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

AUGUST 15, 2014 – 9:00 AM – 6 COMMENTS

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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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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.

**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.

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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.”

Placerville, Calif.
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.

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.

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.

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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