

Gothenburg included in 'Eden' list of best small cities

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Nice downtown, friendliness are some attributes

Gothenburg fits one researcher's idea of an unspoiled paradise.

With its clean and tidy downtown, plus people who care about each other, a retired geography and civics teacher ranks the town 48th in his list "In Search of Eden: America's Best Small Cities."

Charles Anderson, of Winter Park, FL, compiled a list of 50 cities with populations up to 45,000.

Seward is ranked No. 8 and is the only other Nebraska town listed on a revised 2013 list of great small cities.

Over the past 50 years, Anderson has visited the cities he ranked and issued his first list in 2012.

He has visited Gothenburg twice, most recently during the summer of 2011 and said he liked the Scandinavian atmosphere, friendliness and strong community spirit.

Fitting in Anderson's 12 criteria for selection is the town's location in what he describes as "Nebraska's banana belt."

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Gothenburg, Pa., has been named one of the best small cities for the third time in a row by the National Civic League. The town, which has a population of about 1,000, was ranked 10th among the top 10 towns in the nation.

- TOP 10 TOWNS**
1. Goetsburg, PA
 2. Montrose, CO
 3. Belmont, NC
 4. Concord, NH
 5. Summerville, SC
 6. Cedar City, UT
 7. Christiansburg, VA
 8. Seward, NE
 9. Cody, WY
 10. Georgetown, KY
- (Compiled by Charles Anderson)

Gothenburg has a population of about 1,000 and is known for its scenic views and historic architecture. The town is a great place to live and visit, and is a great example of a small town that has managed to stay true to its roots while still providing all the amenities of a larger city.
