

&gt;&gt;&gt; NEWSLETTER &lt;&lt;&lt;

# ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



## CHRISTMAS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

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

The Christmas season is here, and our neighborhoods are glowing with festive lights! Read to see how neighbors can spread joy and build community this holiday season.

### READ MORE (P.4) <<<

The Police Department offers a designated Internet Exchange Zone—a well-lit, 24-hour monitored space where buyers and sellers can meet securely for online transactions.

## INTERNET EXCHANGE ZONE

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

## WELCOMING THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The holiday season is here! As December settles in, our neighborhoods begins to glow with twinkling lights, festive decorations, and the warmth of neighbors connecting and celebrating together.

Christmas isn't just a day on the calendar; it's a season of kindness, gratitude, and togetherness. It's waving to a neighbor as they hang their wreath, sharing baked treats across the street, or simply offering a moment of holiday cheer to someone who might need it.

This year, let's embrace the true spirit of Christmas by looking out for one another. Small acts of kindness go a long way:

- check in on elderly neighbors
- help someone carry packages inside
- leave a cheerful note on a doorstep.

These simple gestures help make our community a welcoming place for all.

Our neighborhood also shines thanks to the traditions we create together. Whether it's decorating your home, exchanging holiday cards, or enjoying a stroll to admire festive displays, every contribution adds to the joy that fills our streets. We encourage residents to share their holiday spirit however they can! No act is too small to make a difference.

As we wrap up another year, Christmas gives us a chance to reflect on the bright moments and the people who make our neighborhood feel like home. Thank you to every neighbor who continues to spread positivity, generosity, and warmth throughout the season.

May your holidays be filled with peace, happiness, and time spent with those you love. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



# STAY SAFE WHEN BUYING AND SELLING ONLINE: USE THE INTERNET EXCHANGE ZONE



With the holiday season approaching, many people are turning to online platforms like Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, or local buy/sell groups to find great deals or unique gifts. While these transactions can be convenient, they also come with some risks, especially when it comes to meeting strangers in person.

To help keep residents safe, the City of Gastonia Police Department has established an Internet Exchange Zone located in two designated parking spaces in front of the Police Department at 200 E. Long Avenue.

This area provides a safe, well-lit, and monitored location for completing online transactions. The Internet Exchange Zone is under 24-hour video surveillance (recorded on a 14-day loop) and is clearly marked with signage that includes both emergency and non-emergency contact numbers.

Whether you're buying a gift, selling household items, or meeting someone for a simple exchange, the Internet Exchange Zone helps you avoid potential scams or crimes such as non-payment. It's a small step that can make a big difference in ensuring your safety and peace of mind.

As online shopping and secondhand exchanges pick up during the holidays, remember — safety first! Always meet in public, bring a friend when possible, and take advantage of this city resource designed to help protect you and your community.



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: NORTH BEATY RD.



We are excited to spotlight North Beaty Rd., our newest recognized community! They kicked off the holiday season with a wonderful Thanksgiving potluck that brought neighbors together to share food, connect, and celebrate.

Residents also organized a food drive, collecting donations for a local food bank and making a meaningful impact just in time for the holidays.

The Block Party Trailer is available to all recognized communities and helped elevate the event with helpful supplies and activities that made the gathering even more enjoyable. We look forward to seeing more neighborhoods book it this spring as community events ramp up.

Welcome, North Beaty Rd.! Your commitment to connection and kindness is already shining bright.



# LEAF COLLECTION SEASON IS OCTOBER 13, 2025 - FEBRUARY 13, 2026



**NO BAGS**



**LOOSE AT CURB FOR COLLECTION**

**During leaf season, leaves are picked up at least twice per month. However, during peak times (the Week of Thanksgiving through New Year), EXPECT DELAYS.**

As the leaves begin to fall, the City of Gastonia's crews are hard at work keeping our streets clear and neighborhoods looking their best. To help make the collection process smoother and more efficient this season, residents can take a few simple steps to assist our crews and ensure leaves are picked up as quickly as possible.

## **What can you do during leaf season to help?**

- Rake leaves into a loose pile at the curb – please do not bag your leaves.
- Keep leaf piles separate from branches, twigs, and other yard debris or household garbage.

**Using a yard waste cart?** Leaves placed in a yard waste cart will be collected on your regular garbage/yard waste collection day.

**Want to drop them off?** You can take your leaves to the Duke Street Resource Center free of charge.

## **Want to know when your leaves will be picked up?**

You can now track collection progress in real time using the City's interactive [\*\*leaf collection map\*\*](#) or by checking the WasteWise app. Just click the link to see when crews will be in your area!

# A.C.E. MATCHING GRANT OPPORTUNITY

One of the many benefits of becoming a formally Recognized Community through the Alliance for Community Enrichment (A.C.E.) Program is the opportunity to apply for matching grant funds from the City of Gastonia. These funds can be used in a variety of ways to support projects that enhance and strengthen neighborhoods across the city.

The A.C.E. Matching Grant Program is designed for Recognized Communities that have been officially recognized for six months or more. Eligible neighborhoods can apply for additional funding to support projects focused on:

- **Physical improvements** such as landscaping, signage, or beautification projects.
- **Neighborhood identity** efforts that help build a sense of pride and place.
- **Public safety initiatives** that promote a safer, more connected community.
- **Environmental projects** like clean-ups, green spaces, or sustainability efforts.
- **Community building events** that bring neighbors together and encourage collaboration.



