



Hotels celebrate grand opening

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A well-attended gala event on Thursday marked the official opening of The Colony's newest large-scale development.

The Fairfield Inn & Suites and the Residence Inn by Marriott celebrated their grand openings last week at the Cascades Events Center, located within the Fairfield. The hotels are the cornerstones of the Cascades at The Colony, a 100-acre, master-planned site with a mixture of residential, office, retail and hospitality uses along the 121 Tollway.

The hotels were built by real estate developer Jackson-Shaw and Marriott International Inc. Concord Hospitality will manage the properties.

"It's a major step forward for the development of the Cascades of The Colony," EDC Director Tom Terrall said. "(The hotels) will attract other development and people to our city. It's a win-win not only for the Cascades but for The Colony as well."

The Colony Chamber of Commerce director Allison Mihavics said she was impressed with the "contemporary, modern, and unique" look of the facilities.

"They're really beautiful," she said. "We're pleased to see Concord Hospitality and Jackson-Shaw bring such high quality venues to our community, which will make it easier for the Chamber to attract more people to the area when we have festivals," such as Pirate Days.

Both Terrall and Mihavics look forward to the properties contributing to the city's HOT Occupancy Tax fund, which supports a variety of endeavors in The Colony.

"The HOT funding is beneficial for the city as a whole," Mihavics said. "It can go to arts, and help fund other amenities in our city designed to create a nicer quality of life for our residents."

In addition to creating jobs, developers boast that the hotels are centrally located to businesses and a variety of dining and entertainment options, offering guests convenient access to DFW International Airport, Pizza Hut Park in Frisco, Hawaiian Falls Waterpark in The Colony, and the Shops at Legacy in Plano.

"Jackson-Shaw and Marriott International are committed to creating high-quality projects that enhance the community," said Ted Carter, vice president of hotel development for Jackson-Shaw. "We are pleased that this partnership brings jobs to The Colony, provides meeting and entertainment space and offers convenient accommodations for guests and tenants of the Cascades of The Colony."

The 104-room Fairfield Inn & Suites, at 5909 Stone Creek Drive, features the Cascades Events Center with 6,400 square feet of banquet and meeting space, accommodating meetings and functions of up to 350 people. The hotel's contemporary design is aimed to be both flexible and functional with suites that offer separate living, working and sleeping areas, and include a flat-screen television, microwave and mini-fridge.

Other hotel amenities include an outdoor swimming pool with whirlpool spa, exercise room, valet laundry service, free high-speed Internet and fax and copy service.

"The Fairfield Inn & Suites in The Colony offers business and leisure travelers convenient, quality accommodations at an affordable price," said Shruti Buckley, brand vice president for Fairfield Inn & Suites. "We look forward to welcoming guests and providing the friendly service that sets Fairfield Inn & Suites apart."

The 102-suite Residence Inn by Marriott, at 6600 Cascades Court, offers extended-stay guests studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites. Specifically designed for stays of five nights or more, each suite has a fully-equipped kitchen with coffee maker, microwave oven, full-sized appliances and free high-speed Internet access. The hotel offers daily housekeeping, complimentary grocery shopping services and same-day dry cleaning.

Other hotel facilities and services include an outdoor swimming pool, exercise room, a social room, weeknight social hour and faxing/copying/printing. The hotel also offers a 350-square-foot boardroom.

"We are pleased to introduce Residence Inn hotels in The Colony area," said Tim Sheldon, executive vice president, brand management, extended stay for Marriott International. "This new hotel was designed to be a home away from home and provides a residential atmosphere and spacious accommodations for guest comfort."

For information or reservations, call the Fairfield Inn & Suites The Colony hotel at 972-370-7732, or the Residence Inn The Colony at 214-469-1155.