

»»» NEWSLETTER «««

# ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



**CELEBRATE THE FOURTH OF JULY IN DOWNTOWN GASTONIA**

»»» **READ MORE (PG. 2)**

Join us in Downtown Gastonia on Friday, July 4, from 5:00 PM to 9:30 PM for an evening of family fun and celebration!

**READ MORE (P.4)** «««

Join Laurel East Community Watch for a special meeting on July 6 to learn about the City's solicitation ordinances and ask questions. Open to all A.C.E. communities.

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

**UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

»»» **READ MORE (P.6)**

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

# 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY EVENT



Saturday, July 4 from  
5:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.  
Food trucks, a beer garden, vendors, music,  
entertainment, a free KidsZone & fireworks  
around 9:30 P.M.

**Celebrate the Fourth of July with family and friends at Downtown Gastonia on Friday, July 4, from 5:00 PM to 9:30 PM! This **free** community event will feature food trucks, local vendors, live entertainment, a free KidsZone, and a fireworks show beginning around 9:30 PM.**

**Enjoy live music from Bantum Rooster from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM, with pre-recorded music beginning at 5:00 PM and patriotic music accompanying the fireworks display.**

**A variety of food trucks, a beer garden, and family-friendly activities will make this a fun evening for all ages. Be sure to bring your own lawn chair or blanket so you can relax and enjoy the music and fireworks.**



# NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION SESSION

The Laurel East Community Watch is hosting a special meeting that is open to all A.C.E. Recognized Communities, and you're invited to attend. Join LECW on July 6 from 7:00–8:00 PM at Sherwood Elementary School for an informational discussion with City Attorney Eric Edgerton regarding the City's solicitation ordinances.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to learn who is permitted to solicit, the requirements for doing so legally, and the City's efforts to clarify the current ordinances.

All neighborhood leaders and residents from all A.C.E. communities are encouraged to attend and be part of the conversation.



# DON'T FORGET TO RSVP!



The Neighborhood Leader Forum is only two months away, and we hope you'll join us! If you haven't already, don't forget to RSVP and reserve your spot. We're preparing an exciting four-hour workshop designed specifically for leaders of our A.C.E. Recognized Communities.

You'll have the opportunity to connect with fellow neighborhood leaders, hear from City staff, learn about valuable resources, and share ideas and best practices with one another. Whether you're a new leader or have years of experience, this forum is a great opportunity to build relationships, strengthen your neighborhood, and work together toward our shared goal of creating stronger, more connected communities.

To RSVP to this event please contact [Karely.Chave@gastonianc.gov](mailto:Karely.Chave@gastonianc.gov) or complete the following link: <https://seam.ly/DJC5UcGF>



# KEEP GASTONIA BEAUTIFUL RAIN BARREL SALE



## Easy to Transport

Easily fit 2-3 Ivy Rain Barrels in the backseat of a 4-door sedan.

\$85

Pick up on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at  
the Gastonia Farmers Market.  
Pre-Order Required.

Keep Gastonia Beautiful, in partnership with the City of Gastonia Stormwater Division, is offering discounted rain barrels this summer. Made in North Carolina from 100% recycled plastic, rain barrels help conserve water, reduce stormwater runoff, and provide a natural source of water for lawns and gardens.

Every purchase supports Keep Gastonia Beautiful's mission to create a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful community. Pickup will be available at the Gastonia Farmers Market, and you do not need to live in Gastonia to participate. The deadline to place online orders is Monday, July 6 at 11:00 PM. Visit the link below to learn more and reserve your rain barrel today: <https://loom.ly/FSdGIck>



# 2026 CITIZENS' ACADEMY GRADUATES

**Congratulations to the 2026 Municipal Citizens' Academy graduates, who were recognized during the June 16 City Council meeting for successfully completing this year's program.**

