

SWISS AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

OCCASIONAL

P.O. Box 140998, Dallas, TX 75214

Volume 42, No. 2
September 2017

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Message From The Outgoing President

As I remarked in my first Occasional article a year ago, Fall is a great time to be a resident of the District. Once again, as the weather cools down, more neighbors are out enjoying the beautiful neighborhood that we live in which is even more inviting than last year, with all of the work done on the sidewalks, trees and median by our Beautification Committee. What is surprising is that the coyotes must think it is a pretty nice neighborhood too, since they have not yet done their disappearing act and in fact have remained very active. And in our block, we have a Muscovy duck which appeared one day on the street and can still be spotted on occasion as it grazes on grass along the sidewalk, apparently oblivious to the walkers and their pets as they come by.

Code Representative, who has been very helpful with neighborhood issues and who also attended most of our meetings. In addition, we have also worked with City of Dallas representatives on matters involving traffic safety and parking issues in the District and finally did get the four way stop sign installed at Collett and Swiss.

Our Outreach Committee, headed by Robyn Schaub, did a great job in preparing new guidelines for the Committee and in administering the Outreach budget. In addition, the Outreach Committee sponsored rummage sale, headed up by Natalie Kinvig, resulted in additional funds for charitable donations by the Committee.

Thanks to the efforts of Kim McCrea and the Children's Social Committee, the SAHDA had some great events this year for the kids in the District with special holiday parties. Likewise, the adults had some well attended social events during the year, including a Christmas Party at the home of Lee and Bryan Jones. Many thanks to Natalie Kinvig for heading up the social committee and, along with Cameron Kinvig, for having our food and beverages at all of our monthly meetings.

From the very start of our term, our Planning & Zoning Committee, headed by Jim Dunkerley, was faced with numerous zoning matters that could have impacted the SAHDA. We want to thank the committee for its vigilance in keeping the District aware of matters that require our involvement and to Nancy Phillips, who took over as chairman of the "P&Z" Committee this summer.

None of the above would be possible without funding. Our primary source of funds for the District is the annual Mother's Day Home Tour. Our Home Tour chairman, Lee Jones, and her committee did a great job in putting on what many thought was one of our best tours. And I think that special recognition needs to go to Larry and Marilyn Waisanen, since it would be difficult to put on a home tour without the knowledge and expertise they have gained from their many years in working all facets of the tour. A special thanks to all of you in the District who again this year were house captains, docents, organized transportation or worked in the park and all the many tasks that allow us to have a memorable tour.

In This Issue

Annual Meeting	3
Block Directors 2017-18	3
Buckner Park Re-Opening	6
Home Tour Wrap-Up	5
2017 Home Tour Sponsors	5
Message from the Outgoing President	1
Meet the McCavits	4

As I wind down my year as President of the District, I would like to recognize some of our neighbors who have served our District and are responsible for what I believe to be a very good year for the neighborhood. Marilyn Waisanen and her Beautification Committee, in addition to the great work done on the sidewalks and trees mentioned above, have done a great job with plantings in Savage Park and at the entrances at Fitzhugh and LaVista. We really appreciate the tremendous job done by our neighbor Gary Ahr in managing the tree trimming on his own time. Jerry Baus has worked tirelessly with the Parks Department in getting them to focus their efforts on what is needed from them for our median and throughout the District.

Neighborhood safety continues to be a priority of the SAHDA as the Dallas Police has fewer officers to put on the street and our residents have expressed concerns about increases in crime. Our Alliance Against Crime committee, headed this year by Robin Marin, continues to manage our Extended Neighborhood Patrol (ENP) program with off duty police officers providing extra patrols for the neighborhood. While additional funds were allocated last Fall to support this program, we continue to need the donations from our residents to maintain an adequate number of officers on patrol. It was a pleasure to work with Sgt. Steve Forman, our contact for the ENP program, who came to many of our meetings and reported on criminal activities of concern to the District and also Jose Ruiz, our Neighborhood

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Letter From The Outgoing President (continued from page 1)

Of course, the Home Tour could not be done without Bob Cox, who manages our website year round, and devotes a considerable amount of time and effort in supporting the Home Tour every year. In case you have not done so already, please log on to SAHD.org and sign up on the residents only section of the website.

