



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Office for Off-Campus Living

July 2020

Happy July, everyone! We at Off-Campus Living wish you had a safe 4th of July and a nice and relaxing summer. Since the summer is beginning to wind down, please feel free to reach out to us as move-out dates are approaching, or if you are looking for resources concerning your off-campus needs and leisure. We are happy to assist you through our [OCL website](#), but if your questions are unanswered, please feel free to reach out to us at our [office email](#) or at @OffCampusGopher on social media. We will be sure to keep you updated with all the latest news, events, and more!

-Your Off-Campus Liaisons



The 2020 Presidential Election is Looming...So Get Out To

Vote!

Prepare yourself on the upcoming election with OCL's new [Voter Resources page](#)! With information on how to register, where your voting residence lies, and what's on your ballot, this page should answer all questions from a new voter's standpoint, or a student at the University of Minnesota who is looking to make a difference in the election. We made sure that this site was completely geared towards your off-campus experience, including details on the early vote center and other local offices near the University of Minnesota.

Being that this year has been unlike any other, there has been a major emphasis on [mail-in voting](#), or [voting early](#) to avoid the crowding. With this being said, do not let this scare you away! The processes to apply for these voting methods are not complicated at all, and they might help you keep our communities more healthy as we continue to combat COVID-19.

Along with information on where and how to vote, the OCL Voter Resources page also has information on what offices or candidates will be on your ballot, via the [Secretary of State website](#). If you are confused on who to vote on, or who your beliefs most align with, take the [2020 Presidential Quiz \(via ISideWith.com\)](#) to help decipher who you should be voting for and why. Additionally, keep up with [@OffCampusGopher](#) on social media for more updates and news concerning the upcoming election.



Moving Out? Here's a Checklist to Help...

Some of you will be moving out of your first college apartment at the end of next month. Some of you may be bittersweet about leaving your old apartment behind whereas some of you are most definitely ready for a change. What's most important is that you check out of your old apartment with it looking as clean as possible, so that you can all but guarantee you will receive that glorious security deposit back. Here are some things you should 100% when you are exiting your apartment. **Of course, you should follow any additional or replacement guidelines your landlord gives you over our recommendations; this is not legal advice, we are not lawyers, and these are just a set of a few base level things that might help your chances.**

Make sure your landlord has your new contact information. Okay, this one might seem obvious, but you totally want to make sure your landlord has an address so that they have a mailing destination for your security deposit. Students who are moving out at the end of the month should provide their old landlord with their next rental address. Students who have leases ending toward the middle of August, however, may wish to give their old landlord their permanent address for the security deposit, as to ensure it does not arrive at their new renting location prior to September 1st. Once your landlord has your forwarding address and your key, they have 3 weeks to send you back the deposit with an explanation of anything held back. If you disagree with anything they didn't return, don't cash the check, instead chat with UMN [Student Legal Service](#) first.

Look for issues with the walls. Students like to hang all sorts of stuff up in their rooms. Oftentimes, however, the bonding agents used can tear paint of the walls or leave behind

a strange, sticky residue. You are going to want to make sure that residue is gone and you should contact your landlord if any paint is missing and see what they say. You are allowed to leave the condition you found upon move in minus wear and tear. Small scuffs or paint chips are usually considered wear and tear but larger issues may be a concern. Also, check for holes in your walls. Again, small nail holes should be wear and tear, but large holes should be discussed.

Scrub your kitchen. Your kitchen is probably a little gross after using it for an entire year. That's okay for right now, but it's important that you leave your kitchen in tip-top shape when you move out. Make sure your refrigerator, oven, and (if provided for you) microwave look as if they are new. Check every nook & cranny for crumbs. Also - if you have non-perishables left over in your cupboards - throw it in a box and store it with the rest of your stuff; this way, you'll have a head start on groceries and you'll avoid wasting any food.

The worst part: Cleaning the bathroom. Cleaning your bathroom is never fun, but it's still something you just gotta do. The goal is to make your bathroom look like it hasn't been used for the last twelve months. Yes, this means even cleaning the toilet. If you share a bathroom with a roommate or two, we recommend drawing straws for who gets this wonderful opportunity.

