

LIVING

America's Best Main Street: And the Winner Is....

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268

Parade By PARADE @parademagazine

Congratulations to our 14 other nominees! Here, readers share what makes them special:

To see more photos of all of our nominated towns, click [here!](#)

Corinth, Miss.

Pop. 14,870

Corinth's Fillmore Street offers a charming blend of the old and new, thanks to historic buildings—including the Generals' Quarters inn, a Victorian home turned bed and breakfast—mixed with boutiques and galleries that "always keep their doors propped open."

DeLand, Fla.

Pop. 28,237

This "once sleepy" southern town has become "an artistic and cultural hub"—the center of which is Woodland Boulevard, home to the Museum of Art, the scenic campus of Stetson University, and a full yearly calendar of festivals and parades.

Ellicott City, Md.

Pop. 65,834

Running through the center of this 18th-century milling town, Main Street combines a "storied history" with an "eclectic mix" of businesses. Visitors might stumble upon events ranging from Civil War reenactments to the free Main Street Music Fest, featuring local bands.

Excelsior, Minn.

Pop. 2,397

Excelsior's aptly named Water Street is a shop- and restaurant-lined -avenue that leads pedestrians directly to "The Commons," a 13-acre park

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RECIPE

Irresistably Ooey-Gooey Twice-Baked Cheddar Potatoes

DASH, EDITOR

and beach separating the town from gorgeous Lake Minnetonka.

Flagstaff, Ariz.

Pop. 68,667

Two decades ago, Flagstaff experienced a rebirth after the city converted an abandoned lot into a new downtown centerpiece, dubbed Heritage Square, featuring an amphitheater, winding brick paths, outdoor movies, arts festivals, and more.

Galena, Ill.

Pop. 3,429

Galena has over 1,000 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, and strolling through its Main Street is like "taking a step back in time." In addition to colorful restaurants and shops, visitors can enjoy ghost tours, trolley rides, wine tastings, and street festivals.

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Georgetown, Tex.

Pop. 54,898

The heart of this "quintessential Texas downtown" is "picture-perfect" Georgetown Square, a vibrant gathering place ringed by beautifully restored buildings from the late 1800s and early 1900s. Full of mom-and-pop shops where the owners personally greet you, the community offers "a glimpse of an earlier era."

Greenville, S.C.

Pop. 61,397

Year round, the tree-lined Main Street is strung with twinkling lights that give it a "fairy tale" feeling. A free trolley makes it easy to explore Greenville's large number of locally owned restaurants and shops, plus Falls Park, which features a 345-foot-long suspension footbridge spanning the Reedy River Waterfalls.

Holland, Mich.

Pop. 33,481

Residents say you'd be "hard pressed to find a more vibrant" main drag than West Eighth Street, a four-block stretch ending near Lake Macatawa. A "snow melting system" allows for wintertime strolling, and in the spring the town celebrates its Dutch heritage with the Tulip Time Festival.

RECIPE

Sweeten Up Your 4th of July Party With Cherry Hand Pies

DASH, EDITOR

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PARADE, EDITOR

More on Aluminum and Stainless Steel

MARILYN VOS SAVANT,
CONTRIBUTOR

Numbrix 9 - August 18

MARILYN VOS SAVANT,
CONTRIBUTOR

Racing Against Michael Phelps

MARILYN VOS SAVANT,
CONTRIBUTOR

Numbrix 9 - August 17

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CONTRIBUTOR

Farmers Markets in Southwestern PA

OBSERVER-REPORTER, PARTNER

Bellingham, WA Farmers Market opens for 22nd season

THE BELLINGHAM HERALD,
PARTNER

Kennections #209: He Was the Tallest U.S. President

KEN JENNINGS, CONTRIBUTOR

Whole Wheat Pancakes with Vanilla Peaches

PARADE, EDITOR

Two Fruity Toppings For Pancakes

PARADE, EDITOR

12 of the Most Inspiring Teachers from TV and Movies

VI-AN NGUYEN, EDITOR

Montpelier, Vt.

Pop. 7,755

A mix of craft-beer bars and “exquisite” restaurants make the area near the intersection of State and Main streets a magnet for foodies. With the town’s many shops owned by locals, residents enjoy a small-town camaraderie where “almost everyone knows your name.”

This Cute Polka Dot Cake Is Surprisingly Easy to Make
VI-AN NGUYEN, EDITOR

The Wackiest State Fair Competitions Around America
VI-AN NGUYEN, EDITOR

Placerville, Calif.

ENTERTAINMENT FOOD LIVING HEALTH & BEAUTY

Founded during the 19th-century gold rush, Placerville’s “beautifully restored” downtown—with monthly stagecoach rides, an iconic bell tower, and 160-year-old Placerville Hardware Store—was home to the late artist Thomas Kinkade, who often depicted its bucolic setting.

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LINDSAY LOWE, EDITOR

Who Should Drive Next?
MARILYN VOS SAVANT, CONTRIBUTOR

Ridgefield, Conn.

Pop. 24,638

With a classic steepled church at one end and a “beautiful library” at the other, Main Street is a “Norman Rockwell painting come to life.” Pace the creaky floorboards at the local hardware store, take in an exhibit at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, or nosh on homemade chocolate at Deborah Ann’s Sweet Shoppe.

Jessica Alba on Slipping Back Into Sin City Role
WALTER SCOTT, CONTRIBUTOR

Miranda Lambert: 'I'm a Feisty Texas Girl and I Always Will Be'
WALTER SCOTT, CONTRIBUTOR

Rockland, Maine

Pop. 7,209

Picture “a quaint New England village” combined with a trendy art scene and you’ll get an idea of this homey town. On a stroll down its Main Street, you can buy lobster bait, catch a concert, or tour the Maine Lighthouse Museum.

3 Moves for Legs Like Jessica Alba's
ASHLEIGH SCHMITZ, EDITOR

Siloam Springs, Ark.

Pop. 15,856

Ten years ago, locals say, Main Street here was dying. Since then, citizens have restored historic buildings and opened new businesses—and today, this authentic town where folks “greet you with a smile” is “alive with new energy.”

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JESSICA WOZINSKY, EDITOR

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This Cute Polka Dot Cake Is Surprisingly Easy to Make

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