

# GASTON ALIVE

MAGAZINE

HOME | GARDEN | STYLE | FUN | FOOD | HAPPENINGS

## Christmastown Gallery Adds New Artists

p6

Savory Blue Cheese Brulee

p10

Principal Of The Year

p12

[gastonalive.com](http://gastonalive.com)



READY FOR SOME FALL CLEANING ON THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME? DON'T WANT STREAKS ON YOUR SIDING FROM HIGH PRESSURE OR BLEACH THAT COULD HARM YOUR LANDSCAPING, PETS AND EVEN CHILDREN?

THEN, CALL US! WE KNOW WHAT PRODUCTS TO USE AND HOW TO APPLY THEM SAFELY – **AND WE DON'T USE BLEACH!**

MAKE YOUR HOME SPARKLE AND YOUR ROOF LOOK NEW!

WHEN YOU CALL, ASK ABOUT OUR **WHOLE HOUSE SPECIAL**

GET YOUR HOUSE AND ROOF CLEANED AND WE'LL CLEAN YOUR DRIVEWAY AND SIDEWALKS FOR

**1/2 PRICE!**

One coupon per customer please. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 12.15.15

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE  
**704-718-5424**

Now Welcoming Quality Furniture Consignments!



*Designer quality furniture, new & consigned!*

Downsizing • First Apartment • Dorm Room  
Cleaning Out Your Parent's Home  
New Family • Shabby Chic

See new pieces on Facebook daily!

**Furniture** plus  
consignment

1020 East Franklin Blvd.  
Gastonia, NC 28054

704.861.0444  
gastoniafurnitureplus.com

**Budget Blinds**

a style for every point of view®



PANEL TRACKS



WOOD BLINDS



WOOD SHUTTERS

Budget Blinds offers a wide variety of energy-saving window treatments.

Purchase 10 Blinds Or More And Receive An Additional 10% Off!

**Call Budget Blinds 704-864-8778**

Call us for a high quality, affordable and efficient shopping experience or visit us online at [www.budgetblinds.com](http://www.budgetblinds.com).

*Shop for your home  
in your home.*

WITH A  
**COMPLIMENTARY  
CONSULTATION**

**BUY 3!**

Get 1 FREE On Any Select  
Signature Series Window Treatment.

One coupon per customer please. Cannot be combined with any other offer.  
Expires 12.15.15



# Sake Express

## Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi

**Voted #1  
Japanese Restaurant  
in Gaston County!**

### Gastonia

1327 East Franklin Blvd  
704.864.4466

### Belmont

675 Park Street  
704.461.0400

### Mount Holly

349 W. Charlotte Ave.  
704.827.4819

### Hours

Gastonia & Belmont  
Mon - Sat 11AM - 10PM  
Sun 11AM - 9PM

### Mount Holly

Mon - Thurs 11AM - 9PM  
Fri 11AM - 10PM  
Sat 12PM - 10PM  
Sun 12PM - 9PM

like us on



[www.thesakeexpress.com](http://www.thesakeexpress.com)



**Buy One Sushi  
Get one 1/2 Price\***

\*Must be Same Or lesser value.  
(Gastonia & Belmont Location Only)  
One Coupon Per Customer Please  
Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer  
Expires December 15, 2015



**Buy One Entree  
Get one 1/2 Price\***

\*Must be Same Or lesser value.  
(Gastonia & Belmont Location Only)  
One Coupon Per Customer Please  
Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer  
Expires December 15, 2015



## I gave my "To-Do" list to My Handyman...

### and he took care of everything!



### To-Do list

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Put up shelving         | <input type="checkbox"/> Caulk around tub  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hang window treatments  | <input type="checkbox"/> Install moulding  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grout tile floor        | <input type="checkbox"/> Repair wood on deck   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powerwash deck          | <input type="checkbox"/> Install backsplash  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repair kitchen drywall  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hang mirror in hallway  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fix cabinet hinge       | <input type="checkbox"/> Change ceiling light bulbs                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Install smoke detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Fix door knob   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paint living room       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Get more free time...<br/>call My Handyman!</b> |



**My Handyman**  
On time. Done right.®

## \$50 OFF

This coupon is valid for \$25 worth of services provided by My Handyman.

