

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



**LAST CHANCE TO RSVP! DON'T
MISS THE NEIGHBORHOOD
LEADER FORUM**

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

Join fellow neighborhood leaders on September 12 for a day of learning, sharing ideas, and building stronger connections across our communities.

READ MORE (P.4) <<<

Join us in welcoming our new Housing & Community Engagement director and congratulating our IT director on their new leadership role with the City of Gastonia

**WELCOME NEW
DIRECTORS**

**UPCOMING EVENTS &
OPPORTUNITIES**

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

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

LAST CHANCE TO RSVP! NEIGHBORHOOD LEADER FORUM

The Neighborhood Leader Forum is almost here, and we're excited to see our A.C.E. community leaders and soon-to-be neighborhood leaders come together!

Join us on **Saturday, September 12, from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM at the Gaston County Library** for a morning of learning, sharing, and connecting. This is a great opportunity to get your questions answered directly by City staff, learn about helpful resources, and connect with other neighborhood leaders to share ideas and learn what's working in their communities.

We'd love to see every A.C.E. community represented! Please complete the following form to RSVP and reserve your spot. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

RSVP Here - <https://seam.ly/DJC5UcGF>



COSTUME SWAP AT THE FARMERS MARKET



WASTE-FREE COSTUME SWAP

Your old costume could be someone else's Halloween magic!

KGB is accepting your gently used costumes at the Gastonia Farmers Market during the month of September
Kids, Adults, Pets, and Accessories too!

SWAP will be held at the Gastonia Farmers Market
October 3 and October 10th

This Halloween, give your costume a second life! Join us for a Halloween Costume Swap at the Gastonia Farmers Market. Bring your gently used costumes and swap them for something "new to you."

Costumes will be accepted during the month of September, then made available during our costume swap event that will be held October 3 and October 10 8-11 a.m.

Kids' costumes, adult costumes, pet costumes and Halloween accessories are welcome! Instead of letting costumes collect dust—or worse, end up in the trash—swap, reuse and keep the Halloween spirit going!

Costume drop-off: Entire month of September, when the market is open
Costume Swap: October 3 and October 10 8-11 a.m.



WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS!



Stacy Pethia,
Director of Housing &
Community Engagement



The City of Gastonia is pleased to announce its new Director of Housing and Community Engagement, Dr. Stacy Pethia. She brings nearly 20 years of housing experience and will begin her new role with the City on August 31. Ms. Pethia will lead the Housing and Community Engagement Department and help advance the City's efforts to address housing needs while strengthening relationships with community partners.

Congratulations to Brian Gray on his appointment as the City of Gastonia's new Chief Information Officer! Gray brings more than 20 years of IT, cybersecurity, infrastructure and digital transformation experience to the role. Having previously served as the City's Assistant Director of Technology Services, he will lead the Technology Services Department and help advance the City's technology strategy and services.



Brian Gray,
Chief Information Officer –
Technology Services



HELP GASTONIA TRACK THE RAIN

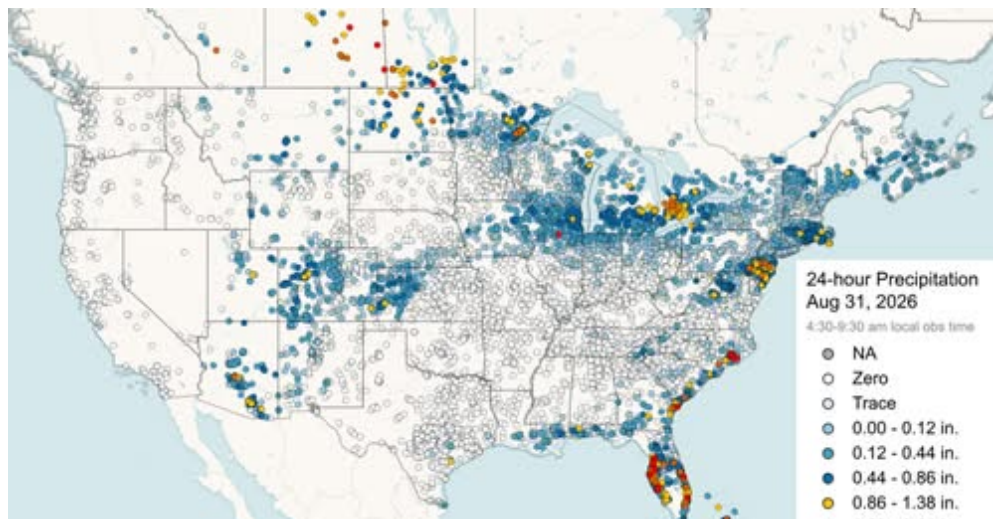
Have you ever wondered how much rain your neighborhood actually receives? Now you can help us find out! Keep Gastonia Beautiful, in partnership with City of Gastonia Stormwater Division, is looking for Gastonia residents to participate in CoCoRaHS—the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network.

