

# THE OCCASIONAL

SPRING

Love Where You Live!

2026

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SAHDA Neighbors,

It's hard to believe the spring edition of *The Occasional* is already here. As always, the arrival of spring means one of our most anticipated traditions is just around the corner—the Swiss Avenue Historic District Mother's Day Home Tour.

This event is the foundation of what we are able to accomplish as a neighborhood. It showcases the beauty and history of our district, but just as importantly, it is the only source of funding for the programs, improvements, and activities we all expect and enjoy throughout the year. Simply put, the strength of the home tour determines what we can—and cannot—do as a community.

A sincere thank you to the homeowners opening their doors, our co-chairs, committee members, and the many volunteers who have already stepped forward. Your efforts are essential. We do, however, still need many additional volunteers for the two days of the tour, and I encourage everyone to take part.

Equally important—and where we need full neighborhood participation—is financial support. This year we suspended voluntary dues and we are only asking each household to contribute by purchasing a package of 10 discounted neighborhood tickets for \$250. To be candid, the success of the home tour depends on us. Outside attendance alone is not enough to meet our goals. We rely on strong participation from within the neighborhood, and it is important that every household does its part. This is a modest ask, especially considering it replaces the dues structure we have used in the past few years, and it has a direct and meaningful impact on our ability to maintain and enhance the district.

If you have not yet committed to a ticket package, I ask that you do so. Widespread participation is not just appreciated—it is necessary. When each of us contributes, we ensure that the Swiss Avenue Historic District continues to thrive and that we can carry forward the level of care and excellence that defines our neighborhood. All households that purchase the ticket package and sponsors will be invited to an incredible party to kick off the weekend on Friday, May 8 to thank you for your support.

Please take a few moments to read this edition of *The Occasional* to learn more about this year's tour. We have some exciting additions planned, and with your support, it will be another outstanding success. Thank you for your attention to this important effort and for your continued commitment to our community.

I look forward to seeing you at the tour!

Warm regards,  
Bob

## EASTER BUNNY SPOTTED IN THE DISTRICT!

Thank you to the Children's Social Committee for a great Easter Egg Hunt, Aldredge House for hosting and our residents - of all ages - who made the afternoon such fun - with a special guest appearance by the Easter Bunny!



Photos courtesy of the Children's Social Committee

# Swiss Avenue Historic District Association

The Occasional

April 2026

## 2025 / 2026 Board of Directors & Committee Chairs

The SAHDA current year Officers and committee chairs are listed below. There are many great ways to get involved and support our neighborhood by serving on a committee, attending meetings and social events, and with your financial support of the Home Tour and contributions to AAC.

See the SAHD Directory for Block Captains / Alternates as well as contact information for Officers and Committees. Didn't see your email for the updated Directory or other neighborhood announcements, contact Jean Dean at [JMaierDean@ndmce.com](mailto:JMaierDean@ndmce.com)

### OFFICERS

President	Bob Bracken
Executive Vice Pres.	Marc Joseph
Secretary	Jean Dean
Treasurer	Jeff Gordon
At-Large	Paul Hartmann Marianne Howells Alex Gandara-Morgan Eric Peterson

### 2025 - 2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Website	Bob Cox
Planning & Zoning	Wayne Noble
Home Tour	Bill Heathcott / Elizabeth Mast
Alliance Against Crime	David Dean
Social	Louise Bexley
Children's Social	Natalie Kinvig
The Occasional	Joanna Hampton
Outreach	Marianne Howells
Beautification	Mariana Greene / Paul Hartmann

## Arts in the community

East Dallas has many longtime non-profit and community organizations including the Creative Arts Center of Dallas (CAC) a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to nurturing a vibrant community where citizen artists can discover, develop, and express their artistic vision. Located on a two-acre campus on Laughlin Drive—just four miles east of downtown Dallas and two miles south of the Arboretum—the center offers a welcoming environment for creativity to flourish. Through art classes, workshops, and community events, CAC encourages individuals of all skill levels to explore new techniques, exchange ideas, and grow as artists.

