

Roger and Melanie Springer: Problem solved

What happens when a couple of problem-solvers move into a community of new homes with maintenance-free living, and then retire there?

Well, they don't just stop actively getting things done, and since they don't have to deal with taking care of their home, the couple has even more free time to tackle challenges.

In 2013, Roger and Melanie Springer bought a new home in Marrington at Cobblestone, a maintenance-free Epcon Community in Summerville, SC. The purchase came just three days after they began their search there, and one month after Melanie submitted her letter of resignation to her longtime employer in Virginia.

Melanie had a demanding job at Booz Allen Hamilton, a government consulting group, where she averaged 50- to 60-hour weeks. Melanie earned a reputation for resolving the toughest projects at the firm, so it's no surprise that the company didn't want to see her go.

At her retirement party, an executive from another division offered Melanie a job in the Charleston area, a region she and Roger had targeted as a desirable place to move. So, although she put her retirement plans on hold, the Springers seized the opportunity to move a little farther south of their Virginia home. Besides, she says, she wasn't really ready to stop working.

Achievers never are.

Roger built his own recruiting firm, with clients around the country. He even brought his daughter into the business. He continued until 2015, when he decided 50 years as a recruiter was enough. His daughter decided to pursue a different career path, so he closed down his business.

From the time they moved in, the Springers had been active in building the sense of community that is now thriving at Marrington at Cobblestone. The neighborhood was small but growing in 2014, and Roger and Melanie wanted to bring the people together, to make the most out of the opportunity to live in a wonderful area, with so much to offer.

"One of the reasons we chose Marrington at Cobblestone was because it was going to be a community of just 98 homes. That was appealing because we could get to know most or all of the people who want to be involved," explains Roger. When they moved to the neighborhood,

there were about 20 homes built. He estimates the number of occupied homes has doubled in the past 15 months,

Melanie continued to work until January 2016. Meanwhile, Roger formed the social committee. He also joined the local Elks Lodge that his new neighbor recommended. Roger used his newly discovered leisure time to play more golf with his fellow Elks and some neighbors. The committee (including Melanie) created more groups for the residents: a ladies club, book club, canasta club, and a crafts group that does a variety of things, including making hats for cancer patients.

Roger and Melanie are loving their life at Marrington at Cobblestone. Although their families are in Florida and Ohio, they have built a second family with their growing Epcon Community neighbors.