

Gaston *Alive!*

Home • Garden • Style • Fun • Food • Happenings

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AFFORDABLE/LIVE/WORK/SPACE
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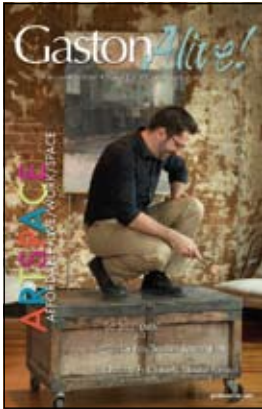
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about the cover



This months cover was shot in downtown Gastonia at the studio of Curt Butler, Curt Butler pictured (www.butlerstudio.org). Photo by Rick Haithcox, art direction by Merryman Cleveland. Cover graphic design by David James. See related article regarding Artspace, an affordable live, work, studio space for artists of all kinds, page 12.

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Photo courtesy of Daniel Coston.

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By David Hamrick

ARTSPACE

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GA!: What is Artspace?

Artspace Gastonia: Artspace, based in Minneapolis, is the nation's leading nonprofit real estate developer for the arts. Their mission is to create, foster, and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations. This is accomplished by identifying underutilized downtown properties and up-fitting them into dynamic live/work communities for artists of all disciplines.

GA!: So Artspace is affordable housing for artist, craftsmen, dancers, musicians, painters, etc.?

Artspace Gastonia: It is! The Gastonia project could potentially provide 35-40 spaces for artists to live and work. Arts organizations, galleries, and even retail space are additional possibilities with an Artspace project.

GA!: I understand Artspace is nationwide-how many Artspace projects are there and what has the success ratio of their projects been financially?

Artspace Gastonia: 30 successful Artspace have been completed around the country and over a dozen are in various stages of development. Artspace only moves forward with projects that have undergone substantial feasibility work to ensure the project will be financially self-sustaining. Artspace happily reports the return of many vacant parcels and abandoned buildings to the tax rolls!

GA!: Who owns the real estate when all is said and done?

Artspace Gastonia: That is the beauty of working with Artspace! Artspace owns or co-owns, and is the managing general partner on all the buildings it develops. To fulfill its mission, Artspace strives to manage its properties so that they will be well-maintained and remain affordable to the low-and moderate-income artists for whom they were developed in the first place. Revenues in excess of expenses are set aside for preventive maintenance, common areas improvements, and building upgrades. Artspace will have skin in this game! They will be invested and a part of our community.

GA!: Why Gastonia and surrounding area and why now?

Artspace Gastonia: Gastonia is a blank canvas with visionary leadership. We are poised to paint an exciting new future in Gaston County - why not as an arts community? We have a picturesque downtown with stunning, undisturbed architecture. We have an abundance of talent, enthusiasm, and the fortitude to see this project through.

ACE

The piedmont is rich with artists of all disciplines, and Gastonia is a natural stop on the ride from Charlotte's vibrant art district, through Cleveland county's haven of potters and artists, to Asheville's booming art scene.



GA!: What is your vision- what does this look like when it is finished?

Artspace Gastonia: Remember the REM song, Shiny, Happy People? We see a shiny, happy downtown teeming with activity - artists creating, shops selling, Businesses thriving, and restaurants with lines out the door!

GA!: How do you think Artspace could transform not only downtown, but our community?

Artspace Gastonia: Downtown Gastonia will not only be a vital destination for our citizens and tourists, but Gaston county will realize a need for more businesses to relocate downtown. Cities and towns across the nation have experienced the community and economic development benefits of investment in the arts. An engaged cluster of new, creative residents supports new businesses, draws visitors, and neighbors in to see a gallery opening, take a workshop or purchase art, adding to the vibrancy of downtown, and growing the real estate and business markets. With Artspace Gastonia we will have the added benefit of ensuring the artists who helped make it happen, have an affordable place to live and work and interact with the community in perpetuity.



>>Full article and list of sponsors continued online at www.gastonalive.com/2011/09/artspace/

Artspace Gastonia is a community effort sponsored by enthusiastic citizens, businesses, foundations, the City of Gastonia, and National Endowment for the Arts. For more information please email artsonmain@att.net or call 704-860-5010.