Founded as part of the legacy of Octavio Medellin and his vision for accessible arts education, CAC continues to serve as a hub for artistic exploration and connection. The organization fosters a supportive space where creativity is shared and celebrated, helping build a strong, engaged arts community in East Dallas. Visitors are invited to experience the center's dynamic programming and discover opportunities to unleash their creativity in an inspiring, collaborative setting.

Visit them at 2360 Laughlin Drive, Dallas or online at [creativeartscenter.org](http://creativeartscenter.org) to unleash your creativity.

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### This Spring in the Garden

The Beautification Committee voted to have additional lighting installed at Savage Park. Unique Lighting, the contractor when the park was refurbished, added eight downlights in the live oaks on March 24.

The aim is to increase nighttime visibility without making the park look like a WalMart parking lot, in consideration of the park's neighbors and general aesthetics. The new downlights have the same LED green "moonlight" cast as the existing lights in the tree tops.

With the Fiscal Year 2027 budget Beautification will consider adding downlights or further lighting enhancements to Savage Park.

Pentas will be installed in the seasonal color beds at Fitzhugh, LaVista and the park in April, before the home tour. We are waiting for the grower to say the plants are ready.

~Mariana Greene



Plantings at Savage Park

Photo courtesy of : Mariana Greene

## Around the District

### You're invited to a Concert by Piano Master Alex McDonald

This fabulous concert is complimentary and Sponsored by SAHD ! It's all part of a series of Concerts presented by Cathedral Arts . We will present the check to them after the concert which is held April 12 at 3:00 at St. Matthew's 5100 Ross Ave in the Great Hall .It would be great if as many residents of SAHD as possible could come and show our support for beautiful music in East Dallas. The concert is a recital of works on the theme of water by Frank Liszt and we're invited to the reception after the performance.

### Welcome to the District!

Hope and Charles Trahan and their daughter Emilia, are new neighbors at 6043 Bryan Parkway, Charles is a counselor in the Highland Park school district, and Hope is a pediatric nurse at Medical City. Hope's family are our neighbors Bill and Debby Heathcott. Say hi when you see them around the District!

### See the Living History Play

The Living History Play at Aldredge House has been delighting audiences since 2018. People love the actors, the costumes and of course the 1915 Cadillac that's as much a character as any of the actors. The next Performance is April 11 at 11:00 AM at Aldredge House Museum, 5500 Swiss Ave . The play tells the story of the house's first owners and builders Will Lewis the wealthy Cattleman and his wife Willy Lewis the Dallas debutant. The play is set in all the major rooms of Aldredge House so the audience is not only show a great play but a house tour at the same time. Reservations are needed so sign up at [Friendsofaldredgehouse.org](http://Friendsofaldredgehouse.org)

# Swiss Avenue Historic District Association

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April 2026

## Join us for Home Tour weekend entertainment!

During Home Tour, come to Savage Park and enjoy the live entertainment that begins Saturday morning as the McTaggart Irish Dancers kick things off with a spirited performance from 10:00–10:30 a.m. Singer-songwriter Eric Folkerth follows from 10:30–11:30 a.m., bringing his distinctive style to the stage before the popular Denton band, featuring SAHD musician Cathal Mayfield, The Tabasco Birds perform from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. The afternoon continues with songwriter Brice Beard, from 1:00–2:00 p.m., followed by crowd favorite Ginny Mac, whose energetic performance runs from 2:00–4:00 p.m. Saturday's music wraps up with Dallas legend Holland K Smith from 4:00–5:00 p.m. and East Dallas favorite Paige Hill from 5:00–6:00 p.m.

The celebration continues Sunday with another full afternoon of live performances. The East Dallas Jazz Band opens the day with a lively set from 12:00–1:00 p.m., followed by Mary Hinton's soulful Americana from 1:00–2:00 p.m. From 2:00–3:00 p.m., visitors can enjoy Pat and Jim's Acoustic Adventure with guest Rob Barker, while Madison King another East Dallas favorite performs from 3:00–4:00 p.m. The weekend concludes with the dynamic duo of Colin Boyd and Riley O'Riley, performing from 4:00–6:00 p.m.

### ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

#### Saturday, May 9

- 10:00 – 10:30 The McTaggart Irish Dancers of North Texas
- 10:30 – 11:30 Eric Folkerth
- 11:30 – 1:00 The Tabasco Birds
- 1:00 – 2:00 Brice Beard
- 2:00 – 4:00 Ginny Mac
- 4:00 – 5:00 Holland K Smith
- 5:00 – 6:00 Paige Hill

#### Sunday, May 10

- 12:00 – 1:00 The East Dallas Jazz Band
- 1:00 – 2:00 Mary Hinton
- 2:00 – 3:00 Pat and Jim's Acoustic Adventure w/ guest Rob Barker
- 3:00 – 4:00 Madison King
- 4:00 – 6:00 Colin Boyd and Riley O'Riley



Ginny Mac performs live Saturday at 2 pm  
Photo courtesy of Ginny Mac



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[emast@briggsfreeman.com](mailto:emast@briggsfreeman.com)

## Update from AAC / ENP Program

The Alliance Against Crime (AAC) Committee has been an integral part of our neighborhood for more than 50 years. We meet monthly via Zoom at 5:00 PM on the second Monday. All residents and property owners within the SAHD and surrounding areas are encouraged to participate as we work to improve public and traffic safety. Public safety concerns include automobile theft, home invasions, robberies, unwanted solicitations, trespassing, vagrancy, homeless encampments, unleashed dogs, SWAT activity, gunfire, and more. Traffic issues include accidents, hit-and-runs, scooter incidents, pedestrian collisions, speeding, near misses, and abandoned vehicles. Illegal dumping remains an ongoing concern.

The AAC hosts numerous programs in partnership with the Dallas Police Department, Dallas Fire-Rescue, and Dallas Parks and Recreation. These efforts equip residents to be informed, vigilant, and prepared to protect themselves, their families, and their property. Programs include Volunteers in Patrol (VIP), women's self-defense classes, CPTED home inspections, Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE), and more. For information, contact David Dean.

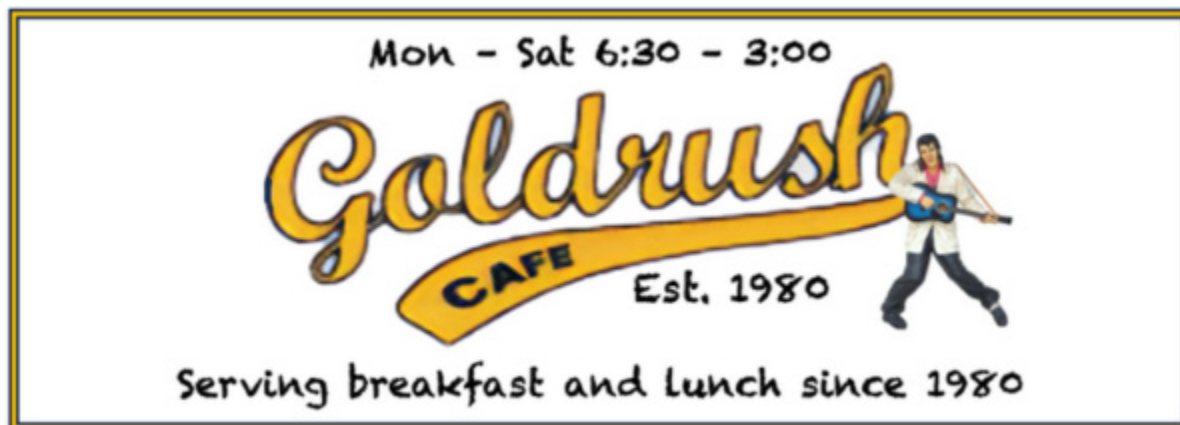
Our long, narrow historic district—with its wide streets—has become a well-documented cut-through corridor, often marked by speeding, stop sign violations, wrong-way driving, and crashes. As surrounding areas grow denser with multifamily and commercial development, traffic and pedestrian activity will continue to increase. More vehicles, pedestrians, and pets will use our streets and parks. Creating a safe neighborhood is everyone's responsibility. While progress can appear slow, recent improvements include stop signs at Fitzhugh and Swiss, Glendale and Swiss, and Dumas and Swiss, with more pending at Bryan Parkway and Skillman, and Glendale and Parkmont. Traffic cushions have been installed along La Vista, and RRFB pedestrian beacons at North Munger and Swiss. These improvements reflect resident advocacy supported by the AAC.

