



Does this look like a typical apartment?

You'll feel more like you're in a house at these new upscale units

STORY BY WILL BUSS | PHOTOS BY TIM VIZER | *News-Democrat*

O'FALLON — Calling the new Parkway Lakeside Apartment Homes “upscale” may be understated.

Considering that tenants have access to an on-site chef, personal trainer, babysitter, petsitter and veterinarian, they definitely have some unique perks.

“People have crazy, busy lives,” said property manager Rachel Galanti. “If you don’t want to cook or go out to eat, call our chef.”

But that is the purpose that property management from Riverstone Residential Group and the developer and owner Balke Brown Associates in St. Louis want — to take the “complex” feel out of apartment living.



Even the outside of these new units looks less like an apartment and more like the out-



Inside the clubhouse, you'll find a conversation area in front of a fireplace.

APARTMENTS | 232 units housed within 20 buildings

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The 232 apartments housed within the 20 buildings located on the 21-acre development located off Frank Scott Parkway in O'Fallon were built to resemble individual homes and not traditional, compartmented units. Galanti said this was all by design.

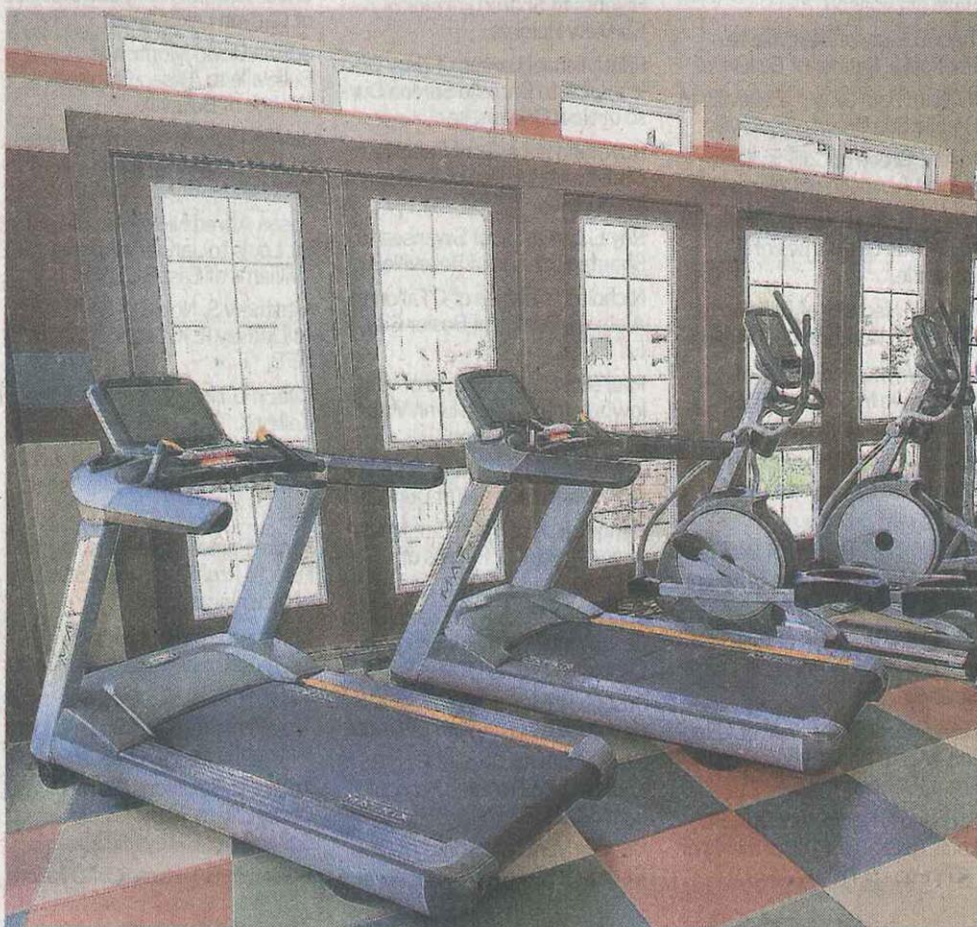
"When you stand in front of the front door or next to the building and take a picture, it looks like a house with a three-car garage, not a standard apartment-style building," she said.

The one- and two-bedroom apartments opened for lease earlier this summer. Each apartment ranges from 730 to 1,300 square feet and cost \$945 to \$1,650 a month. Some apartments come with one- or two-car garages.

Aside from the on-site staff, Parkway Lakeside includes a clubhouse where residents can use the fitness center, Internet café, patio and fire pit. A new swimming pool, walking path and playground are under construction. The apartment buildings encircle a lake that will have two fountains and a gazebo nearby.

Wine or cigar lovers can take part in the wine club and cigar club that will be formed. Dog owners can use one of two fenced-in pet parks and even a pet spa.

"Instead of giving your dog a bath in your apartment, you take him there," Galanti said.



Treadmills inside the exercise area of the community clubhouse.

She also said these high-end apartments are being developed with the area's military personnel and other local professionals in mind.

"We have a lot of military coming from Scott Air Force Base," she said. "We have a great relationship with them and many young business professionals right out of college, retirees and young families who are selling their homes wanting to downsize and not worry about property taxes

or maintenance."

Property manager Linda Rehnquist said the response has been strong and the apartments are in demand. So far, 40 tenants have moved in with another 31 planning to arrive between now and November.

"We've seen a great response to the fact that it's a unique property," Rehnquist said. "Because the real estate market has been what it is, people are a little shy to buy. So we

trying to cater to these folks."

Rehnquist arrived in O'Fallon in March and said the metro-east economy is outperforming the business sector across the river in St. Charles, Mo., where she had worked before moving to the metro-east.

"It's not grown like this," she said. "You can just tell. Businesses are growing."

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