

Gaston *Alive!*

Home • Garden • Style • Fun • Food • Happenings



Treat Yourself for the Holidays at
**The White House
Salon & Spa** p.10

Can't Go Wrong with Caramel p.14

What's Your Christmas Style? p.20

gastonalive.com

I gave my "To-Do" list to Mr. 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"/> Get more free time... call Mr. Handyman! |

Fully Insured - General Liability and Workers' Compensation. For franchise information call 1-866-622-6105. Each franchise independently owned and operated. Some services are subject to state or local licensing requirements and may not be available at all Mr. Handyman locations.



Mr. Handyman

On time. Done right.®



be sure to visit mrhandyman.com

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



704-824-8870

\$50 OFF

This coupon is valid for \$50 worth of services provided by Mr. Handyman.

Minimum of 4 hours of service. Offer valid one time per household. Available at participating locations only. Not valid with any other offer. Expires: 1/15/15.



"If you are serious about losing weight, I can really help you!"

Dr. Lidia Adkins, PKT, D.C.
704-917-9477
1846 Franklin Blvd
Gastonia, NC



Rachel lost 30 lbs



LOSE 40 lbs IN 40 days



Melanie lost 57 lbs & 5 dress sizes



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.

If you want the best, go to the best!

The Premier Weight Loss Clinic in the Gastonia/ Charlotte Region



Don Conrad
704-813-0306



Thelma Whisnant
704-813-4989



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.



BEAUTIFUL home with over 2 acres, great privacy, easy access to I-85. Fenced in yard with mature landscaping & circular drive. GR & patio great for entertaining. Hws in kitchen & foyer. Tiled floor laundry room. Master bath has dual his & her showers & toilets with jacuzzi tub. Security System. Immaculate! \$194,000 MLS#2216310. Call Don for more details.



COLONY WOODS. Great home. 4 bedrooms and 2.5 bath. Spacious floor plan. \$265,000. Call or text Don for more details.



BEAUTIFUL well maintained home in Cramer Mountain. Master suite with sitting area. 4 bedrooms. Two car garage. \$334,900. Call Don for more details.



LOVELY 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch style home located near Ashbrook High School. Hardwoods, carpet & vinyl. Call Thelma for more details. Located in cul-de-sac. \$114,900



NICE vinyl sided ranch. Split bedroom plan. 3 bedrooms and 2 bath. Front porch. Deck on back. \$105,000 MLS#3007842. Call Thelma for more details.



EVERYTHING that you would want in a home! This beautiful home sits on 1.64 acres. Gourmet kitchen includes island, 2 dishwashers, 2 ovens, Viking gas cook top, warming oven. Master suite has office and sitting area, jetted tub and beautiful ceiling in master bath. Finished basement with bar, den with fireplace, billiard room, exercise room, wine cellar. Screened porch, terrace for entertaining. \$950,000 MLS#2185004. Call Thelma for more details.

Sake Express
Voted #1 Japanese
Restaurant in Gaston
County for 2013!

**Sake
Express**

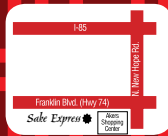
Japanese Steakhouse & Seafood



Sushi Coming to Belmont in 2015

**Buy One
Get One**
1/2 OFF
Any Sushi
of equal or lesser value.
(Gastonia location only)
Gaston4life!
One coupon per customer please. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 1.15.15.

**Buy One
Get One**
1/2 OFF
Any Entree
of equal or lesser value.
Gaston4life!
One coupon per customer please. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Does not include combinations. Expires 1.15.15.



Gastonia
1327 East Franklin Blvd
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-864-4466



Belmont
675 Park Street
Belmont, NC 28012
704-461-0400



Mount Holly
349 W. Charlotte Ave.
Mount Holly, NC 28120
704-827-4819



*Gastonia Location Only

STORE HOURS:
Gastonia and Belmont

Mon.-Sat. 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Mt. Holly
Mon.-Thurs. 11:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Friday 11:00 a.m.- 10:00 p.m.
Saturday 12:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.



www.thesakexpress.com

Infinite Skin



15% off
Any Service
for 1st Time
Customers!



Skincare - Facials
Waxing
Microdermabrasion

Skincare products
by Dermalogica



Sandy has a unique talent when it comes to skin care and eyebrow shaping. I have been a loyal client of hers for years. ~ Monique P.

Gift Certificates available



Infinite Skin

611 North Central Ave
Belmont NC

704-674-1634

www.infiniteskin.wordpress.com



Sandy Sandhu Desilets
NC Licensed Esthetician

Nothing But Mortgages

Voted Best Gaston Mortgage Company 2010-2014!



