

A SKYWAY ROAD TRIP P.66 MOUNTAIN TROUT MECCA P.108

Our State[®]

CELEBRATING NORTH CAROLINA

November 2019 \$5.99

THE SMOKIES

PLUS
A SEASON OF
SMOKE

NEW 'CUE
IN GARLAND P.118

TOBACCO TOWNS
TRANSFORMED P.132

CAMPFIRE COOKING P.192

AND MORE!

MYSTERY
OF THE MIST
The science behind
the mountain haze
P.90



BONUS!
A TASTE OF THE WORLD
IN **CHARLOTTE**
FREE 48-PAGE MAGAZINE INSIDE

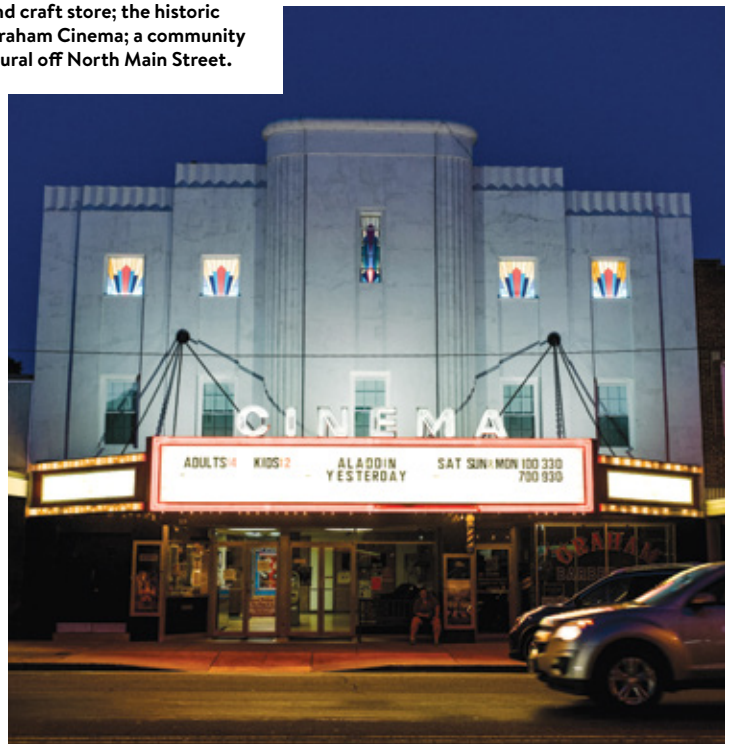
Graham

Bursts of color on city walls, in shop windows, and on restaurant tables are transforming downtown into a vibrant center for the community.

written by JODI HELMER / photography by ANAGRAM PHOTO



An eye for the arts (clockwise from top left): the “Love Graham” sculpture near Court Square; The Main Line art and craft store; the historic Graham Cinema; a community mural off North Main Street.



When Griffin McClure researched old advertisements for Green and McClure Furniture, he was surprised to learn that the store was once open until midnight on Saturdays. “The odd hours were built around accommodating the shift changes at the local textile mills,” he explains.

A lot has changed since the store opened in 1907 — including the hours — but the business has remained a fixture in downtown Graham. In the years since he started sweeping floors as a teenager, McClure, the fourth-generation owner of Green and McClure, has witnessed the once-struggling downtown undergo a dramatic revitalization. “People are rediscovering city centers,” he says. “They want community and conversation, and that is bringing them back to downtown.”

McClure is part of the team shaping the vision for downtown Graham. He hopes that investments like the renovation of the Oneida Mill Lofts, a former textile mill that dates back to 1882, into a residential building will help achieve the live/work/play atmosphere that will sustain the neighborhood. “We’ve really had some momentum, but we’re still a blank canvas to some degree,” he says. “What we do well, we do well in a small footprint.”



Griffin McClure



Press Coffee + Crepes

Eat & Drink

Press Coffee + Crepes. While Press serves cappuccinos and cold brews, it’s much more than a coffee shop. The weekend brunch menu includes beer, wine, and spirits, and made-to-order sweet and savory crepes prepared with local ingredients.

Roasted Coffee Depot. Part café, part gift shop, Roasted Coffee Depot serves up lattes and local art. Browse one-of-a-kind items or order a bagel or cinnamon roll and relax on the patio near Court Square.



Shop

HiFi Records. Owners Jon Guza (right) and Molly Feudale stock an impressive selection of vinyl, and McClure says that they love talking about both famous and emerging artists. The store also has a bar, in case browsing works up a thirst.

Eat & Shop

Steve’s Garden Market & Butchery. McClure says that the neighborhood market provides downtown Graham with a walkable grocery option by stocking fruits, vegetables, meat, and gourmet items like pimento cheese, jams, and prepared meals made on-site.

Smokehouse at Steve’s. Last year, Justin Long, owner of Steve’s, opened a smokehouse adjacent to the market. The crown jewel is the wood-fired smoker. “He’s really intentional about putting great food on the plate, and it shows,” McClure says.



Steve's Garden Market



Smokehouse at Steve's



Fitzgerald & Faulkner

Drink

Fitzgerald & Faulkner.

This Southern Gothic haunt draws crowds, especially on weekends. Classic cocktails like Manhattans, Old-Fashioneds, and martinis are served alongside charcuterie, deviled eggs, and other light bites.

Forgotten Road Ales.

McClure calls owners Ben and Janée Farrar “up-and-coming stars in the craft brewing community.” Clockwise from left: the PRM (pineapple, raspberry, mango) sour and the Alpha Cash and Citra Sunshine IPAs.

Shop

The Main Line.

This small shop is filled with a curated selection of handmade products, from jewelry, pottery, and painted furniture to soap and pet treats, all made by more than 100 local artists. “It’s like Pinterest came to life,” McClure says.



The Main Line



Forgotten Road Ales



The Verdict on the Square

Eat

The Verdict on the Square.

It’s not surprising that this restaurant is popular with courthouse staff. “Everything on the menu has a legal theme,” McClure says, from The Supreme Court Burger, to a chicken sandwich called The Stool Pigeon, to the Public Defender po’boy.

The Graham Soda Shop and Grill.

Generations of the McClure family have piled into the red-and-gray booths at this downtown throwback. Grab a stool at the soda fountain and order a burger and fries or a milkshake to share. Local sports memorabilia, including team photos and jerseys, turn the walls into a time capsule.