



NETWORK

ORIGINAL NORTHWOOD ASSOCIATION

FALL 2021 ISSUE

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President's Corner



I hope that this finds each of you well. It is hard to believe that another summer has come and gone. As a community, we were able to celebrate many wonderful activities. These activities brought neighbors, new and old, together in community.

The year was not without challenges. In the summer, our neighborhood was hit with a sudden storm that

caused catastrophic damage to several houses. The community was swift to mobilize with clean-up activities, fundraising, and other outreach. I am especially grateful to our elected officials – Odette Ramos with whom I walked the neighborhood and Ryan Dorsey who showed up with a chainsaw – and our Maintenance and Social Chairs, Zhan Caplan and Jason Drennan. Zhan and Jason walked the neighborhood, helped where needed, and made sure that folk had cold water.

As a volunteer organization, the Original Northwood Associate strives to be inclusive and welcoming to all. This is evidenced through increased transparency of board actions with public posting of meeting minutes and financial reports, holding of open monthly board meetings and quarterly and annual meetings, and rapid transition to physically distanced social events open to all members of our community. We are fortunate to live in one of Baltimore's most diverse neighborhoods; however, that does not mean that we don't face our own challenges.

As the leaves turn shades of orange, yellow, and red, we held elections for the 2021-22 Board of Governors. As President, I welcome returning and new Board members. We will work toward building a more inclusive neighborhood through meaningful conversation and understanding of how to make the neighborhood more welcoming to all. I look to my fellow Board and neighbors to help make this a productive experience to strengthen the bonds that hold Original Northwood together.

Richard Skolasky

President, Original Northwood Association

Trustee, Greater Northwood Covenant Association

Board of Governors
2021-22

Officers

President

Richard Skolasky

president@originalnorthwood.org

Vice President

Glenn Paisley

vicepresident@originalnorthwood.org

Treasurer

Jen Spratt

treasurer@originalnorthwood.org

Secretary

Jonatham Roque

secretary@originalnorthwood.org

Members-at-Large

Communications

Carla Paisley

communications@originalnorthwood.org

Covenant

Lauren Bambusch

covenant@originalnorthwood.org

Maintenance

Zhan Caplan

maintenance@originalnorthwood.org

Safety

Joe Mertz

safety@originalnorthwood.org

Social

Jason Drennan

social@originalnorthwood.org

Board of Governors 2022

Please remember that the ONA Board is composed of your neighbors. We volunteer our time and areas of interest to ensure that the neighborhood continues to be a safe and comfortable one for each of us. If you would like to volunteer, you are invited to reach out to one of the members or to attend our monthly meetings.



Richard Skolasky,
President



Glenn Paisley, Vice
President



Jen Spratt,
Treasurer



Jonatham Roque,
Secretary



Carla Paisley,
Communications



Lauren Bambusch,
Covenant



Zhan Caplan,
Maintenance



Joe Mertz,
Safety



Jason Drennan,
Social



The best defense against crime is you!
We encourage you to report every crime
regardless of how petty or insignificant you
believe it is. Together, we can make Balti-
more a safer city! www.baltimorepolice.org

Welcoming New Board Members, Thanking Outgoing Board Members

I want to thank all of those who voted in our recent Board of Governors Election and attended our Annual Meeting. To allow enough time for electronic and print ballots, votes were tallied on October 1, 2021. The new Board of Governors for 2021-22 was announced. The following will have the pleasure and responsibility of serving the community for the coming year:

President - Richard Skolasky, Argonne
Vice President - Glenn Paisley, Roundhill
Treasurer, Jen Spratt, Southview
Secretary, Jonatham Quiñones-Roque, Deepwood
Communications, Whitney Visker, The Alameda
Covenant, Lauren Bambusch, Southview
Maintenance, Zhan Caplan, Havenwood
Safety, Joe Mertz, Argonne
Social, Jason Drennan

I hope that you will all join me in welcoming these new and returning neighborhood volunteers in their new roles. Each brings a unique perspective and experience to the role and I am very excited about the opportunity to work with them!

I also hope that you will join me in a heartfelt thanks to those neighbors who are leaving the Board after an incredible year of service to our community: Margo Madsen (Secretary) and Mary Stevenson (Covenant). Their tireless work has made our community stronger!