**Since January, these residents have dedicated their time to learning how local government works, meeting the people behind the scenes who keep Gastonia running, and gaining a deeper understanding of the services that impact our community every day. From public safety and infrastructure to community development and City operations, they now have firsthand knowledge of what it takes to make Gastonia a great place to live, work, and play.**

**Are you interested in becoming a more informed and engaged citizen? Residents and business owners are encouraged to apply for the 2027 Municipal Citizens' Academy and experience local government from the inside out. We look forward to welcoming the next class of community leaders!**



# GOGASTONIA FARE UPDATES BEGIN JULY 1

## FARE CHANGES

*Effective July 1, 2026!*

Starting July 1, 2026, GoGastonia fares will be increasing.



### NEW FARES

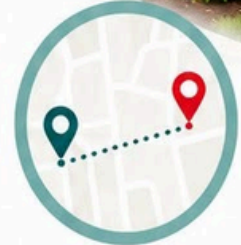
FARE TYPE	CURRENT FARE	NEW FARE EFFECTIVE 7/1/26
 REGULAR FARE	\$2.50 PER RIDE	<b>\$3.00</b> PER RIDE
 REDUCED FARE* Age 65+ and anyone with a disability	\$1.25 PER RIDE	<b>\$1.50</b> PER RIDE

\*Reduced fare applies to passengers age 65 and older and individuals with disabilities.

### NEW DISTANCE-BASED SURCHARGE

For trips more than 5 miles (as the crow flies):

FARE TYPE	SURCHARGE
 REGULAR FARE	<b>+\$1.00</b> PER TRIP
 REDUCED FARE*	<b>+\$0.50</b> PER TRIP



These changes help GoGastonia continue to provide safe, reliable transportation for our community.



Beginning July 1, GoGastonia will implement updated fares to continue providing reliable, convenient, and affordable on-demand transportation throughout Gastonia. The new one-way fare will be \$3.00, with a reduced fare of \$1.50 available for eligible seniors and individuals with disabilities. A small distance-based surcharge will apply to trips over five miles.

Even with these updates, GoGastonia remains one of the area's most affordable transportation options, offering a safe and convenient way to get to work, appointments, shopping, and more.

Whether you're running errands or traveling across town, GoGastonia continues to provide an affordable transportation option for our community.



# STAGE 2 MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT



As we continue to experience dry conditions, the City of Gastonia and Two Rivers Utilities (TRU) are asking all customers to help conserve water by following the current Stage 2 Mandatory Water Restrictions.

Small changes in our daily habits can make a big difference in protecting our community's water supply. Under Stage 2 restrictions, outdoor watering is limited to two designated periods each week:

- **Tuesday, 8:00 PM through Wednesday, 8:00 AM**
- **Saturday, 8:00 PM through Sunday, 8:00 AM**

Additional restrictions include:

- Residential vehicle washing using city water is prohibited.
- Residential pressure washing of homes, sidewalks, and driveways is prohibited.
- Ornamental fountains and ponds may not be filled unless necessary to support aquatic life.

The good news is that some activities are still allowed, including using drip irrigation and soaker hoses, watering with hand-held containers, and filling or topping off swimming pools.

Please note that fines for violations are now being enforced:

- First violation: Warning
- Second violation: \$100 fine
- Third violation: \$250 fine

Thank you for doing your part to conserve water! For additional questions customers may contact the Two Rivers Utilities Customer Care Center at [704-866-6714](tel:704-866-6714) or email [droughtinfo@tworiversutilities.com](mailto:droughtinfo@tworiversutilities.com).

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



## ARTS GRANT PROGRAM

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

**Gastonia Arts Grants • Up to \$10,000 Available**



Grants from  
\$1,000–\$10,000



Applications Due  
July 6, 2026



Eligible Gastonia  
Nonprofit Arts Organizations

Eligible nonprofit arts organizations can apply for grants to support projects in visual arts, music, theater, dance, literature, cultural programming, arts education, and more.



