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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

ello from the historic Southside of Fort Worth. Birds are singing, grass is growing and we are in the midst of our 33rd home tour. Please welcome all Lof our visitors to the neighborhood on Mother's Day weekend, May 9-10.

I would like to thank the volunteers who make this weekend special and profitable for the neighborhood. We all benefit from the success of our tour, and the charitable attitudes of our residents make it magically happen every year.

2015 is rapidly moving forward. We had our dedication for Art in the Park on April 11 and a number of city dignitaries and the architect responsible for the design were there to celebrate with us. Thanks to previous board members for their hard work in bringing this to fruition. Our Pancakes in the Park neighbors also came and fed a lot of us prior to the ceremony. We participated in the Cowtown Cleanup at the end of March and filled lots of bags with trash from around the hood. It is inspiring to work along with our neighbors to keep the streets clean and attractive. A lot of children came out to participate in the Easter egg hunt at the community garden and Friday on the Green kicked off another year. Mark your calendars for the second Friday of the month and come out to enjoy great local music, food and fun.

If you haven't noticed yet, our neighborhood has been growing by leaps and bounds over the past couple of years, and our property values have grown with them. The supply of available homes has steadily decreased, and the average cost per square foot is way up. With the infrastructure improvements in the works, this will most likely continue for the near future. I suggest this is a good thing for all of us. While we still have a number of issues we need to deal with, including historic preservation, parking, noise and traffic flow to name a few, I am confident that by working together we will master those issues and continue our quality of life for years to come.

The board has a number of vacancies coming up in August. Positions for president, promotions, membership, infrastructure and administration are available. This is a great way to contribute something over and above the regular call of duty we so often ask of you. I have been very proud and humbled to be the president of the association and it has been a rewarding experience. I think I can speak for all of the board members when I say that their terms have been equally fulfilling. To repeat myself—if I can do it, anyone can. We are lucky to live here and have each other as neighbors. Until we talk again, think good things!

> Steve Halliday Sr., President president@historicfairmount.com



On the Cover

Kyle and Noelle Slater pose with their daughter Daphne on the stairs of their Fairmount home. The Slaters moved into 2234 Hurley Ave. in October of last year and are proud to have it featured on this year's home tour. Read more about the Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes on pages 16-21.

Photos by Stacy Luecker

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Find us on Instagram Fairmount Historic District Winter overstayed but the signs of spring are among us, and I know that makes most of you happy. I know I am. I will gladly trade heavy coats and sweatshirts for shorts, T-shirts and sandals. We all know that with spring comes thunderstorms and a threat of severe weather. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Fort Worth tornado which brings back memories of that surreal evening. It was an experience that will always be with me, and it's a story my daughter loved to hear over and over when she was younger. Let's stroll down memory lane to that terror filled night.

It was March 28, 2000, and I had been a police officer for only five months. It was Tuesday, and it was my day off. I worked the midnight shift, and I was stationed out of the West Bolt sector. I had gotten off work early that morning at 6 a.m. and had a few hours of sleep. I would run errands and then get my hair cut every Tuesday afternoon at the old West 7th Street Barber Shop.

We were under a tornado watch that day, but we all took for granted that the watches never turn into warnings and that day wasn't any different. I got my haircut and went to my sister's house to visit my nieces. It was a short drive from the barber shop to my sister's house in the Arlington Heights area. While I was driving, I remember how dark the skies were getting to the west and my worst thought was hail destroying my old but reliable Mitsubishi Eclipse, which was also nicknamed Snot Rocket.

I arrived at my sister's just in time for dinner. As a rookie police officer I didn't make very much money, so I took advantage of any home cooking I could. I remember scarfing down my food and thinking that I should get going ASAP.

Sergio Guadarrama

Cell: 817.944.1316 Office: 817.392.3610 Sergio.Guadarrama@fortworthgov.org

The 6 p.m. newscast was just coming on as I kissed my sister and my nieces goodbye and sped off to my humble little apartment off Overton Ridge.

I was traveling on South Hulen when I looked in my rear view mirror and saw the awful darkness begin to hover, and ultimately devour, the area I had just left. I ran into my apartment and turned on the news. David Finfrock was still doing his thing. I opened my blinds in the living room and on my patio door, and did the same to my windows in my bedroom. In the midst of running around I heard "Tornado Warning." I looked at the TV and saw the hook on the Doppler radar and at the same time I heard a noise. It can't be. I opened my front door and heard the tornado sirens. Surreal. I looked at the TV again and it was showing the tornado moving through downtown Fort Worth from the Channel 5 tower camera.

I'm not ashamed to say that I really didn't know what to do. I was a police officer. I should know what to do, but I had never been in this situation. I called my family and some friends to make sure they were safe. Then one of my high school friends called me to see if I was okay. He had the bright idea of going to Lone Star Oyster Bar down the street. I met him there and it turned into an impromptu high school reunion with other old friends joining in.

The restaurant staff had turned the news on and we watched TV, ate oysters and po'boys, and washed them down with adult beverages. Among the talking, reminiscing and gawking at the news, I heard something on the newscast that almost made me spit my beer out. The Fort Worth Police Department was calling in extra officers to help with crowd control in downtown Fort Worth. Uh oh. Remember that part about the adult beverages? Oops. Fear not. My phone did not ring and I was not needed that night.

The next day I was notified to report to Farrington Field for assignment in downtown Fort Worth. It wasn't until the day after that I saw the extent of the damage. I couldn't believe what had happened—in Fort Worth. I saw on the news that the West 7th Street Barber Shop had been leveled by the tornado. One of the employees had been trapped under the rubble and had to be rescued. First responders and citizens acted heroically that evening. Citizens played the role of first responders in areas that FD, MedStar and FWPD couldn't reach due to the damage and debris.

Days and weeks after the tornado many stories of heroism and tragedy were revealed. The cleanup started immediately along with the healing. It's amazing that the terror that dropped from the skies that spring evening turned out to be the building block of growth that we now see in the West 7th area and downtown. Fort Worth has come a long way since that night in March. I'm proud of my city. My home. My Fort Worth.

Have I told you lately that I thoroughly enjoy being your NPO? Well, I do. Thank you for your support and for looking out for each other. Keep doing what you do and I'll see you around the neighborhood. That is all. Carry on...

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



Photo by Stacy Luecker

1600 Alston Ave.

May Yard of the Month

Tim Appling and Philip Combs purchased their Fairmount foursquare style house at 1600 Alston Ave. in 2006. The house has an inviting front yard and a generous screened-in wraparound porch. A bright yellow door and mailbox punctuates the soft gray color of the house, while witty and irreverent accents like metal deer trophy heads decorate the porch. A three-foot high metal fence surrounds the garden space, adding privacy and structure with a graceful metal arch entry to welcome visitors.

