NEWSLETTER

# ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT




## WELCOME NEW COMMUNITIES

### READ MORE (PG. 2)

Join us in welcoming the newest A.C.E. Recognized Communities. We're excited to have them join the program!

### READ MORE (P.4)

## COG TRU-FIX IS HERE

The new COG TRU-Fix app is available now to report potholes, water leaks, downed trees, damaged signs, and more, right from your phone.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### READ MORE (P.6)

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

# WELCOME TO THE A.C.E. PROGRAM

We’re excited to welcome Sundance Village HOA and Fairhaven Place as the newest A.C.E. Recognized Communities, officially recognized at the October 20 City Council meeting!

We look forward to working with both communities to encourage resident engagement, build connections, and create more opportunities for neighbors to come together. Through the A.C.E. program, we hope to provide helpful resources and support activities that help strengthen relationships and build a greater sense of community.





# A.C.E. MATCHING GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN




The A.C.E. Matching Grant application is now open! Recognized Communities that have been officially recognized for **at least six months** are eligible to apply for funding to support projects that improve and strengthen their neighborhoods.

Eligible projects can focus on:

- Physical Improvements – landscaping, signage, or beautification
- Neighborhood Identity – projects that build community pride
- Public Safety – projects that promote safer, more connected neighborhoods
- Environmental Projects – cleanups, green spaces, or sustainability
- Community Building Events – activities that bring neighbors together

Applications must be completed online by December 11, 2026 to be eligible for consideration.

Apply for the A.C.E. Matching Grant: https://gastonianc.seamlessdocs.com/ng/fa/Grantapplication

Have questions or need help with your application? Reach out to Karely Chavez, Neighborhood Program Administrator, at Karely.Chavez@gastonianc.gov or 704-866-6907.

# COG TRU-FIX IS HERE




Reporting non-emergency City issues just got easier! The COG TRU-Fix app is now live and available for download through the Apple App Store and Google Play. See a pothole, water leak, downed tree, damaged sign, or another issue that needs attention? TRU-Fix lets you report it directly from your phone and helps get it to the right City team.

With the app, you can:

- Report non-emergency issues
- Pinpoint the location
- Add photos to your request
- View nearby requests

Download the app by searching “Gastonia TRU-Fix” in the Apple App Store or Google Play. You can also submit requests through the City’s website by selecting the “I Want To – Report” tab. No need to wonder who to call. TRU-Fix makes it easier to report issues and help keep Gastonia moving!

# LEAF SEASON




Gastonia's free loose leaf vacuuming season runs through February 15! Before piling your leaves near the curb, please help crews by keeping them:

- Away from storm drains
- Clear of mailboxes, vehicles, and other obstacles
- Accessible for the large vacuum hose

Looking for another way to get rid of your leaves? You can drop them off at the Duke Street Recycling Center, 3175 Duke Street, or lease a $60 yard waste cart for weekly pickup.

Check out the City's interactive Leaf Map to see current collection areas, what's coming next, and how many trucks are on the route.

# CITIZENS' ACADEMY APPLICATIONS OPEN

**Ready to learn more about the city you call home and meet the people who help make Gastonia a great place to live, work, and play?**

**The Municipal Citizens' Academy is a great way to get an inside look at your local government and connect with City leaders and staff. The Academy runs from January through June and meets every other Monday from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Dinner is provided at each session!**

