



Welcome to **Blacksburg**

| Accolades

The 14th smartest city in America
Lumosity, 2013

4th happiest small city in America
movoto.com, 2014

Best place in the U.S. to raise kids
Bloomberg Businessweek, 2011
Homes.com, 2012

**A Best small place for
business and career**
Forbes, 2017

5th best small city for jobs
Forbes, 2012

The safest city in Virginia
National Council for Home Safety
and Security, 2018

#7 most secure small city in U.S
Farmers Insurance, 2014

A Best Place to Retire
Forbes, 2016

**Virginia Tech ranked #3 best
college campus in America**
Niche, 2018

A fireworks display lights up the night sky behind the Pylons at Virginia Tech's War Memorial Chapel.

2

REGION

4

CLIMATE

6

ECONOMY

8

TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES

10

HOUSING

12

HEALTHCARE

14

EDUCATION

16

SHOPPING

20

DINING

26

WINERIES & BREWERIES

28

CULTURE & LEISURE

40

MAP



These icons, appearing throughout the magazine, indicate that a particular location is shown on the map on page 40.

Brains & beauty

Blacksburg is a vibrant community of technologists, creatives, artisans, teachers, healers, tradespeople, researchers, entrepreneurs, and outdoors enthusiasts who hail from across the country and around the world.

A liveable, high-tech community, Blacksburg is free from the crowds and high housing costs found in most tech hubs. The average commute in our region is less than 14 minutes.

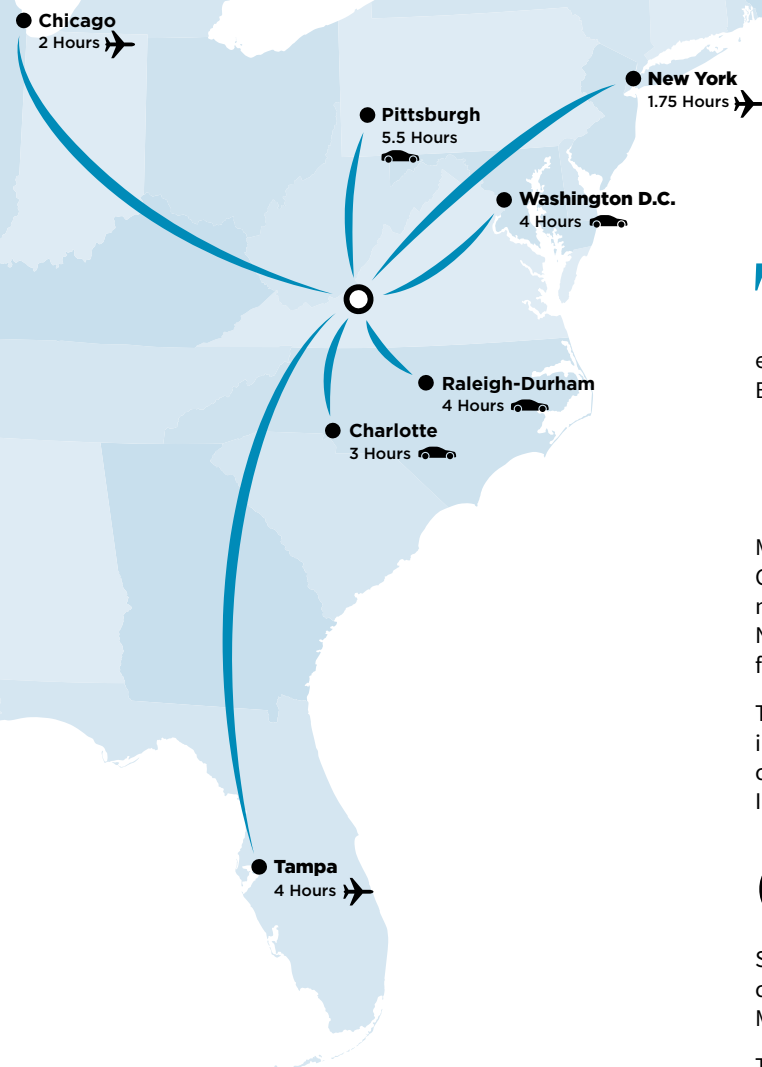
Rich in diversity and teeming with talent, the town is home to more than 200 innovative technology firms and some of the brightest technical minds. Blacksburg is also home to Virginia Tech, a large research university that is integral to the innovation culture of the area.

Blacksburg is a place where you can taste exotic foods at noon at the International Fair, outwit the deer for the proceeds of your garden in the evening, and safely go grocery shopping at 3 a.m.

Your neighbors will be curing diseases, building robots, developing software and technology—or inventing a novel spoon that enables a young baby to feed herself. In Blacksburg, you will find yourself sharing the road with self-driving cars out for test drives and fast-pedaling bicyclists determined to beat their personal best.

Blacksburg's culture encourages participation, with plentiful volunteer opportunities, houses of worship, and even green space to meet your neighbors. The community celebrates our differences, while drawing together to care about, improve, and enjoy this special place. Blacksburg residents are here by choice. People who move to Blacksburg tend to stay. If they leave, a large percentage return at another point in their lives.

All in a day's ride



The New River Valley is within a day's drive of ¾ of the country's major markets. A hub of activity and commerce, the region easily connects families in multiple states, enables easy business transactions and expansion, and loops the Blacksburg area into a larger community. But really, why leave?

New River Valley

Montgomery County, along with the City of Radford and nearby Giles, Floyd, and Pulaski Counties, make up the New River Valley—named for the river that winds through this wide, fertile basin. The New River, ironically, is one of the world's oldest rivers—older, in fact, than the mountains through which it flows.

The New River Valley is tightly connected with the communities in the Roanoke Valley, together creating a thriving technology corridor. Many people commute between the two valleys along Interstate 81 or scenic back roads.

Companion towns

Seven miles apart, Blacksburg and Christiansburg are both lively communities with distinct personalities that comprise the bulk of Montgomery County's population.

These companion towns share many facilities and frequently swap residents, but both are growing rapidly. In fact, Montgomery County is the fastest growing locality in southwest Virginia, with a population projected to reach 100,000 by 2020.

The Lyric —a Blacksburg icon and historic theatre—presents a wide spectrum of shows and events, from the Rocky Horror Picture Show to royal wedding viewings.





A runner circles Pandapas Pond, Blacksburg's backyard wilderness, where residents can make a quick getaway from town life.

A well seasoned land

Just like its residents, Blacksburg's weather is diverse and changeable, perplexing, and glorious. And Blacksburg residents find the weather to be a source of endless fascination and constant speculation.

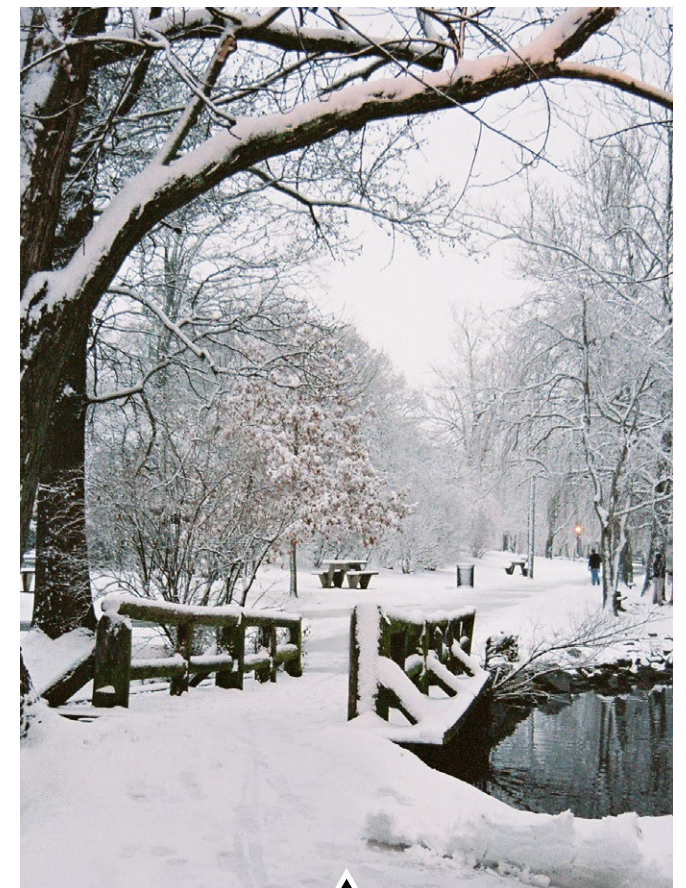
You can start the day in a down jacket and end it in short sleeves. Bring both. And an umbrella.

Seasons & temperature

We get four distinct, highly-anticipated seasons. While you can expect a smattering of extreme weather events each year (a polar vortex, freakishly strong winds, a blastingly hot August week) temperatures will usually only dip below 0° F or exceed 90° F for a few days.

If you find yourself driving down a mountain on a morning in spring and fall, you will inevitably be confronted by a dense curtain of fog, which will likely break up midmorning.

But the region delights in 216 sunny days each year and is typically about 5 degrees cooler than lower regions in the Roanoke Valley—a fact we revel in during the summer and bemoan in the winter.



This quiet winter scene at the Virginia Tech Duck Pond contrasts with the chaos you would see across the street during the annual snowball fight between the Corps of Cadets and their non-cadet classmates.



Summer in Blacksburg is pure gold. Traffic is sparse, the weather is grand, and the water is fine. #blessed

Booming

Top Tech Launching Pad

Top 10 affordable metros attracting young professionals
PEW, Nov. 2017

10th most concentrated metro area for high-tech jobs
Select USA, Oct. 2017

One of six rising technology hubs in the country
CNN Money 2008

#4 Best affordable college town
Realtor.com 2018



Torc Robotics in Blacksburg has integrated its end-to-end self-driving system on ground vehicles ranging from consumer SUVs to 300-ton mining trucks.

