



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Office for Off-Campus Living

May 2020

Off-Campus Living is deeply saddened by the death of George Floyd and the pain and grief being expressed in the Twin Cities this week. We are reaching out to share some safety information and other resources this month.

-Your Off-Campus Liaisons



Safety precautions for U of M Twin Cities students and area property managers

We want to take a moment to remind students and property managers of safety recommendations in and around the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus in the wake of events that have led to property damage in recent days.

For Students

- Stay aware of your surroundings as things change quickly in volatile situations.
- Don't enter a crowd if you don't have to. Wait for a crowd to pass.
- Avoid parking on major roads or commercial districts where protests are likely to move through. Move your vehicle to side streets away from high traffic or commercial areas.
- Remove any valuables from vehicles and items from your property, whether on a lawn or patio, that may be moveable.

For Property Managers

- Remove movable objects away from the front of your property (e.g., planters, trash cans, furniture, decor).
- Move trash totes to a more secure location inside garages if possible. Lock dumpsters if possible if any are on your property.
- Keep front lights on.

- We encourage students to consider locking all exterior doors and increase security at their buildings during this time.

Call 911 if you witness criminal activity or need emergency medical assistance.

Be aware that the University suspended the West Bank portion of the Campus Connector route at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, due to planned demonstrations. In addition, [Metro Transit has shut down](#) all bus and light rail operations for the remainder of Thursday. The closure may be extended. Be sure to check the [Metro Transit](#) and [Parking & Transportation Services](#) websites before you travel.



COVID-19 Resources

Please check out OCL's [COVID-19 resource page](#) to find information on food, housing, and online learning resources, disinfecting tips and more. We encourage you to support the local restaurants who are still offering curbside pickup and delivery options via the links on the resource page ([Dinky2Go](#) among others). If you have resources to suggest for our page, please let us know! Check out the [SECIA](#), [MHNA](#) and [PPA](#) pages to use their form or spreadsheet where you can offer help or ask for help. You can also check the help map on [Nextdoor.com](#) as well. Students who are in need of emergency funds are encouraged to request an application from onestop@umn.edu or their academic advisor. More than \$567,000 has been awarded so far. Want to donate to the cause? You can [contribute](#) to help students, caregivers or emergency support for COVID equipment and research.

We encourage you to continue to practice safe distancing guidelines as you are out and about in the neighborhoods.



Updated Hours for Summer!

The Nutritious U Food Pantry will be offering food to students one day per week at Memorial Union during the summer months. Students in need can request a bag of groceries using this [Food Pantry ordering form](#). Students can pick up their bag of food at Memorial Union on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m. OR they can choose to have their food delivered to their residence on Wednesday afternoons. Delivery is available for students who live in the following zip codes: 55455, 55454, 55414, 55108, and 55408. Not living on campus? Here are some [Minnesota food resources](#).

GopherWatch Monthly Safety Report: April

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

	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Burglary From Motor Vehicle	Homicide	Motor Vehicle Theft	Robbery	Sexual Assault	Theft
Cedar-Riverside	2	7	7	0	7	5	0	17
Marcy-Holmes	4	12	18	0	13	1	1	45
Prospect Park	1	2	12	0	4	4	0	24
SE Como	4	2	11	0	5	0	1	18

GopherWatch Monthly Safety Report: April

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Crime Highlights:

- A shooting incident occurred in Marcy-Holmes on Friday April 1st at 7:40PM..
 - No injuries were reported.
 - Suspects were gone when police arrived.
 - Several spent gun casings were found in the street.

Safety Notes:

- Property crimes have increased in the off-campus neighborhoods adjacent to campus.
 - Call 911 if you witness suspicious or criminal activity.
 - Prevention Tips:
 - Lock all windows and doors.
 - Leave outdoor lights on
 - Secure garages.

*Read about our methodology and find additional information on our webpage <http://ocl.umn.edu/safety/>.

Renting

If you are still looking for fall 2020 housing, you are not alone. Know that you do not need to feel rushed while checking out apts or houses. YOU HAVE TIME TO SIGN! We encourage you to wait to sign a lease if you are not sure if you would want to rent if classes may be online for part or all of fall. A decision on that should be announced in mid June.

There are plenty of places to rent within 1/2 a mile to a mile of campus. Locations

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

How volunteering works may change in the coming weeks due to the social distancing guidelines currently in place. We will be identifying things you can do remotely to help your community, no matter where you are and listing those on our site soon. We will still be posting opportunities for later in summer and for fall semester for sure. 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. Volunteer to help with the Census

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.

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!

2020 phone bank and don't forget to look for our social media drive for students to win prizes for reporting themselves and their roommates for their off-campus location on the census right now too!

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. Thinking you need to sublet your spot this summer? Check your lease and talk to SLS if your lease is not clear about subletting. If you are thinking about breaking your lease, we encourage you to talk to your property manager first, but SLS is available to help negotiate if you need assistance.

[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!

YouTube: [UMN Off-Campus Living](#)

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.

Check Out These Virtual Events Since In-Person Events Are Cancelled

Virtual events are the only kind we can find right now. So aside from hosting a dance party in your own living room or kitchen, check out some of these options for a distraction right now. These opportunities sourced from our friends in [Student Unions & Activities](#). This week we are highlighting the Fitness opportunities:

[RecWell Instagram](#)

- Health/wellness/fitness tips + instructions
- Participate in #gopherfitfromhome

[Where Is My Yoga?](#)

- Local fitness instructors host free virtual yoga classes

Our favorite from their list this week is [Minnesota State Parks, Trails, and Water Trails Virtual Tours](#)

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