

OCL Newsletter

March 6th, 2026

“March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb.”
—Traditional proverb

Hello, Wildcats! Winter Quarter is almost in the books — which means Spring Break is right around the corner! Also... did Chicago hit us with a second winter last week? Stay warm, layer up, and take care of yourself out there. Spring is coming, and brighter days are on the way. And one more thing! This is our final newsletter of the Winter Quarter 2026, so let's wrap things up strong and head into the break feeling good. 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!

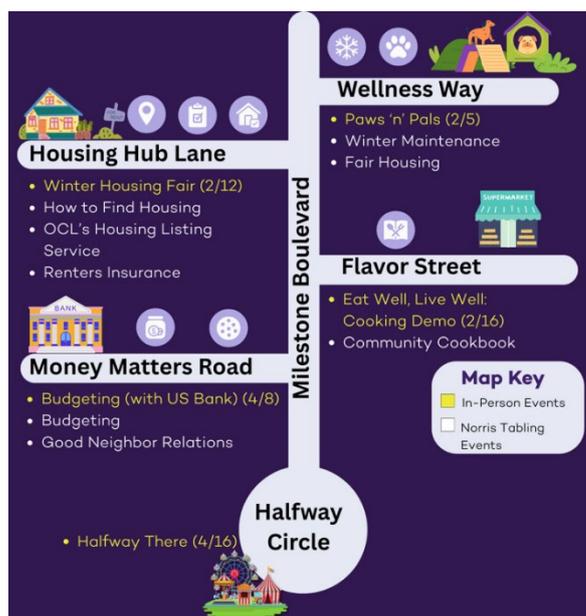
Housing Listing Service Upgrade

Starting March 13, Northwestern will officially transition the off-campus listings platform from Place4Students to our NEW service: Off Campus Partners. You will still be able to search rentals, find roommates, and post sublets (for free!) in the new system, but you'll have

new tools: a map-based search, markers for spots that are international student-friendly, distances to key campus spots, and helpful resources as well! If you're actively looking for a place for spring, or next year, circle **March 13** on your calendar and plan to use Off Campus Partners moving forward. Happy apartment hunting!



OCL Events and Opportunities!



We're officially halfway through the [Neighborhood of Knowledge!](#) Thank you for showing up, learning, and collecting badges! How many badges have you tucked into your Neighborhood Passport so far? More importantly, what's one thing you've learned that'll make living off campus feel easier— budgeting, cooking, being a great neighbor, pets, or something else? This series runs through Winter and Spring, and the best part is still ahead: our big prizes. Each badge gets you closer to prizes. Keep coming to programs, Norris tabling, and online challenges, and don't forget to bring your Passport to each event so you can redeem your badge!

OCL has wrapped up its Winter programs, but be sure to keep an eye out for our Spring programs on our [Events](#) page, and [Plan It Purple!](#)

Spring Break Safety Tips

Spring Break is almost here! Before you head out, take a few minutes to leave your apartment safe and secure. Unplug non-essential appliances to reduce fire risk, double-check that all doors and windows are locked, and let your roommates know your travel plans so you can coordinate shared responsibilities. If you're staying in Evanston or Chicago, stay mindful in the kitchen: never leave cooking unattended and test your smoke detectors to make sure they work. Keep your place locked (yes, even when you're home), and be watchful of concerns that may impact your neighbors or neighborhood. Need help? Call 911, or 311 (for [Evanston](#), or [Chicago](#)) if it's not an emergency!

