

# Real Estate



The independent living section of Amavida, which consists of apartments (shown) and cottages, just opened for residents to move in last week. PHOTOS BY ANDREA STETSON

## Amavida welcomes its first residents to their new homes



Conrad Anowski unpacks a box in his new home in Amavida.

### Andrea Stetson

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After almost two years of watching **Amavida** rise from the ground by Lakes Park, residents are moving in. This week the first people to live in the independent living section started to call Amavida home.

Amavida has 460 total residences, with 300 residences in independent living, which offers apartments and cottages, 125 apartments in assisted living and 35 in memory care. About 50 people moved in this past week.

"There are more people moving in every day," said John Lane, marketing manager.

Renee and Conrad Anowski moved

in opening day and are quickly getting unpacked and enjoying the amenities.

"The buildings are excellent," Conrad Anowski began. "The restaurant has the best meals we have had all year. We go there for breakfast and dinner. We are very impressed by what the chef makes."

Conrad Anowski also likes that Amavida offers rental units, not something he had to buy.

"When you have to put money upfront, you don't see it anymore," he said. "I want to keep it invested."

The Anowskis said they are so happy to be living in Amavida after having a difficult experience at their last home. The couple has lived full time in South

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There are 28 cottages (shown) and 272 apartments in the independent living section of Amavida. PHOTOS BY ANDREA STETSON

## Amavida

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Fort Myers since 1996. A year ago they decided to downsize and go to an independent living facility.

“We first were attracted to Campo Felice, but whatever we were promised did not happen,” Conrad Anowski explained. “And some of those things were critical like the elevators. There were always problems with the elevators and we definitely need the elevators.”

Anowski loves playing bocce ball, which was never built there. He loves playing billiards but not on the one smaller sized table there. At Amavida, he is looking forward to playing on the two bocce courts and on the full-size billiards table.

“I love to play billiards and I love to play bocce,” he said.

Renee Anowski likes the quick service.

“We asked for the instructions for the stove this morning and they delivered it that day,” Renee Anowski said. “That would never have happened at the other place.”



When the Anowskis arrived at their new home, there was a basket of chocolate and fruit, and a welcome sign.

The Anowskis chose a two-bedroom cottage. They are excited about having the golf cart that is provided with each cottage at Amavida. Now the couple is looking forward to meeting their new neighbors, and taking part in all the activities.

Jo Ann Compton and her little Maltese dog also moved in the first day. She chose a one bedroom apartment on the

fourth floor overlooking Lakes Park.

“I love the resort lifestyle and the fact that everything is going to be convenient, easy and done for you,” she said.

Compton has lived full time in Fort Myers for 23 years, but is excited to have an easier lifestyle.

“The amenities are quite substantial,” she said.

Amavida has pickleball, tennis, basketball, bocce ball, three swimming pools, three restaurants, a par 3 practice range for chipping and putting, an art studio, movie theater, free shuttle, on-site pharmacy, and medical suites with specialists and general practitioners.

“We have a doctor for house calls,” Lane said.

Compton also likes the back gate, only accessible for residents, that leads right into Lakes Park.

“The walking activates will be considerable because you can go right out the back into Lakes Park,” she said.

Compton also likes having so much on site from the restaurants to the doctors.

“Part of the attraction is everything is here and convenient, especially during season,” she said.

She plans on taking part in a lot of the

activities, including yoga and stretching classes and water aerobics.

“The other thing is the security and technology is quite good,” she described. “You can go online and see everything in terms of the menus and all the daily activities, the movies that are showing and everything. The manager and staff are extremely knowledgeable, but they are also warm and friendly. It makes you feel like you are home.”

Lane said another thing that sets Amavida apart is that the apartments for independent living, assisted living and memory care have the same floor plans. That makes it easier for people if they need to transition from one type of housing to another in the facility. There are five floor plans to choose from in the apartments ranging 616 square feet under air to 1,054 square feet under air. The two cottage floor plans range in size from 1,500 square feet to 1,700 square feet.

“From the beginning they said December 1 would be move in and they made that date,” Lane said as he watched new residents unpacking. “Construction began in January 2017 and we had residents eagerly waiting to call this home.”