Look into the balcony in the Clubhouse at Independence Village, and you'll notice people gathered around several tables. One of their own - Jerry Compton - organized a permanent area for fellow puzzle-loving residents to work several in progress there.

“We plan at least one puzzle weekend where we take the whole game room,” he added. Finished puzzles are shared throughout the other communities on the Independence Hill campus. This generous spirit typifies Jerry’s wife, Marcia, who also bakes cookies for other Independence Village neighbors. The energetic couple in their mid-70s moved to the Village three years ago from Virginia to be closer to their daughter, Meme.

Jerry and Marcia keep a brisk schedule of activities at the Clubhouse – bingo, cards, Bunco, Bible study. They travel to Kansas City several times a year to see their son, Matthew, and visit the William Jewell College campus where they met on a blind date in 1964. Jerry played varsity basketball and baseball, and the couple remembers how the Kansas City Chiefs football players from the early NFL years would practice on campus in the preseason. They could tell the players were there, Marcia said, because they’d spot their luxury cars.

After graduation and marriage, Jerry wrote one of the first master’s theses in recreation from Temple University. The draft board came knocking, but miraculously, he was sent to Germany instead of Vietnam, and Marcia was able to accompany him. That posting led to the couple spending 1969-78 in Germany, including seven years in civil service to the military, where Jerry organized sports activities. His work led to changes in the Army policy related to physical fitness tests.

“You looked out of the window, and it was like a scene from The Sound of Music,” Marcia said. The couple enjoyed traveling and snapping up European antiques and treasures, many of which they display now in their home.

“You wanted to get rid of things that reminded them of the war,” Jerry said. “They would almost give them away.”

Upon returning to the states, Jerry worked as Director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation for the entire Army Training Command at Fort Monroe until 2004. Marcia started a cottage industry sewing intricate doll clothes to fit American Girl-sized dolls. They spent weekends stocking gift shops across the eastern seaboard with the designer duds.

Now, Jerry umpires baseball throughout Central Texas. His favorite games are at Reagan, since the commute is just to the other side of the fence. The Comptons share a love of the game and watch the St. Louis Cardinals together. Jerry teaches Sunday School, and they enjoy worship at Bulverde Baptist Church with Meme and her family.