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FAIRMOUNT

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION

HOLIDAY 2015

FESTIVUS

- Holiday Light Tour
- Santa's Village
- Carolers
- Festivus Pole

Holiday Party
Santa in the Park
California Bungalows

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A PUBLICATION OF THE FAIRMOUNT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Sean M. Lynch

ATTORNEY AT LAW

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello All,

I would like to thank the members of our Fairmount community who have recently taken on the job of serving on the board for the next two years. We have Melanie Dotzour in finance, Carrie Carter in membership, Alex Thieroff in promotions and Roy Neese in infrastructure. These positions are joining Stacy Luecker in communications, Martin Dahl in historic preservation and David Thrapp in safety. Also, a huge thank you to outgoing board members: Jane Wedding, Brandon Garrett, Kathie Robinson, Patrick Caddou and Steve Halliday. I have assumed Steve Halliday's position as president and I realize that I have big shoes to fill—I am guessing about a size 12. We have a great mixed group—young and old (me!) and long-time residents and newer too. We look forward to serving the entire neighborhood whether homeowners or renters.

Also, please realize that the Fairmount Neighborhood Association is not a homeowners association. It is up to each individual whether they would like to join or not. But we welcome each and every one to check it out and hopefully become involved to continue making Fairmount a great place for all of us to live. I love our neighborhood for its diversity and personally and would hate to see that go away.

We have fun stuff ahead—THE annual holiday party is on Dec. 12 (page 15) and is being held at Southside Preservation Hall. The following evening will be the second annual Festivus (*for the rest of us*). Please see further details on pages 16-17.

The Fairmount Garden Club is back with great speakers and lots of work—they have started an Adopt-a-Block program—please consider signing up to pick up litter on your street. Their current project is replanting the greenspace on Allen.

I love this neighborhood for all of the wonderful things it has to offer—Arts Fifth Avenue with its many classes and music and dance performances; Mondo Drummers; Fairmount Community Library; Fairmount Community Garden; GNAR (Good Neighbors Animal Rescue); Fire Station Recreation Center as well as the walkability to restaurants and liquid refreshments and hopefully more retail soon.

Speaking of walkability, Fairmount was named the first Blue Zone neighborhood in the U.S. thanks to the hard work of Brandon Garrett, our past promotions director. On that note, to make the sidewalks safe, please consider trimming tree limbs up a little higher and not blocking sidewalks with vehicles. And please play nice with the bicyclists out there. Let's all get out and walk, bike, be healthy and enjoy the great place where we live.

Pat Bradley, President

president@historicfairmount.com



On the Cover

Lillian writes a letter to Santa (on the cover) and neighborhood children unwrap packages in front of the Richter's beautifully decorated Christmas tree. Learn more about holiday happenings in Fairmount in this issue.

A special thank you to Breinn Richter for decorating her house early for the holidays!

Photos by Stacy Luecker

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The Fairmount Beat *by Sergio Guadarrama, neighborhood patrol officer*

Hello, Fairmount! This is your fearless NPO corresponding from the Bat Cave underneath the Hemphill sector.

It is that time of year again. This is the Silly Season which I've called it for years and I wrote about this in some detail in last year's holiday newsletter. I highlighted some heart-wrenching experiences coupled with stories that give hope to humanity proving that the holidays do bring out the best in most people.

When I say most people I'm obviously leaving out those who take advantage of the holiday season by committing crimes of opportunity. These crimes include theft and burglary of vehicles and habitations.

Recently Fairmount has experienced an increase in thefts and vehicle burglaries. Home burglaries have been up and down, but mainly down and that is a good thing. Theft and package thefts remain an issue and I've been communicating with my fellow teammates and residents of the neighborhoods to come up with ways to curb this frustrating trend. Here are some tips for the holiday season:

- If your employer will allow it, have packages delivered to your workplace. If not, have packages delivered to a place where they can be received in person, such as the home of a trusted neighbor who stays home during the day, or a retired relative.
- Request the shipper require a signature confirmation or hold your package at a pick-up facility so you can pick it up in person at your convenience.
- If purchasing from a large re-

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“The thief, as will become apparent, was a special type of thief. This thief was an artist of theft. Other thieves merely stole everything that was not nailed down, but this thief stole the nails as well.”

—Terry Pratchett, *Sourcery*

tailer, request that your package be delivered to a local branch of the store.

- Request a specific delivery date and time from the shipper when you know you will be available.

If these tips don't work for you, a gracious offer has extended by my friends at Kent & Co. on Magnolia. They have offered for you to have your packages delivered to their building and they will keep it for you to pick up at your convenience during their business hours. I highly recommend that you take advantage of this if possible.

As far as vehicle burglaries I'm going to offer this suggestion—you can take my advice or not. The vast majority of vehicle burglaries in the past few months have involved vehicles that have been unlocked or the window(s) have been down making them easy targets. These vehicles have been gone through and some inexpensive items have been taken.

My suggestion is this—please lock your cars. There hasn't been a rash of burglaries involving broken windows to

gain entry. The fact that the vast majority of vehicle burglaries don't involve forced entry tells us that someone is going around and looking for unlocked cars or cars with windows rolled down.

Most of the vehicles where there was forced entry were in business parking lots. This is just a suggestion, and if you really want to keep your vehicles unlocked or unsecured then by all means continue. I have to say that I don't condone leaving your vehicles unlocked, and I understand not wanting to pay \$300 to replace a broken window—do what you want to do.

I've been your NPO for almost two years now. I can't tell you all how happy I am to be here helping in any way I can. This job has allowed me to make some great friendships in the neighborhoods which is part of what community policing is all about.

I'm glad that many of you see that there is a person behind this badge, this uniform, this ballistic vest, this gun belt and my police car. I've been able to share some of my life and experiences with you and some of you have felt comfortable to share your life and experiences with me. It really is a good feeling to have that bond and that many see me not just as a neighborhood police officer, but as a friend as well.

I'm grateful beyond words and I look forward to the coming year—it's going to be an eventful one for me with work opportunities and some planned travel.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday. I'll be seeing you around. That is all. Carry on...

