

# Retirees, others choose Enterprise as their hometown

**BY KAY KIRKLAND**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Ron and Mary Louise Snider “had anywhere to choose from.” But they chose Enterprise.

So did Harvey and Anna Mathis, James and Lou Kitterman and hosts of other people who have made the Enterprise area their homes in the past several years.

“We looked all over the place,” Snider said recently as he and his wife prepared for an afternoon working in the yard at their new home in the Cotton Creek subdivision.

“Florida got too crowded and there were too many hurricanes,” he said. “There is less traffic here, good medical facilities and it’s close enough to Montgomery and Dothan if there’s anything else you need that you can’t find here.”

Mrs. Snider said she likes the weather here and “it’s close

enough to the beach.”

The Sniders came to Enterprise by way of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Orange Park, Fla., where Snider worked as a government accounts manager in the pharmaceutical business.

Snider, originally from North Carolina, is a former U.S. Army aviator who trained at Fort Rucker in 1968 and later served as an aviation instructor from 1970 to 1974.

“We liked the people here,” he said. “We just didn’t forget.”

When it came time for him to retire from his second career, Snider said he and his wife decided to settle in Enterprise. “We had anywhere to choose from,” he said, pointing out that the availability of golf courses in Enterprise played a part in his decision.

Like Snider, Kitterman loves golf as well.

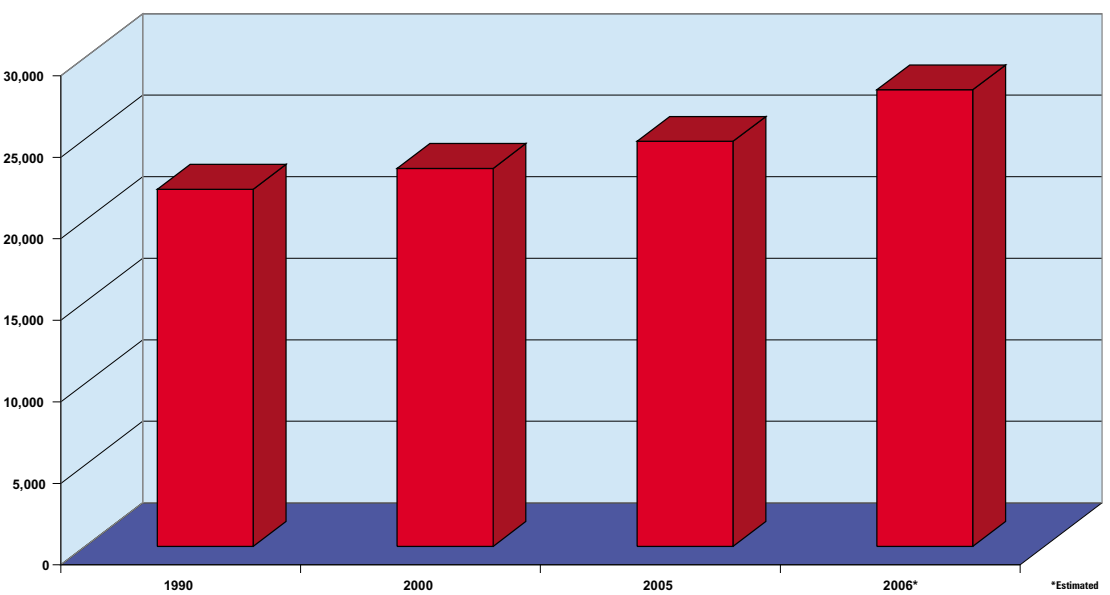
“I play golf – only every day,”

he said with a chuckle.

Enterprise, he said, has “a great Country Club” and golf course, and the relatively new Tartan Pines course also attracts the avid and occasional golfer in the area.

The Kittermans are from Oklahoma, but they also discovered Enterprise through the military. Kitterman, a former chief of staff of the Army Aviation Center, retired from the military at Fort Rucker 20 years ago. Though they moved to Tennessee and then to Palmer, Alaska, north of Anchorage, the Kittermans kept a home they had bought here during his assignment at Fort Rucker.

During recent years, they would “go back and forth” between Enterprise and Alaska, where Kitterman has relatives. Recently, however, they decided to settle here permanently and discontinue the cross-country trips.



“It’s always been a great community,” he said. “The cost of living is low and the cost of homes is far below anywhere we’ve been.”

Kitterman said he and his wife like the atmosphere here. “The community is laid back, but progressive, and I like that,” he explained.

He said the thriving housing market was also a plus for him and his wife, because they had no trouble selling their older home when they decided to buy a new house in Cotton Creek. “I don’t think they ever got the sign up,” he said.

For Harvey Mathis and his wife, the home they bought on Independence Avenue a few years ago “just felt like home” the minute they saw it on their first-ever visit to Enterprise.

