

# Fairmount

## HISTORIC ♦ DISTRICT

Volume XXIV, Issue

### NPO's to Speak at October Meeting

Fairmount's Neighborhood Patrol Officers (NPOs) Leah Wagner and Charlie Combs will be present for the entire General Membership meeting for an extended Question and Answer session. Don't miss this opportunity to find out about what's going on in the neighborhood and what you can do to prevent crime. There will be some great **Door Prizes**, too!

### 2006 Budget Submitted for Approval

The Fairmount Neighborhood Association's Bylaws state:

"Article VI - Section 6: Yearly operating budgets shall be established by each Executive Board Member for their areas of responsibility and be approved by the General Membership. Approval of budgets shall constitute authority to expend funds. Budgets may be increased by majority vote of the Executive Board, plus General Membership approval if increase is over \$300. (Home Tour if increase is over \$1,000.)". The proposed budget for 2006 will be presented at the General Membership meeting. You can find the proposed budget on pages 12 and 13 in this issue. There will be time allotted for discussion during the meeting.

### Great Door Prizes for October Meeting

Many thanks to this month's Door Prize Sponsor, Reunion Title. They are and will continue to be a great partner for Fairmount. It is wonderful to have a company so dedicated to the needs of individuals and Fairmount as a whole. Thank you, Donna Dunnaway! You are truly a reason your company is so successful.

We have some great Door Prizes this month. There will be a glass top patio table and 4 chairs, along with an umbrella. There will be many more wonderful Door Prizes as well.

Come and meet your neighbors and get involved. Fresh baked cookies and sandwiches will be served at the meeting.

Jerry Hawkins  
Director of Promotions

### OCTOBER 2005

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Welcome New Members</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Nuisance Abatement</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Request for Leaders</i>	<b>5</b>
<i>Fairmount Cookbook</i>	<b>10</b>
<i>FNA 2006 Budget</i>	<b>12</b>
<i>Name Ft. Worth South</i>	<b>15</b>

#### NEXT FAIRMOUNT ASSOCIATION MEETING:

Tuesday,  
October 25, 2005

at  
Hemphill  
Presbyterian  
Church



Bring your Neighbor!

*We hope to see you there!*

Welcome  
New  
Members!

Dale & Jane Kucko	1901 Alston Ave
Lane & Erin Denney	1831 Fairmount
Nate Kogan & Anna Battis	1010 Hawthorne
Rufus Florida	2243 Hurley



**Fairmount Neighborhood Association**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**President**

Fred Harper  
817.927.7257  
fgharper@lycos.com

**Director of Promotions**

Jerry Hawkins  
817.927.2960  
hawkinsjl@swbell.net

**Director of Membership Services**

Susan Harper  
817.927.7257  
fsharper@swbell.net

**Director of Finance & Administration**

Kathleen Seleny  
817.923.2460  
seleny@sbcglobal.net

**Director of Historic Preservation**

Mike McDermott  
817.927.8244  
msmcdermott@sbcglobal.net

**Director of Public Safety**

Alex Seleny  
817.923.2460  
alexseleny@yahoo.com

**Director of Infrastructure**

Sue McLean  
817.924.6100  
sumclean@charter.net

**Committee Chairpersons**

**Publications**

Sheryl Helt  
skhelt@swbell.net

**Home Tour**

David Thrapp  
david.l.thrapp@lmco.com

Many open positions available!  
See page 5 for details.

Have you renewed your membership?

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

(January through December)

\$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Household or Business;  
\$15.00 Friend of Fairmount

Please make checks payable to: Fairmount Association

Mail dues and correspondence to:  
P.O. Box 12348, Fort Worth, TX 76110  
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**Patti Randle, CPA, P.C.**

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Fort Worth, TX 76107

817.569.9881  
FAX 817.569.9885

[patti@pattirandle.com](mailto:patti@pattirandle.com)  
[www.pattirandle.com](http://www.pattirandle.com)

### Security

In years past, Ryan Place hired a security company to patrol the neighborhood and deter crime. As crime statistics fell, so did interest in maintaining the security company and the service was dropped. With the increase in burglary and other property crimes in the last months, interest in again hiring the services of a security



company has risen and we have been contacted to see if residents of Fairmount would be interested in participating in the service. With 100 participants, cost would be about \$30 per month. If you are interested, please contact Susan Harper at 817-927-7257 or by email at fsharper@swbell.net.



