

Remington Community Newsletter

Peter Merrill

Thirteenth Edition

March 2017

At nightfall, the lights of the ND National Guard guarding the pipeline could be seen in the distance.



Guardian Angel Goes to Standing Rock

By Pastor Alice, Church of the Guardian Angel

We went to Standing Rock. Yup. Five middle-aged white church ladies crammed ourselves and our gear into a Toyota Sienna van and left Remington at 9:22pm on Dec 1. We arrived on Dec. 3 at about 9am local time and left again on the 4th, just after the permit denial was announced. We got back to Remington on the 6th at about 10 am. It was an intense pilgrimage.

Standing Rock is 25 miles south of Bismark, North Dakota. There is a camp of Native Americans there protecting the water of the Missouri river, their own sense of sovereignty, and a major Lakota burial ground. They are protecting the water from the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), which would bring “tar sands oil” from North Dakota to Illinois, where an existing pipeline would carry it to the Gulf of Mexico. A spill—more common than you’d like to think—would pollute the water for the entire region. The Trump administration is now moving ahead with the pipeline, but people remain there, maintaining their prayerful protection.

Our group had been studying “Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God,” by Kelly Brown Douglas and discussing our denomination’s call to make reparation for the long enslavement of Americans of African descent. We wanted to learn more about how to be reparations—what Isaiah calls “repairers of the breach.” We also each felt

a deep longing to stand with the people who asked for that support during their planned Dec. 4th day of prayer.

We were prepared for drama. We brought milk of magnesia to wash off tear gas. Some of us even went to be trained in the particular tactics used for confrontations with the DAPL security forces. But the overwhelming reality of the camp was the ongoing, lived spirit of prayer. More than 357 Native American groups were there, united by a shared set of values, which they enacted in rituals and realized throughout a camp of 3000 people.

We had hoped to be of some help in the work of the camp, but soon recalculated; “Please, God, help us not make extra work for others!” As we made our way

through the day, we became a little more part of the camp; helpers on the slower scale of giving directions, carrying wood or supplies, sharing what we had brought, receiving help from others, and admiring the astounding, stunning, harsh, fierce, wild beauty of the Dakota sky and land. We tried to learn to live the prayer. It is harder than you think.

We left during a wild celebration of an admittedly fragile victory: The pipeline was stopped, for about a breath.

As we left, a traffic accident snarled the line of vehicles on the only route out. A person came past our van announcing, “Prayer circle up ahead in 5 min.” The circle defused the tension of the traffic jam and focused people’s minds on the needs of those in the accident. It was a meaningful ritual, learned in the camp, enacted without grandstanding. It was followed in our van with an energetic discussion of how to bring that lesson back with us.

As we practice this idea, already known but learned anew, we find that we can listen more openly, allow for more difference, return to prayer sooner, act more slowly, and laugh more.

Having burnt 175 gallons of gasoline to protest an oil pipeline, for our next pilgrimage we will be walking to DC for the People’s Climate Rally (April 29th). We will leave Remington—on foot—at 11am on Wednesday, April 26th. If you would like to come along for part or all of this pilgrimage, please start training your body now. Group walks with increasing mileage will be scheduled each week. Check Guardian Angel’s Facebook page for updates. **R**

Appreciation: Bryan Taylor

By Craig Bettenhausen



When I took over the Newsletter, I had a problem to solve. It was printed for years with a major financial subsidy from the Episcopal Housing Corporation, but that help wasn't continuing. Then, in conversation over dinner, my close friend Bryan Taylor said he could print it. Bryan was retired from the printing business and still had some equipment that could handle the job. We'd just need to pay for paper and ink.

That began a long saga where behind the scenes, Bryan and I, along with his husband Vaughn Vigil, worked to assemble the equipment we have now, which allows us to print and fold the Newsletter efficiently and completely in-house. In their foyer, to be specific. Nothing worked right at first and we've had to fix a lot of problems. But with his expertise and tenacity, we've been able to cut the production costs of the Newsletter in half, making it financially sustainable with only six reasonably priced ads.

Bryan's expert attention made the Newsletter better in other ways. His critique of the layout led to improvements I'm very happy with, his comments on the content sharpened my editing of subsequent articles, and he found more than a few typos before we printed them 1,500 times.

It was also a fun project to do with a friend.

Bryan died unexpectedly in an accident on Jan. 17 at the age of 57. Vaughn and I will keep printing the Newsletter in their home, but we'll miss him, and it will be harder. Though he never lived here, Bryan kept a close eye on Remington and was rooting for us. Our newsletter and our neighborhood have lost an ally.

I don't find comfort in ascribing cosmic significance to a person's death. I'm not looking for a silver lining. It sucks; I want my friend back and it isn't happening. But he knew how much his work meant to the Newsletter, and he knew that my wife and I loved and appreciated him for that and for all the other pieces of who he was. That is a comfort—and one of many lessons I'll carry forward from my time with Bryan.

