What Are the Pros and Cons of Living in a 55+ Community?

When deciding between senior living options, it is essential to weigh the potential benefits and drawbacks of each choice. While everyone has their preferences in mind when making such a decision, here are highlights that every person exploring 55+ Active Adult Communities should consider…

Some Pros

1. *Community living*: Active adult communities offer the perfect opportunity to forge meaningful connections with a shared focus on enjoying life in comfort. These vibrant neighborhoods provide an ideal environment for forging lifelong relationships. You decide how active and involved you want to be.

2. *Quiet environment*: A 55+ age requirement provides a peaceful atmosphere in active adult communities, creating an environment for adults to enjoy the company of their family and friends.

3. *Amenities*: 55+ Active Adult Communities offer a unique opportunity for participants to stay fit and connected with others. Greenbriar Woodlands offers exciting amenities: a walking path, swimming pool, fitness center, an executive golf course, tennis, pickleball, horseshoes, shuffleboard and bocce courts, wellness courses, yoga, cardio drumming, stretch & tone, etc., to name a few of our amenities. Some are included in your HOA fee; others at a minimal fee payable to the instructor.There are also social events and clubs that focus on shared interests or causes that are always in need of more members and volunteers… ALL perfect ways to keep active and engaged.

    1. We suggest you take a look at the sample monthly calendar and review the Clubs and Activities Section located on this website.

    2. Don't feel like driving? Take a look at the sample bus schedule and let our bus driver do the essential driving for you and take you on scheduled trips!

4. *Lawn mowing and snow removal* – done for you! We bring the mower and shovels – you need to bring patience because at Greenbriar Woodlands there are approximately 1200 homes and not every home can be the first to get mowed, edged, cleaned up or shoveled.

Possible "Cons"

2. *Lack of age diversity*: With a majority of residents in active adult communities over the age of 55, there can be an absence of age diversity that may dissuade potential inhabitants from settling in.

3. *Limited real estate investment:* Active adult communities can be great investments for those looking to plan ahead, but if you view your active adult community residence as a real estate investment, it is essential to consider that family members who are under 55 will not be permitted to use the property without a senior present. For part-time residents who reside away during the winter months or other extended periods, this should be taken into consideration. With that said, demand is high for homes in this lovely woodlands community.

3. *Greenbriar Woodlands Does NOT offer healthcare nor "handyman" services. This* 55 and older ACTIVE ADULT **single family home** community is not an assisted living facility. There are no on-site healthcare facilities at Greenbriar Woodlands. There are no on-site "handymen". Such third-party contracted services must be provided or arranged for by residents directly, their relatives or their family members. Greenbriar Woodlands does NOT provide care for individuals who need assistance with daily activities such as mobility, medication, and household chores. The resident must be able to roll their garbage cans from their garage (where they must be stored) to the curb and back as well as be able to change out fire alarm devices.

    1. Ultimately, this community would fall under the same category as "aging at home". Therefore, it is always recommended that proper thought and research are conducted before deciding if this 55 and older community is the right choice for you and your family.

4. *Restrictions/ Rules/ Regulations*: You may not be used to having to ask permission to do improvements on the outside of your home and property…and other instances that you may take for granted.

    1. *Parking*: Greenbriar Woodlands does not allow on-street parking between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 p.m. Parking is restricted to your garage and driveway (without blocking the sidewalk). If you own more cars than can fit in your garage and on your driveway, you will have to pay extra for parking with a HangTag in a lot in the community OR in the RV / large space lot. RV lot spots are limited and there is often a wait list of more than a year. Free / Temporary space is available for up to 4 weeks per year. More than 4 weeks would require you to purchase a HangTag thru the rest of any given year.

    2. *Age Restrictions*: Can someone younger than 55 live in a 55 and better community? The simple answer is "yes, IF". 55 and older communities often have special exemptions that allow for flexibility in the age of a homeowner's spouse, partner, or resident. Any special exemption would need to be pre-approved-- in writing --by the Board of Directors BEFORE you can purchase a home. Generally speaking, one owner must be 55 or above. At the same time, children living with the parent would need to be 18 years of age or older. Additionally, there are restrictions for how long/ how many nights an underage child (grandchild, or great grandchild, for example) can visit/ stay.

    3. There are two important documents one should read, be comfortable with and acknowledge they will abide by - before purchasing a home at Greenbriar Woodlands. These documents can be found on this website under "Useful Documents". We urge you to take a look at them:

        1. Merged Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions

        2. Rules and Regulations of ARC (Architectural Review Committee).