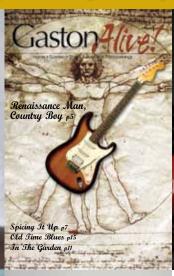
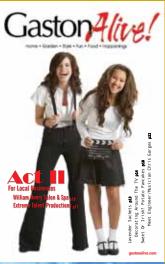
GARDEN | STYLE | FUN | FOOD | HAPPENINGS HOME |



Happy Birthday GA! p6 • Unwritten Rules of Gaston County p10 • Chocolate Pumpkin Dessert p12

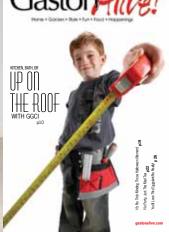






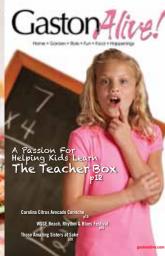




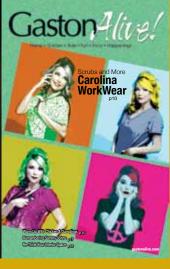
















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Emily has lost 70 lbs-went from size 18 to size 8











From the Publisher

After living in Mount Holly and attending high school here, I moved away for many years. Fast forward twenty plus years-after serving in the army, going to college, and raising two boys, I moved back Mount Holly in 1995. I was surprised that the town actually seemed to not only have not grown, but the downtown was struggling, and many of the old businesses that I remembered had disappeared.

Today it's a different story. We have a several restaurants downtown, with two more slated to open in the very near future. We have specialty retail, a gallery, boutiques, a coffee shop and bakeries, and salons. And lots of churches. A week or two back Mount Holly had an event called the Art of Mount Holly. I visited the Awaken Galley and it was packed, as were the artist spaces above the gallery-who knew that Mount Holly had a thriving little artist colony! I understand we have more artists from the Gaston County Art Guild moving into a building across from the Citizens Center. We're being infested with artists-yay!

One really cool event that's coming is the Mount Holly Lantern Parade. It will be held October 20th and you won't believe some of

the lanterns! For more information go to www.mounthollyfoundation.org or Call Emily Andress at 980-277-8527.

Go Gaston County!
David



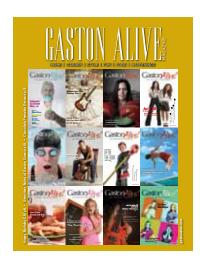






HOME GARDEN STYLE FUN FOOD HAPPENINGS

on the cover



On the cover this month is a montage of some of our favorite covers. We're celebrating our 14th birthday (a little late), and we'd like you to help us pick your favorite cover. See contest details on page 6. Rick Haithcox shot most of our covers, and David James handled the graphic design. Let us feature your company or nonprofit in an upcoming issue-call for details, 704-650-8330.

our staff

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

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CHRISTMAS WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT. CALL AND SCHEDULE YOUR PORTRAIT SESSION NOW.





GASTON ALIVE IS 14! HELP US PICK A COVER TO CELEBRATE!

By David Hamrick



Our first issue was July of 2004. On the cover was a little boy in a scuba diving mask that was clearly too large for him. Back then our format was what is called "digest size", and hopefully you can see some differences in the size and especially design sense in the ensuing years.

Below are images from this month's cover with some of our favorite covers numbered for you to choose your favorite cover. We will randomly draw four winners from the participants-the

prizes will be distributed randomly to those drawn and include, a \$25 gift certificate to Sake Express, a free head shot by Rick Haithcox (includes sitting and digital file), and a free riding lesson from Maura Dalton at Creekwood Farms. To vote simply go to our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/gastonalive) and tell us your favorite. One entry per person please. We'll announce the winning cover and participant winners next month.

























REMEMBER THESE FEATURES? YOU CAN FIND THEM ALL AT GASTONALIVE.COM



Fashion Feature, March 2017



Caramel Walnut Apple Cake, October 2016



Day Trip To Cuba Feature, March 2018



Nicole Hunt Feature, November 2016



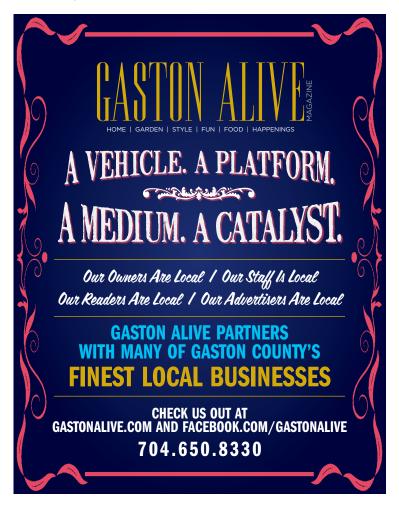
Lucy Penegar Feature, September 2016



John Rowley's Lavender Farm Feature, Semptember 2017



Cooking With Glenn Lobster Mac & Cheese November 2016



LET GASTON ALIVE HELP YOU GROW YOUR BUSINESS!



I have had great success with my ads in Gaston Alive Magazine for my company. I get many compliments of how well the ads look and many successful leads. I have received many jobs from the advertisements and always feel that the price I pay for each ad has well been worth the money.

I would recommend David and his company Gaston Alive Magazine to anybody looking to build their business and client base

- Greg Dimmer/Dimmer & Sons Construction, Inc



I have been advertising with Gaston Alive for 10 years! They create interesting and fun ads for my business and I always ge new customers from this magazine! Gaston Alive is my "go to" for advertising!

– Maura Dalton/Creekwood Farm



I am extremely happy with the results I receive each month from advertising with your magazine. I can always tell when the magazine hits the mailboxes, my phone starts ringing almost immediately. Gaston Alive has really helped to jump start my new business. Thank You!!!

