



# NETWORK

## ORIGINAL NORTHWOOD ASSOCIATION

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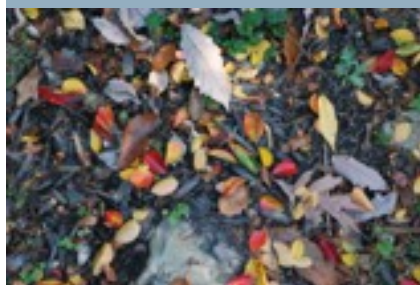
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Dear Neighbors,

It is hard to believe that it has been just over one month since our well attended Annual Meeting!

In addition to the opportunity to hear from our elected officials and to discuss many exciting topics during the open floor discussion, the election afforded me the opportunity to serve the Original Northwood Association (ONA) as its new president. As I stated in my opening remarks, my goals for this year will be to work with the other members of the board to expand the opportunities for neighbor involvement. Through working together, we build a stronger neighborhood.

From the Annual Meeting, this work has continued with the neighborhood clean-ups and the successful tree planting along Argonne Drive. Using NextDoor, we have been able to keep in touch about events in the neighborhood. The Oktoberfest was a resounding success, with neighbors having an opportunity to enjoy the autumn weather and good fellowship. You may notice the new construction along Argonne Drive. The board, through the Covenant Committee, worked with an outside architectural firm to ensure that the builders adhered to the Architectural Guidelines in this addition to our neighborhood.

Reaching outside of our neighborhood, another Board member and I recently attended a workshop offered by the Community Law Center at the University of Baltimore. We were able to identify opportunities for pro bono legal representation for ONA. This is exciting, as our membership dues do not offer much in the way of retainer fees. Also outside of our neighbor-

hood, but wonderfully close, the owners of the Northwood Plaza have identified partners to be involved in redeveloping the plaza into a retail center that better serves the surrounding communities.

Wow, what a month it has been. I appreciate the opportunity to serve and look forward to meeting more neighbors in the months to come. Keep an eye on the newsletter for more information about this and other matters.

■ *Richard Skolasky (ONA President)*



# Briefly

## New board elected

In September, members of ONA (pay your dues!) voted in the new board of governors at our annual meeting, as set out in the ONA constitution. Please join us in welcoming the following new faces to the Original Northwood Association board!

**Lauren Bambusch** is the new Covenant Chair, responsible for reviewing applications for exterior alterations with the help of the Covenant Committee. A Michigan native, she moved to Baltimore four years ago with her husband, Bradford, after graduation from Michigan State University with a degree in microbiology.



**Lauren DeVine** is the new Social Chair, responsible for planning and orchestrating the ONA social events, including the upcoming Holiday party, Garden Walk, Block Party, Newcomers and the Oktoberfest. Originally from California, she moved into the neighborhood about 5 years ago to work for Johns Hopkins as a Mass Spectrometrists (fancy name for scientist). Her husband Josh and their two young daughters live on Argonne Dr. They enjoy our beautiful, friendly neighborhood, and love being active and social.



**Jenny Spratt** is our new Treasurer. Originally from Rochester, NY, she came to Baltimore in 2004 and moved to Original Northwood in 2006, where she was joined by her mother Anne in 2012. After Peace Corps Morocco and grad school, Jennie has worked in international education research and development, with long-term postings in Egypt, Haiti, Senegal, and Guinea-



Conakry, and many short-term assignments across Africa and elsewhere.

In other changes, **Richard Skolasky** leaves his post as Covenant Chair to become our new President.

We wish a fond farewell to our departing board members: **Eric Lapointe**, who decided to step down after two years of hard work; **Susanna Bauder**, who served us for many years, first as Social Chair and then as Treasurer, and **Lynnette Dodson**, who organized many a fine gathering during her time as Social Chair. You will all be missed (and are on our shortlists for emergency volunteers)!

## Sign up for Nextdoor!

Original Northwood residents continue to make heavy use of Nextdoor ([nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com)), a social networking site for neighborhoods. Neighbors have been connecting over contractor recommendations, crimes, missing pets, events, random acts of kindness, and other things, and it continues to be a source for neighbors to voice concerns or troubles and — even better — have them addressed by other neighbors and the board. You can adjust your notification settings, including how much email you get, how often, and from whom.

