

EXTENSION & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (ECA) - GASTON COUNTY July 2022 Newsletter

VOLUNTEER IMPACTS: MAY 2022

Your monthly reports make such a difference! Thanks to all 16 members who submitted their volunteer reports/hours for March. These impacts will be shared in each monthly newsletter, social media, and NC Cooperative Extension and Gaston County stakeholders. ***During May, 25 ECA members reported 396 volunteer hours and 678 client/individual contacts - representing a value of \$10,288 to North Carolina.***

It's not too late to submit your hourly reports - contact 704.865.3291 for details!

ECA REMINDERS

- Effective June 20th: The Lucile Tatum Center will resume normal business hours and staff member Pam Bryson will return from medical leave.
- October 24 - 26th: ECA State Conference - Raleigh *"BeeCause ECA Matters"*

ECA MONTHLY MEETING

Please note there is no "General Monthly Meeting" in July. Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 4th at 6:30pm.

MONTHLY CRAFT DAY

Sat., July 9th | 10:00am - 6:00pm, Lucile Tatum Center

Do you have sewing or craft projects that you're working on? If so, and you want to join other crafters, this monthly event may be for you! Bring your project and supplies and join ECA volunteers to connect with others and work on your project. You do not have to stay the entire time - this is just an informal drop-in style event.

There is no cost to participate. For more details contact Patti Wells: 704.865.3291

MONTHLY SUP & SEW

Thurs., July 14th | 3:00pm - 8:30pm, Lucile Tatum Center

Sponsored by the Quilters ECA Specialty Group, this monthly session is an informal time to work on your personal sewing/craft projects with ECA members. A great time to get out of the house, meet new folks, and enjoy time together with others. Contact Patti Wells (ph: 980.636.3841) for more information.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Thurs., July 21st | 10:00am - 11:30am, Lucile Tatum Center

All board members are requested to attend this meeting - contact Audrey Hunt if you are unable to participate. This meeting is open to all members, but only Executive Board members can vote during this time. *Please note that a contact person from each*

committee needs to participate in monthly Executive Board meetings. Also, any member who would like to have an issue discussed at the next monthly meeting is encouraged to attend. We will be talking about 2023 officers.

QUILTMAKERS SPECIALTY GROUP MEETING

Thurs., July 21st | 6:00 - 8:30pm, Lucile Tatum Center

Quiltmakers is a special interest group of the Gaston Co. Extension & Community Association (ECA) that focuses on quilting and sewing projects. ECA members and visitors are always cordially invited - contact Patti Wells (ph: 980.636.3841) for more information about this group.

CREATIVE NEEDLERS SPECIALTY GROUP MEETINGS

Every Thursday evening except 1st Thursday of summer months | 6:00 - 8:00pm, Lucile Tatum Center

This ECA specialty group meets every Thursday evening with the exception of the 1st Thursday (which is the ECA General Meeting night) from 6pm to 8pm and focuses on knitting and crocheting. Members work on various personal and community projects. ECA members and visitors are always cordially invited. Come one, come all who are interested in learning to knit or crochet. We will be giving one-on-one lessons on these skills during our Thursday evening meetings throughout the summer. Contact Rita Kincaid (ph: 704.907.3607) for the exact date to start knitting.

MARTHA GOEBEL SPECIALTY CLUB: AUGUST MEETING

Tues., July 5th | 11:30am - Venecia Restaurant, 306 E. Garrison Blvd.

The club is collecting school supplies - please bring to the August meeting.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RUN: MATCH UPDATE

The Scholarship Committee is happy to announce that we received a total match of \$2,607.50, which supports our ECA Scholarship Program. A special thanks to Audrey Hunt and Karen Rhyne for representing ECA at the meetings and to Pam Bryson for being our virtual walker.

ECA Scholarship winners (total of \$8,770 being awarded) include the following five individuals: Zachary Carr, Elenor High, Madison McCathern, Skye Reed, and Jonathan Williams.

HOLIDAY CLOSING

The Lucile Tatum Center and NC Cooperative Extension offices will be closed on Monday, July 4th for the Independence Day Holiday.

