

New off-campus housing adds more options for UCF area

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(Photo: Courtesy Rachael Abt)

New off-campus housing is just another addition on the list of UCF-area openings.

Surrounded by shopping plazas and eateries, EOS Apartments has opened its leasing doors, with its first move-in date scheduled for July 15.

The 18-month long project ended with a 296-unit complex that offers studios, plus one- and two-bedroom apartments, ranging from 488 to 1199 square feet of living space.

Located at 12221 E. Colonial Drive, the East Orlando community is managed by real estate development firms Catalyst Development Partners, Bluerock Residential Growth REIT, Inc. and Greystar Real Estate Partners.

"Every detail from the amenity design to the home interiors was conceived of and executed with the busy, technologically savvy professional in mind. Everything from leasing the apartment to getting notified that you had a package delivered to your home is automated and cloud based," said Rob Meyer, one of the owners of Catalyst Development Partners.

While EOS aims to be technologically advanced, it still offers traditional features that may be included in typical apartment complexes: a 24-hour fitness center, concierge dry-cleaning, pool, hammock havens, stand-up tanning bed, conference room, cyber café, media retreat with fireplace and four designed courtyards.

While it may not be included in most apartment communities, EOS is pet friendly, with a pet boutique featured as an amenity.

"Every detail of development at EOS Apartments has been thoughtfully designed and tailored specifically for the enjoyment and needs of our residents," said Greystar Regional Property Manager Doreen Leonard in a news release.

With recent apartment break-ins and robberies around UCF, safety aims to be a main concern for EOS.

The community has implemented a limited-access factor, which means residents will need to swipe an electronic key fob in order to enter the property from the parking areas. For guests, they are required to go to one of the call-in boxes and dial the resident, who will then be able to buzz them in.

"We also couple these features with regular communication with our residents on these topics, reminding them to be wary of strangers and not grant access to people they do not know, and to not leave valuables in their cars," Meyer said.

While there are already various apartment complexes in the area, Meyer said East Orlando was best for the location because it needed more modern-styled apartments, compared with the luxury market located in West Orlando and downtown.

The theme of the courtyards and community spaces were designed with the elements of earth, air, fire and wind. The resort-styled pool is described as the centerpiece of the complex. The smaller courtyards boast hammocks, fire features and fountains.

"Probably my favorite spaces are 'The Caves,' hip-gathering areas out of the direct sun, that have televisions, cool lighting and feel like you are sitting in a nightclub," Meyer said.

Located about five minutes from UCF, the property was originally zoned for student apartments, but the modern style of EOS plans to accommodate anyone looking for a new home.

"While this project is clearly geared toward young professionals, I am sure we will get a mix of folks that want to live there," Meyer said. "We have no plans to cater specifically to students, as there are already several student-oriented developments in the vicinity [that] do a better job of meeting their specific needs."

As far as transportation options, the property does not offer any forms of transportation to residents or guests.

Depending on the choice of one bedroom or two, prices range from \$900 to \$1,400 per month for rent.

Leasing office hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information on EOS Apartments, visit www.eosorlando.com.

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