When Tim and Philip moved into the house, the yard was partially landscaped, primarily with grass, and a privet shrubbery that remains. All of the redesign and labor to convert the lawn to flower beds is theirs, complete with a stone walkway.

The couple's garden shows how gardeners may vary scale, color and texture in planting, while achieving year-round beauty. Interposed in the garden are several small trees and shrubs, including a Snowball bush (*Viburnum Macrocephalum*) and a Lavender Twist Weeping Redbud tree, both currently in bloom. The couple has used annuals in pockets among their palette of

returning perennials: this year they are incorporating Gerbera daisy in fuchsia, purple petunias, and red geraniums for vibrancy. These vivid colors punctuate a backdrop of mainly greys and greens, including Lamb's Ear, Northern Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*), English Ivy, Pittosporum and Artemisia. They have a Clematis *Socialis Kral*, a flowering vine now on the endangered list, as well as Black-eyed Susan, and a Possum haw (Ilex Decidua), to go along with their pet possum. Among their favorite annuals is a hardy phlox that endures and returns each year.

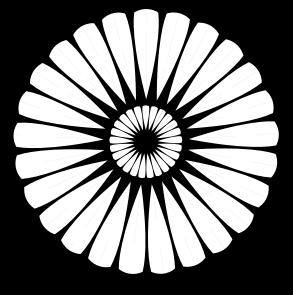
In the fall, Tim and Philip are retiring to Ecuador where they are building a new house. Tim wrote the Yard of the Month column for several years. Our thanks and a \$35 gift certificate from C. C.'s Touch of Nature go to Tim and Phillip, the winners of our May Yard of the Month.

Yard of the Month selection committee: Steve Cocanower, Susan Harper and Bonnie Blackwell.

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Fill' er Up-per 90

Sports bar welcomes social guests with drinks and eats



Photos by Stacy Luecker

Tim Appling, Fairmount resident, enjoys a beverage at Upper 90 on College sports bar during the March Fairmount social.



Chu and Ann Hyun smile for the camera at Upper 90.

Fairmount neighbors enjoy food and libations during a recent social at Upper 90 on College.



by Kelly Bowden

pring has begun in Fairmount, and with it comes great patio weather, enjoying evening beverages alfresco on porches and visiting with neighbors. While there are frequent opportunities for everyone in Fairmount to get together and enjoy each other's company, monthly neighborhood socials offer a chance to learn about area businesses, meet new neighbors and catch up with friends.

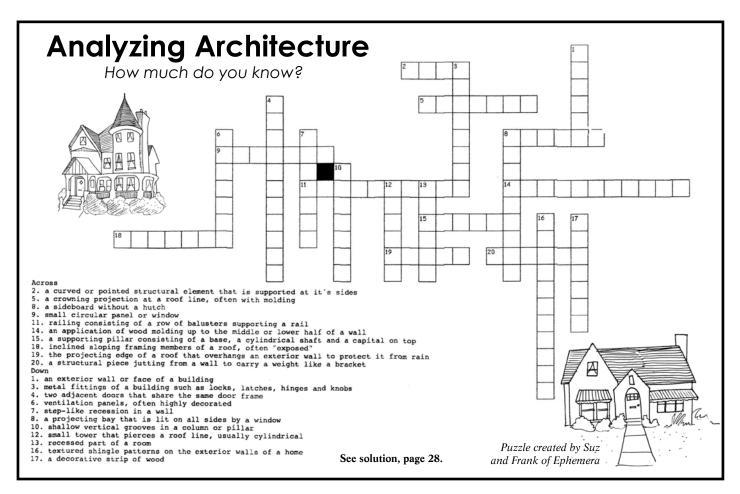
In March, Upper 90 on College, a non-smoking sports bar tucked away in the corner of a shopping center at West Magnolia and College Avenue, offered up drinks and appetizers from neighbor Tina's Cocina and invited anyone living in Fairmount to stop by, enjoy the libations and check out their location. Several residents attended the event, and for many it was their first time to visit the place.

"Our neighborhood's monthly socials have been one of the quickest, easiest and most entertaining ways for a newbie like me to meet some of Fairmount's friendliest and most active residents," Kim Worley, Fairmount resident, said. "Upper 90 has been among our most hospitable hosts yet and I can't wait to bring a gaggle of friends here for baseball season."

Juan R. Solis, owner of Tina's Cocina and an owner of Upper 90, was happy to host the social. "We really appreciate everyone's support of Tina's Cocina and Upper 90. We are looking forward to being around for many years in our great Fairmount Neighborhood," he said.

More socials are planned with the next one on Thursday, May 21 at the Fairmount Community Library, 1310 W. Allen Ave. from 6-8 p.m.

Editor's note: The Fairmount Neighborhood Association would like to thank Kelly Bowden for her wonderful enthusiasm and dedication she has given to planning Fairmount's neighborhood social events. Kelly will be leaving to spend more time working at her bed and breakfast, The Rosen House Inn. In August, George Achziger and Hao Tran will be assuming the role of social planners and we welcome them aboard.







Photos by Eric and Stacy Luecker

Shoppers browse items for sale at 2004 6th Ave. during the annual Fairmount Yard Sale.



Lani Schmidt poses with a matching pair of moose leg lamps at the Fairmount yard sale. Lani and her husband submitted the lamps as their most unique find at the sale and they are the winners of a \$100 gift card from Old Home Supply as a result.

Creative shopping pays off at neighborhood yard sale by Stacy Luecker Fairmount held its annual yard sale recently. Streets and sidewalks filled with people as they hurried from house to house looking for the best deals and that one special item they didn't want to leave without. "We had a ton of people," said Suzanne Mabe, 6th Avenue resident and yard sale participant. "We estimate we had around 300 people stop by."

Suzanne noted that it was the community spirit that she really enjoyed during the sale. "We had several people working together and lots of laughs," she said.

As part of the yard sale, Old Home Supply offered a \$100 gift card to the

As part of the yard sale, Old Home Supply offered a \$100 gift card to the Fairmount Picker with the most unusual find for the day. Those wishing to participate were instructed to send a text with their best entry by 6 p.m. on the day of the sale.

Ten entries were received and items included a traveling shaving set, a dagger complete with a can opener in its own wooden holder, a paper mache pig head, and what appears to be a dead fish in a bag but is actually made of soap,

Lani Schmidt and her husband won the prize with their purchase of a pair of matching moose leg lamps complete with moose shades sold by Sally Gulde on 5th Avenue.

