



# RC & Housing Notes

October 2007

## Spring 2008 Housing Q & A:

**Question:** Will you be attending SSU for the Spring 2008 Semester?

The petition must be filled out completely and is necessary if a student wishes to request that they be released from his or her Housing License Agreement for Spring 2008.

**Answer:** YES, I will be attending classes for Spring 2008: Great. As per your Housing License Agreement, you are contracted to be back on campus January 24, 2008.

**Question:** I want to take classes, but do not want to live on campus. Can I move off?

**Answer:** NO, I will not be attending classes for Spring 2008: Please stop by the Housing Office, located in Zinfandel Hall, and fill out a Petition to Vacate form.

**“Can I break my Housing License Agreement? I will not be here for the Spring semester.”**

**Answer:** Has there been a change due to extraordinary Financial, Medical or Personal reason? Please stop by the Housing Office, located in Zinfandel Hall and fill out a Petition to Vacate form. Once all the appropriate documentation has been submitted to the

**Answer:** NOT SURE if I will be attending classes for Spring 2008: If you are waiting to hear back from another university, participating in the National Student Exchange, are not sure if you will meet the academic requirements set by SSU, or if you are uncertain about your enrollment status here at SSU, please stop by the Housing Office and fill out a Petition to Vacate form.

Housing Office, you may be contacted for follow up questions or possibly to schedule a meeting between you and the Quality of Life Committee. This will be your opportunity to explain your extraordinary circumstance. You will receive written notification in your campus mailbox once the committee has rendered a decision.

Please be aware, the Student Housing License Agreement is a legal binding contract for the full Academic Year (Fall 2007—Spring 2008). **Residents who are not definite about attending SSU for Spring 2008 will need to pick up a “Petition to Vacate” form in the Housing Office located in Zinfandel Hall. The deadline to submit a Petition to Vacate without incurring a \$250 fee is November 15th. Petitions submitted in January may incur rent fees.**

Specific guidelines for Petitioning to Vacate are available in the Housing Office. The guidelines will explain the required documentation needed and the financial obligation. If you have questions pertaining to this process, please contact Housing Services at 664 - 2541.

## Gobble Gobble Gobble

The Residential Community will be open during Thanksgiving break, November 21st - 23rd. There is no additional cost to you if you wish to remain on campus during this time. If you are planning to stay during the break, you will need to come into the Housing Office, located in Zinfandel Hall, to sign up. The last meal served out of the Dining Hall before break will be dinner on Tuesday, November 20th. **Dining Hall will be closed Wednesday, November 21st and will reopen for breakfast on Monday, November 26th.**

## Housing Payments

### Fall 2007 Payments:

At this time, all housing accounts including those with Financial Aid disbursements should be paid in full. The final housing payment was due October 1st. A past due notice will be sent to your mailbox if your account has an outstanding balance. If you are unsure about your account balance, please feel free to contact Customer Services at 664-2308.

### Spring 2008 Payments:

Spring 2008 housing payments are as followed:

- January 1, 2008
- February 1, 2008
- March 1, 2008
- April 1, 2008

## Room Inspections

Whether you are moving out of your room because you are leaving the Residential Community or changing rooms, a room inspection is performed on the room to identify any excessive damage or cleaning needs. Students remaining in the bedroom or unit will be notified of the required inspection by Housing, either by phone or email. If Housing is unable to reach a resident of the unit, they are allowed to enter the facility to perform the inspection as stated in the Student Housing License Agreement.

Findings from the inspection are reconciled with the Room Condition form that may or may not have been submitted at the start of occupancy. Charges are applied to the student’s account and may be divided equally with all residents if the damage is in common living area.

## Winter Break - Residential Community Closed

All residents need to leave their residence no later than NOON on Saturday, December 15th. If you are flying home for the break, please make arrangements for leaving the residences prior to noon on Saturday, December 15th. If this causes you hardship, please contact Housing Services to make other arrangements.

The Residential Community is closed for break **December 15th** and will reopen **January 24th**. You are not contracted to be living on campus during this break. If you are taking Intersession classes, working, or participating in collegiate athletics and need to return earlier than January 24th, "Intersession Housing" will be available at an additional cost.

During the semester break, you may leave your personal belongings in your room; however, we do advise residents to take home valuable items. Remember to lock all

windows and sliding doors and to lock bedroom doors for better security measures. Residents approved for an **End of Semester Room Change** will be notified by mail of when they can switch rooms. These room changes will require bringing all personal belongings home because the University will need to perform room inspections and cleaning/maintenance during the break. More about End of Semester Room Change process will be in the November issue of your *Housing Notes*.

### Intersession Housing

Intersession Housing will be available for residents starting Wednesday, January 2, 2008. There will be an additional cost to live on campus during Intersession. Residents will need to contract for a minimum of one week. Cost will be posted in next month's *Housing Notes*. Residents will stay in their current room

during the semester break if they sign up by the December 7th deadline. Fall Housing account balances must be clear in order for you sign up for Intersession Housing.

Applications will be available in the Housing Office starting November 13th. All other University fees must be paid in full prior to returning to campus. If you have any questions regarding Intersession Housing, please call Housing Services at 664-2541.

