

VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 12 | FEBRUARY 2013

# LAKE MURRAY

COLUMBIA

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**Room with a view.** The view from an apartment on the second floor at The Residence at Marina Bay on Lake Murray.



# Leisure living on Lake Murray

# Resort-style apartments, amenities near completion

Story by **Erin Shaw**, Special to Lake Murray and Northeast magazines • Photographs by **C. Aluka Berry**

**J**ust off Marina Road in Irmo, the sound of wheezing buzz saws slicing through plywood reverberates around the otherwise quiet calm of Lake Murray. Staple guns and hammers clack and bang while cement trucks rumble by construction workers in hard hats.

This is the site of The Residence, a 216-unit apartment complex that is superseding the old Lake Murray Marina & Yacht club. The \$50 million project that began in 2011 is bringing resort-style apartments to the lake along with a new marina and restaurant. Its motto: “Eat. Boat. Live.”

Calling it The Residence, “gives people the feeling that it is one-of-a-kind,” said developer Ben Arnold, the man behind The Palms, Renaissance Plaza and Vista Lofts in Columbia. “When we purchased Lake Murray Marina, we did so with the intent of developing a first class mixed-use project on Lake Murray,” Arnold said. The original project consisted of condominiums, not apartments, but after the market crash at the end of 2008 he said the strategy shifted to high-end rental units.

“The Residence has a resort-style feel,” Arnold said, “because the minute you get home, you feel like you’re on vacation.”

This includes amenities such as a heated outdoor pool, fitness center and indoor movie theater.

By early spring, a heated pool — complete with outdoor couches, fire pits and lounge chairs residents can bring into the water — will be ready in the middle of the complex. A new clubhouse, where wave-

**RESIDENCE CONTINUED ON PAGE 18**









**Life and leisure.** Liberty on the Lake, a waterfront bar and grill is under construction. Inset, what the complex should look like upon completion.









**Attention to detail.** High-end finishes are highlights of the kitchen. Here, the stainless steel appliance package is shown with granite countertops.

**RESIDENCE FROM PAGE 14**

themed furniture, Wi-Fi and a two-story waterfall will receive residents. The one- to three-bedroom units are designed to provide great views of the water.

Rent for the apartments range from \$1,070 per month for a one-bedroom unit to \$1,635 for a two-bedroom unit. Three-bedroom units are available for \$1,435. The units come with Energy Star-rated stainless steel or black appliance packages, tile backsplash in the kitchen and granite countertops. Residents also have the option of having a unit pre-furnished.

Two of the finished buildings boast crisp white porches and fledging palm trees; a stark contrast against the mesh fences and dirt piles found elsewhere in the complex in late winter as construction continued.

For the newest residents, construction isn't a huge concern.

"It hasn't really bothered me," said Jeaninne Phillips, who just moved with her husband to the state from Raleigh. The pair knew they wanted a place on the lake, Jeaninne said, and The Residence offered just that without the commitment of buying a house. She said they plan on getting a boat or renting from the boat club.

"We love it here," she said. "We can't wait for spring to get out on the water and explore the lake more."

For Barbara and Eddie Oliver, who moved into their apartment in December, dealing with the construction means imagining the light at the end of a tunnel.

Barbara said the heated pool is what she is most excited about. Another draw was having the amenities like the pool and movie theater available for their 11-year-old son, Nathan, she said. And, of course, lakeside living.

"We love the lake. It's so big, and you never get bored," Barbara said. "Since we've moved here, I can't imagine living anywhere else. We love this area."

Eddie said he likes the idea of being able to walk out his door and choose a boat in the marina, in addition to having lakefront views and a restaurant close by. "Why wait to retire?" he asked. "We figured we'd enjoy it now while we can."

The full-service restaurant will be a waterfront outpost of Liberty Tap Room, aptly named Liberty on the Lake. Operated



by the regional T'Bonz restaurant, the waterfront bar and grill is designating slip parking for boat-up guests.

The marina is readying 269 slips for marina members and rental options for residents provided by Better Boat Rental.

*Erin Shaw is a freelance writer based in the Midlands.*





**Living it up.** Residents have the option to choose a pre-furnished apartment. This photo, provided by Arnold Companies, shows one of the design choices available. Amenities include a heated pool, clubhouse, Wi-Fi, a theater, boat slips, a full-service restaurant and marina.