Deborah and Adrian Walker

We Offer Various Loan Options Including Fixed Rates,
USDA 100% Financing, FHA, VA, 90% Jumbo,
Arms and Conventional Loans.

Let our loan officers provide a free quote to you.
Apply online on our secure website.



Capital South Funding

A Full Service Mortgage Company

NC Phone: 704-827-0023
SC Phone: 803-656-5888

www.capitalsouthfunding.com

NMLS #10264



about the cover



This month's cover was shot in studio with the staff of The White House Salon & Spa. See related article on page 10. Cover photo by Dodie Huffman and Josh Gaddis of Image Gallery. For more information visit igstudio.biz. Cover graphic design by Kristi Johnston.

Gaston Alive! Magazine is published monthly in the Gaston County, NC area by ARA Marketing Solutions, LLC. 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. 2014 ARA Marketing Solutions, LLC.

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

PO Box 550422
Gastonia, NC 28055
www.gastonalive.com
704-864-4090

Advertising Info: 704.860.4090
info@gastonalive.com

Become a
fan on



www.gastonalive.com
www.facebook.com/GastonAlive

10



COME AND RELAX FOR
A PAMPERING RETREAT



our staff

PUBLISHER
PAM L. GOODE

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
DODIE HUFFMAN
JOSH GADDIS

SALES
SONJA FORRESTER

PROJECT MANAGER
KARLA LANCASTER

DESIGN
KRISTI JOHNSTON
KELLIE WEED

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
PAM L. GOODE
TAMMY TAYLOR
ASHLEIGH EASTERLING
KARLA LANCASTER



bringing chic creative to organic

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



PEPPERMINT PEDICURE | \$45

It's time to cool, energize and invigorate your tired feet with the power of peppermint. Enjoy a peppermint hot chocolate while soaking your feet in a mint syrup, followed by a peppermint scrub and a soothing peppermint massage, and ending with a warm towel.

MASSAGE PACKAGES

- Purchase 1 Hour Massage and receive a **FREE** 30 minute upgrade. Total 90 minute massage.
- Purchase 3 - 1 Hour Sessions for \$210+ (**FREE** foot ritual). *sessions are a **FULL** hour



FREE Shampoo
with purchase of conditioner with a hair color service.



FREE Holiday Makeover
with purchase of \$50

Lip & Brow Wax Special \$24



704-829-8218

38 E Woodrow Ave | Belmont, NC 28012



visit our new website: chair.red



December is here and it brings about the holidays and the close of another year. Where does the time go? Summer passed, fall blew in, and now old man winter is knocking at our door. Traffic will soon become horrendous as we pass by the stores that display Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations at the same time. Suddenly we are reminded that we live life by a hurry-up-to-wait status.

This year has been a busy one for me. December marks my one year anniversary as the owner/publisher of this wonderful little magazine that we all know and love.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all of your support over this past year. Thank you to my wonderful, dedicated staff of talented people who continue to produce a more engaged magazine month after month.

Thank you to our advertisers. Without these great people and their loyalty to helping small businesses like myself, we would be unable to continue providing you with great articles and information. We love hearing the stories of success from our advertisers. Next year, with new innovative launches through integrated testimonials, we plan to make them even more reputable.

Most importantly, thank you to our readers for your support. Uplifting and amazing are just two of the positive adjectives I could use to describe the response and compliments we constantly receive from our readers. After each issue goes out, I am literally stopped on the street and given compliments regarding the magazine. In support of our staff, advertisers, and readers, I ask that you challenge any business you know to contact us about advertising, because it has been shown that everyone truly loves our little magazine.

It has been a fantastic 2014 and I have enjoyed getting to know so much more about the wonderful people working in our surrounding towns. Most of my business is small, local business and I hope that you will continue to support me by supporting them.

In just this short year, we have grown and molded together a fantastic team to carry us into 2015. I am humbled, thankful, and, on some days, stressed about all of our accomplishments! Only because I am so passionate about this business and about our magazine.

As we end this year and brace for the coming of 2015, I want to sincerely thank you for an amazing 2014. I appreciate everyone who made my first year as the publisher one to cherish.

Merry Christmas to all (and yes, this girl still says Merry Christmas)!
Have a wonderful holiday with those who make your life sparkle.

Until next time... Count your blessings and never lose your sparkle.
Love, live, laugh, and never stop believing in your dreams.

Pam L. Goode



PIEDMONT

Community Charter School

A Challenge Foundation Academy

Academically challenging tuition-free school

- Hirsch's nationally acclaimed content rich curriculum
- Consistent quality, Kindergarten through High School

Building character with enriching activities

- Award winning Fine Arts & Athletics including 8 sports

Valuing diversity & uniting our community

- Focus on individual responsibility and service

Please join us to learn more at a
Prospective Parent Information Meeting at the
Elementary Campus at 6:30pm

Dec 11th, Jan 15th, Feb 19th or March 19th

www.pccharter.org p:704-853-2428



Get Dressed Up For The Holidays!

