

Off-Campus

Housing

LIVING

On top of the housing ball this fall

Students already search for housing for spring 2010

By Jennifer Brown
Staff Reporter

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With the fall semester nearing an end, houses to rent are already on the market for students coming back next year to live off campus.

Houses for student rental in Charleston tend to be the first to go, said Melissa Daugherty, property manager of Eastern Illinois Properties.

She said students like the atmosphere of a house, especially when they have the roommates to fill them.

Houses are typically rented early because of the enticement of students having their own space for entertain-

ing and not worrying about neighbors, Daugherty said.

She said the renting demand starts when the students begin the look for their houses.

"EIP primarily has properties around EIU campus from University to 12th and from Polk to south of Carman area," Daugherty said. "Students who wish to sign a lease and need to find additional roommates should do it quickly before their friends sign other leases."

For students looking right now, EIP advertises properties on Eiprops.com.

Many of these locations include garages, washer and dryers.

Katie Endre, a junior elementary education major, is looking for a house to rent with five roommates next year.

Her search began by looking to friends who already rent houses and setting up meetings with their landlords.

"You have a lot more independence. You see what your parents did for you, clean up and cook your own meals."

Katie Endre, a junior elementary education major

"We wanted a house this year because our roommates are graduating," Endre said.

She and her friends started looking in September.

Endre and her roommates have contacted Kelsor Properties and also looked in the classifieds and street promotion for directions in housing.

Hallberg Rentals posts classifieds in *The Daily Eastern News*.

According to its Web site, a one-bedroom house is available to rent on

10th Street. Many of these locations allow students to have pets and lawn care is included at all the properties.

"We've gotten really lucky with paying rent under \$300," Endre said. "We want a nice, clean house."

One to two blocks off campus is the distance Endre is hoping to find in a house. While she lives in a house now, she doesn't want to end up too far away from campus.

"You have a lot more independence," Endre said. "You see what

your parents did for you, clean up and cook your own meals."

The standard most student tenants pay is usually around \$300 a month per roommate. This may sound high to many parents or students who have paid rent at locations that were not near a college campus or school, but Eastern rental properties are relatively cheap compared to other campuses in the state.

All realtors and property managers recommend finding housing now, so they are not left with rocketing rent or unlivable conditions.

Whether someone chooses to live on or off campus realtors emphasize not making the decision to lightly.

Tenants often find living off campus is much more liberating and relaxing, but being faced with bills and rent every month is something many students haven't experienced before.

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