

# A LITTLE SETON HILL AND SHA HISTORY

Snapshots from  
2003-2020



# ABOUT SETON HILL

Charming Seton Hill is an area rich in religious, architectural and African-American history. The neighborhood was designated as an Historic and Architectural Preservation District of Baltimore City in 1968, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

Seton Hill is architecturally significant as one of Baltimore's oldest intact row house neighborhoods. Saint Mary's Park, the heart of Seton Hill, is the largest open green space in downtown Baltimore.



In 1962, the Seton Hill Improvement Association was formed. A year later, they organized an annual house and garden tour that lasted for many years.

This image was found in the book, *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice*, Norman Tyler, Ted J. Ligibel, and Ilene R. Tyler.





## SETON HILL BALTIMORE'S OLD FRENCH QUARTER OPEN HOUSE TOUR

Tour historic buildings, private homes, and the new Visitor Center for the historic Seminary Chapel and the Mother Seton House.

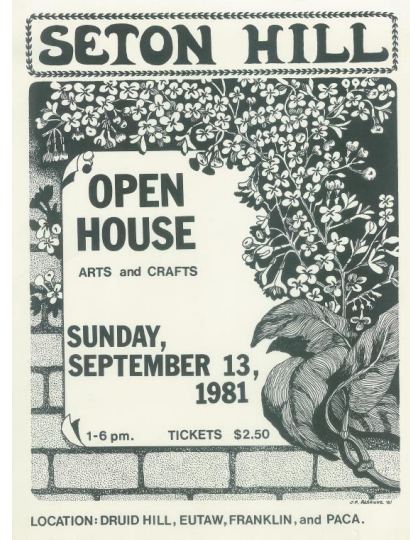


**SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 2009**  
**1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

VISITOR CENTER:  
600 N. PACA ST.  
BALTIMORE, MD

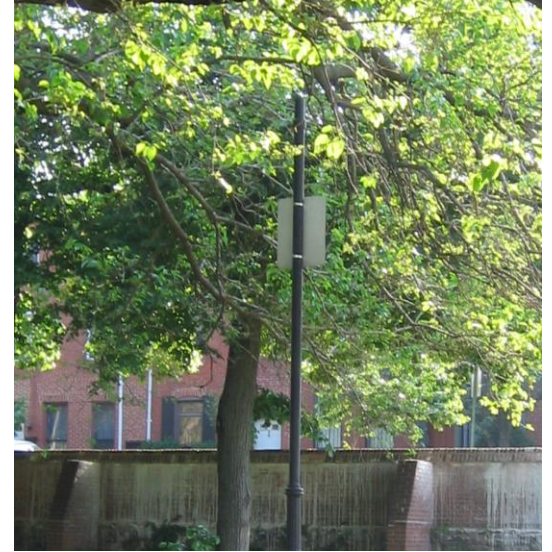


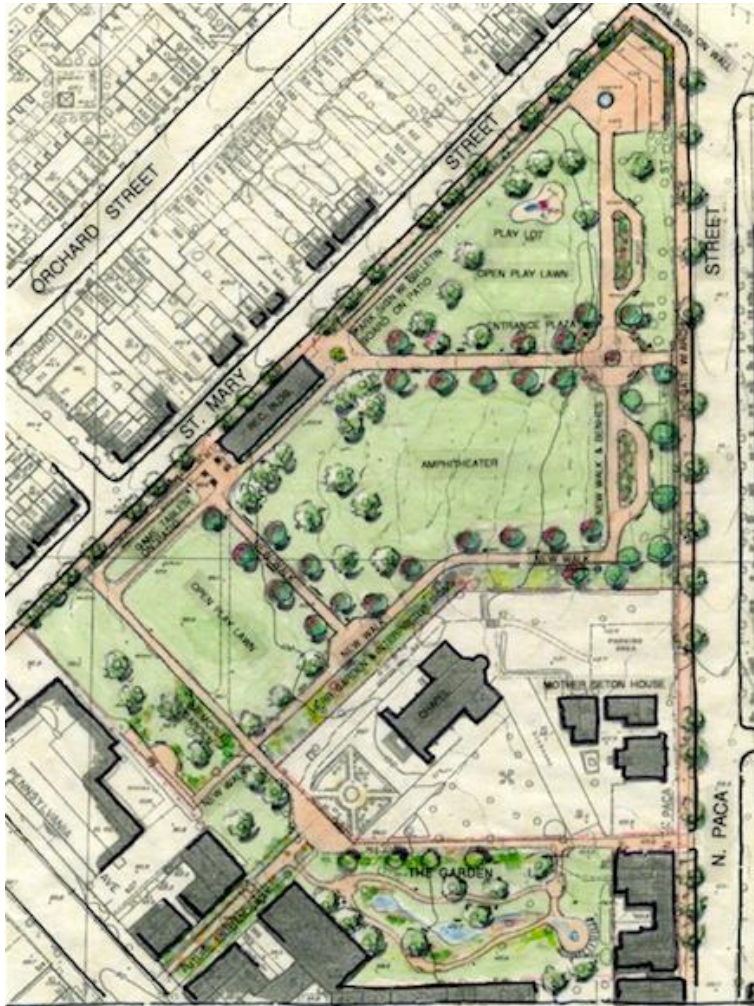
Visit [www.setonhill.com](http://www.setonhill.com) for more information about how to reserve your tickets  
An Event partnership between Seton Hill Association, Live Baltimore and Healthy Neighborhoods



