

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



**DON'T MISS THE A.C.E.
NEIGHBORHOOD LEADER
FORUM**

>>> **READ MORE (PG. 2)**

Join fellow neighborhood leaders on September 12 for a day of learning, sharing ideas, and building stronger connections across our communities. RSVP today!

READ MORE (P.4) <<<

Gaston County high school students can apply for an exciting international exchange opportunity

**SISTER CITIES
APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN**

**UPCOMING EVENTS &
OPPORTUNITIES**

>>> **READ MORE (P.6)**

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

BUILDING STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS



Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 12, and join us for the first-ever A.C.E. Neighborhood Leader Forum at the Main Library from 10:00AM to 2:00PM! This four-hour workshop will bring leaders from our recognized communities together to connect, share ideas, and learn from one another.

The forum will include presentations and discussions with City representatives to cover commonly asked questions, helpful City resources, neighborhood engagement, and other topics that can help you strengthen your community.

This is a great opportunity to meet other neighborhood leaders, exchange ideas, ask questions, and build connections across Gastonia. Our goal is simple: Building stronger and more connected neighborhoods together.

We hope every A.C.E. Recognized Community will have a representative join us! Please RSVP to reserve your spot: <https://seam.ly/DJC5UcGF>

We look forward to seeing you there!



DO YOU HAVE A WORKING SMOKE ALARM?



Having a working smoke alarm in your home is one of the easiest ways to help protect your family. If you live within the Gastonia city limits, own your home, and do not have a smoke alarm, you may be eligible for a free smoke alarm and installation through the City's program.

Getting one is simple! Submit a [smoke alarm request form](#), and a member of the Fire Department will contact you to schedule a convenient time to visit your home and install the alarm. There is no cost for the smoke alarm or installation.

Don't have access to a computer? No problem! Call **704-866-6807** during regular business hours. Be ready to provide your name, address, and phone number.

If you live elsewhere in Gaston County, call 704-866-3350 to learn about available resources. Renters should contact their landlord, as landlords are responsible for providing properly operating smoke alarms.

Remember to test your smoke alarms regularly and replace batteries as recommended. A working smoke alarm can save lives!



SISTER CITIES APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

High school students in Gaston County have an exciting opportunity to experience another culture, make lifelong connections, and represent Gastonia as a Sister Cities Student Ambassador.

The program is open to students in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades, with preference given to 10th and 11th graders. Approximately 20 students are selected each year, with 10 students participating in each international exchange.

Selected students will take part in spring cultural preparation classes before traveling abroad for approximately two weeks, where they will live with a carefully selected host family and experience the culture firsthand. Students will also have the opportunity to welcome their exchange partner to Gastonia and share their own community and culture.

The application includes an online student application, essay questions, and a competitive interview process. Students are encouraged to review the essay prompts before applying.

Complete the student application and don't miss this opportunity to learn, explore, and become a global ambassador for Gastonia!



UTILITY PAYMENT ADDRESS UPDATE



IMPORTANT REMINDER
— FOR UTILITY CUSTOMERS —

Mailing Your Utility Payment?

Please use the updated payment mailing address:
PO Box 1748
Gastonia, NC 28053-1748

Old bill payment address service ends **July 31, 2026**

- ✓ Update bill pay settings
- ✓ Update address books
- ✓ Update recurring payment information

The updated mailing address is listed on your utility bill and on the City's website.

HELP AVOID PAYMENT DELAYS | **MORE INFORMATION**

Visit: gastonianc.gov/payment-options-terms/payment-options

If you mail your City of Gastonia utility payment, please be sure to use the updated mailing address:

**PO Box 1748
Gastonia, NC 28053-1748**

The previous bill payment vendor will stop accepting payments after July 31, 2026, so now is a good time to update any bill pay settings, address books, or recurring payment information.

For added convenience, 24-hour payment drop boxes are available behind the Garland Business Center on York Street and outside Cramerton Town Hall. Payments placed in these boxes must be made by check or money order. Please include the payment remittance portion of your bill and make sure your name, address, and account number are included on the payment. Please check the posted cutoff times at each drop box for same-day processing.