Apply Today at:  
[gastonianc.gov/arts-committee](http://gastonianc.gov/arts-committee)

*Supporting Creativity. Strengthening Community.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Join the  
KGB Volunteer Club  
for Middle and High School Students for a

## COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

We'll pick up trash, to make our  
streets cleaner and greener.

July 10<sup>th</sup> 10AM

Location TBD

Bring a water bottle and wear closed  
toed shoes.

Please make sure to have your adult  
complete the waiver before we start.

Snacks and popsicles provided.

## SEE YOU THERE!





# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Keep Gastonia Beautiful,  
The Gastonia Architecture & History Appreciation Society,  
And the Rotary Community Garden

PRESENTS

## TRAINS & TOTS



ALL ABOARD FOR SHAPES!



JULY 16TH

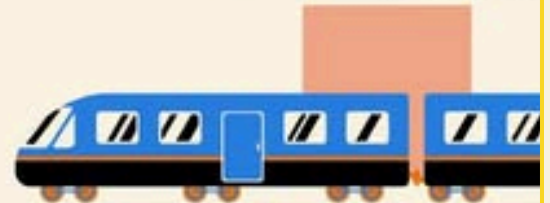


2 SESSIONS

10:30 AND 11:00



ROTARY COMMUNITY GARDEN  
406 E FRANKLIN BLVD,  
GASTONIA, NC 28054



Join us for an educational morning. We will learn about shapes, read a book, and then go on a shape hunt.  
RSVP Required.

# 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



### WHERE

Rankin Lake-  
Meet at Lake House



### WHO

Adults 50+

← JUNE - AUGUST →

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

 704-866-6848



Gastonia Parks & Recreation

# YOUTH SPORTS

July 1 – Aug. 1



Register Here

Volunteer Coaches Wanted

<b>FEE \$60</b>	Includes jersey, hat, & socks.	<b>TEE BALL: AGE 5-6</b>	
Games twice a week, Tuesdays & Thursdays.			
<b>FEE \$65</b>	Includes jersey, hat, & socks.	<b>COACH PITCH BASEBALL: AGE 7-8</b>	
Games twice a week, Mondays - Thursdays.			
<b>FEE \$65</b>	Includes jersey, hat, & socks.	<b>BASEBALL: AGE 9-15</b>	
Games twice a week, Mondays - Thursdays.			
<b>FEE \$60</b>	Includes jersey, visor, & socks.	<b>SOFTBALL: AGE 7-12</b>	
Games twice a week, days to be determined.			
<b>FEE \$60</b>	Includes jersey, shorts & socks.	<b>SOCCER: AGE 3-15</b>	
Games once a week, Saturdays for ages 3-6. Games twice a week, days to be determined for ages 7-15.			
<b>FEE \$60</b>	Includes jersey & shorts or spandex.	<b>VOLLEYBALL: AGE 7-15</b>	
Games twice a week, Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays.			

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

SUMMER

# VOLLEYBALL

OPEN GYM

PHILLIPS CENTER



WEDNESDAYS  
5:30PM-7:00PM

18 & UP • NO SIGN UPS • FREE PLAY

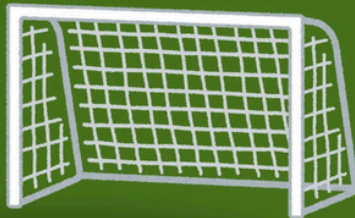
2031 ECHO LANE GASTONIA NC 28052

GASTONIA PARKS & RECREATION



# SOCCER GIRLS LEAGUE

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



REGISTRATION AUG. 1 - SEPT. 1

VOLUNTEER  
COACHES WANTED



GAMES AND PRACTICES WILL  
BE ON WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS.

