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Next Generation Interiors of Baker's

p.10

Appetize Your Thanksgiving p.14

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BEAUTIFUL brick home in gated community of Cramer Mountain with circular drive. Two car garage. Arched entrance into GR with study/office on main floor. Open concept living with all bedrooms on main living area. Large bonus room over garage with walk in storage. Ceramic tile in kitchen and baths. Plenty of usable storage. \$329,000 MLS#30094820. Call Don for more details.



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Repair kitchen sink | <input type="checkbox"/> Hang mirror in hallway |
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about the cover



This month's cover was shot on site with Next Generation Interiors of Baker's. See related article on page 10. Cover photo done by Dodie Huffman and Josh Gaddis of Image Gallery. For more information visit www.igstudio.biz. Cover graphic design by Kristi Johnston.

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With Thanksgiving just around the corner, it's the season we are encouraged to slow down long enough to count our blessings. We can all say the obvious cliché, but what are you really thankful for?

Holidays are traditionally spent with family. We all have that special place we call home, and for that I am thankful.

Living with gratitude for what I have is something I want to be mindful of all year. Sometimes I feel like it's all about getting something more than we need in order to happy, content, or successful, and in the process we forget to really live. For me personally, when the wanting, doing or getting starts to overshadow simply being, I start to feel out of balance. I am guilty of speeding-up my life and resulting in the loss of quality time. My lack of time often robs me of the ability to understand that the truth of living is found in the experience of being. While I might feel compelled or even expected to do more at work and at home, when I slow down to think about what matters most to me, I have a greater desire to just BE intentional with the time invest in the people IN my home. For that I am thankful.

I choose to be most thankful for those in my life who remind me every day what life is really about. As life passes, I'm thankful for people and not things. I'm thankful for opportunities and the passion I have for even the smallest things that are important to me. I am thankful for memories, both good and bad. It would not be straight from my heart if I didn't say I am most thankful for my family. I am blessed with a loving, supportive husband, and children who make my heart explode with pride and joy. Without my family and this crazy whirlwind of a career bursting with passion and devotion, I would not be the person I am today, and for that I'm thankful.

Until next time... Remember being thankful is a mindset. Big or small find something to be thankful for each day.

Pam L. Goode



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Building Lasting Relationships, One Room at a Time

Next Generation Interiors of Baker's

By Pam L. Goode

GA!: Tell us about the history of your store.

Greg: My grandfather started the business 65 years ago selling bedroom suites out of his garage. My parents continued the business, but with the ever-changing economy, we transitioned into a more specialized store with different concepts. We are continually moving toward the future with experience from the past.

GA!: What types of products & services do you offer?

Greg: We have an 8,500 square foot Bassett design center, Catnapper/Jackson gallery, Hillsdale dining ensemble, Spring Air sleep center, and accents by Uttermost and Stylecraft. We also carry American made (Carolina built) Temple and Parker southern fine custom upholstery. In addition, we offer interior design. Delivery is available within a 60 mile radius and removal of old products is always offered.

GA!: What's new?

Greg: We have been very excited to open Next Chance Consignment & Boutique. It offers new and consigned furniture, décor, & more, along with vintage antique and artisan booths. It has been a great complement to what we do and has created even more excitement and creativity.

GA!: Are there any upcoming sales or events?

Greg: Yes. Please plan to attend our **Holiday Open House on Saturday, November 15 from 10 AM – 4 PM.** We will be decked out for Christmas with many holiday items for sale. Light food and beverages will be provided, as well as a free raffle. There will be a lot of new merchandise and special pricing, so don't miss this time of fellowship!

GA!: What do you consider most important moving forward?

Greg: In order to achieve success in this challenging economy, you must remain positive. We continue to provide a fair, honest and ethical environment. The customers are the most important element, and handling them from start to finish is vital. We have been blessed to have such loyal and repeat customers. Our philosophy is to create a warm environment where the customers can feel at ease during their purchase process. We look forward to serving customers' furniture and interior needs for many years to come.



