

# THE BIG DECISION



## MOVING TO A 55+ COMMUNITY

*By Jennifer Berger*

Steve and Anita Gorman of Plainview

> Should you stay or should you go – that is the question many people in the 55-and-over crowd ask themselves before moving into a retirement community. There’s no doubt, it’s one of the biggest decisions you’ll ever have to make. While some people look to downsize, others choose a 55-plus community for the amenities and activities. We asked several Long Islanders to share how they decided to make the big move.

### **Sense of community**

It wasn’t just the clubhouse, pickleball courts and numerous activities that inspired Anita Gorman to move to Country Pointe in Plainview. “We wanted the feeling of living in a community-oriented place,” said Gorman, who has lived in the 55-and-over community with her husband, Steve, for more than two and a half years. “Living here provides a tremendous sense of camaraderie and togetherness.”

The coronavirus pandemic further solidified Gorman’s decision to move. “Under the COVID situation, if we were in our homes, we’d be completely isolated, stuck in our backyards,” she said. “But here, we always have a place to go. We can sit outside the clubhouse, have a conversation and laugh, since everyone knows and cares about each other.”

Gorman said Country Pointe is really like a Florida-type of community up North. There is a social director who organizes activities and clubs. “Pre-COVID, there was tremendous involvement in activities,” she said. “We have Zumba and jazz class twice a week, and line dancing once a week. Mahjong and Canasta are played virtually now, but we used to sit in the clubhouse for our games and then go to the café afterwards for lunch. When tennis was allowed, we’d play doubles, and pickleball is becoming much more popular. We play for the sole purpose of having fun and laughing.” ...continued on page 6



# Find your perfect home at one of our award-winning lifestyle communities.

Beechwood communities are master planned with you in mind, from our open vistas to our open floor plans. To buy a Beechwood home is to buy generations of experience in crafting the home designs, construction methods, & amenity offerings that are unmatched on Long Island. Call or email a Sales Consultant today to start your journey to an unparalleled lifestyle in a Beechwood Home.



**Meadowbrook Pointe Gardens • East Meadow**  
Call: 516.619.7245  
A new community of luxury homes for all ages



**Country Pointe Woods • Smithtown**  
Call: 631.246.4013  
Only a few homes left. Convenient location, low taxes, Villas & Townhomes



**Meadowbrook Pointe • East Meadow**  
Call: 516.568.4064  
62+ Resort style community  
Condominium Homes



**Country Pointe Meadows • Yaphank**  
Call: 631.371.2507  
Resort style living, spacious homes & low taxes



**Country Pointe • Plainview**  
Call: 516.341.6230  
Exclusive resort style community  
Condo Suites, Villas & Townhomes



**Oak Ridge • Saratoga Springs**  
Call: 518.290.8303  
Brand new homes located in historic Saratoga Springs



**The Latch • Southampton Village**  
Call: 631.371.4977  
Superlative turn-key luxury in the Hamptons



**The Tides • Arverne By The Sea**  
Call: 888.500.5480  
New luxury rentals by the ocean  
1, 2 & 3 bedroom Apartments



**The Vanderbilt • Westbury**  
Call: 800.327.4415  
Luxury rentals with on-site amenities  
1 & 2 bedroom Apartments & Hotel Suites



**BeechwoodHomes.com**

The complete terms are in offering plans available from the Sponsor. Country Pointe Plainview: File No. CD16-0218, CD16-0219, CD16-0342, CD16-0343, CD16-0348 and CD17-0106. Country Pointe Meadows Yaphank: File No. CD16-0339 and CD18-0348. Country Pointe Woods Smithtown: File No. CD17-0227. Oak Ridge: CPS-7 documents available from the sponsor HO-04-0060. The Latch Southampton Village: File No. CD19-0284. Meadowbrook Pointe East Meadow: File No. CD19-0071. Meadowbrook Pointe Gardens East Meadow: CD19-0070. \*Prices, taxes, renderings and availability subject to change without notice. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY.



it would enhance my ability to converse, make friends and spend time with people of similar ages whom I could relate to," he said. "People of varying ages have different thoughts and views, which I believe makes my lifestyle a little more interesting and compatible."

After doing some initial research, Salafani chose Sutton Landing, a luxury rental community in Mount Sinai. "The clubhouse and facility have the amenities that are necessary for people my age to enjoy," he said. "There are also ongoing programs to take advantage of now and in the coming future." For example, there are plans for outdoor movie nights on the pool deck, yoga classes, book discussions and more. "People find it much easier to socialize and meet people in a clubhouse that offers many activities," he said. "When you're retired you have a lot of time and look to fill a void."

Salafani likes rental communities because it offers the opportunity to see if this is the kind of life one might like. "You don't have to be locked in for any long period of time," he said. "It's important to choose a community with amenities that help you enjoy life. It's a wonderful lifestyle."

### Looking to downsize

Annis and Larry Stecker have lived in Baldwin Harbor for 43 years and recently decided they didn't need such a large house anymore. "We were ready to downsize, and some of our friends started moving out of the neighborhood," she said. "Some went to Florida, others to senior developments. It was time for us to make that move."

The Steckers purchased property at Country Pointe in East Meadow. They recently began building and expect to move into their new home in



Annis and Larry Stecker of Baldwin

December 2021. "I wish we could move now," she said. The couple decided to move to East Meadow because it was a good, close location for everyone, right off the highway. "It's as close to my daughters now in Baldwin as it would be in East Meadow."

While they are looking forward to making new friends and socializing, the best part about their new home will be that it's on one level and there are no stairs. "That was a big thing," she said. "Right now, I have to walk down three levels to do laundry since it's in the basement. In the new home, the washer and dryer will be on the same level as everything else. All that is involved in home ownership is taken care of."

# Personal and Caring Service

Guaranteed  
to beat  
competitors'  
pricing

Practicing  
and helping  
people  
hear better  
since 1993



Individual  
Appointments  
Available  
We follow CDC  
Guidelines

## THUNDER HEARING SERVICES

Two locations for your convenience:

450 William Floyd Pkwy., Suite B, Shirley and 806 E. Main St., Riverhead

Call for an appointment today **631.830.4296**

[www.thunderaudiology.com](http://www.thunderaudiology.com)