







A Guide to Fort Collins Living!

2025



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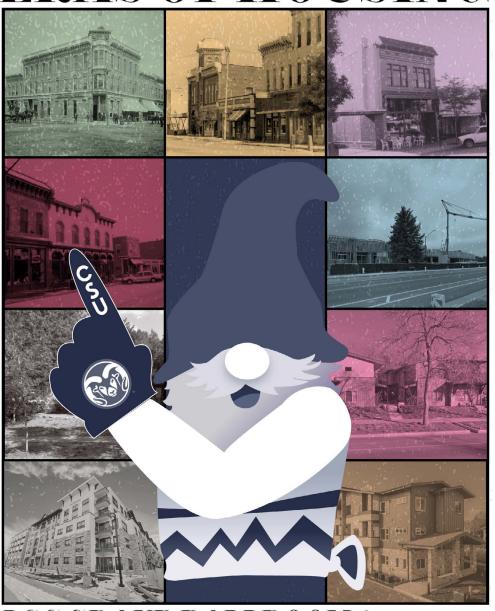
Christa Reed, Maddie Christian

HOMEGOING HOUSING TOUR FEBRUARY 7TH 12-4:30 P.M.*





40TH ANNUAL ERASOFI



RUARY 5, 2025









ort Collins is a desirable place to live for a lot of people, which is one of several factors that has caused our community to become unaffordable for many. There are a variety of offices on campus that are here to support you in accessing financial resources to help you better afford your housing.

Housing



fordable

Off-Campus Life

Off-Campus Life has several resources to help students find off-campus housing. You can read about those in the *Don't Panic* article. Beyond helping you find off-campus housing, Off-Campus Life offers individual appointments to help students explore how to access rental assistance, emergency grants, utilities assistance, free food, transportation assistance, and other resources to help you afford rent. Email ocl@colostate.edu to set up an appointment.

Student Case Management

colostate.edu to schedule an appointment,

Student Case Management offers individual appointments to help students access resources for rental assistance, housing and utilities, food, transportation, and other basic needs. Student Case Management supports students through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application and can refer you to a variety of campus and community resources.

Email Help4Rams@colostate.edu, visit studentcasemangement.

or use their drop-in hours M-Th, 9:00am-10:30am. Drop-in hours are available on Teams or in person on a first come, first served basis. Their office is 501 W. Lake Stret, Suite B on the first floor of the Walnut building located in

Rams Against Hunger

Visit your Rams Against Hunger Food Pantry in the General Services building (1251 Mason St.), where you'll find milk, eggs, fresh produce, and shelf-stable items at no cost! The food pantry is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 2pm-5pm, and Tuesdays, 9am-12pm. Visit rah.colostate.edu to read about additional food support including the Pocket Pantries locations, the Rams Against Hunger Meal Swipe Program, RamRide Food Ops, SNAP benefits, and the Ram Food Recovery Program.

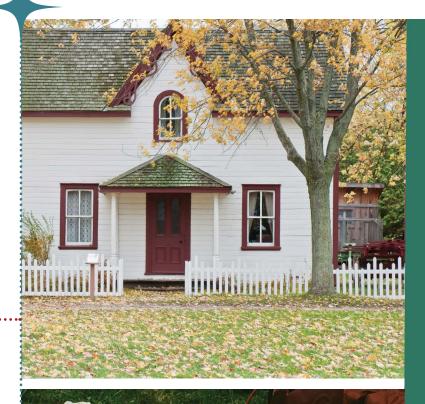


Questions

Do you have concerns about being able to afford your basic needs, but you're not sure where to start? Send an email to lsc_basicneedsinfo@colostate.edu and we will get you connected to the appropriate resources.



Aggie Village.





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HOUSES NEXT TO CAMPUS

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Don't Panic!

Off-Campus Life Can Help You Find the Perfect Place

Visit Off-Campus Life

to get all the help you need in finding the best place that's right for you! We are located in Room 281 of the LSC, (970) 491-2248, ocl@colostate.edu.

ff-Campus Life is here for CSU students to assist in finding housing, navigating renting/owning, and having positive off-campus living experiences. We provide numerous resources and staff dedicated to helping you and your foundation.

Here are a few of our most popular resources:

Rental Search

RentalSearch is an exclusive site for the CSU community to find housing in Fort Collins. Visit rentalsearch.colostate.edu and log in

> using your EID to search for vacant rentals, rooms for rent, and potential roommates. You can also list your own vacant place, room for rent, or yourself as a potential roommate.

CSU's 40th annual Housing Fair

February 5th, 9am-4pm, LSC Grand Ballrooms - Brought to you by Off-Campus Life, this free event is open to students, faculty, staff, and the public and takes place in the Lory Student Center every spring. On this day, you can visit with landlords, apartment complex personnel, property managers, and community resources. You can ask any questions you'd like, compare prices, and see all your options laid out in one place. Be sure to bring a shopping bag for information and freebies to take with you!.

Off-Campus Life Property Lists

On the Off-Campus Life website (ocl.colostate.edu), you will find two easy-to-use resources:

- ♦ The Apartment Complex List is an extensive list with pricing, lease options, amenities, proximity to campus, etc. — all the details you need to know about apartments catering to students.
- ◆The Property Management Company List is a compilation of property managers in town with contact information and direct links to their websites. It's a great place to search for houses, condos, and duplexes!



