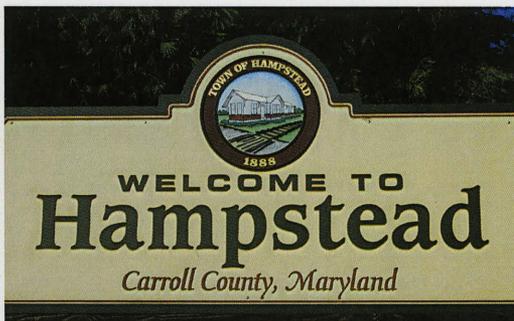


News

Best Place to Raise Kids in Maryland: Hampstead



Courtesy town of Hampstead

Finding the Best in Small Towns

Many young, working parents – tired of wheeling strollers onto the subway – have considered leaving the big city for a more family-friendly place, even as urban living gains popularity. For those interested in small-town living, Bloomberg Businessweek and Bloomberg Rankings evaluated more than 3,200 places nationwide with populations from 5,000 to 50,000. We looked at such metrics as public school performance, safety, housing costs, commute time, poverty, adults' educational attainment, share of households with children, and diversity. To gauge the local job market, we also weighed median income and unemployment. The data comes from GreatSchools.org, the FBI, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The list excludes places where the median family income exceeds \$115,866, the lower limit for the wealthiest 20 percent of U.S. families. Which is the best town in your state?

Population: 6,266
GreatSchools city score: 8
Median family income: \$86,750
Housing costs as a percentage of income: 22.7%
County unemployment rate: 5.7%
Nearby city: Baltimore

To accommodate a growing population, the County has constructed a new high school, and the State added a bypass road to alleviate traffic and make downtown walkable. Animal lovers will appreciate that the bog along the bypass shelters endangered turtles and is “mowed” by goats.

By Daniel D'Addario