"I just love the lamps and their kitchy shades," Lani said. "We came from San Angelo to go to the Fairmount sales and see our daughters. We had a wonderful day and we'll be back again for sure."

The Schmidts will receive their gift card and we hope they will enjoy whatever unique items they find at Old Home Supply when they return to Fairmount.

Congratulations, Lani. We love the lamps too!



Old Home Supply hosts a sale with proceeds to help several students from Paschal High School take a trip to Germany this summer as part of a German-American exchange.



Lemonade, cookies and brownies are served at 1330 Lipscomb during the yard sale.

See, Discover

Fairmount offers range of opportunities for entertainment, learning

by Alex Branch

The Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes is far from the only exciting thing happening in Fairmount this spring. Explore these and other great activities that make our neighborhood special:

FAIRMOUNT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

This hidden gem is operated by neighborhood residents and has all the charm and funk that makes Fairmount unique. The library offers classes for all ages that teach computer technology, foreign



language, art, woodworking and literacy. A wide book selection and galleries featuring local artists make this a popular gathering place. The library, 1310 W. Allen Ave., is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday noon-4 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 3-7 p.m. and Saturday 10-6 p.m. Check it out on Facebook or the website at http://fairmountcommunitylibraryfw.org.

SOUTHSIDE PRESERVATION HALL

Like to dance or want to learn how? Southside Preservation Hall, built in 1911, hosts thousands of people annually for fun events like Buddy's Big Band Night, swing dance lessons on



Tuesday nights and weddings. The hall's business hours are 10

a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 817-926-2800, email therosechapel@gmail.com or visit the website http://southsidepreservation.com.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

If you have a green thumb or appreciate admiring the work of others who do, the Fairmount Community Garden will be in full bloom this spring. Garden plot owners take great pride in their gardens with many creative



decorations. The garden is located at 1504 5th Ave. If you are a neighborhood resident interested in a acquiring a plot, email info@fairmountcommunitygarden.com.

ARTS 5TH AVENUE

Discover. Experience. Express. That's the mantra at Arts Fifth Avenue where art comes alive at the neighborhood visual and performing arts center. A wide variety of classes are available for children 4 years and up, as well



Photos by Eric Luecker

as for adults. Call 817-923-9500 for more information, visit the center at 1628 Fifth Ave. or email artsfifthavenue@aol.com. You can also visit the website at www.artsfifthavenue.org.



Photo by Stacy Luecker

Wilson's Designition 1011

1801 Hurley Ave.: This house appeared in the prior article on catalog houses and is Wilson's Design No. 1011, but it also clearly appears in a plan book from a Los Angeles company called Ye Planry. At the time it seems that it was a common practice for competing companies to publish house designs from uncredited draftsman and each call them their own.



CATALOG HOUSES

Patterned houses discovered through time, determination

by Michael McDermott

Part II in a series on catalog houses

ith magnifying glass in hand, glasses off, and squinting with great determination, examining the details in a old photo or drawing of a home's exterior and perusing an old floor plan—from the computer screen, that is—feels rather like being a kind of modern Sherlock Holmes.

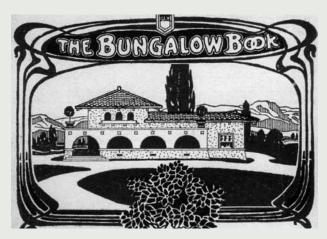
Uncovering which homes in Fairmount might have come from one of the many nationally distributed catalog or plan books can feel just like any serious detective work. It's not as easy as matching a drawing or a photo in an old book to the actual house, because the houses were often not built exactly as designed, or the local versions may have used different materials on the exterior owing to what was available locally. A California plan book may show a house with columns made of smooth

river rock—found extensively in California, but not available in Texas. So is this similar house with columns of locally made brick the same house? The front steps may be in a different place or the bay window is just a bank of windows, but the floor plan is just alike...except for that bedroom closet. It's on the other side of the room. Hmmm. Sigh. All in a days work for an old house sleuth trying to put two and two together and actually come out with four.

In the first installment about catalog houses published last year in the Fairmount holiday newsletter, three houses were featured from the catalog books of Henry L. Wilson of California. Wilson was a prolific purveyor of the Arts and Crafts aesthetic. Even though many houses looked like what we call Craftsman now, he does not use that term, nor did most bungalow books.

The term Craftsman, now used to described a style of bungalow—and often all bungalows—as well as furniture and designs, was actually coined by Gustav Stickley, one of the leaders of the Arts and Crafts movement, who was located in upstate New York, so the term Arts and Crafts better describes the period and the movement, as well as stylistic details on a particular house. Not all bungalows are Craftsman, and Stickley's designs hawked in his own plan books looked very different from what people generally refer to as Craftsman today. Wilson's designs of quintessential California bungalows spread more prolifically across the nation than did those of any other designer and looked more like what we think of when we hear the word bungalow today. Many still exist in Fairmount, but the hard part is determining them with certainty.

The first three houses in the prior newsletter were easily identifiable. In her book, *Texas Houses Built by the Book*, author Margaret Culbertson pictures two of those in Fairmount, one of which at 1404 S. Adams was mentioned in the prior article. The other one at 1801 Hurley Ave. was found in the book of plans, *Wilson's California Bungalow*, but also clearly appears in the plan book from a Los Angeles company called Ye Planry, another prolific producer of bungalow plans with beautiful Arts and Crafts interiors. Apparently it was a common practice for competing companies to publish designs from uncredited draftsman and each call them their own.



Original cover design for Wilson's California Bungalow catalog.

Along most blocks of Fairmount might exist any number of houses built from popular catalogs. House plans from various architects and catalog designers were regularly published in popular magazines throughout the country including *Ladies Home Journal*, which often carried designs from both Stickley and architect Frank Lloyd Wright. But one local magazine published in Dallas was also a purveyor of bungalow plans.



Photo by Stacy Luecker

1816 Hurley: Built c. 1911, Design No. 357 from Wilson's *The Bungalow Book* features Craftsman and Arts and Crafts details such as half timbering in the gable, knee braces along the gable eaves, exposed rafter tails, and also a classical touch of dentil molding along the frieze over the porch. In the Fairmount version, the dentils are smaller. Other local design differences include the posts and railing and a roofed extension to the porch in front of the bay window on the right. The upper sashes of the bay and other windows contain up to 32 individual square panes similar to those of the plan. In other houses of the period, the lower sash was almost always one full pane, while the upper sash was decorative and might feature long vertical panes, diamond patterns, or multiple square "lights", as the individual panes were called.





