

OCL Newsletter

January 16th, 2026

“In our perfect ways, in the ways we are beautiful, in the ways we are human — we are here. Happy New Year’s. Let’s make it ours.” -Beyoncé

Happy New Year and happy Winter Quarter ‘Cats! We hope you all had a restful break and a wonderful holiday. If you are coming back from study abroad, welcome home! We are excited to hear your stories, and for you to bring your experiences back to Evanston and into the classroom. We at the OCL hope you all have had a great first week of class, and that you are settling in for the winter months.

OCL Events and Opportunities!

Tabling Events 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:

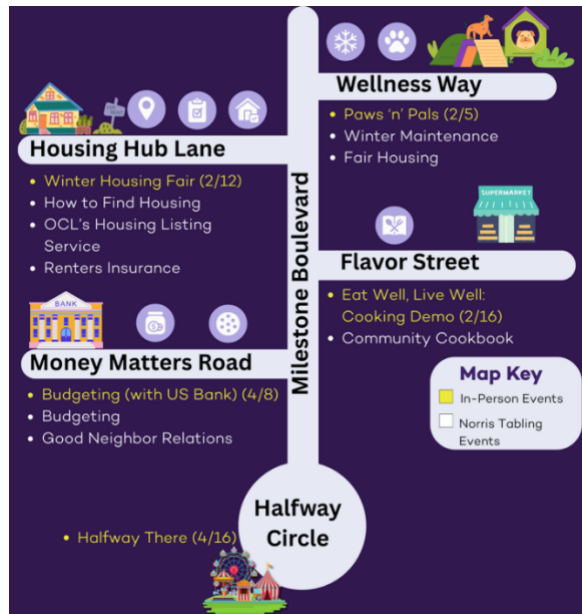
January 15th from 1:30-3PM: Learn all about tasks and tips for ensuring your home stays safe and cozy during the cold winter months!

January 28th 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!



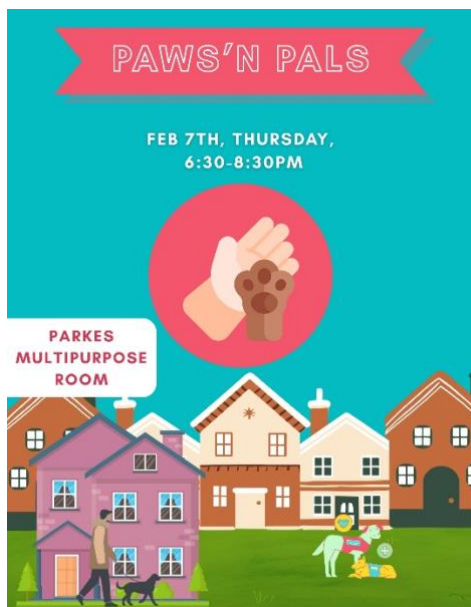
Neighborhood of Knowledge:

Moving and living off-campus comes with many challenges that you may not know how to accomplish. 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! All information, materials, and scheduling will be at [this link!](#)



Paws and Pals:

Need a break and a boost? 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 Feb 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!

What Else To Look Out For:



Indoor Farmers' Market:

The [Indoor Farmers' Market](#) takes place at the Evanston Ecology Center on select Saturdays from 8:00AM-12:00PM. The Ecology Center is located at 2024 McCormick Boulevard. Free parking is available.



MLK Day of Celebration:

The [program](#) will include keynote speaker Northwestern University Student Brooks Lansana, Evanston's Children's Choir, The Musical Offering, MC4 singing group, Ayodele Drum & Dance, and singers Treasure and Jayla.



Restaurant Week:

This 17-day celebration of Chicago's award-winning dining scene is one of the most anticipated culinary events of the year. This year, diners can enjoy special prix fixe menus for brunch and lunch (\$30), and dinner (\$45 and/or \$60) at a record-breaking 500+ restaurants across the city. Check it out [here!](#)

On-Campus Pharmacy Closure

The on-campus pharmacy in Evanston, located in Northwestern Medicine Student Health Service (NMSHS) at 633 Emerson Street, permanently closed on December 15, 2025.

Existing prescriptions were automatically transferred to a local pharmacy. More info [here](#).

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!

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.

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