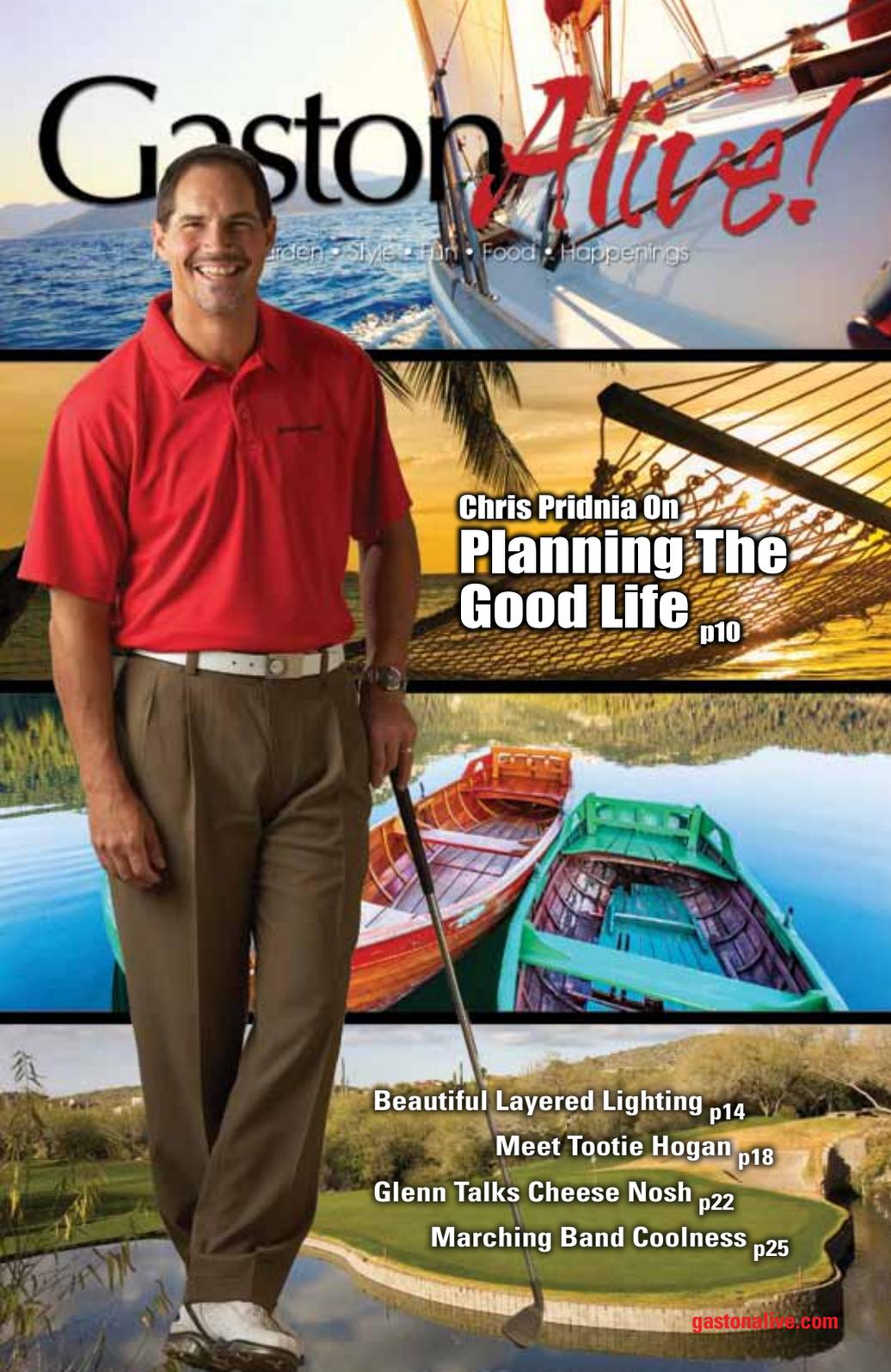


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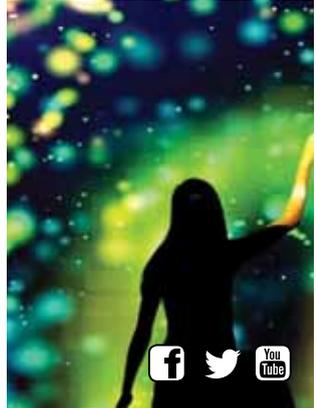
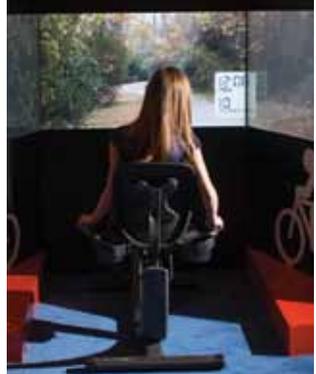
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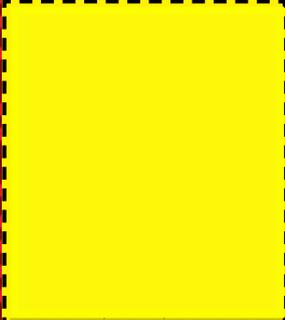
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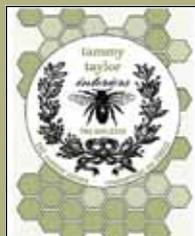
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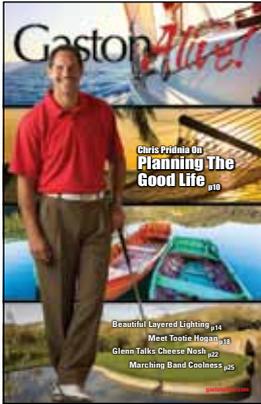


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about the cover



Featured on this month's cover is Chris Pridnia with Raymond James in Gastonia. See related article on page 10. Cover photograph of Chris by Rick Haithcox, digital design by Susan Lambert, cover graphic design by David James.

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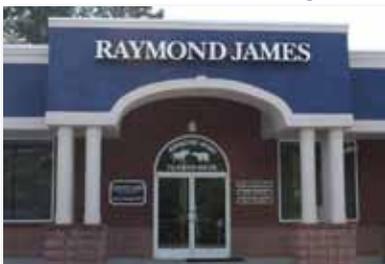
GA: Chris, tell us a little about you; family, school, etc.

Chris: I have been married to my wife, Nancy, for 17 years, and we have an 11 year old son named Connor. I am originally from Michigan, and graduated from Central Michigan University with a major in Statistics. After college, I opened an office for Edward Jones, and over time I moved into some management positions for them in St. Louis and Canada, and eventually was able to take over an office in Gastonia in 1996.

GA: Tell us about what you do at Raymond James.

Chris: We help people with all of their investment needs, whether saving for college, saving for retirement, living in retirement, or planning for their estate. On the investment side, we are more worried about limiting the downside than taking a lot of risk and trying to make the most money possible. We are more interested in handling people's serious money than their play money.

GA: What is the best part about doing what you do?



