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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As another year draws to a close, I think we should all take a moment and count our blessings. Our neighborhood continues to grow and prosper thanks to the work of everyone. Our schools are trending in a positive direction; a large number of people, young and not so young, have moved into the area; a lot of babies were born and more are on the way; home values are up and Magnolia is thriving. All of this is good.

More importantly, crime and vandalism is down. Violent crime is almost nonexistent and what we have to deal with the most is petty theft and graffiti. Compared to several years ago, this is great news. Thanks to our NPO, Sergio Guadarrama, for his stellar efforts in keeping everyone informed. Thanks to our Code Blue Team for all of the work they have done over the past year. Most thanks still should go to all of you who have decided to watch our friends and neighbors backs and report suspicious behavior. Responsibility for a safe neighborhood ultimately starts with the neighborhood itself.

We should all also thank the FNA board members who have spent a lot of time and effort to make things a little more special, fun and informative over the past 12 months. I see their efforts at work all the time and we should be very proud of their accomplishments. We have had an awesome home tour, parade, Open Streets, ArtsGoggle, pancake breakfasts and tons of other festivities enjoyed by literally thousands. Next year is predicted to be even better. The many 2014 committees have studied parking, noise, historic preservation, student scholarships, support of the arts, stray animal control, sidewalks, tree planting, park maintenance and much more.

At the very top of our list should be how very fortunate we are to live and associate with the diverse group of people who inhabit our 'hood. I marvel at the intelligence, talent and sense of community we share with each other. Our sense of humor has carried us through when our patience has worn thin. I believe that I have rarely seen and never lived in such a robust, caring neighborhood.

If you think any of this is untrue or exaggerated, go sit on your porch for one hour and I guarantee someone nice will say hi. If you are reading this, you are one of us and I can't tell you how happy that makes me.

For 2015, think good things.

Steve Halliday Sr., President
president@historicfairmount.com



On the Cover

Sloan (left) and Brennan Smith concentrate on decorating a Christmas tree for the holidays. The twins are the children of Jason and Jessica Smith who have lived in their present Fairmount home on College Avenue since 2009.

Photo by Stacy Luecker

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The holidays are here and we are enjoying the cooler weather, football games, and neighborhood outings. It is a hectic time of year, but it is also my favorite. Over the past 15 years I have had to work many holidays, including Thanksgiving and Christmas, and I am thankful that this year I will be able to spend it with my family and friends.

You may think that the holidays are a peaceful time in the city, but I have learned first-hand that they tend to bring out the worst in people.

The closest I ever came to shooting someone was on Christmas Eve in 2000. I have worked calls on Thanksgiving where I have had to take someone to jail in front of their family. I have worked burglaries two days before Christmas where gifts were stolen, leaving children with no presents on Christmas morning. I believe that there's a trap door on the floor to Hell for people like that.

While I have seen the worst in some people, I have also seen the best. I have seen first responders buy gifts for a family who lost everything in a fire and the gifts were so overwhelming that a message was sent city wide that they had received more than enough.

I have seen people prepare food and take it to the homeless so they have something to eat and bring jackets and blankets for cold nights when they have to sleep on a sidewalk or in an empty lot.

I once witnessed an officer perform CPR on a child on the trunk of his patrol car while the child's parents watched helplessly. Instead of losing their child during the holidays they were able to spend it with him as a result.

The human spirit is capable of doing good in times of need and that is what I hold on to. But, while we look forward

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to the holidays, everyone needs to be aware that criminals look forward to it too.

Here are some tips for your safety at home and while shopping:

HOME SAFETY

- Lock doors and windows when leaving the house, even for a few minutes.
- When on vacation, ask a neighbor or family member to watch the house and pick up the newspapers and mail.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on a timer.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house appears occupied.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through windows and doors.
- When setting up a Christmas tree or other holiday display, make sure doors and passageways are clear inside your home.
- Be sure a Christmas tree is on a sturdy base so children, elderly or pets can not pull it over.
- If you use lights on a Christmas tree, ensure wiring is not damaged or frayed.
- Place a Christmas tree in water or wet sand to keep it green.
- Never place wrapping paper in a fireplace.

SHOPPING SAFETY

- Shop during daylight hours when

ever possible. If you must shop at night, go with someone.

- Do not wear expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry a driver's license or identification card.
- Even though you are rushed, stay alert.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash and pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if a credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Wallets and purses are prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Beware of strangers approaching. At this time of year, people may try to distract you with the intention of taking money or belongings.

Please be safe and know that I feel blessed to be your NPO. Even though I don't live in the neighborhood, all of you have made me feel like a part of it and many have made me feel like family. I will never forget those who fought to keep me here and let everyone know that I am needed. Thank you again and I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. I will see you in the neighborhood sporting my sunglasses and waving. That is all. Carry on.

The next Fairmount Neighborhood Association General Meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 27
2100 Hemphill St. at The Bastion Restaurant building at 7 p.m.



2105 Fairmount

Photo by Stacy Luecker

October Yard of the Month



by *Tim Appling*

When you think of Fairmount, do impeccably landscaped lawns littered with tombstones come to mind? Do you picture historic houses looking like haunted houses? Do you imagine ghosts and monsters swinging from the trees? If it's October, the answer to these questions may well be "Yes!" And that means another Halloween Yard of the Month contest.

This year's winner, decided by a Facebook vote, is the home of Larry and Mary Harms, who live at 2105 Fairmount Ave. Their disturbing décor included numerous lights, skeletons, and tombstones. But the highlight was undoubtedly the corpse bride and groom—the newlydeads—prominently displayed in coffins made by Larry himself. The Harms' had hundreds of trick-or-treaters who came not only for the candy, but also to take selfies in front of the spooky backdrop.

Most of the decorating was done at night, sometimes as late as 1 a.m. "I love to create something fun and different for the kids to enjoy," Mary said. "It was kind of fun for the neigh-

bors to wake up and see what I had done the night before."

The Harms' efforts paid off and they received the most Facebook "likes" and took top honors. They have already begun to hatch an idea for next Halloween, but for now the decorations have been put away and their front yard is revealed to be lovely enough to contend for Yard of the Month any time.

