

HOUSING GUIDE



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02



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EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear readers,

Every spring, Cherry Creative publishes an edition of the Housing Guide in hopes that something inside helps you to better navigate your college home. If you're looking to cut your electric bill (page 19), give your Goodwill find a face-lift (page 4) or set boundaries with your roommates (page 8), I'm happy to tell you that you've come to the right place. However, I'm even more excited to tell you about something else we've been working on just for you.

There are lots of options when it comes to living in Bowling Green, and it can be difficult to choose one. We want to make that process a little easier. The new WKUApartments.com is the place for WKU students to explore the best housing options for off-campus living, complete with video tours and 360° camera walkthroughs of some of the most popular spots around BG. We are also excited to introduce Housing Week – a virtual version of the annual Housing Fair taking place March 1-5, 2021. While exploring WKUApartments.com, you can enter giveaways for an iPad, gift cards and other items and read stories on the ins and outs of college housing. Lastly, keep an eye on the College Heights Herald and Talisman Instagram accounts during Housing Week – our Cherry Creative editors will be doing daily takeovers featuring some of the best student housing options Bowling Green has to offer.

We hope these new features help you find your next home or improve your current space.

Good luck out there Hilltoppers,

Emma Spainhoward
Cherry Creative Director



WKU HOUSING WEEK

**See what local apartments have to
offer and win prizes**

March 1-5



SECONDHAND SPRUCE-UP

You reach the register at Goodwill feeling a sense of accomplishment. After scouring the racks of well-loved clothes, furniture, books and more, you finally found the perfect flannel shirt and dresser for your space. Beyond the bargain, you know this store is all about serving the community; it's literally written on the walls in short phrases about its mission.

The ease of donating encourages giving, and low prices provide people with easy access to quality items. Not only does buying second-hand help the environment, but each purchase also funds employment for Kentuckians in need or with disabilities. From the kind folks you meet at the donation center to the person who checks you out, the atmosphere at Goodwill is undeniably uplifting.

Once you overcome the initial rush of savings and gratification, it's time to get to work. The flannel shirt needs a little flair and the dresser a subtle face-lift to match its new home. The following fixes are easy ways you can spruce up your Goodwill finds before they are loved for years to come.

FIND A BUTTON TO SEW ONTO YOUR NEW PIECE

- A wide variety of buttons are cheap and easy to find at craft stores like Michaels or Hobby Lobby.
- It doesn't need to be an exact match; a mismatched button can add pizzazz to your clothing.
- Make sure you have a needle, thread, a button and scissors.
- Lay the button in place and use the needle to feed the thread over and under through each hole until it's secure.
- Tie the remaining thread in a knot and cut the excess thread to finish.

MEND THE HOLES

- Whether it's a new couch or clothing, refine it by sewing up its holes in the fabric.
- Grab a needle, scissors and matching thread for optimal looks.
- If the hole can't be stitched back together, grab a patch of fabric to attach to the material for a unique and fashionable look.
- This is 2021 — you can look up easy step-by-step videos by Youtubers like Professor Pincushion.

BUFF OUT SCRATCHES

- Just like mending holes, buffing out scratches on furniture is an easy way to make it look like new.
- Purchase a sanding sponge from your local hardware store, and sand in the direction of the grain if buffing wood.
- You can also purchase a scratch cover oil and use steel wool to buff.



The 31-W Bypass Goodwill in Bowling Green displays their slogan, “Goodwill means good jobs” across the side wall of the store to show that Goodwill is dedicated to giving jobs to the members of the community. Goodwill offers up to \$5,000 per year in tuition reimbursements. To explore employment opportunities, visit www.goodwillky.org/jobs.

CHANGE THE FIXTURES

- With a proper screwdriver and new fixtures purchased from a hardware or craft store, you can switch up the knobs, handles, hinges or other hardware on your furniture to best reflect your taste.
- Be sure to have the correct screwdriver and to measure distance between any holes before purchasing new hardware.

GET CREATIVE

- If the dresser you bought has a missing drawer, simply fill the space with a cute basket!
- If it's not quite the color you wanted, a quick paint job will do the trick to make it fit your vision.