CoCoRaHS is a nationwide network of volunteers who measure and report precipitation from their own neighborhoods. These observations help provide a more detailed picture of precipitation patterns and are used by weather professionals, researchers, educators, water-resource managers and others. We want to build a strong network of observers throughout the City of Gastonia so we can better understand how precipitation varies from one part of our community to another. Your rainfall measurement may be just one small data point, but when observations from neighborhoods across Gastonia are combined, they can help tell a much bigger story about our community's weather and water.

Our Goal: 50 volunteers this fall and 50 additional volunteers this spring

No previous experience is required! We will provide training before volunteers begin taking measurements and reporting observations. If you are interested in becoming part of Gastonia's rain-monitoring network, email Juliann.lehman@gastonianc.gov with your name, home address and the ward you live in. We'll use this information to help identify volunteers across different areas of the city and will contact interested residents directly with information about training and next steps.

Learn more about CoCoRaHS: www.cocorahs.org



SISTER CITIES INTEREST MEETING



If you are a **Gaston County High School Student** interested in:

- friendship
- international experiences
- world languages
- history & culture
- adventure
- challenging yourself
- travel & discovery
- "peace through people"

Scan QR to learn more!

Gastonia Sister Cities
Interest meeting:
Sept 14th, 6pm -
City Hall of Gastonia
181 S. South Street

NAME: GASTONIA SISTER CITIES
STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

ADDRESS:
GOTHA, GERMANY
SANTIAGO DE SURCO, PERU

Gaston County high school students in 9th through 11th grade have an exciting opportunity to become a Sister Cities Student Ambassador. Students will prepare for their experience through cultural classes, travel abroad for approximately two weeks, stay with a host family, and build lasting connections while representing Gastonia.

Interested families are invited to learn more at an informational meeting on September 14 at 6:00 PM at City Hall - Applications are open now!



COMING SOON...



See something around Gastonia that needs attention? Soon, there will be an easier way to let the City know!

COG TRU-Fix will allow residents to report non-emergency City service issues, such as water leaks, downed trees, broken traffic signals, and more. Requests will be sent to the appropriate City team to help get the issue addressed.

Keep an eye out for more information as we get closer to launch. Together, we can help make Gastonia better!



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

- 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

BEFORE YOU APPLY:

- Check Rotary Pavilion or Rankin Lake availability first
- Check recreation center availability directly with the center

Walk and Roll Together, Gaston!

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

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KEEP GASTONIA BEAUTIFUL

VOLUNTEER CLUB

FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH 2026

4:00 - 5:00

GARLAND MUNICIPAL BUILDING - 150 S YORK ST GASTONIA, NC

All Middle and High School Students are welcome to join us for our meeting. We will sort bottle caps for our upcoming project and plan a service project for October. RSVP at the link provided.



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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Welcome

AUTUMN

Join KGB for a Fall Storytime to celebrate the new season!

Tuesday September 22nd

9:00, 10:00, and 11:00

30 minute sessions

Gastonia Farmers Market

410 E Long Ave, Gastonia, NC 28054



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Community **CLEAN-UP DAY**

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH

10AM - NOON

MEET AT GARLAND MUNICIPAL BUILDING

150 S YORK ST IN DOWNTOWN GASTONIA

ALL AGES WELCOME, KIDS UNDER 16

MUST HAVE AN ADULT PARTICIPATING



KEEP GASTONIA

Beautiful

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

THE CATAWBA RIVERSWEEP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

50+ CLEANUP SITES



REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER BY
SEPTEMBER 1ST TO BE GUARANTEED A
FREE LIMITED-EDITION 2026 T-SHIRT!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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GASTON COUNTY
Tax Office

HOW WILL THE REAPPRAISAL AFFECT YOU? **PUBLIC MEETING**

Hear from the Gaston County Tax Office
regarding the upcoming 2027 Tax Reappraisal &
get answers to your questions!