Roommate Meet & Match

Like "speed dating" but for roommates! This program is designed to connect people who may have a vacant room or rental and/or those who need a place to live. Offered multiple times throughout the year, this is a great opportunity to meet people face to face and do on-thespot roommate interviews! Visit Off-Campus Life's website calendar for future dates coming soon.



Other Available Sources

Be sure to shop around and explore your housing options before signing a lease. Decide what you're looking for and broaden your search! The following resources will help you do just that:

- Newspapers
- Local realtors
- Online small rental posting sites: Zillow, Redfin, Trulia, etc.
- Facebook Marketplace
- CSU Housing Facebook Groups
- Word of mouth: ask other students and community members. Find out what management company or apartment complex they have used, who their landlord was, and what it was like to live there.
- + Sip Look everywhere you can look AND post/tell everyone you can that you're looking. It's surprising how many housing arrangements are made because of in person and virtual networks.

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WHY RETURN TO THE RESIDENCE HALLS?

By Sylvia Cranmer, Housing & Dining Services Communications

It is often assumed that after one year of living in the residence halls, all students move off campus. In reality, roughly 15% of the students living in the halls are either returning, transfer, or upper division students. There are premium spaces to suit those who want to return to the residence halls, so don't forget to consider the benefits!

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION:

If you want easy access to The Rec, Morgan Library, and campus offices and activities, living on campus offers the best location in FoCo.

SKIP THE COMMUTE:

When it's cold and snowy outside, enjoy the luxury of sleeping in and still arriving to class on time without the hassle of scraping car windows, finding parking, biking on icy or wet roads, or waiting at the bus stop.

EASY, AFFORDABLE LIVING:

Forget leases, splitting utilities with roommates, shoveling sidewalks, and grocery shopping. The halls offer one inclusive bill that goes directly to your student account with no negotiation required. With the increasing cost of off-campus rent plus all the additional expenses that come with it (think: food, water, trash, electricity, gas, yard care, parking, etc.), living on campus and may be a more convenient and affordable decision.

\$0 DUE AT SIGNING:

If you return to the halls, your deposit from this year carries over to next fall and there are no hidden or surprise application fees, security deposits, or first/last month rent charges.

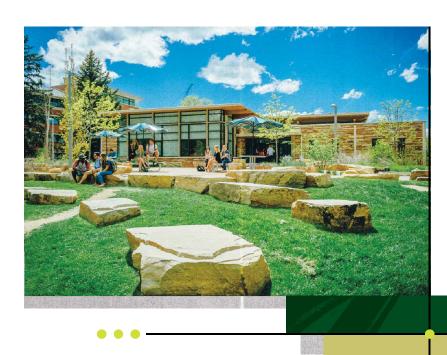
DESIGNATED SPACES FOR RETURNING, TRANSFER, AND UPPER DIVISION STUDENTS:

You get first choice of available rooms on campus, including premium spaces in Laurel Village Alpine, Aspen Hall, and the Gender Inclusive Housing community in Summit and Westfall Halls. There are designated wings and floors in these locations set aside for returning, transfer, and upper division students.



FLEXIBLE, CONVENIENT DINING:

The Any 10 meal plan, offered only to returning students, provides maximum flexibility with just 10 meals per week. Returning students also have the option to select the Any 15, Any 19, or Any 19+ Add On meal plans.





FIRST PICK OF ROOMS FOR RETURNING STUDENTS!

Find your space at housing.colostate.edu/halls/explore

RETURNING STUDENT RESIDENCE HALL ROOM SELECTION FOR 2025–26 IS OPEN FEBRUARY 3 – MARCH 14, 2025–2026 HOUSING IS GUARANTEED FOR CURRENT HALL RESIDENTS WHO APPLY DURING THIS TIME.



housing.colostate.edu/return

AGGIE VILLAGE APARTMENTS

The Aggie Village application is open now in the CSU Housing Portal and spaces are expected to fill quickly!

Applications are accepted in the order they are received. Invitations to participate in Aggie Village Room Selection will begin going out Feb. 10, and continue throughout the spring semester. For more info visit

housing.colostate.edu/aggie-village

Nine-month contract option (Aug.-May)

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Full-size washer & dryer in each unit

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Call **970.407.7267** or visit us in person at:

1208 W Elizabeth Street Fort Collins, CO 80521



What was U+2? Why is it no longer in place?

U+2 was an occupancy code in the City of Fort Collins that dated back to 1964. The code is nuanced, but in its simplest terms, stated that no more than three unrelated individuals may live together in a residential dwelling unit, or that a single family may have only one additional person in a residential dwelling with them.

