



SETON HILL ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY REPORT

2021 / 2022 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

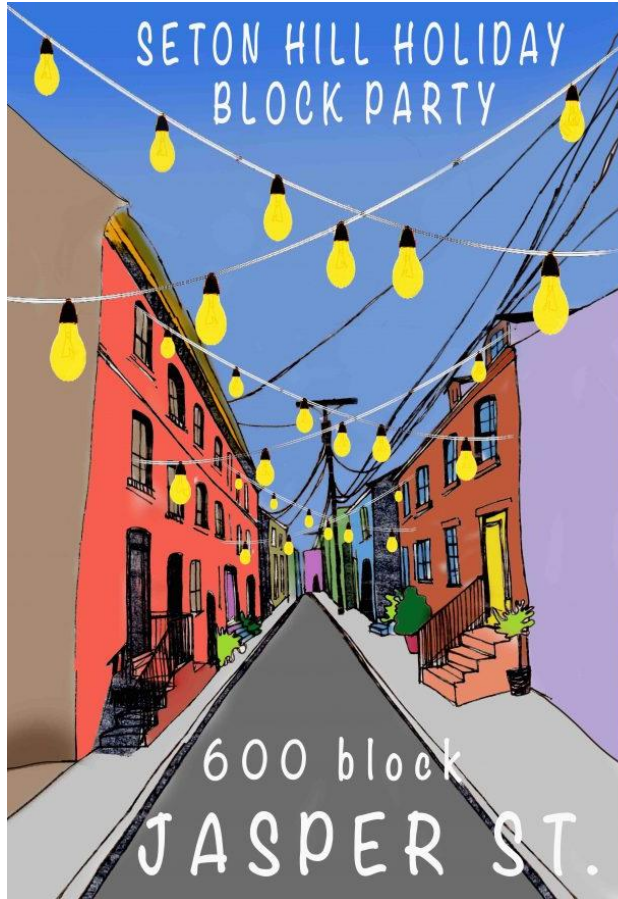
- The board transitioned into hybrid general meetings during the 2021-22 board term, beginning with a combination in person / Zoom meeting at St. Mary's Spiritual Center in April.
- In addition to giving Seton Hill residents an opportunity to raise and discuss topics of interest, numerous representatives of Baltimore City agencies as well as business leaders in and around Seton Hill attended and contributed to discussions.
- Meetings over the past year have covered topics including community events, safety and sanitation strategies, neighborhood beautification, and much more.





BEAUTIFYING SETON HILL

- 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! Meet in St Mary's Park by the park building!
- New Recycling Bin Issues: New in 2022, Baltimore City's new, large recycling bins earlier have caused extensive issues in that they block sidewalks and are being filled with trash by passersby. Individuals should note that they can request to have their own bins taken back by the City. Additionally, residents can call 311 to have other bins removed if they are suspected of being abandoned.
- Addressing Abandoned Properties: The image to the left is an abandoned property (516 North Paca) that is scheduled to be sold at a tax sale in 2022. SHA encourages any neighbors witnessing safety or vandalism issues with any properties to report them to 311 and president@setonhill.org.



JOIN US
Dec. 16, 2021
6-8pm

Hosted by:
The Seton Hill Association

We'll have Holiday music, warm drinks
sweet treats. Bring food or drinks in
individual portions (prepared in advance)
or bring neighborhood stories.

We hope to see you there!

Jasper St. residents are
encouraged to decorate their
houses!

We'll follow all CDC and Baltimore
City Health Department guidance!

www.setonhill.org

HOLIDAY BLOCK PARTY

Due to Zoom fatigue and general pandemic concerns with gathering indoors, SHA agreed to try something new and host a holiday block party outside in December on Thursday 12/16. The board worked together to knock on doors and raise awareness of the event, while working behind the scenes to secure proper permitting for closing the street. Feedback regarding the holiday block party was extremely positive, with 50+ neighbors attending and lighting up the block.



FOUNTAIN UPDATE

Seton Hill's current fountain was dedicated in 2011. The Seton Hill Association and the Sulpicians have historically partnered on needs both big and small for the fountain. The Sulpicians have paid \$2,500/year for fountain maintenance. This spring, it was discovered that the foundation pump needs to be replaced, along with other issues related to the deteriorating foundation fence and a needed paint job for the center of the fountain. SHA agreed to cover the costs for replacing the pump. In August, SHA also learned that an additional valve component needs to be replaced, and the Sulpicians agreed to pay for half of this item, along with SHA. Looking ahead, the Sulpicians are not certain if they will be able to continue paying for annual fountain maintenance. Because of this, SHA will be looking into other sources of funding for the fountain. Baltimore City for its part has moved away from financially supporting water features.

