



FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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www.savefoggybottom.com

March 10, 2010

Whitehurst Teardown Study

Dear Neighbor,

Once again, certain elected and appointed officials have engaged to take action to tear down the Whitehurst Freeway and I wanted to alert you.

It is important to note that, unlike previous attempts to study tearing down the Whitehurst, the most recent proposal did not originate directly from the District government. This time, the Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board is vetting the process through a study published in a report that indicates, "The purpose of this project is to prepare an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) 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."

It is equally important to note that COG members that created this document are appointed by the Mayor of Washington DC and the Governors of Maryland and Virginia. So although this does not necessarily represent immediate plans for the District, it does indicate that officials in our government or the surrounding governments are pushing to study tearing down the Whitehurst. It seems unlikely that Virginia or Maryland would benefit from tearing down the Whitehurst (in fact many of their taxpayers working in the district would be further inconvenienced by traffic). And, no matter whose delegates authored this section in the report, the fact remains that an EIS is the first necessary step towards removing the freeway.

There are many reasons that neighbors have historically opposed tearing down the Whitehurst. Some of those reasons include:

1. The Whitehurst has at least ten years of useful life left.
2. The District, MD and VA face a budget gap and continued reduced tax revenue: why waste resources to continue costly and unnecessary studies.
3. All proposals to tear down the Whitehurst have included massive destruction of parklands between Foggy Bottom and Georgetown.
4. The teardown would cause adverse traffic impacts for 26th Street, K Street, 23rd St, M Street and Pennsylvania Ave.
5. Increased congestion, air quality issues and noise from an already congested urban traffic corridor.

Needless to say, COG's report is a surprise. During the District's last mayoral election, candidate Fenty pledged to our community that the Whitehurst Freeway would not come down if he were to be elected Mayor. It seems that this promise will be kept as the COG transportation report plans pertain to the upcoming 4 years. However, none of this is meant to indicate that the Whitehurst is safe moving forward. There is no way to know what this study will mean for the future of the freeway. It is discouraging to note that such effort and considerable tax monies would be allocated to give a green light to remove the Whitehurst.

Whatever the future may hold for the Whitehurst, the Foggy Bottom Association will continue to monitor any developments and as always, we dedicate ourselves to ensuring that the Whitehurst is secure.



Warm regards,
Asher Corson, *President, Foggy Bottom Association*
lashercorson@gmail.com

TIDAL BASIN AFTER SNOWMAGGEDON PHOTOGRAPHS – *Jaime Rodriguez*



On exhibition at Watergate Gallery through March 18
Friday, March 12 – Gallery Reception from 6–8 pm
Saturday, March 13 – Artist Talk 2–4 pm

Jaime Rodriguez, originally from Texas and a FB resident since 1996, is a professional adventure and travel photographer. His studio is located at 1042 31st St. NW, in Georgetown where he also does commercial photography, studio portraits and events. After the big snow Sunday Feb 7, he took a hike and a camera down to the Tidal Basin and captured some unique shots of the

(continued on next page)

THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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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:

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Ex-Officio: Joy Howell (Immediate Past President);
Susan Trinter (*FBN* Editor)

TIDAL BASIN AFTER SNOWMAGGEDON (cont'd)

Memorials and Tidal Basin. The exhibition is titled, *Tidal Basin after Snowmagedon*. The photos are on exhibition at Watergate Gallery through March 18 with a gallery reception on Friday, March 12, 6 to 8 pm; and an Artist talk Saturday from 2 to 4 pm. *Call the Watergate Gallery 202-338-4488 for more information.*

On Sunday, March 14, 2010
at 2 a.m

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
SPRING AHEAD!**

Why not use your additional
hour at your favorite
Foggy Bottom retailer

St. Patrick's Day Parade



DATE AND TIME: Sunday, March 14, Noon to 3:00 pm

PARADE ROUTE: Along Constitution Avenue -
7th to 17th Sts NW, Washington, DC

GRANDSTAND TICKETS: \$5 each. Call (301) 384-6533

WEB SITE: www.dcstpatparade.com

May You Enjoy 2010 with
all the Luck of the Irish!

**FBA MEMBERSHIP 2010
YOU COUNT!**

*Visit the FBA website, 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 _____

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

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*Clip and return this form with checks made payable to the
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The Foggy Bottom Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit org.