# A TRADITION SPANNING DECADES: SETON HILL OPEN HOUSES

2003-2004: ST  
MARY'S PARK  
LOWERING  
THE LAST HIGH  
WALL





## ST. MARY'S PARK ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN

BALTIMORE, MD

NOV. 2005

SCALE 1" = 100' ↑

## 2005 ST. MARY'S PARK MASTERPLAN: WITH NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN CENTER





2005 PARKS AND  
PEOPLE  
GRANT PROJECT:  
BUILDING A  
GARDEN IN  
STAGES



2005 PARKS AND  
PEOPLE GRANT  
PROJECT: BUILDING A  
GARDEN IN STAGES  
WITH HELP  
FROM BALTIMORE  
STATION





2005  
PARKS AND PEOPLE  
GRANT FOR  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
GREENING



# 2006 PARKS AND PEOPLE GRANT PROJECTS





# 2006 PARKS AND PEOPLE GRANT FOR NEIGHBORHOOD GREENING





# 2006 TKF FOUNDATION FUNDED PLANS FOR ST. MARY'S PARK SOUTHERN SECTION

2007 BGE  
SUBSTATION  
REDESIGN AND  
INCREASED  
SAFETY BATTLE





2007 ST. MARY'S  
PARK CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENTS  
WITH REC AND  
PARKS:  
HISTORIC LIGHTS,  
SAFER ENTRANCES,  
BENCHES, AND  
NEW PATH



**Seton Hill  
Neighborhood Traffic Study**



**January 2008**



**Sabra, Wang & Associates, Inc.**  
Engineers • Planners • Analysts

**2008  
TRAFFIC  
STUDY**



2008-  
2009:  
NEW  
PARK  
TREES  
FROM  
BGE

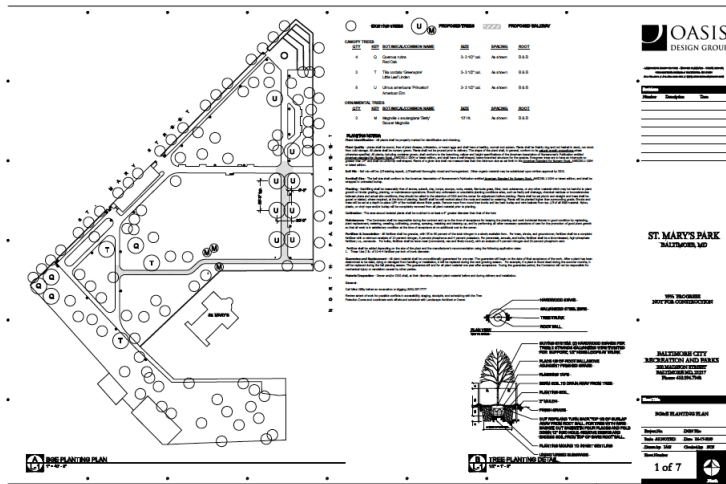


2009 ST  
MARY'S  
PARK  
FIXING AND  
PAINTING  
THE PARK  
BUILDING





2009 ST. MARY'S  
 PARK  
 NUISANCE AREA  
 IN SOUTHERN  
 END  
 TRANSFORMED  
 TO MEMORIAL  
 GARDEN WITH  
 HELP FROM THE  
 SULPICIANAS AND  
 MAHAN RYKIEL



2009-2011 ST MARY'S  
PARK FOUNTAIN  
RESTORATION  
(GRANTS FROM HEALTHY  
NEIGHBORHOODS  
AND PARKS AND  
PEOPLE)

From a big trash ring to.....