## 704-824-8870

Minimum of 4 hours of service. Offer valid one time per household. Available at participating locations only. Not valid with any other offer.  
Offer Expires: December 31, 2015

be sure to visit [myhandyman.com](http://myhandyman.com)

Fully Insured - General Liability and Workers' Compensation. For franchise information call 1-866-822-6105. Each franchise independently owned and operated. Some services are subject to state or local licensing requirements and may not be available at all My Handyman locations.

My Handyman is a member of the Service Brands International family.



# Your 40 Day Transformation

## Lose 40 lbs in 40 Days!™

### Our Proprietary, Physician-Supervised Weight Loss System:

- Easy to Follow
- Boasts an 88% Long Term Success Rate
- Allows our patients to lose weight fast
- Even works for patients who are diabetic, hypothyroid, or who have failed at every other weight loss system available.
- Allows you to literally watch the fat melt off your belly and thighs...and maintain it for the rest of your life.

### Call For Your FREE Consultation!

\*Consultation times are limited.



Rachel  
Lost 30 lbs!

"If you are serious about losing weight in 2015, I can really help you."

-Dr. Adkins

Melanie  
Lost 57 lbs and  
5 dress sizes!



Dr. Lidia Adkins, PKT, D.C.

**CAROLINAS WEIGHT LOSS INSTITUTE**  
Weight Loss Designed For Your Body

You can also schedule your Free Consultation by calling

## 704-691-0310

1846 E Franklin Blvd, Gastonia NC

[www.cwli.net](http://www.cwli.net)



™This is an average. Results may vary.



# FROM THE PUBLISHER

It has been an eventful couple of months. As many of you know I have had some health issues, but every day I get stronger, and hope to make a full recovery. They say "a friend in need is a friend indeed", and I want to express my heartfelt thanks to so many friends and family who have really stepped up- with cards, visits, food and flowers. But special thanks to my wife Linda first and foremost, and then to David James, Rick Haithcox, Ben Dungan, and Aaron Suttentfield, for keeping the magazine on track and viable. I am truly blessed to have the love and support of so many folks..and I am grateful.

As we enter the holiday season, I hope that you will take time to remember who and what is really important... and really love on those folks that you love.

Wishing you peace, hope, and joy,

David

featured this month

06

KINKADE GALLERY ADDS NEW ARTISTS

10

GLENN'S SAVORY BLUE CHEESE BRULEE

12

PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR JOEY CLINTON



HOME | GARDEN | STYLE | FUN | FOOD | HAPPENINGS

# on the cover



This month's cover features a painting by Abraham Hunter entitled "Feathered Friends III". Hunter is one of several new artists now being featured at the Christmastown Thomas Kinkadee Gallery in McAdenville. See related story page 6. Cover painting by Abraham Hunter, cover graphic design by David James.

## our staff

### PUBLISHER

DAVID HAMRICK

### CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

RICK HAITHCOX

### SALES

BEN DUNGAN  
DAVID HAMRICK

### DESIGN

DAVID JAMES

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

DAVID HAMRICK  
GLENN SAWYER  
AMANDA MEMRICK



To be part of our team, or to submit art, photo or story ideas, please email us at: [info@gastonalive.com](mailto:info@gastonalive.com)

PO Box 233  
Mt. Holly, NC 28120  
[www.gastonalive.com](http://www.gastonalive.com)  
704.650.8330

Advertising Info: 704.650.8330  
[info@gastonalive.com](mailto:info@gastonalive.com)

GA|1115

[www.gastonalive.com](http://www.gastonalive.com)  
[www.facebook.com/GastonAlive](https://www.facebook.com/GastonAlive)



Gaston Alive Magazine is published monthly in the Gaston County, NC area by Art FX Media. All editorial contained within is the property of the publisher and cannot be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission. The publisher accepts no liability for the accuracy of statements made by the writers or advertisers. ©2015 Art FX Media.

