



## The New Neighborhood

With so much to do, you will never be alone, especially during the holidays! Located just 20 minutes south of Albuquerque, we invite you to live life as it should be—active, fun, and social.

**A**s I drove down the street, everybody waved: a new experience for this city kid. That was the first sign that my new community was a different kind of place.

When I downsized from a sprawling house last year, I was looking for more than smaller digs. I wanted a neighborhood with a sense of community and fellowship.

I retired to Albuquerque from Chicago 15 years ago. I had nice neighbors and friends, but living alone made me feel like a hermit at times, and my cat's conversation was getting tiresome. So I built a new house in Jubilee, an over-55 community in nearby Los Lunas. My new house is practically maintenance-free, and I was able to add some custom features.

Even though Jubilee was buttoned up for the pandemic, I was immediately welcomed. I've found that I have more in common with my neighbors in an over-55 community than in my previous neighborhoods. We're in the same age bracket, mostly retired, often from out of state, and eager to make new friends. That makes this a place where people introduce themselves, greet each other, and, yes, wave as you drive by.

I was a little apprehensive about living in an all-senior environment. Would it be too sedate and quiet? Jubilee bills itself as an active adult community—and that's an understatement.

The clubhouse is a beehive of daily activity with pickleball, bocce ball, billiards, archery, water aerobics, yoga and dance classes, hik-

ing, crafts, and more. There's a barbershop quartet, a resident rock band, a weekly happy hour, and an annual talent show. A full-time lifestyle director organizes regular social events, but the residents themselves run most of the activities.

Not that you have to be an extrovert. If you prefer to chill out at home, neighbors still greet you when you venture out, and will check to make sure you're okay if they haven't seen you for a while. And if your dog gets lost, someone is bound to find it.

A population of retired business and professional folks gives Jubilee an incredible pool of accomplished people who have the time to pursue a variety of interests. Residents teach classes and organize educational programs. They responded to the pandemic by assembling a team of retired healthcare professionals to set COVID guidelines and keep residents informed.

Volunteering is big here. Jubilee residents actively support local charities and have adopted a stretch of highway. The latest project is planting trees along our highway frontage (with a contractor doing the heavy lifting). Every December, a group of residents puts up an elaborate display of holiday decorations along the community's entrance drive.

So I've downsized my living arrangements but expanded my lifestyle. I still see my Albuquerque friends (it's an easy drive), and have made lots of new ones in my new neighborhood. And I'm getting used to the waving thing.

— Jubilee Resident Jim McClure

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