

'EVERYTHING WE WANTED'

Neighbors cultivate friendships and fruits at this Virginia 'agrihood' with its own farm.

For Debbie Salois, a trip to the community farmers market is just outside her back door. That proximity to the weekly farm stand, which sells vegetables grown on-site and local foods, is a perk for the retired master gardener. She and her husband, Jack, were the first residents of the Chickahominy Falls development in Glen Allen, VA, 15 miles north of Richmond.

"If you want fresh produce picked on the property a day before you eat it, you just have to walk over," Debbie says. "You're going to get what is available at the time. It's not going to get shipped in from California and Florida. It's healthy food."

Chickahominy Falls is the first active-adult "agrihood" in central Virginia, says Roger Glover, principal of The Crescent Group, the developer, and Cornerstone Homes, the builder. "This type of neighborhood serves up farm-to-table living in a cooperative environment. Instead of being built around a golf course, pool or tennis court, this community is

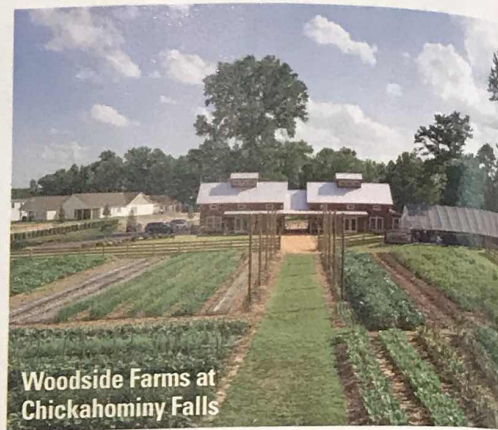
centered around a working farm." The 10-acre Woodside Farms is maintained by a professional farmer and his staff who harvest fruits and vegetables that provide health benefits for those 55 and older. The Saloises relocated to the development in 2019 and bought a single-family house that backs up to the farm and barn. Debbie, 66, a former retail banker, and Jack, 70, who worked in information technology for telecommunications companies, wanted to escape the cold weather in Greater Chicago and live closer to their daughter's family near Washington, DC, 100 miles north. An avid gardener, Debbie also needed ample outdoor space to pursue her hobby. They found the perfect lot at Chickahominy Falls.

"The fact that I could have a quarter-acre of property and design my own landscape was everything we wanted here," she says.

The couple have enjoyed neighborhood activities at the barn, such as a bread-making class as well as monthly happy hours and coffee socials. They are looking forward to the opening of The Farmhouse clubhouse complex in May 2021. It will have a fitness area, game room and library in addition to an outdoor pool, beer garden and event lawns.

"Our mission is to make it possible for people to enjoy healthier, more gratifying and engaged lives through homes designed for the active adult and communities with amenities dedicated to wellness and connectivity," Glover says.

The nongated development of Chickahominy Falls debuted in 2018 and has more than 70 houses built of 386 planned on 180 acres. Cornerstone and another builder, StyleCraft Homes, offer villas, townhouses and single-family



Woodside Farms at Chickahominy Falls

homes from \$299,990 to \$437,900. Eleven floor plans range from 1,547 to 3,585 square feet and many feature front porches.

Debbie planted about 40 perennials in the fall, including nine blueberry bushes, and is anticipating what blooms in the spring. "We'll see if it's going to work out because plants don't always read the books. They do what they want to do," she says with a laugh.

For more information, visit Chickahominy Falls.com.

— MAUREEN L. KING

THE BEST PLACES TO RETIRE: KERRVILLE, TX

From the editors of *Where to Retire*, the "America's 100 Best Places to Retire" book features the country's top retirement locales. The following is an excerpt about the central Texas city of Kerrville.

The book costs \$19.95 (plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling) and can be ordered by visiting WhereToRetire.com or calling (713) 974-6903.

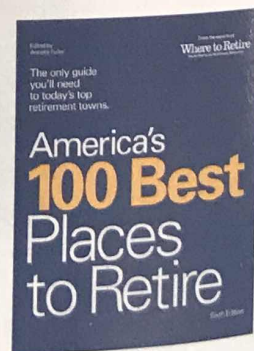
EXCERPT ▶ Kerrville is bisected by the Guadalupe River and locals enjoy its endless opportunities for recreation. The city offers a small-town ambience, but with enough shopping options and festivals to make a trip to San Antonio, 65 miles southeast, seldom imperative.

Many retirees who move to Kerrville had visited for years, bringing their children to popular camps summer after summer in the Texas Hill Country. The influx of camps started in 1921 in Kerr County with the opening of Camp Rio Vista for Boys, and the business has grown, now drawing 6,000 to 7,000 youngsters

to the region annually. ...

Locals and visitors are drawn to the wineries along U.S. Highway 290 out of Fredericksburg to the northeast as well as the

attractions on state Highway 173. First there's The Museum of Western Art, the last project of renowned Texas architect O'Neil Ford. The museum, just west of the Guadalupe River, is devoted to Western art and heritage, with a collection created by the Cowboy Artists of America. **W**



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