



August 2014

Dear New Neighbor:

Welcome! I mean that. Welcome to the Foggy Bottom/West End community.

It's been a few years since I went to GW. But I am still very much like you. We are all very busy people. We want to live in a safe, clean, comfortable community. We want to enjoy time with friends. And at the end of a long, productive day, we want to be able to sleep.

This might be your first time living on your own or living off campus. It may surprise you to learn that living off campus, in a well-established community where many people live in a relatively small area, does not offer unlimited freedom. You may encounter more restrictions and more responsibilities than you did living on campus. These restrictions – some of which are codified as District laws and regulations – are designed to ensure ALL of us can live together.

You are joining a diverse community. Some of us are students. Many of us hold interesting and demanding jobs, or are recently retired. Some work from home. Some keep weird hours because they are up at 3 a.m. to Skype with clients in the Middle East. But all of us must respect the DC Noise at Night Law that prohibits any noise that might disturb someone else between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Now that you're living in a residential neighborhood, we ask you to consider how your actions affect those around you. We understand and share a love of lively conversation, spending time with friends, and even enjoying the occasional adult beverage (if you are, in fact, over 21). We simply ask that you remember that we live in close quarters here in Foggy Bottom. Most of us share walls with our neighbors; your speakers might be a mere three or four feet from your neighbor's bed. And outside, noise carries, especially at night.

We ask, too, that you keep the house and yard you occupy clean to deter pests. We have a big rat problem in our community, and the only way to prevent it from getting worse is to ensure our yards and homes are clean. Keep your trash contained in a sturdy can with a well-fitting lid, and don't overfill it. Take it out regularly. And please don't allow beer cups to accumulate outside. Apparently, rats love beer (once the alcohol evaporates). Who knew?

If you have questions or concerns, please knock on the door and introduce yourself. We can be helpful. We're full of advice, and we're great in emergencies! After all, that is what neighbors are for.

Every one of your neighbors can regale you with stories of terrible student behavior – and every one of us can talk about truly awesome student neighbors. We hope you will choose awesome.

Thanks for your time, and we look forward to getting to know each of you.

Marina

Marina Streznewski
For the Foggy Bottom Residents Alliance

TRASH AND RECYCLING IN DC: A SHORT COURSE

Proper disposal of trash and recycling is key to a clean, safe, and pleasant neighborhood. Thanks for your help!

Trash

The District collects trash from houses and small multi-family buildings (four or fewer units) twice a week, usually on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Trash must be bagged and placed in sturdy cans, with securely closed lids, at the curb between 6:30 pm the night before collection, and 6:00 am that morning.

If you need a trash can, contact the DC Department of Public Works by submitting a service request at 311.dc.gov or calling (202) 727-1000. Be sure to put your address on the can and lid to ensure it comes back to you.

Recycling

DC offers “single stream” recycling, which means that all recyclable items can be placed in one can. DC collects and recycles most paper, plastic, cans, and glass. DC does not recycle Styrofoam, “clamshell” packaging used for food, metallic papers, peanuts (foam packaging), or pizza boxes.

Recycling is collected in Foggy Bottom on Friday mornings. Place your recyclables in the proper (blue) container and bring it to the curb between 6:30 pm the night before collection, and 6:00 am that morning.

If you need a trash can, contact the DC Department of Public Works by submitting a service request at 311.dc.gov or calling (202) 727-1000. You can also provide your own recycling container; just be sure it is blue to avoid confusion with trash containers.

The “Slide”

When a District holiday occurs, all trash and recycling collection “slides” one day for the rest of that week. In Foggy Bottom, that means trash collection will “slide” to Wednesday and Saturday, and recycling collection will “slide” to Saturday.

Bulk Trash

Please do not put large items out with your regular trash. And please do not simply dump them somewhere. To schedule a bulk trash pickup, call 311 (from a phone with a 202 area code) or visit 311.dc.gov and follow the instructions. The evening before your scheduled pickup, place items on the curb where you place your regular trash, and attach a note with the pick-up date, your address, and the service request number. Acceptable items for bulk trash collection include air conditioners (drain water and fluids), hot water heaters, household furniture, large toys, major appliances, e.g., refrigerators (doors removed), mattresses and box springs (MUST be wrapped in plastic), bed frames, and rugs (MUST be rolled and tied).

Hazardous Waste

Please do not place hazardous waste, including computers, at the curb. You will need to take hazardous waste to the Fort Totten Transfer Station on the first Saturday of the month between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm, except holidays. An additional household hazardous waste drop-off occurs the Thursday preceding the first Saturday of the month (except holidays), between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm. The Fort Totten Transfer Station is located at 4900 John F. McCormack Drive, NE.

For More Information

If you have questions, please reach out to the DC Department of Public Works. Call them Monday through Friday between 8:15 am and 4:45 pm at (202) 673-6833 or visit dpw.dc.gov.

