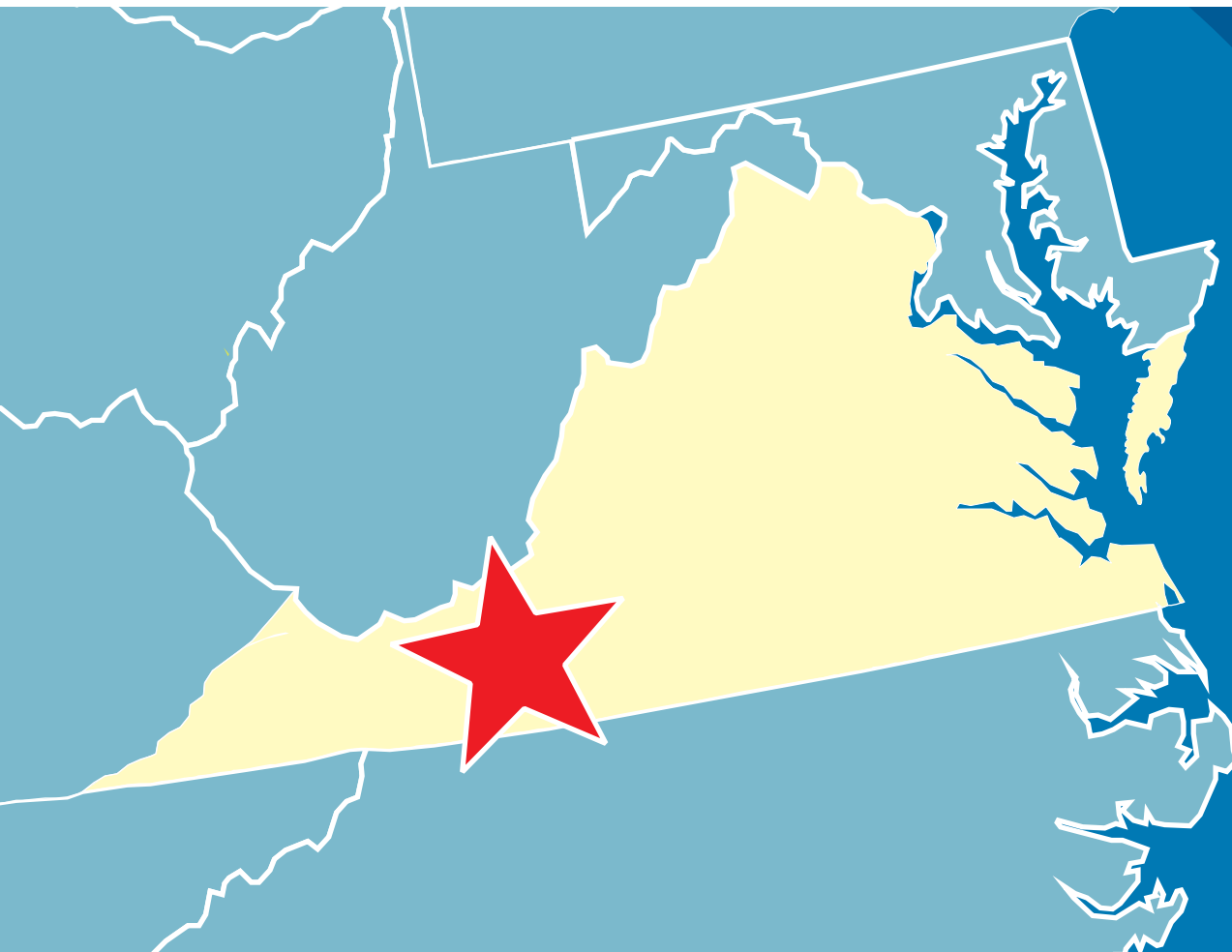




Blacksburg & Christiansburg

MONTGOMERY COUNTY VIRGINIA



PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY

Progressive



Hokie Football at Lane Stadium



Beautiful Catawba Valley



Scenic Eastern Montgomery



Christiansburg Aquatic Center



Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech theatre, with orchestra shell

Montgomery County, Virginia is a progressive, technology-driven community with an abundance of outdoor amenities. Our small-town charm, natural beauty and urban appeal make us an attractive place for families, young professionals, and active retirees.

