Off-Campus Newsletter, November 2026

Hello, Wildcats! Happy November!

The Off-Campus Life office (OCL) is your first point of contact for moving and living off-campus in Evanston and Chicago. OCL looks forward to serving as your guide through the challenges and opportunities that off-campus living can bring! Each month, this newsletter will share events, resources, and tips to help you succeed in making the most out of everything this community has to offer you.

New Staff in OCL! Welcome to the Neighborhood Student Assistants (NSAs)!

OCL is growing! Over the summer, OCL added two new staff positions: the NSAs. NSAs work to identify community needs and interests, and create educational and social events to support those needs and interests. NSAs also work to get to know as many off-campus students as possible, specifically in the area west of campus. Some of you may have already gotten a visit from one of them at your house! Each week, NSAS will continue to stop to visit at least six houses – they are looking forward to meeting you! Here's a little bit more from each of them:

Johan Lara



Johan Lara is a third-year communication studies and art theory and practice major from Long Island, New York, and is a Neighborhood Student Assistant (NSA) for Off-Campus Life. As an NSA, he works with Northwestern students who live off campus to build community and relationships, and to share resources and options for any issues they may encounter. In his free time, Johan enjoys swimming, roller skating, listening to music, and hanging out with friends.

Gabrielle Walthour



Gabrielle is a fourth-year social policy major from Atlanta. As an NSA, she connects with students living off-campus through Neighborhood walkthroughs, conversations, and community events to build community, foster connection to campus, and help address issues students may have. Outside of school, she enjoys reading, writing, playing and listening to music, cooking, and watching reality TV game shows.

Protect Your Packages from Theft!

Package theft is a common concern for off-campus residents, especially when deliveries are left unattended. According to local police recommendations, taking a few simple precautions can help reduce the risk of package theft:

- *Track your packages*: Keep an eye on delivery updates so you know when your packages are expected to arrive.
- *Ask a neighbor for help*: If you are unable to retrieve a package right away, ask a trusted neighbor or friend to collect and hold it for you.
- *Reschedule deliveries*: If you know you will not be home, consider changing the delivery date to a time when you can receive your package.
- *Use secure pickup locations*: Whenever possible, have packages delivered to Amazon Lockers or other designated pickup locations.



Remember, the sooner you retrieve your packages after delivery, the less time they are left unattended and vulnerable to theft. A little planning can go a long way in keeping your deliveries safe!

Keeping Your Home Safe Over Thanksgiving Break



Whether you're traveling home or staying in Evanston/Chicago for Thanksgiving, a few simple precautions can help keep your apartment safe during the holiday break.

If You're Traveling:

- *Unplug Appliances*: Disconnect non-essential electronics and appliances to reduce fire risks.
- *Lock Up*: Make sure all doors and windows are securely locked before leaving.
- *Plan Ahead*: Let your roommates know your travel plans and arrange for someone to keep an eye on your apartment if needed.
- *Avoid Package Issues*: Don't let a pile up of packages or mail tell the world that your home is vacant! Ask a friend or neighbor to hold them while you are away.

If You're Staying (and maybe hosting Thanksgiving or Friendsgiving!):

- *Practice Kitchen Safety*: Never leave cooking food unattended and keep an eye on appliances.
- *Check Smoke Detectors*: Make sure your smoke detectors are working properly.
- *Be a Good Neighbor*: Keep doors locked, respect quiet hours, and communicate with neighbors if you're hosting a gathering.

A little preparation can go a long way! Stay safe, look out for one another, and enjoy your Thanksgiving break!

Don't Be Shocked: E-Ride Rules Changes in Illinois



Thinking about buying an e-bike, e-scooter, or other electric ride? Know before you buy! A new Illinois law takes effect January 1, 2027, changing the rules for certain electric bikes, scooters, and other devices.

Before making a purchase, make sure you know:

- How fast the device can go

- Whether a driver's license, registration, or insurance is required
- How old you must be to ride
- Where you can (and can't) ride it

Not all electric rides follow the same rules! Learn more at: https://cityofevanston.org/micromobilitysafetylaw.

Having Trouble Getting Repairs from Your Landlord?