**Grab a friend and sign up today by completing the Interest Form. We'd love to have you join us!**









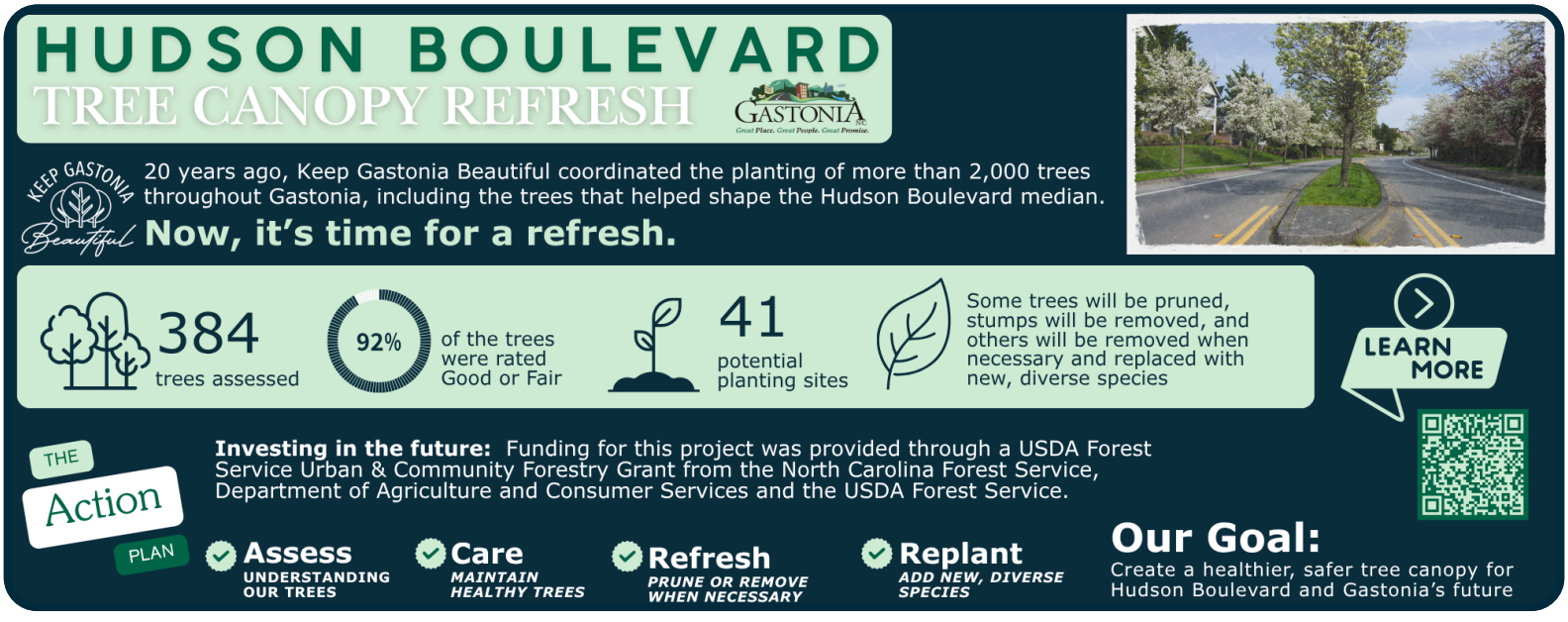

# HUDSON BLVD TREE CANOPY REFRESH

Twenty years ago, Keep Gastonia Beautiful helped plant more than 2,000 trees throughout Gastonia, including along the Hudson Boulevard median. Now, it's time for a refresh!

The City recently completed a professional assessment of 458 sites including 384 trees, 33 stumps, and 41 potential planting sites between Davis Park Road and Robinwood Road to identify maintenance needs, recommended removals, and opportunities for new plantings. With support from a grant provided through USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Grant from the North Carolina Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, this project aims to create a healthier, more diverse and resilient tree canopy for the future.

The goal is simple: care for the trees we have, replace trees when necessary, and invest in the long-term beauty and health of Hudson Boulevard.

Follow to stay up to date on our progress:https://www.gastonianc.gov/school-resources#nc-forest-service-grant



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## SHRED DAY

Reminder

**Saturday, November 7, 2026**
**Gastonia Transit Center**
(parking lot next to Bradley Bus Station, enter off Main Avenue)
**174 E. Main Avenue, Gastonia**
**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**

## Shred Day Location and Traffic Pattern

Our Shred Day Event will be held in the Gastonia Transit Center Parking lot, (lot next to the Bradley Bus Station) **174 E. Main Avenue.** Everyone must enter off Main Avenue or Oakland and will be directed through the parking lot and back onto Dr. MLK Jr. Way.



# PEACE CREW FALL EVENTS

## Peace Crew Fall Events

Gather. Connect. Make peace.



GASTONIA SISTER CITIES
PEACE THROUGH PEOPLE

| SEPTEMBER | Event | Date | Details |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Learn: Culture and Leadership | 9/ 23 | Garland Center 4-5 pm |
| | Connect: Community Canvas Painting | 9/ 25 | Near Waterbean 3:30-5 pm |