Jonatham Roque
Secretary
Deepwood Road

"One of my passions is community service and the position of secretary will give me the opportunity to know and serve more closely all our neighbors. The most that I like about living in ON is that it is a space that integrates tranquility in our city"



Lauren Bambusch
Covenant
Southview Road

Lauren and her husband Bradford have lived in the neighborhood for 8 years. The lush green surroundings combined with the easy access to both the city as well as Baltimore County made Original Northwood an ideal choice when looking for a new neighborhood in the city, but it's the community of Original Northwood that will keep Lauren and Bradford in the neighborhood well into the future. Lauren had a previous stint as covenant chair years ago and has maintained a spot on the covenant committee ever since; she decided to once again take up the mantle of the chair position to ensure continuity in the position.

Remember to bookmark the website to keep up with information on neighborhood matters
Visit the Original Northwood website frequently at www.originalnorthwood.org

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

The fall is going to be full of activities related to neighborhood maintenance. Here are some maintenance-related items and activities for everyone to be aware of:

Events

- On Saturday, October 9th we held a successful tree giveaway. The city donated 25 free one-gallon native trees for homeowners to plant on their properties. This giveaway is an important part of our ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance the tree canopy in the community during a time when we are losing a lot of our very old trees. We will continue these efforts through the city street tree program and giveaways whenever possible. Huge thanks to neighbor Jayne Mauric for being our neighborhood's "ambassador" with the city Forestry department!
- Saturday, October 23 at 10am we will do a fall clean up to coincide with the Mayor's Fall cleanup. I'm really hoping for a large turnout so we can attack litter not only on the main roads, but in alleys as well. Please come out and spend an hour helping make your community look beautiful! It's a fun way to meet neighbors, and an easy way to contribute.
- Saturday, November 20 will be our last Dumpster Day of the year. The dumpster will be located at Havenwood/Loch Raven in its usual spot, and should be there first thing in the morning. Please note that the city asks that you NOT put: hazardous materials (paints/varnishes, etc.) or electronics (old TVs and computers) in the dumpster.

Other Activities

- Pinehurst Landscaping is replacing (under warranty) some of the plants in the sign garden that didn't survive the summer sun with more hearty options. This work should be done by November.
- I am going to work to assemble a Maintenance Captain program for the community. This will be a great way to volunteer in your community without a heavy time requirement or large commitment. I'm looking for people who'll keep an eye out for trash on their streets, street gutters that are full of debris that need cleanup, storm drains that need clearing, etc. Stay tuned for more information on Nextdoor.
- I'll work with the city to get a new neighborhood sign installed at the intersection of Havenwood and Loch Raven.

Dial 211 for Essential Community Services

A blue speech bubble containing the text "2-1-1" in white.

Maryland recently introduced a new crisis hotline number. This hotline handles calls related to mental health, substance use concerns, and also provides support for the elderly, the disabled, those who do not speak English, those with limited reading skills, and those who are new to their communities. This new 211 line is available 24/7.

**PLACE YOUR ADS
HERE**

Interested in advertising in the NETWORK Newsletter? The rates are great and your message is delivered to nearly 400 homes in Original Northwood.

Contact communications@originalnorthwood.org for more information.

Block Captains Needed!

Your help is needed to keep the lines of communication open throughout the neighborhood.

Sign up to deliver newsletter, postcards, and other correspondence to our neighbors.

Contact vicepresident@originalnorthwood.org for more information.



Be sure to find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OriginalNorthwood/ and share our posts with your networks

Property Maintenance: Tips and Best Practices

We have a lot of new neighbors in the community, so I also thought it would be helpful to provide a list of property maintenance tips and best practices.

The Fall is often a busy time after summer vacations are done, kids are back in school, and the days are shorter. Here are some important items to keep in mind related to the maintenance and upkeep of your property.

