

THE OCCASIONAL

FALL

Love Where You Live!

2026

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SAHDA Neighbors,

It has been a special privilege to serve as president of the Swiss Avenue Historic District Association this year.

There are so many things that make this neighborhood the wonderful place it has been for more than 120 years—and it is up to all of us to ensure that legacy continues. Our rich Dallas history, beautiful architecture, magnificent tree canopy, lawns, gardens, and parks, central location, surrounding neighborhoods, walkability, and so much more all play a part.

But most of all, it is the people who make this a real neighborhood and such a special place to call home. These are neighbors who know one another, look out for one another, and pitch in to preserve and improve what we have here in the Swiss Avenue Historic District. I am grateful to each and every one of you for the support you have given our historic district—and your neighbors—this past year.

There are far too many people to thank to name everyone here. Thank you to everyone who served on the board as an officer, block captain, or alternate block captain. Thank you to everyone who served on a committee, volunteered for the Home Tour or another event, helped with a district party or happy hour, or simply showed up and participated. And thank you to everyone who loves this unique part of Dallas and feels fortunate, as I do, to call it home.

I would like to recognize a few individuals by name, while apologizing in advance to those I don't have room to mention.

- Elizabeth Mast and Bill Heathcott for chairing a fabulous Home Tour, and to Bob Cox and Theresa Mobley for their extraordinary contributions to the tour.
- The homeowners who generously opened their homes to the tour.
- The Beautification Committee, and especially Mariana Greene, Paul Hartmann, and Erin Covert, for all of your efforts. The district has never looked better!
- Marianne Howells for chairing the Outreach Committee, and to everyone who served on the committee. The SAHDA made significant and meaningful contributions to our broader East Dallas community this year, thanks in large part to the work of this committee and the generosity of the SAHDA.
- Joanna Hampton for serving as the editor of The Occasional.
- Wayne Noble and Barry Jones for hosting the Christmas party, and to Louise and Tyler Bexley for hosting the fall party and the Home Tour pre-party.
- Marc Joseph for serving as Executive Vice President, Jean Dean as Secretary, Jeff Gordon as Treasurer, and David Dean as AAC Committee Chair. Your time and dedication are deeply appreciated.

As most of you know, our fiscal year runs from September through August. The Nominating Committee, elected at last September's annual meeting, has worked hard to develop its recommended slate of officers for the coming year. I encourage everyone to attend the Annual Meeting on September 15 to participate in the election of next year's president and officers. I also encourage you to find a way to get involved with the SAHDA in the coming year—volunteer for the Home Tour or other events, attend meetings, join a committee, or simply participate in our neighborhood social events. You will be glad you did! The strength of this neighborhood comes from the people who care enough to get involved, and together we can continue a tradition that has lasted more than 120 years—and leave the Swiss Avenue Historic District even better for the generations to come.

With sincere thanks,

Bob Bracken

ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 at 7:00 pm
MUNGER PLACE CHURCH - EDUCATION BUILDING - 5200 BRYAN ST

Swiss Avenue Historic District Association

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This Summer in the Garden

Texas summer is a time of sun and high temperatures. The continued high heat and lack of rain has the Beautification Committee struggling to keep our color beds alive at Savage Park, Fitzhugh and LaVista. Reginald, our hired helper, delivers extra water to the color beds on the city's permitted days and times. In addition, he's watering the shrubs and ground covers at the park to protect our investment in plant material.

We've also used funds from the Beautification budget to augment the Parks Department's aging irrigation system.

While the city supports irrigation for the Swiss Avenue medians, SAHDA, not the city, is responsible for the irrigation system on the Munger median from Live Oak to Gaston. Routine checks by a private contractor always identify damaged and/or vandalized parts that have to be replaced.

Thanks to Paul Hartmann and Mariana Greene for the continuous work and support!



Coral bean flowers feed hummingbirds
Photo courtesy of : Mariana Greene



Black-eyed Susan and violet-blue mistflower provide late-summer color at Savage Park.
Photo courtesy of : Mariana Greene

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SAHDA ANNUAL MEETING

Annual SAHD Meeting

Tuesday, September 15th
Social: 6:30PM Meeting: 7:00PM

Munger Place Church | Education Building
5200 Bryan Street

Please join us for the Annual Swiss Avenue Historic District Association Meeting where we will elect our new Board of Directors for the coming year and approve the annual budget.
All homeowners and residents in attendance can vote.

