

Hello, Wildcats! Welcome to Northwestern's 2026-27 Academic Year!

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.

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Whether you've chosen to live in Evanston, or Chicago, each city has welcome pages of resources to assist you with navigating the community.



If you live in Evanston, the City has a [special page of resources for students moving in](#).



For Chicago residents, Alderpersons host pages with resources. Rogers Park, for instance, has a page covering information for [49th Ward](#) residents. The [42nd Ward](#), which includes Streeterville, has its own page.

Moving You In, and Trash OUT

Moving in often creates a great deal of trash: moving boxes, pizza boxes, and the couch the former resident "helpfully" left behind just for you.

Make sure you take good care of disposal. Evanston has a [specific program for bulk trash exceeding the size of your usual bin](#). Just call to schedule, and then have your trash out by 7 AM on the scheduled day. Additionally, Northwestern has arranged with the city for special pick-ups on September 17, 24, and October 1 in the area bounded by Noyes, Ridge, Emerson, and Orrington – no need to call on those days.

In Chicago, bulk trash can typically be left, neatly bagged or arranged, by your usual bin. However, it's a good idea to [call your sanitation ward superintendent](#) to arrange a bulk pickup.

Street Parking

As students return to their apartments, it is important to remember: each city street comes with specific rules that can vary from



block to block! Take time to read posted signs carefully, since street cleaning schedules, restricted hours, and time limits are strictly enforced. If you plan to park regularly in the same neighborhood, consider applying for a residential permit to avoid unnecessary tickets. Taking a few minutes to double-check the rules before leaving your car can save you both stress and money.

Evanston parking regulations are available [here](#). Chicago residents should check out the [City Clerk website](#) instead.

Managing Noise

Noise travels easily, and it is one of the most common concerns among neighbors. To help create a positive living environment, keep in mind that music, gatherings, and late-night conversations can quickly become disruptive. [Evanston ordinances have designated quiet hours during the evening and overnight](#), so being mindful of those times is an important part of off-campus living. If you know you will be hosting a gathering, discussing with neighbors in advance can reduce the potential for conflict – and the police. [Tips on being a great neighbor](#) can be found on the Off-Campus Life website, including [tips for hosting gatherings at your home](#).

Chicago's noise ordinances differ from Evanston's, so [look here for those resources](#).

Evanston Safe Sidewalks



No Riding on Downtown Evanston Sidewalks

- ✓ Dismount and walk bikes, skateboards, & scooters
- ✓ Ride in the street or designated bike lanes
- ✓ Respect pedestrians

Learn more: cityofevanston.org/safesidewalks

If you love riding your bike, OCL stands fully in support! One thing to be aware of: avoid riding your bike (or skateboard or scooter) in downtown Evanston. It can be dangerous for pedestrians, so the City encourages you to dismount and walk with those items instead. Through much of the downtown area, bike lanes are available, so please use them! [A map of downtown and other resources for this initiative can be found here](#).

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!](#)

Each year, OCL hosts an ice cream social in Firemens Park, at 2040 Maple Avenue in Evanston.



This year, the social is set for 5:30–7 PM on September 30, with a rain date of October 1 (same time and location). All are welcome, and FREE ice cream from C&W Market and Ice Cream Parlor will be provided to the first 300 attendees. Don't miss it!

