



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Office for Off-Campus Living



Late October 2020

In part two of our October issue we hope fellow Gophers enjoyed those the last warm days we had in Minnesota earlier this month, they were glorious! But winter has arrived early! Don't forget to shovel your sidewalk right away to help avoid icy spots and pay attention to possible Snow Emergencies in case you need to move your car. As October is settling in, midterms for students are taking place. With midterms comes a lot of stress and in this issue we are providing ways to help manage that stress! Along with this, we are highlighting events that might be of interest for the coming weeks! Lastly, we at Off-Campus Living recommend that students socially distance, wear a mask in public, and practice CDC guidelines!



Get Out The Vote!

As November approaches, so does Election Day! The election this year is a way to have your voice heard in Minnesota and the nation! Voting is a privilege in America and it is important to exercise your rights when the time comes. The election takes place on Tuesday, November 3rd, but you can vote early!

Exciting announcement: An absentee ballot drop-off location is now open at the east entrance of Northrop Auditorium (across from Lilly Plaza, near Morrill Hall) for students, staff, and faculty who vote in Minneapolis (or any Mpls resident in reality). Please bring your completed ballot and a valid ID. You cannot apply for absentee ballots at this location, but you can drop off your own and three additional completed ballots.

Hours of operation:

Weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sundays from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 2 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Election Day, Nov. 3 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you need to apply for an absentee ballot, do it right away! You can [request an absentee ballot online](#). You can also vote absentee or early at an early vote center in your city or county.

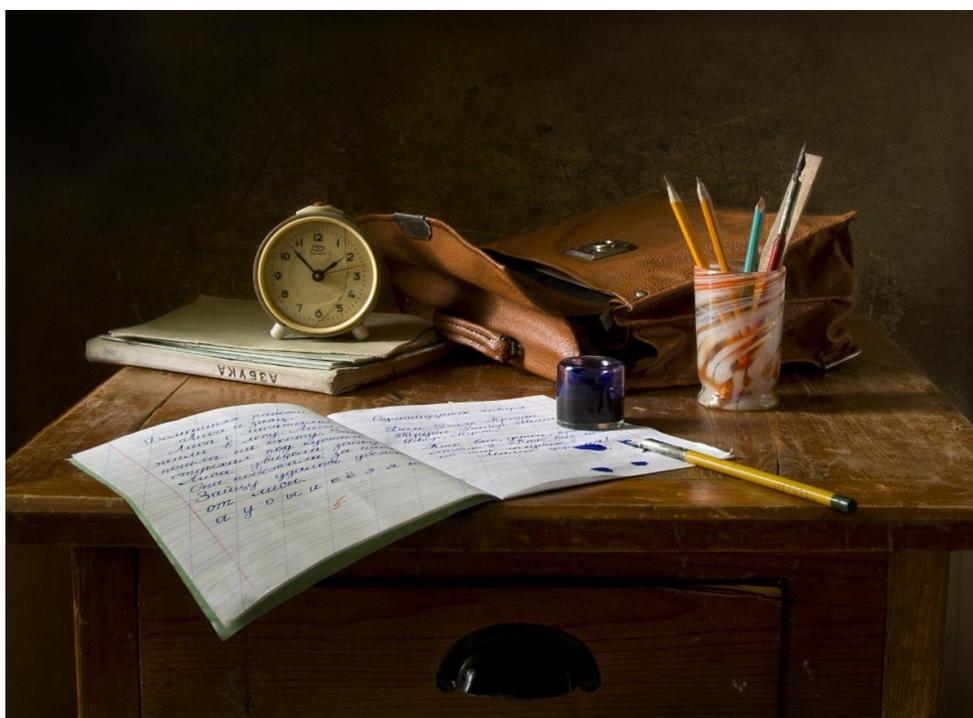
Our website, ocl.umn.edu/vote, has the links to the resources to help you find your polling location in order to vote on Election Day or to vote early! The website also includes some FAQs that we feel address essential information people may not know and provides clarification to certain topics. It is also important to know what is on your ballot come time to vote! Our website has direct links to different parts of the Secretary of State's website where you can view a sample ballot to get a general idea of what it will look like when you go and vote or to help research the candidates that are running.