## Social Security Secrets

By Todd Van Der Meid, MBA, CFP®

A growing number of Financial Advisors are advertising that there are secret Social Security filing options available, and you may be giving up significant amounts of money unless you contact them or attend one of their secret-revealing seminars.



Let me state definitively, there are no secrets. The information concerning your filing options is public information and can be obtained by visiting the Social Security Administrations website. Just because you are not familiar with a particular topic doesn't mean the information is secret. I liken it to when you bought your first home. The whole process was foreign and a bit intimidating but the home buying process is not a secret. By the time a person has bought their second or third home the process is somewhat familiar. Filing a claim for your Social Security benefits is usually something you only do once, so naturally many have questions. It's something you've never done before. So how do you get your questions answered? You can contact the Social Security Administration directly or you can engage a Financial Advisor. You may be able to engage a Financial Advisor free of charge, but keep in mind that nothing is really free and the answers to your questions may include a recommendation to buy a financial product. You can also hire a Financial Advisor to answer your questions by paying a fee for the services you require. If you choose to engage a Financial Advisor, it is a good idea to verify the Advisor's credentials and record thorough the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority at [www.finra.org](http://www.finra.org). Through the Broker Check service, a detailed report is provided outlining the Advisor's qualifications and other information that should be considered before relying on financial advice.

Continue reading more articles on my blog at  
[www.rhinowealth.com](http://www.rhinowealth.com)

**RHINO**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Todd Van Der Meid, MBA is a  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional.  
Investment advice offered through  
Rhino Wealth Management a registered investment adviser.

The Christmastown  
**THOMAS KINKADEE™**  
Signature Gallery

The Christmastown  
Thomas Kinkadee Signature Gallery

129 1/2 Main Street • McAdenville, NC, 28101  
Ph: 704-823-1550 • [www.christmastowngallery.com](http://www.christmastowngallery.com)



The Christmastown Thomas Kinkadee Signature Gallery had reached a crossroads with the loss of Thomas Kinkadee in 2012. But owner Jay McCosh is adding three new artists to his gallery in McAdenville. Gaston Alive spent some time recently with Jay to find out more.

*By David Hamrick*

**GA: First, what's up with your Thomas Kinkadee pieces?**

**Jay:** Since Thom passed away in April 2012, most of his galleries have seen some changes. His work is still in high demand worldwide and since he has passed his paintings are selling out more quickly. Thom left over 100 paintings that he had yet to release. Some of those have since been released. His nephew Zac Kinkadee is picking up where his uncle left off and has had his first painting, Noah's Ark published in very low numbers, which make it collectible and rare.

**GA: We were excited to hear that you are adding new artists....**

**Jay:** I have been approached over the years by several artists wanting us to carry their art. I had to be very careful however as I wanted art that would complement Thom's incredible body of work; something our collectors would get excited about as well as attract new collectors. I found that and more in Robert Finale, Mark Keathley and Abraham Hunter.

**GA: How would you compare the work of Thomas Kinkadee and your new artists?**

**Jay:** On some paintings many people will see many similarities, but others are very different as there are many subjects Thom never painted. The color palettes are also different. Abraham is very detailed in everything he does, even to the individual details on the leaf of a tree. Thom's palette in his early pieces was much softer than in later years and both Mark and Abraham have very vivid color palettes, whereas Robert Finale's is in between the soft and vivid.

**GA: What is the demand and collect-ability of work by Keathley, Hunter, and Finale?**

**Jay:** The three new artists have much lower edition sizes than we are used to with Kinkadee. We have had Robert Finale in the gallery now a little over a year now and have had the embarrassing experience happen a few times where a customer will come in and really fall in love with a painting and need to go home and measure or wait until next month, only to find that because of such rarity in these paintings not only is the painting sold from here but also completely sold out nationwide. I fully expect the same kind of demand from Mark Keathley and Abraham Hunter as well.

