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## Better Late Than Never, Right?

Even though it may feel like summer, this is your spring newsletter. Don't worry

there will be a summer newsletter too (mid July-ish).

Thanks to everyone who submitted articles for the spring newsletter and special thanks to Kathy Whitelock who solicited all the articles from neighbors. This newsletter would not have been possible without her!

## A Letter From the ONA President

Hello Neighbors,

I first wanted to thank everyone for being part of the neighborhood. You have chosen to live in one of the Best Neighborhoods in Baltimore, and with your help and support we can make it the Best place to live in Baltimore.

I wanted to share a few things that the ONA board has been working on inside of ONA and with our partners in the local GNCA (Greater Northwood Covenant Association).

- The Northwood Shopping Center revitalization is underway, official groundbreaking took place last fall. We will be seeing additional movement soon on this project.
- GNCA is considering changing our dues servicing organization. More information will be shared about the new servicing partner soon. Payments to GNCA will be easier and additional services are planning to be added.
- ONA Maintenance will be an area of focus throughout the Spring and Summer. We have a new Maintenance Chair who has already started working on some existing concerns. We will have several ONA sponsored clean-up days over the next few months where neighbors will be invited to support cleaning and maintaining areas of the neighborhood, with specific focus on shared spaces. ONA will provide some snacks and materials for the clean-ups as well.
- The ONA Covenant process over the last few months has been challenging. The previous Covenant Chair moved away from ONA, and graciously volunteered to keep supporting the neighborhood when available even though he left. We are currently working on new communication processes to support faster response times, more transparent communication and examples of

previous submissions the committee has approved. We are still looking for help in this area, so if you are interested please contact the board.

- We will be doing more events in the neighborhood this Spring and Summer. Please be on the look-out for weekly walks, Whiskey and Cigar nights (Wine too), the awesome Popsicle Nights and our Annual Neighborhood Block Party.

Thank you everyone for supporting ONA and we are always open to feedback, support and engagement to make ONA the best place to live.

Thanks,  
Scott

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## Meet the Board!





**President Scott Purnell-Saunders**

"Greetings Neighbors,

I am Scott Purnell-Saunders, the current ONA President. I have been a been a life-long resident of Northwood. I grew up in New Northwood on Winston Avenue and always dreamed of being able to move to Original Northwood. I currently live at 4004 Loch Raven Blvd with my wife Shequila and son EJ (Scott, II) and have lived here since 2012. We are active members of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Covenant on the Alameda and our son attends Northwood Elementary. I am always up for a good conversation about various topics and I have always taken a special interest in technology. If you are up for chat, a cigar or a bourbon send me a note."

### **Vice President Diahn Allen**

"I moved to ON about 3 1/2 years ago. I joined the board to meet people, stay abreast of happenings in our community and the community at large, help ensure our community is safe and pleasant and to affect change, when necessary, in a positive way."





### **Treasurer Anthony Thomas**

"Anthony Thomas is a lifelong resident of Baltimore City and was educated in the Baltimore City Public School System graduating from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. He later earned his B.A. from UMBC and his law degree from the University of Baltimore. Anthony and his wife Debra, have two sons, Evan and Vance and have lived in the neighborhood for more than 25 years. He enjoys

the opportunity to serve his neighbors."



**Secretary Kerry Spence**

"I have been a resident of ONA for 15 years. When my husband and I moved into the community, we appreciated the integrity of the homes here. Our love of the community has only grown from there. We have great neighbors and I enjoy the opportunity to contribute.

I signed up to be Secretary because I wanted to participate and contribute to the community."



### **Maintenance Chair Wayne Ruthke**

"I joined the ONA neighborhood assoc. after having my arm severely twisted at several meetings by Scott. Actually, the reason I got involved was that I don't like decisions being made about my home, or community, without my knowledge. As a member of the board, I'll have the opportunity to make a bigger impact to the neighborhood and take the first steps for world domination.



(If Trump can do it...) I hope more neighbors get involved and make this hidden gem of a neighborhood sparkle a little brighter."