- ✓ Many homeowners only enter and exit their home through one entrance. Please make sure to look around your **WHOLE** property – front and back – to make sure that your property is properly maintained. Is the lawn cut? Are there tree branches down? Are trees or plants growing into the public walkway?
- ✓ Determine if you have dead trees that need to be taken down, and schedule time for tree pruning/maintenance.
- ✓ Please do **NOT** leave grass/shrub clippings and debris on the sidewalk or blow them into the street. If not collected and bagged, grass clippings make great fertilizer on your lawn. Shrub clippings should be bagged. This helps protect the health of the Chesapeake Bay, prevents storm drains from getting clogged, and is just common courtesy for your neighbors.
- ✓ Please do **NOT** put loose trash bags out in the alley. All trash should be contained in a receptacle. (Most houses have a city-provided can, but if you don't, you can call 311 to request one.) The garbage collectors will usually pick up **UP TO 5** lawn bags. Place them in front of your can so they know you want them picked up. (Don't leave them lying around somewhere near the can.)
- ✓ Take a look around your street. Is there debris in the gutter? If so – please sweep it up! We no longer have street cleaners coming through, so it's incumbent on homeowners to clean it up. This will help prevent storm drains from getting clogged, which in turn prevents pooling of water on the streets, and ice build-up in the winter.
- ✓ Get your gutters cleaned after the last leaves have fallen from your trees!
- ✓ Consider **NOT** getting rid of all your leaves in the fall. **Rather, rake or blow them into flowerbeds, off your lawn.** This serves as beneficial fertilizer for trees and plants and also provides a habitat for pollinators and birds. A master gardener recently told me that if you want to see butterflies in the spring/summer, don't get rid of all your leaves in the fall/winter. They can get cleaned up in the spring!
- ✓ If you see something – say something! If you notice issues that the city should take care of, please call 311! Dead street trees, broken/missing curbs, etc. should all be reported to the city.

Reminder on Signage

Throughout the year, we on the Board hear concerns about signs posted through the neighborhood. This is a good time to remind neighbors of our policy regarding signage. Sub-division III of the original deed attached to our properties states, "No 'For Sale' or 'For Rent' sign or sign of similar character shall be erected or maintained on said tract, or on any building or structure on said tract..." When notified, the Board reaches out to real estate agents and/or homeowners to have inappropriate signage removed. We will continue to enforce this restriction.

That is not to say that all signage is prohibited. We continue to allow signage to advertise an open house (day of the event only) and to identify a contractor working on a property (duration of the work project). In addition, pursuant to state law, political signs are allowed; however, they must be posted no earlier than 30 days before and 7 days after an election.

If you notice a sign that you believe to be in violation, please report this to covenant@originalnorthwood.org.

Safety Update

Burglaries, robberies, and car-jackings that have happened in the neighborhood in the last year remind us that there are always reasons to be vigilant and make ourselves – and each other – safer.

The Baltimore Police Department has a long list of tips for keeping yourself safe at <http://www.baltimorepolice.org/community/safety-and-crime-prevention-tips>, as does the U.S. Department of Justice's Center for Problem-Oriented Policing <https://popcenter.asu.edu/>. Please have a look at these and hone your safety skills. A few of the common themes that arise in preventing crimes like car-jackings, home & car burglaries, and robberies are staying alert, limiting opportunities for criminals to act upon, and using a support network of family and neighbors.

- Stay alert - especially when entering/exiting a vehicle or home, and avoid situations, individuals, and vehicles that seem suspicious. Don't hesitate to report suspicious individuals, vehicles, or activity – unfortunately it doesn't go without saying but keep in mind that having a particular skin color is not suspicious activity.
- Limit opportunities – lock home, garage, and car doors and windows, don't leave anything that looks valuable in your car. Use deadbolt locks if you have them and install them if you don't. Illuminate the exterior of your house, especially near doors and accessible windows, park in well-lit locations, and leave a light on at home when you're away. Install security cameras, video doorbells, and home alarm systems (all of which have become very affordable).
- Use a support network – ask family and/or neighbors to keep an eye out for you when you're coming home or leaving. Walk in groups and walk friends or family to their cars.

In the vein of the final theme above – our community can be a great support network if you tap into it. Get to know your neighbors and exchange contact info with a group of people in your immediate area. If you don't know the people that live near you, or would like to learn more, send me an email at safety@originalnorthwood.com, the board and I will help you connect to residents near you. We all have each other's backs.

Further on what we as a community can do, in a more official context, the ONA will be re-starting community safety walks, and possibly some variation on Citizens on Patrol. I'll be organizing and participating in some safety walks in the next couple of weeks – hopefully with BPD participation, and would like to help you coordinate your own. If you and perhaps some friends or neighbors would like to participate in either program, please let me know via email safety@originalnorthwood.com.