PLANT EXCHANGE AND PET PARADE

In response to neighborhood input, SHA planned and hosted a pet parade and plant exchange for neighbors on Saturday, May 15th. The event featured garden music, grilled picnic fare, volunteer educators from UMD Master Gardeners, and a treasure trove of well-dressed pets from the neighborhood.



Seton Hill's
Plant Exchange & Pet Parade



Bring your plants or cuttings for gift or exchange!

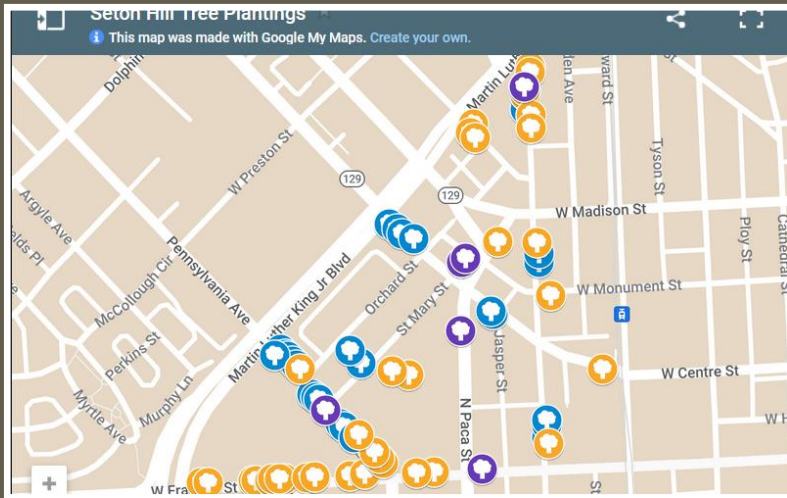
St. Mary's Park
Sunday, May 15
2:00pm

Leashed pets welcome in their most festive spring attire!

Refreshments and fun for all!

Event sponsored by the Seton Hill Neighborhood Association





SETON HILL CANOPY TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

- The Seton Hill Association has a goal of planting trees in every possible sidewalk pit in and around Seton Hill. In June 2021, SHA Board Member Carl Shapiro won a grant of over \$15,000 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to expand tree wells, remove stumps, purchase tools, and expand the Seton Hill Tree Canopy.
- Residents have kept busy with planting new trees. Neighbors and volunteers gathered four times over the past year to plant over 60 trees in available plots in the Seton Hill neighborhood and surrounding streets. All tree planting work occurred under the guidance of certified Baltimore TreeKeepers.
- 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.





LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

- Banned Books Week was September 18th through 24th. Flying Dog Brewery worked to get books out into the hands of neighbors while supporting titles that have been banned, challenged and restricted. Seton Hill's little free library in Saint Mary's Park participated in the project!
- According to the American Library Association's most recent report, "numbers for 2022 attempted book bans already approach last year's totals, which were the highest in decades."





NEIGHBORHOOD WALK THROUGH AND CONTACTING 311

- Whenever there is a concern in Seton Hill that requires involvement from a city agency, SHA is available to help forward these details to the appropriate contact. Please report all issues to 311 and then forward the 311 ticket # to president@setonhill.org.
- SHA remains in regular contact with Councilman Eric Costello, the Mayor's office, and other City contacts through the year.
- In September, SHA organized a neighborhood walk-through with representatives from City agencies including the Baltimore Police Department, Department of Public Works, Housing, City Historical and Architectural Preservation, and more.

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS: UPCOMING

- 10/13 @ 5:30pm: Monthly Seton Hill Community cleanup. Meet at the park building for materials.
- 10/29 @ 9am: Seton Hill Community Dumpster and Cleanup. Dumpster will be available for all residents, and we encourage everyone to chip in and clean up the neighborhood.
- 11/10: Monthly Seton Hill Community cleanup. Meet at the park building for materials.
- 12/15: Holiday Block Party on Jasper Street. More info to come.





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.