Thank you for helping ensure your utility payments reach the correct location and are processed without delay!



JOIN THE GREAT SOUTHEAST POLLINATOR CENSUS



The Great Southeast Pollinator Census is an annual community science project that invites people of all ages to spend just 15 minutes observing and counting pollinators visiting flowering plants. Whether you spot bees in your backyard, butterflies in a community garden, or other pollinators at a local park, every count helps researchers better understand pollinator populations across the Southeast.

Master Gardener Volunteers will be at the Gastonia Farmers Market on August 15 and August 22 with count sheets, educational materials, and pollinator-themed goodies. Stop by to learn more and pick up everything you need to participate.

Can't make it to the market? You can join from your own backyard! Grab your family, spend 15 minutes observing, and be part of this fun community science project.

Get started with these helpful resources:

- [Counting Sheet – English](#)
- [Counting Sheet – Spanish](#)
- [NC Counting & Insect Identification Guide](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

7

Ready, Set, Grow

A Community Back to School Event

Please use QR code
below to sign up your
organization!



Saturday, August 1, 2026
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Eastridge Mall

Get ready for Back to School with us!



Sign Up
← Here



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASS

Thinking about buying your first home? This class will guide you through the ins and out of the homebuying process .



**Saturday,
August 8th, 2026**

**Check-in at 8:15AM
Program 8:30AM- 1:30PM**

**1300 N Broad St.
Gastonia, NC 28054**

- ✓ Financing/mortgage options
- ✓ Credit and budget education
- ✓ Insurance basics
- ✓ Insights from a local Realtor

Register Today:



For more info:



704-854-6602



Lauretta.Gordon@gastonianc.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Gastonia Parks & Rec

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are partnering with the US Soccer Foundation and the National Recreation & Park Association to offer online training for youth sports coaches. Free training that applies to all sports and supports your local community.

WE NEED 100:



[HTTPS://USSOCCERFOUNDATION.TFAFORM
S.NET/5103833?TFA_3179=CGNRPA00:](https://ussoccerfoundation.tfaforms.net/5103833?TFA_3179=CGNRPA00)

Follow the link, complete the training, and email the certificate to recreation@gastonianc.gov. For questions, email Andy.Stahr@gastonianc.gov



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Phillips Community Center presents

Drills and Skills

6 week basketball training program

Boys & Girls ages 5-15

\$40 Per Athlete

Player development to help improve:

- *Ball Handling*
- *Shooting*
- *Defense*
- *Conditioning*
- *Overall Basketball IQ*



Registration ends August 7th

(Or until spaces are full)

Sessions begin September 14, 2026

For more information contact Carleena Costner
at (704) 866-6851 or by email at
carleena.costner@gastonianc.gov

12 Spots
Available Per
Age Group!

Age Groups
5-6 7-8 9-10
11-12 13-15



Phillips Community Center 2031 Echo Lane Gastonia, NC 28052

Gastonia Parks & Recreation

YOUTH SPORTS

July 1 – Aug. 1



Register Here



Volunteer Coaches Wanted

FEE
\$60

Includes jersey, hat, & socks.



TEE BALL: AGE 5-6

Games twice a week, Tuesdays & Thursdays.

FEE
\$65

Includes jersey, hat, & socks.

COACH PITCH BASEBALL: AGE 7-8

Games twice a week, Mondays – Thursdays.

FEE
\$65

Includes jersey, hat, & socks.



BASEBALL: AGE 9-15

Games twice a week, Mondays – Thursdays.

FEE
\$60

Includes jersey, visor, & socks.



SOFTBALL: AGE 7-12

Games twice a week, days to be determined.

FEE
\$60

Includes jersey, shorts & socks.



SOCCER: AGE 3-15

Games once a week, Saturdays for ages 3-6.
Games twice a week, days to be determined for ages 7-15.
FEE
\$60

Includes jersey & shorts or spandex.



VOLLEYBALL: AGE 7-15

Games twice a week, Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays.

