

OCL Newsletter

May 4th, 2026

“May the 4th be with you!”

— Yoda, I think

Hello, Wildcats! As we get ready to welcome May, we are entering a busy but exciting time of the quarter. Dillo Day is almost here! With warmer weather and upcoming deadlines, we hope you are taking good care of yourselves while staying engaged with campus life.

We are the Off-Campus Life office (OCL), your first point of contact for navigating the challenges and opportunities of off-campus living in Evanston and Chicago, and we provide ongoing support throughout the year!

Off-Campus Housing Website Now Live!

Northwestern’s [Off-Campus Housing Website](#) is now a go-to resource for students searching for housing near campus. Through the site, students can browse rental listings, look for roommates, post free sublets, and explore housing-related resources designed to support the off-campus housing search. It offers one convenient place to start planning for your next move and explore available options.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Northwestern University Off-Campus Housing Website. At the top is a purple navigation bar with a hamburger menu icon, the text "Northwestern", and links for "Housing", "Roommates", "Resources", and "Add a Listing". On the right side of the bar are links for "Sign In / Sign Up" and a logo for "in partnership with Apartments.com". Below the navigation bar is a large hero image of the Northwestern University campus with a lake. Overlaid on the left side of the hero image is the text "Welcome to Northwestern University" in a large white font, followed by "Off-Campus Housing Website" in a smaller white font, and a white button labeled "View Rentals". Below the hero image is a grid of four featured sections, each with a small image and a title:

- Students, Faculty & Staff**: Includes the text "Sign up here to start your search." and "- Search for housing".
- Looking for a Roommate?**: Includes the text "Create your profile to start connecting with others looking for off-campus roommates!".
- Post a Free Student Sublet**: Includes the text "Going Abroad? Need someone else to rent your space? Register here to post a free sublet".
- Property Listers**: Includes the text "Sign up to get started." and "- Create your property listing".

Neighborhood of Knowledge

The [Neighborhood of Knowledge](#) program series has officially come to an end! Thank you to everyone who participated! We hope you enjoyed the activities and tabling opportunities, and that you learned something useful about off-campus



living. Students who attended Neighborhood of Knowledge should keep an eye on their email, as prize winners have already been contacted!

Ice Cream Social

The annual Spring Ice Cream Social is back! Join us for a sweet treat and great company at our Ice Cream Social! Meet neighbors and connect with the community while enjoying free ice cream. Ice cream will be provided by C&W Market and Ice Cream Parlor to the first 300 participants!

Time: May 7th 5:30–7:00 PM (Rain date: May 13th) Location: Firefighters Park



Sidewalk Safety

As the weather gets warmer, please remember that riding bicycles, scooters, skateboards, in-line skates, and roller skates on sidewalks in Downtown Evanston is not allowed. Riders should use the street or dismount and walk when using downtown sidewalks. The City of Evanston has [published a map of the area and posted sidewalk decals and signs](#) to remind everyone to keep sidewalks safe and accessible for pedestrians. Thank you for helping make Downtown Evanston safer and more welcoming for all.



Bulk Trash Pick-Up

The City of Evanston normally requires residents to schedule and pay for [special bulk trash pick-ups](#). However, as many students prepare to move out, Northwestern partners with the City to offer designated bulk pick-up days in the neighborhood.

Special Bulk Pick-Up dates this year will be Tuesdays in June: June 9, June 16, June 23, June 30. To take advantage of this service, place your bulk items at your regular trash collection site by 7:00 AM on the listed dates. Do not leave bulk trash out on non-scheduled days – you could face fines from the City and complaints from neighbors! If you live outside the designated area, you can request a bulk pick-up by calling 311.

Preparing for Dillo Day!

Dillo Day is a time to have fun, celebrate with friends, and enjoy one of Northwestern's biggest traditions!

At the Off-Campus Life office, we want you to have a great time, but also to stay safe throughout the day.

Every year, Student Affairs publishes the Smart Dillo campaign to provide some reminders about keeping up with your well-being, and that of the neighborhood, so you can finish the race! [Find all those good tips here!](#)



Dillo Day Porta-John and Trash Bin Map



As you enjoy the Dillo Day, please also help keep the neighborhood clean. Use the trash and recycling bins available throughout the neighborhood, and avoid leaving waste on the ground, sidewalks, or lawns. And use the provided porta-johns if you have to go! Check the map to find the nearest locations, and do your part to make Dillo Day fun, safe, and respectful for everyone.

Post Dillo Clean Up

Once Dillo Day is over, join the annual Post-Dillo Day Clean-Up event on Sunday, May 17, at 8 AM, where students and staff strive to leave the neighborhood better than we found it on Dillo Day morning! After meeting at 2122 Sheridan, OCL will provide breakfast and clean-up materials, and we will all bring the cleaning to the neighborhood. Please sign up here:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/jHnU5iG907?origin=lprLink>



Volunteer Opportunity!

Mentor youth. Build experience. Earn credit. Applications are now open for next year's Cities Project mentor cohort! Through weekly after-school sessions in Chicago Public Schools, mentors teach middle schoolers strategies for managing stress and trauma. Mentors take a fall quarter course on youth development, then spend the academic year leading and facilitating as part of a supportive cohort. Develop meaningful relationships, build skills, and make an impact! Apply by Monday, May 25 @ <https://engage.northwestern.edu/programs/mentor/>.

Maxwell Street Market

Looking for a fun way to explore Chicago? [Maxwell Street Market](#) is Chicago's oldest open-air market, with roots going back more than 100 years. The market features food vendors, handmade crafts, resale goods, clothing, jewelry, home goods, and live entertainment. It is also connected to Chicago's immigrant history and the development of Chicago-style blues. The market is held one Sunday a month from May through October, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with free admission.



Windy City Hot Dog Fest

Celebrate a classic Chicago food tradition at the [Windy City Hot Dog Fest](#) in Portage Park from May 29–31. The festival brings together local hot dog vendors competing for the title of “Best Frankfurter,” and attendees can help judge their favorites. In addition to food, the event includes live music, arts and crafts vendors, a family-friendly activity area, a dog parade, and a hot dog eating contest. It is a fun way to explore Chicago neighborhoods and enjoy a true taste of the city.



Sport 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 (<https://nusports.com/calendar>) and news (<https://nusports.com/>)! Wear Purple to show your support!

Men's Basketball vs. Illinois State

Rocky and Berenice Miller Park, Evanston, Ill.

May 5 (Tues)— 3:30 p.m. CT

Women's Lacrosse NCAA Tournament

Location TBA, see [link](#)

May 8 (Sat)— Time TBA

Off-Campus Housing

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: [Off-Campus Housing](#). *Off-Campus Housing* 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 *Off-Campus Housing* **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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