Holland's Magazine cover, May 1920



Photo by Eric Luecker

Franklin Pierce Holland was born in Galveston, Texas in 1852. He was either involved in or published several magazines through the years and in 1905 began a publication designed for the women of the Southwest called *Holland's Magazine*. By the late 1920s it had the largest circulation of any such magazine in this part of the country.

Plan No. 1, from *Holland's Magazine*, Nov. 1918, extolled the virtues of a newer kind of bungalow—the aero-bungalow—now commonly known as the airplane bungalow. These were named for the one room perched on top of an otherwise one story house which looks like a cockpit on a plane with the wide eaves of the house resembling wings. This one room was either surrounded by framing and screens or fully glazed windows, and served as a sleeping porch/bedroom and ventilation system for the rooms below. The magazine did not credit a designer. 2263 Fairmount appears to be this plan and other homes on 6th Avenue, Lipscomb Street and in Chase Court seem to come very close to this same design with a few variations.

With more research, other catalog designs will be discovered in the Fairmount Historic District, some exactly as first published over a century ago, while others will have their own unique spin on these classic designs.

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

Holland's Magazine, Plan No. 1

2263 Fairmount: This house appears to be Plan No. 1 from Holland's Magazine. Outside, the home's materials are locally different, with brick preferable to stucco on most North Texas homes. The front walk and steps have been moved to enter from the left side of the porch, and the gables are at a slightly higher pitch. A porte cochere also extends off the right of the house in this local version. These kinds of changes to catalog plans were common though to accommodate certain aesthetics or needs of the client. Inside the floor plan is almost identical except for a repositioning of the closet in the center hall, and the bay in the dining room is square rather than three-sided. The kitchen of the Fairmount house was also remodeled in 1970 by new owners, and the breakfast nook and screened porch incorporated



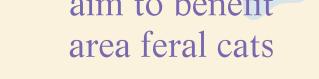
into a larger room. That family lived in the home for 45 years until it changed hands just a few months ago.

Left: Holland's Magazine, Plan No. 1



Kitty clinics

Spay/neuter programs aim to benefit



by Sue McLean he Spay Neuter Network is working with Fairmount volunteers to use a grant to spay and neuter for FREE up to 500 cats in Fairmount and Ryan Place. Since January, 225 cats have been neutered. This includes owned cats, not just ferals. So, if anyone has porch kitties or even inside kitties, they can be spayed/neutered for free until the end of May, or until they total 500, whichever comes first.

Fort Worth Animal Control has also committed not to euthanize cats from this area unless they are too ill for adoption, sterilization or to be returned to the field. Any cats that enter the shelter with an ear tip from Fairmount or Ryan Place will be released back to where it was trapped. They have also agreed to direct all phone calls regarding area cats to SNN so that the program can be monitored, and so SNN can work with residents and explain the goal of the program.

The majority of surgeries will be done by Spay Neuter Network in Crandall, scheduled for pickup from Fiesta on 8th Avenue, every other Monday (beginning April 20) at 7:30 a.m., through the end of May. Plus Friends of Arlington Animal Services is providing trapping and neutering assistance.

SNN is providing traps and flyers, and is giving a cursory exam to each animal, plus a rabies shot, vitamin shot, ear check/ cleaning, pain meds and taking care of any minor injuries. Feral cats must be in a live trap and will receive an ear tip. Owned



Photo by Bruce Edwards

cats must be in a hard carrier and will not receive an ear tip. All cats must be at least 10 weeks old and weigh 4 pounds.

Check the SNN Facebook page for event dates at www.facebook.com/spayneuternetwork.

Humane Society of North Texas

HSNT accepts feral cats the first and last Tuesday of each month. TCAP receives feral cats Monday-Friday 8-9 a.m. at their Fort Worth and Burleson locations. Both of these organizations will also be free using the grant with proof that you are a Fairmount resident.

For additional information, email Sue McLean at sue. mclean@att.net

Good Neighbors Animal Rescue

Fairmount is getting its own local rescue organization to help support neighbors who foster and take in strays and kittens with the purpose of keeping lost and homeless pets out of kill shelters. The nonprofit will be 501c3 soon and ready to take and redistribute tax deductible donations.

Thank you to all who have already donated animal meds, food, litter, carriers and crates, collars, time, energy and love. In the meantime, you can 'like' Good Neighbors Animal Rescue on Facebook or email gnaranimalrescue@gmail.com for more information.

Sue McLean returns a feral cat to the location where it was captured after taking a trip to a free spay and neuter clinic.

Cowtown Cleanup

Fairmount style

by Steve Halliday, Fairmount Neighborhood Association president

A very resourceful, brave and generous group gathered in Fairmount Park at 8:30 a.m. on March 28 for the 30th annual Cowtown Cleanup, an event that gives thousands of Fort Worth residents an opportunity to participate in the largest litter cleanup of the year.

More than 30 volunteers and their kids enjoyed coffee, donuts, juice and water and then walked the streets of Fairmount to collect a plethora of discarded materials, recyclables and even a few old tires.

"There is a reason why Fairmount is so great," Leah Suasnovar, Fairmount resident and cleanup participant, said. "It's people willing to work hard like the volunteers that showed up the morning of the cleanup. Fairmount became the great neighborhood it is because of people sacrificing their personal time. We need to take pride in the place we call home and realize that it's not magic that keeps it beautiful—it's work. I hope to see even more neighbors out helping next year."

Thirty-four bags of trash and three bags of recyclable materials were taken to the Hazel Harvey Peace Center to be deposited along with hundreds of other bags of trash from throughout the south and east sides of Fort Worth.

Volunteers were treated to free hot dogs, cookies and drinks at Magnolia Green later in the day with the highlight being a special concert by Melanie.

We would like to thank our friends and residents for their over-the-top generosity. This is just another example of what makes our neighborhood the very best place to live in Fort Worth.



Photos by Stacy Luecker

Volunteers gather trash along Allen Avenue during Fort Worth's annual Cowtown Cleanup.



Steve Halliday, Fairmount Neighborhood Association president, deposits trash collection bags into bins at the Hazel Harvey Peace Center.



Cowtown Cleanup volunteers gather in Fairmount Park to help clean up Fairmount during the annual citywide event.



Photos by Eric and Stacy Luecker

FARMOUNT HOME TOUR Variety in style and design on display in annual tour of historic houses

by Michael McDermott

mong the many things the Fairmount Historic District is known for-a hip and up-and-coming neighborhood to live in because of its proximity to Magnolia Avenue and downtown, or its great contribution to Fort Worth's history—is of course its diversity. Nothing could represent diversity more than the historic properties open to the public during the neighborhood association's 33rd annual Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes.

