

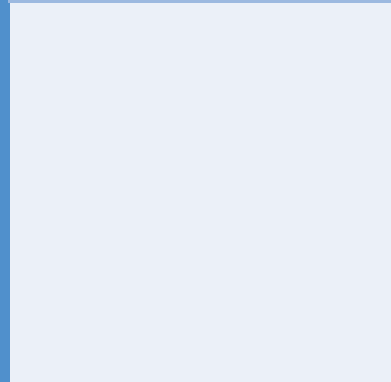
Tufts

COMMUNITY RELATIONS GUIDE 2006-2007



WELCOME

to the Neighborhood



Welcome to the neighborhood

Dear Students,

As the new school year begins, I would like to welcome you to the neighborhoods around Tufts on behalf of the Office of Community Relations, which serves as a liaison between the university and our host communities. Getting to know your neighbors—and learning how to get along with them—is one of the many benefits of living off-campus. This brochure provides information you’ll need to make off-campus living a positive part of your Tufts experience.

By moving off-campus, you have joined a broader community beyond Tufts, a community that operates under a different set of rules than those on the campus. These rules form an unwritten “social contract”—a mutual understanding among neighbors to respect each other’s privacy and property, and to create a safe, healthy living environment from which everyone benefits. Please help all of us maintain that mutual understanding around Tufts.

If you have questions relating to Medford or Somerville, we may be able to help. Along with the Office of the Dean of Students, the Off-Campus Housing Resource Center (OCH), and the Tufts Police, the Office of Community Relations offers many resources for Tufts students as well as for Somerville and Medford residents. Please feel free to stop by our office at 120 Packard Avenue or to call us on 617-627-3780 if you have any questions.

Barbara Rubel
Director of Community Relations

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Administrative Assistant

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THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

Living with your friends in an off-campus apartment can be quite a change from the residence halls and may require adjusting to a new level of freedom and its accompanying responsibilities. It's important to realize that the neighborhoods around Tufts are primarily residential, with long-term households outnumbering student apartments. Many of your neighbors are similar to your parents, who may work for a living while raising children; others are retired people, perhaps like your grandparents. They take pride in their homes and want to ensure that their neighborhood is a pleasant place to live (and sleep). For many of them, the most direct impact Tufts has on them and the opinions they form about the university are based on their contact with you. Please respect the social contract that comes with neighborhood living, and understand the legal rights and responsibilities that come with being a tenant or property owner.

Noise

Quiet enjoyment of one's home is everyone's right. Most of your neighbors have schedules different from yours; they may be putting kids to sleep just as you are gearing up to party, or getting ready for work as you are winding down for the night. Bear in mind that sound travels easily, especially in neighborhoods where the homes are close together. Your neighbors have the right to a good night's rest, and they may not enjoy the same kind of music you do! So, please keep your voices and stereo volume down, and remember:

- **Loud noise is prohibited in residential areas from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. on weekdays and from 11:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. on weekends. (Thursday is a weekday!)**
- **Local ordinances prohibit loud noise emanating from a residence or from large numbers of people gathering on a porch, on sidewalks, or in the yard.**

HERE ARE A FEW OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

- **Use area rugs if you have downstairs neighbors.**
- **Turn down your stereo at a decent hour, or keep your windows closed when you're playing music.**
- **Do not use your apartment or basement for band practice.**
- **Watch your language: what's acceptable to some college students may be offensive to other people, especially those with young children.**

Entertaining

We want you to enjoy your home off-campus and the company of your friends as well. Please be mindful of the capacity of your apartment and don't invite everyone you know to a party at your house. Let your neighbors know when you'll be entertaining. Some students invite their neighbors to join them. Give them a way to reach you if they need to let you know that the party is disruptive. If you get to know your neighbors and find out what's acceptable to them, they may be more tolerant of your social gatherings. However, be aware that if there are complaints, mandatory quiet hours are enforced by both Somerville and Medford Police.

