

»» NEWSLETTER ««

ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



EXCESS TRASH COLLECTION

»»» **READ MORE (PG. 2)**

Got clutter? Free Excess Trash Week gives residents a chance to clean out unwanted items for free. See inside for eligible items and guidelines.

READ MORE (P.4) «««

Stay on schedule and curb clutter-free with the WasteWise app. Get collection reminders and holiday updates right on your phone.

WASTEWISE APP

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

»»» **READ MORE (P.7)**

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

FREE EXCESS TRASH COLLECTION WEEK: MARCH 16-20, 2026

Residents have a great opportunity to clean out unwanted household items during Free Excess Trash Week, when eligible items can be disposed of at no cost. Simply place approved items at the curb on your regular garbage collection day, and crews will take care of the rest.

Eligible items include furniture, mattresses, bedsprings, dried-out paint, and extra bags or boxes of household trash. Loose items such as toys or clothing should be placed in garbage bags or boxes so crews can safely and efficiently collect them.

Please note that building materials, dirt, rocks, bricks, hazardous liquids, batteries, and automotive parts will not be collected. These items can be taken to the Gaston County Landfill or handled during special waste collection events. Fees still apply for vehicle tires, electronics, and appliances.

Before placing items at the curb, residents are encouraged to consider recycling, repurposing, or donating usable items whenever possible.

For questions or more information, contact the City of Gastonia Solid Waste Division at **704-866-6714**.

Take advantage of this week to declutter your home and keep our community clean!



Top Five for 2026



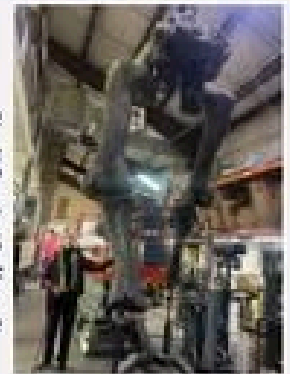
Linwood Springs Park



Linwood Springs Park will become one of Gastonia's premier destinations in 2026, transforming more than 140 acres of historic land into a vibrant hub for recreation and community life. The \$5.5M Phase I development will deliver internal streets, sidewalks, walking paths, 30 RV spaces with full utility hookups, and more by summer/fall 2026. The park development is funded by state grant money, ARPA funds, and local city investment, which makes it one of Gastonia's most strategically funded projects.

Schiele Museum of Natural History Elizabeth Williams Robinson Hall of Dinosaurs

In Fall 2026, the Schiele will open the largest dinosaur exhibit in the Carolinas, with 4,200 square feet of real fossils, interactive learning experiences, and full-bodied cast specimens of T. Rex, Triceratops, Stegosaurus, and more. The Elizabeth Williams Robinson Hall of Dinosaurs will elevate and transform the museum's brand, inspire higher levels of visitation, generate greater economic benefits for the City and enhance the quality of life for those that call Gastonia home.



107 S. Broad Street / Active Adult Center



The 107 S. Broad Street property is being renovated to house the Active Adult Center, replacing the older facility on West Franklin Boulevard. The City secured more than \$242,000 in grants from the NC Department of Commerce and the NC League of Municipalities to support renovations. The project is part of a broader redevelopment effort to revitalize the corridor with senior-friendly housing and community amenities.

2022 GO Bonds for Transportation

The remaining \$41.8 million of the 2022 GO Transportation Bonds can be issued in the near future. Proposed projects with the second issuance include: intersection improvement projects, additional street resurfacing, pedestrian facility projects, and additional safety projects identified in the Parks and Schools study.



Southeast Utility Extension Project



The Southeast Utility Extension Project will provide public water and sewer infrastructure to the unserved southeast portion of Gaston County. The project includes 8.5 miles of sewer line, 2 regional sewer pump stations, and 3 miles of waterline. Phase 1 was completed in 2023, and Phase 2 wraps up in 2026. The total cost of this infrastructure project is over \$50,000,000.

Never Miss Collection Day with the WasteWise App



Keeping up with trash, recycling, and yard waste collection just got easier. Residents can download the WasteWise app to receive reminders right on their phone so you never miss collection day again.