PRO TIP: Shopping Goodwill's color of the week sale will get you even better deals. Items tagged with the designated color are 50% off Monday through Saturday and are just 99 cents on Sunday. Just remember that when you shop Goodwill, you buy something good and do something great.

MICROWAVE GOURMET



Story by Olivia Harden | Photos by Cristina Betz

The microwave has revolutionized dorm life for many college students ever since it was popularized. With its minimal price and ease of use, the microwave has become pivotal in allowing students to cook cheaply for themselves with little stress or fuss. Despite all the pros of microwave meals, they can get repetitive. If you are stuck in the cycle of making disappointing Lean Cuisines or resorting to popcorn every night, here are some easy recipes adapted from Tasty to give you a homemade taste in minutes.

Loaded potato: The ultimate comfort vegetable!

1 russet potato (washed)
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 slices of bacon
¼ cup shredded cheese
Sour cream or chives to serve
Salt and pepper to taste

- With a fork, poke holes in the potato and rub with salt and olive oil.
- Place the bacon on the same plate as the potato.
- Microwave for 7-9 minutes or until the bacon is crisp and the potato is tender.
- Crumble the bacon once it's cooled.
- Slice the potato in half and fluff the insides with a fork.
- Sprinkle the cheese on the potato and microwave for another 30 seconds.
- Top with sour cream, chives and bacon. Voila!



Chicken quesadilla: It's fiesta time!

2 flour tortillas
½ cup shredded chicken (cooked)
½ diced bell pepper
1 tablespoon taco seasoning
¼ cup shredded cheddar cheese

- Microwave tortillas for 1 minute or until slightly crispy.
- In a small bowl, mix the chicken, peppers and taco seasoning.
- Microwave for 1-2 minutes or until the peppers are soft.
- Spread the mixture onto a tortilla and cover with cheese.
- Cover with the other tortilla.
- Microwave for 30 seconds to 1 minute and enjoy!

Chocolate mug cake: Treat yourself!

¼ cup all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
¼ teaspoon baking powder
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
¼ teaspoon salt
1/8 cup milk
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 tablespoon chocolate chips

- In a bowl, combine all dry ingredients, except the chocolate chips.
- Add the oil and milk. Mix until there are no clumps.
- Pour batter into a 12 ounce microwave-safe mug.
- Sprinkle the chocolate chips on top.
- Place a paper towel over the mug.
- Microwave for 70 seconds or until a toothpick is clean after inserting it in the middle.
- Enjoy your indulgent creation!

Mug omelette: Give your cereal a break!

2 eggs
½ bell pepper (diced)
2 slices of ham (diced)
¼ cup chopped spinach
Salt and pepper to taste

- In a microwave-safe mug, combine all ingredients.
- Microwave for 2-3 minutes, stopping to stir halfway through.
- Enjoy your yummy breakfast!



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ROOMMATE rules

Story by Abbey Norvell and Rylee McKee | Illustrations by Katie Ulrich



Moving to college is filled with new adventures and experiences. While getting out on your own can be thrilling, living with new roommates can be intimidating, especially if you've only lived with family members or have never shared a room before.

College brings people together that wouldn't have otherwise met, which means people who are very different are put in situations to bond and mesh. In the same way that everyone has a different personality, everyone has a certain way they're accustomed to living. So, the best route to take in navigating this situation might be to establish roommate rules or a loose contract of what to expect from each of you in your new living arrangement.

Murfreesboro, Tennessee, sophomore Riley

O'Boyle and Whitesburg sophomore Maddie Pettus have lived together in their cozy room in a large house for about six months.

"Riley and I get along very well, so our roommate situation works for us," Pettus said. "We will have random cleaning days where we deep clean our whole room on the weekends. We like to choose when we'll wake up the next day too, if we don't have morning classes."

In Pettus and Boyle's case, their established rules help them further navigate living in a large house with other girls.