## GA: So do you have work by Hunter and Keathley in the gallery?

**Jay:** Yes we have quite a nice selection of all three new artists work here in the gallery as well as an original painted by Abraham Hunter that he painted in Pigeon Forge.

## GA: How does the cost of paintings compare to Kinkadee?

**Jay:** Mark and Abraham's Standard Numbered (S/N) 18"x24" framed paintings are only \$750 as compared to \$995 both Thomas Kinkadee and Robert Finale.

# You're Invited!

## Meet Abraham Hunter!

Abraham will be here in the gallery Saturday Dec. 12th from 1-5pm for a sketching event. If you buy one of his canvas paintings, he will sketch on the back of it for you free of charge while you watch. He will also set up his easel somewhere here in Christmastown USA while the lights are on and paint one of our towns iconic scenes. The original image will be on display in the gallery afterwards and prints will be made but only 25 copies will be available and will be sold first come first serve.

## Meet Abraham Hunter



Abraham Hunter said that he first began to realize that God had given him a talent at 12 years old. At 14, he began to hone his skills and pursue his artistic talent as a career. Abraham works in oil, acrylic and occasionally watercolor and strives for extreme photorealism most of the time because he feels it properly honors God's handiwork by showing all the intricate details. He often portrays somewhat "utopia" like scenes because he likes to imagine what

it would have been like in the Garden of Eden and wants his viewers to have an encounter with a world lacking of death and turmoil.



## Meet Mark Keathley



Mark Keathley (born 1963) grew up on the family cattle farm in East Texas and loved romping through the woods and across open fields. In the early 1990's, he entered a couple of paintings in the Cheyenne, Wyoming "Old West Museum Show" and won a couple of awards for his work. He also attended the "Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Art Show" in Waco Texas and twice won the "Popular Vote Award" for a couple of his pieces two years in a row. Everywhere he has gone, he has found

great acceptance for his work, and his paintings hang in many homes around the world. In April 2010, "Quiet Encounter" was selected for the National Wild Turkey Federation's (NWTF) 2011 core art program. The art program helps to further NWTF's mission to conserve the wild turkey and preserve the heritage of hunting. Keathley's prints will raise funds via auctions held at more than 2200 banquets throughout North America.



## Meet Robert Finale



Robert has been painting about 13 years and has received no formal training. He says he started painting when he and his wife visited a Thomas Kinkadee Gallery, and his wife fell in love with a Kinkadee painting-but they just couldn't afford it. Robert, who had been sketching and drawing his whole life, told his daughter "I will just paint her one!" And so he did, and a career was born!



# Holidays AT THE GARDEN

NOVEMBER 20th TO JANUARY 3rd

PRESENTING SPONSOR  
**DAVID BELK CANNON  
FOUNDATION**

MEDIA SPONSOR  
**K104.7**

SUPPORTING SPONSOR  
**DUKE ENERGY**

6500 South New Hope Road, Belmont, NC 28012  
Advance Tickets at (704) 825-1294 or [www.DSBG.org](http://www.DSBG.org)



Winter glistens as dazzling lights dance throughout the garden this holiday season. *Holidays at the Garden*, a must-see family, decade-old tradition for thousands of all ages, is a magical time of year when the trees twinkle, the fountains sparkle and botanical-themed displays glisten among the natural beauty of the winter Garden.



Black & White Portraits

Commercial Photography



## Award Winning Photography

*Rick Haithcox is a Master Photographer and a North Carolina Photographer of the year. Talent, experience, enthusiasm, special techniques and visual concepts are all part of the approach that goes into each Haithcox photo assignment. Rick pays meticulous attention to detail to ensure proper lighting, subject positioning and he applies state-of-the-art technology photo editing to each work.*



Corporate Portraits

## About Our Studio

Haithcox Photography offers award winning on-location and in-studio services. Our state-of-the-art, 3600 square foot facility, is professionally designed to accommodate large equipment and specialized backdrops for the most inspiring images.

