

# Reconstruction forces Amazon tenants out

By Andrew Scales  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Residents of the World War II-vintage Amazon Family Housing units have less than six months to vacate their homes in preparation for University reconstruction plans.

"We deeply regret the major inconvenience of these actions and the impact this will have on the lives of our residents," said Mike Eyster, director of University Housing. "We are committed to minimizing these impacts, and with residents' cooperation and the effects of normal attrition, we can manage the situation."

In addition to their evacuation notices, Amazon residents have been hit with a rent increase that became effective Sept. 1. Rental rates went up \$20 per month to defray rising costs of managing the housing.

Reconstructing the 1945 apartments, which were initially wartime barracks and intended for only a decade of use, is long overdue.

The new complex will be energy efficient, contemporary in style, cater to user needs and, most importantly, house more students and families than the present buildings.

The plan has been met with varied reactions.

For some, like Chris Biondello, the need to find new housing is not a problem.

"It's great," Biondello said. "I've lived here with my mother for about nine years. We got a good deal on a house east of campus, but not everyone is as fortunate."

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— Mike Eyster,  
housing director

Karen Hays, a graduate student, is not as fortunate. She and her family do not look forward to relocating.

"It's a shame they couldn't wait until after June graduation to start the demolition plans," Hays said. "We might be forced to move twice in one year, and that's a trauma we hoped to avoid."

The March 22 evacuation deadline gives the contractor an opportunity to raze and prepare the site during optimum weather conditions.

The University has offered to help relocate as many families as possible, but extends no guarantees.

"Basically," said Ron Tendick, director of family housing, "when we have facilities become available in Westmoreland or in the un-impacted area of Amazon, we will make those units available to residents in the impact area."

The University has also put a moratorium on new family housing applicants to ease the demand on family housing space pending residential location.



NORMAN MESMAN/for the Emerald

Amazon residents have less than six months to leave their homes because of University reconstruction.

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