

# OCL Newsletter

## ***Second-Year Student Edition***

***January 15th, 2026***

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Happy New Year and happy Winter Quarter ‘Cats! We at the Off-Campus Life Office (OCL) hope you all had a restful break and a wonderful holiday, and are settling in ~~for what has been, so far, a mild-weathered January~~ with a warm mug of cocoa and a blanket for icy January!

This newsletter is new, and directed specifically at you, our second-year students who may be preparing to move off-campus in Fall 2026. It’s a thrilling time that can also be anxiety provoking. Read on for opportunities we have for you to turn your uncertainty into confidence!

## **OCL Events and Opportunities!**

### ***Neighborhood of Knowledge***



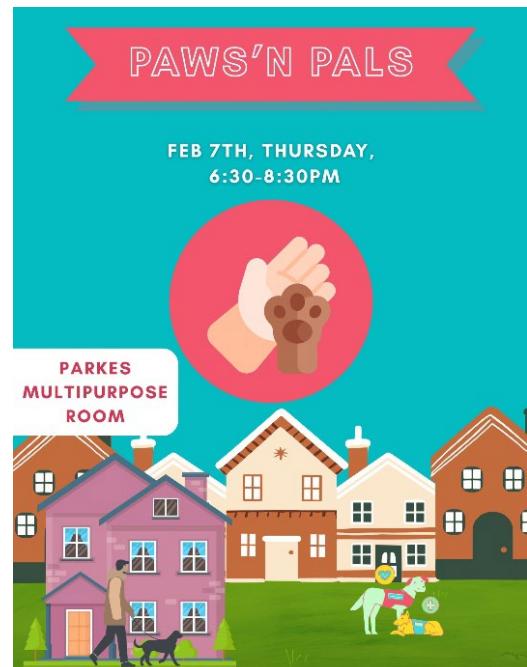
Moving and living off-campus comes with many challenges! [To help, OCL invites you to explore the Neighborhood of Knowledge throughout the Winter and Spring Quarters!](#) Programs, tabling events, and online/social media activities will develop skills like cooking, budgeting, handling pets and service animals, and being a great neighbor. Many programs have individual giveaways, but you can also win great prizes by participating in activities through the Winter and Spring Quarters!

The first Neighborhood of Knowledge event is...

## **Paws 'n' Pals**

Need a break and a boost? Miss your furry favorite from home?

Paws and Pals offers time with therapy animals, space to build connections with other off-campus students, and practical info on disability inclusion and what to do if you experience housing discrimination. **And, pizza too!** Join us at Parkes Hall 120-122 on February 5th from 6:30-8:30PM!



## **Winter Housing Fair**



Still haven't found the perfect spot to live off campus next year? Don't worry – you are definitely not alone! Come to the Winter 2026 Housing Fair, on February 12, 1-3 PM at the Louis Room in Norris Student Center, to connect with landlords, property managers, and campus/community resources who can assist when problems arise! There is still plenty of time to find a place to live, and you can also learn all about the leasing process by joining us. The many resources available make this a good event to attend even if your housing for next year is secure – you never know when you might need a hand from an advocate, or a city staff person!

This, too, is a Neighborhood of Knowledge event!

## **See Us at Norris!**

Before you get your afternoon smoothie, grab a quick bite of off-campus know-how! OCL will be at Norris' tabling area on two days in January:

- January 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3PM: Learn all about tasks and tips for ensuring your home stays safe and cozy during the cold winter months!
- January 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3 PM: Concerned about possible housing discrimination, including if you need a service animal, off campus? We'll have many tools and tips to help you receive fair treatment in off-campus housing!



Each of these are *also* opportunities to participate in the Neighborhood of Knowledge! (Yeah, it's everywhere, mostly.)

## **Places4Students**

Some of you may still be looking for a place next fall, OR trying to find one more roommate to take that last bedroom. OCL partners with [Places4Students](#) for exactly those services! 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. We rely on Places4Students because they find housing that is directed at students specifically, and because they review each listing to reduce the chance of fraud. Students can utilize *Places4Students* [for free!](#)

## Want to Discuss Your Off-Campus Life Questions?

Finally, whether you have a leasing, landlord, roommate, or community question, we are happy to connect!

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