Sergio L Guadarrama
Neighborhood Police Officer C31

The next Fairmount Neighborhood Association General Meeting will be Jan. 26 (fourth Tuesday of the month) 2100 Hemphill St. at The Bastion Restaurant building at 7 p.m.



Photo by Stacy Luecker

2105 Fairmount Ave.

October Yard of the Month

Fairmount's Halloween Yard of the Month is 2105 Fairmount Ave., a 1920 Craftsman bungalow owned by Mary and Larry Harms. The Harms' yard has won by Facebook vote two years in a row for their imaginative and witty Halloween décor.

Mary said that she began to shop for her 2015 Halloween decorations and found a white polyester suit paired with a black shirt in a thrift store and instantly thought of John Travolta in *Saturday Night Fever*. From the inspiration of Travolta dancing to the Bee Gee's "Stayin' Alive," the disco theme took over.

The Newly Deads, a skeletal bride and groom propped up in their coffins returned again this year. For their "first anniversary" the Harms gave the pair a disco twist and stationed them on either side of the porch stairs. They are joined by ghoulish wedding guests boogying on the dance floor: a male guest wears the Travolta leisure suit, and next to him is his date wearing a floor-length, black and white graphic gown evocative of the '70s version of a flapper dress complete with a metallic hand-

bag. The yard was punctuated by tombstones with pop music references such as "The Day the Music Died" and "Died of Boogie Fever, 1978." The final touch was maintaining the scene as a living-dead vignette during trick-or-treat hours. The Harms played disco music and danced with passing children and their parents on Halloween night.

"This will always be my favorite Halloween no matter what I do in the future," Mary said. "Seeing so many people, young and old, dancing and laughing was a blast. The kids were great showing off their Travolta moves and doing 'YMCA' together. Children and their parents had terrific costumes this year, too."

The Harms thank everyone who voted, but our thanks goes to them for their creative seasonal display. The Harms received a wine-tasting for eight at the Rosen House Inn, a \$35 gift certificate to C. C.'s Touch of Nature and a Fairmount Community Garden logo T-shirt.

The Yard of the Month committee is Susan Taylor Harper and Bonnie Blackwell



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YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD EXPERT

FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT 2015 Market Report

Number of Home Sold	58
Average Days on Market	52
Biggest Deal	\$405,000
Average Price per Square Foot	\$145

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Your Fairmount Neighbor
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Briggs Freeman | Sotheby's
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The cats and dog pictured here are available for adoption through Good Neighbors Animal Rescue. For information about these and other available animals, please contact GNAR.

Good Neighbors come together to form local animal rescue

*Constant need exists for volunteers,
forever homes for homeless pets*

by Sue McLean

Good Neighbors Animal Rescue is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group of volunteers whose mission is to keep pets out of shelters by promoting fostering and neutering, by facilitating the care of stray animals and by encouraging responsible owners to keep pets safe and healthy in Fairmount and Ryan Place.

GNAR assumed the Trap Neuter Release program in Fairmount and Ryan Place in January and within eight months had spayed/neutered 500 ferals, porch and pet cats through a grant from Spay Neuter Network and Petsmart. Although the grant has been depleted, GNAR is still being called upon to TNR more ferals. The Fairmount Neighborhood Association awarded GNAR a \$1,500 grant which was used to purchase eight newer-technology Tru-Catch traps and funded vetting, vaccinations and spaying/neutering.

GNAR is not just about cats. Lost and unwanted dogs are also rescued, fostered and rehomed.

As a result of this program, dozens of animals have been kept out of shelters where they have a high chance of being euthanized or catching illnesses.

Volunteer fosters raise and socialize the animals until they have had all of their vaccinations and been spayed/neutered. The animals are then shown at the Montgomery Plaza



Lolly



Ashley



Tanzy



Joshie

Petsmart until they are adopted.

The group also loans carriers and provides transport to help neighbors get pets vaccinated or spayed/neutered, loans crates to fosters to safely house litters of kittens indoors and provides a chip scanner for lost pets.

Adoption fees don't begin to cover each pet's expenses. While GNAR has done a lot of good the program has a constant need for temporary fosters, volunteers to transport to vaccination clinics, walk dogs, socialize kittens, clean litter boxes and carriers, handle social media or do administrative work.

Tax deductible monetary donations to go toward vetting, FIV/FelV and heartworm testing, vaccinations, worming and flea and heartworm control are also needed. Donations of wire dog crates, pet carriers, old towels, cat litter, quality kitten and dog food, dog collars and strong leashes, used or new are also tax deductible. Please contact GNAR for drop-off locations if you'd like to help.

Monetary donations may be made through PayPal to GNARAnimalRescue@gmail.com.

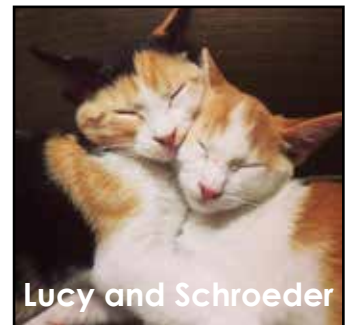
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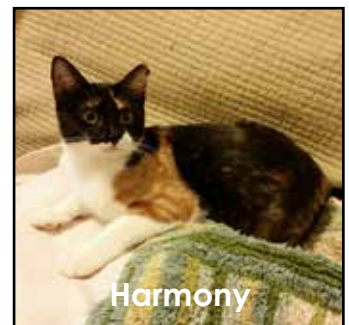
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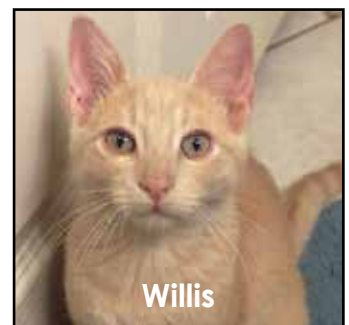
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Lucy and Schroeder



Harmony



Willis

Photos courtesy GNAR

Desperately seeking Santa



Cookies and milk awaits the arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve.



Jacob Richter reads *The Night Before Christmas*, an account of a visit from St. Nicholas on Christmas Eve attributed to Clement Clarke Moore and first published in 1823.