Chris: That I am able to make a difference in people's lives. I have clients that I started to work with at the birth of their first child. Now that child has graduated from college, and I was able to help them save for a college education. I have helped many people when they were in the middle of their working careers, and now they are enjoying retirement. It is fun for me to see them progress through their lives and to know that I helped them achieve their financial goals.



GA!: What would your clients say about you?

Chris: They would mainly say that I care. I care about their investment needs and do my best for them given their situation, but mainly I care about them.

GA!: Who is your typical client?

Chris: I would say the majority of our clients are within a few years of retirement or are currently retired. But we do have clients of all ages, some saving for college, etc.

GA!: What if I know pretty much zero about investments-or maybe I'm used to managing some of my own investments?

Chris: That's what we're here for. It's our job to know about investments and how to manage them- we're here to simplify people's lives. Everyone is so busy these days; most folks would like to make their lives a little easier or less stressful. We are here to do just that. Whether it's consolidating all their accounts so they are receiving less paperwork every month and at tax time, or letting us worry about the markets and the economy so they don't have to- that's what we're here for.

GA!: Tell us about your team...

Chris: We now have five financial advisers in the office, each having at least 12 years of financial experience. In addition to these five, we have our office manager that has been with me for over 16 years. Personally, last month I celebrated 25 years of being a financial adviser.



GA!: What do you do when you are not being an investment guru?

Chris: I enjoy playing tennis. My wife plays a lot of tennis, and seven years ago, when I was 40, they needed another male for their mixed team. I told her I would play, but I didn't want it to take away from my golf. Since then, I have really developed a passion for tennis, and I haven't played much golf, which is pretty obvious when you look at my golf game!

