

The Office of Off-Campus Life Newsletter – September 2024 (Fall Quarter)

Welcome to the 2024 Fall Quarter from the Off-Campus Life office (or, as we prefer, OCL)!

OCL is the first point of contact for Northwestern students moving, and living, off-campus. Finding a place in the off-campus communities of Evanston and Chicago, and living there, can be a great experience. It can also pose difficult challenges, unfamiliar issues, and unpleasant surprises. You have OCL, as well as the Dean of Students office (DOS) behind you throughout all the challenges and successes you are sure to experience in the coming year.

Every 2-3 weeks, OCL releases a newsletter to share opportunities for off-campus activities, news of the off-campus neighborhoods, upcoming OCL events, and resources that might be helpful in improving your off-campus life. This is the first issue, so read on!

New to Evanston Living?

Especially if you are in your first year living in the Evanston off-campus community, you may have questions! Thankfully, Evanston has a [great website for Northwestern students](#). A couple of highlights:

- Find whatever resources you need by using [Evanston's 3-1-1 service](#)
- Keep it clean by understanding [trash regulations](#), including for [bulk pickups](#).
 - NOTE: Northwestern has arranged special bulk trash pickups in the area bounded by Noyes Street, Ridge Avenue, Emerson Street, and Orrington Avenue on September 24, and 26. Perfect for your move-in cleanup!
- Avoid parking tickets by knowing the [street cleaning](#) and [snow clearing](#) schedules

New to Chicago Living?

Chicago doesn't have quite the central resource for new residents as Evanston does. However, Chicago *does* have an excellent [Chicago 3-1-1 site](#) which directly to City departments who can assist you. You can also find direct assistance for things you'll need!

- Check out how to get your [garbage picked up](#)
- Learn about [street cleaning](#) and [snow clearing](#) schedules

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

For many Northwestern students, some of their nearest off-campus neighbors will be non-students. Communities are built by neighbors together, so take the time to get to know yours! Not sure how? [We've got you covered](#).

One challenge for neighbor relations is noise; it's the single biggest complaint brought to OCL's attention. Connecting with neighbors can help you learn what the neighborhood's expectations are, but it's also key to get to know the [Evanston ordinances for noise](#) so you can avoid neighbor conflict...or police contact! The most important provisions:

- Don't "make...any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise which annoys a reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, health, peace or safety of others within the limits of the City."

- Avoid playing music in a manner that “disturb[s] the peace, quiet and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants or with louder volume than is necessary for the convenient hearing of the persons who are in the room...or outdoor area.”
- Especially avoid loud conversation, yelling, and music after 10 PM Sunday-Thursday, and after 11 PM on Friday and Saturday evenings. By ordinance, anything audible from 50 feet away is a violation.

October 1: OCL Ice Cream Social

Everyone likes a little ice cream, so we’re inviting everyone! Join OCL and your neighbors on October 1, 2024 in Firemen’s Park (2040 Maple Avenue, Evanston) from 5:30-7 PM. C&W Market, a local favorite will have their ice cream truck at the ready, and the first 300 participants will receive FREE ice cream.

This is a great opportunity to meet and interact with your neighbors – students and non-students alike – so that the community you develop will be just as wonderful as the ice cream you’ll be sharing.



In case of rain, the event will be rescheduled to October 3, 2024, at the same location and time. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates: <http://www.facebook.com/NUoffcampuslife>.

October 6: Big Bite Nite

Are you a fan of great food? Then Big Bite Night is the event for you! Sponsored by *Downtown Evanston*, many downtown restaurants will set up bite-size samples at their restaurants for students to try – for free! It’s a great way to get to know the downtown area, and find *your* favorite next restaurant.



To participate, just bring your Wildcard to the Fountain Square area for check-in (intersection of Davis Street and Sherman Avenue) on October 6, starting at 3 PM. You’ll get a wristband and a map, and then can head off to find great eats! Find more details at <https://downtownevanston.org/big-bite-night>, including how to enter a raffle for prizes just by participating!

NU Safety Resources

The following list of resources provided by the University may be helpful when you have concerns regarding safety on your way back home.

- **Safe Ride:** a safe and free alternative to walking alone after dark on or near the Evanston campus. Download the Safe Ride app [here](#).

- **Safety Escorts:** a free service to provide a walking escort or to monitor travel on the Evanston or Chicago campuses. Request an escort at (847) 491-3456 in Evanston or (312) 503-3456 in Chicago.
- **Campus Shuttles:** free shuttles between the Evanston and Chicago campuses that run late into the night.
- **NUGuardian:** a free peer-to-peer mobile app for students to turn their phone into a personal safety device. The app allows students to designate smartphone contacts to act as “guardians” and virtually walk with them on or off campus in Evanston.
- **Get text/phone emergency alerts on Rave:** your university email address is automatically enrolled in alerts, but you need to sign up to receive text/phone alerts.
- Consider adding local police telephone numbers to your cell phone’s favorite contacts list to quickly report suspicious activity.
 - Northwestern University Police: (847) 491-3456
 - Evanston Police: (847) 866-5000

Sports Information

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](#) and [news](#)! And, if you’re an undergraduate, join the Welcome Back Student Watch Party for the Northwestern vs. Washington football game!

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.

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