Moving Off-Campus or Renewing Off-Campus Soon? We've Got You!

The Off Campus Housing Fair is scheduled for November 10, 2020 from 11 AM to 4 PM. Originally in-person, this event was moved online because of COVID-19. The Off-Campus Housing Fair is a way for you to learn about places to live near campus and connect with local property owners about the units they manage. This event can help to determine a location that works best for your specific needs and guide you closer to finding a place to live. They will be livestreaming videos and answering your questions via FB videos on the site, along with the different listings at listings.umn.edu/listing. The Housing Fair can also help provide answers to important topics such as transportation, security, and legal services with some resources participating as well.

As you're looking for a new living situation, Roommate Finder may also be a helpful resource to connect with other students looking for a place to live as well. Roommate Finder can be found on our website at ocl.umn.edu/renting-near-campus/find-a-roommate/. Students looking to rent or who want more information about renting (red flags to watch for, what to look for on a lease, etc.) should consider registering for a Renter Education workshop scheduled for Thursday, 11/5 at 4pm or Monday, 11/9, at 7pm. Registration links will be available on our [Where to Live](#) section of our website. You can use all these resources to find a place to live next year!



Have Midterm Stress?

Midterm season is in full swing and upon most students. This brings a lot of stress and negative pressure that often prevents students from doing their best. Below, we have provided some tips to help relieve test anxiety/stress and make the most of your time for exams/projects:

- **Planning ahead**
 - Mapping out your days to see what tasks and objectives need to be completed can help keep you on track. You can make a schedule to follow in a planner, agenda, or calendar
- **Don't cram**
 - Doing everything last minute can cause a lot of stress and it might not be your best work
- **Attending office hours**
 - Do you know your professors'/TAs' office hours? Asking questions and reviewing certain topics during their office hours can help to clear up any confusion and makes sure you know the right information
- **Study in a group**
 - Having a group to study with is one way to help each other learn the material for your exam, project, or paper
- **Take breaks while studying**
 - Doing all of your studying at once can bring a lot of mental stress. Taking regular breaks to relax helps you clear your mind
- **Rewarding yourself**
 - Rewarding yourself for accomplishing objectives is positive reinforcement to help push yourself forward and keeps you in an optimistic mindset
- **Practicing self care**
 - Some forms of self care include going outside, exercising, playing a game, watching a show, reading, listening to music, and talking with friends. Do something fun for yourself if you're feeling bogged down!
- **Sleeping**

- Getting a sufficient amount sleep is vital. Studies show that sleep is just as important as studying to help refresh your memory
 - **Eating and drinking accordingly**
 - Keeping a healthy diet provides proper energy for your body to be able to perform for your exams
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Halloween Activities To Look Out For!

With October comes the spirit of Halloween. Due to COVID-19, many haunted attractions are not in-person. But some places have adapted to the new conditions! The Abandoned Haunted Hayride in Chaska has become the **Abandoned Haunted Drive Thru!** Attendees can stay in their cars as they drive through a trail and experience fun scares and spooky surprises.

Also in Chaska associated with the Abandoned Hayride is **ScreamTown**, with 6 haunted houses in one location with social distancing measures in place. Another option a little further to the north is the **Deadend Hayride** at Pine Haven Tree Farm in Wyoming, MN. These are about 35-40 minutes from campus and while they are not cheap, they are plenty scary.

Looking for a virtual option? OCL's own Commuter Connection is hosting a **Virtual Halloween Party** via Discord on Oct. 30, 3pm-10pm. Join the commuter discord (discordgg/X64NkSZ) to find out more about the costume contest, movies, and spooky safe socializing. Or check out the **Twin Cities Horror Festival** from the comfort of your own home. A donation of any amount gets you access to five spine tingling tales over the three day festival Oct. 29-31st. Find **more event options** (virtual or in person) in the Twin Cities including our own Bell Museum! Happy scares!