Blacksburg and Christiansburg – the first and fourth largest towns in Virginia – offer all the luxuries you would expect to find in a metropolitan area. There's great shopping and dining, an emerging arts and music scene, vibrant neighborhoods and an award-winning transit system. Numerous quaint villages surrounding the towns offer the beauty and serenity of the Montgomery County countryside with all the conveniences of an urbanized area nearby.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) – an internationally renowned research university in vibrant downtown Blacksburg – fosters a culture of creativity and innovation that spurs entrepreneurship and a thriving technology-driven economy.

Nestled between the Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains, the scenic landscape of Montgomery County and the surrounding region inspire an active lifestyle. Whether it's hiking, biking or kayaking, there are ample opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors.

Community Accolades

- #1 **"Best Place in the U.S. to Raise Kids"** (Businessweek, 2011)
- 25th **"Best Place to Live: Where the Singles Are"** for our high percentage of young professionals (Money Magazine, 2007)
- Top 10 **"Best Place to Retire Young"** (Money Magazine, 2007)
- 4th **"Best Small City for Jobs"** (Forbes, 2012)
- 57th **"Best Sports City"** in America (Sporting News, 2011)
- 19th **"Most Secure Small Place to Live in the U.S."** (Farmers Insurance Group, 2010)
- 63rd **"Best Green Place to Live in America"** (Country Home Magazine, 2007)
- See full list at YesMontgomeryVA.org/Accolades

Arts & Music

With a vibrant and diverse offering of music, visual arts and performing arts throughout the year, there is always an event to stimulate the senses.

Education

The Montgomery County Public Schools System offers quality education through its Auburn, Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Eastern Montgomery strands. Newsweek consistently ranks Blacksburg High School in the top 5 percent of public high schools in America.

Festivals

Each year our community hosts an eclectic assortment of festivals great for all ages. Whether you're a young professional or a family with kids, you'll have plenty to choose from.

Healthcare

Two outstanding hospitals serve our community: LewisGale Hospital at Montgomery and Carilion New River Valley Medical Center.

Shopping & Dining

Home to numerous national retailers and restaurants, the Christiansburg retail district is the shopping hub of the New River Valley. Downtown Blacksburg offers a unique mix of local boutiques and dining options.

Sporting Events

Virginia Tech is a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). In addition to Hokie football at Lane Stadium, basketball at Cassell Coliseum and swim meets at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, locals enjoy attending numerous collegiate and recreational sporting events.

Learn more at YesMontgomeryVA.org/Living

Montgomery County is located in an 11-county/city region known as the New River and Roanoke Valleys – two adjacent metro areas with a combined population of almost half a million. Montgomery County is the second largest jurisdiction in the region and is the economic hub of the New River Valley.



Blacksburg Fork & Cork Wine and Arts Festival



Sinkland Farms, Riner



Blacksburg Farmers Market



New River Valley Mall, Christiansburg



↓ Charlotte, NC 2.5hr ↑ Washington, DC 4hr → Richmond, VA 3.5hr ← Nashville, TN 6.5hr

technology driven economy

Home to Virginia Tech and a growing number of technology-based companies, Montgomery County is an emerging hot spot for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. Our unique combination of assets allow for a diversity of business sectors to thrive here, including: information technologies, advanced manufacturing, biosciences, polymers and materials, defense technologies, and renewable energy. Learn more at YesMontgomeryVA.org/DoingBusiness

Rising Technology Hub

With a world-class university and research park, visionary entrepreneurs and an innovative workforce, our community is quickly gaining an international reputation as a high-tech hot spot.

