Seneca takes top honors in senior study

BY ERIC SPROTT
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SENECA — According to a recent study, there's no better social setting for seniors in the Palmetto State than Seneca.

According to SmartAsset, a financial technology company based in New York City, Seneca earned top honors in the study, which ranked cities based on the local tax rate, the number of doctors' offices, recreation centers and retirement centers per 1,000 people, and the percentage of seniors who make up the cities' population.

Among the top 10 cities, Seneca ranked first in retirement centers (0.7 per 1,000 people) and second in the doctors' office category (6.1 offices per 1,000 people) behind only Myrtle Beach (8.7).

And for Seneca Mayor Dan Alexander, the ranking was another feather in the city's cap, as he also touted the area's natural resources and the programming the city provides through the usage of the hospitality and accommodations tax funds.

"When I think about this area, when you look at the natural resources, that's what people are attracted to — just the natural beauty that many of us can take for granted," he said. "People love that about this area, and that's what they enjoy about it, and the social atmosphere of this area is great."

Rounding out the top 10 behind Seneca, in order, were Hilton Head Island, Murrells Inlet, Camden, North Myrtle Beach, Myrtle Beach, Garden City, Laurens, West Columbia and Little River.

Earlier this year, SmartAsset ranked Seneca as the top spot to retire in South Carolina for a third consecutive year.