Just off I-85, we are conveniently located 20 minutes southwest of Charlotte, NC

Haithcox Photography  
109 South Holland Street  
Dallas, North Carolina  
704.922.7696  
[wrhphoto@aol.com](mailto:wrhphoto@aol.com)

[www.rickhaithcox.com](http://www.rickhaithcox.com)

**HAITHCOX PHOTOGRAPHY**

# Escape To The Sun This Winter!



## TOUR EITHER COUNTRY OR COMBINE BOTH

Small group tours January, February, March • Private tours on your dates year round

### COSTA RICA

- 4 hr. non-stop flights from Charlotte
- #1 destination worldwide for nature travel
- Enjoy wildlife, cloud and rain forests; hot springs and spa; optional canopy zip-line tour
- Includes 3 nights at ocean-front beach resort

### PANAMA

- Unique tour through 6 centuries
- Full ocean-to-ocean day transit of Panama canal
- Historic colonial sights in Panama City
- New Biodiversity Museum by Frank Gehry
- Visit indigenous village in rainforest

**COSTA RICA TOURS LTD**

704-461-4514 • costaricatoursltd.com • info@costaricatoursltd.com

# YOUR SOUND AND LIGHTING HEADQUARTERS!

- ♪ Gastonia's Premier Music Store!
- ♪ PA & Sound Reinforcement Systems
- ♪ LED Stage Lights & Lighting Systems
- ♪ Specializing in Small Venue Consultation/Training
- ♪ Your Lighting & Sound Headquarters Since 1968!



940 E. Franklin Blvd. ♪ Gastonia  
**704-861-1037**



## ENGLISH RIDING LESSONS



jonwalkerstables.org

- Beginner To Show Competition Levels
- Riding Camps And Fun Days
- Birthday Parties For All Ages
- Indoor And Outdoor Riding Facilities

**704-864-6529**

4933 Granny Trail, Gastonia, NC 28056

# OUR LISTINGS ARE SELLING! CALL US TO GET YOUR HOME SOLD!



Executive elegance AND livability! 4 bedrooms PLUS office and living areas! \$439,000



Single level elegance! High ceilings! Remote-controlled screens! Pool! \$449,000



Ultimate convenience! Single level with 2 master suites! Fabulous outdoor living area! \$399,000



Vaulted! Ranch with bonus + office up! Large yard! \$339,900



3 acres! Charming home! Outbuildings! \$259,900



Walk to Country Club! Park-like setting! 2 living areas! Bonus + 3 BR! \$254,900



Beautiful 4BR + bonus home! High ceilings! Woods behind! \$239,900



Double lot! Open living area! 2nd living quarters with entrance! \$174,500



Granite countertops! 2nd living quarters possibility! 4 bedrooms! \$159,900



Fresh and updated! Room to room! Enjoy the trees! \$149,900



SECOND living quarters! Workshop! 4 bedrooms! \$139,900



Open living area! Cul de sac! Fenced yard! \$124,500



Vaulted and Open! Patio! Covered Parking! Large master suite! \$105,000



Convenient townhome end unit! Open floor plan! \$75,000



ScottFarmerProperties.com

**704.822.2422**

**Scott Farmer**  
CRS, GRI, Licensed NC  
Residential Real  
Estate Appraiser, Real Estate  
Broker, Realtor®







# COOKING WITH GLENN

## SAVORY BLUE CHEESE BRULEE

Recently, I was lucky enough to spend two weeks in Scotland. I always enjoy visiting Europe and this was my first time to visit the home of William Wallace, (think Mel Gibson in Braveheart), Scotch Whiskey and Haggis. Great food and wine were not the focus of my visit nor did I have any expectations to be wowed as Scotland is not known for Haut Cuisine.

Scotland does have an abundance of great seafood, I had the best mussels I have ever eaten in a little restaurant called Ee-usk. The sunset was beautiful and Oban was a charming little seaside town on the west coast of Alba (the Gaelic and original name for Scotland). As a country they really don't produce much wine as the climate just doesn't seem to suit the vinifera. Fortunately for me they do import quite a bit of Italian and French wine, and even an occasional American so finding the right pairing was rarely a problem.