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Publisher's PICK

Do you know of a great place around town that's a best kept secret? Are you a local resident who wants to nominate a unique story of the greater good of Gaston County? We want to help spread the word. Favorite band, art show, or just someone doing something good.

We at Gaston Alive! want to showcase our pick each issue. Submit your story, favorite place or event to info@gastonalive.com. Help us spread the "Goode News" by being our PUBLISHER'S PICK!

Pam L. Goode

Publisher,

Gaston Alive! Magazine

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13



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Figs are very versatile and are a great source of fiber, vitamins and minerals. Dried and fresh figs have a long, illustrious history and can add a burst of sweetness to all kinds of dishes! While these figs are great with any dinner, this month, I wanted to keep Thanksgiving in mind. We all know how busy the kitchen can be, but this is a quick appetizer that is guaranteed to keep your guests satisfied before the feast.

Roasted Figs and Goat Cheese with Warm Honey Drizzle

Ingredients:

12 Figs, fresh or dried
1/4 log Goat cheese
Olive oil (enough to coat pan)
4 tbsp Honey



Directions:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Slice off 1/4 of the tops off of the fig.

*Chef's note: put your finger inside the fig to shape a flat bottom and round sides for stuffing.

Lightly coat a baking pan with olive oil. Place figs in the baking pan and stuff with goat cheese. Bake for 12 minutes

Warm Honey Drizzle:

Heat honey in microwave for 10-15 seconds. Once you plate the figs, drizzle the honey over the figs.

Publisher's PICK

By Pam Goode

I'm always searching for that "just right" Publisher's Pick, whether it comes via email or is something I observe or hear about in the community, but this month's pick came to me in a different way. For those who are spiritual, you can relate.

My daughter had an accident in which we thought her car was totaled. Since Wells Fargo is the lienholder, I went into the local branch. In my best "zero-to-sixty" mode I found myself half yelling at the innocent teller as I asked to speak to someone about my loan. I needed payoff info and was very stressed. I noticed a sweet-faced, red headed lady pulling a paper off the fax machine. She politely asked how she could help and invited me back to her office. Her calming demeanor, sweet voice, and willingness to help me were just what I needed at this point. It was later I realized that she was actually a Business Advocate; she saw I owned a business, and she shared how she could help me with my business banking.

I have been loyal to another bank for 16 years, but she stole my heart with her knowledge, professionalism and downright willingness to help. She offered her cell number, has met with me to accommodate my busy schedule, and came in on Saturday to set up my online banking and mobile accounts. She took a step further and developed a plan to grow my business by establishing business credit for me. She didn't have to help me in my time of frustration and helplessness, but she saw my problem as an opportunity to make a Wells Fargo client happy, and ultimately assisted me on growing my business and making this local small business owner feel very special.

Gaston Alive! magazine is proud to select Kelly Foster as November's Publisher's Pick. Kelly has worked with Wells Fargo since 1997 and at the Gastonia location for two years. She and her husband Roger have a daughter named Emily and attend Lake Wylie Christian Assembly. Kelly's passion is to help people and businesses become more successful.



If you're a local business owner I recommend contacting Kelly. She has that local hometown feel with the big bank benefits. She will listen, assist and truly care about you and your business. She'll remind you that you're a blessing to her when she is really a blessing to you.

Join me in congratulating Kelly as November's Publisher's Pick! Keep up the amazing work, Kelly, and remember... You are the blessing!

Know someone doing the greater "Goode" of Gaston County? Send us an email at info@gastonlive.com. We may feature your story in the next publishers pick!

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did you know?

By Jen Colangelo



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Ask Tammy...

SOLVING YOUR DECORATING DILEMMAS

By Tammy Taylor



Winter is coming

and that means colder temperatures. Colder temperatures mean it is time to switch your thermostat over to heat. That switch can change your utility bill, which may have you trying to find ways to save dollars. As the graph shows at the end of the article (see Image 9), much of your utility dollars go toward heating and cooling your home. So what can you do to keep a little more money in your pocket? Have you considered your window treatments?

