

Posted: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, March 8, 2014

NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE WEEK PALM CHASE

Slowing down at retirement? Not in Palm Chase!



[Thomas Cordy](#)

The pool at Palm Chase in Boynton Beach. (Thomas Cordy / The Palm Beach Post)



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Neighborhood of the week, Palm Chase. (Thomas Cordy / The Palm Beach Post)



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Neighborhood of the week, Palm Chase, in Boynton Beach. (Thomas Cordy / The Palm Beach Post)



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Club house banquet room at Palm Chase in Boynton Beach. (Thomas Cordy / The Palm Beach Post)

By Emily J. Minor

Special to The Palm Beach Post

BOYNTON BEACH —

With its tidy grounds, affordable homes and convenient location, Palm Chase is a fun and friendly over-55 development that is perfect for middle-class retirement.

“There’s a lot going on here,” said Irene Diaz, the property manager at Palm Chase for 21 years. “People here are not dead in the water.”

Built in the mid-1980s by Oriole Homes, Palm Chase sits on 64 acres and is bordered by several canals. It’s big, with 131 buildings. But there’s nothing taller than two-stories. There are 87 buildings of two, single-story villas. The two-story condos are scattered in 44 buildings, called “quads” because there are four in each building.

All told, Palm Chase has 350 units.

But in addition to the layout and the affordable prices, Diaz said the amenities and activities are what residents also love. There is a swimming pool, spa, sauna, tennis courts, billiards room, card room, fitness center and an auditorium that seats almost 500 people, which is often used for live theater.

There are also a ton of clubs at Palm Chase — everything from the women’s club and the men’s club to the ‘50s club, the ‘60s club — for people of the same era to get together and have fun.

“There are probably like 70 clubs in there,” said Realtor Susan Doyle.

Doyle, who’s been selling in Palm Chase since 1988, said the development is so secluded — the entrance driveway is long, and the canals provide internal privacy — that many of her colleagues don’t even know it’s in there.

“It’s hidden,” she said. “There’s only one way in and one way out.”

A walking path around the development is also well-used, she said. The volunteer community policing program is very active, even patrolling the nearby shopping plazas to make sure residents feel safe, Doyle added.

Since it’s 55 and over, school attendance zones don’t come into play here. There is a homeowner’s association and board, and HOA fees are \$366 a month, paid quarterly. But that includes cable TV and swimming pool, maintenance on the landscaping and clubhouse, the electronic guard gate, roof repairs and the entrance signage. “It pays for just about everything,” Doyle said.

Currently there are eight homes for sale, ranging in asking price from \$135,000 to \$200,000. Realtor Barney Hurwitz said he’s been working with a company, Aurum Group Properties, which has been buying some outdated units, remodeling them and “getting them up to 2014 standards,” he said.

“This is a great community in a great location, but some of the units are just tired,” he said.

Diaz, the property manager, said many of the residents who moved in back in the 1980s, when the homes were new, have moved to retirement homes or passed away. Consequently, a whole new group of residents is moving in, she said, and that’s changing the type of activities being offered.

“They’re starting to have things like Happy Hour at the pool and karaoke night,” she said. “People buying in there now are in their 50s and 60s, and they have fun in a completely different way.”

The Palm Beach Post
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