



# NETWORK

## ORIGINAL NORTHWOOD ASSOCIATION

### From the President Fall Highlights

It is my pleasure to serve this year as the Original Northwood Association President. Let me start off by thanking Greg Rex for his many years of services to the ONA. He has helped me tremendously in this transition and I have no doubt I will call on him again before the year is out. I consider it a privilege to count myself a part of this Board as well as this neighborhood. Original Northwood is truly a Baltimore gem both for the homes and the people living in them.

As I begin my tenure as President, I wanted to highlight my goals for the coming year. First and foremost, I want to continue to empower neighborhood involvement. Whether that means attending ONA events, paying dues, or in some cases getting involved, my hope is that we are all able to feel the same sense of ownership. I think a great example

is the work Jeffrey Gray, Chris Youngston, Matt Post, and others have accomplished in dealing with traffic on Argonne Dr. Rather than wait for the Board to take action, they contacted the City and have plans for two traffic calming islands to deal with that issue. It is a great example of neighbors getting active. In addition to involvement, my other aspirations are to reinvigorate the discussion about the overhaul of Northwood Plaza and find a way to entice young families to stay in the neighborhood.

Here's an update from our recent Annual Meeting at the Northeast Precinct. Mary Pat Clarke and Bobby Curran, the representatives from the two districts that make up Original Northwood, provided us with an overview of the City issues we will see on the ballot next month. They also answered questions on some of the issues relevant to our neighborhood. Of particular note was the 12/31/2012 deadline for the Homestead Tax Credit. Please take a few moments to read the article on page 6 as it could truly save you thousands of dollars down the road.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to participate in our Board Committees. Committees are a great way to get involved in the neighborhood without committing to serving on the Board. Typically committee work is done virtually and should not take too much of your time. We are actively seeking individuals who

would be willing to serve on the Covenant, Maintenance, and Social committees. If you have any questions about committee responsibilities or anything else in the neighborhood, please do not hesitate to email me at [president@originalnorthwood.org](mailto:president@originalnorthwood.org).

Here's to serving together!

Eric Lapointe

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*Eric Lapointe*

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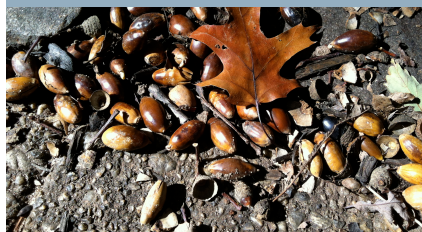
*From our local fire department*

### TRAFFIC CALMING 5

*Plans for Argonne Drive*

### HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT 6

*The filing deadline is December 31*



*See page 6 for more information about the Homestead Tax Credit. To apply, contact the State Department of Assessments and Taxation's (SDAT) Homestead line at 410-767-2165 or its email address, at [hcredit@dat.state.md.us](mailto:hcredit@dat.state.md.us)*

*You can check your status at [bit.ly/baltimore-property-search](http://bit.ly/baltimore-property-search)*

# News

## Vacancies to fill

### Board changes

In October, we said goodbye to many board members: Greg Rex (president), Lester Cavagnero (safety), and Eric Heard (secretary). We are thankful for their work and sorry to see them go.

Eric Lapointe is the new President, and Dana Andrusik the new Vice President. The Safety and Secretary positions are **open**. If you are interested in joining the board, please contact Eric Lapointe.

## Fiction, non-fiction, even kids' books!

### Book Club

Some members have organized a book club, which meets the last Sunday of every month at 2 PM. Contact Caroline Umana <lina7247@yahoo.com> if you are interested in attending:

- **Nov. 18:** *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World* by Michael Pollan
- **Jan. 27:** *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo
- **Feb. 24:** *From Animal House to Our House: A Love Story* by Ron Tanner
- **Mar. 31:** *Don Quixote* by Cervantes
- **Apr 28:** *The Razor's Edge* by W. Somerset Maugham
- **May 26:** Book Selection Meeting

### Email list

We have setup an optional mailing list for digital delivery of the NETWORK and other neighborhood news. You can subscribe from the link on the website or by navigating directly to [bit.ly/ona-newsletter](http://bit.ly/ona-newsletter). Your email address will never be shared, sold, or used for any other purposes not described above.

