



• NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT •

FAIRMOUNT

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION

Winter Gala

What, when and where

Holiday
Decorating

Inspired by the past

Preservation

In with the old, out with the new

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

While the weather may not agree, we are at the beginning of the holiday season in Fairmount. It may feel a little strange putting up holiday lights while its 80 degrees outside, but I think that is just one of the perks of living in Texas. So get out there in your shorts and flip flops, and deck your house with all the lights, tinsel and inflatable Santas that you can. The FNA will be on the hunt for the best, brightest, loudest and most festive holiday decorations again this year to feature in our newsletter. Just remember to take down your Halloween stuff first, unless you are looking for a *Nightmare Before Christmas* theme.

Between decorating the tree, lighting the menorah, or that fourth serving of turkey, come celebrate the great year Fairmount had in 2011. We have much to celebrate this year. Fairmount earned Neighborhoods USA awards and received national recognition for the community garden. Fort Worth Public Art awarded Fairmount a grant to improve Fairmount Park, and we also had another stellar Home Tour. In addition, the Fairmount Historic Preservation Committee was recognized for its tireless efforts by Historic Fort Worth. It is definitely time for a pat on the back for the entire neighborhood.

None of those awards and recognition would be possible without our members, and we should celebrate that. So, join us Dec. 3 at The Bastion. It will be an evening to celebrate Fairmount and a reprieve from the holiday bluster. I hope to see everyone there. Invite your neighbors, especially those who are not yet a part of our great organization. We'll win them over by the night's end.

Finally, please take time to reach out to those in need this holiday season. If you have a neighbor that could use some help or has a worthy cause you would like the FNA to support, please contact me or a board member.

The next time we meet will be in January 2012. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday going into the new year. Happy holidays!



Sean Lynch, President
president@historicfairmount.com

On the Cover

A table set in festive holiday adornments awaits visitors at Brenda Howell's Fairmount Avenue home. Candlelit and decked out with an antique Art Nouveau table runner and a centerpiece of flowers and pine cones, the scene would be inviting in any century. See pages 16-18 for more holiday decor.

Photo by Stacy Luecker

The Fairmount Beat by Joel Stary, neighborhood patrol officer

I hope that this letter finds everyone enjoying the holidays with family.

The holidays have always been a time of rest for me, except for having to get shopping done. However, rest does not mean being complacent. We all have to remember that criminals do not take vacations during the holidays.

Criminals know that people will be traveling. Criminals will also be watching to see what kind of shopping we have done.

In regards to the shopping season, please be aware of your surroundings while you are out looking for that perfect gift. It is hard to pay attention to everyone around you in a crowd at the mall, but do your best to keep your purse and

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valuables over your shoulder and in your pocket.

Also, we often leave gifts in the car so we can quickly run into another store to grab something else—yes, I'm guilty of this too. Please plan your shopping so that if you purchase several gifts you can take them home and get them out of the car before you make your next stop. Don't give a criminal an invitation to break into your car for the items that you have left in plain sight.

Lastly, please remember that criminals begin shopping the day after Christmas too.

After you and your family have opened your gifts, remember that any boxes you place on the curb to be picked up may be picked up by someone wanting to know what is inside your house.

Tear your boxes apart and place them in trash bags before you set them out on the curb.

I hope these tips help you this holiday season and I hope that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year.

Until I speak with you again, please remember to be safe today and safer tomorrow.

The next Fairmount Neighborhood Association General Meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 24
1400 College Ave. in the College Avenue Baptist Church, at 7 p.m.
— Download the latest meeting minutes online at www.HistoricFairmount.com —

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1805 S. Henderson St.

Photo by Stacy Luecker

October Yard of the Month

When you think yard of the month, a profusion of blossoms, artistically arranged planters, and verdant lawns may come to mind. But for this month's issue of the FNA newsletter, scary was the top criterion as the selection was made based upon creative Halloween décor.

In an online vote on Facebook, the home of Michelle and Dan Miles was chosen as the neighborhood favorite from among four entries.

The Miles' 1910 Craftsman bungalow at 1805 S. Henderson St. was transformed for the haunting season into one spooky space that delighted neighborhood children and adults alike. The front porch was swathed in spider webs, with a well-placed giant arachnid or two as a finishing touch. Also prominently featured was a "goblin zombie" hanging from the porch, which, according to Michelle, sent neighborhood children running and screaming when the occasional breeze brought the icky effigy to life. No doubt the kids loved every second of this supposed terror.