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## Nuisance Abatement: Civil Suits a Powerful Tool for Law Enforcement

Picture this: a motel and convenience store sit on either side of I-35. The motel is well known as a place where drugs are sold. Sexual assaults, murders, and robberies have been reported at that location. At the convenience store across the street, gangs recruit new members, and the store sells alcohol to minors. Criminal activity is rampant at both properties.

Law enforcement professionals are forced to spend a disproportionate amount of time patrolling these two properties, making countless arrests. Yet the crime continues despite the conviction and incarceration of many individuals. The surrounding neighborhood is suffering. What can be done to clean up properties like these? The answer lies in a little known legal tool called “nuisance abatement.”

A nuisance abatement suit is a civil action filed against a property and/or a person who maintains it, when the property serves as a safe haven for crime. Statutes governing nuisance abatement are found in Chapter 125 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code as well as in Section 101.70 of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.

Under Chapter 125, a “common nuisance” exists when someone maintains a place to which persons habitually go to engage in any of a number of criminal activities, including various offenses involving drugs, gambling, prostitution, and firearms. If the property is “multi-unit residential” (which includes motels, hotels, apartment complexes, and condominiums, but not duplexes), murder, aggravated assault, sexual assault and robbery may also be the basis of a common nuisance suit.

Section 101.70 of the Texas Alcoholic Beverages Code authorizes a common nuisance suit against any place where activities in violation of, or contrary to the purpose of, the code take place. A store that allows its patrons to consume alcohol on the premises and sells alcohol to minors may be sued under the Alcoholic Beverages Code.

As well as abating common nuisances, Chapter 125 allows for suits to abate “public nuisances” such as gang drug-related activities. Gang activities encompass a wide range of undesirable conduct, including organized criminal activity, terroristic threats, various gang recruitment activities, criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, criminal mischief and offenses involving graffiti or weapons.

In all common nuisance suits, both the property itself and the person maintaining the property may be sued. In a public nuisance suit, the members of the gang and any person who maintains the property as a nuisance may be sued, but the property may not be sued.

To be successful in a nuisance suit, the plaintiff must prove certain facts. Chapter 125 sets out guidelines regarding evidence that a common nuisance exists. Certified copies of arrest reports can prove that the person maintaining the property had knowledge of the criminal activities. Evidence that criminal activities occur frequently on the property can be used to show that the defendant knowingly permitted the activity. And the general reputation of the property is admissible to show the existence of the nuisance.

Under both Chapter 125 and Section 101.70, a temporary injunction may be ordered by the court, pending the final disposition of the suit. The successful plaintiff in a Chapter 125 common nuisance suit will be granted a permanent injunction, ordering the defendant to abate the nuisance and enjoining him from maintaining or participating in the nuisance. In addition, the judgment will order that the place be closed for one year unless a \$10,000 bond is posted, with certain conditions. If no bond is posted, after the one-year period the property may be reopened.

If the defendant posts the bond, and no conditions are violated during the one-year period, the \$10,000 will be returned and the property can continue to operate. However, if the defendant posts the bond and then violates one of its conditions, a bond forfeiture proceeding may be brought. If it is successful, the \$10,000 will be forfeited to the state, and the property will be closed for a year.

The successful plaintiff in a Section 101.70 common nuisance suit will also be granted an injunction ordering that the place be closed for up to one year, and until a bond of at least \$1,000 is posted.

In a successful Chapter 125 public nuisance suit, the court may enjoin individuals from engaging in gang activities and impose requirements to prevent such acts. If any order of the court is violated, the violator is subject to civil contempt, which includes a fine, or jail time, or both.

A civil section in my Criminal Law Enforcement Division handles nuisance abatement cases. We have statewide jurisdiction, which allows us to bring nuisance suits in any county in the state of Texas. If you are aware of a nuisance property in your jurisdiction like those I have described above, your local prosecutor’s office can contact us for assistance with a nuisance abatement action. We stand ready to use every aspect of Texas law to help make your community safer.