Other great meals included an excellent dinner at Two Fat Ladies at the Buttery, combining Scottish ambience with Italian and French inspired food and a wonderful chefs tasting in Glasgow at Rogano. It was in 1935, as the ocean liner 'Queen Mary' took shape in the docks of the river Clyde, that this restaurant was refitted in the same Art Deco style. With its unique 1930's ambience, Rogano is the oldest surviving restaurant in Glasgow.

My featured recipe is inspired by a dish from the tasting, Savory Blue Cheese Brulee.

### INGREDIENTS

2 cups Heavy Cream	Salt
2 oz Blue Cheese	Walnuts
1 medium Shallot	6 Figs
4 Egg yolks	Red wine
White Pepper	Sugar

### METHOD

Pre heat oven to 350 degrees, dice the shallot, mix with the cream and blue cheese in a sauce pan place over medium heat, stir to integrate the blue cheese and warm till bubbles form around the edges of the pot (do not boil). Season the cream with salt and the white pepper. While the cream is heating separate the egg yolks in a heat proof bowl and whisk till combined.

Remove the cream from heat and strain to remove the shallot, temper the egg yolks by whisking a small amount of the hot cream into it at a time, when half a cup of the cream has been added to the yolks pour the yolk mixture into the remaining cream. Divide this mixture between eight small ramekins. Place ramekins in a baking pan, then fill the baking pan with warm water until it reaches half way up the ramekins. Bake until the brulee will jiggle in the ramekin when tapped on the side, you want them firm, but not solid, about 30 min.

While the brulee cooks chop the walnuts and toast. Place the figs (fresh are best) in a sauté pan with a cup of red wine and the sugar. Poach the figs rolling them in the wine to keep them moist.

To serve, slice the figs place on the brulee, sprinkle with the toasted walnuts and serve warm.

Let me leave you with a comparison, not related to this recipe, on our perception of Haggis. It's made from offal (hearts, livers, kidneys, etc.) mixed with grains, cooked in the animal's stomach and our thought is oh gross. But let me give you a different point of view, we Southerners love our liver mush (made from offal and grain) why not just think of Haggis as Scottish liver mush.

Till Next Month, Make it Your Own!  
Glenn



### SCOTLAND



Scotland's name originates from the Roman term for the residents of Ireland and the area of Great Britain north of the Firth of Forth. The Roman's called these people 'Scoti' or Scotii' which was made official by the Papal decree of Leo X (1513-1521). In Medieval time Scotia became the way the land of the Gaels was referenced, like Angli and Franci for Anglia (England) and Francia (France).

Follow me on Twitter @CookwithGlenn to continue the culinary adventure.



twitter.com/cookwithglenn

# GASTON'S TOP PRINCIPAL DREAMS BIG, STAYS GROUNDED

*By Amanda Memrick*



**As the bell rings, students flood the hallways of Ashbrook High School, making their way to the next class.**

In the middle of that sea of students stands Ashbrook High Principal Joey Clinton. "My philosophy's always been to be visible, especially in this role," Clinton said. "And I think this has helped garner some success in this school."

Ashbrook, one of the largest and most diverse schools in Gaston County, has seen success in boosting the number of students who graduate in four years or less to 90.3 percent for the last school year. "We really pushed to create a culture of acceptance. It doesn't matter who you are. We want you to come to this school. This is a level playing ground. Getting an education, earning a diploma, everybody's equal. It doesn't matter where you come from, what you look like, who you are," Clinton said. "You have a lot to do with your success." That success is one reason Gaston County Schools leaders chose Clinton to be Principal of the Year.



Clinton grew up in York, S.C., in a family of educators. Clinton knew in high school and college that he wanted to become a coach. He played sports in high school and coached there as a college student at Winthrop University. After graduating with a degree in physical education, he applied for a jobs at neighboring school systems, including Gaston County. The day before school started, Clinton received a call offering him a position at Highland Junior High School. "I can recall that first day of school, I was teaching health and physical science, and I remember just whipping through like four or five chapters because I was so nervous, and I didn't want any down time," Clinton said. "That first year was a great learning experience." That was 1993. Clinton continued to teach and coach sports, though he knew he wanted more. "I knew I wanted to be in that leadership role," Clinton said. "I wanted to make a larger impact." He decided to get a master's degree in school administration from Gardner-Webb University to become an administrator. He started as an assistant principal at Forestview High, then moved to Grier Middle. He became principal at Grier before coming to Ashbrook in 2011.