This year, we alternated our monthly meetings between St. Matthew's Cathedral and Munger Place Church and greatly appreciate their hospitality.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our officers, directors, and committees that worked so hard to make this a better District. Good communication within the District is very important and Jean Dean, our Secretary for the District, has done a great job in keeping everyone informed. And, as I mentioned in my first article last Fall, we also have so many neighbors that do things for the District that we take for granted and often go unrecognized. I would like to again thank those individuals but will not attempt to list names for fear of leaving someone out, but know that what you do makes this such a great place to live. We would also encourage our new neighbors to get involved and join us at the monthly meetings, where you will have the opportunity to get to know many of your neighbors, and the issues that involve the District.

Finally, I look forward to working any way that I can with the new officers, directors and committees that will be serving the District for the upcoming year.

Bob Ruckman
President (2016–2017), SAHDA

SAHDA Block Directors – 2017–2018

5943–6019 Bryan Parkway: Gaye Martin
6020–6049 Bryan Parkway: Janel Wood
6100–6126 Bryan Parkway: Bob Cox
6127–6151 Bryan Parkway: Linda Solomon
6200 Bryan Parkway: Kristin Hegedus
6300 Bryan Parkway: Kevin Rogers
La Vista: TBD
Live Oak: Lorraine Carroll
4900 Swiss: Natalie Kinvig
5000–5100 Swiss: Jody Bowers
5200–5300 Swiss: Ken Kuesel
5400 Swiss: James Finley
5500 Swiss/Bryan St.: Laura McCavit
5600 Swiss: Michelle Baus
5700 Swiss: Elizabeth Mast
5803–5916 Swiss: Cal Chaney
5921–6102 Swiss: Gary Hoffman

SAHDA Annual Meeting



L-R: Peter Loh, Brian Shultz, Jean Dean. Not pictured: Bob Bracken

The annual meeting of the members of the SAHDA was held on Tuesday, September 19. At the meeting, the members elected new officers for the 2017–2018 fiscal year as follows: President: Peter Loh, Exec. Vice President: Bob Bracken, Secretary: Jean Dean, Treasurer: Brian Shultz. In addition, Debby Rogers, Michelle Manners, Cameron Kinvig and Allan Moore were elected as Directors–at–Large. The membership also approved the \$91,500 expenditure budget proposed by Peter Loh (details in table below) which includes \$30,000 for the Alliance Against Crime (AAC), \$28,000 for the median, parkway and tree trimming and \$10,000 for community outreach. Mr. Loh also indicated that the AAC Committee would be studying the possibility of utilizing a private security service instead of off duty DPD officers in the coming months. A suggestion was made by some residents that the Committee also look into separating the AAC from the District (as it was when it was originally created). It was agreed that any recommendation by the Committee would be brought before a meeting of the membership early in 2018.

The Swiss Avenue Historic District Association Fiscal Year-To-Date P&L (Accrual Basis) As of 08/31/17 with Proposed 2017-18 Budget

	2015-2016	2016-2017	Current Year Budget	2017-2018 (Proposed)
Expenses				
Administration	\$10,211.00	\$14,474.00	\$15,475.00	\$11,500.00
Utilities	\$2,316.00	\$1,868.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Alliance Against Crime	\$10,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$30,000.00
Insurance	\$1,828.00	\$1,265.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00
Median & Parkway	\$67,945.00	\$18,440.00	\$37,000.00	\$25,000.00
Neighborhood Social	\$1,669.00	\$1,865.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,000.00
Occasional	\$290.00	\$773.00		
Children's Social	\$1,962.00	\$2,359.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,000.00
Tree Trimming	\$1,595.00	\$4,800.00	\$5,025.00	\$3,000.00
Community Outreach	\$6,200.00	\$12,741.00	\$14,000.00	\$10,000.00
Planning & Zoning				\$500.00
Website		\$368.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Hospitality			\$500.00	\$500.00
Contingency	\$3,328.00	\$1,827.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00
Total Expenses	\$107,344.00	\$85,780.00	\$113,000.00	\$91,500.00

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Meet the McCavit Family

The first time **Laura and Todd McCavit** visited the house at **5533 Swiss Avenue** they knew they had found their future home. As Laura tells it, she noticed another couple at the open house taking measurements of the rooms and she told Todd, "I think we should measure these rooms!" And the rest, as they say, is history. Laura and Todd have lived in East Dallas for 20 years – on Miller Street and most recently, on Monticello. They have 3 children: Ava (12 years old) is at JL Long Middle School, and Luke (10) and Tessa (8) attend Stonewall Jackson Elementary. Tillie, a 2 year old Australian Shepherd rounds out the McCavit family.

