

»» NEWSLETTER ««

ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

»»» READ MORE (PG. 2)

A new year brings fresh opportunities to connect, engage, and support one another. Learn how our neighborhoods can continue building strong community ties in the year ahead.

READ MORE (P.4) «««

Welcome to our newest recognized communities! Two neighborhoods have recently joined, bringing fresh energy, ideas, and engagement as we head into the new year.

NEW RECOGNIZED COMMUNITIES

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

»»» READ MORE (P.6)

A lot is happening in our community in the new year! Check out events and opportunities happening across the city.

WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER

As we welcome a new year, we're excited to celebrate both our longstanding communities and three new neighborhoods that have recently joined. Each community plays an important role in creating a connected, welcoming city.

The new year is a great time to recommit to engaging with one another and strengthening neighborhood ties. Simple actions can make a big difference: hosting small gatherings, attending community meetings, checking in on neighbors, welcoming new residents, and taking advantage of shared resources like the Block Party Trailer and Movie-in-a-Box kit. These moments of connection help build trust, pride, and a true sense of belonging.

To our existing communities, thank you for your continued leadership, involvement, and dedication. Your efforts set the foundation that helps new neighborhoods thrive. To our newest communities, welcome! We are so excited to grow alongside you.

As we move into the year ahead, we wish all of our neighborhoods continued success, collaboration, and opportunities to come together. Here's to another year of connection, engagement, and community pride. Happy New Year!



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: LAUREL EAST COMMUNITY WATCH



The Laurel East Community came together for a festive Christmas gathering that truly reflected the spirit of giving. Along with celebrating the season, residents organized a donation drive that filled three vehicles with much-needed items, including clothing, food supplies, bottled water, and nutritional drinks. The donations were delivered to Kintegra headquarters, for the warming center to support community members in need.

The community also carries on a cherished holiday tradition through its Community Watch luminary fundraiser. Luminaries light up neighborhood streets on Christmas Eve, bringing neighbors together while raising funds to support Sherwood Elementary School.

Laurel East Community Watch is a wonderful group to work with and consistently takes on projects that uplift and support their community. Their dedication to service and community care continues to make a meaningful impact.

If your neighborhood is looking for ideas on how to get involved or give back, our team is happy to help. Please reach out to us for guidance, resources, or support in planning your own community initiatives.

Thank you, Laurel East Community Watch , for leading with generosity and heart!

HEATHERLOCH HOA



Congratulations to the Heatherloch HOA for becoming the city's 21st Recognized Community through the Alliance for Community Enrichment Program at the December 16th city council meeting. The Certificate of Recognition was presented by Councilwoman Jennifer Stepp and Karely Chavez, Neighborhood Program Administrator, to the Heatherloch HOA President, Don Renfro and HOA board member, Joel Long.

Established in 1970 and located in southern Gastonia, Heatherloch is a welcoming neighborhood made up of 113 unique homes. Centered around the scenic Heather Lake, the community is known for its natural beauty, charm, and strong neighborhood identity.

Through participation in the A.C.E. Program, the City of Gastonia and the Heatherloch Community will work together to strengthen communication, support neighborhood initiatives, and create new opportunities for residents to connect and collaborate, helping to preserve and enrich the community's integrity for years to come.

Thank you to the Heatherloch HOA members for your leadership, engagement, and continued commitment to building a strong, connected Gastonia community!

FOREST CREEK COMMUNITY



During the December 16th City Council Meeting, we had the great privilege of recognizing the Forest Creek Community as the City's 22nd Recognized Community through the A.C.E. program.

Forest Creek Community is a welcoming neighborhood located in South Gastonia, bordered by Creekbriar Ave. and E. Hudson Boulevard, west of Laurel Lane. Known for its well-maintained homes and tree-lined streets, the community has grown into a friendly and connected place for residents.

With additional resources provided through the A.C.E. program, Forest Creek Community will be able to collaborate on ways to build a stronger sense of unity and pride for all their residents and offer greater opportunities to connect with neighbors.

The Certificate of Recognition was presented to Community Leader, Jenna Williams.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL WILL BEGIN JANUARY 5

AS YOU WRAP UP THE HOLIDAY SEASON, REMEMBER TO SET YOUR UNDECORATED CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE CURB FOR COLLECTION STARTING MONDAY, JANUARY 5. TREES WILL BE PICKED UP AS PART OF REGULAR YARD WASTE SERVICE.



Place live Christmas trees curbside for pickup with regular yard waste. For details visit www.gastoniansc.gov to see the Solid Waste holiday collection schedule

A.C.E. MATCHING GRANT OPPORTUNITY

One of the many benefits of becoming a formally Recognized Community through the Alliance for Community Enrichment (A.C.E.) Program is the opportunity to apply for matching grant funds from the City of Gastonia. These funds can be used in a variety of ways to support projects that enhance and strengthen neighborhoods across the city.

The A.C.E. Matching Grant Program is designed for Recognized Communities that have been officially recognized for six months or more. Eligible neighborhoods can apply for additional funding to support projects focused on:

- **Physical improvements** such as landscaping, signage, or beautification projects.
- **Neighborhood identity** efforts that help build a sense of pride and place.
- **Public safety initiatives** that promote a safer, more connected community.
- **Environmental projects** like clean-ups, green spaces, or sustainability efforts.
- **Community building events** that bring neighbors together and encourage collaboration.



