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Where to Retire

The Authority on Retirement Relocation

July/August 2019

50 THE SHORT LIST

50 Best Master-Planned Communities in the U.S.

The Short List: 50 Best Master-Planned Communities in the United States

> **BY BRENT STOLLER** WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY ANNETTE FULLER

A NEW NEIGHBOR WAS UNPACKING a moving van near Katrina and Chuck Hans in the Arlington Ridge active-adult community in Leesburg, FL. “He needed to use a dolly, and I was like, ‘We have one,’” Katrina says. “Then he needed a ladder and another neighbor said, ‘I have one.’ We look after each other. It’s like another family.”

The Hanses are two of the 92 people you are about to meet who have relocated to one of our 50 best master-planned communities across America. Their kind spirit is representative of the folks we interviewed. They clearly speak the same retirement relocation language.

Every other year in the July-August issue, *Where to Retire* provides a comprehensive look at the best of the best in master-planned living. Our office staff has been working on this issue for more than six months. This is our 11th listing; our first such feature was in 1999. We evaluated hundreds of communities, but chose only established neighborhoods with enough acreage to build at least a year’s supply of homes.

The developments are in 17 states, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in towns beautified by beaches, mountains, clear skies, lakes, rivers, rolling hills and other earthly assets. (See the Letter From the Editor on page 10 for more detailed data on the compilation.)

Some of our 50 are active-adult neighborhoods; others are all-ages. And some are a mix of the two, meaning an enclave of active-adult housing within a larger all-ages development.

A few logistics: The communities are listed alphabetically, by state and then by development name. This is not a ranking, so they are not numbered. Each has a short description, including interviews with residents. A databox shows home prices, websites and more. (Note that costs fluctuate; we provide here the latest figures available at press time.) The chart on pages 78 and 79 lists all 50 as well as a rundown of amenities, making comparisons easy.

When senior writer Brent Stoller interviewed the residents for this story, two people — one in North Carolina and another in Colorado — mentioned the same phenomenon, with no prompting from him. Both recounted how the development they were considering somehow resonated with them on a deeper level.

“*It just spoke to me* when we drove through the entrance,” says Michelle Schuller, of the first time she and husband Charles drove onto the grounds of Compass Pointe in Leland, NC. “It met all our needs.”

The same thing happened to Scott and Diann Edwards when they were introduced to Toll Brothers at Inspiration in Aurora, CO.

“We came out to Inspiration one day and toured, talked to people and looked at the home sites and the models, and *it really kind of spoke to us*,” Scott says.

We hope our research and our story speak to you, too.



LATITUDE MARGARITAVILLE DAYTONA BEACH

DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

THE LURE Inspired by Jimmy Buffett and his iconic songs, this new development will feature restaurants and bars that serve cheeseburgers in paradise and plenty of frozen concoctions. Hundreds of residents already live here and amenities are well underway. They include a town square, complete with a concert stage; a pool flanked by tiki huts; and a gym with a spin room, aerobics space and whirlpool spa. At the private beach club, which will be serviced by regular shuttles, residents can relax in the shade or walk in the Atlantic's surf. Tee times await at LPGA International (3 miles south), while some of auto racing's biggest events take place at Daytona International Speedway (4 miles southeast).

WHAT RESIDENTS SAY Expecting a visit from representatives of the development's corporate office, Kelley and Bill Sarantis, both 55, were shocked at who ended up knocking on their door: Jimmy Buffett himself, who was on the property closing on his own house. "He came

in, and we have two yellow Labs. He played with them and started showing us pictures of his dog on his phone," Kelley recalls. "We chatted about the community, like you were meeting a brand-new neighbor. It was wild." Since relocating from Fort Lauderdale, FL, in 2018, the couple have enjoyed learning pickleball and attending neighborhood socials on Thursday nights. As for their famous fellow resident, "We're hoping he'll be back to play for us," Bill says.

DEVELOPER Minto Communities – USA

PRICES \$250,000s to \$400,000s for villas and single-family homes

MONTHLY HOMEOWNER FEE \$248.79 for villas and \$219.07 to \$224.07 for single-family homes

STATUS 343 homes built of 3,400 planned on 1,614 acres

AGE-RESTRICTED Yes

INFORMATION Latitude Margaritaville Daytona Beach, 2400 LPGA Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL 32124, LatitudeMargaritaville.com

Where to Retire

The Authority on Retirement Relocation

June 4, 2019

Mr. William Bullock, Division President – Latitude Margaritaville
Latitude Margaritaville Daytona Beach
2400 LPGA Boulevard
Daytona Beach, FL 32124

Dear Mr. Bullock:

I am pleased to inform you that Where to Retire magazine has named Latitude Margaritaville Daytona Beach as one of the 50 Best Master-Planned Communities in the United States. Congratulations!

During a nine-month selection process, our editors reviewed several hundred candidates across the country. Your community is among an elite group of developments that offer today's retirees a well-rounded, active lifestyle.

Where to Retire applauds the positive impact that each of our 50 Best is making on the economic health of the towns and cities in which they are located. All of the communities are leaders in providing a high quality of life to those who are embarking on new adventures in retirement.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to you, your employees and your residents, and we wish you continued success.

Sincerely,



Lindsay E. Lindquist
Associate Publisher, Where to Retire