BUSINESS

Greenville wins top 10 honors

City ranks hign in affordability, retirement living, website says

To view the full report, visit www.relocateamerica.com/top-100-cities/

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Don and Dagny Harris live in Florida, but they prefer Greenville's milder climate, cultural offerings and proximity to renowned colleges.

So in May they'll do what many retirees have done and others plan to do — make Greenville home.

That's no surprise to folks at RelocateAmerica, a website that has placed Greenville on its 2010 "Top 100 Places to Live!"

The site,which provides access to relocation resources, named Greenville to its top 10 list of retirement communities and its top 10 list of most affordable communities.

It is the ninth time Greenville has been on RelocateAmerica's list, says Peter Meyers, RelocateAmerica's vice president of research and content development.

"One of the first things that always comes up about the area," he said, is "its beautiful weather."

Alice and Kenneth Blackwell, New Jersey natives, wanted to be closer to their two sons — one a Greenville optometrist and the other a retired school teacher in Pennsylvania.

"We like Greenville's climate better than the cold winters in the mountains of Pennsylvania," Alice Blackwell said. She said that was their "excuse" for relocating to Greenville.

Meyers said one "kick point" for RelocateAmerica is that Greenville is just under 20 percent below the average cost of living index in the United States.

Residents called Greenville a "walkable" community and noted its vibrant arts community, higher education opportunities, and quality of life.

RelocateAmerica cited Greenville for having "more foreign manufacturing investment per capita than any other metro area," being a thriving entrepreneurial community,



HEIDI HEILBRUNN / Staff

RelocateAmerica has placed Greenville on its 2010 "Top 100 Places to Live!"

its location in the I-85 mega-growth corridor, for having some of the best housing values in America, and its nearly 200 events and downtown celebrations each year.

More than 1,800 cities were nominated for RelocateAmerica's list.

The nominations were whittled down to 100, based on interviews with local leaders, feedback from residents, and economic, environmental, education, crime, employment and housing data.