We have signed up 259 neighbors, representing 190 of the 405 (47%) households. Nextdoor considers to be part of our neighborhood, which represents steady growth over the summer. Nextdoor is becoming the preferred method for neighborhood communication, and the board is increasingly relying on it for conveying news and issues. Sign up so that you don't miss anything!

## Quarterly meetings of the Board

ONA members are always free to attend our monthly board meetings, which take place each month on the second Wednesday at 7:30 PM — simply email [ona-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:ona-board@googlegroups.com) ahead of time to find out where the meeting is taking place. In order to encourage increased resident attendance, the ONA board is now also scheduling quarterly meetings which are held in a larger public venue. Please

## CALENDAR

**DECEMBER 10 @ 7:30 PM**  
**Quarterly Board Meeting**  
 MSU Student Center, Room 315

**DECEMBER**  
**Holiday Party**  
 Date and location TBD

**JANUARY 14 @ 7:30 PM**  
**Board Meeting**  
 Location TBD

**FEBRUARY 11 @ 7:30 PM**  
**Board Meeting**  
 Location TBD

**MARCH 11 @ 7:30 PM**  
**Quarterly Board Meeting**  
 MSU Student Center, Room 315

attend, learn how your board works, and contribute to the maintenance of our community! If you have agenda items, please email [secretary@originalnorthwood.org](mailto:secretary@originalnorthwood.org).

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2014–2015

Email the entire board at [ona@googlegroups.com](mailto:ona@googlegroups.com) or individual members at [position@originalnorthwood.org](mailto:position@originalnorthwood.org)

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Richard Skolasky
<b>Vice President</b>	Dana Andrusik
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jenny Spratt
<b>Secretary</b>	Emily Weber

### Members-at-large

<b>Communications</b>	Matt Post
<b>Covenant</b>	Lauren Bambusch
<b>Maintenance</b>	JP Rigilano
<b>Safety</b>	Scott Carberry
<b>Social</b>	Lauren Devine

# Happenings

## Tree Planting

A real attraction of our neighborhood are the ancient trees that surround our houses. In fact, preserving the forest was part of the original design of the neighborhood when it was constructed. The Original Northwood Board, under the leadership of resident Jayne Mauric and our Maintenance Chair, JP Rigilano, has conducted a street tree survey of the neighborhood. The information that is being gathered includes the geographic location of each street tree, its species, its size (its diameter at breast height), and its condition. For the first time, there is an inventory of the street trees in our neighborhood that we can use to track the health of existing trees and ensure that new plantings are a variety of appropriate native species.

The goal is to restore the density of native tree growth in Original Northwood starting with street trees. As many of us already realize, the beauty and monumental presence of our mature trees is only a part of their value. Not only do they visually frame our house structures, but they provide shade and protection from wind and the elements. They help clean pollutants from the air and keep moisture from running off the land. The big trees in our neighborhood provide food and habitat for wildlife that is increasingly hard to find in the midst of a diminished city tree canopy. If you take a look at an aerial image of our neighborhood in the context of the city, we are a virtual oasis of green.

The first stage of planting new street trees (provided by TreeBaltimore) has been completed along Argonne Drive. This work will continue into next year on other streets, beginning in March. See the back page of this issue for pictures of the tree planting day that took place in October!

■ *Jayne Mauric*



*A 1928 picture of Roundhill alley being staked out for construction (from the Sheridan Library archive).*

## Recent Successes

The neighborhood has had a number of successes fighting the occasional problems that arise. Here are two.

### **When Original Northwood Neighbors act... Things get done!**

A bad residence on Northview. Bad people too. No electrical service and children in the home. A generator in the back yard; noisy and smelling up the neighborhood. Garbage littering the whole yard. Windows missing. Illegal parking which effectively blocks any emergency vehicles entering if needed. Nefarious night-time activity in the back alley. Numerous loud noises and yelling at all hours. Rats. Etc.

The neighbors have had it. They form a committee. They decide that each of them will call all relevant city agencies, police, fire, housing, child and youth services, public health, 311, 911 on a revolving basis so that each agency gets a call each day from one of them. Also, whenever a new violation occurs, all of them will call the appropriate agency immediately.

The police and fire remove the generator. Children are not allowed except for short visits in a home with no electricity.