The goal of this program is to encourage and support neighborhood self-improvement. By offering matching funds, the City provides an incentive for communities to raise their own funds, build partnerships, and engage residents in making positive changes. These projects not only improve physical spaces but also strengthen connections and pride among neighbors.

Recognized Communities interested in learning more about eligibility or the application process are encouraged to reach out to the Neighborhood Program Administrator at 704.866.6907 for further details and guidance.

THE CITY OF GASTONIA PARKS & RECREATION
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES HAVE RELOCATED



WE HAVE MOVED

The Parks and Recreation
administrative offices
have relocated to **107 S.
Broad St.** Office hours
remain the same.





UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

9



Music Under the Stars: Pink Floyd

Friday, January 2
Saturday, January 3
5:30 PM & 8:30 PM

Experience The Wall as a live concert event under the planetarium dome! Join The Album Series band, featuring Caleb Davis, under the immersive dome of the planetarium for a LIVE concert event featuring music from the iconic Pink Floyd album, The Wall, accompanied by psychedelic 360-degree graphics.

Suitable for all ages.

5:30 PM – Museum doors open at 5:00; seating begins at 5:20

8:30 PM – Museum doors open at 8:00; seating begins at 8:20

\$35 Members / \$40 General Public



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM

10



ADVENTURE WALKS WITH A RANGER

EVERY SATURDAY IN JANUARY AT 11 AM

TAKE A GUIDED TOUR OF THE NATURE TRAIL WITH THE SCHIELE'S TRAIL RANGER. DISCOVER A VARIETY OF TREES, WILDFLOWERS, ANIMAL TRACKS, INSECTS, AND MORE! COME ONCE, OR VISIT EACH WEEK FOR A NEW ADVENTURE. INCLUDED WITH THE PURCHASE OF ADMISSION.



LASER LIGHTS IN THE PLANETARIUM

JANUARY 16 – FEBRUARY 1 (SEE ONLINE EVENTS CALENDAR FOR ARTISTS AND TIMES)

EXPERIENCE THE PLANETARIUM'S IMMERSIVE DOME THEATRE WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART LASER GRAPHICS AND LIVE 360-DEGREE LIGHTING SET TO YOUR FAVORITE SONGS. ENJOY MUSIC FROM ROCK AND POP ARTISTS LIKE TAYLOR SWIFT, THE BEATLES, QUEEN, ELTON JOHN, METALLICA, AND MORE.

\$8 MUSEUM MEMBERS / \$10 GENERAL



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Join Our Board!

Interested in having a voice and helping to grow our organization?

Keep Gastonia Beautiful is looking to add additional members to our board.

If you are interested and motivated in helping to Keep Gastonia Beautiful, please send us a message!





CITY OF GASTONIA

CONTRACTORS NEEDED



ABOUT

We are looking to complete a large number of Rehabilitations in the next 24 months!

QUALIFICATIONS

- Renovate, Repair & Painting Program Certification needed
- Must have proper insurance coverage to participate
- Must complete a W-9 form
- Must complete an application
- General contractors welcomed

CALLING ALL SKILLED CONTRACTORS!

The City has funding available for repair assistance. Don't miss your opportunity to showcase your expertise and secure a bid for our exciting rehab projects.

JOIN OUR CONTRACTOR WORKSHOP

**DECEMBER 16, 2025
&
JANUARY 15, 2025**

FROM START TO FINISH, WE'LL GUIDE YOU THROUGH EVERY STEP TO QUALIFY. SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO REGISTER!



980-341-9968



gastonianc.gov



150 S York St. Gastonia NC, 28052

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:





UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cricut Creations

Cricut 101

Come learn the basics of Cricut Design Space and all of the tool options used with a Cricut Machine



Thurs, Jan 15th, 2026

from 4pm-6pm

Location:

Main Branch -

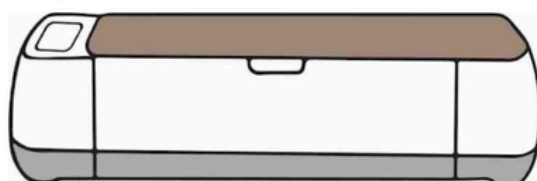
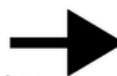
Conference Room

Ages 13 and up

(Registration Required)

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

OR CALL 704-868-2164 - OPTION 1



Gaston County Public Library

1555 E. Garrison Blvd.

Gastonia, NC 28054

<https://gastonlibrary.org>



GASTON COUNTY
Public Library | Connect · Discover



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

15

Stitch-By-Stitch

All Ages (Children must be accompanied by an adult)

**January's craft focus:
Craft Supply Swap!**

Tuesday, 27th 2026
4pm-7pm
Main Branch -
Multi-Purpose Room



Join us for another craft supply swap!
Bring any materials or kits
you no longer use/need to swap.
You must bring something
to take something.

Gaston County Public Library
1555 E. Garrison Blvd. Gastonia, NC 28054
<https://gastonlibrary.org/>



GASTON COUNTY
Public Library | Connect · Discover