According to the Hunter Douglas Company, as much as **50% of your home's heating and cooling energy can be lost through your windows**. Indoor heating moves toward and escapes through your windows, so window treatments can be an excellent way to add beauty to your home, as well as energy efficiency. Window treatments add insulation, which results in lower energy consumption and increased savings for your pocketbook (see Image 1). There are many types of window treatment choices available when looking to gain energy efficiency.

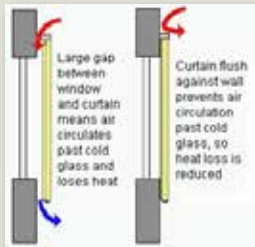


Image 1



Images 2 & 3

One of the best choices is **honeycomb**, or cellular shades (see Images 2 and 3). Cell shades provide insulation and eliminate air flow through the shade. Additionally, they provide filtered light, which allows sunlight to aid in warming the room. Cellular shades can be used with other window treatments such as drapery panels or valances.

Roman shades are another great choice (see Image 4). Roman shades can be raised and lowered throughout the day to provide added insulation to the window, protection for your floors and furnishings, and privacy. Roman shades are layered – topped with a fabric and then lined. Linings can range from regular to blackout, depending on your needs.



Image 4

Blinds have been used for years and are an economical choice. The biggest advantage of blinds is the slats can be adjusted to control light and ventilation. The disadvantage is that it is difficult to control heat loss during winter months because of the openings between slats, even when closed. On the flip side, blinds can reduce heat gain by around 45% when closed in summer months (see Image 5).



Image 5



Image 6

Need noise reduction in addition to added insulation?

Blackout drapery panels are the answer (see Image 6). Blackout drapery panels are panels that have a fabric on the front and a thick lining on the back. In addition to reducing noise and providing increased energy efficiency, blackout panels also block out any intrusive light, which can help out on those days when you would like to sleep in.

Sheers have come a long way from what your Grandma may have had in her home years ago. There are many different patterns to choose from, as well as different levels of opaqueness. Some sheers are thinner, some are a little thicker. Sheers are often used with other treatments to add a layered look. Although sheers will not block out heat or provide insulation to keep heat in, they do provide protection for your floors and furnishings by filtering sunlight.



Image 7

What if you have a view you do not want to lose by adding shades, blinds or draperies?

Window tinting, or window film, may be your best option (see Image 8). Radiant energy is converted to heat as it strikes people or objects (**Solar Gard**, www.solargard.com). Window film blocks this transfer of energy by reflecting the energy back, thus preventing the heat from striking objects. In normal people terms, this means that the heat is reflected away from the window, not into the room. Additionally, window films reduce glare into your space and also block 99% of UV radiation, which can contribute to skin cancer.



Image 8

You have been armed with the information you need to make wise window treatment decisions. Need help in turning those decisions into reality?

Give me a call... I can help!



In addition to her Interior Design work, Tammy Taylor operates a retail location in Cramerton (open through October 31) and also provides Interior Design Services through Next Generation Interiors, also in Cramerton. You can contact Tammy Taylor Interiors by calling 704.908.3740 or via email at tammytaylor1@gmail.com



Image 9

Our Real Estate Corner

Winter is a Great Time to Sell

By Jody Adams

That's right. WINTER. If you are thinking of selling your home next year, it's a good idea to start sooner rather than later.

When selling your home, the least amount of competition is best. Consider a few of the reasons why you shouldn't wait for warmer weather...

Top Reasons to Sell Your Home This Winter:

- Fewer homeowners decide to sell during winter, so you'll likely end up selling quicker and for a higher price. While others are waiting for warmer weather, home buyers will be interested in you.



- Buyers continue to search homes online during winter months, and they will know what they want in a home.

- Homes often show even better during winter, thanks to holiday decorations. Also, winter provides an opportunity to exhibit important qualities of your home, such as heating and insulation.



