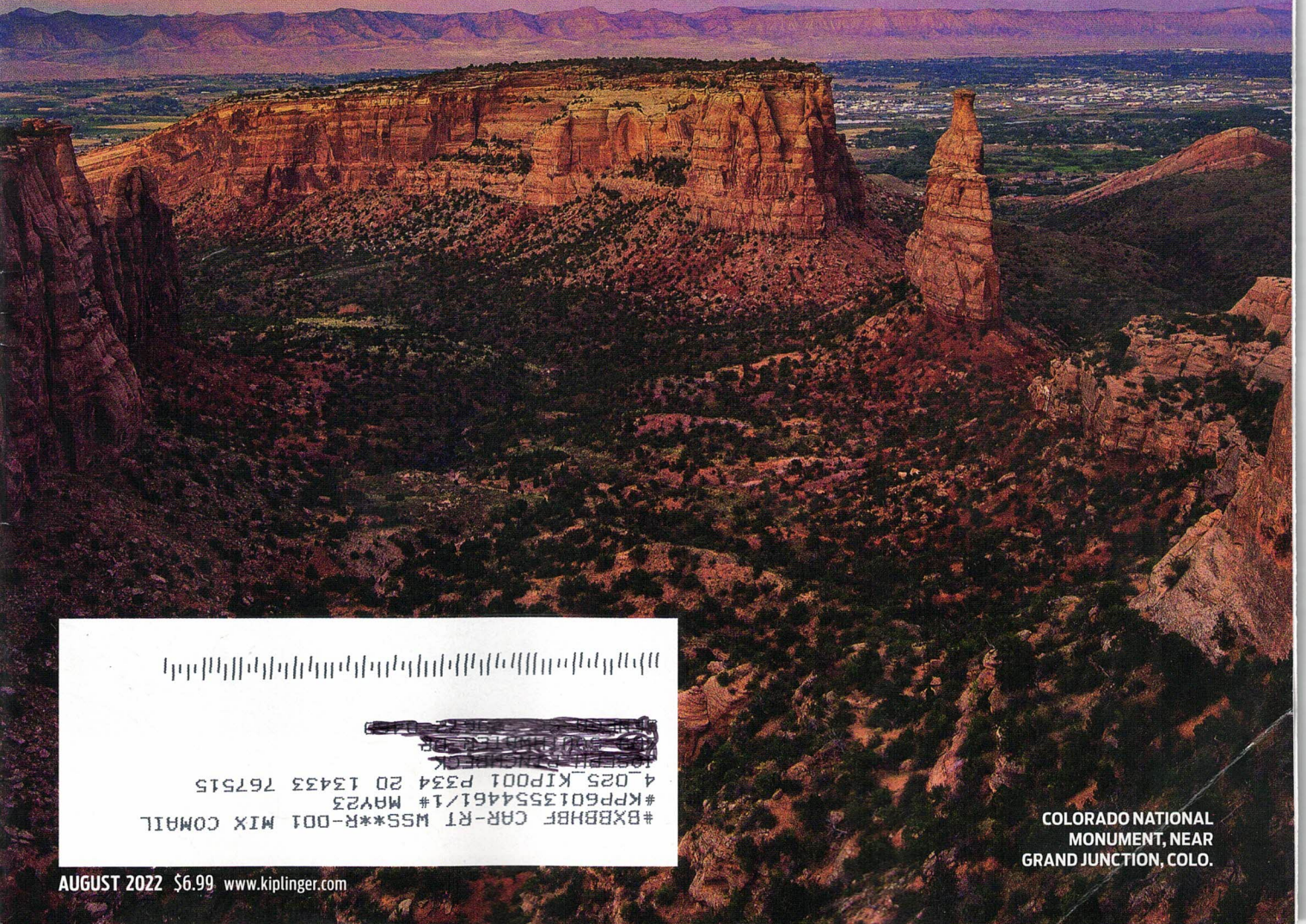


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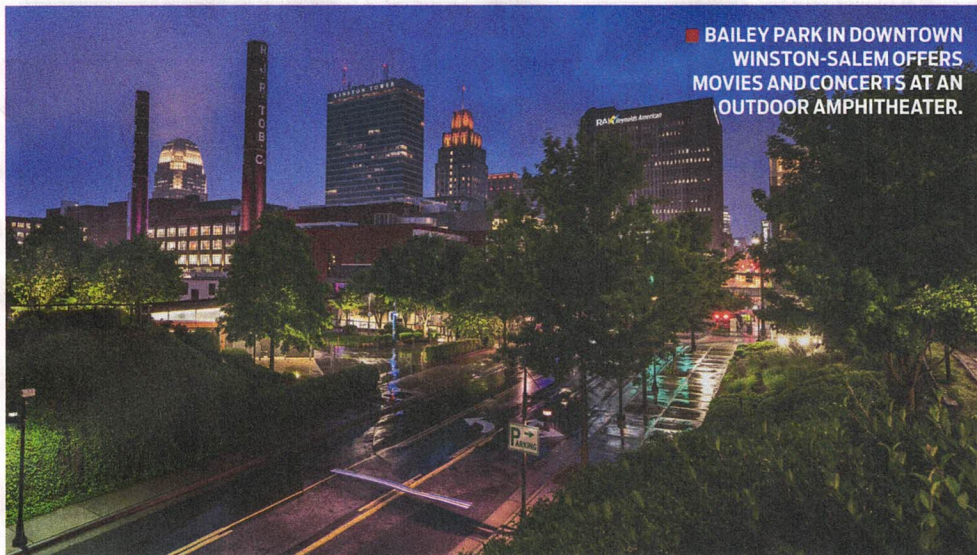
Great Places to Retire

