMMUNITY**
- B. VOLUNTEER AT OFF-SEASON GARDEN EVENTS**
- C. PAY THEIR YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES ON TIME**

**LINK TO PRINTABLE COPY OF THE APPLICATION: [HTTPS://LOOM.LY/J-PFABA](https://loom.ly/j-pfaba)**

**LINK TO ONLINE SUBMITTAL FORM: [HTTPS://LOOM.LY/ZAQEZQQ](https://loom.ly/zaoezqq)**

**ONCE YOUR APPLICATION IS RECEIVED OUR STAFF WILL REACH OUT TO CONNECT WITH YOU!**



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



## Beetopia

Saturday, April 25, 2026  
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Gastonia Farmers Market  
410 E. Long Avenue

### FREE Community Event

Bee, plant, and pollinator education for all ages  
Kids Crafts  
Honey tastings  
Pictures with Miss Polly Nator  
Live bee demonstrations at our BEEzeebo and much more!!!



This event is sponsored by **Keep Gastonia Beautiful** as a way to celebrate not only bees, but all our pollinator friends!



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## SHRED DAY

**Saturday, May 2, 2026**

**Gastonia Farmers Market**

**410 E. Long Avenue, Gastonia**

**NEW TIME EVENT TIME: 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.\*\***

**\*\*or until the truck is full**



Protect yourself from identity theft by bringing your personal, financial, and confidential documents to be shredded on-site by Pro-Shred, Inc. All shredded documents will be recycled.

### **Guidelines:**

Limit of 3 cardboard banker boxes of sensitive materials per vehicle. Please use cardboard boxes, paper bags, or plastic containers to reuse - **plastic bags will not be accepted!** Please sort your boxes prior to arrival!

To ensure all citizens can utilize this **FREE** event, we ask that you only bring personal items to shred, this event is not intended for businesses.

### **FREE Electronic Recycling**

Goodwill Recycling will handle all DATA DESTRUCTION. Accepting any electronics, any brand, any condition. Tube TV's will not be accepted.

**For more information, call 704-869-1938 or follow us on Facebook: KeepGastoniaBeautiful**



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



## COOLING STATION OPERATOR NEEDED

City Seeks Proposals to Operate Cooling Station – Summer 2026

### WHO CAN APPLY

-  Faith-based organizations
-  Nonprofits
-  For-profit organizations
-  Community partners



COOLING STATION ACTIVATES WHEN TEMPERATURES REACH:

**95°F**

OR HIGHER

According to the National Weather Service



### PROPOSED OPERATING PERIOD

**JUNE 15 – SEPTEMBER 15**



SUBMIT PROPOSALS BY:

**APRIL 16 | AT 2:00 PM**

QUESTIONS?



**Zsuzi Kadar at 704-866-6745**

View the full Request for Proposals (RFP) online at:  
[gastonianc.gov/doing-business/bids-rfps](http://gastonianc.gov/doing-business/bids-rfps)

# KBG Black Gold Sale

WHAT IS BLACK GOLD?

IT'S 100% GROUND LEAF COMPOST COLLECTED FROM GASTONIA RESIDENCES  
AND MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES.

NO DYES

NO ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS

NO ADDITIVES

JUST NUTRIENT-RICH, NATURAL COMPOST

PERFECT FOR GARDENS, FLOWER BEDS, AND LAWN ENRICHMENT.

*Keep Gastonia Beautiful*

## SPRING 2026 BLACK GOLD SALE

### \$20/SCOOP\*

\*CASH ONLY

**Bring your own Bucket**  
(self service station) \$1/bucket

Sales are held Friday & Saturday  
Friday 1-5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 12 noon

Friday, March 20 from 1-5 p.m.  
Saturday, March 21 from 8-12 noon  
Friday, March 27 from 1-5 p.m.  
Saturday, March 28 from 8-12 noon

Friday, April 10 from 1-5 p.m.  
Saturday, April 11 from 8-12 noon  
Friday, April 17 from 1-5 p.m.  
Saturday, April 18 from 8-12 noon

Friday, May 15 from 1-5 p.m.

**Location:** 3100 Duke Street, Gastonia,  
off of Gaston Day School Road

Help us prevent litter by bringing a tarp to cover your load.  
In the event of rain please call 704-833-1575 or visit  
[www.facebook.com/keepgastoniabeautiful](http://www.facebook.com/keepgastoniabeautiful)  
for information on cancellations or rescheduling of sale.



**The Gastonia Concert Series is back for 2026 and it's bigger than ever! This long-standing tradition has brought the community together for over a decade through live music, all while supporting local nonprofits and community initiatives. Best of all, admission is FREE!**

**The series kicks off on April 23rd at CaroMont Health Park, starting with DJ Johnny B at 6:00 PM, followed by live music at 7:00 PM.**

**Opening the season is Funky Monks, a nationally known Red Hot Chili Peppers tribute band from Chicago. Bring your friends, family, and lawn chairs, and get ready to enjoy great music and community vibes!**



LET'S PLAY  
**BINGO**

**BRADLEY COMMUNITY CENTER**

1200 NORTH MODENA ST., GASTONIA, NC

**2 PM - 4 PM**

**FOR AGES 50 OR BETTER!**

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE FOR 2026\*\***

*Join us on the second Wednesday of every month for multiple rounds of the classic BINGO game.*

*There will be refreshments, fun and of course, PRIZES!*

★ **FREE** ★  
**ADMISSION**

**2026 DATES**

JANUARY 14	AUGUST 12
FEBRUARY 11	SEPTEMBER 9
MARCH 11	OCTOBER 14
APRIL 8	<b>**NO</b>
MAY 13	<b>BINGO IN</b>
JUNE 10	<b>NOVEMBER**</b>
JULY 8	DECEMBER 9




**GASTONIA**<sup>NC</sup>  
*Great Place. Great People. Great Promise.*  
Parks & Recreation Department

For more information, please call (704) 866-6848 or (704) 866-6842.

