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NWA Ranked in Top Ten for Livable Cities

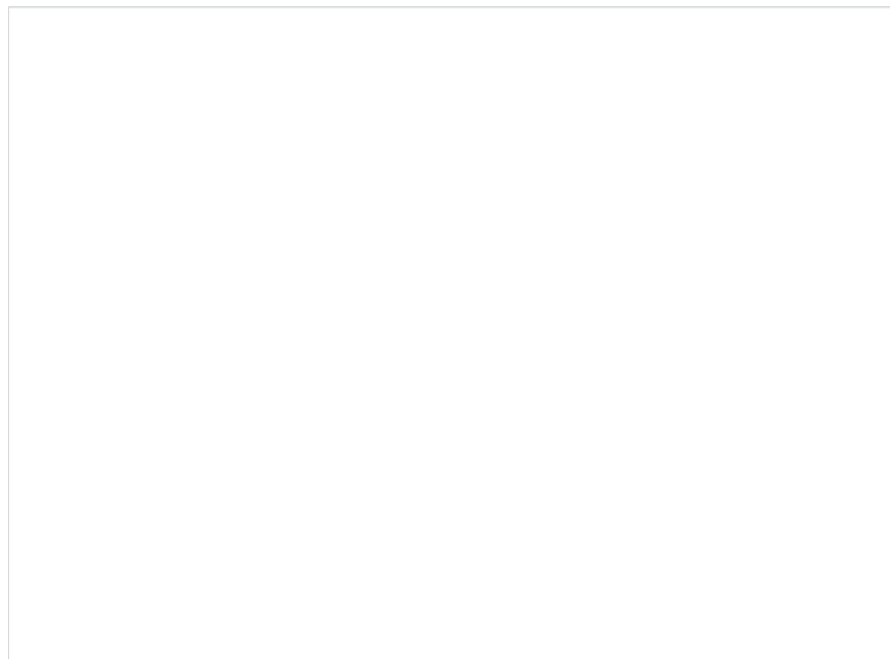


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Robert Boyd
5NEWS Reporter
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Northwest Arkansas made an exclusive list when it comes to attracting new businesses and people.

MSN Real Estate has placed NWA in the Top Ten Livable Bargain Cities.

Everything from parks and bike trails, to fortune 500 companies, to affordable housing, all these factors contributed to Northwest Arkansas being ranked so high.

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"Quality of life in Northwest Arkansas is amazing especially people who have come from large urban areas," said state economist Jeff Cooperstein. "Relatively to the rest of the country in Northwest Arkansas you can get a nice house at an affordable price."

Cooperstein said making the MSN list will help the area grow even more.

"If you're trying to attract new firms to an area then it becomes a good selling point you want to be able to tell firms 'hey our area is

affordable, our area is a good place to live."

He also said it will help enlighten people from around the country about all NWA has to offer culturally, such as our entertainment districts and the University of Arkansas.

"People who are looking to move, looking for new opportunities, they'll use information as well so that might draw their eye to Northwest Arkansas," said Cooperstein.

If you're a chamber of commerce this is the perfect tool when it comes to bragging rights.

"They'll make phone calls even, they'll say hey 'Northwest Arkansas showed up in this study, think about this area as a place to locate your business,'" said Cooperstein.

The top of the list included Rochester New York at number one, followed by Sioux City, Iowa and **Pittsburgh**, Pennsylvania.

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