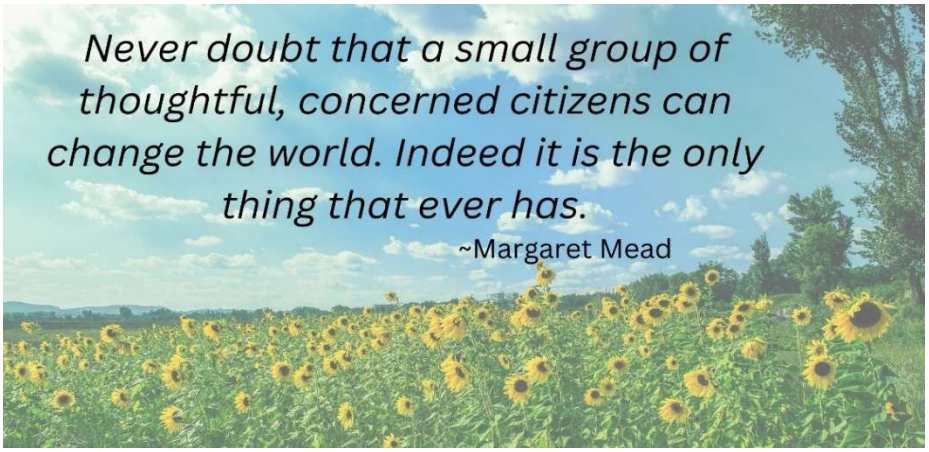
EXTENSION & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (ECA)

Gaston County Center
Lucile Tatum Center, 959 Osceola St., Gastonia, NC | 704.866.3607

September News & Activities

September 2026



INSIDE:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SPECIALTY GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Please join ECA members for these upcoming meetings and informal crafting/sewing days scheduled each month:

September ECA MEETINGS

Martha Goebel 9/1 Capt. Cap @ 4pm	**Creative Needlers** Every Wednesday @ 6 pm	**Twisted Stitchers** **9/1** @ 6pm
Quiltmakers Sup & Sew – 9/10 @ 3pm Monthly Mtg – 9/17 @ 6 pm PHD Day – 9/24 @ 10 am	**Craft Day** 9/12 @ 10am	**Open Sew** 9/11 @ 10am
Monthly Member Meeting 9/3 @ 6pm	**Quarterly Board Meeting** **10/15** **@ 3:30 pm**	

ECA member feedback and input for the ECA newsletter is greatly appreciated and needed. Please submit items to our committee by the 2nd Friday of each month to: Cathy Heilig (abbey02cat@yahoo.com).

About ECA
Since 1914 the Extension and Community Association (ECA) works to strengthen families and improve the quality of life within our community. ECA is a state volunteer organization, supported by the NC Cooperative Extension Service.

Mission Statement
The mission of the North Carolina Extension and Community Association is to strengthen families through:

- Leadership development
- Volunteer opportunities
- Education support
- Research-based information from North Carolina State University and North Carolina A & T University

Thinking of You

ECA deeply cares about the well-being of every member. If any members are facing health challenges, lost a loved one, or going through a difficult time, please keep us informed so we can reach out with support, kindness, and compassion.

Please provide the following info: name of recipient. brief detail of circumstances. and type of card needed to Eileen Black (ejblack2@gmail.com). Postage to be provided by ECA and cards will be dropped in mail by volunteers.

Reminders

- September 3 - Monthly Member Meeting –6pm
- September 18 – Newsletter deadline
- October 3 - Artisan Market – 10am – 3pm
- October 10 – Cotton Ginning Days – 10am – 5pm
- October 26-28 - NC ECA State Conference
- October 15 – Quarterly Board Meeting – 3:30pm

ECA at Work

Beginner Crochet Class



GC ECA Creative Needlers group is having a Beginner Crochet Scarf Class beginning October 7th from 6 pm to 8 pm. The class will run each Wednesday during the month of October (October 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th) at the Lucile Tatum Center located at 959 Osceola Dr., Gastonia, NC 28054. All materials are supplied for you. Cost is $15.