St. Nicholas delivers good cheer, good will year-round

by Amber Lee

When I was a little girl, my parents decided to tell me the story of St. Nicholas. He was a real man, born in the fourth century A.D. in a place called Myra in Asia Minor (now called Turkey). His parents left him a lot of money when they died so he was very wealthy. He was also a very generous man.

One day Nicholas heard about a poor man who had three daughters but who was unable to pay their dowry (money paid to the groom by the bride's parents on the wedding day). Hearing this, he went to the roof of the family's house and secretly dropped a bag of gold coins down the chimney which landed in the oldest daughter's stocking which she had hung by the fire to dry (this meant that the oldest daughter was able to be married). He did this for the second daughter but when it was the third daughter's turn the father hid by the fire every night until he discovered who was leaving the gold coins.

Nicholas was caught and he begged the father to keep his

identity a secret because he didn't want to bring attention to himself. As these things do however, the news got out and soon every secret gift or act of kindness was being attributed to Nicholas.

In the end not everything was cheerful for the good samaritan. The Roman emperor Diocletian ruthlessly persecuted Christians, and so it was that then Bishop Nicholas was exiled from his homeland and imprisoned. After Nicholas was released, he continued his generosity toward those in need with most of his recipients being children. He perished on December 6 which is currently celebrated as St. Nicholas Day all across Europe and its neighboring countries.

After his death Nicholas was honored with a sainthood—St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children as well as sailors.

Being the astute child that I was, I promptly went to school and informed my entire kindergarten class that Santa Claus was dead. I was not personally upset by this fact, but it apparently upset many of the other children in the class and my parents were promptly notified.



Cannon admires shiny Christmas tree ornaments.

A child's understanding of the beloved man we affectionately call Santa varies from unabashed adoration to skeptical and every point in between. Some believe he is perfect and magical and can pull literally anything they request out of a big red bag. Regardless of cost and heedless of any mortal restrictions mere parents can accomplish, Santa Claus can do anything.

Some of our fellow Fairmounters shared what their kids had to say about this beloved character.

Amber Wyatt took her daughter to see Santa Claus who said, "I would like a stick and a pink oxygen tank for Christmas, please." Santa gave a bewildered look to the parents at this unique request.

As for Santa having or even needing money, that's one issue several of our financially savvy children have thought long and hard about.

Kat Valentine's oldest niece received the coveted Wii for Christmas one year which sealed the deal for her. "I know Santa is real because my mommy and daddy could never afford this," the niece stated. Ah, from the mouth of babes.

Another great example of kids vs. Santa is when Amber Brown took her child to see Santa and they asked him, "You didn't bring me what I wanted last year, did you run out of money?" It is easy to wonder how many times Santa gets asked about his financial status and what his answer is.

As mentioned above, I learned the story of St. Nicholas at

a very early age and I have no memory of believing in the common form of Santa Claus as a man who slides down chimneys to leave presents. This may seem sad to some of you, but in the end it is okay. I grew up knowing that there was once a real person who shared his wealth and kindness with the people in his community and that knowledge I treasure.

If you look around your neighborhood today, no matter where you live, you will notice that we are surrounded by Santa Claus all year long. In Fairmount we can see him in the neighbors that take in stray animals or in the group that gets together to help a single mom get back on her feet. We see his good will in the families who make casseroles for those who are grieving or those who get together to plant flowers for a community library or along the parkway. People stringing extension cords from one house to another during a power outage or even the time someone left an anonymous care package on my own front porch with diapers and food for my kids when I needed it most, are all indications that Santa exists.

Look around and you will see that we are all St. Nicholas and we all have a chance to be the good cheer and good will for everyone. If we can see these things in a jolly old man with rosy cheeks in a fur lined red suit then that's okay too, but know that in the end that's who he is: Santa is the embodiment of the goodness that surrounds us every day—not just at Christmas time.



Photo courtesy Fort Worth South, Inc.

Magnolia Avenue at Hemphill Street.

Magnolia thrives, future bright for Near Southside

by Dave Stovall

In real estate jargon, the Near Southside and Magnolia Avenue are hot. The pace of renovation and development has grown exponentially over the past 20 years attracting more and more people and businesses wanting to join this vibrant new urban village. The revitalization of this once depressed and crime-ridden area is evident in a walk down Magnolia Avenue where trendy restaurants and locally-owned businesses are thriving.

If you are new to Fairmount and the Near Southside, then you probably know of the area's sketchy past or have heard the local lore from pioneers who arrived here decades ago and endured the home break-ins, the occasional mugging and thefts of anything not bolted down and guarded by a pit bull or Smith & Wesson.

In the 1980s and into the 2000s, the nighttime scene on Magnolia Avenue was one of darkened businesses closed for the day, homeless sleeping in alleys and doorways, drunks staggering out of dive watering holes (okay, that hasn't really changed), and stray dogs sniffing through fast food wrappers blowing in the wind.

Ralph Waterston, an early urban pioneer, remembers the Magnolia Avenue of yesterday as far back to when Central Bank & Trust occupied the building that's now the Paris Coffee Shop, when an Italian eatery preceded Benito's and the only live music was a watering hole called Bill & Mary's Place next to King Tut. "I remember there was The Zodiac Club across the street that was the darkest place anywhere. You had to wait for your eyes to adjust just see the person next to you at the bar," Waterston said.

Magnolia Avenue has a noticeable lack of corporate-owned businesses which tend to be attracted to any new source of consumer dollars that usually follow the revitalization of a neighborhood. One might assume this is due to restrictions or zoning requirements, but according to Mike Brennan, director of planning for Fort Worth South, Inc., corporate entities have shied away from the avenue because it is simply not conducive to their requirements for design, space, and especially parking. Good news for those hoping to see the local flavor and texture of Magnolia Avenue maintained and preserved as

redevelopment moves forward.

Sitting on a bench outside of his Old Home Supply on College Avenue, Waterston remarked that "For decades it (the Southside) would take two steps forward and one step back but it seems to finally be moving toward its full potential."