Plan ahead for purging and packing: Start purging now so it takes you less time to pack. If you are throwing things out, bag them and try to pile them neatly within or right next to the trash bin on your pick up day. Please don't put trash in your recycle bin. And please don't let trash blow around the neighborhood. If you have items that could be reused, consider arranging a pick up with a local community partner (Salvation Army, Epilepsy Foundation, ARC, Bridging, St. Vincent de Paul and many more if you google) or posting on [Nextdoor](#), FB Marketplace, [Craig's List](#) or the [freecycle.org](#) Minneapolis group to rehome the item to someone who can use it.

Once again, this is by no means a conclusive list - check in with your landlords to find out exactly what they want you to do when you move out.

Since We Covered Moving Out...Lets Talk About Moving In!

Moving into an apartment can be scary - especially if this is your first time living off-campus. But don't worry: there are a few tips we have to give about moving into a new place that will hopefully make it a little less daunting & stressful.

- **Take a look around.** When moving into a new apartment, we recommend taking a look around your apartment to ensure that the building/room(s) are in good condition. If something is not up to standards when moving in, it's important to contact your landlord as quickly as possible. Take pictures of any areas that might be a concern.
- **Lift with your knees.** Plenty of folks get injured every year from moving in and out of their apartments. When carrying heavy furniture or items, you want to pick them up with a bend in your knees. Don't be afraid to ask for help from a peer or family member (if possible) if something is too heavy. Take your time & don't try to carry heavy items too fast.
- **Verify with your landlord ahead of time about move-in times.** If you are moving into an apartment building or house with many units, it might be best to avoid the most hectic times of the day. Check with your landlord to see what times you are allowed to move in and then try to avoid the more busy times of the day. Most of the times, this step won't make that large of a difference, but it's worth a shot!
- **Stay patient.** Moving in and out is incredibly stressful, but don't let that stress overrun the excitement of moving into a new place. Take your time and stay calm. Getting into arguments with whoever is helping you move in and out won't help you do it any faster.

With this being said, check out our OCL page on [Legal Questions](#) if you are more curious on common lease policies, unit condition and damages, renter's insurance, and more.



Get Ready For National Night Out in Minneapolis!

Yes, you heard that right. National Night Out (NNO) is ready to go for the year 2020, but will obviously look a little different this year than in the past due to COVID-19. The event will take place on September 15th in Minneapolis, so mark your calendars and come meet your neighbors! In addition, our office is offering funding to reimburse NNO event hosts if they agree to invite student renters to their events. Our goal is to encourage students to be positively engaged in the neighborhood and your block event is a great way to meet neighbors and get to know the neighborhood better.

We are offering up to \$50 for smaller events (less than 50 attendees) and \$50-\$100 for larger events (50+ attendees). Purchases eligible for reimbursement can include food or supply items, activity expenses as well as advertising costs. OCL can only reimburse for specific items, receipts are **required**, and we are not able to cover tax costs on purchases. If possible, please get an itemized receipt for your purchases submitted for reimbursement.

If interested in participating, please email ocl@umn.edu with the following information:

- Event information (date, time, block location or address of event)
- Event reimbursement contact info (name, address, email, ph)
- Attendance #
- Purchase location/store
- Date of purchase
- Amount of purchase
- Amount requested for reimbursement
- Include scanned receipt(s) as an attachment

With hosting a National Night Out event, remember to practice social distancing with your fellow neighbors and try to avoid communal food to help lower the spread of germs. For more information about Minneapolis National Night Out you can go to their [website](#).

	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Burglary From Motor Vehicle	Homicide	Motor Vehicle Theft	Robbery	Sexual Assault	Theft
Cedar-Riverside	0	7	5	0	7	2	0	16
Marcy-Holmes	4	10	8	0	9	5	2	32
Prospect Park	4	4	8	0	7	3	3	18
SE Como	1	2	9	0	2	1	0	16

GopherWatch Monthly Safety Report: June

Prepared by the Office of Off-Campus Living and neighborhood partners.

Crime Highlights:

- There had been multiple robberies reported near the UMN campus during the month of June. Most notably was at The Radius on June 20th, in which the suspect was armed with a handgun and had stolen a victims wallet.
- Violent crime (sexual assault, aggravated assault, etc.) in Prospect Park has seen a significant increase for the month of June.
 - There were two instances in Prospect Park reported on June 30th of car damage and auto theft involving multiple suspects. Both cases remain an ongoing investigation.
- Overall crime has seen a significant decrease in both Cedar-Riverside and Marcy Holmes neighborhoods for the month of June.