– Stacy Oxford/Milltown Mobile Dog Grooming



Your magazine has provided us the ability to reach thousands of customers within the area. We greatly appreciate Gaston Alive! and their support of local businesses.

– Linda Park/Co Owner Sake Express

Love Kids? Love Horses? Be A Volunteer!



Shining Hope Farms in Mount Holly is looking for volunteers.

What can I do as a volunteer?

Sessions – You can be an active part of our lesson or hippotherapy program and be 'hands on' with our courageous students as a side walker.

Stable Work – You can help us care for our hard working horses and our facility as a stable volunteer.

Special Events – If special events are your forte, you can help us in the planning, preparation and execution of our fundraising events held throughout the year.



PLEASE NOTE:

All volunteers must have health insurance.

Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age.

Most volunteer opportunities are during normal business hours.

Please contact us to inquire about our current schedule. www.shininghopefarms.org/volunteer

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GASTON COUNTY'S BYBEN DUNGAN LINE OF THE STATE OF THE STA

When you've been around for more than 100 years, you tend to get a little stuck in your ways. After all, it's worked for you this long, why bother changing?



That's the story of Tony's Ice Cream - putting smiles on people's faces through amazing ice cream and milkshakes since 1915. With a legacy like that, you're allowed to make your own rules.

For example, ice cream can only be ordered in one line. Everything else must be ordered in the other line. No one knows why, but that's just the way it is. If you don't know this rule, you learn pretty quick.

Just like my Uncle Ed did several years ago. He's not from around here. He was a native Charlottean and lived there most of his life. But unlike many Charlotteans, he wasn't afraid to cross the Catawba River for some of the best ice cream around. It was all worth it - including getting yelled at for getting in the wrong line. He never forgot.

That's just one of the many Gaston County unwritten rules. All places have them. Out-of-towners must learn the hard way. The local natives just inherently know what to do. It's almost as if it's been embedded in their DNA from the time they were born.

North Carolina-based singer-songwriter and storyteller Michael Reno Harrell would argue that these aren't rules at all. They're merely suggestions, or better yet, "just some things we figured out". In his song, "Southern Suggestions", he lays out many of the South's unwritten rules, to making living easy for all of us, no matter where you're from.

So if you're new to town, or just passing through like my uncle, here's a few "things we've figured out" to ensure your Gaston County experience is as smooth as it can be.

Suggestion #1

If you're eating fish at a fish camp, it better be fried. Sure, you can ask for it broiled or baked, but it will take longer to prepare. And they won't give you as much as if you ordered it fried. Do yourself a favor - stay on the server's good side and order it fried.

Suggestion #2

And while you're there, good luck finding anything green on your plate. It should be all brown, different shades of brown of course. This includes the fried fish, french fries, baked potato and the hushpuppies. If anything should be remotely close to green, it could be a slight hint of green emanating from the coleslaw. But a hint is all you get.

Suggestion #3

The fried fish may look and taste the same everywhere you go, but don't count on that when you order slaw from a Gaston County restaurant. Sometimes it'll be a mayonnaise-based coleslaw, a tangy barbecue red slaw, or it may be whatever R.O.'s and Black's BBQ put in their legendary slaw. Rest assured, it's all cabbage at the end of the day.



Suggestion #4

If there was one thing I learned pretty quick, it's that Gaston County natives can't be bothered with extra syllables in words. Three-syllable words are one too many - especially if you live in Cherryville or Bessemer City. It's not a hard concept, but the out-of-towners always get it wrong. I've found that the least amount of movement your lips can make, the better. Makes it easier to say "Cher-vul" and "Bess-mur".

Suggestion #5

Gaston County may be Charlotte's next-door neighbor, but to the many that live here, it might as well be a million miles away. From a proximity standpoint, Gaston County has a lot going for it. We are less than two hours from the mountains and approximately four hours to the beach. But don't ask a local to drive "all the way" to Charlotte. That could take hours. Or days.

I've lived in this great county for over 18 years, and I'm still learning these things. Sometimes, we just have to learn the hard way. Let's face it, we just don't know what we don't know.

But all it takes is breaking one of these unwritten rules and you're sure to never do it again.

Getting in the right line at Tony's is a good first start. But whatever you do, never, ever, ask for a lid for that milkshake.



October is GO Month, a month-long celebration of all Gaston Outside will feature a different point of focus with activities, events, tours, luncheons, discussions,



HEAVENLY HOLIDAY DESSERT

CHOCOLATE PUMPKIN CAKE WITH PUMPKIN BUTTER CREAM FROSTING

Pumpkins spice lattes are all the rage, but since chocolate and pumpkin go together so well, here's both in a dessert for Halloween or Thanksgiving. Enjoy!

Ingredients

Cake:

- 1 box Devils Food Cake Mix
- 15 oz Pumpkin Puree
- 2 Eggs
- 2 tbsp Vegetable Oil
- 3 1/2 tbsp Pumpkin Pie Spice

Frosting:

- 1 cup softened Butter
- 4 1/2 cup Powdered Sugar
- 1 cup Pumpkin Puree
- 1 tsp Pumpkin Spice
- Several drops Red Food coloring optional
- Several drops Yellow Food Coloring optional

Instructions

Cake:

- 1. Preheat oven to 350.
- 2. Grease 11x13" pan. Set aside.
- 3. Mix all cake ingredients in a large bowl until just blended.
- 4. Transfer to prepared pan.
- 5. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean.
- 6. Allow to cool.

Frosting:

- 1. Whip butter until fluffy.
- 2. Add pumpkin and pumpkin spice and mix until blended.
- 3. Optionally add food coloring to acheive desire orange color.
- 4. Gradually add powdered sugar until you reach desired consistency.
- 5. Frost cake.





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