NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Office for Off-Campus Living

January 2019

Welcome Back!

Hope everyone had a nice, relaxing winter break and holidays! As we are now halfway through the school year, make sure you resume your responsibilities and priorities as a tenant and a neighbor! Also, consider contacting us (ocl@umn.edu) with any questions you may have regarding your living situation if you are moving off-campus for next fall! Housing spaces are filling up, and Off-Campus Living is here for your needs!

-Your Neighborhood Liaisons

Get Involved Within Your Community

Get involved within your community at the Minneapolis Community Connections Conference! The 8th annual Community Connections Conference is being held on February 2nd and lasts from 8:00am to 4:00pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center at the lower level in Hall A.
If you don't know what the Community Connections Conference is, it is a free and open gathering meant to build connections and foster collaboration between community, neighborhoods and government, focusing on best practices for community engagement. The conference features interactive workshops, speakers, an immigration, family and housing legal clinic, free food, panel discussions and exhibitors.

**Schedule for the Community Connections Conference**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opening Panels</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morning Workshops</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>12:00 - 1:00pm</td>
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<td>Afternoon Workshops</td>
<td>1:15 - 2:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing Forum</td>
<td>2:45 - 4:00pm</td>
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Register here if you are interested in attending!

Click here for more information regarding the event!


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**Incoming Snow Emergencies**

As the weather only seems to be getting colder and colder, be prepared for any incoming snow emergencies that can be declared in Minneapolis or any other surrounding areas. Snow Emergencies are called after significant snowfall and before 6 p.m. on any given day. During a Snow Emergency, special parking rules go into effect that allow City crews to plow streets and emergency vehicles to travel safely.

In order to know if there is a snow emergency declared, you can either:

- Call the snow emergency news hotline at 612-348-SNOW (7669).
- Download the Minneapolis Snow Emergency app on your smartphone.
  - Tells you if a Snow Emergency has been declared and puts all the parking rules right in the palm of your hand.
  - Tells you where you can and can't park on Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3 of a Snow Emergency.
Tells you where you can and can't park on Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3 of a Snow Emergency to help you avoid a ticket and a tow. It also features a quick call button that connects you with the Minneapolis Snow Emergency Hotline, and buttons to sign up for email/text alerts or visit the City's website.

Click here to learn more about Minneapolis Snow Emergency Parking Rules!

Via: http://minneapolismn.gov/snow/index.htm

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**Polar Plunge 2019**

The Minnesota Polar Plunge will be back underway for the 2019 season! Check out the event list on their website for future dates and times for the polar plunge. With future dates planned in Maple Grove, Rochester, Woodbury, St. Cloud, Prior Lake, and more, there's plenty of opportunities to come out and support Special Olympics Minnesota!

And if you're not the type to jump in a lake in the middle of winter, volunteers are needed at the Polar Plunge to help with a large variety of roles. You can still be a part of the action and fun while supporting the Plungers and Special Olympics Minnesota! Check out their volunteering website page for more information regarding when and where to volunteer.

If you have any questions regarding Polar Plunge's events, fundraising, or any other general questions, check out the FAQ listed on their website to answer any of your questions regarding their program.
Remembering Zahra

We are deeply saddened to share with you that Zahra Mohamed, a Commuter Engagement Liaison within Off-Campus Living, was struck and killed by a vehicle on the evening of Jan. 4, 2019, in St. Paul, MN.

Zahra joined our staff in fall 2018 and worked with the Gopher Hall online community to share resources and provide in person programming to benefit first-year and returning commuter students at the University of Minnesota. Outside of work, Zahra's lively personality, energy, helpfulness and friendliness made her a well respected and great resource to other students at the University of Minnesota. Her leadership in several student organizations made her a great role model and embodied how commuter students can get positively engaged at the University of Minnesota. She always strived and worked hard to bring changes in the community and make a difference.

Our community lost a soul very dear to many and an amazing student leader who many looked up to. Our deepest condolences go to Zahra's family and friends at this time. We will never forget the positive light she was to so many within our commuter community.

Friends of Zahra's have started a fundraiser to raise money toward the funeral costs. Please consider donating if you are interested.

Counseling and support services for any University students, faculty and staff who may need it is available. Counselors at Boynton Health and Student Counseling Services are available for in-person, individual appointments. A U of M, 24/7 crisis line can be reached at 612-301-4673 or by texting "UMN" to 61222.

Renting

Renting an apartment or house off-campus can be very different than living in the residence halls. Are you prepared for the increase in responsibilities? Are you aware of your obligations as a renter and what you can expect from a landlord?

In particular, we'd like to remind students still looking for housing to be careful & vigilant in their housing search. Although time is running a little low, it is still 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.

A Fond Farewell and Thank You

Off-Campus Living's Commuter Student Engagement Advisor, Caitlin Herby, resigned over the break and her last day was Jan. 2, 2019. We wish her the best of luck as she is moving into a training and orientation position in the private sector. We will miss Caitlin's high energy and positive leadership in the office. We are so thankful for the 3 1/2 years she worked in Off-Campus Living and helped us create the foundation for the commuter services and outreach we offer. Since she is an alum of UMD, she will still retain her umn email if you'd like to reach out and stay in touch.

Thank you Caitlin, we will miss you!

We will be forming a search committee and
We will be forming a search committee and posting the position in the coming weeks on the University's employment site.

Social Media

That's right! If the newsletter is not for you, give us a follow on our 5-star rated Facebook page, our beautifully photographed Instagram page, or our newly revamped 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

Volunteer Opportunities

Help Off-Campus Living place snow emergency pamphlets on parked cars in the neighborhoods to educate drivers about where they can and can't park during a snow emergency. We want to help students avoid getting ticketed and towed. Help us spread the word and encourage students to download the app or sign up for text alerts for snow emergencies.

Use the request form to contact us for other local opportunities to volunteer!

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!

Questions about your lease or landlord?

If you're a U of M student, be sure to get your potential lease looked at by University Student Legal Services before signing. They can point out any red flags and help you in making your choice.

Make an appointment

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