

OCL Newsletter

Second-Year Student Edition

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. 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!

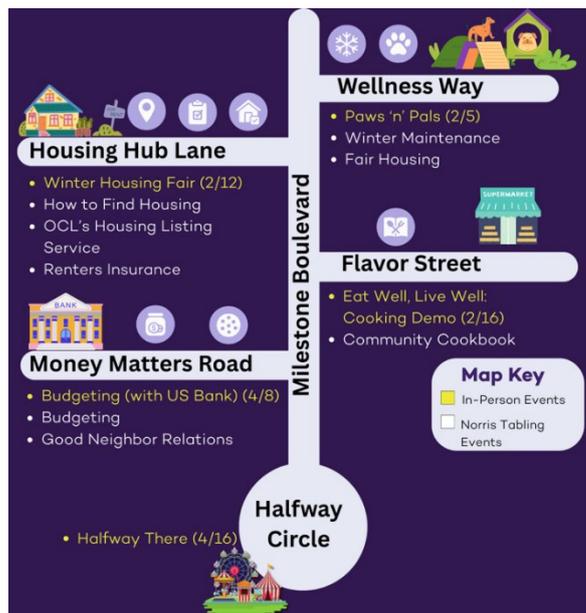
Housing Listing Service Upgrade

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!](#)

Walking Safety

We put out these quick walking safety reminders to our off-campus population, but the same applies for those living on campus! Read on, and avoid those cars:

- 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.

Evanston/Chicago Activities

Every month, we share local opportunities with the off-campus population in their version of the Newsletter. These are key opportunities for second-year students too!

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.



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.

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!

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