

Updates | Safety | Noise Safety Keychain - Whistle

October 4, 2009

Dear Champlain Apartment's Tenants:

We are writing with some important reminders and updates:

1. Please keep doors and windows locked. If you still have an air conditioner in your window, please remove for the winter. If you need assistance, please let us know.
2. Please keep all outer security doors locked. Do not leave them propped open for any reason.
3. Keep items in your car out of sight.
4. Please be aware as you navigate around the city at night and stay focused on safety and your surroundings.
5. If you need additional exterior lighting anywhere, please let us know. Also let us know if bulbs need replacement.
6. Porches - please do not store trash/recycling, bicycles or anything except porch/outdoor furniture on your porches.
7. Interior common hallways should be kept free of clutter as they are your means of egress in the event of an emergency. Again, please do not store anything in these areas.
8. **We have new Champlain Apartment safety keychains with whistles available.**

See photo at:

<http://www.champlainapartments.com/images/safetywhistlekeychain.jpg>

If you would like one, please email julie@juliecrichards.com and she will make arrangements for you to receive one.

9. Below see some recent Front Porch Forum emails regarding City noise. We ask that you be respectful in regard to noise and being good neighbors in your buildings and in your neighborhoods.

Thank you very much in advance for your help.

My Best,

Gene Richards
www.champlainapartments.com
343-9909

FRONT PORCH FORUM EMAILS

CHAMPLAIN AND NEIGHBORHOOD NOISE CONCERNS

By Tee Mulhall, Champlain College, S Willard St, community@champlain.edu
Fri, 02 October 2009

Last week, I had the opportunity to meet with City Councilor Karen Paul as well as other administrators from Champlain College and UVM to discuss recent community concerns of student noise in the neighborhoods. As both a resident of the Hill Section and an administrator at Champlain College, I'm pleased to tell you that following the initial meeting, Champlain staff members from Residence Life and Champlain College Public Safety, as well as other College representatives formed a team which has identified several ways to address the problem and have put a number of new initiatives in place that we believe will be effective.

If, as a Burlington resident, you are being disturbed by noise or activities from a residence that is **not** a College-owned property, please call the Burlington Police Department. As much as we would like to help in any situation potentially concerning our students, Champlain's Public Safety officials have no legal authority to patrol public streets or properties off campus.

That said, we hold each Champlain student accountable for his or her actions -- on or off our campus: Each week BPD forwards a detailed report of all incidents identifying Champlain students to our Public Safety Division. Student Life and Public Safety follow up with the students through the College's Judicial Conduct Process. Penalties for student misconduct in the community range from warnings and fines to probation, suspension or dismissal depending on the frequency and severity of the offence.

Additionally, we are working on identifying neighborhoods where clusters of off-campus Champlain College students live. If you know of any disruption being caused by Champlain students in your neighborhood, please forward the information to our Student Life office at reslife@champlain.edu or 860-2703, as soon as possible, and we will swiftly address the incident.

If you are being disturbed by noise or activities from a College-owned Residence Hall or Building, please call Champlain's Public Safety at 865-6465, which will immediately dispatch an Officer **to* **resolve* the situation. It's worth noting here that Champlain College recently improved Public Safety call-response time to by teaming up with UVM's Police Services Dispatch Center. Again, in the case of misconduct on the part of a Champlain

student, Public Safety reports each incident to the Student Life Office, which directs the matter at hand through the College's Judicial Conduct Process.

Starting this weekend, Champlain Public Safety will conduct foot and bicycle patrols on campus Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights between the hours of 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. Additionally, Champlain Public Safety will monitor streets on and adjacent to the College to identify and potentially resolve quality-of-life issues both on and off campus as they occur.* *I personally monitored student traffic last weekend, and this weekend Rich Long, Director of Public Safety, and I will accompany our Public Safety Staff on each patrol. In future weeks, other Champlain College senior administrators will accompany Public Safety on these patrols.

Other initiatives we have set in motion to address community concerns regarding inappropriate noise:

- Residence Life staff residing in Champlain's residence halls have begun stepping up reminders to students of their impact as they travel through neighborhoods--particularly late at night. Residence Life staff have instructed students to be respectful and considerate of their neighbors at all times.

- Residence Life will be developing an on-campus campaign -- including posters and fliers designed to educate students about late-night civility. Another part of the campaign will be a student-written newspaper article about late-night noise, which will likely include interviews with neighbors detailing how disruptive late night noise is in their homes.

- The Student Life Office will invite off-campus student leaders to a special dinner at which Champlain staff members will suggest opportunities for educating fellow students (peers) living in the community on civic responsibility and develop awareness programs aimed specifically at mitigating neighborhood noise.

- Student Life staff in the LEAD program (required participation of all students each year), which has a significant message regarding civic duty and involvement, will supplement its current programming with additional opportunities for students to improve and enhance neighborhood life for all. .

- The Champlain Student Government Association is working with Champlain Administration to develop proactive student mentoring and monitoring programs.

We at Champlain value our relationships with our neighbors and will continue to monitor this situation and update the community on our progress.

