

&gt;&gt;&gt; NEWSLETTER &lt;&lt;&lt;

# ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

## GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

### >>> READ MORE

National Good Neighbor Day is recognized annually on September 28th, and is a reminder to all people to do what we can to be understanding, kind and loving neighbors. Read about how the City of Gastonia will recognize Good Neighbor Day and simple steps on how we can be more neighborly in our own communities.

### READ MORE <<<

One way to bring neighbors together and increase community pride is to care for the neighborhood's environment. This article provides just a few ideas of how community members can grow together, while enhancing the natural beauty of their community.

## BEING A NEIGHBOR TO YOUR ENVIRONMENT

# GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY

## HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

'National Good Neighbor Day' is recognized annually by the federal government on September 28th. This special day acknowledges the need for neighbors to become, and remain, unified through understanding, love, and respect for one another. When neighbors are part of a unified community, they feel part of a larger family where people respect and support each other.

The City of Gastonia will acknowledge Good Neighbor Day and present a proclamation at the September 19, 2023 City Council Meeting. Neighbors from several of the City's Recognized Communities will be co-recipients of the Good Neighbor Day Proclamation. As the City supports and encourages the meaning behind the Good Neighbor Day Proclamation, you may wonder what are applicable ways to bring the Good Neighbor mindset to your community.

The National Good Neighbor Day website offers five simple steps or "pillars" for building cohesive and encouraging communities. The first pillar is **Connection**. Connect with your neighbors by introducing yourself to them. The conversation can start with a simple "hello".

The second pillar of the Good Neighbor Mindset is **Invitation**. Being neighborly involves building relationship with others. Inviting a neighbor and their family over for a meal or a fun activity are easy ways to build relationships. It does not have to include an elaborate place setting; rather it could be something as simple as grilling hot dogs or picking up a pizza to share together.

**Celebration** is the third pillar mentioned. As your relationships grow with neighbors and you learn more about their lives, you may discover special days or milestones in their lives. From birthdays to anniversaries to days of remembering lost loved ones, encourage and celebrate with neighbors on these special occasions.

Being attentive to your and your neighbor's surroundings leads to the fourth pillar, **Awareness**. As neighbors look out for one another and keep their eyes and ears open for suspicious activity in their neighborhood, this reliance on each other to protect their community enhances the pride and support of neighbors.

The last pillar of the Good Neighbor Mindset is **Availability**. This important pillar reminds neighbors that being available and accessible when others in your community truly need you is one the most meaningful aspects of being a good neighbor.

How can using these pillars impact your neighborhood?

### "PIILLARS OF THE GOOD NEIGHBOR MINDSET"

- 1) Connection
- 2) Invitation
- 3) Celebration
- 4) Awareness
- 5) Availability





# BEING A NEIGHBOR TO YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Being neighborly to those who live around us is very important. Treating others with kindness and respect is part of our responsibility of being good neighbors. In the same way, we should also have a neighborly attitude toward our environment and our community's ecosystem. By coming together as a community and joining efforts to enhance your neighborhood's environment, you can build bonds with neighbors, generate community pride, and help sustain your neighborhood's natural beauty.

As autumn approaches and the temperature begins to cool from the heat of summer, this is a great time to be outdoors, enjoy time with others, and make a lasting impact on your environment. Here are just a few ideas of how we can be neighborly with our community members and towards our environment.

**Establish a Community Cleanup Event:** With a little bit of effort, neighbors can work together to plan a community cleanup event. With the partnership with Keep Gastonia Beautiful, all the needed supplies (trash bags, vests, gloves, etc.) for a cleanup can be provided at no charge. Once a date has been established, invite all of your neighbors to come together and make an immediate difference in your community.

**Plant a Pollinator Garden:** One way that you can contribute toward a healthy environment is planting a pollinator garden. Autumn is a great time to begin planting seeds of native plant species. Pollinators, such as bees, butterflies and birds, will be able to use and spread the pollen from these plants in the spring time.