The cost of living index in Blacksburg is 90.7*, according to the Council for Community and Economic Research. This is lower than the national average and most other technology regions, giving technology workers a higher standard of living for the same salary. With low unemployment and future job growth of 37 percent (bestplaces.net), the region is booming economically.

While there is a mix of technology, service, professional, retail, and agricultural activity, Virginia Tech is the largest employer in Montgomery County. Higher education exerts a heavy influence on the region. In Blacksburg, for example, 71 percent of people over 25 have a college degree (U.S. Census).

Other notable employers include Moog, an electronics supplier, Alliant Techsystems, Rackspace, Torc Robotics, Luna Innovations, and the Montgomery County school system. More than 200 firms in Blacksburg alone offer competitive positions in high-tech, professional, and business services.

Interpretation

A community undeterred by obstacles and energized by tough problems, Blacksburg and the surrounding region are fully engaged in developing technology. We are rich in innovators, start-ups, and tech companies who are building the future, and building it smarter.

Growing tech

Information technology, encompassing companies in software development, cybersecurity, IT support, digital creative, and others. Firms include Rackspace, Modea, Ozmo, Excella, Qualtrax, Foxguard, 1901 Group, Harmonia, Automation Creations, Meridium, and New City Media.

Unmanned systems. The region sports one of the most comprehensive smart road testing facilities in the country, and is one of only seven FAA drone test sites. Torc Robotics is a well-known local company developing self-driving car technology.

Biosciences, including diagnosis technology, devices, drugs, processes to cure disease, and products to support health. Firms include Techlab, Intrexon, BioGeneTech, BC Genesis, the Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech, Pervida, and Axon Nutritionals.

Advanced manufacturing, ranging from lab standards to fibers, ceramics, and polymers. Firms include Prime Photonics, Kollmorgen, Luna Innovations, Aeroprobe, Phoenix Packaging, VPT, BAE Systems, Corning, and Celanese.

Blacksburg is one of seven FAA-designated Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Test Sites in the U.S.

Cost of Living Index 2017-2018*

Blacksburg, VA	90.7
Seattle, WA	151.9
Boston, MA	147.4
Austin, TX	98.5
Huntsville, AL	95.0
Washington, D.C. area	158.9
San Francisco, CA	194.7
New York, NY (Manhattan)	242.4

*The Cost of Living Index is produced by the Council for Community and Economic Research, previously the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA). The index measures relative price levels for consumer goods and services—including housing, medical care, and food—in participating areas. The average for all participating places equals 100, and each participant's index is read as a percentage of the average for all places.



Blacksburg Transit (BT) provides public transportation to the citizens of Blacksburg, Virginia Tech, and neighboring communities.

Commute

Just minutes from I-81 and less than an hour from I-77, Blacksburg is within half a day's travel of a dozen metropolitan areas.

Buses

The Blacksburg Transit bus system provides affordable and regular transportation around Blacksburg and Christiansburg. It also offers connector services to Radford Transit, Smart Way, and Mega Bus, and maintains an app for ride planning and accurate arrival times.

At \$4 a ride, the Wi-Fi-equipped Smart Way bus provides a convenient, comfortable connection between Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Roanoke, and easy transportation to the Roanoke airport.

Driving

With an average commute of less than 14 minutes, driving in the area is easy. You may find yourself sharing the road with self-driving cars and test vehicles on their way to the Virginia Smart Road research facility or an impromptu parade after a Virginia Tech home game. Parking is inexpensive and readily available in most areas.

Uber & Lyft

The area has plentiful Uber and Lyft drivers, as well as our own local Hooptie Ride cars and vans with drivers on call 24/7.

40 minutes to airport

The Roanoke Blacksburg Regional airport is the nearest consumer airport, with service by American Airlines, United Airlines, Delta, and Allegiant Air. It is an easy 40-minute drive from Blacksburg, and accessible by the Smart Way bus.

The Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport is located between the Virginia Tech main campus and the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. The airport is currently expanding its runway to serve larger planes.

Two other major airports are within easy driving distance: Charlotte (less than 3 hours) and Greensboro (less than 2.5 hours).

Train stations

With a bus connector in Blacksburg, the Amtrak station in Roanoke is less than an hour away. Christiansburg has been selected to host a future Amtrak station.

Connect

Blacksburg at the speed of light

Although several hours drive from Washington D.C., we are only milliseconds away by Internet. Fiber is available to businesses and residences in certain areas, and the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center has a 40-gigabit network backbone that allows it to deliver gigabit Internet to their tenants.

Gigabit internet is available in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and the surrounding areas, from Comcast or Shentel. In some of the rural areas, however, connectivity can be limited. Free gigabit wireless internet is available in downtown Blacksburg.

Energy

Most of the region's electric power is provided by the Appalachian Power division of American Electric Power (AEP), although some parts of Blacksburg are serviced by Virginia Tech Electric Service. Because the plants are coal-based, the region has lower electricity costs than most of the country. AEP Virginia customers pay approximately 11.7 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for electricity, or about \$117 a month, for a customer using 1,000 kWh. The region is also well-positioned for both solar and wind energy. Many of the area's utilities are buried, leading to greater reliability during storms.

The average residential electricity rate in Blacksburg is about 10.7 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). In comparison, Virginia's average rates are 11.7 cents per kWh, and Washington D.C.'s rates are about 12.6 cents per kWh (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Appalachian Power).

Natural gas lines run to most neighborhoods in Blacksburg and Christiansburg, offering another low-cost energy source.

Water

Water is provided by the NRV Water Authority, and is sourced from the nearby New River. Some residences outside the towns have wells.

Upscale hometown living

The **Wyatt Farms** development in Blacksburg features half-acre lots, more than 32 acres of manicured green space, and walking trails.

Downtown loft with soaring ceilings, roomy neighborhood craftsman, historic farmhouse, or cozy cabin tucked away—we've got all of them for rent and sale within 20 minutes of town.

You can find houses at every price, in every kind of area: downtown, in the suburbs, or in the country. Family-style housing options in safe, pet-friendly areas with patient neighbors, luxury bachelor pads, garden cottages, or isolated sanctuaries down long dirt roads. We've got housing for you... not judgment.

Housing in Blacksburg costs...

- 75% less than in the DC metro area
- 68% less than Boston
- 68% less than Seattle

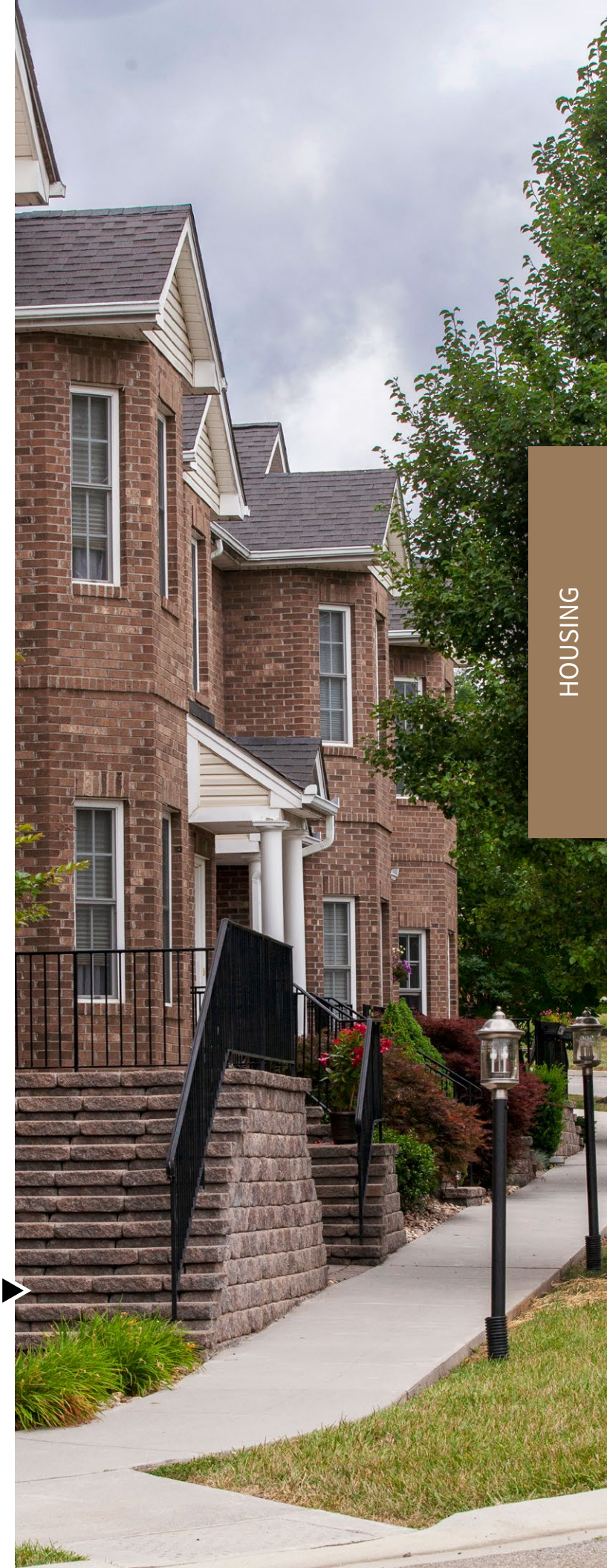
—and homes just outside of Blacksburg are even less expensive. In 2017, the median sales price of a Christiansburg home was almost \$70,000 less than one in Blacksburg, according to the Nest Realty Annual Market Report.

Typical prices for a three-bedroom, 2000 sf home in the Blacksburg-Christiansburg area range from \$130,000-\$300,000.



