

West Chester again earns spot on ‘Best Places to Live’ list

Courtesy Journal News, By [Eric Schwartzberg](#), Staff Writer

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WEST CHESTER TWP. —



Jay Takach, left, watches Trey Greene hit a golf ball during a preview day at Topgolf in July 20 at the West Chester Township location. The three-level, 64,232-square-foot facility in the Streets of West Chester features 102 climate-controlled hitting bays that are able to host up to six players at one time. NICK GRAHAM/STAFF

A Butler County township’s recent ranking in a national publication is its fifth such honor in the past 11 years.

Money Magazine placed West Chester Twp. at No. 49 on “American’s Top 50 Places to Live,” a distinction with the potential to further lift already buoyant retail, residential and corporate growth in the community and the Cincinnati-Dayton growth corridor.

This year’s list focuses on communities with populations from 50,000 to 300,000, analyzing and ranking them on about 60 factors, from median home prices to the median high temperature and graduation rates to crime rates, according to the magazine.

Not only is this the fifth time Ohio’s largest township has been named to the magazine’s top 100 list, but it’s also the only Ohio community to make the 2016 slate of picks by the publication.

West Chester was previously ranked No. 30 in 2014, No. 97 in a list of “Top 100 Places to Live” 2012, No. 32 in 2010 and No. 45 in 2005, according to Money Magazine.

The township's booming corporate base and ample employment opportunities — including Lakota Local School District, GE Aviation, UC Health's West Chester Hospital and Procter & Gamble's Beckett Ridge Technical Center — are high on the list of criteria for the magazine's distinction, as well as numerous livability factors.

Those factors include outdoor movies in the park on Friday nights during summer months and a farmers' market every Saturday on outdoor public gathering space the Square at Union Centre. It also includes early August's Union Centre Boulevard Bash, "which attracts all manner of domestic and international musical talent" to the Square.

Also noted by the magazine was [Topgolf, a 65,000-square-foot indoor/outdoor golf and entertainment center](#) that opened in July and the history-rich [National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting](#).

Those types of activities help fuel county tourism in 2015, which sustained 7.9 percent of salaried employment in Butler County, supported 13,679 local jobs and accounted for one in 13 jobs in the county and \$286.8 million in wages, according to a recent report by the Butler County Visitors Bureau.

The local tourism industry contributed more than \$26.7 million in local taxes, helping to keep annual taxes in check for county residents, according to the visitors bureau.

Butler County generated just over \$1.1 billion in 2015, a 7.1 percent increase from 2014 and above the state's 4.9 percent growth, according to TourismOhio.