Having trouble getting your landlord to respond to maintenance requests? Whether it's a leaking faucet, broken heater, pest problem, or other repair issue, you shouldn't have to deal with it alone. Here are a few steps you can take to get the help you need:

- *Submit Requests in Writing*: Send your landlord an email or text describing the issue and requesting a repair. Keep a copy of all communications.
- *Document the Problem*: Take photos or videos and keep track of when you first reported the issue and any follow-up responses.
- *Follow Up*: If you don't receive a response, contact your landlord again and ask for a clear repair timeline.
- *Know Your Rights*: Review your local tenant protection rules so you understand your rights and your landlord's responsibilities. These rules can be found in the Chicago or Evanston Landlord Tenant Ordinances.

At Northwestern's Off-Campus Life office, we're here to help. If the tips above didn't get you where you needed to go, reach out and we can connect you with additional supports!

Off-Campus Life Office Events

OCL hosts many social and educational events each year. Here's what coming up! Want to see what else is in store? See OCL's Events page!



Cider and Connections

Friday, November 13, 2026 | 3:00pm – 4:30pm | Corner of Foster Street & Maple Ave

Take a break and enjoy some cider and great company at Cider & Connections! It's the perfect chance to meet new faces, share a few laughs,

and make new friends in a cozy, welcoming atmosphere. Come for the treats, stay for the connections!

Mix It Up: Build Your Own Snack Mix!



Thursday, November 19, 2026 | 2:00pm – 3:30 pm | 2001 Foster Street

Need a quick pick-me-up between classes? Create your own delicious and nutritious snack mix with nuts, dried fruits, pretzels, and more! Mix your favorites, discover healthy combinations, and take home a snack made just for you!

Recharge and Relieve

Monday, December 7, 2026 | 9:30am-12:00pm | Scott Hall

Before you tackle your finals and head out to Evanston, stop by the Off-Campus Life office for a treat and tips on how to keep your home safe while you're away.

Campus and Community Events

Northwestern, Evanston and Chicago play host to a huge number of events throughout the year. Read on to learn about a few of the offerings for November.

Looking to catch a game? Northwestern has several upcoming home games and sporting events throughout late November. Check out the Northwestern Athletics Schedule to explore upcoming games, find your favorite sport, and cheer on the Wildcats!

Dittmar Exhibition: The Names We Give to Home

November 18 – December 4 | 10:ooam onward | Dittmar Gallery, Norris University Center

An ongoing art exhibition featuring the work of Lelia Byron. A nice option for you looking for a relaxed cultural activity.

Block Cinema: Goodbye, Dragon Inn

November 20 | 7:00pm | Block Museum of Art

Watch a film by Taiwanese director Tsai Ming-liang in a 35mm screening.

CTA Holiday Train & Bus Returns!



Late November – Late December 2026 | CTA Holiday Train & Bus

Get into the holiday spirit with Chicago's annual CTA Holiday Train and Bus! Enjoy festive lights, holiday decorations, music, and special appearances by Santa Claus as they travel throughout Chicago.

Both operate on regular CTA routes with standard fares. The full 2026 schedule will be released on November 16.

NU x Chicago Comedy Nights

December 3 | 7:00pm | Luna's Pub

A comedy night featuring Chicago performers. A fun way to relax and enjoy a night on campus.

Downtown Evanston Holiday Light Celebration

December 5 | 4:30-7:00pm | Fountain Square

Celebrate the holiday season with live music, a Christmas tree lighting, free photos with Santa, and hot cocoa.

First Saturday Drop-In Mahjong

December 5 | 2:00-5:00 pm | The Fat Shallot

Join a casual Mahjong gathering! All skill levels are welcome. Drop in for an hour or stay for the whole event.

Off-Campus Housing Website

Some of you may be looking for a new place, or hoping to sublet your current place. OCL works with Off-Campus Partners, powered by Apartments.com, to host a housing listing website. Students can use it to search for a new apartment, list or find a sublet, and seek out a roommate. 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.

All services on the off-campus housing listing website are ***FREE*** to students! Need a hand figuring out how best to use the site? Go here for video and PDF tutorials!

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.

Contact:

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