WITH A

COMPLIMENTARY
CONSULTATION

All popular Budget Blinds window coverings
can be motorized by Somfy®

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.

25% OFF

Any Select Signature Series
Window Treatment.

One coupon per customer please. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 1.15.15

Budget Blinds®

a style for every point of view®

Upscale Salon Services IN A SMALL TOWN BOUTIQUE

The White House Salon & Spa

By Pam L. Goode

In October 2010, two friends partnered to fulfill their lifelong dream of having their own salon, and opened The White House Salon & Spa. AMBER PATTERSON, an aesthetician, and KIM BRADLEY, a hair designer, opened the salon with the hopes of giving their clients **a true professional service with a touch of class and elegance in a relaxing atmosphere**, which would keep customers coming back for more.



The White House Salon & Spa is located in the heart of historical Downtown Dallas in a beautiful 2-story white house built by a local attorney in 1928, which sits directly beside the old jail. The house still maintains much of the original architecture and flooring throughout. This upscale, full-service salon is staffed with an expert staff of four hair designers, a nail tech, an aesthetician, and a massage therapist, who are always evolving by learning the latest techniques, styles, and trends.

Hair Designers KIM BRADLEY, AMY WATKINS, ERIN MACINTOSH, AND LAURA HAMRICK offer the **latest style trends in cuts, specialized foiling and coloring techniques, and a range of multiple types of hair extensions**. These girls are also capable of some of the best blow-out styles in the county! Master Certified Nail Technician, DARLENE WARDRIP can top off your look with a **relaxing manicure, pedicure, gel polish, or a set of acrylic or gel nails**. The spa area features a very soothing and calm atmosphere where you can relax and enjoy a **Swedish, Deep Tissue, or a Hot Stone Massage** by Licensed Massage Therapist, KENDRA PRESNELL. Also in the spa area, Aesthetician AMBER PATTERSON can give **a healthy glow to your skin with customized facials, microdermabrasion, chemical peels, and waxing**. Amber also offers ear candling and the latest in airbrush makeup.

The staff at The White House Salon & Spa boasts quality professionals with many years of experience and training. **With over 50 years of experience** between the four hair designers, they have stayed on the cutting edge and continued to educate from training from hair gurus at Toni & Guy (Dallas, TX), Rusk (Raleigh, NC) and Redken (New York) as



well as staff their very own former Pravana Educator. Nail Tech, Darlene, has been a master certificate holder with Creative Nail Designs for 23 years. Aesthetician, Amber, is certified in Glo Minerals makeup and skin care as well as in Pervonia Skin Care.

The White House Salon & Spa also offers a variety of **hair care products in a wide price range to accommodate all hair types and all budgets**. The newest product line available is VERB. Every **VERB product retails for only \$14 and is free of sulfates, gluten, and parabens**. They also retail timeless

products such as REDKEN, which are tried and true and have stood strong in the beauty industry for many years. **The new PRAVANA NEVO line which is 100% vegan, 100% gluten free and packaged in 100% biodegradable bottles is now available, as well as SURFACE, a certified all-organic hair care line that is completely vegan and 100% residue free**. The spa area also retails the Glo Minerals make up and Glo Therapeutics Skin Care lines, which are both made with the safest premium-grade ingredients and superior pharmaceutical-grade vitamins and minerals.

The staff at The White House Salon & Spa is small in numbers, but big in heart, fun, and service. They are often giving back to their community with fundraising events, local food drives, and donations to the animal shelter by offering discounts on services when clients participate in the events. They have a familial love for one another which they share with each client that comes in the door. The staff's main focus is always the clients and making sure they feel comfortable, appreciated, and welcome. They truly enjoy making clients feel beautiful and refreshed. This upscale salon is elegantly decorated with a quiet "less noise, less show" feel. When you visit The White House you can expect a customized service to fit your needs. It is a place where you can come and relax for a pampering retreat and leave feeling beautiful inside and out.



110 E. Trade St. Dallas, NC 28034
Phone: 704-922-3383



HOURS:

Tuesday-Friday 9-7 • Saturday 9-3 • Closed Sunday & Monday

\$2.19
per piece-no limit*

Must present coupon. Cannot combine with any other coupon or offer. Must be prepaid. Expires 1.15.15

\$2.49 CLEANERS

PRICE LIST

Dry Clean Items \$2.49*
Comforters (any size) \$22.50
Men's Laundered Shirts \$1.69
(with dry cleaning)
Starched Pants \$3.95

Hours:

Mon.-Fri. 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Sat. 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Closed Sundays



E 5th Ave.	Franklin Blvd.
Union Rd.	
● E 6th Ave.	
E. Garrison Blvd.	