The Village at Tom's Creek (both images above) offers a mix of town homes and single family homes clustered around shared green spaces, walking trails, and playgrounds.

Christiansburg's **Cambria Crossing** offers three-bedroom town homes conveniently located next to U.S. 460 and Interstate 81.



Be well

Between two hospital networks, multiple medical schools, and an environment that supports wellness, Blacksburg offers an exceptional health outlook. Residents have access to many options, from outpatient care centers and clinics to Level I trauma centers and top performing medical-surgical units and birthing centers.

Lewis Gale Regional Health System, a subsidiary of Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), is one of the top hospitals in Virginia and the nation for quality of care including patient safety, patient satisfaction, and health outcomes. Hospitals share expertise and resources within HCA—the country’s largest for-profit hospital system.

Carilion Clinic is a not-for-profit healthcare organization with hospitals in Christiansburg and Roanoke, and clinics throughout the area, serving approximately one million residents in western Virginia. As an academic medical center, Carilion provides exceptional patient care while preparing tomorrow’s physicians.

Medical schools

The region is home to two medical schools and a veterinary school for furry friends. This ongoing research and growing talent helps to strengthen Blacksburg’s health care community.

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute leverages Virginia Tech’s strengths in basic sciences, bioinformatics, and engineering, and Carilion Clinic’s highly experienced medical staff and rich history in medical education. It graduates research-competent physicians who can translate their work into the community.

The Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) operates in a public/private collaboration with Virginia Tech, sharing resources for the purposes of education, research, and student activities. It prepares globally-minded, community-focused physicians to meet the needs of rural and medically underserved populations.

Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine is a leading biomedical training and research center. In addition to the diverse academic programs it offers, its hospitals and large animal field services treat 70,000 animals annually, including advanced services for local residents.

Stay active

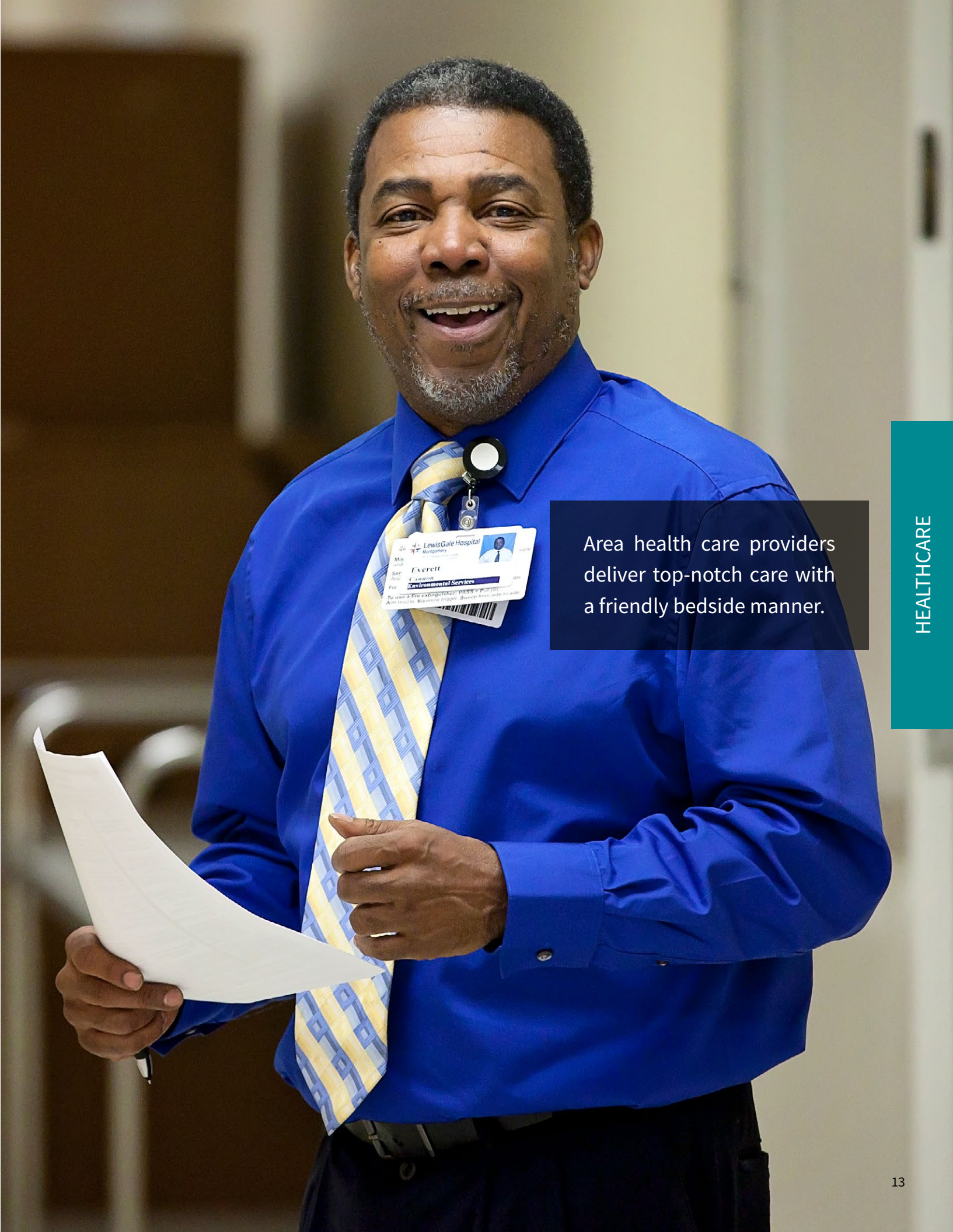
Healthy living goes beyond access to affordable, high-quality healthcare—it’s also a way of life. Blacksburg residents tend to make choices that lower their personal health risks, including leading active lifestyles. They have many options for yoga and pilates studios, acupuncture clinics, health and fitness clubs, CrossFit gyms, and more.

Virginia Tech was named the fittest college in America by The Active Times. The rankings were based on fitness and wellness factors, including athletic facilities, team sports participation, campus dining, and overall quality of student life. MSN and USA TODAY have also recognized Virginia Tech as one of the healthiest colleges in the country.



Run in Remembrance: Students and community members commemorate the tragic events of April 16, 2007, with a 3.2-mile run.

Carilion Clinic and **Lewis Gale** comprise a network of state-of-the-art hospitals, primary and specialty physicians, and more.



Area health care providers deliver top-notch care with a friendly bedside manner.



Virginia Tech's Burruss Hall stands beside the Drillfield, a grassy stretch of land that remains one of the most storied locations at the university.

Brain building

Montgomery County boasts a first-rate education environment and high graduation rates. Local school systems, which include public, private, Montessori, and parochial options, consistently rank among the highest in the state.

Local public high schools offer 20 career and technical education programs, including robotics, animal science, and business marketing. Local high schools partner with area businesses to provide hands-on learning opportunities in work-based environments, and offer dual-enrollment courses with the local community college, enabling students to earn an associate's degree while in high school.

The high caliber of the Blacksburg-Christiansburg educational offerings is due in large part to the presence of a leading research institution in the middle of the community. Virginia Tech's network of academic heavyweights—and its large, energetic student body—enrich and enliven our schools, with impacts that range from competitive high school internships and interesting field trips to a highly-educated and diverse town population.

Preschools & child care centers

Blacksburg is home to an engaged community of early childhood educators who actively seek to deliver high quality early education and childcare for young children at an affordable cost. The area offers a variety of centers that welcome children as young as six weeks in full-time or part-time programs, many of which also offer before and after school care.

Primary & secondary schools

Montgomery County Public Schools include 10 elementary schools, four middle schools, four high schools, and a combination middle-high school for at-risk students. Graduation rates are 93 percent and the student/teacher ratios are 19/1 for elementary and 21/1 for secondary levels.

St. John Neumann Academy is an independent, private Catholic academy for grades K-8. It follows the Virginia Standards of Learning curriculum and the Diocese of Richmond's curriculum for religion classes.

Blacksburg New School offers a private school education for K-8 students. Small class sizes and its teacher/parent cooperative structure provide unique learning opportunities.

Dayspring Christian Academy is an independent, parent-run, non-denominational school with a student body representing about 40 area churches.

In addition to infant, toddler, and preschool programs, these **Montessori schools** offer elementary programs:

With a focus on supporting each child's development according to individual potential, **Mine, Me & Us** Montessori provides year-round education.

Tall Oaks Montessori's K-6 program provides a thoughtful curriculum in a nurturing environment to foster children who are happy, healthy, and well educated.

There are also buses to Roanoke private schools and supportive homeschooling communities, both religious and non-religious.

Higher education

Virginia Tech—Nationally-ranked research university offering about 280 undergraduate and graduate degree programs to more than 34,000 students and managing a research portfolio of more than \$521 million.

Radford University—Liberal arts university within minutes of Montgomery County offering 153 undergraduate and graduate program options.

Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine—A professional graduate college offering the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.).

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine—Offers a four-year educational program leading to the M.D. degree.

Roanoke College—Ranked #4 among national up-and-coming liberal arts colleges by U.S. News & World Report.

Hollins University—An independent liberal arts university that offers undergraduate education for women, selected graduate programs for men and women, and community outreach initiatives.

New River Community College—Local community college located in nearby Dublin, Virginia, with a STEM Center (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) located at the New River Valley Mall in Christiansburg.

Supplemental education

In addition to the local schools and universities, Blacksburg has many independent language, music, and other academic opportunities.

Language opportunities include classes at the **Blacksburg Chinese School** or the local colleges and universities, as well as private lessons.

Music lessons are available for any instrument from banjo to classical piano. There are two local music academies: the **Performing Arts Institute of Virginia** (PAIVA) and the Renaissance Music Academy (RMA). Many private instructors also offer lessons, including more than six local harp teachers.

