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## The Villages Ranks as Fastest Growing Micropolitan Area in the Nation

*Census Bureau Ranks Mega Retirement Community for Population Growth over One Year*

THE VILLAGES, Fla.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--The Villages, the largest single-site mixed-use development in the U.S., earned the No.1 ranking as the fastest growing micropolitan area in the nation according to a recently released Census Bureau report. The report adds a new perspective to population estimates the federal agency released in March, which ranked Sumter County as the nation's 11th fastest-growing county in 2007. It is the first time The Villages earned the No. 1 ranking since its designation in 2003 as a micropolitan statistical area. In its definitions, the federal agency classifies a micropolitan area as one or more counties with an urban core of at least 10,000 people but less than 50,000.

"Baby boomers are still retiring and looking for a wonderful place to live," said John M. Crossman, CCIM, president of Crossman & Company. "With over 2.9 million square feet of shopping and dining, The Villages has much to offer."

"What is happening in The Villages MSA in terms of population growth is similar to what is occurring in Florida and elsewhere," said Sean M. Snaith, Ph.D., and director of the Institute for Economic Competitiveness at the University of Central Florida. "First, we've got a wave of population moving in at retirement age, the baby boomers," Snaith added, referring to the U.S. population segment of about 80 million residents born between 1946 and 1964. "That's going to continue to drive population growth in general."

Crossman & Company handles the retail leasing for The Villages, FL including the town centers of "Lake Sumter Landing", "Spanish Springs", plus the "Buffalo Ridge" and "Bellaire" shopping centers. The Villages is the largest single-site mixed-use real estate development in the U.S. and currently home to major retail and restaurant tenants including: Publix, Fresh Market, Wal-Mart, McDonald's, Barnes & Noble, Belk, Bealls, Bonefish Grill, Panera Bread, Starbucks, Sweet Bay, TGI Friday's, Chico's, Ruby Tuesday's, Target, Outback, Carrabas, Bass, Izod, JoS. A. Bank and Red Lobster.

For more information please visit [www.thevillagescommercialproperty.com](http://www.thevillagescommercialproperty.com), or call 352-753-6654.

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