Contacts in the Office of the Attorney General are [Jill Nance](#), (512) 463-0394, or [Kent Richardson](#), (512) 936-1348 or [John Neal](#), Chief of our Criminal Law Enforcement Division, (512) 463-3038.



Greg Abbott  
Attorney General of Texas

## A Request for Leaders

At the September General Meeting, and in last month's newsletter, I mentioned that there were several projects that the Association could consider undertaking. The focus of these projects is to improve our neighborhood. All of them are projects that will require several people working together. The members that undertake these projects will need to be able to do the following (and this is not an exhaustive list): deciding how to approach the project, deciding what needs to be done, talking to more than one City department, talking to the Association, asking for help, writing e-mails and using up some of your more precious commodities: time.

Here are the projects I spoke about (drum roll please) and my take on what it would take for starters:

1. Need a comprehensive list of all sidewalks, curbs gutters & streets that need to be replaced. This also includes streets that need drainage improvement, traffic calming, more signage (speed limit, stop, children, school, Code Blue, Crime Watch, etc.)

This is one of the big ones. It will take several people (a committee for sure), a plan and discussions with several City departments – T/PW comes to mind immediately.

Jeanne Murphy has already started on the inventory. A gentleman that was sitting next to Mark Peters at the September meeting and a couple of other people expressed interest. Russell Reeder has specific work experience in this area. Anyone who is interested in this, let me know or contact Jeanne.

2. Keep installing historic street lamps in Fairmount. Need to make a comprehensive map of what's installed & what needs to be installed – including in-fill on streets that have already been done.

This will take some folks driving around after dark to spot where we need to put new lamps. The objective is to figure out the total number of lamps we need and to determine the best spots for them. (When we ask for lamps, the City wants specific addresses). Right now, they are about every 4 houses apart & we've tried to get them on alternating sides of the street. Also need to remember that when the new lights go in, the old lights come out. Also need to look into alternative light globes and lamps to see if we can get as much light from fewer lights. Marianna Thrapp has a map of existing placements; the group that does this one needs to contact her for a copy.

3. Improve Fairmount Park by adding playground equipment and adding irrigation.

Survey neighbors to see if they want equipment or open space for games.

Jeanne Murphy already has a playground equipment design to evaluate. There needs to be a discussion regarding adding trees to this park.

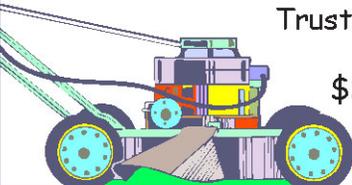
4. Low protective fence around Fire Station Park along Allen and Lipscomb.

The Parks Department usually doesn't allow fences around City Parks but we need to have a discussion with them about this park regarding a fence for safety vs. a fence as a barrier. We would also need to fund this.

5. Need to form a team to do curb addressing of every house (and lot).

*(Continued on page 8)*

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# Message from the President October 12, 2005

I want to extend my apology for the opinion I expressed (“Message from the President”) in the September newsletter.

While the part about the home grown Code violation count is correct, Mr. Thomas & Mr. Lipsett have assured me that they vigorously and proactively take care of potential Code issues and that their companies expend a fair portion of their companies revenue taking care of any issues and that no tax dollars are spent for cleanup or disposal. In addition, both organizations have full time staff educating with their renters to insure City Codes aren’t violated.

As a result, my conclusion was incorrect. It wasn’t fair or unbiased and the message slighted both Mr. Lipsett and Mr. Thomas.

My apologies to both gentlemen and their companies.

Respectfully,

Fred Harper  
President, Fairmount Neighborhood Association

## - WANTED -

Contact Information for “Gary”.  
The guy who paints the Fairmount logo and the Texas Flag house numbers on curbs.  
Call Sue McLean at 313-6618 or email:  
sumclean@charter.net.

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Elizabeth Anna's Old World Garden is having a FREE Festival for the community. This is one of the favorite events of the year and there will be some new attractions as well as the popular ones from last year.