- There are more showing opportunities during winter because employees tend to have more days away from the office. As a result, buyers have more time to focus on their plan to purchase a new home.

- A new year is often seen as a fresh start, and for buyers that fresh start may be found in a new home.

Don't pass up a great opportunity to get your home sold and move on to something better. Contact Jody Adams today to sell your home quickly!



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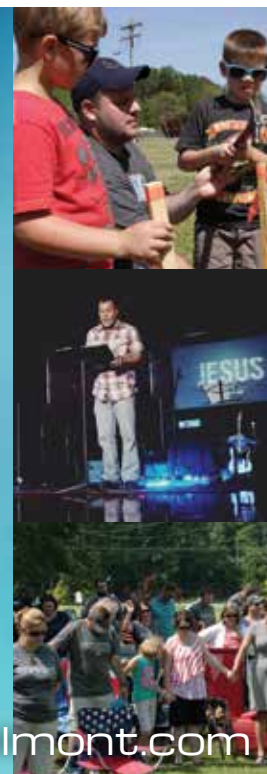


Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Wednesday Classes 7:00 pm

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Imagine you are a child, ripped from your home or rescued from an abusive or neglectful environment. Either way there is a lot of confusion. Without the ability to process the situation or fully comprehend the gravity of what is happening, that you have to leave all the things you love behind, you could lose hope. Thankfully, there is a group of dedicated people coming to the aide of these children and the foster families taking them into their homes.

Least of These Gaston, a 501(c)(3) organization, assists families nurturing children in foster care by providing many areas of need and support. From clothing, gift cards for food, toiletries and scholarships for extracurricular activities, they are helping kids and families here in Gaston County.

People like you, Dear Reader, are sometimes at a loss, thinking you may not be able help a child in foster care. But you can! You don't have to open your door...just your heart! There are many ways you can assist foster care families by volunteering or making donations.

You can help lift a child to a place that enables him/her to learn and grow into a good, community-minded individual...or you can do nothing and have to support a lost soul. Least of These Gaston collaborates with Hope 4 Gaston and The Shelter of Gaston County to throw the 12 Hours of Christmas event, providing Christmas for children in foster care. This event is extended to families seeking assistance through Hope 4 Gaston and The Shelter. This is your opportunity to make a joyful impact in the life of a child. Over 150 children and 75 families received Christmas gifts last year through this program. What makes Least of These Gaston's event special are the sponsors who purchase an entire "wish list" for a child, not just one gift. The cost of a fulfilled wish list is \$100 - \$125. The Deadline to sponsor a child is November 10th.



This year the number of children in foster care has increased and Least of These Gaston anticipates serving 250 children, so this growing event will be moved to New Hope Baptist Church for a big celebration on **December 10th from 8am - 8pm.**

We urge you to take this opportunity to show your children how to foster a sense of community and do a little more for a child who has a lot less. Sponsor a foster care family by contacting Least of These Gaston to request a "wish list" for a child. Make your day better by making a child's Christmas brighter. **Show these kids the reason for the season!**



www.leastofthesegaston.org 2020 Remount Road, Suite G100, Gastonia, NC 28054
704-215-4344 (office) 704-747-7772 (mobile)

**If you or someone you know are interested in sponsoring a local, Gaston County, nonprofit editorial in our magazine, call 704-864-4090 ext. 1111.
All organizations are tax deductible 501(c)(3).**

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GASTON DANCE THEATRE



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**Sunday
12/7 @ 1pm**

THE NUTCRACKER

Contemporary Ensemble Works Pre-Show

Dec. 5 7:30

Dec. 6 1:00 & 7:30

Dec. 7 3:00

GastonDanceTheatre.com

704-865-5943

Adult: \$15

Sr/Student: \$12

Child/5/ & under \$6

TEA - Child: \$12 Adult: \$8



GASTON COUNTY RESTAURANT & DINING GUIDE



\$ Less Than \$10 \$\$ \$11-\$20 \$\$\$ \$21 AND UP

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

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GA 11/14

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