...a grand ribbon  
cutting at the 2011  
French Fair

MAYOR  
STEPHANIE  
RAWLINGS  
BLAKE AND  
MARIE  
ANTOINETTE





SETON HILL  
FRENCH FAIRS  
2010 - 2016



MAYORAL PROCLAMATION



KEVIN'S SMILE



ART'S MUSIC



WINE



ENJOY FRENCH STYLE FOOD AND DRINK

# SETON HILL'S ANNUAL FRENCH FESTIVAL

OCTOBER  
**08**  
2016

**IN HISTORIC ST. MARY'S PARK**  
606 N. PACA STREET

**12 PM - 5 PM**

**MUSIC**

KEVIN McWHA STEELE  
D.J. C/NIK  
HOT CLUB OF BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE OFFICE OF PROMOTION & THE ARTS

FALL FESTIVAL

MECU  
Baltimore's Credit Union  
www.mecu.com

Visit SetonHill.org

FRENCH MAID RACES • KID'S GAMES • TODDLER TOUR DE FRANCE  
PETANQUE (FRENCH BOWLING YARD GAME) • MUSIC • ART • FLEA MARKET





ARENA PLAYERS TAPSCORE



MARIONETTES



JAZZ AND CREPES



THE EIFFEL TOWER GOES UP



FACE PAINTING



FRENCH FAIR KIDS' CORNER



TOUR DE FRANCE



KIDS GRAND PRIX



SACK RACES



# FRENCH FAIR MUSIC



KEVIN MCWHA STEEL



SUSQUEHANNA STEEL BAND



BOISTER



SAC AU LAIT





**FRENCH FAIR FRENCH MAID RACES**





HULA HOOPS



FLEA MARKET  
'LA PUCE'



FRENCH FOOD



STILTS 'A LA CIRQUE'



FROM 2010  
A DECADE OF  
PROJECTS WITH  
HEALTHY  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
GRANTS FOR STREET  
BANNERS, HISTORIC  
PLAQUES, AND  
PARK SIGN



## Seton Hill Master Plan



January 2012

# 2012 MASTER PLAN

# Historic Seton Hill Tour



*Etching by Himan and Sons*

*St. Mary's College at left, Chapel and St. Mary's Seminary*

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION  
DISTRICT OF BALTIMORE CITY

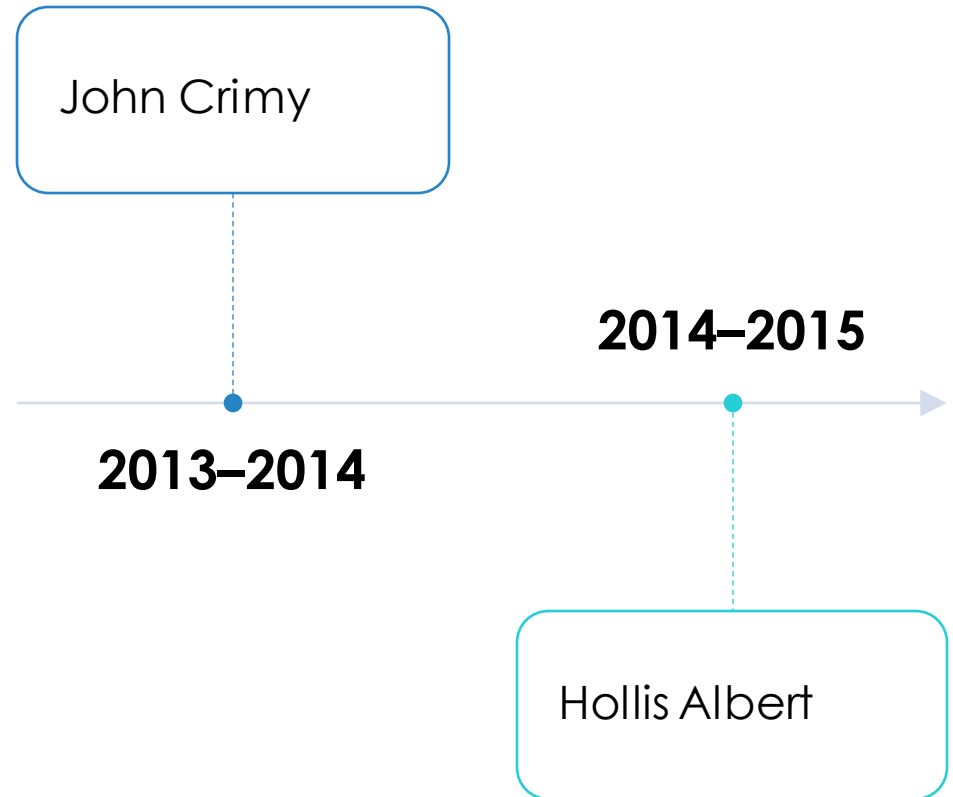
## SETON HILL HISTORIC WALKING TOUR BOOKLET