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Competition: 10 -1

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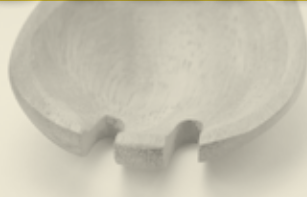
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• Belmont: 1.47 ac \$59,900 • Mt Holly: 3 ac: \$49,900



COOKING



Smoked Salmon Bites

Oh my gosh- I am so late in getting a recipe done this month! It seems once it gets past summer we are in the entertainment mode: trips, vacations, expected and unexpected guests. Everybody need a quick easy meal or noshing that can be put together in a few minutes that makes guests think you have been planning all day. Usually that's a pasta because the bulk of the ingredients are right on hand and pretty quick to throw together.

Other ideas are bruschetta, or variations, utilizing slices of bread and lots of different toppings either hot or cold. How about a quick idea that you can pick up the ingredients on your next shopping trip, and they last quite a while so you can handle any surprise.

Most folks have heard of ants on a log, so let's take that simple dish and add a delicious gourmet twist.

Smoked Salmon Bites

*1 package of cream cheese
1 package of smoked salmon
1 bunch of celery
1 red onion
Capers (optional)*

Preparation

Clean the celery and cut off any leaves, mince the leaves (or optional capers) and mix with the cream cheese. Fill the cavity of the celery with the cream cheese and add small pieces of the smoked salmon. Finely mince the red onion and sprinkle across the top.

Cut the prepared celery/cream cheese/salmon/onion into inch long bites and arrange on a nice plate.

It's quick and delicious- let us know your secret trick and we'll run the best readers suggestions and ideas for quick entertaining. You can email those (along with a photo if possible) to: info@gastonalive.com There will be a \$50 Gift Certificate to a nice local restaurant for the best recipe.

Ciao, Glenn and Glenn

WITH THE GLENN'S



Smoked Salmon

We got this note from our friend Hal Neely about great uses for seasonal fruit and produce-enjoy! –The Glenns

Guys, we were given a couple pounds of ripe figs yesterday and I wondered what to do with them. I had heard about oven-roasting, so I thought I would try that. I cut them in half and placed them on a large baking pan and slow-roasted them at 275 degrees for 3 hours. They turned out great. The natural savory sweetness was intensified. They can be eaten directly as a snack, served as a side with dinner, or used in making other dishes. They are in season now, so your readers may be interested in the oven-roasting idea.

While considering roasting vegetables that are currently in season, I would also recommend roasting Roma tomatoes (aka plum tomatoes) similarly. These will need some seasoning to enhance their flavor. I mashed a couple fresh garlic cloves in extra virgin olive oil to drizzle over the tomatoes, cracked some black pepper over them and added some sea salt, then I dashed them with dried thyme. They roasted in a little over three hours. They turned out with a pleasant sun-dried aroma and taste. I used them on pasta—they could also be used on pizza.

Finally, I've had good results roasting whole okra pods that are lightly coated with extra virgin olive oil. You can do it outside on the grill, or inside on a George Foreman grill. It takes only a few minutes to cook the whole pods. The slippery juices are diminished and the light char marks from the grill really bring out the flavor of the okra. This has turned out to be my favorite way to eat okra. Yes, they are better roasted like this than the 'batter and fry' method that is a Southern tradition.

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StEampunk



WHAT IS STEAMPUNK?

The definition of Steampunk is one that will differ from person to person, but this one is a collaboration of my thoughts... "An imaginary Victorian age, that features metal clockwork and steampowered inventions that go far beyond 1800's technology. Steam powered mechanical wonders, optimistic gear driven computers, clockwork firsts, vintage keys, nuts & bolts, and so much more! It is a genre and a design aesthetic. A philosophy which entitles us to challenge our artistic side and combine the future with the past."

In the Jewelry world, Steampunk has become a aesthetic style for a lot of designers. Every person creates their own trend, helping this movement to keep evolving. It is amazing to see some of the things that people can create with letting their imagination take control!

DO YOU WANT TO TRY?

Make this trend your own, remember, there are no directions.. just your creativity.. The best place to begin your journey on this every growing trend, is open that jewelry box, find a thrift store, antique store.. and tear apart old costume jewelry, watches, brooches, earrings, even find those old keys, coins... anything can be used... and just start piecing it together like a puzzle!

