

WELCOME TO MORGANTOWN!



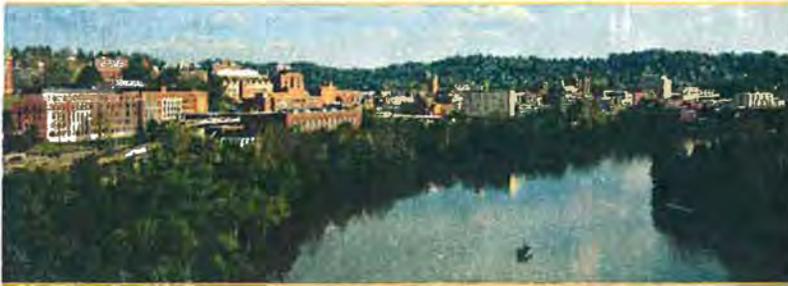
A helpful handbook provided by:



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

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 (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:

- City Manager
- City Clerk
- Planning and Zoning
- Code Enforcement
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Morgantown Utility Board
- Morgantown Library
- Trash and Recycling Services
- Morgantown Parking Authority

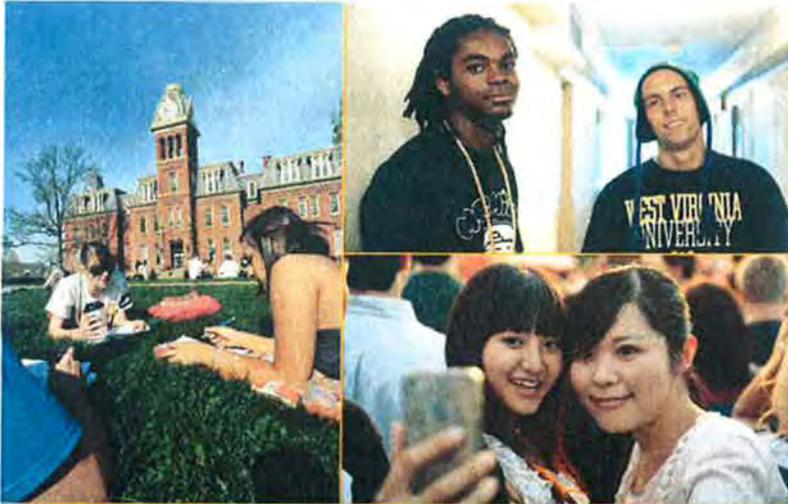
Morgantown has a city manager/city council form of government. The mayor and city council serve part-time and are elected on a nonpartisan basis. The city council establishes policy and law, and the city manager handles the day-to-day management. See morgantownwv.gov/government/body-council for a list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

STAY IN TOUCH

See morgantownwv.gov/about/new-stark.html 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 code.enforcement@morgantownwv.gov.

The City's text and e-mail alert system is easy to use. Text your zip code to **686777** or log on to local.riptide.com/city-of-morgantown to create an account. You can receive alerts about road closures, water issues, construction, and emergencies.



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 resides 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 304-293-2811). 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 two compliance officers. If you have questions or would like to file a complaint, see morgantownwv.gov/government/city-government/development-services-department/code-enforcement/.

Occupancy limit

No more than three unrelated individuals, owning or renting, may reside in a dwelling unit. Some landlords may 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.

How to be a good neighbor

Don't live down to negative expectations about "how students act." Take pride in your city. It's easier for everyone involved 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 \(304-293-4897\)](http://WVU Student Legal Services (304-293-4897)).

Morgantown's neighborhoods

There are nine neighborhood associations:

- Evansdale 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.



include map of town

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.

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. Failure to comply could result in the City having someone else perform the task at your cost.
- **Trash:** failing to keep your property free of solid waste and litter can result in a fine of \$50-\$500. If your trash is not in a trash can, the City may issue you a citation for \$250-\$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 campus.wvu.edu/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.

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 three months 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.

You must place your trash at the curb the night before your regular service day (no earlier than 8:00 p.m.) and remove trash and recycling cans by the evening of the service day (by 9:00 p.m.). The toter needs to be stored in a safe place, out of view of the general public; if your residence doesn't have such a location, you can apply for a variance from the City Manager.

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.

Monday Pickups (Special District Only)

Grant Ave. (6th St. to Campus Dr.)
6th St. (Beverly to Beechurst)
7th St. (Grant to Beechurst)
Beverly Ave. (University to 6th St.)