Regina Boyce is contacted. She is the Community Liaison in City Council President Jack Young's office. She goes into action and discovers that the residence was declared unfit for human habitation in July, 2013 and is listed as vacant!

The result of all this activity? The tenants(?) are removed and the house goes up for auction. Peace and quiet reign.

### **When the Original Northwood Association board acts... Things get done!**

A builder seems to be readying construction for a house on Argonne Drive. He has not filed with the Covenant Committee.

The Covenant Committee contacts him and informs him that we are an historic district with legally enforceable Architectural Guidelines which he must abide by and which we will enforce with all of our ability. He must file his blueprints with the Covenant Committee and have them approved.

He submits his plans which the Board has examined by a licensed architect familiar with our Guidelines. The fee is \$750. All of his design specifics which are nonconforming are pointed out.

Result? The builder agrees to rectify his plans and hires an Historical Preservationist to make sure he complies properly with Original Northwood's Covenants.

■ *Dana Andrusik*

# Treasurer's report

The Original Northwood Association's 2014 budget funds our social, safety, maintenance, communications, and covenant needs, and helps make sure Original Northwood continues to be a vibrant, beautiful, friendly and safe community. YOU make this possible by contributing your time and energy as volunteers and good neighbors, of course, and by becoming a dues-paying member of the ONA.

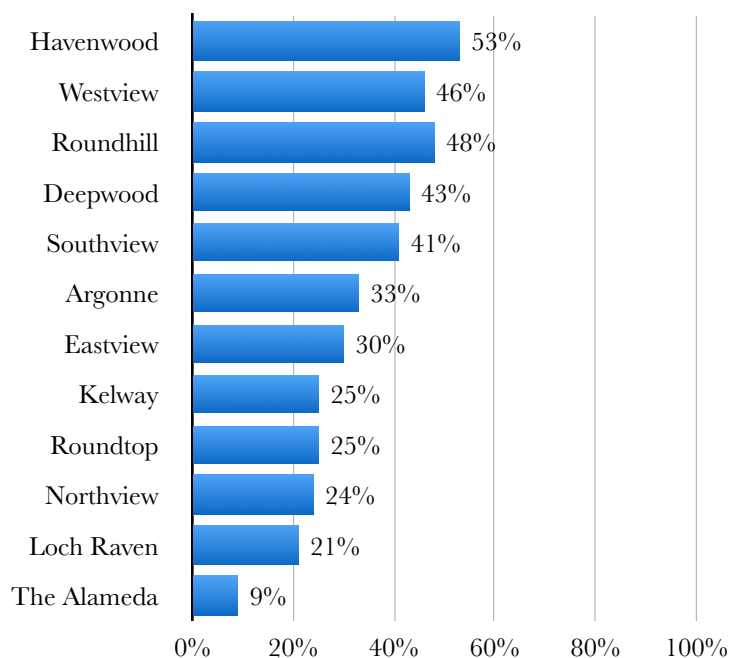
We thank all of the households that have joined the ONA or renewed their ONA membership by paying their dues for 2014! As of 31 October 2014, 34% of Original Northwood households are active members of ONA. Havenwood Drive leads the way, with Westview and Roundhill not far behind. Luckily, for those of you who haven't gotten around to it yet, there is still time to join the ONA this year!

To join the ONA, you can pay ONA membership dues of \$35 via credit card using the payment information on the ONA website ([www.originalnorthwood.org/dues](http://www.originalnorthwood.org/dues)). Alternatively, you can make out a check to "Original Northwood Association" and mail it to the following address:

ONA Treasurer  
 1310 Argonne Drive  
 Baltimore, MD 21218

■ *Jenny Spratt (Treasurer)*

**Proportion of ONA households that have contributed 2014 dues, by street, as of October 27, 2014**



Item	Budget	Expenses	Income	Remaining	Notes
Dues	\$ 5,000	—	\$ 4,640	\$ (360)	<i>We need 11 more dues payers to meet our budgetary goal!</i>
Administrative	\$ (500)	\$ (304)	\$ 0	\$ 196	<i>Court costs, dues mailings, and fees</i>
Communications	\$ (1,550)	\$ (1,244)	\$ 100	\$ 406	<i>Newsletter printing, domain names, website</i>
Covenant	\$ (2,000)	\$ (701)	\$ 0	\$ 1,299	<i>Architect consultation, mailings, covenant enforcement</i>
Maintenance	\$ (7,000)	\$ (545)	\$ 0	\$ 6,455	<i>Tree planting, maintenance of common areas (costs should be offset by funds from the GNCA)</i>
Safety	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	<i>Not currently programmed</i>
Social	\$ (3,000)	\$ (3,743)	\$ 1,499	\$ 755	<i>Parties</i>
Contingency	\$ (500)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 500	<i>Unforeseen costs</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$(9,550)</b>	<b>\$(6,537)</b>	<b>\$ 6,239</b>	<b>\$ 9,252</b>	