This year we will also have a fundraiser to help a family displaced due to hurricane Katrina. They lost everything but have each other and Elizabeth Anna's has adopted them and is helping with their need for jobs and training. We will feature more of their story in the coming weeks.

One of our popular items will be a silent auction. We will have many items from local business for you to bid on Monday October 31 – Saturday at Noon Nov. 5th

One of our new features will be miniature horses that function as guide dogs for the blind. We will have horses that sit on couches.

Lots and lots of fun: face painting, live music, winter discounts, meeting and getting to know neighbors. There is more so watch for more information.

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(Continued from page 5)

This group will need someone to contact the City to get a ruling to make sure we can legally do this; it is regulated as part of City Code for the Fire Department. However, there is a Code that specifically prohibits doing so without a written agreement from the owner.

It will take two or three people per team & a couple of weekends to complete. The Association would foot the bill for spray paint, stencils and masking tape. Debra Lee Carlin stepped up right away on this project & a few members wanted to be a part of that too. Note: if the lot or house doesn't have a curb, could the address go on the street surface?

6. Expand green space along Allen eastward. Landscape & irrigate

The greenspace forms a "center piece" of the neighborhood. It's a very heavily traveled street and we always get positive comments about it. We've planted a tree for an annual Santa Claus event sponsored by the Association. This project will require lots of investigation & discussions with the City because there's quite a history regarding ownership of the existing space. It will also require a vote of the membership for this project since it would require ongoing costs for maintenance, watering & taxes.

7. Need to form a team to work with owners of multifamily units, St Mary's Church Hall, and other areas where our interests are in conflict with their interests.

This team will not only need the skills to create & improve a relationship, it will need the skills to use City departments and codes and apply when they get zero response & cooperation.

8. Need people to navigate & negotiate the City, County & State web sites regularly to make sure opportunities for Fairmount aren't passed by. The City sets up boards, does studies & starts projects regularly; we benefited recently by picking up on a drainage study and a crime study – but we certainly missed others.

9. Security.

We need to undertake a study to evaluate ways to take control of the crime issues that occur in our neighborhood. With several non-resident multifamily owners in our neighborhood that rent by the week, we have a very high transient population that causes problems. We need a team of people to evaluate proposals from private security firms and/or the use of cameras in "problem areas" – streets that border the Hemphill corridor in particular. Brent Williams and Deanna Crook are very interested in this; Mr. Williams has a background in law enforcement. The residents of Lipscomb & Alston would probably be very interested in this also.

While just reading this request might make you toss it to one side & say "it'll never fly, there's too much there", consider this: we have an annual event – Home Tour – that generates between \$10 - \$20,000 in just two and a half days. It involves over 200 people a year and gets done by each part of that team doing just a few things. One person with an assistant with a whole lot of help & cooperation gets the whole thing done. This "wish list" just needs the same thing: a leader, some help and follow through.

If you want to participate in any of these, send me an email & let me know what you would like to do. I'll send out a list of who wants to do what in a week or so & update that before the next General Meeting. And I'll ask for more volunteers regularly.

Thanks in advance –

Fred Harper

President



**Fairmount Neighborhood Association**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
September 12<sup>th</sup> 2005

**In Attendance:**

2005 Board members present included: Fred Harper, Susan Harper, Kathleen Seleny, Alex Seleny, Jerry Hawkins, and Sue McLean. 2005 Committee members present included: David Thrapp and Deanna Crook

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Fred Harper. Motion to approve minutes from prior meeting made by Alex Seleny and seconded by Sue McLean. Motion carried and minutes from prior meeting were approved.

**President's Report:**

Open discussion on adding a Vice President position to board.

**Directors Reports:**

Finance & Administration - Kathleen Seleny:

Review of 2004 Budget

Discussion on storage of FNA archives and other property. Kathleen will pursue storing archive documents in a secure, climate controlled environment. Chairs, tables and other items used on a frequent basis will remain at the Hall for easy access. Kathleen will follow up with Neighborhood Library about old scrapbooks they are storing for FNA. Will present and discuss at next General Meeting.

Historic Preservation – Mike McDermott:

HCLC delayed alley closure discussion till next month.

Fred suggested that, each time a case goes before City Counsel opposing a ruling made by the HCLC, the Historic Preservation committee present a letter to City Counsel with our position.

