



Celebrating 43 Years

Claridge House Cooperative News

950 25th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Fall 2022 Edition

Welcome to the Fall 2022 edition of our Claridge House Cooperative e-newsletter in the season when temperatures are cooler and foliage is colorful! We welcome new residents who moved in over the summer. We are grateful to have all the continuing residents in our community, as well.

Resident Spotlight: Thomas Woods, Esquire



As a resident of the Claridge House for five years, Thomas Woods' smiling face has been seen throughout the building. He was asked to share a little about his life, career, experiences and what brought him to the Claridge House.

I grew up in Bowie, Maryland. I went to high school in the Riverdale area. When it was time for college, I spent one year at Hampton University before transferring to Howard University. I completed my undergraduate and law degree at Howard University. In regard to Howard University, I loved my experience there. My father was a professor at the University, so I basically grew up on the campus. Howard brings together so many different cultures and personalities, so every day is a new experience.

Furthermore, the campus and neighborhood has changed so much since I attended. DC's Howard University is the same historically black college (HBCU) the first female US Vice President Kamala Harris graduated from in 1986 before pursuing her law degree at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

Like the Vice President, Thomas is an attorney who passed the bar. He worked as a prosecutor in Baltimore, Maryland, worked for a law firm here in DC and now working at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Thomas replied, it's hard to believe that I've been out of school this long, but it's true. Before going to law school, I worked in Congress, first in the House of Representatives, then in the Senate. Both jobs were very fun and I learned a lot. After working on the Hill, I attended law school. I knew going into law school that I wanted a career where I could combine my love of public service and business. Working as a prosecutor was a dream job for me. There, I had one mandate, which was to do justice. Every day my only concern was the citizens of Baltimore City. As a trial attorney, I probably had over 30 trials before a jury before leaving the office. In regard to the private law firm, I spent time there as well. It was an interesting experience. Even though I did not go into court every day, I still met with clients and provided them with legal advice. After spending time at the firm, I was offered the opportunity to work at the Securities and Exchange Commission as

counsel in the Division of Enforcement. I jumped at the chance. I've practiced law for close to 6 years now. I've handled cases that range from a DUI to a Homicide. Even though they range in seriousness, I enjoyed the legal challenge of all of them.

As a young man, Thomas has daily and future goals. My daily goals are to stay on top of the steady stream of emails that I get every day and to exercise. After the Covid-19 pandemic, it cemented the importance of health. So you can usually find me in the Fitness Center at the Claridge House at some point during the day. In regard to the future, I enjoy the work at the SEC. It's really interesting and the securities industry is an exciting place to work in right now. The crypto area is very exciting and I look forward to seeing its evolution. As far as a future job, I would love to be the NBA Commissioner. Though Thomas may not consider himself to be accomplished, he is well on his way.

When asked what he would pass along to those who want to be in the same profession, Thomas encourages them to work hard and be nice to everyone. You never know where someone will end up. More importantly, being nice doesn't cost anything. The legal profession can be very difficult, but having good friends makes it easier. He was asked about some of the things he likes to do in his spare time. When I'm not working, I love to read! I'm always carrying a book and when I commuted to Baltimore, I probably read over 100 books during my time on the Marc train. I also enjoy hanging out with friends in DC. Friendship to me is very important, so I try to check in on my friends all the time. Lastly, I enjoy traveling.

What brought Thomas to the Claridge House? I came to the Claridge House because a friend of mine was a student at GW law school and lived in the building. I loved visiting the building and hanging out in the Foggy Bottom area. I love the fact that Claridge House is centrally located near Georgetown and other parts of DC. If I want to head to the movie theater, it's a quick walk. If I want to hang out in Adams Morgan, then I don't have to go that far. The Claridge house is a fun place to live. I enjoy meeting new people in the lobby, elevator or Fitness Center.

We appreciate Thomas Woods taking the time to share some of his life with us and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

ANC Monthly Meetings

Meetings for Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2A are held every third Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. ANC 2A serves the Foggy Bottom and West End Neighborhoods. The October 19th meeting will be held at the West End Library. Meeting will feature DC Council's Chairman Phil Mendelson. Our ANC, Trupti Patel, covers ANC2A03 and resides in the Claridge House. Reach out to Commissioner Patel at 2a03@anc.dc.gov with questions you would like Chairman Mendelson to address at the meeting. Visit www.anc2a.org for details on monthly ANC 2A meetings and more.

Basic Business License



Those who rent apartments in DC are required by DC law to have a basic business license. Licenses are available through the newly created DC Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP). The DC Council passed the Department of Buildings Establishment Act of 2020, creating the DLCP (<https://dlcp.dc.gov/>) and the Department of Buildings (DOB at <https://dob.dc.gov/>) to take over responsibilities under the former Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). Service in these departments began at midnight on October 1, 2022.

