

»» NEWSLETTER ««

# ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



**NEW ENCODEPLUS PORTAL  
NOW LIVE**

»»» **READ MORE (PG. 2)**

Easily search city ordinances, zoning, and development regulations all in one place.

**READ MORE (P.4)** «««

The A.C.E. Movie-in-a-Box kit provides everything you need for a fun, free outdoor movie event. Reserve your date soon, spots are filling up fast!

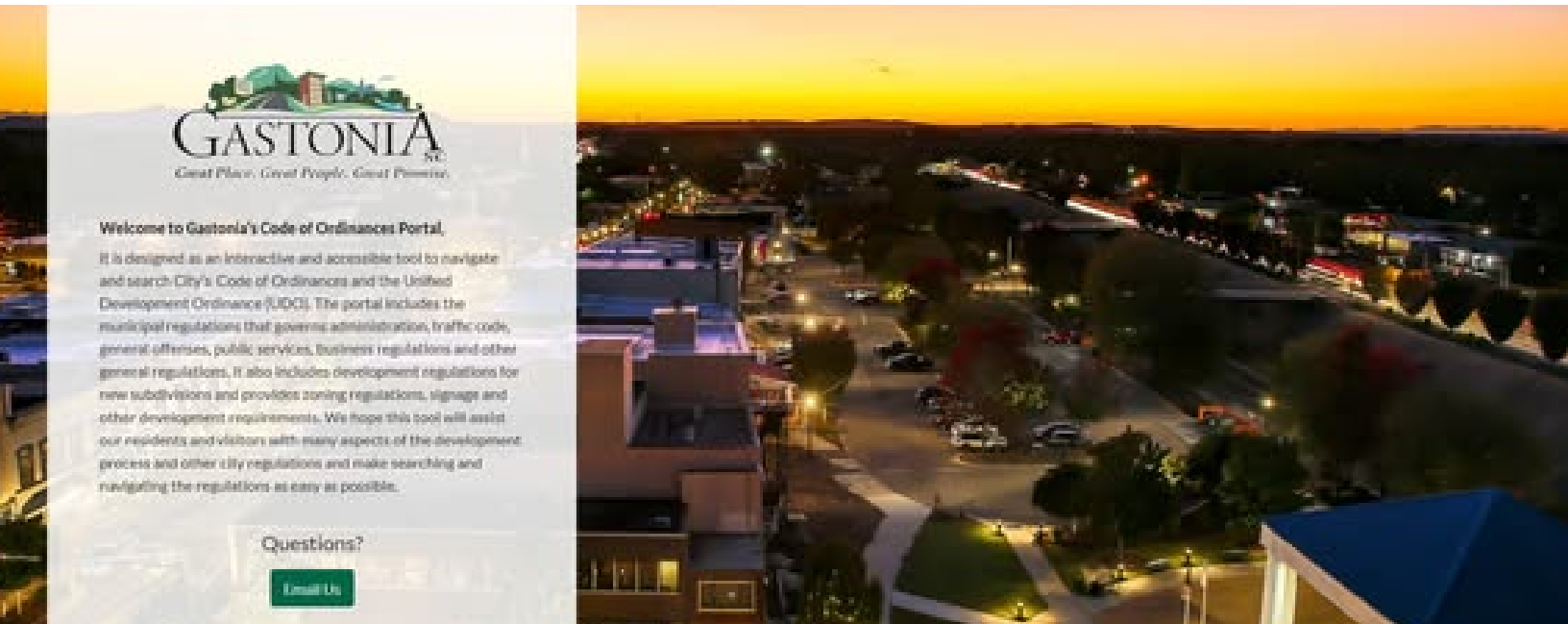
**HOST A NEIGHBORHOOD  
MOVIE NIGHT**

**UPCOMING EVENTS &  
OPPORTUNITIES**

»»» **READ MORE (P.5)**

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

# EXPLORE CITY ORDINANCES WITH THE NEW ENCODEPLUS PORTAL



**The City of Gastonia's new EncodePlus portal is now live and offers a more user-friendly and interactive way to access important information. This online tool makes it easy to search and navigate the City's Code of Ordinances and Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) all in one place. Residents, businesses, and visitors can quickly find information related to general city regulations, traffic codes, public services, business regulations, and more.**