In 2024, the State of Colorado passed House Bill 24-1007. HB 24-1007 prohibits counties, cities, and municipalities from limiting the number of people who may live together in a single dwelling based on familial relationship, while allowing local governments to implement residential occupancy limits based only on:

- Demonstrated health and safety standards, such as international building code standards, fire code regulations, or Colorado department of public health and environment wastewater and water quality standards; or
- Local, state, federal, or political subdivision affordable housing program guidelines. (Colorado General Assembly)

HB24-1007 went into effect on July 1st, 2024, effectively ending the U+2 occupancy code in the City of Fort Collins.

f your lease doesn't have a limit on occupancy stipulated within it, you might be curious about how to determine the number of roommates that works best for you. We recommend you consider the following questions to determine how many roommates fit your lifestyle:

- How many people will be sharing bedrooms, bathrooms, and the kitchen?
- How much parking is available at the place of residence? Does it support the number of cars at the household?
- In certain neighborhoods, there are limitations to the number of vehicles able to park on the street per residential dwelling. Visit page 70 for more information about the Residential Parking Permit Program (RP3).
- How many people/streaming services does your Wi-Fi support at once?
- How many of you have pets/ESAs/service animals?
 Will they do will living together?
- How does this environment support your success

 socially, academically, at work, etc.?

Rental Safety Resources:

- Connect with the Rental Housing program at the City of Fort Collins to see if your rental property is registered, request a rental inspection, and find resources for both renters and landlords: visit <u>fcgov.com/neighborhoodservicesrentalhousing</u>.
- Have questions about the International Fire Code? Visit <u>poudre-fire.org</u> for more information, or stop by the office at 102 Remington for support or to research a specific topic in the International Fire Code.

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The Ranch House Community Clubhouse | 24-hr Indoor Pet Spa and Off-Leash Bark Park
Private Resident Movie Theater | Refreshing Swimming Pool and Hot Tub
Spacious Open Concept Floor Plans & more

What is Normal——Wear and Tear?

We've all seen the long, long lists of potential damages that you can be charged for after moving out. But, what about when it's just natural over time? What is normal wear and tear and how is it different than damage to the property? Use this handy guide to find out!

	Normal	Not Normal (Tenant's Responsibility)
Electrical	Worn-out/broken electrical switches	Broken by force outlets or switches
Windows & Window Coverings	 Frayed/broken pull strings on blinds Faded drapes, blinds, or curtains Heat blistered blinds 	 Broken drapery rods Torn or missing blinds, curtains, or drapes Blinds with bent slats Torn or missing screens Broken windows
Walls	 Plaster cracked from settling Faded, cracked, or chipped paint Peeling or loose wallpaper 	 Large holes in the walls from shelving or hanging pictures Repainted walls to a significantly different color Holes in walls: some leases may permit holes "smaller than a thumbtack. Be sure to check yours to know what's appropriate for your rental!" Unapproved paint job Ripped or marked-up wallpaper
Ceilings	Stain on ceiling from rain or plumbing	Stains on the ceiling from an overflowed bathtub
Doors	 Worn out keys Loose or stubborn door locks Loose door hinges or door handles Closet doors off track 	 Lost keys Broken or missing locks Damage to doors from forced entry Damaged or missing doors
Floors	Worn carpetsCarpet seam ungluedScuffed up wood floorsLinoleum/vinyl tile worn thin	 Torn, stained, or burnt carpeting Badly scratched or gouged wood floors Linoleum/vinyl tile with tears or holes
Kitchen	Worn countertops	Burns or cuts in countertops Broken or damaged appliances
Plumbing	Toilets run or wobble Loose or inoperable faucet handles	 Broken toilet seats or tank tops Broken or missing faucet handles Clogged drains from misuse
Misc.		Intentional alterations to the premises



- A security deposit can only be used to repair damage for which a tenant is responsible. It cannot be used for normal wear and tear.
- For questions about normal wear and tear or your security deposit, connect with an attorney in Student Legal Services at sls.colostate.edu.

Gour Security Deposit

Your security deposit is the amount of money collected at the beginning of the lease and held by the landlord to cover damages beyond ordinary wear and tear — the deposit usually represents a substantial sum of money. Accordingly, you should take care to ensure you get it back. These are a few precautions you can take to protect your substantial investment.

When You Move In

- Check-In Sheets: Check-in sheets document the condition of your rental unit when you move in. This should evaluate the unit room by room. Usually, both the tenant and the landlord sign the list to acknowledge its accuracy. You can find examples of check-in sheets on Off-Campus Life's website, under the "helpful resources" tab.
- Make a Video: Imagine that a judge is viewing your videos, deciding what you should be charged for, what was pre-existing to your tenancy, what was ordinary wear and tear, and what was damage caused by your misuse.

Make a detailed narrated video before you move in one box or suitcase. Give a clear and thorough narration of the condition of the residence. Go from room to room, blemish to blemish. Be sure to save a copy of the video in a location other than your phone.

Send a Copy to Your Landlord: Even if your landlord refuses
to sign the check-in sheet, send them a copy with a request for
a reply. Do this within 1-2 days of moving into the unit. You
may choose to send to the landlord only the check-in sheet
Keep a copy of your cover letter, check-in sheet, and video.

Photographs

With the phone, photograph your entire unit, paying close attention to damaged areas. This will provide a date stamp regarding the condition of the unit prior to moving in. Be sure to save copies of the photographs in a location other than your phone.



Witness

Have someone other than a roommate inspect your unit when you move in. Have the same person inspect it when you move out.

During Your Tenancy

Be responsible. Take care of your rental unit. Report problems to your landlord promptly.

When You Move Out

The conditions you documented at move-in should have been sent to your landlord at the beginning of your lease. Additionally, you should have kept copies of those documents, especially if there was evidence of pre-existing damage prior to your tenancy. You should only be charged if there is evidence you caused new damage beyond ordinary wear and tear.