"We knew and told each other at the beginning that we would be respectful of each other's space," Boyle said. "We have our cleaning days on the weekends together, but we always make sure that we don't trash each other's sides of the room. Since we're friends, we were able to talk about that. I also love that it doesn't bother her that my alarm is usually set for 10:27 a.m. We really mesh well."

In a general sense, roommate agreements revolve around what works best in your specific situation. For some students, establishing rules is a simple process with friends.

Glasgow senior Will Harris lives in a house near campus with three of his friends. They carefully made living decisions that have paid off this year.

"My roommates and I decided to live in our house about this time last year," Harris said. "We were already very close so it made the decision easy to live together. Luckily, we are all very similar so we never get into arguments, and living together has made for an extremely enjoyable year."

Establishing unspoken rules that all roommates follow is also essential to the harmony of the house.

"We're on the same schedules, have the same house rules that are 'unspoken' and are all just extremely great friends," Harris said. "It is a perfect combination."

While living with his friends was a smooth transition for Harris, Lexington sophomore and Resident Assistant Karis Sandefur said that roommate agreements can be stressful because the outcome can make or break a housing experience. If certain topics aren't discussed between roommates, it could result in a conflict.

"I think one of the most common conflicts I have seen in my time as an RA is the sharing of personal items," Sandefur said in an email. "If I were to be filling out the roommate agreement, I would definitely discuss in detail with my roommate what we are each comfortable with sharing, and if we are comfortable with a free for all, asking for permission or not at all."

Thankfully, WKU Housing and Residence Life provides dorm residents with a form that guides roommates through discussion topics designed to avoid future conflicts such as these. Sandefur added that it includes negotiating on visitation, cleanliness, bedtimes and more.

At the end of the day, roommate rules and contracts can help promote healthy communication and clear expectations in living situations, which prevents living situations from driving people apart. They can help build strong friendships through shared experiences. You and your roommate might have fun along the way, too.

SAMPLE ROOMMATE AGREEMENT

What rules do you and your roommate need to discuss? Here are some questions to get you started:

- What are our rules for shared items (fridge, TV, etc.)?
- Do we want to establish quiet hours for sleep/study?
- When is it OK to have visitors?
- Is it OK to have overnight guests?
- How many visitors at a time are OK?
- How clean will we keep our place?
- Do we want to make a cleaning schedule?
- What temperature should the room be?
- What items are OK to take or borrow from each other?
- What is OK to do while the other is sleeping? TV? Music? Guests?
- What is OK to do while the other is studying?
- What are our steps for resolving conflict?



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Desks with Major

Story by Hannah Crisp | Photos by Allie Cornwell

A peek into any student's dorm will reveal a desk well-loved by many students throughout its lifetime. It's a place where students spend hours typing away on laptops, completing assignments and studying for exams. Beyond that, this workspace assumes the personality of its owner. Take a look at how these students of different majors choose to decorate theirs.



Personality



San Antonio sophomore Madison Fowlkes, a social media marketing major, makes the most of her desk space by doubling it as a vanity. After all, a girl's got to be ready for Instagram selfies. "My workspace to me is a place where I can bring my creativity to life," Fowlkes said. "My desk also is a good space because I have a place where I can get ready and shoot content if needed!" Her LimeLight mirror and makeup collection serve as decor along with some baby succulents — because who doesn't love baby succulents? Plus, you've got to love that Edison bulb lamp tucked behind them. It's definitely a social media worthy space.



Newburgh, Indiana, junior Meghan Hodges' desk is artfully decorated with bright colors, plants and candles, which is fitting for a visual arts and graphic design major. Hodges likes to display her plants on her desk for everyone to see. "For me, my desk is a comfortable space where I feel inspired," Hodges said. "All of my supplies I need are within a hands reach so my desk is very convenient to work at." Colored pencils litter the space, and, if you look closely, you might spot a young Gru from "Despicable Me."



Milton junior Isabella Hines, who majors in biology with a concentration on physical therapy, has her desk sitting in a cute corner beside her window. She has all her essentials tucked into a neat divider, leaving space for plenty of studying (undoubtedly, being a biology major and a psychology minor requires a lot of it). "My workspace is a place I can truly focus on my work, and a good workspace for me is somewhere you can feel comfortable and relaxed so that getting work done seems like a breeze," Hines said.