For more information, contact Tawanna.
Tawanna.Alston@gastonienc.gov / 704-866-6836

SUMMER

VOLLEYBALL

OPEN GYM

PHILLIPS CENTER


WEDNESDAYS
5:30PM-7:00PM

18 & UP • NO SIGN UPS • FREE PLAY

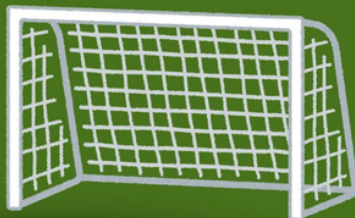
2031 ECHO LANE GASTONIA NC 28052

GASTONIA PARKS & RECREATION



SOCCER

GIRLS LEAGUE

FOR AGES 7-9,
10-12, & 13-15

REGISTRATION AUG. 1 - SEPT. 1

VOLUNTEER
COACHES WANTEDGAMES AND PRACTICES WILL
BE ON WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS.REGISTRATION FEE IS \$60. FEE INCLUDES
SHORTS, SOCKS, & JERSEY.FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT TAWANNA.
TAWANNA.ALSTON@GASTONIENC.GOV / 704-866-6836

GASTONIA PARKS & RECREATION

Flag Football

GIRLS LEAGUE

Registration Aug. 1 - Sept. 1

For ages 7-9,
10-12, & 13-15Volunteer
Coaches Wanted<https://secure.rec1.com/NC/city-of-gastonia/catalog>Games and practices will be on
Tuesdays & Thursdays.Registration fee
is \$45 and
includes a
jersey.

Walker E. Reid Park – 1001 S. Marietta St., Gastonia, NC

For more information, contact Tawanna.
Tawanna.Alston@gastonienc.gov / 704-866-6836

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SENIOR *Walking Club*

**Step Together. Stay Healthy.
Make Connections.**



IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH

Walking can boost your energy, strengthen your heart, and support overall well-being.



ENJOY FRIENDSHIP

Meet new friends and enjoy great conversations while staying active.



SUPPORT YOUR WELL-BEING

Regular walking can improve mood, reduce stress, and help you feel your best.



WHEN

Wednesdays
8:30am - 10am

JUNE - AUGUST



WHERE

Rankin Lake-
Meet at Lake House



WHO

Adults 50+

If you plan to attend please call a day in advance to let us know you are coming!



704-866-6848



GASTONIA

Great Place. Great People. Great Promise.

 Parks & Recreation Department

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



SUMMER SENIOR TRIPS



Indigo Iris Farms

Thursday, June 18th

\$35- City Residents Departure: 9am
Opens April 1st
\$40- Non- City Residents Return: 3pm
Opens April 15th

Join us for a Flower Pounding Workshop at Indigo Iris Farms, a boutique flower farm that specializes in seasonal fresh cut flowers. Followed by lunch at Clover Harvest!

Lunch at Clover Harvest- Not Included in Cost

Registration Closes June 1st

Grandfather Mountain

Thursday, July 30th

\$35- City Residents Departure: 8am
Opens June 1st Return: 6pm
\$40- Non- City Residents
Opens June 15th

Join us for a day learning about the history of Grandfather Mountain and its surrounding areas! You will then be able to visit the Mile High Swinging Bridge, wildlife habitats, museum exhibits, and gift shops.

Lunch at Mildred's Grill- Not Included in Cost

Registration Closes July 18th

Carl Sandberg Home

Thursday, August 13th

\$10- City Residents Departure: 9am
Opens July 1st Return: 6pm
\$15- Non- City Residents
Opens July 15th

Join us to experience a tour of the Carl Sandberg Home and enjoy the grounds, which include the Historic Goat Farm, Bookstore, and the Visitor Center. Lunch at the Auction House- Food Hall.

Lunch Not Included In Cost

Registration Closes August 6th

Scan here to
register today!



