

## **Downsize into a Care-Free Lifestyle**

*Elizabeth Schreckenber*

Years ago it wasn't unheard of for retirees to pour their savings into a larger home, or to stay in the family home after the children moved out. But in today's economy, empty nesters may want to consider selling their current home and downsizing to a cost-efficient maintenance-free home.

Today, utility costs alone warrant a smaller living space. Last winter, heating oil prices soared 30%, and natural gas is up 10%. Factor this in with the considerably lower taxes of a smaller property, and that precious retirement fund can stretch a lot farther in a home that's half the size.

Many plan to travel after retirement, but forget to consider that they must find someone to take care of the lawn while their gone. Or they want to spend time golfing or playing tennis, but have to clean a large empty house before they go.

It may make sense for you to downsize. If you have lived in your home for a long time, you probably have a nice chunk of equity in that home. Selling it today might not get you as much as you feel it's worth, but it could go toward purchasing a home with less maintenance, such as those available at Seasons Village, a 55+ community for active adults. The gated community offers single-level, energy-efficient homes with maintenance-free exteriors, with lawn care provided.

Bob Moore, developer of Seasons Village, encourages those interested in maintenance-free living to put their current homes on the market.

"There are young families out there looking for homes to raise their children, just as you did," said Moore. "And there are realtors who have become successful in today's housing market who can help you stage your house and sell it for a reasonable price so you can move into a more desirable home."

Within minutes from Seasons Village are hospitals/doctors, a library, a YMCA, colleges/universities, shopping, restaurants, biking/walking trails, and interstate access. Located between Troy and Glen Carbon at the corner of Bouse and Whitworth Drive, both display homes are open on weekends from 1-5 PM. Call 288-3241 any time to make an appointment for a weekday showing.