Kathleen to call and schedule a meeting with HCLC and Julie to discuss ways to improve communication.

Infrastructure – Sue McLean:

Discussion on painting house numbers on curbs

Requested adding 10 more Historic Fairmount signs to 2005 Budget

Membership – Susan Harper:

New membership application

Presented programs scheduled for the next few months

Promotions – Jerry Hawkins:

Discussion on raffle prizes for General Membership meeting

Public Safety – Alex Seleny:

Website live by the weekend

Photo gallery will be listed as "In progress" for the time being because of the tremendous effort it will take to get the photos uploaded.

Need to add "All expenses must be approved in advance by a director of the Fairmount Neighborhood Association" to the expense reimbursement form online.

Alex is working on an open records request for several properties in the neighborhood to examine the amount of crime surrounding those properties.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

No new items were presented.

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## Fairmount COOKS!

If you've lived here in Fairmount for any amount of time you probably have already experienced one of our great potlucks, meetings or parties. We may have the few random cookie boxes from Fiesta, but truth be known, there are some fabulous cooks here in Fairmount. We are also fortunate to have some of the most famous restaurants in Fort Worth right here in our neighborhood....from Old Neighborhood Grill, Benito's and Paris Coffee Shop. We also have some of the most diverse food in one area....Egyptian, Thai, Mexican, Italian, Creole and Homestyle. Now, if we only had a coffee shop....well, anyway.

Because of all this culinary talent it seems only natural that we produce a cookbook. And it seems we could also use the money from the sale of cookbooks for all our great projects like signs, flags, light poles, traffic calming, etc.

So, the Fairmount Neighborhood Association will be asking for your help! We need your recipes! Each person can submit up to 20 recipes. You don't have to be a member of the association to participate...we just want you to have lived here or be a current resident. So, if you know someone who is not getting this newsletter or coming to association meetings, please let them know about this project. All are welcome.

We will also be asking some of our local restaurants to participate by submitting recipes as well. Peter, look out! We want to know about that black bean burger! Anyway, please feel free to submit recipes in any category. Categories include:

APPETIZERS/SALADS

BEVERAGES

VEGETABLES

RICE/PASTA

BREADS

DESSERTS

MEATS

VEGETARIAN

If you want to submit a recipe(s), please email [thrappmarianna@aol.com](mailto:thrappmarianna@aol.com) and I will send you a form to fill out and email back. OR I will have forms at the next association meeting on the 25th (and thereafter). OR if you will call me at 817-923-4807 with your address I will drop some off. You can mail, email, or drop off recipes at my home at 1909 Alston Avenue.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS FEBRUARY 1, 2006!!**



Now, don't start thinking "2006, now I've got plenty of time!" It'll be here before you know it and don't forget the business of the holidays. Go ahead and send some in!

Hopefully we will have these ready to sell by Home Tour 2006 and thereafter.

This cookbook will be a great heirloom and documented history of those of us living here in Fairmount, will include Fairmount's great historic past in story and in pictures and is a great way to preserve your treasured family recipes and not to mention, a great fundraiser.

BAM! Let's start cookin'! It's a good thing!

-Marianna Thrapp

## Elizabeth Blvd to be closed Halloween Night

Elizabeth Blvd. in Ryan Place will be closing to automobile traffic beginning at 4:00 p.m. Monday, October 31, with complete closure between 4:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. An estimated 2,000 to 3,000 trick-or-treaters descend upon Elizabeth Blvd. during that 4 hour time period every year. Closing the street to automobiles helps ensure the little ones have a safe evening. If you're going out that night, please take an alternate route.



Happy Halloween!

### No Yard of the Month for October

Sorry—hope to have one next month

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## IN MEMORIAM

Betty June Bradford Shelvey was a lifelong resident of Fort Worth and a long-time member of the Fairmount Association. She spent much of her childhood in the eclectic bungalow at 2235 5th Avenue and still owned the property which she kept for sentiment's sake. She was a constant docent for Fairmount Home Tour as well as Ryan Place Candlelight Christmas, a wealth of information and stories of early years in Fairmount and a supporter of neighborhood preservation; she was a member of Hemphill Presbyterian Church. Betty June passed away on October 10th, 2005 and we will miss her. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and many friends.



