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Springfield among top cities for 'second-act' life cycle, magazine says

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Springfield's arts scene and numerous golf courses helped make the city one of Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine's top five places to live for "second-acts" — people at retirement age who aren't quite ready to call it quits.

Springfield is fourth among five cities listed in the category **in the magazine's July issue**. It also named five top cities in four other categories — young adults, professionals, families and retirees.

"Second-actors" are "people who may have five or 10 years before retirement — established professionals who want a change in their life," said Mark Wojno, an associate editor and researcher with the magazine.

Kiplinger's says all the cities on its list have reasonable living costs, strong employment growth and a population that scores high for education and tech-savviness. For second-acts, it also factored in the number of golf courses and restaurants, as well as the number of artists and musicians.

"Springfield has a variety of activities that appeal" to second-actors, Wojno said — although that list includes "eagle-watching along the Illinois River."

Wojno conceded that the eagle-watching is done well outside Springfield, but said another plus is that "it's easy to get out of the city and explore."

Beyond Abraham Lincoln, the magazine says Springfield "is gaining greater notoriety, especially among second act-ers, for its lively arts scene, outdoor and recreational activities, and cultural and historic landmarks."

It calls Springfield "an artistic haven in the Midwest, thanks in part to its museums and art galleries, the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Springfield Muni Opera and the newly restored Legacy Theatre, where you can catch an occasional Broadway musical."

"There is shopping, antiquing, historical landmarks," Wojno said. "People are finding opportunities to explore new things."

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