Larry and Mary have lived in a lot of "New" places—New York, New Jersey, New Orleans—but discovered old Fairmount a couple of years ago and realized they had found home. They love the sense of community they have found nowhere else. "I'm Fairmount's biggest supporter," Mary beamed. "We have something really special here."

Congratulations also to Bart and Melissa Starkey at 1510 College Ave. and Stan Sewell at 1514 College Ave., our second and third place winners. Your creativity has entertained us all. But the holiday season is just beginning. In December, there will be another contest to choose the Holiday Yard of the Month. Look for details on page 9 and watch the Fairmount Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/HistoricFairmount.



Sara Karashin shows off a glass bottle she found in the back yard at her College Avenue bungalow that once contained Cinderella Shoe Dressing.

Photo by Stacy Luecker

“I found this Cinderella Shoe Dressing bottle from around the 1920s while I was planting flowers along the back fence line of my property. I thought I had hit a rock and I’m so glad I didn’t break it. It still had old dried shoe dressing inside of it.”

— Sara Karashin

“I found a tiny porcelain doll torso in the backyard while pulling weeds in the mid ’90s. I can’t guess her age, but I marvel at the detail and how well she has maintained her color all these years. We have also found license plates from the ’30s used to patch holes in the floor, several old medicine bottles hidden under the house and old newspapers used to insulate the pipes. The oldest newspaper was dated 1912. But the coolest thing we found shortly after moving in was another porcelain doll, about eight inches tall with a broken leg in the attic. She still had her original clothes and hair. Unfortunately we gave her away after some ghostly encounters that had me all freaked out about house cleansing. I regret that.” — Carey McGee

FOUND THINGS

Houses reveal treasures from the past

by Roxanna Latifi

Sometimes our old houses are holding onto treasures from days gone by and these forgotten items are simply waiting for someone to unveil them. For the residents of the Fairmount Historic District, these hidden gems, while not all that uncommon, are still coveted items. Whether it’s while doing yard work or working on a house, unique finds may be revealed. It is like Fairmount has its own House Santa that just keeps delivering unexpected surprises all year long.



Photo by Steve Cocanower

A selection of bottles found at Steve Cocanower’s home on Allen Avenue.

“Every time I pull up flooring or repair the foundation I find wine and whiskey bottles. About one bottle for every three square feet. It was a cold winter when this building was built. The eastern half of the building was changed from a drug store to an auto mechanic’s shop. Every new garden uncovers discarded parts, brake shoes and bits of glass.”

— Steve Cocanower



Photo by Carey McGee

A tiny porcelain doll torso found in Carey McGee’s bungalow.

The *art* of being SOCIAL

Local gallery hosts open house for Fairmount residents



by Kelly Bowden

The definition of the word *social* is an informal social gathering, especially one organized by the members of a particular club or group.

Each month Fairmount residents have an opportunity to enjoy the company of their neighbors while supporting great local businesses and just being social.

The Fairmount get together for November was held at Themattix Gallery on Magnolia Avenue. The gallery is a new venue by Cliff Mattix that features local artists as well as his own works. The gallery offers art for sale and also does commissions as well as art lessons.

Both longtime and brand new residents attended the latest event to enjoy drinks and snacks while having an opportunity to view the artwork on display. Cliff also gave gallery tours and provided information on the various artists represented in the gallery.

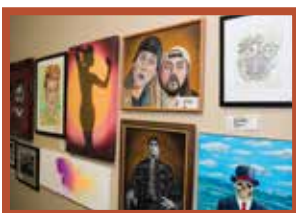
Fairmount socials have been held at many nearby businesses including: Chadra Mezza, The Bastion, Jazzercise, Magnolia Cheese Co. and Zio Carlos just to name a few.

These events are a great way to meet other Fairmount folks and patronize local establishments.

To learn about upcoming socials, please visit the Fairmount website at www.HistoricFairmount.com, sign up for weekly eLetter deliveries and join the Fairmount Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/HistoricFairmount.

Cliff Mattix, Themattix Gallery owner, talks about one of his art pieces during a gallery tour at the Fairmount November social. Socials are monthly events held to give residents an opportunity to experience new businesses and meet new people.

Photos by Stacy Luecker



Artwork lines the walls at The Themattix Gallery on Magnolia Avenue. Local artists are featured as well as work by gallery owner Cliff Mattix.



Fairmount residents, Adeka (Mack) McIntosh (right) and Olivia Prebus, recently purchased their home on College Avenue. Attending their first Fairmount social offered the pair a chance to get to know some of their neighbors.



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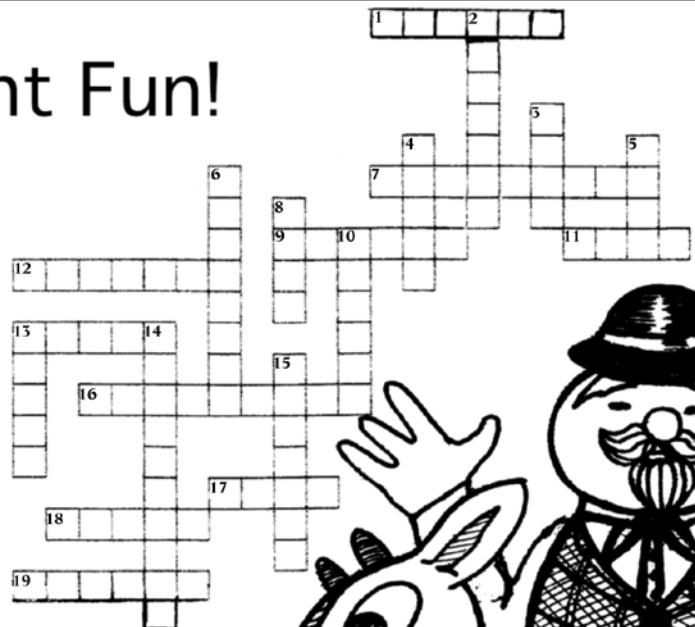
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- Across
1. ___ Used Cars
 7. opposite of northside
 9. between 7th and 9th
 11. ___ Place
 12. ___ fried steak
 13. Arts ___ Ave
 16. rhymes with specimen
 17. a quick talk
 18. ___ Coffee Shop
 19. a curved pattern
- Down
2. ___ Middle
 3. ___ dale
 4. Fort ___ South
 5. close to
 6. white, scented flower
 8. ___ hill
 10. protective eye wear
 13. Keep FW ___
 14. belonging to the past
 15. Neighborhood ___



See solution, page 29.

