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# Subletting option for homebound students

## Informal contract best way to save

BY SARAH FRIER  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

With less than three weeks until the end of the semester, students with long apartment leases are scrambling to find someone to pay the rent during the summer months.

Advertisements are cropping up online at Web sites such as Facebook Marketplace, craigslist.org and Uloop, and fliers are posted all around campus.

Senior Ashley Pate said that she's never subletted before and that she wishes she'd started advertising sooner.

"I'm in desperate need of a subletter for this summer, or I'll be stuck with two rents for three months," Pate said, adding that finding someone to take her place is a pain. "I have no other option."

Subletting — informal arrangements that pass off leases from the legal holder to a temporary resident — is the main option students have if they don't plan on sticking around Chapel Hill during the summer.

"There is not really a legal contract as with a lease you sign with a landlord," said Stephanie Chen, who is subletting her house this summer. "It's all done the 'friendly way,' and if someone backs out of a sublease there's nothing really you can do about it."

Sophomore Mariama Evans is looking for a sublet this summer. She lives up North and said it would be expensive to move her belongings back and forth.

"It works for me during the summer months because I stay on campus during the year and have nowhere to go in May," she said. "It can be cheaper to sublet, and for me, it's more convenient."

For students looking to stay in Chapel Hill during the summer, others' desperation can mean easy housing.

Sophomore Elizabeth French, who needs someone to take her townhouse's rent while she studies abroad this summer, said subletting is worth it even if she doesn't charge the full cost of the apartment.

"Even negotiating on the rent will help me and someone else, so everyone wins," she said.

For those scrambling to find subletters, advertising generates



DTH FILE/NC HAMDEN

Carolina Apartments, in Carrboro, is an option for students looking to rent during the summer. Many apartments allow their residents to sublet.

## Last minute subletting tips

- Popular summer rentals include neighborhoods north of Rosemary, on Ransom Street or in Carrboro around Weaver Street Market. The Verge apartments, Warehouse Apartments and Mill Creek condominiums also offer options.
- Rental opportunities often open up as late as May as students finalize their summer plans and find jobs.
- Alternative sublet-advertising methods include Facebook Marketplace, craigslist.org and UNC's Off-Campus Posting Board,

which is located on the housing Web site.

➤ Renters should ask their landlords if they provide subleasing contracts, which can help ensure that rules and regulations are abided by and the tenants won't be held responsible for damages.

➤ Sublessors also should ask for a copy of the lease to make sure they know their rights and responsibilities. They also should talk to the property manager so they won't be held responsible for previous damages.

some interest.

UNC alumna Meagan Griffin said she advertised with fliers in Davis and Undergraduate libraries and with advertisements on craigslist and Facebook.

"Facebook has definitely generated the most interest," Griffin said. "I've had a few people express some interest, but it's hard because so many apartments are available."

It takes time to hear back from advertisements, though. Senior Anna Dorn said no one has contacted her about the ad she placed on craigslist.

"I'm suspecting, however, that I might get more responses as the summer approaches from people who have procrastinated," Dorn said.

She will be gone only part of the summer, which she said has made it harder to find a subletter.

"It's much easier to find a sub-leaser for the entire summer than just for part of it," she said.

Griffin will be taking a job in Washington, D.C., in early May, but the lease on her Mill Creek apartment runs until the end of July. She advised renters to look early for someone to take over the lease.

"The main piece of advice I would give for people looking to sublet their apartment out for a period of time would be to definitely start early, as soon as you find out you'll need someone to take over your lease," Griffin said.

And because those looking for summer rentals only want temporary housing, it can be easier to sublet if you leave the apartment furnished, she said.

"If you can leave your furniture for the summer, that helps a lot," Griffin said.

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