WELCOME TO MORGANTOWN!

A helpful handbook provided by:

West Virginia University.

A project of the Morgantown Town-Gown Advisory Committee
You’re a resident of one of the best places to live in the entire country. Morgantown is consistently ranked as a great place to live:

- #13, Best College Towns in America, Business Insider
- #7, Kiplinger.com’s Ten Great Places to Live list
- Top 20 college town, American Institute for Economic Research
- 7th best small place for business and careers, Forbes
- #1 dreamtown in the country, BizJournals.com

See more of Morgantown’s accolades at morgantownwv.gov/about/awards.

A spirit of cooperation and teamwork between Morgantown and West Virginia University has created a wonderful place to live, learn, and work. In addition to being a WVU student, you are a valuable member of the Morgantown community—and that comes with benefits and responsibilities.

Service learning possibilities
WVU is deeply engaged with service learning in Morgantown. WVU has earned the Carnegie Foundation’s Community Engagement Classification; only 6% of all universities have this distinction.

WVU’s Center for Service and Learning provides opportunities to connect the campus and community through meaningful service and academic study. With over 130 official local partners (the City of Morgantown, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Animal Friends, Senior Monongalians, Ronald McDonald House, American Red Cross) you can earn academic credits in service-learning courses and get connected with new friends while making a difference in your new hometown.

service.wvu.edu
What does city government do?
Morgantown city government works with other groups (the West Virginia state government, federal government, private businesses, neighborhoods, developers, WVU, nonprofit agencies, other cities) to make positive changes in your community.

Morgantown’s departments and agencies include:

- Morgantown Municipal Airport
- BOPARC
- City Manager
- City Clerk
- Development Services
- Engineering
- Morgantown Public Library
- Morgantown Parking Authority
- Morgantown Utility Board
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Public Works

Morgantown has a city manager/city council form of government. The mayor and city council serve part-time and are elected on a nonpartisan basis. The city council establishes policy and law, and the city manager handles the day-to-day management. See morgantownwv.gov/government/city-council for a list of city council members and how to contact them.

STAY IN TOUCH
See morgantownwv.gov/about/new-start-here for a list of useful sites, and visit Morgantown City Hall on Facebook and @Morgantown_WV on Twitter.

If you see something that needs to be taken care of, such as a pothole, private property maintenance, stray animals, or have a tip for an anonymous criminal hot line, report it at bit.ly/MGWRequests.

The City’s text and e-mail alert system is easy to use. Text your zip code to 888777, or log on to local.nixle.com/city-of-morgantown to create an account. You can receive alerts about road closures, water issues, construction, and emergencies. Citizens Request Manager also has an app for Android and iOS, which you can find by searching “Mobile Connect CRM.” You can snap a pic of the problem and send it directly to us.
Living off campus

Morgantown has many off-campus housing options. Many students rent a house or apartment after their freshman or sophomore year.

If there are any problems with your rental and it is located within City limits, speak with your landlord first, then turn to the City if you need help making sure the unit is up to code. As a tenant, you have certain responsibilities, and your property owner can request an inspection by the City at any time.

Find your new home by attending one of the housing fairs WVU holds and check with WVU’s Off-Campus Student Housing Office (studentlife.wvu.edu/off-campus_housing or 304-293-5611). Their website includes rental property listings and a guide to off-campus living.

Code Enforcement

Morgantown’s Code Enforcement ensures that buildings and rental units are safe for occupation. The City employs four building inspectors, four rental housing inspectors, and one compliance officer. If you have questions or would like to file a complaint, see morgantownwv.gov/government/city-government/development-services-department/code-enforcement.

If there’s a problem ...

911 isn’t just for emergencies. When a dispatcher answers, they will ask if it is an emergency. You can call if you are in trouble, need to speak to a police officer, or to report a potentially dangerous situation in or around the Morgantown area.
How to be a good neighbor
Take pride in your city! You are a resident of the city or the surrounding areas while you are here as a student. We can achieve harmony if you:

• Introduce yourself and meet your neighbors. Say “hello”; if your neighbor knows your name and where you’re from, they will see you as a person, not just “a student.”

• Beware of neighborhood expectations and City ordinances. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Learn more at morgantownwv.gov.

• You’re meeting new people, who may differ in age, faith, ethnic background, and family status.

• If your neighbors do something that bothers you, let them know as soon as possible (stay polite!). If you cannot work out a fair compromise, take advantage of free and confidential mediation services offered by WVU Student Legal Services (304-293-4897).