Puzzle created
 by Suz and Frank
 of Ephemera!



Photo by Stacy Luecker

1824 Henderson, bedecked with red bows and white lights, was the holiday light contest winner for 2013. Fairmount will host its light contest again this year on Thursday, Dec. 11 in conjunction with Fairmount Festivus, a tour of holiday lights in the neighborhood.

Event promises magical evening of lights, holiday fun

by Brandon Garrett, Fairmount Director of Promotions

The Fairmount neighborhood takes pride in its holiday lights and decorating, and would love to share it with you. Piling into a car and riding around town looking at Christmas lights with hot chocolate and Christmas music usually invokes childhood memories with our parents, and is a tradition that is often repeated every year into adulthood. This year we want to do all the work for you and hope you will join us for Fairmount Festivus.

Come to BREWED, Fort Worth's local restaurant, coffee-house and pub where you can eat, drink and gather, at 801 W. Magnolia Ave. on Thursday, Dec. 11, any time between 6:30-9:30 p.m. for a Christmas light tour by shuttle through Fairmount, complete with hot cocoa and Christmas music.

Tickets are \$5 per person, which includes snacks and coffee at Brewed. Participants will also receive a 20 percent discount off their total food bill at Brewed that night, and there will be beer and wine specials. Children who bring an unwrapped child's toy will get in free. All gifts will be donated to One Safe

Place, an organization off Hemphill that serves children affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

This new holiday tradition promises to offer a wonderful display of lights and a beautiful collection of turn-of-the-century houses, so please don't miss this fun opportunity.

HOLIDAY LIGHT CONTEST

Fairmount Festivus coincides with the annual Fairmount Holiday Light Contest which will also take place Dec. 11. We will be out looking for the best and the brightest and the first place winner will be our Yard of the Month which includes a \$25 gift certificate to C.C.'s Touch of Nature.

Additional prizes to be awarded include a one night stay at Rosen House Inn, a wine tasting for six from Grand Cru Wine Bar & Boutique and a couple's private cooking class from the Hattie May Inn. Photos will be posted on our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/HistoricFairmount. Watch the Fairmount website or join the event on Facebook for updates. For questions, e-mail Brandon at promotions@historicfairmount.com.



ART IN THE PARK

Public art project nearing completion after three years of planning



Illustrations courtesy Bart Shaw

Illustrations depict architect Bart Shaw's concept for a public art installation in Fairmount Park. Bart took his inspiration from Fairmount's front porches and three benches with front porch steps will be constructed to represent three houses that once stood in the space before it became a park.

By Sean Lynch

In 2011 Fairmount won a grant from Fort Worth Public Art to use for the installation of an art project in Fairmount Park. With the help of the city and FWPA, local architect Bart Shaw was chosen to design and install the artwork.

Bart found inspiration in Fairmount's porches and designed a piece of art that honors the neighborhood's past and front porch community. He did such a great job that the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects awarded Bart the Studio Award for the project, which he named Memory Fairmount Park.

The city council has approved the contract to begin the artwork construction and Bart is ready to begin work in Fairmount Park soon and expects the installation to be completed by Dec. 25.

You will be able to watch the project take shape over the next several weeks as you pass by the park off South Henderson.

You can read the recent story about Bart Shaw's awards in the Wednesday, Nov. 5 issue of the *Star-Telegram* online at www.star-telegram.com.

The Fairmount art project required a lot of neighbors to keep the project moving forward and they all deserve a lot of thanks. We are very excited to see this project come to completion.





CATALOG HOUSES



Wilson's design no. 118

Photo by Stacy Luecker

1404 S. Adams: Design no. 118 from Wilson's first catalog in 1906 was a cadillac among bungalows. The original interior plan of 1404 S. Adams is the same as Wilson's, with some changes in local finishes. Among the copious amounts of interior woodwork, all emphasizing the horizontal, is a built-in "courting bench" set in a paneled nook with built in mirror and hooks for hats, that greets visitors as they enter this special home. One of the developers of the small addition in which this house now sits, John W. Broad, was from California, and likely personally familiar with Wilson's Arts and Crafts design aesthetic. This Fairmount version of the home contains a few changes on the exterior, including the porte cochere set back from the front porch instead of an extension from it, wood shingles used on the upper story instead of stucco, while the half timbering of the stucco is brought forward in the form of decorative gable vergeboards. The wrought iron support and railing on the front porch are a 1950s addition. Current owners plan to remove the wrought iron and restore the porch's original appearance in the near future.

Discovering Fairmount houses built by the book

by Michael McDermott

If you have ever had an interest in researching the history of your Fairmount house, you may have wondered if your house might have been from a kit or catalog. Beginning over a century ago, the latest designs for houses were published in book form by individual designers and architects who made money selling plans for houses to the American public. Some were houses actually designed by the book's author, while others were borrowed from other designers and architects. Some designs were sold by large companies who sold "ready-made" houses, not just the plans but the entire house, down to the door knobs and cabinet pulls and even the screws and nails. Sears and Roebuck became fa-

mous for these shipped-by-rail houses in a box, but other companies like Montgomery Ward and Alladin "Houses Built in a Day" were big competitors.

The difference between a catalog house and a kit house was that one was the plans only, not the whole kit—and kaboodle. Well, maybe just the kaboodle. A perspective house builder could buy the book for one dollar and peruse all of the plans offered, then order the plans themselves for another \$10, often minus the dollar they spent on the book.

