



## 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

[Email](#) | [Print](#) | [Digg this story](#) | [RSS](#)

Methodology: [How we pick the 100 Best](#)

### Best places to live and launch

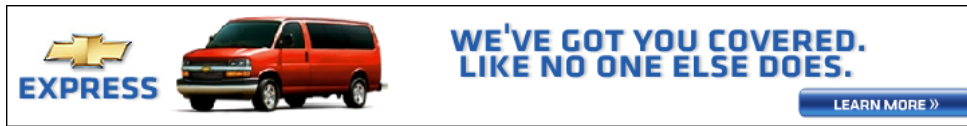
- [Issue #1: America's Money](#)
- [Full list: See all 100 places](#)
- [7 tax-free havens](#)
- [Top tech launching pads](#)

### More Galleries

**Specialized Bikes' startup story**  
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**



Information powered by **OnBoard LLC**  
Some data may be provided courtesy of its partners.



Additional data and consulting services provided by Bert Sperling's **bestplaces.net**.

HP Officejet Pro All-in-One Printers and Ink. Professional color printing for up to 50% less than laser.

Find yours now

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?

**Sponsored Links**

**"Teeth Whitening Warning"**

7 Teeth Whitening Products Tested, Rated, and Reviewed. A Must Read!

**Six Sigma Certification**

100% Online-Six Sigma Certificate from Villanova -Find Out More Now.

**Countrywide® Home Loans**

No Closing Cost Refi. No Points. No Credit Report or Processing Fees.

**What's your credit score?**

The U.S. Average is 692. See your 2008 report and score now for \$0!

[Buy a link here](#)

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

#### Sponsored Links

##### "Teeth Whitening Warning"

7 Teeth Whitening Products Tested, Rated, and Reviewed. A Must Read!  
[www.best-teeth-whitening.com](http://www.best-teeth-whitening.com)

##### Six Sigma Certification

100% Online-Six Sigma Certificate from Villanova -Find Out More Now.  
[www.VillanovaU.com](http://www.VillanovaU.com)

##### Countrywide® Home Loans

No Closing Cost Refi. No Points. No Credit Report or Processing Fees.  
[www.Countrywide.com](http://www.Countrywide.com)

[Buy a link here](#)

© 2008 Cable News Network. A Time Warner Company. All Rights Reserved. [Terms](#) under which this service is provided to you. [Privacy Policy](#)

[Home](#) [Portfolio](#) [Calculators](#) [Contact Us](#) [Newsletters](#) [Podcasts](#) [RSS](#) [Mobile](#) [Widgets](#) [Press Center](#) [Site Map](#) [User Preferences](#)  
[Advertise with Us](#) [Magazine](#) [Customer Service](#) [Download Fortune Lists](#) [Reprints](#) [Career Opportunities](#) [Special Sections](#) [Conferences](#) [Business Leader Council](#)

Live Quotes automatically refresh, but individual equities are delayed 15 minutes for Nasdaq, and 20 minutes for other exchanges. Market indexes are shown in real time, except for the DJIA, which is delayed by two minutes. All times are ET.

\* : Time reflects local markets trading time. † - Intraday data delayed 15 minutes for Nasdaq, and 20 minutes for other exchanges. Disclaimer  
 Copyright © 2008 BigCharts.com Inc. All rights reserved. Please see our Terms of Use. MarketWatch, the MarketWatch logo, and BigCharts are registered trademarks of MarketWatch, Inc. Intraday data delayed 15 minutes for Nasdaq, and 20 minutes for other exchanges. All Times are ET. Intraday data provided by Interactive Data Real-Time Services and subject to the Terms of Use. Historical, current end-of-day data, and splits data provided by Interactive Data Pricing and Reference Data. Fundamental data provided by Hemscott. SEC Filings data provided by Edgar Online Inc.. Earnings data provided by FactSet CallStreet, LLC.