If the area has indeed reached critical mass toward continued redevelopment, the credit is largely due to the ongoing implementation of programs like the Tax Increment Finance (TIF), Neighborhood Empowerment Zone incentives and historic district incentives, all spearheaded by Fort Worth South, Inc. and citizens committed to progress in the Near Southside and other areas of Fort Worth with historic and cultural significance. For now, the future looks bright for our Magnolia Avenue and this eclectic and culturally rich new urban village we call the Near Southside.

David Stovall is a real estate agent with Burt-Ladner Real Estate. You can listen to him on That Real Estate Radio Show with co-host Lori Gallagher on The Pirate, at 97.5 FM.



Photo by Stacy Luecker

A table sits decorated with shiny ornaments, festive candles and fine china for a holiday dinner party.

Healthy living paramount during holiday rush

by Breinn Richter

Surviving the holidays guilt-free can be challenging, not to mention managing never-ending shopping, wrapping, gift-giving, dealing with family and friends and making a budget and sticking to it—as well as navigating delicious holiday cocktails and beautiful buffet spreads. Here are a few tips to get through December without finding yourself watching *A Christmas Story* marathon while consuming your weight in chocolate covered pecans.

Practice portion control—If you don't really love it, don't eat it, but also please don't exclude foods like desserts or alcohol—food and drink may be the only joy you have when your family is in town so indulge responsibly. Appetizers are easy to over eat, so make a small plate and choose raw options like carrots with ranch dip. When choosing a cocktail, remember even “diet” cocktails have calories. Alternating “mocktails” can help—order a sparkling water with a lime between those Manhattans. Also, watch serving sizes and remember that calories from trimmings such as gravies, sauces and dips add up fast. Choose a palm-size portion of protein and fill the rest of your plate with salad and vegetables. Scan the options before you have a plate and have a plan of attack so you don't feel like grandma is bum-rushing you through the line. Also, think hard about going back for seconds—everyone has already gone through once, and you know some kid probably sneezed on the green bean casserole.

Get active—Exercise doesn't have to be hard work so focus on something fun and simple. Instead of watching the game, grab the kids and go outside to throw a football. Take a walk after

meals. Put the wrapping paper across the room so you have to get up every time you need it. Park at the farthest parking spot from the door at shopping centers. Anything to keep moving. Even the smallest chances to get active add up (including walking to the liquor store). And if you're going to dedicate a time to exercise, do something you love that makes you feel good.

Hold yourself accountable—Sharing goals with someone makes you more likely to stick with it. Set up a weekly schedule to walk or run and write down steps/time/mileage objectives to meet each day, or get an app for your phone to help you keep track. Grab a friend, a neighbor or your spouse and make a date of it—misery loves company. It's also a good idea to keep track of how much you eat and drink by jotting down what you consume (there are apps for this as well). And please stay off of the scale. Focus more on how you feel and how much better your clothes are fitting and not what the scale says.

Find a professional—If denying yourself a gallon of spinach dip or taking a walk around the block is daunting, get some help. Find a professional nutritionist, health coach or personal trainer to guide you. It's also a good time to beat the New Year crowd if you're considering signing up for a gym membership—ask them to throw in a few personal training sessions to sweeten the deal and you'll already be a month ahead of the resolution-makers.

The holidays are a stressful time so make a commitment now to be kind to yourself. Chisel out some time each day that is yours and celebrate your good choices—conquering the dessert table is a big deal. Let's all make this holiday a healthy one.



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1329 COLLEGE AVENUE

Neighborhood builds bonds, flips over free pancakes

Neighbors gather at 1901 S. Adams St. to enjoy pancakes, fruit and juice during a monthly pancake breakfast.



by *Lauren Mims*

With a community like the one that has been growing here in Fairmount, it's no surprise that friends and neighbors would eventually come together to share in each other over great food. Whether it's a BBQ or a backyard party, just about everyone in the 'hood likes to get together. This love for community kinship has brought about a monthly tradition simply referred to as the "Pancake Breakfast."

It was just four years ago that a few neighbors decided to take advantage of this welcoming community by creating an event to introduce each other and build a bond. The founding fathers and mothers, Andrew and Whitley Rubinson, Patrick and Meagan Wells, Tyler and Bethany Turner and Sara Hevron united to kick-off a free pancake breakfast with hopes of meeting some new faces.

"There's beauty in this place where we chat on porches, walk dogs and actually live neighborly—there's warmth, laughter and intention. We were thinking, wouldn't it be great to have a monthly pancake breakfast to enjoy on a regular basis," said Sara Hevron, one of the pancake breakfast organizers.

Unsure if they would have anyone show up to the first breakfast, the Fairmount neighborhood did not disappoint. Hevron goes on to say, "We are blessed by the company of returning friends and new faces each month!" Originally only hosted on the second Saturday of each month, the group has begun to branch out to other community events such as the Cowtown Marathon and Santa in the Park.

A true family friendly event, the pancake breakfast starts around 9 a.m. and usually wraps up at 10:30 a.m. There you can expect to find flapjacks flipping and toppings strewn about, as well as some much needed coffee. As simple as it may seem, it is that minimalism that helps unite the community together to focus on making new friends rather than necessarily the pancakes themselves. The group is always looking for help and new ideas to bring to the table, but most importantly a friendly smile.

"I don't know about y'all, but bacon sounds like a great addition to me! If a neighbor wants to bring something, we'll gladly accept the added variety," said Hevron, "What we'd love most is to see friends bring friends—time with neighbors new and known is rejuvenating."



Photos by Stacy Luecker

Above: Terry and Shirley Gober enjoy pancakes and juice at a recent pancake breakfast on S. Adams Street.

Right: Sara Hevron (left), Meagan Wells and Patrick Wells make pancakes.





Fairmount holiday party set for Dec. 12

by George Achziger, Fairmount Social Coordinator

Mark your calendars for the evening of Saturday, Dec. 12 for Fairmount's annual neighborhood holiday party. The event will double as both a party and the monthly neighborhood social.

This year Southside Preservation Hall (1519 Lipscomb St.) has graciously opened its doors and lent us the use of their beautiful facility. The event will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude at 10 p.m. A Texas/Southwestern themed evening is planned and in true community holiday spirit, giving and sharing though a pot luck covered dish event will enhance the mix and mingle among friends.

