



From *College Town* to *Entrepreneurial Haven* Unique Midwestern Experience Awaits in **ST. CHARLES COUNTY**



Barat Eagles football

Elements of distinction and excellence have come together in St. Charles County, Missouri, creating an unparalleled “quality of place” in the American heartland.

From being a college town that’s also home to global companies, to having strong faith traditions and a thriving entrepreneurial community, to boasting unique amenities like Missouri Wine Country and a historic riverfront district, St. Charles County is a unique Midwestern experience waiting to be enjoyed by new residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

Less than half an hour west of the Gateway Arch in downtown St. Louis, an era of dynamic progress has been unfolding in St. Charles County since the 1980s.

Encompassing a diverse landscape of approximately 561-square-miles, St. Charles County extends outward from the confluence of the “Mighty” Mississippi River and the “Big Muddy” Missouri River, the world’s fourth largest river system.

Expansive office campuses for global companies like Citi, MasterCard Worldwide, Enterprise Holdings and Verizon share the landscape with new subdivisions, institutions of higher learning and countless venues for entertainment, sports and recreation and the arts.

Shopping is abundant with everything from a new lifestyle center to quaint shops on the historic riverfront as well as a popular regional mall.

With more than 23,000 acres of public parkland, the area benefits from an abundance of green space, parks, trails and other outdoor amenities.

Recreational venues for indoor and outdoor minor league sports include the Family Arena in St. Charles and T.R. Hughes Stadium in O'Fallon. Fitness enthusiasts will be drawn to facilities like the St. Peters Rec-Plex, Renaud Spirit Center in O'Fallon, or other centers operated by the YMCA and private companies. In addition, the arts and culture are alive and well and local entertainment, night life, concerts and special community events can be found throughout the year and around the community.

As a collar county to metro St. Louis, local residents and businesses are only minutes from renowned regional destinations such as Busch Stadium, St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Art Museum, The Muny, The Fabulous Fox Theatre, St. Louis Science Center, Six Flags St. Louis, Gateway International Raceway, and championship major league sports teams like the St. Louis Cardinals, St. Louis Rams and St. Louis Blues.

At the same time, the success and progress of St. Charles County is built on and compliments the local area's colorful history. St. Charles County is where the two leaders of the Lewis & Clark Expedition joined company and started their famous trek across the Louisiana Purchase in 1804. This is where frontiersman Daniel Boone made his final home and is buried today. The first free school west of the Mississippi River was opened here in 1818 by St. Philippine Duchesne. And during the 1820s, Missouri's original state capitol was proudly located on the riverbanks of St. Charles, a historic destination area rivaling any in America.

In 1970, less than 100,000 lived in St. Charles County. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, that figure had grown to 356,206 in 2008 and projections for 2014 estimate the number of local residents could climb to more than 375,000.

The county is comprised of 17 growing municipalities, towns and villages. The three largest communities are O'Fallon, St. Charles and St. Peters, each with their own character and enticing amenities. Together they account for more than half of the local population.



Lindenwood University



MasterCard



Francis Howell Students

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Approximately 10,000 private and public businesses and organizations are located in the area and have more than 137,000 employees. The largest employment sectors in St. Charles County include Retail (17.2%), Local Government (14.1%), Accommodation and Food Services (13.5%), Health Care /

Social Assistance (13.2%) and Manufacturing (10.7%).

In recent years there has been a growing trend of national attention being focused on St. Charles County with impressive accolades being awarded to many of the excellent communities in the local area. A recent example is Money

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magazine naming Lake Saint Louis one of the top 10 Best Places to Live in America in 2009 for communities with populations between 8,500 and 50,000. When Money issued its list of America's 100 Best Places to Live for communities with populations between 50,000 to 300,000

in 2008, St. Peters was ranked 60th, O'Fallon was 68th and St. Charles was 82nd. Both years, O'Fallon also went on to be named one of the Top 100 Places to Live by RelocateAmerica.com.

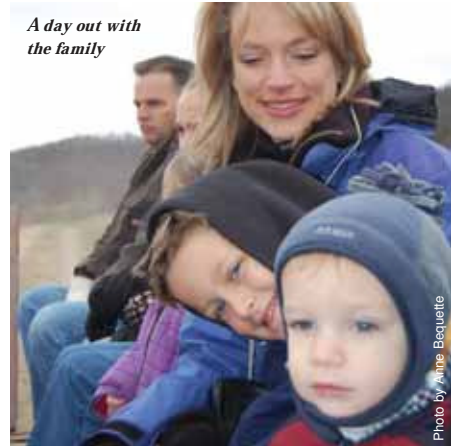
According to a 2007 national report by BusinessWeek.com, one of "the most affordable suburbs that offer the lowest crime rate, finest schools, and best quality of life for the dollar" was Wentzville. At number 25 on this national list, Wentzville was the only Missouri community singled out for this honor. In addi-



A beautiful two-story home



Katy Trail cyclists



A day out with the family

Photo by Anne Bequette

*It's a great place to play...
It's a great place to work...
It's a great place to locate...
It's a great place to expand...*

But it's the best place to call...



It's a great place to be!

Wentzville Economic Development
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tion, Forbes magazine ranked O'Fallon and Lake Saint Louis among its list of America's 100 fastest growing suburbs in 2007.

The previous year, BusinessWeek.com placed "St. Charles, MO 63304" on their list of 25 Best Affordable Suburbs in the U.S." This zip code includes all or parts of Cottleville, St. Peters, Weldon Spring, Weldon Spring Heights and some of unincorporated St. Charles County.

"All of this national recognition is exactly what so many of us have been saying for years --- St. Charles County is a great place to grow your business and your life," said Greg Prestemon, president and chief executive officer of the Economic Development Center of St. Charles County.

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