The homes on this year's tour range from a high Arts and Crafts era bungalow celebrating its 100th birthday with all its original accoutrements, to lofts created from a vintage former church education building turned ballet training facility. The tour includes a large early boarding house that's now a single family home, a large new home, another beautifully renovated bungalow, a two-story brick foursquare located on a street loaded with other grand historic homes, and a once derelict bungalow in the process of total restoration.

2217 Lipscomb St.

Sallie Trotter and Bill Gerhart were not new to the renovation process. The home they purchased a year ago, built about 1920, sits among a two block collection of large impressive homes at the southeast corner of the district. Having

Original stained woodwork, complete with leaded glass bookcase doors, grace the living and dining room at 2232 College Ave. The house is decorated with a mix of old and new Stickley furniture as well as many other Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau and living artisan pieces. The house has been recently designated a Registered Texas Historic Landmark and will receive a marker later this year.



An arrangement of antique furniture brings warmth to the dining room at 2217 Lipscomb St. French doors lead from the dining room into the front living area which includes an original fireplace flanked by bookcases.



A Gustav Stickley #728 drop front desk at the Luecker home is accompanied by an L. & J.G. Stickley chair. *Luminance*, a tonalist painting by Jan Schmuckal, hangs over the desk which is illuminated by an antique harp lamp.

moved to the area because they always loved attending Fairmount's home tour and began to meet "the crazy, caring, opinionated and diverse residents," they first bought and renovated a home on Alston Avenue just a couple of blocks away that was also featured on the home tour in 2013.

When the couple saw 2217 Lipscomb St. for the first time, they were not put off by the fact that it had sat vacant for a number of years and needed major updating. It had the living space they wanted and the huge back yard they craved, so when the chance came to purchase the house a year ago, they jumped on it.

"This particular block of Lipscomb has these amazing big old houses," Sallie said. "I fell in love with all of them."

The huge lot will not go to waste. The couple loves to garden and wants to do lots of projects outside, including a pergola and outdoor living space. The back yard still contains an old native stone wall that extends into the lot next door.

Inside the house, they have preserved many original features including the quarter sawn oak floors, fireplace and bookcases, and the home's beautiful original windows and French doors with their lovely dark finish. Sallie and Bill have decorated their house with many family pieces and they also appreciate that Magnolia Avenue and all it offers is still an awesome walk several blocks away.

2232 College Ave.

One hundred years ago this year, the builders of 2232 College Avenue may not have imagined that the house they were constructing would be designated a Registered Texas Historic Landmark a century later, but they must have at least realized they were building one exceptional home. Even a classified ad posted in the *Star-Telegram*

a year later claimed the house would imbue the buyer with the freedom to work and "... the courage to go forward!" But when Stacy Luecker and her husband Eric dove into researching their home's history and its special moniker, that is exactly what happened.

The couple had been looking in Fairmount on and off for more than nine years until they finally got serious about moving in the fall of 2007. Eric had initially told Stacy "no old houses," but she always knew she'd live in Fairmount one day, and they finally found a house which pleased them both with loads of character.

The previous owner was hesitant to sell to just anybody; worried that someone would buy the home and destroy its original integrity and historic features, possibly even painting all of the originally finished woodwork. The Lueckers didn't put in the highest offer, but that owner knew after meeting them that the house was in the perfect hands.

"Preservation of the past has always been very important to me," Stacy said. "And the fact that this was a protected historic district with guidelines in place played a huge part in buying here."

The interior of the house is a beautifully preserved example of an Arts and Crafts interior, part of a movement after the turn of the twentieth century to fill your home, that being the popular bungalow, with miles of warm local woodwork and craftsmanship, and lovely handmade items that should be both useful and beautiful according to the founder of the Craftsman style, Gustav Stickley.

A new exterior color scheme reflects many of the warm and earthy, but bold masculine colors made popular during the period, which are translated to the inside as well, along with an amazing collection of new and antique pieces of Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau as well as a few original Gustav Stickley pieces. Their stunning collection even includes a hard to find medicine bottle from the Grammer Drug Store family that once lived in the house. There is also an antique curved chair on loan from the granddaughter of original owner, Lula Grammer, that once graced the home and dates to over 130 years old.

One of the design trends of that crafty period in American history was to stencil mottos—inspirational phrases—on fabric, furniture and particularly in strategic places throughout the home. On the wall over the front door, as one exits the house, in classic Arts and Crafts style lettering, Stacy has stenciled the phrase used to inspire Mrs. Grammer to purchase the home in 1917 after the death of her husband: the courage to go forward. The house will receive its Texas historical marker later this year.

1968 Alston Ave.

The bungalow may indeed be the most common house form in Fairmount, but if you've seen one bungalow, you haven't seen them all. One form bungalows were offered in more than 100 years ago was the so-called hipped roof bungalow, being more like the structures in southern Asia, the bangla, from which the term bungalow is derived, as a result of their generally square shape and roof descending on all four sides from one hip at the top down to its wide eaves.

The builders who built Jerry and Dianne Stanley's c. 1911 home at 1968 Alston decided to break up the pyramidal roof with the flourish of a single gable perched over the front entry. When the home was recently restored by an investor, an enclosed portion of the wide porch was reopened and a small dormer was added to accommodate required egress from the attic. The interior of the house with its staircase and added attic rooms will surprise the visitor. Big things come in what appears to be a small package.

"Sometimes you have a picture of your dream home in your mind," Jerry said. "We walked into this house and knew



1809 Alston Ave. is an example of a newly constructed home in Fairmount. The current owners added bookcase doors and modified the fireplace area to bring an older feel to their home.



Built c. 1908, 2234 Hurley Ave. was once a large boarding house in the Fairmount neighborhood. It is now a single family home for Kyle and Noelle Slater who purchased the house last year.



Soft colors and natural wood enhance the cozy feel of the dining room at 1968 Alston Ave. A cupboard holds a collection of vintage Fiestaware which is still in use by owners Jerry and Dianne Stanley. This house is one of seven properties on this year's Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes on Mother's Day weekend, May 9-10 from noon-6 p.m. both days. Tickets are available at www.historicfairmount.com.

immediately it was the home of God's design."

The interior still features some of its original built-ins like the brick fireplace with the less common design of bookcase on one side and built-in window seat on the other.