Clinton likes a routine and keeps a to-do list, but he never knows what the day will bring at a school with 1,500 and 130 staff members. Being flexible is key, he said, because the main focus has to be kids and instruction. Clinton's philosophy as a principal is on servant leadership. He won't ask a staff member to do something he won't do. "There's a lot of days I sweep the floors between classes," he said.

“I knew I wanted to be in that leadership role...”

Getting to know the students and being a part of their lives is the best part of the job. That's why he's outside the school in mornings, in the hallways during class changes and in the cafeteria during lunch. He wants students to see him and not be afraid to approach him.

Nearly all of his 22 years in education have been in schools that feed into Ashbrook. He sees students he used to teach, and in some cases, he's taught their parents. Clinton wants to continue climbing the career ladder. He'd like to become superintendent of a school system. "That's what I want to do. That's the track I want to do," Clinton said. "I want to move on because I want to make an impact."



Clinton lives in Filbert, S.C., about 25 minutes away. When he's not overseeing Ashbrook, Clinton spends time working on the 200-acre farm where he was born and raised. Clinton took charge of the farm work after his father died while Clinton was in college. The farm has about 50 to 60 beef cattle and a few chickens. His nephews raise pigs and show them for 4-H. Farm life keeps him grounded. "You grab a set of post hole diggers, I'm mean that's work. And I enjoy it," Clinton said. "It's been a part of who I am all my life."

WE OFFER A GREAT SELECTION OF DRAFT BEERS, BOTTLED BEERS, AND SEVERAL WINES BY THE GLASS.

# PIZZA DONE RIGHT!

Locally Owned and Operated since 2004. Signature hand-tossed pizzas, oven-baked hoagies, enormous salads, signature appetizers and the area's BEST WINGS!



AWESOME  
PRETZEL DROPS - WITH  
OUR SIGNATURE SAUCE  
YA GOTTA TRY 'UM

Voted  
"BEST PIZZA"  
In Gaston County!



**MANAGER'S SPECIAL!**  
**\$5.00 OFF!**  
ANY PURCHASE OVER \$25  
One coupon per customer please. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 12.15.15

**PIZZA & WING COMBO DEAL!**  
GET 14 WINGS/  
16" 2-TOPPING PIZZA FOR **\$22.99**  
One coupon per customer please. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 12.15.15

106 N. Main St.  
Belmont, NC 28012  
**704-825-8900**



facebook.com/Johnny B's Pizza Pad & Watering Hole

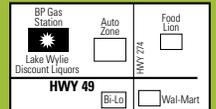
**WWW.JBSPIZZAPAD.COM**



# SVEDKA COLADA

## Lake Wylie Discount Liquors

5081 Charlotte Hwy • Lake Wylie  
**803-831-8161**



Please Drink  
Responsibly

**1.75 Liter  
only  
\$18.99**



**SVEDKA**  
VOTED #1 VODKA OF 2013

**\$2 OFF**

Any Purchase Of \$20 Or More

Lake Wylie Discount Liquors

5081 Charlotte Hwy • Lake Wylie • 803-831-8161

With This Coupon. Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer. Offer Expires 12/15/2015.

**\$5 OFF**

Any Purchase Of \$50 Or More

Lake Wylie Discount Liquors

5081 Charlotte Hwy • Lake Wylie • 803-831-8161

With This Coupon. Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer. Offer Expires 12/15/2015.

**\$10 OFF**

Any Purchase Of \$100 Or More

Lake Wylie Discount Liquors

5081 Charlotte Hwy • Lake Wylie • 803-831-8161

With This Coupon. Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer. Offer Expires 12/15/2015.