# Neighborhood Arts Program

*Sister Neighborhood Arts Program -- Manifesting the creative power of arts as a catalyst for action and transformation among and between Northwood neighborhoods.*

Do you love your neighborhood for the landscape, the people and the feeling of community it promises and delivers? For many, the history of integration and diversity serves as a beacon that attracts us to living in Original Northwood. Maybe you enjoy discovering the talents and rich backgrounds of your neighbors.

Since moving here two years ago, I've been delighted to meet all kinds of interesting folks "next door": artists, educators, entrepreneurs, service-oriented professionals, community-minded people of faith, and advocates. And I'm always struck by the civically minded residents who carry the torch of neighborhood collaboration, governance and social events (thank you Board of Governors, Chairs, Block Captains, and oh yea, ... please pay your dues everyone!). Yet, do you sometimes find yourself questioning the visible or invisible social barriers that exist between Original Northwood (ONW) and adjacent neighborhoods?

I teach college courses to both men and women in Maryland's prison system. I've traced a few of my students' origins to Northeast Baltimore. Just as I get to leave the prison behind (unlike my students), so too I enter my neighborhood and leave behind some relatively more pernicious social challenges that sit outside the borders of ONW and beyond. During the last year, there have been four shootings within 300 yards of my bedroom window. Being no strangers to crime, some of our ONW neighbors have definitely had to cope with the fear and anger that comes from experiencing break-ins and theft. It is a violation that no one can fully understand until it happens to you. However, one neighbor provocatively suggested to me the other day, "Our 'haven' neighborhood feels like a gated community when one considers the hard lines that mark the striking differences between crime statistics, racial demographics or other indicators of 'healthy neighborhoods.'" The questions arise: What historically accounts for these differences? How is our shared future wrapped up in the neighborhoods adjacent to us? Is there a way to use culture to bridge the gaps that divide us among and between neighborhoods?

In partnership with Morgan Community Mile Initiative, Sister Neighborhood Arts Program (SNAP!) is a cultural organizing project that is mobilizing residents between two neighborhoods

who want to partner across lines of differences. Made up of residents from New Northwood and Original Northwood, an inter-generational "civic arts" team will create projects that respond to community and social needs. This team will also work on what psychiatrist and urban renewal visionary, Dr. Mindy Thompson Fullilove calls "unpuzzling the fractured space." What does it mean to remove obstacles that confuse us about how to live together and instead, open and free community spaces so we can get



to know each other?

We want to investigate this kind of work where we live with other interested neighbors. At every turn of our process, we will enliven our neighborhoods with performance, arts installations, and even physical wellness initiatives (e.g. tai chi, yoga, dance) that both puts a visibly healing face on our evolving profile and stimulates civic dialogue in re-imagined private and public spaces (i.e. homes, yards, the library, shop-

ping areas). Serving as a mutually beneficial partner to both community associations (ONW and NNW) will be critical to the successful impact of SNAP! While we celebrate community-based arts as a catalyst, our ultimate goal is to foster dialogue that stretches and inspires us while simultaneously building the trust and relationships needed to solve community problems together.

We need folks like you to be involved? Making and organizing community-responsive art requires so many more people than "self identified artists." The participation of non-artists (educators, fundraisers, facilitators, scientists, historians, health and wellness practitioners, gardeners, thinkers and planners, lovers of community, YOU!) will "people power" our civic arts practice. Come help devise a "history" play about Northwood with the community beginning in early 2015. Your stories, unique perspectives, and a desire to strengthen self-determination and belonging within our community will matter most.

If you are interested in learning more about the "seed ensemble", please email me at [francoise.brian@gmail.com](mailto:francoise.brian@gmail.com) or call me at (410) 925-1738. Be on the look out for multiple ways to plug into Sister Neighborhood Arts Program in the coming months!

