

BUSINESS

City named No. 2 best in nation for families

SUBMITTED STORY

Wylie has been named the second-best small city, among those with populations of 25,000 to 100,000, in the country for families.

The list of top 10 cities was compiled by NerdWallet.com, a personal finance website, utilizing criteria including income and affordability, prosperity and growth, and family friendliness. Only Sammamish, Wash., was ranked higher.

"It is exciting to see that others have recognized what we in Wylie already know: that this is a wonderful place to raise a family," said Mayor Eric Hogue. "People come to our community and stay for many reasons including the small-town feeling we've been blessed to maintain, while at the same time growing our community with retail options and move-up home opportunities for our citizens."

NerdWallet ranked Wylie high in housing affordability, with median home value of \$155,900. It noted the median household

income as \$82,036, population growth from 2009-13 of 18.66 percent and income growth for the same time period of almost 18 percent. The percentage of families with children under 18 years of age was listed as 40, and the percentage with children in poverty only 4.9.

Wylie's overall score was 67.93; Sammamish, Wash., received a score of 69.20.

The website noted Wylie's proximity to Dallas and its location near Lake Ray Hubbard and Lake Lavon, both of which provide recreational opportunities. NerdWallet said the school district received strong ratings at GreatSchools.org, and the city's population is growing along with the median income. It also mentioned the Wylie Recreation Center, which has activities for the whole family.

Wylie was ranked eighth in NerdWallet's Best Places for Young Families in Texas list compiled in November 2014.

Information provided by Judy Truesdell on behalf of the city of Wylie.

RIBBON CUTTING

Neighborhood store opens



Photo by CRAIG KELLY/city of Wylie

Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue, holding sign, City Manager Mindy Manson, to Hogue's right, members of the community and Wal-Mart employees gathered at the new Neighborhood Wal-Mart 6078 in Wylie on Jan. 21 to officially open the store. Store manager Kevin Watts, with scissors, is a Wylie resident. Wal-Mart donated \$8,000 to four local organizations: the Amazing Grace Food Pantry, the Rita and Truett Smith Public Library, Murphy Police Explorers Post 2005 and the city of Wylie Animal Control.