

# CHEETA Newsletter

## SAGAMORE VILLAGE

◆  
Summer 2024



### What is CHEETA?

The acronym CHEETA stands for Community Hope through Education Empowerment Training and Action. The CHEETA Project is a community-based youth empowerment and skills development program seeking to promote social justice, equity, and diversity.

The program was created in 2010 in Riverton Park, which is one of the Portland Housing Authority neighborhoods. In the summer of 2013, the CHEETA Project expanded to the neighborhoods of Kennedy Park, Sagamore Village, and Front Street.

CHEETA interns are teens from diverse backgrounds who come together to plan ways to implement change in their communities.

Over 8 weeks, CHEETA interns develop and manage projects, budget, problem solve, and develop other transferable skills.

This summer, Sagamore Village had 4 CHEETA interns. Read through this newsletter to learn about their advocacy work in your neighborhood!



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### In this newsletter:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- Learn about CHEETA
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Meet the SV CHEETA Interns
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Summary of Our Summer
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Our Projects: Safety
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Our Projects: Community Engagement
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Our Projects: Trash and Litter
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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: FAITH, NEVAEH, DEB, TRISTAN

## Meet the 2024 SV CHEETA Interns!

**Faith:** I'm a 16 year old junior at Deering High School. I joined CHEETA to help the community with its safety problems and other problems like trash and a lack of programming. I like to cook, hangout with friends, and listen to music.

**Nevaeh:** I'm 15 and a sophomore at Deering High School. I joined CHEETA to help the community with safety and trash problems. I like art and hanging out with my friends. I hope I can be an art therapist and help people feel understood by listening to their problems and helping them with their feelings.

**Deb:** I'm 17, I like to act, and I am a senior at Portland High School. The reason I wanted to join CHEETA was to make changes to our community and to make residents happier. When I moved to Sagamore in March of this year I noticed how quiet the neighborhood was and how there wasn't a lot of programming. That was when I knew I wanted to make a change.

**Tristan:** I'm 16 and I'm a junior at Deering High School. I'm going to a trade school for masonry, and I wanted to join CHEETA to help out the community. In my free time, I like to go fishing.

## What Did We Do This Summer?

Over these 8 weeks, we got to know each other and worked as a team to figure out what's wrong in our community and how to make things better.

First, we came up with a list of things we liked and disliked about Sagamore Village. Then, we separated our concerns into 3 categories we're concerned about: safety, trash, and community engagement.

We decided to do a general survey, in which we asked residents for feedback on what projects they would like to see in SV. We then met with our Property Manager, Jesse, our Community Police Liaison, Johanna, and the Director of Resident Services, Teyonda to share our concerns, project ideas, and the survey feedback.

After narrowing down our list of project ideas, we presented our research and project proposal to the Deputy Executive Director of PHA. The last few weeks of our summer were spent planning and completing our projects, which we'll share more about in this newsletter!

## Our Projects

### Safety

- Traffic Calming Petition
- Safety Brochures
- Safety Survey

### Trash

- Trash Can Proposal

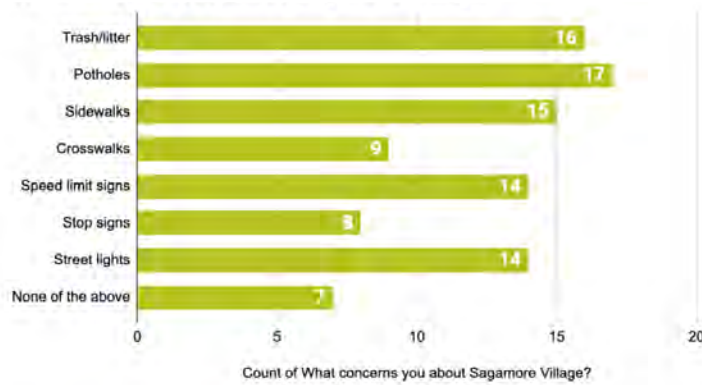
### Community Engagement

- Resident Council Outreach



# Addressing Safety

The issue of safety came up a lot when we were identifying problems in our community. People stealing bikes, kids/teens fighting, and a lack of pedestrian safety are common problems in Sagamore Village. We think some of these problems are caused by the lack of police officers, security cameras, and street lights in Sagamore.