	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Burglary From Motor Vehicle	Homicide	Motor Vehicle Theft	Robbery	Sexual Assault	Theft
Cedar-Riverside	2	6	21	0	5	8	0	28
Marcy-Holmes	5	18	29	0	29	7	0	78
Prospect Park	0	6	23	0	10	2	0	60
SE Como	1	6	15	0	5	0	1	20

GopherWatch Monthly Safety Report: **September**

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

Crime Highlights:

- An auto theft occurred near the 2600 block of University Avenue Southeast around 10PM on Sunday, September 20th, in the Prospect Park neighborhood.
 - The loss was a black 2013 Toyota Rav4
 - The victim was a food delivery driver.
 - The Minneapolis Police Department is investigating
- A robbery of person and auto theft occurred near the 700 block of 25th Avenue South around 8:40PM on Tuesday, September 6th, in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood.
 - The victim lost a car, phone, and wallet.
 - The suspects were described as three males, 18-21 years old.
 - A gun was used in the robbery.
 - The Minneapolis Police Department is investigating.

Safety Notes:

- Theft and robbery remain elevated in the off campus neighborhoods.
 - Prevention tips:
 - Walk in groups (of three or more friends)
 - Walk cheaply (leave your valuables behind)
 - Walk aware (put away your phone and headphones)
- In the neighborhoods there is also an increase in motor vehicle theft and burglary from motor vehicles.
 - Prevention tips:
 - Lock your car and remove valuables before you reach your destination.
 - Do not leave your car running when idle or temporarily parking (delivery vehicles have been targeted).
- If you see any suspicious activity do not hesitate to push the blue buttons and panic alarms around campus in emergency situations. Call 911 if you observe suspicious or illegal activity.

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

Renting

It is the time of year that many apartments start asking current renters to renew and many first year students start looking at housing for fall 2021. Know that you do not need to feel rushed while checking out apts or houses. YOU HAVE TIME TO SIGN! If you consider waiting until spring semester to sign, it is actually a good time to negotiate the lease to your benefit with possible reductions in monthly rent or

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

We hope you got outside for the Neighborhood Clean Ups in early October. You can still pick up your own block when you are on a walk this fall and put any gathered recycling or trash items in with your bins to keep the neighborhood looking nice. If you are interested in helping to shovel a driveway/sidewalk or rake leaves for a senior in the neighborhood, you can reach

shorter notice periods. If you are unsure if you would want to rent nearby if classes continue to be offered primarily online, you should wait to sign or talk to the property managers about the possibility of a short term lease. 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 will be more and more options there as time goes by!

Take your time to look through the Off-Campus Listing Service at listings.umn.edu/listing (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 has a YouTube page, where our original content is published. New GOTV videos will be added in the next few days! Check below for videos on local housing, safety, and more! We are starting a World Tour series on our Cookbook on Instagram. Join us to try some great international recipes and expand your cooking prowess. We kicked it off with a great Greek recipe of Piperies My Tyr (a fancy way to say stuffed peppers)! If you a commuter, check out our new Commuter Instagram channel with specific info geared to helping you be successful as a Commuter at the U!

YouTube: [UMN Off-Campus Living](#)
Facebook: [@offcampusgopher](#)
Instagram: [@offcampusgopher](#)
Instagram: [@umncommutercentral](#) (NEW)
Twitter: [@OffCampusGopher](#)

out to [SE Seniors](#) and see if anyone near you needs some help. We still need people to help make Get Out the Vote phone calls to encourage voting at the [GOTV Phone Bank](#). 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. 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.

Events Worth Checking Out

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](#).

Top picks:
[Photo Scavenger Hunt](#) happening Friday, Oct. 23 to Friday, Oct. 30th.

[Virtual Trivia Night: Harry Potter](#) on Thursday, Oct. 29, 8pm. You have to be a Ravenclaw to get all these questions right!

Or distanced In person option:
[Game Day Watch Party](#) in Goldy's Gameroom! Watch Gopher Football with a \$4.99 brat & tot basket and sample free Coke products! (food special is select Fridays and Saturdays through December).

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