

# RUTGERS OFF-CAMPUS LIVING NEWSLETTER

October 2025



## RU A GOOD NEIGHBOR?

### WHO ARE WE?

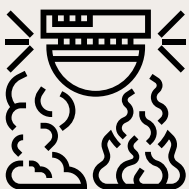


We are Off-Campus Living & Community Initiatives. Our goal is to help students understand what their rights are as tenants and responsibilities are as community members. We assist students with their housing search, including education focused on legal issues, safety, security and respect. We work with students, parents, property owners, residents, local businesses, Chaplains, and city officials to establish priorities and create student programming that is reflective of community interests and concerns.

Be well,  
Dean Willson, Caryn, and Sergeant Correa

## OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

**KEEPING YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMUNITY SAFE STARTS WITH SIMPLE FIRE SAFETY HABITS. TAKE A FEW MINUTES THIS MONTH TO CHECK YOUR HOME AND ROUTINES AGAINST THESE FIRE PREVENTION TIPS:**



### Smoke Detectors

- Have working smoke detectors on every floor and inside or near all bedrooms. A smart reminder : change the batteries twice a year at the start and end of daylight savings time.

### Candles & Incense

- Never leave them burning unattended. Always extinguish before leaving the room or going to sleep.



### Smoking Safety

- Extinguish all smoking materials thoroughly. Remember—your lease may prohibit smoking.

### Cooking

- Stay in the kitchen while cooking and always turn off the stove or oven when you're finished.

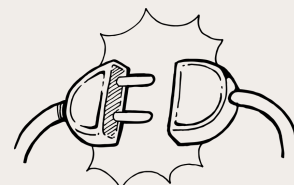


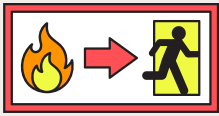
### Fire Extinguishers

- Know where they are and how to use them.

### Electrical Safety

- Check cords for cracks or fraying and never overload outlets. Use a power strip with a surge protector.





### **Exits**

- Identify at least two emergency exits and make sure they are clear and accessible.

### **Practice**

- Conduct a fire drill with your household or roommates so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.



**LET'S ALL DO OUR PART TO PREVENT FIRES AND STAY SAFE!**

## **WHY YOU SHOULD GET RENTER'S INSURANCE**

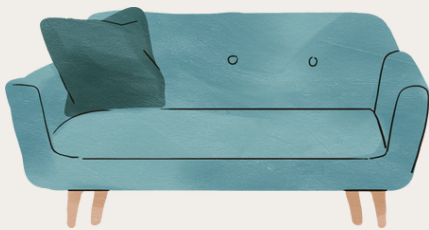
Did you know that your landlord's insurance only covers damage to the building itself—not your belongings? That means if there's a fire, flood, or theft, you could be left paying out-of-pocket to replace everything you own.

Think about what you have: your phone, your laptop, your clothes, furniture, maybe even a bike or TV. These items add up quickly and replacing them can be costly.

The good news: renter's insurance is affordable—typically less than \$200 a year—and gives you peace of mind knowing your possessions are protected.

### **A few important reminders:**

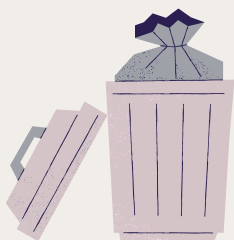
- Most policies do not cover your roommates' belongings. Each tenant should have their own policy.
- Coverage often includes theft, fire, and certain types of water damage.



**PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR BELONGINGS—CONSIDER GETTING RENTER'S INSURANCE TODAY.**

## **LIVING WITH ROOMMATES: KEEPING THE PEACE AT HOME**





Sharing a space can be fun—but it can also bring challenges, especially when it comes to housekeeping. Maybe one roommate is a neat freak while another is a little more laid back. Without clear expectations, frustration can build quickly.

One of the best ways to avoid conflict is to sit down together and create a roommate agreement about cleaning and responsibilities.

A simple tool that works wonders? A **chore chart**.



### Why a chore chart helps:

- Everyone knows exactly what they're responsible for each week
- One person doesn't end up doing all the work
- Prevents resentment from building up between roommates
- Keeps the apartment consistently clean and comfortable

If one roommate is always leaving a mess—or if another is always the one cleaning—it can cause tension. A chore chart keeps things fair and balanced, so everyone feels respected.

**Check out this sample chore chart** to see how you and your roommates can make it work!



## Weekly Roommate Chore Chart

### Tasks

- Take out trash/recycling
- Clean kitchen (counters, sink, floors)
- Vacuum/sweep common areas
- Clean bathroom(s)
- Wipe down surfaces (tables, shelves)
- Other (laundry room, entryway, etc.)

Roommate A

Roommate B

Roommate C

Roommate D

**\*\* Tip: Rotate chores weekly so everyone shares the workload fairly. \*\***

# STAY CONNECTED – REGISTER YOUR OFF-CAMPUS ADDRESS

If you're a student renting in the local community, please take a moment to register your **local address** and **emergency contact information** with our office.

This helps us keep you **informed about important municipal updates, programming, emergency alerts**, and other useful information related to living off-campus.



**Visit** → <https://go.rutgers.edu/offcampusreg>

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## THINKING ABOUT MOVING OFF-CAMPUS NEXT YEAR? NOT SURE WHERE TO START? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

Join us for the 10th Annual Off-Campus Housing Fair—your one-stop shop for everything you need to kick off your housing search with confidence.

### At the Fair, you can:

- Explore off-campus living options
- Meet landlords & property managers face-to-face
- Learn about campus and community resources

**Start your housing search the smart way—join us!**

**Date:** Monday, November 10, 2025

**Location:** College Avenue Student Center Main Lounge

We will be there from **1pm until 4pm.**

Start your housing search the smart way-join us!



# FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS

## RECIPE CORNER

This is the perfect dinner when you are craving the taste of gyros and need a quick and healthy dinner!



## GREEK TURKEY MEATBALL GYRO

### Ingredients

- 1 lb ground turkey
- ¼ finely diced red onion
- 2 garlic cloves minced
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- Salt & pepper to season
- 2 tbs. olive oil
- Pita or whole wheat flat bread
- Tzatziki sauce



### Instructions

- To a large bowl, add ground turkey, diced red onion, minced garlic, oregano, salt and pepper.
- Using your hands mix the ingredients together until meat forms a ball and sticks together. Then using your hands, form the meat mixture into 1" balls (this should make about 12 meatballs).
- Heat a large skillet to medium high heat. Add olive oil to the pan and then add the meatballs. Cook each side for 3-4 minutes until they are browned on all sides and internal temperature has reached 165 degrees. Remove from the pan and let rest.
- Add 3 meatballs to a flatbread or pita. You can add sliced red onion, tomato and cucumber for the full gyro effect but this still tastes delicious without so if you don't have them, no worries. Top with Tzatziki sauce.

# STUDENT BASIC NEEDS/RUTGERS FOOD PANTRY—ALL STUDENTS

At some point in a college student's education journey, they may face challenges in accessing adequate amounts of food, housing, financial or other resources.

To ensure that basic needs are met for all Rutgers students, on-campus resources and those available in the surrounding community are listed throughout the **<http://basicneeds.rutgers.edu/>** website including:

- Food Assistance
- Housing Assistance
- Emergency Aid
- Mental, Physical, & Spiritual Wellness
- Utility Assistance
- Internet & Technology
- Child Care Resources
- Faculty & Staff Resources

**Website:** <http://basicneeds.rutgers.edu/> website

**Instagram:** @RUBasicNeeds

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/RUbasicneeds>