Mathis, now a Daleville Police Department investigator, had never been assigned to Fort Rucker and had never seen Enterprise before they followed the suggestion of an Army friend and came to the Wiregrass for a visit. Mathis spent 20 years in the military, primarily in the infantry, and retired out of Fort Polk, La. Mathis had relatives in Virginia and Louisiana and Mrs. Mathis is from Germany, so they considered their options relatively open.

“Anna wanted to be near the ocean and I wanted to be in a place where I could go hunting,” said Mathis, an avid deer hunter. “One of my criteria was that we locate near a military post.”

As he neared retirement, Mathis said he researched locations through the internet and felt that the Enterprise area had the right mix.

“It had a low crime rate and low housing costs,” he said. “This was also a strongly Republican

area, which fit in with my political views.”

When they came for a visit, Mathis said, “it felt like this was right.”

Mathis hasn’t regretted the decision. They said the people here are accepting and friendly and are willing to help each other.

Another advantage was the diversity of the population, he said. Because of the Fort Rucker influence, the area has many German residents and people from all over Europe and the rest of the world.

“The multi-cultural aspect is good,” he said. “Anna enjoys meeting with other German wives and sharing their traditions and heritage.”

J.C. Gantt, chairman of the Enterprise Planning Commission, said he isn’t surprised to find that Mathis and others consider the Enterprise area because of recommendations from former military personnel stationed at Fort Rucker.

“We send a lot of ambassadors from here because of Fort Rucker,” said Gantt, who came to Enterprise in 1969 with Alabama Power Company and retired here several years ago. “This is a place where anybody can come and feel



**John Scrimpsheer, left, and his brother Scott install roofing on a new home in the Sommer Brooke subdivision in Enterprise. The tradesmen said they are pleased by the availability of work in the flourishing housing market in Enterprise.**

## Benefits

**Continued from Page 1A**

because the construction is bringing in more carpenters and tradesmen. “There are more jobs out there. It all keeps going round and round.”

Townsend said he’s seen the market increasing in strength for the last 12 to 18 months.

The active housing market and new construction market means sales of everything from nails and boards to carpet, paint, light fixtures, furniture and appliances.

Those sales generate tax dollars, said Enterprise City Clerk-Treasurer Steve Hicks.

The city council last September passed the largest budget ever, \$33.5 million, for the 2005-06 Fiscal Year. The budget was based on a projected 3-percent growth in sales tax, but Hicks said the projections are already being exceeded in the first quarter of the year.

In 2005, the city enjoyed its biggest sales tax revenue to date. The \$11.3 million exceeded the 2004 collections by more than 11 percent, Hicks said. The city collected \$10.1 million in 2004.

Hicks said several factors, including the influx of evacuees from Louisiana and Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina, likely affected the 2005 collections. This year so far, collections are at about 8 percent over last year’s figures at the same time.

He said the construction industry plays a big role in the collections.

Collections from building materials is the second biggest tax-generating segment in the city behind Wal-Mart, he said.

Hicks also reminded that the people who are occupying the new houses or townhouses that are being built in Enterprise — 353 last year — also generate income in the community as they pay household bills for services like water and garbage.

The city must provide services to the new residents and new sub-divisions, Hicks said, so the sales taxes and payments are cycled back into the community.

Because the city budgets its expenses based on a 3-percent growth, Hicks said the city is able to maintain a \$2.8 million reserve and have funds available

to provide more services and benefits for the residents.

“If we collect more sales axes than we are projected to use, it goes into the reserves,” he explained. “Then anything over that enables the city to do projects like the Industrial Access project (street improvements) on Salem Road and a (proposed) city multi-purpose center.”

**GUARANTEED CREDIT LINE**

**CALL BUDDY GREEN**

**1-866-428-1661**



*Mother’s Day and Graduation are in the bag with the help of Dwayne Bowman and the staff of Just Imagine.*


---

*Just Imagine...*

*“Gifts for those you think have everything”*

**West Gate Center • Enterprise**

**347-9181**



**GET GREAT MORTGAGE RATES FROM THE CITIZENS BANK**

Our mortgage specialists are trained in all aspects of the mortgage business. We’ll custom-build your mortgage to meet your needs today and tomorrow —and with great rates, you can’t go wrong.

**VA Loans**

**FHA Loans**

**\$0 Down Payment Loans**


**Construction Loans**

**Conforming Loans**

**Non-Conforming Loans**

Whether this is your first home or you just want to refinance for home improvements, call the professionals at The Citizens Bank for a no-obligation consultation, 347-3411 or Direct 477-6030.

**Find Out Why More Wiregrass Residents Choose The Citizens Bank For Home Mortgages.**



**The Citizens Bank**

*Bill Frazier*

Member FDIC  
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

**ENTERPRISE**  
www.tcbenterprise.com

**Main Office**  
301 S. Edwards Street

**Eastside Branch**  
909 Rucker Boulevard