ECA WEBSITE UPDATE

Please note that information has been updated on our website, located at: <https://gaston.ces.ncsu.edu/gaston-eca/>. At this site, you can find copies of the newsletter, forms, scholarship applications, and operational guidelines for ECA at both the state and county level.



OPERATION GRATITUDE UPDATE

Please be aware of size requirements for scarves: no smaller than 4" x 48" or larger than 6" x 50" for Operation Gratitude scarves.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Workshop Registration Information:

1. Pre-registration including payment of registration fees is required by the registration deadline. Registration form should be completed and dropped off or mailed to the Lucile Tatum Center. **Note: Check only, made payable to Gaston Co. ECA no cash is accepted.**
2. Refunds for participant cancellations made after the registration deadline will not be provided.
3. Please note that class location, time, and fees vary with each class.
4. For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact 704.865.3291 within five business days before the event.
5. Be respectful of the "Fragrance Free" Policy at the Lucile Tatum Center. Do not wear fragrances - no perfumes, scented locations, body sprays, aftershave, etc.
6. Gaston County strives to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to access its programs, services and activities. If you will require assistance to participate in a program, service or activity of Gaston County, we request that you contact our office at least 5 business days before the event.

ECA Quiltmakers Fundraiser: Christmas Crafting in July

Dates: Fri. - Sun., July 22nd - July 24th

Time: Fri./Sat. 10am - 8pm & Sun. 11am - 4pm

Registration Deadline: July 15th

Cost: \$20 - ECA members; \$25 - non ECA members (includes all 3 days) - this is a Quiltmakers ECA fundraiser to purchase sewing supplies/equipment

Registration fee provides participants with: instructions for 2 crafts (paper and quilting crafts) that make simple/great gift ideas, six-foot crafting table, access to expertise from ECA members, iron/ironing board. Quiltmakers will furnish bottled water and tea each day. Meals/snacks are not included.

Facilitators: Sandy Hamrick & Patti Wells

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Please note that staff rely on the input from ECA members for the information presented in monthly newsletters. The deadline to submit items for the monthly newsletter is the 10th of the month. If the 10th falls on a weekend the information is due before the 10th. Information received after the 10th will be included in the following month's newsletter. Please note that information needs to be submitted in written form to Pam Bryson.

SUNSHINE VOLUNTEER

Many thanks to ECA member, Betty Agerton, for sending cards to members who are sick, hospitalized, or experienced the loss of a loved one. Please let Betty know if any members who are in your special interest group have the need for a card. We would appreciate it if only one person from your Special Interest Group would contact Betty. If the ECA member is not part of a special interest group, please notify Pam Bryson or Audrey Hunt.

CALL TREE

The Martha Goebel Special Interest Group is our call tree partner that will provide reminder calls to members each month for the monthly ECA meetings. Thank you Martha Goebel Special Interest Group.

MEMBER UPDATE

Many of our members are dealing with health issues. Please reach out to ECA members with a phone call or card - your contact is so important and a great way to help check in with our members.

Please let others or Extension staff know if you become sick, develop health concerns, or have special needs, during this most difficult time. We are family and can work together to help look after each other!

BUILDING ENTRANCE REMINDERS

- Volunteers and guests are to use the front door entrance.
- The back door remains an "Employee Only" entrance. Carts are available if you need assistance in transporting items from your car to the inside of the building. Also, keeping the back door open (such as during loading/unloading cars) causes the building's temperature to change, which is especially uncomfortable during the cooler seasons.
- Please do not use the side door as an entrance - this is often an interruption to meetings and workshops being held in the Multi-Purpose room.

FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER? PLEASE STAY AT HOME

For the health of ECA members, staff, and visitors please stay home when you are sick or not feeling well.

PERFUME & FRAGRANCE POLICY

For the health and comfort of our staff and volunteers, we strive to be as fragrance-free as possible. Please do not wear fragrances - no perfumes, scented locations, body sprays, aftershave, etc. This policy includes all business hours, after-hours and weekends.