GA!: What is the main thing you would like folks to know about you professionally?

Chris: I think the main thing is, as I mentioned before, we are here to help simplify people's lives. If you would like some help in organizing and managing your investments, then come on in and sit down with one of us and we will discuss things with you. There is no fee or obligation to come in and have us review your portfolio, so give us a call!

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The Home Stylist

By Jodi Kines



Jodi Kines –Jodi has a degree in Interior Design from Winthrop University, and is the owner of Plan-It Design, LLC in Belmont, N.C.
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Photo courtesy of Abbe McCracken Photography.



Photo courtesy of Abbe McCracken Photography.

Beautifully Layered Lighting

The most perfect plan, the most vibrant colors and the most interesting textures can be all but lost without the perfect lighting to accentuate it all. With so many wonderful lighting resources readily available to the mass market these days, it can be an exciting and overwhelming task for many to know where to begin and how to properly light a room. Many professionals find it is easiest to approach lighting spaces with a 'layered effect'. This will help you address both the aesthetics of the space as well as ensuring adequate lighting for the daily tasks that take place there. This can also help add shadows for interesting contrast as well as create the appropriate ambiance in the space.

Ambient Lighting

An ambient layer of lighting is what most would consider the 'general' or overall lighting source. This is often recessed cans or a flush mount ceiling fixture. While this layer can be decorative, it is not typically used as a focal point in the room's design and is more for the functional use of basic, everyday tasks in the space. Controlling the level of the ambient lighting layer can dramatically impact a room's overall ambiance. Having an ambient layer that is as bright or brighter than the task lighting in the space will give you a bright, light effect (like often found in a kitchen), whereas having an ambient layer that is not as bright as task or decorative lighting will give you a softer overall ambiance (similar to what most associated with a dining room).

Task Lighting

Task lighting is exactly what the name suggests, lighting used to illuminate specific tasks or work areas of your home. This can be under counter lighting or even hanging pendants used to brighten kitchen work surfaces for chopping, slicing, and baking. Vanity lighting is used on, over, or beside mirrors in bathrooms to illuminate the space for users to apply make-up, brush teeth and comb hair each day. Desk lamps are often used to illuminate office work surfaces and table lamps placed by the sofa or on a bedside table provide adequate light for reading.





Accent Lighting

Accent, or focal, lighting is used to draw attention to or accent specific features in a room and, in my opinion, is the most under-utilized layer in most homes. Accent lighting is rarely seen. Most of the time, you merely appreciate the effects of good accent lighting as it is used to create additional contrast and drama within a space. Wall sconces or picture lighting would be one exception as they are often decorative choices used to show off a spectacular art collection. More common examples would include recessed rope lighting to accentuate special collections or photo frames on shelving or in a display cabinet. With outdoor landscaping, spot lights may be used to cast a dramatic glow on stonework and step lighting and even added to steps for both visual drama and increased safety.

Decorative Layer

Although the decorative layer will provide some light, its primary intention is merely to add interest and decorative effect to the space, which can often be a very exciting and dramatic focal point in the room. You should not depend on the decorative fixtures in a space to supply adequate task lighting, although some cases, it can be the sole supply of overall, ambient lighting as well. Such is often the case in a dining room where statement chandeliers are often used for dramatic effect and typically provide enough ambient lighting for the entire space. This is also true for some decorative pendant fixtures used in kitchens, although in many kitchen applications you will want to add recessed down lights for ambient purposes.

Final Tips

Keep it flexible! Work closely with an electrician to ensure you can control the multiple layers of lighting with multiple switches and dimming accessories. You want to be able to have a nice, bright work surface as you work feverishly in the kitchen, and then a softer, dimmer glow as you enjoy the meal with family and friends.

Keep it simple! Remember that sometimes one fixture can serve multiple 'layering functions' in your space! As mentioned above, sometimes one fabulous, dramatic crystal chandelier in the dining room can be ambient, task and decorative lighting all rolled into one! While layering is a great guide, don't let it overwhelm you.

Keep it creative! Be creative with the selection of bulbs used in decorative fixtures. While the wattage and bulb type are dictated by the manufacturer, there are many, many options available now – frosted or clear glass, varied glass shapes (round, Edison, candelabra, etc), you can also vary the effect a light has on a room's color scheme based on the selection of warm or cool light bulbs. Have some fun and add some additional interest with this little detail in your lighting plan.

