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Port St. Lucie ranks as hip city for retirees



By [EVE SAMPLES](#)

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Monday, February 25, 2008

Richard Florida, the celebrity intellectual who believes a city's economic health is directly related to its population of creative folks, has named Port St. Lucie one of the country's top places to live.

That is, if you're over 65 and looking to settle in a small region.

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Florida's new book, *Who's Your City? How the Creative Economy Is Making Where to Live the Most Important Decision of Your Life*, ranks Port St. Lucie fourth on a top-five list of the best small cities for retirees. Naples ranked fifth in that category.

The author's research outfit, Washington-based **Creative Class Group**, used criteria

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including the percentage of health care professionals, the percentage of retirees, the city's weather and its arts and culture to select the best over-65 places, said researcher **Steven Pedigo**.

All five of the Sunshine State locales on the lists fall into the retiree category. Miami was the fifth-best large city for retirees. Palm Bay and Sarasota made the mid-size cut for people over 65.

There's nary a mention of the state among the best cities for young singles (Boulder, Colo., was the No. 1 small city), the best cities for mid-career professionals (Stamford, Conn., topped the mid-size category), best cities for families with children (Washington was the big-city winner) and best cities for empty-nesters (San Francisco, Stamford and Boulder won for big, mid-size and small cities, respectively). San Diego won out as the best big city for gays and lesbians.

A Boca Raton-based developer of medical offices is expanding its holdings around **St. Lucie Medical Center** in Port St. Lucie.

The Greenfield Group paid \$7.5 million late last month for 16 office condos at **Treasure Coast Medical Center** on Hillmoor Drive, property records show.

The company liked the location near one of its other projects and isn't planning any big changes for the 31,500 square feet. The offices were built in the mid-1980s and sold by **Dr. David Wertheimer's** Port St. Lucie-based real estate firm, **Wertheimer Real Estate Group LLC**.

"We're developing some properties just across the street from the hospital, so we happen to be in that market already," said **Brian Stenberg**, vice president of The Greenfield Group.

The company is building St. Lucie Medical Park on Tiffany Avenue on 10 acres owned by **HCA of America Inc.**, the parent of St. Lucie Medical Center.

The first phase - 32,000 square feet - is scheduled to open in May. All but 2,000 square feet have been leased there, Stenberg said.

"The first phase is working out nicely, but we don't have the pre-leasing that we would need in order to start a second phase," Stenberg said.

Jupiter-based **Rendina Cos.** is competing in the same neighborhood.

Also on Hillmoor Drive, Rendina's 20,000-square-foot **East Lake Village Medical & Professional Center** is about 50 percent sold, said **Peter Reed**, senior vice president for the developer.

The new office condos there are going for \$205 a square foot.

A Palmetto Bay-based chain of crepe restaurants will be the latest addition to Tradition's retail lineup.

The **CrepeMaker**, a concept launched in South Florida in 1992 after owners **Christopher Hoffman** and **Maria**

Suné returned from a vacation in France, is scheduled to open in May.

The nearest location is now at the **Town Center** mall in Boca Raton.

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