Safety Notes:

- Although campus population may seem a little light this summer, always keep your head on a swivel, especially at night. Do not hesitate to call the police or UMPD if you have any suspicion of stalking, harassment, or any other types of wrongful activity.
 - Reporting these instances early can help the police identify suspects that may have been involved in previous crimes. It's always better to be safe than sorry.
- Walk 'cheaply'. Carry the minimum amount of valuables when you are walking alone to avoid these from being stolen.
 - The same goes for driving, or keeping valuables in your car when you are not around. There are cases at UMN every month in which valuables or items are lost from unlocked cars.

*Read about our methodology and find additional information on our [OCL Safety webpage](#).

Renting

If you are still looking for fall 2020 housing, you are not alone. Know that you do not need to feel rushed while checking out apts or houses. YOU HAVE TIME TO SIGN! We encourage you to wait to sign a lease if you are not sure if you would want to rent if your classes may be online for fall. Your college or faculty should be contacting you by late July with a final determination for your classes. While the University will be open for classes in person as of Sept. 8th, many classes will be held online or as a hybrid offering as each faculty member will choose the best approach for the coursework or room space available.

There are still plenty of places to rent within 1/2 a mile to a mile of campus. Locations closest to campus will fill first, but those are also the most expensive. Keep your budget in mind and don't sign on for more than you can actually afford because you feel rushed. You can use listings.umn.edu (through Housing & Residential Life) to find openings.

In particular, we'd like to remind students looking for housing to be careful & vigilant in their housing search. It is crucial to do your research about [the property & the landlord prior](#) to signing your lease.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

We encourage students to consider volunteering for the [Census 2020 phone bank](#) calling fellow U of M students or check out the [Summer of EngageMnt for volunteer opportunities](#). You can also check out our site for some local upcoming opportunities as we are trying to identify opportunities for fall in the coming weeks. Use the [request form](#) to contact us for these or other local opportunities to volunteer! Have an idea? Let us know, we are happy to share.

Questions about your lease or landlord?

If you're a U of M student, be sure to get your potential lease looked at by Student Legal Services (SLS) before signing. They can point out any red flags and help you in making your choice. If you live off-campus and are having issues with repairs and your landlord is unresponsive, you should call 311. You can also work with SLS on those issues as well. Thinking you need to sublet your spot this summer? Check your lease and talk to SLS if your lease is not clear about subletting. If you are thinking about breaking your lease, we encourage you to talk to your property manager first, but SLS is available to help negotiate if you need assistance.

And as always, feel free to check out our [other resources](#) on our website as well.

Suggestions?

Have you ever had an idea of a way the Neighborhood Liaisons could help improve the community? Please reach out to us! We are always looking for opportunities to improve the area we live in. Contact us by email, and a liaison will be in contact with you ASAP!

[Make an appointment](#)

NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

Apply for Student Emergency Funds by emailing onestop@umn.edu. Let them know what your needs are, and they can hopefully help you out with some of them. If you have lost your off-campus job related to COVID-19, you can apply for unemployment as well.

Social Media

OCL now has a YouTube page, where all original content is published! Check below for videos on local housing, safety, and more!

YouTube: [UMN Off-Campus Living](#)

If videos aren't for you, then try out our 5-star rated Facebook page, our colorful Instagram page, or post a question to our Twitter page! They offer frequent updates for those living off-campus to stay noticed on upcoming events for students.

Facebook: [@offcampusgopher](#)

Instagram: [@offcampusgopher](#)

Twitter: [@OffCampusGopher](#)

Check Out These Virtual Events Since In-Person Events Are Cancelled

Virtual events can be fun and help you maintain social distancing. These opportunities sourced from our friends in [Student Unions & Activities](#). This week we are highlighting some fun opportunities:

Virtual Bingo: Thursday, July 30, 8pm

Q&A with Dynamik Focus: Thursday, Aug. 6th, 6pm. Find out how Dynamik Focus is working to build a platform for Black and Latinx gamers in the Esports industry, while competing in high level tournaments and fostering world class talent

OCL Mission:

Off-Campus Living empowers students to build connections on and off campus, and live with intent.

OCL Goals:

- Off-Campus students will make meaningful connections to other students, neighbors and the community.
- Off-Campus Living will provide educational and programmatic opportunities that promote student involvement, academic success, retention and positive community engagement.
- Off-Campus Living will collaborate with other university departments and local neighborhoods and towns to raise awareness of the specific needs and concerns of off-campus and commuter students.

Won't you be our neighbor?



@OffCampusGopher