



NETWORK



ORIGINAL NORTHWOOD ASSOCIATION

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President's corner

Here we are more than halfway through my term as ONA President. As we head in to the summer months, things are moving full steam ahead. There were three goals that I set for the Board when I took office in September.

First, I wanted to increase participation in ONA through dues paying members. With the hard work of our Treasurer Jennie Spratt and other members of the Board, we were at 27% of neighbors at our April meeting. This is well on the way to our goal of 40% membership. We will continue to provide opportunities for neighbors to pay their voluntary dues, either online or at the many social events that we will be enjoying in the coming months. As we approach our Annual Meeting in September, remember that only dues paying households are eligible to vote.

Second, I wanted to increase the transparency with which ONA operates. Carrying over from my predecessor, the quarterly meetings held at Morgan State have provided a wonderful opportunity for more neighbors to take part in Board Meetings. We have had informative presentations by Tim Underhill, a slate roof expert, and from Mark Renbaum, the developer working on the Northwood Shopping Plaza. The Board has also published the process by which amendments to the Architectural Guidelines are considered. This is a combination of presentation to the Covenant Committee and Board, opportunity for community input at our quarterly meet-

ings, and a final vote by the Board. Finally, we have structured our budget reports to reflect operating expenses and special projects, such as maintenance projects, in an effort to better reflect our stewardship of ONA's resources.

Finally, I have vowed to work within the GNCA to improve the accountability of that organization. As you know, Original Northwood is one of the six founding neighborhoods of the Greater Northwood Covenant Association – the holder of the covenants in our neighborhood. As President, I am a voting trustee of GNCA. At the November GNCA meeting, there was concern over the high administrative costs paid. This May, in a trustees-only meeting, several potential solutions were put forth. These included developing a scope of work for the book-keeping and secretarial needs of the GNCA; renegotiating current contracts to better reflect this scope; establishing a virtual repository for all important GNCA documents; and working to increase compliance with mandatory dues in all six neighborhoods.

As the thermometer climbs, I hope that you are looking forward to the Block Party. With Lauren Devine's hard work, it promises to be a great success. Remember, speak to your neighbors, get involved in your association through volunteer opportunities, and support our work through your annual dues.

■ *Richard Skolasky (President)*

Briefly

Sign up for Nextdoor!

Original Northwood residents continue to make heavy use of Nextdoor (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 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 attend, learn how your board works, and contribute to the maintenance of our community! If you have agenda items, please email secretary@originalnorthwood.org.

Call for Nominations!

Neighbors, get involved! Please consider serving your community by running for any of the nine Board positions. Please send your name, contact information, and a brief biography to sslevy1@verizon.net or mail or drop off at 4103 Westview Road. If you have any questions, please **feel free to contact Steve Levy at (410) 366-0716**.

Periodic announcements will be posted on Next Door and a flyer will be distributed in mid-July. The deadline for nominations is August 1, 2015, so that the slate can be proposed by August 15. All candidates must have paid their annual dues to ONA. The election is held at the Annual ONA Meeting in September.

If you and every one of your neighbors within a 200 yard radius remove every mosquito breeding habitat you will be mosquito-free in about two weeks. — (see article on p.7)

CALENDAR

JULY 18 @ 2-6 PM
Summer Block Party
 Deepwood Road
 Flyer forthcoming

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2014-2015

Email the entire board at ona@googlegroups.com or individual members at position@originalnorthwood.org

Officers

President	Richard Skolasky
Vice President	Dana Andrusik
Treasurer	Jenny Spratt
Secretary	Emily Weber

Members-at-large

Communications	Matt Post
Covenant	Lauren Bambusch
Maintenance	JP Rigilano
Safety	Scott Carberry
Social	Lauren Devine

Poison Ivy Pleading

Much like mosquitoes, poison ivy also loves our shady neighborhood. It is a native plant, but one that can cause horrible reactions in humans. It is a plant that vines, both up trees and underground. Please help yourself and your neighbors by removing it from your property!

Please get rid of poison ivy as soon as possible; a little work now goes a long way!

