

# Simple Life offers busy lifestyle



Simple Life CEO Mike McCann and Wildwood planner Melanie Peavey prepare to cut the ribbon for the Simple Life opening event. Jeff Light (left) and James Boyd (front right), both Sumter County Chamber of Commerce members, are shown holding the ribbon. Board members Beth Hunt and Cody Yoder, Wildwood representatives, including Mayor Ed Wolf and Commissioner Joe Elliott, and Simple Life representatives were also on site for the event.

Dozens of people were on hand last Friday, to celebrate in the official opening of a new housing development in Sumter County. Simple Life Lakeshore developers hosted a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony, sharing the story of the community's beginnings and what future plans are included. The event was held last Friday morning, April 23.

The new, 222 home cottage community located on Lake Andrew in Oxford, is a collection of one and two-bedroom space-efficient cottages providing an amenity-rich community lifestyle at a lower overall cost, according to the developers.

They list the centerpiece of Lakeshore as the nearly 2,000 square foot community pavilion for large gatherings, along with private nooks for focused tasks or intimate con-

versation. Lakeshore also boasts significant greenspace throughout the community. They plan to use both assets to create a lifestyle focused on wellness and outdoor living. Creating a constantly evolving and welcoming community. Plans include a golf league, art and technology classes, a gardening club, wine tastings/pairings and cooking classes - focused on a healthy lifestyle.

CEO Mike McCann said it was two and a half years ago that he considered developing in Florida.

They had recently finished a project there, something that was in existence that they converted. That project is sold out now. He said he shared what he was considering with those who had worked on the previous project, as well as his wife and they were all on board. His five partners in the devel-

opment were also on board.

While he had been thinking South Florida or Jacksonville, family friends suggested the area around The Villages and lined him up with a realtor. He found the land ... the last piece he looked at on the day he was checking realty.

"We stood right out here and looked at this lake and I was just blown away. I said, this is the one we needed to focus on," he said.

Building costs and fees were increasing, but they contacted manufactured home representatives and talked to City of Wildwood planners, working closely with them.

They felt that people wanted smaller homes with less acreage that they could "lock and leave" and go enjoy life, he said. Out of that, came the designs for how Simple Life would work out. They worked to save trees,

provide smaller lots and smaller homes at an affordable price.

McCann said his hat is to city planner Melanie Peavey and her team for the work they did, which allowed Simple Life to offer the first tiny homes in the area.

He also approached

retired developer Bob Bruce for input, thinking Bruce would shoot the idea down, but instead, he came on board to direct the effort.

"He offered to run with it and he did."

They also had to deal with the COVID pandemic as they were

trying to market, but McCann said Foxfire Realty jumped on board and offered to have someone on site to promote the development.

The ribbon cutting event included refreshments, live entertainment and tours of the homes and grounds.



Josh Summers, CEO Realtors Association, Wildwood Mayor Ed Wolf and Simple Life managing director Andrew Ward (seated left to right), listen as CEO Mike McCann speaks to the crowd gathered for the ribbon cutting.

Miranda Madison performed live music for the event. They plan created a golf league, art and technology classes, a gardening club, wine tastings/pairings and cooking classes - focused on a healthy lifestyle.



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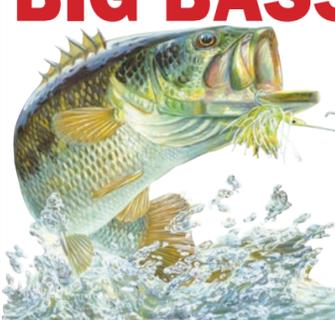


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Bob and Linda Bruce and Dave Houghton are shown inside the community pavilion, relaxing before the ribbon cutting. Bruce actually served as developer on the project.

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