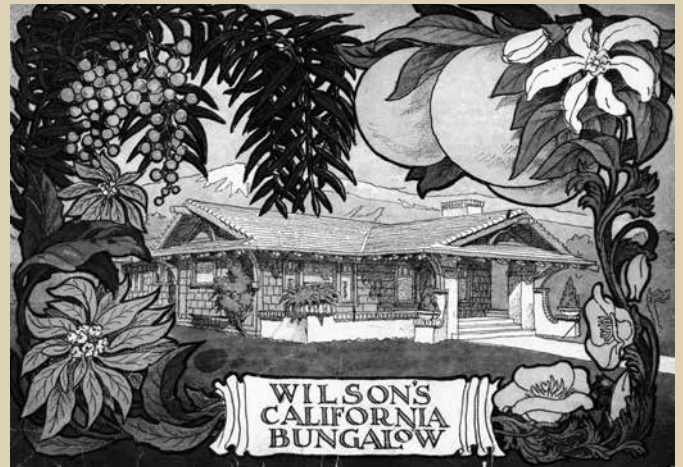
One of the most prolific purveyors of this popular house design was Henry L. Wilson of Los Angeles. With the rise of the Arts and Crafts movement, a movement based partially in the rebuking of the excesses of the Victorian era and its clutter,

came great new architects like Chicago's Frank Lloyd Wright, who revolutionized house design with his Prairie style, connecting the house to the earth, making it's design of an organic nature, and most of all emphasizing the horizontal rather than the vertical.

Likewise, in California, an architectural revolution was occurring with brothers Charles and Henry Greene among others, who were designing houses known as "ultimate bungalows." Like Wright's designs, they had lower rooflines, wide eaves, and tended to be even more organic, incorporating only local materials.

Also known as artistic houses, bungalows get their name from when Great Britain ruled India and returned to the west with images of the bangla, the house of the Bengali people. Basically a hut with wide eaves all the way round, it otherwise bore little similarity to our Western version.

By 1906, the bungalow had fast become the most popular type of house for the middle class. Instead of a parlor, you entered most bungalows directly into the living room, with the hearth, the heart of the house, directly in view. The houses were neatly arranged with no offset corners or odd wasted spaces. Instead, every space was utilized for a practical purpose, with



Original cover design for *Wilson's California Bungalow* catalog.

many built-ins: benches, sideboards, and other space saving devices, also reducing the need for excess furniture.

Wilson's bungalows were just such houses, with lots of natural woodwork emphasizing horizontal lines, artistic touches of leaded and beveled glass, art glass panels and hardware that was beautiful in its simplicity.



Wilson's design no. 1011

Photo by Stacy Luecker

1801 Hurley: This nine room one and a half story house at 1801 Hurley Avenue is "built on bungalow lines that (are) at once novel...and attractive in exterior design, and of excellent arrangement of rooms as to plan," wrote Wilson. The plan was executed in the third edition of the *Bungalow Book* around 1911. The balcony connecting the two upstairs bedrooms is unusual for most of Wilson's homes and unique in Fairmount as well. In every exterior detail the Fairmount version of design no. 1011 is truer to the original plan than almost any other local Wilson home. The original recommended misfired, or clinker, brick which imitates the look of multicolored stone. The Hurley home was built using local red and charcoal brick. The description in the catalog claimed this house could be built for about \$3,000.



Fairmount archive photo



Wilson's design no. 320

In Wilson's *California Bungalow* a.k.a., *A Short Sketch of the Evolution of the Bungalow: From its Primitive Crudeness to its Present State of Artistic Beauty and Cozy Convenience*, he not only offered dozens of designs of the style but, like Gustav Stickley of the east coast, pontificated on its values and virtues and why owning such a house would quite literally make you a better person with a more productive existence.

In her recent book, *Texas Houses Built by the Book*, Margaret Culbertson writes of the history of the catalog house throughout our state and even shows examples of a few here in Fairmount, and likely there are several more. There are also houses in Fairmount from other catalogs and if you decide to do some research you will probably find several. Perhaps your house is among them.

• • •

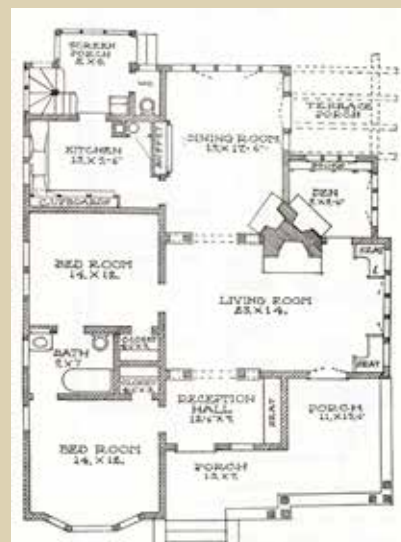
This article is one of a planned series by Michael McDermott, Fairmount resident and author of the book Fort Worth's Fairmount District (Images of America). Watch for more from Michael online at www.HistoricFairmount.com and in future newsletters.



1600 S. Adams: Design no. 320 was featured in this ad for Wilson's *Bungalow Book Third Edition*. It contained just about all the bells and whistles of the Arts and Crafts aesthetic. "The features are many," claimed Wilson, "including reception hall with seat, three open fireplaces, the cozy den with bookshelves, the large living room with corner seats" and he also noted, "beam ceilings and panel wainscot are planned for the living and dining rooms, reception hall and den." The interior also included colonnades between the front hall and living room and the living and dining rooms. The interior of the c.1908 home at 1600 S. Adams remained faithful to the original plans seen here, even the tiny back den with its big corner fireplace—a room not found in almost any other home in Fairmount. The exterior of the original design has stained woodwork, some-

thing more commonly done in California than in Texas. The original L-shaped front porch was partially enclosed early on, but local Sanborn maps from 1910 show the porch intact just as Wilson envisioned.

Left: Wilson's design no. 320 floor plan.



Feral cat program addresses need for spay, neuter

by Susan Harper

There are a lot of feral and semi-feral cats in Fairmount and whether we want to admit it or not, their existence is the fault of human beings. Human beings who abandoned or did not neuter their pets, which now procreate and populate our neighborhood, city, state and country.

Those warm, fuzzy balls of fur, purring in your lap, making you laugh with their funny quirks and amazing gymnastics are the same balls of fur that yowl half of the night in season, spray any and all available objects and kill birds.

In an ideal world, all domestic cats would be house cats, never allowed outside to poop in flower beds or spray on front porches. Until we achieve that ideal, we need an answer to our over-population of unhomed cats.

As long as there is a food source, we will have feral cats. Remove one and more

will take its place. Feral cats live an average of 4.7 years on their own, and up to 10 years in colonies. Females can have up to three litters per year with four kittens per litter with up to half being female.

