

the good life

Senior Living

BY MARIA SONNENBERG

Attractive, maintenance-free residences, excellent shopping and dining options and readily accessible, state-of-the-art medical services: no wonder Viera is a magnet for retirees interested in the good life.



Indian River Colony Club photos



“Moving here was the best thing we ever did. Now instead of endless maintenance, we golf every day!”

In 1997, Ben Abramowitz entered a new chapter in his life with his move to Indian River Colony Club.

“We discovered right away that it’s a neighborhood where residents are part of the action, not just observers,” said Abramowitz.

“Living at IRCC is like having your own country club and everything that goes with it. We don’t have to worry about home maintenance here, so we’re getting the most out of our retirement. We haven’t cut the grass once!”

Developments such as Indian River Colony Club and Watersong pamper seniors with charming homesteads centrally located to cultural, medical and shopping venues.

Lush landscaping and the easy camaraderie of small town living are the hallmarks of these senior communities. Entry gates and 24-hour security offer peace of mind to enjoy Florida’s four-seasons lifestyle.

Once a retirement destination exclusively for military officers, Indian River Colony Club has expanded to include former enlisted and non-military adults.

“We chose Indian River Colony Club because my husband said he never

wanted to paint the house again,” said Judi Bickmore.

“Moving here was the best thing we ever did. Now instead of endless maintenance, we golf every day!”

Ah, golf, that tantalizing pursuit of the perfect shot. Suntree and Viera’s plethora of golf courses assures residents never get bored with just one course.

Indian River Colony Club features its own 18-hole course, together with tennis courts, fitness center, as well as a private restaurant.

At nearby Watersong, the restaurant is the centerpiece of the resort community’s luxurious clubhouse. Fine dining and full menu service is available in the elegant dining room, but folks who want to go the casual route can enjoy a light meal at the café or share a glass of wine with friends in the relaxed lounge.

At Watersong, residents can choose from single-family cottages or condominium style villas, as well as state-of-the-art assisted living and special care centers. Watersong also offers home health services and Alzheimer’s care for seamless services to residents at all stages of life.

“Residents who move into Watersong consistently tell me they wish they would have moved in sooner,” said Watersong executive director Shelly Lockhart.

“There is simply not a better choice in our area for people looking for an affordable, luxury retirement community with all the bells and whistles and a continuum of care for those who need it. What’s not to like?”

Listed as one of the Top 100 Places to Retire, Heritage Isle in Viera is an upscale 55+ community where a well-appointed 23,000 square-foot clubhouse includes



state-of-the-art computer stations, fitness facilities, catering kitchen, library and ballroom. A dip in the resort-style pool, complete with hot tub, is a way to cool off after a game of tennis, basketball, bocce, horseshoes and shuffleboard, all readily available to residents. The vacation atmosphere is accentuated by the services of a full-time concierge.

“From condos to estate homes, Heritage Isle offers it all,” said Joy Frankel, Realtor with RE/Max Elite. Joy Frankel, who opened up Heritage Isle for developer Lennar Homes and sold the first 45 homes in the community.

“If you want your own piece of paradise, Heritage Isle is the place to live either as a snowbird or a full time resident.”

Because today’s seniors want to embrace an active lifestyle, communities like Watersong, Indian River Colony Club and Heritage Isle provide plenty of opportunities for forging life-long friendships and maintaining bodies in top shape. With clubs, fitness programs, computers, cultural outings and special events to choose from, residents can enjoy a full — but unhurried day — pursuing their passions.

Unique to Viera is One Senior Place, the go-to place for connecting with resources and information of interest to the more than 18,000 seniors and caregivers who visit it annually.

“We’re proud to have Florida’s most comprehensive source of senior information, services and resources right here in Brevard,” said One Senior Place founder and president Don Kramer.

This one-stop-shop offers a daily array of classes, informational seminars and special presentations, as well as a resource library. One Senior Place also provides easy access to a comprehensive selection of senior-focused businesses, including an elder law attorney, hearing aid specialist, tax and accounting, care management and investment and insurance services.

One Senior Place’s Living Options Showroom highlights independent, assisted and continuing care communities. The Legacy Harbor Memory Resource Center is dedicated to the issues of dementia and memory disorder. A geriatric care manager helps families navigate through local senior services, helping them make informed decisions based on individual circumstances.

With the upscale, state-of-the-art facilities and support available in Viera, seniors will find that the golden years are indeed 24-karat-quality. ■