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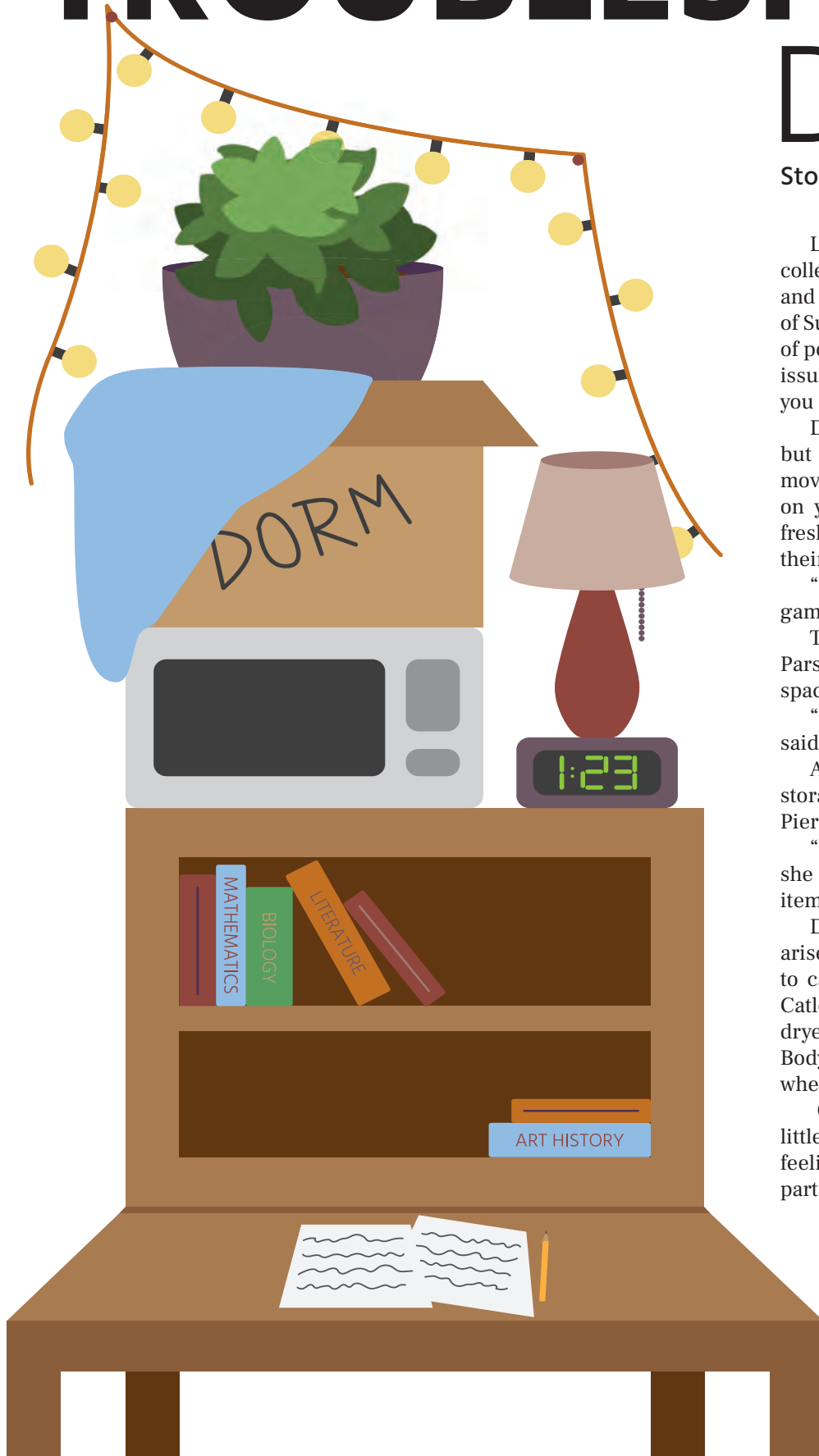
IN-UNIT WASHER/DRYERS

PET FRIENDLY UNITS



TROUBLESHOOTING DORM LIFE

Story by Josie Keeley | Illustration by Kayla Worden



Living on-campus can be a fun experience. You're in the hub of college activity; you're surrounded by other students in the same boat, and you can have Chick-Fil-A whenever you want (with the exception of Sundays). Despite its perks, dorm life is known to have its own host of potential problems, from small spaces to bad smells. Though some issues may feel daunting, other students manage to make it work, and you can too!

