

OCL Newsletter

April 2, 2026

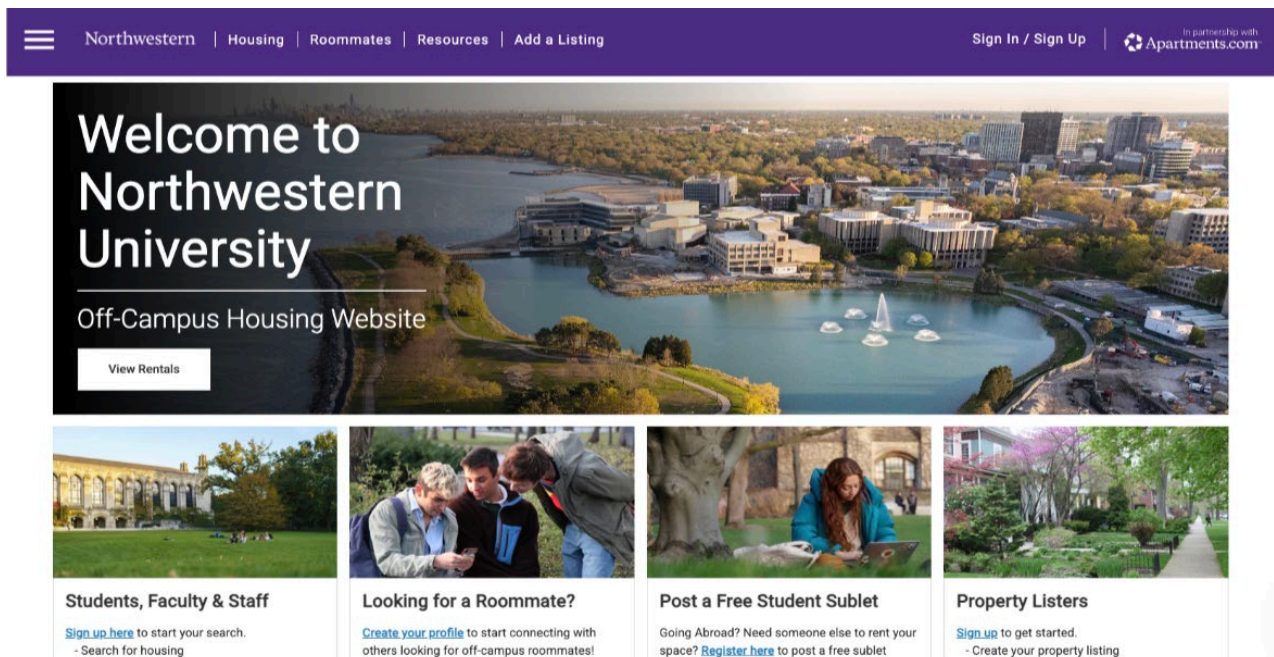
**"Spring has returned. The earth is like a child that knows poems."
— Rainer Maria Rilke**

Hello, Wildcats! Welcome back and happy spring quarter! We hope you had a restful and refreshing Spring Break and found some time to recharge. Whether you spent the break traveling, staying on campus, or simply taking it easy, we are so glad to have you back.

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, providing you with ongoing support throughout the year!

Off-Campus Housing Website Now Live!

Northwestern's Off-Campus Housing Website is the NEW 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, links for "Northwestern", "Housing", "Roommates", "Resources", and "Add a Listing", and a "Sign In / Sign Up" link. On the right side of the navigation bar is a logo for "Apartments.com" with the text "in partnership with". 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 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 are four feature cards, each with a small image and text:

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

Soak Up the Sun, Be a Good Neighbor

Warmer days are here, which means more yard hangs, outdoor meals, and time with friends. While you are enjoying the sunshine, please keep your gathering neighbor-friendly by watching the noise, picking up trash, and being respectful of the community around you. You can read up on [Evanston noise ordinances](#) so you know how to party without the police, and get [ideas for being a great neighbor](#), at the Off-Campus Life website. It's never too late to make new friends!

OCL Events and Opportunities!



Don't miss the final Neighborhood of Knowledge events! With only two programs and three tabling visits remaining, now is the perfect time to join in. The program helps students build useful off-campus living knowledge through programs and activities offered across the Winter and Spring Quarters. Plus, eligible participants will be entered to win fabulous prizes like...



Thriving Off Campus-Guide to Independence, Budgeting, and Success | April 8th | 5:30-7:00 pm | Shepard Hall!