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$60. FEE INCLUDES  
SHORTS, SOCKS, & JERSEY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT TAWANNA.  
TAWANNA.ALSTON@GASTONIANC.GOV / 704-866-6836



GASTONIA PARKS & RECREATION

# Flag Football Girls League

Registration Aug. 1 - Sept. 1

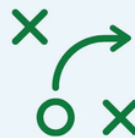
For ages 7-9,  
10-12, & 13-15



Volunteer  
Coaches Wanted

<https://secure.recl.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@gastonianc.gov / 704-866-6836

# 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](mailto:kailanne.gill@gastonianc.gov) or 704-866-6848



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

*Image & Gaston Highland Foundation*

PRESENTS

## *The Legendary Festival*



*Honoring*

**Walker E. Reid, III**

*Saturday, July 25, 2026*

**📍 Walker E. Reid, III Park**

**1001 SOUTH MARIETTA ST | GASTONIA, NC 28054**

**6PM until 9PM**

*Live music by Image*

*Food Trucks, Vendors & Games for Kids*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**IMAGE @ 704.219.0195**

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Gastonia Sister Cities  
presents

*Worldwide*  
**WEDNESDAYS**

**PERUVIAN POM POMS**

 7/29

 2 pm

 Rotary Pavilion

Suggested \$5 Donation



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



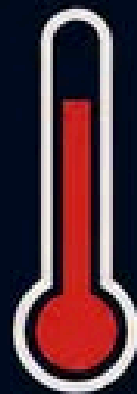
For more information, please call (704) 866-6848 or (704) 866-6842.

# HOT CAR WARNING

HEAT KILLS. DON'T RISK IT.



## NEVER LEAVE PETS OR CHILDREN IN A CAR



Temperature  
inside a car  
can rise  
**40°+**  
in minutes.



**ALWAYS  
CHECK THE  
BACK SEAT**

Look before you  
lock—every time.



**LOCK  
YOUR DOORS**

Keep kids safe  
by locking car  
doors at all times.



**PREVENT ACCESS**

Lock your doors  
so children can't  
climb in unattended.



# 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

**July 14  
August 11  
September 8**

**October 13  
November 10  
December 8**



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

20



**SATURDAY, SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1 & 2 PM**

**Watch as hot and cold collide in thrilling demonstrations featuring temperature, reactions, and surprising transformations.**

**\$3 with the purchase of museum admission**



**MUSIC UNDER THE STARS: PINK FLOYD'S "DARK SIDE OF THE MOON"  
FRIDAY, JULY 24, AND SATURDAY, JULY 25, 6 PM, 7:30 PM, AND 9 PM**

**Sit back and enjoy this talented band cover Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon", with their music set to 360-degree psychedelic graphics under the planetarium dome. \$35 museum members / \$40 general public**



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

**EXHIBITION ON SCREEN.**  
Seventh Art PRODUCTIONS  
GASTON COUNTY Public Library | Connect · Discover  
GASTON COUNTY MUSEUM

*Exhibition on Screen*

**Frida Kahlo**

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

\* **Monday, July 6, 2026**  
**6:00 P.M.**

This showing is FREE to the public.

Created in close collaboration with world experts and those who knew her, FRIDA KAHLO now features additional new material from the groundbreaking new Tate Modern and MFA Houston exhibition. These experts examine Kahlo's transformation into a global brand and the new generation of artists and activists, such as Mary McCartney, Amalia Mesa-Lains and Yasumasa Morimura, that have identified with her and carried her legacy. The film culminates by previewing the exhibition's look at 'Fridamania' giving viewers a front row seat to see some of the commercial objects that encompass her art, image, style and persona.

**Unearth a Story Film Series**  
FREE SHOWING OF  
**DINOSAUR 13**

**Monday, July 13, 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

**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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026  
Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**All Experience Levels Welcome!**

SPECIAL THANKS TO **KALA BRAND MUSIC Co.**

Email [diana.mansfield@gaston.gov](mailto:diana.mansfield@gaston.gov) 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

## SPECIAL SPEAKER

Nathan Champan, from the Schiele Museum, will share his gardening expertise.



Saturday,  
July 25, 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](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

