

Georgetown's charm wows rankings

Book says city is No. 1 for senior living

By ELLEN GREENEY

Georgetown has captured nationwide recognition, earning the No. 1 spot in America for best places to retire, so designated by the publication Retirement Places Rated. "Retirement Places Rated" is one of the most popular and possibly, the oldest guidebooks that give seniors, including millions of baby boomers, useful information in their search for quality living.

"It's definitely an honor, given the competition like Sarasota, Florida and Scottsdale, Arizona. We ranked higher than that," Paul Brandenburg, Georgetown city manager, said Tuesday

The author of the article describing Georgetown's charm, David Savageau, has reported that he uses these criteria to determine his rankings and ratings for winning the top spot: performing arts and the outdoors; reasonably priced places to live including owning, renting and retirement communities; stable and comfortable climates; safest and most crime-free areas; health care; shopping; continuing education, employment; and community services.

"Though Georgetown may not be the first place to come to mind for most people, its strong economy and affordable housing gave it an edge over the 199 other communities we researched," author David Savageau said this week in The Dallas Morning News. Mr Brandenburg said he thinks those criteria have wider appeal than just for seniors.

"These are the same reasons that younger families are coming here, too," he said. "Southwestern University the new library award-winning parks, downtown square, the rec. center and community center, all that small town charm just like Mayberry. "That's the reason we moved here too?"

Situated at the edge of the beautiful and serene Hill Country on the banks of the San Gabriel River, home to Del Webb's Sun City Texas and Southwestern, near Austin and the University of Texas—all this favorably colors the Georgetown palate.

Others have rated Georgetown tops by moving here in droves. According to Chamber of Commerce data, the population has jumped more than 60 percent to almost 47,000 since 2000.

Georgetown beat out nine Other powerful contenders including:

- St George-Zion, Utah
- Fort Collins-Loveland, Colorado;
- Charleston, South Carolina;
- Henderson, Nevada;
- Kalispell-Flathead Valley Montana;
- Fairhope-Gulf Shores, Alabama;
- Scottsdale, Arizona;
- Laguna Beach-Dana Point California
- Sarasota, Florida.

Since 1982, Mr Savageau has traveled the country visiting locations that attract older adults. He now lives in Washington, D.C.

Wiley Publishing also publishes Frommer's Travel Guides, Betty Crocker, the Dummies series and all those yellow and black striped books called Cliff Notes. The company was also named one of the 400 Best Big Companies in 2007 by Forbes.

"Georgetown offers the best of two worlds. It's a small community on the edge of the Austin metropolitan area. Retirees want both the neighborliness of a small town and the cultural, entertainment and health-care amenities of a big city" Mr. Savageau said in the Morning News article.

The edition of "Retirement Places Rated" naming Georgetown as No. 1 is available to buy in mainstream bookstores.

Additional information about the book can be found on www.amazon.com by searching the book's title.

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