Living off campus comes with a lot of freedom — and a lot of expenses. Join us for a practical, easygoing workshop on building a budget that actually works for student life. We'll talk about managing rent, utilities, groceries, and fun spending, while also covering saving tips, expense tracking, and the basics of credit. Come learn useful money skills, ask questions, and enjoy free dinner from Hecky's BBQ while you're at it! Can't attend in

person? You won't get the BBQ, but you can still get the knowledge when you [sign up](#) for the virtual option!



OCL Tabling Events

Stop by our tabling events and see what we have to share!

- Budgeting: April 2nd @ Norris Entrance
- Renters Insurance: April 9th @ Norris Entrance
- Being a Good Neighbor: April 22nd @ Norris Entrance

Campus Events

Smart Strategies for Stretching Dollars | April 23rd @ 4:30pm | April. 24th @ 12:00pm

Empower yourself to stretch your dollars with these strategies around budgeting, saving, managing debt, accessing resources, and building positive financial habits. Learn about practical tips and where to find additional support.

[Sign up here!](#)



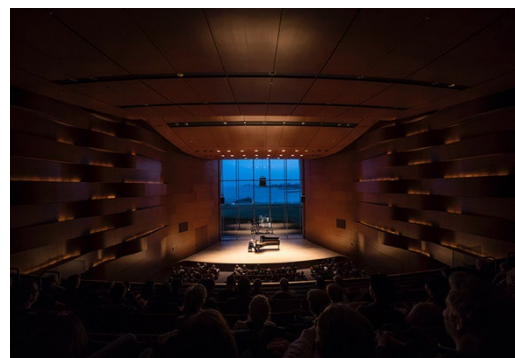
Tuesday Karaoke | Luna's Pub | April 14th | 8:00-10:00pm

Looking for a fun way to take a break and spend time with friends? Stop by Luna's Pub at Norris University Center. Whether you want to sing your favorite song or just enjoy the energy in the room, it's a great way to relax and have fun on campus.



Garrick Ohlsson, Piano | Galvin Recital Hall | April 10th | 7:30-9:30pm

Enjoy a special evening of music with Garrick Ohlsson, piano, in Galvin Recital Hall at the Ryan Center for the Musical Arts. This performance is a great chance to experience a world-class pianist right here on campus and enjoy a relaxing and inspiring night out.



Spring 2026 Arts & Crafts Fair | April 16th | 3:00-7:00pm | Louis Room

Each year, the Arts and Crafts fair draws hundreds of campus and Evanston community members to support Northwestern community artists. Unique art pieces will be available for purchase at a variety of price points, allowing for the perfect decoration or gift. Featured artists include ceramics, jewelry, paintings, photography, fine art prints, crochet, stained glass, sculptures, and more.



Evanston Activities

Let's Eat Challenge | Ongoing Through May 15!

Hungry? Join Downtown Evanston's "Let's Eat Challenge" to explore great restaurants while earning badges – earn enough and you'll be eligible to win a \$100 gift card! Find all the details at the Downtown Evanston website.



Activities in Chicago

Jackson Park Cherry Blossoms

Looking for a peaceful spring outing in Chicago? Visit Jackson Park to enjoy one of the city's most beautiful seasonal sights. The park's cherry blossoms, located near the Columbia Basin just south of the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, typically reach peak bloom in late April to early May, with pink and white blooms appearing over a short window each spring. It's a great spot to take a walk, enjoy the scenery, and recharge during a busy quarter.



Glow Wild | April 16th | Brookfield Zoom

Looking for a fun and different night out this spring? Glow Wild offers an immersive evening experience filled with glowing lantern displays, live performances, music, storytelling, and themed food. The event runs Thursdays through Sundays from March 19 to May 10, 2026, and tickets also include rides on the Carousel and Ferris Wheel. It's a great option for students who want to get off campus, enjoy something colorful and interactive, and unwind with friends.



NU Sports

Are you a sport fan? 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/>)! Remember to wear purple to show your support!

Men's Basketball vs. Michigan State

Rocky and Berenice Miller Park, Evanston, Ill.

Apr 3 (Fri)— 3 p.m. CT

Women's Lacrosse vs. USC

Northwestern Medicine Field at Martin Stadium, Evanston, Ill.

April 4 (Sat)— 2 p.m. CT

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!

Survey:

How has your experience been living off-campus? We want to hear from you! Fill out [this survey](#) to suggest any improvements, events, or any other ideas our office could implement to make your experience better.

Contact:

Jason McKean, Assistant Dean of Students

Phone: 847.491.8430

Email: jason.mckean@northwestern.edu

Biting Zhao, Graduate Assistant

Phone: 847.491.8430

Email: offcampuslife@northwestern.edu

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

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