



# NETWORK

## ORIGINAL NORTHWOOD ASSOCIATION

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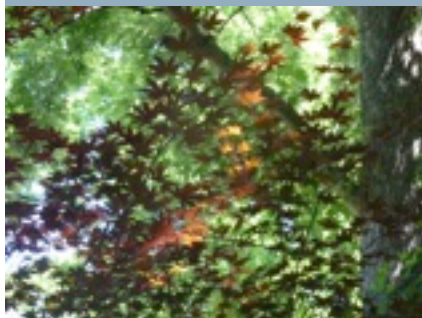
*News, updates, and upcoming events*

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*The neighborhood's old-growth trees are essential to its charm; please remove the tree ivy that is slowly killing yours.*

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*Some brief history on the Telescope house, one of the neighborhood's treasures.*



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### **Digital Northwood**

One of the things I valued when I moved to Original Northwood three years ago was the printed newsletter distributed by the Original Northwood Association. It suggested a community of people with a commitment to a certain quality of life, with a degree of interest in and concern for their community beyond a place to park their car, and beyond any place I had lived previously.

However, while printed materials are great at adding an air of permanence, formality, and charm, they're terrible at conveying up-to-date information. As the communications chair, it's my job to manage Original Northwood's print and digital presence. I'd like to invite you to check out the following ways you can stay current on neighborhood happenings.

#### **Conflicting purposes**

The web is useful as a medium of communication, but the types of communications we'd like to enable differ depending on the audience. On the one hand, we'd like to give the public an accurate picture of the unique beauty of ON, in part to mitigate the often negative impressions people have of Baltimore; on the other hand, we'd also like to have a private place to discuss issues that arise in our neighborhood—issues that no neighborhood is without.

#### **The web site**

Our main web presence is our web site, [originalnorthwood.org](http://originalnorthwood.org). While this site is important as the central and authoritative repository of static content,

we do not use it as much for ongoing neighborhood activity anymore.

#### **The message board**

ONA used to host a message board on its web site. Unfortunately, this resource is no longer available since we have switched web hosting providers.

#### **Facebook.com/originalnorthwood**

In the past few years, Facebook has been a popular place to announce and discuss neighborhood goings-on. People are on the site already, so it is natural to turn to it to discuss private neighborhood matters. The board has struggled to balance our need to communicate with the public nature of the postings, and has adopted a policy of "cleaning up" the front page from time to time. We have also considered disallowing community-initiated posts, reducing the Facebook page to something like the web site, but with content updated more dynamically.

#### **Nextdoor.com**

As a solution to the problem of our need to communicate privately, we are experimenting with Nextdoor, a social media site for neighborhoods. When joining the site, you have to verify your address using your credit card (there is no cost, this is just for verification), or by having a postcard mailed to you. This makes it a perfect place to share private neighborhood information, such as crime-related issues. We will be testing this out over the next few months, and invite you to join.

Matt Post (Communications Chair)

# Briefly

## Annual Meeting

Please attend the annual meeting (see sidebar), where we will discuss many issues of importance to our community. Last year, we formalized plans for the Argonne Crosswalks.

## Board positions open

This fall, we will be saying goodbye to board members Liz Allen and Susanna Bauder. Liz has served as our Treasurer and Secretary for many years, and Susanna as our Social chair for the past year. Both have done amazing jobs and will be sorely missed!

If you have any interest in serving, or know of someone who might be a good fit, we could really use your help! Please email someone on the board to let them know.

**Be the first to pay!**

## Please Pay Your Dues!

The Original Northwood Association (ONA) has a small budget funded entirely through donations of residents of Original Northwood who choose to become members. Your dues benefit the neighborhood in a variety of ways, including social events and maintenance, and are part of what keeps our neighborhood beautiful.

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.

## Traffic Calming Islands

Work on the Argonne crosswalks was disrupted after the city received some complaints from a resident. The city sent DOT representatives to make a presentation at one of our board meetings this summer, and are moving forward with

the project. The plan is to place two traffic calming islands. We are awaiting precise dates from the city, but have been told that the work should take a week to complete and should be done by late summer or early fall. Traffic will be reduced to one lane for one or two of the days to allow crosswalk cement to cure, with all but local traffic diverted to Cold Spring Lane.

## Treasurer's Report

In 2012, 101 households paid their voluntary dues, for a total revenue of \$3,535. The ONA spent \$1,656.04 in December, including printing of ballots (\$6.73), newsletters, flyers, and the domain name (\$339.78), and social and holiday functions (\$1,309.53). Our balance at the end of 2012 was \$17,771.43.