Many other types of courses are offered to the community through Virginia Tech, New River Community College, and the parks and recreation departments of both Blacksburg and Christiansburg. These offerings include everything from dog obedience to wedding planning.

A little light reading in a Montgomery County Public School library.



Let's talk shop

What if you only had to go to one shopping district to furnish your house from start to finish? In the Blacksburg-Christiansburg area, this is a fact. And there's parking.

On Main Street in Blacksburg, you can try a bike on for size at the **Bike Barn** 📍, visit **Mish Mish** 📍 for art supplies, dial up a party at **Party Central** 📍—or commission custom jewelry at **Capone's** 📍. You can hunt for perfect gifts and stunning outfits at an assortment of unique shops.

For any specialty items you can't find easily or quickly, we invite you to review the "fast internet" section of this publication.

One-of-a-kind

The region has a culture of craftsmanship; custom furnishings and garden supplies are easily commissioned by regional artisans.

For instance, **Black Dog Salvage** in Roanoke is the home of a popular television show, *Salvage Dawgs*. The store offers a huge selection of used and custom furniture, decor, and components to make your own creations.

Browse **Sugar Magnolia's** 📍 collection of paper goods and gifts with ice cream in hand.



The latest trends and accessories can be found at **310 Rosemont** 📍, a contemporary boutique for men and women in downtown Blacksburg.

The delightful **Imaginations Toy and Furniture Co.** 📍 stocks the stuff of children's dreams—and they'll even wrap them for you.



Walkabout Outfitter 📍 has been a go-to outdoor gear and clothing store for locals since 2005, with six locations throughout Virginia.



Food & grocery

Oasis international market brings fresh and preserved foods and spices from all over the world, providing home cooks with the ingredients to create dishes from anywhere.

Eats Natural Foods provides Blacksburg with organic, gourmet, and gluten-free offerings, beer and wine making supplies, and more than 100 cheeses from around the world. **Annie Kay's**, a natural food store on the other side of town, makes it easy to get high-quality, organic, and specialty foods. **The Gourmet Pantry**, a local kitchen and cooking store, offers kitchen tools, classes, and gourmet foods and ingredients.

Farmers markets open twice a week in Blacksburg, and once a week in Christiansburg, spring through fall.

Wine and beer stores with extensive selections include **The Cellar's Six-Pak Store** and **Vintage Cellar** in Blacksburg, and **Mr. Bill's Wine Cellar** in Roanoke.

Supermarkets include **Kroger**, **Food Lion**, and **Aldi**.

Crafts and artisans

Frequent craft fairs and street fairs attract artisans from all over, including downtown Blacksburg's **Steppin' Out** and **Summer Solstice Fest**, Salem's **Old Salem Days**, and many smaller fairs hosted by different organizations throughout the year.

The large population of international residents bring their handi-crafts to the region, providing a larger selection of merchandise than is typically found in areas of similar population.

Nearby Floyd is a center of local music and crafts, and has many stores with unique offerings. It is the home of a monthly radio show, and music nights every Friday.



The extensive bulk food shelf is a main draw of **Annie Kay's**, one of two independent natural food stores in Blacksburg.

Gourmet Pantry offers 14 kinds of single estate, gourmet flavored whole bean coffee brands.



The **Blacksburg Farmers' Market** springs up beneath downtown awnings every Wednesday afternoon in the summer and every Saturday morning year round.

SHOPPING



Macado's eclectic ambiance of cartoon, antique, and local nostalgic décor have made it a popular spot for sandwiches and more since 1978. Do yourself a favor and order the brownie pie.

Care for a sample?

With a rich agricultural history, the Blacksburg area is still dotted with farms that provide restaurants and stores with fresh produce, meat and dairy products. Local chefs whip up international delicacies alongside hometown specials.



Avellinos Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria serves traditional Italian pastas, entrées, pizza, and desserts in a relaxed, cozy atmosphere.

With a farmers market-driven tasting menu, the **Black Hen & Bar Blue** serves sophisticated, modern American craft food and drink.

Rotating microbrews, clever burgers, and a cigar bar draw regulars back to **Blacksburg Taphouse**, a casual alehouse with a patio.

A taste of the coastal southwest in the Virginia mountains, **Cabo Fish Taco** is a Blacksburg favorite. Stop in for garlic shrimp tacos with homemade taco shells and a jumbo margarita on a sunny patio.

Blacksburg has pho! **Cafe Mekong** partners with Oasis World Market to offer fresh, authentic Viet-Thai cuisine.

You're in the South now. Strong opinions about BBQ styles are encouraged. **Due South BBQ** and **Bottom of the Stairs** set you up to decide what you like. The former serves pulled pork, brisket, and sides in an unfussy counter-serve space, while the latter pairs house-smoked pork, chicken, and brisket with a tangy, sweet or spicy sauce.

For soul food, sea food, and live music, check out **Fatback Soul Shack** in Christiansburg.

Gillie's is the perfect combination of down-home charm and progressive vegetarian. Plus, they knock brunch out of the park.

India Garden features fresh, authentic Indian cuisine, spiced mild to hot. Buffet and menu service is catered both to lovers of Indian food and first-timers, and a special kids menu will keep any picky eaters happy.

A local favorite, **Lefty's Main Street Grille and Right Mind Brewing** prides itself on its casual environment and delicious food.

Our Daily Bread Bakery & Bistro specializes in made-from-scratch baked goods and fine French cuisine. With special events and daily lunch deals, ODB is a good choice for breakfast, brunch, lunch, or dinner.

Known for serving creative sushi rolls at an affordable price (check the specials!) **Sake House** Japanese restaurant also offers delicately-battered tempura, hot entrees, and sake.

The Cellar is an excellent spot for Greek-American food, a wide array of microbrews, and people-watching.

A Southwest Virginia landmark built in the 1800s, **The Farmhouse Restaurant** serves high-end traditional American fare and features an excellent bar, large, comfortable outdoor patio, rustic decor, and live music.

622 North Restaurant, Bar & Wine Lounge serves eclectic bistro fare in a Victorian house with understated decor, a deep wine bar, and pool tables.



Familiar Favorites



The Farmhouse Restaurant in Christiansburg has served the New River Valley community since 1963. Its large outdoor patio and rich history make it a favorite spot for date nights or a special occasion.



Cravings

Coffee lovers feel at home in Blacksburg. There are half a dozen coffee shops in the downtown area alone, and all of them do brisk business. **Idego** ♡, near the farmer's market, is a multi-roaster espresso and coffee bar. Two blocks away, **Bollo's Cafe and Bakery** ♡ offers fresh-baked breads and pastries in addition to gourmet coffee and tea. **Mill Mountain** ♡ roasts beans in house and offers a full menu of breakfast and lunch items.

Foamo ♡ has coffee, crepes, and ice cream. **Next Door Bake Shop** ♡ provides coffee drinks, baked goods, and sandwiches. You can browse **Sugar Magnolia's** ♡ stationery products and gifts while enjoying chocolates and ice cream.

One of Blacksburg's most prestigious and acclaimed accomplishments lies in its ability to craft (and consume) the perfect donut. Local allegiances are divided, but **Carol Lee** ♡, **Route 8**, and **Hilltop Grocery** are all in the running. The more competition in this arena, the happier we are.

◀ **Our Daily Bread** ♡ Bakery & Bistro brings a little taste of the French countryside to Blacksburg, Roanoke and Salem.

Worth the drive

A 25-minute drive from Blacksburg, **The Palisades** is an elegant spot in a converted general store. Perched on a high bank of the New River, this family-friendly venue offers locally-sourced dinners and live music.

Kalbee, 25-minutes west of Blacksburg, offers fresh, locally-sourced, authentic Korean food in a wildly eclectic family-owned restaurant.

Chandeliers & brick walls adorn the **Blue Apron** in Salem, 40-minutes east of Blacksburg—a cozy bistro and bar specializing in simple, elegant American and French cuisine, and hand-crafted cocktails.

Travel deep into the ridge and valley region of Catawba, and spend an evening at **The Homeplace**. This 1907 farmhouse is known for its heaping family-style platters of fried chicken, classic sides, and bottomless pitchers of sweet tea.

Head up the road to Roanoke for a more urban dining scene. Nicknamed the "Star City," Roanoke is a foodie's dream, offering a range of dining options, from romantic chic to greasy spoons.



The Cellar Restaurant 📍, located in downtown Blacksburg, offers Greek-American cuisine and an outdoor patio for listening to local bands.



Located downtown in an original 1848 building, **Cabo Fish Taco** 📍 is a Baja-style restaurant that combines coastal Mexican cuisine with a California feel.

Taste the claim to fame

A number of iconic dishes and dining spots have been recognized in major magazine publications, websites, books, and television.

Alexander's in Roanoke was named a Top-100 restaurant in America.

USA TODAY recognized **Champloo Desserts** for its unique birthday-themed desserts and drinks.

Esquire Magazine listed the **Swiss Melt** at Pop's Ice Cream & Soda Bar as one of the best grilled cheese sandwiches in the country.

Whip up a dish

If you prefer to take fine dining into your own hands, the **Gourmet Pantry** equips home chefs with cutting-edge culinary tools, appliances, cookbooks, and elusive ingredients. They can also help you perfect your skills with hands-on classes, private cooking parties, demonstrations, corporate events, and more.

One of Blacksburg's newest stores, **Sugar Magnolia** 📍 is a sweet tooth haven that offers delicious ice cream, gourmet chocolates, unique gifts, and fine paper goods.



