

Seneca rated best retirement

Company says area 15th-best nationally

area in SC

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Seneca is the most desirable area in South Carolina and one of the best in the nation if you're a retiree looking for a tax-friendly city with amenities much sought after by seniors.

That's the assessment of a financial technology solutions company based in New York City, which ranked Seneca No. 1 among the top-10 places to retire in South Carolina. Perhaps even more impressive, the company ranked Seneca the 15th-best place to retire in the nation.

SmartAsset compiles its list of best places to retire based on three overriding factors — tax friendliness, medical care and social life.

The company takes into consider-

South Carolina, 96.90. Anderson and Georgetown tied for second with an index of 93.50.

Spartanburg (90.40) and Greenville (89.70) were ranked fifth and seventh on the list, respectively.

Greater Oconee County Chamber of Commerce executive director Jillian Lusk was thrilled to learn of the ranking, yet not totally surprised.

"That's really impressive — it's fantastic news," Lusk said Thursday. "It doesn't come as a huge surprise to me because we have a quality of life and a cost of living that is unparalleled with places in the entire country."

Florida cities dominate the national top-10 rankings, with nine on the list, headed by Stuart, an Atlantic coast city north of West Palm Beach and south of Vero Beach. The only non-Florida city in

Ranking no. 1, Lusk said

the top 10 is Seaford, Del.

SmartAsset spokesman Anees Singh said the company completes many studies and lists, but this is the first time it has produced a ranking of the best places to retire.

"We plan to make it an annual study," Singh said. "We work with over 130 data partners to uncover interesting findings and compile lists that can be of use to people looking for advice on home-buying and retirement."

To view an interactive map of the best places to retire, visit smartasset.com.

Lusk expects Seneca to gain more recognition in time.

"I really do believe that as Seneca continues to gain popularity and to grow from some of the great initiatives that we're working on right now, more and more people are going to see what a beautiful community we have," Lusk said.



Best places to retire in SC

City	Tax	Medical Offices	Recreation Centers*	Retirement Centers*	Index
Seneca	10%	6.9	0.6	1.7	96.90
Anderson	10%	4.3	0.3	0.9	93.50
Georgetown	10%	3.8	0.3	2.1	93.50
Murrells Inlet	11%	6.0	0.1	3.3	92.40
Camden	11%	3.9	0.3	2.6	91.10
Spartanburg	10%	4.4	0.2	1.0	90.40
Walterboro	11%	6.9	0.2	0.7	90.30
Greenville	10%	5.0	0.3	2.0	89.70
West Columbia	11%	4.0	0.5	0.9	89.70
Beaufort	10%	4.6	0.2	0.8	89.00

* PER 1,000 PEOPLE
SOURCE: COMPILED BY SMARTASSET FROM U.S. CENSUS DATA



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

Combined with tax friendliness, abundance of health providers and active social opportunities, lakeside living has helped make Seneca one of the most attractive places to retire in the country.

ation taxes, including both income and sales taxes at the local and state levels, the number of doctor's offices, recreation centers and retirement centers per 1,000 people as

the basis for tabulating an index to rank the city.

Seneca had the highest index in

SEE RATED, PAGE A5