

# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

puts Nalcrest on the

Map

**N**alcrest, NALC's retirement community in central Florida, doesn't have any feral tigers, mysterious jungles, or exotic indigenous tribes, but its unique charm got the attention of *National Geographic*. The result was an installment of the magazine's Zip USA series, which highlights an individual zip code—in this case 33856.

The article and accompanying photos in the July 2004 issue showcased NALC retirees engaging in a variety of leisure activities, such as bicycling, swinging from a tree and piloting a motorboat. The story explained how carriers tired of delivering through snow, sleet, rain and gloom of night had found a haven in the picturesque community with its many amenities.

Residents can bask in the Sunshine State's glorious weather, make use of the swimming pool, shuffleboard and tennis courts, and baseball field, or just gather at one of the numerous social groups Nalcrest boasts.

First opened to residents in 1963, Nalcrest contains 500 apartments in 66 buildings. It is self-supporting and is operated under the supervision of a board of trustees headed by NALC President Bill Young. Most, but not all, residents are part of the NALC family.

Noting the sizable letter carrier population, author Melba Newsome made much of Nalcrest's no-pets rule, which keeps the mailman's well-publicized nemesis—the dog—out of the town. (In fact, it's common for Florida retirement communities to ban pets.)

"Where do retired mail carriers go before they reach that great dead-letter box in the sky?" she asked, opening the story. "Try Nalcrest,

Florida, a small community along a sparse stretch of Route 60 east of Tampa where you won't find boring blue uniforms, change of address slips, six-day-a-week delivery schedules—or dogs."

The article was mainly positive, with residents like Annette Alversa, the wife of a retired member from Long Island, quoted as saying, "I love the sense of community here. I used to say, 'I'm never going to live down there with all those old people.' I woke up one day, and I was one of those old people."

However, some of the Nalcrest residents were disappointed by negative elements of the article.

Beverly Isom, a secretary at the community's main office for the last 30 years, said, "We asked them to change some of it, and they wouldn't. There are so many other things than what they put in that are wonderful about Nalcrest."

Since the magazine hit newsstands, several Florida newspapers have done stories on the unique community. The Associated Press also ran a story on its national news wire.

Jerry Kane, Nalcrest general manager since 1997, is just gratified by the attention.

"We're happy they did an article," he said. "Obviously somebody thought enough of our community to put it in a magazine as prestigious as *National Geographic*." ☐

*For more information, call the Nalcrest office at 863-696-1121. The office is open Monday through Friday 8:30-4:30 (closed for lunch 12-1). A rental application form is printed on the inside back cover of this issue.*