By nature, we are drawn to light, so creating areas that are lighter and brighter and contrasting them with softer-lit areas will 'draw' people through and to spaces in your home. Use this contrast to add visual drama and interest. Many homeowners tend to stop short of a well-developed lighting plan with only ambient or task lighting in their spaces. Adding the additional layers will create both depth and interest, adding to the warmth, personality, and functionality to your home.



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James “Tootie” Hogan Has A Different Kind Of

Jazz Hands By David Hamrick



James “Tootie” Hogan is special. I mean, how many people so you know that play the guitar with their teeth, write effortlessly in mirror image and upside down, and can honestly say they have never-ever-partaken of drugs or alcohol? Probably not many...



Born in his mother’s home town of New Haven Connecticut, Hogan moved with his family to Mt. Holly when he was four. Musical even as a child, he would walk around singing “Tootie Fruity” by Little Richard, so folks started calling him “Tootie” ...although he says there is at least one alternative story about how he got his name. Either way, the nickname “Tootie” stuck.

At the relatively tender age of sixteen Hogan, or Tootie, was already playing out with various bands in Charlotte nightclubs. One evening while

Tootie at 16 in 1972.

playing with a band called Heat in a club called Soul 21 on Statesville Road, in walked members of Bill Pinkney's original Drifters. After hearing him play, and lacking a lead guitar player, Hogan was quickly recruited to fill the vacant spot. So in 1972, Hogan left high school, his family, and Mt. Holly, to go on the road full time with the Drifters.

What followed was a blur of life on the road with many of the top names of the day, The Drifters, The Tams, Junior Walker & The Allstars, Archie Bell & The Drells, Maurice Williams & The Zodiacs, to name but a few. Eventually, through a local connection with Peabo Bryson's bass player, Hogan was flown to

New York to audition for Roberta Flack. He spent the next several years traveling all over Europe, the Philippines, Japan, Canada, South Africa, the Bahamas and more. Backing Ms. Flack, he appeared on all of television's biggest stages, including Johnny Carson, Dick Cavett, and Solid Gold. When asked what the best part of touring was, he said "Roberta Flack. The money was good, got to see the world. But on a tour break with Roberta, I was playing with Junior Walker & The All-Stars in Canada when Roberta called, and I just didn't go back."

By the mid 90's, life on the road began to lose its appeal. Hogan wanted to spend more time with family, including two children. So although he continued to tour occasionally, and as recently as 2009 with the Tams, Hogan decided to focus on his own music for a change. He subsequently released several albums; in 1995 was *Dreaming At Midday*, 1998 saw the release of *Last Flight Out*, and 2009 brought *Final Destination*. Currently, a cut called *Picnic In The Park* is available as an Amazon single.

These days Hogan lives quietly near his parents in Mt. Holly, teaching, playing various gigs-festivals, wedding, private parties, doing session work and corporate events. As a solo guitarist, but not a singer, he primarily is primarily a jazz player, with occasional ventures into the beach music or hip-hop world. He does not wish to be back on the road as part of a band, he wants to be the front man. Says Hogan, "I feel like I have paid my dues, all those years on the road." Today he plays solo occasionally, but prefers to play with four guys he has known a long time.

James Tootie Hogan has always listened to his own tune. "A lot of times I would play what I wanted to play, instead of what was written, and they would say-"play it your way, we like what you are playing better" Did I mention that Tootie—who is left handed- learned to play a regular right handed- guitar, but realized his reach was limited, so he re-learned to play on a true left handed guitar, "didn't take me long he said." (Imagine relearning to type or keyboard, but backwards from the way you do it now). Always one to defy convention, he still plays a right handed bass. Left handed of course.



Tootie Auditions For Roberta Flack.



Check Tootie out at jamestootiehogan.com

Check out his single on Amazon here: www.amazon.com/dp/B00C9X0JMO

Hear Tootie and his band play at: The Mt. Holly Art & Music Festival Sept 28, details here: mounthollyartsfestival.webs.com

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Cheese If You Please

This month I'm not sharing a recipe, but more one of my favorite meals. Lots of nights I just want a nosh, I have a friend who calls it "Pick'ns", to satisfy these cravings my go-to is a nice cheese plate.