Morgantown’s neighborhoods
Join your local neighborhood associations to get to know your new neighbors.

• Evansdale Neighborhood Association
• First Ward Neighborhood Association
• Greenmont Neighborhood Association
• Jerome Park Neighborhood Association
• Norwood Addition Neighborhood Association
• South Hills Neighborhood Association
• South Park Association of Neighbors
• Suncrest Neighborhood Association
• Wiles Hill/Highland Park Neighborhood Association
• Woodburn Neighborhood Association

Check out each one in the Neighborhood Association section of morgantownwv.gov.
Occupancy limit
No more than three unrelated individuals may live in the same dwelling, whether they are renting or own the property. Any new rental units registered after September 2010 in an R1 or R1-A zoned property are limited to no more than two unrelated individuals. R3 zoned properties’ occupation limits are determined by square footage. Some landlords have been granted an exception to this rule or you may be outside the City limits, but you need to check before you sign a lease, because you might be faced with one person having to leave if this ordinance is violated.

Tenant responsibilities
Every landlord provides different services. It is very important to make yourself aware of what you are responsible for on your rented property; you are responsible for any damages caused by friends or visitors. The Code Enforcement Office has resources to help you understand the relationship between you, your landlord and the City’s Property Maintenance Code.

Other responsibilities include:
- Weeds: property must be kept free of weeds and brush.
- Snow removal: you must remove snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to your property. You might also volunteer to help a neighbor! Failure to remove snow and ice from your sidewalks can result in citations.
- Trash: failing to keep your property free of solid waste and litter, or failing to keep trash in a trash can, can result in a citation of $25-$500.

Recycling
In Morgantown and at WVU, it’s no longer necessary to sort out your recycling—aluminum, glass, plastic, and paper can all go into the green 65-gallon cart residents are issued for the weekly recycling service. See morgantownwv.gov/residents/trash-recycling/ for a list of what’s recyclable and for recycling options for those who live outside of the City limits. WVU’s WECAN Recycling Program provides recycling bins on campus (wecan.wvu.edu).
Rules about trash

Every City resident is required to have trash service. Trash service to every residential building with more than two residents is managed by the landlord; this means that your trash service costs are probably included in your monthly rent.

Residents must place trash toters at the curb the night before your regular service day (no earlier than 6:00 p.m.) and remove trash and recycling cans by the evening of the service day (by 9:00 p.m.). No bare bags are allowed – if you have more trash than trash cans, you are required to purchase additional trash receptacles. The toter needs to be stored in a safe place, out of view of the general public.

Certain areas of Morgantown have been designated a “Special District” for trash removal, and residents are required to use a heavy-duty 90-gallon toter provided by Republic Services. This means there are no trash bags or cans on the streets in this district. The toters have serial numbers and are assigned to each customer.

No deposit will be required for the toter(s) if you participate in one of these methods to pay for services:

1. Quick Pay: credit card information will be obtained, and three months of service will be charged at the time of sign-up. Your credit card will be automatically charged on a monthly basis thereafter.

2. Payment for six months of service.

3. Payment for the entire lease period. If your lease is for one year you will be charged for 11 months of service. If your lease is for longer than one year, an adjustment will be made accordingly.

If a Morgantown Police Officer or a Litter Prevention Officer finds that you are improperly storing your garbage, trash, or recycling, you can be fined $50-$500 daily (per occurrence). There is no cap to the number you can receive: you can be cited repeatedly until proper measures are taken to clean up the property.

Questions? Call Morgantown Code Enforcement at 304-284-7401, the Morgantown Police Department at 304-284-7447, or Republic at 304-366-8900.

To find out what day your trash pickup occurs, call Republic at 304-366-8900.
Pets
Pets can make your life more fun, but they are also a big responsibility that lasts for years.

If you own a dog, you’re required to keep your animal on a leash no longer than six feet, whether in a public place or on your property. A tag that states your name and address must be attached to your dog’s collar at all times. You are responsible for picking up animal waste. For a dog six months or older, you must pay a dog tax fee to Monongalia County through the Assessor’s Office (304-291-7229). The tax is $3/dog unless you live in Morgantown, Star City, Westover, or Granville, where the tax is $6.

Cats may only run at large if they wear identification.

Animal control will issue citations for animals off-leash, for failure to pick up after your pet, and for not paying a dog tax.