**The portal also includes detailed development regulations, such as zoning requirements, subdivision guidelines, signage standards, and other key information related to growth and development within the city.**

**Designed to be accessible and easy to use, the EncodePlus portal helps simplify the process of finding the information you need—whether you're exploring city rules, planning a project, or just looking to stay informed.**

**Check out the new portal today and experience a more convenient way to navigate Gastonia's regulations. For questions email [planning@gastonianc.gov](mailto:planning@gastonianc.gov).**



# CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL

## MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>

**Cinco de Mayo Festival**

**CENTRO DE GASTONIA**  
 111 N. South St.  
 Gastonia, NC 28052  
**Domingo**  
 3 de mayo, 2026  
 12P - 6P

**VENDEDORES LLAME AL 980.745.5417**

**TOYOTA OF GASTONIA** **MAZDA OF GASTONIA**

Fit & Healthy | WOW SUPERMARKET | TELEMUNDO CHARLOTTE | EL HISPANO | MARIACHI

Join us for a fun and vibrant Cinco de Mayo Festival, open to the entire community! This family-friendly event is a great opportunity to come together and celebrate culture, music, and traditions in a lively and welcoming atmosphere.

Enjoy a variety of food trucks, unique vendors, and cultural experiences that highlight the richness and diversity of the celebration. Whether you're coming for the food, the music, or simply to spend time with family and friends, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Bring the whole family and spend the afternoon with us from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

**Location: Rotary Centennial Pavilion**  
**111 N. South St., Gastonia, NC 28052**

# HOST A MOVIE NIGHT WITH MOVIE-IN-A-BOX

Looking for a fun and easy way to bring your neighbors together? The City of Gastonia's Alliance for Community Enrichment (A.C.E.) Movie-in-a-Box program offers recognized neighborhoods the opportunity to host their own outdoor movie nights for completely free.

The kit includes everything you need for a successful movie night, including a screen, projector, Blu-ray player, and speakers. It's a great way to create a welcoming space for neighbors to connect, relax, and enjoy time together.

As part of the A.C.E. program, Movie-in-a-Box is designed to support community-building and encourage neighborhoods to host engaging events right where they live.

Reservations are filling up quickly, so be sure to secure your date soon. To reserve the Movie-in-a-Box, contact Karely Chavez at [Karely.Chavez@gastonianc.gov](mailto:Karely.Chavez@gastonianc.gov)





# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



**Saturday, May 2, 2026**  
**Bradley Bus Station Parking Lot**  
**121 N Oakland St, Gastonia, NC 28052,**  
**NEW 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

**ATTENTION!**

**2026 Spring Shred Information**  
Saturday, May 2nd



**NEW LOCATION:**  
Bradley Bus Station Parking Lot  
121 N. Oakland Street, Gastonia  
Right off MAIN AVENUE

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





# IGNITE THE FUTURE FESTIVAL

**INNOVATION STARTS HERE,  
MYRTLE MINDS IN MOTION!**

Join us for a **FREE** community event designed for youth and young adults ready to explore, create, and discover! Come build, experiment, and have fun while learning new skills and connecting with others. Don't miss out—  
**your future starts here!**



**SATURDAY**  
**MAY 2, 2026**  
**11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**



**T. JEFFERS CENTER**  
121 Hartman St.  
Gastonia, NC 28052

For more information, email:  
**[Myrtleschoolca@gmail.com](mailto:Myrtleschoolca@gmail.com)**



# CALL FOR ARTISTS: GREENWAY MURAL PROJECT

The City of Gastonia Arts Committee is now accepting artist submissions for the Lineberger Park Greenway Sidewalk Mural Pilot Project, a highly visible public art installation aimed at helping connect the greenway to downtown.

