



# FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

Vol. 51, No. 6

www.savefoggybottom.com

January 20, 2010

## Count Dracula Rides The Whitehurst

With vampires all the rage in the popular culture these days, recent news of our own version of the “undead” boomeranged from Palisades to FB/WE to Georgetown/Foxhall to Dupont and back again. What residents in these neighborhoods thought they had quietly and finally laid to rest—yet another multimillion-dollar effort to study the feasibility of tearing down the Whitehurst—in 2007 has

risen from the dead. Again.

Buried in the five-year “Regional Transportation Improvement Program” for Metro Washington is DDOT Agency Project IDDED083C entitled Whitehurst Freeway EIS. This time, the teardown has been revived as a way “to examine improvements to the Georgetown area transportation network and waterfront access, and to provide safe and efficient mobility to and through the

Georgetown area, pertaining to the removal of the Whitehurst Freeway. (Guess all those other neighborhoods are just ghost towns to DDOT.)

Even scarier, DDOT has earmarked \$2 million per year for fiscal years 2012 and 2013—a total of \$4 million of federal and local taxpayer monies—to fund an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that would support and justify the Whitehurst’s removal. See the

ghoulish reference on page 78 of the full proposal: [[http://www.mwcog.org/clrp/projects/tip/fy0914tip/FY\\_2009-2014\\_TIP-COMPLETE.pdf](http://www.mwcog.org/clrp/projects/tip/fy0914tip/FY_2009-2014_TIP-COMPLETE.pdf)]

Tired of having to repeatedly fight off these ghosts of bad decisions past? Contact your ANC commissioners and At-Large Councilmembers—Kwame Brown, Michael Brown, Phil Mendelson, and David Catania (202/724-8000)—as well as Mayor Fenty (who pronounced the original 2005 teardown proposal “a dumb idea” in his 2006 campaign), and tell them this zombie should never see the light of day. Remove its line item from the TIP and the DDOT budget as was done in 2007. FBN will be keeping you updated. We have our garlic at the ready. ~

## COMINGS & GOINGS

### Status Report: Watergate Post Office

In response to the potential closing of the Watergate Post Office, many of you have dutifully sent off letters to Postal Commissioner, Annie Kennedy (*refer to FBN archives Nov. 11, 2009 at www.SaveFoggyBottom.com*). Some of you that received responses shared them, and the reply was as simple as “this post office is not currently under consideration by the Postal Service as part of their nationwide review of stations and branches for closing or consideration.” More important, the Commission emphasized it is only vital

*(continued on next page)*

### FBA MONTHLY MEETING

#### “The Need for a Good Government Watchdog”

**SPEAKER: Dorothy Brizill, Executive Dir. of DC Watch, [www.DCwatch.com](http://www.DCwatch.com)**

**7 pm – Refreshments & Socializing; 7:30 – Speaker begins**

*Community Welcome.*

Parish Hall, St. Stephen Martyr Church  
2500 Pennsylvania Ave NW & 25th St.  
(Parish Hall entrance on 25th St.)

Dorothy Brizill, executive director of DCWatch, is a community activist and civic reformer. She was educated as a political scientist at Queens College (CUNY) and Columbia University, and subsequently worked at the Brookings Institution and the State Department.

DCWatch is designed to be an aggressive, non-partisan watchdog for the District. It is modeled after the Citizens Union in New York City, the Committee of Seventy in Philadelphia, and the Better Government Association of Chicago that was established in 1923 to promote voter registration and to make candidate endorsements. Its principal focus for the past several decades has been to eradicate government waste and corruption through thorough, independent investigations.

Before DCWatch, no other citizen organization functioned primarily as a watchdog on corruption and as an independent voice seeking to reform District government. The lack of such an organization allowed governmental waste and mismanagement to remain largely unchecked, ultimately damaging the fiscal order of the District, the public’s confidence in government, and the District’s relationship with the federal government.

DCWatch’s major official project is its website, [www.DCwatch.com](http://www.DCwatch.com), which informs the public about fundamental policy issues, the District government, and its officials. DCWatch also serves as an online outlet for opinion with its twice-weekly e-letter, “The Mail,” and by providing a wealth of informational resources for citizens. ~

## THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

**Foggy Bottom Association**  
Post Office Box 58087  
Washington, DC 20037-8087  
Editor-in-Chief: Susan Trinter

The *Foggy Bottom News* is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the *FBN* reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

#### FBA Officers:

PRESIDENT – Asher Corson  
VICE PRESIDENT – Lev Trubkovich  
SECRETARY – Jill Nevius  
TREASURER – Bille Hougart  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – David Hertzfeldt

#### FBA Board of Directors:

Victor Ciardello, Dusty Horwitt, Lucia Pollock,  
Greg Snyder, Robert Vogt, John Woodard  
Ex-Officio: Joy Howell (Immediate Past President);  
Susan Trinter (FBN Editor)

## Watergate Post Office (cont'd)

to the community appeal 30 days after a "Final Determination" to close or consolidate an office has been made, which occurs after 60 days notice to the community during which time comments are filed.

FBN is delighted that the Watergate Post Office is "not" on the list, and the rumors of imminent closure may, indeed, be unfounded. However, FBN is not yet of the opinion that the subject is closed in as much as the space lease renewal remains in the postal service's inbox. ~

## IT'S IN THE BAG FOR TRADER JOES

Dear Friends:

Trader Joes decided to tackle the plastic/paper bag recycling in a manner far more sensitive to its customers --and far more likely to succeed--than our government. While the District Government's goal is to increase its revenue, this regressive\* "tax" does nothing to solve the underlying problem of cleaning up the Anacostia River, its stated purpose. Nor does it promise to increase the tax base sufficiently to offset the gap in services funding.

Yet, our Trader Joes has taken this governmental loser and transformed it into a win/win. You will not only not be charged five cents, when you bring a grocery bag to Trader Joes for reuse, you will also be credited with 5 cents toward your grocery bill. Our City rejected this option, one that is working well elsewhere in the country.

Thanks, Ron Cocome, *FB resident and Pres. Emeritus of FBA*

*\*(It penalizes families by charging those who require more than they can carry to the store; and the American males who have not yet begun carrying purses.)*

## FBA MEMBERSHIP 2010 YOU COUNT!

*Visit the FBA website, [www.saveFoggyBottom.com](http://www.saveFoggyBottom.com) to see what we've been up to, peruse the archives of the Foggy Bottom News, and check out the FB/WE merchants who offer discounts to our members. Join Us!*

**\$15 (tax deductible) per year.**

**Membership year: January 1 to December 31, 2010**

### FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues (\$15.00 per person).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Clip and return this form with checks made payable to the  
FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION.  
Mail to: FBA, Post Office Box 58087  
Washington, DC 20037-8087.*

*The Foggy Bottom Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit org.*