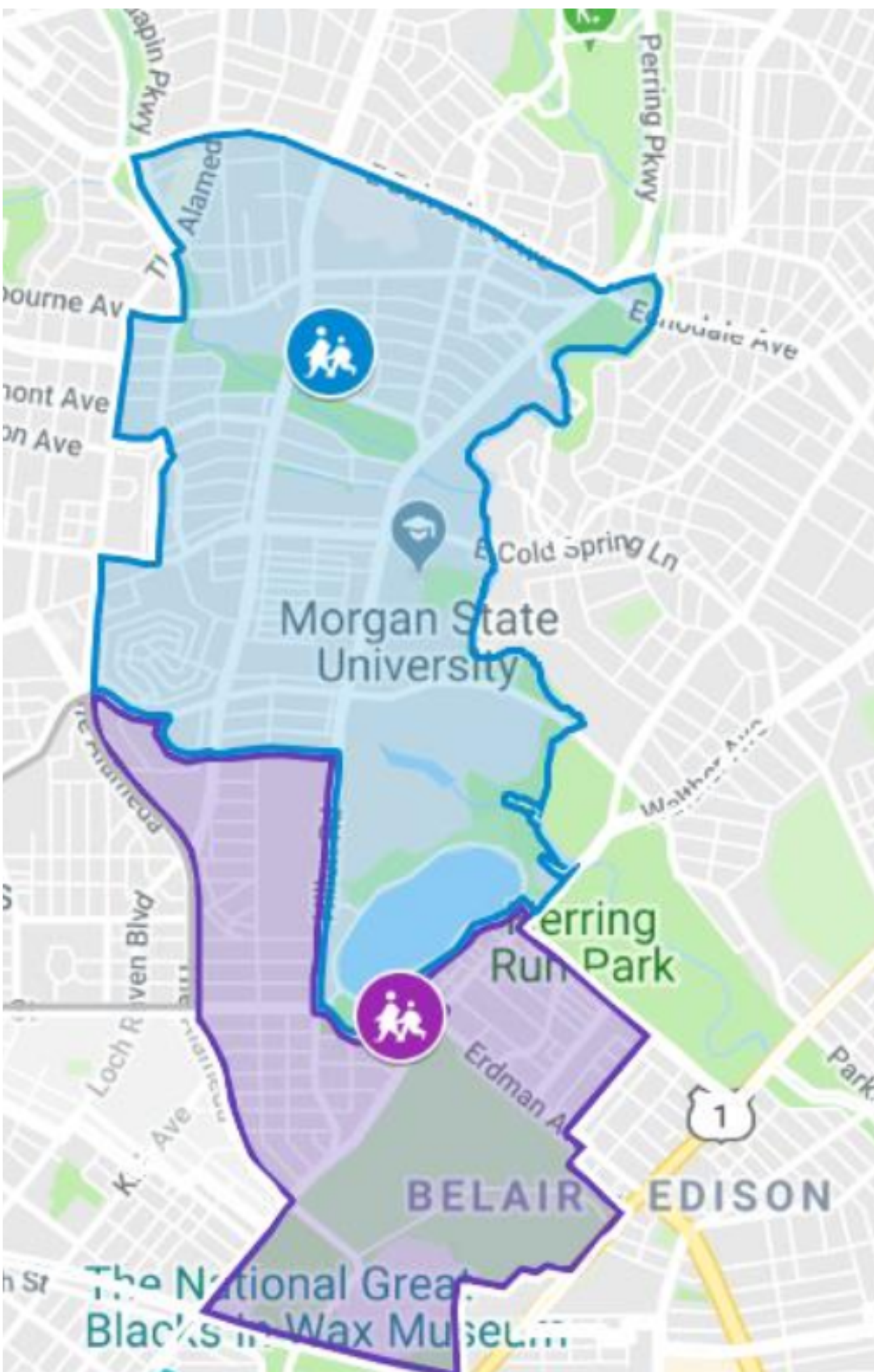


**Communications Chair Meghan Sweeney**

"New to both Baltimore and Original Northwood, I am super excited to connect with my community while working with the board! I am excited to better integrate digital media strategy within ONA. I currently am the marketing coordinator at the Baltimore Humane Society. My spouse and I live on Roundhill with our two adorable, but obnoxious doggos. If you see me out with them feel free to stop by and say hi! I love living in such a friendly and congenial neighborhood!"

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**Our Local Public Schools**



Our neighborhood schools in Original Northwood are Northwood Elementary and Montebello Elementary Middle.

Northwood Elementary serves Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> graders and is located on 5201 Loch Raven Boulevard. The school is led by Principal Erita Adams, a thoughtful school leader who is supported by a hard-working dedicated staff of teachers, paraprofessionals and custodians. Students and their families have access to great opportunities. Northwood Elementary offers before- and after-care on-site. There are four Pre-K classes, and each includes an instructor and teacher's aide. Students in all grades have a curriculum that continues a long tradition of music and arts instruction. Northwood Elementary is also scheduled to be replaced with a \$58 million state-of-the-art building via the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools construction program.

Northwood Elementary also has rich assets and partnerships in the community. For example, each year students from the Morgan State University School of Education & Urban Studies complete their classroom training under the wing of experienced model teachers. Students also have access to Morgan State student tutors who volunteer after school at the Northwood Enoch Pratt Library branch on Coldspring and Loch Raven.

