January 2020

Welcome back gophers, to a new decade and a new semester! We hope you all had thoroughly enjoyed your break and holidays, but now it is time to get back into the crack of things! 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 Off-Campus Liaisons
Discover Dinkytown with OCL at the Winter Wander Event!

On January 25th, from 1-5PM, come celebrate Dinkytown and our local businesses at the Dinkytown Winter Wander Event! From 1-5PM, come celebrate Dinkytown and support local businesses as you sample area restaurants and businesses, enjoy a wide range of student and local performers, engage in fun activities, register to win prizes, and connect with others. Come, and bring your friends and neighbors, and check out the event's schedule and more information beforehand on the Facebook page.

This event is free to the public, although purchasing an event passport will allow access to special deals and entrance into a drawing to win great prizes (proceeds go to supporting local performers and covering event costs). If you were looking to volunteer for this event, sign up to be an Event Ambassador to help welcome and guests and help them navigate the event.

Hope to see you all there!

Living Off-Campus at the University of Minnesota

With the new year and semester underway, it may be time to start looking for places to live for the next school year (if you haven't already). Given your circumstances, we have come
up with a platform ourselves to help guide you throughout this process. The "Renting Near
Campus" section of our website has numerous tools and advice to help you figure out
where to live, finding roommates, legal advice, being a good neighbor, and more.

Outlined below are all the subjects concerning our "Renting Near Campus" page, which are
summarized to help assist you with any questions or concerns you may have:

Where to Live
Here, you will find numerous events, resources, and information pertaining to finding that
perfect house or apartment space that you are looking to fill. You will also find the pros
and cons of living in apartments and houses, and ways on how to find these properties.

Finding a Roommate
When looking for places to live, you might be in need for a roommate to either fill your
housing space, to share a room, or to drive rent down. With this being said, this section
outlines ways on how you may be able to find someone who is looking for a place to live, or
who needs roommates to fill their housing. OCL highly recommends to join our Housing
Facebook Group, in which you can find thousands of people posting each week in regards
to filling space, finding roommates, etc..

Doing Your Research
Under "Do Your Research", you will find step-by-step direction on how to check if a local
rental property or landlord is valid and reliable. What is also listed is our Non-Compliance
Public Listing of local properties, and our Off-Campus Housing Program Policy, in which
describes our relationships with surrounding properties.

Being a Good Neighbor
Here you will find ways on how to properly act as a tenant of a house rental, and things you
can do to be more connected and involved within your neighborhood. Certain community
organizations and local resources are also listed for your benefit, such as restorative justice,
local churches, pack and give back information, and community housing forums.

Legal Questions
If you have any questions concerning signing your lease, unit condition and damages,
renter's insurance, and occupancy, this page is for you. This page gives you numerous
information pertaining to the things you need to know when you rent from a rental
property, landlord, apartment buildings, etc..

Things to Consider
Don't pick your rental or unit based purely on location or price. There are numerous factors
to consider when undergoing your housing search, which is highlighted in this section. Pay
attention to your safety, parking, and be careful with parties while living off-campus. Check
out this section if you want to avoid any potential residential violations you may not know
of.

Transportation and Navigating Campus
There are many different ways or transportation that run through or near campus. Check
them out in the Transportation section, which shows how to navigate campus by foot, car,
bike, or public transportation such as Metro Transit, Gopher Chauffeur, etc.. There are also
resources on carpooling to UMN, contract parking, and getting involved as a commuter
through our virtual community, Gopher Hall.

OCL Cookbook: Spicy Cabbage and Sausage + Sauerkraut
If you are living off campus and are looking to eat healthier and cost effectively, check out
these recipes made by our OCL Cookbook team! All ingredients are found at Fresh Thyme
Farmers Market. Check out more recipes under our OCL Original Content page.
**OCL Spicy Cabbage Dish**

**Step 1:**
Boil chopped cabbage not too long (you still want it crunchy). Boil until just a little after the color changes darker.

**Step 2:**
Put it on a plate with rice vinegar (bought at Fresh Thyme), and soy sauce. At the office we like it spicy, so we added hot peppers as well, this is not necessarily though!

**Step 3:**
Munch it all up! You just made yourself a healthy snack/meal/whatever you wanna call it!

**OCL Sausage and Sauerkraut Dish**

**Step 1:**
Fry sausages on a pan, do not use oil. Wait until they are brown and cooked!

**Step 2:**
Put Sauerkraut on a plate.

**Step 3 (Optional):**
Cut up jalapeño peppers, fry them with little oil in a pan. Add salt and pepper. Take them out after about 3 minutes as the color slightly changes.

**Step 4 (Optional):**
Squeeze fresh lemon juice over jalapeño peppers.
Learn About Your Community (and more) at the Minneapolis Community Connections Conference

If you are looking to get more involved within the community, attending the Minneapolis Community Connections Conference! On February 1st, from 8AM to 4PM, come learn about important city developments, and meet with hundreds of speakers and panelists for free. There's no better way to meet other residents of Minneapolis, community groups, government officials, and neighborhood organizations.

After the welcoming ceremony from 9AM-10AM, you will then dispatch into "breakout sessions", where you will get the chance to learn about important topics such as neighborhood development, the opioid epidemic in Minnesota, and why the census and voting matters. Free food will also be provided during the conference in the exhibit hall.

If you are interested in attending the event, register on the Community Connections Conference event page on the City of Minneapolis website, and check out their list of those attending the conference. There is also an opportunity to sign up and volunteer for this event, as well as a chance to sponsor the event if you so please.

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GopherWatch Monthly Safety Report: December

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

Crime Highlights:

- An attempted robbery and assault occurred near 7th Street SE and 12th Avenue SE on Friday, December 13th at 2:45PM.
  - The victim was pushed to the ground.
  - The three suspects attempted to take the victim's phone.
  - The suspects were described as males between the ages of 18-20 years old.
  - The Minneapolis Police Department is investigating.
A robbery occurred near University and 10th Avenue SE on Monday, December 23rd at 10:08PM.
- The two suspects used handguns and masks to cover their faces.
- The suspects fled in a dark-colored SUV.
- The victims lost their personal belongings.
- The Minneapolis Police Department is investigating.

Safety Notes:
- Motor vehicle theft is occurring city-wide at elevated rates. Last year, 2870 vehicles were stolen in Minneapolis, a five-year high.
  - Vehicles being stolen are often "warming up."
  - Do not leave your vehicle unattended when it is running.
  - It is unlawful to leave cars idling and unattended in the City of Minneapolis.
  - Always lock your car doors and do not leave valuables in your vehicle.
  - Consider additional anti-theft devices for your vehicle. These can include GPS tracking systems, steering-wheel locks, wheel-locks, etc.

Renting
Many students are looking for fall 2020 housing later now. Know that you do not need to feel rushed while checking out apartments or houses. YOU HAVE TIME TO SIGN!

There are plenty of places to rent within 1/2 a mile to a mile of campus and new complexes get added each year recently. Locations closest to campus will 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.

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.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities
Use the request form to contact us for these or other local opportunities to volunteer! We also welcome student organizations to sign up for volunteer opportunities in the near neighborhoods through us 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!

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

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?

YouTube: UMN Off-Campus Living

@OffCampusGopher