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## Fairmount Neighborhood Association Budget

September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006

Expense Account	Budgeted Amount
<b>Neighborhood Promotions</b>	
Home Tour	
Flowers	300.00
Homeowner Dinner	150.00
Plaques-Home Tour	166.00
Postage	250.00
Printing	2200.00
Booklets	1500.00
Mail out Cards	125.00
Posters	450.00
Pre-tickets	125.00
Refreshments	350.00
Security	125.00
Office Supplies	500.00
T-Shirts	600.00
Wine-Down Party	400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>5041.00</b>
Neighborhood Yard Sale	
Flyers	50.00
Newspaper Ad	200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>250.00</b>
Website	
Monthly Hosting	250.00
Domain Name Renewal	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>270.00</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>	
Santa on the Green Setup Supplies	280.00
Banner for advertising	75.00
Christmas Lights	20.00
Timer for Lights	20.00
Santa Suit	150.00
Tote for Storage	15.00
Replace Neighborhood Signs (Infrastructure)	1000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1280.00</b>

Expense Account	Budgeted Amount
<b>Finance and Administration</b>	
Office Supplies	200.00
Thank You Gifts	250.00
P.O. Box Rental	90.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>540.00</b>
<b>Historic Preservation</b>	
Office Supplies	100.00
Contributing Structure Plaques	1000.00
Historic Fort Worth Membership	50.00
National Historic Trust Membership	125.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1275.00</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>	
Traffic Calming	150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
Fort Worth South Membership	125.00
League of Neighborhoods Membership	35.00
Trap/Neuter/Release Program	1500.00
Green Space Maintenance	1700.00
Maintenance	500.00
Water	1200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3360.00</b>
<b>Membership</b>	
Postage	300.00
Directory	500.00
Office Supplies	100.00
Meeting Refreshments	250.00
Christmas Party	300.00
Santa on the Green	200.00
Baby Sitting	250.00
Publications (Newsletters)	3120.00
Printing	2900.00
Postage	220.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>5020.00</b>
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$17,186.00</b>

**Fairmount Neighborhood Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
September 27<sup>th</sup> 2005**

**Call to Order:**

The general meeting of the Fairmount Neighborhood Association was held at Hemphill Presbyterian Church. The meeting was held on Tuesday September 27, 2005 and called to order at 7pm by Fred Harper.

**Crime Report:**

Officer Wagner opened by discussing ongoing property crimes. She noted that the number one place for burglary of a vehicle during the day is a parking lot, while the number one location at night is parked at the curb. She discussed her role as a trained Mental Health Peace Officer and the difficulties in prosecuting individuals with mental health issues. Officer Wagner closed with information about a narcotics bust at 1600 Alston.

No crime stats were presented due to the installation of new systems at the police station. The new systems will offer better detail on crimes in our area. Improved information on local crime will be available at the next FNA General Meeting.

**Code Report:**

Moe Carrejo announced that better junk vehicle laws are going into effect. The new laws allow Code to write tickets for any vehicle that would not pass the State Inspection. If the owner is found guilty in a court of law, then the car can be impounded immediately.

**President's Report:**

- Fred presented information concerning the need for new chairs and tables for FNA functions. Paul Sanders moved to approve the \$960 needed to purchase the items. Diana Koch seconded the motion and the General Membership voted in favor.
- Fire Station Park hours of operation have been reduced to: Sun-up to sun-down. This is a 90 day trial. The

*(Continued on page 18)*

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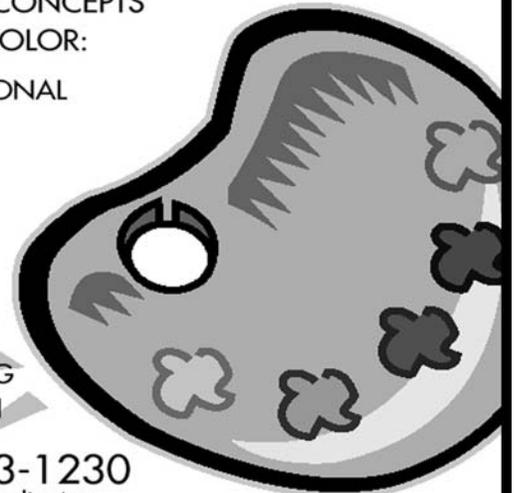
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## What to name the Fort Worth South Area!