[adapted from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation <http://xerces.org>]

To mimic the natural ecosystem an animal needs, a layer of leaves needs to be at least a couple of inches thick. While this would be too much of a good thing for turf grass to handle—research has shown that lawns actually benefit from a thin layer of leaves, and the rest can be piled up around ornamental trees, shrubs, and perennials to no ill effect.

If you must keep your lawn clear of leaves—try opting for raking or using a leaf vacuum to capture whole leaves, rather than shredding them with a mower and make a leaf pile in a corner of your yard. Shredded leaves will not provide the same cover as leaving them whole, and you may be destroying eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalis along with the leaves. Where space allows, consider creating a leaf pile and allowing it to break down naturally, or add the leaves gradually to your compost pile over time. Such efforts will keep critters safe and allow you to benefit from the rich garden gift that falls from the trees above.

Another reason to leave the leaves is for the many benefits they provide to your landscape. Leaves provide valuable organic matter and build up healthy soil. Fallen leaves have the same weed suppression and moisture retention properties of shredded wood mulch—and they're free! Where mulch is desired as a decorative element, what could be more seasonally appropriate than a pile of brightly-colored fall leaves?

Fall Social Update

Upcoming Events

Saturday October 30th, 3p - Blocktoberfest

Join your neighbors at the corner of Southview and Havenwood for the return of Blocktoberfest! We'll have free beer and soda, delicious food trucks, fun games and a trunk or treat. All are welcome - join us (in costume if you'd like!).

Saturday, November 20th - Can Food Drive

Jason Drennan, Social Chair, will be distributing brown paper bags during the week of November 15th to Original Northwood porches. Simply fill the bag with any canned or non-perishable goods to be donated to a local food bank, then place the bag back out on the porch for pickup on Saturday, November 20th (if raining, pickup is delayed to Sunday, November 21st).

Stay tuned for exciting Winter events, including our neighborhood Holiday Toy Drive party and caroling in December!

GNCA Update

On Saturday October 16th, the Greater Northwood Covenant Association (GNCA) held its Annual Meeting. These meetings are open to neighbors and information is posted to the Original Northwood Association website.

During the meeting, the new Executive Secretary Latisha Jones (a long-time ON resident) was introduced. Ms. Jones was selected after interviews with several qualified candidates. She will be assuming the responsibilities of another ON resident who served in that role, Emily Weber.

The GNCA President Scott Purnell-Saunders announced that he will be scheduling a meeting with elected officials, officials from the police department, and representatives from Northwood Commons. This virtual event will be held in November. ONA will be sure to advertise this on our website and through social media.

Board of Governors Quarterly Meetings

Residents of the Original Northwood Association are always free to attend our monthly board meetings that take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm.

2021-22 meetings are scheduled to take place virtually using Google Meets (all you need is a web browser and Internet connection!).

Please be sure to put these meetings on your calendar, we look forward to your contributions. If you have agenda items that you would like to discuss, email secretary@originalnorthwood.org.

Help support ONA Activities in 2021 by paying your ONA membership dues (\$40 per household)

1. Pay on the PayHOA.com website (which also collects mandatory GNCA assessments)
2. Pay on Venmo to treasurer@originalnorthwood.org
3. Mailing a check (payable to the Original Northwood Association) to The Original Northwood Association, P.O. Box 33576, Baltimore MD 21218.

Make sure to indicate your full Original Northwood address in your Venmo mailing or on your check, so that we can register your payment correctly. Thank you for supporting YOUR Neighborhood Association!

Covenant Report

As I conclude my tenure as the Covenant Chair, I would like to report that 2020-2021 was an active and successful year for the Covenant Committee and Board. The following are some critical activities and accomplishments:

Update to the Architectural Guidelines

In July of 2021, proposed revisions to the Architectural Guidelines and a synopsis of changes were distributed via email and the ONA social media accounts. At that time, we asked that residents review the proposed changes and be prepared to discuss their comments at the August 2021 Quarterly Board meeting. At the August 2021 Quarterly meeting, the revisions were discussed. There were no objections to the proposed changes and the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to the Guidelines. The revised Architectural Guidelines have been posted on the ONA website.