In 2003, Fairmount initiated its first Trap, Neuter and Return program and began to successfully stabilize the feral cat population. By 2011, before they lost their primary program manager, the program had helped show a reduction in feral cats in the neighborhood.

Another increase in ferals indicates a need to more actively implement the TNR program and encourage residents who feed and care for ferals in their area to identify and manage colonies for the good of the cats as well as the neighborhood.

Fairmount has traps available to loan out and someone willing to transport cats to a facility (usually TCAP) to be spayed or neutered and then returned.



Photo by Jennifer Mathis

Cody, a resident feral on Lipscomb Street, is a part of the Fairmount TNR program. His tipped ear identifies him as having been neutered and returned to his home.

The Fairmount Neighborhood Association will reimburse the surgery cost (usually \$15-25 per cat).

The TNR program can always use more volunteers. If you need to trap a cat as part of the program or would like to volunteer to help, please send a text to Susan Harper at 817.721.7223.

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DECEMBER

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Sunday Dec 7: Holiday Wreath Making Class
Sunday Dec 14: Terrarium Class
Saturday Dec 20: Mantel and Centerpiece Class
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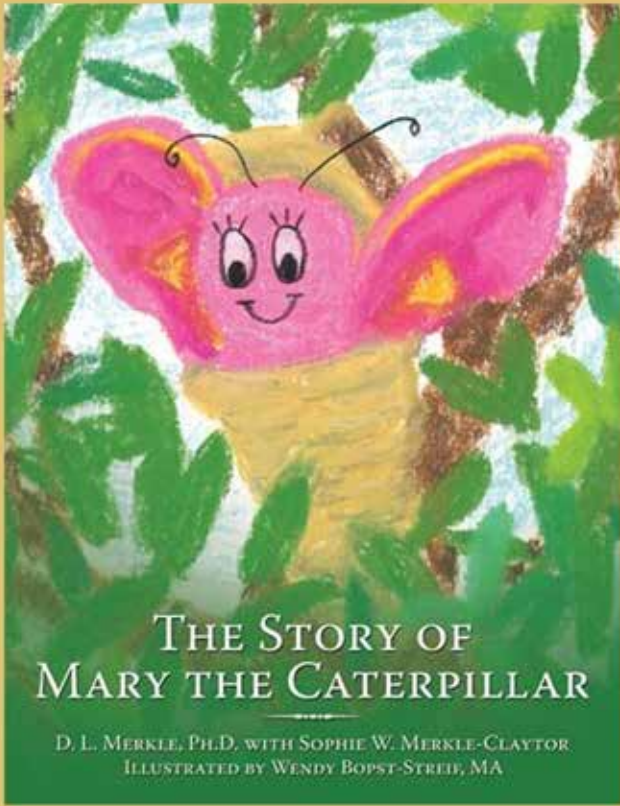
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Victorian Christmas



A small Christmas tree illuminates a window and a single candle burns on the sill at a home on 5th Avenue. A single candle placed in a window was often lit when a family member was away and the practice dates back to colonial times. A lit candle was also seen as a sign of good news or served as a beacon to weary travelers. Candles also represent friendship and are seen as a sign of welcome to others.

Photos by Eric and Stacy Luecker



A mantel clock reaches the stroke of midnight surrounded by fresh greenery, pine cones and berries. Natural decorations were the perfect compliment for a love of nature with a taste for ornament and decoration in the Victorian Era.



Small holiday decorations, a collection of Christmas cards and calling cards sit atop a small Victorian style parlor table.

Traditional Victorian holiday decor offers inspiration for today's bungalows during the Christmas season

by Jane Wedding

Some of our most beloved Christmas traditions date back to the Victorian era. With Victoria's marriage to the German, Albert Saxe-Coburg, the English adopted the German tradition of the Christmas tree and took it to new heights of decoration. We also owe to the Victorians our traditions of giving Christmas cards and the current perception of Santa Claus made famous by Clement Moore in his epic poem, "The Night Before Christmas."



Antique china, crystal, silver and candles combine with ribbons and natural greenery to make for a perfect holiday table setting.



Greenery and ornaments sit next to an antique Christmas card.

*“I will live in the past, the present,
and the future. The spirits of all three
shall strive within me.”*

— Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

Transitioning the Victorian traditions of celebrating is easy to accomplish in a place steeped in history like Fairmount. Victorians were fond of small Christmas trees atop a parlor table; an excellent alternative in our historic homes where storage is at a premium. They also used local plants in their tradition of bringing greenery into the home to dissipate the long winter’s effect. Thankfully, there are several evergreen species local to Texas and readily available in Fairmount yards and gardens to evoke the same Victorian spirit in your home. Among them, the favorites are cedar, rosemary, pittosporum and magnolia. A few sprigs of any of these can be easily mixed with artificial garlands you may already have on hand and can help add that Victorian flair to a mantle, table or tree.

So, sing carols, light candles in the window, pour some eggnog and celebrate a traditional Victorian Christmastide in your festive holiday bungalow.



Join us for the best party of the year

by Brandon Garrett, Fairmount Director of Promotions
The Fairmount Neighborhood Association, as a thank you to all FNA members, is hosting its annual holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 6-10 p.m. at Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St.

This is the perfect time of year for everyone to come together and celebrate all of the hard work they have put into making Fairmount the best neighborhood in Fort Worth.

The FNA will provide food and drinks, but please bring a favorite dessert to share. There will also be seasonal cock-

tails, some great wines and local beers, along with music and some great giveaways.

This is a member's only event; however, this is the perfect time to join or renew your membership at the door.

For being the best neighbors, the most important people that make this neighborhood continue to grow stronger and more successful, please accept this simple token of our appreciation and join us for these holiday festivities.

For more information, please e-mail Brandon Garrett at promotions@historicfairmount.com.



Photo by Stacy Luecker

Liam Lynch tells Santa his Christmas wish list during Santa in the Park at Fairmount Park last year. This year's event will be held Dec. 13 from 9-11 a.m.

Santa in the Park

Santa Claus is coming to Fairmount and the jolly old man is making an appearance in Fairmount Park off Henderson Street from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13.

This event is free for all neighborhood residents, and children can visit with Santa while parents take some great photos.

There will be pancakes, juice, hot chocolate, treats, crafts and other activities for all ages.