Know Your Stuff

Understanding Important City Codes & Ordinance

hile there are many codes and ordinances within the city of Fort Collins, there are a few that get discussed a little more frequently among students. Here is your chance to get a glimpse of how some of these ordinances may have an impact on you.



Unreasonable Noise

A violation of this ordinance can come with a \$1,000+ price tag (per resident!). In the City of Fort Collins, unreasonable noise is typically determined when noise is heard beyond property lines. When a noise complaint is called into Fort Collins Police Services, an officer is sent to determine if

the level of noise is unreasonable by considering the time of day, type of noise, and

other factors.

While you may think you are doing a good job at keeping the noise down, it is always wise to go outside and walk around your property line to determine if noise can be heard from your residence.

Nuisance Gathering Ordinance

This ordinance holds party hosts accountable for any damage to neighboring properties as a result of their gathering. A conviction carries a \$1,000+ fine, in ADDITION to the cost of any repairs needed, with the possibility of jail time or community

service hours. Examples of these damages include trash and litter, public urination, and vandalism. Remember, as a party host you are responsible for what happens at, and as a result of, your party, including the actions of others. This includes your guests' actions after they leave your property.

For information on how to avoid receiving these citations, check out the Party Smart article.

Those are some heavy hitters, but how about other codes and ordinances that could have a smaller impact on you? Whether you rent or own, there are several important nuisance ordinances to be aware of. If violations are not corrected in the allotted time, the City will bill the property owner for the abatement expense, which may be passed down to tenants. The City may also issue citations for chronic problem properties or for violations that can't be corrected by a contractor.

TRASH

Residents are not allowed to accumulate trash and discarded items. Trash containers must be stored out of view from the street. Trash receptacles should be placed out on the scheduled collection day and removed from the street within 12 hours of pick up.

SNOW

You are responsible for clearing snow and ice off the public sidewalks adjacent to your property within 24 hours of any accumulation. This keeps our sidewalks accessible and easy to use for everyone! Remember, it's easier to shovel fresh snow!

SOFAS

Furniture manufactured for indoor use is prohibited in outdoor areas. This includes unenclosed porches. If you have a sofa, take it inside, not on the lawn!









WEEDS

Weeds and grass on your property can only be up to 6 inches tall. Maintain your lawn regularly to help it grow and stay healthy!

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Party Smart

Tips

- ◆ Register your party! Registering your party can help you avoid a possible noise citation of \$1,000+. Register your party with Off Campus Life (LSC 281) no later than the Thursday before your party
- ◆ Discuss party expectations with your roommates before you host a gathering. Things to consider include: date, time-frame, house rules, number of people, what you will provide guests (consider food), who will be the sober host, who will chat with the neighbors, etc.
- ♦ Notify your neighbors in advance and provide them with the phone number of the sober host.
- → Designate a sober host to control music volume, access to the party, outside disturbances, and to address any interactions with the neighbors or police. Behaviors of people coming and going (including parking issues to the party are often disruptive to neighbors). Make sure the sober host is monitoring the foot traffic to and from the party, and check the backyard.
- → Think before you post! Posting your get-together using social media can lead to out-of-control parties, unwanted guests and their unwanted behaviors. Remember, as a party host you are responsible for what happens at and as a result of your party, including the actions of others.

◆ Unreasonable Noise/Nuisance Gathering Know the Difference: The Party Registration program only provides a potential warning for unreasonable noise. The Unreasonable Noise Ordinance is in effect 24 hours a day. Nuisance gatherings are NOT covered!

Nuisance gatherings cover other issues that occur on your property and/or extend past the property line: foot traffic to and from your gathering, disrupting neighbors, public urination, leaving trash in yards, trampling bushes,

jumping fences, etc., or unlawful consumption or possession of alcohol and/or marijuana. The HOST of the party, if found responsible for a nuisance gathering, can be held accountable for the costs associated with these damages including any overtime needed (police, ambulance, etc.). Any cost for damages and clean up could be charged on top of the citation fine received. Remember that YOU are responsible for your guests' actions!

osting a party can be fun, and has its risks, but there are steps you can take to keep everyone safe, reduce impacts on your neighbors, and lessen the chances of interacting with police and receiving a ticket if officers do show up. Always remember that when hosting a gathering you are assuming responsibility for any and all issues that may take place. Here are some of the many tips to help you host a safe party.

- ◆ Engaging in a riot: State Riot Laws provide that anyone convicted of a rioting offense cannot attend any state funded institution for one year. Engaging in a riot, or even just being a bystander and watching it, can result in negative consequences.
- ♦ It is illegal to provide alcohol or marijuana to minors. If the guest is over 18 but under 21, the crime is a misdemeanor with possible jail time and fines. If the guest is under age 18, it's worse: the crime is a felony with possible longer jail times and higher fines. If you're in doubt of someone's age, protect yourself and don't serve.

It is illegal to:

- Consume alcohol or marijuana in public.
- Sell or transfer alcohol or marijuana to persons under the age of 21.
- Drive under the influence.





The use and possession of marijuana, including medical marijuana, is prohibited on all CSU property, regardless of your age.