To obtain a basic business license, go to <https://mybusiness.dc.gov/login>. Visit DLCP's websites <https://dlcp.dc.gov/node/1618681> and <https://dlcp.dc.gov/page/business-licensing-faqs> for more on basic business licenses. These links are also on the Claridge House public website at <http://claridgehousecooperative.com/resources>.

Combining Access to BuildingLink for Multiple Units

Shareholders with multiple units can access all of your units with just one username and password. If you would like to combine yours into a superuser account, reach out to BuildingLink support via email at support@buildinglink.com or call 212-501-7117.

Community Room Available for Private Events



Residents may now rent our Community Room for private events by completing a Community Room/Courtyard/Pool Reservation Form. Form is under Building Documents in the BuildingLink library. Submit the form along with rental and deposit payments to the Management Office. Event may only be scheduled for six hours and the maximum number of event attendees is 50.

Fun Facts Trivia

When did work on the Claridge House renovation project began in which our Business Center, Community Room, Fitness Center and public restrooms were created?

Landline Telephones

We may clear out our Telephone Room in the North Building Basement in the near future. The room houses equipment for landline telephones in the building. Once the room is cleared out, residents will no longer be able to have landline telephones. Residents will be notified before the room is cleared out. This will not affect cell phones.

Pepsi Vending Machine



Our Coca-Cola vending machine was recently replaced with a Pepsi machine. The Coca-Cola machine was provided through third-party billing and the Coca-Cola company is no longer in the third-party billing business. The new Pepsi machine is next to the snack machine between the Fitness Center and Community Room in the North Building basement. Available 20 oz. beverages include Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Dr. Pepper, Schweppes Ginger Ale and Aquafina water.

Signs and Distribution of Literature

During this political season, please be mindful of the Claridge House Rules and Regulations.

Section 5.1 (e) states that *"No signs are permitted in any common area, either inside (including unit doors) or outside the building. Distribution of commercial and political literature (including restaurant menus, television/phone/cable advertisements, etc.) within the building is prohibited. Written materials may be placed in residents' boxes at the Front Desk."*

In addition, political or religious events are not permitted in our common areas. The approval or disposal of a request for private use of amenities is at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors. The Board reserves the right to issue specific instructions and limitations for any proposed use.

The DC Board of Elections will be mailing ballots for the November 8th General Election to registered DC voters beginning October 3rd. Your completed ballot may be dropped in a Mail Ballot Drop box starting October 14th, taken to an Early Vote Center from October 31-November 6 and on Election Day. For more details, to register to vote or confirm/change your registration information, visit the DC Board of Elections website at www.dcbos.org.

Staff Anniversaries



In the last newsletter we acknowledged Claridge House staff with anniversaries in the first quarter of the year. We now acknowledge our loyal staff with anniversaries for the rest of the year. Photos may be viewed in the Staff Directory in BuildingLink.

Pilar Juergenson, general manager, started 25 years ago on 4/14/1997;
Manuel Mendoza, porter, started 21 years ago on 6/1/01;
John Morse, associate manager, started 8 years ago on 6/16/14;
Vicki Moore, front desk concierge, started 5 years ago on 7/12/17;
Ricardo Laquindanum, maintenance tech, started 15 years ago on 7/28/07;
Pierre Francois, porter supervisor, started 39 years ago on 9/6/1983;
Joseph Victor, porter, started 10 years ago on 9/27/12;
Venite Steme, porter, started 13 years ago on 10/15/09;
Ferdinand Munar, front desk concierge, started nearly 14 years ago on 11/5/2008; and
David Green, maintenance tech, started nearly 2 years ago on 11/30/2020.

We appreciate our staff and wish all of you a happy anniversary!

Upcoming Events

October 10 – Columbus Day
October 18 – Board Meeting
October 31 – Halloween
November 8 – General Election Day in DC
November 11 – Veterans Day
November 15 – Board Meeting
November 24 – Thanksgiving Day (Management Office Closed)
November 25 – Day after Thanksgiving (Management Office Closed)
December 18 to December 26 – Hanukah
December 26 – Christmas Day Observed (Management Office Closed)
December 26 to January 1 – Kwanzaa
January 2 – New Year's Day Observed (Management Office Closed)

Please send comments, questions or suggestions to news.letter@claridgehousecooperative.com. We want to hear from you!

Fun Facts Trivia Answer: The first phase began in early 2007 in the South Building basement which included work on the Laundry Room, staff areas and the creation of tenant storage units.