

## Madison Among '10 Best' For Families In U.S.

*Family Circle* has named Madison, MS, one of the *Top Ten Towns for Families* in America. *Family Circle* Magazine, working in conjunction with On Board, a New York City based research firm, delved into the things Americans most want in a hometown. Their results culminated from “a first of its kind investigation to identify the best communities across the country that combine big city opportunities with suburban charm.” They sought out “locations that offer an ideal blend of good jobs, top rated schools, wide open spaces and a lot less stress.” Their findings and the ten cities selected will appear in the August 2007 issue of *Family Circle* which will be on the newsstands July 10<sup>th</sup>.



The *Family Circle* and On Board’s ten top towns came from “a list of 1,850 places with populations between 15,000 and 150,000.” From that list, “800 localities were selected based on family-friendly criteria including low crime rate, health care, air quality, green space, schools, and jobs. *Family Circle* assessed which towns best met those standards and ranked them according to state. The winners were selected from the highest-rated towns in the top 10 states nationwide.”

Mayor Mary Hawkins Butler said she was humbled by the announcement. “It is an honor to be chosen as one of *Family Circle*’s inner circle of cities. Their definition of ideal hometown life is very true to our daily dreams and desires for Madison. *Family Circle* said that in all the ten cities selected, Moms and Dads are hands on – they volunteer in schools and coach sports. Of course, volunteerism is what really makes a community. Churches and the volunteer spirit are in essence the backbone of any town. I salute *Family Circle* for understanding this and for caring about hometown America in such a special way. I am grateful for all the benefits that Mississippi brings into the life of every community. This is the people’s award.”

Published 15 times a year by Meredith Corporation, with a circulation of 3.9 million and 20 million readers, *Family Circle* is one of the most widely read monthly magazines in the world. *Family Circle* provides smart, relevant advice, sensible solutions, and inspiration in a voice that encourages and celebrates success in its pages and online at [www.familycircle.com](http://www.familycircle.com). *Family Circle* has always been committed to women’s issues and in 1973 became the first women’s magazine to fully underwrite a professional women’s sporting event, the Family Circle Cup, an annual women’s tennis tournament held in April in Charleston, S.C., at *Family Circle* Magazine Stadium. *Family Circle* also partners with CBS Television’s *The Early Show* for a monthly on-air segment with Hannah Storm called “In the Family Circle.”