

»» NEWSLETTER ««

ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



SPREADING KINDNESS THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

»»» **READ MORE (PG. 2)**

This Valentine's Day, spread kindness where it matters most—right in your own neighborhood. Discover simple ways to connect, care, and give back together.

READ MORE (P.4) «««

A new neighborhood has officially joined Gastonia's A.C.E. Program as the 23rd recognized community. Turn inside to learn more and help us welcome them!

WELCOME NEW RECOGNIZED COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

»»» **READ MORE (P.7)**

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

SPREADING KINDNESS THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day is often associated with cards, candy, and flowers, but at its heart, the holiday is about kindness, connection, and community. This February, we encourage neighbors to celebrate by spreading love right where it begins, within our own neighborhoods.

Kindness does not have to be big to be meaningful. It can start on your own street with a friendly wave, a smile, or a conversation with the neighbor next door. These small moments of connection help build trust and remind people that they are supported and valued.

Neighborhoods can also come together in larger ways. Organizing a food drive or clothing drive is a meaningful way to share kindness beyond your block. Collecting items for a warming shelter or another local organization supports community members in need while bringing neighbors together around a shared purpose.

Whether it is helping a neighbor, donating items, or planning a simple community project, every effort makes a difference. When neighbors care for one another, communities grow stronger, more connected, and more compassionate.

This Valentine's Day, let's celebrate by choosing kindness, starting close to home, reaching out to those around us, and working together to make a positive impact in our community.



CATAWBA CREEK GREENWAY EXTENSION



The Catawba Creek Greenway extension is officially open following a ribbon-cutting celebration held on Tuesday, January 6. This milestone project marks an important step in fulfilling the City of Gastonia's adopted Greenway Plan and expands access to safe, connected outdoor spaces for residents.

City leadership joined Senator Brad Overcash and North Carolina Representative Kelly Hastings, along with project partners and community members, to celebrate the completion of the new trail segment and bridge after months of construction and temporary closures.

Now it's time for the community to enjoy it. Whether you are walking, biking, or spending time outdoors with family, we encourage everyone to explore the newest addition to Gastonia's growing greenway system at Robinwood Road. Thank you for your patience during construction, and enjoy the trail!

ICON ON THE GREENWAY COMMUNITY



Congratulations to Icon on the Greenway Community HOA for becoming the city's 23rd Recognized Community through the Alliance for Community Enrichment Program at the January 6th city council meeting. The Certificate of Recognition was presented by Councilwoman Jennifer Stepp and Karely Chavez, Neighborhood Program Administrator, to property manager, Dominique Bell.

Located off East Hudson Boulevard, this apartment community, formerly known as Riverwind, was built in 1998 and has undergone several renovations over the years. The community is located next to the Catawba Creeks Greenway and is a diverse community that has a lot to offer to new residents including a year-round pool and a 24-hour fitness center.

Through participation in the A.C.E. Program, the city and the Icon on the Greenway community will work together to increase resident engagement and create additional opportunities for residents to get to know one another and engage with their community.

CITIZENS' ACADEMY 2026



We are excited to welcome our newest class of participants to the Municipal Citizens' Academy! This program offers residents a unique opportunity to learn more about how their city operates, meet the people behind the scenes, and gain a deeper understanding of the services and departments that support our community every day.

Throughout the Academy, Participants will meet twice a month through June 2026, taking part in 10 interactive sessions that explore how City government works. From learning about the municipal election process to gaining insight into public safety and essential City services, participants will hear directly from City staff and special guests, the people behind the scenes who help make Gastonia a great place to live, work, and play.

The program is designed to encourage civic involvement, build transparency, and strengthen the connection between residents and the City. We are grateful to everyone who chose to participate and invest their time in learning more about their community.

City of Gastonia - TRU App



Winter weather can bring unpredictable conditions, including power outages caused by storms, fallen trees, or other weather-related issues. Staying informed and prepared is especially important during colder months, when outages can have a greater impact on comfort and safety.

The City of Gastonia-TRU app makes it easy to report power outages and receive real-time updates directly on your phone. Whether an outage is caused by severe weather, animals, or downed lines, the app helps keep you connected when it matters most.

After downloading the app, be sure to set up your services using your account number. If you need help, tap Account Management to add your account or accounts. When you experience an outage, simply select Report Outage to notify TRU quickly and efficiently.