And yes, there were the requisite Jack-o'-lanterns that Michelle, Dan and several friends carved for the occasion. Their gleaming grins, along with electric pumpkin lights and orange light bulbs, illuminated the walkway as the Miles' greeted visitors. Major, the cat, must have watched with interest from the window as Jack, a Jack-Russell terrier/corgi mix got a pat on the head from each trick-or-treater. "He's kind of like a pumpkin himself," said Michelle, "because he's orange."

Dan and Michelle are relative newcomers to Fairmount, having moved here in July of 2010.

Michelle is a first-grade teacher in the Castleberry school district and Dan is an engineer who works in Irving. He is also a member of the National Guard.

"We love this neighborhood," Michelle said. "Next year we want to have a block party and stage it from the garage, which has been converted to Dan's man-cave."

Congratulations to Michelle and Dan for their selection as Halloween Yard of the Month. And a big thanks to CC's Touch of Nature for awarding them with a gift certificate.



Understanding the options, process to successfully enroll children in various local schools from K-12.

UNLOCKING THE SCHOOL *Enigma*

by Rachel Tindall

Fairmount has some of the most desirable schools in Fort Worth and getting a child enrolled can raise a lot of questions.

When I married my husband Toby, he had three young girls and we were clueless about school options available in Fairmount. We thought DeZavala was the only option since it was our home school, with the possibility of transferring to Lilly B Clayton if space allowed. Had we understood the options and process, we would have bypassed a lot of frustration.

FWISD has designated several schools as Schools of Choice. This is a special interest program that provides alternate teaching methods to the traditional programs offered throughout the district. In Fort Worth there are only four Choice elementary schools, four middle schools and three high schools. Two of the best are in Fairmount. The trick is knowing how to get a child enrolled.

Daggett Montessori is a K-8 grade school. The Montessori learning environment involves three main cornerstones: teacher observation, the prepared environment and the cultivation of the inner discipline of the child. Daggett Montessori produces children with a lifelong

love of learning, and offers an incredible atmosphere. To learn more, visit www.dmspta.org. Daggett Montessori is located at 801 W. Jessamine.

There is also the newly opened Young Women's Leadership Academy. YWLA is a 6th-8th grade school and it is FWISD's first single-gender school. After its first year it has received an exemplary rating. You can learn more at YWLA at <http://schools.fwisd.org/ywla>. YWLA is at 1066 W. Magnolia Ave.

Entering high school, Paschal is Fairmount's home school and is nationally recognized for academic excellence. However, if you would like to continue the Schools of Choice path, Trimble Tech offers an applied learning method. All of the FWISD high schools have Programs of Choice available. These programs allow for college credit courses, advanced placement, licenses and certifications, internships and job shadowing through district business partners. You can learn more at www.fwisd.org/choice/Pages.

The key to getting enrolled is knowing and understanding the process. You must apply, and there are strict deadlines. Application information can be found at www.fwisd.org/choice/Pages/ application. YWLA has additional infor-

mation online needed to apply.

While selection is through a computer-generated lottery, preference is given to those living in the neighborhood of the school, and to those who have siblings already enrolled. For elementary schools, getting in at the kindergarten level is the time when there are the most openings.

Information to keep on hand and mark on your calendar.

Dec. 2, 4-7 p.m.—Choices Expo, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-noon—Seminary Riley Center, 2001 W. Seminary Dr.

Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.—Middle School Parent tours.

Dec. 6, 6-9 p.m.—High School Presentation at Trimble Tech

Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.—Elementary Parent Tours

Dec. 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.—High School Parent Tours

Dec. 8, 6-9 p.m.—High School Presentation at Paschal

Jan. 15—Final date for applications to be received

Feb. 20—Notifications sent to schools and students

Please verify dates and check for updates at www.fwisd.org/choice/Pages/dates.aspx



Photos by Eric Luecker

1507 Alston, the Bomar apartments, has been renovated and is now ready for occupancy. The building was built around 1907.



The view of the Fort Worth skyline from a shared third story apartment balcony at 1507 Alston.



French doors divide a living and dining room in the Bomar apartment building.

The BOMAR bounces back

by Sue McLean, director of historic preservation

Alyssa Banta has brought back the circa 1907 Bomar apartments at 1507 Alston Ave., and a year later than anticipated in dealing with code and thieves, they are now for lease.

Alyssa is the third owner since 2007 who attempted to restore this beautiful brick building. Each owner did a little more work on it, but the brick falling away from the sides was the stumbling block that stymied all the rest, and a few potential buyers as well.