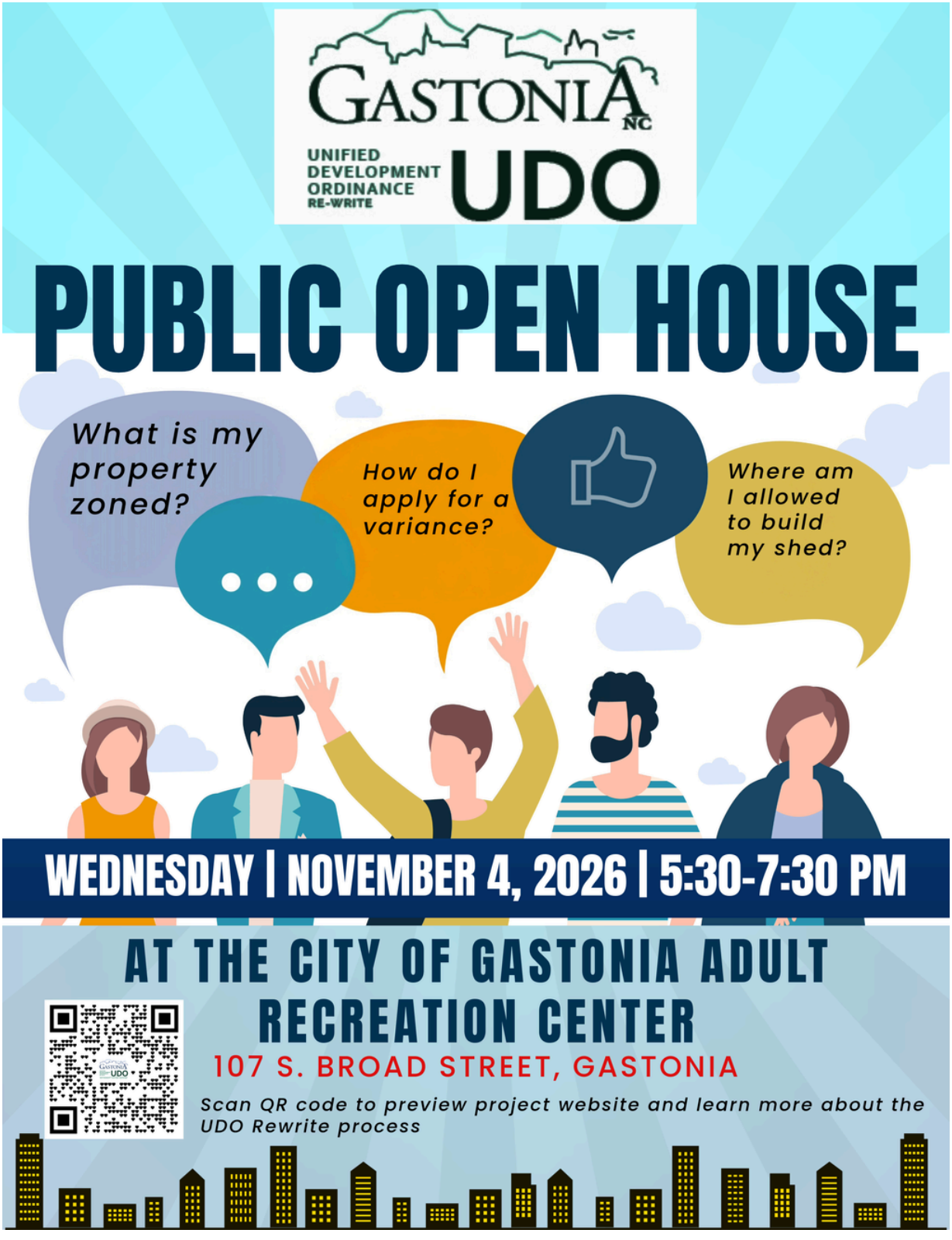
| OCTOBER | Event | Date | Details |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Connect:Hallowwen Swap | 10/3 | At Farmers Market 8-11 |
| | Learn: Culture and Leadership | 10/14 | Garland Center 4-5 pm |
| | Serve: Welcome Kits | 10/23 | Garland Center 3:30-5 |

| NOVEMBER | Event | Date | Details |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Learn: Culture and Leadership | 11/ 4 | Garland Center 4-5 pm |
| | Veteran's Day Service | 11/11 | Garland Center 9 am-3pm |

| DECEMBER | Event | Date | Details |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Learn: Culture and Leadership | 12/2 | Garland Center 4-5 pm |
| | Prep Materials for Christmas Parade | 12/4 | Garland Center 3:30pm-5 |
| | March in Christmas Parade | 12/6 | Downtown Gastonia 3pm- 7pm |

CLICK THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP

# PEACE CREW FALL EVENTS



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES




**Join us Saturday, December 5 from 8–9 AM at Rankin Lake for breakfast, holiday fun and a visit with Santa! ❤️ Tickets are $9 per person and must be purchased in advance. Space is limited, so grab yours soon!**




**COME AND TAKE A FREE FAMILY PICTURE WITH SANTA ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 FROM 10AM TO 12PM! BRING YOUR OWN CAMERA!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



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# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM




**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 10 AM - 2 PM**

**Enjoy a day packed with geology - the science of the earth beneath our feet! Rockhounds of all ages can enjoy geo-presentations, Q&A with geologists, and hands-on activities.**

**Included with the purchase of admission**




**OPEN DAILY STARTING BLACK FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 & INCLUDED WITH MUSEUM ADMISSION**

**What happens when Santa Claus and his friends meet the dinosaurs? Trouble is coming to town! Enjoy this limited-time holiday experience – and your last chance to tour Dino Safari.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

TECH 101 Series (2026)

## Basic SMARTPHONE SKILLS

Get Smart with Your Smartphone – Learn the Basics Today!



### When? Where? Who?

**Main Branch Library**
**Multipurpose Room**

Tuesday, October 20th, 11:00 am
Wednesday, November 18th, 11:00 am

***Intended for Adult Learners***

### What to Expect:

New to smartphones or just want to feel more confident using yours? This beginner-friendly session will guide you through the basics—from making calls and sending texts to using apps, adjusting settings, and staying safe online. Bring your smartphone and your questions—let's learn together!

### For More Information

704.868.2164 ex 1315
Talisa.Crawford@gastongov.com

GASTON COUNTY
Public Library | Connect · Discover