Todd and Laura first met in Kindergarten in their home town of Pampa, TX. They started dating when they were seniors in high school and both graduated from Texas Tech. Todd has a degree in accounting and MIS and is a consultant with Protiviti. In addition to being a full time mom, Laura is the Director of Children's Ministry at First United Methodist Church in downtown Dallas. Todd is a runner and a biker and you have probably passed him running down Swiss Avenue since they moved in. Laura likes to travel and read. Their children keep them busy as well, with soccer, church choir, handbells (Ava), Karate, soccer and basketball (Luke) and Girl Scouts and dance, both Jazz and Ballet (Tessa).

As often happens when you purchase a home in the Historic District, the McCavits have launched into a few renovation projects and you have undoubtedly seen the arrival of the familiar construction dumpster in the driveway. Todd and Laura have jumped right into District activities, with Laura volunteering to be the block captain for their block and Todd will be chairing the Alliance Against Crime Committee this year. Welcome to the Swiss Avenue Historic District Todd, Laura, Ava, Luke, Tessa and Tillie!



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Home Tour 2017 Wrap Up

It takes a village – 7 beautiful homes, a dedicated Home Tour Committee led by Lee Jones, a generous group of Home Tour sponsors, 400 plus volunteers, 3,500 tour visitors and a beautiful May weekend all combined to make for another successful Swiss Avenue Historic District Mother's Day Home Tour. The tour, which netted more than \$69 thousand this year, is the primary fundraising event for the District. This year's proceeds will fund the operations of the District for the coming year, including extra police patrols, neighborhood beautification and support for local charities and the neighborhood public schools (see page 3 for information about the District's budget for the coming year). Heartfelt thanks go to the homeowners who worked tirelessly to get their homes ready for this year's tour – Michelle and Jerry Baus, Careen and Clay Carson, Nancy and Tighe Merelli, Allan Moore and Brenden Martin, Wayne Noble and Barry Jones, Nancy and Guymon Phillips and the Dallas County Medical Society

Alliance and to Sandy Brothers and Mike Holub for generously offering their beautiful gardens for the Home Tour Pre-Party. Preliminary work is already beginning for Home Tour 2018. As always, your help will be needed so please consider putting your home on tour or volunteering to work on the 2018 Home Tour Committee.



Home Tour Chair, Lee Jones (R), and Park Coordinator, Marilyn Waisanen (L), enjoying a well deserved break in Savage Park.

Thanks to all of our 2017 Home Tour sponsors. Please show your appreciation by patronizing these generous supporters of SAHD.

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Musical entertainment in Savage park was provided by Restoration Blues and Diva G and High Maintenance, among others.



Celebrating the 100th birthday of 5617 Swiss Avenue. L-R: Virginia McAlester, Jerry and Michelle Baus, Bob Ruckman

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103 Year Old Buckner Park Gets A Million Dollar Remake

Almost 10 years ago a small group of neighbors from Peak's Addition and the Munger Place, Junius Heights and Swiss Avenue Historic Districts launched Friends of Buckner Park (www.friendsofbucknerpark.org), a 501c3, whose mission was to work with the City of Dallas Parks Department and DISD to bring Buckner Park back to its former glory and create a park that would be a safe and welcoming place for the surrounding neighborhoods. The park is bounded by Carroll Avenue, Worth and Victor Streets and is adjacent to Zaragosa Elementary School. After years of fundraising, planning, permitting, a land swap, and \$1 million of bond funds, the "new" Buckner Park will be celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 7 at 12 noon. The ribbon cutting will be the kick-off event for the 2nd Annual Porchfest, a party in the park and surrounding neighborhood with games, musical entertainment, arts and crafts vendors, food and drink that benefits the Peak's Suburban Addition Historic District.



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Editor's Note:

If there is news happening on your street, or
in your block - significant anniversaries and
birthdays, newcomers, departures, births, or
just a great story - please let me know. I'd
love to publish it!

ljwaisanen@sbcglobal.net

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Elizabeth Mast

Senior Vice President

Certified Historic Home Specialist

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