## Only 18% of households have paid Please Pay Your Dues!

You can pay your dues in two ways: (1) via credit card, using the Google checkout button on our web page or (2) sending a check to our Treasurer at:

Original Northwood Association  
1211 Southview Rd  
Baltimore, MD 21218

### Covenant Matters

The following covenant applications have been received and are pending decisions by the covenant committee.

- Argonne: *window replacement*
- Deepwood: *window replacement*
- Northview: *request to repair garage door and window*
- Westview: *repair shingles on rear dormer*

### Holiday Party

Our annual Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 8 from 5–8 PM. All are welcome (bring the kids!), and we'd love to see you there. More information will follow.

## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER 8

Holiday Party, 5–8 PM  
1310 Argonne Dr

### DECEMBER 13

ONA board meeting @ 8 PM

### DECEMBER 15

Dumpster  
4120 Westview

### JANUARY 10

ONA board meeting @ 8 PM

### FEBRUARY 14

ONA board meeting @ 8 PM

### MARCH 10

ONA board meeting @ 8 PM



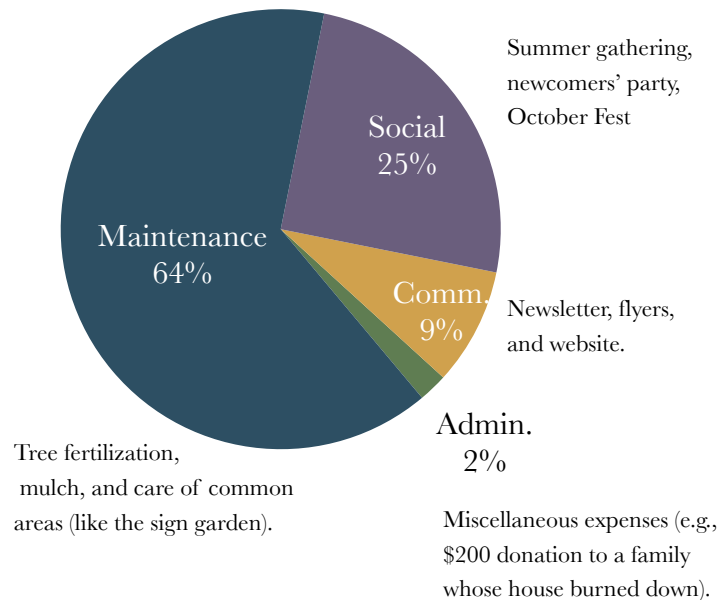
ON book club members discussing *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

# Treasurer's report

## Updates on dues payments and expenditures

Street (# houses)	Paid (2011)	Paid (2012)
<b>The Alameda (33)</b>	7	1
<b>Argonne (37)</b>	15	9
<b>Deepwood (33)</b>	22	7
<b>Roundhill (08)</b>	3	2
<b>Roundtop (14)</b>	2	0
<b>Loch Raven (49)</b>	18	6
<b>Westview (41)</b>	22	13
<b>Eastview (70)</b>	19	13
<b>Northview (10)</b>	3	1
<b>Southview (39)</b>	16	6
<b>Havenwood (19)</b>	12	8
<b>Kelway (16)</b>	5	3
<b>Total (369)</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>69</b>

### Year-to-date Expenses



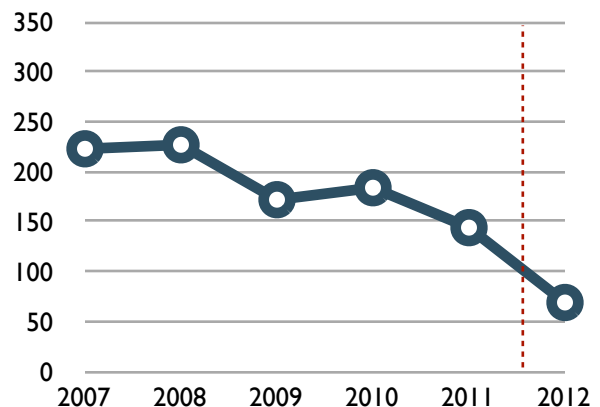
### Please pay your dues!

We are into the second half of the year and are on track for our worst year in recent history in terms of collections. Your dues payments are used to fund a variety of neighborhood activities and are part of what makes Original Northwood distinct. The newsletter, the dumpsters, the upkeep of common areas — all of these are valuable services that set our neighborhood apart and help keep property values up.

