

A PUBLICATION OF THE FAIRMOUNT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FAIRMOUNT

APRIL 2024



Fairmount Neighborhood Association

2003 8th Ave #100
Fort Worth, TX 76110
Historicfairmount.com

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On the Cover

The Fox family's companion at 1900 Lipscomb, whose home is featured on the 2024 Home Tour, Photo taken by the talented Stacy Luecker.
<https://stacyluecker.com/>

President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

As spring blooms in our beloved neighborhood, I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the warmth and beauty that surrounds us. With the changing of the seasons comes exciting opportunities for community engagement and connection, and I'm thrilled to share some upcoming events and initiatives with you.

Firstly, I want to express my enthusiasm for the upcoming Fairmount Historic Home Tour. As many of you know, this event is a highlight of the year, showcasing the rich history and architectural beauty of our neighborhood. This year's tour promises to be as captivating as ever, with a diverse selection of homes open for exploration. From Local Coffee Shops to charming bungalows, there will be something unique and familiar for everyone. I encourage you all to mark your calendars for Mother's Day Weekend and invite friends and family to join us for a memorable weekend celebrating Fairmount's unique heritage.

I thoroughly enjoyed witnessing the gathering of everyone at the Cowtown Marathon Water Station we hosted in Fairmount. Neighbors like Martin Dhal and Brenda Howell worked tirelessly to ensure the event ran smoothly. This year, we were thrilled to add a special touch by offering mimosas in the park. Kelly Bowden and her husband Jason also added a lot of fun to the occasion by arranging for Waffle House to serve breakfast to the community. The event was lively and exemplified the spirit of community as neighbors came together to create a festive atmosphere for the runners and participants of the marathon. I've had the opportunity to chat with some of the runners, and they always express how enjoyable the Cowtown Marathon is, noting the unique sights along the route, with Fairmount being one of those special places they mention. I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this event a success. Thank you to all who participated and helped organize this wonderful event.

In addition to the home tour, I want to emphasize the importance of community involvement at the end of the year. As we approach September, the time will soon come to elect new members to the board of our Neighborhood Association. The individuals who volunteer their time and energy to serve on the board play a crucial role in shaping the future of our neighborhood. The reason I bring it up now is because there are tons of ways to volunteer and dip your toes into the neighborhood before the election. As a board we are not looking for how good you do as a volunteer, we are looking for what unique view you bring to our neighborhood. Whether you're interested in running for a board position or simply lending a hand as a volunteer, your contribution is invaluable. I urge you to consider stepping forward and getting involved in this vital aspect of community governance.

As we look ahead to the coming months, let's embrace the spirit of community and collaboration that defines our neighborhood. Thank you for your ongoing support and participation. I look forward to seeing you at the home tour!

Andrew Epps, FNA President
president@historicfairmount.com

NEIGHBORHOOD THINGS

Community Library

Grow as a book worm and cultivate a love of reading
Visit our community library during their **new hours**:
Monday to Friday from 12pm to 6pm, and Saturday from 10am to 2pm (Closed on Sunday). Explore the shelves, enjoy board games, study, or grab free books from the bin. Don't miss events like art classes, toddler yoga, and more! Check their calendar and join the fun!
<https://www.fairmountcommunitylibrary.org/>



Fairmount Ferals Softball

Just stand out there and stick your glove out in the air!
Join the excitement of our neighborhood's famous rivalry softball game against Ryan Place on July 3rd this summer! Whether you're a seasoned player or simply love a friendly game, we want you on our team. Interested in joining? Email Jophesmay@gmail.com to be a part of the action!




Reporting made easy!

Stay connected and informed with the MyFWApp from the City of Fort Worth! Report neighborhood issues, track cases, and more. This app puts access to the city's powers that be right in your hands. Download it today from your phone's app store.