Contact Principal Adams at EAdams@bcps.k12.md.us or call 410-396-6377 to learn more, schedule a visit, or register.

Web: <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/schools/242>

Montebello Elementary Middle serves Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and is located on 2040 E 32nd Street grade students. It is led by Principal Lorna Hanley and has a long heritage and outstanding reputation for dedicated teachers and effective instruction. Montebello is dedicated to interactive learning and communication, and classrooms are equipped with state-of-the-art technological equipment including wireless laptops for teachers, Promethean Boards, document cameras, and LCD projectors. In addition to offering a rigorous academic program, the school proudly serve special needs and gifted and talented students. Montebello also promotes a positive school and learning environment through the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. Students, parents, and staff are challenged to think, achieve, and exhibit positive values.

Montebello is the final school in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools construction program and a recent feasibility study recommended a \$34 million strategic renovation to modernize the historic school building.

Contact Principal Hanley at [ghanley@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:ghanley@bcps.k12.md.us) or call 410-396-6576 to learn more, schedule a visit, or register.

Web: <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/schools/44>,  
[www.facebook.com/montebellodolphins/](http://www.facebook.com/montebellodolphins/)

Feel free to reach out to Anikwenze Ogbue on Facebook or NextDoor if you have questions or want to get involved.

See the map below to see your school zone. Northwood Elementary is light blue and Montebello Elementary Middle is purple. The border between the zones follows Argonne Drive and Roundhill Road.

## Calling All Young Neighbors!

Tell the community what it's like to live in Original Northwood. Send an article between approximately 250-500 words about a day in the neighborhood from your perspective. Be sure to include your first name and age in your byline. Participants should be 18 and younger.

Email submissions to  
[ONACommunicationsChair@gmail.com](mailto:ONACommunicationsChair@gmail.com) by June 15 for a chance to have your article featured in the next newsletter!

### **The ONA Newsletter wants to hear from ON Kids!**

If your child is a budding journalist, photographer, or just likes to write submit their work via email [ONACommunicationsChair@gmail.com](mailto:ONACommunicationsChair@gmail.com). Submissions should include ON Kids in the subject line. Articles written and photos taken by our youngest neighbors are greatly appreciated!

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# Original Northwood and the Honeybees



Have you ever thought of keeping bees? What would it entail? Would you get a lot of honey? Are they really in as much danger as we hear in the news? Is there anything we can do to help them? We've been keeping bees on Southview for the last 6 years and may have some answers for you.

First, keeping bees is fun and challenging. It's March, the days are getting warmer, and a few plants will begin to flower soon. If the temp is above 57°F, honeybees will leave their hive looking for nectar from the first flowers of spring.

Flying takes a lot of energy, and as spring arrives the honey and pollen stores they used to survive the winter are running low. A strong hive will need at least 40 lbs. of honey to survive until spring, or a bit of help from a beekeeper.

Beekeepers supply bees with a home (hive), make sure they have a clean water supply, check them for pests and diseases, and feed them sugar water or sugar paddies when there's no natural food supply. In return, bees pollinate our

veggies, flowers, trees and, if we are lucky, give us some honey!

Last year we had 4 working hives (3 in ON, one a few miles away to pollinate a City Farms vegetable garden). Strong hives naturally split, or swarm, when they have outgrown their hive. The queen leaves with about half the worker bees, looking for a new home. If you capture the swarm and give them a new home, you now have another hive. The original hive will hatch a new queen, and the new hive will start building comb, collecting nectar and pollen, and producing more bees. Last summer, we caught 2 swarms from our back yard hive – it was definitely an adventure with many neighbors helping and watching. This winter we have already lost 2 hives, but hopefully will keep the remaining 2 until spring arrives with a new batch of bees. A strong hive goes into the fall with 50,000 to 60,000 bees, and about 10,000 survive the winter.

Bees work to build honeycomb, which is used in part to store collected nectar and pollen. In the comb, the nectar is broken down into simple sugar solution, which the bees concentrate into honey by fanning it with their wings. Once the honey reaches a critical moisture content, the bees cap the cells to store the honey for winter. As the worker bees collect nectar, the queen lays up to 1000 eggs a day. These are tended by younger worker bees and will hatch after 3 weeks. In Maryland, the largest nectar flow is at the end of May and in early June, when trees are in bloom. Most beekeepers will harvest honey from strong hives at the beginning of July, leaving enough for the bees to live on until the next spring.

