

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



WELCOME NEW RECOGNIZED COMMUNITY

>>> READ MORE (PG. 2)

We're excited to announce Gastonia's newest A.C.E. Recognized Community. This growing neighborhood is full of energy and pride, with residents eager to connect and make a positive difference.

READ MORE (P.4) <<<

Fall has arrived, and with it comes leaf collection season in Gastonia! Help our crews keep neighborhoods clean by following a few simple tips for raking, separating, and setting out your leaves.

LEAF COLLECTION SEASON

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.

NEW RECOGNIZED COMMUNITY



During the October 21st City Council Meeting, we had the wonderful opportunity to recognize the North Beaty Road Community as the City's newest A.C.E. Recognized Community. The North Beaty Road Community was created by Jordan Petrus, a passionate community leader who is dedicated to seeing their neighborhood thrive, stay engaged, and work together to enrich the place they call home.

Located in East Gastonia, this community is beginning to see new life and renewed enthusiasm among its residents. The neighborhood includes homes along Beaty Road and its connecting streets between Hedgeston Drive and Colvard Drive, with approximately 60 single-family homes. It's a growing community where neighbors are reconnecting, building relationships, and working together to restore a strong sense of pride and belonging.

We are so excited to welcome the North Beaty Road Community into the A.C.E. Program and look forward to supporting their continued growth, collaboration, and success. Congratulations and welcome to the A.C.E. family!

Pictured: North Beaty Road Community community leaders Jordan Petrus and Kayla Price being recognized by City Council

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!

COMMUNITY QUICK TIP

Streetlights play a big role in keeping our neighborhoods safe, welcoming, and easy to navigate at night. Occasionally, a streetlight or security light may stop working properly. It might flicker, stay on during the day, or go out completely. When this happens, the City of Gastonia's Electric Utilities Department steps in to make repairs or replacements at no cost to the customer.

Your help can make a big difference! If you notice a malfunctioning light, please take a moment to report it so crews can respond quickly. The process is simple and only takes a minute:

- Online: Fill out the **Streetlight Report Submission Form** to share the location and details of the issue.
- By phone: Call Emily Hicks with the City of Gastonia Electric Utilities Department at 704-866-6826

When reporting, it's helpful to include the nearest address or pole number (if visible), along with a brief description of the problem—such as “light flickering,” “out completely,” or “stays on during the day.”

By taking a moment to report streetlight issues, you're helping to keep our community safer and brighter for everyone—whether it's lighting the way for evening walkers, improving visibility for drivers, or adding a sense of security for neighbors.



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.

GIVING THANKS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS



As the leaves change and we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, it's a perfect time to reflect on the importance of community and the neighbors who make our neighborhoods feel like home. Fall is a wonderful season to slow down, connect, and show gratitude in simple ways that make a big difference.

Here are a few thoughtful ways to be a good neighbor this Thanksgiving season:

- **Show kindness daily** – a friendly wave, a smile, or checking in on one another goes a long way.
- **Give back** – Organize a neighborhood canned food drive or coat collection to support local families in need during the colder months.
- **Lend a helping hand** – offer to rake leaves or bring a warm meal to a neighbor who could use a little support.
- **Share the season's spirit** – drop off a thank-you note, baked treat, or small token of appreciation.
- **Include others** – invite a neighbor who might be alone to join your holiday meal or a neighborhood gathering.

Thanksgiving reminds us that our greatest blessings often come from the people around us. Let's take time this season to celebrate our neighbors, nurture connections, and continue building the strong, supportive communities that make Gastonia such a special place to live.

From all of us in the A.C.E. Program, we wish you and your neighborhood a warm and happy Thanksgiving!



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.



704-854-6652



Planning@gastonianc.gov

DID YOU KNOW?

Gastonia just hit **85,000+** residents!



we're growing **fast**,
reaching new **milestones**
& planning for the **future!**

How does Gastonia plan for growth?