704-869-9644

*Excludes Heavy Outerwear, Evening & Formal Wear, Household & Special Care Items

703 Union Road • Suite 1 • Gastonia, NC 28054

Vintage Chic !



Diamond Solitaire
with Diamond
side bands
\$15,547.



Diamond Necklace
\$2,195.

Diamond Earrings
\$2,395.

Facet Foundry
Jewelry Studio

530 south new hope rd, gastonia - 704-867-5332 www.facetfoundryjewelry.com

**Publisher's
PICK**



Pam L. Goode
Publisher,
Gaston Alive! Magazine

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!

Goode News

Estate Plans
Crafted for Every
Life Stage

Stricker Law Firm, PLLC

Stricker | Brandt | Simonds, Jr.



Choose Your Plan at Your Price Level

~Wills ~Trusts ~Medicaid ~Guardianship
~Disability Planning ~Asset Protection

Call Andrew M. Brandt, Esq.

for a Free consultation

(704) 829-8034

112 Kenwood St., Belmont NC, 28012



Your Family



Your Work



You

A Strong Advocate
...because your voice matters

Divorce
DUI
Traffic Tickets
Property Proceedings

Personal Injury
Civil Litigation
Child Custody

Stricker Law Firm, PLLC

Stricker | Brandt | Simonds, Jr.

Larry G. Simonds, Jr., Esq.

(704) 829-8034

112 Kenwood St., belmont NC, 28012



Follow Chef Easterling

YouTube: user/ChefEasterling
Instagram: Chef_Easterling
Twitter: @ChefEasterling
Email: ChefEasterling@gmail.com

Caramel Dipped Grapes

Ingredients:

- 1 package of grapes
- 1 container of soft dipping caramel (usually found by the apples)
- 1 container of peanuts
- Toothpicks

*Amount of ingredients depends on party size.
Rule of thumb would be around 6 per person.

Directions:

Wash the grapes and set aside on a paper towel. They will need to be dry before dipping into caramel.

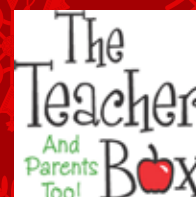
Crush peanuts and set aside.

Dip one grape into the caramel and roll in crushed peanuts.

Place the grape on the plate and place a toothpick through the top!



**You could also use a melon ball scooper for mini apple scoops.
Follow the same directions with the same ingredients.



M-F 10:00-5:30
Sat. 10:00-2:00
.....
704.868.8269
.....
730 Union Road
Gastonia



Come see us for everyone on your

Christmas List!



20% OFF
one item



Congratulations on 25 Years



The Junior Assembly of Gastonia, North Carolina

DIRECTED BY MRS. BEVERLY W. SUMNER AND MRS. ELLEN W. MAXWELL

"Manners for a Lifetime"

***Etiquette and Character Enrichment
Honor, Dignity, Respect***

The Junior Assembly of Gastonia, North Carolina is an organization established for the purpose of providing dancing instruction, social etiquette, and supervised entertainment for the children of the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. The importance of consideration of others is stressed and much self-confidence is acquired.



2912 GRAMPAN DRIVE • GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA 28054
email: emax@carolina.rr.com or bsumner123@yahoo.com

Santa is coming
to **Image Gallery**
and it's **Free!**

December 13th from 2-5!
(no appointment needed)

Bring a Donation for the
Gaston Women's Shelter
and receive a **FREE** digital file for Facebook!

Items needed are winter coats and outerwear,
toiletry items and non perishable food items.

Children of all ages and Pets are welcome!

Location: Image Gallery
132 North Main St., Belmont
704-869-8968

ig image gallery
photography • art • design

www.imagegallery.photography



ScottFarmerProperties.com
704.822.2422



Meg Farmer
e-Pro, Real Estate Broker,
SFR and Realtor®

Cathy Hill
Realtor® and Broker



Misty Waters! WATERFRONT with dock & INDOOR pool! Outdoor living areas! High tech! \$1,275,000



