

Parent, child teams tee off

Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Division will host the Inaugural Parent-Child Team Golf Outing Sunday, Oct. 13 at San Marino Municipal Golf Course. First tee time will be at 10:30 a.m.

Teams may register at Parks and Recreation office 31555 11 Mile until 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11. A \$13 registration fee will be due at registration that will include green fees, lunch and awards.

retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Retirement centers offer one good way to live

My new friend Jane lives in one of the many retirement centers to be found in this part of Florida.

She has a cheery, one-bedroom apartment with kitchenette. It's in a big complex near the bay. She has one room, a day in a beautiful community dining room; she could eat there all the time for a little extra pay. She enjoys a big variety of amenities offered by her center.

Jane is 76, though you'd never guess it either by looking at her or hearing about her busy schedule. Several of her friends, including her doctor, tried to dissuade her four years ago when she made the move from condominium to retirement home.

"THEY SAID I was much too active to go into a retirement home," Jane remembers. "They were sure I wouldn't like it. But I have no regrets about making the change when I did."

Jane explained. She retired 16 years ago after teaching elementary school in upper New York state. She never married, and she took care of her mother in the years after her father died.

She bought a brand-new condominium home when she first came to Florida, and she thoroughly enjoyed living there. She made many friends and took full advantage of the area's cultural offerings. She watched her home appreciate in value.

But she also kept an eye focused forward at what the future might hold, and she looked carefully at possibilities for changing her situation, should the need arise.

FOUR YEARS AGO Jane decided it was time. No real rush; she was in excellent health and still loved to be on the go.

"But I had found the place (where) I wanted to live," she said. "I knew I could get a good price for my condo and buy in here."

"By moving when I still could get around well, I knew I'd have the chance to make friends and be settled when the time came that I had to stay put," she went on to note that her only close family is a brother in another state. "I certainly don't want him to have to care for me if suddenly it becomes necessary," she added.

JANE SHOWED ME not only her apartment, but also the center's dining room "where the food is great," the lounges, the library and swimming pool she used a great deal, the craft rooms that interest her less, and the beauty parlor, "which I won't use as long as I can drive."

We also stopped at "the second floor," which is a nursing home for residents no longer able to care for themselves. She said she spends a day there each week, reading to people, visiting, helping in whatever way she can. "I may need someone to do that for me someday."

She serves on the residents' board, which has a voice in center policy, and recently she began "starring" on the center's own television station. She reads news and announcements of upcoming events for those whose eyesight is failing.

For this retiree, the present is good and the future holds security — at least as much security as preparation can provide.

Margaret Miller was Suburban Life editor for Ocala's News-Papers for 16 years. She and her husband, Joe, have retired to Florida where she writes Retirement Memos.

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How are many American towns and cities saving money these days? They're turning trash into vital energy and useful, recycled materials. It's all thanks to a technology known as resource recovery. Systems have been developed that save energy from solids, liquids and gaseous materials which previously were viewed as waste materials.

Resource recovery systems can make solid waste still more valuable — steel, aluminum and other materials are often able to be salvaged by the system's special separation processes.

If your community starts saving on energy costs thanks to such resource recovery systems, you may soon be seeing the benefits in your own budgets, experts say.

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