

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



**THANK YOU A.C.E.
NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS!**

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

Thank you to all the A.C.E. leaders who joined us for our first Neighborhood Leader Forum! We appreciate you taking the time to learn, share ideas, and connect with fellow neighborhood leaders.

READ MORE (P.4) <<<

Eligible Recognized Communities may apply for matching grant funds for community projects. Learn more and apply today!

**MATCHING GRANT
APPLICATION OPEN**

**UPCOMING EVENTS &
OPPORTUNITIES**

>>> **READ MORE (P.5)**

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

THANK YOU A.C.E. NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS!

Thank you to all of the A.C.E. community leaders who joined us for our first Neighborhood Leader Forum! It was a great opportunity to connect, learn from City staff, share ideas, and hear what is happening in neighborhoods across Gastonia.

We appreciate everyone who took the time to participate, ask questions, share experiences, and help make the forum a success. Your commitment to your neighborhoods plays an important role in building stronger, more connected communities.

We are excited to continue these conversations, support our neighborhood leaders, and work together to make the A.C.E. program even stronger. Thank you for all you do for your neighbors and your community!



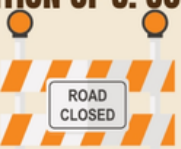
GASTONIA FALL FESTIVAL

	Gastonia FALL Festival	
	OCT 17 3-7PM	
		Rotary Pavilion & Downtown Gastonia Music - Free Rides & Games Vendors - Food Trucks Entertainment - Contests

Come out to downtown Gastonia on Saturday, October 17 from 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM! There will be food trucks, live music, vendors, entertainment, a free KidsZone with mechanical rides, inflatables, and carnival games with prizes. Please bring your own lawn chair and/or blanket to sit and enjoy the music!

Gastonia
FALL
Festival | **STREET CLOSURES**

10:00 AM
MAIN AVE. BETWEEN N. YORK ST. AND DR. MLK JR. WAY
TOP PORTION OF S. SOUTH ST.


 ROAD CLOSED





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.



BLACK GOLD SALES



\$20/SCOOP

CASH ONLY

SELF SERVICE BUCKETS \$1/BUCKET

Friday, October 9th - 1PM - 5PM

Saturday, October 10th - 8AM - Noon

Friday, October 16th - 1PM - 5PM

Saturday, October 17th - 8AM - Noon

Friday, October 23rd - 1PM - 5PM

Friday, October 30th - 1PM - 5PM

Location: 3100 Duke Street, Gastonia,
off of Gaston Day School Road

Help us prevent litter by bringing a tarp to cover your load.

In the event of rain please call 704-214-9172 or visit www.facebook.com/keepgastoniabeautiful for information on cancellations or rescheduling of sale.

What Is **Black Gold**?

Black Gold consists exclusively of ground compost from leaves collected from Gastonia residences and municipal properties.

It contains no dyes, artificial fertilizers, or additives.

KGB's Black Gold is almost exclusively leaf and maybe some yard clippings, which makes for good nutrients that when mixed with soil, slowly release their nutrients back to plants. It is a wonderful amendment and can reduce or eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers.

NO DELIVERIES AVAILABLE! Help us prevent litter... Bring a Tarp to Cover Your Load! All funds go toward KGB's beautification efforts.



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!



MAKE HALLOWEEN A NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT

Halloween is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors! Along with traditional trick-or-treating, consider hosting a neighborhood block party or outdoor movie night to bring everyone together and make the evening extra fun.

A few simple safety tips can help make the night safer for everyone.

- Keep walkways and driveways well lit
- consider moving trick-or-treating activities toward the top of driveways where there is better visibility
- Keep an eye out for children, neighbors, and vehicles as everyone enjoys the evening

Want to host a neighborhood event? A.C.E. Recognized Communities can reserve the Block Party Trailer and Movie-in-a-Box for free, as long as equipment is available. [Contact Karely Chavez](#) for more information or for help planning your next neighborhood event!

Have fun, stay safe, and enjoy Halloween together!



PEACE CREW FALL EVENTS

Peace Crew Fall Events

Gather. Connect. Make peace.





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: Halloween 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



PUBLIC NOTICE



HELP SHAPE GASTONIA'S FUTURE

Get Involved in the Unified Development Ordinance Rewrite

The City of Gastonia is updating its Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) — the consolidated set of regulations that guides land use and development citywide.

The UDO includes:



Zoning



Land Use



Subdivisions



Signage



The project website is the place to:

- ✓ Learn about project goals and timeline
- ✓ Participate in public meetings and online engagement opportunities
- ✓ Review presentations and draft documents
- ✓ Share feedback as the draft UDO takes shape

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Residents are invited to apply to serve on the Steering Committee and Focus Groups and help provide community input throughout this 18-month project.



