

Our State[®]

CELEBRATING NORTH CAROLINA

July 2018 \$5.99

PLUS:
SAXAPAHAW
SMALL PLACE,
BIG FUN
P.21

A SUMMER MOUNTAIN GETAWAY

*More than 40 miles of
the Blue Ridge Parkway
wind through scenic
Jackson County.*

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Hampton Resort** P. 84

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Million-Dollar View** P. 104

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Suds in Sylva P. 113

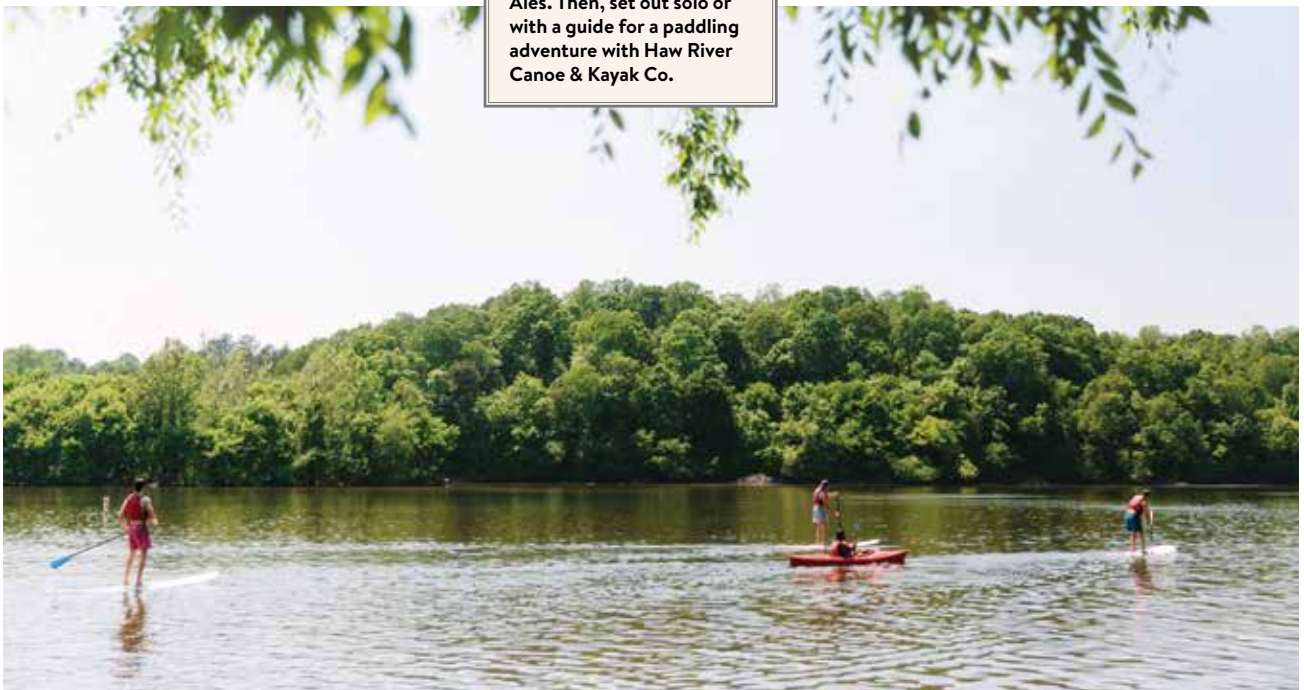
Saxapahaw

On the banks of the Haw River, a tiny town in Alamance County is enjoying a rural renaissance.

photography by ANAGRAM PHOTO



Fuel up with a barbecue sandwich served on a homemade English muffin at the Saxapahaw General Store and sip on a craft beer from Haw River Farmhouse Ales. Then, set out solo or with a guide for a paddling adventure with Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co.



The drive to Saxapahaw winds along curving country roads lined with tall grass and not much else. Roll down your windows to hear the hum of cicadas, to smell the sweetness of wisteria. You'll soon understand that this little riverside town isn't in the middle of *nowhere*. It's the kind of somewhere you could stay awhile.

The former cotton mill, now called the Rivermill, is the center of activity here, just as it was for its 146 years of operation. But despite its tiny size, Saxapahaw has all the makings of a perfect day. Here, you can choose your own adventure: Pull up a chair at the legendary Saxapahaw General Store

for a BLT and a root beer, or pop in to pick up picnic provisions for an afternoon kayak trip. Grab an iced coffee from Cup 22 and stroll the trails that run along the Haw, or sit in the shade and read a good book with a cold craft brew. The red-brick mill once defined this town. Today, the town is redefining the mill.

Snack on North Carolina trout cakes with a side of sunset at the Eddy Pub. On the second floor of the old cotton mill, the restaurant's deck offers a sweeping view of the Haw River.



MOON RIVER

In the former Dixie Yarns Cotton Mill, you'll find the Haw River Ballroom, a space for concerts, weddings, and events. Today, you'll hear strains of music and the stomping of feet rather than the thrum of machinery. Still, memories of the past remain: An old dye vat stands as a beacon outside of the ballroom. At night, it's lit from within — locals call it "the moon."



Saxapahaw may be small, but its culinary scene is mighty. Clockwise from left: Charcuterie from Left Bank Butchery is served at the neighboring Eddy Pub, where you can also find lemon honey chicken breast, a selection of North Carolina craft brews on tap, and baskets of freshly made challah, sourdough, and other breads from the in-house bakery, the Village Bakehouse.





PUPPET PARTY

Paperhand Puppet Intervention has been creating and performing with giant puppets for 20 years, and while the troupe puts on a show in Chapel Hill each summer, the magic happens at their studio in Saxapahaw. Thanks to hundreds of volunteers, cardboard and cornstarch become birds, beasts, and juggling frogs.



Saturdays in Saxapahaw are full of festivities that inspire wonder among children and adults alike: In the summer, a spirited weekly farmers market and live music series combine to create a perfect evening by the river. There's never been a better excuse to pack a picnic.



TOP LEFT: PHOTOGRAPH BY BRYAN REGAN