For emergencies or downed power lines, call 911 or 704-866-6823 and stay a safe distance away. As winter weather continues, we encourage residents to download the City of Gastonia-TRU app and take a few minutes to set it up now.



2026 City Council Meeting Schedule

Gastonia City Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 6:00 pm at City Hall located at 181 S. South Street, Gastonia, in the Council Chambers and on the third Tuesday of each month starting at 6:00 pm at the Gaston County Courthouse located at 325 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Gastonia in the Public Forum Room.

City of Gastonia City Council Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
JANUARY 6	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	City Hall
JANUARY 20	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	County Courthouse
FEBRUARY 3	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	City Hall
FEBRUARY 17	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	County Courthouse
MARCH 3	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	City Hall
MARCH 17	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	County Courthouse
APRIL 7	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	City Hall
APRIL 21	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	County Courthouse
MAY 5	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	City Hall
MAY 19	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	County Courthouse
JUNE 2	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	City Hall
JUNE 16	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	County Courthouse
JULY 7	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	City Hall
JULY 21	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	County Courthouse
AUGUST 4	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	City Hall
AUGUST 18	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	County Courthouse
SEPTEMBER 1	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	City Hall
SEPTEMBER 15	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	County Courthouse
OCTOBER 6	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	City Hall
OCTOBER 20	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	County Courthouse
NOVEMBER 5 ^(Thursday)	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	City Hall
NOVEMBER 17	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	County Courthouse
DECEMBER 1	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	City Hall
DECEMBER 15	6:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	County Courthouse

Holidays: January 1, 2026 - New Year's Day; January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; April 3 - Easter (Good Friday); May 25 - Memorial Day; July 3, - Independence Day; September 7 - Labor Day; November 11 - Veterans Day; November 26 and 27 - Thanksgiving; December 24, 25 and 28 - Christmas



Starting January 15th

Yoga WITH SHALESHA

Beginner-Friendly Yoga Flow

Slow down. Stretch it out. Breathe deeply.

This class is perfect for beginners, those restarting their practice, or anyone looking to move gently and intentionally.

CLASS DETAILS

- 📅 Thursdays
- 🕒 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
- 💰 \$5 per class **cash only**
- 📍 T Jeffers Center
121 Hartman St, Gastonia,
28052

What to Expect

- Gentle stretching
- Breathwork
- Improved flexibility & mobility
- Stress relief
- A welcoming, judgement-free space

Gaston County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

The online survey will remain open through February 13, 2026.

The second and final round of public input is **NOW OPEN** for the Gaston County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)!

We are seeking input on the draft
CTP recommendations for all modes:



Highway



Bicycle and
Pedestrian



Public Transportation
and Rail

The results from this survey and the draft plan will be available for review in March. Check the project webpage at <https://engagegaston.com/gaston-CTP> for updates!

SCAM ALERT

PHONE SCAM IMPERSONATING LAW ENFORCEMENT



SCAM CALLER:

**PAY OUTSTANDING
TICKET, FINE,
COURT COSTS**

IT'S A SCAM

**POLICE WILL NEVER CALL
YOU DEMANDING PAYMENT
OVER THE PHONE**

- **HANG UP IMMEDIATELY**
- **REPORT THE CALL TO GASTONIA POLICE**

STAY ALERT. STAY SAFE.

Warming Center

Unity Baptist Church
482 N. Myrtle School Rd.
Gastonia, NC 28052



Hours of Operation: 8 PM – 7 AM

What to Know

- Free to all
- NO warrant check
- NO ID required
- Safe & secure

At **32°F**
 &
Below

Operation schedule will be posted to HealthNet Gaston's Facebook Page and shared on the City of Gastonia and Gaston County's social media pages.

Scan QR code
to donate



NEED MORE INFO?
Contact HealthNet Gaston
704-874-1958

A COMMUNITY-
DRIVEN EFFORT
FUNDED BY THE
CITY OF GASTONIA
AND
GASTON COUNTY

Sponsored by:



GASTON
LINCOLN
CLEVELAND



CoC



GASTON
COUNTY
North Carolina



**NOW
ACCEPTING**

Warming Center Donations

January 2026

HealthNet
Gaston

HELP US HELP THEM

DONATION DROP OFF HOURS

9 am - 4 pm

LOCATION

613 E. Franklin Boulevard
Gastonia, NC 28054
HealthNet Gaston office

FOR ASSISTANCE

Contact HealthNet Gaston
704-874-1958

AMAZON WISH LIST
Scan QR code to donate



<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist>

EVERY DONATION HELPS

As we continue providing this vital service to our community, we are asking neighbors like you to lend a helping hand. Whether through our Amazon Wish List or other donation types, every act of kindness makes our community better.