APPLY BY:
OCTOBER 18, 2026

Explore the Project



SCAN ME

Apply to Participate



SCAN ME

LEARN. PARTICIPATE. SHARE YOUR INPUT.



Project Website: tinyurl.com/GastoniaUDORewrite



Apply Here: surveymonkey.com/r/VBZG6BY

Planning Today for a Stronger Tomorrow

PEOPLE | PLACES | OPPORTUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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JOIN KGB FOR SCARECROWS IN THE GARDEN



Bring your family to create recycled scarecrow crafts, enjoy the garden, and bask in the fall weather!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH



10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Rotary Community Garden
406 E Franklin Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054



Bring your creativity, and let's celebrate the season together!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

GASTONIA Concert SERIES

2026 Schedule



April 23 @ 7 PM

The Ultimate Red Hot Chili Peppers Experience

Caromont Health Park

Baileys Marie

Caleb Davis
and the

STARDUSTERS

June 13 @ 6 PM

A Double Feature of Local Favorites

Rotary Pavilion in DTG

the
FINESSE
band

September 12 @ 6 PM

High-Energy R&B Experience

Rotary Pavilion in DTG

SECRET AGENT
23 SKIDOO

October 30 @ 6 PM

Grammy Award-Winning Family Hip Hop + Trunk-or-Treat

Caromont Health Park

Gastonia East
Rotary



GASTONIA
NC
Great Place. Great People. Great Promise.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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GASTONIA
Great Place. Great People. Great Promise.

2027 In-Kind Service Applications

Supporting community events in Gastonia

 **APPLICATION OPENS**
September 1, 2026

 **APPLY BY**
November 1, 2026

ELIGIBILITY & FUNDING DETAILS	BEFORE YOU APPLY:
✓ For 2027 events ✓ Tax-exempt nonprofit organizations only ✓ Up to 50% of estimated staffing costs Up to \$2,000 per event \$15,000 available annually 	 Check Rotary Pavilion or Rankin Lake availability first  Check recreation center availability directly with the center

Learn more and apply: gastonianc.gov/in-kind-services

Applications are reviewed by City staff, the SPARC Committee, and City Council.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Keep Gastonia Beautiful

FIREWOOD SALE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
8-10 A.M.

\$60/truckload
CASH ONLY

*Ferguson Park
1401 Golf Course Drive*



KEEP GASTONIA BEAUTIFUL'S FALL FIREWOOD SALE IS COMING TO FERGUSON PARK!

Stock up for those cool fall evenings around the fire — and let us do the heavy lifting! Come early, because when it's gone, it's GONE!

**\$60 for an entire truckload
CASH ONLY**

**Ferguson Park — 1401 Golf Course Drive
8-10 a.m.**

Parks & Recreation staff will load your truck!

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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\$85

Keep Gastonia Beautiful

Rain Barrel Sale

HIGHLIGHTS

- Made in North Carolina
- 100% Recycled Plastic
- 50 gallon capacity
- Mosquito-proof screen
- 6' overflow hose included
- Retail value \$159
- Orders open through November 4th
- Pick up event will be held on Saturday, November 14th at the Gastonia Farmers Market



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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VOLLEYBALL

OPEN GYM

PHILLIPS CENTER

WEDNESDAYS
AUGUST 12
AUGUST 19
AUGUST 26
SEPTEMBER 2
SEPTEMBER 9

6:00PM-8:00PM

18 & UP • NO SIGN UPS • FREE PLAY

2031 ECHO LANE GASTONIA NC 28052





City of Gastonia Parks & Rec

COACHES WANTED

Volunteers wanted to help coach youth cheerleaders. Ages range from 6-12 years old. The cheer season runs from November - February.

For more information, contact Whitney or Tawanna
 Whitney Alexander 704-349-8705
 Tawanna.Alston@gastonianc.gov / 704-866-6839




Background Check Link 
 (City of Gastonia) New Background Check PDF





PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

Pumpkin Pick Up DAY:
Thursday, October 22
1 pm - 8 pm

VOTING WEEK: OCTOBER 26 - 30

GET YOUR CREATIVITY ON FOR THIS FUN & FESTIVE HALLOWEEN CONTEST! YOU CAN USE ANY DECORATIONS YOU WISH, BUT ONLY ONE PUMPKIN PER DISPLAY. YOU CAN DECORATE OR CARVE, OR BOTH. PUMPKINS WILL BE PROVIDED, DECORATIONS ARE ON YOUR OWN.

PRIZES AWARDED FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PLACE

WINNERS ANNOUNCED: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

For more information, or to reserve a pumpkin, please call (704) 866-6848.




SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER
 107 South Broad Street

FOR ADULTS 50 YEARS OF AGE OR BETTER!