Are the bees in trouble? Yes, along with many other insects. Their immune systems are harmed by the neonicotinoid insecticides used by commercial farmers. These chemicals are absorbed by plants and passed to the bees when they gather nectar and pollen. Can we all help the bees? Yes, buy organic produce, allow dandelions and clover to grow in your yard, plant other bee-

friendly flowers, minimize your use of glyphosate-based herbicides such as Roundup, and become a beekeeper! There are other native bees that also need our help, including miner bees, bumble bees (the main pollinators of our tomatoes), and solitary bees. Allowing their habitat in your yard gives them a chance to survive in this urban neighborhood.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [ursula.ug@gmail.com](mailto:ursula.ug@gmail.com) – and you can follow our hives on Instagram @bmorebees.



### **Lawn**

Late winter/early spring is considered the second-best time to seed your lawn or make repairs. (The best time is in late August Through mid-October. The University of Maryland Extension has some lawn care tips and advice that you might find useful. (<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/lawn-care>). The article contains tips on mowing, seeding, fertilizing, lawn problems and lawn alternatives.

### **Ornamental Plants**

Many types of annual flower plants can be started indoors this month. Generally, most are started 5-6 weeks before they are planted outside.

Spring bulbs are emerging and some are even flowering at this time. Exposed

leaves may be burned later this month by very cold temperatures, but the spring flower display will not be adversely affected.

Groundcovers are arriving in local nurseries and garden centers this month. They are a great alternative to where grass will not grow, where you have heavy shade or tree root problems and on steep slopes. For a listing of good and bad groundcovers, here is a site that has some good suggestions. (<https://www.thespruce.com/ground-covers-for-shad-2132600>).

### **Vegetables**

Avoid the temptation to turn over or dig into wet soil. Tilling wet soil can cause it to become cloddy and brick hard when it dries out. How do you know when your soil can be turned or tilled? One test is to form a clump of your soil into a ball. Bounce it up and down in your hand a few times. If it breaks apart easily, it's probably OK to dig!

Here are the Top Ten crops for Mid-Atlantic garden rated in the Mother Earth News National Survey of Most Productive Garden Crops (the criteria for selection include ease of culture, efficient use of garden space and time, ease of storage and desirability at the table.)—slicing tomato, sweet pepper, cherry tomato, pole snap bean, bush snap bean, garlic, potato snow/snap pea, summer squash and bulb onion.

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## **Pay Your Dues!**

We're now on Venmo! Send your payment to  
@OriginalNorthwoodAssociation.

We're also on Cash App (\$OriginalNorthwood) and Paypal  
(@OriginalNorthwoodAssociation). You can also pay via check (PO Box 33576  
Baltimore, Maryland 21218).

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# Annual Block Party

We need your help!

The ONA board is looking for neighbors interested in joining a block party planning committee. Please contact [onapresident@gmail.com](mailto:onapresident@gmail.com) and [onacommunicationschair@gmail.com](mailto:onacommunicationschair@gmail.com) if you're interested or have any questions!

## Community Bonding

**Social activities with neighbors!**

### Film Club

I've been wanting to see about starting a Film Club, perhaps meeting once a month and showing our favorite films and providing fun themed snacks or drinks, maybe even take it outdoors for family films in the summer. Not sure about the best way to begin, but I could provide my email address ([jason.drennan@gmail.com](mailto:jason.drennan@gmail.com)) and folks could just reply to me to manage. Then I could update you as to what kind of schedule I can put together.

### Boozy (?) Book Club

Anyone else reading and loving Michelle Obama's "Becoming"? Let's talk about it!

I am interested in starting (or joining) a book club in the neighborhood. Email me: [MeghanLSweeney@Gmail.com](mailto:MeghanLSweeney@Gmail.com) to set something up!

I'd love to do something about every 6-8 weeks. Ideally we could all pitch and vote on the next book to read. Depending on how many people want to participate we can each bring a wine, six pack, snacks or sparkling water to sample while we chat about our latest read. I thought "Becoming" could be a

good start since it's so popular (and also fantastic!), but I'm open to picking a different book to read too!

## Upcoming Meetings

### **GNCA Meeting**

June 1, 2019

10AM - 12PM

Location TBD

### **Monthly ONA Board Meeting (open to all)**

June 12, 2019

7PM - 8PM

Location TBD

### **Quarterly ONA Meeting**

June (date TBD)

Location TBD

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## Summer Newsletter

**Submit articles by June 30 to**

**[onacommunicationschair@gmail.com](mailto:onacommunicationschair@gmail.com)**

Be sure your email subject contains the phrase "article for summer newsletter."

We welcome your summer tricks and tips--as well as any photos from around the neighborhood!

New digital ad pricing available. Send inquiries to  
[onacommunicationschair@gmail.com](mailto:onacommunicationschair@gmail.com)

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