- A “**Top Tech Launching Pad**” - named one of six rising technology hubs in the country (CNN Money, 2008)
- A top 50 “**Best Place to Live and Launch**” in the U.S. for our “mix of business advantages and lifestyle appeal” (CNN Money, 2008)
- Local technology companies have been recognized by **R&D Magazine** (R&D 100 Awards), **Inc. Magazine** (Inc. 500/5000 List), **Fierce BioTech** (Fierce 15 Awards), **CNN Money** (10 Largest Venture Capital Deals of Q2 2011 List), **Virginia Chamber of Commerce** (Fantastic 50 Awards) and **Virginia Business** (Best Places to Work in Virginia List), to name a few
- Area businesses received **\$34.5 million in Small Business Innovation Research awards** in 2010 – 13th nationally (U.S. Small Business Administration)
- Strong **regional technology council with over 200 member organizations** (Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council) and active **angel group with more than 30 accredited investors** (460 Angels)

Talented, Innovative, Cost-Effective Workforce

With our award-winning quality of life and close proximity to numerous colleges and universities, we’ve developed one of the most educated talent pools in the country.

- 24th “**Highest Percentage of STEM Occupations**” in the nation (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Occupations, 2010)
- 14th “**Best Educated Technical Workforce**” (Expansion Management, 2005)
- 14th “**Most Educated Small Town in America**” (Forbes, 2009)
- **10,000+ students graduate annually** from area colleges and universities, including Virginia Tech, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, Radford University and New River Community College

Pro-Business Environment

With our lower cost of doing business, access to talent, inventory of available sites and targeted incentive programs, Montgomery County, Virginia is the place for business.

- 10th “**Best Small Place for Business and Careers**” (Forbes, 2010)
- A “**5-Star Business Opportunity Metro**” (Expansion Management, 2006)
- Virginia the “**Best State for Business**” in 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 (Forbes)
- Virginia the “**Top State for Business**” in 2011, 2009, and 2007 (CNBC)

Strategic Location

Centrally located in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States along Interstate 81, we are within a day’s drive of major markets in the Northeast, Southeast and Midwest.

- **4 hrs or less** – Washington, DC (North); Charlotte, NC (South); Richmond, VA (East)
- **6 to 8 hrs** – New York, NY (North); Atlanta, GA (South); Norfolk, VA (East); Indianapolis, IN (West)
- **10 to 12 hrs** – Boston, MA (North); Orlando, FL (South); Chicago, IL (West); St. Louis, MO (West)

The **Roanoke Regional Airport (ROA)** offers more than 50 scheduled flights daily, with nonstop service out of our region to nine major cities. Other notable airports within a reasonable drive include: Charlotte Douglas International Airport (2.5 hrs); Washington Dulles International Airport (4 hrs) and Piedmont Triad International Airport (2 hrs).



175-acre business park in Christiansburg



TechPad coworking space, downtown Blacksburg



Burruss Hall, Virginia Tech



Dr. Dennis Hong with two-time world RoboCup champion CHARLI

Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center



World-Class Research Park

The Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center (CRC) is a 220-acre research/business park located adjacent to the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg. Businesses located in the CRC benefit from its quality business services and park amenities. VT KnowledgeWorks – the CRC’s business acceleration program – aids companies prior to and after launch and hosts several entrepreneurship events throughout the year.

- Home to over **140 technology-based companies and research centers** that employ 2,200+ people
- 29 buildings totaling **over 1 million square feet of Class A office and lab space** with plans to expand
- Named the “**Outstanding Research/Science Park**” - globally - in 2010 (Association of University Research Parks)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University – Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech – located in downtown Blacksburg - offers 215 undergraduate and graduate degree programs to more than 30,000 students. The university also manages a research portfolio of over \$450 million and has an excellent history of collaborating with business and industry.