This exciting opportunity not only brings creative expression to a key community space but also helps build a roster of artists for future mural projects across the city. Upcoming projects may include sidewalks, crosswalks, and other public areas.

Artists interested in contributing to Gastonia's growing public art scene are encouraged to apply and be part of shaping the city's visual landscape.



**GASTONIA**  
NC  
Great Place. Great People. Great Promise.

*Imagine your art here*



Artists who apply will also be considered for future mural opportunities across Gastonia, including sidewalks, crosswalks, and other public spaces as this program grows.

**Deadline to submit: May 8, 2026**



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)



# WATER CONSERVATION ENCOURAGED

*In Gastonia*

The City of Gastonia and Two Rivers Utilities are asking residents and businesses to help conserve water.

A **Stage 1 (Voluntary)** drought declaration has been issued for the Catawba-Wateree River Basin due to rapidly developing dry conditions.

At this time, there are **no mandatory restrictions**, but everyone is encouraged to **reduce water use by 3 to 5 percent** or more to help protect our shared water supply.



## Simple ways to conserve water:

- ✓ Take shorter showers
- ✓ Limit outdoor watering
- ✓ Wash full loads of laundry
- ✓ Run the dishwasher only when full



At this time, there are **no mandatory restrictions**, but everyone is encouraged to reduce water use by **3 to 5 percent** or more to help protect our shared water supply.

City officials will continue to monitor **conditions** and share updates if additional measures are needed.

For questions or more information, contact  
Two Rivers Utilities Customer Care at 704.866-6714  
or visit **Duke Energy's website** for regional  
drought updates.

TWO RIVERS  
UTILITIES  
We are **TRU** to our customers!

GASTONIA  
NC  
Great Place. Great People. Great Promise.

# Every Drop Counts

Take Action Now...to conserve water during times of drought and beyond.



## Kitchen and Bathroom

- Scrape your dishes instead of rinsing before placing in your dishwasher, this alone could save 6 gallons a day.
  - Run dishwasher only with full loads
- Collect leftover drinking water on flowers and garden
- Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth or washing dishes.
- Take shorter showers

## Lawn and Garden

- Water your plants early in the morning or late in the evening to minimize evaporation.
- Collect rainwater for gardening and other outdoor uses.
- Raise mower height (3-4 inches) to shade soil and retain moisture
- Rethink landscape with xeriscaping - gardening designed to use less water
  - Choose native and drought-tolerant plants
  - Add mulch to hold moisture in the soil
  - Use decorative stone or gravel in dry areas

## Educate and Support

- Educate others about the importance of water conservation and protection.
- Follow Keep Gastonia Beautiful for more helpful information on a variety of topics!





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.

# 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

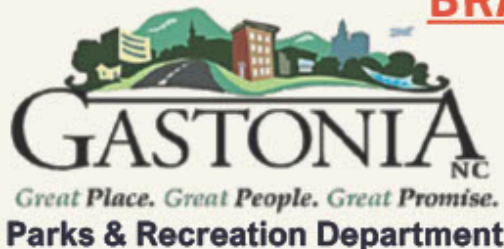
### LOCATION:

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

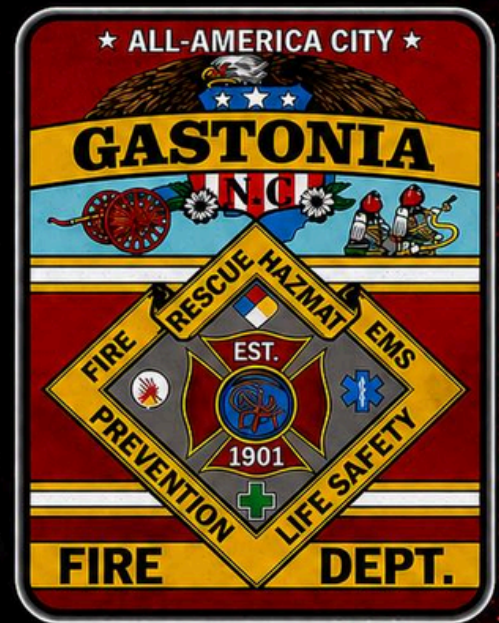
December 4

# BURN BAN

ISSUED BY  
**GASTONIA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
 FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**