### December 15th—January 1st

Residents are not to be in the Residential Community during this time. If you need housing during these weeks, please contact Linda Williams with the Associated Students office at 664-3998. Associated Students may be able to put eligible University students up at a local motel free of charge for up to 14 days, at their discretion.

## Trick - or -Treat

The Residential Student Association, RSA, is proud to present the 6th Annual Safe Trick-Or-Treat within the Residential Community. The Safe Trick-Or-Treat is an event for residents to open their doors to children of the SSU campus and Rohnert Park area for a safe and fun afternoon of trick-or-treating. The event will be held the afternoon of Sunday, October 28th in the Sauvignon Village. Please check with your Village Council for more information!



This is a great opportunity to participate in Halloween and see cute children dressed as pirates, cheerleaders, super heroes and more!

## Help - the Washer Stopped!

Has this happened to you? You are doing a load of laundry and come back to the washer after 15 minutes to find that the washer stopped mid-way through the wash cycle? Have you put clothes in the dryer after 45 minutes, they are still not dry - not even warm?

If this happens to you, please contact Housing Services at 664-2541 and report the problem. You will need to make sure you give your location and the machine number so that Housing can have a technician come out to repair the machine.

## A Message from Dining Services

"Going Green", has become a household phrase, and everyone seems to be doing what they can to help the environment. University Dining Services has joined the effort by incorporating new products that are ecologically friendly. Zinfandel Dining Hall is working with companies such as Bridge Gate and Stalkmarket, who excel in sustainability. This allows Zinfandel Dining Hall to switch from paper goods to biodegradable products.

So how can you help? Please keep in mind that Zinfandel Dining Hall is an all-you-care-to-eat facility. In order to cut down on the waste this facility generates please only take the food you plan to eat. Remember that you can always go back for more.

### Healthy Options and Dining Services:

Residents tell us that they want healthier choices at our dining venues. University Dining Services is listening and we want to help you make healthier choices when it comes to your everyday dining. In Zinfandel Dining Hall, we have worked with the Student Health Center to provide you with healthy options that are available to you at every meal. You can find these healthy choice menus in the table tents or on the menu board when you first come into the building. In the Marketplace, we have found great local companies to work with, such as Amy's Kitchen and Raquel's, who provide amazing vegan, vegetarian and wheat-free options.

We want to hear from you. If you have any questions or comments about sustainability or healthy choices please feel free to contact us at [dining@sonoma.edu](mailto:dining@sonoma.edu)

## Message from the Student Health Center

You may have heard about increasingly common skin infections caused by bacteria that are resistant to certain antibiotics. These “MRSA” germs cause the same types of infection as antibiotic sensitive bacteria—things like sores, boils, or draining wounds. Most such infections aren't serious, but can become so, especially without medical care. Germs can also spread to other body parts and other people unless people do the following:

- ◆ Everyone should frequently and thoroughly wash their hands, take daily head to toe showers or baths, and never share personal items such as towels, bar soap, tweezers, make-up, razors, unwashed clothing, etc.
- ◆ SSU students with symptoms should visit the Student Health Center (707 664-2921) or another medical facility. They should avoid squeezing or trying to drain sores and should keep them covered with clean, dry bandages. Used bandages should be immediately placed in a tightly closed trash bag. Possibly contaminated items should be disinfected after each use and frequently touched surfaces (bathrooms, door knobs, phones) should be cleaned daily with fresh dilute 1:10 bleach & water solution or a store-bought disinfectant like Lysol. Soiled linens and clothes should be washed with hot water, detergent and bleach, and dried completely.

Check [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/ARESIST/mrsa\\_comm\\_faqs.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/ARESIST/mrsa_comm_faqs.htm) for more information.

## My Toilet Will Not Stop Running!!!

We encourage all residents to monitor your living environment and to place a maintenance request if something is damaged, broken or leaking in your suite/apartment. The Maintenance line is 664-4021.

When you contact the Maintenance line, you will have two options:

**Option One:** Resident allows a Facilities crew member to enter the residence without someone being present. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, work request will be completed within two business days.

**Option two:** Resident makes an appointment to be present when a Facilities crew member addresses the work request. Facilities appointments will be available on Wednesdays between 9:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

To help expedite service, we encourage residents to allow Facilities crew members to enter the suite/apartment with out the resident present. We have found trying to schedule time between a resident's class /work schedule and a Facilities crew member schedule may delay the repair work.

### Commons Maintenance Request

#### **Clogged Toilets/ Sinks**

We recommend that residents try plunging the toilet or sink before calling Maintenance at 664-4021.

#### **Ants & Other Pests**

The best way to prevent ants from having a party in your suite/apartment is to keep your place clean. Take out trash and recycling, wash dishes, put away food. If you still have unwanted pest, call Maintenance at 664-4021.

The Maintenance line is monitored during regular University hours Monday through Friday. If you have an emergency (plumbing leak, no electricity, door or window that is broken or will not lock, fire) that can not wait until the University is open, please contact your Residential Life Coordinator or on-call ResLife staff immediately to report the problem.