Michel George
Associate Vice President of Campus Planning and Auxiliary Services
Champlain College

163 South Willard Street
PO Box 670
Burlington, VT 05402-0670
phone: 802-865-5470
fax: 802-860-2765

FURTHER UPDATES ON NOISE CONCERNS

By Karen Paul, City Councilor - Ward 6, Crescent Rd, paulfin@sover.net
Fri, 02 October 2009

Dear South Union, Summit and King/Maple Neighbors - First, my apologies for the length of this email. Your concerns that have been expressed in Front Porch Forum and in emails to me have been taken very seriously and I'd like to give you an update of the progress we are making.

As the Free Press reported a few days ago, I asked the UVM and Champlain leadership, their police and public safety groups as well as students to meet and discuss this most important concern to the preservation of our neighborhoods. The invitation to meet was met with great success and I am happy to report that both institutions (and many students) take this issue as seriously as you do.

A few weeks ago, I had posted that if you had a property in your neighborhood that was particularly problematic to please email me and let me know. Some of you did and here's what we did. Gail Champnois and Alicia Taylor of UVM and Claire Williams of Champlain and I worked cooperatively to find out who the landlord on the property was and directly engage them. We also got a list of noise violations for the properties (which is why it's so important to call the police when there's a problem.) We found all the landlords were very upset and it did not take more than the end of that business day for them to contact their tenants. Alicia and I met with some of the tenants yesterday at one such property on South Winooski Avenue and Officer Scott Davidson also met with them. The landlords all made it clear that their leases stipulated no more such behavior would be tolerated.

We did this with several properties over the past two weeks and so far, it's been very successful.

Just so you know, I completely respect the confidentiality of the neighbor that contact me and no one but me knows who you are. In many cases, the landlord wants to know who made the complaint so they can call and apologize. Often the students want to apologize and reach out to the neighbor. I will call the neighbor and it's then their decision if they wish to remain anonymous or engage the landlord or students.

Both UVM and Champlain have developed plans to address student noise as

well as the recent vandalism of our precious trees. I have seen Champlain's plan and it's most impressive. They will post it directly on FPF for you.

I am excerpting from a recent email from Gail Shampnois about UVM's response to the noise:

(II) Accountability:

*The UVM Office for Student Ethics and Standards (CSES) is responding in a 3 Tiered process to students who receive off-campus violations. The financial impact of the municipal tickets does change behavior as students who receive tickets tend not to re-offend according to the data that we have from year to year. We also track properties as well and we don't often see the same property being cited. And, if a property is cited multiple times, it ramps up the response from CSES.

(III) Outreach and Education:

*Welcome Bags: We are continuing to deliver Welcome Bags with a conversation in neighborhoods where our students live, including south end neighborhoods.

*Have a Heart events: We held 2 in Sept. at all of the on-campus dining halls. SGA and Greek community members handed the attached flier and a Lake Champlain Chocolate to students and talked to them about the composition of the neighborhoods and the impact that late-night activity has on them.

*Residential Life: The staff has put up posters of the attached flier in the residence halls and has sent our communications about the impact of walk-by. Res.Life also had a whole section in their RA training on being good neighbors, which the RA's then use for programming for their Res. Hall residents throughout the year.

*Off Campus Living E-Mail Newsletter: In our Oct. issue, we will include a piece about the late-night impacts.

*SGA Pres. Bryce Jones Weekly E-Mail: I am cc'ing Bryce on this e-mail in case he wants to send out something to students about the activity in neighborhoods and its impact on neighbors in his weekly e-mail.

*Off Campus Living Workshops: We will be doing 4 in Nov. and Dec. The workshops are 3-hour workshops with 14 panelists from UVM and from Burlington (landlords; residents; City Councilors; VT Tenants Inc.; Code Enforcement; City Attn'y's Office; ...) - who provide info. on tenant-landlord rights and responsibilities; what it means to be a Burlington citizen (ordinances, ...); how to be involved in the community; how to protect yourself from crime; ...

(IV) UVM Administration Ride-a-longs with the BPD:

*Joe Speidel (Joe.Speidel@uvm.edu) is the contact for the administration with regard to the ride-a-longs and I believe he has talked with Chief Schilring about this. I have cc'd Joe here in case he has an update.

Other Items:

(1) Landlords: The best resource here is the Code Enforcement Office as they send out regular communications to landlords. For a universal lease example, you can ask Brooke Hadwen, I believe she was working with city partners on this.

(2) Off Campus Late-Night Shuttle: I have a call in to share the comments made at our meeting about the shuttle. We are in the process of hiring a new Director for Transportation and Parking Services, so there may be some delay in making major changes to the route. I will keep you updated about this.

That's some of what UVM is doing.

I am going to work with Code Enforcement to get a letter into their next mailing to landlords encouraging them to see that their leases have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to student noise and high expectations when it comes to student behavior in our neighborhoods.

You will be hearing from Champlain shortly on their initiatives.

If you have any suggestions, comments or wish to report a property to me, please be in touch and let me know.

Thanks for your time and again, my apologies for the very lengthy email. -
Karen