I have some simple guidelines for my cheese plates, and within these the combinations are almost endless:

- Use 3-6 kinds of cheese (buy the best cheese you can afford)
- Mix dry cheeses with creamy cheeses like brie
- Strong cheeses should have either honey or a preserve to compliment
- Add some olives, fruit or nuts to the plate if you have them

So, with these in mind, let me create a couple of example plates and share my thoughts on why they work.

Cheese Plate 1 (for two)

Stilton Blue about an ounce because its strong

Creamy Havarti two ounces

Spanish Manchego

Wild Honey, Toasted Walnuts and a sliced honey crisp apple

Cheese Plate 2 (for four or more just increase the quantity)

Brie or Triple Cream

Humboldt Fog

Yellow Hoop Cheddar

White Aged Cheddar

P'tit Basque

A horseradish or Spicy Cheese

Fig Jam, Almonds, Olives and Grapes

Why do these combinations work? In plate one, the Honey softens the Blue which is in contrast to the Havarti. The Manchego provides a nice middle ground. In plate two the brie or triple cream texture is offset by the texture of the others. The Humboldt and Basque are stronger to contrast the Cheddar. The accompaniments clean the palate between cheeses or can be used to add layers of flavor.

If you've never been to a great cheese shop, (or a shop that has a huge selection of cheese that will let you sample) you should. In my opinion, a great cheese plate and a bottle of wine are a great way to create a gourmet evening.

Till Next Month,
Glenn



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MUSIC



by **Bil Jones**
bjones@gastonalive.com

Music Is A GIFT That Truly Keeps GIVING

Exposure to music comes in varied forms throughout our lives practically from day one. The first taste of this intoxicating elixir can set the tone for the remainder of our days and layout the soundtrack to our existence. Just take a look around in any public setting and witness those who partake in the essence of music on a daily basis.

For many, the first opportunity to apply this influx of melody, harmony, rhythm and dynamics takes place during the school year. Gaston County schools, both public and



private, have well established programs in place that allow the beginning musical adventurer the chance to learn and perform an instrument and

enrich their lives in the process. The language of music engages young minds while stimulating neural pathways associated with higher forms of intelligence. This creative experience encourages expression and provides an outlet to release emotions in a supportive environment. Who could think of a more positive social activity which promotes working together for a common goal than music?



Local school music programs include chorus, strings, keyboard, concert, and marching band. Piedmont Community Charter School has even ventured out with their hugely popular guitar classes led by instructor John White. Directors county wide work tirelessly to teach and mold our future stars both in and out of the classroom. Recitals, clinics, camps, competitions and away ball games are but a few of the extra-curricular activities that make up these programs. And of course all of this would not be possible without the aid of the band parents who play a vital role in the mix by providing not only financial but logistical and emotional support as well.

Every summer brings about my own fond memories of marching band camp and the camaraderie which I developed with my friends and classmates there. The long hot days on the practice field rewarded those of us tough enough to stick it out with a sense of accomplishment and a strong work ethic. Performing a well-rehearsed set of songs at the first Friday night football game of the season has given more than a few the motivation to pursue music long after graduation.

The payoff of learning and performing music is immeasurable. Please support and encourage young adults to become involved with our school music programs. This self-confessed band geek thanks Mom and Dad for their support, love, and encouragement.

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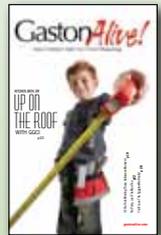
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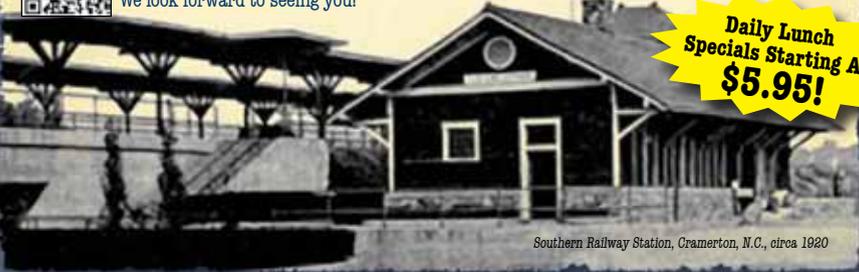
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