

My Biggest Retirement Mistake: Moving in With My Kid’s Family

It seemed like a perfect solution for this retiree and his son ... until they tried it

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Richard Harr clowns around in the laundry room at Hawthorne at Leesburg, a 55-plus community in Central Florida (Leesburg, FL) where he moved after a failed experiment with multigenerational living.

MARY BETH KOETH



Richard Harr in Hawthorne at Leesburg's community center, getting ready for a tennis match. He says he has more opportunities for social connection than he had living with his son's family in a small town: "There's always something happening, whether it's social events, sports or group outings."

MARY BETH KOETH

Finding a fit in Florida

He found it when a local real estate agent steered him toward Hawthorne at Leesburg, a 55-plus community of about 2,000 residents in Leesburg, Florida, for which Bardin, a digital marketer, had coincidentally done consulting work (AARP participated in planning Hawthorne, which opened in 1972, but is not involved in managing the development.)

"In Hawthorne, I can play tennis, racquetball and even participate in chair volleyball, which is a fun way to stay active," Richard says. Most activities are within walking distance of his two-bedroom home. "The community is vibrant, and there's always something happening, whether it's social events, sports or group outings."

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After trying out multigenerational living,
he says he’s found
happiness on his own.



Richard Harr waters the grapefruit trees in his Leesburg, Florida backyard - in his active community, Hawthorne at Leesburg.

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