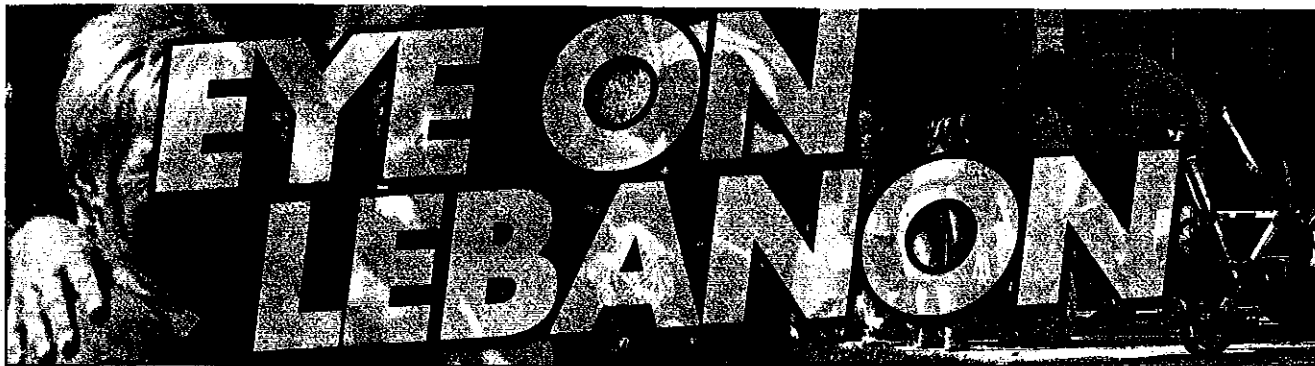


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## Boone County – it's a great place to live

*Editor's note: This column is one in an ongoing series of columns written by community leaders at the request of the Community Vision Committee, with the goal of providing a deeper knowledge of the many aspects of the city of Lebanon.*

Lebanon once had signs at the city limits that said: "Lebanon – A good place to live."

While correct, we also could have signs at the county line reading: "Boone County – A great place to live."

Boone County is a great place to live, work and raise a family. Why is that?

*Progressive Farmer maga-*



**KEN CAMPBELL**

Guest columnist

zine asked that question of me several months ago when they reported Boone County as the 5th Safest Rural County in America according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Report. Why is Boone County such a safe place?

Clearly we do not want to take anything away from the fine deputy sheriffs, police officers, town marshals and state troopers that choose to work and live here. They continue to do "more with less" on a regular basis. (While the county budget has more and more pushed upon it by the state in their budget shortfalls and we must cut funding, the public does not expect less of public safety.)

Part of the reason this is such a great community is the folks and businesses that choose to call Boone County home. Why do people and businesses move to Boone County and what does that have to do with the office of sheriff?

Public safety is a signif-

icant part of the decision made by individuals, families and businesses about where to live and work. In meeting with the Boone County Economic Development Commission (EDC) and Metropolitan Indiana Board of Realtors (MIBOR), we learned that the crime rate and public safety issues are some of the most frequent questions asked.

We are merchants in our community – our commodity is "Peace of Mind" and you are our clients. If your law enforcement works progressively and proactively in the community, it is a better place to live. If public safety (sheriff, police, fire, emergency medical, emergency management) works as a

team within the community, it is a better place for a business to locate or relocate. If the public knows their law enforcement officers and they are comfortable visiting with them, it is a better place to raise a family. I believe that describes Boone County.

We are also fortunate that the sheriff, police, marshals and other public safety entities meet regularly to share issues and ideas. We also meet regularly with the courts, probation, prosecutor, mental health, Division and Family and Children, the faith-based communities and more. As a result, we continue have in Boone County a great place to live and raise our families.

Finally, there is positive

economic impact. Our tax base should improve as more and more businesses, such as Medco, Amazon, etc., locate in Boone County. It will continue to improve if we can keep up our efforts and outreach with our community partners. That is: keep Boone County a great place to live.

Thanks to the members of the Boone County community who work with us on a regular basis to keep Boone County a great place to travel, live, work and raise a family.

*Ken Campbell is a fourth-generation Boone County resident, former County Council member, a 30-year member of the Boone Co. Sheriff's Office and is the Boone County Sheriff.*