

Susan Cyrulnik: Retired and revved up

Susan Cyrulnik is one of those women who ages like fine wine. She gets better with each year, because her vintage stems from getting the absolute best out of every day.

When she saw her retirement years approaching, Susan considered various locales that offered more pleasant weather than her lifelong home in a Detroit suburb. Her career in risk management and employee benefits had sent her to many cities around the country, so she had a good idea of where she might want to relocate. Susan ruled out Arizona and Florida, because “a lot of Michigan people retire there” and she wanted a bigger change. She had traveled with friends to Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina. Those two destinations topped her list for her next move.

In May 2015, Susan moved to Marrington at Cobblestone—an Epcon Community in Summerville, just outside of Charleston. This particular community offered a maintenance-free, affordable lifestyle, with a new home that is close to the city that is renowned for its history, culture, and food—perfect for a self-proclaimed foodie. It’s also just two hours from Savannah, making it easily doable for a day trip.

Susan also fell in love with her Epcon Communities home. The Palazzo design she chose gives her the open floor plan and high ceilings she wanted. The curved archways, tall baseboards, and crown molding add appealing architectural detail. The fenced-in courtyard gives her two Westies a safe place to explore the outdoors.

One of her criteria for her home choice was a community that wasn’t too restrictive. She likes being among her peers, but wanted the freedom to have guests of any age, including her four grandchildren. One of the other communities she considered didn’t allow visitors under the age of 55, which was a deal-breaker for Susan.

Susan is thriving in her new home and making the most of the freedom that the combination of retirement and maintenance-free living affords her. She has frequent visitors to what she calls “Susan’s B&B”, and before they arrive, she creates a spreadsheet with activities and an itinerary.

Even before she moved in, Susan joined the community’s social committee. Then, with many years of experience in planning events for work, Susan began using her skills to organize activities for the community. Recently, she planned a trip to a local tea plantation and tour.

She also joins her Marrington neighbors for a weekly Zumba class at the nearby Elks lodge and a yoga class at the YMCA. Susan is a member of the Marrington at Cobblestone's book club.

Susan loves her home at Marrington at Cobblestone, but seems to spend as much time having fun in and around the community as inside.