In addition to his husband, he is survived by his mother, Judy; brother, Thomas; and his dogs Charlie #8 and Lola. **R**

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Workers install a washer and dryer at Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle. Access to laundry facilities has been linked to improved attendance.



Margaret Brent Gains Laundry Facilities

By Celeste Perilla, Strong City Baltimore

Laundry may seem inconsequential in the effort to keep kids in school. But every day, students across Baltimore miss school because they lack clean clothes. Having nothing clean to wear to school could be the deciding factor in whether or not they want to face their classmates.

Whirlpool USA recently donated a washer and dryer to Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle School, the public school that serves Remington, but the school building needed significant electrical and plumbing upgrades to get the appliances up and running.

Bill Cunningham, a GRIA board member, connected the school with a local business, R.E. Harrington Plumbing & Heating, which donated labor for the installation.

A collaboration between the GRIA, the Village Parents, Charles Village Civic Association, and Strong City Baltimore raised more than \$1,500, with \$500 coming from GRIA and

the rest coming from internet crowdfunding and an event at nearby Peabody Heights Brewery. The funds raised by the campaign will go toward maintenance, supplies, and uniform items for needy students.

Having a washer and dryer in the school will allow staff to wash uniforms for students who don't have regular access to washers and dryers. Laundry programs such as this have shown great results in increasing attendance by students from lower-income families.



Margaret Brent is part of Strong City's Community School program, along with Waverly Elementary/Middle, Guilford Elementary/Middle, and Barclay Elementary/Middle. One focus of the program is to remove non-academic barriers to learning for students and their families so kids are put in the best position to learn. A Community School is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources.

Strong City staffer Sharicca Boldon is the community school contact for Margaret Brent. She coordinates and recruits community volunteers and other resources for the school. If you'd like more information on how to get involved at Margaret Brent or are interested in donating your time or resources, you can contact her at sboldon@strongcitybaltimore.org **R**



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Interesting Developments

By Craig Bettenhausen

Remington has attracted the attention of Baltimore's entrepreneurs. A host of business are open now or opening soon that weren't there six months ago.

The biggest is, of course, **R. House**. Like much of the development activity in recent years, it is a project from Seawall Development. The former Anderson Auto Body building at Remington Ave. and W. 29th Street is now a food hall boasting nine chef-driven miniature restaurants, a full-service bar, and a pop up space that will host a progression of temporary food concepts.

Ground & Griddled serves coffee and egg sandwiches. **Amano Taco** serves Mexico-style tacos, sides, and drinks. **BeBim** serves Korean BBQ, kimchi, and dumplings. **ARBA** offers Mediterranean street food classics as well as creative riffs on those flavors and styles. **BRD** has fried chicken in various forms and sides to complement it. **White Envelope** stuffs their arepas, a type of cornbread, with meats, vegetables, and sauces inspired by the cuisine of Venezuela. **Blk//Sugar's** baked breads and desserts share space with **Little Baby's Ice Cream**. **Hilo** brings sushi's Hawaiian cousin, poke, to Remington. And **Stall 11** turns local produce from Urban Pastoral into vegetarian main-dishes inspired by old-world street food.

Diners pick and choose from the different stalls and eat in any of several common seating areas, include two designed to be kid-friendly. R. House has parking on site and Seawall also rents a large section of the Police building parking lot across the street for patrons to use.

Blacksauce Kitchen is now open for carryout on Thursdays from 11am to 8pm at 29th and Miles Avenue. The BBQ and biscuit eatery's business is still mostly in catering, farmer's markets, and special events.

Remington Wine Company opened in late December on 29th where Sav-It Liquors & Lottery used to be. This family-run store specializes in wine but also has a selection of beer and liquor. It currently can do only a limited quantity of tastings, but hopes to get permission soon from the state to expand that offering.

Old Market Barbers is open on Lorraine Avenue at Howard Street. A basic men's haircut is \$18, kids and seniors for \$15. The owner, Daniel Wells, is renovating a home here in Remington and hopes to move in later this year. He also owns Hampden's Old Bank Barbers.

Twenty20 Cycling Co. plans to combine their two existing

stores into one, larger bicycle shop opening onto the 29th St face of the "grey ghost" building at Remington Ave and 29th, behind Pizza Boli's.

Howard Bank will join the retail tenants at Remington Row.

B. Willow interior plant and floral design is nearing completion of its retail and workshop location at Cresmont Avenue and W. 27th Street.

And finally, the planned daycare tenant at **Guardian Angel** has fallen through. The church is now looking for a new tenant, childcare or otherwise, for the 3,150 sq ft space. Contact guardianangelremington@gmail.com for info. **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.