DINING



High brow to home brew

622 North 9: An intimate venue for lingering over a conversation and a complex vintage.

Montgomery County is home to an emerging wine and beer scene. Try **Bull & Bones Brewhaus & Grill**, where the beers are crafted on site with monikers inspired by local Hokie-crazed culture (“Hokie” is the Virginia Tech mascot). See what’s on tap at **Lefty’s Right Mind Brewing Company**, an ever-evolving brewhouse with constantly changing beers

A mile out of town, **Rising Silo Farm Brewery** serves up small batch craft brews and kombucha in a family- and dog-friendly taproom with sheltered and open-air seating. Farm-to-table meals are served when the brewery is open, with live music every weekend

We’re thirsty here.

Thankfully, there are more than 30 breweries within an hour of Blacksburg to quench our thirst.

In Roanoke, check out **Big Lick Brewing Company’s** nano brewery and taproom; **Soaring Ridge Craft Brewery’s** family friendly open-air taproom; and **Chaos Mountain Brewing Company’s** substantial selection of games, rotating food trucks, and craft beers on tap. **Deschutes** recently opened a Roanoke tasting room and plans to build their east coast brewery on the eastern outskirts of town.

Salem’s **Parkway Brewing Company** is a 30-barrel production facility with a 3.5 barrel pilot brewhouse, located a convenient half mile from **Ober Brewing Company**.

Ballast Point opened a new tasting room an hour north of Blacksburg, and **Twin Creeks Brewing Company** in Vinton is Roanoke County’s first microbrewery.

Brew trails

The **Southwest Virginia Mountain Brew Trail** is an unforgettable travel adventure that allows you to discover the vibrant micro and craft brewing scene found throughout Virginia. **The Brew Ridge Trail** guides beer enthusiasts to the best craft brews this side of the Atlantic. The trail incorporates local music venues and views of the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains—an unparalleled combination.



Mead and cider

An hour’s scenic drive from Blacksburg, **Blacksnake Meadery** is Southwest Virginia’s first meadery. It’s two miles from **Foggy Ridge Cider House**—a 2018 James Beard Award finalist—perfect for an afternoon or day trip.

Virginia wines

Venture out into the scenic Montgomery County countryside for tastings at **Whitebarrel Winery** (now with an in-town tasting room), **Chateau Morrisette** right off the Blue Ridge Parkway, **Maison Beliveau** and **Beliveau Estate Winery** in the rolling Catawba Valley, family-owned **Firefly Hill Vineyards**, or **Giles Mountain Winery** in neighboring Giles County.



Where the magic happens at Blacksburg’s **Bull & Bones Brewhaus**.

You know what’s also rising at **Rising Silo Farm Brewery**? The popularity—and number—of tasty brews available.

Southwest Virginia's artistic hub

Welcome to the “Goldilocks zone” of recreation. Are you more comfortable wandering along urban corridors or under the green canopies? The Blacksburg area offers both. With a mix of theater, music, art galleries, and historic sites, Blacksburg has the cultural opportunities of a big city in a community setting.

Music

The Moss Arts Center is a \$100 million state-of-the-art performance venue, which presents renowned artists like Yo-Yo Ma and Ben Folds, in addition to performers from closer to home.

The Lyric, a restored 1930s movie house, shows first-run and indie films plus live music like Aimee Mann and Jason Isbell in addition to stage performances from groups such as Second City Chicago and American Shakespeare Center.

The Jefferson Center in Roanoke features performances from world-renowned artists and local organizations, and **The Salem Civic Center** and **The Berglund Center** frequently welcome the entertainment industry's biggest stars.

Big stars aside, the region has its own vibrant community arts and music scene.

Southwest Virginia is an international hotspot for bluegrass and old-time traditional music. Fiddler conventions, many of which date back to the early 1900s, spring up every summer in the small mountain towns around Blacksburg. **The Floyd Country Store** is an incubator for local heritage music and dancing, and is a stop on **The Crooked Road**—a 330-mile heritage music trail through the mountains of Southwest Virginia. The driving trail connects nine major venues and over 60 affiliated venues and festivals that visitors can enjoy every day of the year.



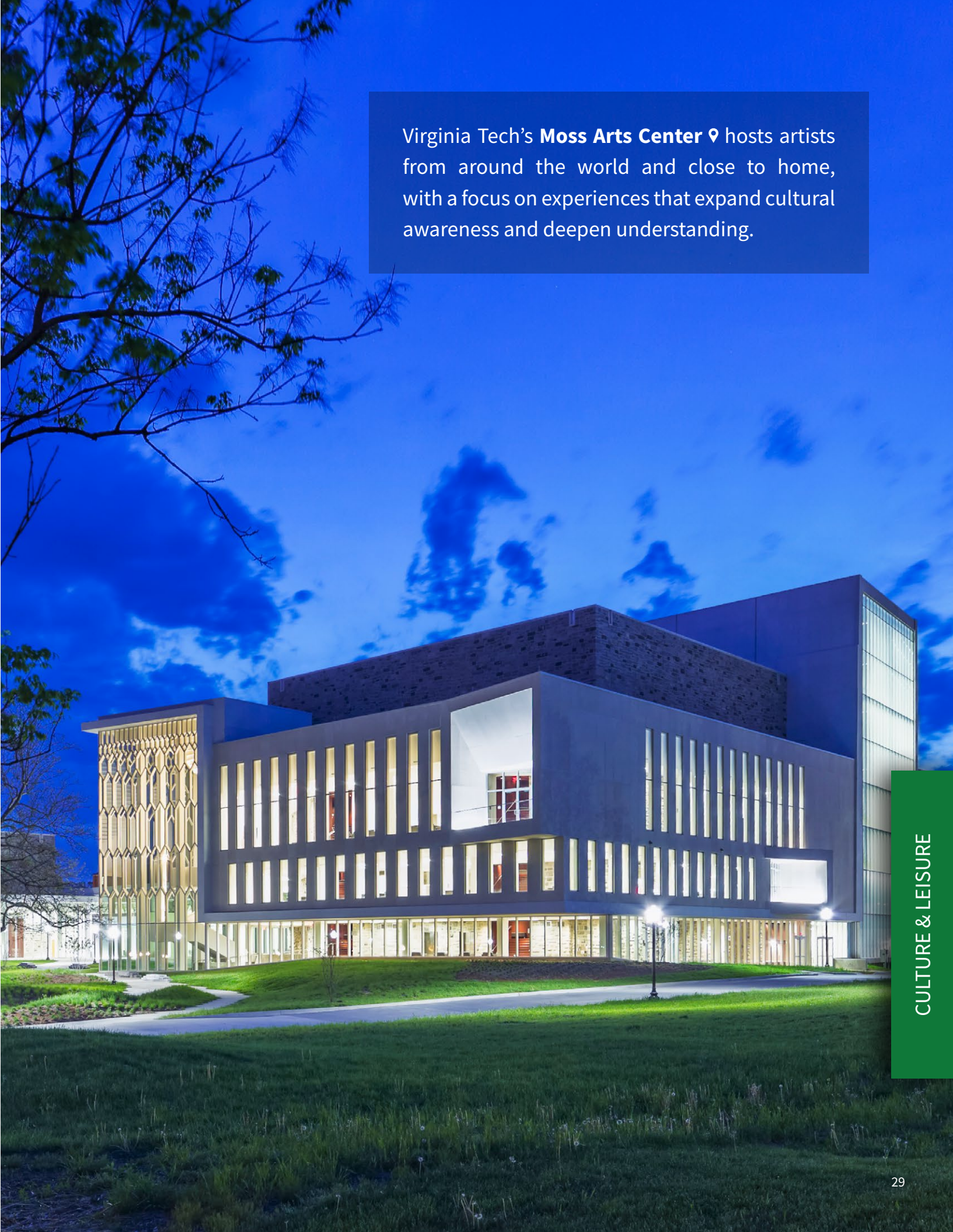
The Roanoke Symphony Orchestra unleashes the power of music.

Blacksburg-based folk musician Kat Mills performs at The Cellar.



Photo by Jan DOWNS

Virginia Tech's **Moss Arts Center** hosts artists from around the world and close to home, with a focus on experiences that expand cultural awareness and deepen understanding.



Family fun

Go see an IMAX movie at **Frank Theatres**; test your problem-solving skills at Blacksburg’s **Puzzle and Escape Rooms**; destroy your pals in a round of laser tag at the **NRV Superbowl**, and then salvage your friendships at the **Xtreme Springs Trampoline Park**.

Toddlers and younger children will love **The Children’s Museum of Blacksburg** where hands-on activity stations will delight them for hours, and they can shake their fidgets out at **Romp n’ Roll** for hours. **The Christiansburg Aquatic Center** and Skate Park—home to three pools, water slides, and a sundeck—is open year-round, and **Crimper’s Climbing Gym** offers a variety of climbing, bouldering and rappelling options, with classes available.

Local museums include Roanoke’s **Taubman Museum of Art**; **Roanoke Museum of Transportation**; **Science, History**, and **Pinball** museums at Center in the Square; and Blacksburg’s Historic **Smithfield Plantation**, the Alexander Black House, and downtown art galleries.



The Children’s Museum of Blacksburg is devoted to inspiring curiosity and creativity through hands-on exhibits and play-based learning.

The Christiansburg Aquatic Center is a state-of-the-art facility designed to increase health, water safety, and recreation. The 64,000-square-foot structure houses three pools, cardio fitness rooms, and a sun deck.

Located at Milepost 170.5 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Floyd, Va., **FloydFest** is a five-day celebration of music, magic, and mountains.



Blacksburg street scenes may catch you by surprise; you’ll stumble into a rowdy international festival, be left breathless by a street performance, or find a familiar route transformed into a ballroom.