Details are being fine-tuned and thoughts of delicious

tamales provided at the venue will inspire attendees to bring appropriate side dishes, perhaps sharing favorite family recipes.

Thirsty? Libations of Egg Nog and Sangria will also be offered.

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

Festive attire is encouraged to make this a special evening and to cement the holiday spirit.

Please watch for email updates through Constant Contact, on our website at www.historicfairmount.com and through our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/historic-fairmount.



Photo by Eric Luecker

A visit with Santa at Fairmount's Santa in the Park is the perfect way to get in the holiday spirit. This year's event will be held Dec. 19 from 9:30-11:30 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 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19.

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 on Santa in the Park, please email Alex Thieroff at promotions@historicfairmount.com.



Above: 1915 5th Ave. is decorated for the holidays with clear lights, wreaths and red bows.

Right: Jacob Richter plays the role of Cousin Eddie from National Lampoon's *Christmas Vacation* during last year's Festivas tour. The display was complete with Snot the dog, a trailer and of course a beautifully decorated house with candy cane lights, Santa and a Christmas tree.

Lower right: Families and people of all ages visited with Santa during last year's Festivas. Guests also drank hot chocolate and took shuttle tours of the Fairmount neighborhood to view holiday lights and creative displays.

Fairmount lights up for holiday event Dec. 13

by Brandon Garrett, Festivas coordinator

Last year more than 250 people attended Fairmount's Festivas. They toured the neighborhood via shuttle to see houses beautifully decorated for the holidays, drank hot chocolate and visited with Santa.

As a result of the generosity of Festivas-goers, Fairmount was able to donate dozens of toys to One Safe Place—an amazing organization off Hemphill Street that serves children affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

Because last year was so successful, it was easy to decide that Festivas should become an annual event, and the Festivas committee has been working hard to make this year bigger and even more special for everyone who attends.

This year Festivas kicks-off at Kent & Co., located at 1101 W. Magnolia Ave., Sunday, Dec. 13. Come any time between 6:30-9:30 p.m. for a holiday light tour by shuttle through Fairmount, complete with hot chocolate and holiday music. There

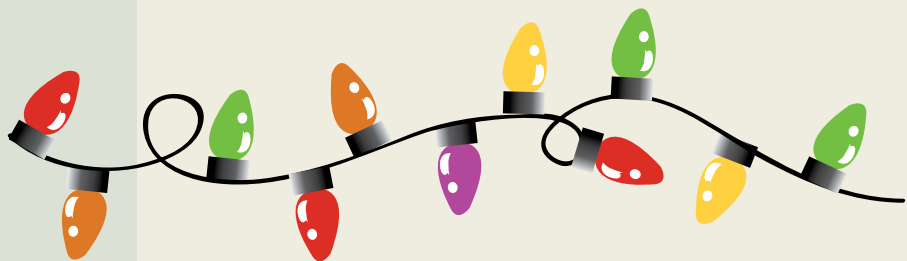
will be food trucks, refreshments, carolers and even a Festivas pole where you can air all of your grievances with our neighborhood Grinch.

Along the Festivas route this year we've added Santa's Village—a magical place for all ages which will include De Zavala choir carolers, crafts, cookies and even the big man himself (Santa) to take wish list requests and smile for photos.

Tickets are \$10 each for adults and children 12 and under are \$5 each or FREE with a new unwrapped child's toy to donate to One Safe Place.

Tickets are available online now at www.historicfairmount.com and at Kent & Co. the evening of the event. If you purchase tickets online please bring your receipt with you.

Our hope is that Festivas will become a Fairmount holiday tradition for years to come. It's a great way to see what Fairmount is all about while showing off a beautiful collection of eclectic historic houses.



\$250 prize to be awarded for Festivus decorating creativity

To make Festivus bigger and better than last year, the Fairmount Neighborhood Association is donating a \$250 gift card to Lowe's for the best decorated/most creative house on the Festivus route this year. The Festivus committee will select the house on the night of Dec. 13. *Note: this is NOT the same as our annual decorating contest which will be held on Dec. 11.*

Annual holiday light contest to be held evening of Dec. 11

The Fairmount in Lights annual decorating contest is your chance to have your house declared the December Yard of the Month. Photos will be taken the night of Dec. 11 and there will be a Facebook vote to determine the top three winners. Those wishing to be sure they are considered, please email your address and contact information to communications@historicfairmount.com prior to 5 p.m. on Dec. 11. Prizes include: 1. A one night stay at the Rosen House Inn. 2. A terrarium from Ephemera plus a \$15 gift card to MELT. 3. A plot at the Community Garden. Winners will choose their prize package beginning with the first place winner who will also receive a \$35 gift certificate to C.C.'s Touch of Nature.



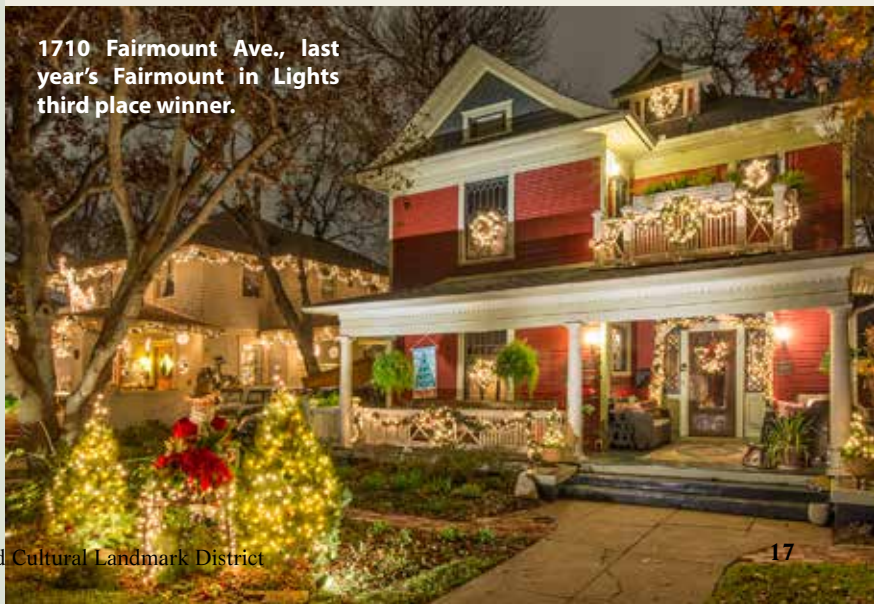
Photos by Eric and Stacy Luecker

Festivus t-shirts and posters

2015 Festivus t-shirts and posters are available for purchase on the Fairmount website at www.historicfairmount.com. T-shirts are long sleeve and unisex sizes: S, M, L and XL and are \$15 each. Posters are also for sale for \$5 each.

T-shirts and posters will be delivered anywhere in the Fairmount and Ryan Place neighborhoods prior to Dec. 11. Any purchases made outside the neighborhoods or after Dec. 11 may be picked up during Festivus at Kent & Co.

1710 Fairmount Ave., last year's Fairmount in Lights third place winner.



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Carolyn Jones Goodrum stands in front of her house at 2005 Fairmount Ave. her great uncle Charles Butcher built for his brother, Carolyn's grandfather, William Clarence Butcher. The house has been in the family for 105 years.

Photo by Stacy Luecker

2005 Fairmount Ave. shortly after it was built. Before it was remodeled in the '50s the house clearly showed design elements of a Wilson bungalow including the exposed rafter tails and the shingled gable with its flaring roofline and decorative curving brackets which survive today.



Photos courtesy Carolyn Jones Goodrum



CATALOG HOUSES

Local builder finds appeal in California bungalows

by Michael McDermott

Part III in a series on catalog houses

Recently we published two articles in a series about houses built in Fairmount that originated in catalogs produced at the turn of the 20th century—designs that were new and gaining popularity across the nation. The plans for these houses could be had for a mere \$10 or less, be adapted using local materials and could be reproduced most anywhere in the country. It was an exciting time as it was the beginning of widespread home ownership for a nation of former middle class renters.

The dream of owning your own home was more possible than ever and the homebuyer could easily choose a design from hundreds of popular catalog books without the expense of an



Photo by Stacy Luecker

Charles Butcher built many houses in what is now Fairmount, including 1817 Fairmount Ave. with eaves so deep they are shown on the 1910 Sanborn Insurance Map as narrow porches.

architect. Changes to plans could even be negotiated while builders themselves might make changes in what materials were used due to what was locally available. With many house designs emanating from the West Coast, homeowners in Texas weren't likely to be building the front columns of their house out of the same river rock that decorated many California bungalow porches of the time. However, misfired (klinker) brick, local limestone, plain brick or even round columns were often used as substitutions.



Carolyn Jones Goodrum moved back to Fort Worth from Weatherford in 1991 and into her quaint little family home at 2005 Fairmount Ave. which was built 81 years earlier.

Sitting in front of a table filled with old newspaper clippings, documents and many wonderful old family photographs, Carolyn picked up a photo of a little Craftsman cottage situated alone on an open prairie. "That's my mother," she said, pointing to one of three very young children standing on the porch. "My great uncle Charlie built this home for my grandparents in 1910."

Carolyn also has the original mostly hand-written mechanic's lien for the house—an amazingly simple document by today's complicated legalese-crammed paperwork needed to accomplish the same goal.

Carolyn's great uncle Charlie was Charles Marion Butcher of Butcher and Sweeney—very accomplished builders in their day who not only built many houses in Fairmount and across the now historic Southside, but scores of well-known commercial and institutional



A sign advertises the Acme Floor Company owned by Charles' brother William who moved the flooring business to 2019 Hemphill St. around 1921.



An early photo from the 1970s of 1825 Fairmount.



1825 Fairmount is Charles Butcher's earliest known build on Fairmount Avenue. He built the house for his father in late 1909.

Photo by Stacy Luecker



Photo by Stacy Luecker

Charlie Butcher's house at 1831 Fairmount, modeled after design no. 492 from Henry L. Wilson's *The Bungalow Book* (1910), was slightly altered leaving off a lower gable, stone front and half timbering. It does have the same gable design otherwise—eaves, brackets on front gables and sides and a bay window on the north side which is currently not visible due to vegetation.

Left: Design no. 492 from Wilson's *The Bungalow Book*.



buildings all across the city.

A few examples of Butcher and Sweeney construction are the original nine-story Harris Methodist Hospital tower; (1930), designed by early Fairmount resident, architect Wiley G. Clarkson, and now almost invisibly buried among all the newer structures built as part of more recent expansion; TCU Stadium (1929) also recently renovated but preserving the original Art Deco facade; Polytechnic High School, and Arlington Heights High School, both constructed in the 1930s. Central Methodist Church (1910) is another example, now Southside Preservation Hall, including the main sanctuary and later the additional fellowship hall, now the Hall's ballroom, and the educational wing, both in 1922-23.

According to the old Fort Worth city directories, Charles Butcher started out as a carpenter while Robert C. Sweeney, his business partner, was a brick layer.

It's the houses C. M. Butcher built in Fairmount though

that tie this story to those of the catalog houses. Although he and his partner, first listed together as Butcher and Sweeney in a 1916 directory, graduated to building several substantial homes and mansions on Elizabeth Boulevard and in the Berkeley neighborhood.

It is likely that Butcher was initially a fan of California catalog home purveyor Henry L. Wilson. In the December 2014 Fairmount newsletter, the home at 1404 S. Adams St. is featured along with other Wilson catalog homes, as well as more in the May 2015 home tour issue.

Wilson houses were popular in Fairmount and Uncle Charlie Butcher had much to do with that. He built a house identical to 1404 S. Adams St., Wilson design no. 118, at 2019 Hemphill St. in about 1909.

At 1831 Fairmount Ave., Butcher built himself a house which appears to use Wilson design no. 492 as its inspiration. The house he built for his brother at 2005 Fairmount Ave.,

Carolyn's grandfather, also appears to have been inspired by one of Wilson's designs, although remodeled to its present appearance by Carolyn's father, Harold L. Jones in 1954.

Butcher built two other houses on Fairmount Avenue at 1817 and 1825 both around 1908-09, the latter being a home for his parents Lewis and Nancy Caroline Butcher.

Other members of the Butcher family were builders, contractors and carpenters. Listed as carpenters in early city directories are Thomas W. and Henry R. Butcher, brothers of Charles and William, as well as their father, Carolyn's great grandfather, Lewis McDonald Butcher.

Carolyn said her grandfather William started the first flooring company in Fort Worth. Acme Floor Company first appears in the city's business directory in 1912 with William C. Butcher, Charles M. Butcher and Henry F. Cargill as founders. It was located downtown for many years but moved to 2019 Hemphill St. when William, shown as sole owner of the business by 1918, moved into that house about three years later with Carolyn's step grandmother, Beulah. Beulah Butcher also ran her own business out of 2019 Hemphill St.— a music studio where she taught almost every stringed instrument imaginable.

The Fairmount Neighborhood Association recently submitted an application to the Texas Historical Commission requesting approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the neighborhood. The history of the Butcher family contributes to the colorful past of Fort Worth and Tarrant County and is a testament to the builders, the variety of house styles and designs that were available at the time and how catalog houses shaped the landscape of many neighborhoods from the early 1900s. It is also one of many examples that shows why Fairmount is so deserving of a marker. The THC will review the application and make its determination in early 2016.

Michael McDermott is a Fairmount resident and author of the book Fort Worth's Fairmount District (Images of America). Watch for more from Michael at www.historicfairmount.com and in future newsletters.



Photo by Stacy Luecker

1404 S. Adams St. was taken from design no. 118 in Wilson's California Bungalow catalog and is identical to the Butcher's house at 2019 Hemphill St.



Carolyn Goodrum's parents, Harold L. and Clara Mae (Butcher) Jones, pose in front of Clara's father's house along with her brother Francis (right).



The family dog poses on a bucket in a 1920s photo of 2019 Hemphill St. According to his descendants, Charles Butcher built the house in 1909 from Wilson's California Bungalow catalog.



Photo by Stacy Luecker

1700 Fairmount Ave.

Fairmount in Bloom

The Fairmount Neighborhood Association's Yard of the Month committee is pleased to announce Fairmount in Bloom, a new award to recognize one yard annually as an established garden contributing to the beauty of our historic neighborhood season after season. Our inaugural winners are Terry and Shirley Gober of 1700 Fairmount Ave. who maintain a handsome and ever-changing display on a busy street corner of Allen and Fairmount.

The Gobers purchased their house in 2008 following an extensive renovation. Shortly after taking possession, Shirley put in St. Augustine sod, but she pulled most of it up within two years. Shirley, and the birds of Fairmount, who constantly astonish her with new additions to the landscape, did the rest of the design. "It's exciting to get up every morning and see what's out there," Shirley said. She gives every new plant a grace period of a few weeks to prove itself weed or wildflower, though sometimes she and husband Terry disagree about the new growth and whether it should stay.

Over half of the plants are volunteers. Among the gifted

flora are a Texas redbud sapling (*circus canadensis*), a crepe myrtle (*lagerostemia*), purple cone flower (*Echinacea*), Shasta daisy (*leucanthemum x superbum*) and five large moonflowers or angel trumpets (*datura*), a beautiful but poisonous plant unsuitable for companion planting with food crops.

Though elegant and well-curated, most of the Gober's garden décor is upcycled. Shirley likes to take her truck around on bulk trash pick-up day in the neighborhood and scope out great finds.

There are quite a few purchased plants among all this recycled bounty too. Among Shirley's favorite perennials to buy are the beautiful butterfly magnet called love-in-a-mist (*nigella*), fountain grass and salvia of various types. Shirley usually shops at Archie's Gardenland for native plants and C. C.'s Touch of Nature for hanging baskets.

Our thanks and a gift certificate to C. C.'s Touch of Nature go to the Gobers for their magnificent garden.

The Yard of the Month selection committee is Susan Taylor Harper and Bonnie Blackwell

Holiday tradition spells **JELL-O**

by Sara Karashin

Eye-catching red, decorative white trim, the classic jolly jiggle—ever since I was little that special holiday appearance always had me giddy with anticipation. And until I moved away from home, I didn't realize what my family considered a holiday icon could elicit from others not just a raised eyebrow, but visible horror.

I'm not talking about holly-jolly Santa. My holiday tradition is straight out of the 50s Jell-O craze. Two layers of tangy sweet cherry Jell-O mixed with apple sauce and melted Red Hots candies separated by a crunchy creamy center of Philly cheese, nuts and celery. This recipe's seemingly odd mix of ingredients may leave you cringing, but I'll have you know that I've seen my share of doubters turn around and go for seconds (and sometimes thirds and fourths). It's tangy, sweet and savory all in one eye-catching dish.

My husband claims it is a tradition in which he will never partake and meanwhile I get a laugh out of his family's insistence of having a bowl of hard-boiled eggs at the table. And this year, after ages of displaced Northerner confusion, we are adding some beloved holiday tamales to the buffet. But that is the fun of growing older—keeping up with favorite traditions and incorporating new ones along the way, no matter how strange they may seem.

If you are adventurous and looking to add something unique to your list of annual holiday traditions, you can always stop by our house for some bright and jiggly dessert, if there's any left, or you can stay home and make your own.



Photo by Eric Luecker

Candy Apple Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg (6 oz) cherry Jell-O
- 1/2 cup Red Hots candy
- 2 c boiling water
- 3 c apple sauce
- 1 pkg (8 oz) cream cheese
- 1/2 c mayonnaise
- 1/2 c finely chopped celery
- 1/2 c chopped nuts



Directions:

Dissolve Jell-O and Red Hots in boiling water. Add apple sauce and blend well. Pour half into lightly greased pan or mold and chill until firm. Blend cream cheese with mayonnaise then add celery and nuts. Spread over firm gelatin and pour remaining gelatin mixture over cheese layer. Refrigerate.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks

State markers denote highest honor awarded to historic structures

by Stacy Luecker

While the Fairmount Historic District is on the National Register of Historic Places and many of the houses in Fairmount are contributing structures to the district, many of the houses are also eligible for individual recognition as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks.

