

## FAMILY

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vices that make studying and maintaining a good family life less stressful for students.

Most houses at East Campus are just minutes away from two day care centers run by the University, and the Amazon and Westmoreland complexes have their own centers. Fierro said it takes less than five minutes to take his two sons to their respective day care centers.

"Both centers are just half a block from our house, which makes it so convenient for us," Fierro said.

Another convenience at Amazon and Westmoreland is that in addition to the water, garbage and lawn services provided, there are computer lounges for students' school work, cheap laundry facilities and community rooms for tenants who want to hold parties or get-togethers.

Moreover, there are tenants councils set up to help resolve any problems or complaints from residents at Amazon or Westmoreland.

"Everything has always been taken care of nicely," Innocencio said. "If a person has a problem — although I haven't heard many complaints myself — (the council goes) around asking other tenants if they've also met with that same problem, so they don't just fix that (one) person's problem."

Residents benefit not only from the amenities offered in the housing complexes but also from the goods and services located nearby in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Half a dozen stores are within walking distance of the housing areas, and buses run regularly to campus from Amazon and Westmoreland. East Campus is just a five-minute walk to the University. Housing areas are also located near bike paths.

"It wouldn't even make sense for me to bring my car to school," Fierro said.

Despite the benefits of living in University housing, there are some inconveniences that residents learn to cope with. The apartments at Amazon, for example, are built in such a way that residents can often hear what their neighbors are doing next door.

To deal with this, Innocencio has designated the room in their apartment that shares a wall with the neighbor's as the "whisper room" so as not to disturb the newborn baby next door.

Fierro, whose family lived in Amazon before moving to East Campus, was so concerned that the noise his two sons made would annoy the neighbors that he decided to enter his name in the regular lottery draws for East Campus duplexes.

Despite the thin walls and some winter dampness, residents at Amazon and Westmoreland are proud of the sense of community they feel in their neighborhood.

Fierro fondly recalled the camaraderie he shared with his Amazon neighbors and analyzed some differences between the housing areas.

"I think it's much better at Amazon," he said. "It's almost like East Germany over there because everything is communal. There are a lot of shared things, a lot of social services for very inexpensive prices, although you would also encounter some inconveniences."

"Here at East Campus, it's more like West Germany, with individual families having individual homes. There's almost a sense of community, although we have neighbors upstairs, and we get along well with them."

"If there isn't a support system, you can't make it through," Innocencio said. "Most of us are thankful that we can have this. This is really unique and special to get us students through school."

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