Edition #43 October 2025

#### >>> NEWSLETTER <<<

# ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



#### **GASTONIA FALL FESTIVAL**

### >>> READ MORE (P.2)

Come celebrate the Fall season with the City of Gastonia! Enjoy an afternoon filled with live music, local vendors, carnival rides, delicious food, and fun for the whole family. It's a community tradition you won't want to miss!

### READ MORE (P.4)) <<<

Laurel East Community Watch is hosting a Candidates Forum on Tuesday, October 14 at 7 PM at Sherwood Elementary. **Open to all neighborhoods!** 

#### **CANDATES FORUM**

### UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### >>> READ MORE (P.6)

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

### **GASTONIA FALL FESTIVAL**

Come out to downtown Gastonia on Saturday, October 18 from 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM! There will be food trucks, a beer garden, 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\*\*



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

## CELEBRATING GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY



At the most recent City Council meeting, the Mayor presented a proclamation recognizing Good Neighbor Day 2025.

Representatives from Laurel East Community Watch and Bethesda Oaks HOA were present to accept the proclamation alongside Karely Chavez, Neighborhood Program Administrator.

This recognition highlights the important role that community leaders and residents play in looking out for one another and building stronger, more connected neighborhoods.

Thank you to all of our A.C.E. recognized communities for your continued efforts to make our city a welcoming place to call home!

## CANDIDATES IN ATTENDENCE:

#### **WARD 1:**

- WALTER JAMES HART JR.
- DEMETRIOUS KOUTSOUPIAS
- ADAM OLIVIERI

#### **WARD 2:**

- KATHY BOSWELL
- TERESA CONNOR-GREENE
- GLENN SILVERMAN

#### **WARD 4:**

- ANGELA DREHER
- CHERYL LITTLEJOHN

#### **WARD 5:**

- CLARK SIMON
- JENNIFER M. STEPP

#### CANDIDATES FORUM

The Laurel East Community Watch is sponsoring a Candidates Forum for those running for Gastonia City Council. This important event will take place on Tuesday, October 14, at 7:00 PM at Sherwood Elementary School, 1744 Dixon Road, Gastonia, NC 28054.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early to ensure the forum can begin promptly.

The forum provides residents with an opportunity to hear directly from candidates, ask questions, and learn more about their priorities for our city. It's a valuable way for the community to engage in the democratic process and ensure all voices are heard. While the event is hosted by Laurel East Community Watch, everyone is invited—all neighborhoods and community members are welcome to attend. Events like this highlight the role that community-led efforts play in strengthening civic engagement and giving residents a platform to connect with their leaders.

Mark your calendars and join your neighbors in learning more about the future of Gastonia.

Reminder: This year's City Council election will be ward voting only, with the exception of Ward 4, which will be elected citywide.



### HALLOWEEN IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Halloween is a fun time of year when our neighborhoods come alive with creativity, laughter, and plenty of sweet treats. It's a wonderful tradition that gives families a chance to get outside, connect with neighbors, and create lasting memories.

Community events like Halloween don't have to be overly complicated to be meaningful. Sometimes the simplest efforts such as setting out pumpkins, decorating your yard, or handing out candy from the front porch—are what make the evening memorable. Some neighborhoods even take it a step further by organizing group activities like a costume parade, a shared treat table, or a cozy fire pit where neighbors can gather. These small touches bring people together and remind us of the joy in connecting with those who live nearby.

Here are a few ways your neighborhood can help make Halloween both safe and successful:

- Organize group trick-or-treating encourage kids to go in groups for added safety and fun.
- Slow it down remind neighbors and visitors to drive carefully and watch for children.
- Keep pets safe remind residents to secure pets indoors to avoid accidents with costumed visitors.
- Encourage reflective costumes add reflective tape, glow sticks, or light-up props to costumes so children are more visible after dark.
- Encourage community
   communication use your
   neighborhood's email list or
   Facebook group to share trick-or treat hours, safety reminders, and
   fun plans ahead of time.
- Share the spirit not everyone hands out candy, but neighbors can participate by decorating, waving to trick-or-treaters, or sitting outside to enjoy the atmosphere.





## 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









2025

## Thursday Nights DJ Starts at 6pm • Live Music at 7:30

Rotary Pavilion • Downtown Gastonia

Spring Fever

On the Border
The Ultimate Eagles Tribute



MAY

Summer Blast-Off Gabriel Sanchez Presents

The Prince Experience

Southern September **Petty Rewind** Tom Petty Tribute Band



Caromont Health Park





Presented by





gastoniaeastrotary.org/concerts



### **BRING YOUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER!**

Movie in a Box & Block Party Trailer FREE for Recognized Communities

#### Planning a neighborhood event?

Our Movie in a Box and Block Party Trailer are available at no cost to officially recognized communities!

