



100 best places to live and launch

43. Blacksburg, Va.

43 of 100 **Back** **Next**

Population: 40,161
Pros: Strong local university; smart, wired community
Con: Off the beaten path

Blacksburg is the home of Virginia Tech, the state's largest university. More and more, it remains home to Virginia Tech graduates, who find it hard to leave the natural beauty of the New River Valley and the intensity of the Tech community, with its strong school spirit and raucous football weekends.



COURTESY: TOWN OF BLACKSBURG

Students are able to stay in Blacksburg because the university offers significant help to fledging businesses. Virginia Tech runs the **Corporate Research Center**, a high-tech research park which houses 120 companies with 2,000 employees. One campus spin-off keeps the town uniquely well-connected: Since 1993, the **Blacksburg Electronic Village** has brought Internet services to Blacksburg's residents and civic groups. The well-regarded joint city-school effort has served as a model for other civic connectivity efforts. *-Elizabeth Bland*

• [Talk back: What do you think of Blacksburg?](#)

Interactive map: Blacksburg, Va.
🏠 [Find homes for sale in Blacksburg, Va.](#)

NEXT: 44. Oro Valley, Ariz.



Last updated April 16 2008: 10:38 AM ET

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Best places to live and launch

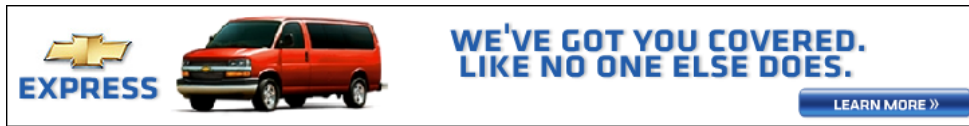
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Founder Mike Sinyard battled finicky customers and the brink of bankruptcy to build his profitable \$500-million-a-year bike brand. FSB got the scoop on how it all began. [\(more\)](#)

Oprah winner's next move
Oprah's Big Give winner Stephen Paletta's next project is Virtual-Volunteer.tv, which Paletta envisions as a "YouTube for philanthropy" using streaming video. [\(more\)](#)

The medina market
The tale of two Americans who sell and rent classic properties in Morocco. Photographs by Sean Gilligan. [\(more\)](#)



100 BEST PLACES TO LIVE AND LAUNCH 2008



Top 100 Cities States FAQ

Top 100

| Rank | City | Population |
|------|----------------------|------------|
| 1 | Bellevue, WA | 111,608 |
| 2 | Georgetown, TX | 37,963 |
| 3 | Buford, GA | 13,576 |
| 4 | Marina del Rey, CA | 8,891 |
| 5 | Bethesda, MD | 59,475 |
| 6 | Portland, OR | 535,421 |
| 7 | Denver, CO | 555,932 |
| 8 | Charlotte, NC | 596,123 |
| 9 | Fort Worth, TX | 595,062 |
| 10 | Franklin, MA | 29,642 |
| 11 | American Canyon, CA | 12,484 |
| 12 | Durham, NC | 204,135 |
| 13 | Manchester, NH | 113,417 |
| 14 | Virginia Beach, VA | 445,875 |
| 15 | Salt Lake City, UT | 184,550 |
| 16 | Novato, CA | 48,410 |
| 17 | Santa Fe, NM | 65,433 |
| 18 | Charlottesville, VA | 40,877 |
| 19 | Boise, ID | 203,649 |
| 20 | Raleigh, NC | 316,978 |
| 21 | Iowa City, IA | 64,933 |
| 22 | Omaha, NE | 399,820 |
| 23 | Minneapolis, MN | 374,956 |
| 24 | Fargo, ND | 96,029 |
| 25 | Scottsdale, AZ | 232,929 |
| 26 | Louisville, CO | 19,402 |
| 27 | Bellingham, WA | 73,357 |
| 28 | Colorado Springs, CO | 396,436 |
| 29 | Naperville, IL | 149,600 |
| 30 | Lyndhurst, NJ | 19,699 |
| 31 | Leesburg, VA | 46,645 |
| 32 | Carlsbad, CA | 90,536 |
| 33 | Hamden, CT | 59,329 |
| 34 | San Antonio, TX | 1,251,086 |
| 35 | Cambridge, MA | 102,158 |

Best places to live and launch



Show: Top 10 | Top 100

What readers say...

