

FACES OF THE FRONT

Duffy and Elena Welsh

Residents, Capitol Quarter

Buying into the Whole Idea

Duffy and Elena Welsh have their dogs to thank for their move to the Capitol Riverfront.

Several years ago, while living in a condo in Penn Quarter, an Internet search suggested the Congressional Cemetery dog park for an after-work drive to exercise their pooches. Along the way, they'd detour through "The Front" to check out the future site of the new stadium.



Fast outgrowing their condo, the Duffy and Elena stopped by the EYA's Capitol Quarter sales center after one of their dog walking adventures. The duo were so taken with the property that they camped out for a week to secure a townhome reservation for a townhouse, even turning down offers of \$10,000 to \$20,000 for their place in line.

"We bought into the whole idea. Where are you going to get a townhouse, with a roof terrace and a parking garage right next to a Metro and the baseball stadium and the waterfront," says Duffy, an IT consultant who works near the Verizon Center. "It just doesn't happen a lot in DC—the ability to purchase something like this at a very competitive price."

Duffy and Elena, who works at a DC hotel, relish homeownership where there is open space for their dogs, where their work, restaurants and entertainment are just a short ride away on the Metro, where they can walk to a ballgame and where they have wonderful neighbors – many of whom they got to know during their week camping out on the street.

And they look forward to the future.

"It is rare opportunity that you have this whole redevelopment, which is huge. I just want them to get it all done," says Duffy. "I'm impatient but I'm sure it will all be here. Instead of a two or three year plan, it may be five, but it's definitely going to happen."