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2024 HOME TOUR



Join the Fairmount Neighborhood Association (FNA) as we celebrate the 42nd tour of historic homes on this Mother's Day weekend, May 11-12th 2024. This year's tour will feature 5 fabulous houses and two businesses. There will also be an outdoor fair held in Fairmount Park on May 11th complete with local artists and food trucks! Be sure to stop by for a visit to make your day complete. This event is a perfect Mother's Day gift! Buy your tickets before May 11th to receive a discount. Pre-sale tickets are \$20/each. Tickets will be \$25/each on tour weekend.

ALL THE QR CODES!

TICKETS



VOLUNTEER



VENDOR
SIGN UP FOR
MARKET



HOME
TOUR
TSHIRTS



Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Why should I join?

Connect with Neighbors: With monthly socials we offer, you have the opportunity to get to know the folks that live near you, cultivate friendships, and make memories together.

Influence The Future of Fairmount: As a member, you gain voting privileges and the chance to participate in decisions that impact our beloved neighborhood.

At only \$20/year for individuals and \$25/year for families, it's a deal. Start your membership today!



The Board

How can I leave a legacy?

Joining the FNA Board is your chance! **No previous experience needed**—what matters most is your dedication and love for Fairmount.

We're seeking **passionate volunteers** for essential roles. The most urgent role we need to fill is **Promotions**, which is current open. If you're a natural at event planning and want to help bring Scaremount, Festivus, and other exciting events to life, this for you!

Whether you're a pro in Communications, Finance, Preservation, Public Safety, and/or you're brimming with fresh ideas. Learn more about joining the board or committee today! Contact us at president@historicfairmount.com to explore joining the board and being part of something truly special.

2024 Home Tour



Over four decades ago, when a small group of determined neighbors embarked on showcasing the historic architecture in a rundown area plagued by drugs and gangs, then known as the Old Southside, their primary aim was to rescue these homes from further deterioration and potential destruction. To achieve this, they needed to persuade people to take a risk by investing a small amount—most houses were priced at \$10,000-15,000 each, sometimes less—and commit to the long-term effort of restoring or renovating them as new homeowners. These individuals, passionate about old houses, had previously visited historic home tours in nearby small towns like Granbury and Waxahatchie, as well as early tours in older Dallas neighborhoods. They believed that organizing a similar tour in their own neighborhood could help others see past the neglectful exterior appearances and attract more buyers willing to contribute to their preservation efforts.

And, it worked! Today, Fairmount stands as one of Fort Worth's most sought-after neighborhoods, not just for those desiring inner-city living but also for numerous investors. While some investors appreciate the historic architecture and its intricate details, others are solely focused on financial gains, which sometimes leads to subpar renovations or even tragic outcomes.

The Fairmount Neighborhood Association no longer needs to actively attract new buyers to this nationally registered historic district. Instead, the focus has shifted towards education, fostering appreciation for the unique and endangered historic elements, and preservation, which the annual tour now emphasizes. The tour also showcases creative approaches taken by homeowners to restore houses that had undergone significant alterations in the past. The historical significance of these homes to Fort Worth, and sometimes to the state and nation, remains a vital aspect of the tour's purpose. This year's tour features six homes and two businesses that embody these principles and more.



Used as rental property for years and then merely for storage for decades, this year's work-in-progress home is a rare find. Retaining ninety percent of its original stained late Victorian woodwork, the home at 1608 Fairmount Ave. is just about all a historic home lover could want. The c.1903 late Queen Anne vernacular style home has near 11' ceilings, 9' pocket doors and transom windows over several doors. The home also still retains its large historic diamond-paned windows, original fireplaces with period tile, a beautiful decorative Queen Anne "cottage-style" window in the front parlor, and a rare historic kitchen with walls and ceiling covered in its original beaded board. Owners Chase Jones & Robinson Fueling live in Fairmount and bought the home to restore and resell it, but they might just move in themselves and enjoy this special part of Fairmount's history.