There is nothing like seeing a twinkle in a kid's eye when they see Santa, so please join us and get in the holiday spirit with this great event.

For more information, please e-mail Brandon Garrett at promotions@historicfairmount.com.



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Houses, volunteers sought for Home Tour

by Jennifer Mathis

Winter may have taken far too long to get here, but Fairmount's Tour of Historic Homes is always on time. This year's weekend-long highlight of the beautiful homes and in-progress renovations that make the Fairmount neighborhood a destination event for the whole of north Texas will be our thirty-third celebration, and we want you to be a part of it.

Each year the Home Tour directors call on the community to help them make this event as important and as much of a token of the Near Southside as ArtsGoggle, Friday on the Green and Open Streets. Some of the many positions volunteers are asked to fill are: ticket takers at the door; ticket sellers at the main ticket booth located at SiNaCa on Magnolia; and docents stationed in various rooms of each house to dispense the knowledge about what makes each house eclectic and special.

However, the most important component of launching each year's Home Tour is the tour homes themselves. In the past we've zigzagged through neighborhood schools, maundered through impressive Craftsman cottages, and marveled at homes still standing from the last century. We are looking forward to getting an early start on the 2015 event and are currently looking for house nominations so that we can lock them in by Jan. 1.

Participating in any way is a fantastic opportunity to get to know other neighborhood residents. All volunteers



Photos by Stacy Luecker

An original colonnade flanks the entry to a dining room complete with window seat and a beamed ceiling at 2215 6th Avenue, one of seven houses on the 2014 tour.



A 1910 Queen Anne style bungalow at 1724 5th Ave. sports a rich array of antiques.

and tour home residents will receive a ticket to the tour and are invited to Wine Down, one of the most feted Fairmount parties scheduled for the first night of the tour.

If you would like to volunteer or nominate your house (or perhaps entice a friend into nominating theirs), please e-mail HomeTour@HistoricFairmount.com.

About Home Tour

The annual Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes will be held Mother's Day weekend, May 9-10. Tickets will be available for purchase at area locations and online beginning in March. The tour highlights the beautiful houses in the Fairmount neighborhood. Each year, five or more houses, a business and often a work in progress house are selected for the tour. Hundreds of people tour these homes each year to appreciate the architecture and take a step back in time.



Photos by Christina Carney

Ballet Folklórico dancers display traditional dress and makeup. The dancers were a part of a Día de los Muertos celebration at Arts Fifth Avenue in November. Musicians, dancers and family activities were all a part of the event to celebrate the Mexican holiday.

Local venue keeps arts alive in Fairmount

by Christina Carney

On the corner of Allen and 5th Avenue sits a red brick building known around the neighborhood as A5A, or just A5. It is hard to miss with its blue painted brick sides depicting children and adults standing under a smiling sun and the word ‘imagine.’

A5A has been in the Fairmount neighborhood for 14 years and has become a beacon for the arts in the neighborhood. Almost every weekend the streets of 5th Avenue fill up with parked cars as patrons go to enjoy the many events this venue presents, and this holiday season will be no exception.

A5A held their annual Día de los



Singer and artist Michael Mayes performs songs by deceased musicians as a part of Día de Los Muertos at Arts 5th Avenue.

Muertos festival on Saturday, Nov. 1. Families colored pictures, painted faces, made tamales and constructed traditional paper flowers. Michael Mayes performed music from deceased musicians as their grave rubbings hung on the walls and

beautiful girls in traditional dress danced as the crowd watched. A mariachi band of school-age children also performed outside during the event.

At the end of the evening everyone feasted on the homemade tamales, rice and beans. It was a day to honor passed loved ones and traditions, and joy hung in the air as families came and went to celebrate.

If you are looking for holiday activities, several shows, art, dances and even a burlesque revue are planned at A5A to help everyone get in a festive mood.

John Carlisle Moore’s *5th annual Holiday Art Extravaganza* will kick off the festive season Friday, Nov. 28 from 7-10 p.m. and is free to everyone.

Saturday, Dec. 6 from 6-8 p.m. SceneShop will present *A Fifth of Christmas*, a holiday show for grown-ups. Fridays and Sundays, Dec. 12-21, *The Eight Reindeer Monologues* will be presented by DragStrip Courage and is for adults only.

The Velvet Kittens Un Noel Coquin, *A Naughty Christmas* is a burlesque revue and is planned for Saturday, Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. and *A Jazzy Christmas*, live music and tap dance revue will be held Saturday, Dec. 20 at 8 p.m.

When A5A isn't busy with the holidays, families are always sure to find something fun to do. Private music lessons, dance, burlesque and art classes are offered for all ages.

Tap dance classes are also available on a weekly basis for beginners and intermediate levels for children and adults. In addition, there is a six-week art workshop for teens and adults with Glenda Janda.

There are also activities for home-schooled children when they attend



Stephanie and Magnolia Donaghey practice face painting at Arts 5th Avenue.

A5A's program for a day of fun and culture. The children perform plays and skits, work on art, and socialize in an energetic environment with dedicated teachers and friends.

When you walk by and hear the taps of metal shoes, voices singing and guitars

being plucked, go inside and see the art that is on the walls and talk to the people that are working very hard to keep the arts alive in Fairmount.

For information on upcoming shows and events at Arts 5th Avenue, visit them online at www.artsfifthavenue.org.

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Photos by Stacy Luecker

Left to right: TCU students Hailey Pipes, Emily Walden, Evan Stelly, Joshua Pearson and Greta Salavon, daughter of Ian and Rachel Salavon, work on a project in the Fairmount Community Garden to memorialize or bring awareness to victims of homophobic violence.

TCU students bring awareness to LGBT victims of violence through Fairmount Community Garden project



TCU students designed flower beds to memorialize or bring awareness to LGBT students or those that have been targets of homophobic violence.

by Alex Harvey, TCU student

As a member of the Fairmount community, you may have noticed some recent additions to the neighborhood garden. The raised central beds, and bed number 4, contain much more than just flowers. Advocacy gardens, planted by TCU students, were created to memorialize or bring awareness to LGBT individuals victimized by homophobic violence (the acronym stands for “lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender”).