**EFFECTIVE  
 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



Due to extreme hazardous fire conditions and based on the authority given by Section 307.11 of the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code, the Gastonia Fire Department Fire Marshal's Office has issued a burn ban that **prohibits open burning in the city limits of Gastonia.**



Outdoor open burning of yard waste, including leaves, branches, construction materials, lumber, trash, and non-vegetative material, is **prohibited at all times** under the City of Gastonia Burning Ordinance.



The issued ban on burning applies to fire pits (including commercial and constructed), bonfires, outdoor chimneys and chimeneas, **warming fires**, and other fires that produce embers. **The ban does not include cooking appliances** such as outdoor stoves and grills.



During this time, residents should be mindful of ignition sources such as discarded smoking materials, lawn equipment that can produce sparks, and exhaust equipment.



**For questions, citizens can call 704-866-6807**



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

15



**TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME ON SATURDAY, MAY 2, 11 AM – 2 PM**  
**EXPLORE OVER 400 YEARS OF INDIGENOUS HISTORY, CULTURE, AND SURVIVAL WITH A SPECIAL PRESENTATION IN THE SCHIELE'S HISTORIC CATAWBA VILLAGE.**  
**GENERAL PUBLIC - \$3 WITH THE PURCHASE OF MUSEUM ADMISSION / MUSEUM MEMBERS – FREE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 9, 10 AM – 4 PM**  
**GEAR UP FOR A DAY OF SCALES AND TAILS AS WE CELEBRATE ALL THINGS HERPETOLOGY! MEET LOTS OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES, AND LEARN THROUGH EXCITING ACTIVITIES, GAMES, AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS.**  
**\$8 MUSEUM MEMBERS / \$20 GENERAL PUBLIC (GET DISCOUNTED TICKETS IN ADVANCE.)**



**FRIDAY, MAY 22, 8 - 10 PM**  
**VISIT THE JAMES H. LYNN PLANETARIUM FOR A SPECIAL FRIDAY EVENING ASTRONOMY PRESENTATION.**  
**WATCH A PLANETARIUM SHOW AND VIEW THE NIGHT SKY WITH MUSEUM TELESCOPES!**  
**\$8 MUSEUM MEMBERS / \$10 GENERAL PUBLIC**



# 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

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.

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>



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



## AMERICA 250 HISTORICAL FICTION FILM SERIES

Free Showing of

### UNITED 93

Monday, May 11, 2026  
6:00 p.m.  
Gaston County Public Library  
Main Library  
Carol K. Reinhardt Auditorium  
704-868-2164, dial 2  
[www.gastonlibrary.org](http://www.gastonlibrary.org)





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)



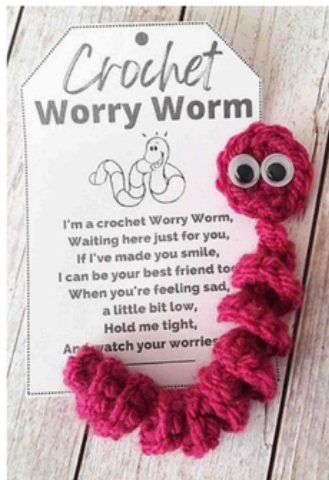



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Stitch-By-Stitch

All Ages (Children must be accompanied by an adult)

**May's craft focus:  
Mental Health May: Worry Pets!**



**Tuesday, 26th 2026**

**4pm-7pm**

**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

## NATIVE PLANTS AND POLLINATORS

Learn how to incorporate native plants and pollinator attracting plants into your garden.

All ages welcome.



Saturday,  
May 30, 2026  
11:00 a.m.

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

**NC STATE** EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Gaston County



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