



# NETWORK



## ORIGINAL NORTHWOOD ASSOCIATION

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello, neighbors, and happy new year to you!

2016 was a year filled with welcoming new residents, installation of a new neighborhood sign, the beginnings of a little free library, social gatherings, safety walks, clean-ups, and information sharing. My hope is that 2017 will bring even more community building initiatives, discussions, and excitement in Original Northwood.

Thanks to all who in 2016 participated in events, helped neighbors, passed out newsletters, gave feedback, and made our neighborhood a little better. The hard work of volunteers, generosity of neighbors, and continuous community growth, has not gone unnoticed.

As we move through 2017, here are some things to look forward to and get involved with in the upcoming year. Whether you're interested in maintenance and upkeep, social gatherings, meetings, city happenings, or anything else, I look forward to seeing you throughout the year!

**Committees-** The board is made up of officers and chairs, but I believe that in order to create and promote programs that are successful, and to tend to issues more accurately, neighbors make all the difference.

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### INSIDE

\* **Update on Northwood Commons!**

\* **New ONA P.O. Box!**

\* **YOUTH JOBS!**

Send newsletter feedback to [communications@originalnorthwood.com](mailto:communications@originalnorthwood.com)

### ONA SOCIAL: TASTY VITTLES AND LIBATIONS!

Greetings from the Social Committee!

This past year we hit the ground running with our Annual Oktoberfest (pictured). This event was hosted by Emily and David Weber. The event was a great time and allowed new residents of ON to mingle with some of the current residents. I might also add Davids' grilling skills were a huge hit with the delicious bratwursts.

Moving forward to December, Darlene and Darryl

Strange hosted the Annual Holiday party. Come one, come all. This was truly the season to be jolly. While the kids enjoyed themselves watching holiday movies, the adults gathered and ate some delicious food and had some very good drinks. The sangria definitely got the party going.



As we move into the winter months, keep an eye out for more information on our Wine and Cheese party in April.

- *Darryl Strange, ONA Social Chair*

# THE WINTER SAFETY UPDATE

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*Watch for door-to-door solicitations; use the salt boxes; be vigilant against street robberies*

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*By Scott Purnell-Saunders, ONA Safety Chair*

As the weather turns colder, please be mindful of your neighbors and help out whenever possible.

There are just a few updates to share this time around relating to Original Northwood safety.

- Recently, posts on Nextdoor have indicated an increase in the amount of door-to-door solicitation occurring in the area. Please be mindful of visitors and if you are concerned, do not open the door. The Northeast District has shared details relating to a few individuals who were in the area soliciting services as impersonators. If you are concerned, please do not open the door and call 911 to alert the police.
- As we begin to experience snow and ice, please make use of the salt boxes in the neighborhood. All were checked in late December and had adequate supplies.

We received the following updates from the Baltimore City Northeast Police District:

- “There has been a spike citywide in robberies. Suspects have been driving around targeting persons who are preoccupied with using their cellphone in various capacities, i.e. talking, listening to music, taking pictures, etc. The Baltimore Police Department has identified several persons of interest in some of these cases and is actively investigating all leads obtained. Some of these robberies have occurred at or near public transportation hubs. The Northeast District, in collaboration with area law enforcement agencies, are putting together initiatives to prevent the robberies and arrest those responsible for any committed. If you know of any persons committing robberies and or any type of crime please call 1-866-7lockup or text 443-902-4824 with tips. All calls remain anonymous as well as tips received via text.”
- “There has been an increase in burglaries in the Bel Air/Edison community. The burglaries have occurred primarily during the day between the hours of 11AM and 4PM. Suspects have entered through unlocked doors and windows or through broken windows and doors. The majority of the burglary suspects have entered at the rear of the locations. Our Officers have increased patrols in the alleys and have increased car stops in this and other areas. For those residents who are able to be home during the day, we ask your help in identifying suspicious persons, vehicles, actions in your neighborhood, with special attention to the rear of your neighbor’s home. The person who has on a work uniform may not be conducting legitimate business, get to know your neighbors and their patterns. We are all in this together and need your eyes to be our eyes.”

Please review these overall tips from the Baltimore City Northeast Police District

- This is robbery and burglary season for the Northeast District.
  - o Please continue to follow these guidelines in order to stay safe and crimes free this season.
  - o Avoid using ATMs late at night
  - o Avoid bringing in large items to your house late at night
  - o Keep all doors (car and house) locked at all times
  - o Remove valuables from your vehicle at night
  - o Try to get gas before sundown
  - o Break down electronics and appliance boxes and place in a trash bag before disposing of the boxes
- These are just a few tips to help out during the season but no tip can replace good old-fashioned instincts.
  - o If something doesn’t look right or feel right then assume it’s not right and react accordingly.
- We are experiencing robberies along our Loch Raven and Alameda corridor.
  - o Suspect descriptions vary so please stay vigilant while out.

**If you see anything or anyone that looks suspicious, don’t hesitate to dial 911**

In Original Northwood, the Safety Committee will begin Turn on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s in the neighborhood. Please be on the lookout for flyers being placed in doorways in the next few days with reminders. The goal is to turn on your front porch/back porch light from sundown to sun-up. It was an initiative started under our last safety chair and I would like to expand it.

If there are immediate concerns or issues please do not hesitate to let me know. Contact me [safety@originalnorthwood.org](mailto:safety@originalnorthwood.org) or 410-718-1906.

## THE LATEST ON NORTHWOOD COMMONS

*Architecture firm chosen; UDARP planning begins; some leases signed*

*Jess Kupper, ONA President*

If you're anything like me, you may drive by or through the plaza wondering what's happening these days. According to Mark Renbaum in mi-December, below is the latest information. As we get more information about changes and updates, we will share via NextDoor and other outlets.

- An architecture firm has been chosen. JP2 Architects, who were involved with the Wegman's in Owings Mills, among other things, is the firm.
- Things are being prepared for UDARP (Urban Design Architectural Review Panel) where there will be public hearings announced for neighbors to attend.
- There are several businesses that have signed leases and/or letters of intent.
  - Chipotle, Sunny's, Subway, DTLR, Barnes & Noble, Starbucks, Panda King
  - They are still seeking a dry cleaners pizza establishment, wine & spirits store, and a sit-down chef restaurant
- They're working with two major medical groups in hopes of finalizing with one for 5,000 sq. ft. Patient First type place.
- They are **not** currently pursuing housing
- The goal is to begin demo in the spring but stay tuned.

As meetings are scheduled, I will continue to communicate the information. As you know, we will need to continue to work together and with surrounding neighbors to communicate our needs and wants!

## CALENDAR

**FEB. 20**  
PRESIDENT'S DAY  
OFFICIAL CITY HOLIDAY

**MARCH 8**  
ONA QUARTERLY MEETING  
LOCATION ANNOUNCED ON  
NEXTDOOR.COM

**APRIL 14**  
GOOD FRIDAY  
OFFICIAL CITY HOLIDAY

ONA QUARTERLY MEETING  
**LOCATION: TBD**  
(WATCH [NEXTDOOR.COM](http://NEXTDOOR.COM))

## YOUTH JOBS FOR THE SUMMER: APPLY NOW!

*City launches program to employ youth in summer months*

*By Gus Sentementes, ONA Communications Chair*

Baltimore city residents have long decried the limited opportunities for employment for our youth. A new city program aims to change that in the summer of 2017.

This month, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development opened the online application process for recruiting city residents between the ages of 14 to 21 for jobs for local nonprofit and for-profit enterprises. The YouthWorks summer jobs program will operate two, five-week sessions, the first beginning June 26 and the second on July 10, according to the mayor's office.

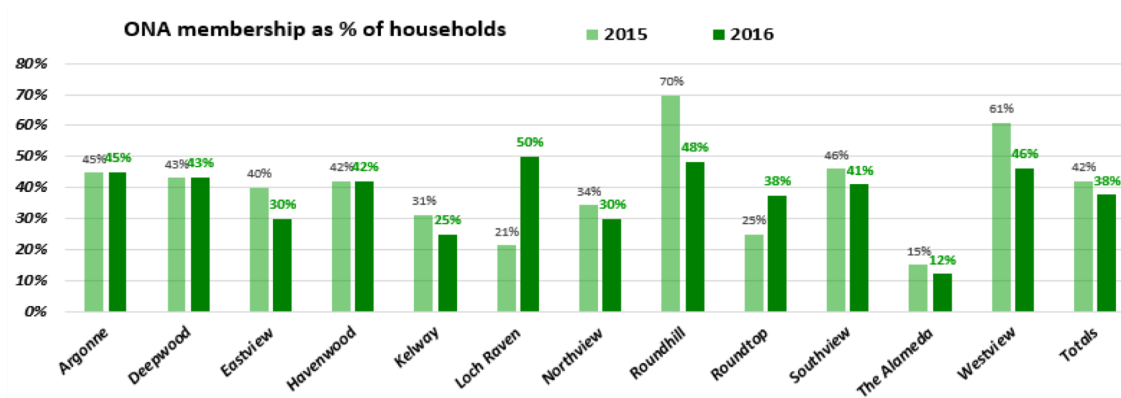
According to the mayor's website: *The online application is the first step of the YouthWorks summer jobs registration and will remain available for Baltimore City residents through Friday, March 10, 2017. Everyone who applies will be required to attend an in-person certification appointment in order to be eligible for a YouthWorks job. These certification appointments will be conducted after school and on Saturdays from late January through March.*