Take proper precautions when removing poison ivy. The more you are exposed to it, the more you will have a reaction. So, even if you haven't previously reacted to it, cover up, or like me, you will soon start to react to it! Wear long pants, long sleeves, socks and shoes. On your hands, wear disposable gloves or plastic bags (newspaper bags work well for strays). Do not use tools, since the oil will get on the tools and the next time you use it, you'll get the oil on you! If you do need to use tools to cut some thick vines, be sure to wash the tools well in water.

Put poison ivy in the trash. Do not compost it, and definitely do not burn it! Be sure to bag carefully, removing your gloves inside out, and don't get the oil on the outside. We don't want our garbage men to get it, either!

Go inside and put all of your clothes right into the laundry and get yourself into a cool shower. Most information about poison ivy says that plain water breaks it down, but my family has always used some (pretty drying) laundry soap and it's worked well for us.

<http://www.poison-ivy.org/> has a lot of info about poison ivy, sumac, and oak (lucky us, we get all three here in MD!). If you aren't sure of a plant, you can take a picture of it and send it to them and they will let you know if it's poison ivy or not.

■ *Emily Weber (Secretary)*

New Sign Committee

The ONA is seeking to establish a committee to study the repair or replacement of the Original Northwood sign located at the intersection of Argonne and The Alameda. This committee will also be tasked with studying the potential for additional signs in other locations (e.g. Havenwood and Loch Raven, Argonne and Loch Raven).

The existing sign has begun to rust and rot in several places, and you may have noticed that the front of the sign shows signs of wear, including divots, dents, and peeling paint.

You also may have noticed that in addition to a single prominent sign, other Baltimore neighborhoods, albeit larger ones (e.g. Ednor Gardens/Lakeside, Lauraville), have smaller-scale signs in multiple locations.

This committee will explore all aspects of sign repair/replacement, and potential addition, including cost, materials, sourcing, city regulations, historic considerations, design (e.g. color, font, size, etc.), additional landscaping/hardscaping, and wording (e.g. inclusion of "Historic," "A Covenant Community," etc.). The ONA Maintenance Chair will sit on this committee and will report all findings to the Board on a monthly basis at its regular association meetings. The committee will prepare a final proposal, which will be submitted to the Board for approval.

Needless to say, the final outcome will, in large part, depend on the dedication and skill of the neighbors who participate. A wide array of occupational backgrounds is a must as are the perspectives of both new and long-time residents. This effort will likely entail monthly meetings, perhaps four to six in total. Please email maintenance@originalnorthwood.org (or call 410-802-2624) if you would like to consider joining this committee.

■ *JP Rigilano (Maintenance Chair)*

Tree Planting

On May 16th, volunteers planted 15 trees along Eastview, Northview, and Southview Roads, bringing the total number of trees planted within the last year to 47. Species included red oak, willow oak, swamp white oak, pin oak, Linden, red chestnut, sycamore, and red maple. As summer grows hotter, keep an eye on the newly-planted trees! During dry weeks, please water the trees with around three to five gallons of water.

We will be requesting your help in the fall, when we will plant more trees along Westview and Roundhill and Loch Raven. Finally, note that we are only planting street trees. If you've recently lost a tree in your backyard, plant a new one—for your benefit, that of your neighbors, and that of future generations of Original Northwood residents.

■ *JP Rigilano*



A newly-planted swamp white oak (Quercus bicolor) settles in to its new home on Southview Road. The swamp white oak is a hardy species known for being relatively easy to transplant. In fact, some 400 swamp white oaks were recently planted at the September 11th memorial in Manhattan. The tree can live for more than 300 years, reaching a height of 70 feet.

Treasurer's report

As of 31 May 2015, ONA has received membership dues from 109 households, representing 30% of all households in the neighborhood. Roundhill leads the way with over half (55%) of its households being paid-up ONA members for 2015. So far this year, we've spent \$2,438 on social events (Egg hunt, Wine & Cheese, Garden Walk), communications (newsletters, flyers), maintenance (tree planting) and administration. We've taken in \$5,226 in dues (\$3815), social events (\$1161) and advertising (\$250). The net increase of \$2788 since the beginning of 2015 increases ONA's ability to finance ongoing maintenance, social activities, communications, and covenant support that help keep our neighborhood strong. Thank you to all who have joined so far this year!

To join the ONA, you can pay your voluntary ONA 2015 membership dues of \$35 via credit card using the payment information on the ONA website (www.originalnorthwood.org/dues), or by making out a check to "Original Northwood Association" and mailing it to: ONA Treasurer, 1310 Argonne Drive, Baltimore MD 21218.

