

Florida's Best Restaurants 80 Health Care: Blurred Lines 50

Florida Trend

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Dec. 2015

Modern Retirement

Enclaves

From letter carriers to Indian immigrants, there's a niche community in Florida for just about everyone. 66

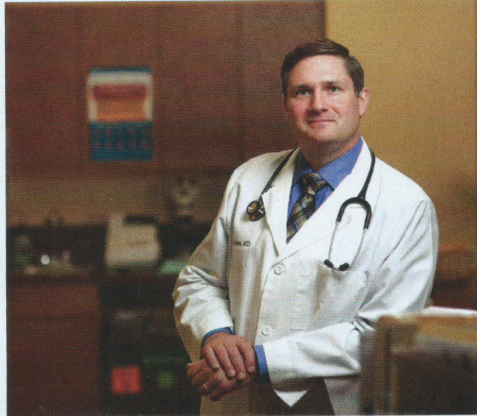
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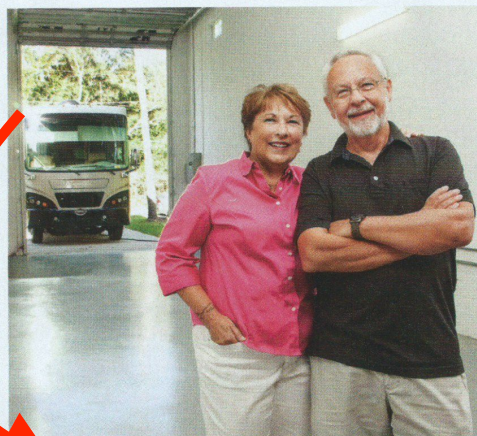


Iggy and Rani Ignatius operate a 55-and-over condo community in Tavares catering to Indian immigrants.

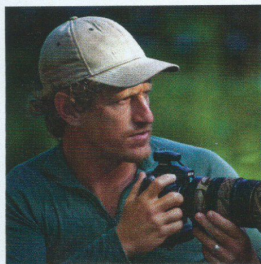
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About 500 of Dr. Lee Gross' patients pay him a flat fee directly, bypassing insurance companies. p. 56



Marie and Bruce Bedell retired to Lake Weir Preserve in Marion County. p. 66



Carlton Ward Jr.: "My eye is focused on natural heritage and the environment." p. 12



Elizabeth Ricci helps foreign-born vets gain citizenship. p. 101

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Bruce and Marie Bedell moved to Lake Weir Preserve three years ago. "Living here is more about the garage than the home," Marie Bedell says.

"The first thing people here tell you is that they don't want the cookie-cutter house in a golf cart community. We want a more independent lifestyle."

— Marie Bedell, resident,
Lake Weir Preserve

Lake Weir Preserve Marion County

► Toy Lovers

When Bruce and Marie Bedell began looking at places to retire in Florida, they knew they didn't want a house next to a golf course with HOA dues and RV parking restrictions.

The Connecticut couple owned a 2008 Tiffin motorhome and planned to spend more time traveling in it. Three years ago, they moved to Lake Weir Preserve, a new, RV-friendly retirement community near the Villages in central Florida. Every summer, they hit the road in their prized RV.

"We've traveled pretty much up and down the East Coast and we're starting to venture out West," Marie says.

At Lake Weir, the Bedells, who owned and operated a small business in Connecticut for 35 years, live in

a custom-built house with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, a two-car garage — plus another garage big enough to park the RV. "Living here is more about the garage than the home," Marie says.

That's the idea, says Lake Weir Preserve spokeswoman Adriana Rosas. "Imagine a 1,500-sq.-ft. house and a 2,000-sq.-ft. garage with three bays and a car lift, fully AC'd.

"We probably have one couple who doesn't have toys. Everybody else has an RV, motorcycle, boat or classic car."

Located on 400 acres in Marion County, Lake Weir Preserve is still in its early development stages. So far, it has built and sold about 30

custom homes ranging from \$200,000 to \$600,000, says co-managing partner Neil Schuster.

Besides specialized storage for their "toys," residents enjoy the camaraderie of the community, he says. "They talk about where they've been and where they plan to go."

