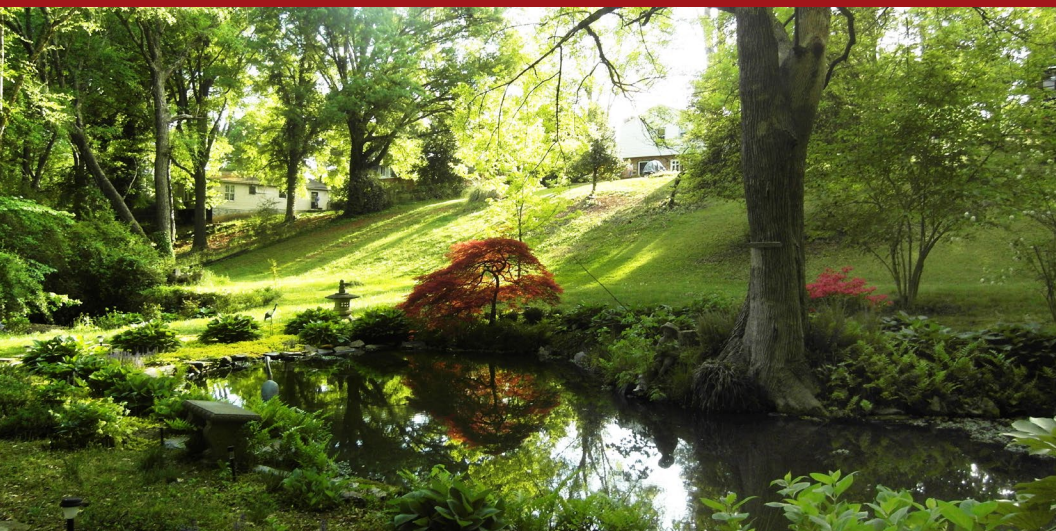




Laurel East Community

Great Neighbors - Great Neighborhood

Laurel East is home to more than 400 families who enjoy the natural beauty of our community, the warmth and concern of their neighbors, and the conveniences of living in the hub of Gastonia. If you are new to our neighborhood, or are a longtime resident, the Laurel East Community Watch invites you to join us as we work to keep our neighborhood vibrant ... a place we're proud to call home.

Mission Statement

The Laurel East Community Watch works to improve the quality of our community by advocating for our neighborhood and building supportive relationships among our residents.

Our History & Activities

Since 2009, the Laurel East Community Watch has been meeting on the first Monday of the month at Sherwood Elementary School, except for July. We gather for an hour for a police report, a neighborhood discussion, and a presentation by community leaders on such topics as Code Enforcement and City Services, Master Gardeners, Animal Care & Enforcement, the Farmers Market, the Schiele Museum, Kintegra Health, and the County Library. The Watch also sponsors an annual Candidates Forum, a Christmas social and luminary event, has donated funds and made campus improvements at Sherwood Elementary School, and advocated for greater traffic safety in our neighborhood. Our Steering

Committee plans and conducts meetings and special events and communicates with over 300 members through e-mail and Facebook. Since 2022 our Watch has been a Recognized Community by the City of Gastonia's Alliance for Community Enrichment (A.C.E.) Program so we receive special grant opportunities, stronger communications with City departments, and enhanced support from A.C.E. staff.

Building Great Relationships

The strength of a neighborhood is its residents. In Laurel East, we truly have great neighbors – people who care about others' wellbeing, safety, and property. The basis of this success is the Golden Rule: we treat our neighbors as we want to be treated. Here are some of the ways we try to promote a sense of community:

- We encourage friendliness and common courtesy. We speak or wave when we see one another and we welcome new neighbors.
- We help each other. For example, if a neighbor is going out of town, we offer to pick up their mail and newspapers. This is a great way to build and maintain strong relationships.
- We look out for the safety and security of our neighbors. We observe the neighborhood and school zone speed limits and watch for children on our streets. We report unusual activity by calling 704-866-3300.

