

SETON HILL ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY REPORT

2019 / 2020 Seton Hill Association Board Term

OUR MISSION

The Seton Hill Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit community organization and serves as the advocate for Seton Hill liaising with government representatives, businesses, and institutional leaders to further the cause of a diverse, beautiful, and vibrant community. The Association places emphasis on building community, and maintaining and improving Saint Mary's Park and maintaining the historic character of the neighborhood, a designated National Historic District.





2020 GOALS

- Completed work with Community Law Center with regard to SHA finances
- Establish G Suite to better organize records and communicate as a board
- Establish an online SHA archive
- Formulate a greening and tree planting plan for Seton Hill
- Get a new park steward for St Mary's Park (still not achieved)
- Organize a Spring Flea Market & Bazaar (curtailed by COVID-19)

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- Transitioned to virtual general meetings in April
- Heard from guests including Police Sergeant Davis, Kristen Mitchell of the Market Center Merchants Association, Joelle Wisnieski with Community Schools, and Jenelle Harvey of Thread, and Wanda Watts to speak about the Baltimore Police Consent Decree





BALTIMORE CITY PRODUCE BOXES

24 POUNDS OF FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES FOR FAMILIES

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- SHA invites neighbors to reach out anytime for support or direction for how to access resources.
- Karen French and members of the SHA board from June until October picked up and distributed over 20 produce boxes of fruits and vegetables each week to neighbors who are in need. That program has ended and the SHA is actively looking for other ways to help.



PARK AND NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS

- Even after the State of Emergency was announced, along with individual 'Friends of the park' doing weekly trash pickups, neighbors joined together every 2nd Thursday of the month to weed, pick up trash, and more! Tools are always available for those who would like to help.
- 6 trash grabbers were ordered by SHA and can be loaned out along with gloves for those who want to assist with trash pick-up. Requests can be made via Next Door, and email.

TREES AND PLANTS IN SETON HILL

- In November, Carl Shapiro organized a tree planting in Seton Hill, and had a great turnout from community members as well as those across the City.
- Although the spring community tree planting had to be canceled because of the lockdown, Carl Shapiro & Zoe Hendrickson planted additional trees in April & May.
- In May, the Seton Hill Association was awarded a grant by Healthy Neighborhoods to expand tree wells on select streets and remove stumps. Thanks to Carl Shapiro and Dawnn McCleary for writing this grant. **Join us for planting November 7!**
- The Seton Hill Association has developed a tree pruning and maintenance plan for the years to come.
- Join TreeKeepers & Weed Warriors! Members of these groups are certified by the City to plant trees and manage native plants in City spaces. Contact Carl Shapiro or Zoe Hendrickson to learn more.



TREE DAMAGE

- Over a period of two nights in July, a person with unclear motives entered St. Mary's Park and inflicted severe damage on over a dozen trees.
- On Friday, July 17th, neighbors gathered together in the park to gather damaged limbs for mulching, and worked with Seton Hill Resident Carl Shapiro (who has been trained and is permitted by Baltimore City Rec and Parks to prune City-owned trees) to prune some of the snapped limbs on the trees to ensure that they would heal better with a cleaner cut.
- The Seton Hill Association board asks that all neighbors wishing to help prune damaged trees consult with the board in advance, as this type of pruning is not permitted without a special BCRP permit, and can unintentionally cause additional damage.



TREE DAMAGE CLEANUP



PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

From sharing event invites to providing letters of support, we value the relationships that we have created and grown during the past year with these partners. A special thanks to the Spiritual Center for continuing to maintain the St. Mary's Park fountain.

- Baltimore Urban League
- St. Mary's Spiritual Center and Historic Site
- Orchard Mews
- Market Center Merchant's Association

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

Thanks to Carolyn James-Okpo, Zoe Hendrickson, and Karen French for compiling and distributing Seton Hill's first safety-themed survey.

The team will present an overview of the survey at the October 13th General Board meeting.



BEHIND THE SCENES

- In addition to revisiting our website and making essential updates, we set up a central database for the SHA board using G Suite.
- Alongside those efforts, we began a major project to organize and archive all current and historical Seton Hill materials in Google Drive.

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS: COMPLETED

- Fall/Winter 2019
 - Halloween table
 - Trunk or Treat with Orchard Mews
 - Holiday Gathering at Trinacria (Those in attendance included Tiffany Major of Baltimore Urban League, Kristin Mitchell of Market Center Merchant's Association, and Councilman Eric Costello)
- Summer/Fall 2020
 - Yoga in the Park, organized by Seton Hill Resident Nicole Espailat

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS: TO COME

- **Saturday, October 31st: Community dumpster with neighborhood clean-up, 8-12pm, and Halloween Pumpkin Painting, 10-12pm**
- **Sunday, November 7th: Tree Planting (details to be posted on Seton Hill Website and Facebook closer to event)**



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT BOARD TERM

Work on increasing participation in the SHA and broadening its appeal to the great diversity of our community

Look to actionable results from the information in the SHA Safety and Community neighborhood survey

IN MEMORY OF FATHER JOHN C. KEMPER

On May 22nd, 2020. Father John C. Kemper passed away. Father Kemper was a friend of the Seton Hill Association, opening the doors of the St. Mary's Spiritual Center for SHA members and meetings, helping with fountain maintenance, and serving as an involved community member.