Some More Tips

- 1. Keep the size reasonable so your party stays in line with the capacity of your residence and does not disturb your neighbors.
- 2. Be proactive by asking for help. If you're uncomfortable with the size of your party or people will not leave when asked, call Fort Collins Police Services at 970-419-FCPD (3273) and ask for assistance in breaking up your partybefore things get out of control These proactive calls for help happen at parties more often than you might guess.
- 3. Be cooperative towards neighbors, police, and others who come to discuss issues. Don't make the situation or citation worse. When police arrive, all guests need to leave.
- 4. Clean up all trash resulting from your party and follow up with your neighbors the next day. Your neighbors may be more tolerant of your next party if they see that you care about how your party may have impacted the neighborhood.
- 5. Your actions have impact; make it a positive one. If you are a CSU student, you may be held accountable for your behaviors off campus through the Student Conduct Code. Be a good neighbor both on and off campus.
- 6. Get home safe: There are multiple options to help your guests get home safely:
 - RamRide will take you anywhere around town Friday and Saturday nights, 10:00pm-2:30am; download the RamRide app.
 - CSU's Safe Walk program provides a free foot escort every night anywhere on campus within a 3-block radius of campus property
 - If you are leaving Old Town, the Safe Choice program allows you to park your car overnight for free. Find more information at: fcgov.com/parking/safechoice.
- 7. Get support: If you are concerned about safety or mental health yours or someone else's, call (970)491-1350 or submit a referral form at tellsomeone.colostate.edu. Crisis resources are also available to all members of the community through Colorado Crisis Services at 844-493-8255 or texting "TALK" to 38255. Dial 988 anytime to access the National Suicide Prevention Line. Remember consent is enthusiastic, sober, and reversible. Any concerns for safety or to report sexual violence please contact 9-1-1. Sexual assault can happen to anyone anywhere, including at parties. To support survivors of interpersonal violence call (970)492-4242 anytime (24/7/365) or visit safecentercolostate.edu.
- 8. If you choose to use substances: Know what is in them. It is not uncommon for dugs to be cut/laced with Fentanyl. To learn more about individual risk factors and how to recognize an overdose, visit: health.colostate.edu/fentanyl-informationand-safetytips. Consider carrying Narcan in case of an accidental overdose or have on hand at your party. Fentanyl testing strips and Narcan are located at the Health and Medical Center third floor. Health Education and Prevention Services office and Mental Health Services waiting area Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

 You can also request at: health.colostate.edu/narcan-and-fentanyltest-strips-request.
- 9. Firearms: The presence of firearms at a gathering always poses a risk of injury or death. If firearms are located on the property for the gathering, ensure that they are properly secured prior to the arrival of guests. Remind guests that Colorado Law prohibits negligent discharge of a firearm. Damage does not have to occur for someone to be convicted of illegally discharging a firearm. For more information, contact Fort Collins Police Services at (970) 419-3273.

The Party Registration Program

- 1. Is available year-round, every night of the week.
- 2. Provides a 20-minute warning for noise complaints.
- 3. Can help you avoid a costly \$1,000+ noise citation.
- 4. Must be completed no later than 5:00pm the Thursday before your party with Off-Campus Life (LSC Rm. 281). Once you register in person, and assuming your party does not receive a warning or citation, you can start registering your parties online!
- 5. Has more information at *partysmart.colostate.edu*.

Mythbusters

1. "The List" is given to all police on duty for the night. ${\it False!}$

The list is never provided to the officers on the street.

2. Dispatch calls every party at midnight to give a warning. ${\it False!}$

Dispatch only calls when an address receives a noise complaint from a neighbor. Or, if a neighbor can't determine a specific address when there is a cluster of parties, dispatch calls all surrounding registered parties.

3. Being on "The List" means police target those addresses. False!

Police on duty do not have the list, nor do they have the time to target parties as there are higher priority calls coming in.



e've all likely had an experience with a job or a class where we weren't that excited about it, but then we ended up really liking it because our supervisor or faculty member was really cool, or our coworkers or classmates were really fun.

Or, maybe you've signed up for a class or taken a job that you were really looking forward to, but ended up not enjoying it much because your coworkers were unkind or your classmates weren't engaging. The job/class matters, just like where you live matters, but so do the people around you, your neighbors. In most cases, building at least a light relationship with your neighbors will benefit you. Here are some helpful tips:

Introduce Yourself!



Be Aware of Neighborhood Expectations & City Ordinances

Be aware of not only local laws and HOA covenants, but also the neighborhood expectations. Each neighborhood has a different feel. As you get to know your neighbors, ask them about the culture of the neighborhood, how people usually interact, what they like about the neighborhood, who is new and who has been there a long time, etc.

Be Aware of Differences

Age, faith, ethnic background, and family status can drastically affect how one goes about their daily life. Be aware and respectful of differences between you and your neighbor.

Ask How You Can Help

Neighborly gestures contribute to a positive and welcoming neighborhood for all! Shoveling snow for your neighbor who may need assistance is a great welcoming gesture.

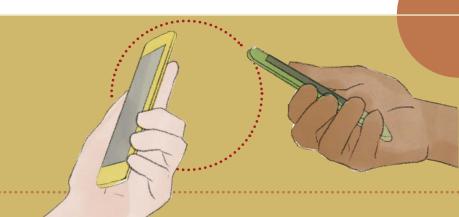
Be Candid

If your neighbor does something that bothers you, respectfully let them know as soon as possible. If you cannot work out a fair compromise, take advantage of free and confidential mediation services offered by the City of Fort Collins Community Mediation Program, fcgov.com/mediation, (970) 224-6022.