Local recreation
Morgantown’s BOPARC (Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners) offers a wide variety of things to do, all year long. Facilities include an ice arena, softball fields, city parks, Hazel Ruby McQuain Park and Amphitheater on the riverfront, and the Caperton and Deckers Creek trails. See boparc.org for details. Learn more about Morgantown and its beginnings at the Morgantown History Museum downtown on Kirk Street.

You should also check out events at the Metropolitan Theatre, a 1924 venue that has been lovingly renovated. morgantownmet.com

Smoking
Monongalia County bans smoking in bars, restaurants, and workplaces, and there is no smoking in Morgantown’s municipal parks and recreation facilities. WVU is also a tobacco-free campus.
Parking
It’s probably no secret to you that parking in a college town is a challenge. But there are options — Morgantown offers two-hour, ten-hour, and 24-hour parking lots, four parking garages, and 14 metered City streets. Go to parkmpa.com to find everything about parking in Morgantown, along with an interactive map. There’s no reason to get a ticket!

For WVU Parking options and regulations, see transportation.wvu.edu/parking-management.

CashKey
A CashKey is a key that can be programmed like a debit card with prepaid amounts in $10 increments up to $100. It can be used in combination with coins. It’s a great alternative to feeding the meter.

Pay-by-space parking
At pay-by-space pay stations, you can prepay for a set amount of time. You walk to the machine from your car, enter the space number, and add money for your approximate stay time. They are located in these City parking lots:

- Lot A: Morgantown Market Place
- Lot B: at Fayette St. and Chestnut St.
- Lot E: at Chestnut St. and Forest Ave.

Towing
Towing is regulated by the West Virginia Public Service Commission. If you are towed after parking illegally, here are the local towing services:

- J&J Towing: 304-292-9797, 311 Riverside Ave., Morgantown
- Vic’s Garage and Towing Service: 304-292-4257, 1335 University Ave., Morgantown
- Doug’s Towing: 304-291-3864, 413 Dunkard Ave., Morgantown
- Summers Towing and Repairs: 304-405-4077, 3 Ackerman Rd., Morgantown
- Ervin’s Auto Repair and Towing: 304-599-0301, Route 19 North, Morgantown
- Mountaineer Towing: 304-598-0811, 43 Chipps Hollow Rd., Morgantown (Star City)

Local transportation

Bicycle information
Everyone is welcome to bring a bicycle to our city, but there are a few rules you should keep in mind.

- Cyclists and passengers must wear fastened helmets.
- No one over the age of 15 may ride on the sidewalk.
- Bicyclists must obey all traffic ordinances, just as a car or truck. All bicyclists should act as though they are a vehicle; riding with traffic, stopping at traffic lights, and signaling are all required.

For more information, visit bikemorgantown.com.

Bus
WVU students and employees can ride the Mountain Line Transit Authority buses for free with WVU ID. Go to busride.org to find out more, and follow your bus line on Twitter to find out where it is right now.

The Grey Line connects Morgantown to the Pittsburgh Airport and Pittsburgh Greyhound station.

Taxi
Yellow Cab is the only taxi service in Morgantown (304-292-7441).

Airport
The Morgantown Municipal Airport (morgantownairport.com) provides daily service to Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. You can go to United.com for ticket info. Follow the Twitter handle @FlyMGW for updates.

Potholes
Potholes on City streets can be reported on the Citizens Request Manager at com3.govtsystems.com/MorgantownWV/Request/. Potholes on State routes should be reported to the District 4 WVDOH office at transportation.wv.gov.
What not to do
There are rules and regulations all citizens must obey. As a student, you are a member of both the Morgantown community and the West Virginia University community. Violations of city and local laws can result in sanctions from WVU, including possible expulsion.

If you are arrested in the Greater Morgantown area, you will be taken to the North Central Regional Jail near Clarksburg, which is 75 miles away. WVU does not provide a pickup service from the jail. A taxi ride back, if available, could cost $200.

Noise
If your neighbor can stand on the edge of his or her property line and hear noise from your house between 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., it’s too loud. The responding police officer has the discretion to decide if the noise coming from your property is unreasonable. Under City ordinance, loud and unnecessary noises are prohibited. If noise doesn’t stop after a verbal warning or if it is violated again within 60 days, you could be charged and fined up to $500.

Couches
If you have indoor furniture outside on your porch, you can be charged with “Failure to Abate a Fire Hazard,” a misdemeanor, and can be fined $100-$1,000.