September 10th, 10 a.m - 11 a.m.

**Senior Activity Center
107 S. Broad St., Gastonia**

More information at [WeValueGaston2027.com](https://www.WeValueGaston2027.com)



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Hope Fest

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND MORE

September 12, 2026

10:00 am - 2:00 pm



**FREE
TRANSPORTATION
AVAILABLE!**

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH PARKING
LOT
190 E. Franklin Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28052

2026

**GET
INVOLVED**

Hope Fest

DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5TH!

DONATION DROP OFF:

HEALTHNET GASTON
613 E. FRANKLIN BLVD.
GASTONIA, NC 28054
MONDAY - FRIDAY
8AM - 5PM

DONATION QUESTIONS?

704-874-1958

VENDOR SIGN UP



DURABLE BACKPACKS
SHELF-STABLE FOOD
FLASHLIGHTS WITH
BATTERIES
PERSONAL HYGIENE
WIPES
BATTERY CHARGING
PACKS
HYGIENE KITS
PERSONAL FANS
DOG & CAT FOOD
REUSABLE WATER
BOTTLES
INSECT REPELLENT

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP





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	**NO
MAY 13	BINGO IN
JUNE 10	NOVEMBER**
JULY 8	DECEMBER 9

For more information, please call (704) 866-6848 or (704) 866-6842.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

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Celebrate the opening of the
ELIZABETH WILLIAMS ROBINSON HALL OF DINOSAURS.
Be one of the first to see the ultimate dinosaur encounter!

OPENING NIGHT GALA

Thursday, September 24

6:30 - 10 PM

Walk among the giants during an extraordinary evening featuring first access to the new exhibit, craft cocktails, curated small bites, live music, and immersive experiences throughout the museum.

\$150 per person

\$275 per couple

DINO DAYS

Saturday, September 26, 9 AM - 5 PM

Sunday, September 27, 1 - 5 PM

Enjoy an unforgettable weekend of prehistoric adventure! Explore the museum's newest permanent exhibit, then enjoy special dino-themed activities, photo opportunities, and fun for dino lovers of all ages.

\$20 per person

Discounted advance tickets available online

DINOS AFTER DARK

Saturday, September 26, 6 - 8 PM

Sip, stroll, and discover the Hall of Dinosaurs at a relaxed pace. Enjoy guided tours and dino-themed activities after hours. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

\$12 Museum Members / \$15 General Public

Timed entry tickets available online in advance only.



Gastonia, NC



Get details and tickets at
schielemuseum.org/hall-of-dinosaurs



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ENBRIDGE

Stover
Family Dentistry





UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

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SEPTEMBER 2, 2:00 PM

The Digging Deeper monthly lifelong learning series features engaging presentations on the latest discoveries, groundbreaking research, and fascinating stories of science and natural history.

Included with the purchase of museum admission

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Watch the museum transform into your favorite wizarding world! Discover spellbinding demonstrations, enchanting potions, and mystical creatures. Witches and wizards of all ages are welcome.

Advance tickets: \$12 Museum Members / \$15 General Public



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Celebrate the grand opening of the Elizabeth Williams Robinson Hall of Dinosaurs! Explore the museum's newest permanent exhibit – the ultimate dinosaur encounter.

Advance tickets: \$6 Museum Members / \$18 General Public



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

September 8

October 13

November 10

December 8



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

20

Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

11:00 AM

Carol K. Reinhardt Auditorium

Gaston County Public Library

1555 E Garrison Blvd

Gastonia, NC

Sharonview Federal Credit Union will discuss how thieves acquire and use your personal information, how you can protect yourself, and what to do if you are a victim.





UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

FALL GARDENING

The summer may be winding down,
but your garden is still going
strong. Lets talk year round
gardening.

All ages welcome



Saturday,
September 26, 2026
11 AM

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

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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

