

# OCL Newsletter

*December 2nd, 2025*

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## **“How did it get so late so soon?” -Dr. Seuss**

Happy December ‘Cats! As Northwestern moves towards the end of Thanksgiving Break and the end of the Fall Quarter, we are thankful for the many students who have attended events, programs, and opportunities to connect in the last few months. We’ve appreciated every opportunity we have had to be in community with the off-campus community, whether for advice, support, connection, or just a tasty ice cream cone or hot chocolate. We thank you, and we wish you the best on all your final academic work for the Quarter before taking a well-earned break.

## **Winter Break Safety Tips!**

### **If You're Traveling Home:**

- Unplug Appliances: Reduce fire hazards by unplugging all non-essential appliances before leaving.
- Lock Up: Make sure all doors and windows are securely locked before you leave.
- Inform Roommates: Let your roommates know your travel plans to coordinate any shared responsibilities or security concerns.

### **If You're Staying in Evanston/Chicago:**

- Monitor Cooking: Keep an eye on anything cooking in the kitchen to prevent accidental fires; never leave food unattended on the stove.
- Check Smoke Detectors: Test smoke detectors to ensure they're in working order.
- Secure Your Apartment: Lock doors and windows at all times, even when your home, to maintain security.
- Coordinate with Roommates: Discuss holiday plans to avoid unexpected guests or noise issues and respect any quiet hours.
- Mind Occupancy Limits: If hosting friends, be mindful of your apartment's occupancy limits and keep walkways clear for safety.

- Be a Good Neighbor: Let neighbors know if you're planning a gathering, communicate openly, and respect noise levels

## What's New with OCL?

### *Neighborhood Coffee:*

On November 13, OCL and the residents of 2131 Sherman co-hosted the first Neighborhood Coffee of the 2025-26 academic year. The 50 student and non-student participants enjoyed a warming cup of hot chocolate and sharing messages of inspiration with each other. A big thank you to the residents of 2131 Sherman, who provided the location, organization, the activity idea, and a positive experience! If you'd like to host your own Neighborhood Coffee with OCL in Winter or Spring, please reach out!

### *Recharge and Relieve:*

Join OCL in Scott Hall's Lower Level on Monday, December 8 to recharge in prep for Finals, and relieve any distress you have about them! Donuts, coffee, and hot chocolate will all be available for members of the off-campus community to enjoy, between 10 AM and Noon. We look forward to seeing you there!



## What To Look Out For:



### *Ice Skating in Chicago!*

Looking for the ultimate winter experience in Chicago? The iconic ice rink in Millennium Park is a bucket-list spot to take a spin on the ice. Skates are available to rent at both rinks. The Millennium Park rink is open from November through early February, weather permitting. The Maggie Daley Park Skating Ribbon is open November through early March.

### *Evanston Holiday Lights Celebration:*



All families, friends, and neighbors are invited to Fountain Square in Downtown Evanston on Saturday, December 6, from 4:30-7PM to help celebrate the holidays at our annual tree lighting event with Mayor Biss, City Clerk Mendoza, Cook County Commissioner Morita, and Santa & Mrs. Claus. Throughout the evening, you'll enjoy live holiday-themed music performed by several local singing groups. And, warm up with hot cocoa from Colectivo Coffee! You can find details for the event [here](#).

### *Evanston Made Holiday Market:*



Shop Evanston Made's 4th Holiday Pop-Up Market, features original art and handmade goods created by Evanston Made members. Hosted Dec. 5 -22, 924 Davis St., Evanston, IL. Make room in your holiday shopping budget to purchase goods made by local artists and artisans. Plan to attend one of the many events we will host at the pop up! Check out [this site](#) for more info on vendors and events!

## **NU Sports**

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/>)! Remember to wear purple to show your support!

## 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!

### 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. Congrats to Anita Rao to winning the over-the-shoulder bag this quarter! Stay tuned for future giveaways, and stay in touch with OCL for more information.

### Contact:

Jason McKean, Assistant Dean of Students

Phone: 847.491.8430

Email: [jason.mckean@northwestern.edu](mailto:jason.mckean@northwestern.edu)

Regina Zhao, Graduate Assistant

Phone: 847.491.8430

Email: [offcampuslife@northwestern.edu](mailto:offcampuslife@northwestern.edu)

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

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/northwestern\\_loc/](https://www.instagram.com/northwestern_loc/)