

Okemos ranks as No. 12 spot for the rich, single

Melissa Domsic
mdomsic@lsj.com

OKEMOS — Are you rich and single?

Then Okemos may be the place for you. At least, according to CNNMoney.com.

The website, part of news organization CNN, listed this suburban mid-Michigan spot as No. 12

on its list of 25 "Best places for the rich and single," landing among cities such as Beverly Hills and Manhattan Beach, Calif.

"If book-smarts matter to you, then you'll relish the abundance of professionals with multiple degrees in Okemos," the report said.

It referred to the proximity of Michigan State University and recommended Lake Lansing,

Okemos Dairy and downtown East Lansing as potential date spots.

"I just find that very amusing," said Roger Cook, owner of Okemos Dairy ice cream shop. "We were as surprised as anybody else."

Cook said he was not contacted for the article but was humbled by the recognition.

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The report took places where at least 30 percent of the population is single and ranked them by median family income. It cited the U.S. Census and Onboard Informatics, a New York-based real estate and demographic data provider.

But some of CNNMoney.com's Okemos data might bear a closer look.

For example, CNN Money.com pegged the Okemos population at 23,004, with 31.6 percent of its residents single. The median family income was listed as \$111,516.

That income figure does not give an accurate picture of single individuals' income because that data is spread among several U.S. Census Bureau cate-

gories. And the percentage of single residents did not offer any age ranges. Okemos has several apartment complexes populated with college students, for example, as well as several senior citizen communities.

Also, Okemos is not an incorporated municipality but rather a Census Designated Place, or geographical area used for Census data. Much of it lies within Meridian Township, though it covers other surrounding areas.

"I'd like to think that Meridian Township is a good place for not just the rich and single, but for families and seniors," said township Manager Gerald Richards.

He said the area's convenient shopping, a good school system and green open spaces make it an attractive place to live.