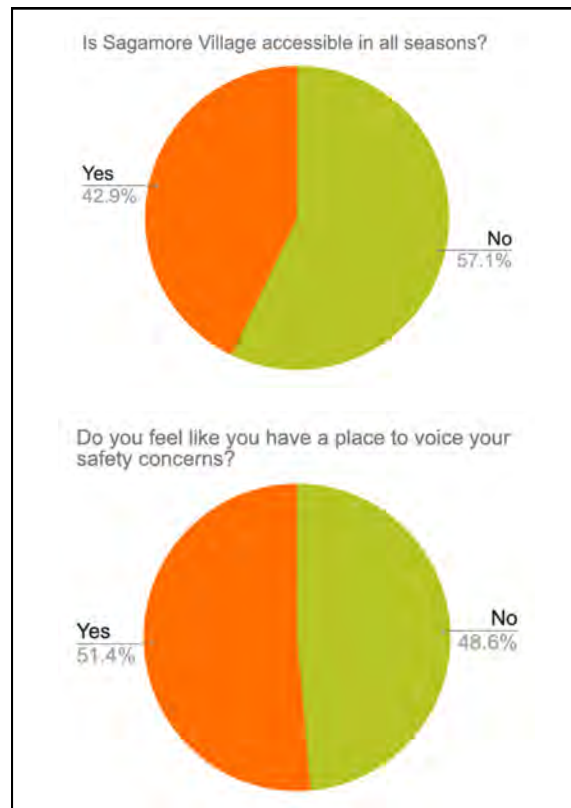
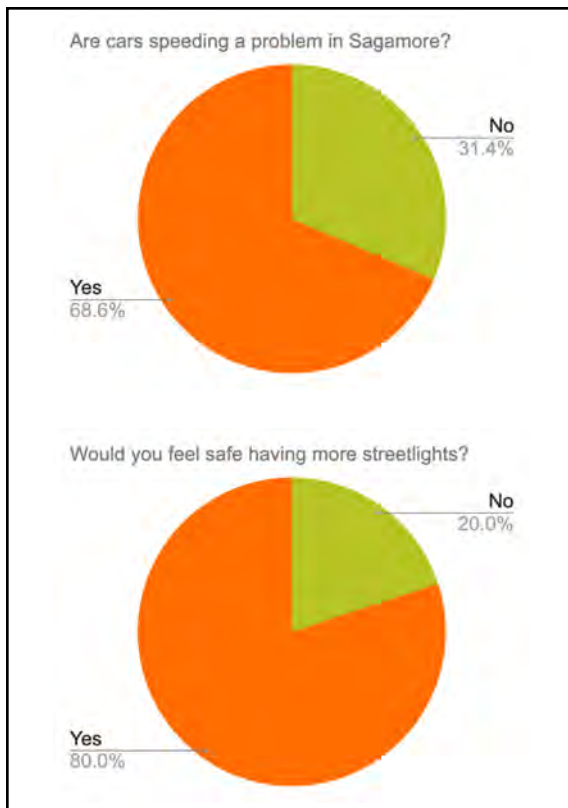
We found out that the issue of pedestrian safety is difficult to address. Because Sagamore Village is a historic neighborhood, it can be difficult to make large changes to the layout (like adding sidewalks). We're concerned about this because we know people, especially kids and teens, who have nearly been hit by cars in Sagamore Village. We hope that sidewalks will be added with the redevelopment of the neighborhood.

To address our concerns about speeding on Taft Avenue, we decided to gather signatures for the city's **Traffic Calming Petition**. We collected 10 signatures from Taft Ave residents, which is enough to submit the petition to the City Clerk's office.

With the help of our community policing coordinator, Johanna Rozzi, we also made **safety brochures** to share with Sagamore Village residents.

The brochures contain information on who to contact in an emergency, how to sign up for the city's alert system, and how to file a police report.

We also made a **safety survey** to measure how safe people feel in Sagamore Village. In the survey, we asked residents various questions about safety. We got over 30 responses from residents, and you can see some of the feedback from the survey on this page.



