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REAL ESTATE November 15, 2011, 3:25 PM EST

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## Virginia Town is Best Place in the U.S. to Raise Kids

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Blacksburg is also home to such tech startups as [Modea](#), a fast-growing advertising agency founded by Virginia Tech grads in 2006, and e-mail hosting company [Webmail.us](#), which was acquired by Rackspace in 2007.

To develop the economy further, the town, university, and economic development organizations are trying to expand the local technology industry, taking advantage of talent coming from the school's engineering program. The Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, for example, aims to "develop a growing, prestigious research park for high-technology companies" and has an incubator program called VT KnowledgeWorks that creates companies based on VT-developed technology.

### SCHOOLS AND RECREATION

In addition to the benefits of a college town, Blacksburg provides the blessings of a family-friendly community. Data from Onboard Informatics reveal that the town has some of the best schools in Virginia. Part of the Montgomery County School System, it is home to seven public schools—five elementary, one middle, and one high school—as well as several private schools, day-care centers, and preschools.

Gilbert Linkous Elementary School, for instance, scores well above average on standardized math and reading exams and is among the few in the state to receive a top score of 10 from [Greatschools.org](#), a nonprofit that provides school performance data. Students at Prices Fork Elementary and Harding Avenue Elementary also test above average, according to data from the [Virginia Education Dept.](#)

Blacksburg also has many recreational options. A [downtown improvement project](#) recently added wider sidewalks, a traffic circle, and new trees. Green space is abundant, with [400 acres of parkland in town](#), plus the Appalachian Trail and the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests nearby. Sports at Blacksburg's community recreation center include basketball, volleyball, and soccer, along with a fitness center, a computer lab, and social activities such as senior programs. And while the memory of the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting remains fresh for many, the town in fact has a relatively low crime rate.

Blacksburg celebrates holidays with music and fireworks on Independence Day, a [10,000-egg hunt](#) on Easter, and games on Halloween.

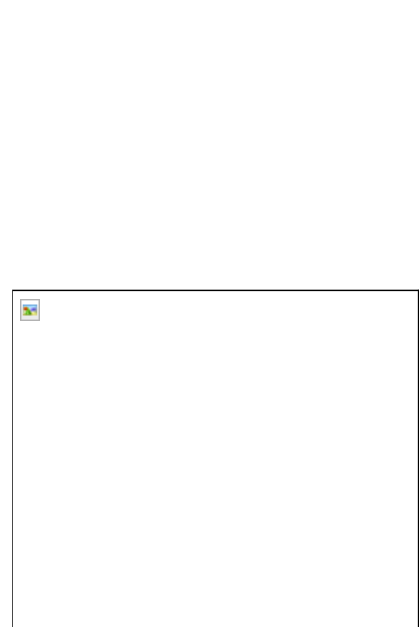
Says MacKenzie: "People in Blacksburg are very passionate about Blacksburg."

Click [here](#) to see the best place to live in your state.

— With assistance from Jennifer Prince, *Bloomberg Rankings*

*Wong* is a lifestyle and real estate reporter for *Bloomberg Businessweek*.

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**Klinkenhoker**

Having been born and raised in Blacksburg and now raising my own three kids here i can't agree more with the article that Blacksburg is a great place to live and raise children. It's a shame that some people that have commented on the above article seem to have missed the point: best place to raise kids! And once you have kids and are looking for a place to raise them you may want to live in a place that is concerned with noise pollution (especially at bedtime), or the bird sanctuary ( when you are taking your kids out on a nature walk) and having a bike friendly town so your kids can ride safely, or a community that comes together and supports each other even people who have nothing better than to knock a small town!

5 days ago 16 Likes

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



**Daniki54**

I'm sure the Author meant to say Allegheny instead of Alleghany.

5 days ago in reply to Klinkenhoker 2 Likes

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



**HokieD**

Actually both spellings are used and acceptable (although, technically you're right, Allegheny is the more widely used spelling).

5 days ago in reply to Daniki54

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



**Guest**

That's awesome. There are LOTS of towns in the US like that. Just still wonder at their choices.

2 days ago in reply to Klinkenhoker

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



**Marquis Sills**

Hey man haters gonna hate

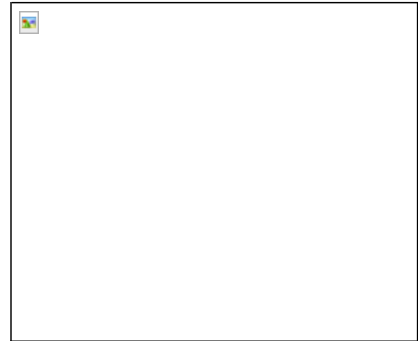
5 days ago in reply to Klinkenhoker

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**DE-ex**

So, are you supposed to move your kids every year because this year's "best place" won't be next year's?



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3 days ago 7 Likes

Like Reply



**Boylankj**

Nobody suggested that.....just food for thought.....cynicism, sarcasm is what i sense in your comments..... maybe because you don't live there or in one of the other places on the list.

1 day ago in reply to DE-ex

Like Reply



**Badojd**

Birmingham, Alabama ? Are we being serious, or did I just get punk'd

3 days ago 7 Likes

Like Reply



**Guest**

I didn't see that Birmingham was listed, only Cullman, which is 45 minutes north of Birmingham. As a life-long resident of Cullman, I would have to agree - Cullman is a great place to live and raise children.

1 day ago in reply to Badojd 1 Like

Like Reply



**Guest**

Having grown up in the area, I cannot imagine why anyone would want to move to the Roanoke/Blacksburg/Christiansburg area. Nothing good happens in that part of VA. And those annoying Chokie fans are enough to drive anyone crazy. Ms. Wong should visit Blacksburg before she writes another article like this.

3 days ago 5 Likes

Like Reply

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