We are currently wrapping up the 2050 Comprehensive Plan update - a roadmap that helps guide development and growth in the city for the next 25 years.

We want to hear from you! If you missed one of our Public Workshops in 2024 or 2025, check out our website to view workshop recaps, survey results, the community's vision statement and more!

The final draft is available for public comment on our website!

LEARN MORE & PROVIDE FEEDBACK online or scan the QR code:

<https://www.gastonianc.gov/gastonia2050>

Public hearing: October 21st City Council



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT CITIZENS' ACADEMY

Learn the ins-and-outs of how
your local government
operates by participating in the
Citizens' Academy

Academy Includes:

- ✓ Facility Tours
- ✓ Hands-on Learning
- ✓ Conversations with Municipal Leaders
- ✓ Educational Presentations

Application Deadline:

October 31, 2025



Learn More and Apply Today!



Visit Our Website
www.gastonianc.gov/municipal-citizens-academy



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SHRED DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025
8-12**

@ GASTONIA FARMERS MARKET
**OR UNTIL THE TRUCK IS FILLED

- Do** bring 3 banker boxes (*or similar size plastic bins*)
- Do** bring your sensitive materials (*i.e. items with your social security information, bank information, old taxes, etc.*)
- Do** sort your boxes before arriving
- Do** tell your friends and family about this FREE event!
- Do NOT** bring already shredded papers
- Do NOT** bring mixed papers, (*i.e. magazines, newspapers, etc. This takes up valuable space others could use to shred their documents*)
- Do NOT** have items like batteries, thumb drives, or CD's in your boxes, they can break the machine
- Do NOT** have items in plastic bags

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Have electronics?

Don't know what to do with them?



**11/8/25
8-12**

@FARMERS MARKET

**Bring them to SHRED DAY, where
Goodwill Industries will properly
dispose of them and your protect
your data.**



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

12



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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. MINE FOR GEMSTONES IN OUR RUNNING-WATER SLUICE AND TAKE HOME WHAT YOU FIND!

INCLUDED WITH THE PURCHASE OF MUSEUM ADMISSION. GEMSTONE MINING \$5 PER PERSON.



PRIMITIVE SKILLS: TURKEY CALLS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 9 AM – 5 PM

MAKE THREE DIFFERENT TURKEY CALLS IN THIS STEP-BY-STEP WORKSHOP: A SLATE CALL AND TWO DIFFERENT MOUTH CALLS. ALL SUPPLIES ARE PROVIDED.

INSTRUCTOR DOUGLAS MEYER WAS A CONTESTANT ON SEASON 12 OF THE SURVIVAL SERIES, "ALONE", AND A PRIMITIVE SKILLS EXPERT.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED – SPACE IS LIMITED. \$75 MUSEUM MEMBERS / \$85 GENERAL PUBLIC

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

40TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Saturday, November 22, 2025

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Adult Recreation Center;
519 W. Franklin Blvd., Gastonia, NC

FREE TO ANYONE
50 YEARS OF AGE OR BETTER!

*Come gather together with friends old and new to eat, dance and be thankful! Music entertainment by "The Good Time Band". **Food is first come first serve.***

SPONSORED BY:

Gastonia East Rotary, City of Gastonia Parks & Recreation,
New Hope Baptist Church and American & Eflrd/Elevate Textiles



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

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Keep Gastonia Beautiful

FIREWOOD SALE

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 22
8 - 10 A.M.**

\$60/truckload
CASH ONLY

*Ferguson Park
1401 Golf Course Drive*



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

15



Stars Hollow Fest

11.22.25

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where you lead, I will follow...
Please join us on
Saturday, November 22 at 10 a.m.
as we celebrate 25 years
of *Gilmore Girls* with special activities,
crafts, and more!
All ages are welcome to attend!



