



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Office for Off-Campus Living

June 2020

Happy summer, everyone! Given the recent local tragedy and current pandemic, we hope you all are remaining active within the community, helping console others who need it best, all while as staying safe as possible. OCL encourages you to continue looking out for non-profits and other resources within the community to help those in need, and we will keep on doing our best to provide these for you! We hope you all enjoy the start of your summer, and do not be afraid to reach out for us at ocl@umn.edu or [@OffCampusGopher](https://twitter.com/OffCampusGopher) on social media for any questions!

-Your Off-Campus Liaisons



Fill Out Your Census For 2020!

If you are a student at UMN who lives off-campus, you and your roommates should fill out the census for your off-campus location where you lived prior to displacement by COVID-19 if you moved home. Even if your parents have counted you at home, you should still fill out the census for your off-campus address. Census staff have informed the University that they will go through and identify duplicate entries, as they normally do, and resolve them. If you live in a UMN residential hall, you should already be accounted for.

If you are a student who has not filled out the Census yet, go to my2020census.gov to complete the census online. Take a screenshot of your census completion screen it on social media using **#UMNCensus** to be eligible for prize drawings for you and your roommates to local restaurants or stores* where you and your roommates are living now. If you are curious on the facts behind the Census, how/why to get counted, census jobs, and more, visit our [OCL Census page](#) for more information.

Also, keep up with us on our [OCL YouTube page](#) and social media for student testimonials made to explain on why **YOU**, as a student who lives off-campus, should fill out your Census for 2020. There are numerous benefits that serve for holding yourself accountable, such as contributing towards accurate data that determines Minnesota congressional representation, and more. [Learn from the U.S. Census Bureau](#) on what college students need to know to be counted in the right place.

* Local restaurants or stores must be able to accept an online or phone order from OCL for a gift card and be able to mail them to prize winners. Winning entries will be contacted through their social media account to fill out a prize information form. Questions, please contact ocl@umn.edu.



Help Foster A #SummerOfEngageMNt !

The Twin Cities' needs our help more than ever. Given the recent events, the UMN Office of Public Engagement (OPE) is facilitating a Summer of EngageMNt, which "Provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students from across the University of Minnesota system to take action to respond to the present and emerging needs of Minnesota communities impacted by the effects of COVID-19 and the aftermath of Mr. George Floyd's killing". This is the perfect opportunity for anyone looking to help build back our businesses and neighborhoods and obtain service hours.

UMN OPE will work towards matching students among community partners that address a broad range of societal needs and issues within the area. Students are also allowed to volunteer for as much as their schedule can fit, and/or obtain academic credit given this opportunity, as all current service activities will be conducted remotely.

If you are a student with any interest in volunteering along the Summer of EngageMNt, which lasts from June 15th through August 7th, you should fill out the [student application](#) in order to be contacted and paired with a community partner. If you are a community partner seeking University student volunteers during this time, you should fill out the [volunteer request form](#), which is also found on the UMN OPE website. Additionally, If you are interested contributing or donating toward other non-profits that will help among these efforts to build back our communities, check out [this article on Thrillist](#) which highlights

organizations and businesses locally that need your support and includes a link to a list of national organizations as well.

For more information regarding the Summer of EngageMNT, contact Merrie Benasutti, OPE coordinator for community partnerships, at benas021@umn.edu.

(via UMN OPE)



Wait...When Does My Lease End? Think Ahead!

Many students have reported having issues with their leases ending prior to the start of their next lease - creating a "gap" where they have no apartment to live in or store all of their stuff. Because of this, it is critical that all students check their old lease and their new lease to see if there is a gap between the two.

This is an inconvenience at the least, but can also be a serious financial impediment for students already struggling just to get by. Here are some options for students who have a gap between their leases:

- First things first, email both your current landlord and your future landlord and explain the situation to them. There's no guarantee they will be able to accommodate your needs, but it's certainly worth a shot.

- For storing your stuff, we would recommend either asking a friend or keeping them in a storage locker. If you have any friends nearby that are living in a house with a little bit of storage room, we recommend you ask them if you can store your stuff there for a few days (or however long your gap is). If this isn't an option, we recommend you check out the list of storage companies in our [resource directory](#). Sadly, you will likely have to rent out a locker for an entire month but some of the options available aren't too expensive; Think about sharing a locker with some friends in the same situation to save money. A 10x10 space is on average \$150 - \$180/month.

- Finding a place to stay for a few days is also tricky. If the option is available to you, you may want to move in back with your parents for a few days. If not, you can call around to some of your friends to see if they will let you "couch surf" for a few days. If you have a few bucks to spend, you might wanna look into getting an [AirBNB](#) for the length of a "gap" (AirBNB tends to be cheaper than a typical hotel).

We understand that none of these options are ideal & that this issue is a major headache for many students. But if you follow some of the above suggestions, you might be able to turn that major headache into a slightly less major headache.

	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Burglary From Motor Vehicle	Homicide	Motor Vehicle Theft	Robbery	Sexual Assault	Theft
Cedar-Riverside	1	9	4	0	0	1	0	10
Marcy-Holmes	7	11	14	0	17	2	0	47
Prospect Park	1	9	9	0	5	0	0	31
SE Como	1	2	10	0	2	0	1	15

GopherWatch Monthly Safety Report: May

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

Crime Highlights:

- There is an ongoing trend among Marcy-Holmes having higher thefts, assaults, and burglaries than other UMN neighborhoods.
 - Although burglaries from motor vehicles have dropped since last month, there has been a slight increase in motor vehicle thefts.
 - University Ave. has been reported to be a 'corridor of crime' within the month of May. The rate of incidents decreases the further you get away from it.
- Cedar Riverside has seen a significant decrease among thefts, motor vehicle thefts, and robberies within the past month.

Note: Although the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd had taken place in the month of May, this incident will not be reflected in our monthly GopherWatch report, as our office only records and reports crime that happens in UMN neighborhoods.

Safety Notes:

- As stolen bikes become more prominent with the warmer weather, please make sure to lock your bike up, or to keep it locked somewhere inside, no matter how little you're gone for.
- As thefts and incidents regarding motor vehicles continue to rise, be sure that you are keeping your car locked, windows shut, and your car keys out of reach. This pertains to everyone, but if you live near University Ave, be extra cautious with your property.
- If you are feeling overwhelmed by confinement, news reports, or illness within the city, please use the following resources to your advantage:
 - Wellness in The Woods Warmline, 5pm-9am: 1-844-739-6369
 - Vets4Warriors Warmline, 24/7: 855-838-8255
 - Samaritan Hotline, 24/7: 212-673-3000 and 1-877-870-4673
 - MH Minnesota Warmline, Monday-Saturday, 5pm-10pm: 651-288-0400 877-404-3190

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

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 your classes may be online for fall. Your college or faculty should be contacting you in July with a final determination for your classes. While the University will be open for classes in person as of Sept. 8th, many

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

We encourage students to check out the [Summer of EngageMnT for volunteer opportunities](#). You can also check out our site for some local upcoming opportunities as well. 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?

classes will be held online as each faculty member will choose the best approach for the coursework or room space available.

There are still plenty of places to rent within 1/2 a mile to a mile of campus. 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. You can use listings.umn.edu (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

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](#)

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

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 can be fun and help you maintain social distancing. These opportunities sourced from our friends in [Student Unions & Activities](#). This week we are highlighting some great virtual art exhibits featuring U students!

2020 Graphic Design Graduate Students

My View, My U: U Belong

Our favorite from their list this week is [Virtual Painting and Mocktails](#) coming up on July 17th!

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