Armstrong Cir! Updated kitch & BA! \$365,000



Waterfront! 2 kitchens! \$350,000



Belmont! 4BR+5th/bonus! Beautiful and open! \$304,900



Hardwoods! Tons of space! Convenient! \$269,900



Spacious, bright, wood floors! \$265,000



Updated! Fresh! Spacious! \$244,900



Open & spacious in Belmont! \$241,000



So much space! Neighborhood pool! \$210,000



Open plan! Large master suite! \$200,000



Walk to DT Belmont! N'hood pool! \$199,900



Potters Barn feeling! Beautiful throughout! \$189,900



Open & Vaulted! Shop/Garage! 0.7 acres! \$189,900



Open living area! Large yard! \$180,000



Great ranch! Tons of space in & out! \$170,000



Downsizing? Rare Gastonia patio home! \$169,900



Brick ranch on 3+ acres with shop! \$155,000



Charming! Beautiful lot! Hardwood floors! \$155,000



So close to DT Mt Holly! Basement! \$140,000



Vaulted great room! Lovely, level yard! \$109,900



Beautiful bungalow in Mount Holly! \$69,900



Belmont Abbey area investment! House & 6 apartments! \$475,000





GSM
HEATING + COOLING

Leave the Comfort to Us.
— A DIVISION OF GSM SERVICES —

Steven Long
President, Residential

Joel Long
President, Commercial

\$99 HEATING SYSTEM PRECISION TUNE UP

PLUS:

- Buy a smoke alarm and receive a fire extinguisher FREE! (a \$59 value)
- A Home Comfort Analysis

**offer expires December 31, 2014*

GSMSince1927.com | 704-981-4412

Gaston Alive! has helped hundreds of small businesses prosper

Gaston Alive!
Community Magazine



CONTACT US TODAY FOR A NO OBLIGATION CONSULTATION
704.864.4090
GASTONALIVE.COM • INFO@GASTONALIVE.COM

Imagine what we can do for you!

"Building lasting relationships - one room at a time"



225 Market Street • Cramerton
Just across from the
Food Lion Shopping Center



NEXT GENERATION Interiors of BAKER'S

12 months • no interest • no charge

704.824.1208
www.nextgenerationinteriors.net

Mon: 10am-4pm
Tues-Fri: 10am-6pm
Sat: 10am-4pm • Sun: Closed



There's a new *bakery* in town, and you'll want to make sure you don't miss out! See Jane Bake's delicious desserts have been sold at businesses such as Provisions in Belmont and Simonetti's Pizza. However, thanks to such positive response and high demand, customers can now visit the bakery itself, as Owner Emily Divers opened her own location in McAdenville this past October.

did you know?

By Karla Lancaster

Emily began baking with her mother, Jani, at a young age and has grown to love it over the years. She graduated from Atlanta's Le Cordon Bleu culinary school in 2011, where she gained more knowledge of specializing in wedding cake design, pastries, and sugar sculpting. The bakery's offerings include, but are not limited to, muffins, fresh bread, cheesecakes, brownies, tarts and éclairs. Speaking of éclairs, Emily's are like none you have ever seen before. Instead of the typical long shape, they are round, and in addition to the regular crème filling, she offers varieties such as caramel and coconut crèmes, as well as seasonal flavors. If you're hosting a holiday party or dinner and would like to know the desserts are handled, or if you're just in the mood for something sweet amidst this chilly season, look no further than *See Jane Bake*.



While Emily is the expert on all things dessert, Jani heads the marketing efforts for the business and is constantly promoting the bakery for future opportunities. This mother-daughter duo has mastered the art of successful business ownership, and we're sure they'll continue to shine in our community, while bringing joy through marvelous desserts. Stop in and experience the goodness for yourself!



See Jane Bake

127 Main St, McAdenville, NC 28101

(704) 472-2608

seejanebakenc@gmail.com



Do you have something new in the community you want everyone to know? Send your article to info@gastonalive.com, and you may be chosen to be featured in an issue of Gaston Alive!

Ask Tammy...

SOLVING YOUR DECORATING DILEMMAS

By Tammy Taylor



*Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with strings
These are a few of my favorite things"*

What better song for Christmas? It's one we all know and enjoy when we begin hearing it on the radio (in September)! Since it's the holiday season, I wanted to share a few of my favorite decorating ideas with you. I hope that you will be able to use some of these ideas as you transform your home for the season.

Merry Christmas!!



Your tree...the focal point of it all! The tree on the top right is a tree I did for a client last year. I love the use of the burlap and brick red. The tree on the left is a tree I just finished this year. I love using lime green, red and white. Whimsical decorations are some of my favorites!



On to your mantel. If you have one, it can be just as important as the tree. I have chosen to share two different styles. Mantel Image 1 is a style that is very popular right now – rustic or lodge chic. Mantel image 2 just makes me smile. Again, those bright colors and the use of different patterns are so eye-catching.



Do you have a staircase? Want something a little different? I think the use of family photos is so clever. What better way to celebrate Christmas through your décor than with family photos? Speaking of different... I have never seen a stairway decorated like the one in Image 2 (left). I think this is a great way to use greenery and it's simple and elegant. It's also much easier than the alternative of draping garland.