2245 5th Ave is a beautiful bungalow, with low gables and a brick exterior reminiscent of nearby Ryan Place. Owner Kathryn Fowler McCarthy, deeply rooted in Fairmount, showcases a c.1921 home once owned by O'Grady Plumbing's Edward and Gladys O'Grady, later by Everett B. King of Hemphill Presbyterian Church. The house blends Art Deco corbels, English-Craftsman gables, and classical revival porch balusters. Inside, period light fixtures and modern art adorn the Craftsman fireplace and bookcases, curated by Kathryn and her late husband Fran McCarthy. A new garage-apartment, mirroring the house's style, adds modern living to this historic gem.



Another prominent architectural style in the historic district is the airplane bungalow, so called for its low wide eaves and a small room perched on top like the cockpit of the style of airplanes at the time. The owners of 1900 Lipscomb, a classic airplane bungalow, purchased the home after it had been first renovated by the owners of 1608 Fairmount Avenue, also on tour. Owners, Stephanie & Jesse Fox, continued the renovation on the c.1919 house having all the original windows in the home completely rebuilt and restored by local artisans and one located in Midlothian. This includes the huge three part 'landscape window,' as they were called in catalogs then, that adorns the front of the house. The massive corner wrapping porch is also typical, as outdoor living was touted in magazines of the era and supposed to lead to a healthier life.

1724 5th Avenue, built in 1910-11, is a stunning blend of Queen Anne and bungalow styles. Notable features include diamond pane windows. The second-story addition is cleverly integrated to preserve the original appearance, which adds to its charm. The beveled plate glass door opens to a striking interior with old-growth pine trim, a brick fireplace with built-in bookcase and window seat, and period light fixtures. The period staircase, sourced from Old Home Supply, seamlessly merges with the original architecture. The new primary suite boasts an open tiled shower and original footed tub, complemented by a balcony overlooking the backyard. Current owner, Nikhil Kesireddy, a naval air officer, has worked beautifully with stager, Jess Gutwein, decorating the space with pieces from local artisans.





1600 S. Henderson Street, built in 1906, exemplifies the beauty and versatility of vernacular architecture. It holds historical significance for its transitional shape and style, common in Fairmount. The current owners, Joe May & Taylor Staniforth, have transformed this home into a unique space. While much of its original interior is being removed for an open concept layout by previous owners, Joe and Taylor have embraced the combined living/dining/kitchen area. Their creative touch is evident in the décor, featuring a blend of mid-century and funky vintage pieces that add character and charm.

1409 7th Avenue's architectural style is a prominent one in Fairmount, the ubiquitous American Foursquare. It gets its name from having four single or sets of openings in front, and inside, four rooms down and four rooms up. Current owners, John and Kristin Klade, have created a modern comfortable home while embracing many of the historic features that make it part of Fairmount's history. By the front door are a pair of original Queen Anne style pocket windows with criss-cross panes. Inside, the front entry hall is a common feature, with the original newel post and wood paneled staircase to the left. In the dining room there is a clever built-in bar in a nook created by the removal of an original fireplace decades ago. The walls of the dining room have had layers of old wallpaper stripped from them to reveal the shiplap walls underneath.



Fairmount's premier architectural salvage and antiques store, Old Home Supply, is located at 1801 College Avenue. In 1977, Ralph Watterson, the store's owner, found himself in Fairmount due to a dispute with his landlord in Arlington Heights. Ralph's decision to stop paying rent came after he fixed a persistent plumbing issue that the landlord neglected to address, sending in his rent check with a bill for the repairs. This marked the beginning of Ralph's journey in Fairmount, where he acquired his first home on 6th Ave for \$7000, a remarkable deal even for that time. Ralph's passion for restoring old homes led him to salvage architectural treasures from buildings slated for demolition. His keen eye for detail and dedication to preserving history drove him to save items like solid oak fireplace mantels, stained doors, vintage lighting, and unique hardware. This collection formed the foundation of Old Home Supply.

