

Not every good long-term option comes with a 55+ label.

Many people assume that if they want a simpler, more manageable lifestyle, a 55+ community is the only path.

But that's not always the case.

There are many neighborhoods that offer:

- Comfortable layouts
- Convenient locations
- Lower-maintenance living

...without age restrictions.

The challenge isn't finding options—it's knowing what actually makes a place work well over time.

You don't need a 55+ label to live comfortably long-term.

Sometimes the question isn't just: "Where should I move?"

it's, "What kind of place will continue to work for me?"

That's why the **Senior-Friendly Community Guides** look beyond the name of a neighborhood and focus on practical details, including:

- Home types (ranch homes, townhomes, and similar layouts)
- Distance to shopping, medical care, and everyday services
- HOA and maintenance considerations
- Home size, lot size, and typical price ranges

View/download the Community Guides at www.TomSharpRealtor.com/55-living

or scan the code



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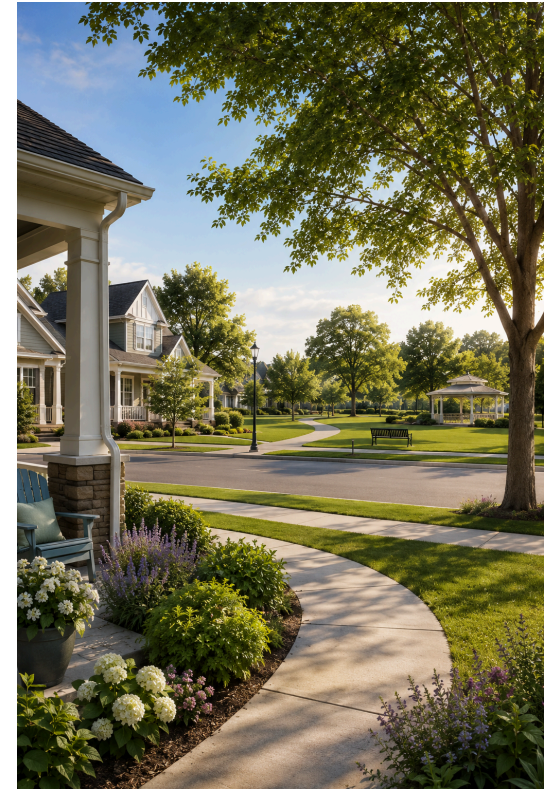
Helping people make thoughtful,
lifelong real estate decisions —
with clarity and confidence.

— Lifelong Living Series —

Choosing a Senior-Friendly Community (Without 55+ Restrictions)

By Tom Sharp

Lifelong living means choosing a place that works not just today—but over time.





What Makes a Location Work

What makes a community work over time?

Daily convenience

How close you are to groceries, medical care, and everyday needs

Manageable home design

Single-level living or layouts that are easy to navigate

Reasonable upkeep

Yard size, maintenance demands, and overall effort required

Predictable surroundings

Quiet streets, consistent upkeep, and a sense of stability

A home can look perfect—and still be difficult to live in day to day.

The goal isn't just finding something appealing. It's finding something that continues to work.

The right location often matters more than the label.



Where People Get Stuck

Common traps to avoid

Assuming 55+ is the only option

Overlooking neighborhoods that may fit just as well

Choosing based on appearance alone

Focusing on finishes instead of function

Underestimating distance to essentials

Short drives today can feel longer over time

Overlooking long-term upkeep

What feels manageable now may not stay that way

When the focus is only on how a home looks, it's easy to miss how it actually lives.

What works today should still work years from now.



A Simple Way To Evaluate

A practical way to test a location

Drive the area at different times

Traffic, noise, and activity can change throughout the day

Test real distances

Drive to stores, medical offices, and places you visit often

Walk the layout

Notice stairs, entries, and how the home flows

Think through a typical day

From morning to evening—what would living here feel like?

A quick visit rarely tells the full story.

Real-world use is what matters most.

Daily life is the best test of a location.