Keep Neighbors Informed

Contact your neighbors in advance before undertaking something that may affect them, like throwing a big party, building a fence, or getting a dog.

Share your contact information (cell phones, etc.) so there is an easy way of communicating during any event you might host or if other questions come up.



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PYR.

Off-Campus #// Roommate Conflicts

iving in space with other people can be both beautiful and hard. In shared living environments, we tend to see all sides of ourselves and others. Conflict is inevitable when we live with others, but that does not mean that our living spaces should become toxic or unlivable. Opening lines of communication by sharing expectations, boundaries, and feelings can create opportunities to work past conflict and deepen relationships. Pro tips for living together well:

- 1. Be proactive in your roommate relationships. Make intentional time and space up front to discuss how you best receive feedback, how you will know if the other is upset, and what expectations and boundaries you would like to set in your living space. Since conflict is inevitable, it is important to make a plan for how you will handle conflict as roommates before the conflict occurs.

 4. Encourage communication and collaboration. Most roommate conflicts occur due to lack of communication. Use "I" statements to communicate any behavior bothering you, rather than judging or accusing the individual. Ask questions to deepen understanding, such as "Can you help me understand why I was not given a heads up about your partner coming over last night?" Express empathy
- 2. Set a time to check in, in-person, at least once a month. During these check-ins, ask each other how living together is going and what needs to change or could be better.
- 3. Being specific, be direct. Sometimes we are afraid to hurt our roommate's feelings or fear how someone may react, but avoiding conflict can lead to resentment and unnecessary frustration. You can name how you are feeling are how you

have been impacted in ways that are specific, direct, but also kind.

For example, "When you had your partner over last night without giving me a heads up, I felt as though you did

though you did not respect that I asked for as much notice as possible when it comes to guests."

- 4. Encourage communication and collaboration. Most roommate conflicts occur due to lack of communication. Use "I" statements to communicate any behavior bothering you, rather than judging or accusing the individual. Ask questions to deepen understanding, such as "Can you help me understand why I was not given a heads up about your partner coming over last night?" Express empathy by reflecting back what you hear the other person saying like "I hear that you were nervous about how I would react because it was a last-minute request." Try to work toward a solution that is mutually acceptable for everyone involved and be willing to recognize where you may have room for improvement. Use phrases like "would you be willing" or "could you commit to" to gauge the person's interest in a solution you are proposing. Reality-test any of the solutions proposed asking "what will happen if...someone is too busy, someone forgets...etc." Plan to follow up in a week or two to see how things are going.
- 5. Avoid conflict pitfalls. Communication through text message or social media, getting friends and others involved who do not need to be involved, and/or confronting a roommate when there has been no time allowed for "cooling-off" are not effective methods of communication. Face-to-face communication is far more effective than a whiteboard or a Post-it note. Avoid confronting your roommate when you are angry or frustrated. It is okay to let someone know you are feeling angry and need time to process. Set a time to follow-up and commit to being ready to talk at that time.

The Student Resolution Center (SRC) is a great resource on campus for roommates and other interpersonal conflicts. The SRC offers Conflict Coaching, in which we meet with you one-on-one to talk through things, brainstorm solutions, and prepare for the conversation with your roommate. For students who feel the lines of communication with their roommate have broken down, SRC can offer a neutral third-party mediation to help facilitate a difficult conversation. Conflict Resolution Services is student-fee funded. This means that CRS is already paid for with your student fees and is available at no additional cost. To set up an appointment with SRC you can call 970-491-7165, request a consultation at resolutioncenter.colostate.edu, or come visit the office (501 W. Lake St, Suite A, Aggie Village, Walnut Hall). Whatever the conflict, SRC is here to help!





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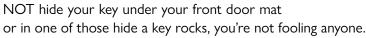
POOL DECK | SOAK DECK | HD GOLF SIMULATOR | PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

ON-SITE CAR WASH AND VACUUM

Safe & Sound And In Your New Place

s you're preparing to move into your new digs, we want to ensure that you're prepared and feeling not just comfortable, but safe in your new surroundings. The most prevalent crime in the city of Fort Collins is property crime. By taking just a few extra seconds you can help ensure your and your communities safety. Below are our top 5 tips for keeping you and your home safe this coming academic year.

There are WAY too many horror movies that start with someone forgetting to lock a door. Even during the day, ensure that you are locking doors and windows when you are heading out to class, work, or just some time out in town, ensure you are locking up. Extra pro tip, DO



- Get to Know the Community

Knowing your neighbors may seem like common sense, but you'd be surprised. When you move in, introduce yourself and exchange information. This can come in handy if you're ever out of town and need someone to look after your place. They can also help you if it snows and possibly need a sidewalk shoveled. Having folks around you that you can rely on can help you feel safe and situated in your community.

