

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 1/29/2020

### "Top Place to Raise a Family"

The City of Sylvania has again been recognized in a statewide listing as a great place to live. This time by WalletHub as one of the top places in Ohio to Raise a Family.

Only three northwest Ohio Communities were recognized – Perrysburg, Sylvania and Maumee. Sylvania often ranks well in these sorts of surveys. Actual rankings vary depending on the specific criteria, but it is good to know Sylvania is often recognized. Our quality of life and livability are what makes Sylvania what it is.

In this survey, researchers measured several criteria in 186 Ohio cities in four categories: family life and fun; education, health and safety; affordability, and socioeconomics. Each of the four categories included specific metrics that were assigned point values.

Under family life and fun, the metrics studied were playgrounds per 100,000 residents, number of attractions, share of families with children younger than 18, WalletHub's weather ranking, and average commute time.

For education, health, and safety, researchers looked at quality of school systems, high school graduation rate, air quality, pediatricians per 100,000 residents, share of uninsured children, violent crime rate per 1,000 residents, and property crime rate per 1,000 residents.

In affordability, researchers looked at general affordability and housing affordability. And for socioeconomics, researchers included separation and divorce rate, share of two-parent families, share of families in poverty, share of households receiving food stamps, unemployment rate, wealth gap, and foreclosure rate.

Some studies look at narrower criteria. Last year the City of Sylvania was ranked the safest city in Northwest Ohio on Safewise's list of Ohio safest cities. That research relied on FBI crime data and ranked violent crime and property crime rates.

The 2020 Census is another way Sylvania will soon be measured. The federal census measures much more than just the number of residents. It measures who we are, how we live, how much education we have and how much we earn.

Sixty years ago, the 1960 Census reported Sylvania's population had grown to more than 5,000 residents, officially changing Sylvania from a village into a city. The City of Sylvania has grown in every census since then, and will likely exceed the 18,965 reported in the 2010 Census.

And through all those years, Sylvania residents have continued to invest in schools, libraries, recreation, parks, public transportation and City services making our City one of the top-ranked in Ohio. All these surveys, rankings and censuses vary based on their particular criteria. Cumulatively, however, they all point out what many in northwest Ohio already know – Sylvania is a great place to live, to work and to raise a family.

