



Off-Campus News...

January 2019



Off-Campus Housing Program

(585) 275-1081

offcampus@reslife.rochester.edu

Check out our FB page: University of Rochester Off Campus Living Program

Welcome back!

I hope that each of you had a wonderful break and enjoyed special time with friends and family. Whether you had the opportunity to travel or simply spent some well-deserved time with Netflix, we hope that you're ready and rejuvenated for the new semester.

The Spring semester is a chance for a fresh start, both with your personal and school lives. There are endless possibilities ahead of you for the new year! There is no limit to what you can achieve this year!

Don't put off starting all the new things you have wanted to do. Being in college is the best time to try different activities and there are endless opportunities to get involved. There is never a better time than now to put yourself out there!

It's not too late to set some S.M.A.R.T. goals for the year (see <u>the December newsletter</u> for more information on setting S.M.A.R.T. goals).

Off-Campus Housing Search

It's time to start thinking about your off-campus housing for the summer and next year. Will you be looking to extend your lease for the Summer or are you considering looking for new housing for next school year? Be sure to read your lease carefully to see when it ends before you start looking for new housing.

As you start looking for housing, consider attending the Off-Campus Housing Fair February 28th from 10-2 in Hirst Lounge. On and off-campus agencies will be in attendance to discuss a variety of topics concerning moving and living off campus.

Keep an eye out for an update on our new off-campus housing, roomate, and sublet search website! In the meantime, visit our current database to start checking out available housing:

http://www.rochester.edu/reslife/offcampus/#.

Please contact my office with any comments, questions, or concerns regarding off-campus living.

Rebecca Orton
Off-Campus Housing Coordinator

Off-Campus Housing Search Timeline...



Decide if you are ready to move off campus. Currently, juniors and seniors are eligible. January

Attend the Off-Campus Housing Fair, February 28th from 10am-2pm in Hirst Lounge. February

> Prepare a monthly budget. Make sure you plan to save for moving costs and furnishing costs if you decide to rent an unfurnished property (most properties will be unfurnished, though there are more furnished properties that become available every year). Begin to look for properties in your price range. Contact the Off-Campus Housing Coordinator at 585-275-1081 or email offcampus@reslife.rochester.edu or visit our Off-Campus Housing website for more information on our NEW housing, roommate, and sublet search system (this new site will be up and running in the next couple of weeks).

Explore Rochester and the surrounding areas. Visit properties. Decide the area that you would like to live. Talk to landlords. Ask the neighbors in the area about the landlord and area. Visit the property at night (with a friend) and during the day to make sure you feel comfortable in the neighborhood. Check the City of Rochester Property Information website to make sure the property has a Certificate of Occupancy (C of O). A C of O is only given if the property has been inspected and is considered safe by the City of Rochester. All rental properties within the city of Rochester MUST HAVE a C of O (unless the property is owner occupied.
Currently, no suburbs have such a requirement and therefore would not appear on city website. Email offcampus@reslife.rochester.edu with questions).

BEFORE you sign a lease, schedule a walk through with the landlord to document damage done to the property (use the housing safety checklist) and to get (IN WRITING) a schedule for when the damages will be fixed. Check safety items to make sure they work (lights, locks, smoke detectors, etc). Decide on a move-in date. Read through the Off-Campus Living Guide to learn more about living off campus. The Off-Campus Housing Coordinator can review your lease with you if you would like assistance. Visit The Housing Council's Tenants Rights and Responsibilities to learn more about your rights and responsibilities as a tenant. Sign the lease. Make a deposit and get a receipt. Get a receipt for any money you give the landlord. Preferably, give a check or money order. Also, make sure you get a copy of the lease with your landlord's address and contact number on it.

Fill out a roommate agreement with everyone that you will be living with to ensure you all understand how to be excellent roommates. Decide what each of you will bring to furnish the property.

Set up your utilities at least two weeks before moving in. Some landlords include some or all utilities with the rent, read through your lease first to see what is included. Check with your landlord for more information about local utility companies.

Research and set up Renter's Insurance.

May Or agreed upon MOVE-IN MONTH!!

Walk through the property with the landlord again. Take pictures of any damage. Sign off on a property condition form so as not to be charged with any pre-existing damage. Get a copy of this form and save it.

All roommates should move in on the same day at the same time if possible. Make sure everything works on move-in day. Everyone should decide together who will live in each room and come to an agreement on where the furniture should be placed. Be cautious when moving in so as to not damage the floors, walls, etc...

Review your lease with your roommates. Review your roommate agreement. Enjoy living in your off-campus home!



March

April

VOLUNTEER TO KEEP IT CLEAR! Adopt-A-Hydrant

Is there a fire hydrant near your home? Help the Rochester Fire Department by keeping it clear of ice and snow.

