

## Magazine names Staunton ideal for retirees

By Mindi Westhoff/staff :mwesthoff@newsleader.com

January 25, 2008

STAUNTON — Rolling hills. A rich history. Shakespeare.

Staunton has a lot to offer its residents, both young and old, and the February issue of *Where to Retire* magazine recognizes Staunton as one of the nation's Top 8 places to retire.

Citing low taxes as the city's biggest perk, *Where to Retire* also acknowledges Staunton's 1,000 historic downtown buildings and homes, the friendliness of residents, the American Shakespeare Center and a scenic location between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountain ranges.



"It's a small town, but it has educational and cultural amenities that retirees like," said editor Mary Lu Abbott. "And, of course, it's a scenic area with great outdoor recreation just right out your door."



Many Staunton retirees come from Northern Virginia, New Jersey and New York hoping to avoid traffic and congestion, according to the article.

One such couple is Alden and Jennifer Bradford, who moved from Northern Virginia 15 years ago.

After passing through Staunton on the way to their summer home in Highland County for years, the

couple decided to buy a home in Newtown when they retired.

"We just fell in love with it," Jennifer Bradford said. "I'm from England originally, and it had that English feel about it — very nice architecture. And of course, it's only gotten better in recent years because of the Visulite opening and the Dixie. Downtown is really just improving by leaps and bounds."

The Top 8 cities were pulled from the magazine's new edition of "America's Best Low-Tax Retirement Towns" which compares more than 200 cities throughout the country.

The list was chosen based on the estimated experience of a hypothetical retired couple with an annual income of \$60,000 and a home value of \$225,000.

*Where to Retire* can be found on various newsstands and at Barnes & Noble and Borders bookstores.