This is a guide to help students living off campus foster good relationships with the permanent residents of their neighborhoods. Differences in age, lifestyles, and schedules can sometimes make it difficult to establish a good rapport. To be good neighbors, students need to understand and respect the pride their neighbors have in their homes, property, and community.

One of the biggest concerns of the permanent residents in neighborhoods surrounding the University are the increased concentrations of student residents and their fondness of having large gatherings to socialize with their friends.

**The issues**

There are more complaints about the increase of students in the surrounding neighborhoods.

- Concentration of students in certain areas
- More students opting to live off campus for several reasons (including the desire to avoid University rules and responsibilities)

**There is sometimes a disconnect between neighbors and students**

- Age differences
- Lifestyle differences
- Students tend to be short-term residents and don’t always show concern for long-term residents and the neighborhood. This lack of concern has neighbors feeling disrespected even when it may be unintentional.

**Too many behaviors that really show disrespect for residents who take pride in their houses and community**

- Urinating on someone’s lawn or anywhere in public
- Crossing lawns to get from one house to another
- Vomiting on someone’s lawn or on the sidewalks
- Displaying public lewdness
- Littering everywhere
- Engaging in noisy conversations, particularly late at night

For more information about Off Campus Living, visit www.rochester.edu/reslife/non/index.html
Phone: (585) 275-1081
Email: offcampus@reslife.rochester.edu
Consequences for Common College Student Violations

It is common knowledge that parties and gatherings can get out of hand no matter where you live. We want to emphasize that the host of the party is ultimately responsible for the conduct and behavior of those at or leaving the party. This is something to consider when deciding if you want to be the “party house.” It is smart to be aware of the potential legal implications of misconduct. Remember, when you live off campus, you will be visited by the Rochester Police Department (RPD)—not University Public Safety!

• Public urination usually fits into “exposure of a person.” Besides being disgusting and disrespectful, this is a violation that can be punishable several ways—the most serious being up to 15 days in jail usually for multiple offenses.

• Public intoxication is usually covered under “disorderly conduct.” In some instances, the person is arrested under the Mental Hygiene Law, if needed, so that a hospital can evaluate him or her.

• Disorderly conduct is a violation punishable similarly to public urination.

• Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) is a misdemeanor in New York for the first offense. The second offense is a felony. Both can be punishable by jail or prison time, loss of license, probation, and/or fines. If injuries are involved, the punishment becomes more severe.

• Serving alcohol to someone over age 16 but under age 21 (yes, this is still the legal drinking age in New York) is a misdemeanor and the person who served it will be charged. A misdemeanor carries a maximum sentence of one year in jail.

• Possession of marijuana starts out as a violation depending on how much. Remember, violations can be punishable in several ways—the most serious being up to 15 days in jail. Penalties for a violation of the Noise Ordinance start with a $200 fine and double for each instance thereafter.

Ultimately, Partying Smart Is Always a Good Idea to Keep Out of Trouble with Your University, Your Neighbors, and the Law.