At the same time, dues revenues have declined since 2010 from over \$6000 annually, to 2014's level of \$4820, although other forms of revenue have helped to keep total revenues over \$6000 annually for most of the period, and a relatively stable bank account balance, standing at \$17,444.03 at the end of 2014.

Original Northwood Association Treasurer's Report, May 2015

A. SUMMARY OF DUES PAYMENTS

Street	# of Houses	DUES PAID 2014		DUES PAID 2015		
		Cumulative	%	Cumulative	%	Current
Argonne	49	16	33%	19	39%	4
Deepwood	37	16	43%	12	32%	1
Eastview	10	3	30%	4	40%	
Havenwood	19	11	58%	7	37%	1
Kelway	16	4	25%	3	19%	
Loch Raven	14	3	21%	0	0%	
Northview	70	18	26%	14	20%	1
Roundhill	33	17	52%	18	55%	
Roundtop	8	2	25%	2	25%	
Southview	39	17	44%	14	36%	
The Alameda	33	4	12%	2	6%	
Westview	41	20	49%	14	34%	1
Totals	369	131	36%	109	30%	8
<i>Dues per household</i>		<i>\$35</i>		<i>\$35</i>		<i>\$35</i>
<i>Total Revenue</i>		<i>\$4,585</i>		<i>\$3,815</i>		<i>\$280</i>

B. CURRENT MONTH BANK RECONCILIATION

Bank beginning balance :			\$21,109.91
Revenues	2015 dues	\$280.00	\$ 21,109.81 (Confirmed)
	Social (Garden Walk 2015)	\$645.03	
Total Revenues			\$925.03
Expenses	Administrative	\$45.00	Community conference registration Printing of ON Newsletter & 2 flyers Egg Hunt, Wine & Cheese, Garden walk
	Communications	\$438.20	
	Covenant		
	Maintenance		
	Safety		
	Social	1319.77	
	Other		
Total Expenses			\$1,802.97
Ending balance :			\$20,231.97
Bank ending balance :			\$ 20,231.97 (Confirmed)

C. YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET ANALYSIS

Category	Budget	ACTUAL TO DATE			Remainder
		Expenses	Revenues	Difference	
Dues	\$6,125.00	---	\$3,815.00	\$3,815.00	(\$2,310.00)
Administrative	(\$250.00)	(\$218.13)	\$272.00	\$53.87	\$303.87
Communications	(\$1,750.00)	(\$710.29)	\$0.00	(\$710.29)	\$1,039.71
Covenant	(\$1,000.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Maintenance	(\$6,000.00)	(\$139.85)	\$0.00	(\$139.85)	\$5,860.15
Safety	(\$200.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Social	(\$3,800.00)	(\$1,369.82)	\$1,139.03	(\$230.79)	\$3,569.21
Contingency	(\$500.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Totals	(\$7,375.00)	(\$2,438.09)	\$5,226.03	\$2,787.94	\$10,162.94

Enforcing the Covenants with Bank Owned Properties

Bank owned properties can pose a difficult problem for enforcing the covenants. Banks are rarely aware of the covenants and finding the correct point of contact at a multinational bank can take multiple calls, emails, and letters, all of which equal significant delays. If renovations are deemed necessary to sell the home, those renovations are generally done quickly and concurrently, resulting in multiple violations on the same house that need to be remedied (for example, new non-muntined windows, an asphalt roof, and a new door all installed within days of each other).

One such property was recently taken on by the Board and myself on the 4100 block of Loch Raven. The bank had foreclosed on a property and had quickly started the

renovations listed above, among others. After spending hours on the phone and sending emails, I was able to find the person in charge of renovating and selling the property to inform him of the covenants. It took several conversations between myself, him, his boss, and the company contracted to do the work, but they agreed to submit an application to the committee for the work already done. Two items, the front door and the garage door, were deemed appropriate and approved after the fact. The roof and the windows, however, were found to be in violation of the covenants and the Board gave the bank 30 days to submit a new application for replacements for the non-approved work or face legal consequences.

Of course, the bank did not like the prospect of spending more time and money to effectively replace the roof and windows twice. However, faced with a lengthy lawsuit and the strong precedent set forth by previous suits, the bank did finally agree to fix the non-approved elements with appropriate replacements or updates. Not until after offering of a significant bribe to look the other way, though!

This process took five months of calls, emails, and reviewing applications, but the work was worth it. A very visible home that stands as a representative of our neighborhood to those just traveling past now reflects the historic nature of our neighborhood.

■ *Lauren Bambusch (Covenant Chair)*

1218 Argonne Drive

There has been much discussion on NextDoor regarding the house construction on Argonne Drive. I want to thank everyone for being the eyes and ears in the neighborhood. It is wonderful to have such an engaged community and I hope that you will all consider joining the board in various capacities so that you may continue your great efforts.

The current new construction has been reviewed and approved by the board. Because we were concerned with our ability to adequately review a whole house plan, we reached out to neighbor Jim Petit for his assistance. Jim suggested that we contract Jeff Penza at Penza Bailey Architects.

The board contracted Jeff Penza to review the plans in light of the architectural guidelines (of which he and his firm are adequately aware). Mr. Penza made several significant suggestions to the original plan

that the developer agreed to implement. Based on this, and the review by the covenant committee, the board approved the application.

As has been noted, the roofing material is neither slate or, as we have realized, a synthetic slate. The roof is, however, materially the same as what was on the application that we approved. Based on the recommendations for the architectural consultation and our covenant committee, we missed this.

I apologize for the error, but not for the tremendous effort that went in to the review from the covenant committee and the board. Obviously, no process is foolproof. We will continue to work toward enforcement of the covenants and our architectural guidelines. I personally ask each of you to continue to help us with that endeavor.

■ *Richard Skolasky, President*

Trivia Question:
Which house in Original Northwood was the first in Baltimore City to install central air conditioning?

The first three people to answer correctly will receive a bottle of wine!

To answer, email asheff@homesale.com!



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asheff@homesale.com



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Neighborhood Institute at Baltimore Design School

On Saturday 18 April, I attended the 2015 Neighborhood Institute, a wonderful day-long series of workshops to learn from and talk with urban development specialists and residents of other Baltimore communities. The Institute is an annual event organized by the Greater Homewood Community Corporation (GHCC) and serving the entire city. This year's Institute, held at the fabulous Baltimore Design School – itself a model of what urban renewal can be – brought together over 40 presenters and hundreds of attendees from across the city, to participate in a choice of over 30 separate workshops across the course of the day. At any given time, eight or nine workshops ran concurrently, organized into nine themes or “tracks” ranging from “Grow Your Network: Collaborating with Anchor Institutions and City Agencies” to “It’s Easy

Being Green: Urban Orchards, Forest Patches, Stormwater Management, and More” to “Beyond the School Day: Building a Community of Support for Students.”

The workshops were interactive, speakers were knowledgeable and engaging. In the first session I attended, I learned about how Baltimore’s Mayor’s Office, Department of Planning, Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works, Baltimore Development Corporation, and community associations come together to plan and carry out renewal of Baltimore’s key corridors (such as Greenmount Avenue) one block at a time. In the second session, urban planners and analysts from University of Baltimore’s Jacob France Institute and the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance (BNIA) led us through “Vital Signs”, an initiative that has pulled together

key databases about Baltimore in one place on the Web, so that the general public as well as experts can examine a broad range of data about city and neighborhood performance and create better informed action plans (Check out http://bniajfi.org/vital_signs). I last attended “Bringing Families to Baltimore”, a workshop that outlined Live Baltimore’s new “Way to Stay” program whose goal is to attract and keep younger families in the City, in part through building a research-based understanding of the factors families are looking for, and helping communities improve their status as “family-friendly neighborhoods”. While I was only able to attend a tiny fraction of all that took place, the buzz during coffee breaks (provided by Donna’s and Stone Mill Bakery) and lunch (provided by Pen and Quill) – all within the \$15 registration fee – was that interesting, informative, and inspiring workshops were happening all day. A worthwhile day; I hope to see many more of you there next year!

■ Jennie Spratt, *Treasurer*

TO 501(c)(3) OR NOT TO 501(c)(3)?

For many years the Original Northwood Association Board has debated whether to become a nonprofit corporation. This spring a Board member attended The Community Law Center’s (CLC) seminar on becoming a nonprofit. For many reasons, nonprofit status would be detrimental.