- We respect one another's right to a peaceful neighborhood. While we all have different schedules and tolerance levels for activity and noise, we are considerate of neighbors when using noisy power equipment such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers, pressure washers, etc., or when operating unusually loud vehicles. When possible, we limit the use of these kinds of equipment or vehicles to daylight or early evening hours. Likewise, we respect that some of our neighbors may also be disturbed by loud voices, music, and barking dogs.
- We encourage open and respectful communication about common concerns. If there is an issue between you and a neighbor, approach them politely to discuss the situation. Explain how the situation affects you and ask how the two of you can come up with a solution that works for both of you. For example, if your neighbor's dog's barking annoys you, let them know and ask how the situation might be remedied to everyone's satisfaction. We believe the keys to negotiating these sensitive situations are respect for one another, communication, and seeking mutually agreeable solutions.
- We observe leash laws. Gaston County requires all dogs to be kept in a fenced yard or on a leash when outdoors.
- We work to preserve the beauty of our neighborhood. We are fortunate to have both naturally beautiful surroundings and



neighbors who work to maintain the attractiveness of their homes. We ask for your help in keeping our neighborhood attractive by removing your trash and recycling bins from the street the day they are emptied, helping to keep our storm drains clear of debris, and keeping your lawn maintained regularly.



Directory of Resources

Garbage

The City of Gastonia picks up garbage once a week. It provides a 96-gallon container to each home for \$11 a month. Put your trash in plastic bags, put them in the container, and close the lid without overloading the bin; do not put hazardous materials in the container. Place your bin at the curb by 7 a.m. on collection day, with the lid opening facing the street. Make sure it is clear on all sides and away from trees, mailboxes, parked cars, and fences. After pickup, move your container from the curb by midnight of collection day. For information on garbage pickup and special collection services for disabled individuals, call the City of Gastonia Solid Waste Division at 704/866-6714; for information on hazardous waste collections, call the County Recycling Hotline 704/922-7729.

Yard Waste

From October 15 to February 15 the city will vacuum your leaves at no charge; put them on the curb but not in the street or over a storm drain. The rest of the year you'll need to pay \$25 for each special leaf collection or put your leaves in a special 95-gallon yard waste cart you can buy from the city for \$60 (call 704-866-6774) and they'll be collected as yard waste.

The city also picks up grass clippings, small branches, tree limbs that are less than five feet long and four inches in diameter, and other yard waste on your regular garbage pick-up day. You are responsible for hauling construction or remodeling materials to a county dump site, which are listed here: www.gastongov.com/departments/solid-waste/garbage-disposal.



Recycling

Download the City of Gastonia's WasteWise.app or go to the city's recycling page to find what you can recycle and where you can drop off your items (<https://gastonianc.gov/recycling.html>).

Excess Trash Week

In the spring and fall, the city picks up excess trash, including bulky household items, at no charge. For additional information visit <https://gastonianc.gov/residents/garbage-recycling/43-garbage-and-recycling/1338-bulk-waste-collection.html> or call 704-866-6774.



TREE CITY USA®

Trees

The City of Gastonia is a designated Tree City by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The City will trim tree limbs on street rights-

of-way and the City Arborist will evaluate trees on City property and City rights-of-way that may pose safety hazards or sight problems at street intersections. To report tree limbs overhanging electrical lines or request an inspection from the City Arborist, call 704-866-6714.



Animal Care & Enforcement

This Gaston County program enhances the

safety of county residents from animals and works to ensure the proper care and treatment of animals. Animal Care and Enforcement impounds and cares for stray, diseased, injured, and unwanted animals at the Animal Shelter, where they are properly housed and cared for until owners reclaim them, they are placed through the Adoption-Medical Program, or as a last resort are euthanized. For more information call 704-922-8677 or 704-866-3300 (after 5PM) or visit <https://www.gastongov.com/497/Animal-Care-Enforcement>



Schiele Museum

The Schiele Museum offers science,

nature, and history programs and exhibits for people of all ages. It also features the second largest planetarium in the state, a back country village, and access to collections. For more information: call 704/866-6900 or visit <http://www.schielemuseum.org>.



Parks and Recreation in our Area

The Avon and Catawba

Creek Greenway is a 2.7-mile, handicapped-accessible, paved trail. It is open daily to joggers, walkers, skaters, and cyclists from dawn to dusk. For more information: <https://www.carolinathreadtrailmap.org/trails/trail/catawba-creek-greenway>.

Lineberger Park, features 18.5 acres of beautiful land featuring: three picnic shelters; a miniature train amusement ride; a lighted outdoor basketball court; an outdoor pool with a sprayground, pool house with showers, dressing space, and restrooms; and a concession area. The park is also linked to paved walking trails and is adjacent to the Avon and Catawba Creek Greenway.

Sherwood Elementary School has a quarter-mile track open to joggers and walkers after school hours. It is located at 1744 Dixon Road.

Within a mile of our neighborhood is the city-managed Catawba Creek Golf Course, a par 70, 18-hole course with a driving range, practice putting green, and a clubhouse with a pro shop. It is located at 530 Niblick Drive (704-866-6945).