A PLACE TO BE ACTIVE & STAY CONNECTED!

Activities, programs & special events for the 50+ population

ENJOY ALL WE HAVE TO OFFER!

-  Exercise Classes
-  Card & Board Games
-  Educational Sessions
-  Art & Ceramics Classes
-  Billiard Tables
-  Weight Room
-  Day Trips
-  Senior Dances
-  Bingo

Hours of Operation:
 Monday thru Friday
 9 AM - 5 PM
 Thursday
 9 AM - 8 PM

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

Monthly calendar and a list of available activities on our website: www.gastonianc.gov/seniorrecreationcenter





UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 6 – 8 PM

STEER your way to The Schiele's Farm for an **UDDERly** delightful after-hours event with Keepsake Brewery! Taste locally brewed beer (chocolate milk for the kids) while you enjoy live music and animal interactions.

Advance tickets: \$8 museum members / \$10 general public; Day of event: \$13 per person



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Witness mad science experiments and enjoy nocturnal animal encounters while you delve into nature's mysteries through unforgettable seasonal fun.

Advance tickets: \$12 Museum Members / \$15 General Public; Day of event: \$18 per person



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

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**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

October 13

November 10

December 8

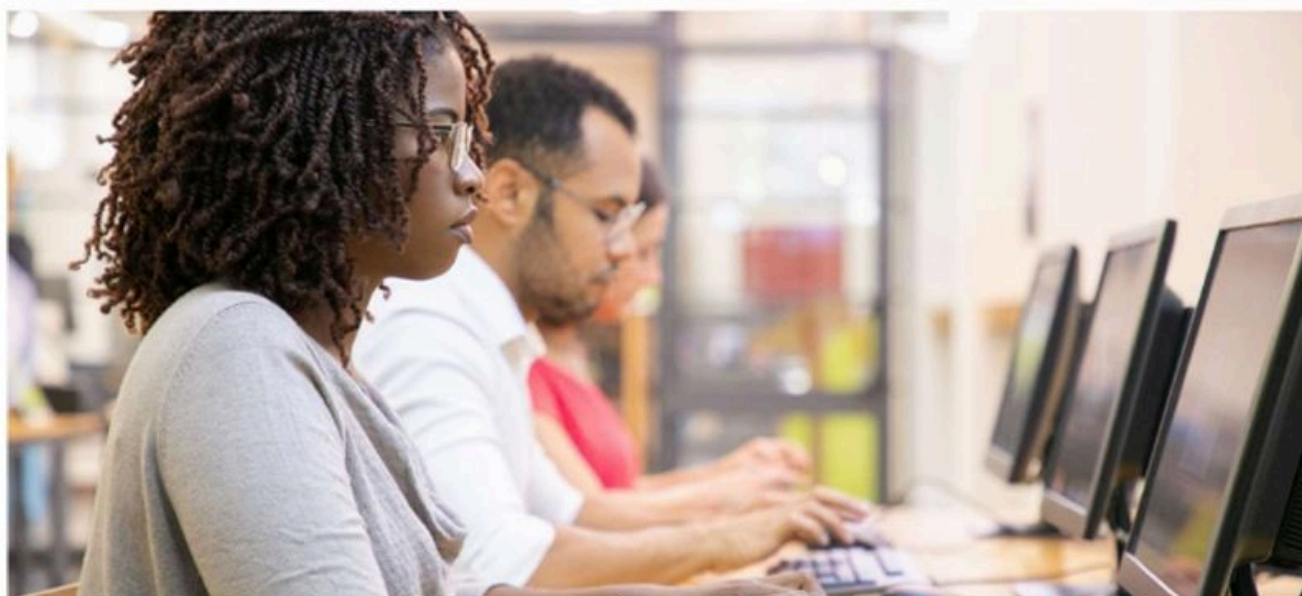


UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Build your computer skills and your confidence.



Free. Convenient. Valuable.

*Impress employers by earning the
Northstar Basic Computer Skills Certificates.*

**1 hour long, in-person
instruction sessions on seven
basic skills topics:**

WHERE:

3rd Floor,
Main Branch Library

WHEN: 3 pm

WHO: Adults

Cybersecurity Basics

September 25th

Information Literacy

October 9th

Career Search Skills

October 23rd

Google Docs Basics

November 6th

Microsoft Word Basics

November 20th

Excel Basics

December 4th

PowerPoint Basics

December 11th

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Have questions or need to register for a session?

Call - 704-868-2164 ex 1315



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

SEED SAVING

Come learn how to save seeds
from your home gardens to cut
down on gardening costs and grow
a stronger garden.
All ages welcome



Saturday,
October 31, 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
Requests can be served more effectively if notice is provided at least 10 days before the event.

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Gaston County



GASTON COUNTY
Public Library | Connect · Discover