First produced by SHA  
in the early 2000's, a  
second digital and  
printed color edition  
were made in 2012  
thanks to a Healthy  
Neighborhoods grant



# 2013 SHA PARK STEWARD

Stewardship starts with a SHA Parks and People grant followed by a hiring through Recreation and Parks



NEWS. ARTS. CULTURE. EVENTS. MARKETPLACE. BALTIMORE

# CITY PAPER

## BEST NEIGHBORHOOD

### Seton Hill

PUBLISHED: SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

We love Mount Vernon, home of City Paper HQ, and like every other year, we are tempted to give it the nod here. But one of the great things about Baltimore is the cheap rent, which allows interesting people to do interesting things without working all the time. Seton Hill is sort of like Mount Vernon West, except instead of Mount Vernon's four little parks, you have the big, brick-walled St. Mary's Park, and you know you can't afford one of the big MV mansions, but you can get one of the small little alley houses in Seton Hill. The neighborhood was once Baltimore's French Quarter—~~betcha~~ didn't know we had one of those—founded by refugees from the Haitian and French revolutions, and has the classic architecture and annual French Festival (Oct. 19 this year, with rounds of ~~Petanque~~ and a toddler tour de France) to prove it.

2013 CITY PAPER  
BEST  
NEIGHBORHOOD



NEWS. ARTS. CULTURE. EVENTS. MARKETPLACE. BALTIMORE

# CITY PAPER

NEWS BLOGS MUSIC FILM ARTS STAGE BOOKS EATS GALLE

FEATURES COLUMNS COMICS CALENDAR ARCHIVES BALTIMANUAL GLAM



Home > **Best of Baltimore** > BoB 2014 - Baltimore Living

Best of Baltimore 2014

## Best Park

St. Mary's Park

✉ Comments Share 6 +1 0 Tweet 0 Recomme

City Paper

PUBLISHED: 12:48 p.m. EDT, September 16, 2014

**Paca Street and Druid Hill Avenue, [setonhill.org](http://setonhill.org)**

St. Mary's Park, in the heart of Seton Hill, is one of those places where worlds come together. It is seen as the joint that binds Mount Vernon and Pennsylvania Avenue in the very heart of the city. trees and rolling grassy hills with the big brick wall surrounding it, it's a perfect place to chill with a friend and a J, or do some kind of athletic activity like playing Frisbee. It doesn't have the crowds that some of the fancier parks have and that's what we love about it. Last year, Seton Hill "Best Neighborhood" partly because of this park and the French Fair, which takes place here each year and is one of the city's best and most low-key festivals. So if you want a bunch of bells and whistles at your parks, go elsewhere. But, if you want to chill, which is what parks are all about, then St. Mary's is the place to go.

2014  
CITY  
PAPER  
BEST  
PARK

“When I arrived . . . I instantly fell in love with the neighborhood. It’s quaint, and beautiful, and reminded me of my beloved England. Its narrow streets, the brick rowhomes, the large green space. I felt I was home.”

## Moving to Seton Hill in 2014, a New Resident’s Perspective



ST MARY'S  
PARK  
START  
VENUE FOR  
BALTIMORE  
BIKE PARTY  
SINCE 2015



# 2016 HOWARDS PARK DOG PARK OPENING





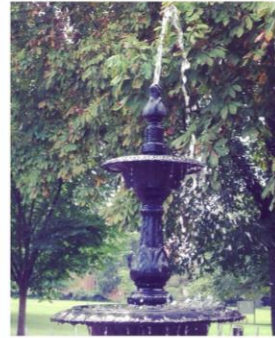
# 2016 PARK STORY BOARDS and PARK SIGN INSTALLATION

The park story boards and storytellers denote a powerful history of the Sulpician Fathers, the Oblate Sisters, and the significant early footprints of the Haitian community in Baltimore.



2017  
FALL AND  
SPRING  
PLANTINGS  
(LOOK OUT  
FOR  
NOTICES!)





# 2018 FOUNTAIN MAINTENANCE



MONTHLY  
ST MARY'S PARK  
AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
CLEANUPS AND  
MAINTENANCE  
(LOOK OUT FOR  
NOTICES!)



# 2019 SETON HILL FLEA MARKET & BAZAAR













# 2019/2020 NEIGHBORHOOD STREET TREE PLANTINGS





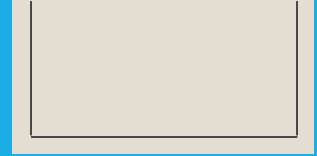
2020  
YOGA IN  
THE PARK  
(THANKS  
NICOLE!)



# 2020: The Seton Hill Association Today

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.

Please join us!



# SETON HILL: A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE





SEASON'S GREETINGS  
FROM SHA