Alyssa had the brick removed, cleaned and restored, and found and added 2,700 extra bricks to replace missing and broken ones. Wood flooring was scavenged from other houses being restored or demo'd in the neighborhood, and its signature front porches were made structurally sound.

The six loft-style apartments are finished in various ways with an occasional shiplap wall or ceiling and conduit wiring.

The higher you go, the better the view, which once 1425 Alston's restoration is finished next year, will be awesome!

Social event pops top for neighbors

by Kelly Bowden

Fairmount neighbors gathered for the November monthly social Thursday, Nov. 10 at Put A Cork In It, a local wine shop owned by Fairmount residents Chris and Deedra Keel.

The social was a lively affair attended by approximately 40 people.

The Fairmount Neighborhood Association provided appetizers while Chris poured free tastings from California wineries.

Every Thursday evening Put A Cork In It offers wine tastings from 5:30-7:30 p.m. They are located at 2972 Park Hill Dr.

Visit their website at www.putacorkinitwine.com for more information.

WHAT IS A SOCIAL?

Socials refer to events where friends and associates meet in pleasant companionship.

Throughout history gentlemen and ladies have gathered to: play parlor games, discuss politics and relate with one another about the happenings of the day.

Each month, the FNA plans a social event and all neighbors are welcome.

A local business is chosen to support the community and to also help make everyone aware of what businesses are available in the area. It's a great way to get to know new and old neighbors in a casual setting.

This past year events were held at

- T&P Tavern
- Fairmount Library
- Rahr and Sons Brewery
- Yogis R Us
- The Bastion
- Chadra Mezza & Grill
- SPAtaneity Natural Nail Salon
- Avoca Coffee
- Put a Cork in It

Due to the holiday season and the upcoming Fairmount holiday gathering, the next social will be in February 2012. If you own a business and would like to host a Fairmount social or if you have suggestions for future event locations, please e-mail promotions@historicfairmount.com

For event dates and information, visit www.HistoricFairmount.com and sign up to receive e-mail notifications.



Fairmount residents tip their glasses during the November social at Put a Cork in It. The next social will be in February 2012.

Photo by Eric Luecker

Open Streets opens paths

Event encourages sustainable transportation, public health

by Susan Harper

Fort Worth's first Open Streets, a collaboration between the city, Fort Worth South and the Fairmount Neighborhood was held Oct. 23.

With thanks to Fortworthology for the research, here's a little background on events like this. Bogota, Colombia got things started with Ciclovía. Los Angeles has CicLAvia. San Francisco has Sunday Streets. Oakland has Oaklavia. Portland has Portland Sunday Parkways. Several cities around the world have followed Bogota's lead with car-free celebrations involving the closure of city streets to automotive traffic and its replacement with pedestrians, bicycles, skaters and other people-powered transportation modes.

Final numbers for the event are hard to calculate, but estimates are between 800-1,000. Bikes, strollers, wagons, walkers, runners, skateboarders and everything but cars took over the west end of Magnolia and several streets of Fairmount for four hours during Open Streets.

Activities included face painting and pet adoptions, baked goodies, the Yes! Taco truck and acupuncture on Magnolia. A bike rodeo took over 5th Avenue into Fairmount and there was a skateboard park on Magnolia. At the park and community garden, Fairmount volunteers greeted folks from all over Fort Worth at their booth.

Kids painted pumpkins, colored in coloring books and played on a giant checker board game.

Visitors marveled at before and after pictures of houses



Photos by Eric Luecker

Robert Patterson examines restoration photos at the Fairmount booth in Fairmount Park during Fort Worth's first Open Streets event.

in Fairmount. Fairmount Park was an open play ground for croquet, kick ball, yoga and tons of other fun things. Visitors also enjoyed boxes of popcorn and candy handed out by FNA.

Arts Fifth Avenue, yoga and Jo Dufó's art studio completed the events on Allen.

All in all, everyone seemed to have a great time at what will hopefully become a regular event. Thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work. We could not have done it without you.



Ashley Paz, Fairmount director of membership, plays kickball in Fairmount Park during Open Streets.



Geri Cotten (left), Fairmount director of safety and Calvin Clayton (right) work at a booth for Fort Worth Police Department Community Relations.



What style is

YOUR HOUSE?

Unlike a bungalow, this typical c. 1912 foursquare is quite symmetrical and uses subtle bungalow details to disguise its real shape—a basic box.