To apply for a Youthworks position, visit: <http://youthworks.oedworks.com/> Residents with employers who may be interested in partnering with Youthworks to offer youth jobs should visit this URL for information: <http://moed.baltimorecity.gov/youth-services/summer-jobs>

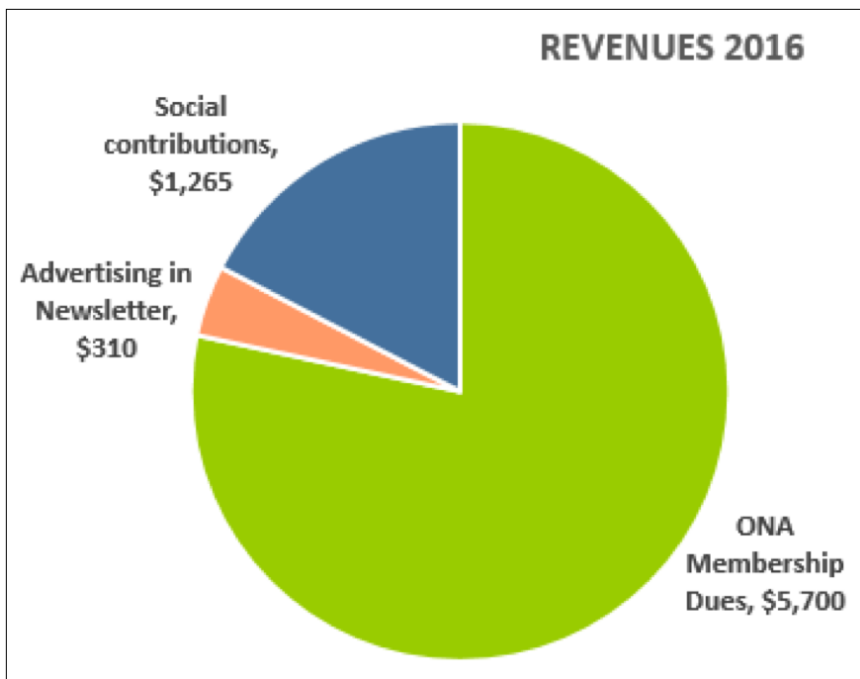
# ONA TREASURER'S UPDATE — 2016 IN REVIEW

*Jennie Spratt, ONA Treasurer*

In 2016, ONA membership was slightly down (139 households, representing 38 percent of all households in the community) from 2015 levels (42 percent%), but on the positive side it was more balanced through the neighborhood than in the previous year, with Loch Raven and Roundtop showing substantially increased membership. Thank you!



Overall, ONA membership contributions brought in \$5,700. Other forms of revenue included \$1,265 in social contributions; \$310 in newsletter advertising, and a small bank adjustment windfall (\$5) for a total of **\$7,280** incoming funds for the year. We can add to this amount \$2,023 in advance funds received from the GNCA in 2015 to cover 2016 payments for capital investments that included final payment on the new ONA sign at the corner of Argonne and the Alameda, tree plantings and other landscaping plantings and services.



As for community expenses, social events represent just over half of all expenditures (\$5,503) for the year; followed by maintenance costs (\$2,271), though these are largely offset by the GNCA advance of \$2,023 received in 2015. Communications expenses (\$1,604) were incurred for printing of quarterly newsletters and various flyers, and hosting of the ONA website.

Administrative costs (\$1,125) represent print materials prepared for ONA's participation in Live Baltimore; Board candidate Meet & Greet events, and various postal mailings; while Covenant expenses (\$237) were incurred for registered letters specifically mailed as notifications of covenant infractions.

Our ONA bank account balance changed from **\$20,903.11** at the beginning of 2016, to **\$17,443.49** at year's end, for a net reduction of \$3,459.62. Excluding \$2,023 of this amount which represents the GNCA advance received in 2015, expenditures exceeded receipts by **\$1,437** in 2016.

## Here's a new year's resolution: JOIN THE ONA!

You can pay your voluntary 2017 membership dues of \$40 online at [www.originalnorthwood.org/dues](http://www.originalnorthwood.org/dues).

