

NEWS



Abernethy
Laurels
EveryAge Senior Living™


SUMMER 2023



LIVING THE DREAM

TWO ARTISTS CREATE
A HAVEN TO SUIT THEIR
RETIREMENT YEARS





David and Diane Fields met 57 years ago in Greenville, SC. Since that initial encounter and during their subsequent marriage, the two have lived in historic properties, on expansive acreage, and in a trailer. They've built a barn, renovated homes, and owned livestock. In light of their tendency to defy expectations, the choice to settle down in an established retirement community might seem out of character.

But, it's been in the plans for quite a while. In 2000, they first learned about Abernethy Laurels while exploring options for Diane's parents. Then, six years ago, they met with Rob Hartsell, former marketing director, and told him they intended to move when they were 85. They first looked at a cottage on Geitner Avenue but didn't love it. As time went by, they caught wind of a freestanding home on Sink Lane and another on Geitner, and they even changed tack and considered a villa. Despite the appealing prospect of basement storage and other amenities, nothing was quite what they hoped for. Finally, they toured a villa in the Upper 400s that needed a good deal of work. The interior was dated, a sunroom addition felt tacked on, and the entire layout was calling for attention.

They wanted it.

GETTING UNDERWAY

Envisioning a full kitchen renovation, better integration of the sunroom, an expanded deck, and plenty of cosmetic improvements, they committed to life in a CCRC and began drawing up plans. David had spent his career as a residential and commercial designer, often working for furniture manufacturers, and Diane had been a children's wear buyer for Ivey's before becoming a textiles artisan who raised her own wool and carded, spun, and dyed it before making beautiful garments and throws that she sold at juried shows around the country.

For a span of six months from July to December 2022, the couple worked with Jonathan Lail, director of facilities management, and his crew, bringing their vision to life. It was an unexpectedly long haul, characterized by post-COVID supply chain issues and material shortfalls, but everyone kept a positive attitude and pulled together to keep the project moving forward.

BRINGING THE PROJECT TO LIFE

The kitchen was gutted and reworked for improved storage and sightlines. Space was stolen from the carport to recess the new refrigerator and pantry. A wine fridge was installed. The cased opening to the dining room was enlarged. New stainless steel appliances and fixtures were brought in, and new stone countertops were added. Luxury vinyl planks unified the floors throughout, and white-painted cabinetry went up to reflect more light from the windows.

In the sunroom, the floor was levelled and the space better incorporated into the rest of the home. A cased opening was removed entirely, and the formerly tight quarters were converted to a bright keeping room off the kitchen and dining room. Furnished with two oversized chairs, a flat-screen TV on a chest, and a baker's rack full of lush houseplants, it's now David and Diane's favorite place to spend time together, thanks to its proximity to the kitchen and its views out over the deck and Diane's landscaped garden.

Elsewhere, the master bath was reconfigured to accommodate a larger shower and a double-sink vanity. The guest bath had its tub restored after a previous tenant had converted it to a walk-in shower. In the large laundry and utility room, the couple repurposed the original kitchen cabinets to maximize closed storage. An earlier addition built as a woodworking room was also maintained as a hobby and craft space. At one point, plans for a hot tub were floated, but privacy and space limitations left that luxury on the drawing board.



Kitchen/dining before renovations



Kitchen/dining after renovations



Main living area



Backyard deck and garden

REAPING THE BENEFITS

Now, with renovations complete and the villa beautifully laid out with their favorite furnishings and artwork, David and Diane are delighted with their new home. It's spacious and personal, reflecting their love of pottery, photography, and books. The space is refined and elegant but eminently comfortable – just the sort of place you'd expect of artists and designers with an impeccable eye for quality who are also grounded in humble materials like clay, soil, and wool.

Despite the setbacks with materials and delivery, the Fields are pleased with the experience and the responsiveness of the Abernethy Laurels team. They felt that Jonathan Lail and his crew worked well with them and helped ensure that timelines and craftsmanship were met. They do advise renovation-minded residents to draw up plans and run them by Jonathan and Abernethy leadership. Having everyone on the same page is of great benefit to the schedule and to progress. Plus, Abernethy Laurels has guidelines for what is typically provided with renovations, so if residents want more or something else, it's worthwhile to have a conversation and see if additional fees will be incurred or what residents will be responsible for on their own.

LIVING THE DREAM

Although the Fields ultimately opted to move to Abernethy prior to their anticipated age of 85, they altered their plans and downsized to gain greater control over their lives. Age was certainly a factor in the decision, but it weighed in largely as a future contingency. At the moment, the couple are completely mobile and independent, actively going out and meeting friends, living as freely as they always have. The difference is that they're now prepared for any changes to health or well-being that might arise, and they've gained invaluable peace of mind by creating a home they love and finding a community that fits their needs – both now and in the years to come.



**Abernethy
Laurels**
EveryAge Senior Living™

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TIPS FROM David & Diane

- > Make your decision to move early so you're not forced into a situation by a sudden change in circumstances.
- > Know how you live now and think about how you will live in your new environment.
- > Choose what you love from your current home and take it with you; sell, donate, or give away the rest.
- > Measure, measure, measure.
- > Shop your old house for furniture and accessories. (The only new things they bought were a rug and a cabinet.)
- > Rethink the spaces you have and decide how you might use familiar items in different ways.
- > Envision what could be: 'You can absolutely make these places your own.'



ART STUDIO



DOG PARK

WHAT'S NEW AT ABERNETHY!

Abernethy is almost ready to premiere its dedicated art studio, a multi-purpose room for painting, crafting, sewing, quilting, and much more! It offers expansive areas for spreading out projects and hosting group classes, and it's certain to be a popular place for all kinds of creative expression!

And Abernethy's much-anticipated dog park will soon be welcoming our canine companions! The fenced-in area boasts state-of-the-art engineering for cleanliness and security, and our eager residents are more than excited to see the dream become a reality!



Directions: From I-40, take Exit 132 (Thornburg Dr/Hwy 16). Go south approximately five miles; then turn left onto Hwy 16 South. Abernethy Laurels is approximately ½ mile on the left.