



MEDIA RELEASE

THE CITY OF WESTON

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CITY OF WESTON NAMED IN TOP TEN OF FAMILY CIRCLE MAGAZINE'S 2015 BEST TOWNS FOR FAMILIES

July 16, 2015 – Weston FL - The City of Weston has been selected by Family Circle magazine as one of ten Best Towns for Families for 2015.

Weston was lauded for its cultural diversity, expansive park system, great schools and community involvement by service organizations, such as The Rotary Club of Weston.

City leaders are thrilled at the recognition from the iconic national publication, known for its family-focused content providing the latest tips and advice on parenting, activities, health and wellness and more. "It is gratifying to know that the City that we know and love is recognized nationally for the qualities that we cherish. Our hometown feel is accomplished by having fantastic parks and cultural activities that families can enjoy and exemplary service to our community at all levels," stated Mayor Daniel J. Stermer upon receiving notice of the recognition, "When choosing where to live in South Florida, Weston is a choice for your style... for your life."

The selection process began with a list of 4,500 cities and towns with populations between 10,000 and 100,000 assembled by Family Circle. The magazine focused in on approximately 1,400 communities with a high concentration of households of median incomes between \$60,000 and \$110,000. From there, places that met their family-friendly criteria—including affordable homes, quality schools, access to health care, low crime rate and financial stability—were selected and ranked from top to bottom. Family Circle selected the ten winners from among the highest-rated towns.

To view the full article, please visit: <http://www.familycircle.com/family-fun/travel/the-best-towns-for-families-2015/?page=10>

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The City of Weston ▪ 954-385-2000 ▪ facsimile 954-385-2010 ▪ westonfl.org
The Nation's Premiere Municipal Corporationsm

The Best Towns for Families: 2015

Ten locales with great schools, housing and community spirit.

Seema Nayyar

Weston, Florida

POPULATION: 66,053

MEDIAN INCOME: \$97,162

MEDIAN HOME PRICE: \$315,000

HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN: 55%

GREATSCHOOLS RATING: 9



For Monica Socas, the best thing about living in Weston is that it allows her to blend cultures and traditions. Monica, 52, who owns an investment company with husband Luis Ortiz, 63, immigrated to this town 18 miles west of Fort Lauderdale seven years ago from Venezuela with youngest daughter Crisol, 18. In her new country, she celebrates not only the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving but a traditional Venezuelan Christmas. Nearly 40% of Weston's population is foreign born, and 45% of residents are Hispanic or Latino, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

This cultural diversity extends to the schools as well. The family moved to the U.S. when Crisol was entering sixth grade. Initially, Crisol worried about being teased in her new school for not fully understanding English. Instead, she found supportive peers and teachers. She was also exposed to exciting programs, like having NASA astronauts and book authors come to speak to students.

The Ortiz family is never at a loss for things to do: Their hometown boasts 14 parks, including the 102-acre Weston Regional Park with baseball, soccer, basketball and sand volleyball courts. "If you could imagine a place to have a family, it would be Weston," says Monica.

Good Deeds: The Rotary Club of Weston has two major annual fundraisers. In December there's a 5K run, a half marathon and a walk for elementary school students, with net profits going to community charities and the Rotary Foundation. In April the Rotary Club's golf tournament helps award college scholarships to more than 50 seniors from three local high schools.

How We Chose: With the help of Onboard Informatics, a New York City research firm that provides real estate, demographic and other data, Family Circle assembled a list of 4,500 cities and towns with populations between 10,000 and 100,000. From that, nearly 1,400 localities having a high concentration of households with median incomes between \$60,000 and \$110,000 were selected. We assessed which places met our family-friendly criteria—including affordable homes, quality schools, access to health care, low crime rate and financial stability—and ranked them from top to bottom. Family Circle selected the 10 winners from among the highest-rated towns.