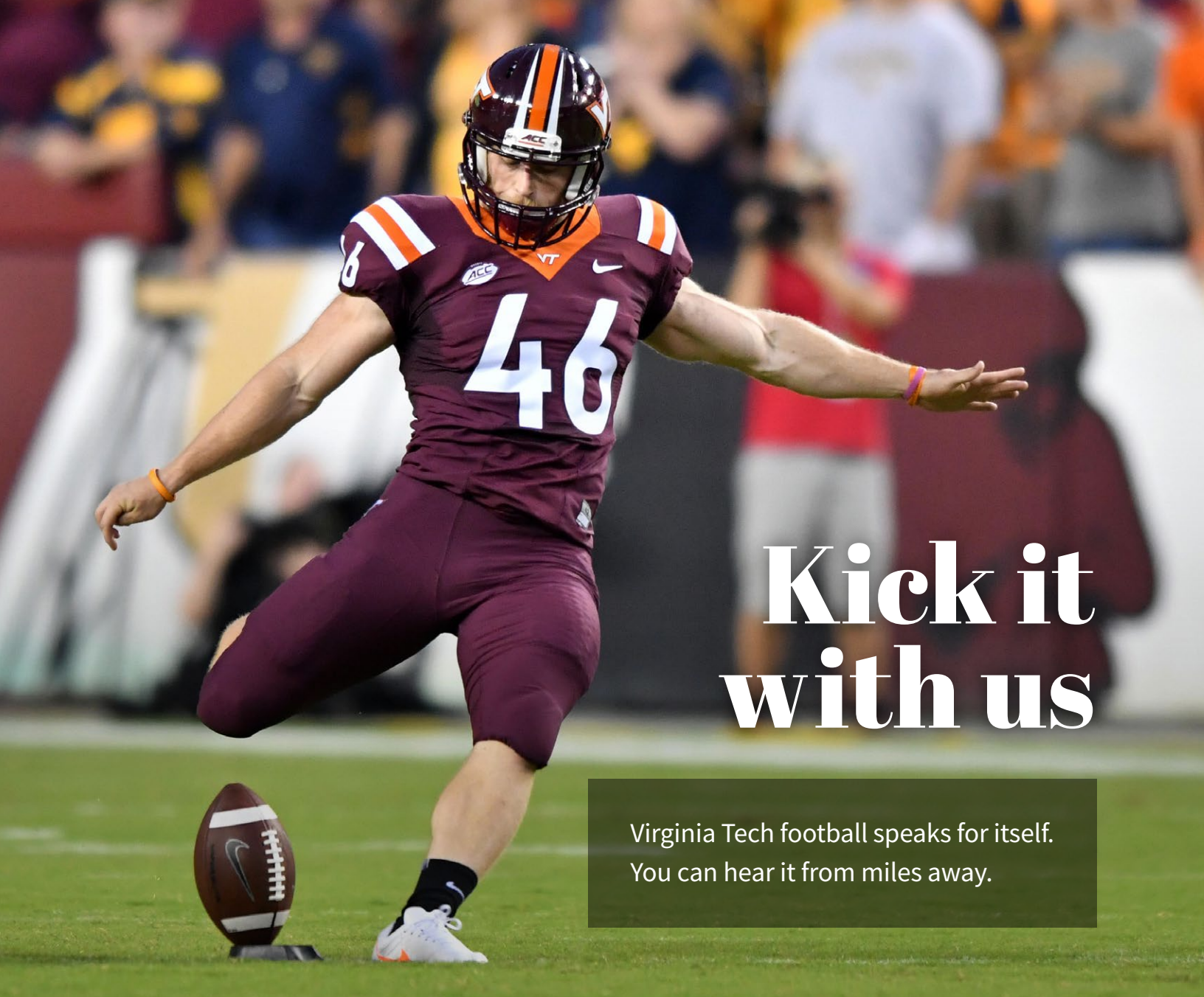
Festivals

About a 30-minute drive from Blacksburg, Floyd hosts **FloydFest**, an annual music festival where visitors can experience a mix of international and hometown sounds including Foster the People and Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit. Other local summer festivals include:

- Beer Festival at Virginia Tech
- Beliveau Estate Lavender Festival
- Blacksburg Brew Do
- Blacksburg Fork and Cork
- Blues, Brews, and BBQ
- Food truck rodeo
- International Street Fair
- Rotary Club of Blacksburg Chocolate Festival
- Steppin’ Out
- Summer Arts Festival
- Virginia Cheese Festival
- Wine Festival at Virginia Tech

Dancing

Dancing is an option almost every evening of the week, whether it’s swing dancing with **Blacksburg Swing Dance**, ballroom dancing at **Christiansburg’s Sapphire Ballroom dance studio**, or contra and square dancing at the **YMCA**.



Kick it with us

Virginia Tech football speaks for itself.
You can hear it from miles away.

Hokie sports

Virginia Tech is a member of the elite Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Since joining the ACC in 2004, Virginia Tech fans have had a chance to attend some of the most competitive games in the nation. And, for many, Virginia Tech means football.

Considered one of the loudest stadiums in the country, Virginia Tech's **Lane Stadium** is rated among ESPN's "Top 20 Scariest Places to Play." Hokies are die-hard fans, and a college football game in Blacksburg is a visceral experience—not to be missed.

Almost as raucous, Virginia Tech's **Cassell Coliseum** is home to NCAA Division I college basketball teams, which compete in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Virginia Tech has built a reputation for athletic prowess that extends beyond football and basketball, however, and the Blacksburg community enthusiastically supports hometown baseball, golf, soccer, tennis, lacrosse, and more.

Tee time

The **Blacksburg Municipal Golf Course** ("The Hill") is a nine-hole, 54-acre course that is open year round for public play. The Hill sports panoramic mountain views from anywhere on the course.

In 2006, Golf Digest recognized the **Pete Dye River Course** as a Best New Course, and in 2007 as the Fourth Best Newly Remodeled golf course in America.

Carved into the rolling mountainous landscape, **Auburn Hills Golf Club's** 18-hole course features 6,534 yards of elevated tee boxes and breathtaking views of the Southwest Virginia countryside.

Disc golf

Located a five-minute drive from Blacksburg, the extensive, creatively-designed **Golden Hills Disc Golf Course** was carved into a series of tight, wooded valleys, and crisscrosses over a small stream. With 37 holes, the course is one of the largest in the country.

The **Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center's** nine-hole disc golf course winds through varied terrain around research park buildings. While the course is located on private property, it is available for public play. VTCRC workers can often be found on the course during lunch hours.

Stunning views and challenging long-distance throws characterize **Mountain Lake Lodge's** 18-hole disc golf field, designed in an abandoned meadow golf course above the Giles County resort.

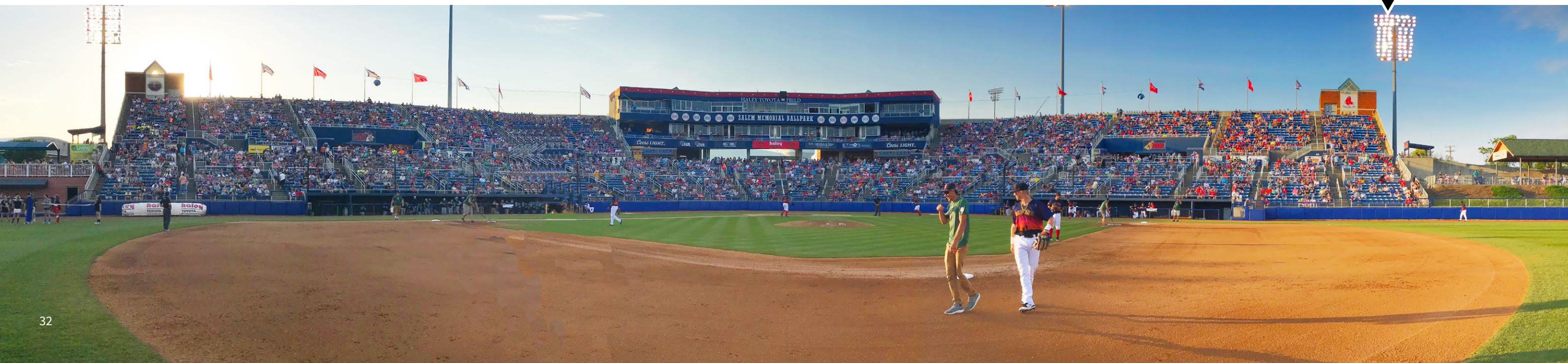
Regional sports

Baseball fans and their patient friends can choose between the **Salem Red Sox**, a Class A-Advanced Carolina affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, and the **Pulaski Yankees**, a rookie affiliate of the New York Yankees. Both team are located in nearby counties.

The **Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs** are a professional ice hockey team and a member of the Southern Professional Hockey League. Based in Roanoke, the Rail Yard Dawgs play their home games at The Berglund Center.

Motor Mile Speedway in Pulaski is a NASCAR-sanctioned 4/10 mile paved oval located just outside Montgomery County, and Motor Mile Dragway is a 1/8 mile concrete IHRA dragstrip.

The **Salem Red Sox**, a Class A-Advanced Carolina affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. The park has no bad seats, and there's a beautiful view of the hills beyond the diamond.





High-spirited nightlife

Blacksburg is a college town, with plenty of entertainment options for students. But locals have laid claim to the region, and this confluence has created a rich, eclectic social scene. There are a wide variety of places to have a drink and share an appetizer:

Outside enjoying a golden evening

The Cellar - People-watching at the corner where the university spills out into the town.

Blacksburg Taphouse - Enjoy a wide selection of local and regional beers on the patio.

Boudreaux's - New Orleans/French cuisine with weekly wine specials and a rooftop bar.

Rising Silo - Dog-friendly, kid-friendly farm brewery with bonfires and a wood-fired pizza oven.

Ensconced in a cozy den during a storm

The London Underground Pub - English pub-style digs with dart boards.

Abby's - Local bar scene with homestyle country cooking.