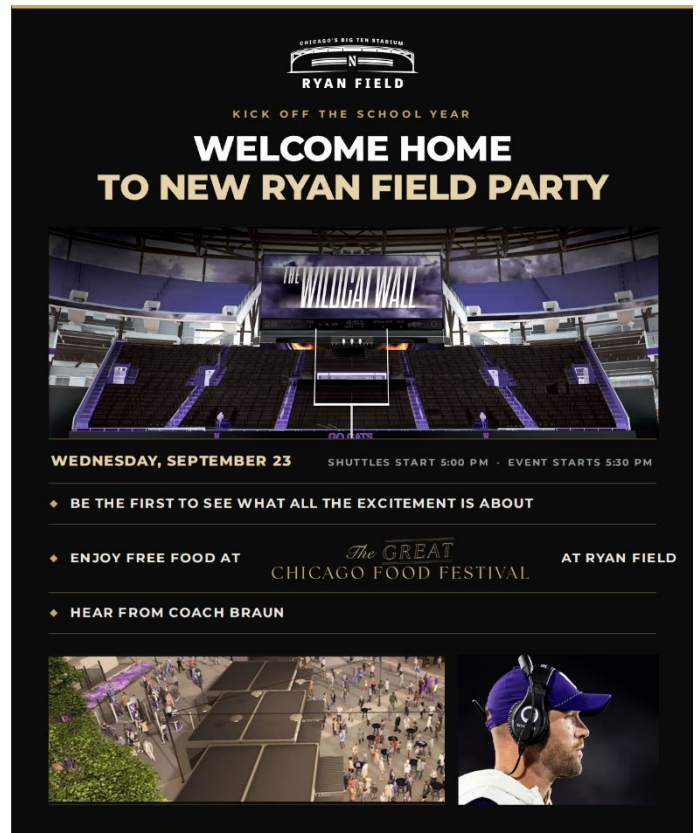
Campus and Community Events

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 September.

[New Ryan Field is ready to open!](#) Though the first game is two weeks away, undergraduate students can get a first look at the new stadium up close and in person!

Admission is free ([with tickets available here](#))! Hop on a shuttle between 5 and 9 PM to get to (and from) New Ryan Field, where you'll enjoy free food, explore the stadium (including the student mural and the Wildcat Wall), and hear from Coach Braun. It's a great way to begin creating the student traditions and energy that will define the new Ryan Field!

Oh, *and*...attendees receive priority access to student tickets for the October 2 game against Penn State. Go 'Cats!



Worrying about how you're going to stretch your dollars to cover food, rent, utilities, and still have a little fun? US Bank is hosting webinars on two nights in October to help. The sessions (October 7 at 4:30 PM, or October 9 at 1 PM) will focus on the SMART

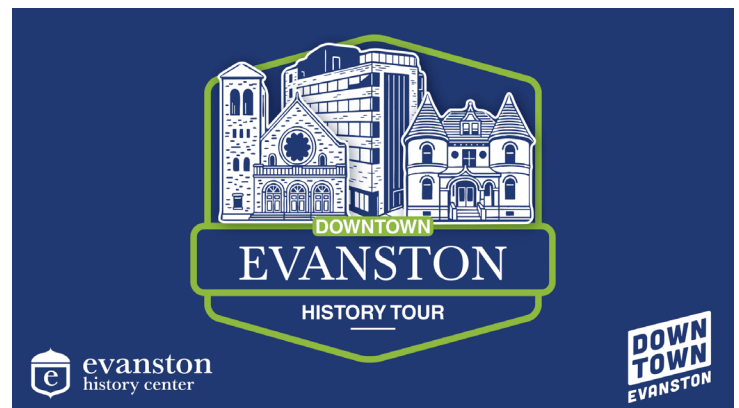
Goal framework and the steps needed to begin creating an effective action plan. [Free registration is available here.](#)



Each year, the Downtown Evanston Business District invites Northwestern students to [sample all the tasty treats from Downtown Evanston's best restaurants – for FREE!](#)

To participate, bring yourself, your appetite, and your Wildcard to Fountain Square (at the intersection of Davis Street and Sherman Avenue on Sunday, October 4, from 3-5 PM. Pick up a wristband and a map to discover all 18 restaurants. Participate in the Instagram contest to register to win of three (3) Evanston gift cards!

Needing to get some steps in after Big Bite Night? Try out the self-guided Downtown Evanston historical walking tour, on which you'll discover the home of a US Vice President, the site of Evanston's former "fish rodeos," and the site where Northwestern first opened its doors to women students.



Ready to lace up your shoes and get started? Go to the [VibeMap](#) site to check it out!



Chicago plays host each year to the acclaimed International Film Festival, now in it's 62nd year in the city! Get tickets for this event, which runs from October 14-25, [here!](#)

[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:

Jason McKean, Assistant Dean of Students

Phone: 847.491.8430

Email: jason.mckean@northwestern.edu

Biting Zhao, Program Assistant

Phone: 847.491.8430

Email: offcampuslife@northwestern.edu

Website: <http://northwestern.edu/offcampus>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/northwestern_loc/