Welcome to the Community

The Corvallis community is a great place to live, with friendly neighbors, beautiful tree-lined streets and a variety of people of all ages and backgrounds living close together. To help you navigate community living, we have created this handy guide. The City of Corvallis and Oregon State University work together to promote good relations and a healthy community among residents, both student and non-student. You can help by getting to know your neighbors and respecting your community.

Tips for a legal and safe party

Creating lasting relationships with your neighbors

City ordinances and information
Many Corvallis residents enjoy living in close-knit neighborhoods with a diverse mix of people, including families, working professionals, senior citizens and students. Residents are encouraged to get to know their neighbors and the City ordinances.

» Hosting a party comes with a great deal of responsibility. Behaviors that draw attention to your party include excessive noise, underage drinking, and littering.

» Beyond creating tension with your neighbors, parties can result in the police responding and potentially issuing citations and/or arresting the residents of the property.

» If your party begins to get out of control, you can call the police and request assistance.

» Remember to clean up your property as soon as possible following a party in order to avoid a ticket or arrest for litter.

» You must also obtain a noise permit for your party if you choose to use amplified sound systems. You may go online at http://www.ci.corvallis.or.us/downloads/cpd/Sound%20Permit.pdf to fill out an application for your permit. The permit needs to be applied 7 working days in advance and must be signed by a police officer.

Important Contacts:

- Police Assistance: 541-766-6911
- Sound Permit: 541-766-6924
- Code Enforcement: 541-766-6929
- Republic Services: 541-754-0444
- Oregon State University Parking Services: 541-737-2583
- Corvallis Municipal Court: 541-766-6948
- Linn-Benton Furniture Share: 541-754-9511
- Free Legal Assistance on Campus: 541-737-9200
- Corvallis Fire Department: 541-766-6961

Hosting a party comes with a great deal of responsibility.
Parking

Parking in the neighborhoods can be a challenge. Keep the following in mind when parking your car:

» It is illegal to park on a lawn, block a driveway, park over a sidewalk (including the driveway area), or park backward on a City street.

» Your car may be ticketed and towed at your expense if you park in public areas during restricted hours or private property without permission.

» Vehicles must be operable (no flat tires) and have a proper license plate and a current registration.

» Vehicles should not be parked on city streets longer than 48 consecutive hours, or in violation of posted time limits.

Trash, Recycling and Solid Waste • 541-754-0444

Republic Services waste collects trash from single-family homes and rental houses. Use containers provided by Republic Services or your property manager. Bins and carts can only be curbside 24 hours before the pick-up to 24 hours after the pick-up. Please do not block sidewalks or bike lanes when containers are placed for collection. Apartment complex managers may provide private trash service to tenants. Contact your property manager for trash information or look for dumpsters at your complex.

Keep Corvallis green by recycling. Republic Services operates a free curbside recycling program for single-family households, rental homes and most small apartment complexes (20 units or less.) Recyclables are collected weekly on the same day as trash and should be placed at the curb in the tan recycling bin. Note that glass is collected once a month in a separate container. Republic Services also has a recycling site open 7a.m.-7p.m. daily for all Corvallis residents, especially tenants of large apartment complexes where curbside service is not available. For details, visit the Republic Services’ website at republicservices.com/site/corvallis-or.

Solid waste or bulk items are items that do not fit in City waste bins. Common bulk items include furniture. An appointment with Republic Services should be made to arrange pick-up of these items. Consider donating usable items to local charities, such as the Furniture Share instead of throwing them away. Large items that contain refrigerants like freon (dehumidifiers, refrigerators, etc.) require special pick-ups due to hazardous materials.

Litter

After a bash, pick up your trash! If non-contained wastes are left out in public, warnings may be issued for minor offenses by Code Enforcement or the Police Department. For egregious offenses, as well as properties where repeated offenses occur, a citation with a $2,500 fine and/or a one year imprisonment may be issued. To avoid a charge for littering, simply clean up trash on your property and around the neighborhood after a party.

