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NEWS RELEASE

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O'Fallon, Mo. Again Makes *Money* Magazine's List of America's 100 Best Places to Live

For the third time in six years, O'Fallon, Missouri, has been named one of the country's "Best Places to Live," according to *Money* magazine's annual list of America's 100 best cities. O'Fallon ranked 26th on the 2010 list, the city's highest ranking to date.

O'Fallon's ranking continues the stream of national accolades that have been bestowed on the City. In addition to *Money's* previous rankings in 2006 and 2008, O'Fallon was named to *Relocate-America.com's* listings of America's Best Cities in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

"This is a tremendous honor for our great City," said Mayor Bill Hennessy. "I congratulate our residents, businesses, civic organizations, schools, churches, community volunteers, and City staff for this distinction. Our residents know that O'Fallon is an amazing place to live, work and play.

"Our leaders are guided by our City's Vision Statement, which calls for us to make O'Fallon the 'best city in the State of Missouri.' With this ranking, we have once again achieved that goal, and we have set a standard of excellence that we intend to maintain for future generations."

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In assessing communities, *Money* magazine compared national statistics on a variety of topics, such as finances (income, taxes, insurance rates, etc.), housing prices, job growth, transportation, public safety, education, leisure and cultural activities, weather, health and demographics for 2010.

O'Fallon stood out in several ways:

- O'Fallon's job growth rate of 44.75% from 2000-2009 was higher than nine of the "Top 10" communities on the list.
- O'Fallon ranked 21st in the nation for affordable home prices.
- O'Fallon's air quality index of 79.0% is better than top 100 average
- O'Fallon is served by three quality public school districts, and test scores for O'Fallon students in both math and reading are more than twice as high as the Top 100 average.
- The City is within 30 miles of 17 colleges, universities and professional schools.
- 67.1% of O'Fallon residents are married, versus an average of 56.6% for the "Top 100 Best Places."
- O'Fallon residents are 50% less likely to suffer a personal crime compared to the average for the "Top 100 Best Places." O'Fallon's rates of one personal crime per 1000 residents and 20 property crimes per 1000 residents were significantly lower than the average of the other 100 best cities.

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In addition to high marks for its low crime rate, O'Fallon also stood out for the number of businesses who have either headquartered or made a significant investment in O'Fallon, the City's extensive park system, and the overall sense of community that extends throughout the City.

"A great City is a partnership of business, government, educational, civic and residential investment," said O'Fallon's City Administrator, Keith Riesberg. "What makes this City so special is our continued commitment to study our City and say 'How can we make it even better?' Our City staff, elected officials and civic and business leaders understand that we've been entrusted with a jewel here in O'Fallon. We're dedicated to keeping it that way."

The health and safety of the City's residents also played a significant role in the ranking.

"Statistics show that our quality of life is very high, with many factors in the community contributing to our public safety," said O'Fallon Police Chief Roy Joachimstaler. "The O'Fallon Police Department, O'Fallon Fire Protection District and St. Charles County Ambulance District all employ outstanding teams with individuals who have won awards for their training and professional expertise. We're also fortunate to have one of the area's newest hospitals and a new ambulance center opening in the community, which means that we will be able to meet the public safety needs of our residents for many years to come."

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Money Magazine used statistics from data provider *OnBoard Informatics* to determine this year's rankings. In addition to O'Fallon, three other Missouri cities made this year's list, including neighboring St. Peters, Mo.

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