Special thanks go to Dallas Transportation and Public Works, led by Gus Khankarli, and to his exceptional team—including Auro Majumdar, Fernando Villareal, Hannah Allen, and many others—who work tirelessly with SAHD residents to advance our traffic safety and mobility objectives.

Enhanced patrols in Savage Park and along the Swiss Avenue Linear Park, improved Dallas Fire-Rescue response, and active code enforcement have strengthened relationships with city partners. We appreciate the support of Councilman Paul Ridley and Chief of Staff Max Sanchez; DPD Deputy Chief Devon Palk; Major Bobby Epperson; Sergeant Derrick Wright; and our ENP team led by Sergeant Quoc Le, including Lieutenant Ashley Le, Sergeant Luis Zacarias, Senior Corporal Matt Humphrey, and Senior Corporal Enrique Andrade. Additionally, Dallas Code representative Johnny Garcia does an excellent job keeping residents informed about code compliance activities within the SAHD and is always available to assist with specific concerns and issues.

Finally, please consider paying your voluntary SAHDA dues. The suggested minimum is \$750, with additional tiers of \$1,500 and \$2,250. All contributions, managed by Treasurer Jeff Gordon, fund our DPD ENP patrol and equipment. Dues may be paid online or by check.

~ David Dean, Chair AAC, 5420 Swiss Avenue, 214-668-0123, DDean@dean.net



## SAHD Mother's Day Home Tour: Event Details for a Weekend of Fun!

Mark your calendars for Mother's Day weekend and be part of one of Dallas' most beloved events—the Swiss Avenue Mother's Day Home Tour. It's a fun-filled weekend for everyone involved.

Tour Dates: Saturday May 9th & Sunday 10th

### Featured Homes on Tour

Seven remarkable homes will be open for viewing during the Swiss Avenue Historic District Home Tour. The addresses include 6312 Bryan Parkway, 6235 La Vista, 5020 Swiss, 5125 Swiss, 5323 Swiss, 5703 Swiss, and 5728 Swiss.

Special Feature: Munger Place Church

Munger Place Church will be included in the tour, celebrating its 100-year anniversary. Visitors will be able to admire the church's incredible stained glass windows.

### Weekend Activities

The tour begins with a "Night of Appreciation" party, held at the Bexley's home (5731 Swiss) from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday May 9th.

This event celebrates and thanks homeowners on tour, sponsors, and residents who purchase the ticket bundle at a discounted price.

### Savage Park

Visitors are encouraged to stop by the park to enjoy a quick bite, a sparkling glass of prosecco, charcuterie, gelato, or kid-friendly options. Food is provided by Garden Café, Thyme & Date, and Gelato La Boca.

A full lineup of amazing music will be featured throughout the weekend. Live entertainment starts Saturday morning and continues through Sunday evening; see page 4 for the full calendar

### Children's Area

The Perot Museum Tech Truck will be present in the children's area on Saturday. In addition, kids can participate in various interactive activities, including a potting station, cake walk, games, bubbles, and face painting.

### The Specialty Market Place

A thoughtfully curated selection of local and nationally known vendors will be available. It's the perfect opportunity to find a special gift for Mom or something for yourself.

### Sunday Royal Tea

On May 10th, there will be two separate seatings for the Mother's Day Royal Tea at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Darren McGrady, former chef to Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, and Princess Diana, will be the special guest speaker at both seatings. Guests can enjoy the Royals' favorite recipes and teas.

### Wrap Party

The tour concludes with a wrap party on Sunday, May 10, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The entire district is invited to celebrate with the nationally known Japanese Elvis and enjoy pizza. This Elvis will remind everyone why we "Can't help falling in love" with our neighborhood!