- **Top 50 Research University** (National Science Foundation, 2011)
- Top 25 school for “**Best-Qualified Graduates**” (The Wall Street Journal, 2010)
- “**Patent Power**” ranks 10th globally among universities (IEEE Spectrum, 2010)
- Virginia Tech E-Club named a “**Top 50 University Entrepreneurship Club**” (FledgeWing, 2011)
- **College of Engineering programs rank among the top in the nation** - undergraduate 15th and graduate 25th (U.S. News & World Report, 2012)

Strategic Research Priorities

Virginia Tech has identified four strategic research focus areas that take advantage of existing university strengths, including:

- Energy, Environment, and Materials and Sensors
- Innovative Technologies and Complex Systems, including Business and Manufacturing, Communication, Information Technology and Transportation
- Health, Food, and Nutrition, including Biosciences and Biotechnology
- Social and Individual Transformation

Major Research Institutes and Centers

- Center for High-End Computing Systems
- Center for High Performance Manufacturing
- Fralin Life Science Institute
- Institute for Creativity, Arts and Technology
- Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science
- Robotics & Mechanisms Laboratory
- Virginia Bioinformatics Institute
- Virginia Tech Carilion Medical Research Institute
- Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (Smart Road)



the great outdoors

Home to some 19,000 acres of the Jefferson National Forest, over 20 miles of the New River – the oldest river in North America – and the award-winning Huckleberry Trail, Montgomery County and the surrounding region offer plenty of opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. Learn more at YesMontgomeryVA.org/Outdoors.

Outside

- Top 10 “Dream Town” to work, play and live the Outside lifestyle. “A high-tech gem in the heart of the Blue Ridge, where the whitewater is Class V and the singletrack is off the charts.” (*Outside Magazine*, 2001)

VIRGINIA BUSINESS

www.VirginiaBusiness.com

- “National magazines have called it a dream town because it offers a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities and a large number of high paying technology jobs.” (*Virginia Business*, Blacksburg offers outdoor adventure and technology jobs, 2008).

backcountry.com

- “When deciding on a location, Montgomery County just made sense. It’s not only a strategically viable location operationally, it’s a beautiful place where outdoor sports are part of the lifestyle, and that’s important to us.”
- Jill Layfield, CEO of Backcountry.com

BLUE RIDGE outdoors

(*Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine*, Best of the Outdoors)

- Poverty Creek Trail System at Pandapas - 20+ miles of singletrack that traverses Brush and Gap mountains in Jefferson National Forest - named 5th “**Best Mountain Bike Trail**” and 5th “**Best Running Trail**” (2010)
- Huckleberry Trail - six-mile bike and pedestrian greenway linking Blacksburg and Christiansburg - named 9th “**Best Rail to Trail for Running**” (2008)
- McAfee Knob (pictured) and Dragon’s Tooth - popular local day hikes - both named “**Favorite Sections of the Appalachian Trail**” (2010)
- New River Trail - 57-mile bike and pedestrian greenway paralleling 39 miles of the New River - named a “**Best Rail to Trail for Running**” (2008)
- Cascade Falls - a scenic 69-ft. waterfall atop a 4-mile hike - named 4th “**Best Swimming Hole**” (2010)
- Carvins Cove Nature Reserve - 12,700-acre park with 40+ miles of trails and an 800-acre reservoir - named the “**Best Urban Park**” (2010)

McAfee Knob (pictured) is a popular local hiking destination along the Appalachian Trail – a 2,178-mile trail from Georgia to Maine that traverses through the New River and Roanoke Valleys. The McAfee Knob day hike offers a steady climb up some 1,200 feet in 3.5 miles. The Knob sits at an elevation of 3,200 feet and provides a breathtaking 270-degree view of the mountains and valleys below.



Poverty Creek Trail System – Pandapas Pond



McCoy Falls (Class III Rapid) - New River



Cascade Falls



Huckleberry Trail



Claytor Lake State Park



Brochure and more available online at YesMontgomeryVA.org



Interested in starting, expanding or locating a business in Montgomery County, Virginia? If so, contact:

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Email: info@yesmontgomeryva.org

Office: (540) 382-5732 | **Toll Free:** (866) 270-9185

755 Roanoke St, Suite 2H | Christiansburg, VA. 24073

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