Please register at:
https://www.zeffy.com/.../beginner-crochet-scarf-class

Martha Goebel Club



School supplies were collected in July for Lingerfeldt Elementary School. Lingerfeldt is one of the Title I schools located in Gaston County in the SW part of Gastonia.

Every donation directly supported local kids and relieved the burden on hard-working teachers. Thank you to everyone who dropped off items, volunteered, and spread the word—your kindness turned simple tools into big opportunities for our community's youth!

Cat Beds for GC Animal Shelter



The Gaston County ECA made and donated 35 cat beds. They were donated to the Gaston County Animal Control.

A soft, secure bed does more than just offer a place to nap—it gives a stressed or anxious cat a safe space to decompress, build confidence, and feel secure. Relaxed, comfortable cats are much more likely to show their true personalities to prospective adopters, ultimately helping them find forever homes faster.

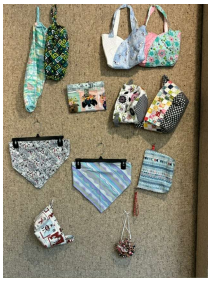
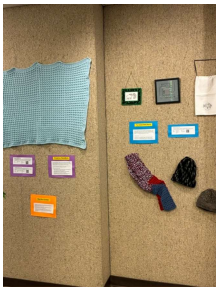
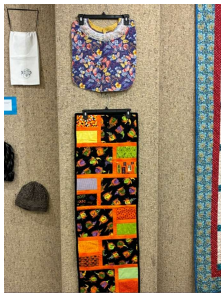
STAFF UPDATE & CONTACT INFORMATION

Jonette Mungo, County Extension Director and will have office hours at the Lucile Tatum Center weekly, Wednesday through Friday. If you need to reach her, she can be contacted at 704.922.2130 or jemungo@ncsu.edu. For immediate assistance any day of the week, please call the main office at **704.922.2111.**

ECA at Work

ECA Display at Gaston County Library



For the month of August, GC ECA had a display at the Gaston County Main Library. We displayed products that were made by ECA. Some of these items will be for sale at The Artisan Market that we will have on October 3, from 10 to 3. It will be held at the Citizen Resource Center at 1303 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy, Dallas, NC.



ABOUT N.C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

North Carolina Cooperative Extension is a strategic partnership of NC State Extension, The Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University, USDA-NIFA, and 101 local governments statewide. Extension professionals in all 100 counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee translate research-based education from our state's land-grant universities, NC State and N.C. A&T, into everyday solutions. Extension specializes in agriculture, youth, communities, food, health and the environment by responding to local needs.

ECA IN ACTION: Year to date 2026
Hands to Work, Hearts to Serve

ECA County Community Projects 2026
Year to Date Value of Projects: $18,291.00

Creative Needlers Specialty Group

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Martha Goebel Specialty Group

- *Schools supplies for Lingerfelt School - $250 Value*

Quiltmakers Specialty Group

- Pet beds made for local animal shelters – 112 ***($1,344 value)***
- NICU Quilts – 47 ***($5,875 value)***
- Books and magazines for Better Bound – 375 ***($938 value)***
- Quilts for Least of These Carolinas – 42 ***($9450 value)***

Twisted Stitchers Specialty Group

- Food Drive for Webb Street School ***($434 value)***

ECA IN ACTION

ECA partners with many organizations to provide supplies, support, and opportunities for recreational learning with:

- *Camp Centurion*
- *CaroMont Regional Medical Center*
- *Gaston Co. Schools*
- *Gaston Skills*
- *Webb Street School*
- *Least of These Carolinas*
- *Gaston County Animal Control and Enforcement*
- *Crisis Assistance Ministry*
- *Gaston Country Cooperative Extension*
- *The Center – Adult Day Care*
- *The Lighthouse*
- *Rosewood Assisted Living*
- *Boys and Girls Homes of NC*
- *Ronald McDonald House of Greater Charlotte*
- *Better Bound*

Please share photos and projects highlights with Cathy Heilig. Remember to enter your monthly hours via notebook or Google Sheet.