The goal of this program is to encourage and support neighborhood self-improvement. By offering matching funds, the City provides an incentive for communities to raise their own funds, build partnerships, and engage residents in making positive changes. These projects not only improve physical spaces but also strengthen connections and pride among neighbors.

Recognized Communities interested in learning more about eligibility or the application process are encouraged to reach out to the Neighborhood Program Administrator at 704.866.6907 for further details and guidance.



# THE CITY OF GASTONIA PARKS & RECREATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES HAVE RELOCATED



## WE HAVE MOVED

The Parks and Recreation  
administrative offices  
have relocated to **107 S.  
Broad St.** Office hours  
remain the same.



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Join us at the next Senior Dance:

## Friday, December 5th

Featuring:  
"GOOD TIME BAND"



### 7 PM - 10PM

(Doors Open at 6PM)

***\$5 Admission Fee***

Drinks will be provided, but  
you can bring your own food.







# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM



**FRIDAYS THIS SEASON – NOV 28, DEC 5, 12, 19; 5:00-8:30 PM**

**VISIT THE FARM DURING AN AFTER-HOURS CELEBRATION OF THE HOLIDAYS!**

**ADMIRE THOUSANDS OF HOLIDAY LIGHTS WHILE YOU RELAX NEAR THE BONFIRE WITH A CUP OF HOT COCOA. CREATE CUSTOM GIFT WRAP AND ORNAMENTS TOO!**

**DON'T MISS A HOLIDAY LASER SHOW IN THE PLANETARIUM ON THESE FRIDAYS AT 6 PM OR 7 PM.**

**TICKETS SOLD SEPARATELY.**

**\$8 MUSEUM MEMBERS / \$10 GENERAL PUBLIC**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20; 5:30, 6:30, OR 7:30**

**CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON WITH AN EVENING OF HOLIDAY MUSIC PERFORMED LIVE UNDER THE IMMERSIVE DOME OF THE SCHIELE'S PLANETARIUM.**

**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR A MAGICAL NIGHT OF FESTIVE FAVORITES BY LOCAL LEGEND CALEB DAVIS.**

**\$12 MUSEUM MEMBERS / \$15 GENERAL PUBLIC**

**GET TICKETS AT [HTTPS://WWW.SCHIELEMUSEUM.ORG/SCHIELE-NEWS/HOLIDAYS/](https://www.schielemuseum.org/schiele-news/holidays/)**



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Following Breakfast with Santa, the Gastonia Parks and Recreation Department is having our FREE Santa at the Lake event, where you can take pictures of your child(ren) with Santa at the lakefront viewing pier at Rankin Lake (rain location inside clubhouse.)





# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



**CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY IS TAKING PLACE ON DECEMBER 7 IN DOWNTOWN GASTONIA AND THE ROTARY PAVILION. THE MARKETPLACE AND ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE AT THE ROTARY PAVILION STARTING AT 5PM.**

**THE GASTON COUNTY JAYCEES PARADE WILL START AT 5PM AND GO EAST ON MAIN AVE. THE KEEP GASTONIA BEAUTIFUL TREE LIGHTING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE PAVILION AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PARADE.**



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

12



## Music Under the Stars: Pink Floyd

Friday, January 2  
Saturday, January 3  
5:30 PM & 8:30 PM

Experience The Wall as a live concert event under the planetarium dome! Join The Album Series band, featuring Caleb Davis, under the immersive dome of the planetarium for a LIVE concert event featuring music from the iconic Pink Floyd album, The Wall, accompanied by psychedelic 360-degree graphics.

Suitable for all ages.

5:30 PM – Museum doors open at 5:00; seating begins at 5:20

8:30 PM – Museum doors open at 8:00; seating begins at 8:20

\$35 Members / \$40 General Public





# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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## Medicare 101

This program is presented  
by L. Collette Nagy, an  
independent agent.

Find out your best Medicare  
options!

November 6, 2025 and December 4, 2025

6:30 PM

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





# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Stitch-By-Stitch

All Ages (Children must be accompanied by an adult)



December's  
craft focus:  
Winter Hat  
Ornaments

Tuesday, 16th, 2025

5pm-7pm

Main Branch -  
Conference Room  
&

Wednesday, 17th, 2025

3:30pm-5:30pm

Main Branch -  
Multi-Purpose Room

Join us for some dedicated time to work on  
your projects or learn a new craft!  
Materials are first come first serve.

Gaston County Public Library  
1555 E. Garrison Blvd. Gastonia, NC 28054  
<https://gastonlibrary.org/>




**GASTON COUNTY**  
Public Library | Connect · Discover



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

2025 HOLIDAY MOVIE


## THE SANTA CLAUSE

TIM ALLEN  
  
"Destined to become a holiday classic."  
© Walt Disney Pictures

MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 8, 2025

THIS FILM IS INTENDED FOR ALL  
AUDIENCES

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



GASTON COUNTY  
Public Library | Connect · Discover

Fall 2025

## Let's Play BINGO!

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

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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  
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