Successful Lawsuit Against A Develop on the Alameda

After a long struggle (since 2017) with the owner of a house on the Alameda, in March of 2021 we were able to successfully resolve the outstanding violations at this property by filing a Complaint with the District Court of Baltimore City. Filing the suit prevented the clearance of the Title to allow the property to be sold. The violations at the property included removal of the existing roof and installation of an asphalt/fiberglass (AFG) shingle roof and failure to restore a demolished front porch. The leverage of the lawsuit allowed us to force the reconstruction of the porch and removal of the asphalt/fiberglass shingle roof and replacement with synthetic slate to be compliant with the ONA Architectural Guidelines.

Application Update

The ONA Board is phasing out the @gmail.com account in favor of the @originalnorthwood.org email account. The new account allows for more storage and archive space than the @gmail.com account. To coordinate, the Application for Exterior Alterations has been updated to reflect the covenant@originalnorthwood.org account. Application by email is the preferred method of submitting an application. Should you need any assistance with preparing REMINDER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS: A reminder that all exterior alterations require that an Application for Exterior Alterations be submitted and approved. This includes replacement of items that are not consistent with the current Architectural Guidelines such as chain-link fences, asphalt/fiberglass (AFG) shingle roofs, windows without 3-D muntins. It is always best to check with the ONA Covenant Chair (covenant@originalnorthwood.org) prior to replacing any element such as roofs, windows, doors and fences.

Original Northwood Association Treasurer's Report, September 2021

A. SUMMARY OF DUES PAYMENTS

Street	# of Houses	2020 DUES PAID (thru Sep 2020)		2021 DUES PAID thru 30 September 2021		
		Cumulative (corrected)	%	Cumulative	%	Current
Argonne	50	22	44%	23	46%	2
Deepwood	37	21	57%	21	57%	0
Eastview	10	5	50%	3	30%	0
Havenwood	19	12	63%	11	58%	0
Kelway	16	4	25%	5	31%	0
Loch Raven	15	8	53%	7	47%	0
Northview	70	34	49%	31	44%	1
Roundhill	33	17	52%	18	55%	0
Roundtop	8	3	38%	3	38%	0
Southview	39	17	44%	25	64%	0
The Alameda	57	17	30%	16	28%	1
Westview	41	23	56%	18	44%	0
Totals	395	183	46%	181	46%	4

B. CURRENT MONTH BANK RECONCILIATION

Bank beginning balance (Checking & Savings combined)

\$22,819.68

Revenues

2021 Dues \$159.40
 2022 Dues \$640.00
 Administrative \$0.12
 Maintenance

Dues received
 Dues received
 Interest earned

Total Revenues

\$799.52

Expenses

Administrative
 Communications
 Covenant
 Maintenance \$130.00
 Safety
 Social
 Contingency

Argonne common gardens maintenance

Total Expenses

\$130.00

Ending balance :

\$23,489.20

Bank ending balance :

Checking: \$ 8,403.15

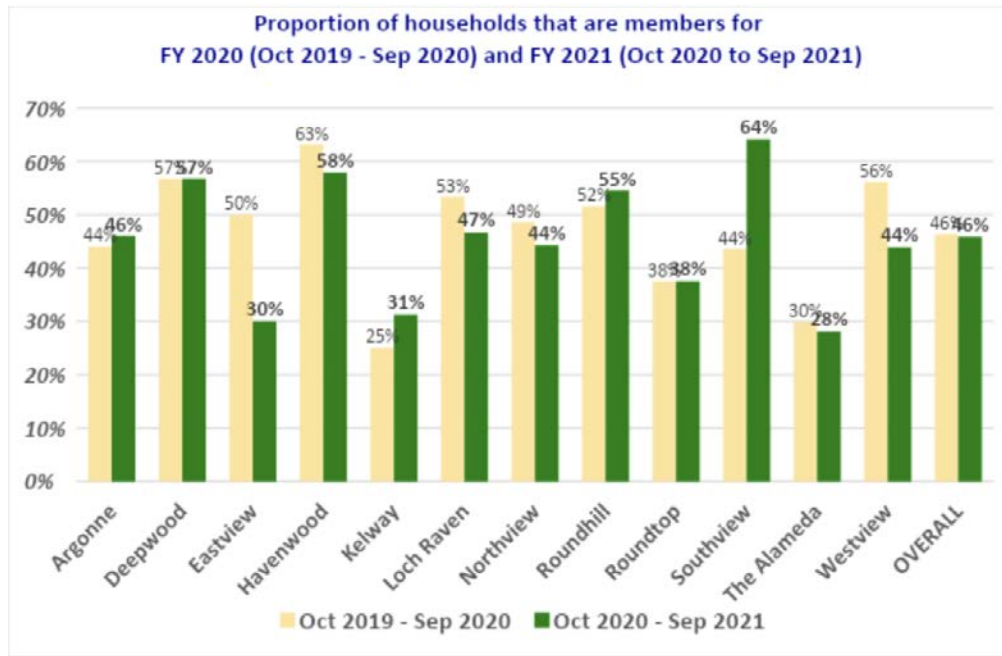
Total: \$ 23,489.20 (Confirmed)