1121 Magnolia is where the delightful Cherry Coffee Shop resides, owned by John and Katherine Morris. Their entrepreneurial spirit extends to Cherry Coffee Roasters, supplying wholesale coffee beans to businesses and individuals. The shop is housed in a charming building dating back to 1921-22, once home to the Snyder-Bell Grocery before its relocation next door. Harry Snyder and Walter Bell, both Fairmount residents, initially operated the grocery, later transitioning to Lowe's Pharmacy, owned by James E. and Grace Lowe. Today, Cherry Coffee Shop is a local gem. Home Tour weekend they'll offer a custom coffee drink for visitors. Don't miss it!





Photo Above: The original interior of 1121 Magnolia, the Snyder Bell Grocery. On the left, Harry S. Snyder, and on far right is his brother in law, Ira Bogan Howell. They both lived in Fairmount. At back is Will Boggess, a butcher apprentice who would take over this grocery when Snyder moved to the West Side and Howell would start his own feed store, Howell Feed and Grain store in Handley.

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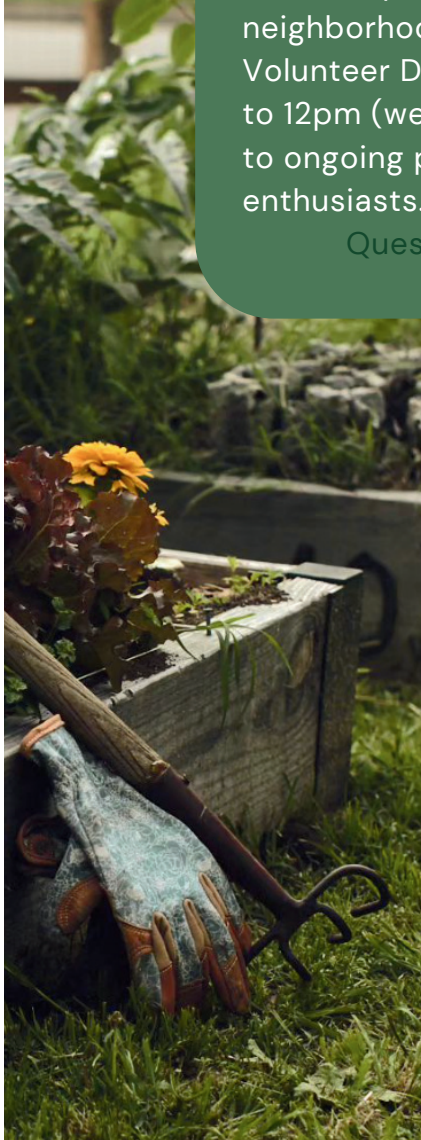


FAIRMOUNT

community garden

Dive into the joy of gardening with us! The garden is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing public space for community agriculture. The garden is open every day, inviting you to explore, pick from the public plots, and enjoy the beauty of nature right here in our neighborhood. Don't have a plot, but still want to garden? Join us for Volunteer Days, typically on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10am to 12pm (weather permitting). It's a fantastic opportunity to contribute to ongoing projects and connect with fellow gardening/plant enthusiasts.

Questions? Ideas? fairmountcommunitygarden@gmail.com



Photos: proxiimedia.com

Fairmount Bites

The Concept:

Fairmount Bites is all about fostering a sense of community while supporting our beloved local restaurants and coffee shops/bars. Each month, we will shine a spotlight on two establishments, one restaurant and one coffee shop or bar, inviting members to explore their menus, ambiance, and hospitality.

How It Works:

Members are encouraged to support the featured restaurants throughout the month at their convenience. Whether it's for a quick coffee, a leisurely brunch, or a dinner with friends, every visit counts. Additionally, we will designate a "featured night" toward the end of the month, where members gather for a collective dining experience. Depending on the space, we may meet before the meal for a happy hour hello. Many spaces, we will enjoy our meals with our own groups as to not disturb their usual business — but in the future, perhaps we will be able to have a long table dinner! If the month features a bar, everyone would be invited to grab a drink following their meal!