Sinkland Farms - Gigantic wooden barn (complete with farm animals) and a brewery.

The Cellar - Softly-lit, lower level pub with a full menu.

In an airy, cosmopolitan establishment

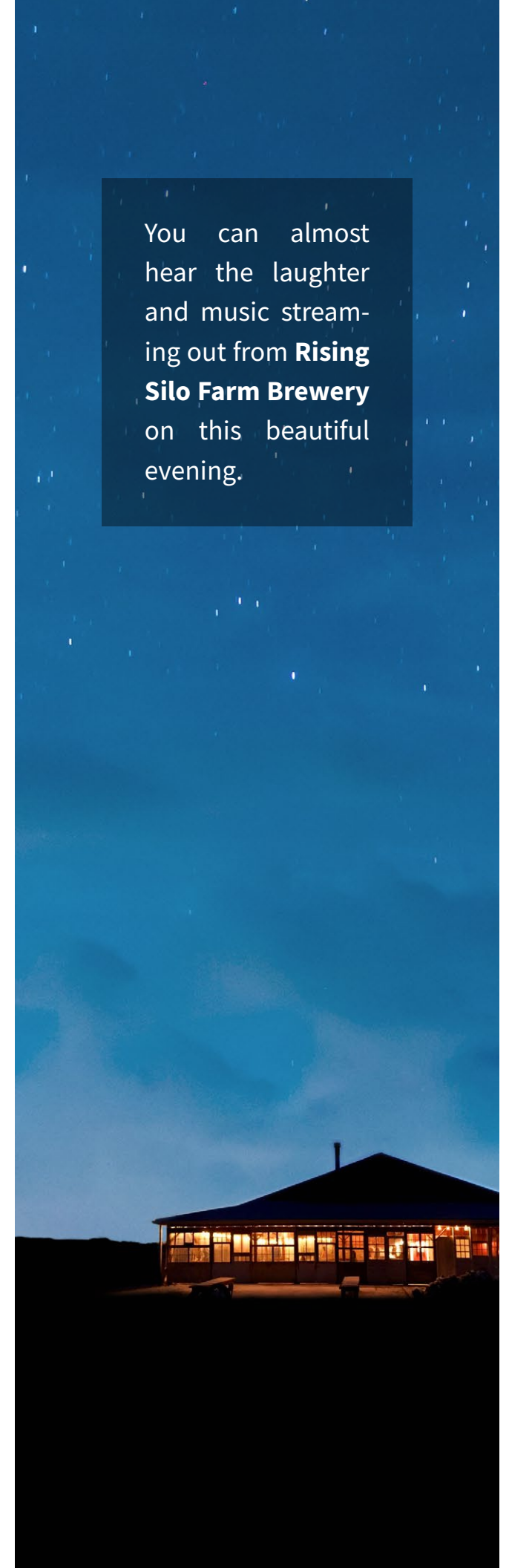
White Barrel - Serving wines from all over Virginia with tapas and live music.

The Farmhouse - Fine dining, excellent steaks, and pub fare with live music on the patio.

Just want to drink wine or craft beer in your house pants?

We feel you. Knowledgeable staff at the Cellar's **Six-Pak store** or **Vintage Cellar** will help you find something to celebrate and share, or savor alone.

You can almost hear the laughter and music streaming out from **Rising Silo Farm Brewery** on this beautiful evening.



Beauty basking

The Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains provide a stunning backdrop to the lively Blacksburg scene, which has its own in-town green space. The **Huckleberry Trail**, for instance, is the main greenway through Blacksburg and connects to Christiansburg. **Heritage Park's** 170 acres of woods and fields brings a touch of the idyllic into town, and the **Poverty Creek Trail System** is an East Coast destination for mountain bikers.

Those who choose to explore further will find views that take their breath away, paths to wander, trails to mountain bike, secret pools to dip in, waterfalls to gape at, and wide, slow rivers to float on, all an easy distance from downtown.

Ridge and valley

One of Virginia's crown jewels, **Cascade Falls** is a 66-foot waterfall at the head of a four-mile (round-trip) trail that follows Little Stony Creek in Giles County—a thirty-minute drive from Blacksburg.

McAfee Knob is the most photographed spot on the Appalachian Trail. An 8.8-mile round trip hike, the iconic rock outcropping is 30 minutes northeast of Blacksburg.



Connecting Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the swooping hills of the **Huckleberry Trail** provide an invigorating and enjoyable alternate commute.

With approximately 150,000 visitors a year, **Cascade Falls** is one of the most visited falls in Virginia. Hikers walking along the upper or lower trail have exceptional views of Little Stony Creek year round, culminating in the 69-foot fall.



Scenic drives

The closest section of the **Blue Ridge Parkway** connects Floyd to Roanoke and can give you a feel for the mountains that won't require hiking shoes.

Rivers and lakes

Just outside of town, **Pandapas Pond** features warmwater fishing and canoeing. A gentle, one-mile circuit trail goes around the pond, and a network of popular Jefferson National Forest trails connect to it.

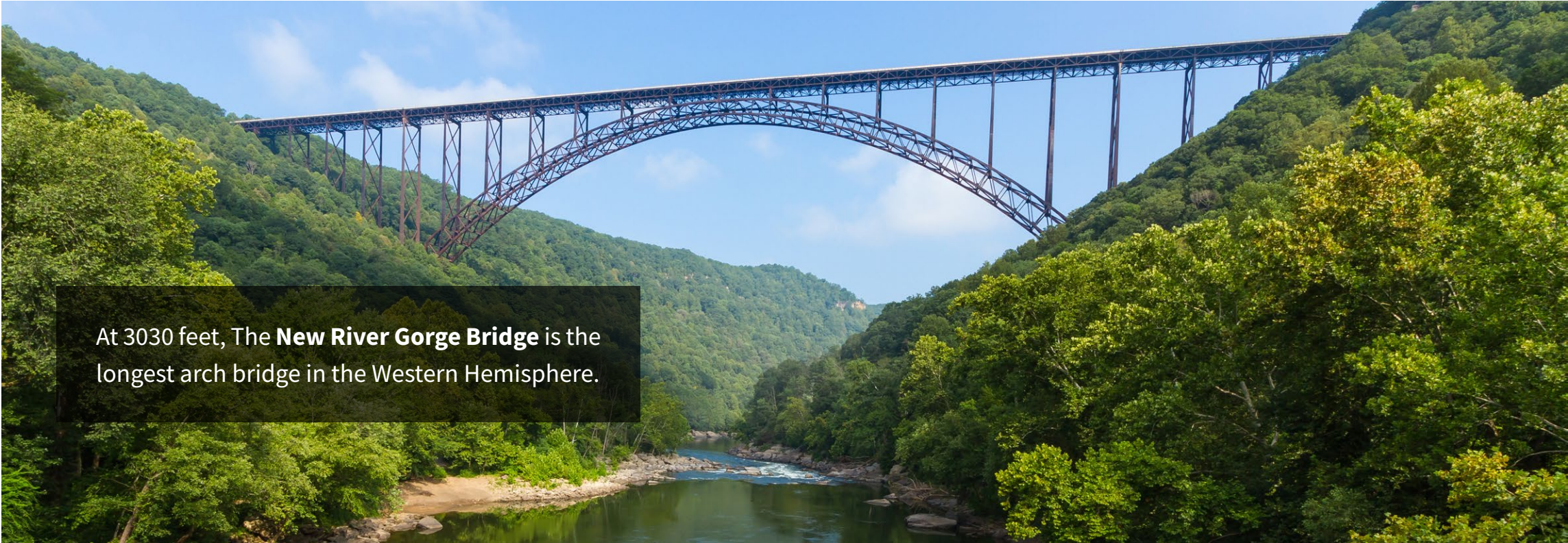
Ideal for swimming, camping, hiking and picnicking, **Claytor Lake** is known for sport fishing, boating, and water skiing. The 21-mile long reservoir on the New River offers camping, cabins, lodges, and a meeting facility.

The New River is the valley's shared playground, and on hot summer days, you may find a good portion of the town floating on tubes around McCoy Falls on the New River, trailing inflatable coolers of cold drinks. Whitewater paddlers will also find great play on several class I and II rapids when the water level is right.

Adrenaline junkies need only venture 90 minutes North to where the river has carved Class IV rapids through the **New River Gorge** downstream. Next door, the Class V **Upper Gauley River** is widely considered to be the top single-day rafting trip in the country. Rounding out this nearby outdoor mecca is six mile long rock climbing area, **Endless Wall**, and the **New River Gorge Bridge**, an 876-foot high BASE jumping destination.



McAfee Knob's signature ledge stands at an elevation of 3,197 feet atop Catawba Mountain and offers 270-degree panoramic views.



At 3030 feet, The **New River Gorge Bridge** is the longest arch bridge in the Western Hemisphere.

Blacksburg is a special place.

With Virginia Tech in its midst, Blacksburg attracts diverse residents and visitors. It's a town built on acceptance.

Fostering a culture of collaboration and shared curiosity, Blacksburg is a tight-knit, progressive community, which is supportive of its people and their endeavors. And you are welcome here.

