

Our Duty

by Kenita Gibbins

Trash bugs me. I believe our generation must be more diligent than ever about recycling. We are the primary reason we have abundant trash. I look out my window, and when the recycle bin is full, that should be good news. I see cardboard boxes and plastic bags over the top. It isn't tricky to break down the packaging. Just run a knife down the sides of the tape and fold the box flat. I stand on containers to break them. If you aren't able to handle your cardboard, then ask a neighbor for help. For some of our neighbors, it is impossible to raise the heavy lid. By consolidating, more residents will be encouraged to participate. We live here because we want to keep our independence. We also live in Windsor Gardens because we need this community.

We have become too attached to plastic. Some can be recycled, and we can give up the use of a lot. We don't need all the water we drink to come in a bottle when we should/could use a reusable vessel. In my building, we have a basket to toss in the empty bottles of laundry soap. Not all people seem to know the bottle caps are not recyclable. The leftover soap needs to be rinsed out.

Remember to look for the little recycle triangle on your products. If there is no sign, then it is not savable. Soon our recycle company will not accept any plastic not marked with numbers one or two. I have no clue what we should do with the rest of our vinyl. I do know that soap bottles and medical containers from the pharmacy have one or two.

The other day I visited with a friend in the parking lot. In a short time, we observed two trucks pull up in front of the recycle bin. The stuff looked like it came from a job. When they saw us watching, they didn't unload. We know outsiders like to use our convenient bins. Signs of warning don't help, but we can keep our eyes open and call Community Response.

Just think we trained ourselves to take our own bags to the grocery store. Someday trash will be just a little thing that irritates me.