Fort Worth South is looking for a name that offers a common reference for each of the districts within FWS. A recent article on breakfast restaurants in Tarrant County referred to the FWS area using three different names: “Medical District”, “Fort Worth South”, and “South Fort Worth”. The redevelopment area needs one recognizable name so the districts within the area can become more recognized. Three names are currently being considered:

So30 (South of I-30)  
SoLa (South of Lancaster)  
SouthTown

Pick one or suggest one of your own. Email your vote to [nancy@fortworthsouth.org](mailto:nancy@fortworthsouth.org) or call (817) 923-1343.



T.J. Patterson, Assistant Senior City Attorney for the City of Fort Worth, speaks at the September General Membership meeting on nuisance laws. There was a great turn out for the meeting which everyone found very informative.

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### Home tour meeting

It is time to start planning the 2006 Home Tour! David Thrapp has offered to serve again as Home Tour Director for the 2006 Tour.

**A meeting will be held at the Thrapp home,  
1909 Alston Avenue, on  
Wednesday, November 2nd at  
7:00 p.m.**

Anyone interested in helping with the 2006 tour is encouraged to attend. If you're new to the neighborhood, this is our big fund-raiser of the year. It is a lot of fun and a great way to meet your neighbors!

#### Tour Homes Needed

The Home Tour committee is currently seeking homes for the 2006 tour. If you're interested in having your home on tour, contact David Thrapp at 817.923-4807, or by email at david.l.thrapp@lmco.com



### CITY CONTACTS:

- Animal Services 817.392.3737
- City Council 817.392.6193
- City Councilperson Wendy Davis 817.392.8809
- district9@fortworthgov.org
- Code Officer Mo Carrejo 817.392.5158, ext 1807
- Morris.Carrejo@fortworthgov.org
- Fort Worth Police Dept., NPD 8 817.871.8947
- 1000 W. Magnolia 817.991.8473
- NPO Leah Wagner (North of Allen) Leah.Wagner@fortworthgov.org
- NPO Charlie Combs (South of Allen) 817.991.8472
- Charles.Combs@fortworthgov.org
- Garbage Info/Illegal Dumping 817.392.EASY
- Graffiti 817.212.2700
- Historic Preservation (Planning) 817.392.5985
- Tracey Cox—Associate Tracey.Cox@fortworthgov.org
- Julie Lawless—H & C Officer 817.392.8012
- Julie.Lawless@fortworthgov.org
- Potholes & Streetlight Outage 817.392.8100
- Fort Worth Public Library 817.871.READ

### Historic Plaques Available

Is your home a contributing structure in Fairmount? If so, then why not show it off proudly with a Bronze Plaque? These lovely plaques are available for \$100.00. Please contact Mike McDermott, Director of Historic Preservation, at 817.927.8244, or by email at msmcdermott@sbcglobal.net.

Mike's house unfortunately caught on fire last winter. There were four people who requested plaques from him at that time, but those names were lost in the fire. If you're still interested, please contact Mike. He currently has 10 plaques available.




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Candlelight Christmas in Ryan Place has 5 wonderful houses this year for their annual tour and they need docents for the tour homes and volunteers for other areas.

Tour dates and hours this year are:  
 Fri. - Dec. 2, 6-10 PM  
 Sat. - Dec. 2, 2-10 PM  
 Sun. - Dec. 4, 1-5 PM

If you would like to docent/volunteer please contact:  
 Marilyn Vivar at 817-924-6340 or Debra Hughes at 817-927-2166

Do you have high school students that need to do community service? If so, this qualifies, and CCRP has a form that the house captain will provide the students to turn in to their school.

If you volunteer 4 hours you receive a free tour ticket!