They're perfect for block parties, outdoor movie nights, neighborhood celebrations, and any event that brings your community together.











#### WANT TO KNOW HOW YOUR CITY WORKS?

#### JOIN THE MUNICIPAL CITIZENS' ACADEMY!

A behind-the-scenes experience of your local government. Open to Gastonia residents ready to learn, connect, and make a difference.

#### What You'll Experience:

- · Learn how your city runs
- · Meet city staff & leaders
- · Behind-the-scenes city tours
- · Discover how to get involved

#### When:

- January June 2026
- · 2 Mondays a month
- 6:00 8:00 PM

#### **APPLY TODAY!**



#### **Questions?**

Contact Karely Chavez Karely.Chavez@gastonianc.gov (704)-866-6907

https://www.gastonianc.gov/ municipal-citizens-academy



# FALL 2025 BLACK GOLD SALE \$20/SCOOP\*

CASH ONLY

Bring your own Bucket (self service station) \$1/bucket

It's time to prep your beds for winter with Keep Gastonia Beautiful's Black Gold Sale

Sales are held Friday & Saturday Friday 1-5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 12 noon

Friday, September 26 from 1-5 p.m.
Saturday, September 27 from 8-12 noon
Friday, October 3 from 1-5 p.m.
Saturday, October 4 from 8-12 noon

**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 704-869-1008 or visit www.facebook.com/keepgastoniabeautiful for information on cancellations or rescheduling of sale. SORRY, NO DELIVERIES AVAILABLE

### APPLICATIONS EXTENDED UNTIL OCT. 15TH!



#### SANTIAGO DE SURCO, PERU

- Explore museums, cathedrals, tour Cusco, ride a train to Machu Picchu, learn about the history of Peru, taste traditional foods and barter in markets
- Enjoy a homestay with a Peruvian family, attend school with your host student and experience the sites and sounds of our sister city.

\$2,400-2,700

\*HIGHER COST DUE TO MULTIPLE FLIGHTS



#### GOTHA, GERMANY

- Travel by trains and trams to small villages, museums, castles and a concentration camp. Experience medieval history and modern marvels.
- Partnering with our sister school, you will stay with a host family and enjoy traditional meals and customs on weekends and after day trips.

\$1,900-2,100

#### **INFORMATION**

- Travel 10-12 days in early June, housing and most meals included, full itinerary is provided by hosting country
- · Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors can apply
- Q+A Session Sept 8,

Public Library Auditorium, 6 pm

- · Applications due by October 1st 2025
- Enjoy sharing our culture with exchange students from Germany or Peru in Fall 2026



LEARN MORE & APPLY







# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

STEER YOUR WAY TO THE SCHIELE'S FARM FOR AN UDDERLY DELIGHTFUL AFTER-HOURS EVENT WITH KEEPSAKE BREWERY.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 6 - 8 PM

TASTE LOCALLY BREWED BEER (CHOCOLATE MILK FOR THE KIDS) WHILE YOU ENJOY LIVE MUSIC AND INTERACT WITH THE ANIMALS. ALL AGES WELCOME!

ADVANCE TICKETS: \$10 MUSEUM MEMBERS / \$12 GENERAL PUBLIC, DAY OF EVENT: \$18 PER PERSON



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 4 - 8 PM

CELEBRATE A NOT-TOO-SCARY HALLOWEEN AT THE SCHIELE.

TRICK-OR-TREAT ALONG THE NATURE TRAIL, ENJOY A FESTIVE BONFIRE, CARVE TURNIPS, AND HUNT FOR BIGFOOT!

ADVANCE TICKETS: \$10 MUSEUM MEMBERS / \$12 GENERAL PUBLIC, DAY OF EVENT: \$18 PER PERSON

FIREWOOD SALE
Saturday, September 27
Saturday, October 25
from 8-10 a.m.\*
\$60/truck load \*CASH ONLY



FERGUSON PARK

1401 GOLF COURSE DRIVE, GASTONIA, NC
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 704-869-1938



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### GARDENING YOUR WAY

This program will discuss various types of gardening; container, hydroponic, square foot gardening, and more. Nathan Chapman of the Schiele Museum will discuss the pros and cons of various methods to help you determine what would work best in your space.



Saturday October 11, 2025
11 AM
Gaston County Public Library
1555 E Garrison Blvd
Carol K Reinhardt Auditorium
https://gastonlibrary.org

**NC STATE** 

**EXTENSION** 

Master Gardener | Gaston County





# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY





# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



All Ages (Children must be accompanied by an adult)

### October's craft focus: Day of the Dead Felt Sugar Skulls





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/



## 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.