Your dining table – the gathering place for that fabulous dinner you will be preparing. I wanted to share this table that I created for the Southern Christmas Show several years ago. Yes, there it is again – lime green, red and white – and even a little touch of black. I love the use of polka dots too! The centerpiece was made using three candle holders and colored Styrofoam balls. The use of the small candy canes was an inexpensive and simple way to add that little bit of something special.



The outside decoration is just as important as the inside for a lot of folks, and the front door is often the highlight. Although I do love the fun colors of the wreath in Image 1, I like the wreath used in Image 2 even more. I love using anything that is a little different and this one fits the bill. Just remember to carry your theme inside and out.



Lastly, let's give the postman something prettier than usual for our mail delivery. Since I mentioned the importance of carrying your theme throughout all of your decorating, inside and out, I wanted to include two ways to adorn your mailbox which will complement the wreaths shown above. To continue the whimsical theme, the use of different ribbon patterns and decorative mesh give you that fun, merry look. Alternatively, the use of greenery, berries and plaid in the second image gives you a more traditional look, which I think is so tasteful and timeless.



Take a deep breath...

it will all get accomplished!

*Above all else, enjoy this wonderful season...
and don't forget the reason!*

 Tammy Taylor Interiors is located at 101 Center Street in Cramerton. Please call 704-908-3740 or email tammytaylor1@gmail.com. Services also available through Next Generation Interiors, Cramerton.
www.tammytaylorinteriors.com

Publisher's PICK

By Pam L. Goode



Hearing the whistle blow at the end of the last club game my daughter Reaganne will ever play set an emotional yet reflective moment for me as a parent.

I think it is safe to say that sports play a big part in our lives. At a given time I had two kids playing five sports all in this fall season. Up until this year when my youngest gave up school soccer and travel soccer to focus solely on golf, it would be fair to suggest that soccer completely took over our family life and I loved every moment of the schedule juggling. I was a self-proclaimed “soccer mom” and never felt the sport got the respect it deserves.

Being a part of these teams is undoubtedly a commitment. It's not just our time that we faithfully contributed, but we also endured financial, emotional and physical tolls, so it wouldn't be unreasonable to ask why on earth did we do it.

The amount of money we spent on club fees, uniforms, equipment costs – to say nothing of hotels when they travel – and eating out three times a day for the tournament weekend is insane. It would be cheaper not to put them in soccer, pay their college tuition in full without so much as a thought about possible scholarships, and have our lives back completely in the meantime.

But it's not about the scholarships in the end. It's not because we think our kids will play college soccer or represent USA in the Olympic Games, although believe me we witness parents who behave like they do on a regular basis. For us it's to provide our kids with another dimension of education.

Teaching children about team involvement is surely one of the most important things we can offer as parents. Whether it's through the music with the youth choir, acting with the school drama club, ballet at a local dance studio or primarily soccer as we have chosen with our children, learning to work hard and be a positive and contributory part of a team is a tool that can only enhance the development of our children in every single aspect of their lives.



After all, the world is not about singular people. The world is a community and even though it doesn't always seem like there is much that the world can all come together for, team involvement – sport in this instance – is something that bonds people, excites groups and unites communities and countries alike.



Take the 2014 World Cup for example. There aren't many sports in which America puts together a team that represents the nation as a whole (Olympics aside) and the ability to witness the fastest growing youth sport in the country be able to draw such amazing crowds has been nothing short of a miracle in the eyes of soccer families.

The thrill of team spirit, learning to celebrate together, having to work through disappointments as a group – both emotionally and physically – and above all believing that with your team (school and club) anything is possible are all attributes that we want our children to experience and to be able to use in their futures. We have dealt with wins and losses, but always embraced valuable lessons along the way.

Despite the crazy schedule we dealt with, our choices are with purpose, they are for good reason and they are all geared towards guiding and raising happy, hardworking, well-rounded and positive children who in time we hope will be assets to their own communities and will be able to use their own experiences of being part of a team to continue to educate and inspire the next generation after them.



This time has gone so fast and we have endured a variety of sports, teams, coaches and leagues. We made lifelong friendships through sports. In this Publisher's Pick I would like to recognize Gaston United Soccer Club, Tatum Bourque and the game of soccer. As Reaganne puts her cleats away and moves on into the next phase of



her life, she takes with her the proud moments of wearing GUSC blue her entire club soccer career and the wisdom and professionalism of her leader and coach, Tatum Bourque. He taught these young ladies so much more than soccer and they will carry these lessons throughout their entire lives. He led by example and could silence his sideline parents at the mere words “my parents” during the many times we disagreed with a referee's call. He showed the girls how to respect authority and that life is not always fair. Tatum sacrificed time with his own beautiful family to show his commitment to this club and his team, which he saw through an undefeated season. His dedication and love for this game is infectious. As that last whistle was blown I was proud to still wear that GUSC blue, and know that lifetime friendships were made and lessons learned which we'll carry through all of our lives.