With the app, you can set alerts, stay on schedule, and keep your curb clutter-free. WasteWise also sends notifications when there are schedule changes due to holidays, weather, or other updates, helping you stay informed without the guesswork.

The app is free and available for download on Google Play and Apple Store. Take a minute to download WasteWise today and make collection day simple and stress-free!

Phillips Community Center presents

Drills and Skills

6 week basketball training program

Boys & Girls ages 5-15

\$40 Per Athlete

Player development to help improve:

- *Ball Handling*
- *Shooting*
- *Defense*
- *Conditioning*
- *Overall Basketball IQ*

Registration ends March 13th

(Or until spaces are full)

Sessions begin April 6, 2026

For more information contact Carleena Costner
at (704) 866-6851 or by email at
carleena.costner@gastonianc.gov

12 Spots
Available Per
Age Group!

Age Groups
5-6 7-8 9-10
11-12 13-15



Phillips Community Center 2031 Echo Lane Gastonia, NC 28052

KBG Black Gold Sale

WHAT IS BLACK GOLD?

IT'S 100% GROUND LEAF COMPOST COLLECTED FROM GASTONIA RESIDENCES
AND MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES.

✓ NO DYES

✓ NO ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS

✓ NO ADDITIVES

✓ JUST NUTRIENT-RICH, NATURAL COMPOST

PERFECT FOR GARDENS, FLOWER BEDS, AND LAWN ENRICHMENT.

Keep Gastonia Beautiful

SPRING 2026

BLACK GOLD SALE

\$20/SCOOP*

*CASH ONLY

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

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

Friday, March 20 from 1-5 p.m.

Saturday, March 21 from 8-12 noon

Friday, March 27 from 1-5 p.m.

Saturday, March 28 from 8-12 noon

Friday, April 10 from 1-5 p.m.

Saturday, April 11 from 8-12 noon

Friday, April 17 from 1-5 p.m.

Saturday, April 18 from 8-12 noon

Friday, May 15 from 1-5 p.m.

Location: 3100 Duke Street, Gastonia,
off of Gaston Day School Road

It's time for the...

The Greatest American Cleanup

hosted by Keep Gastonia Beautiful

March 20, 2026 - June 20, 2026

ACE Neighborhood *Challenge*

Think your neighborhood has what it takes?
 Grab your neighbors.
 Pick your location.
 Clean it up.
 Weigh your haul.
 Snap a team photo.



Let's get our city and county looking clean and
 green for **America's 250th!**



To sign up, use the QR code and we
 will reach out to confirm.
 For more information you can contact:
juliann.lehman@gastonianc.gov



PEACE CREW

Open to middle & high school students

Want volunteer hours with a group of peers interested in celebrating global diversity?

Join Gastonia Sister Cities PEACE CREW to learn, lead and serve!



GASTONIA SISTER CITIES



GASTONIA SISTER CITIES IS LAUNCHING PEACE CREW — A NEW YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO WANT TO MAKE A LOCAL IMPACT WITH A GLOBAL MISSION.

INTERESTED? EMAIL BECCA.HURD@GASTONIANC.GOV TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION AND LEARN MORE.

GASTON MAX
 — MULTICULTURAL ARTS XPERIENCE —

Saturday, March 22, 2025
Rotary Pavilion
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cultural Food Trucks - Inflatables - Free Henna - Vendors and Artisans
Live Music Performances - Cultural Art Activities and Crafts









The Gaston Multicultural Arts Xperience (Gaston MAX) is returning to Downtown Gastonia for its fourth year on Saturday, March 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rotary Centennial Pavilion, 107 N. South St. This free, family-friendly festival is open to everyone.

Hosted through a partnership between the City of Gastonia, Gaston County Government, Gaston County Public Library, and Friends of the Gaston County Public Library, Gaston MAX promises a vibrant day filled with art, music, and cultural experiences.

From the rhythmic beats of Latin American music to the soulful sounds of Americana, the festival celebrates the richness of global cultures and traditions. Bring your family and friends to enjoy performances, activities, and creative experiences that highlight the diversity that makes our community special.