NAME and adopt a hydrant by agreeing to:

- clear a path from the hydrant to the street
- clear a 3 foot perimeter around
- remove ice and snow

Visit <u>Adopt a Hydrant</u>, choose a green hydrant near your home, click on it and fill out the form. The hydrant will turn yellow while the request is processed. Once it's approved, you'll be notified by email and the hydrant will turn red.

Things to do in Rochester Before You Graduate...

A new monthly column of local places to go, foods to eat, and things to see.

Email with new ideas: offcampus@reslife.rochester.edu

-Visit Mount Hope Cemetery: "Mount Hope Cemetery: A Buried Treasure", and learn more about the cemetery and participate in a tour through The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery

-Visit the various ice skating rinks around the city:

Manhattan Square Park

Bill Gray's Ice Plex

Genesee Valley Park Sports Complex

Highland Park

-Rent snowshoes-a great way to get out and enjoy the local trails!10 Best Places to Rent Snowshoes Around Rochester

-Visit <u>Wild Wings Bird Sanctuary</u> at Mendon Ponds Park. While you are there, feed the chickadees on the <u>Songbird Trail</u> -if you bring birdseed/sunflower seeds with shells, the chickadees will land on your hand!



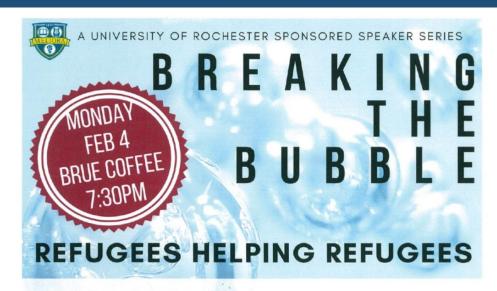
Neighborhood Ambassadors Corner...



The Neighborhood Ambassadors planned many events last semester and are looking for some ideas for this semester. Have an idea for a great event in your neighborhood, email: offcampus@reslife.rochester.edu!

Did you join the Facebook page: <u>University of Rochester</u> <u>Off Campus Living Program</u>??

Interested in joining our team in Fall 2019? More information and an application will be coming out in the Spring! Looking for organized, go-getters that are interested in learning more about their off-campus community and helping to create meaningful and fun programming and service projects.



"I lived in a refugee camp for ten years where I promoted girls education and women's rights. I came to the United States and formed Refugees Helping Refugees so that when refugees are most scared and in need, they have a place to turn to."

--Sadiya Omar, RHR Co-founder

Refugees Helping Refugees (RHR) is a non-profit organization that serves refugees of Western New York. RHR seeks to foster the growth, self-determination, and self-reliance of Rochester's refugee community by making them agents of their own advancement through education, English language skills, work training and attention to senior needs.

Meet Ms. Omar, Program Director Pia Moller and Assistant Case Manager Pamela Kim Adams for discussion on Rochester's refugee community.

Breaking the Bubble is a community conversation series highlighting issues of interest to both the University community and the general Rochester community.

All events are held at Brue Coffee located at 960 Genesee Street.

Sponsored by UR's Office for Residential Life and Housing Services in association with

The Rochester Center for Community Leadership

Upcoming Events

University...

2/1-2/4: Winterfest-<u>a list of weekend</u> <u>events</u>

2/1, 3:30-5:00pm, Feldman Ballroom: Club Rochester

2/1, 6:00-8:00pm, Douglass Commons, Language Center 305: <u>International</u> Karaoke Night

2/3, 6:00-9:00pm, Wilson Commons-Hirst Lounge: <u>Superbowl viewing with</u> free refreshments

2/4, 4:00-4:30pm, M.K. Gandhi Institute, <u>Mindful Mondays</u>

2/4, 7:30pm, Brue Coffee: Breaking the Bubble, Refugees Helping Refugees

2/28, 10am-2pm, Hirst Lounge: Off-Campus Housing Fair

U of R Featured Events

Eastman School of Music Events





Rochester Area...

2/1, 6-9:30pm, Writers & Books: <u>Kickoff Party for "Rochester Reads"</u>

1/30-5/26, George Eastman Museum: <u>#LarsonShindelman</u> #Mobilize

Through 4/21, Rochester Museum and Science Center: Soundsense Exhibit and Concert Series

2/1-2/17, Blackfriars Theater, \$31.50-\$39.50: "Ordinary Days"

2/23, 11:00am, South Entrance (1133 Mount Hope Ave): <u>Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery Winter Tour</u>

Rochester City Newspaper Events

Visit Rochester-Events

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Off Campus Housing Coordinator, 275-1081
Emergency Services, 911
Non-Emergency Services, 311
The Housing Council, 546-3700
Legal Aid Society, 232-4090
DPS (Department of Public Safety), 275-3333
University Health Services, 275-2662