Cell phones
Using your cell phone while driving is illegal in West Virginia. This includes texting, calling, and taking pictures.
Become a nuisance
Continuing illegal behavior can create a situation in which your dwelling could be considered a public nuisance. City Code defines a nuisance as “injurious to the public health, safety and welfare of the community or has a tendency to promote unlawful behavior or behavior which is considered by the City Administration, including its health and/or safety officials, to be a menace to public order and safety.” City Council can take action to abate the situation.

Learn more about City laws online at bit.ly/MGWGeneralOffenses.

Hanging out on your roof
Only a building’s owner, the owner’s licensed contractor, or maintenance personnel may be on the roof of any structure for any reason. A tenant may not be on the roof. A violation is a misdemeanor and carries a $100-$500 fine.

Other offenses
Operating a business without a license: charging entry into a party is considered operating a business without a license. You can be fined more than $500 for charging admission or selling cups.

Serving alcohol to a minor: if underage students are found drinking alcohol at a house party, the party host(s) will be fined $500. Additionally, if you are caught providing alcohol to a person under the age of 21, you will be fined $500.

Fake identification: using a fake driver’s license to get into a bar could cost you your real license, a $500 fine, or not more than six months in prison. This citation will remain on your record for seven years.

Lending a driver’s license to an underage person: lending your driver’s license to an underage person so that he or she can purchase alcohol or gain admission into a bar could cost you a $500 fine and a 90-suspension of your license.

Open container/underage possession: having an open container of alcohol within City limits is a violation and carries a fine of $100-$500 regardless of age. Underage possession of alcohol results in six mandatory hours of community service, attending alcohol awareness classes, and a fine up to $500.
Urinating in public: you are prohibited from urinating or defecating anywhere someone can see you, or on any property, including alleys. It carries a fine up to $500.

Fire-related violations: outdoor fires, burning furniture, and other dangerous activities may result in criminal charges. In addition, students may face University sanctions, including expulsion. Students may face harsher penalties in connection with dumpster fires.

Driving while intoxicated: driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs will result in jail time and revocation of your driver’s license and carries a fine of $100-$500. If an accident occurs, further criminal charges and civil actions may be added. These penalties for first offense only — they get more serious with multiple offenses. For more on this State law, visit legis.state.wv.us.

Assault, battery, and criminal sexual misconduct: irresponsible use of alcohol often results in violent or aggressive behavior. Offensive or hurtful conduct may result in a misdemeanor or even felony charge of assault and battery or rape.

Littering violations: a person in control of residential property may be fined if the property is not kept free from litter. Under West Virginia state law, it’s a misdemeanor to litter on either public or private property. Individuals often receive citations for littering when they throw or place an alcoholic beverage on the ground in an attempt to avoid an alcoholic citation. This offense carries a fine of no less than $100.

Lease violations: your lease may have clauses that allow your landlord to begin eviction proceedings for certain criminal violations. These include use and/or sale of unlawful drugs, serving alcohol to a minor, and consumption of alcohol by a minor.
Partying pitfalls
Minimize the risks of either civil or criminal liability due to a party.

- Be considerate of neighbors
- Monitor how much you are drinking, and provide food for your guests
- Control the noise level
- Leave your drinks behind when you leave the party
- Use bathrooms, not bushes
- Use trash containers
- Make sure those under 21 are not drinking
- Be polite to the police

If the police come to your party ...
Be polite! Being aggressive with the police will make matters worse. Identify yourself as the host, and if you are requested to do so, show some sort of identification. There are extenuating circumstances in which the police may enter a house where a nuisance party is occurring without a search warrant or consent.

If you are arrested, don’t resist or try to avoid the police, as you could be liable for resisting arrest.

Possible consequences
The consequences of the violations described involve a wide range of penalties, depending on the severity of the crime. These penalties include, but are not limited to:

- Fines and court costs
- Probation
- Community service
- Driver’s license restrictions, suspensions, or revocation
- Criminal conviction and/or imprisonment
- Sanctions from WVU Judicial Affairs
- Expulsion from WVU
Important contacts

WVU Office of Student Conduct: 304-293-8111
studentlife.wvu.edu/office_of_student_conduct

WVU Off-Campus Housing: 304-293-5611
studentlife.wvu.edu/off_campus_housing/off_campus_housing_publications

Attorney for Students: 304-293-4897
studentlife.wvu.edu/student_legal_services

Morgantown Code Enforcement: 304-284-7401

Morgantown Parking Authority: 304-284-7435
nights or weekends: 304-376-5252
morgantownwv.gov

WVU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution