



NETWORK

ORIGINAL NORTHWOOD ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2022 ISSUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

SAFETY TIPS

MORE MAINTENANCE

SAFETY UPDATE

SOCIAL UPDATE

GNCA/NECO UPDATES

COVENANT REPORT

TREASURER REPORT

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

President's Corner



Just as we thought we were turning a corner in the global pandemic, we experienced a new surge in cases due to the Omicron variant of the virus that causes COVID-19. It is my sincere hope that each of you have remained healthy, happy, and sane during these trying times. Please take note of two opportunities to become more involved in the neighborhood. We are currently forming a Nomination

Committee for our September Board elections. We are also seeking candidates for President of the Greater Northwood Covenant Association. Both are wonderful opportunities to meet your neighbors and to give back to this great community!

Our neighborhood, like many others, has experienced an increase in crime. Recently, there was a carjacking and a home invasion leaving many neighbors concerned. During the January meeting, chaired by Vice President Glenn Paisley, we heard from our elected representatives Odette Ramos and Ryan Dorsey and Baltimore City Police Department representatives. Each shared information on efforts to improve safety and to address resident concerns. In this newsletter, we have included tips to keep yourself safe. In following the mantra, "If you see something, say something", I encourage all neighbors to be vigilant for suspicious activity. If you see someone acting in a suspicious manner, please report this using 911. Also report it to your fellow neighbors using NextDoor and our Safety Chair Joe Mertz at safety@originalnorthwood.org.

As we prepare to leave these dark and cold days behind us, please keep an eye out for routine maintenance around your house and yard. Our Maintenance Chair Zhan Caplan has included tips in the newsletter and our Covenant Chair Lauren Bambusch has included reminders about applications for exterior alterations. Stay warm, I can't wait to see you soon!

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



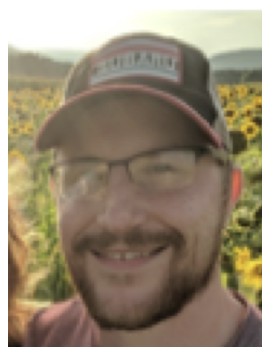
Carla Paisley,
Communications



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

Seeking Members for the Nominating Committee

Each year, the Original Northwood Association Board of Governors reaches out to neighbors to form a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee, per our constitution, is to consist of at least three members who are appointed by the President each April. The members of this committee are responsible for identifying neighbors interested in running for election to one of the Board positions. These positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary and Chairs of the Communications, Covenant, Maintenance, Safety, and Social Committees.

This is a great opportunity to serve the neighborhood and to meet new neighbors. If you are interested in learning more about serving on this committee, please contact president@originalnorthwood.org.

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!

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

I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and that 2022 has gotten off to a good start for you and your families. Here are some updates on neighborhood maintenance topics.

Winter Weather Tips

- If you haven't done so already, it's really important to turn off the valves to your exterior hose bibs to prevent frozen pipes. Another way to protect your plumbing is to cover your hose bibs with an insulated cover such as these: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8zekyb>. Doing this could save your major headaches and expensive plumbing and water damage repairs!
- We've been getting a more regular pattern of snow/ice/winter weather and very cold temperatures. Make sure to keep salt or pet-friendly ice melt in good supply so you can keep your walks and steps clear. Remember that it's against the law NOT to clear your sidewalks. There's more information here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8trfdv>.
- Speaking of snow removal – keep an eye out on your elderly or sick neighbors! If you know a neighbor is unable to clear their own walks, give them a hand and do it for them! Being kind goes a LONG way.
- If you live near a storm drain, PLEASE clear leaves and debris from the gutter so the drains don't get blocked as snow begins to melt.

Dumpster Days for 2022

- I've scheduled quarterly dumpster days this year, with a very strong caveat. We MUST have the dumpster monitored at all times when it is in the neighborhood. A few weeks before each date, I'll put a message on Nextdoor seeking neighbors to cover shifts. Shifts will include 2 neighbors. The dumpster is usually here a little before 8 am and stays until noon or 1pm.

IF we don't get volunteers to cover the entire time, I will cancel the dumpster for that date. Unfortunately this is necessary because last time we had a dumpster, someone placed a large quantity of motor oil in the container, and it caused an oil spill into Loch Raven that shut down the road for hours.

- A dumpster is scheduled to be delivered to Havenwood Road near the intersection of Kelway on the following dates:
 - Saturday, March 26
 - Saturday, June 18
 - Saturday, September 10
 - Saturday, November 19

I will greet the driver and ensure that the dumpster is facing into the neighborhood and not out to Loch Raven. Monitors will help ensure that no prohibited items are placed in the container.

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

Safety Tips from the Baltimore City Police Department

The following information is adapted from the BCPD web-site to include safety and crime prevention tips that we all can practice to keep ourselves and our neighbors safe.

The best defense against crime is you! We encourage you to familiarize yourself with these crime prevention tips and to put them into practice. Most of them are low-cost and require little more than awareness and thoughtfulness. Together, we can make Baltimore a safer city!

- ✓ **Pay attention to your surroundings.** Almost everyone has a smartphone. They can be very distracting. Walking while texting or making calls is inviting to criminals. Avoid doing this! Thieves can see you have a valuable phone and are not paying attention to your surroundings.
- ✓ **Always lock your car.** It may seem like a no-brainer, but always lock your car. This includes while refueling at the gas station or quickly running into a friend's house or store.
- ✓ **Don't leave your car running by itself.** We all want to get behind the wheel of a warmed-up car. So do car thieves!! Do not leave your car unattended if you warm it up before driving.
- ✓ **Leave your car empty** Whenever you leave your car, even for a few minutes, make sure to leave it empty. Opportunistic thieves walk the street looking through car windows. When they see a car that has valuables in sight – even small amounts of change – they may smash your window for a quick payday.
- ✓ **Hide cell phone & charging cables.** A charger plugged into an outlet is a sign to crooks you may have additional items of value in the car. Hide that charging cable! Similarly, anyone who uses a GPS device should be aware that thieves look for a rubber mount's suction cup ring on a car's windshield. Before exiting the car, hide your GPS and wipe away the ring.
- ✓ **Package and mail theft.** With the rise of online purchases and deliveries, thieves commonly steal packages from front porches. If you know you are not going to be home, leave a note asking the driver to deliver the package to a neighbor or a friendly neighborhood business for safekeeping!
- ✓ **Going out of town.** If you are going out of town for an extended period of time, make arrangements with a neighbor to collect your mail and keep an eye on your house. And leave on lights. Piled up mail and a dark house tells criminals you aren't home.

Other Maintenance News

Tree Canopy Restoration

Our work to restore the canopy in the neighborhood will continue in 2022! You've probably noticed a significant amount of trees that have been removed in the city in the past year. The neighborhood is also, unfortunately, full of dead trees. I urge all homeowners to take those dead trees seriously and have them properly removed by a licensed arborist before they cause serious damage, such as what we saw last summer.

We've secured 15 more native street trees from the city that we will work to have planted in the spring by the Baltimore Tree Trust. We'll also work with them to replace the few trees that didn't survive from last spring's planting.

If you See Something, Say Something

If you see maintenance issues that the city needs to handle such as dumping, broken street lights, empty salt boxes, issues with trash pickup, etc., PLEASE CALL 311. I've had several requests from folks to take care of things that I haven't seen in the community. I can't be everywhere, so please help be my eyes and put a request in for service! If you don't see resolution to the problem, send me the ticket # and I can escalate it to our city council members.

Spring Clean Up

I'm going to work to schedule a MAJOR neighborhood clean up weekend this spring. In addition to simply picking up litter in our streets and alleys, I'd also like to get volunteers on every street to come out and clean the leaves and debris out of the gutters along the curb on each street. With no street cleaning service, this debris has become a real problem with clogged storm drains. It also helps deteriorate the curbs and just looks horrible.

Let's all get out and do some work to help make sure that the neighborhood looks fantastic this spring! More information will be shared on Nextdoor and in a future newsletter.

Social Update

As we reminisce on the hot cocoa and holiday songs from our Original Northwood Caroling Parade, I want each of you to think of Spring! We will hold our Wine & Cheese Party in late spring with location and date to be determine.



GNCA Update

On Saturday January 22nd, the Greater Northwood Covenant Association (GNCA) held a Trustees' Meeting. This meeting was to address timely staffing and other issues that the organization was facing.

The current President and Executive Secretary of the GNCA have stepped down from their positions. The Trustees met to plan the announced vacancy of the President's position in our respective neighborhoods. The position of Executive Secretary has been accepted by Gretchen Pike. Ms. Pike may be reached at greaternorthwood@gmail.com with any questions related to GNCA

NECO Update

As many of you may know, we are part of the Northeast Community Organization (NECO). Current President Angie Winder has joined our monthly meetings and always shares timely information. To learn more about what NECO does to support our neighborhoods, please consider joining their next monthly meeting to be held Saturday February 12, 2022 at 10am. Registration may be found here: <https://gmail.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a3a8a34f1a31f9a72f194f2c6&id=0d006e248e&e=e30e5c7c81>.

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

It has been three months since taking over as your Covenant Chair, and my committee and I have been busy. In the last three months, we have:

- Reviewed 8 applications for exterior alterations, with all 8 being approved.
- Continued working with neighbors whose homes were damaged in summer and fall storms to ensure that their projects were expedited for approval and that their contractors had the support needed to quickly get our neighbors back into their homes.

Of those approved applications:

- 50% were on Argonne, 25% on Southview, and the remaining applications coming from Deepwood and Havenwood.
- 50% included hardscaping improvements, such as fencing, decking, and retaining walls.
- 25% included door replacement or improvement.

History meets the Future

My favorite application thus far has been for an EV charging station. To me, that application exemplifies that even though we live in a historic neighborhood that works to honor that history, we can also look to the future of what living in Baltimore City will become. I, the Board, and the hardworking members of the Covenant committee are always assessing new technologies for how they can be melded with our historical neighborhood.

Covenant Violations and Enforcement

Unfortunately, part of the role of the Covenant Chair is to also enforce violations of our architectural guidelines. There are currently 10 homes in Original Northwood that are currently undergoing the violation abatement process. This can become a lengthy process which can end in legal proceedings, and I thank Richard Skolasky, President of the Original Northwood Association and trustee of the Greater Northwood Covenant Association, as well as Mary Stevenson, previous Covenant Chair, for their continued support in assessing the outstanding violations and providing historical input in each case. In the past three months, we have been able to make significant progress in curing these violations, with one homeowner completing work to cure a violation and exit the abatement process, and several more to be completed in the next few months.

Application Reminder

As the warm weather of spring turns our collective attention to the outdoors and the exterior of our homes, I encourage you to apply for your exterior projects. In many cases, applications are turned around in a week or less. If you have any questions about your application, the application process, or anything pertaining to the neighborhood covenants, I encourage you to reach out to me at Covenant@originalnorthwood.org.

And, as always, if you have a passion for the history and architectural beauty of our neighborhood and would like to be a part of a group of people like yourself interested in maintaining it, I am always accepting volunteers to join the Covenant committee.

Generously printed by Eleni 'Lena' Bonds, Realtor

Original Northwood Association Treasurer's Report, January 2022

A. SUMMARY OF DUES PAYMENTS

Street	# of Houses	2021 DUES PAID (thru Sep 2021)		2022 DUES PAID thru 31 January 2022		
		Cumulative (corrected)	%	Cumulative	%	Current
Argonne	50	23	46%	15	30%	1
Deepwood	37	21	57%	9	24%	0
Eastview	10	3	30%	1	10%	0
Havenwood	19	11	58%	6	32%	0
Kelway	16	5	31%	4	25%	0
Loch Raven	15	7	47%	5	33%	1
Northview	70	31	44%	27	39%	6
Roundhill	33	18	55%	15	45%	2
Roundtop	8	3	38%	2	25%	0
Southview	39	25	64%	15	38%	0
The Alameda	57	16	28%	7	12%	0
Westview	41	18	44%	10	24%	3
Totals	395	181	46%	116	29%	13

B. CURRENT MONTH BANK RECONCILIATION

Bank beginning balance (Checking & Savings combined)

\$21,535.71

Revenues

2022 Dues \$540.00

Dues received

Administrative \$0.14

Interest earned

Total Revenues

\$540.14

Expenses

Administrative

Communications

Covenant

Maintenance

Safety

Social

Contingency

Total Expenses

\$0.00

Ending balance :

\$22,075.85

Bank ending balance :

Checking: \$ 4,929.26

Total: \$ 22,075.85 (Confirmed)

Savings: \$ 17,146.59

C. YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET ANALYSIS (FY 2022 running DecOBER - SEPTEMBER)

Category	BUDGET / ANTICIPATED		ACTUALS		NET (Budget minus Actual)
	Expenses	Revenues, Reimb.	Expenses	Revenues, Reimb.	
Dues		\$7,200 revenue	\$0.00	\$2,535.00	(\$4,665.00)
Administrative	(\$100)	\$0	(\$481.22)	\$0.54	(\$380.68)
Communications	(\$500)	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Covenant	(\$2,000)	\$2,000 reimb.	(\$1,374.75)	\$0.00	(\$1,374.75)
Maintenance	(\$5,000)	\$5,000 reimb.	(\$500.00)	\$0.00	(\$500.00)
Safety	(\$200)	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Social	(\$3,000)	\$2,000 revenue	(\$1,592.92)	\$0.00	(\$592.92)
Contingency	(\$100)	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Totals	(\$10,900)	\$16,200	(\$3,948.89)	\$2,535.54	(\$6,713.35)