

OCL Newsletter

October 30, 2025

"What if, today, we were grateful for everything?" -Charlie Brown

Hello, Wildcats! Happy (almost) November! I hope you all had a wonderful last couple of weeks and have been adjusting well to the Fall weather and managing your stress and work well during midterms. We at the Off-Campus Life office (OCL) are wishing everyone a happy and safe Halloween! We are also writing to remind you of the exciting things coming soon in our office, along with special events in the Evanston and Chicago areas and support you with any questions or concerns you may have regarding off-campus living.

Halloween Notes: A Good Time, Not a Scary Time!

Halloween can be a great time to enjoy your place in the off-campus community, and it can also be a time of higher risk for students. Going into the Halloween weekend, here are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- Even at Halloween, local ordinances on noise and trash, and University expectations through the [Student Handbook](#), remain in effect. Don't be like the horror movie character whose good time gets ended early by poor choices – make smart calls with OCL's [party and social hosting tips](#).
- Your non-student neighbors don't have to be scary! Be sure to communicate with them about any plans you may have at your residence, and be sure to listen for their concerns so that you can avoid problems. Not sure how to start that conversation? [We've got you covered](#).
- Finally, if you or one of your friends has [an alcohol emergency](#), remember the University's [Amnesty Through Responsible Action protocol](#). When you **call** for help, **stay** with the person until help arrives and **cooperate** with emergency or university personnel, Northwestern honors and rewards that care by using education and supportive resources outside of the University's disciplinary processes.

November Advice

Rental Renewal

Here at OCL, we've begun to receive queries from students as housing providers contact them about renewing their rental agreement for the 2026-27 academic year. Housing providers may make this request of student renters, but your response should account for your rights as a renter! Many of those rights are explained in Evanston's Landlord Tenant Ordinance Summary, which can be found at the [OCL website](#), as well as that for the [City of Evanston](#).

In Evanston, housing providers “*may not require the tenant to decide whether or not to accept the new lease any sooner than 45 days before the end of the current lease.*” (In [Chicago](#), this limit is longer: 90 days). If your housing provider is asking you to do so, you may wish to write them requesting an explanation for that requirement in light of the local ordinance. Need more guidance? Feel free to reach out to us, or the [Metropolitan Tenants Organization's hotline](#). The MTO hotline is OCL's most frequent referral!

Thanksgiving is coming soon! Cooking for friends and family for the holiday?

Why not surprise your family, friends, or neighbors with a homemade treat! Doing something as simple as cooking a dish from the heart can make a huge difference. Here are some options to share warmth and gratitude through food—it's a delicious way to make someone's day special!

You can never go wrong with a classic sweet potato casserole as a sweet and tasty side dish for your holiday. For more detail, check out this [recipe](#)! Want even more options? [Here's](#) a list of NYT's best Thanksgiving recipes!



Thanksgiving Break Safety Tips

As Thanksgiving approaches, it's essential to keep safety in mind, whether you're traveling or staying in your apartment. Here are some guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday for everyone:

If You're Traveling Home:

- **Unplug Appliances:** Reduce fire hazards by unplugging all non-essential appliances before leaving.
- **Lock Up:** Make sure all doors and windows are securely locked before you leave.
- **Inform Roommates:** Let your roommates know your travel plans to coordinate any shared responsibilities or security concerns.

If You're Staying in Evanston/Chicago:

- **Monitor Cooking:** Keep an eye on anything cooking in the kitchen to prevent accidental fires; never leave food unattended on the stove.
- **Check Smoke Detectors:** Test smoke detectors to ensure they're in working order.
- **Secure Your Apartment:** Lock doors and windows at all times, even when your home, to maintain security.
- **Coordinate with Roommates:** Discuss holiday plans to avoid unexpected guests or noise issues and respect any quiet hours.
- **Mind Occupancy Limits:** If hosting friends, be mindful of your apartment's occupancy limits and keep walkways clear for safety.
- **Be a Good Neighbor:** Let neighbors know if you're planning a gathering, communicate openly, and respect noise levels

What To Look Out For



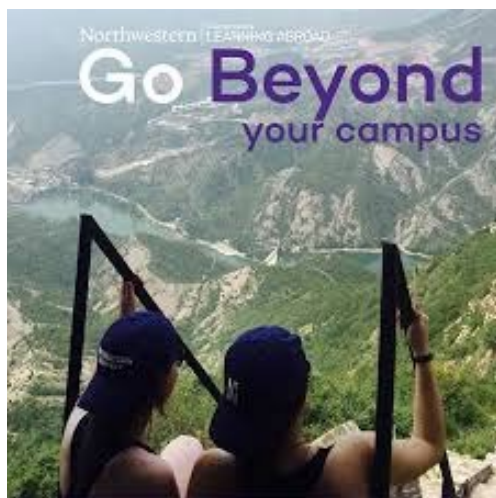
Fall Housing Fair:

Looking for off-campus housing soon? Still have questions about the application and leasing process? Come to the Fall 2025 Housing Fair to connect with landlords, property managers, and campus/community resources—all in one place! Stop by the Norris University Center, Louis room on November 4, 2:00pm-4:00pm to ease your housing search experience.



Neighborhood Coffee:

Join us on Thursday, November 13, 3:30-5pm when the student residents at 2131 Sherman Avenue host an OCL Neighborhood Coffee. Connect with neighbors (student and otherwise) while enjoying a hot chocolate or iced coffee drink at this drop-by event. Whether you're just passing through on your way to or from class, or want to stick around for a little longer, all are welcome!



Study Abroad Fair:

The Study Abroad Fair, held this fall on November 11, 2025 from 12pm - 3pm in the Norris Louis Room, is an opportunity to learn about the many exciting global learning programs available to undergraduate students. Study Abroad Fair Event Welcomes Students to Explore Study Abroad Opportunities Join Global Learning Office (GLO) staff, study abroad returnees, partner program partners and Northwestern campus partners to ask questions about study abroad opportunities and gather resources to help you navigate the study abroad process. Be sure to prepare using [this](#) link.

NU Sports

Are you a sport fan? Do you know Northwestern's fascinating top sport lacrosse? Are you hoping sports become one of the things making your life exciting? Keep your eyes on the calendar (<https://nusports.com/calendar>) and news (<https://nusports.com/>)! Remember to wear purple to show your support!

Places4Students:

Some of you may be looking for a new place or hoping to sublet your current place. OCL does not host a listing service but *does* partner with one: [Places4Students](#). *Places4Students* can be utilized as you search for a new apartment, and to list a sublet. It is the only listing service that Off Campus Life recommends to landlords or rental companies who would like to rent to the Northwestern Community, as well as Northwestern Students, Faculty or Staff looking to rent. Students can utilize *Places4Students* **for free**, including listing a sublet.

Want to Discuss Your Off-Campus Life Experience?

Whether you have a leasing, sub-leasing, landlord, roommate, or community question, we are happy to connect!

Survey:

How has your experience been living off-campus? We want to hear from you! Fill out [this survey](#) to suggest any improvements, events, or any other ideas our office could implement to make your experience better. **One lucky respondent will win an over-the-shoulder bag from the Off-Campus Life Office.**

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