The organizing of a nonprofit is an onerous process. You do become a corporation under IRS and Maryland, and must file with both initially and annually to remain tax exempt and solicit for funding.

An entity must produce a Self-Assessment. It must organize with Bylaws; a Conflict of Interest Policy; a detailed Mission Statement; Articles of Incorporation; carry on a regular meeting schedule; have a CEO and Board of Directors; provide a Budget and

Fundraising Plan; provide for Indemnification of the Board of Directors, and submit a detailed Narrative Description of Activities, among other requirements. The average filing is over 50 complicated pages and takes 200-300 hours to produce. Someone must be dedicated to accomplish this feat. Also the CLC requires that you have legal representation from the beginning of the process.

Original Northwood is a small neighborhood. Our HOA and residents’ resources are spread thinly now. The requirements of running a nonprofit corporation would too great a burden for us.

And what about the reason for being a nonprofit-raising money on a tax deductible basis? Well, we are not an impoverished neighborhood. That cuts us out of most

funding by Baltimore city. And with only 370 homes, we don’t have the numbers to raise enough ongoing contributions to justify the effort and cost of a 501(c)(3). We are significantly smaller than Homeland, Guilford, and Roland Park. Even within Northwood we are the smallest entity.

And the facts are that the overwhelming majority of nonprofits are starved for funding despite their efforts. It isn’t the rosy path some folks think it is.

The residents of Original Northwood currently do great service keeping our neighborhood in good shape. There is no pot of gold in nonprofits. We just have to continue our efforts to maintain the ambience of our homes and yards.

■ Dana Andrusik, *Vice President*

Outsmarting Crime

Spring is finally here and with that comes the unfortunate reality of increased instances of property crime. I'm writing this to outline some simple things we all can do to dissuade would-be thieves.

Some of these hints come from a booklet called, 'Outsmarting Crime: A personal guide to safer living'. The Commander of Baltimore's Northeastern District, Major Richard Worley was kind enough to make these available a few months ago at a community meeting held at the Northeastern District Station. I know that he would be more than happy to get more of these in the hands of anyone that wants one. Let me know if you are interested in receiving one. You can reach me at my personal email, smcarberr@gmail.com or through originalnorthwood.org.

One of the major themes of "Outsmarting Crime" is our own ability to outsmart criminals by reducing the opportunity for crime at our homes and in the way that we live. It goes on to state that most criminals are essentially amateurs that are looking for an easy opportunity to get something of value in the easiest possible way.

An illustration from my own life comes from my time in the United States Marine Corps. I was in boot camp and committed the sin of leaving my foot locker unsecured. One of my Drill Instructors saw this and did the thing that would teach me THE lesson that I will never forget. He ripped open my footlocker, turned it over and threw my gear all over the squad bay. The very simplistic yet effective lesson taught that day was, leaving your gear unsecured can lead to it being stolen and that in turn affects the security and safety of the platoon. For our purposes, Original Northwood is the platoon.

Keeping our doors and windows locked are obvious ways to stave off a burglary. As a matter of fact, the "Outsmarting Crime" booklet even has instructions on how to pin

double-hung windows. One thing that we do is make sure that all parts of the window, i.e. the exterior pane of glass, the screen and interior pane are always in the down and secured position if we are leaving the house or going to bed. We often open up our windows to let our cat commune with nature but once she is done sunning herself, the entire window is secured. This can be effective in letting you know if anyone is trying to enter your home through the windows. If you make the effort to always close and secure them, any difference in their positioning will be a tell-tale sign that the bad guys are checking to see if your house is a candidate for burglary.

Lighting around your doors is also an effective deterrent and one other thing that my Wife and I do is make sure that the 'Hook and Eye' lock is always in use on our screen doors. Just doing that doesn't mean that a home is free and clear, but it adds one more layer that a criminal will have to work through to enter your home. Also, don't leave gardening or home repair tools out in your yard. A thief can use these to break windows, jimmy doors, etc.

Something else that we need to be concerned with is the theft of packages from our patios. Many UPS and FedEx trucks drop stuff off in ON and this is definitely a draw for criminals. I would suggest that even though it may seem like a hassle, have products purchased on-line delivered to your work address.