Noise

When throwing a party, be considerate of your neighbors. Remember that noise travels and can be a disturbance, especially late at night. How much noise is too much? If a neighbor can stand on the edge of their property line or inside of their house with the windows closed and hear noise from your house, it is too loud. The responding police officer has the discretion to decide if the noise coming from your property is unreasonable. A noise violation may constitute a misdemeanor offense and/or fines. Repeated calls to your residence for noise may also result in civil monetary penalties.
Having A Party? Read This First!

» Alcohol: In Oregon, it is illegal to possess, consume, purchase or have alcohol in your system if you are under 21. You can be issued a misdemeanor citation or even be arrested for this offense. Corvallis has a strict open container law which applies to everyone, even for people 21 and older. Walking around with an open beer on a sidewalk or in a public place could earn you a ticket or even get you arrested. It is illegal to sell alcohol without a license, which also includes selling cups at a keg party or providing a common source of alcohol. A conviction for minor in possession or open container may lead to driver license suspension for up to one year.

» Noise: If a police officer (based on the municipal code) determines that the noise from your party is unreasonable, a citation may be issued. A noise violation may constitute a misdemeanor offense if convicted.

» Guests: If you’re hosting a party, you’re responsible for the behavior of your guests—even if you do not know them! This is especially true if you provide alcohol at your party. Be aware of the risks of posting a party on social media as well. It is illegal to have anyone under the age of 21 consuming or possessing alcohol at your party.

Smart Neighboring Tips

» Introduce yourself. Meet your neighbors! This is the first step in building a good relationship. If your neighbor knows your name and a little about you, they will start to see you as the unique individual you are and not as “just another student.”

» Keep neighbors informed. Contact your neighbors before undertaking something that might affect them, like hosting a big party, building a fence, or getting a dog.

Introduce yourself. Meet your neighbors!

as possible. For the benefit of the relationship, try to work out a compromise to your dispute before escalating the issue by filing a complaint. Relationships between neighbors are rarely the same after the police have been called and a complaint has been filed. Neighbor to neighbor mediation can be a good resource in these situations.

» Be candid. If there is tension between you and your neighbors, approach them and discuss the issue as soon as possible. For the benefit of the relationship, try to work out a compromise to your dispute before escalating the issue by filing a complaint. Relationships between neighbors are rarely the same after the police have been called and a complaint has been filed. Neighbor to neighbor mediation can be a good resource in these situations.

» Be aware of differences. Age, faith, ethnicity and family status can drastically affect how one goes about their daily life and the hours they keep. Being aware of the differences between you and your neighbors can help you better understand one another and get along.

» Learn and be aware of community expectations and City ordinances. Knowing local laws and neighborhood rules can make your experience as pleasant and trouble-free as possible.

» Participate! Take part in neighborhood gatherings and offer a friendly greeting when you’re out and about. Offer to help elderly neighbors or those who would benefit from assistance.
Common Party Related Offenses

» Providing alcohol to a minor
» Noise violations
» Minor in possession of alcohol
» Selling alcohol without a license, includes cups
» Littering
» Resisting arrest
» Urinating in public
» Operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated
» Interfering with a police officer

You Can Also Invite The Police By:

» Being extremely belligerent and noisy
» Letting underage people drink
» Allowing people to leave with open containers
» Urinating in neighbors’ yards
» Hanging out in the street
» Parking illegally

OUT OF CONTROL?

Call the Corvallis Police at 541-766-6911 if your party begins to get out of control. The Police will respond and assist you in resolving the matter. Calls can be anonymous. Call for assistance before the party is out of control.

Smart Partying Tips

» Notify your neighbors of your party plans. Exchange phone numbers and have them contact you or your roommates if they have problems with your party. Remember—your neighbors do not have to tolerate loud noise just because you told them about the party.

» Designate a person to control music volume, access to the party and outside disturbances. Encourage that person to stay sober so they can monitor the party and talk with police or a neighbor who calls or comes over.

» Obtain a sound permit with the Corvallis Police Department 541-766-6924 so they can contact you should problems arise.

» Control access & limit the size of your party. Keep out “randoms” who are only there to drink your beer. You’re responsible for your guests, whether you know them or not! Call the police for help in removing unwanted persons from your property.

