



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Office for Off-Campus Living

## August 2020

Although it's sad to say, the end of summer is about to be upon us. As you enjoy the phenomenal August weather, we'll let you know how to get the most out of the U of M community with upcoming events.

Also, keep in touch with OCL and our [website's resources](#) as move in/out is upon us. Visit our resource directory to get familiar with what places and resources are near your new rental. Things can get confusing during this time, so feel free to reach out for advice or with any questions at [ocl@umn.edu](mailto:ocl@umn.edu).

**-Your Off-Campus Liaisons**



**Find Fresh and Healthy Food Near the University!**

If you've been keeping up with our work, you would know that we have been vocal about

and working against the food insecurity issue on campus. Through providing recipes, promoting the issue, and holding informational (and hands on) events such as U Cook We Eat, and more, our office takes pride in offering simple, healthy, and safe alternatives to accommodate your off-campus eating experience.

So while people are moving back onto campus, wouldn't it be nice to know if the local food outlets that provide you with the most fresh and healthy produce in Minnesota are open? There are numerous local farmers markets that are happening nearly every day near the UMN campus! Check below for their information:

- **Mill City Farmers Market**
  - 750 S 2nd St
  - Saturdays (May thru October), 8am-1pm (8am-9am for immunocompromised shoppers)
  
- **Northeast Farmers Market**
  - St. Boniface Church Parking Lot, 629 NE 2nd St NE  
(corner of University Ave & 7th Ave NE)
  - Saturdays (May 16-Oct. 17), 9am-1pm
  
- **Minneapolis Lyndale Market**
  - 312 East Lyndale Avenue N.
  - Daily and year round from 6am to 1pm, with limited winter hours.
  
- **St. Thomas More Farmers Market**
  - 1093 Summit Ave, St Paul, MN.
  - Fridays (May 15 - October 30) from 1:15pm-5pm.
  
- **7th Place Mall Farmers Market**
  - 27 W 7th Pl, St Paul, MN.
  - Tuesdays (June 9 - October 6) and Thursdays (June 11 - October 8) from 10am-1:30pm.
  
- **St. Paul Downtown Farmers Market**
  - 290 5th St E, St Paul, MN.
  - Saturdays (April 25-October 31) from 7am-1pm. Sundays (April 26 - October 25) from 8am-1pm. Check their site for November hours. .

(More markets found [here](#), check to be sure they are open. A few have adjusted hours or closed due to COVID-19.)

If transportation is an issue, and you're finding yourself at a bit of a food shortage, you might want to check out the UMN Food Pantry, [Nutritious U](#), to be provided with fresh and healthy food to UMN students that struggle to get enough to eat. If you're looking for ways on how to better cook while living off-campus, check out our [OCL Cookbook](#) recipes that are sure to help you eat well and healthy. And lastly, check out more community resources such as local parks, community gardens, and more on our [Resource Directory](#).



## Manage Your Waste At UMN!

We are in the thick of move-in and move-out. Don't let this picture be of your alley or street! Fines start at \$75 and increase based on the amount of garbage or waste left on the side of the road or outside of the designated waste bin. You are only allowed two bags outside of your designated waste bin before you may be fined. Make sure to correctly sort recyclables from your trash and don't co-mingle them. Additionally, many items abandoned during the move-out season can be reused or donated. If you are curious as to where you can donate, search "donation sites near me," to find the most convenient location for you. Most places accept your gently used household goods, small furniture and even clothing. We encourage you to pack what you need and give back or donate what you no longer need to help others!

If you are searching for items for your apartment, dorm, or house, book an appointment at the [U of M's ReUse Program](#) (883 29th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414). The University of Minnesota ReUse Program collects office furniture, supplies, equipment, and parts from offices and collects household items from students. These are then available to both students and the public to purchase (students can often shop the "Free Store" of household items, ask if it's available if you shop!). Currently, the ReUse Center is open to the public Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays by appointment only. Face masks are required at your appointment! To book an appointment, email [reuse@umn.edu](mailto:reuse@umn.edu) with your preferred date and time. Follow the ReUse Program's Facebook page for additional updates and opportunities.

Always remember to leave your neighborhood cleaner than you found it. Be respectful and be sustainable this move-out season, Gophers!