(Education Building is next to Sanctuary. Access the building through the door that opens to Munger Place Church parking lot. The stairs are immediately visible beyond that door and lead directly to the meeting space)

SAHDA Nominating Committee Report

Dear Members of the Swiss Avenue Historic District Association,
The SAHDA Nominating Committee is pleased to share the proposed slate of nominees for the 2026/27 Officers and Directors at Large ballot. Following a call for volunteers, multiple committee meetings, personal interviews, and a careful review process, the committee has selected the following candidates:

Officer Nominees: President: Marc Joseph
 Vice President: Ross Gage
 Secretary: Bruce Hendrick
 Treasurer: Jeff Gordon

Directors at Large Nominees: Marianne Howells
 Wayne Noble
 Mike Carleton
 Paul Hartmann

We anticipate the election of this slate at the upcoming neighborhood meeting on September 15th. We are grateful to everyone who participated, expressed interest, or offered support—your engagement truly reflects the spirit that makes our community so special.

Sincerely,
The SAHDA Nominating Committee
Bill Heathcott
Elizabeth Mast
Larry Offutt
Bob Cox
Louise Bexley
Erin Covert
James Finley

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Our Neighbors in the News!

Check out an amazing documentary on our neighbor Bob Hopkins. The Business Standard featured an article about the documentary from Bangladeshi-American filmmaker Noman Robin, on Bob's amazing life and impact as an author, philanthropist, fundraiser, and educator. Read the full article online at:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/splash/profiling-mighty-man-80-years-1034551>

Congratulations to Bob on this wonderful showcase!

Community Outreach

The SAHD Outreach Committee was active this year in support of our community schools, businesses and organizations. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year contributions have been made to the Mount Auburn Peace Pantry, Woodrow Wilson High School, Lipscomb Elementary, Lakewood Library Friends, and Cathedral Arts.

The committee ended this fiscal year with a \$1300 donation to the Agape Clinic in East Dallas to pay for a audiology machine to detect if children have a hearing disorder. Agape Clinic provides free or low cost health care and dental care to Dallas residents with no health care insurance.

Thank you to the Outreach Committee for their work!



Marianne Howells presents donation to Agape Clinic
Photo courtesy of : Marianne Howells

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS !

Please support our amazing friends and neighbors found in this edition of The Occasional that support the District and made this printing possible!

And a special thank you to Munger Place Church for hosting the SAHDA Meetings for 2025-2026!



ELIZABETH MAST

Briggs
Freeman

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Update from AAC / ENP Program

For more than 50 years, the Alliance Against Crime (AAC) Committee has worked to improve public and traffic safety in our neighborhood. We meet monthly via Zoom at 5:00 PM on the second Monday of each month, and all SAHD residents, property owners, and AAC members—including from surrounding areas—are encouraged to participate.

Public safety concerns include auto theft, home invasions, robberies, unwanted solicitations, trespassing, vagrancy, porch piracy, homeless encampments, unleashed dogs, SWAT activity, and gunfire. Traffic issues include accidents, hit-and-runs, scooter and pedestrian incidents, speeding, near misses, and abandoned vehicles; illegal dumping also remains a concern.

The AAC partners with the Dallas Police Department, Fire-Rescue, and Parks and Recreation on programs that keep residents informed, vigilant, and prepared—including Volunteers in Patrol (VIP), women's self-defense classes, CPTED home inspections, ride-alongs, and Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training.

Enhanced patrols in Savage Park and along the Swiss Avenue Linear Park, faster DFR response, and active code enforcement have strengthened our city partnerships. We thank Councilman Paul Ridley and Chief of Staff Max Sanchez; DPD Deputy Chief Devon Palk, Major Bobby Epperson, and Sergeant Derrick Wright; our ENP team led by Sergeant Quoc Le with Lieutenant Ashley Le, Sergeant Luis Zacarias, Senior Corporal Matt Humphrey, and Senior Corporal Enrique Andrade; Parks and Recreation Director John Jenkins, Park Board Member Rudy Karimi, and the DPARD Marshal and Park Rangers team; DFR Captain David Diggs and the three shifts at Fire Station 17; and Code representative Johnny Garcia, who keeps residents informed on compliance issues and is always available to help. Our long, narrow historic district, crossed by seven streets, has become a well-documented cut-through corridor marked by speeding, stop sign violations, wrong-way driving, hit-and-runs, crashes, and a recent pedestrian death. As nearby areas grow denser with multifamily and commercial development, traffic and pedestrian activity will only increase. Creating a safe neighborhood is everyone's responsibility.

