



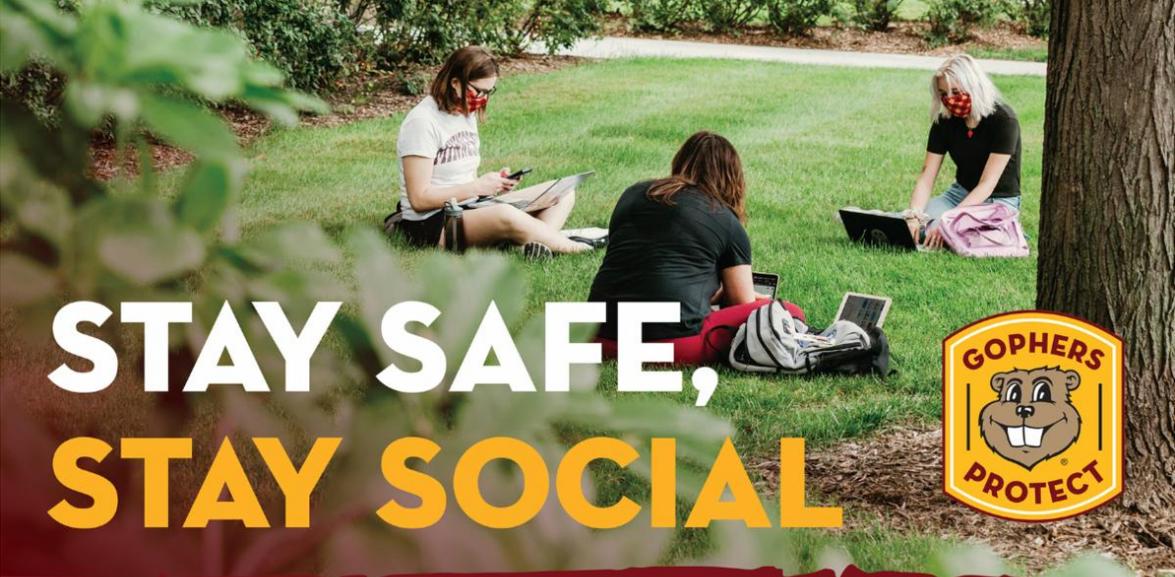
## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Office for Off-Campus Living

**early October 2020**

While we are all feeling the stress of school starting (whether at the U or for younger students at our local schools), there is a lot of beauty to take in with the leaves changing and the temps cooling off. Things have been a little hectic for our student staff in the last few weeks, so we'll be doing two newsletters in October. This early edition and another in a few weeks. We strongly encourage students to make good choices about socializing off-campus to enable the campus to stay open this fall. We're counting on you, #GophersProtect!

**-Your Off-Campus Liaisons**



# STAY SAFE, STAY SOCIAL



When **seeing friends**, opt to socialize outdoors, wear a mask and keep 6 feet apart, use hand sanitizer, and avoid sharing food or beverages. See all safety guidelines: [z.umn.edu/covid19](https://z.umn.edu/covid19)

**#GOPHERSPROTECT**



**take pride in your community**

protect our waterways

**inspire others**

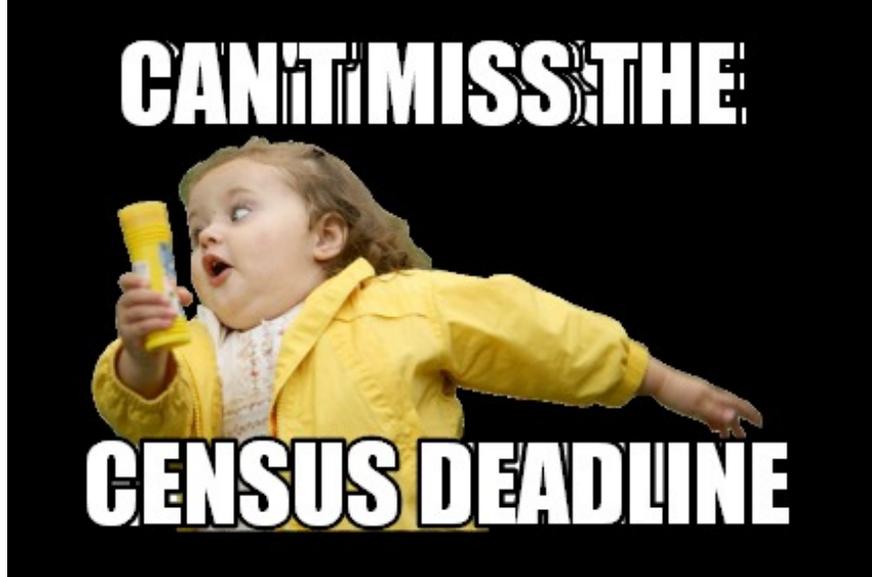
have fun volunteer with family and friends

**make a difference**

## **DIY Clean Up Supply Hubs Saturday, 10/3 from 9am-1pm!**

Off-Campus Living is partnering with Litter Be Gone, SE Como Improvement Association and Prospect Park Association to host some DIY Clean Up Supply Hubs on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020 from 9am-1pm. Stop by with your mask on and pick up clean up supplies like bags, gloves, grabbers and a great BOGO drink coupon for some great Mpls businesses. Clean up your block right away or later in the week, it's up to you! Include the trash bag and/or recycling items in your regular waste and recycling pick up. SE Como supply hub at Van Cleve Park (901 15th Ave SE) and Prospect Park location at the parking lot of FamilyWise (3036 University Ave SE). Find these and other [Litter Be Gone supply hub locations](#) online.

