



Photo courtesy of Norman Plate Photography

“Why I Love The Villages”

By Carla Griffin, B&A Realtors

My journey to The Villages Golf & Country Club began in the 1980's when I was looking for a place to move my mother-in-law from Northern California.

After I got her moved to a new model home in the community in the late 1980's, a college friend started inviting me to walk the community. We always ended with breakfast at the Clubhouse.

As I approached the “ripe old age of 55,” I began to ponder the value of living in a community rich in history and tranquility.

The history never seems to completely evaporate. It tends to seep through the fabric of this community, leaving fragments of the past in the old ruins, the trees, landforms and even the names of streets and places, all within the community.

The Villages was developed over 40 years ago on 550 acres of

former vineyards and agricultural estates off San Felipe Road in the Evergreen District of San Jose.

This haven of natural beauty now hosts approximately 4,400 residents living in the 2,309 condominiums and 227 single family homes nestled comfortably on acres of lush landscaping and sparkling lakes surrounding 9- and 18-hole USGA-rated golf courses, swimming pools, tennis courts, picnic areas, hiking trails, stables and bridle paths.

Our beauty is shared by the wildlife that have grown with the developments in and around our hillsides. It is common to see many animals such as deer, wild turkey, quail and rabbits plus many different species of birds.

My move to The Villages happened in March 2000 when the Dot.com business collapsed and my business of Mergers and

Acquisitions tumbled around me.

I also lost a couple of best friends and loved ones. I knew that I needed a drastic change in my life. When my college friend suggested moving to The Villages, I came that afternoon just to look. I went home and began packing and the rest is history.

I feel like I own a “little” corner of paradise that is obscure to so many people in the Bay Area...to feel and experience the peace and tranquility of having a secure gate manned 24/7.

Plus having over 100 active clubs and activities to participate in. The lush vegetation and hillsides to hike with views to San Francisco are breathtaking!

Moving to The Villages was the beginning of a new lifestyle and a new career. I had gotten my Real Estate Broker's license in 1985 so I decided to start a residential real estate company, working exclusively within the gates of The Villages Golf and Country Club.

I have never looked back and have been so happy working and playing in this beautiful community. For information about The Villages, call Carla **408.274.8766**.

Editor's Note:

The Villages is an active adult senior living community. Although technically a retirement community, many residents continue to work while living there. It is age restricted. One person must be 55 or older. Housing prices range from \$280,000 to \$900,000+. Approximately 250 properties (10%) appear on the market every year. Rental properties do exist. To visit The Villages, you must be invited by a resident or a real estate agent.