

Bardstown named one of the 'best business districts in the South'

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Bardstown has been named in a top-10 list of wonderful small town central business districts in the South by Southern Business Development magazine.

Danville also made the list.

Kim Huston, president of the Nelson County Economic Development Agency, said this is the first time the magazine has made this top-10 list on the small city scale.

"This is going to be some incredible promotion for Bardstown," Huston said. "We're listed among some of the top, best places to do business in the country."

Bardstown's designation as Most Beautiful Small Town in America, as voted by Rand McNally and USA Today, was a contributing factor to being named to this list, Huston said.

The magazine also cites contributing factors for the list such as Bardstown's host to more than 40 national and international manufacturing facilities, including Toyota Boshoku, Flower Foods and American Greetings.

The fact that more than 90 percent of the world's bourbon is made in the region, making Bardstown the "Bourbon Capital of the World," was also cited in the article. Another important factor, Huston said, was the city's central location between Lexington and Louisville, making for quick access to an international airport and three major interstates.

Additionally, Wilson Industrial Park made Southern Business Development magazine's top-10 rail-served sites that deserve a second look.

The park, served by the R.J. Corman Railroad Company, made the list, citing its location in relation to Louisville and the Corman Railroad Company's service to customers in the development of large or small projects. The article mentions the 20-mile railroad's service to various industrial customers such as Barton 1972 Distillery, Polyair, the ORBIS Corporation and American Fuji Seal.

Also noted is the 15-acre-plus rail property site available in the Wilson Industrial Park, as well as several other rail property sites in Bardstown and Nelson County.

Huston said the Associated Press and The Washington Post have also run stories about Bardstown's recent ranking by the magazine.

"Already, we've gotten national publicity on this," Huston said. "It's been mentioned in newspapers all over the country."

She said she thinks Bardstown making the top-10 list will have a lot of positive impact on the town.

"Site selectors and companies who may be looking at expanding across the country carefully read these magazines," Huston said. "I think Bardstown will long-term get a lot of benefit from that."