Photos by Mike McDermott

The American foursquare in the Arts & Crafts movement

by Mike McDermott

WITH ITS ROOTS in the more elongated Midwestern Prairie style, the vertically challenged foursquare is the offspring of a truly organic American architecture.

The foursquare is one of the most common forms of domestic architecture in the Fairmount Historic District, second only to its bead-wearing organic cousin, the bungalow. Unlike the bungalow though, which had its start on the east and west coasts, the Prairie School of design had its start in the country's heartland, also known as the Chicago School, because many architects in the area adopted this school of thought. But, Frank Lloyd Wright, arguably America's greatest architect, was the man who gave birth to a style of house he thought better fit

the horizontal lines of the country's great central plains, thus dubbed "the Prairie Style." This new design was more long and low than its vertically thrusting predecessors of the Victorian era, stripped of unnecessary ornamentation. The ornament would be in the sleek and subtle designs of his homes which hugged the flat landscape. The boxy shape offered more living space on a city lot, which made sense because city lots are for the most part rectangular boxes. His homes were often placed sideways on the lot, which shocked the late Victorians of Chicago's Oak Park neighborhood, with the front entry facing the neighbor's house or often even obscured altogether. Critics referred to his homes as "sightless Prairie steamships." Eventually this would change, because it was too much too fast for most of middle America. Wright's designs were way ahead of their time.



This especially detailed version of a foursquare on South Adams shows strong ties to the Prairie style. Its wide boxed eaves are adorned with narrow paired battens which, in keeping with the Arts & Crafts mantra that form follows function, run the length of the eaves both covering the seams of the boards from which they're constructed and providing "modern" decoration. While the eaves elongate the house in two directions, the triplets of corbels adorning the eaves extend the house forward as well. The columns also exhibit a Prairie derived banded design at their crowns, not often seen in this district.



What morphed from Wright's vision for America was the more palatable foursquare we see in Fairmount and across the U.S. From near the turn of the century to the late 1920s, this fellow member of the Arts and Crafts Movement—the anti-Victorian, anti-industrial everyman movement that swept the nation and continued for the same 30 year period, exhibited the same de-

sign hallmark elements of the bungalow. Sometimes truly Arts and Crafts, with exposed rafter tails, low sweeping eaves, tapered porch supports, the foursquare can also be very Prairie inspired, with wide boxed eaves and windows banded together, low wide dormers—anything that emphasizes the horizontal line. But like the bungalow, foursquares can also have Colonial/Classical Revival ele-

ments, also a popular movement at the time. America was looking back to the simpler times of the Colonies (minus the wars of course) when furnishings were all hand made, and houses contained beamed ceilings, wainscoting, and lots of woodwork with simpler lines.

One thing the foursquare will never have if it's truly a foursquare that bungalows most often have is a gable. The



hallmark of a true foursquare is two stories and a hipped roof, often with at least a front facing dormer window perched in the center, but sometimes dormers on the side and rear facing slopes.

By far, most fourquares in Fairmount contain a bit of all the design elements of the day, combining all the ideas of what was truly American at the time: the beauty is in the simplicity of the design and its practicality toward everyday living.

A foursquare on 5th Avenue has extreme horizontal lines with its elongated porch, wide boxed eaves and bands of windows. The house is also a shirtwaist with shingles covering the upper half and horizontal siding on the first story.



This recently restored South Adams foursquare shows much of the exuberance of the Arts & Crafts period. The low, wide dormer and the exposed rafter tails are other hallmarks, as is its stunning nature-inspired garden landscape.

ENDANGERED



Photos by Sue McLean

1612 5th Ave. following a fire in May, 2011 that virtually destroyed the house. The owner, Ralph Watterson, intends to rebuild.

Updates on Fairmount properties with uncertain futures.

by Sue McLean, director of historic preservation

FAIRMOUNT ENJOYED A RECORD YEAR for restorations in 2011, thanks to some foreclosures of former slumlord properties which were sold cheaply.

Although many restorations in the neighborhood are still in progress, several structures are still on the endangered list with uncertain futures.

Structures lost to demolition in 2011:

1612 Lipscomb
1820 Washington

Endangered structures:

1610 5th* – burned, owner restoring
1612 5th* – burned severely, owner intends to rebuild to original



1405 Fairmount Ave. following renovation by owners Brian and Sheila Portwood. The house was scheduled for demolition in 2010.