## GATHER YOUR NEIGHBORS AND ENHANCE YOUR COMMUNITY'S ENVIRONMENT

**Participate in a Local Riversweep or Creek Cleanup:** Many of Gastonia's neighborhoods are established near a waterway. Over time, these creek beds can become polluted with litter and other debris, and some attention is needed to help keep the waterway clear and healthy. Keep Gastonia Beautiful and the Catawba Riverkeepers are sponsoring two Gastonia creek cleanup projects on October 7th. Gather your neighbors and register for one of these creek cleanups. Relationships can build and your waterways will flourish. Contact Juliann Lehman with Keep Gastonia Beautiful for more information about these riversweeps. Juliann's email is [Juliann.Lehman@gastonianc.gov](mailto:Juliann.Lehman@gastonianc.gov).

**Plant Trees:** The Fall is an ideal time to plant trees in your yard or throughout your community. Trees absorb carbon dioxide gas and produce oxygen, which is essential for life. After receiving proper permissions and confirming that the tree plant site is not conflicting with underground utilities, neighbors can come together and help each other plant trees in the community.

There are many ways that neighbors can come together and care for their community's environment. While working toward these environmental common goals, community members can grow closer, relationally, in the process.



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Gastonia offers many opportunities for citizens to be engaged and participate in events and decision-making processes. Below are upcoming City-sponsored events and public comment opportunities:



## Gastonia Summer Concert Series

- Rotary Centennial Pavilion
- 107 N. South Street
- Presented by the City of Gastonia and Gastonia East Rotary Club
- Last Concert of the Series
  - Friday, September 15, 2023
  - Featuring "Kids in America" with "AKITA"
  - (80's Night)
- 6:00PM - 10PM



## Excess Trash Week

- September 18 - 22, 2023
- Bring your big, bulky items to your curb and the City will handle the rest, for FREE.
- Some items may have additional fees.
- For more information visit the City of Gastonia's Website at: <https://gastonianc.gov/residents/garbage-recycling/43-garbage-and-recycling/1338-bulk-waste-collection.html>



## Fall 2023 Black Gold Sales

- Need leaf compost for your Fall gardening and Winter bed prep?
- Keep Gastonia Beautiful will begin Black Gold Sales in September.
- Fridays and Saturdays, beginning September 22nd thru October 7th
- 3100 Duke Street, Gastonia, NC
- For more information contact Keep Gastonia Beautiful at (704) 869-1008 or visit the City's website at: <https://gastonianc.gov/the-events/black-gold-sales.html>



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



## 3rd Annual Latin American Festival

Rotary Centennial Pavilion

- Sunday, September 24, 2023
  - 11:00AM - 7:00PM
- WOW Supermarket
  - 2557 W. Franklin Blvd., Gastonia, NC
- Fun for the whole family
  - Live Music
  - Food Trucks
  - Games
  - Inflatables
  - vendors
  - Much, Much More!



## National Night Out Event

- Wednesday, October 4, 2023
  - 5:00PM - 8:00PM
- Gaston Christian School
  - 1625 Lowell Bethesda Road, Gastonia, NC
- Meet your Emergency Service Workers and have fun:
  - Food
  - Games
  - Music and chance to Dunk the Chief of Police

## Catawba Riversweep '23

- Saturday, October 7, 2023
  - 9:00AM - 11:00AM
- Two location opportunities to clean creeks in Gastonia
  - Lineberger Park - Avon/Catawba Creeks
  - Phillips Center - Blackwood Creek
- Volunteers can help by land or "sea" to make the biggest impact in Gastonia in one day.
- Contact Keep Gastonia Beautiful to learn how to register for one of these cleanup opportunities:
  - Email - [Juliann.Lehman@gastonianc.gov](mailto:Juliann.Lehman@gastonianc.gov)
  - Phone - 704-869-1938



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



## Storywalk® Celebration

- Saturday, October 14, 2023
  - 10:00AM - 2:00PM
- Rankin Lake Park
  - 1401 Rankin Lake Road, Gastonia, NC
- Join Keep Gastonia Beautiful at the LAKE to celebrate the first Storywalk® at Rankin Lake.
- For more information, visit: <https://fb.me/e/36LXDUGe3>



## Fall Carnival

- Saturday, October 21, 2023
- 3:00PM - 7:00PM
- CaroMont Health Park
- 800 W. Franklin Blvd.
- Fun for the whole family!
  - Games, inflatables, free carnival prizes, free face painting, and more.
- Visit <https://www.eventeny.com/events/fall-carnival-6872/> for more information.