» Get a safe ride home by taking the Beaver Bus (8:45p.m. to 2:45a.m.), calling a taxi service, have a friend to pick you up or have designated drivers for the night. Do not get in a car with strangers or with someone you know has been drinking. Note the Beaver Bus only operates Thursday through Saturday, and does not operate during Winter break.

» Be cooperative with police, neighbors and others who come by to discuss problems they have with the party. This may help to prevent further citations.

» Clean up party trash in your yard, your neighbors’ yard, and in the streets immediately once the party is over. Your neighbors may be more tolerant of future parties if they know the mess will be cleaned up.

» Check for cigarette butts. Look in trash cans and upholstered furniture for smoldering cigarette butts. Carelessly discarded cigarettes are the most common cause of fatal fires.
**Staying Safe! Fire Safety**

» Smoke detectors save lives. You must have a working smoke detector in every sleeping room, outside every sleeping room and on every level of your residence. Disabling or tampering with your detector or alarm system is a crime. Test detectors monthly and change batteries twice a year. Detectors more than 10 years old are no longer acceptable.

» Overloaded outlets are a major cause of fires. Never use extension cords in place of permanent wiring. Use a power strip plugged directly into the wall. Do not use multiple plug adapters or ‘gang plugs.’ Do not remove the ground prong of the plug or use an adapter to plug a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged receptacle. Doing so is both a fire and electrocution hazard.

» Cigarettes are the leading cause of fatal fires. Never discard smoking material into a trash can. Instead, use a solid, non-combustible ash tray or run it under water to make sure it’s extinguished. Don’t discard butts into wood chips or mulch—both are combustible.

» Candles must be used with care. You’re responsible for the fires you light. Keep candles away from other combustibles. Blow them out when you leave the room, even for a few seconds.

» Fire alarms give you early warning. When the alarm goes off, exit the building while you can. Waiting, even seconds, can mean the difference between escaping and being trapped by smoke or fire. Don’t risk your life gambling that it’s “just a false alarm.”

» Careless Cooking is the leading cause of fires in Corvallis (and nation-wide.) The easiest way to prevent kitchen fires is to stay in the kitchen while you’re cooking. This is especially important if you’re using grease for frying. Keep a lid available for all of the pans on the stove. Do not use water on a grease fire; it can make the fire worse. Put the lid on it or use the fire extinguisher. Do not attempt to pick up a burning pan; it can result in severe burns and can make the fire worse.

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**Got A Parking Ticket?**

If you get a parking ticket from Corvallis Police Departments, if you get a parking ticket from Corvallis Police Department, you may pay the fine either online or through the mail.

**Residential Parking**

Parking on some streets near OSU campus requires a residential parking permit. Visit city hall to see if you qualify, or go to the city of Corvallis website - www.corvallisoregon.gov and search for “residential parking permits”.

**City Parking Tickets**

The Corvallis Municipal Court handles all parking tickets issued by the Corvallis Police Department. If you wish to contest, you may appear in court at any regularly scheduled arraignment time within 10 days of the ticket or you may post the bail listed on the ticket along with a written explanation. Failure to pay a city-issued parking tickets will result in late payment fees. The city turns unpaid parking tickets over to a collection agency.
Know the Laws!

First police response to a violation of the Corvallis Municipal Code may include a written notice that the activity or conduct must cease. Second police response within 30 days arising out of the activity or conduct will result in citation, physical arrest, and/or civil fines. A Special Response Fee will be charged to each person deemed liable. Separate fees will be charged for each subsequent police response. The special response fee is defined as the total cost incurred by the City in connection with such response, including but not limited to, police officers, equipment, dispatch and supervisor time. THESE CAN BE GIVEN WITH CITATIONS ON FIRST CONTACT!

Over-Occupancy

The Corvallis Land Development Code limits the number of unrelated adults that can live in the same dwelling unit to no more than five, regardless of the number of bedrooms. Additionally, the Oregon Structural Specialty Code and Oregon Fire Code contain regulations on the maximum safe occupancy of a structure, whether it be used residentially, commercially, or otherwise. These regulations also require the maintenance of minimum safe egress conditions in the event of a fire or other structural emergency. Contact the City of Corvallis Fire Marshal (541-766-6961) or Building Division (541-766-6929) with questions about whether your rental unit is safe to occupy. Fines and civil penalties can be imposed for violations of occupancy and egress regulations.