The Stanleys have decorated their home with period pieces from both of their families. A working Victrola phonograph still plays the popular songs of the 1920s and '30s on old 78 recordings that Jerry's father likely listened to as a little boy. In one of the bedrooms upstairs, two vintage

sewing machines, both over 75 years old, compete with each other for attention, just as they did decades ago when one was featured in a Sears catalog, and the other in their competitor's, Montgomery Ward.

The other furnishings in the house range from a centuryold Mission settle once owned by Jerry's great grandmother, to primitives, new mission pieces and a collection of vintage Fiestaware in the dining room and appropriately appointed vintage style kitchen; much of it still used today.

The Stanleys owned a California style bungalow in another town and after they discovered Old Home Supply, Fairmount's



fortunate iconic source for old house materials and architectural antiques, they visited often. They watched the gradual resurgence of the neighborhood from back in the 1990s and were drawn to the area.

When the opportunity came to relocate to Fort Worth, they never seriously considered any place other than Fairmount and said they think it's wonderful to be a part of a movement that is breathing new life into an old part of the city.

2234 Hurley Ave.

Also on tour this year is 2234 Hurley Ave., a house associated with one of Fort Worth's oldest swimming pool companies and started out as a boarding house. The large house has a huge central hall that had several rooms and a double parlor all rented out to boarders, many of them working nearby at the Frisco rail yards along 8th Avenue, by an enterprising widow in need of income. When Kyle and Noelle Slater recently purchased the c. 1908 home, it had already been renovated once after being subdivided and rented out for decades, then burned and boarded up and the entire front remodeled beyond



2233 College Ave. undergoes renovation work to convert a duplexed single family home back to its original purpose. The bungalow is a part of the Fairmount home tour as a work in progress.



The 1925 College Avenue Baptist Church education building sat vacant for years and is finding new life undergoing work to convert the space into apartments and offices.

recognition of its former state. The beautiful spacious home once appeared as a "Remuddling of the Month" in *Old House Journal* magazine in the 1980s and then as the 40-year-old magazine's first "Un-muddling of the Month" after its amazing transformation several years ago.

2233 College Ave.

At 2233 College Avenue, Michael McDermott and Stan Tucker purchased this classic c. 1913 bungalow last fall and are finally making headway on a complete ground up renovation, including restoration of the partially enclosed wrap-around porch as well as many interior features.

The house was converted to a duplex within 10 years after its construction and has suffered through several remodelings then neglect during the following eight decades as it served as a rental.

A local historian, Michael is passionate about the neighbor-

hood and hopes to return this home to its historic charm inside and out.

1809 Alston Ave.

Many recently constructed homes both large and small grace the neighborhood, built on lots that sat vacant for decades gathering weeds and garbage until the first new homes began to be built at the start of the twenty-first century.

The house completed just a year ago at 1809 Alston is a lovely example of one of the larger new homes. Built by investor Shawn Fite, it was purchased by Erin and Mark Mitchell. The couple had renovated a charming bungalow just a few blocks down the street, but outgrew the house and couldn't find a larger one to fit their needs. Erin and Mark wanted to stay in Fairmount and only decided to sell and move when they saw this house being built.

After construction, the Mitchell's decided that every Fairmount home needs the quintessential bookcases on either side of the fireplace to help replicate some of the features in the area's older homes and lend a vintage feel. The house is a beautifully painted asset to its block and the neighborhood.

College Avenue Lofts

Built in 1924-25, the former College Avenue Baptist Church education building at the corner of College and Morphy sat vacant for many years leading up to its purchase last year by Kris and Rhonda Fagala. The enterprising investors overcame the lack of any parking, which had spelled doom for the building, by filling in and covering an 80 plus year old interior swimming pool and incorporating parking inside the first floor. On the two and a half floors above that, lovely new apartments and condo lofts await new owners and residents as the project winds up soon.

This building is another stellar example of the kind of problems facing aging vacant structures overcome by people undaunted by challenges that would scare others away. These are the people with the creativity and spirit that have shaped so many of the success stories of Fairmount's renaissance for the past 35 years.

Attend the Tour

Please join us May 9-10 to view the wonderful properties on Fairmount's home tour this year. Tickets are currently available online and at Montgomery Street Antique Mall, Old Home Supply, Old Neighborhood Grill and Butler's Antiques. Tickets are \$15 each now through May 8 and \$20 each at SiNaCa Studios on Magnolia on the days of the tour.

Please watch the website at www.historicfairmount.com and Fairmount's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/historicfairmount for updates.

Volunteers invited to attend Wine Down after home tour

by Keeli Garza, Wine Down coordinator

The weather has been wonderful, the grass is green and flowers are blooming—that can only mean it's almost time for the Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes!

Year after year, this wonderful event is only made possible by a great group of people—our volunteers. And this year is no different. It takes serious time and effort from a large group of volunteers to pull off an event of this magnitude—so this year, we're planning another wonderful volunteer appreciation event—the Wine Down Cocktail Party!

This year's Wine Down will be held on May 9 on the grounds of the Rosen House Inn on Henderson Street. An exclusive event just for home tour volunteers, the Wine Down is sponsored by Grand Cru Wine Bar and will feature an evening of cocktail and culinary exploration.

Near Southside restaurants, including newcomer Spice, will be offering up tastes of signature dishes. The dining portion of the evening will be highlighted by a *Top Chef*-inspired culinary competition and tasting by the award-winning culinary arts department from neighboring Trimble Tech High School.

Grand Cru Wine Bar will be offering a full slate of wine tastings — but we haven't forgotten the craft beer lovers in Fairmount. Craft breweries Oskar Blues, SanTan Brewing, Independence Brewing and others will be on hand with numerous craft beer options.

Apart from the food and beverages, there will also be other ways to help support the neighborhood we love — including a Wine Pull and a silent auction highlighted with donations from friends of Fairmount, including Cane Rosso, Ephemera, Anytime Fitness, the Texas Rangers and more!

Remember, this event is exclusive for tour volunteers only. What's the cost? To receive a wristband to this exclusive event, all you need is to give just a few hours of your time. If you have not signed up to volunteer at Fairmount's home tour, please email Kim Worley at volunteers@historicfairmount.com for more information.

Also, make sure to follow Fairmount on social media for more announcements, including the reveal of the surprise musical performer at the exclusive Wine Down party. This is definitely an event you won't want to miss!

Are you interested in being a food sponsor or silent auction donor for the Wine Down party? Only a small group of spots remain—please email Wine Down coordinator Keeli Garza at keeli.garza@gmail.com or call 817-690-3383 for more details.