The beds were planted with cool-weather flowers such as cyclamen and violas to last through the fall. Many of the gardens feature pansies, in homage to British artist Paul Harflett’s “Pansy Project,” a guerrilla gardening installation reclaiming the flower often used as a slur against gay men (www.thepansyproject.com) but also a symbol of remembrance (from the French word *pensées*, “thoughts”). Memorial gardens featuring pansy flowers are meant to symbolize defiance and hope in the face of homophobic discrimination.

Students carefully chose the color and type of plants, and planned the layout of the flowerbeds to represent some facet of the victim’s personality and personal history. For instance, TCU senior Hailey Hayes, double-majoring in English and Biology, planted pink cyclamen and petunias in a triangle formation as

tribute to Rudolf Brazda (1913-2011) who spent three years in Buchenwald wearing the Nazi symbol for homosexual prisoners (www.pinktriangle.com/history/symbol.html).

Hailey, keenly interested in WWII history, says she “had never heard of the pink triangle” before beginning her research for the garden and wanted her installation to remind others of the historic persecution of gays during the Third Reich.

TCU Junior Communications major Jacey Hayes (no relation to Hailey) planted a garden in memorial of Brandon Elizares, an El Paso teenager who committed suicide in 2012 after years of bullying due to his sexual orientation. Her garden incorporates Brandon’s favorite author, Shakespeare, with a stone that reads “Above all—to thine own self be true.”

Some plots memorialize victims who were not openly gay, to underscore that violent homophobia has the potential to harm anyone. TCU senior Evan Stelly, a general studies major from Louisiana, planted white petunias and purple lobelias in the shape of the initials “S. T.” to commemorate the murder of TCU student Stewart Trese by David Hidalgo in Fort Worth on Feb. 4, 2014. Stelly says “I chose Stewart Trese as the subject of my advocacy project because his murderer attempted to use the ‘gay panic’ defense to justify his crime. It was evident in the media coverage that the murderer believed he would receive a lighter punishment if he could portray his victim as homosexual.”

Other students used their gardens as a way to give a memorial to transgender victims whose families didn’t recognize their expressed gender at their actual graves: for example, senior marketing major Emily Walden chose Mia Henderson, murder victim from Baltimore, Maryland, whose brother, NBA star Reggie Bullock referred to Mia as “my brother” in his memorial tribute.

The students’ gardens are located near the entrance of the Fairmount Community Garden at 1504 5th Ave., between Maddox and Myrtle Streets. If you are interested in learning more about the subject of any particular garden, each of bed has an explanatory sign attached, often with a link to a website that contains further information.



Jacey Hayes’ garden stands in memory of Brandon Elizares, an El Paso teenager who committed suicide after years of bullying.



Above: Hailey Hayes, TCU senior, created a flower display featuring pink cyclamen and petunias in a triangle formation as tribute to Rudolf Brazda.

Below: Alex Harvey’s installation for Luke O’Donovan, a victim of an anti-gay hate crime in Atlanta.



Inclement weather calls for planning

by Amber Lee

Last winter's ice storm is one we won't soon forget. Power outages, thick sheets of ice blanketing the street, strangers rescuing pets left freezing outside because their owners were stranded elsewhere, and even some public servants stranded at their stations are all still vivid in the minds of many. The bad news is that the *Farmer's Almanac* is predicting another hard winter in DFW with more of the same below normal temperatures and multiple ice storms. The good news is that this year we should all be prepared.

Instead of waiting for a local weatherman to confirm that ice storms are indeed coming, use this time wisely while the streets are safe and store shelves are full, to buy the supplies you will need in the event of an emergency. Don't wait until the most dangerous road conditions appear to drive to the store only to fight over the last gallon of drinking water.

Close your eyes and remember what the store shelves looked like last year during the ice storm. Bread, water, milk and eggs are always the first items to go and stay gone because the delivery trucks won't risk driving in those conditions.

A few ways that you can start preparing for inclement weather is simply by buying an extra loaf of bread or gallon of water the next time you are grocery shopping. Bread can be frozen and will last a long time that way. If you whisk eggs and freeze them in ice cube trays they will last several months as well. If you have a child who needs milk, purchase some powdered milk to have on hand. The main goal is to be prepared before bad weather strikes.

Some other non-food items you may need on hand are salt,



Photo by Stacy Luecker

Residents play, work to clear sidewalks and build snow people on Washington Avenue during a winter storm in February, 2010.

a battery operated weather radio, hand warmers, shovels, ice scrapers, propane, batteries and blankets. Salt is magic when it comes to frozen roads because it actually lowers the freezing point of water to about 10 degrees. One pound of salt can melt almost 50 pounds of ice. Sprinkling this magical, tasty spice on your front porch, stairs, sidewalks and driveways can save you many slips and spills and could make you the hero of your block.

Also, please always remember to check on elderly neighbors and those who may not have heat or food—we want everyone to have a very warm and safe holiday season. The more prepared we are to take care of ourselves and our families, the more able we'll be to help those who are unable to take care of themselves in the event of an emergency.

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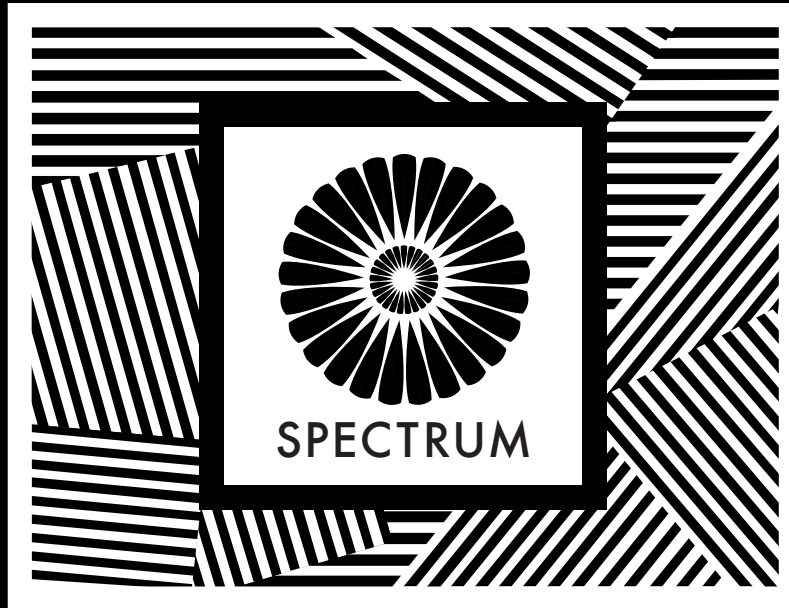
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LEAVING A LEGACY