Staying Safe! Crime Prevention

» Lock your doors and windows, especially when you are asleep, you are gone or are planning an extended time away.
» Add exterior lighting such as motion lights and having interior lights on a timer system. (Adding exterior lights requires permits.)
» Work with your friends and neighbors to monitor each other’s properties, especially when you plan to be away for an extended period of time.
» Lock up valuable items when unattended, including your car. Do not leave valuables (e.g., ipods, laptops, wallets, or purses) in your vehicle.
» Register your bicycle with the Corvallis Police Department or OSU campus police. This may help the police recover it if it’s stolen.
» Report suspicious activities/persons to the Corvallis Police Department or Oregon State Police promptly.

Helpful Campus Resources:

**ASOSU Saferide**
149 Snell Hall/MU East, 541-737-5000
asosu.oregonstate.edu/saferide/
SafeRide provides service operating seven days a week during the regular school year.

**ASOSU Student Legal Services**
Snell Hall/MU East 135, 541-737-4165
asosu.oregonstate.edu/legal-advising
This service provides legal advice and representation to students when they have a dispute that does not pertain to the university.

**OSU Alert**
oregonstate.edu/main/alerts
Sign-up to receive emergency alerts as phone messages, texts and emails.

**Human Service Resource Center (HSRC)**
230 Snell Hall/MU East, 541-737-3747
oregonstate.edu/hsrc
The HSRC provides direct service, outreach, education and referral services to OSU students that help alleviate the effects of hunger, poverty and other human needs.

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OSU students enjoy free access to the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. Many services are available online, including a mobile app and e-books. For more information go to thebestlibrary.net.

Corvallis Public Works

Keep your grass mowed – The Corvallis Municipal Code requires that all weeds and grass be kept under 10” in height from June 1 through September 30 and by requiring that combustible waste material and debris be removed from property. The Corvallis Fire Department uses reminder letters and investigates all complaints to pursue the enforcement of these Ordinances. Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of their properties (including parking strips along streets) and are subject to civil penalties of up to $100 if they do not comply.

Transit Systems

The City of Corvallis operates a fareless transit system that serves most areas of the city. Eight of the routes provide regular service to the OSU campus. The Linn-Benton Loop and Philomath Connection provide transit service to Corvallis and OSU from Albany and Philomath.

Rental Housing Assistance – The Rental Housing Program is designed to be a resource for people who have rental housing issues or concerns. The program is available to all citizens who have questions or concerns about rental housing in the city, including property owners, property managers, tenants, neighbors, and any other interested parties. Visit the City of Corvallis website (www.corvallisoregon.gov) and search for “rental housing” if you have questions.

Corvallis is proud of its many beautiful parks located throughout the city. Here are some important things to know about your city parks.

» They are open to the public daily between 6a.m. and 10p.m.

» Smoking is only allowed in parking lots of each park, and not in the parks themselves.

» While alcohol may be consumed in city parks, a permit is needed. Contact the City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department (541-766-6918) for more information.

A complete listing of parks, natural areas, trails and dog off leash areas is available at corvallisoregon.gov.

Maintaining our city parks for all to enjoy takes a lot of effort. There are many opportunities to volunteer your time to help keep them in good condition. Contact the City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department (541-766-6918) if you’re interested in lending a hand.

Helpful Campus Resources

Student Conduct and Community Standards
B058 Kerr Administration Building, 541-737-3656
oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/home/

Student Health Services (SHS)
Plageman Building, 541-737-WELL (9355)
studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/
Student Health Services are provided by the OSU health fee. They include unlimited visits with health care professionals without an appointment through the Self-Care Clinic.

Student Life Assistance Team
200 Kerr Administration Building, 541-737-8748,
select option 1
oregonstate.edu/deanofstudents/students/
studentassistance
SLAssistance@oregonstate.edu
Student Life Assistance Team provides non-emergency student assistance about OSU policies.