Home tour kick-off parade

Saturday, May 9

Line-up begins at 9:30 a.m. Parade begins at 10 a.m.

by Pat Bradley, parade coordinator

We may not have 76 trombones leading the parade, but the Fairmount Home Tour Parade is something that should not be missed. You can be a part of the celebration as a participant in the parade or by cheering curb side. Get your friends and neighbors together and celebrate this great event.

If you feel creative, design and decorate a float, bicycle or vehicle for the parade. Past events have been very colorful. Please contact parade coordinator, Pat Bradley, for participation details.

Spectators are also important. See the map below for the parade route. Organize a group to enjoy your favorite libations and watch the parade along the route, or if you are lucky enough to be on the route, from your front porch. You can also join in the festivities at Fairmount Park; the parade's official beginning and ending location.

For additional information, call Pat Bradley at 817-915-5436 or email patmik@swbell.net.

2015 Home Tour Parade Route





Photos by Eric and Stacy Luecker

ART CELEBRATES MEMORY

Public art dedication, festival bring neighbors to Fairmount Park

by Carey Rose

Aceremony to dedicate *Memory: Fairmount Park* took place April 11 as friends and neighbors gathered to celebrate the Art in the Park project alongside award-winning architect Bart Shaw, city of Fort Worth Public Art Manager Alida Labbe, councilmember Ann Zedah and others.

The Fairmount Neighborhood Association was awarded the project through Community ID: Public Art Neighborhoods, an initiative of Fort Worth Public Art, a program that is managed by the Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County. *Memory* is a visual reference to Fairmount's historic neighborhood fabric. Erected where three of six houses that were demolished in 1990 once stood, the design serves as both an expressive architectural piece and functional gathering place. Addresses of the lost residences can be found along Henderson Street which lead to three pathways, stepped tables and benches; a visual reminder of bygone front porches. At each virtual address stand three varieties of trees which were planted to symbolize the diversity of the homes and the neighborhood itself.

"The project isn't about the actual houses that occupied the park, it's about the community of people that care about every house in their historic neighborhood ... that care enough to remember what was, and preserve what remains," Bart Shaw, architect and designer of *Memory*, said,

Alida Labbe, public art project manager, said she appreciated Fairmount's leap of faith to welcome the innovative style of the piece in Fairmount Park; where the future of the neighborhood can be appreciated along with the past.

The Fairmount Neighborhood Association helped organize a dedication event which included a celebration of spring with a pancake breakfast and silent auction. The auction raised \$1,305 to benefit Camp Hope, a project of

One Safe Place, which provides an outdoor, adventure-based therapeutic experience for young victims of domestic violence. A bounce house, Funky Town food truck, Gypsy Scoops and many happy children also contributed to this great community event.

Top: Architect Bart Shaw talks about his artwork in Fairmount Park during a recent dedication of *Memory: Fairmount Park*.







Several attended a dedication of the Fairmount Park Art Project on April 11. Pancakes and ice cream were also available.

Ariela Guerrero removes a plant from its container to add to her installation in the Fairmount Community Garden as part of a TCU student project on gender equality. The garden project will be available for viewing through May.

Photos by Eric and Stacy Luecker



BREAKING SILENCE

Garden installation reflects on gender equality issues

by Delaney Dalton

CU students enrolled in the English and Gender Studies course "Girls Studies," which focuses on the challenges of young women aged 8 to 18, began installing gardens in the Fairmount Community Garden on April 11 to draw attention to issues of gender equity.

Sam Silva, a freshman movement science major, decided to plant a garden of pink lilies and purple verbena for Lynda Marie Oddo, a Rhode Island woman who was forced into sex trafficking at the age of 15, who is now an activist.

Courtney Love, a sophomore political science major, planted her garden with white verbena for Amanda Michelle Todd, a 15-year-old from British Columbia who committed suicide in 2012 after enduring cyberbullying by 2 adult males in their 30s (later discovered by the hacker group Anonymous).

Ariela Guerrero, senior marketing major, planted a bed of white and purple alyssum, lobelia and creeping phlox for all teenaged survivors of unreported

Above: TCU students work on a

garden project in the Fairmount Community Garden.

Left: A sign reflects on the struggle of Lynda Marie Oddo, sex trafficking victim, now an activist.

rape, to encourage an end to the silence around sexual violence.

The garden installation will be available for viewing through the end of May. Please stop by to view the student's work as well as some of the many creative plant beds throughout the garden's landscape.

The Fairmount Community Garden is located at 1504-1510 5th Ave. To learn more, visit the website at www.fairmountcommunitygarden.com or like them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairmountcommunitygarden.

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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.



Photo by Alicia Bohannon

Vincent Neil Emerson provides music during the Fairmount Community Library's grand opening celebration.



Photo by Beth Patton

Alicia Bohannon (left) and Teddy Leal clown around during grand opening festivities at the Fairmount Community Library on Valentine's Day.



Photo by Eric Luecker

Michael McDermott talks about his book, Fort Worth's Fairmount District, during an author's night presentation at the library recently.

Power of WORDS

Fairmount Community Library treasured neighborhood asset

by Beth Patton

For more than a decade the Fairmount Neighborhood Library provided Fairmount residents with a place to do homework, read books and access the internet, so when the library announced late last year that it was closing its doors, the news spread quickly. This little hidden gem with so much potential would be gone for good and that would affect several young mothers, students and book lovers.

While many people thought it was a shame and were saddened, wondering if there was anything they could do to help, two women independently took it upon themselves to save the little library and keep it from closing.

Alicia Bohannon and her family purchased their home in Fairmount last year.

"I am a former high school English teacher turned stay-athome mom," Alicia said. "As trite as it sounds, I needed this project as much as it needed me."

Alicia immediately contacted one of the library's board members who put her in contact with Christina Carney who had also contacted them to see what she could do to help.

After discovering that they could rent the library's current

space, Alicia and Christina decided to buy what they could from the old library and made plans to take over the library's operations.

"There was so much work to be done. I don't think either one of us knew how hard it would be, but we did it," Christina said.

The newly established Fairmount Community Library hopes to carry on the same mission that the Neighborhood Library started, but in new and different ways.

The current board of directors is now six members strong and they are working hard to keep the new library viable.

The library plans to offer tutoring, art classes, language classes and more. GED classes, adult literacy, and ESL classes are also planned in addition to the current monthly offerings of author and poetry nights.

For more information on the Fairmount Community Library and their programs, please call 682-710-3223, email fairmountcommunitylibraryfw@gmail.com or visit them online at www.fairmountcommunitylibraryfw.org.

You can also join the library on Facebook at www.face-book.com/fairmountcommunitylibrary.