Gaston County Public Library-Main Branch
1555 E. Garrison Blvd
Gastonia, NC 28054
Carol K. Reinhardt Auditorium
704-868-2164
gastonlibrary.org





UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Stitch-By-Stitch

All Ages (Children must be accompanied by an adult)

**November's craft focus:
Cross Stitch Bookmarks!**



Tuesday, 25th, 2025

5pm-7pm

Main Branch -

Auditorium

&

Wednesday, 26th, 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.**

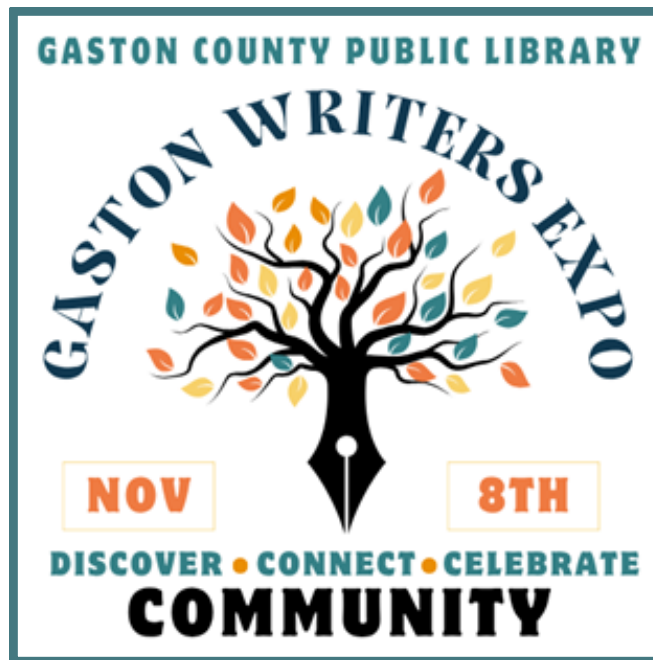
Gaston County Public Library
1555 E. Garrison Blvd. Gastonia, NC 28054
<https://gastonlibrary.org/>



GASTON COUNTY
Public Library | Connect · Discover



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



GASTON COUNTY TO CELEBRATE LOCAL AUTHORS, MUSICIANS, CREATORS AT FIRST ANNUAL WRITERS EXPO

THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO THE GASTON WRITERS EXPO ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025, FROM 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M. AT THE MAIN LIBRARY, 1555 E. GARRISON BLVD., GASTONIA.

THIS ONE-DAY EVENT CELEBRATES STORYTELLING, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITY BY BRINGING TOGETHER LOCAL AUTHORS, ARTISTS, CREATORS, AND READERS. GUESTS CAN ENJOY AUTHOR MEET-AND-GREETS, BOOK SIGNINGS, READINGS, LIVE PERFORMANCES, CHILDREN'S CRAFTS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOP LOCAL.

ATTENDEES WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH OVER 30 AUTHORS INCLUDING BESTSELLING INSPIRATIONAL AUTHOR AMY CLIPSTON, AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST AND MYSTERY WRITER MICHAEL BANKS, BESTSELLING ROMANCE AUTHOR TINA MARTIN, LOCAL COMMUNITY CONNECTOR R. DWAYNE BURKS, AND LOCAL SINGER/SONGWRITER AND CHILDREN'S AUTHOR BETH GATLIN.

THE EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE FRIENDS OF THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY. THIS PROJECT WAS ALSO SUPPORTED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA ARTS COUNCIL, A DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES AND THE GASTON ARTS COUNCIL.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CAMERA TO TAKE PICTURES WITH SANTA! REGISTRATION/PAYMENT DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16. BREAKFAST INCLUDES ASSORTED WAFFLES, GRITS, BACON BREAKFAST CASSEROLE, EGG AND CHEESE SLIDERS, FRUIT CUPS, ORANGE JUICE AND MILK. TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.EVENTENY.COM/EVENTS/TICKET/?ID=23548](https://www.eventeny.com/events/ticket/?ID=23548)

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.)



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.

Photo Credit: Butch Delatina