RTHLs are properties judged to be historically and architecturally significant. The Texas Historical Commission awards RTHL designation to buildings at least 50 years old that are judged worthy of preservation for their architectural and historical associations.

RTHL is a legal designation and comes with a measure of protection; it is the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic structure. Purchase and display of a historical marker is a required component of the RTHL designation process. Owners of RTHL-designated structures must give the THC 60 days notice before any alterations are made to the exterior of the structure. Unsympathetic changes to these properties may result in removal of the designation and historical marker. To nominate a property, the owner's consent is required.

Fairmount currently has three houses individually recognized as recorded

landmarks: Benton House (RTHL 1971), Gunhild-Weber House (RTHL 1978), and recently the Grammer-Pierce house (2015). In November of this year the Fairmount Historic District applied for a subject marker and its application is pending for 2016.

The application process takes place first through the Tarrant County Historical Commission who reviews the application and then sends it to the THC. Applications are accepted once per year with a deadline in November and those selected to be awarded markers are typically announced by the THC in January.

RTHL applications include a five page narrative history, property owner consent and proof of ownership, at least one historic photo, current photos of all elevations, a site plan and a floor plan.

Applications and information on the application process are available on the THC website at www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/state-historical-markers.

Research links and tips on how to research your house can be found on the Fairmount website by visiting www.historicfairmount.com and clicking on the Resources link and then Research Your House.



Grammer-Pierce House - 1915
RTHL 2015 — Dedication date TBA 2016.



Gunhild-Weber House - 1907
RTHL 1978



Benton House - 1898
RTHL 1971

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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 About > Design Guidelines and Standards.

For a paper copy or guidelines clarification email preservation@historicfairmount.com.

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Pride and prejudice of preservation

by Roxanna Latifi

Imagine a world where nothing is passed down for our future generations to learn from. What a tragedy that would be.

There are a variety of reasons why historic preservation is important. The spirit, heritage and foundation of where we've come from and who we are all intertwine in preserving our history.

Sadly, not everyone realizes or respects this. And while not every building can be saved, we should definitely try. As John C. Sawhill once said: "A society is defined not only by what it creates but also by what it refuses to destroy."

Many things may become challenges for historic preservation. Maybe it's the funding or lack of knowledge. Perhaps it's our own pride that gets in the way, wanting to advance our own creations. Or it could be the prejudice that feeds into the lack of understanding one may not have for preservation. Pride and prejudice can work for us or against us.

Jane Austen's novel, "Pride and Prejudice," is among the most popular novels in English Literature. The story follows five sisters eligible for marriage. All sisters are unique in their own way—each having their own talents, or lack thereof, and with various ambitions. Two eligible bachelors arrive on the scene later in the novel; both bachelors, like the sisters, have very different personalities.

Change never comes easy. When the new bachelors settle in, many ru-

“When we build, let us think that we build forever.

Let it not be for present delight, nor for present use alone. Let it be such work that our descendants thank us for; and let us think, as we lay on stone, that a time will come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them... as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them. "See! This our father did for us!"

— John Ruskin (1819-1900)

mors start to circulate about what their intentions may be. And with the recent revitalization of Fairmount and the Near Southside, the rumors circulating are no different. We have a little of our own pride and prejudices, or in our particular case—preservation and plight.

The homes in the Fairmount Historic District are unique. Each has its own personality, much like the five sisters in Austen's "Pride and Prejudice." But the various personalities (or motives, goals, tastes, what have you) of these revitalization efforts can complement each other—but only if they are willing.

When it comes to historic preservation, many will have prejudices against it. Maybe they don't know about it, don't understand it, or don't care. Whatever the case may be, just like in Austen's novel, prejudices get in the way and corrupt the environment.

In Fairmount we have many in our neighborhood who pride themselves in preservation and still many who have a prejudice against it.

Austen's novel eventually works out for its characters Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy. Mr. Darcy's prejudice against Elizabeth who is from a lower social class initially stands in his way of pursuing her. Elizabeth is outspoken and it is her pride that keeps her from admitting her feelings for Mr. Darcy in the beginning. Eventually, both recognize their issues in "Pride and Prejudice." In the end, they work past it and marry.

If Austen's characters can become a match made in heaven, can we have the same hope for preservationists with pride and revitalizations with prejudice? Sure we can. And we should.

We need to have the eyes of pride as a preservationist while recognizing the prejudice. Pride and prejudice can, and should, work together using their own unique personalities and goals.

"If we wish to have a future with greater meaning, we must concern ourselves... with the total heritage of the nation and all that is worth preserving from our past as a living part of the present."—With Heritage So Rich, 1966.

Roxanna Latifi is a two-year Fairmount resident and a member of the Fairmount Historic Preservation Committee. She lives with her husband and two dogs in their Craftsman bungalow they are currently working to restore.

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Contact Ray Feyen at 682.552.0791
or email 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.

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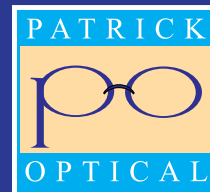
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Fill out this form and send it with your dues to Fairmount Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 12348, Fort Worth, TX 76110-8348 or bring it to the next Association meeting. You can also sign up online at www.historicfairmount.com.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- Dec. 5-6 Ryan Place Candlelight Tour of Homes (www.ryanplacefortworth.com)
Dec. 11 Fairmount in Lights Decorating Contest
Dec. 12 Fairmount Holiday Party (7-10 p.m., Southside Preservation Hall)
Dec. 13 Fairmount Festivus
Dec. 14 (Second Monday) Landmarks hearing
Dec. 19 Santa in the Park (9:30-11:30 a.m., Fairmount Park)
Dec. 22 (Third Monday) Landmarks filing deadline (5 p.m.)
Dec. 28 (Fourth Monday) Bulk trash collection
Jan. 4 (First Monday) FNA board meeting
Jan. 11 (Second Monday) Landmarks hearing
Jan. 18 (Third Monday) Landmarks filing deadline (5 p.m.)
Jan. 25 (Fourth Monday) Bulk trash collection
Jan. 26 (Fourth Tuesday) Fairmount Neighborhood Association general meeting

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