Dorm rooms are notoriously small and sometimes feel cramped, but creative room layouts can help maximize space. All furniture is movable, and the beds can be lofted, lowered or bunked depending on your preference. Bardstown freshman Ray Saul and Leithfield freshman Taeja Parsons moved their beds against one long wall of their room and put their wardrobes and desks on the opposite side.

"The setup makes it a lot nicer if we want to watch TV or play video games," Saul said. "And it gives us a lot more space."

Their beds are lofted with their dressers stashed beneath them. Parsons recommended this arrangement because it allows for more space, but it can make getting in bed more difficult.

"I do recommend an ottoman if you're vertically challenged," she said. "It makes getting up and down a lot easier."

Another common complaint of dorm living is the apparent lack of storage. However, there is a solution. Smiths Grove senior Meghan Pierce said she creates storage with containers in open spaces.

"There is actually a lot of space under beds or above wardrobes," she said. "Personally, I like to recycle food containers for smaller items, and Target or Amazon is a great place to look for larger ones."

Dorms are designed for communal living, so problems sometimes arise from the buildings themselves. For instance, vents are known to carry bad smells from room to room. Louisville freshman Laila Catlett has handeled dorm odors by spraying Febreze and putting dryer sheets in the vents in her room. According to Saul, Bath and Body Works' car air fresheners also work well for neutralizing smells when placed in the vents.

Overall, most issues that occur in dorms can be resolved with a little creativity, and resident assistants can also help you when you're feeling stumped. Though it can be frustrating, problem solving is part of what makes dorm life interesting. You got this, Hilltoppers!

Reduce, Reuse, Upcycle

Story by Marshall Dees | Photo by Cristina Betz

Earth is a beautiful yet tragically temporary place. As such, it's up to each of us to adopt recycling habits to help utilize "waste" products to their fullest potential. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average American produces 4.9 pounds of trash per day. This places us as the top producers of waste globally, a reputation more "trashy" than admirable. To combat that, these five DIY project ideas can turn "unrecyclable garbage" into useful, repurposed material.

1. EMPTIED CANDLE JARS AS STORAGE CONTAINERS

Who doesn't love burning candles to bring some fragrance to a room? And who doesn't know the frustration of having to toss out a jar with a little wax left just out of reach? With this tip, not only can you reclaim your glass candle jars to utilize as containers, but you can also salvage that leftover wax to use in a wax warmer.

To clean out your old candle jars, place the jar in a freezer for a couple hours. This causes the wax inside to harden so you can easily pry it out with a knife. After removing the wax, fill the emptied container with hot soapy water and let it soak for a few minutes before scrubbing it clean. Then, voila! You're left with a perfectly usable jar for storage, repotting small plants and more. To recycle the leftover wax, simply collect the remains you gathered and place them in a wax warmer to melt down the broken pieces into a unified, reusable lump.

2. TO-GO CONTAINERS AS TUPPERWARE

Those plastic to-go boxes that once held your Olive Garden leftovers can be perfect additions to your Tupperware collection for lunch on-the-go or future food storage. When cleaning, remember to hand wash or place the tupperware on the top rack of your dishwasher if dishwasher safe to avoid it melting!

3. GROCERY SACKS AS SMALL TRASH BAGS

When you forget to bring reusable bags, your grocery trip can end with an overwhelming amount of plastic ones. Thankfully, those sacks make fantastic impromptu garbage bags for small bins throughout the house, which allows you to cut your trash bag budget. They can also be used to transport items or other forms of waste disposal if you have a pet for a roommate.