You can pay via credit card via the **Google Checkout link** on the website, or you can mail a check to:

Original Northwood Association  
 1211 Southview Rd  
 Baltimore, MD 21218

### Households paid per year



# Winter Preparation

## Advice from your local Fire Department

Days are getting shorter and colder and winter is just around the corner. Unfortunately, the city of Baltimore experiences a lot of fires in winter, and the main reason is faulty furnaces and space heaters. Your Fire Department suggests that you take some precautions to keep your family, home, and property safe. Here's a check list of things to do before you fire up your furnace and use your fire place:

- ❑ Remove clutter at least 36" away from furnaces and space heaters.
- ❑ Don't store any flammable material near the furnace or the fire place.
- ❑ Have your furnace checked, change out the air filter and keep fireplace flues clean.
- ❑ Check all of your smoke detectors at least twice a year (i.e., Christmas and July 4<sup>th</sup>).
- ❑ Ideally upgrade to a digital smoke and carbon-monoxide detector.
- ❑ Remove gas from mowers before storage.
- ❑ Get a fire extinguisher.

### Do your children know E.D.I.T.H.?

Do you have an escape plan in case of fire? Once a fire has started in your home, it's too late to plan how to get out. Escape plans save lives! That's where E.D.I.T.H. comes in: Exit Drill In The Home. If you don't have one yet, now is a good time to sit down with your family and create a step-by-step plan.

Here is some guidance:

- ❑ Draw a floor plan of your home; show two ways out of every room. The escape routes must be known by all of the members in your home.
- ❑ Agree on a meeting place outside the home; this allows you to count heads and inform your fire department if anyone is missing.
- ❑ Practice your escape plan often! And make your E.D.I.T.H. realistic and pretend that some exits are blocked.
- ❑ Make sure everyone knows how to unlock all doors and windows quickly, especially in the dark.
- ❑ Teach your children to test doors before opening them. Touch the door with the back of your hand. If you feel any warmth, use another escape route. If the door feels cool, open it with caution. Open it slowly, but be ready to slam it shut if there is smoke and flames on the other side.
- ❑ If you are trapped, close all doors between you and the fire. Stuff the cracks around the doors to keep the smoke out. Wait at a window and signal for help. If there is a phone in the room, call your fire department and report exactly where you are.
- ❑ Remember: smoke and heat rise and smoke contains deadly gases. So during a fire, cleaner air is near the floor.
- ❑ **Never** go back inside until firefighters approve it.

Lieutenant *Stephen C. T-29*

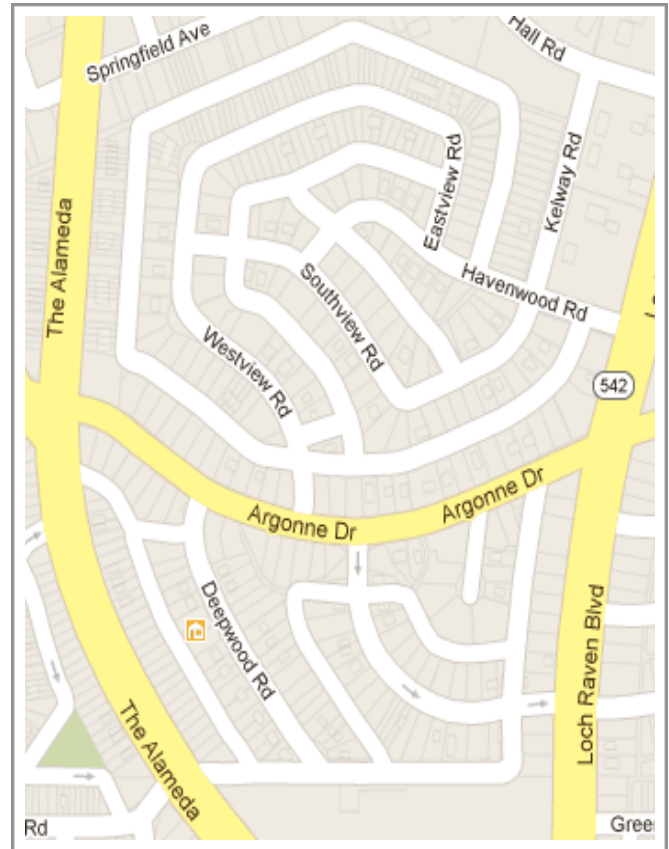


# Traffic Calming

## Plans for crosswalks and islands on Argonne move forward

Friendships, neighborhood events, and other community get-togethers often bring together Original Northwood residents from opposite sides of Argonne Drive. The neighborhood's beauty and relative compactness make walking an attractive option, but crossing Argonne can be difficult. Its wide lanes and status as a thoroughfare produce fast-moving traffic which, and limited visibility, lack of stoplights, marked pedestrian lanes, and cut curbs combine to make it dangerous to cross, particularly at busy times of the day and to those in wheelchairs or with strollers.

