

THE OCCASIONAL

CREATING COMMUNITY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

A Message from the President



Dear Neighbors,

I write to you as summer in Dallas is in full swing with soaring temperatures and no relief from the heat in sight. I hope each of you is keeping cool and taking time for a vacation or backyard BBQ in our great neighborhood. Since my last message, a few things have happened in the District that are worth mentioning.

This year's Home Tour was one of the best ever for many reasons. The weekend of celebration started with a fun pre-Tour party at the home of Virginia and Tom Bonifield. It was great to see so many neighbors there enjoying themselves. This year's Tour for the first time ever included a fundraiser dedicated to the arts program at Lipscomb Elementary. Several pieces of art were auctioned off at the party and the rest of the weekend. The District was able to donate over \$4,000 to Lipscomb due to the generosity of the artists and the wonderful neighbors who purchased the pieces.

Beautiful weather led to big crowds both days as our guests toured the eight lovely homes on Tour. Activities in Savage Park included live music, food and drink from several different vendors all of whom, in turn, gave the District a royalty from their sales.

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AUGUST 2018

THE OCCASIONAL

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Home Tour Kick-Off Party a Huge Success

As the sun set on May 11th, the Annual Swiss Avenue Mother's Day Home Tour Pre-Party was just getting started. Thanks to the generous hosts Tom and Virginia Bonifield and the hard work of party sponsor, the Mast-Sturgeon Group, the festivities were a rousing success.

The tables were set with a delicate black check tablecloth and each topped with a bright floral arrangement surrounded by lemons. Beautiful hanging lights and festive music completed the scene. As the kick-off speeches were made and the wine was poured, the excitement was palpable. The smell of pizza and the laughter of guests created a magical environment for the large turnout of neighbors and sponsors. A very special thanks to the food and beverage sponsors: Botolino Gelato, Jimmy's Food Store, and Lakewood Medallion Liquor.

All in all, it was a wonderful evening and set the mood for a successful home tour weekend. Bravi!



A Message from the President, continued

We cannot thank enough the Tour Committee, the owners of the Tour homes, sponsors, and all of the various volunteers who gave their time on Mother's Day weekend to the effort. This year's Tour ended up being one of the most profitable ever. The financial success of the Tour provides resources for the District's beautification, crime prevention, and community outreach.

Planning for next year's Tour will start in earnest in the fall. Please consider helping in next year's effort.

A prime example of things the District is able to accomplish as a result of Home Tour is our new irrigation system in the Munger Median. Thank you to Jerry Baus, Joanna Hampton, Mariana Green, and the rest of the Beautification Committee for taking on this important project.

If your sidewalk is in need of repair, please contact me or someone on the Board of Directors about participating in the sidewalk replacement program. District funds are available to help defray the cost of replacing dangerous and unsightly sidewalks. The replacement program is being used to install a new sidewalk at the northeast corner of Skillman and Bryan which many of our neighbors contacted me about in the past year.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. If you have any questions or concerns about happenings in the District, do not hesitate to contact me.

Peter Loh
President, SAHDA

A Note from the New Editor : Jenny Hulse

When I was initially approached about taking over the helm of our beloved neighborhood newsletter, I will admit that my initial reaction was trepidation. It goes without saying the previous editor, Larry Waisanen, has a special gift for making the difficult look easy. From getting the house captains in line every year to keeping the dreaded home tour storage space in working order, Larry has a jack of all trades persona he has always used for the benefit of the neighborhood around him.

I knew *The Occasional* would be far more work than it appeared on the surface, but I also knew of its importance to the neighborhood not only in it's practical purpose, to convey neighborhood news, but in a more intangible way. *The Occasional* introduces new neighbors, celebrates our accomplishments, and brings important issues to the forefront that affect each of us. This is a special place full of interesting, diverse, and passionate people. I grew up in this district. Both of my parent's hail from small Texas towns west of the middle of nowhere, and the small town feel of this neighborhood drew them in. Everyone is involved, everyone knows each other, everyone looks out for one another.

In my family, we have always had an open door policy. Anyone is welcome at anytime, and I would like to extend that to you as well. If you have anything of import, a concern, a special event, an interesting story, please do not hesitate to reach out. My door, my phone, and my email are always open to you.

And in honor of the previous Captain of this ship, I ask all of you to go out and make sure our watering systems are set for the right day. As Larry told me a few weeks ago when I asked if I should keep the watering notice in *The Occasional*, overwatering is just as detrimental as underwatering...when it comes to the lawn at least.



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Home Tour 2018: A Huge Success

As Home Tour Weekend dawned, the lines were already starting to form. Homeowners and volunteers had lovingly prepared the houses, and the crowds were not disappointed. With eight very different homes to see, each filled with its own history and style, the attendees were blown away.