## Summer Block Party

This year's Original Northwood Summer Block Party, held on August 10, was a great success, attended by many neighbors and lots of kids! The weather was perfect. The children enjoyed a bouncy castle and artful face painting by Creative Occasions. An amazing teenage band called "Them" played outstanding rock music. Neighbors brought yummy



side dishes and delicious desserts to complement the hamburgers and hotdogs grilled to perfection by ONA's Safety chair JP Rigilano. Thank you to our hosts Haywood and Laura on Havenwood, who helped make this such a wonderful event! And a big thank you to George on Westview for hauling a bunch of stuff to and from the party, to Donnie on Northview for helping with setup and cleanup and to several other neighbors

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER 7 Dumpster

1210 Havenwood

*Dumpsters typically arrive around 10 AM and fill up by midday.*

### SEPTEMBER 14 OR SEPTEMBER 21

#### Newcomers' Picnic

Time and location TBA

*Come meet your neighbors! This event is hosted with the particular aim of welcoming neighborhood newcomers. See the website and Facebook page for location announcements.*

### SEPTEMBER 16, 7:30 PM Annual Meeting

Northeast District Police Station

### OCTOBER 19 Octoberfest

Information forthcoming.

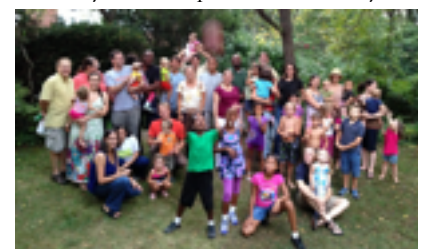
### DECEMBER 14 Dumpster

4122 Westview

and board members for assisting with the block party!

## Popsicle night winds down

For the past few summers, residents with children have organized an informal popsicle (and beer) night every Thursday night at 6:30 PM, with hosting rotating each week. The event was as popular as ever this year, with more children attending each week! Watch for news next spring as it will surely continue when the humidity and mosquitos return next year!



# Ivy is killing your tree

**English ivy may be pretty, but it is actually a noxious weed**

Adapted from [ivyout.com](http://ivyout.com)

## What is English Ivy?

English ivy is a woody, climbing vine that can be found throughout our neighborhood and city. Ivy can be found in road-side plantings, parking lots, as ornamental decoration and climbing on buildings, fences and other vertical surfaces. While ivy can make for a naturally beautiful and harmless ground covering, it can

## Why is English ivy a problem?

English ivy is not native to the United States and has no natural predators or pests to keep it in check. It easily escapes from planting areas and invades natural areas, parks and urban forests. It creates "Ivy Deserts" - areas so dominated by ivy that no other vegetation survives. Ivy affects trees negatively, especially when it climbs into the canopy. By adding weight to limbs and reducing air flow around the tree's trunk, ivy makes a tree more susceptible to canopy failure, wind stress and disease. It can also strangle trees around their base and reduce the flow of nutrients up and down the tree.

English ivy does not provide a significant food for native wildlife, but does provide habitat for rats.

## What can you do?

Do not plant ivy. Remove ivy, especially from vertical surfaces where it seeds and is spread further by birds. Remove ivy from your yard. Join community out-reach and volunteer-based removal work parties.

For more information, including extensive information on how to remove deeply-embedded ivy, please see [ivyout.com](http://ivyout.com).

**Advertise in the NETWORK ~370 homes.** The NETWORK newsletter is published four times a year and hand-delivered to all homes in the neighborhood. If you'd like to advertise, please contact the Communications chair for pricing information. Per-issue and bulk rates are available.

**YOUR AD HERE**





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## A Star Is Born

Joseph L. Woods was in love with astronomy as a child. His passion continued into adulthood as he constructed his first observatory in Sykesville.

A crackerjack machinist and President of Winchester and Woods, Inc., a maker of toy watches, he tired of his daily commute from Baltimore and built the house on Westview Road in 1931. In 1937, he purchased the adjoining lot and constructed a large, square, stone addition: an art studio on the first floor; study and darkroom on the second; and the observatory on the roof.

But Mr. Woods was not just an enthusiastic amateur stargazer. Because at that time Original Northwood was on the urban fringe of Baltimore, there was far less light pollution than there is today. Thus, he was able to conduct significant astronomical research in conjunction with Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania.

A network of dedicated amateurs including Mr. Woods made observations of star brightness and variable stars. Variables dim periodically as they are eclipsed by dark companion stars; sometimes they brighten as matter from the companions falls into them.

Members of the Baltimore Astronomical Society and the Maryland Academy of Sciences gathered frequently at the Woods' home for serious research and conviviality. Mr. Woods' work is all around you still in the house. One wall is

covered with his detailed mapping of the moon's craters at a particular declension.

In the 1940's, H. John Wood (no relation) lived on Argonne Drive just across the alley from Woods' home. As a young boy, he many times ventured over to the observatory for a peak at the Universe. And, wouldn't you know it, he was enthralled by the wonder of the night skies and decided to study astronomy in college, eventually earning a Ph.D. in the subject from Indiana University.

In August, 2012, shortly after he retired as Lead Optics Engineer for the Hubble Space Telescope at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Dr. Wood visited the Westview house where his love of the stars was born. It was the first time he had been in the observatory in 63 years!



The house is now owned by Chris and Stephanie Scharpf, who hope to restore the observatory's 12-inch reflector once other much-needed repairs and renovations are complete. Dr. Wood has promised to supervise the restoration.

The Telescope House is not just an Original Northwood landmark; it has a significant and vibrant history. Who knows what future stars may be on the horizon!

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2012 – 2013

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