Homefinder
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OLDER AND ACTIVE / HOMES TO FIT YOUR LIFESTYLE

Comfort, flexibility assured for those over 62

Park Springs, close to Stone Mountain, gives lifestyle choices

By LESA ROSATO
For the Journal-Constitution

Photos by JOHN AMIS / Special

"You can be as active as you want to be," says Ken Meyer, who, with his wife, Elsie, is enjoying an active retirement.

Natural beauty, elegant surroundings, cultural offerings and the space to pursue a favorite hobby made Park Springs a natural choice for Pat and Jean Armour.

"We had moved into a smaller house several years ago, and I gave my power tools to my son because I had no room to keep them," said Armour, who has organized a woodworking group at Park Springs, a retirement community in Stone Mountain. Because his son had never gotten around to using the tools, Armour reclaimed them for the community workshop at his new home.

Woodworking, puttering around in the greenhouse or refining a technique on the putting green are all part of what has many residents feeling right at home.

"You can be as active as you want to be," said Ken Meyer, who with his wife, Elsie, is enjoying a very busy retirement. In addition to the many trails at Stone Mountain Park, whose 50 acres border Park Springs, sidewalks and trails in the community entice many to stroll around.

Fine dining is a favorite activity, with regular excursions to try restaurants. But for those who'd rather stay in the neighborhood, there are a variety of dining options on-site. The 50,000-square-foot clubhouse serves meals in four themed rooms daily.

"We offer three separate areas for independent living," said Anresa Davis, marketing director for Park Springs, which accepts residents 62 or older. They include the Cottages, Golf View patio homes and Park View Villas, which are two- and three-bedroom flats featuring screened porches, fully equipped kitchens, interior and exterior maintenance, covered parking and indoor access to the clubhouse.

She says Park Springs is mostly occupied, but that the second phase of the villas, Overlook Villas, will add 64 new units to the mix and be complete in 12 to 15 months.

"We provide private residences and a guarantee of [placement for] health care," she said. After a resident pays an entrance fee, which varies depending on the type home they choose, they pay a monthly fee for supportive services and amenities..

She says the "return of capital" plan allows for a 90 percent refund of the entrance fee once the home is sold. While the resident lives in the community, the developer, which is Isakson-Barnhart Properties, maintains title to the property.

Residents enjoy greater stability because they can pursue an active lifestyle and rest assured that they won't have to move if their health care needs change. Park Springs has a 62-unit health center, which provides assisted living, skilled nursing and dementia/Alzheimer's care.

YOUR FAVORITE THING

Pat Armour enjoys woodworking in the shop he helped furnish with power tools and sharing his know-how with his friends at Park Springs.

TIP OF THE WEEK

Armour says he recommends getting out, meeting people and becoming involved. "It's nice because you can do as much or as little as you want, and the bus goes to so many interesting places."

OVERLOOK VILLAS AT PARK SPRINGS

Address: 500 Springhouse Circle, Stone Mountain

Information: 678-684-3300 or www.parkspringscommunities.com

Upfront costs: $197,500 to $450,000

Number of units at Overlook: 64

Square footage: 1,500 to 2,500

Amenities: fitness center with heated indoor pool, warm therapy pool, exercise room and showers nearing completion. Library and computer learning center, hobby and woodworking shops, walking trails, lake, gardens, greenhouse and putting green. There are also bank services, postal services, beauty/barbershop and convenience shopping.

Monthly fee: $1,600 to $2,450 for first person in unit; second person, $663.

Monthly fee covers: continental breakfast Monday through Friday plus $232 meal credit per person, water, gas, electric, basic TV, taxes and insurance, trash removal and pest control. Interior and exterior maintenance of residence, landscaping and groundskeeping, 24-hour security and emergency call system, twice weekly housekeeping, scheduled transportation, recreational, educational and cultural programs.

Getting there

From downtown Atlanta, take I-85 north to I-285, then east to U.S. 78. Go one exit past Stone Mountain Park entrance gate to the West Park Place exit and go right. At the second light (Bermuda Road), turn right. The sales center is on the right near the tennis center.

Want to brag about your community?

Send your suggestions to Homefinder, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Eighth Floor, 72 Marietta St., Atlanta, GA 30303, or send an e-mail to homefinder@ajc.com.