For more information:  
 Fairmount Coordinators:  
 Sue McLean 817-924-6100  
 Geri Cotton 817-926-6507  
 FMCops@charter.net

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(Continued from page 14)

neighborhood association will need to write a letter to the City requesting that the hours stay in effect after the 90 day period.

- Fire Station Park will receive new playground equipment next July.
- 6 new Code Rangers have completed training and will begin to help address code violations in the neighborhood.

#### **Director and Committee Reports:**

##### **Finance & Administration - Kathleen Seleny:**

- General Account Balance: \$11,215.24
- Street Light Fund Balance: \$20,240.63
- Meeting Attendance: 49
- Storage: Currently working to find a suitable, climate controlled storage unit to store FNA historic records, as well as Home Tour supplies and other property of the Neighborhood Association. The recommendation was made to follow up with the Fort Worth Library about how they may be able to store and catalog our historic documents for us.

##### **Historic Preservation – Mike McDermott:**

- No report

##### **Infrastructure – Sue McLean:**

- No report

##### **Membership – Susan Harper:**

- Susan recommended utilizing block captains to help with contacting new families moving in to Fairmount.
- FNA Directories are available for anyone who would like one.
- Packets are available with information about the neighborhood for new families. If you know of a new family that needs a packet, please contact Susan.

##### **Promotions – Jerry Hawkins:**

- Jerry raffled off four great prizes at the meeting to include: a set of decorative urns, a small grill, a large pot of mums, and a \$50 gift card for gas.

##### **Public Safety – Alex Seleny:**

- Code Blue: Every quarter there are Code Blue classes. Get involved and help patrol neighborhood and call in issues to police. Interested in joining – call Sue McLean.

##### **Old Business:**

- Website update: New website launched!
- Alley Closure update: Two alleys have been earmarked as test cases. City is currently working with utility companies to determine the best way to tackle utility access.

##### **New Business:**

Presentation on Nuisance Laws:

Thomas "TJ" Patterson  
Assistant Senior City Attorney  
Fort Worth City Attorney's Office  
817-392-7600

- Nuisance Laws stem from several different sections of the law including Building Code, Fire Code and TABC
  - Nuisance violations can be written up by both Code Enforcement officers and Police officers depending on the nature of the violation.
  - The City of Fort Worth cannot write their own nuisance laws. These types of laws are decided by State Law or Case Law, then enforced by the City.
  - Nuisance lawsuits can be brought by several branches of the law including:
-

(Continued from page 18)

- Criminal Law
- Civil Law
- Administrative Law
- New laws have just gone into affect that may make it more difficult to prosecute these types of offenses
- What does it take to get a property shut down using Nuisance Laws? Ideally, six or more violations of the same type. The key is to prove that the violations are habitual.
- If a property owner is convicted of allowing these types of activities to propagate, then a judge can order the property boarded up for one year and place a \$10,000 bond on the property pending completed necessary repairs.

### Questions & Answers –

Q: What should you do next if you suspect a property is a habitual nuisance?

A: The best thing to do is call in the address to the police. They will pull up any records for the property and, if the evidence supports it, file a case with the City Attorney's Office. The City Attorney's Office is actively looking for new properties to prosecute.

Q: How are properties tracked? How are repeat offenders flagged?

A: The crime database used by the City flags repeat offenders.

Q: Are penalties any stiffer now that new legislation has gone in to effect?

A: No, the new legislation only affects the steps necessary to prosecute.

Q: What types of crime are covered under nuisance laws?

A: Gang violence, illegal possession of fire arms, prostitution, robbery, possession of controlled substances, assault, murder, minor in possession of alcohol, criminal mischief

Q: Where can I find out more information?

A: Statutes governing nuisance abatement are found in Chapter 125 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code as well as in Section 101.70 of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.

To find out more read "**Nuisance Abatement: Civil Suits a Powerful Tool for Law Enforcement**" on page 4 in this month's newsletter.

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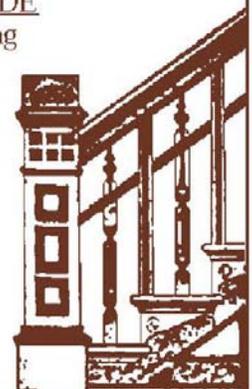
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