

Magazine cites BA for families

By: TIM STANLEY World Staff Writer
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The city is on Family Circle's list of 10 best places to raise a family.

BROKEN ARROW — Praising the city for its schools, safety and choice housing, a prominent national magazine has ranked Broken Arrow one of the best places in the country to raise a family.

Family Circle's August issue features Broken Arrow as one of the 10 Best Towns for Families for 2008, officials announced this week.

This is the second year that the magazine has compiled the list. Broken Arrow is the first and only Oklahoma city to be on it.

City leaders say they are thrilled.

Mayor Wade McCaleb said: "This is truly a terrific honor. Broken Arrow is in the national spotlight once again. This is a tribute to our great citizens and our beloved city."

Officials said the commendation would figure prominently in the city's marketing efforts, with plugs on the city's Web site and in promotional materials.

City staff members assisted the magazine when they learned that Broken Arrow had made the first few cuts.

Communications Director Keith Sterling said: "The magazine contacted us in February and told us that we were one of about 40 cities they were now considering and that they would be narrowing it down to the top 10. "(City Manager Jim Twombly) and I then spent time talking to the writer and highlighting our accolades and strong points."

The magazine started with almost 2,000 cities with populations between 15,000 and 150,000.

Factors considered included cost of living, jobs, schools, public safety and recreation opportunities. Communities also ranked higher based on the percentage of residents who recycle.

Reporters for the magazine did not visit the communities; they conducted interviews by phone.

Family Circle describes Broken Arrow as a thriving Tulsa suburb that has successfully managed its growing pains.

"Homes are still a bargain, and the streets are safe, thanks to a team effort by local police and neighborhood watch groups," the article states.

It further hails the city for its 38 parks, which make up a total of 750 acres.

In describing the list, the magazine says it "searched the country to find perfect places to live and raise kids."

Other Top Towns

Family Circle's 10 Best Towns for Families

South Burlington, Vt.

Oro Valley, Ariz.

Brunswick, Ohio

Shoreview, Minn.

Wheeling, Ill.

Rocklin, Calif.

Webster Groves, Mo.

Royal Palm Beach, Fla.

Ankeny, Iowa

**The article is available online at
tulsaworld.com/familycircleBA.**

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