Savings: \$ 15,086.05

C. YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET ANALYSIS (FY 2021 running OCTOBER - SEPTEMBER)

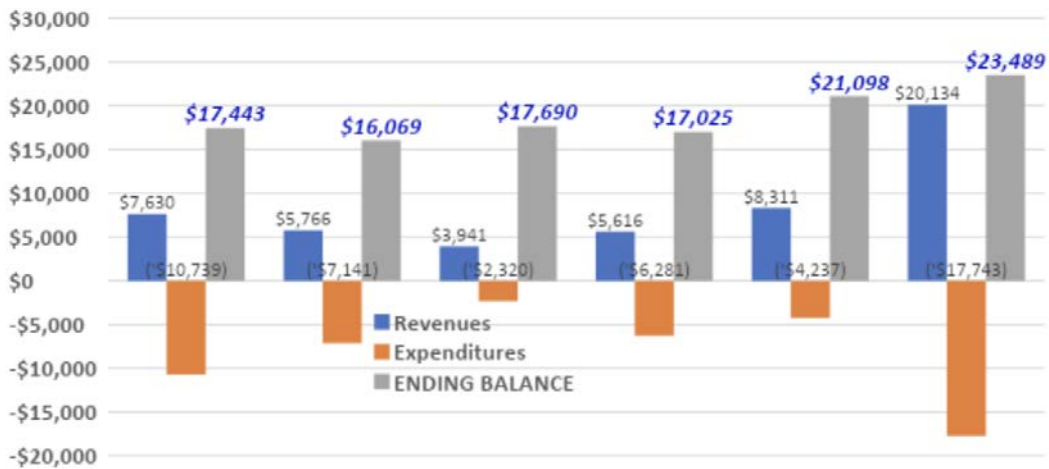
Category	BUDGET / ANTICIPATED		ACTUALS		NET (Budget minus Actual)
	Expenses	Revenues, Reimb.	Expenses	Revenues, Reimb.	
Current Year Dues		\$7,200 revenue	\$0.00	\$8,446.13	\$1,246.13
Administrative	(\$100)	\$0	(\$264.30)	\$345.74	\$181.44
Communications	(\$500)	\$0	(\$228.96)	\$0.00	\$271.04
Covenant	(\$2,000)	\$2,000 reimb.	(\$5,763.55)	\$1,950.00	(\$3,813.55)
Maintenance	(\$5,000)	\$5,000 reimb.	(\$8,994.87)	\$8,567.00	(\$427.87)
Safety	(\$200)	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Social	(\$3,000)	\$2,000 revenue	(\$2,491.05)	\$825.00	(\$666.05)
Contingency	(\$100)	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Totals	(\$10,900)	\$16,200	(\$17,742.73)	\$20,133.87	(\$2,908.86)

ONA Membership by Street, FY 2020 and FY 2021



Takeaways: ONA's solid performance in membership of 2020 has continued in 2021, with 46% of households becoming members in both years. This rate substantially exceeds the average of just 25% membership participation observed over the 2016-2019 period. While most streets display similar performances from 2020 to 2021, Southview Road stands out for its significant improvement, which also distinguishes Southview as the highest-membership street in the neighborhood, at 64% in 2021. Congratulations!

ONA Revenues and Expenses Trends, 2016-2021



Takeaways: After a dip between 2016 and 2018, ONA has experienced considerable growth in revenues over the past three years, as well as a substantial increase in expenditures in FY 2021.

Note, "2019" represents a 9-month period only, as ONA transitioned from calendar year accounting (2016-2018) to Oct-Sep FY accounting as of October 2020, so that the Treasury year would correspond with Board elections.