The Mission:

Fairmount Bites is driven by a passion for preserving our local culinary scene. With the unfortunate trend of beloved spots closing down, our aim is to rally support for both established favorites and new discoveries. By encouraging members to explore beyond their usual haunts, we hope to cultivate a thriving food community. Some spots chosen may be a spot you already visit weekly! But we have many new neighbors in Fairmount who may have not made it there yet. We will aim to mix new opens with seasoned establishments.



Future Goals:

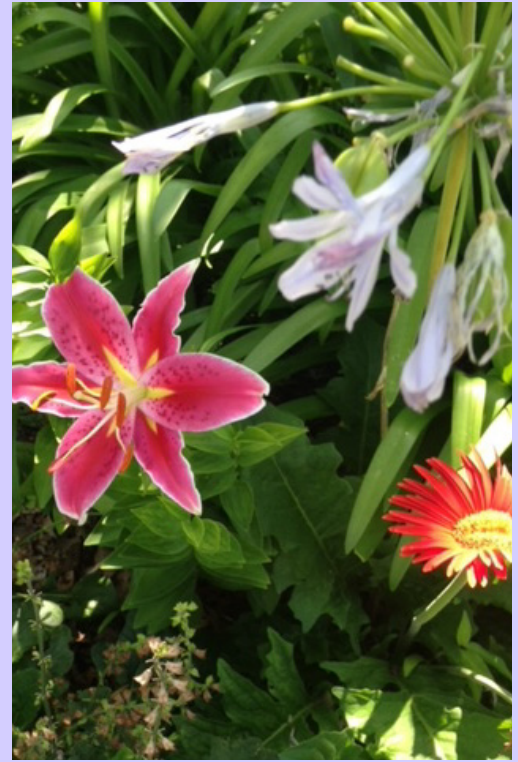
Looking ahead, Fairmount Bites seeks to deepen its engagement with local eateries. We aspire to forge partnerships that benefit both members and businesses, whether through exclusive specials, signature dishes, or member discounts. Together, we can contribute to the longevity and success of our culinary landscape.

Membership Benefits:

To become a member, we encourage a \$35 membership fee. This will include a FAIRMOUNT BITES t-shirt to wear during casual outings and a lapel pin for those special dining occasions. We want the establishments to know when Fairmount Bites members are visiting!

**Interested in learning more?
Contact Taylor Staniforth at
fairmountbites@gmail.com**

April Yard of the Month



The garden at 1825 Fairmount in April. Photocredit: Juanita Mitchell

Article written by Bonnie Blackwell

Yard of the Month winners for April 2024 are Juanita Williams and Harry Lundvall, of 1825 Fairmount Avenue, which they have owned since 1989. The house exterior is Craftsman in its references, including brick columns, wood siding, a Dutch gabled roof and L-shaped porch. Yet the interior has Queen Anne features, like a single-light glass front door, two front parlors, 12-foot ceilings, and freestanding sideboard cast iron sink. This mix of styles is perhaps explained by the activities of its builder and designer, the prolific contractor, Charles Marion Butcher (1875-1940). 1825 Fairmount was built between 1900 and 1910 for Charles' parents, while he also built 1817, 1831 (both houses where he lived with his young family) and 2010 Fairmount, as well as 1404 S. Adams. Many Fairmount residents will know this home by its vibrant terra cotta pink color, and the fragrant Wisteria vine dominating the west-facing parkway. The Wisteria covers a black walnut tree (*Juglans nigra*), a fitting tribute to the carpenter who designed and built it, since the wood is prized for furniture and cabinet making.

Charles Butcher was the second of seven sons born to Lewis and Caroline ("Carrie") Butcher (Ancestry). Despite their occupational surname, the Butchers were Bavarian master carpenters going back centuries. Barnabas Butcher immigrated to American colonies in 1760, settling in Johnson County, Tennessee, where he married Mary Magdalene Moser, the granddaughter of Bavarian and Swiss immigrants who came on the Daniel Goodwin ship in 1723 (Ancestry). Charles later formed Butcher and Sweeney Construction Co., which built several Art Deco buildings in the 20's and '30s including the original TCU Stadium (Living New Deal). Next door to his parents, Charles and Josie raised one son, Herschel, and two daughters, Mabel and Leslie. Lewis and Carrie died at home in in spring 1921, within 3 weeks of each other.