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### **Last Call for Census!**

The end of the Census keeps changing. The latest we've heard from the Census Bureau is Monday, October 5th but it looks like it may be extended until Oct. 31st. If you haven't filled out the Census yet, take 10 minutes now to do it with your roommates you were paying rent with on April 1, 2020. Even if you were living at home due to Covid-19 shutdowns, you should still fill out the census for where you paid rent that month. Go to [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) to fill it out. If you have questions about the census, go to [z.umn.edu/census](https://z.umn.edu/census) for more information. Don't wait, take ten minutes to complete it today and challenge your friends to do the same. Check out this MN Daily article about how the areas near the U are undercounted: <https://mndaily.com/262434/news/with-rapidly-approaching-census-deadline-umn-neighborhoods-still-undercounted/>

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### **Get Out the Vote and Election Judge Recruiter Positions!**

Help our Get Out the Vote efforts! The Census phone bank is being transitioned into a GOTV phone bank to educate people on how to request an absentee ballot or get registered to vote. Go to our [volunteer page](#) for more information! University students, faculty and staff can use [z.umn.edu/votes](https://z.umn.edu/votes) to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, find out where their polling place is or see a sample ballot. Students who want more information can also go to [ocl.umn.edu/vote](https://ocl.umn.edu/vote). In addition: Campus Compact is wanting to hire some students as recruiters for election judge positions in St. Paul, MN. Student Recruiters will receive a \$500 stipend upon completion of three weeks of work during October 2020. Applications are open now and spots are limited! <https://compact.org/education-for-democracy/safe-elections-project/recruit/>. Apply by Wednesday, Oct. 7th for this opportunity!

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	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Burglary From Motor Vehicle	Homicide	Motor Vehicle Theft	Robbery	Sexual Assault	Theft
Cedar-Riverside	5	3	11	0	5	6	0	22
Marcy-Holmes	6	11	12	0	29	4	1	49
Prospect Park	2	3	17	0	2	0	0	51
SE Como	1	3	11	0	7	2	1	15

## ***GopherWatch Monthly Safety Report: August***

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

### **Crime Highlights:**

- A driveby shooting and robbery had taken place near campus just outside of the month of July, on the early morning hours of August 1st. Five male suspects, ages 14 to 16, robbed the victims at gunpoint near 26th Ave. S and 7th St. S, before fleeing on foot toward Riverside Park at approximately 2 a.m.
  - Another victim was shot in a drive-by shooting near the intersection of 4th Street Southeast and 12th Avenue Southeast at around midnight on August 3rd.
- Although burglaries have stayed consistently low (in comparison to other crimes) near campus, it has been said that most burglaries that happen in SE Minneapolis are unforced, meaning a criminal enters a home, garage, or building from an unlocked window or door.
  - With this being said, door and window security, as well as crime prevention through environmental design are more important than ever. Check with your landlord to see ways on how you may prevent certain burglaries or break-ins.

### **Safety Notes:**

- Overall crime in the neighborhoods have decreased slightly, however theft in all neighborhoods has increased, especially in Prospect Park where it has doubled from last month. So please remember to travel light, meaning try not to bring valuables with you as you are walking around campus. Be as vigilant as possible because of the increased theft and if needed walk with a friend.
- If you see any suspicious activity especially now that campus is starting to fill with people because school is starting, do not hesitate to push the blue buttons and panic alarms around campus in emergency situations. Call the police (911) if you witness any suspicious or illegal activity, and make sure you are not alone if confronted by such behaviour.
  - MPD, in cooperation with UMNPD and MPRB-PD will be making saturation patrols in the dimmed areas of Marcy-Holmes, but they are urging students to "Stay alert, be aware of your surroundings, and walk with friends".
  - Please note that calling 911 directs you to MPD and UMPD, and should be the only phone number you will need to use in order to get yourself in safe measures within a timely manner.

This is the August report (normally shared in September but our newsletter is a few weeks later this time). Look for the September report in the 2nd October Newsletter coming in about 2 weeks. Thank you!

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

#### **Renting**

If you are still looking for a subletter or want a sublet location, check out the [Roommate](#)

#### **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

Participate in the DIY Clean Up to help clean your block or a neighboring block.

**Finder** and the **Housing Group** on Facebook.  
 Housing locations will start to recruit now for next year. If you are not sure if you want to live near campus if classes may be online, you should wait to sign a lease. A lease is a legally binding obligation that is very difficult to get out of so you should not sign it if you are unsure.

You can use **listings.umn.edu** (through Housing & Residential Life) to find openings. The Listing Service is hosting the ONLINE Off-Campus Housing Fair on Nov. 10th from 10am -2pm. You can see videos from housing providers and local community resources too.

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](#)

Pick up supplies this Saturday, 10/3 at a **Supply Hub** near you from 9am-1pm. Sign up for the GOTV phone bank this October. Visit our **volunteer page** on our site to see these and any other volunteer opportunities coming up.

**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