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‘Everything we wanted’ in a community

When White Horse Village hosts the Senior Living Showcase in May, real estate agent Sandra Shepard plans to be there representing Berkshire Hathaway. It will be a short drive—she and her husband Geoff live in our community. Sandra is able to share with visitors not only about real estate, but the life the Shepards have built together at White Horse Village.



When looking ahead to the future, the couple knew they wanted to find a Continuing Care Retirement Community, where they would be guaranteed care for life without a change in rates if their health changed.

“The concept of a CCRC is very attractive,” Geoff says. “I spent my life as a lawyer in the insurance industry, and I believe strongly in insurance. And the bottom line is, that’s what these communities provide.”

Life here allows them not to be a burden to their children, and they’re also having a great time. “It’s all worked out very well,” Geoff says.

“We absolutely love it here,” Sandra adds. “It gave both of us the flexibility we were looking for to both continue what we love to do with work, and also be part of such a vibrant, interactive community that lends itself to a lot of different lifestyles.”

Previously, the couple had lived a few miles away in Rose Valley. “We wanted, as best we could, to duplicate the environment, as far as being able to get out and walk, meet our neighbors, and

have chats," Sandra says. "White Horse Village basically offered everything we wanted in a CCRC community."

Geoff and Sandra also appreciate an atmosphere where personal connections can thrive. For singles and couples alike, "It's so easy to meet friends and quickly pursue mutual interests," Sandra notes.

They've had time to thoroughly get a sense of life here, having moved in back in 2019. They started planning ahead years before that, however, knowing that CCRCs would be in high demand as the population of older adults increased. Forethought paid off, as they were able to move in at the same time as two other couples who had been their best friends for decades, Geoff says.

Highlights have included simple routines, like the anticipation of dinner together with friends in the evening. Geoff notes that dinner is a great time to learn about the fascinating backgrounds of other residents. "There's plenty to explore and talk about."

The community is home to many pets, and Sandra enjoys seeing people out walking their dogs in many shapes, sizes, and colors. So do their two cats, who like to monitor the parade of canines from their doorway.

If you're thinking of looking into a community for yourself, don't wait too long, the couple advises. Come when you're young enough to participate in everything, and start planning even in your 60s.

"White Horse Village was everything we had hoped to find," Sandra says, "but thank goodness we got on the waiting list, and then we were in control, basically, of when we wanted to come."

Geoff agrees. "If you come in a timely way, I maintain you'll live 10 years longer. There's so much to do. You're among friends. They are aware if you start to have health issues, and the team around you is knowledgeable about senior care, and that's a huge benefit."