Remember that winning is not always determined by the score. Sometimes it takes a loss to build a champion.

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!

20% OFF
one regular-priced item

*Valid only at the participating store(s) listed. One discount per purchase. Not valid on previous purchases, gift cards, optics, DSC memberships or sale items. Expires 1/15/15



Oh, What Fun!

Give the Gift of Bird Feeding

chick-a-dee-dee!

*cheer-
cheer-
cheer!*

3916 East Franklin Blvd
Gastonia, NC 28056
704-823-1988
Across from Ashley Furniture

BIRD FOOD • FEEDERS • GARDEN ACCENTS • UNIQUE GIFTS

CUSTOM PUBLISHING & DESIGNS • LOCAL PRINT

WEB • MOBILE • SOCIAL • DIRECT MAIL

ara MARKETING
SOLUTIONS, LLC

Pam L. Goode • cell: 704.490.3804

pam@aramarketingsolutions.com

PO Box 550422 • Gastonia, NC 28055

BUSINESS CONSULTING ON A PERSONAL LEVEL

Gaston *Alive!*
Magazine

Holiday Special

Buy 3 months of ad space,
get **1 MONTH FREE**

Buy 6 months of ad space,
get **1 1/2 MONTHS FREE**

Buy 12 months of ad space,
get **2 MONTHS FREE**

DIRECT MAILED TO 19,000 MIDDLE TO UPPER INCOME HOUSEHOLDS
IN GASTON COUNTY AND LAKE WYLIE

**LOOKING FOR A truly UNIQUE
GIFT IDEA THIS Christmas?**

We've got it!

BIG BEAUTIFUL BLINDS offers customized window blinds with a variety of characters, themes and designs applied to them. We have multiple designs in stock and can also accommodate your pre-existing blinds!



BIG BEAUTIFUL BLINDS
We give you a view when the window doesn't

f /bigbeautifulblinds

t @bigbblinds

www.bigbeautifulblinds.com



Now through December 22
receive **5% off** all orders

CALL TODAY FOR A QUOTE!
980-329-1605



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

JOIN A COMMUNITY, NOT JUST A GYM

CENTRAL YMCA

615 W. Franklin Blvd, Gastonia, NC 28052
704.865.8551

CHERRYVILLE YMCA

119 East Main Street, Cherryville, NC 28021
704.445.9622

PHARR FAMILY YMCA

208 Main Street, McAdenville, NC 28101
704.824.1131

SOUTH GASTON YMCA

3210 Union Road, Gastonia, NC 28056
704.865.2193

STOWE FAMILY YMCA

196 YMCA Drive, Belmont, NC 28012
704.822.9622



www.gastonymca.org



Big Green Egg
World's Best Smoker & Grill!

15% off your BIG GREEN EGG
total purchase before December 31st.



Napoleon Grills. **40% off** all
remaining inventory and **50% off**
all remaining accessories.



Panama Jack Outdoor
furniture. **40% off** all items
ordered before December 31st.



704-864-5281

3001 Union Road,
Gastonia, NC

It is more important than ever to support local business. Local stores like Reliable want to do more but we depend on your support.

When you see that ad from a box store with that great price, ask yourself how much they contribute to the local charities and schools. If you want a better community, support the stores owned in your community.

-Marty Lineberger, Owner

reliablehomeappliancecenter.com

Holiday Shopping Guide



119 N Main St,
Lowell, NC
(704) 824-5403



103 S Marietta St
Gastonia, NC
(704)-860-5135



127 S Main St,
Mt Holly, NC
(704) 827-3355



132 N Main St,
Belmont, NC
(704)-825-1116



6 N. Main St,
Belmont, NC
(704)-825-0114



120 E Central Ave,
Mt Holly, NC
(704) 951-4133



110 N Main St,
Lowell, NC
(704) 823-0384



113 W. Central Ave,
Mt. Holly, NC
(704)-827-6126



7 N Main St,
Belmont, NC
(704) 825-5172



1013 Union Rd,
Gastonia, NC
(704)-861-1990



406 Catawba St,
Belmont, NC
(704) 825-2383



Blythe Gallery
117 N. Main St,
Belmont, NC
(704)-825-8809



Check out these local retailers for all your Holiday Shopping!