Fairmount cookbook taking shape, recipes requested

by Amber Lee

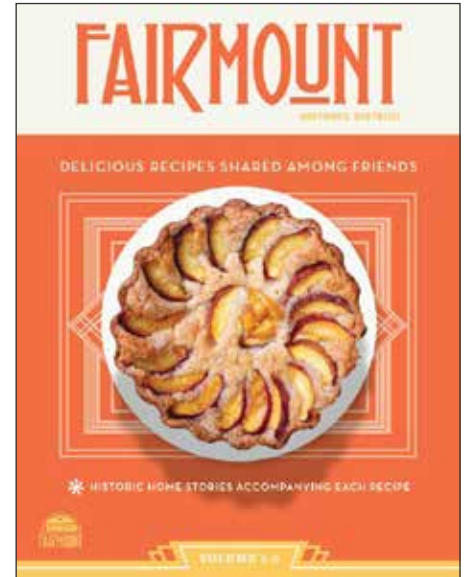
When considering putting together a neighborhood cookbook for Fairmount, the first thing that comes to mind is history. Most of the houses in the neighborhood are around 100 years old, so incorporating the past with the present seems like an obvious theme. However, the history of the cookbook itself dates back centuries.

Ancient Egyptians, Sicilian philosophers and Roman politicians were all foodies long before Webster acknowledged the term. Powerful Egyptians would have mom's famous flatbread recipes carved in stone inside their tombs to take the comforts of home with them into the afterlife. In other cultures, lavish banquets were a way of propelling oneself up the social chain and writing down the recipes in a book as a way for aristocrats to gloat about how awesome they were. Cooking was an art and the cookbook was the only way to preserve the creative

ideas that were otherwise perishable.

Cookbooks evolved into instruction manuals, textbooks, basic kitchen references or just compilations of recipes. They trickled down from the nobility to the housewives and domestic servants and when the audience changed, so did the information. Basic household management, homeopathic remedies, cleaning techniques and basic cooking techniques along with recipes were the new, modern cookbook.

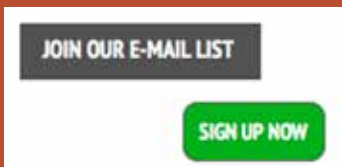
Fairmount's cookbook will be a collection of recipes that stand the test of time. We need you to submit your favorite recipes, like those Christmas cookies you used to make with your mom, or perhaps your dad's famous salsa. The best recipes are the ones you know by heart because you've made the dish so often. When you open the book, we want you to be taken back to a happy time in someone's life, and it will be their gift to you to share with your friends and family for years to come.



A mock-up of a sample cover for the Fairmount neighborhood cookbook.

Please share your recipes so we can help you cement them in time. Today is the day to make our own history.

E-mail recipes to fairmountcookbook@gmail.com and please join the Historic Fairmount Cookbook Committee Facebook page.



If you are not a member of the Fairmount Neighborhood Association or have not been receiving e-mail notifications for neighborhood news and events, you may register online.

www.HistoricFairmount.com



Fairmount is a Historic District

Remember, any alteration to the outside of your house needs to be approved.

Guidelines are online in English and Spanish at www.historicfairmount.com. Click on About > Design Guidelines and Standards.

For a paper copy or guidelines clarification e-mail preservation@historicfairmount.com.

Get Your Fairmount Curb Numbers

Show your neighborhood pride and help the pizza delivery guy find your house by having the Fairmount logo and your house number painted on your curb.

For only \$15, neighborhood resident Ray Feyen will paint your house number in two locations. The cost per address is \$15. *Although the association has selected a new design for pole-mounted signage, we will keep using the traditional "F" design for curb numbers.*

Contact Ray Feyen at 817.924.6729
or e-mail rfeyen@sbcglobal.net



Be aware there is another curb painter also offering a smaller F stencil. Choose as you like but please never let anyone use a color other than the new burgundy.

JOIN the Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Why join?

- Get the newsletter delivered to your doorstep twice a year.
- Know what's going on in Fairmount and the city that will affect you and your property.
- Meet old and new friends at our monthly socials.

Annual dues are \$20 per individual. \$25 per family or \$25 per business.

Fill out this form and send it with your dues to Fairmount Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 12348, Fort Worth, TX 76110-8348 or bring it to the next Association meeting. You can also sign up online at www.historicfairmount.com.

Questions? E-mail membership@historicfairmount.com.

Name: _____

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Occupation: _____

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION FOR PAGE 8.

ACROSS

1. Rhodes 7. Southside 9. Eighth 11. Park 12. Chicken 13. Fifth
16. Jessamine 17. Chat 18. Paris 19. Spiral

DOWN

2. Daggett 3. Rose 4. Worth 5. Near 6. Magnolia 8. Hemp 10. Goggle
13. Funky 14. Historical 15. Library



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TICKET INFORMATION

Saturday, December 6

12pm-9pm

Sunday, December 7

12pm-5pm

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www.fortworthtexas.gov/applications/tpwcrf	
Fort Worth Public Library	817.871.READ

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: No Fairmount general meeting will be held in December.

- Dec. 6-7Ryan Place Candlelight Tour of Homes
- Dec. 11Fairmount Festivus
- Dec. 13Santa in the Park (9-11 a.m., Fairmount Park)
- Dec. 13Fairmount Holiday Party (6-10 p.m., Amphibian Stage Productions)
- Dec. 8 (Second Monday)Landmarks hearing
- Dec. 15 (Third Monday)Bulk trash collection
- Dec. 15 (Third Monday)Landmarks filing deadline (5 p.m.)
- Jan. 5 (First Monday)FNA board meeting
- Jan. 12 (Second Monday)Landmarks hearing
- Jan. 19 (Third Monday)Landmarks filing deadline (5 p.m.)
- Jan. 19 (Third Monday)Bulk trash collection
- Jan. 27 (Fourth Tuesday)Fairmount Neighborhood Association general meeting

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