



Press Release

City of Lakeville

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For immediate release

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Subject: Lakeville named one of the best places to raise a family

Lakeville has been named one of the top places in the country to raise a family. In the new book, "Best Places to Raise Your Family," authors Bert Sperling and Peter Sander chose the top 100 affordable cities from across the U.S. based on standard of living, education, health and safety, and lifestyle. They selected Lakeville as fourth in the nation.

"We especially like Lakeville because of its good schools, small downtown area, attractive homes, strong family presence (47 percent of households are married with children), and comfortable suburban feel."

The authors also noted Lakeville's top-notch schools—with "students scoring five to 20 percent higher than state averages"—and a low crime rate. Lakeville rated sixth overall in public safety, and was a runner-up for best education. The city also rated excellently in taxes paid compared to market value—number 20 in the country.

According to the book, Lakeville benefits by its close proximity to the Twin Cities area, which offers a "clean, prosperous, intellectually stimulating way of life," and provides a strong regional economy as well as access to museums, theaters, libraries, and other cultural activities.

"The authors have highlighted what we have known all along," said City Administrator Steve Mielke, "that our community combines a welcoming small-town atmosphere with the advantages of living in the metro area. Our excellent schools and first-rate public safety services, along with superior recreational and cultural opportunities, create an outstanding quality of life."

In preparing the book, the authors researched over 32,000 communities and rated them on everything from number of double-income families and cost of living index to number of high school graduates and potential future job growth. Their purpose was to select communities where families would be able to "achieve in education and in the workplace, to grow intellectually, to grow physically, and to make better lives..." The only other Minnesota community in the top 100 was Rochester, at number 58.

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