SNAP! is a project supported by a grant from the OSI-Baltimore Community Fellowship Program of the Open Society Institute -- Baltimore. (<http://audaciousideas.org>)

■ *Brian Francoise (Northview Rd), OSI Community Fellow*

# From the archives

Notes of interest from Original Northwood's history

*NORTHWOOD LIQUOR LICENSE FAVORED...Property Owners, Residents in Area Petition for Proposed Restaurant...Anti-Saloon League and St. Peter's Lutheran Church Members Object*

An overwhelming preponderance of property owners and residents petitioned in the Northwood section favors the granting of a restaurant beer, wine, and liquor license to the Northwood Shopping Center, Inc., Ravenwood road near Loch Raven Boulevard, it was revealed yesterday at a hearing before the Liquor Board.

John McC. Mowbray, president of the Roland Park Company—subsidiary which operates the center—presented to the board a petition containing the names of more than 150 property owners and scores of apartment dwellers who favored the issuance of the license.

**CRABBE LEADS FIGHT.** Dr. George W. Crabbe, national president of the Anti-Saloon League, led the fight made by opponents of the restaurant, which would be located on Ravenwood road, just east of the Loch Raven Boulevard.

Joining with Dr. Crabbe were several members and officials of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, which proposes, some time in the future, to build a church on a plot of land adjacent to the shopping center. The Anti-Saloon League official also presented a petition which contained the names of about fifty property owners objecting to the sale of liquor in the proposed restaurant.

**CALLED PUBLIC NECESSITY.** Under questioning by Charles LeViness, board chairman, Mr. Mowbray testified that the 2,000 or more families [unreadable] St. Peter's Church congregation and are not residents of the area.

Among them were J. J. Ely, George B. Ely and Harry Roesinger. The latter is a member of the church council.

**VOICED OBJECTIONS.** At least one property owner in the section was on hand to voice his objections to the issuance of the license. He was George J. Sturmfelsz, of 1208 Southview road.

Mr. Sturmfelsz recalled during his testimony that the Liquor Board about a month ago issued a regulation that an applicant for a restaurant beer, wine and liquor license must have operated a license for three months prior to the application.

When this was brought to the attention of Mr. LeViness, the chairman of the Liquor Board said the point would be given the closest attention, but added, however, that the operation of a restaurant on the same location last year might have some bearing on the case.

**NOT MATTER OF LAW.** At any rate, the rule in question is not a matter of law, but merely a general regulation of the Liquor Board, which presumably could be altered or repealed at any time in the board's discretion.

Dr. Crabbe announced at the outset of his arguments against the license that through a misunderstanding the opponents were not prepared as well as they might have been.