Candles frequently come in beautiful and quality containers, which most people throw away after the candle is used. After a thorough rinse, these jars can be repurposed as storage containers for jewelry, cotton balls or even small snacks.

4. SIX-PACK BOXES TO HOLD KITCHEN ITEMS

Don't have the money to spend on a frivolous metal napkin holder or silverware organizer? Repurpose your hollowed out six-pack containers! Just place your kitchenware neatly within the emptied drink holders for an easy and organized kitchen set.

5. CARDBOARD BOXES FOR SHIPPING AND STORAGE

In the digital shopping age of Amazon, we've all become proud owners of cardboard boxes. Sadly, this can lead to a lack of space, causing many of us to toss them without a second thought. Next time you come across a decent box in your possession, consider using it to organize and store things in your house like clothing or cleaning products. Even if you can't find any space around the house to use a box, you can just as easily break it down and save it for future shipping needs. Better yet, if you're a cat fanatic, an enticing box may be the perfect addition to your home.



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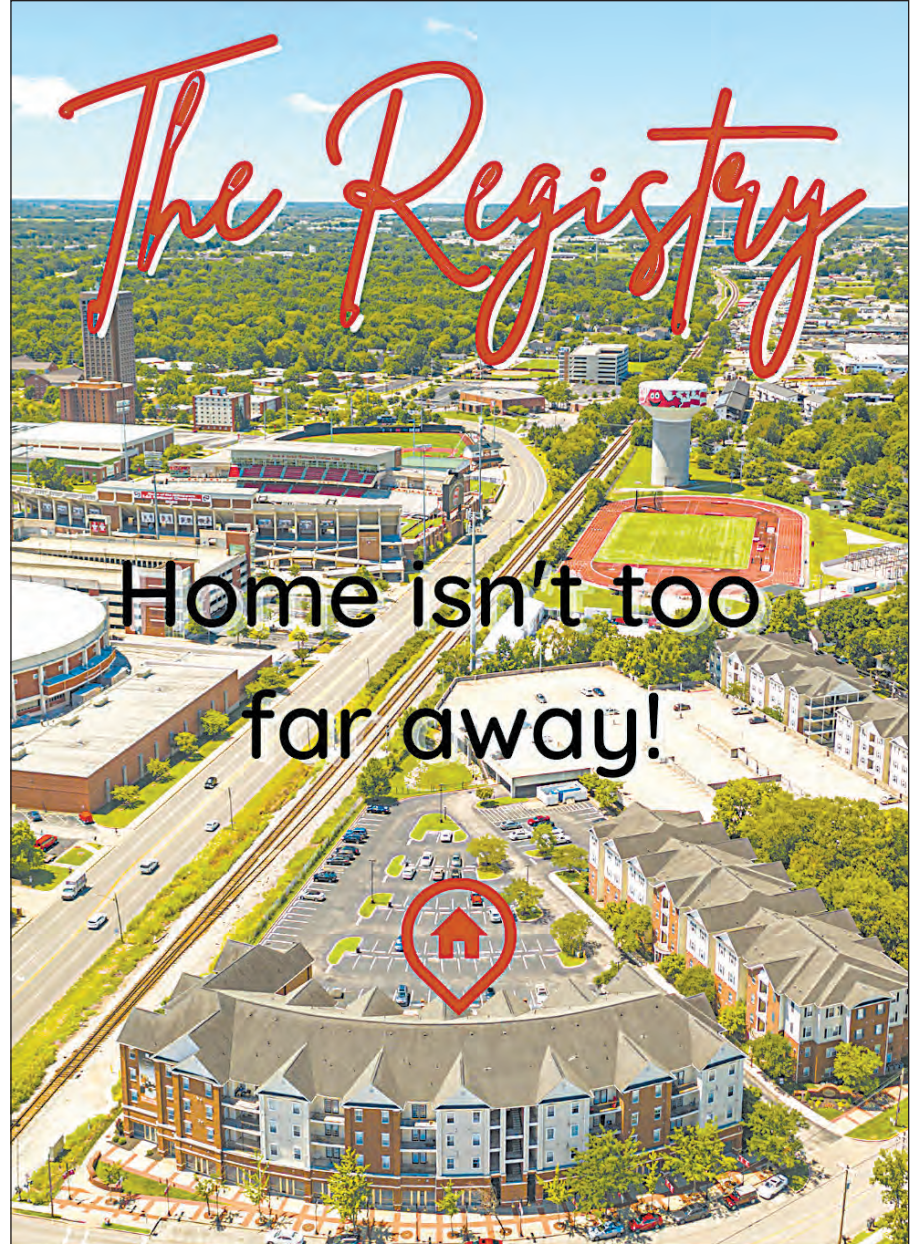
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Illustrations by Katie Ulrich