## Finish The Weekend With A Bang (And Elvis)!

Wrap up what promises to be an incredible Home Tour weekend with a neighborhood celebration at Savage Park! The SAHDA Home Tour Committee invites all neighbors to join us for a fun, family-friendly evening on Sunday, May 10 immediately following close of home tour at 6PM. Enjoy great pizza, live music, and time with friends as our way of saying thank you to the entire neighborhood.

We also have a very special treat in store: live entertainment by Toki, the “Japanese Elvis,” an internationally acclaimed performer traveling all the way from Japan. Featured in The New York Times and named one of the Top 5 Elvis tribute artists in the world at the 2023 Graceland competition, Toki has won numerous U.S. and international awards. He’s an incredible performer, and he’s bringing an unforgettable show right to our neighborhood—this will be his final performance before returning to Japan!

Come celebrate our neighborhood, connect with friends, and make it a night to remember. We can’t wait to see you there!



Meet Toki Toyokazu: Japan’s Top Elvis Tribute Artist  
Photo Courtesy of Adam Zehner

## We need you!

The annual Home Tour tradition is more than a celebration of our beautiful historic homes (though it certainly is that!). It is also the primary fundraiser for the Swiss Avenue Historic District, supporting preservation, beautification, community events, infrastructure improvements, security, outreach, and more. The tour plays a vital role in strengthening both our neighborhood and the legacy of Old East Dallas.

### How Can You Help

- **Volunteers:** We need you! Whether it is planning, ticketing, decorating, hosting, being a docent, assisting with setup and cleanup, or running errands—there’s a role for everyone. Your time and talents are what make this event shine.
- **Residents:** We ask all neighbors to show their support by purchasing 10 discounted home tour tickets. Our neighborhood does not have a homeowners’ fee, and volunteer SAHD dues, implemented during COVID, have been suspended. Purchasing tickets is a meaningful and much needed way to financially support our community as we work to improve it today and preserve it for the future.

We truly appreciate each of you. Every ticket purchased and every volunteer hour given supports the heart of our neighborhood—now and for years to come. We can’t emphasize enough how important this event is, and we simply can’t do it without you.

For more information or to volunteer, contact  
Bill Heathcott, [billheathcott@gmail.com](mailto:billheathcott@gmail.com) or Elizabeth Mast at [elizabeth.mast@att.net](mailto:elizabeth.mast@att.net)

Let’s make 2026 our best tour yet!

## SAHDA Meetings

The SAHDA General Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month with agenda and meeting information sent via email and posted on the SAHD website. There are no meetings in July and December, for the summer and winter holidays. These gatherings are open to all SAHD residents and are a great way to meet neighbors and get involved in the neighborhood.

Meeting schedule for 2025-2026 is posted on the SAHD website, with upcoming meetings noted on the adjacent Community Calendar, with 6:30 pm Social followed by 7:00 pm General Meeting, held at Munger Place Church Education Building, First Floor.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## 4th Annual East Dallas Games Set for April 25 at Buckner Park



The 4th annual East Dallas Games will take place on April 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Buckner Park, bringing together residents from Junius Heights, Munger Place, Peaks Addition, and Swiss Avenue for a day of friendly competition and community connection. Designed as a family-friendly event, it offers a mix of activities including field games, a potluck picnic, children's entertainment, and opportunities to engage with local churches, businesses, and nonprofits.

Beyond the fun, the event also focuses on giving back, with a food drive and fundraising efforts that have supported local schools and the East Dallas Boys & Girls Club in past years. Sponsored again by Jimmy's Food Store, the games continue to foster neighborhood pride and generosity. Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share, participate in activities, and enjoy an afternoon centered on community spirit and charitable impact.

Organizers look forward to welcoming the community for an afternoon of fun, connection, and giving back

## A Royal Mother's Day Tea!

Enjoy a beautiful Royal Tea at Aldredge House On May 10th with two seatings at 11:00 and 2:00 with a champagne welcome.

It's an authentic Royal Tea presented by Darren McGrady, the renowned former chef to her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Among the delicacies on the menu will be several of her Majesty's and Princess Diana's favorites including Princes Williams grooms cake.

All hosted in elegant surroundings of Aldredge House.