When Charles' parents died in 1921, 1825 Fairmount next went their granddaughter-in-law. Just four years later, Mary Calvin Butcher lost her husband, Herschel, to lobar pneumonia. He was only 25 years old. In order to maintain the property and raise her young children who were 5 and 6 at the time, Mary C. Butcher taught dance lessons in the front parlor. Her father-in-law Charles divided the single-family home into 3 apartments and the 4-room rental space was listed as 1829 Fairmount (rented furnished, with garage). Mrs. Butcher remarried twice more, first to widower George Bagby in 1930 and then to Erwin Herbert in 1934. In 1932, Mary is in the paper for another tragedy, when 1825 Fairmount suffered a major fire in the apartment of one of the tenants who was out of town. Mary managed to escape to safety with her daughter Mary Louise (b. 1920) and son Jack (b. 1919). The other tenants also escaped before the roof fell in, and the Butcher's own residence was gutted. Losses were



On Left - Mary Calvin Butcher Herbert, dancing instructor and fashionista, with her daughter Mary Louise Butcher, granddaughter of Charles Marion Butcher. Photocredit: Fort Worth Star Telegram.



estimated at \$4,500 (about 80 grand today). Luckily, her contractor father-in-law Charles was able to repair the home, and she continued to live there until 1950, when she retired to Cleburne.

It is fitting that Harry and Juanita have thrived at 1825 Fairmount, one of the masterpieces of Charles Butcher, because Harry is also a handy builder who brings many of Juanita's ideas for built-in cabinetry to life. But the garden is primarily her domain.

When they first moved in, Juanita reports, the entire front yard was "waist-high weeds." They banished the weeds and laid down St. Augustine sod grass. Near the porch, they planted a line of nandina shrubs and rose bushes along the driveway. As the black walnut tree soon began to achieve its mature height of 70 feet, and shade the northern side of the yard, Juanita devoted the southern half to full-sun perennials and culinary plants. The result is not only a feast for the eyes, but also for the nose. In March, the yard smells of the auspicious wisteria vine, a symbol of long life, that embraces the walnut tree. In April, multiple rose bushes are in bloom. And by summer, in the parkway near the street, the basil plants give off their characteristic anise scent on warm summer evenings. Among the basil, which is self-seeding and returns every year, Juanita has a thriving herb bed with parsley, thyme, rosemary and multiple types of salvia. She also sprinkles in other culinary plants, like a wild grape vine, a bay laurel tree, society garlic, and the occasional "Mr. Stripey" tomato plant. For color, the beds are laced with her grandmother's snapdragons, purple violas, pale yellow iris, stargazer lilies, and dark red 'Oklahoma' roses which started off as various hybrid tea roses but died back to hearty root stock. Low mounding plants include bachelor's buttons, blackfoot daisy, and an enthusiastically spreading purple lyre leaf sage (*salvia lyrata*.) For height and texture, she added a

cypress tree, and horsetail, a non-flowering vertical green stem with resembles bamboo, but without the invasive properties. Juanita enjoys shopping at Mike's Garden center but also celebrates inherited and gifted plants, as well as a \$4.99 salmon-colored rose she bought "in a bag at Aldi" which is now thriving on the southern side of the porch. Juanita reports she has no preferred color in selecting her plants, but there's definitely a theme of intense coral pinks, from the house's Desert Rose paint color to autumn salvia, to Gerber Daisies.

For their aromatic yard, Juanita and Harry have our thanks, and a gift card for \$30 to Calloway's Nursery.

Will Appear in Dancing-Speech Art Recital Friday



"Mary Butcher School of Dancing at 1829 Fairmount." Article from 18 June 1939. Fort Worth Star Telegram.



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