- I lived in Worcester, Ma, all of my life. I just recently had the good ...
- Blue Ash, Ohio - come on! Blue Ash is no different than the rest of...
- OMAHA: Where's this GONDOLA???

Have your say

 Feedback on the Best Places to Live and Launch list? **E-mail the editors**



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| | | |
|----|---------------------|---------|
| 36 | Stafford, TX | 25,607 |
| 37 | Radnor Township, PA | 31,675 |
| 38 | Worcester, MA | 179,719 |
| 39 | Fort Collins, CO | 127,443 |
| 40 | Olympia, WA | 46,605 |
| 41 | Asheville, NC | 69,447 |
| 42 | Ann Arbor, MI | 119,016 |
| 43 | Blacksburg, VA | 40,161 |
| 44 | Oro Valley, AZ | 35,750 |
| 45 | Sioux Falls, SD | 137,222 |
| 46 | Madison, WI | 222,428 |
| 47 | Gainesville, FL | 95,392 |
| 48 | Corvallis, OR | 49,124 |
| 49 | Owings Mills, MD | 22,291 |
| 50 | Greensboro, NC | 231,720 |
| 51 | Doral, FL | 32,557 |
| 52 | Plainsboro, NJ | 21,608 |
| 53 | Rochester, MN | 94,583 |
| 54 | Reno, NV | 210,055 |
| 55 | Dover, DE | 36,646 |
| 56 | Winston-Salem, NC | 195,821 |
| 57 | Zionsville, IN | 10,893 |
| 58 | Bethlehem, PA | 75,448 |
| 59 | Syracuse, NY | 144,755 |
| 60 | Pittsburgh, PA | 320,335 |
| 61 | Northport, NY | 7,700 |
| 62 | Blue Ash, OH | 11,948 |
| 63 | Lincoln, RI | 22,314 |
| 64 | Fairfield, CT | 58,490 |
| 65 | State College, PA | 39,185 |
| 66 | San Jose, CA | 895,535 |
| 67 | Honolulu, HI | 383,424 |
| 68 | Ventura, CA | 108,143 |
| 69 | Danville, CA | 45,093 |
| 70 | Fort Lauderdale, FL | 167,255 |
| 71 | Missoula, MT | 58,781 |
| 72 | Brookfield, WI | 39,955 |
| 73 | Orlando, FL | 204,524 |
| 74 | Columbus, IN | 40,065 |
| 75 | St. Cloud, MN | 64,267 |
| 76 | Folsom, CA | 68,912 |
| 77 | Spokane, WA | 202,618 |
| 78 | San Luis Obispo, CA | 45,015 |
| 79 | Nashville, TN | 547,983 |
| 80 | Rochester, NY | 215,119 |

| | | |
|-----|---------------------|---------|
| 81 | Charleston, SC | 103,756 |
| 82 | Fayetteville, AR | 66,914 |
| 83 | Rio Rancho, NM | 60,655 |
| 84 | Cheyenne, WY | 55,870 |
| 85 | Lemay, MO | 16,524 |
| 86 | Huntsville, AL | 167,345 |
| 87 | Bend, OR | 64,917 |
| 88 | Brunswick, ME | 15,204 |
| 89 | Billings, MT | 94,088 |
| 90 | Sarasota, FL | 55,241 |
| 91 | Ames, IA | 51,681 |
| 92 | Prescott, AZ | 40,471 |
| 93 | Edmond, OK | 74,400 |
| 94 | West Des Moines, IA | 52,538 |
| 95 | Coeur d'Alene, ID | 39,617 |
| 96 | Eugene, OR | 141,165 |
| 97 | Kansas City, MO | 454,337 |
| 98 | Henderson, NV | 241,011 |
| 99 | Savannah, GA | 129,333 |
| 100 | Colchester, VT | 17,612 |

From the April 2008 issue

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