DONATION WISH LIST

- **Personal Care Kits** (Toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, wipes, women's feminine hygiene products)
- **Non-perishable items**
Cans with pull-top lids
- **Winter gear**
Blankets, Socks, Hats, Gloves, Coats -all sizes
- **Individually packaged snacks**
Oatmeal, cereal, granola bars, etc.,
- **Meal donations (sign-up available)**
Commercially prepared foods ONLY





UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

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THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS TELESCOPE PARTY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

VISIT THE PLANETARIUM FOR A SPECIAL FRIDAY EVENING ASTRONOMY PRESENTATION. SEE A SPECIAL PLANETARIUM SHOW, THEN VIEW THE NIGHT SKY WITH MUSEUM-PROVIDED TELESCOPES.

\$8 MUSEUM MEMBERS / \$10 GENERAL PUBLIC

GET DETAILS AT SCHIELEMUSEUM.ORG/SCHIELE-NEWS/TELESCOPE-PARTY



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME AT THE 26TH ANNUAL FOSSIL FAIR!

WALK AMONG LIFE-SIZED DINOSAURS, MEET LOCAL PALEONTOLOGISTS AND GEOLOGISTS, DIG FOR FOSSILS, AND MORE.

ADVANCE TICKETS: \$6 MUSEUM MEMBERS / \$18 GENERAL PUBLIC



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM



**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

January 13

February 10

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

July 14

August 11

September 8

October 13

November 10

December 8



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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SEED STARTING

This program will demonstrate
various ways to start seeds
for your home garden.
All ages welcome.



Saturday,
February 14, 2026
11:00 a.m.

Gaston County Public Library
1555 E Garrison Blvd
3rd Floor Multipurpose Room
<https://gastonlibrary.org>

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Gaston County



GASTON COUNTY
Public Library | Connect · Discover



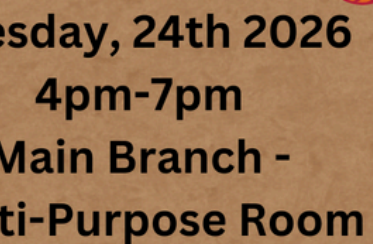
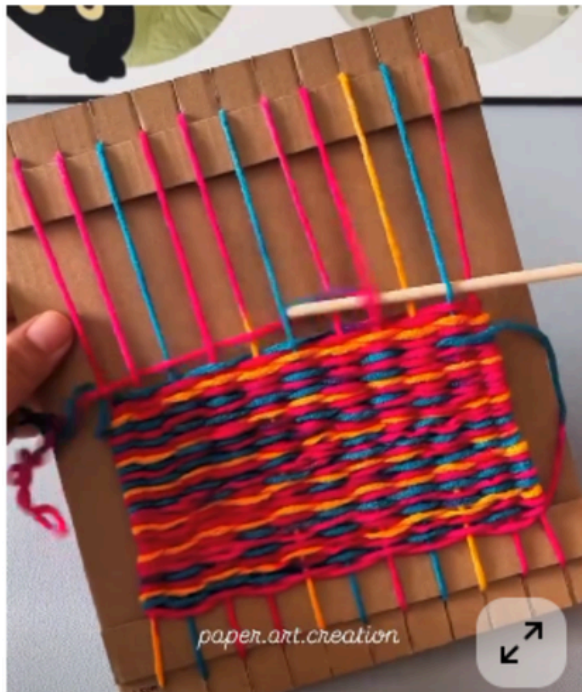
UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Stitch-By-Stitch

All Ages (Children must be accompanied by an adult)

**February's craft focus:
Woven Coasters!**



**Tuesday, 24th 2026
4pm-7pm
Main Branch -
Multi-Purpose Room**

**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/>**



GASTON COUNTY
Public Library | Connect · Discover