## Gastonia Police Donut Dash 5k

- Saturday, October 28, 2023
- Race Begins at 8:00AM
- CaroMont Health Park
- 800 W. Franklin Blvd.
- Fun for the whole family!
  - Games, inflatables, free carnival prizes, free face painting, and more.
- Visit <https://www.eventeny.com/events/fall-carnival-6872/> for more information.

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



**GASTONIA**  
Great Place. Great People. Great Promise.  
ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE**

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A HOMEOWNER? DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CITY OF GASTON WILL GIVE YOU UP TO \$7500 TOWARD THE DOWN PAYMENT AND/OR CLOSING COST?

Contact Me Today:  
[Daphney.Pierresaint@gastonianc.gov](mailto:Daphney.Pierresaint@gastonianc.gov)

Scan me for more information

## Down Payment Assistance

- Looking to Purchase Your First Home?
- The Down Payment Assistance Program may help financially
- Up to \$7,500 toward Down Payment and Closing Costs
- Contact Daphney Pierresaint for more information at [Daphney.Pierresaint@gastonianc.gov](mailto:Daphney.Pierresaint@gastonianc.gov)



**GASTONIA**  
Great Place. Great People. Great Promise.  
ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**MOVIE-IN-A-BOX**

Become a Recognized Community and Gain Access to Outdoor Movie Equipment for FREE!

Plan your next Neighborhood Event

For more information, email [TylerD@cityofgastonia.com](mailto:TylerD@cityofgastonia.com)

## Movie-in-a-Box

- As a Recognized Community, you have access to FREE outdoor movie equipment
- A FREE resource for community events in your neighborhood
- Learn more about this benefit by visiting the City's Website: <https://gastonianc.gov/movie-in-a-box-program.html>



**THE CITY OF GASTONIA**

**EMPLOYMENT**  
NEXT EXIT →

**IS HIRING!**

## The City of Gastonia is Hiring

- What better way to be knowledgeable of the City than to work for it
- Many opportunities of employment with great benefits
- To view the City's current listing of employment opportunities, visit: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/gastonianc>

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Keep Gastonia Beautiful

### List of Events for 2023

From Shred Day to Black Gold Sales to Fire Wood Sales, below is a list of events sponsored by Keep Gastonia Beautiful. For more information about these opportunities, contact Juliann Lehman at 704-869-1938 or [Juliann.Lehman@gastonianc.gov](mailto:Juliann.Lehman@gastonianc.gov). You may also visit the Keep Gastonia Beautiful website at: <https://gastonianc.gov/events-keep-gastonia-beautiful.html>

*Keep Gastonia Beautiful*  
**FALL 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Black Gold</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fridays 1-5 p.m. Saturdays 8 - 12 noon \$15/scoop \$1 Bring your own Bucket (self service) Location: 3176 Duke Street</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FALL SALE:</b> September 22 &amp; 23 September 29 &amp; 30 October 6 &amp; 7</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Shred Day</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gastonia Farmers Market 410 E. Long Avenue, Gastonia Events are held from 8 a.m. - 12 noon **Or until the truck is filled</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sensitive documents, old medicine, and electronics will all be collected</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">November 4 America Recycles Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Wood Sales</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ferguson Park 1401 Golf Course Drive The sale runs from 8 a.m. - 12 noon or until sold out Price TBD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, October 21** **Second sale will depend on amount left after first sale</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Other Events</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">**DETAILS TO FOLLOW FOR EACH EVENT</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 7</b> Catawba Riversweep @ Lineberger Avon/Catawba Creek Greenway 9-11 a.m.</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 3</b> Christmas in the City Marketplace, Parade, Tree Lighting 3-7 p.m.</p> </div> </div>



**KEEP GASTONIA BEAUTIFUL, INC.**