# Addressing Community Engagement

As CHEETA interns and SV residents, we felt there was a lack of community engagement in Sagamore Village. We want to have more programming for teens, adults, and seniors. When we conducted a general survey, some residents shared the same concerns as us.

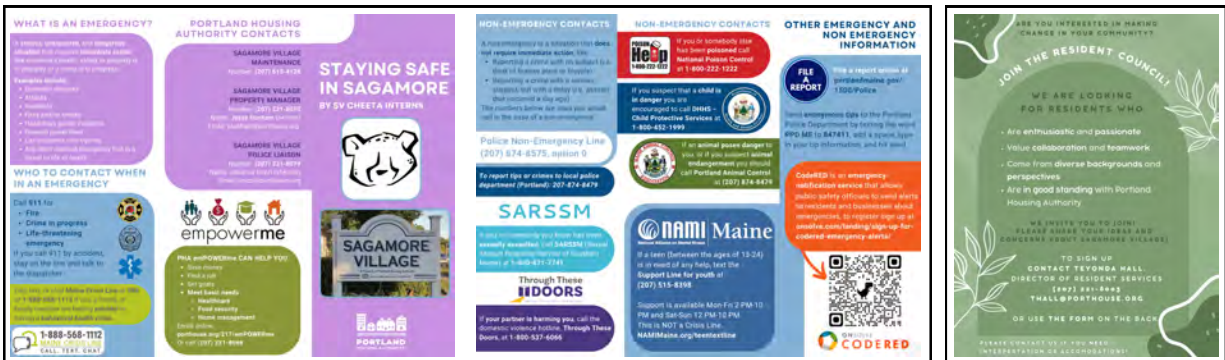
When we brought up the lack of community engagement during our meeting with PHA staff, Teyonda explained that the lockdown and social distancing during COVID-19 led to the end of the resident council, which used to plan events in the SV community. She also shared about the work she has done as Director of Resident Services to bring back the Resident Council.

The first meeting for the Resident Council will be held sometime in November. Some residents have already expressed interest in joining, but we are hopeful that more people will be eager to join and share their ideas and neighborhood concerns in a safe environment.

To help Teyonda spread the word and rebuild the Resident Council, we created **flyers** advertising Resident Council. In this newsletter, you can find the the flyer, which includes some questions for residents to answer on paper or online. We understand that residents may have a hard time using phones or paper, so we wanted to include different options to make it more accessible.

Teyonda also asked if we could collect resident suggestions for programming. On our safety survey, we asked residents what kinds of programming and events they would like to see. We got a lot of great suggestions. Some of the most popular programming options were CPR/First Aid trainings, block parties, holiday parties, movie nights, and bingo.

We also wanted to get a **bulletin board** for our community, and Jesse was onboard. We sent him a proposal with bulletin board options and a potential location. Hopefully we'll have a bulletin board to display community news in the next few weeks!



A PEEK AT OUR SAFETY BROCHURE AND RESIDENT COUNCIL FLYER

# Addressing Trash and Litter

Sagamore Village has a trash problem. We've noticed that some residents leave things like couches, tables, beds, TVs, and workout equipment outside. Sometimes, residents leave food out on their back porches, which makes animals want to come for more food.

Litter and pet waste is also a problem in Sagamore. Because some people don't want to hold on to their trash or pick up after their pets, they leave trash on the ground.

We should be concerned about this because trash brings pests, rats and other kinds of animals. It also makes the community look like no one cares about the appearance of our neighborhood, which is sad.

To address the trash and littering problems in Sagamore Village, we asked our Property Manager, Jesse, if we could get **trash cans** installed around our neighborhood. We chose trash cans with lids to keep animals out of the trash.

We also picked 3 location in Sagamore Village for the trash cans and shared the proposal with Jesse. We hope the trash cans will help with littering and pet waste, which will make Sagamore look better.

*That covers the projects we worked on this summer. Thank you for your help in answering survey questions, signing the petition, and giving us helpful feedback!*

*Thank you for reading!*  
 CHEETA  
2024 Interns