♦ Take Care of Your Place

Living in a house? Mow the lawn, bring trash in, clear sidewalks, etc. Leaving your house looking like no one is there, is telling the wrong people that you may not be around. Living in an apartment? Don't pile stuff up outside of your door, take it to the dumpster, clear it out. Your smoke detector? Test it. We may have vivid flashbacks to when the hall evacuated due to someone burning ramen, but you'd rather know ahead of time that it is or is not working.



Important Numbers -

- Fort Collins Non-emergency: (970) 419-3272
- CSUPD Non-emergency: (970) 491-6425
- Safewalk: (970) 491-1155

♦Party Smart

We'd be silly to think that you'll never have folks over to your place, so let's be real. If you're going to host a party, kickback, darty, ensure you're doing so safely and responsibly. Registering your party with Off-Campus Life is a free resource that could hopefully help you avoid a \$1,000 citation. Don't let random strangers into your event, and ensure that belongings are secure while the event is taking place. If someone at your event drinks too much, know that the Responsible Action Exemption process protects you AND them if you are calling to get them help.



♦ Trust Your Gut

If something feels sus, trust your gut. Rams take care of Rams and ensuring that you are looking out for your fellow students can go so far in building safe communities. If you are going out for the evening in Old Town, go with a group, leave with the group, and ensure folks are getting home safely. Friday or Saturday Night? Use RamRide from 10PM-2:30AM to get home safely and for free.

Budgeting for the Off-Campus Student

By: The Off-Campus Life staff

iving on campus has its perks. Being close to everything on campus, having someone else do all the cooking, shopping, and cleaning, and never having to shovel or mow. On the other hand, living off campus provides the flexibility to do your own cooking and shopping which means you can be more cost-effective. Below are a few financial tips to avoid some pitfalls that can destroy your money management plan when living off campus:



Money Management Tips

- 1. Determine all your costs ahead of time.
- 2. Determine all your resources ahead of time.
- 3. Develop and stick to a plan that makes sure your require expenses fit with your available resources. Find a tool that works for you.
- 4. Find roommates that have similar values and resources. It is really difficult to find and share living space with someone who has a very different idea about how things should be done and how much can be spent on rent, food, Internet, heating, air conditioning, etc.
- 5. You can often use financial aid to pay rent, food, and utilities. Financial aid applies toward your semester University expenses first and the excess may be sent to you in a refund to help pay rent, food, etc. It is important that this refund cover expenses until mid-January, including January rent, when spring financial aid refunds are sent.

Renting Tips

- 1. Rent a furnished apartment.
- 2. Consider paying the full semester's rent at the beginning of each semester.
- Consider buying renter's insurance. It will cover theft or fire damage to your personal property and only costs \$10-20 per month.

Cooking and Shopping Tips

- 1. Learn to cook simple and quick meals.
- 2. Pack a lunch every day instead of eating out and you could save \$1,000 each year.
- 3. Never shop when you are hungry or you may spend more than you have budgeted.
- 4. Try to take cash instead of debit or credit cards when shopping so you don't spend more than you have.
- 5. Purchase monthly food cards for the amount of groceries that you have budgeted.
- 6. Consider opening a separate bank account for rent and food expenditures.
- 7. Pay all bills on time to avoid late fees and ruining your credit.
- 8. Opt-in to have your debit card not authorize when funds in your bank account are not sufficient.
- 9. Avoid parking tickets by riding your bike or taking the bus.

Create your own scholarship.

- Latte Scholarship- Make your own coffee instead of buyinglattes. A \$4 latte every day, Monday through Friday for the academic year, is a cost of \$640.
- Bottled Water Scholarship A \$1.50 bottle of water every day, Monday through Friday for the academic year, is a cost of \$240.
- Soda Scholarship A \$2.00 bottle of soda every day, Monday through Friday for the academic year, is a cost of \$320.

Best wishes on managing your college finances well!

Rental Scams: Not Demure. Not Mindful.

Pental scams are everywhere, and our hope is that you will be able to tell the difference between what is a real listing and what's fake. We want you to be able to find the perfect apartment, so here are the things you should look for to keep yourself safe.

If it looks like a fish and smells like a fish, it probably is one. If a listing looks fishy or you've got a gut feeling that something with it is wrong, trust that feeling. Don't hesitate to ask others to take a look and get a second opinion on it. By searching the Fort Collins rental database, addresses online, and doing a reverse image search, you can begin to determine if the listing is real!

You should always take a tour of any apartment you are thinking of signing a lease at before signing to ensure that the listing is real. If you are unsure of the property you're about to tour, don't hesitate to take a buddy with you. While not common anymore, it isn't out of the (g)norm for landlords to require a touring fee. Some fees are normal, such as an application fee or administrative fees. However, you should never give any potential landlord large sums of money before you have had a chance to review and sign a lease.

You might be thinking, "But Gnorman, where can I go to start looking?" Good question! Places such as our website have a ton of great resources such as Rental Search and the Apartment Complex list. These places are a great way to begin the search for your college dream apartment. Rental search is run by our amazing team and partner, College Pads! We do our best to filter out any listings that may be a scam. Rams look out for Rams, and we are doing our best to look out for you!

Places such as Facebook have excellent opportunities for housing as well! There are several housing pages that students may post a sublease listing when they are going overseas for a study abroad. Using the tips that we went over earlier will help you determine if these listings are real, as our team does not monitor these pages.