<https://L1nq.com/ARCTrips>

For More Information Please Contact Kailanne Gill
at kailanne.gill@gastonianc.gov or 704-866-6848


GASTONIA
NC
Great Place. Great People. Great Promise.
Parks & Recreation Department

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**FREE
ENTRY**

2026

**LUNCH
PROVIDED**

Hope Fest

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND MORE

September 12, 2026

10:00 am - 2:00 pm



**FREE
TRANSPORTATION
AVAILABLE!**

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH PARKING
LOT**

**190 E. Franklin Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28052**



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	**NO
MAY 13	BINGO IN
JUNE 10	NOVEMBER**
JULY 8	DECEMBER 9

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



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

16



**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

**August 11
September 8**

**October 13
November 10
December 8**



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

17



THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 10 AM OR 11 AM

Hear thrilling stories and dive into experiments that bubble, fizz, and sometimes ERUPT in messy, explosive fun.
\$3 with the purchase of museum admission



SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 10 AM - 4 PM

Celebrate the wild and wonderful world of insects, arachnids, and every bug in between! Meet fascinating creepy crawlies, chat with bug experts, and enjoy bug-themed games and activities.
[Discounted advance tickets available online](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Gaston County Public Library
- Main Library
Carol K. Reinhardt
Auditorium
1555 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28056
704-868-2164, dial 2.
www.gastonlibrary.org



* The Gaston County Public Library and the
Gaston County Museum of Art and
History Present...

Exhibition on Screen

Turner & Constable

Monday, August 3, 2026
6:00 P.M.

This showing is FREE to the public.

EOS EXHIBITION
ON SCREEN.

Seventh Art
PRODUCTIONS



GASTON COUNTY
Public Library | Connect | Discover



Born within a year of each other – J.M.W. Turner in 1775 and John Constable in 1776 – these great artists used landscape painting to reflect the changing world around them and to bring landscape to the forefront of art for the first time. Celebrating the 250th anniversary of their births, **TURNER & CONSTABLE** is the unmissable new feature documentary exploring Turner and Constable's intertwined lives alongside the groundbreaking Tate Britain exhibition.



Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom
OF DOOM
Monday, August 10, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Gaston County Public Library
Main Library
1555 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-868-2164, dial 2
www.gastonlibrary.org

Unearth a Story Film Series

FREE SHOWING OF

INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM

Monday, August 10, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Gaston County Public Library
Main Library
1555 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-868-2164, dial 2
www.gastonlibrary.org



GASTON COUNTY
Public Library | Connect | Discover





UKULELE CLUB!



Come join other aspiring musicians to learn the basics of ukulele together!

Chords
Strumming
Tuning
Songs

BRING YOUR OWN UKULELE*

*A small amount of ukuleles will be available to borrow. Please note that these resources are limited, and we strongly encourage you to bring your own instrument!

Two-Part Session
5:15pm - 6:00pm:
Beginner Basics Lesson
6:15pm - 7:00pm:
Group Jam Session

Session Dates:
Monday, June 22nd, 2026
Monday, July 27th, 2026
Monday, August 24th, 2026

All Experience Levels Welcome!

SPECIAL THANKS TO

KALA
- BRAND MUSIC CO. -

Email diana.mansfield@gastongov.com for more information!
GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY MAIN BRANCH | CAROL K. REINHARDT AUDITORIUM
1555 E. GARRISON BLVD. GASTONIA, NC 28054
GASTONLIBRARY.ORG | 704-868-2164





UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

UNDERGROUND GARDENING

Lets talk tubers, bulbs, corms, and more. Learn what you can plant now for harvesting or flowering in the future.

All ages welcome



Saturday,
August 22, 2026
11 AM

Gaston County Public Library
1555 E Garrison Blvd
Carol K Reinhardt
Auditorium
<https://gastonlibrary.org>

"NC State University promotes equal opportunity and prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon one's race; color; religion (including belief and non-belief); sex, including but not limited to pregnancy, childbirth or other related medical condition, parenting and sexual harassment; sexual orientation; actual or perceived gender identity; age; national origin; disability; veteran status; or genetic information."

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
Requests can be served more effectively if notice is provided at least 10 days before the event.

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Gaston County