→ **SIDE A**

9 to 5
Dolly Parton

So Fresh, So Clean
Outkast

Backyard Boy
Claire Rosinkranz

Cabin Fever
Jaden Smith

Stella Brown
Jelani Aryeh

Josslyn
Olivia O'Brien

POV
Ariana Grande

Clean Me Up
Thomas Headon

→ **SIDE B**

Canyon Moon
Harry Styles

Bad Decisions
The Strokes

Buttons
Meija

The Spins
Mac Miller

Up Up & Away
Jelani Aryeh

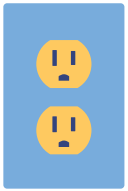
Narcissist
No Rome (ft. The 1975)

Power
Kanye West

No Scrubs
TLC

5 TIPS TO HELP THE PLANET AND YOUR UTILITY BILL

“Minimizing your footprint” is a common goal when it comes to the environment, but it can be difficult to know how to start. Whether you live in a dorm, house or apartment, we have tips that will help you make small changes to conserve energy and lower your utility bills.



25% of energy consumed by appliances is used when they are plugged in, even if they are turned off

1. Turn off and unplug unnecessary electronics

This tip might seem obvious, but any computers, cell phones and appliances should be turned off or unplugged when not in use. This is an easy way to save energy and can, in some cases, help lower electricity bills.



5% of total energy cost is derived from lighting

2. Use natural light

The sun gifts you with a free source of light every day. Instead of turning on your artificial lights, you can pull back curtains or raise blinds to let its rays reach you inside. Not only will you conserve electricity, but you'll also boost your mood and serotonin levels thanks to the natural light. Just be sure to close the curtains again at dusk in colder months to keep the heat inside!



1 load = 20 gallons of water (standard washing machine)

3. Wash full loads

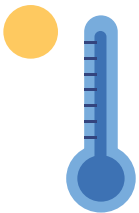
It's all or nothing when it comes to laundry and dishes. Full loads mean fewer loads overall, which helps reduce water consumption and, by extension, your water bill.



5 mins = 10.5 gallons of water (national average for shower head flow)

4. Take smart showers

Adjusting your shower length and temperature can save you both money and water. While shorter, colder showers might be less enjoyable than long, hot ones, the environment and your wallet will thank you. For cost estimates, the “Shower Cost Calculator” published on the Omni Calculator website gives you statistics when you input information on your showering habits.



8 degrees closer to the outside temp will save 10% on electricity

5. Adjust your thermostat

Modifying your thermostat to correlate with the seasonal temperatures is not only good for the environment but can also decrease your bill up to 10%. Ideal temperatures during the day are 68 degrees for winter and 78 for summer but can be lowered when you leave the house, sleep or travel. The closer your house temperature is to the environment temperature, the less you pay.

Both energy conservation and waste minimization are known to improve the air quality and promote a healthy environment. However, these actions also positively impact individuals by cutting down the cost of bills. These small steps can lead to big differences in the world and in your life.

An illustration of a tablet with a dark grey frame and a light grey screen. On the screen is a brown line-art icon of a house with a magnifying glass inside. A white stylus with a black tip is positioned vertically to the left of the tablet. Another white stylus lies horizontally below the tablet. In the background, there is a faint pattern of geometric shapes.

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