Tuesday Pickups (Special District Only)

Pennsylvania Ave. (Kingwood to Brockway)
Baird St. (Forest to end)
Forest Ave. (Spruce to end)
Dallas St. (Forest to Locust)
Locust Ave. (Dallas to Richwood)
Locust Ave. (Dallas to Pine)
Pine Ave. (Locust to Chapman)
Chapman St. (Pine to Gem)
Gem St. (Locust to Richwood)
Pearl St. (Richwood to Cass)
Cass St. (Allen to Battelle)

Allen Ave. (East Prospect to Snyder)

East Prospect St. (Richwood to Battelle)
Battelle Ave. (East Prospect to Cass)
Weaver St. (Richwood to Oak)
Snyder St. (Richwood to Union)
Garrison Ave. (Snyder to Oak)
Richwood Ave. (North Willey to Gem)

Wednesday Pickups (Special District Only)

North Willey St. (Spruce to Mansion)
Cornell Ave. (North Willey to College)
Price St. (North Willey to Cornell)
College Ave. (University to N. Willey)
File Ave. (Willey to North High)
Wells St. (File to End)
Naomi St. (File to Mansion)
Burke St. (Price to Naomi)
North Spruce St. (Willey to File)

Wies St. (North Spruce to Price)

Glendon Ave. (Price to End)
Waverly St. (Price to North High)
Balmor St. (Price to North High)

Thursday Pickups (Special District Only)

University Ave. (College to Ensign)
Falling Run Rd. (University to End)
Protzman St. (Falling Run to Stewart)
Mason St. (Yoke to Protzman)
Yoke St. (Falling Run to Stewart)
Stewart St. (University to Protzman)
Campus Dr. (University to Beechurst)
Jones Ave. (North to University)
Lorentz Ave. (Stewart to Sharon)
Sharon Ave. (Jones to Lorentz)
Smith Ave. (Jones to Morgan)
Wellen St. (Stewart to Duquesne)

Duquesne Ave. (Wellen to Morgan)

Morgan St. (Duquesne to Highland)
Highland Ave. (Melrose to Stewart)
Raymond St. (Highland to Duquesne)
Quay St. (1st to End)
Overhill St. (Jones to University)

Friday Pickups (Special District Only)

First St. (Jones to Stewart)
Carson St. (University to McLane)
1st St. (University to McLane)
Second St. (University to McLane)
Houston Dr. (University to McLane)
McLane Ave. (Campus to 8th)
Beechurst Ave. (Campus to 8th)
3rd St. (Beverly to Beechurst)
4th St. (McLane to Beechurst)
5th St. (McLane to Beechurst)



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. 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 and for failure to pick up after pets. If you do not pay your dog tax, you will have to pay the required tax plus any additional impound fees.

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.

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

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

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.



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 Morgantown, 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, 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.

Sofas

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 and/or imprisoned for up to 90 days.

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-day suspension of your license.

Open container/underage possession:

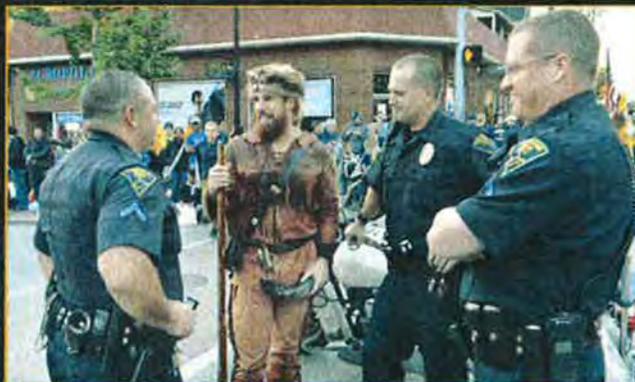
having an open container of alcohol within City limits is a violation and carries a fine of \$100-\$500 regardless of age. Underage possession of alcohol results in six mandatory hours of community service, attending alcohol awareness classes, and a fine up to \$500.

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 dumpster fires.





Driving while intoxicated: driving under the influence of alcohol 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.

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. The police must have either have a search warrant or consent to enter your house.

If you are arrested, don't resist or try to avoid the police, as you could be liable for resisting arrest. Most importantly, **DON'T SAY ANYTHING**; you have the right to remain silent. Don't answer any questions the police ask unless you have an attorney present, and anything that you say can and will be used against you.

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