When problems do occur, they are frequently related to alcohol. Keep in mind that, as the leaseholder, you are responsible for the behavior of your guests. Please remind them to leave quietly, especially late at night. You can be held responsible for serving alcohol to minors, or for someone who has had too much to drink at your house. The legal drinking age in Massachusetts is 21, and carrying open containers into the street is against the law. If the Tufts and/or local police respond to a disturbance at your house, they may ask to see ID's. If a party gets out of hand, call Tufts Police for help.

HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

- **Get to know your neighbors. Offer to help them out if their cars get stuck in the snow, if they need someone to accept a package when they're not at home, or in other such situations. They may do the same for you.**
- **Take pride in maintaining the appearance of your neighborhood. Take out your trash on time, and put the barrels away promptly. Don't place old furniture on your porch or lawn.**
- **Get involved in your community: read the local newspaper, register to vote, learn who your elected representatives are, volunteer! Tufts' Leonard Carmichael Society can direct you to community service opportunities.**

PARKING

Students, with the exception of freshmen, are allowed to bring cars to Tufts. All out-of-state vehicles must be registered with the Tufts Police, whether the vehicle is to be parked on or off campus. When registering your car with the Tufts Police, be prepared to show your Tufts ID, vehicle registration, and proof of vehicle insurance.

Massachusetts state law requires minimum bodily injury liability coverage of \$20,000 per injured person up to a total of \$40,000 per accident, and property damage liability coverage with a minimum limit of \$5,000. This basic coverage is often referred to as 20/40/5 coverage.

You may not register a car for another student. Individuals who purchase a parking decal for another student will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Campus Parking

If you do not have off-street parking at your apartment, you may purchase a Tufts parking decal and park in one of the campus lots designated for students.

Off-Campus Parking

Somerville and Medford both allow permit parking only on many streets. You must obtain a residential permit in order to park on the street legally. To obtain a permit, your car must be registered in Massachusetts at your Somerville or Medford address. If you are going to change your vehicle registration, contact your insurance agent for a MV3 form and take the form to a Registry of Motor Vehicles office, which will produce a new registration with your local address. Take the vehicle registration, a copy of your lease or recent utility bill (cable, electric, gas, or landline telephone) and the permit fee to the appropriate city parking office.

Guest parking: For a fee, you can obtain parking permits for short-term use by visitors from the parking office in either city. You will need to show a current utility bill to establish residency.

Parking violations: Fines will be issued for parking without a decal, obstruction of snow removal or street cleaning, parking within 10 feet of a fire hydrant or fire zone, or parking within 20 feet of an intersection. Please note that unpaid Somerville and Medford parking tickets will be attached to your bursar's bill.

Snow emergencies: If a snow emergency is declared, you must move your car in accordance with the local rules. Check local radio/television stations or city web sites for alerts, or call City Hall or the local police department. During a snow emergency in Medford, park on the even-numbered side of the street in even years (2006) and the odd-numbered side in odd years (2007). In Somerville, park on the odd-numbered side of the street, unless otherwise posted.

Refer to the cities' web sites for more information on parking procedures and regulations in each city; these addresses are listed the resource guide on the inside back cover of this brochure.

TRASH DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING

Long-time residents typically take pride in the appearance of their neighborhood, and now you're part of the neighborhood. Please take good care of your house, and help your neighbors keep your street clean.

Improper disposal of trash can be unsightly and foul-smelling, and lead to insect and animal problems. It can also lead to fines from city health departments. For more information regarding neighborhood trash pick-up, in Medford call 781-393-2419 and in Somerville call 617-625-6600, ext. 5000.

Both Medford and Somerville have recycling programs. If you need a new recycling bin, call the respective city departments. Find out your neighborhood's recycling schedule and place your bin curbside no later than 7:00 a.m. the day of pick-up.

