

Plenty of room for Scarlett and Mamou in Round Lake

APARTMENT WATCH
Couple needed pet-friendly place for dog and cat

BY CELESTE BUSK
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Finding a pet-friendly apartment development was a high priority for Amber Smith.

The 25-year-old Smith rents an apartment at Coventry Glen Apartments at Valley Lakes in northwest suburban Round Lake. Smith moved into a 2-bedroom apartment last summer with her significant other, Judd Kiddie, as well as Scarlett the dog and Mamou the cat.

"When I was looking for an apartment, my search was limited because a lot of places don't allow pets," said Smith, a certified nursing assistant and nursing school student.

"After I came in to tour Coventry Glen, we were offered a great deal — \$1,200 upfront on a 12-month lease. The money covered pet fees and other apartment fees. It was a great deal."

Coventry Glen Apartments at Valley Lakes rests on a well-maintained landscape and features 280 apartments in 14 buildings. Rents for 1-bedroom apartments range from \$700 to



Coventry Glen Apartments at Valley Lakes in northwest suburban Round Lake have 280 units in 14 buildings. Individual garage spaces also are available. | RICHARD A. CHAPMAN-SUN-TIMES

QUICK PEEK

WHAT: Coventry Glen Apartments at Valley Lakes, Round Lake

RENTS: 1 and 2 bedrooms from \$700-\$1,095

AMENITIES: Heated outdoor pool, clubhouse, fitness center, cyber cafe, business center

INFORMATION: Call (847) 740-2300; www.rmk.com

\$825 and 2-bedrooms range from \$1,050 to \$1,095.

Apartments have in-unit washer and dryer, patios or balconies, walk-in closets, gourmet kitchens, luxury baths and wall-to-wall carpeting. Each home offers a work station (a small computer nook) with six-line telephone outlets and accommodations for high-

speed Internet access. Individual garage spaces with remote controlled openers are also available.

Finding a large apartment was also important to Smith and Kiddie. One-bedroom apartments at Coventry Glen have from 710 to 782 square feet of space and 2-bedrooms have 1,100 to 1,200 square feet of space.

"This is my first time living with my boyfriend and I wanted enough space for us and the pets. Our apartment is very large," Smith said.

"I also like our apartment because even though we're on the second floor, we have a private entrance from the ground floor," she said. "We also have a corner unit and we have views of a forest area and the development."

Renters at Coventry Glen also enjoy amenities such

as: heated, outdoor pool; sundeck with gas grill; and a fitness center (use included in the rent). Other amenities include a clubhouse, cyber cafe and business center with computers, fax machine and copier.

"The business center is wonderful and so useful," Smith said. "Being a nursing student, I have to print out syllabuses for classes. As a nursing assistant, I have to fax in timesheets, so I use the business center all the time."

Christine Kneeland, property manager for RMK, the management company, says location is one of the best features of Coventry Glen.

"We're not located in a high traffic area like Gurnee or Vernon Hills," she said. "The complex is off the main road and it's quiet and beautiful here."



Natural bath products are friendlier to your skin. And if you're remodeling, look for tile made from recycled materials. | SHNS

Try natural approach for 'green' bathroom

The bathroom is a great place to go green. Here are some ideas:

Think organic cotton: Bath linens made from organic cotton are not only comfy and soft, but they require fewer pesticides to produce than regular cotton towels. Manufacturers that use the slightly more expensive organic cotton also tend to use natural dyes.

Consider replacing your vinyl shower curtain with a heavy cotton duck curtain, says Annie B. Bond, author of *Home Enlightenment* and executive producer of green-living content at Care2.com, a site devoted to natural health. "The plastic in a shower curtain is PVC, and the plasticizers in PVC are hormone disrupters," she says. "Those toxic ingredients can become airborne."

Try an all-natural approach: Natural bath products are friendlier to your skin than chemical-laden offerings from major cosmetics companies, and they won't create toxic air pollution. Visit the Environmental Working Group's Skin Deep Web site, www.ewg.org/

reports/skindeep2/index.php, to research products.

Be water-wise: A low-flow showerhead can reduce water consumption by 30 percent, yet still provide a pressurized spray. Another nifty gadget, a gray-water diverter, sends used water from the shower or bath to a collection container for distribution to your garden.

Insulating your water heater and lowering its thermostat to 120 degrees makes a real difference in the amount of energy used to heat your morning shower. And consider replacing your toilet with a low-flow model.

Use recycled building products: Remodeling your bathroom? Seek out tile made from recycled materials for floors, baths, showers and countertops. Thanks to the popularity of recycling, colors and finishes are plentiful.

Clean green: Get rid of the harsh chemicals you use to clean tubs and toilets. Pay attention to the government-mandated warning labels on cleaning products.

Scrrips Howard News

MORTGAGE GUIDE

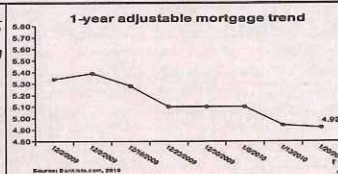
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Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
AT HOME MORTGAGE GROUP 773-858-6414 http://www.AtHomeMortgageGroup.com					
30 yr fixed	4.875	0.000	\$1300	20%	4.944
15 yr fixed	4.250	0.000	\$1300	20%	4.368
10 yr fixed	4.125	0.000	\$1300	20%	4.294
5/1 ARM	3.750	0.000	\$1300	20%	3.830

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
ABI MORTGAGE 847-585-1995 http://www.abimortgage.com					
30 yr fixed	4.875	1.000	\$1300	20%	5.033
15 yr fixed	4.125	1.000	\$1300	20%	4.393
3/1 ARM	3.500	1.000	\$1300	20%	3.134
5/1 ARM	3.625	1.000	\$1300	20%	3.283

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
AMERICAN BANK & TRUST 312-388-2176/630-664-9377 http://ambankq.com					
30 yr fixed	4.950	0.000	\$1050	20%	5.030
15 yr fixed	4.500	0.000	\$1050	20%	4.599
5/1 jumbo ARM	4.750	0.000	\$1050	20%	3.675
5/1 ARM	3.875	0.000	\$1050	20%	3.337



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(B) 1801 N. Roselle Rd., Suite 320, Schaumburg, IL 60195

(C) 2580 Foxfield Road, Suite 202, St. Charles, IL 60174

\$165,000 loan amount			
Loan Program	Rate	Monthly Payment	
1 yr ARM	4.92%	\$877.71	
5/1 ARM	4.83%	\$848.82	
15 yr fixed	4.56%	\$1,267.30	
30 yr fixed	5.15%	\$900.94	

Here's what the monthly loan payment would be on a home mortgage loan using the following programs at prevailing interest rates

	30 yr fixed	15 yr fixed	5 yr ARM
This week	5.15	4.56	4.63
Last week	5.23	4.62	4.68
Last year	5.59	5.20	5.58

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