If you would like to create a piece for yourself, and are lost in your array of "vintage" items.. just stop by DenimNotes Beads & Boutique, and I would love to help you create your very first steampunk piece!!!

Here are some pieces I have created, maybe this will help inspire you! I have also created: mother's vintage watches with their grand childrens pictures inside and was able to wear it as a bracelet; lockets with collage images, clock gears and butterfly wings; and so much more!

NOT INTO JEWELRY MAKING?

This style has grown over the past couple of years, and doesn't just pertain to jewelry, but also to appliances, home decor, even vehicles. Check out the internet to find some great examples!



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A photograph of a man wearing a bright pink suit, a matching pink hat, and a patterned tie. He is playing a blue electric guitar. In the background, a white church with a wooden cross on its exterior is visible. The text is overlaid on the top and bottom of the image.

MUSIC

CHARLOTTE FOLK SOCIETY CELEBRATES

30TH ANNIVERSARY

UP COMING DATES:

October 14, 2011: Bishop Dready Manning is a blues preacher who spent some 20 years totally "in the blues life," until a conversion experience led him into the church. For the past 40 years, he's used blues guitar, harmonica, and vocals to share the gospel message with his congregations.

November 11, 2011: Michael Reno Harrell and David Childers, two of our region's most accomplished and popular singer/songwriters, trade songs on the GASC stage. Randy Saxon will accompany David Childers. Come hear their reflections on 21st century life in the South.

December 11, 2011: CFS Holiday Jam & Potluck features a short performance of diverse seasonal songs by Carol Raedy's Community Singers. Tentatively taking place at Dilworth United Methodist Church, 605 East Blvd., Charlotte. 4:00- 9:45 PM. Bring a dish to share or donate \$5/person towards expenses.

January 13, 2012: Annual Young Talent Showcase highlights impressive talents of young musicians, including 2011 Marilyn Meacham Price Youth Scholarship recipients Jake Bartholomew and Davy Fee.

All musical genres have what I call 'gateway' artists. Once you discover them, a whole new musical world opens up that you never knew existed.

I found my way to folk music through Bob Dylan. So how did Bob Dylan find his way to folk music? He found it through Woody Guthrie. That's the beauty of folk music - there is more than one way to get there.



Some people discover folk music and find that they want more. And if you've lived in and around the Charlotte area for the last thirty years, then you've probably heard of the Charlotte Folk Society. Last month, this group of folk music lovers kicked off their 30th Gathering Season.

A 'gathering season' consists of monthly folk music concerts ranging in all sounds and styles. They may feature a singer-songwriter one month, and the next offer up a blues performer. The folk music banner is wide and varied. And the monthly gatherings reflect the diversity within the folk music genre.

But they are more than just concerts. A concert implies there are performers and spectators. A true musical gathering allows the folk music community to come together to perform and/or to spectate.

In addition to the monthly concert, the a folk society gathering also offers opportunities for those attending to socialize, to join a song circle or even partake in a jam session. No matter the skill level of the player, there is an opportunity for all to join in the fun.

Perhaps it could be said that a Charlotte Folk Society monthly gathering is like Thanksgiving dinner. However, the food is the music. And people of all ages have a seat at the table to take in the great sounds.

A full list of upcoming musical gatherings can be found online at www.folksociety.org. All events are free to the public.



by Ben Dungan
bdungan@charter.net



Photos courtesy of Glen Simmons.



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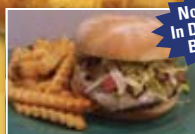
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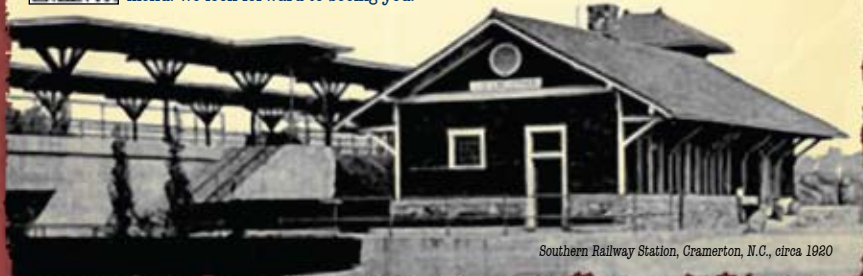


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