Major Worley, in his weekly updates has been keen on reminding folks to not leave valuables in cars. Something that has been noted amongst neighbors and law enforcement alike is that some enterprising criminals have been using a tool that can hack a new cars' security system. By taking your valuables inside you cut down on the thief's need to break into your car. He has also instructed citizens that if we observe someone looking

in cars, even if they get scared off, call 911 and give them as complete a description of the individual as possible AND the direction they are going as they exit our neighborhood.

It is my hope that we can all use these simple ideas to make our neighborhood as safe and crime-free as possible and I urge all of our neighbors to collaborate on ideas to further this initiative.

■ *Scott Carberry, Safety Chair*

Everything you never wanted to know about mosquitos and so didn't ask

Last year we had a representative from the Maryland State Department of the Environment come educate us on how to rid ourselves of the aggressive and ubiquitous Asian Tiger Mosquito. With the rain and warmer weather, it's time to start taking action around your property so we ALL have a more pleasant summer. This is what we learned:

If you and every one of your neighbors within a 200 yard radius remove every mosquito breeding habitat you will be mosquito-free in about two weeks.

Breeding locations

However, the Asian Tiger mosquito can breed in 1/4" of standing water in common yard objects such as:

- Anything that can hold small amounts of water. Even large things that hold water, like bird baths, usually have calm areas around the edges where mosquitoes breed.
- All containers: buckets, pales, water bottles, trash cans (including lids), storage totes, recycling containers. Even if these items are kept upside down, water can pool in the handles or lips of the container.
- And **especially bamboo**, their native breeding ground; the cup formed when a stalk of bamboo is broken or cut
- Corrugated drain pipe from downspouts
- Clogged rain gutters or gutters that pool water in the ends
- Street gutters, potholes, sewers
- Trash cans and lids

- Rain barrels not properly maintained
- Flower pots and their bases/saucers
- Standing water in pet bowls
- Garden hoses
- Lawn sprinkler, garden hose attachments
- Bulk trash
- Toys – if it has handles or any indentation where water can pool in small amounts, it's a breeding ground
- Portable basketball stands
- The catch basin under your grill
- Plastic bags stuck in cans or bushes
- Plastic bags such as mulch bags, bird seed bags or tarps
- Plastic chairs, tables and all outside furniture, especially if it is upside down
- Bird baths, vacant pools, fishless koi ponds, defunct water features
- Tarps, tires, wheel barrows

What you can do

- **Remove all breeding grounds** as listed above (or dump standing water at least every four days or so).
- Remove their favorite places to lurk (in shady damp spots like under **broad leaf plants** like English ivy and pachysandra and under decks) so they'll lurk in someone else's yard
- Use **mosquito fish** (or its granular form) in known standing water, such as water features. This is a bacteria (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti)) that only affects the mosquito larvae and not fish or birds or other wildlife.
- Use an insecticide

Further action

First and foremost, tackle the first four items listed above, as appropriate. Also consider hiring a mosquito spraying company to

regularly spray your yard every few weeks or you collaborate with neighbors to:

- Go in together to purchase a high-quality backpack mister/fogger, along with protective gear and safe insecticides (contact the author for model recommendations)
- Create maps of each of your properties outlining what areas you do and don't want sprayed
- Go through an orientation to ensure you know the proper application procedure and maintenance of said gear and insecticide
- Set up a schedule to take turns spraying one another's yard, thus ensuring that each individual household will only need to actually go out to spray once or twice a season.

Want to do more learning about mosquitoes and how to rid yourself of them, check out the following MD Dept of Agriculture pages (but keep in mind that Baltimore City is the only county in the state of Maryland that has opted out of having a contract with the MD Dept of Agriculture so we cannot enjoy the benefits of their Mosquito Control Program at this time).

Happy reading:

- http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/asian_tiger_mosquito_md.aspx
- http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/avoid_asian_tiger_mosquitoes.aspx
- http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/tips_rid_your_community_mosquito_breeding_sites.aspx

We *can* have a pleasant summer if we each do our part! Thank you for taking care of your property and educating your neighbors. I'll see you outdoors!

■ *Chris Youngston Gray*

*Oh, oh mosquito
You suck my blood and you suck
Why do you persist?
– Anonymous*



Kathie Patey