

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLAINE NAMED TOP 100 BEST PLACE TO LIVE
Economic and Quality of Life Indicators Factor into *Money* Magazine's 2006 List

July 19, 2006 – Blaine has been listed among the Top 100 Best Places to Live in 2006, ranking 54th in *Money* magazine's annual list of small cities.

“It makes me very proud for the City,” said Blaine Mayor Tom Ryan. “It shows the hard work of the City Council and City staff through the years to make this the best community possible for our residents. And best of all, we haven't tried to copy any other cities – Blaine has been recognized for creating its own identity, one focused on quality and responsible growth and creating opportunities for residents.”

For the 2006 list, *Money* “set out to find small livable cities that had the best possible blend of good jobs, low crime, quality schools, plenty of open space, rational home prices and lots to do.”

Blaine made the cut from an initial list of 745 cities nationally with populations exceeding 50,000 residents.

Money's evaluation staff, using various economic and quality of life indicators, narrowed its list before visiting each city and interviewing residents, local officials and community leaders to determine the final ranking.

Compared to other Top 100 cities, Blaine ranked especially high in the “Leisure and Culture” and “Health” categories. With the National Sports Center and Tournament Players Club, along with dozens of parks, endless miles of trails and countless acres of open space, Blaine as a community promotes active and healthy lifestyles.

The City of Blaine has compiled a summary of *Money*'s findings on its website at <http://www.ci.blaine.mn.us/Top100.htm>.

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