According to an Ic3 (Internet Crime Complaint Center) data study conducted by the FBI, in 2021 alone over \$350 Million was stolen in rental scams. So being aware of the signs of a rental scam could save you a lot of money!

CSU provides resources to help you avoid these scams! Off-Campus Life and Student Legal Services are here to help you find the best and most real place for you. We recommend that you take your lease to SLS to have it reviewed before you sign it.

Now that you know the tips and tricks to avoid a rental scam, you are ready to begin your search! Good luck Rams!

Gnorman the Gnome Office Mascot OFF-CAMPUS LIFE

Office: (970) 491-2248

Email: OCL@colostate.edu

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Being a Good Pet Owner

f there's one thing that Fort Collins-ians love, it's pets! And with more and more off-campus housing property managers accepting animals, CSU students are excited to get their furry friends.

However, owning a pet is a big responsibility and involves many things to consider before heading to a shelter. Like a child, a pet is totally dependent on you for its well-being, financially and otherwise. Make sure you are ready for the responsibilities that accompany pet ownership!

While this article is geared mostly toward dog and cat owners, many of the suggestions discussed apply to any pet you may own.

What's the Difference Between a Pet and a Service Animal or ESA?

A pet **is not the same** as a service animal. Service animals and ESAs (Emotional Service Animals) serve a purpose for their owner's health and ability to live comfortably. A landlord should **never** ask for pet rent or a deposit for a service animal or ESA. A landlord may ask for documentation or a doctor's note to register a service animal or ESA in the residence.

If your pet is not a service animal or ESA, do not attempt to pass them off as one, or obtain false documentation for them. This is discrediting to the disabled community and can put them under extra stress and scrutiny when living with their service animal. Please, just be respectful.

Proper Care for Your Pet: Good Nutrition

Just like people, pets require a healthy diet. Poor skin, hair coat, muscle tone, and obesity can result from poor-quality food. It can be tempting to get the off-brand discount food from the Dollar Store, but your animal will be so much happier eating something better. Do your research for what food is best based on breed, age, size, etc. When in doubt, ask your veterinarian!

You should also be careful of table scraps and leftovers. We get it, those puppy dog eyes are just irresistible. However, make sure you know what foods can and cannot be fed to your animals to avoid any potential sickness or poisoning.

Exercise and Stimulation

Regular exercise keeps your animal in good condition by maintaining proper body weight. This reduces the risk of heart and joint problems, diabetes, and a number of other weight-related issues. One of the best things about Fort Collins is our numerous, beautiful trails for runs and walks. Remember though, Larimer County requires all pets to be leashed in public areas unless they are in a designated area (ex. a dog park or fenced backyard).

Regular stimulation is also just as important. Have a handful of toys that your animal can play with and enjoy. Animals get bored just like you!

Health Care

Annual examinations by a veterinarian are the best way to prevent medical issues and potential pain or suffering for your pet. At times a pet needs medical attention but they have little to no means of communicating that to you. By having routine examinations your vet will have a good baseline of information to compare to when your pet is not feeling well.



Safety

Keeping pets safe is something that many pet owners take for granted. However, it is important to assess the safety of the environment that your pet lives in.

- ◆ Are there any toxic chemicals inside or outside of the house, or in the garage in locations that your pet can access?
- ◆ Are you a household plant lover? Make sure your plants are out of reach for animals to reach or chew on.
- If toxins such as rodent poison are used in your home, can your pet access them?
- ◆ Are enclosures for your pet, such as fencing, secure? Can they get caught or hooked on the fence? Nails sticking out of the fence are a common source of cuts for dogs.
- ◆ Does your rental have metal landscaping? Metal landscape borders are another common source of cuts for pets and can inflict a deep paw wound. If you have metal landscape borders that do not have a rolled edge you can purchase plastic capping that slides over the top of the sharp edge. The capping is much less expensive than a trip to the veterinarian for the cut.

Grooming

No one likes being around a smelly pet. Good grooming – bathing, nail clipping, brushing, and parasite control help reduce skin and coat problems, keep your pet healthier, and make it more pleasant for everyone around.

There are numerous professional groomers to take your pet to as well if you have the budget to do so.

Maintenance

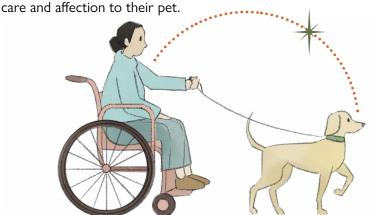
This refers to some of the more unpleasant aspects of pet care such as yard cleanup, litter box cleaning, cage cleaning, and fish tank maintenance. A clean environment for your pet is a healthy environment. Poor sanitation can lead to behavioral problems, such as litter box avoidance, health problems such as skin infections, and possibly the spread of communicable diseases.

Keep up with pet maintenance by adding it to your regular chore routine. You can also consider purchasing self-cleaning products like litter boxes and tank cleaners.

Licensing

City of Fort Collins residents are required to vaccinate and license their dogs and cats on an annual basis. Larimer County residents are required to have their animals vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian and need to license their dogs on an annual basis. There are also vaccine and/or license requirements for goats, chickens, and ducks. You can read more about the requirements and license your pet online at larimerhumane.org.

Pets provide a great amount of affection and companionship to their owners and in turn, a responsible pet owner provides proper care and affection to their pet





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