# GET YOUR HEATING SYSTEM TUNED-UP BEFORE COLD WEATHER HITS



Steven Long  
President, Residential

Joel Long  
President, Commercial

GSM SERVICES WANTS TO KEEP YOUR HOME COMFORTABLE AND WARM THIS SEASON AND **GIVE YOU OPTIONS:**

A little investment now can save you money and extend the life of your system. We want to give you choices when it comes to the care of your system.

**50%** off 1st year annual energy savings maintenance agreement with ultimate or premium package.

**\$188 | ULTIMATE**

per system  
\$108 for each additional system

HEATING SYSTEM PRECISION TUNE-UP,  
WHOLE HOME CARBON MONOXIDE  
SAFETY CHECK, SEASONAL GUARANTEE,  
& A FREE FIRE EXTINGUISHER

**\$108 | PREMIUM**

per system

HEATING SYSTEM PRECISION TUNE-UP

**\$58 | BASIC**

per system

HEATING SYSTEM CHECK



Leave the Comfort to Us  
**Gr8GSMServices.com**

**1-866-917-2098**

# Guitar Repair

Acoustic • Electric • Vintage

**FretGarage**



704.361.5453

[www.fretgarage.com](http://www.fretgarage.com)

We buy vintage guitars & amps  
Bil Jones, Luthier

Gaston Alive! has helped hundreds of small businesses prosper-  
**Imagine what we can do for you!**

**GASTON ALIVE** MAGAZINE

HOME | GARDEN | STYLE | FUN | FOOD | HAPPENINGS

Contact us today for a no obligation consultation.

**Sales: 704-650-8330**

[gastonalive.com](http://gastonalive.com) • [info@gastonalive.com](mailto:info@gastonalive.com)



[facebook.com/GastonAlive](https://facebook.com/GastonAlive)



**Voted Best of Gaston  
3 Years Running!**



**Steak & Seafood  
Restaurant**



**Check Out Our Weekday & Sunday Specials!**

~Tuesday Special~

\$2 Off Any Large Seafood Entree Seafood Platter, or Combo

~Wednesday Special~

Kids Under 12 Eat Free!\*

\*With Paid Adult, One Kid's Meal PER Paid Adult Entree\*

~Thursday Special~

\$2 Off! 10 oz & 14 oz Prime Rib

**Check Us Out On Facebook For Weekly Specials!**

\*\*Family Owned And Operated\*\*

808 North 14th Street • Bessemer City

704.629.0561

Call-In Orders 704.629.0562

[www.surfandturlodge.com](http://www.surfandturlodge.com)

**Our Party Room Is Available!**

MONDAY CLOSED

Tues. 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Wed. & Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Fri. & Sat. 3:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Sun 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**\$2 OFF**  
ANY PURCHASE OF  
\$20 OR MORE.

Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts.  
One coupon per customer please. Expires 12/15/15.

**\$5 OFF**  
ANY PURCHASE OF  
\$35 OR MORE.

Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts.  
One coupon per customer please. Expires 12/15/15.



P.O. Box 233  
Mt. Holly, NC 28120

[gastonalive.com](http://gastonalive.com)

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Greenville, SC  
Permit # 1431

# You've worked hard to get here. We work hard to build peace of mind.

At Belmont Capital Advisors, we deeply believe that our clients deserve to enjoy what should be the most lighthearted period of your life without having to worry about your financial security. Everyday we work hand in hand with our valued clients to make this happen. Call today to schedule your free consultation.

**Learn more at [belmont-capital.com](http://belmont-capital.com).**

Retirement | Annuities | Insurance



VOTED BEST OF GASTON FOR BEST FINANCIAL ADVISOR!

*Joseph Roop, Founder*

*Baby Boomers: Learn how to get the maximum social security benefit to which you are entitled. Go to [www.belmont-capital.com](http://www.belmont-capital.com) and click on social security for your free copy!*

## BELMONT CAPITAL ADVISORS

**704.825.1560** 217 Glenway Street, Belmont NC