

# Fire in Remington brings the neighborhood together

Submitted by Betsy Childs, Episcopal Housing Corp.

A fire enveloped 5 homes here in Remington last week. It started at 2708 Huntingdon Avenue, when the Williams family (Anne, Charlie, and Stephanie) were downstairs in the kitchen and smelled smoke.

While they were trying to find where it was coming from, Butch, a local resident, knocked on the door to tell them that he saw smoke and flames from their upstairs back window. He had been walking down the alley with a friend and saw the smoke. He went around front and the friend called the fire department on a cell phone.

Stephanie had been searching for the source and her father, Charlie, had just come downstairs when they heard the knock on the door. Butch said "when the door opened a stream of smoke came down the stairs and into the living room and outside. It was bad".

Ann, Charlie, Stephanie, and Stephanie's fiancée, Steven Smith, got out of the house. Charlie is handicapped and it took some time to get out, and as they were walking him out into the hallway the living room ceiling fell in behind them.

Once outside they saw their neighbor's house at 2706 and 2710 filling up with smoke. Stephanie went to 2706 and knew that no one was home, but that there were dogs inside. Steven kicked in the door to get the pets out. The house on the other side of 2710 was also filling with smoke and the residents got out safely. Stephanie says people from all over were coming to help. She said "some guy with blonde hair kicked in the door of 2706 to get the residents there out, we didn't know who he was, but he saved them."

Thanks to some quick help from neighbors, the people in all the homes were evacuated with no inj-

-uries either to people or pets. The fire department showed up quickly thanks to the cell phone call. The houses affected were 2706 – 2714 Huntingdon Avenue, with varying degrees of smoke and fire damage. The exact cause has not been determined, but they believe it was an electric fire. The Williams family have been residents of Remington for over 55 years.

Unfortunately, due to Charlie's recent medical expenses, the family was unable afford fire insurance. To continue the neighborhood spirit, if anyone would like to help them in repairs to the home by donating time, expertise, or funds, please contact Caitlin at the Church of the Guardian Angel at 410-235-6222.

Monetary donations will be handled through a bank account and no individuals are authorized to ask for donations. Please give only through the jars at local establishments or by contacting Pastor Alice Jellema at the Church of the Guardian Angel.

A volunteer list is being created and a fundraising dinner will be held shortly. More information will follow on that. Miss Ann asks that even if you have told *her* you want to help, please call Caitlin, they need names and phone numbers for volunteers so you can be contacted.

A big thank you is extended to Falkenhan's for donating supplies to keep the houses safe until bigger repairs can be started.

The real story here is that neighbors in Remington keep an eye out for each other and that is what makes us a community and not just some streets in a city.

Miss Ann said, "People from all over Remington, many we didn't even know, stepped up to help us out in our time of need."

## LONG JOHN'S PUB

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## Two Chances to help Clean up Remington!

**April 17th** - Baltimore City - The Mayor's Annual Spring Cleanup. There will be brooms and bags for those to help sweep up the trash

**April 24th** - Clean up some more! There will be a dumpster down on 26th street for neighborhood trash.



## St. Mary's Outreach programs for Remington Seniors

## Food Stamp Outreach Program -Monday April 19th at 1 pm.

Come to St. Mary's Outreach Center, 3900 Roland Ave (the Hampden shuttle bug goes right by here). Rodney Stephens, with the MD food stamp program, will be here to help with your needs regarding food stamps and info on the food banks in the area.



Applications for the Maryland Energy Assistance Program and for

2010 Homeowners / Renters Tax Credits are available now.

St. Mary's Outreach will help fill out the applications needed for both these programs. The Maryland Energy Assistance Program can help with your gas, electric, and fuel bills. SMOC will review your bill with you, and go over some of the steps you can take to lower your costs.

For taxpayers of all ages, The Homeowners / Renters Tax Credits program is available for those that qualify on the basis of a comparison of your tax bill with your income.

Seniors are also eligible for the Senior Citizen 30% off Baltimore City Water bill discount. If you're 65 or older with an income of \$25,000, this can make a difference in the water bill.

St. Mary's Outreach Center is open to all Remington Seniors to answer questions regarding federal, city and state aid programs. SMOC is located in Hampden and is easily accessible by the Hampden Shuttle bus (#98). Call St. Mary's Outreach Center at 410-366-3106 with any questions. A senior Resource and Referral Service. GRIA, in partnership with Art on Purpose, presents

**Remington Stories:** 

Historical and current photographs of the neighborhood, along with audio and other artwork made by Remington youth

#### - June 19th, location to be determined -

**Right**: Hugh Sisson, was known as Baltimore's Marble King. He created the monument for Edgar Allen Poe, among many others. **Below**: Working on the 29th street bridge, looking east over dock beams.



gria

Greater Remington Improvement Association

Recent and on-going projects:

#### Remington's GRIA Meetings!

Come by and join in on our monthly GRIA community meetings.

We meet on the third Monday of each month at 7 pm in Kromer Hall at the Church of the Guardian Angel (335 W. 27th St).

Visit www.griaonline.org for more information and to view coming events, blogs, and past newsletters.



This summer the Greater Remington Improvement Association (GRIA), in partnership with Art on Purpose, will once again hold the Remington Stories: Images from the past, visions for the future. This is an exhibit comprised of artwork and audio created for and by Remington residents. This year it will take place on June 19th from 1-5pm (tentative) and all residents are welcome to attend the event. Learn about the history of Remington and see images of its bright future!

This exhibition features old and new photographs of the neighborhood collected from Remington residents and artwork and audio from Art on Purpose's Remington Youth Project Radio (RYPR).

Last year the exhibit brought together an intergenerational group of residents and newcomers into Remington to learn about what the community and its residents . Look for more information on this event at www.griaonline.org. The event is free and food will be provided.

## Remington Community Newsletter

This newsletter is produced and distributed to the residents and business located in the neighborhood of Remington with the collaboration of the following partners:

Episcopal Housing Corporation, G.R.I.A., The Church of the Guardian Angel, and the Greater Homewood Community Corporation.

Everyone is welcome to contribute information about activities and events in the Remington Neighborhood. Contact Betsy at 410-366-6200.

## More Help with your Fuel Bill

Maryland Energy Assistance Program is a state program that helps you pay the cost of heating your home, even if heat is included in your rent.

If you are interested to see if you qualify, call Betsy at 410-366-6200, the Episcopal Housing Corporation and we can set up an appointment and come see you. This will end in May so hurry to get your application for 2010 in now!



### ADOPT A BLUE BOX!

If you would like to adopt and care for a famous Remington Blue Box filled with beautiful colors this season, contact Peter Babcox at the Church of the Guardian Angel.

### **A Friendly Reminder**

Please help keep Remington clean by picking up after your dog. The Baltimore City Ordinance §10-313 requires the owner or keeper of an animal to immediately remove all feces left by the animal on private or public property.



Let's all do our part to keep our neighborhood clean!



## Get the Word Out to Your Neighbors

The Remington Weekly Bulletin comes out each week with information on what is happening in our neighborhood. If you would like to submit an event to the Bulletin, please call 410-235-6222 or email Caitlin Sellnow at Caitlin@episcopalhousing.org.

The Remington Newsletter comes out each month and we are interested in events that your organization may be holding. Please send us information on the event a month ahead of time. Email betsy@episcopalhousing.org.



Breakfast Is Now Being Served! Friday from 8-11 Saturday and Sunday from 8-2

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