In response to a formal proposal written by ON residents and delivered to Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, the city is moving forward with a plan to install two traffic calming islands with crosswalks and cut curbs to facilitate stroller and wheelchair access. The first island will be placed just west of Deepwood Road, and the second east of Westview or possibly east of Roundhill, with exact locations to be determined. Progress has been steady, and if all goes according to plan, these islands and crosswalks should be completed in the first half of 2013. If you would like more information, please contact the Communications Chair, who can put you in touch with the residents keeping up with this project.



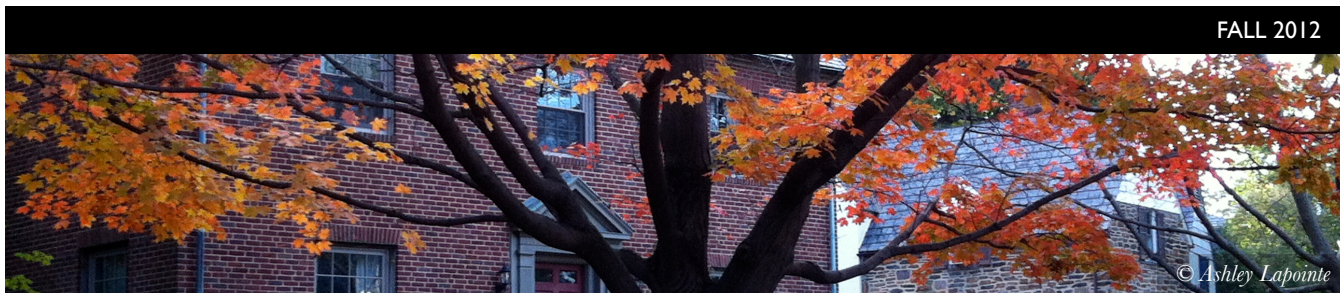
### ADVERTISE IN THE NETWORK TO NEARLY 400 HOMES

The NETWORK newsletter is published four times a year. If you'd like to advertise, please contact the Communications chair. We offer excellent prices, negotiable size and placement, and your newsletter will be hand delivered to hundreds of homes.

# YOUR AD HERE



*We are soliciting pictures for the newsletter and website, which will run with attribution. Please send them to [communications@originalnorthwood.org](mailto:communications@originalnorthwood.org).*



© Ashley Lapointe

*Check your status now!*

### Homestead Tax Credit

*The short:* you need to apply for the Homestead Tax Credit, and you have a little over a month to do it. Not doing so could cost you thousands in property taxes, yet **37% of Original Northwood homes** have not submitted applications.

*The long (adapted from an article by Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke):* Five years ago, the Maryland General Assembly required that all Maryland homeowners apply to continue receiving the State’s Homestead Tax Credit. This action was taken to “weed out” recipients’ illegally claiming investment properties or second homes as eligible for this credit.

The purpose of the Homestead Credit Program is to help homeowners afford annual property tax increases on

their owner-occupied homes. The State caps annual assessment increases at 10 percent as applied to annual property taxes. Baltimore City caps at 4 percent. This credit protects homeowners, regardless of age, income, or property value, from annually spiking tax bills.

**Applications must be post-marked by December 31, 2012, or homeowners will lose this Homestead credit for the tax year beginning on July 1, 2013.**

Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke has long been involved with the Homestead Tax Credit issue. According to Clarke, Homestead applications are available only by contacting SDAT’s Homestead line at 410-767-2165 or its email address, at [hcredit@dat.state.md.us](mailto:hcredit@dat.state.md.us). You can check your status at <http://bit.ly/baltimore-property-search>

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2012 – 2013

### Officers

#### PRESIDENT

Eric Lapointe  
[president@originalnorthwood.org](mailto:president@originalnorthwood.org)

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Dana Andrusik  
[vicepresident@originalnorthwood.org](mailto:vicepresident@originalnorthwood.org)

#### TREASURER

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#### SECRETARY Open

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