Tickets are \$125 and each Tea reservation includes access to all houses on the SAHD Mother's Home Tour.

Make a reservation at SAHD.org



Chef Darren McGrady, featured at the SAHD Mother's Day Home Tour Brunch

# Swiss Avenue Historic District Association

The Occasional

April 2026

## Community Calendar

### APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Living History 11:00 am
12 Cathedral Arts 3:00 pm	13 AAC Zoom 5:00-6:00	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 SAHDA Meeting 6:30 Social/7 Mtg	22	23 4th Thursday*	24	25 East Dallas Games 11:00 am
26	27	28	29	30	MAY 1	MAY 2

Bulky Trash 3rd week →

### MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
3	4	5	6	7	8 Night of Appreciation 7:00 pm	9 <b>SAHDA HOME TOUR</b>
10 <b>SAHDA HOME TOUR</b>	11 AAC Zoom 5:00-6:00	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 SAHDA Meeting 6:30 Social/7 Mtg	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 4th Thursday*	29	30
31						

Bulky Trash 3rd week →

### JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 AAC Zoom 5:00-6:00	9	10	11	12	13 Living History 11:00 am
14	15	16 SAHDA Meeting 6:30 Social/7 Mtg	17	18	19	20
21 First day of Summer	22	23	24	25 4th Thursday*	26	27
28	29	30				

Bulky Trash 3rd week →

\* 4th Thursday's at Garden Cafe | This is a come and go happy hour, open to all. Generally from 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Garden Cafe offers residents half priced bottles of wine & beer. Come hang out & join the fun! All are welcome!

# Swiss Avenue Historic District Association

The Occasional

April 2026

## Neighborhood Spotlight | Redenta's

Located just on the outskirts of the Swiss Avenue Historic District on the corner of Oram and Skillman, Redenta's Garden Center has long been a neighborhood favorite for gardeners. This charming, family-owned nursery offers a refreshing alternative to big-box stores, with a focus on local plants, thoughtful selection, and personalized service.

Redenta's is especially known for its wide variety of native Texas plants, hardy perennials, seasonal flowers, and organic gardening supplies—perfect for North Texas soil and climate. Whether you're refreshing a flower bed, starting a vegetable garden, or just picking up a new houseplant, the knowledgeable staff is always ready to offer practical advice tailored to your space.

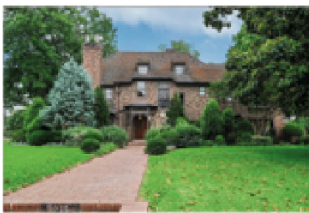
As spring arrives in Dallas, Redenta's Garden Center is a great place to find inspiration and support a long-time friend and supporter of the SAHD. If you are lucky to meet Dawna Schmidt, the proprietor of Redenta's, please let her know you saw her featured in The Occasional and thank her for her support of the SAHD.

A special thank you!

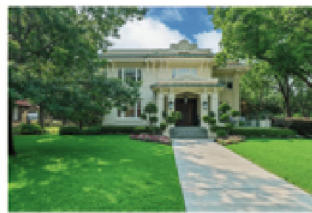


# THANK YOU

## To our homeowners on tour!



5020 Swiss



5125 Swiss



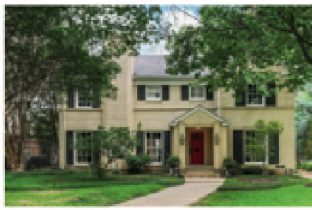
5323 Swiss



6312 Bryan Pkwy



5703 Swiss



5723 Swiss



6325 La Vista



Munger Church





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Dinner & Drinks / 7 days  
★★★★★  
Breakfast/Lunch / Fridays  
Brunch / Sunday  
8am-2pm



See Living History, a Live Performance  
every 2nd Saturday at 11 am  
Heritage Book Club continues  
on April 30, 2026 at 6:30 pm  
friendsofaldredgehouse.org



**GARDEN CAFE**

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THURS - SAT 10 AM - 10 PM\*  
SUNDAY 10 AM - 3 PM

\*kitchen closes from 3pm - 5pm,  
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