GASTON COUNTY RESTAURANT & DINING GUIDE



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

AMBER JACK SEAFOOD & STEAKS

4253 South New Hope Road, Gastonia
704-824-5502 • www.amberjackseafood.com
\$-\$\$\$

DON PEDRO MEXICAN RESTAURANT

3272 Union Road, Gastonia
704-866-8180
\$-\$\$

FRIENDS SPORTS BAR & GRILL

16 N. Main Street, Belmont
704-825-1401 • www.friendsportsbarandgrill.net
\$-\$\$

JOE'S TOUCH OF ITALY

503 S. Central Avenue, Belmont
704-825-2805 • www.joestouchofitaly.com
\$-\$\$

JOHNNY B'S PIZZA PAD & WATERING HOLE

106 N. Main Street, Belmont
704-825-8900 • www.jbspizzapad.com
\$-\$\$

NICK'S STEAK & TAPHOUSE

182 S. South Street, Gastonia
704-867-6777 • www.nicksbastonia.com
\$-\$\$\$

OLD STONE STEAKHOUSE

23 S. Main Street, Belmont
704-825-9995 • www.oldstonesteakhouse.com
\$-\$\$\$

RODI

245 West Garrison Blvd, Suite H, Gastonia
704-864-7634 • www.rodworld.com
\$-\$\$

SAKE EXPRESS (3 LOCATIONS)

675 Park Street, Belmont • 704-461-0400
1327 E. Franklin Blvd, Gastonia • 704-864-4466
349 W. Charlotte Ave, Mt. Holly • 704-827-4819
www.thesakeexpress.com
\$-\$\$

SOUTH FORK DELI, MARKET & CAFE

119 B. Center Street, Cramerton
704-824-6172 • www.southforkmarketcafe.com
\$

TEQUILA'S MEXICAN GRILL & TAQUERIA

238 West Main Avenue, Gastonia
704-867-8050 • www.tequilasgastonia.com
\$-\$\$

THAI HOUSE

4008 E. Franklin Blvd, Gastonia
704-823-1797 • www.thaihouse.us.com
\$-\$\$

THE ROUND BISTRO

2609 S. New Hope Road, Suite 9, Gastonia
704-864-2791 • www.theroundbistro.com
\$-\$\$

THE STRING BEAN FRESH MARKET & DELI

106 N. Main Street, Belmont
704-825-3636 • www.stringbeanmarket.com
\$-\$\$

GastonAlive!

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEXT EDITION,
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT US AT 704-860-4090 ext. 1111
OR INFO@GASTONALIVE.COM

DON PEDRO
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

FREE Appetizer

One coupon per customer please. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 1.15.15

GASTONIA LOCATION ONLY

SVEDKA COLADA

\$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 1/15/2015.

\$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 1/15/2015.

\$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 1/15/2015.

Lake Wylie Discount Liquors

5081 Charlotte Hwy • Lake Wylie

803-831-8161



BP Gas Station	Auto Zone	Food Lion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Wylie Discount Liquors	HWY 274	
HWY 49	Bi-Lo	Wal-Mart
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



1.75 Liter
only
\$18.99

SVEDKA
VOTED #1 VODKA OF 2013

Please Drink Responsibly

SMALL WALL & DESIGN DÉCOR

NEED A RETAINING WALL?

NO WALL TOO SMALL
GIVE US A CALL

704.906.8163

QUALITY SERVICE ~ GREAT RATES ~ REFERENCES PROVIDED!

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

PIZZA DONE RIGHT!

Voted "BEST PIZZA" in Gaston County!



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

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

facebook.com/JohnnyB's Pizza Pad & Watering Hole
WWW.JBSPIZZAPAD.COM

\$5.00 OFF!
ANY PURCHASE OVER \$25

One coupon per customer please. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 1.15.15

PIZZA & WING DEAL!
GET A
16" 2-TOPPING PIZZA
AND 14 OVEN-BAKED
WINGS FOR
\$20.99

One coupon per customer please. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 1.15.15

LUNCH FOR TWO ONLY \$10.00! + tax
Includes 2 lunch specials and drinks
(Lunch Special: 10" 3-topping pizza)

One coupon per customer please. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Valid 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Expires 1.15.15

Merry Christmas *from* Belmont Capital Advisors

GA 12/14

Call today to schedule your
free consultation. **Learn more**
at **belmont-capital.com**

BELMONT CAPITAL ADVISORS

704-825-1560 217 GLENWAY STREET • BELMONT, NC

Securities offered through Kalos Capital, Inc., and Investment Advisory Services offered through
Kalos Management, Inc., both at 11525 Park Woods Circle, Alpharetta, GA 30005, (678) 356-1100.
Belmont Capital Advisors is not an affiliate or subsidiary of Kalos Capital, Inc., or Kalos Management, Inc.



JOSEPH ROOP, FOUNDER