DAILY HOUSEKEEPING SCHEDULE

The Lucile Tatum Center is closed daily from 12:00 - 1:00pm for cleaning personnel. Please do not ask the cleaning staff for permission to stay in the building - they do not

have authorization to permit this. You must ask Pam Bryson at least a week in advance for permission to stay in the building during lunch. This will only be allowed for County functions or meetings.

ECA 2022 PROJECTS

The following projects are ongoing and supported by all ECA clubs:

1. Ronald McDonald House: collecting drink tabs (contact: Pam Bryson, ECA Liaison)
2. Gaston County Schools: collecting school supplies in August (contact: Pam Bryson, ECA Liaison)
3. First Baptist Mission Trips: collecting eyeglasses (contact: Martha Spurrier)
4. Pennies for Friendship: supporting Association of Country World Women (contact: Dana Croston)
5. Baby Quilts & Baby Caps: making quilts and caps for infants in the neonatal intensive unit at CaroMont Regional Medical Center (contact: Gloria Snyder & Angela Nona)
6. Surgical Pillows: sewing pillows for surgical patients of CaroMont Regional Medical Center (contact: Pat Mantooth)
7. Operation Gratitude: knitting/crocheting scarves for the military
8. Shirt Savers for Holy Angels: making shirt savers for residents – cloth/supplies purchased by Holy Angels (contact: Martha Spurrier)
9. Farmers Market Activities: providing local food demos at the Gastonia Farmers' Market (contact: Audrey Hunt)
10. Warm Up America: making afghans for the homeless (contact: Angela Nona)
11. Food Pantry: collecting food supplies for local pantries, twice a year
12. Gaston Skills: providing workshops for adults with special needs (contact: Audrey Hunt or Pam Bryson, ECA Liaison)

GASTON CO. ECA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2022

President - Audrey Hunt

President-Elect - vacant

Secretary - Billie Taylor

Treasurer - Dana Croston

Advisor - Patti Wells

STANDING COMMITTEE CONTACTS

- Building Committee - Jean Caldwell, Peggy Dameron, Jane Falls, Sandy Hamrick, Pat Mantooth, & Martha Spurrier
- Marketing Committee - Dana Croston, Sandy Hamrick, & Patti Wells
- Program Committee - Patti Wells
- Scholarship Committee - Karen Rhyne (chairperson), Martha Spurrier, Billie Taylor & Patti Wells

ECA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- Creative Needlers - 2nd and 3rd Thursdays, 6 - 8pm @ Lucile Tatum Center (contact: Bertie Smith)
- Lucile Tatum - called meetings only (contact: Martha Spurrier)

- Martha Goebel - 1st Tuesday, 10:00am (contact: Mary Upton)
- Quiltmakers - 3rd Thursday, 6:00pm; Quiltmakers Sup & Sew 2nd Thursday, 3:00pm (contact: Patti Wells)
- Scrappers Unlimited - 1st Saturday, 10:00am (contact: Pam Bryson)

2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- Independence Day - July 4 (Monday)
- Labor Day - September 5 (Monday)
- Veterans Day - November 11 (Friday)
- Thanksgiving - November 24 & 25 (Thursday & Friday)
- Christmas - December 23 & 26 (Friday & Monday)

LUCILE TATUM CENTER

Location & Mailing Address: 959 Osceola St., Gastonia, NC 28054

Office Hours: Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 5pm (closed daily from 12-1pm)

For More Information:

Pam Bryson - Gaston County ECA Liaison

Phone: 704.865.3291

Email: pam.bryson@gastongov.com

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Mailing Address: PO Box 1578, Gastonia, NC 28053

Physical Address: Citizens Resource Center, 1303 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy., Dallas, NC

Office Hours: Monday - Friday | 8am - 5pm

For More Information

Phone: 704.922.2111 Website: gaston.ces.ncsu.edu

NC Extension & Community Association website: go.ncsu.edu/nceca

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@gastoneca (Gaston Co. ECA)

@ExtensionHealthyLiving (NC Cooperative Extension: Nutrition & Wellness Programs)

@GastonExtension (NC Cooperative Extension)