When moving in or out, please look for ways to dispose of items you don't want. Tufts Jumbo Drop Yard Sale is a great way to pass on unwanted but usable items. Contact Tufts Recycles to find out how to donate furniture and other items for next year's yard sale.

TRASH DO'S AND DON'TS

- Do get barrels with lids from your landlord. Don't put trash out in plastic or paper bags.
- Do put trash out every week on the designated day. Don't put trash out any sooner than the night before pick-up.
- Do put barrels away, out of sight from the front of the house as soon as possible after pick-up. Don't leave barrels out for days.
- Do call the city if you have larger items for disposal. Don't throw trash into back or side yards.

SAFETY AND FIRE PREVENTION

To assist you in assessing the safety of prospective apartments, the Off-Campus Housing Resource Center offers information and suggestions for inspecting rental properties. Visit their web site, listed at the resource guide at end of this brochure, for more information.

The Tufts Community Policing Unit is available to answer any questions you might have regarding the security of your residence, crime prevention, and personal safety. Call 617-627-3839 for assistance.

SAFETY DO'S AND DON'TS

- If a smoke detector sounds anywhere in your building, evacuate to the outside immediately. Assume there's a fire even if you don't see smoke. Make sure you know alternate emergency routes. Never use an elevator. Use the stairs.
- If you discover a fire in the building, don't panic. Call 911 and evacuate immediately, warning others on your way out. If the fire is in a small area, confine it by closing the doors prior to leaving the building. Seek out the first arriving emergency personnel and give them the specific location of the fire. Once you are out of the building, stay out!
- Never smoke in bed, and make sure that smoking materials are fully extinguished before discarding.
- Don't leave candles unattended. Keep them away from any combustible material (like curtains), and be sure they're extinguished fully before you go to bed or leave the building.
- Secure exterior doors and windows, especially when you are not at home.
- Install shades in your windows and use them. This is for your own safety and privacy as well as that of your neighbors.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The cities of Medford and Somerville establish their own ordinances governing parties, noise, indecent exposure, parking, trash collection, and the like. It's your responsibility to be aware of these ordinances, the full text of which is available on the respective city Web site or at the city hall.

These laws are enforced by both the Tufts and local police departments, which have the authority to close parties and to report violations to the Office of the Dean of Students. A documented violation will result in a \$200 fine for the first offense and may result in disciplinary action. Subsequent offenses may result in increased fines as well as disciplinary action. Local police may impose additional sanctions and/or fines, including arrest.

RESOURCE GUIDE

Phone numbers:

Emergencies	Dial 911
Tufts Police (non-emergency)	617-627-3030
Somerville Police (non-emergency)	617-625-1600
Medford Police (non-emergency)	781-391-6404
City Hall (to be connected to Parking, Public Works, etc.)	
Medford	781-396-5500
Somerville	617-625-6600
Off-Campus Housing Resource Center	617-627-5319
Office of Community Relations	617-627-3780
Dean of Students Office	617-627-3158
Tufts Recycles	617-627-3947

On-line Resources:

Tufts Dean of Students:

<http://studentservices.tufts.edu/dos>

The *Pachyderm*:

<http://studentservices.tufts.edu/dos/publications.htm>

Off-Campus Housing Resource Center:

<http://www.ase.tufts.edu/och>

Tufts Public Safety:

<http://publicsafety.tufts.edu>

Tufts Community Policing:

http://publicsafety.tufts.edu/police/community_policing

Leonard Carmichael Society:

<http://ase.tufts.edu/lcs>

City of Medford:

<http://www.medford.org>

City of Somerville:

<http://www.ci.somerville.ma.us>

MBTA (bus and subway):

<http://www.mbta.com>

Tufts Shuttle Bus:

<http://publicsafety.tufts.edu/adminsvc/shuttle>

Medford Transcript:

<http://www.townonline.com/medford>

Somerville Journal:

<http://www.townonline.com/somerville>