- 1316 Adams – Code working with owner
- 1724 Adams* – demolition denied, owner has agreed to sell
- 1824 Adams – about to be restored
- 1425 Alston – restoration to begin in January
- 1700 Alston – upcoming donated shore-up and paint up project
- 1724 Alston – to be restored after 2219 5th is finished
- 1966 Alston – undergoing restoration
- 1968 Alston – undergoing restoration
- 2004 Alston – undergoing restoration
- 1908 College – Code working with owner
- 2256 College – plan/materials in place to restore front porch
- 1309 Fairmount* – abandoned
- 1507 Fairmount – abandoned
- 1509 Fairmount – abandoned
- 2008 Fairmount – Code working with owner
- 1800 Hemphill – undergoing restoration, recent fire
- 1900 Henderson – undergoing restoration
- 1906 Henderson – undergoing restoration
- 1921 Hurley – sold and about to be restored
- 1518 Lipscomb – undergoing restoration




Purchased by the Fairmount Neighborhood Association, 1405 Fairmount Ave. was stabilized and sold for renovation. The house has been completed and the Portwoods are moving in.

- 1620 Lipscomb – about to be restored
 - 1950 Lipscomb – abandoned, for sale
 - 800 Morphy – threatened by development, can be moved
 - 804 Morphy – need nearby corner lot to move to
 - 1017 Richmond – owner wants to demo
 - 1420 Washington – unknown
 - 1624 Washington* – unique columns in disrepair
 - 1728 Washington – interior restoration complete
- *New to list since last published*

1612 5th Ave. receives my “Greatest Potential Loss to the Neighborhood” award. This circa 1900 Queen Anne cottage which was undergoing restoration was almost totally destroyed

by fire in May. Although the owner, Ralph Watterson, still intends to rebuild this house as it was, only the front and 20 feet or so of each side remain since the roof and charred portions were removed. Recent vandalism has left it with all the windows broken out, but its motto (in its best Ahnold voice) is still “I will be back!” Good luck to you, Ralph!

1405 Fairmount is worthy of the annual “Silk Purse from a Sow’s Ear” award. The before and after photos speak for themselves. This house is a contributing structure that was saved from demolition by the Fairmount Neighborhood Association, and bought and restored by Brian and Sheila Portwood. Recently finished, the Portwoods are moving in. Welcome to Fairmount Brian and Sheila.

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GO

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.

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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 Fairmount Design Guidelines.

For a paper copy or guidelines clarification, call 817.313.6618
e-mail preservation@historicfairmount.com.




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CELEBRATING
FAMILY,
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THE SPIRIT
OF THE SEASON

A
BUNGALOW
Holiday

A pair of roller skates saved since childhood form the centerpiece of this clever holiday decoration in the bungalow home of Brenda and John Howell.

Photo by Stacy Luecker



Gold rimmed china, bronze candlesticks from the period of the home, and a centerpiece of fruit, miniature roses and hydrangeas set a holiday table at a Fairmount Avenue bungalow.

Photo by Eric Luecker



Photo by Eric Luecker

Rosebuds and rose hips grace a c. 1915 Weller "woodcraft" vase, a tiny toy horse-drawn fire truck made of iron passes between the vase and Mr. and Mrs. Claus appear to be kissing.



by Stacy Luecker and Mike McDermott

The smell of gingerbread baking, visions of sugar plums, and a jolly old man with a white beard in a red suit, all conjure up memories of celebrating with family and friends.

A hundred years ago the holidays were celebrated with locally available trees and other decorations. A variety of homemade ornaments and real candles perched precariously on branches adorned the family Christmas tree.

Toys were simpler a hundred years ago too and were often handmade.

Stockings hung by the fireplace were stuffed with oranges, apples and nuts. These items were not as accessible in the early nineteenth century and were considered a treat to receive.

Today the holiday season is filled with shopping and fighting for parking spaces, LED lights sparkle in every color and children demand expensive, high-tech toys. The Christmas tree has also changed with the times, now available in purple, blue and even black to get you in the holiday mood.

Living in a historic home, however, makes it easy to long for times past and the beauty of an old fashioned Christmas.



A typical holiday parlor scene at the Benton home at 1730 6th Ave. in 1905.



The Paddock family home on 7th Avenue, is decked out with a small cedar tree complete with real candles on its branches.

Using natural, organic items such as fresh-cut greenery, berries, fruit and nuts, as well as incorporating items with a personal history, can help prepare your home for yuletide bliss.

