

Seton Hill Association Community Report

2020 / 2021 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, maintaining and improving Saint Mary's Park, and maintaining the historic character of the neighborhood, a designated National Historic District.





Community meetings

- ▶ Continued virtual meetings throughout the 2020/2021 board term
- ▶ Heard from guests including Mayor Brandon Scott, City Administrator Chris Shorter, Councilman Eric Costello, Officer Charles Lee, numerous other representatives of City agencies, and more.
- ▶ Discussed topics ranging from installation of speed cameras to neighborhood beautification to community policing.

Vaccine Strategy for Older Adults **TELEPHONE TALK**



Mayor Brandon Scott and Councilmember Letitia Dzirasa will host a discussion about Baltimore's vaccine strategy, how to get vaccinated, debunking vaccine myths, and more.

Tuesday, March 23rd
from 5:00PM - 6:00PM



Call **(855)-372-7273**
and dial extension 1111

For the most up-to-date information, visit coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covid-19

COVID-19 Response

- ▶ SHA distributed information relevant to community members through email and social channels, especially those from the Mayor and City Government.
- ▶ During park and neighborhood cleanups and other groups events, we encouraged use of masks and social distancing.
- ▶ SHA remains on the lookout for other ways to help and invites neighbors to reach out anytime for support or direction for how to access resources.



Park and Neighborhood Cleanups

- ▶ Every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. (during the warm months), neighbors continued to join together to weed, pick up trash, and more!
- ▶ Tools, trash grabbers, and gloves are available. Tell us you'll be there by sending an email to president@setonhill.org, and meet in St Mary's Park by the park building.



Cicadas and the Cicada Parade-A



Seton Hill Canopy Tree Planting Program

- ▶ Seton Hill lost several trees in 2020 to storm damage, including one gigantic specimen that had to be pulled down by Rec and Park officials.
- ▶ Simultaneously, residents have kept busy with planting new trees. Neighbors and volunteers gathered twice over the past year to plant trees in available plots in the neighborhood. All tree planting work occurred under the guidance of certified Baltimore TreeKeepers.
- ▶ In June, SHA Board Member Carl Shapiro won a grant of over \$15,000 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to expand tree wells on select streets, remove stumps, and more to keep our Seton Hill Tree Canopy thriving well into the future. More info to come!

Continued Tree Damage

- ▶ During 2020 and 2021, the Seton Hill Association received numerous reports of unauthorized trimming, pruning, and cutting of trees, saplings, and protective netting around saplings on city streets and in public parks and other public grounds.
- ▶ These activities run counter to our greening goals and City Code. We remind residents that to trim, prune, or cut trees in public rights-of-way (including trees in tree pits along the sidewalk), you must obtain a written permit from the Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks (Baltimore City Code art. 7 §53-12).
- ▶ We respectfully ask that anyone carrying out unpermitted tree work discontinue this lawbreaking activity and that anyone who witnesses future unpermitted tree work report the violation to 311 and send a copy of the 311 Service Request Number to shaboard@setonhill.org.





311 and City Services

- ▶ SHA assisted residents throughout the year with forwarding 311 requests to City Agency staff in order to expedite response. We appreciate being notified of these--please forward all 311 submission confirmations to president@setonhill.org to keep us notified of issues our neighborhood is dealing with.
- ▶ In addition to numerous other issues resolved this way, we were pleased this year to resolve longstanding litter and sanitation issues with the green space on Eutaw and Center, thanks in large part to leadership from neighbor Jorgelina Lopez and support from the Downtown Partnership.



Little Free Library

- ▶ SHA led by Karen French regularly stocked the Little Free Library in St. Mary's Park with books and other items that could be helpful for those in need.

Neighborhood Events: Completed

Halloween table with
pumpkin painting
Thanksgiving food drive
Neighborhood recycling
support

Spring/Summer
2021

Fall/Winter 2020

Dumpster day
Neighborhood walk-through
Neighborhood and park
cleanups
Spring tree planting



- ▶ 10/16: Monthly cleanup (moved to Saturday morning, 10am-1pm). Meet at the park building for materials.
- ▶ 10/23: Pumpkin Painting and Sapling Planting. Join us at the park building!
- ▶ 10/28: Fall Dumpster Day, 8am-11am (times subject to change slightly that morning as scheduling allows).
- ▶ 11/13: Monthly cleanup (moved to Saturday morning, 10am-1pm). Meet at the park building for materials.
- ▶ 12/14: Holiday Party via Zoom. More info to come.



Neighborhood Events: Upcoming



Recommendations for next board term

- ▶ Continue the association's renewed efforts of 2020 to address litter and sanitation issues in the park and neighborhood as a whole
- ▶ Work on increasing participation in the SHA and broadening its appeal to the great diversity of our community
- ▶ Participate in the renewed efforts of the State Center Neighborhood Alliance
- ▶ Continue to expand Seton Hill's tree canopy
- ▶ Planning fun events for the community

Keep Seton Hill Wonderful - Volunteer!

- ▶ Volunteering your time is a great way to get to know your neighbors and make a difference for an issue you care about in our community! Members can join existing committees or start new initiatives with board approval. To inquire about opportunities, email president@setonhill.org.

