

Community CONNECTIONS

Welcome to *Community Connections*, produced by Syracuse University's offices of Government and Community Relations (315-443-3919) and Off-Campus and Commuter Services (315-443-5489).

Please be sure to visit the Office of Government and Community Relations' web site at gcr.syr.edu.

If you are interested in contributing to *Community Connections*, have ideas for future articles, or would like to receive notices from *Community Connections* via e-mail, contact Corey Driscoll at gcr@syr.edu or 315-443-3919.

Reminder: 315-442-CARE (2273) is available for non-emergency complaints. Call with questions, concerns, or comments, and someone from Syracuse University's offices of Off-Campus and Commuter Services or Government and Community Relations will be in touch with you. In an emergency, call 911 or the Syracuse Police Department at 315-442-5222.

In order for us to better respond to calls left on the **CARE** line, please leave a detailed message that includes location and time of the incident and a phone number where you can be reached.

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Say "Hello" to Your Community Ambassador

New program aims to build a stronger community and provide resources to off-campus students

In an effort to assist students with their transition to off-campus living in the Syracuse University neighborhood, the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services (OCCS) is proud to announce the pilot of the Community Ambassador Program. This program will match off-campus student leaders with targeted blocks in the University neighborhood. Selected students will serve as ambassadors and role models to the residents of the streets on which they are living. Community ambassadors (CAs) will serve as a point of contact for student-residents on their assigned block, provide access to resources and build community in order to ease the transition to off-campus living.

The Community Ambassador Program is modeled after successful programs at other institutions, including Ohio University, New York University, and University of North Carolina Wilmington. Participating students must be considered upperclassmen by fall 2009, be in good standing with the University, have prior off-campus living experience, and live on one of the selected blocks during the 2009-10 academic year. Prospective CAs will be required to complete an application and participate in an interview process before selection.

This new initiative will increase the overall achievement and satisfaction of students living in the University neighborhood and will provide leadership opportunities for returning off-campus students. We are looking forward to introducing our new community ambassadors to you this fall!

For additional information on the program, please contact Kerry Heckman Fiesinger, program coordinator in the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services, at 443-5489 or by e-mail at offcampus@syr.edu.

Westcott Street Needs Volunteers! Yes – You!

On Sunday, September 13, 2009, the annual Westcott Street Cultural Fair will take place, drawing hundreds of neighbors together to celebrate the diversity of Westcott Street. The fair brings artists, students, neighbors, musical performers, belly dancers, merchants, children, and local restaurants together to enjoy the sights and sounds of the neighborhood.

The fair is completely volunteer-run—and we want you! Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks—working with children in the Kids' Korner, helping to run the stages for

musical performers, setting up the morning of the fair, and much, much more. Volunteer shifts are two hours long, from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. This is a great opportunity to earn community service hours while interacting with the neighborhood.

To sign up, please visit <http://westcottfair.org>—it only takes a few minutes, or contact Corey Driscoll, Volunteer Coordinator at codrisco@syr.edu or 315-443-3919.

We hope to see you there for this signature neighborhood event!

New Office to Serve Off-Campus Students – and Commuters Too!

Office Separating to Better Serve Students’ Needs

This fall, you may notice a new name for the office that provides information, support, and resources to students living off campus. The former Office of Orientation and Off-Campus Programs has officially separated into two units dedicated to specific student populations. The staff and resources have been used to create the Office of First-Year and Transfer Programs and the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services.

The Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services will be responsible for focusing on the needs of students residing off campus and commuter students. It will educate students about their rights and responsibilities as community members and will work on a coordinated approach to communication and programming for students in the University neighborhood. To maintain its connection to nonresidential students, this office will be at 754 Ostrom Avenue.

The Office of First-Year and Transfer Programs will be housed at 111 Waverly Avenue. This office’s work will begin with Syracuse Welcome 2009. Later, it

will explore possibilities for building SU’s nationally recognized orientation programming into a comprehensive, yearlong experience for all new SU students.

Darya Rotblat will provide leadership as director of the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services. Rotblat served as interim director of the former Office of Orientation and Off-Campus Programs following Laura Madelone’s departure from the University. Gregory J. Victory will serve as director of the Office of First-Year and Transfer Programs, providing orientation and first-year programs to new undergraduate students.

Additional staff for the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services includes Kerry Heckman Fiesinger as program coordinator and Hoa (Tina) Nyugen as office coordinator.

“We are excited by the possibilities as these two offices build on strong relationships with Academic Affairs, Government and Community Relations, and a rich network of student, faculty, staff, and community partners,” says Rebecca

Reed-Kantrowitz, associate vice president of student affairs. “By focusing each office’s work on a particular population of students, we will ensure that all students have access to intentional, effective co-curricular programming and services.”

Here is the new contact information for both offices. Please feel free to contact either office if you have any questions:

Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services
754 Ostrom Avenue
315-443-5489
E-mail: offcampus@syr.edu
Web site: offcampus.syr.edu
Darya Rotblat, Director

Office of Orientation and Transition Services
111 Waverly Avenue, Suite 006
315-443-1012
E-mail: newtosu@syr.edu
Web site: orientation.syr.edu
Gregory J. Victory, Director

Neighborhood Safety Patrol Statistics

The following chart depicts the trend in cases and referrals originating with the Neighborhood Safety Patrol from the 2005-2006 academic year to the present.