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## Find State Fair Food Trucks Near You!

Even though we can't spend hot summer days in the crowded lines of the Minnesota State Fair this year...This does not mean you can't enjoy the wonderful fair food! Fair food lovers were not going to let us forget about the amazing foods, which you can find using the [Fair Food Finder](#)! A group of Minnesotan locals created this page which provides every convenience to knowing where to get these unique eats, showing you location of where your favorite food truck will be in the Twin Cities area. They even created an interactive map to help navigate you around the Twin Cities areas to find your beloved food truck to satisfy that fair craving. Find them on Facebook, and follow up with OCL for more restaurants, events, and activities when exploring off-campus.

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	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Burglary From Motor Vehicle	Homicide	Motor Vehicle Theft	Robbery	Sexual Assault	Theft
Cedar-Riverside	6	0	6	0	6	6	1	17
Marcy-Holmes	6	13	23	0	28	1	0	60
Prospect Park	1	3	8	0	7	3	1	25
SE Como	1	3	12	0	9	0	0	20

## GopherWatch Monthly Safety Report: July

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

### Crime Highlights:

- At 5:20PM on July 23rd, there was an attempted robbery near the intersection of Pleasant Street Southeast and Arlington Street Southeast.
  - The suspects (Five young males, aging from 17 to 22 years old) knocked the victim and her bike to the ground with their gray Ford Edge SUV.
  - Thankfully, the victim had no serious injuries, and her property was not stolen.
- Overall crime has seen a major increase in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood from June to July, quite possibly one of the largest hikes we've seen since we've started writing GopherWatch reports.
  - Overall theft has seen an 88% increase between months, with a jump from 32 thefts in June to 60 in July.
  - Motor vehicle theft has seen a 211% increase, seeing a jump from 9 motor vehicle thefts in June to 28 in July.
  - Lastly, burglary from motor vehicles has seen an 188% increase, going from 8 to 23.
- Overall violent crime has seen a major increase in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood, as they had seen 6 aggravated assaults (0 in June) and one sexual assault in July (0 in June).

### Safety Notes:

- Overall there has been an increase in crime throughout the neighborhoods, so do not hesitate to report a crime to the police or UMPD (612-624-2677) if you see anything happen.
- Because of the very large spike in crimes, try to be more alert when walking and driving around. Also, there has been a huge spike in motor vehicle crime, so try to not have valuable items with you. Do not hesitate to use the Code Blue panic alarms around campus for emergency situations when you feel uncomfortable or see suspicious activity.

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

#### Renting

If you are still looking for fall 2020 housing, there are still some complexes with openings. Know that you do not need to feel rushed while checking out apts or houses. YOU HAVE TIME TO SIGN! With more vacancies than students to fill them, this is actually a good time to negotiate the lease to your benefit with possible reductions in monthly rent or shorter notice periods. Some property managers are even

#### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

We encourage students to consider volunteering for the **Census 2020 phone bank** calling fellow U of M students and earn a \$30 gift card for each 2 hour calling shift completed (thanks to funding from Hennepin County). **Fill out this form** if you are interested or want more information. The census wraps up on Sept. 30th so we need help before then. You can also check out our site for some local upcoming

considering adjusting to short term leases for new contracts. You could also consider doing a sublet for fall only if you're not sure if you want to live off-campus in spring too. Check out the [Housing Group](#) on Facebook if you are looking for a sublet, there are lots of good options there!

There are still plenty of places to rent within 1/2 a mile to a mile of campus. Locations closest to campus do 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](http://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. 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!

### **Social Media**

OCL now has a YouTube page, where all original content is published! Check below for videos on local housing, safety, and more! We just added some great commuter focused videos in August!

#### **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](#)

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.

### **[Make an appointment](#)**

### **NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?**

Apply for Student Emergency Funds by emailing [onestop@umn.edu](mailto: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.

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

Virtual events can be fun and help you maintain social distancing. You can always find some great opportunities from our friends in [Student Unions & Activities](#).

This month we are encouraging you to check out what student groups are doing virtually this fall. Go to the [events calendar](#) on [GopherLink](#) for the latest events from the more than 1,000 registered student orgs on campus. You can search by date, theme, category or even perks! Free food may be hard to find with virtual events, but free stuff is always in style!

## **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