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MONEY MAGAZINE NAMES MANSFIELD ONE OF BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN AMERICA

MANSFIELD, Texas – Citing its job growth, strategic location, strong schools and its emerging tourism industry, Money Magazine has named Mansfield to its annual list of Best Places to Live in America.

Mansfield was one of only five Texas cities named this year to the prestigious list released Monday, ranking 28th in the Top 100 “Best Places to Live. The magazine said this year’s list included smaller cities, populations 50,000 to 300,000” that “were great places for families to live,” sifting through data to find “cities with a combination of great schools, affordable homes, lots of jobs and lots to do.”

The magazine focused attention on the city’s job growth, citing 113 percent growth in jobs from 2000 to 2011, significantly higher than the 25 percent growth averaged by most cities on the Best Places list. The CNNMoney Best Places website offered this narrative on Mansfield:

“One of the fastest-growing cities in the nation, Mansfield boasts an increasing number of jobs, a prime location about half an hour from Dallas/Fort Worth, affordable homes, and strong schools. Meanwhile, its city-owned water park and Big League Dreams

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baseball complex are drawing in tourist dollars. New schools are being built (Mansfield's sixth high school will open this August). City spokespeople say they aim to preserve a small-town feel, but that might be hard: 50% of the land in Mansfield is still underdeveloped so more growth is on the horizon.”

City leaders expressed excitement at the announcement and pointed to the work over the years of elected officials, community volunteers and city staff in making Mansfield a desirable community in which to live.

“It’s exciting to know that Money Magazine, and now the rest of the country, realize what a great place Mansfield is to raise a family and enjoy life,” said Mayor David Cook, who grew up in Mansfield. “It is good to know that our desire to create a successful and highly livable community is coming true.”

Said City Manager Clayton Chandler, “This recognition is the result of hard work and vision by our city council members, many dedicated board members and community volunteers and city staff who strive to provide the highest quality of life possible for Mansfield.”

Chandler also said tremendous growth, high quality of life and economic development activity has drawn national attention to Mansfield, and cited the Money Magazine’s list as a coup that positively impacts economic development activity in the future.

“This list receives a lot of national attention,” Chandler said. “Everyone from developers looking to build to companies wanting to relocate will learn more about the kind of community Mansfield is and that’s a good thing.

“This is our third time to make the Money Magazine list and that consistency speaks highly of our city,” Chandler said.

The “Best Places to Live” list is developed each year by Money Magazine following extensive research of thousands of cities and towns across the nation. Analyzing economic and quality of life indicators such as average home price, average household income and education performance, the list is narrowed to the Top 100 communities. For more complete information, visit the city’s website at www.mansfield-tx.gov or the CNN/Money website at <http://money.cnn.com> .