Brenda Howell, Fairmount director of promotions, agreed to have her Fairmount Avenue bungalow decorated early for the holidays this year.

Entering the home, visitors are greeted by a side table in the living room complete with a c. 1915 Weller “woodcraft” vase filled with miniature roses. A tiny toy horse draws a fire truck made of iron while a ceramic Mr. and Mrs Claus, a gift for the Howell’s daughter’s first Christmas, sits next to a guest book from when the couple purchased their home.

In the dining room a beautiful set of gold-rimmed china sets the stage for a holiday dinner. Bronze Art Nouveau candlesticks flank a centerpiece of rosy Gala apples, rosebuds and white hydrangeas.

A built-in sideboard is decorated with red cedar boughs—one of the only types of greenery readily available a hundred years ago—along with roses, rose hips, pine cones and an assortment of colorful fruit.

Adding to the historic feel, a 100 year-old wooden wall-mount telephone sits atop an old cabinet in a corner, with antique photos of Brenda and John’s families gazing down on the festive scene.

By the fireplace a pair of roller skates saved since childhood, forms the centerpiece of a clever holiday decoration with pine cones accented by miniature red rosebuds with all enveloped by an antique travel case to complete the look. Sprigs of eastern red cedar lay beside the trunk as well as behind a pair of early twentieth-century cameras.

The skates were a gift to Brenda from her father in the early 60s. The skates cost him \$138 back then, even though he brought home only \$68 a week.

Even with the stress of preparing for today’s typical holiday celebration, looking to the past for decorating ideas in the present can bring warmth and a sense of nostalgia to your home.

Thank you to Brenda Howell for the use of her lovely home; Philip Combs for arranging and providing a beautiful display of fruit, flowers and greenery; and Mike McDermott for his never-ending wealth of historical information.

Photo by Stacy Luecker



Fruit, pinecones, rose hips, miniature roses and vintage ornaments decorate a buffet in the Howell’s dining room on Fairmount Avenue.

Fairmount Winter Gala



We're going to party like it's 1929

by Ashley Paz, director of membership



What a wonderful year this has been for the Fairmount Historic District. The Fairmount Neighborhood Association board of directors would like to request your presence as we celebrate our members and all of the hard work that everyone has put into making this the best neighborhood in Fort Worth. We hope that you are able to join us as this event is sure to be monumental.

In addition to communion with your neighbors and friends you can expect lots of fun treats at this event including an awesome spread from The Bastion, seasonal cocktails, and some of Fort Worth's finest brews.

You can also count on doubling down with Jerry Hawkins at the Blackjack table and some serious fun bidding over holiday pastries donated by our talented members.

You will be sure to enjoy the highlight of the evening, a special musical performance by some local youths with amazing talent.

All proceeds from this event will go

to benefit our Fairmount mentorship program with Daggett Middle School and other community projects.

This is a member's only event, however non-members may join at the door for the following rates:

- \$15 Individual
- \$15 Friend of Fairmount
- \$20 Family
- \$20 Business

If you are a current member for the 2011 term your membership is valid until Jan. 31, 2012.

There is a \$17 minimum suggested donation to gain entrance to the event per person with an advance RSVP, and \$20 per person at the door.

Be sure to watch your e-mail and www.historicfairmount.com for the official evite.

You can contact Ashley Paz, Fairmount director of membership, to purchase tickets directly at membership@historicfairmount.com.

Santa in the Park

Santa will arrive in Fairmount Park,

(north of Allen Avenue between 5th and Henderson)

Saturday, Dec. 3, 1-3 p.m.

The event is free for all neighborhood children. Children may visit with Santa and light refreshments will be provided. **JOIN US!**





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Home Tour volunteers needed

by Chelsie Thornton, Home Tour director

It's not too early to start thinking about the Fairmount 30th Annual Tour of Homes and how you can help.

Each year, over 150 volunteers are needed to act as tour guides, ticket takers and ticket sales agents.

Additional volunteers are also needed to assist with event set up and tear down. Volunteering is a fun way to get involved and get to know those who live around you.

All volunteers will receive a free ticket to the tour and be invited to attend Wine Down, which is known for being one of the best neighborhood get-togethers of the year!

Nominations for tour homes are currently being accepted. If you know of a property that should be featured on this year's tour, please send the address and pertinent details to HistoricHomeTour@gmail.com. The committee will soon be making decisions and the more homes we have to consider, the better the 30th annual tour will be.

For more information, contact Home Tour director Chelsie Thornton at historichometour@gmail.com.