You may also write a check to "Original Northwood Association", and mail it to:

Original Northwood Association  
 P.O. Box 33576, Baltimore, MD 21218

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Cont'd from Page 1*

Are you interested in joining a committee for maintenance, safety, covenants, or social events? Do you have issues or concerns and ideas to address them? If so, please contact me at [onapresident@gmail.com](mailto:onapresident@gmail.com) and I'll get you connected to the right person!

**Commission for Historical Architectural Preservation (CHAP)** - Over the past year, the association has begun the exploratory process of CHAP and if it's something residents would like to pursue here. Mary Stevenson has worked with CHAP staff in getting information, setting up Q&A sessions, and in preparing packets of information for residents to review. While surveys were sent out through our association and from CHAP, with a number of responses, we have also heard from residents who need more information and/or more time to make an informed decision. At this time, we have put the CHAP process on hold, in hopes of giving residents more time to review the information, ask questions, and make an informed decision, whether for or against the CHAP designation. Our plan is to do more outreach across the neighborhood, so stay tuned. I do not currently have a new date of when we will finalize survey results and move forward with the process, but we will be sure to inform residents in advance. If you have questions about CHAP, their website is <http://chap.baltimorecity.gov/> and you may also email Mary Stevenson at [onacovenant@gmail.com](mailto:onacovenant@gmail.com).

**Communications and Information Sharing** - How do you like to stay informed? Do you rely on newsletters? Are you on social media? Do you know about quarterly association meetings? Do you know the difference between ONA and GNCA? Would you like to get emails once per month with updates about the neighborhood and areas around us? Do you know who to call when there is a tree issue?

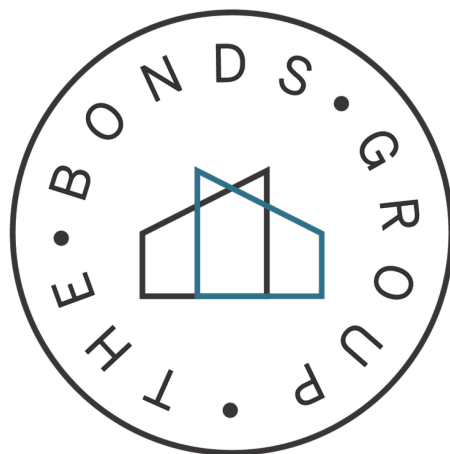
All of those are questions that we have, but know the answers vary for people. In 2017 I'd like to increase communication about meetings, events, concerns, highlights, and more. One way for us to gauge what issues, communication preferences, and ideas are, is by talking with each other. In the next few months, we hope to have neighbors going door to door to get some information from everyone, so that we can get a better idea of concerns, needs, and wants, throughout the neighborhood. We're also hoping to host some street specific meet-ups in order to make sure that specific needs are being met.

Are you interested and able to help with some door-knocking efforts? Are you interested in hosting a small group of neighbors from your street at your house? If so, please email me at [onapresident@gmail.com](mailto:onapresident@gmail.com). There are approximately 10 neighbors who have already signed up to help with door knocking (goal is to have no more than 10-12 houses per person) and one or two folks who have agreed to host small gatherings. There's plenty of room for more.

Please stay tuned for more as the year goes on. I look forward to seeing you soon!



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## SERVING ORIGINAL NORTHWOOD FOR 14 YEARS

# NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR YOUR HOME

## PLAN A BUDGET FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Take a look at home improvements you hope to accomplish this year. Whether you're ready to buy a new refrigerator, purchase new flooring, or it's time to replace your roof, improvements are costly. Plan your yearly budget with these projects in mind to prevent you from overspending, that way there is money available for when you're ready to make the changes.

## LIMIT WATER USE

Our homes eat up about 400 gallons of water each day which can equal hundreds of dollars in water and sewer costs. Save money this year by installing EPA certified WaterSense products. Purchase low-flow shower heads and replace old toilets with low flow toilets. These high efficiency toilets use compressed air and electric water pumps to flush using less than 1 gallon of water. Older toilets can use up to 8 gallons per flush.

## CUT ENERGY USE

Start 2017 by cutting energy use in your home. A great place to start is checking the ductwork on your HVAC system. Leaking ducts cause serious energy waste. By sealing and insulating your duct work, you will save big this winter on heating bills and also save this summer when it's time to turn up the AC.

## PURIFY AIR

Did you know that the EPA has indoor air quality listed as a top environmental health hazard? During the winter when the doors and windows are closed the air is full of possible contaminants such as dust, mold spores, and viruses. Make sure the ventilation systems in your home exhaust air to the outside rather than in an attic or between ceiling joints. You can also purchase a portable air purifier for each room to remove pollutants.



**Call us for a free estimate of value of your home!**



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