SPD CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for Service	NSP Totals			
	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
With Reports*	138	169	101	216
Without Reports**	661	539	619	781
Total Calls	799	708	720	997

*With Reports indicates an SPD response to a call for service requiring the officer to write and submit a more formal report, typically further action pending.

**Without Reports indicates an SPD response to a call for service in which a more formal written report is unnecessary, typically a minor complaint.

DPS REFERRALS TO THE OFFICE OF JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Number of DPS Cases	47	50	76	157
Number of Students Referred	61	62	85	175

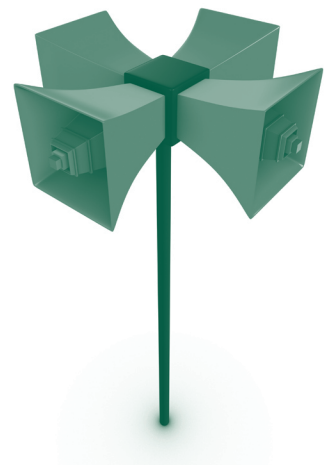
New Addition to the Orange Alert System

This fall, Syracuse University's Department of Public Safety (DPS) will enhance the Orange Alert system throughout Main and South campuses by installing a siren on each campus in order to alert students outside to any potential threat in the area. This new feature adds to Orange Alert's rapid notification system, which employs e-mail, text messaging, and cell/landline phone messages. The program alerts the SU community to any crisis situation in which there is an immediate threat to the safety and security of the University community. DPS personnel have been specially trained to identify circumstances where the Orange Alert system is necessary and have conducted a number of tests to ensure that the e-mail, text, and phone notifications are properly received.

The sirens have a range of approximately one mile and will be used only in conjunction with the Orange Alert system. When an emergency arises, the siren will sound multiple, continuous blasts. Members of the SU community are instructed to stay indoors until the siren has stopped. Other higher education institutions, including Ithaca College, have begun to incorporate a siren system into their campus safety plans.

The siren system goes into effect at the start of the 2009 academic year. DPS also intends to test the system each week to ensure it is functioning properly. The designated time for these tests, which will consist of a single siren blast, has not yet been determined. If you would like to receive information related to the siren testing, you can join SU Cares, an e-mail list managed by the Office of Government and Community Relations. SU Cares sends e-mails regarding on- and off-campus safety alerts, traffic concerns, construction updates, and information regarding special events. If you would like to sign up for SU Cares, please send an e-mail to gcr@syr.edu and request to be added to our list.

If you have any additional questions or concerns related to Orange Alert, please contact Corey Driscoll, community relations associate, at codrisco@syr.edu or 315-443-3919.



Won't You Be A Good Neighbor?



Here are some helpful tips on how to start the year off right.

As the school year begins, it is important to recognize that each student is part of a larger community, particularly those who are living off campus. The University neighborhood is an exciting and diverse place to live. It is important, however, to remember that students are not the only individuals living in the community. The neighborhood surrounding Syracuse University includes families with young children, senior citizens, and a wide array of individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and professions.

To foster a sense of community and mutual respect, here are some helpful hints on how to be a good neighbor and a responsible member of the University community:

Tips on approaching a neighbor

- Remember that first impressions count. If you haven't done so already, make an effort to introduce yourself to your neighbors nearby. Introduce yourself in whatever way you feel comfortable.
- If you are more introverted, you could create a reason to talk to your neighbor. Perhaps you need a hammer to help hang a picture on your new wall—use that as an opportunity to start a conversation with your neighbor. You could even invite him/her over sometime for coffee or lunch. Keep in mind, though, that if you borrow something, return it immediately.
- Get to know your neighbors—you may need each other down the road. Treat them as you would want to be treated—with respect and courtesy.

Enjoyable experience

- Getting to know your neighbors will make living in the community more fun! You can become actively involved in your local neighborhood association and volunteer for community and neighborhood events such as the Westcott Street Cultural Fair and the annual Earth Day Clean Up.

New Housing Options Available for Students

If you have driven down Comstock Avenue or Colvin Street lately, you may have noticed some new developments in the way of housing for students. The first of these two projects, Ernie Davis Hall, located on Comstock Avenue, is named after the legendary SU football player and 1961 Heisman Trophy winner. The new 141,000-square-foot residence hall has 250 beds and a mix of room types, including single and split-doubles. There will be 120 single rooms and 60 split-double rooms (housing 240 students), 10 resident advisors, and one resident director apartment. The residence hall will house both first-year and upperclass students.

Each floor will also have private bathrooms, small studies, social lounges, trash rooms, and laundry facilities. Ernie Davis Hall includes a 500-seat dining center, a recreation facility with multipurpose room, 2,000 feet of academic/classroom space, and a convenience store.

The second new housing option is the University Village Apartments on Colvin (UV). Unlike Ernie Davis Hall, UV is not

a residence hall and is not operated by Syracuse University. The building is owned and managed by a private company, Allen and O'Hara Education Services, Inc. UV has 432 beds with a mix of two-bedroom and four-bedroom apartments. Each student has a private bathroom in the fully furnished unit. The apartments include a dishwasher, washer, dryer, and most utilities, and they are handicap accessible. The UV clubhouse includes the leasing office as well as a small screening room for students' use. There will also be a fitness center and collaborative learning centers in the clubhouse.

If you would like additional information on the University Village Apartments on Colvin, go to <http://www.myownapartment.com/uwcolvin/>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Corey Driscoll, community relations associate at Syracuse University, by e-mail at codrisco@syr.edu or by phone at 315-443-3919.