Photo by Stacy Luecker

An Arts & Crafts living room at 1901 Alston Ave. The house was on Home Tour in 2011.

About Home Tour

The annual Fairmount Tour of Homes will be held Mother's Day weekend, Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 13. Tickets will be available for purchase at area locations and online beginning in March.

The tour highlights the beautiful homes that we have in the Fairmount neighborhood.

Each year, five homes, a business and a work in progress house are selected for the tour. Hundreds of people tour these homes to appreciate the architecture and take a step back in time.

Proceeds from the tour are the primary source of funding for Fairmount Neighborhood Association endeavors.

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Photos by Stacy Luecker

A chipped brick fireplace is flanked by a bookcase with stained glass doors while stained wood pocket doors lead into the dining room.

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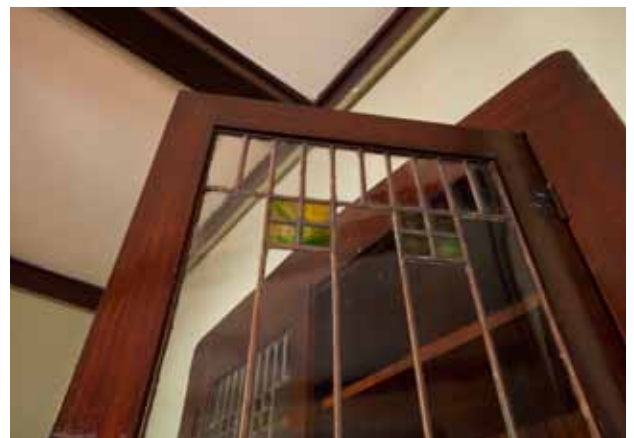
Historic elements spark desire to honor the past

by Stacy Luecker, director of communications

When Ravash Ram started restoring 2236 College Ave. he had never worked on a historic house before. As the son of an investor in California, Ravash was helping his father look for new areas with progressive growth and properties that were increasing in value.

2236 College Ave. was a diamond in the rough in May when the house was purchased. Complete with unpainted woodwork, a built-in china cabinet with original hardware and glass doors that match the decorative dining room windows, the house had enough charm to make a historian swoon.

Basically untouched, although it had been occupied, this house had all of the elements that make a classic Arts & Crafts bungalow in Fairmount. Ravash saw the value in preservation and sought to keep many of the original features.



Stained glass in a dining room buffet has strong lines and a pattern representative of the Arts & Crafts period.



Three sets of windows in the dining room at 2236 College Ave. still have their original cabinet latches and hardware.

As he quickly learned, working on historic houses is not always easy. “The project has presented obstacles we never anticipated or had encountered before,” Ravash said. “We are often talking thousands of dollars to undo or redo something.”

Walking in the front door of 2236 College Ave., original stained ceiling beams extend the length of the living room and continue into the dining room. To the right is a chipped brick fireplace trimmed with an original wood mantle and flanked by a stained glass bookcase, a bench seat with storage, and decorative windows that match those in the dining room. Two sets of pocket doors remain, only improved with minor touch-ups to the finish.

All of the period light fixtures in the house were purchased at Old Home Supply. The dining room light features hand-painted glass shades, the front porch light is made of brass and slag glass, and the back porch fixture is a storybook light that gives off a warm orange glow. The light in the kitchen was salvaged from the Dallas Post Office.

The house has three bathrooms that have been appointed with old and time-appropriate fixtures including two clawfoot tubs and pedestal sinks.

“A lot of investors and people working on the houses in Fairmount have done some very bad things,” Ravash said. “We are learning, but we want to try to do it right.”



A light fixture from the Dallas Post Office, purchased at Old Home Supply, now hangs as a kitchen fixture in a College Avenue Arts & Crafts bungalow.



An illustration of 2236 College Ave. allowed colors to be applied and tested electronically before actually painting the house itself.

COLOR matters

by Phil Bordeleau

Historic paint palettes aid homeowners

Bungalow era paint schemes were drawn from nature in many ways: yellows, greens, golds, clay, brown and charcoal. This was an era of being “green” long before it was thought fashionable. Houses were designed to be efficient and rooted in the land. Color was part of that synthesis of practical application and natural material and the reflection of nature in the choices made. Tones were muted, yet when colors collaborated in a paint scheme it was pleasing to the eye, much as a scenic natural vista might be.