It takes a dedicated team to create such a flawless event. Led by Christine Loh and the Home Tour Committee, this year's tour netted approximately \$88,000 for the neighborhood to redeploy into community outreach, beautification of the neighborhood, and crime prevention.

The Kids' Activity Area was a new addition this year and it was a huge success with our youngest guests and neighborhood children alike. As always, Savage Park was hopping with food trucks, entertainment, and vendors lining the median for an outdoor market.

A special thanks to the homeowners who opened up their doors so graciously, the Home Tour Committee, the dedicated house captains, sponsors, and countless volunteers who make this weekend possible.



Celebrate National Peach Month

It's easy to think of all of the reasons Texas summers can be a brutal marathon but why not give thanks to the season that gives us sweet, delicious peaches. So turn on your oven, turn down your AC, and whip up this versatile skillet cake. And if peaches aren't your thing, any fruit can be substituted.

Peach Skillet Cake

Ingredients

- Butter, 4 tbs. plus more for skillet
- Flour, 1 cup plus more for dusting
- Baking Powder, ½ tsp.
- Baking Soda, ¼ tsp.
- Salt, ½ tsp.
- Sugar, ¾ cup plus 2 tbs.
- Egg, 1
- Buttermilk, ½ cup
- Ripe Medium Peaches, 2 thinly sliced

- 1) Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Butter an 8-inch cast-iron skillet or an 8-inch cake pan and dust with flour. In a bowl, sift flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Whisk to combine.
- 2) In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat butter and ¾ cup of sugar until pale and fluffy. Add egg and beat until combined.
- 3) Slowly add flour mixture in three additions alternating with the buttermilk. Pour the batter into the prepared skillet. Place sliced peaches in a circular fan shape along the top of the cake, and sprinkle with the remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar.
- 4) Bake until golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 35-40 minutes. Cool slightly and serve!



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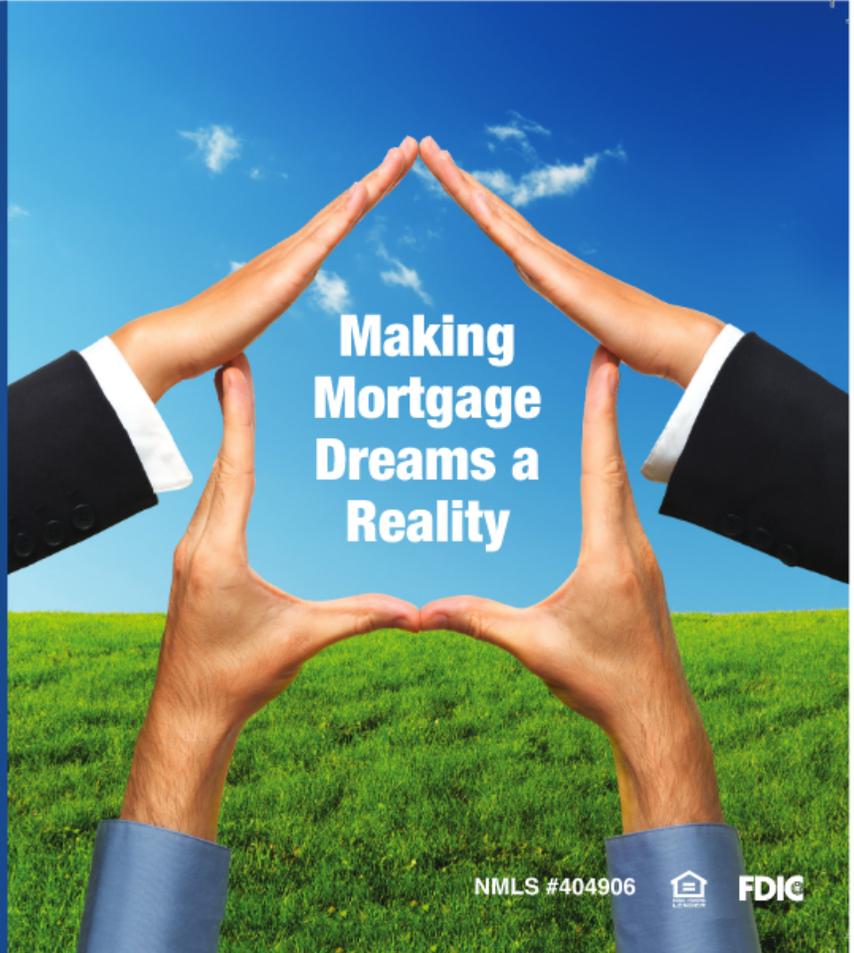


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Editors Note:

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jennyleighhulse@gmail.com
I would love to report on it!

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I am Elizabeth Mast, *your* expert on living, loving and experiencing the Swiss Avenue Historic District.

ELIZABETH MAST

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