Gaston County Public Library

The main branch of the Gaston County Public

Library, at 1555 East Garrison Blvd., is across the street from the Schiele Museum. Its services

include bestsellers, audiobooks, large print books, CDs, DVDs, career guides, genealogy and local history resources, a job-search center, online databases, public-access computers, and community programs. For more information: 704-868-2164, <http://gastonlibrary.org/?mobileFormat=false>.

Helpful Phone Numbers

Emergency.....	911
Animal Care & Enforcement	704-922-8677
CaroMont Regional Medical Center	704-834-2000
Code Enforcement.....	704-866-6714
Cooperative Extension Center.....	704-922-0301
Domestic Violence Shelter.....	704-852-6000
Fire Department.....	704-866-6806
Gastonia Mayor/City Council	704-866-6720
Gastonia Police, Non-emergency calls	704-866-3300
Health Department	704-853-5000
Library	704-868-2164
Sheriff	704-869-6800
Parks and Recreation, Gastonia.....	704-866-6839
Recycling Hotline.....	704-922-7729
Tax Collections	704-866-3158

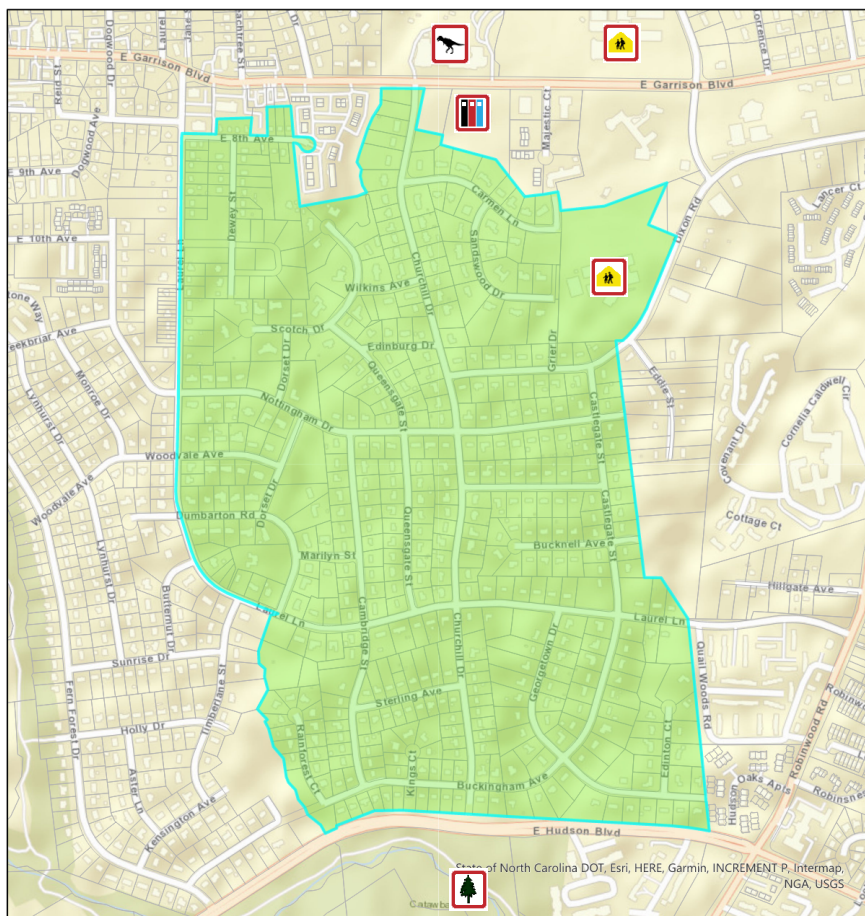
Gastonia A to Z Services Guide

<https://gastonianc.gov/a-to-z-city-services-guide.html>

Neighborhood Schools

Gaston County Public Schools	704-866-6100
Sherwood Elementary School	704-866-6609
Grier Middle School.....	704-836-9604
Ashbrook High School	704-866-6600

Laurel East Community



Laurel East Community Watch Boundary Map



Legend



School



Library



Museum



Greenway



AKERS PHARMACY

1595 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054
(704) 865-3411
www.akerspharmacy.com

For more than 50 years, Akers Pharmacy has been serving customers in the Gastonia area. We are a family-owned, local business. We treat our staff and our customers like family and invite new customers to come and join the Akers Family Too!



*This booklet was printed by Minuteman Press Gastonia.
Call them for all your printing needs. 704-867-3366 or www.impressnc.com*

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