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Forbes picks Colo. locale in top 10 'best cheap cities'







posted by Dan Boniface 6 months ago

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LARIMER COUNTY - Fort Collins has been named one of the most affordable places to live in the country by Forbes magazine.

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The article, titled "Where to Live Cheaply" released this month, ranks the Fort Collins-Loveland area No. 9 on a list of the top 100 "best cheap cities."

The list is compiled from 380 metropolitan areas in the United States. To pick the top 100 cheapest, the publication looked at Moody's Economy.com and home affordability figures from the National Association of Home Builders and Wells Fargo.

Included in the ranking is quality of life, violent crime rate, unemployment rate, average salary for college grads and cultural opportunity.

Manchester-Nashua, N.H., ranked No. 1 on the list. Other Colorado cities include Greeley at No. 13, Colorado Springs at No. 42 and Pueblo at No. 76.

Forbes lists Fort Collins-Loveland with a population of 292,800, an average salary ranked at 33 out of 100, unemployment at 14, crime ranked at 11 and culture at 53. Fort Collins Mayor Doug Hutchinson said he thought the accolade was positive for the city, which reflects well on a number of good things the city does to help maintain a good quality of life for residents.

"I think this is recognition of some of the things that we have done to keep the cost of living down," said Hutchinson, citing the low sales tax and cultural opportunities that were included in the list.

Hutchinson recalled when Fort Collins was named the No. 1 place to live in 2007 by Money magazine and said that attention helps draw some businesses to the region such as Germany-based Wirsol Solar AG.

Hutchinson said this ranking could have the same impact in helping the city attract and select businesses that are a good fit for the community.

City Manager Darin Atteberry said it is always nice to be recognized on national lists that can have a direct impact on businesses in town.

Being named one of the most affordable cities in the country is good news for Fort Collins, Atteberry

said, and it reaffirms the city's efforts.

Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce President and CEO David May said while he would prefer to see a word other than "cheap" used, the ranking is good press.

"The term 'relatively affordable' would be better than saying 'cheap!' Cheap could incorrectly imply low quality. With that reframing, it's great to earn this recognition from Forbes," May said in an e-mail. "Keep in mind affordability is about having a reasonable cost of living combined with strong average family incomes.

"Being a college town and a high-tech community help us keep our average incomes up. We have a good and affordable quality of life here because we've had the financial means over the years to help pay for it."



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Jewelzzey wrote:
lovingeveryone: I 100% agree with you. Been to the Fort, probably won't go back. Plus the drive is less than fun.

realsoccer49: Again, I agree with you too - I went to school in Boulder and while I still love Boulder, I won't ever live there again.

Totally my OWN opinion and experience.

7/23/2009 7:11 AM PDT on 9news.com

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IVOJ08 wrote:
lovingeveryone wrote:

Have fun camping in the Fort! I prefer hotels on the beach. See.???..we all have different ideas about things.

I prefer the beach as well but, there isn't one, well I should say, there aren't any oceans here so, camping is what I can do here. Also, I asked for an example as to why you thought it was a cow town? I understand different strokes for different folks. Not in any way referring to the pervs you were referring to on the site...

7/22/2009 3:20 PM PDT on 9news.com

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dww333 wrote:
Wow he thinks Ft. Collins and CO. Springs is cheap I would hate to see what medium or expensive is to him. He must not go to many cities in the mid west or up north. And when is NH ever cheap. And Pueblo has this guy ever been down there he must look at a map and say looks good to me.

7/22/2009 2:53 PM PDT on 9news.com

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BlackMtnMan wrote:
Ah, yes...the silly little cow town up north. Bite my arse, you sorry little dink brains. When I come down to the human cesspool that is the Denver metro area, I can't wait to get back out again.

7/22/2009 2:26 PM PDT on 9news.com

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realsoccer49 wrote:
Don't forget that Greeley also made the list! I have a feeling that the only reason these places are so cheap is because they are mainly college towns, and honestly, why would anyone want to live in a college town once they graduate? I know I wouldn't...

7/22/2009 2:17 PM PDT on 9news.com

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lovingeveryone wrote:
IVOJ08 wrote: "Have you ever been to Ft. Collins? I think not."

I think yes...a million times. You said "Again, I love people speaking about things you have no idea about." Now you are speaking about things you have no idea about. These are MY opinions...my experiences. Everyone gets to have their own. And we can't all agree. You do get to have your own...and so do I! So thanks for jumping to conclusions and erroneous assumptions about this. Or read the whole blog. I simply stated an opinion and a bunch of sex pervs got going on here. Classy...nice.

Have fun camping in the Fort! I prefer hotels on the beach. See.???..we all have different ideas about things.

7/22/2009 1:57 PM PDT on 9news.com

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Jacksonion wrote:
Castlerockette, there are a lot of us here from Nebraska. I moved here 15 years ago. I would gladly go back but tanking real estate values here have me trapped. Unemployment is actually lower there and the people are wonderful.

7/22/2009 1:52 PM PDT on 9news.com

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castlerockette wrote:
PillsburyDboy....Nebraska?? Don't think so. I've lived here all my life and I've only met ONE person who moved here from Nebraska. You must be from CA.

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PillsburyDBoy wrote:
castlerockette wrote:
Maybe some Californians will relocate up there instead of down south here....

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