NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Office for Off-Campus Living

August 2019

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. Things can get confusing during this time, so feel free to reach out for advice or with any questions.

-Your Off-Campus Liaisons

The 2019 Minneapolis State Fair is Coming!

The great Minnesota get-together is back before the upcoming school year, starting August
22nd through Labor Day, September 2nd. Located on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, 1265 Snelling Ave N, right near the UMN St. Paul campus, the State Fair is back with new foods, free entertainment, and headlining music. Regular admission prices start at $15 for adults and $13 for seniors and kids, but discounts will be offered on select days.

The State Fair will be operating from 6AM to midnight every night (to 10PM on Labor Day), with special guest services available at select times. With the fair going this late, you'll be sure to find yourself entertained every minute, with more than 4,000 activities and events planned for the whole festival, such as performances by Hootie and the Blowfish, Logic, ZZ Top, Weird Al, Lionel Richie, and more, as well as a History Walking Tour, Talent Contests, a Timberworks Lumberjack show, and the list goes on and on.

Make sure you come hungry too, as there are 38 new foods to make an appearance to the Fair. There are also plenty of specialty brews and beverages at your disposal, that can be useful when you're try the new fried tacos on a stick while you're there.

Along with new attractions for the State Fair such as new rollercoasters and a Agriculture Horticulture Building, as well as animal barn hours, this state fair will surely submerse yourself in the great midwestern culture that Minnesota exhibits!

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

Some of you will be moving out of your first college apartment at the end of this 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 new 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 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: 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.

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.

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Exploring Off-Campus: St. Anthony Main

As the summer blockbusters are starting to roll by, take your chance to stop by St. Anthony Main theater! Located on 115 SE Main St., St. Anthony Main Theater offers you cheap movies in an area lit by Minneapolis' skyline, complimented with great restaurants and bars. A perfect place to take your significant other on a night out.
Let's say you are going out on a date to St. Anthony Main. First, check their website for the latest movie showings, which usually start running after 1:00pm every day until a 10:00pm showing. Next, make sure you bring your school I.D., as tickets can get to $6.75 for students who bring a valid I.D.. Or, better yet, go on a Tuesday night and spend $5 for each ticket and $3 for a medium popcorn (school I.D. not needed).

Next, you're going to want to find a nice place to have dinner before or after your movie. With your cheap movie tickets (that your date will not be entirely impressed with), I would recommend to go full throttle with your dinner choice and try Hideaway Burger Bar. Located nearly a block away from St. Anthony Main Theater, this place will be sure to take your breath away with their large outdoor deck, music, cheap cocktails, cold beer, and of course, burgers. Check their website for their menus and specials, as well as a 3D tour of the restaurant.

And just like that, I just planned your next Saturday night. Of course there are other places to check out in the St. Anthony Main area, so I recommend going out and walking along SE Main St. to explore the lively area yourself!

Check back on our newsletter next month for another edition of "Exploring Off-Campus!"

-Evan VorBroker
Communications Liaison

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Get Ready for Open Streets 2019 at UMN!

On Sunday, September 8th, come visit Open Streets Minneapolis at the University of Minnesota! From 11AM-5PM, discover local businesses, artists, community groups, performers, food trucks, and institutions on closed, pedestrianized streets. "Open Streets Minneapolis gets folks out of their cars so neighbors can explore their communities in a whole new way", and will be extending from University Ave SE and Oak St SE, right across the street from campus.
Free Metro Transit passes will be handed out for the event, as well as options to get a spot, or to sponsor the event in any way. But if you're looking to volunteer for the event, you can pick through a variety of roles with multiple shifts such as Roving Photographers, Street Ambassadors, Volunteer Greeters, and more. Not to forget, the shifts also come with a free t-shirt!

Make sure to stop by OCL's table while you're there, and to come with any questions concerning your off-campus needs!

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GopherWatch Monthly Safety Report: July

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

Crime Highlights:

- Criminal Sexual Conduct occurred in the 2800 block of University Avenue SE on Saturday July 20th at approximately 9:00 AM
  - The victim was sexually assaulted.
  - A firearm was used in the assault, but was not discharged.
  - The victim was able to give a description of the suspect and the Minneapolis Police Department is investigating.
- An assault with a deadly weapon occurred near University Ave SE and 6th Ave SE on Monday July 29th at approximately 8:30 PM.
  - The victim was struck in the head with a rock.
  - The victim had their personal belongings taken.
  - The victim was able to give a description of the suspect and the Minneapolis Police Department is investigating.
Safety Notes:

- Back to School means an increase in all forms of traffic and an increase in collisions. Here are tips to stay safe while walking:
  - Before crossing a street, scan in all directions. Look left, right, and then left again.
  - Cross streets at marked crosswalks. Marked crosswalks have pavement markings, pedestrian warning signs, and/or flashing lights.
  - When ready to cross a street, make eye contact with vehicle drivers, and keep your eyes and ears on vehicle speed and noise. Always be prepared for a motorist who fails to yield the right-of-way.
  - Obey “Walk/Don’t Walk” signals. Minnesota Signal law says that a pedestrian may only enter a signalized intersection when the “Walk” signal is shown.

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.

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 before signing. They can point out any red flags and help you in making your choice.

Make an appointment

Volunteer Opportunities

Pack & Give Back is a program to collect reusable items when students move and recycle them back into the community.

We're looking for volunteers to help sort items at the Reuse Program and help tidy up the Free Store throughout the days of the sale. This mainly includes picking up fallen items and rehanging them, restocking clothes, and other miscellaneous tasks. Volunteers will have “first dibs” and be able to take away a full bag of clothes from their shift!

Sign up for a single or recurring shift!

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!

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

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

Local and University Held Events

Ever find yourself twiddling your thumbs on the weekend, wishing you were experiencing the Twin Cities like you should?

Then look no further than these resources that can get you familiar with the area and experience within the Minnesotan culture!

University Events

Minneapolis and St. Paul Events
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