We found seven standout communities across the country that are affordable and offer an active lifestyle, accessible health care and abundant cultural amenities. p 52

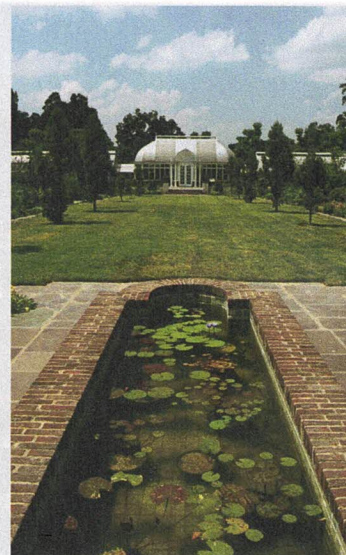


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COLORADO NATIONAL
MONUMENT, NEAR
GRAND JUNCTION, COLO.



BAILEY PARK IN DOWNTOWN WINSTON-SALEM OFFERS MOVIES AND CONCERTS AT AN OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER.



★ WINSTON-SALEM, NC ★

Population: 250,320
Cost of living: 95.6
Median home price: \$261,200
Hospitals within 25 miles: Seven
What \$400,000 will buy: Three-bedroom, two-bath, recently renovated 1925 house



Winston-Salem is a hub of arts and culture. The medium-size city is home to six colleges, including Wake Forest University, which is consistently ranked among the top 30 colleges in the U.S. and brings many vibrant resources to the area. About 10 years ago, university and city leaders worked together to create the 330-acre Innovation Quarter in downtown Winston-Salem, renovating historic industrial buildings, attracting new businesses and revitalizing the area to be a center for arts, innovation and entertainment.

In the center of Innovation Quarter is Bailey Park, a 1.6-acre public green space, which offers movies and concerts at the outdoor

amphitheater and yoga and relaxation on the large grassy lawn that's surrounded by restaurants, shops and galleries. Nearby is the 1.6-mile Long Branch Trail, which is part of the city's 25 miles of greenways.

Also downtown is the Stevens Center, a restored 1929 grand theater that hosts performances for the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, the Winston-Salem Symphony, the Piedmont Opera and others. An old mill building downtown was renovated and expanded in 2010 to become the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts, which has several theaters and performance venues.

Retirees can enjoy exhibits or take classes at the

Sawtooth School for Visual Art, a nonprofit community arts school, or take adult music lessons at Salem College's Community Music School. The colleges in the area host popular music and speaker programs and bring many arts and education opportunities to the community.

Adjacent to the Wake Forest campus is the Reynolda house and gardens, a 134-acre horticultural center that includes a wooded area with walking trails, a native meadow, wetlands and a waterfall. The historic house, formerly owned by tobacco magnate R.J. Reynolds and his family, is now the Reynolda House Museum of American Art, with art and history exhibits.

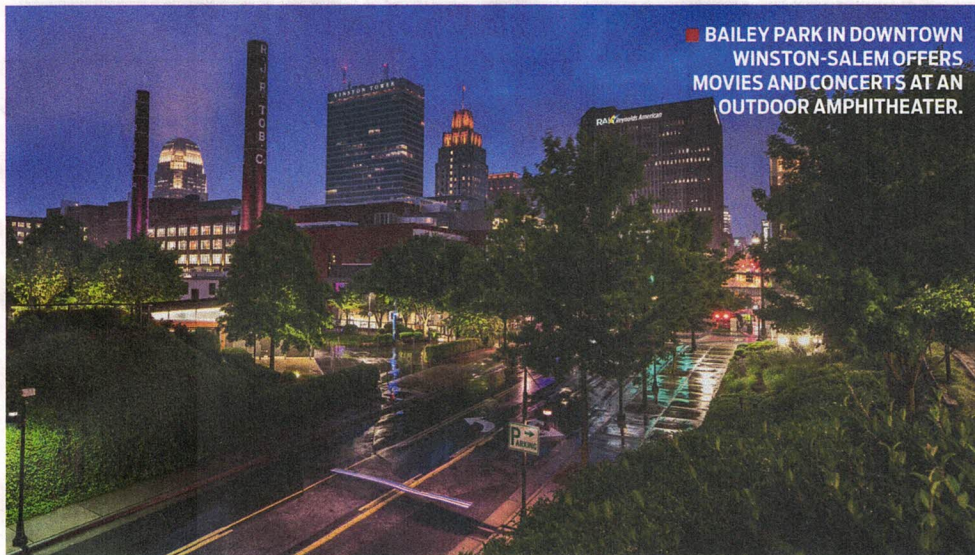
Seven city parks are within five miles of downtown, including Salem Lake, which has a seven-mile walking and biking loop and is a great spot for fishing and kayaking. Slightly farther away is the 1,100-acre Tanglewood Park, which offers mountain

biking, horse stables, two lakes (stocked for fishing), camping and a golf course.

Sports fans can cheer for the Wake Forest Demon Deacons, who play in the competitive NCAA Atlantic Coast Conference (note that prime tickets for basketball and football games may be hard to come by). Charlotte, N.C., is less than 90 minutes away and home to the NFL's Panthers, the NBA's Hornets and other professional sports teams.

Seven hospitals are in the area, including the 885-bed Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, the academic medical center for the well-regarded Wake Forest School of Medicine and the 921-bed Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center.

North Carolina doesn't tax Social Security benefits, but it does tax most other kinds of retirement income (there are exemptions for some government pensions). Property taxes are low, with breaks for homeowners age 65 and older. **K.L.**



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