Photo by Amber Lee

Storm clouds loom over downtown Fort Worth as seen from a 7 Eleven on 8th Avenue. Spring brings flowers but it also often comes with hail and tornados. Being aware and knowing how to stay safe during bad weather is necessary during tornado season in texas.

Safety paramount in inclement weather

by Amber Lee

Congratulations! You live in Tornado Alley in the middle of tornado season. If you're like me, you probably stand on your porch when a storm blows in to watch the rolling black clouds, feel the cool breeze on your face infused with the smell of rain and damp soil and see if you can catch the perfect photo of a bolt of lightning with your camera phone. You are an armchair meteorologist and this is your time to shine. Pointing out wall clouds and rapid rotation may be the highlight of your day, but should a tornado actually appear you need to have a plan, so here are a few tips:

- Stay away from windows and keep them shut.
- Seek shelter immediately in a bathtub or get in a closet/stairwell in the center of the building.
- The lowest floor of a building is the safest. Storm shelters are best.
- Bicycle helmets on both kids and adults can help prevent head injury
- If time allows, bring your infant/toddler car seat in-

- doors and strap your baby in. This will help protect them from debris while stabilizing and shielding their spine. It is also easier to hang onto them by giving you something sturdy to grip.
- For older kids, wrap them in a blanket and use your body weight to hold them down.
- If you are in a vehicle do not try to outrun a tornado.
 Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head and neck with your hands.
- Hiding under bridges only works in the movies. Bridges and overpasses are the absolute worst place to be during a tornado.
- Almost half of tornado-related injuries occur after a tornado. Be careful of downed power lines and wear sturdy shoes when entering damaged areas. Watch (and smell) for gas line breaks.

Please keep in mind that as cool as it is to have a close-up video of a tornado 100 yards away to post on your Facebook page, it's even cooler to be alive.

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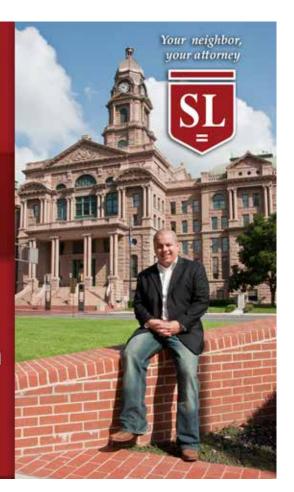


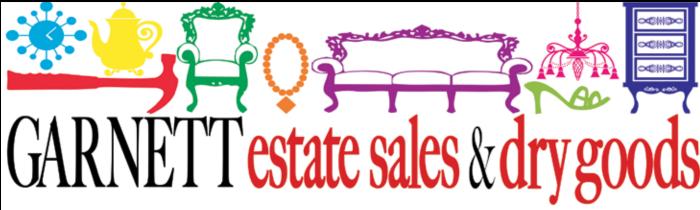
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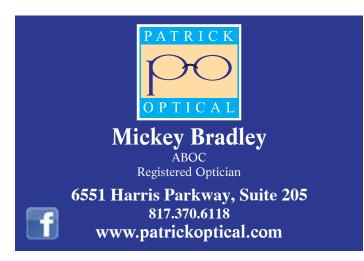
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Contact Ray Feyen at 682.552.0791 or email rfeyen@sbcglobal.net



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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CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION FOR PAGE 8.

ACROSS

2. arch 5. cornice 8. buffet 9. roundel 11. balustrade 14. wainscoting 15. column 18. rafters 19. eaves 20. corbel

DOWN

facade 3. hardware 4. french doors 6. imbrication 7. setback
 bay window 10. fluting 12. turret 13. alcove 16. grilles 17. molding

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Why join?

- Get the newsletter delivered to your doorstep twice a year.
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- Meet old and new friends at our monthly socials.

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

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

Questions? Email membership@historicfairmount.com.

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by Beth Stribling 817.247.9485

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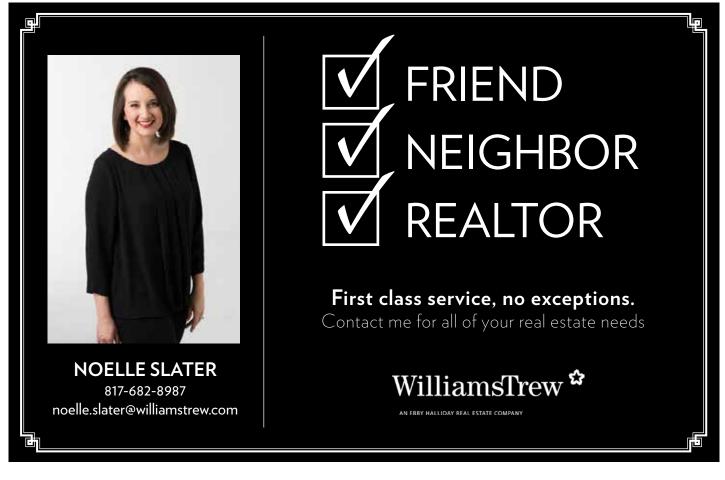
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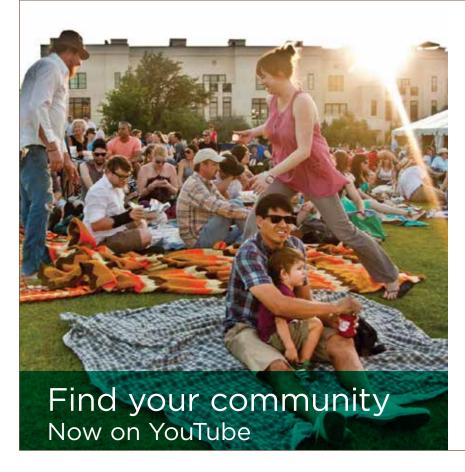
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 5	Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes docent meeting
May 8	Friday on the Green
May 9	Fairmount home tour parade (10 a.m.)
May 9 and 10	Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes
May 11 (Second Monday)	Landmarks hearing
May 17	
May 18 (Third Monday)	Bulk trash collection
May 18 (Third Monday)	Landmarks filing deadline (5 p.m.)
May 20-23Neig	ghborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference in Houston, TX
May 21	Fairmount social at the Fairmount Community Library
May 26 (Fourth Tuesday)	Fairmount Neighborhood Association general meeting
June 1 (First Monday)	FNA board meeting
June 8 (Second Monday)	Landmarks hearing

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Historic Plaques Available

Is your home a contributing structure in Fairmount? If so, why not proudly show it off with a Fairmount plaque?

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Contact Martin Dahl preservation@historicfairmount.com

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