Blacksburg

SHOPPING

- 1 310 Rosemont
- 2 Annie Kay's
- 3 Bike Barn
- 4 Capone's
- 5 The Cellar's Six-Pak Store
- 6 Eats Natural Foods
- 7 Farmers' Market
- 8 Food Lion
- 9 Gourmet Pantry
- 10 Imaginations
- 11 Kroger (2)
- 12 Mish Mish
- 13 Oasis international market
- 14 Party Central
- 15 Vintage Cellar
- 16 Walkabout Outfitter

DINING

- 5 The Cellar
- 17 622 North
- 18 Abby's
- 19 Avellinos
- 20 Black Hen & Bar Blue
- 21 Blacksburg Taphouse
- 22 Boudreaux's
- 23 Buffalo Wild Wings
- 24 Bull & Bones Brewhaus & Grill
- 25 Cabo Fish Taco
- 26 Cafe Mekong
- 27 Ceritano's
- 28 Chipotle (2)
- 29 Firehouse Subs
- 30 Five Guys
- 31 Gillie's
- 32 Highway 55 Burgers, Shakes & Fries
- 33 Jimmy John's
- 34 India Garden
- 35 Lefty's Main Street Grille
- 36 The London Underground Pub
- 37 Macado's
- 38 McAlisters Deli
- 39 Mellow Mushroom
- 40 Moe's Southwest Grill

- 41 Our Daily Bread Bakery & Bistro
- 42 Panda Express
- 43 Panera
- 44 Pk's Bar & Grill
- 45 Rising Silo
- 46 Sake House
- 47 Spicity
- 48 Tropical Smoothie Cafe
- 49 Zaxby's
- 50 Zepolli's
- 51 Zoës Kitchen

COFFEE/BAKERY

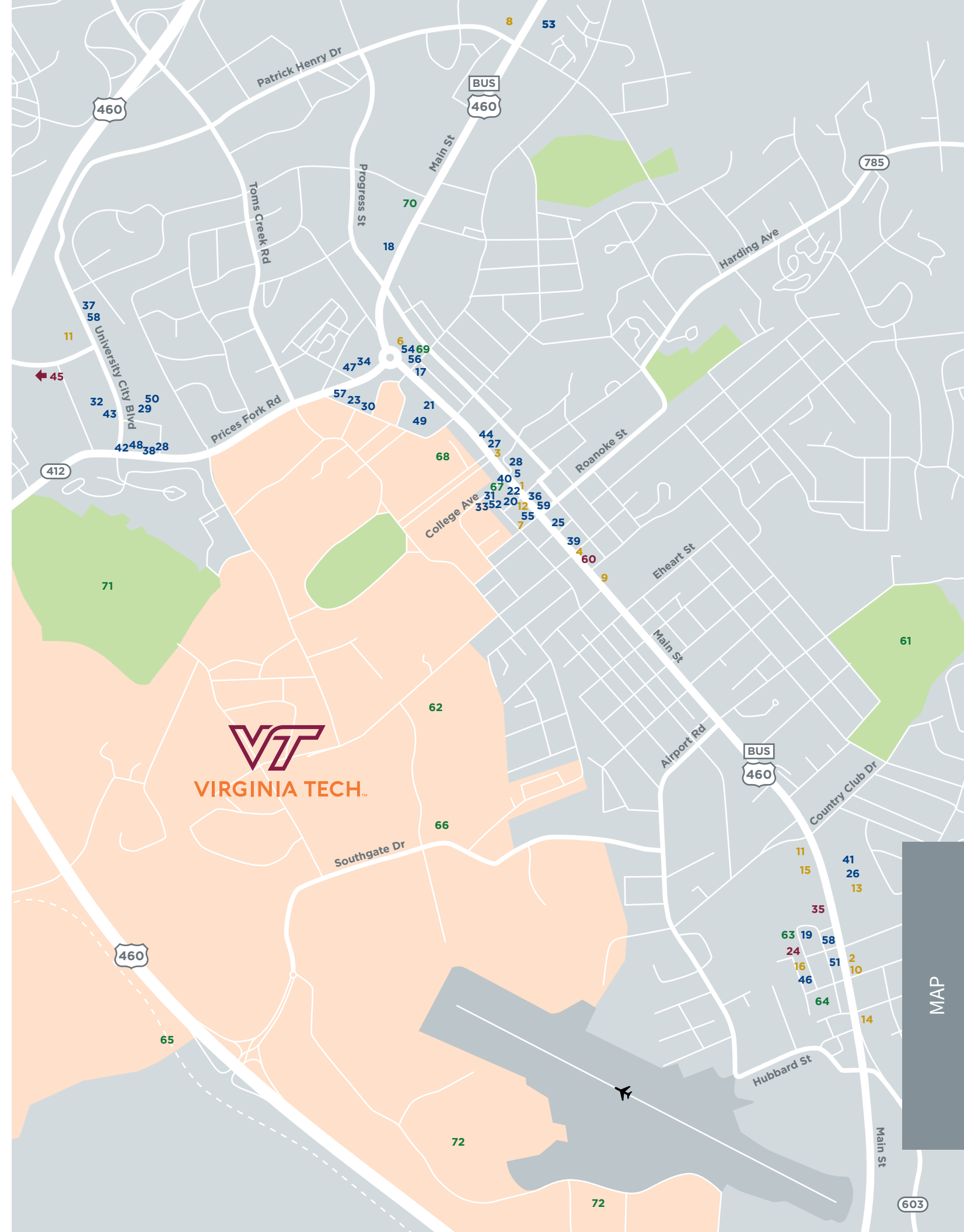
- 37 Our Daily Bread Bakery & Bistro
- 52 Bollo's Cafe and Bakery
- 53 Carol Lee Donuts
- 54 Foamo
- 55 Idego
- 56 Mill Mountain Coffee & Tea
- 57 Next Door Bake Shop
- 58 Starbucks (2)
- 59 Sugar Magnolia

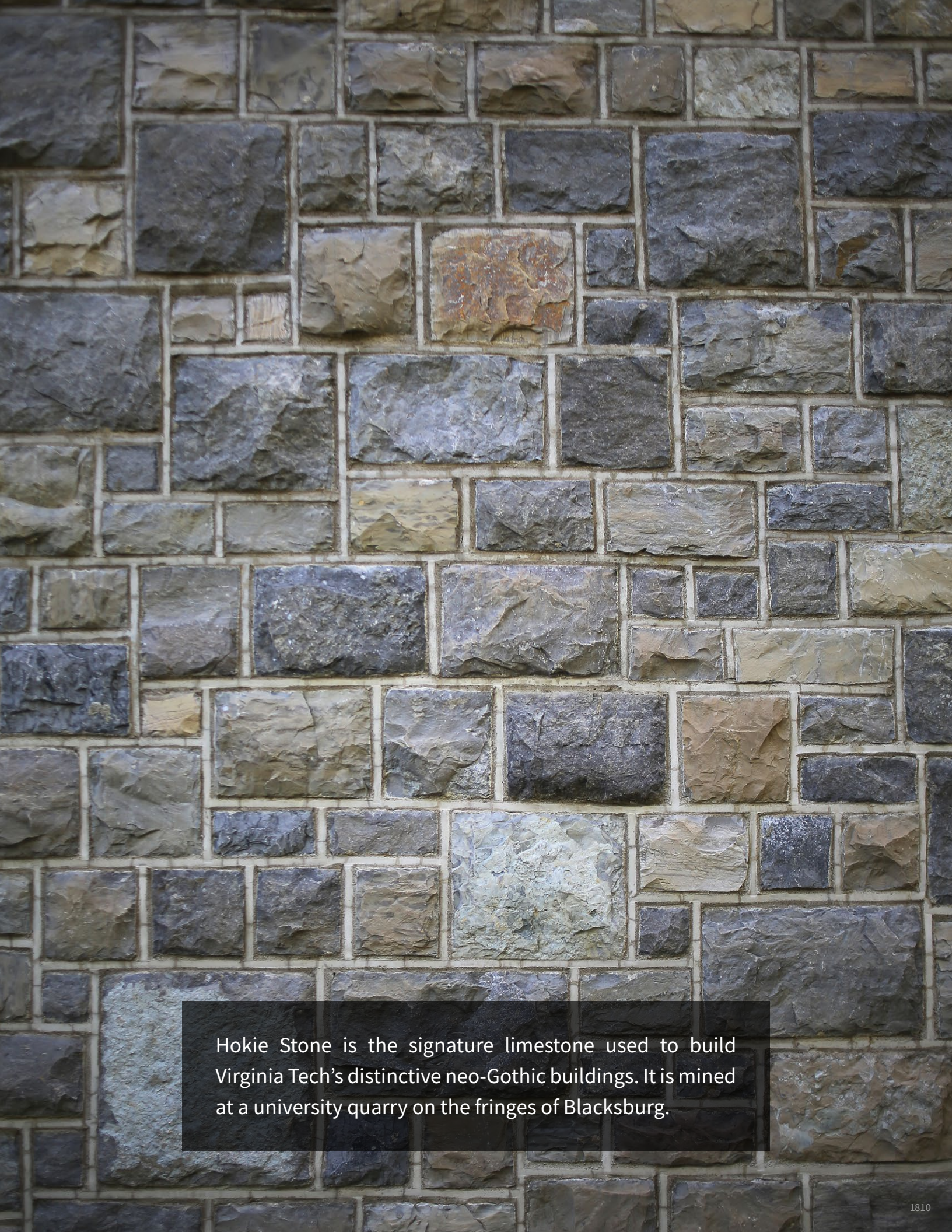
WINERIES & BREWERIES

- 24 Bull & Bones Brewhaus & Grill
- 35 Lefty's Right Mind Brewing Company
- 45 Rising Silo Farm Brewery
- 60 White Barrel

CULTURE/LEISURE

- 61 Blacksburg Municipal Golf Course
- 62 Cassell Coliseum
- 63 The Children's Museum of Blacksburg
- 64 Frank Theatres
- 65 Huckleberry Trail
- 66 Lane Stadium
- 67 The Lyric
- 68 The Moss Arts Center
- 69 Puzzlr Puzzle and Escape Rooms
- 70 Romp n' Roll
- 71 Virginia Tech Golf Course
- 72 Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center





Hokie Stone is the signature limestone used to build Virginia Tech's distinctive neo-Gothic buildings. It is mined at a university quarry on the fringes of Blacksburg.