



# Remington Community Newsletter

Peter Morrill

Twelfth Edition

June/July 2016

## Remington Community Picnic Sisson Street Lot, June 4, 2016





## GRIA Elects Youth Representative to Board of Directors

By Erin Murphy Colligan

Teenagers have a reputation for being self-absorbed and for contributing to problems in the community rather than fixing them. Sixteen-year old Ray DeBarge defies this stereotype. When he went to his first meeting of the Greater Remington Improvement Association (GRIA) with his aunt Bonnie three years ago, DeBarge realized that he could make a difference in his neighborhood despite his young age. Now he'll have an bigger platform to inspire change as GRIA's first youth representative.

DeBarge, 16, is a lifelong resident of Remington. He lives on the 2700 block of Atkinson Street and is a student at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, where he is training with the Air Force JROTC and serving on student government. He thinks that it is important to get involved with neighborhood groups such as GRIA to make himself a better a person and to benefit the community. DeBarge believes Remington is a neighborhood "still in the process of reaching its new potential" and has ideas on how to keep it moving in the right direction.

As a voting member of GRIA's board, DeBarge's goal is to try to get more youth involved in the many programs in the Remington community. He hopes to move children "out of the streets and back into the books," and encourage physical activity with summer sports. He plans to create more programs if financially possible, such as an arts and crafts night. DeBarge will also support Remington events such as the Community Picnic and Hauntington.

DeBarge realizes it is challenging to engage youth in neighborhood affairs. He says many youth are scared to go outside because of what they see or hear in the media about violence in the community. He also thinks many teenagers are scared to do something because they'll be shunned by their peers. DeBarge hopes to address these barriers by



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providing safe and enjoyable activities and encouraging youth to get "out of their shells" and realize that "everyone has a voice." See page 4 for one initiative.

Ultimately, DeBarge wants to help teens handle their problems constructively and find the positive in their neighborhood. "Don't be scared of what might happen before you do it—just do it and see what happens," he says. "Don't be scared about how you look—just express yourself. Make choices." If anyone can serve as a role model for these values, it's DeBarge. **R**

## Get Social, Online

Your neighbors are connecting, sharing information, and planning events on social media. The two major platforms right now are Facebook's Friends of Remington page, <https://goo.gl/bPqMp> and Nextdoor Remington, <https://remingtonmd.nextdoor.com>.

## Join the Greater Remington Improvement Association!

Every third *Wednesday* night, 7pm



**July 20th  
August 17th**

Church of Guardian Angel - Kromer Hall  
335 W. 27th Street  
(green door)

## Introducing the Remington Youth Group

By Ray DeBarge IV, Director, GRIA board member

For Remington to succeed, we need to focus on Remington's future. That's why a handful of young people have decided to organize the Remington Youth Group. Many Remington youth lack the cultural, educational, and family resources others might take for granted. The Youth Group can band together to fill some of those gaps and provide a great way to prepare our kids for adulthood.

The group won the enthusiastic support of the Greater Remington Improvement Association board at its June meeting. Several members of the group spoke about the importance of having positive activities to engage in around the community and about their willingness to contribute to the neighborhood.

The Youth Group aims to meet at least once a week to play games, talk about ways to improve the neighborhood, and organize field trips and service projects. So far, we have taken over a garden plot at the Sisson Street Community Garden (with flowers, tomatoes, and basil donated by the Community School) and picked up litter around the Sisson Street lot. The group has also contributed to the polka dot mural that is being added to the fence at the lot to cover the graffiti.

The Youth Group currently consists of eight people between the ages of five and 16, and we want to have many more. Youth of all ages are invited to join.

As we grow, we'll need more adult support to help chaperone the activities around the neighborhood and facilitate field trips around the region. The Youth Group can be an important way for adults, both new and lifelong Remington residents, to meet the youth who walk by their stoops daily and broaden the support network for them as they transition to young adults. This is also an opportunity to break down stereotypes groups might hold about each other so that we can have a healthy and safe community.

We welcome donations to help make our trips possible, and thanks to GRIA's fiscal sponsorship, contributions are tax-deductible.

Youth Group meets every Tuesday (subject to change) at the Sisson Street lot from 5 to 6 pm. Talk to me around the neighborhood or message me on Facebook to help out! **R**

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## Job Listings

Remington-area employers: List your openings here, for free! If a Remington resident could walk to work, we'll list your opening free of charge. Contact the editor to list your opening.





R. House (front right) and Remington Row are staffing up.

## Announcing Open Positions at Remington Row and R. House

The Greater Remington Improvement Association is partnering with Seawall Development to announce employment opportunities at the new developments and to assist neighborhood residents in applying for open positions.

Retailers and food vendors are hiring for upcoming grand openings at Remington Row (apartments and retail building on the 2700 block of Remington ave) and R. House (food hall on the 2800 block of Remington ave).

Open jobs include staff at various Remington Row retail businesses, facilities maintenance at the Remington Row residences, cooks and cashiers at restaurants at R. House, servers, bar backs, dish washers, and cleaning staff at R. House.

If you're interested in applying or know a neighbor who is, watch for these upcoming employment events.

- E-mail [info.gria@gmail.com](mailto:info.gria@gmail.com) for an online application or pick up and work on your paper application at the Community School (337 W. 30th Street) or the Church of the Guardian Angel (335 W. 27th) – available in **early July**.
- Complete your application on your own or drop in for assistance on your application at The Community School the evening of **August 2** anytime between 5 and 7:30 pm.
- Job Fair! Meet the employers and submit your application, **August 15**.
- Interviews will take place on an individual basis following the job fair, as scheduled by the employer. **R**

## Join the Campaign for Fair Development

As Remington develops, neighbors are increasingly asking what the changes will mean for them and their place in the community. This summer, United Workers and the Baltimore Housing Roundtable are partnering with GRIA to explore issues of housing and development in the neighborhood. United Workers, through BHR, is working to build a movement for permanently affordable quality housing and community-driven development that meets our basic needs.

Together, these groups are knocking on doors and talking to residents about their concerns with housing.

The survey is asking neighbors about their experiences with changes to rental prices or property taxes, if they're interested in owning a home in the neighborhood, and if they would like to be involved in working with a team of residents to explore a community-driven housing initiative.

Interested in joining this process and talking to your neighbors? Please join our Organizing & Education committee for canvassing every Thursday and Friday night. Contact Adriana Foster if you would like to join, by e-mail, [Adriana@unitedworkers.org](mailto:Adriana@unitedworkers.org), or telephone, (210) 825-9925.

We would also like to invite everyone to the next GRIA community meeting on Wednesday, **July 20 at 7pm** for a Housing Speak-Out. This will be a space for Remington community members to voice their concerns around housing and development in the neighborhood and come together to explore community-driven approaches to affordable housing for our neighborhood. **R**

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This newsletter is produced for the residents and businesses of Remington in partnership with GRIA and the Church of the Guardian Angel. Distribution by Julie Dael. All are welcome to contribute about activities and events in Remington. Contact the editor at (443) 650-8733 or [CraigBettenhausen@gmail.com](mailto:CraigBettenhausen@gmail.com).