Many individuals have great knowledge and energy when it comes to revitalizing their homes. However, often it seems

even the most capable restorationist does not always have the aesthetic knowledge to put that final envelope of color upon their labors.

2236 College Avenue has recently undergone renovations. Next door resident Stacy Luecker has assisted the team in choosing colors and fixtures for this house. The colors chosen are from Kelly-Moore’s “Historic Lifestyles of the West” series, their Arts & Crafts collection.

Renovations began with a typical bungalow, clad in asbestos siding. A rendering was created for study purposes with the colors chosen and applied before painting on the house began.

Since the house has been painted, details are now drawn out by the eye from the blandness of the previous colors. To suggest that the previous paint job was a “color scheme” is an overstatement in some ways. One paint color applied over everything in one broad stroke meant that most of the details were hidden in the shadows.

The new paint scheme carefully draws the eye to the details originally envisioned by the builders as hallmarks of the era; knee brackets, shingles, gable windows all now appear without being overtly colored in unrelated tones.

If you are planning to repaint and recolor the exterior of your house, we encourage you to research and take advantage of the wide-range of information for historic homes offered by several paint companies, books and websites.

You may also contact the Fairmount Preservation Committee at preservation@historicfairmount.com.

Painting your house is an expensive investment, make the most of it.

Useful websites

www.arts-crafts.com

The Arts & Crafts Society. Many pages of examples of exterior color.

www.historichousecolors.com

Professor Robert Schweitzer: Author of *Bungalow Colors* and *America's Favorite Houses*. Website has articles on color and bungalow architecture

www.oldhousecolors.com

Website of Stuart Starck: Heritage consultants. Several pages on bungalow colors and ancillary topics interior and exterior.

www.americanbungalow.com

Online article on exterior paint color from issue 27. Clicking on paint color palettes enlarges chips.

www.historicfairmount.com



Photos and illustration by Stacy Luecker

Only two neutral colors decorate this Arts & Crafts bungalow on College Ave. Exposed rafter tails and brackets are hidden due to lack of contrast in its colors.



2236 College Ave. after a new paint scheme has been applied. The new colors give the house definition that helps show off its architectural details. The colors were chosen using Kelly-Moore Paint's historic color palette as a guide.

Paint companies with historic color collections

- Kelly-Moore Paint Co. — www.kellymoore.com
- Sherwin Williams — www.sherwin-williams.com
- Benjamin Moore & Co. — www.benjaminmoore.com
- Valspar (Lowe's) — www.valsparpaint.com — Partnered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to offer an exclusive palette of documented historic colors and architectural palettes.

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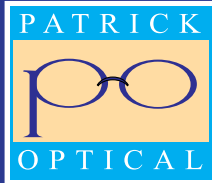
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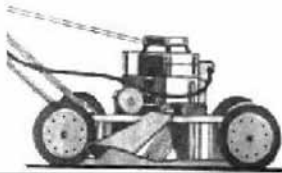
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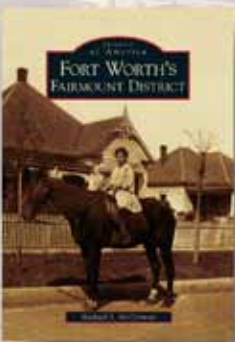


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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- Dec. 2-4Ryan Place Candlelight Tour of Homes
- Dec. 2 Buddy's Big Band at Southside Preservation Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 3 Fairmount Winter Gala
- Dec. 5 (First Monday)..... FNA board meeting
- Dec. 8Historic Preservation Committee meeting
- Dec. 12 (Second Monday)Landmarks hearing
- Dec. 19 (Third Monday)Bulk trash collection
- Dec. 19 (Third Monday)Landmarks filing deadline (5 p.m.)
- Jan. 2 (First Monday) FNA board meeting
- Jan. 9 (Second Monday).....Landmarks hearing
- Jan. 10Newsletter submission deadline
- Jan. 24 (Fourth Tuesday)Fairmount Neighborhood Association general meeting

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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 historic brown or new burgundy.

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Visit the Fairmount website for a calendar of events, news announcements, resources for your historic home, a gallery of Fairmount homes and more!

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Why join?

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Annual dues are \$15 per individual. \$20 per family or \$20 per business.

Fill out this form and (1) send it with your dues to Fairmount Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 12348, Fort Worth, TX 76110-8348 or (2) bring it to the next Association meeting (see meeting notice on front page). Questions? Call Ricky Pike at 817.727.4577 or e-mail membership@historicfairmount.com.

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Happy Holidays



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