Progress continues: new stop signs at Fitzhugh/Swiss, Glendale/Swiss, Dumas/Swiss, and Bryan Parkway at Skillman, Glendale, and Parkmont; a fully rebuilt smart signal with protected left turns at N. Munger and Gaston, with the same upgrade now in redesign at Live Oak and N. Munger; traffic cushions on La Vista; and RRFB pedestrian beacons at N. Munger and Swiss. The Swiss/N. Munger intersection remains unsafe, and the city is developing a solution with active resident engagement to follow. These gains reflect sustained resident advocacy supported by the AAC—with special thanks to Dallas Transportation and Public Works, led by Gus Khankarli, and his team: Auro Majumdar, Fernando Villareal, Hannah Allen, and many others.

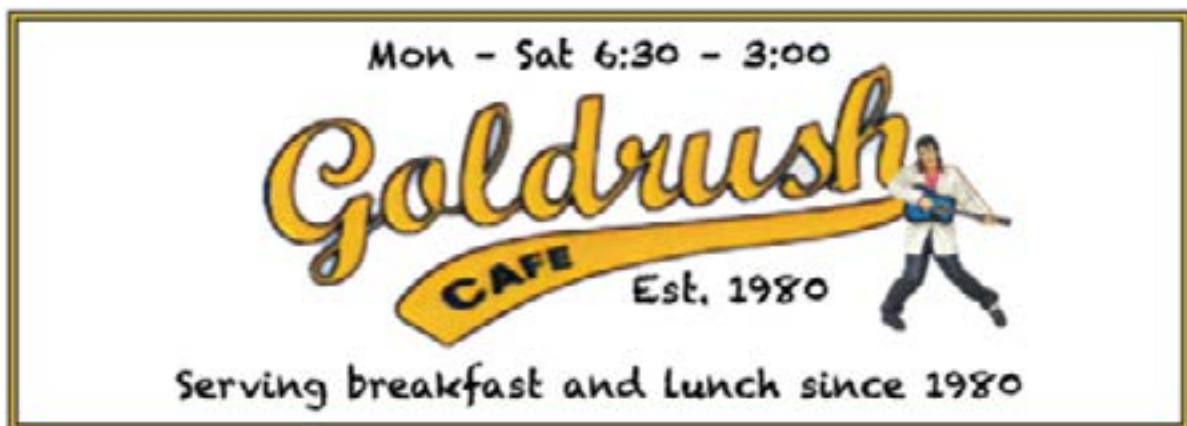
Major TxDOT projects affecting the SAHD include the full I-30 Canyon rebuild (I-35 to I-45), the demolition and relocation of I-345 into a subsurface trench (similar to Woodall Rodgers), and the I-30 East/, and I-30East-East projects from Munger to LBJ East.

AAC meetings regularly draw councilmembers, agency officials, subject matter experts, and neighbors from other areas facing similar issues, including group home proliferation, rising density, and Oncor-related concerns.

Many neighbors contribute by chairing AAC activities, attending meetings and events, volunteering for alley cleanups and appreciation luncheons, supporting our ENP program, donating turkeys to DPD's annual outreach drive, earning VIP certification, and attending DFR open houses. Fighting crime is everyone's business.

Please consider paying your voluntary SAHDA dues (suggested minimum \$750; tiers of \$1,500 and \$2,250), managed by Treasurer Jeff Gordon to 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



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Meet & Greet with Police, First Responders and City Employees



Join your neighbors for 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!

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Community Calendar

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 AAC Zoom 5:00-6:00	8	9	10	11	12 Aldredge House Living History 11 am
13	14	15 SAHDA Annual Meeting 6:30 Social/7 Mtg	16 Bulky Trash 3rd week	17 Bulky Trash set-out	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 4th Thursday at Garden Cafe	25	26
27 Cathedral Arts 2:00 pm	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

				1	2	3
4	5 AAC Zoom 5:00-6:00	6 National Night Out 5:00 pm	7	8	9	10 Aldredge House Living History 11 am
11	1	13	14 Bulky Trash 3rd week	15 Bulky Trash set-out	16	17
18 Cathedral Arts 3:00 pm	19	20 SAHDA Meeting 6:30 Social/7 Mtg	21	22 4th Thursday at Garden Cafe	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN

NOVEMBER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 AAC Zoom 5:00-6:00	10	11	12	13 Bulky Trash set-out	14 Aldredge House Living History 11 am
15	16	17 SAHDA Meeting 6:30 Social/7 Mtg	18 Bulky Trash 3rd week	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 THANKSGIVING	27	28
29	30					

History | Dallas Theological Seminary



Author: Neil R. Coulter, provided by Craig Rekerdres

Photo: Dallas Theological Seminary

A little more than a century ago, a door opened on Swiss Avenue that would soon connect one block in East Dallas to the entire world. It was in the fall of 1925 that the new Evangelical Theological College welcomed its second class of students. The home they had rented the previous year in South Dallas had no space for anyone but the first group of students, so a move to a more permanent campus became urgent. A solution soon presented itself: A lot at the corner of Swiss and St. Joseph, the location of Captain William H. Gaston's mansion, became available, and the school quickly found a donor to enable the purchase. Once renovated, the old Gaston home housed the classrooms, offices, kitchen, and dining room; dormitory space for students came from a nearby apartment building. By 1929, the Gaston mansion had given way to the first two newly constructed buildings on campus, Davidson Hall and Stearns Hall. And in 1936, the Evangelical Theological College adopted a new name: Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS).

The seminary was founded by Lewis Sperry Chafer, a musician and preacher with years of experience in the Bible conference movement, including collaborations with Dwight L. Moody and other ministers. To people tempted to despair in the postwar era, Chafer offered hope from the Christian Scriptures. His idea for DTS was to design a curriculum with the Bible at the center, training seminarians in Hebrew and Greek, biblical interpretation, systematic theology, and preaching. The first group of twelve students arrived in 1924. It didn't take long for eager Bible students from all over the world to find their way to Swiss Avenue. Within its first decade, DTS had enrolled students from Canada, Korea, Ireland, Australia, England, Scotland, the Philippines, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, and Germany. Today, students from more than 100 countries study at DTS. To further expand its reach, the seminary started developing online courses for distance education in 2003. Many current students complete a program that blends in-person and online coursework, and over a million learners worldwide have benefited from the seminary's free online courses.

A key aspect of the heritage of DTS is its nondenominational identity. From the start, the curriculum was in some ways a response to the liberal, "higher criticism" tradition that had developed in the previous century, but the seminary was not officially connected to the Fundamentalist movement of the time, either. Charting a path that draws from historical Christian affirmations and creeds and professes a belief in the inerrancy and inspiration of the Bible, the seminary has welcomed students from any Protestant Christian tradition. Initially, the selection of degree programs was limited to the bachelor of theology and the master of theology, soon adding the doctor of theology. Today, the possibilities have grown into fourteen master's programs, including in areas such as counseling, leadership, education, Bible translation, evangelism, and media arts; four doctoral degrees; and two certificate programs. Students arrive at campus on Swiss Avenue at the start of each fall semester, and for those unable to move, most of the degree programs are available in online, hybrid, or reduced residency options.

From a small beginning a century ago, a seminary campus in East Dallas now receives students, faculty, and staff from all over the world. It has sent over 20,000 graduates from Dallas to the ends of the earth. The mission? "To glorify God by equipping godly servant-leaders for the proclamation of his Word and the building up of the body of Christ worldwide." Or, in the words of the tagline often heard around campus: Teach Truth. Love Well.

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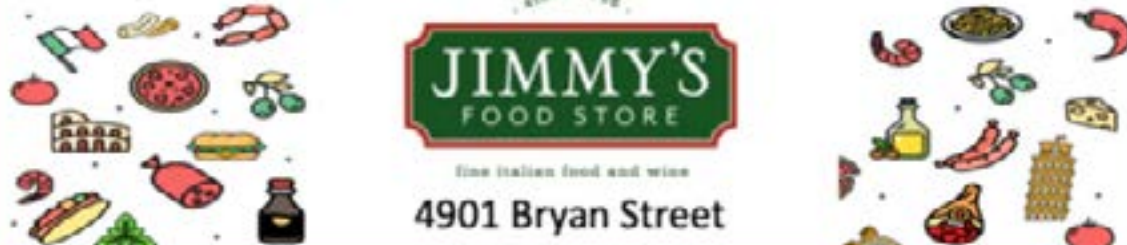
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