Join the City of Gastonia Parks & Recreation Department on Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00PM! We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt at Martha Rivers Park soccer fields, complete with 30,000 candy filled eggs! Age groups:

- **Under 2**
- **3-5**
- **6-8**
- **9-12**

The egg hunt will start promptly at 6:00PM.

We ask that only parents of the under 2 year olds accompany them while picking up eggs on the soccer fields. Those parents may kindly and orderly assist in helping their children pick up some eggs. Parents are not allowed on the soccer fields in any other age group. Community non-profit vendors will be onsite at the Martha Rivers shelter near the soccer field. Rain date: Wednesday, April 1 at 6:00PM at Martha Rivers Park soccer fields.

SCAM ALERT!




Electric Utility Customers Beware!

- ▶ **Power Shutoff Threats**
- ▶ **Demanding Immediate Payment**
- ▶ **Local Number Spoofing**

The City of Gastonia will NEVER:

- ▶ **Call for urgent payments**
- ▶ **Threaten shutoff within minutes**
- ▶ **Request payment by gift cards or apps**

If you receive a call like this:

-  **Hang up** immediately
-  **Do NOT** share personal or financial info
-  **Do NOT** make a payment

 **HANG UP!**  **DON'T GIVE INFO!**  **DON'T PAY!**

Questions about your bill? Call 704-866-6714 or visit the City's website.



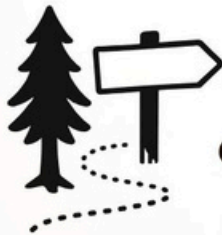


The History and Future of Spencer Mountain



**Multi-Purpose Room
Gaston County Public Library
1555 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054**

**Saturday,
April 11, 2026
11:00 am**



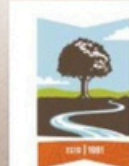
Presented by Ashton Lamb
Trail Development Manager
Catawba Lands Conservancy |
Carolina Thread Trail



This event is **free** to the public. No registration required. Advanced registrations are requested for organized groups. This program is recommended for teens and adults.

For more information, call 704-868-2164, Option 4

This project was produced with assistance from the America 250 North Carolina initiative, administered by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the State of North Carolina.



- CATAWBA -
LANDS CONSERVANCY
LAND | WATER | FARMS | NATURE



**CAROLINA
THREAD TRAIL.**



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

13



SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 10 AM – 2 PM

DROP IN FOR A PLAYFUL SCAVENGER HUNT DESIGNED BY LUCKY, OUR VERY OWN MUSEUM LEPRECHAUN.

**PERFECT FOR KIDS AGES 2-7 AND THEIR CAREGIVERS.
\$5 WITH THE PURCHASE OF MUSEUM ADMISSION**



MONDAY, APRIL 6, 10 AM – 2 PM

**CAN PEEPS FLY? HOW ARE BRIDGES BUILT? FIND OUT DURING STEAM BREAK AT THE SCHIELE! KIDS AND PARENTS CAN KICK OFF SPRING BREAK WITH HANDS-ON STEAM-BASED ACTIVITIES.
\$3 MUSEUM MEMBERS / \$5 + MUSEUM ADMISSION FOR THE 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



We're excited to announce the first-ever Neighborhood Leader Forum, bringing together leaders from all recognized neighborhoods for a special opportunity to connect, collaborate, and learn from one another.

This forum will focus on one shared goal: building stronger, more connected neighborhoods together. It will be a chance to share ideas, discuss challenges, celebrate successes, and explore ways we can continue supporting each other and our communities.

More details will be shared soon, but for now, please mark your calendars and plan to join us! We look forward to bringing our neighborhood leaders together and continuing the great work happening across our city.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

16

SPRING GARDEN

Come learn how to set up your
spring garden for a successful
garden all year.
All ages welcome.



Saturday,
March 28, 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

Stitch-By-Stitch

All Ages (Children must be accompanied by an adult)

**March's craft focus:
Knitting 101!**



**Tuesday, 31st 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