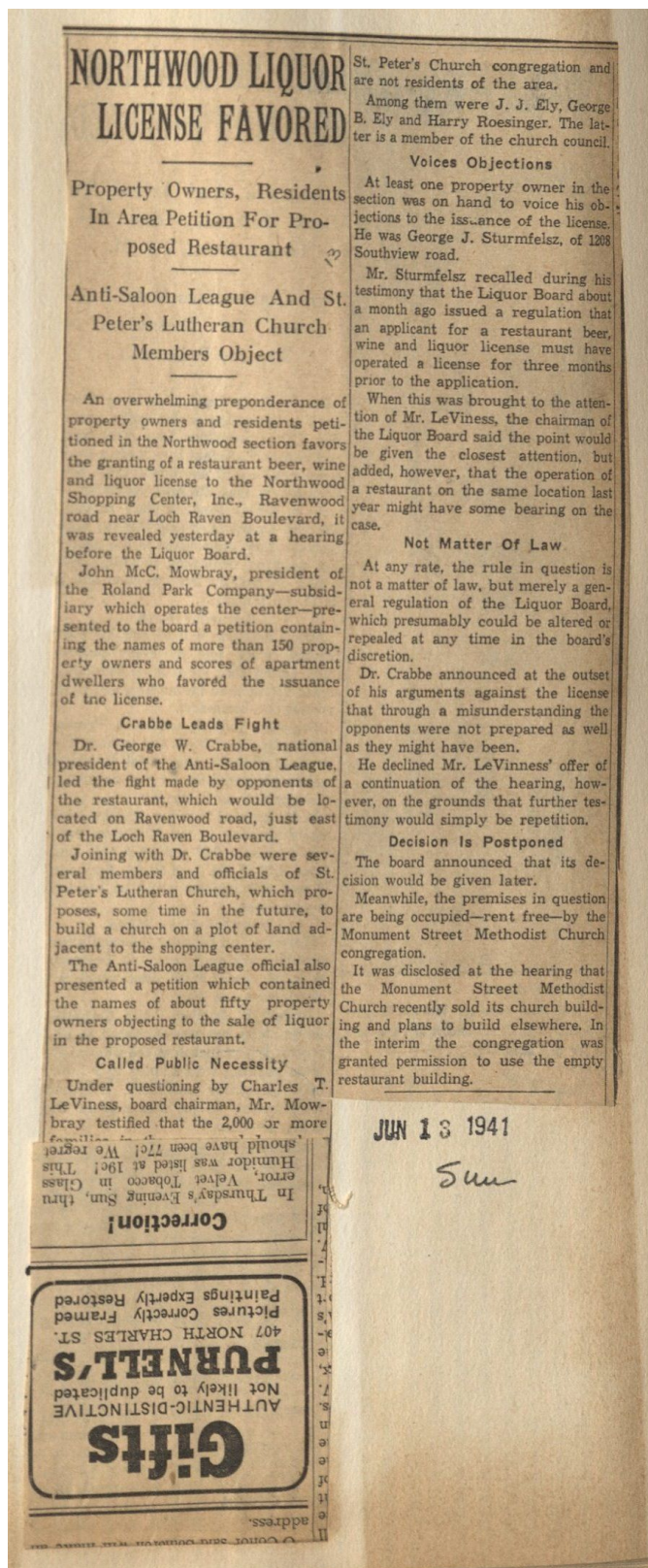
He declined Mr. LeViness' offer of a continuation of the hearing, however, on the grounds that further testimony would simply be repetition.

**DECISION IS POSTPONED.** The board announced that its decision would be given later.

Meanwhile, the premises in question are being occupied—rent free—by the Monument Street Methodist Church congregation.

It was disclosed at the hearing that the Monument Street Methodist Church recently sold its church building and plans to build elsewhere. In the interim the congregation was granted permission to use the empty restaurant building.

■ June 18, 1941



# New Construction

*New home on Argonne will be built to the covenants*

Some of you may have noticed some movement on the vacant lot on Argonne – bulldozers have been busy digging a hole for a new foundation. Original Northwood is getting a new home.

After purchasing the lot in March of 2013, builder Sunfire Properties of Baltimore hired the architectural preservationists from Pascale Interior Art, who have years of experience in designing and renovating historic buildings, including The Historic Weinberg Theatre in Frederick, to help them craft a home that will hold up to the historic feel and the high standards of Original Northwood.

After taking detailed plans of the home's exterior and the landscaping to the Covenant Committee, the Committee and the Board elicited the help of the architects at Penza+Bailey Architects, who reviewed the plans and made suggestions for improving the home's fit in the neighborhood. After Sunfire Properties incorporated the suggested changes and resubmitted the plans, the Committee unanimously recommended to the Original Northwood Association Board that the plans be approved. The Board then unanimously approved the plans on October 10, 2014 and the go-ahead was given to Sunfire Properties to start construction. They estimate that the home will be finished and put on the market March 2015.

The home will be a single family, two-story, mixed materials home in keeping with its neighbors and the community as a whole. It will be built as a 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath property, with an extra bedroom and bath in the optional finished walk-out basement. It will be beautifully landscaped before being put on the market, with Boxwoods, Camellia, Hydrangeas, and Crepe Myrtle surrounding the home.

■ *Lauren Bambusch (Covenant Chair)*





### Neighborhood Tree Planting

Fifteen volunteers came together on a cold rainy day in October to plant twenty-four trees on Argonne and Deepwood (thanks especially to Anne Cogan of Tree Baltimore and Dwight Pinckney). We also pruned existing trees and cleaned up trash. We planted sycamores, oaks, and gum trees. The project will continue along other neighborhood streets come the spring; stay tuned to Nextdoor and the newsletter if you'd like to help preserve the beautiful foliage of our neighborhood for generations to come!

■ JP Rigilano



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