

Daily Times (Salisbury, Maryland)  
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## Southern Delaware selected as retirement destination

*GEORGETOWN -- Southern Delaware has been selected by Where to Retire magazine as a top retirement destination in the nation.*

The region will be featured in its September/October issue, which hits stands August 14. The magazine focuses on helping people with retirement relocation destinations and is available at various newsstands and at Barnes & Noble bookstores.

According to editor Mary Lu Abbott, Southern Delaware has qualities that are important to today's retirees. "The beaches and boardwalks of Delaware's southern coast attract tourists in the summer, but retirees reap the benefits of these shorefront towns all year long," she said. "Tranquil walks on the beach and visits to nearby national parks and wildlife refuges top the list of outdoor activities, and the Rehoboth-Lewes area hosts fun, cultural events throughout the year. The region's tax rates, among the lowest in the country, may be the best perk for boomers living on a fixed income."

According to the magazine, each year 700,000 Americans relocate to new towns to retire. Generally, relocating retirees are healthier, better educated and more affluent than those who choose to not relocate. They bring significant economic benefits to their new states and hometowns. Nationally, two dozen states and hundreds of towns seek to attract retirees as a source of economic development. Southern Delaware Tourism executive director Scott Thomas said he has seen the influx of retirees coming to the area each year, adding the recognition is great publicity for the county and the region. "We're certainly on the radar," he said. "I think that our region continues to elevate its status or ranking as a go-to retirement destination given the quality of life and the favorable tax structure."

Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Carol Everhart said the honor is yet another feather in the region's cap, adding that Rehoboth was named a Dream Town by the AARP in 2006. She said the region's natural resources are what makes it stand out. "You have the beach, the bay and the waterways, it's gorgeous," she said. "All of those things are appealing at all ages, but as you reach retirement, you're looking for more relaxation." Everhart said shopping, dining and cultural opportunities make the area attractive for retirees. "They're looking to be entertained, they're looking to be relaxed, they're looking for good food and they're looking for a comfortable environment," she said. "We have that."

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