# SENIOR DANCES 2026



 7:00 PM -  
10:00 PM

 \$5  
Admission

 LIVE  
MUSIC  
ENTERTAINMENT

## GASTON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

January 9

March 13

May 8

July 10

September 11

November 13



GASTON COUNTY  
PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

### LOCATION:

1303 Dallas Cherryville Hwy., Dallas, NC

704-922-2170

DANCES FOR AGES 50 OR BETTER

OUTSIDE FOOD WELCOME - SODAS, WATER & COFFEE PROVIDED



### LOCATION:

1200 North Modena St., Gastonia, NC

704-866-6848

## BRADLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

*\*\*Please note location change\*\**

February 6

*\*No dance in April\**

June 5

August 7

October 2

December 4

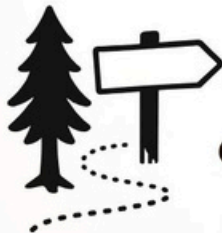


# The History and Future of Spencer Mountain



**Multi-Purpose Room  
Gaston County Public Library  
1555 E. Garrison Blvd.  
Gastonia, NC 28054**

**Saturday,  
April 11, 2026  
11:00 am**



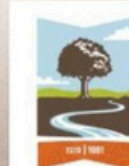
Presented by Ashton Lamb  
Trail Development Manager  
Catawba Lands Conservancy |  
Carolina Thread Trail



This event is **free** to the public. No registration required. Advanced registrations are requested for organized groups. This program is recommended for teens and adults.

**For more information, call 704-868-2164, Option 4**

This project was produced with assistance from the America 250 North Carolina initiative, administered by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the State of North Carolina.



**- CATAWBA -**  
LANDS CONSERVANCY  
LAND | WATER | FARMS | NATURE



**CAROLINA  
THREAD TRAIL.**



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

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**MONDAY, APRIL 6, 10 AM – 2 PM**

**CAN PEEPS FLY? HOW ARE BRIDGES BUILT? FIND OUT DURING STEAM BREAK AT THE SCHIELE! KIDS AND PARENTS CAN KICK OFF SPRING BREAK WITH HANDS-ON STEAM-BASED ACTIVITIES.**

**\$3 MUSEUM MEMBERS / \$5 + MUSEUM ADMISSION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**



**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 10 AM – 2 PM**

**JOIN THE SCHIELE MUSEUM, GASTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, AND THE GASTON COUNTY LIBRARY FOR A SPECIAL GARDENING WORKSHOP. GET EXPERT PLANTING TIPS, EXPLORE THE COMMUNITY SEED BANK, AND TAKE HOME YOUR OWN PLANT (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST).**



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM



**FREE  
TUESDAYS -  
powered by  
Duke  
Energy**

**4 – 8 PM**

Thanks to the support of **Duke Energy**, museum admission is free for everyone on the second Tuesday of each month!

**There is no need to reserve museum admission tickets on Free Tuesdays.**

**Arrive between 4 and 8 pm for free entry.**

## FREE TUESDAYS 2026 SCHEDULE

**April 14  
May 12  
June 9  
July 14  
August 11**

**September 8  
October 13  
November 10  
December 8**



We're excited to announce the first-ever Neighborhood Leader Forum, bringing together leaders from all recognized neighborhoods for a special opportunity to connect, collaborate, and learn from one another.

This forum will focus on one shared goal: building stronger, more connected neighborhoods together. It will be a chance to share ideas, discuss challenges, celebrate successes, and explore ways we can continue supporting each other and our communities.

More details will be shared soon, but for now, please mark your calendars and plan to join us! We look forward to bringing our neighborhood leaders together and continuing the great work happening across our city.



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Friends of the Gaston County Public Library Book Sale

**Monday, April 6, 2026**  
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026**  
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026**  
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, April 9, 2026**  
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 10, 2026**  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 11, 2026**  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



**Friends**  
OF THE  
Gaston County  
Public Library

### Gaston County Public Library Main Library

1555 East Garrison Blvd.  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28054  
[www.gastonlibrary.org](http://www.gastonlibrary.org)

Information: 704-868-2164, dial 6, option 1

Presented by Friends of the Gaston County Public Library. Book Sale proceeds are dedicated to providing equipment, furnishings, resources, and programming for GCPL patrons.

Spring 2026

## Let's Play **BINGO!**

Join us for free BINGO and play for the chance to win books, movies, activities, and more!

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

6:00pm-7:00pm

Carol K. Reinhardt Auditorium  
Gaston County Main Library  
1555 E. Garrison Blvd  
Gastonia, NC 28054  
(704) 868-2164  
[gastonlibrary.org](http://gastonlibrary.org)



GASTON COUNTY  
Public Library | Connect | Discover



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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## GROWING HERBS

Learn how to grow your own herbs to use in the kitchen as well as attracting pollinators



Saturday,  
April 18, 2026  
11AM

Gaston County Public Library  
1555 E Garrison Blvd  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Multipurpose Room  
<https://gastonlibrary.org>

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In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, N.C. Cooperative Extension will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. Please direct accommodation requests to: Cynthia Gustashaw at [cynthia\\_gustashaw@ncsu.edu](mailto:cynthia_gustashaw@ncsu.edu)  
Requests can be served more effectively if notice is provided at least 10 days before the event.

**NC STATE** EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Gaston County



GASTON COUNTY  
Public Library | Connect · Discover