Walking Safety

Quick safety reminder as you walk in Evanston/Chicago:

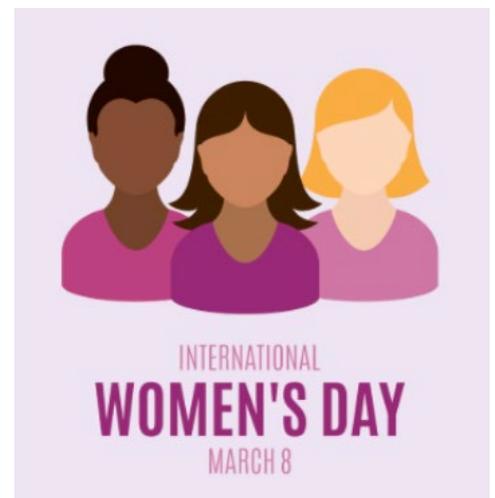
- Take extra care crossing streets, especially Sheridan Road. Sheridan has multiple lanes, frequent right/left turns, and cars can move faster than you expect, so it's worth walking a little farther for a marked crossing!
- Obey signals, use crosswalks, and be cautious at intersections and parking lots where cars may roll through.
- Only step out when you have a clear view of oncoming traffic.
- Look left-right-left, and keep scanning as you cross.
- Put phones away, pause the headphones, and make eye contact with drivers before you commit.
- In low light, always wear reflective clothing.



Women's History Month

This month, celebrate the contributions and achievements of women throughout history globally. This month-long celebration hopes to shed light on women's roles in influencing nearly every part of society, including politics, music, the arts, and science, to name a few. March is a time to promote gender equality and learn about women's worldwide challenges. You can visit the "[150 Years of Women](#)" site to see the history of women at Northwestern. And, check out the [Women's Center](#) on campus – they're celebrating 40 years of support,

community, advocacy, and affirmation of women as well as all members of our community.



Evanston/Chicago Activities

Danceworks 2026: Semiquincentennial / March 13-15 / Louis Theater, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston

As the U.S. nears its 250th birthday, [Danceworks 2026](#) asks what we truly have to celebrate and what histories still shape our present. Through choreography and improvisation, artists and audiences explore what it means to move together in a fractured world, choosing presence and real encounter over easy harmony.



S'mores on the Square / March 7 / Fountain Square at Davis, Sherman & Orrington in downtown Evanston

Downtown Evanston and the City of Evanston Parks & Recreation Department are excited to co-host the third annual [S'mores on the Square](#). All ages are welcome, so bring your sweet tooth and come hang out! Each attendee will receive a free s'mores kit (one per person) to toast marshmallows and build the perfect treat. Want more? Feel free to bring your own extra s'mores supplies to make additional rounds.



North Side Restaurant Week / February 26 - March 8

Explore the north side's food scene during [North Side Restaurant Week](#)! Hosted by five local business organizations, this collaboration highlights restaurants across Lincoln Square, Ravenswood, Albany Park, Edgewater, Irving Park, Northcenter, North Park, and

Rogers Park. Expect a seriously fun mix of cuisines with participating spots offering special prix fixe menus. Come hungry, try somewhere new, and make a night of it.

NU Votes



The *2026 Midterm Primaries* are here! This is your chance to shape the candidates, party, and government you are excited to vote for in the general election. From March through September, primary elections in all 50 states will determine future US Senators and Representatives in Congress, Governors and other state executives, state legislators, local officials, and more. If you are voting in the Illinois Primary, you can register and vote early from March 2–16 at sites throughout Evanston and Chicago, or on Election Day, March 17, at your local polling place. If you are voting in another state, NU Votes can help you check or update your voter registration or request a ballot to vote by mail. Use our [online tools](#), stop by our drop-in hours for personalized support, or email NU Votes with questions at nuvotes@northwestern.edu.

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 Tennis vs. Washington

March 6 (Fri)—6 p.m. CT

Women's Lacrosse vs. Syracuse

March 12 (Thurs)— 7 p.m. CT

Places4Students

Until March 13, Northwestern will continue to work with [Places4Students](#) as its key resource to search for a new apartment, list a sublet, and find a roommate. 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.

Contact:

Jason McKean, Assistant Dean of Students

Phone: 847.491.8430

Email: jason.mckean@northwestern.edu

Regina Zhao, Graduate Assistant

Phone: 847.491.8430

Email: offcampuslife@northwestern.edu

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

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