

# FAIRMOUNT



HISTORIC  
DISTRICT

A monthly publication of the Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Volume 29, Issue 7

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Mother Nature has been kind to us this summer. After planting nearly 400 trees in the past two years and with our tremendous effort to get trees along Allen Ave. this past spring, all this rain has been a great help to make Fairmount greener. That seems to be the catch phrase these days. And whether you are 'green' or not, you can't deny that restoring an old home is one of the greenest things that can be done. The wood consumption alone for new housing is staggering and although new construction is surely cheaper, the long-term benefits to restoration of our old houses is tangible and real. By the time you read this, the fate of 1405 Fairmount, in eminent danger of demolition, may well be decided.

We are facing a crisis in our neighborhood and some hard decisions are going to have to be made. We have a choice to either rally and do what we can to save our endangered structures or stand by passively and let others make decisions for us. For my part, I've started a Preservation Task Force to help deter the threat of demolition through a multipronged approach. Foremost of these is an effort to educate the task force and board about the services available to our neighbors who may not have the means to maintain their homes and then get that information to them. Other efforts are also being explored such as receivership, working with code compliance and even legal options if they are available.

We're also going to have to take a moment and educate ourselves about why preservation matters and what we can do as individuals and neighbors to curb the tide of demolitions. Once there was a time among the residents in the early days of our 'come back' that they were courageous and patient to live alongside a condemned property and wait for the right person to come along and save it. In today's ever faster paced society and the desire for immediate satisfaction, some of us would rather see a tear-down and new build rather than be inconvenienced by the eye-sore next door. We have a lot to learn.

The task force is open to anyone who'd like to help and if you think you can contribute something, we welcome your input. Things can only get done if we work together for our own greater good.

In the mean time, stay cool, enjoy the rest of your summer and as always, THANK YOU for giving so much of your time and yourselves to make Fairmount the best neighborhood in Fort Worth.

—Robert.

August 2010

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## FAIRMOUNT ASSOCIATION MEETING

OR

Tuesday

June 27

7:00 p.m.

College Avenue  
Baptist Church  
1400 College Ave.

OR

*Win fabulous door  
prizes!*

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<p><b>Fairmount Neighborhood Association</b> P.O Box 12348 Fort Worth, TX 76110-8348</p> <p><b>President</b> Robert Wedding 817.975.8040 VillaZora@aol.com</p> <p><b>Promotions</b> Kevin Buchanan 817.223.9321 promotions@historicfairmount.com</p> <p><b>Membership</b> Ricky Pike 817.727.4577 membership@historicfairmount.com</p> <p><b>Finance</b> Chewy Redding 817.207.9126 chewy.redding@belo.com</p> <p><b>Historic Preservation</b> Sue McLean 817.924.6100 preservation@historicfairmount.com</p> <p><b>Infrastructure</b> Sean Lynch 817.723.2971 infrastructure@historicfairmount.com</p> <p><b>Public Safety</b> David Thrapp 817.734.3403 thrappville@sbglobal.net</p> <p><b>Administration</b> Serena Keeler 817.825.3886 serena@bytemap.net</p> <p><b>Communications</b> John Murphy 817.717.6629 fairmountnewsletter@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Home Tour</b> Sara Lynchsara.p.lynch@gmail.com Christen White- christen.white@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>FNA MEETING MINUTES</u></b> June 2010 Call to Order: 7:00 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety NPO Joel Stary: Crime is down overall. Numbers compare about the same as last year. Security alert: 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue burglaries. Suspect casing houses for burglars is a white female 50-65 years old driving dark blue teal or maroon car. Pay close attention to vehicles backed up in driveways or in the alley that shouldn't be there.</li> <li>• Director Reports 7:05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership, Ricky: Old Fairmount street signs are for sale, \$20 and \$10.</li> <li>• Financial, Chewy: Total in checking: \$58,678. Home Tour net income: \$18,427</li> <li>• Infrastructure, Sean: Clean up coming up. Monthly social at Double Exposure 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July. Streetlights are still going in.</li> <li>• Promotions, Kevin: Facebook page update.</li> <li>• Historic Preservation, Sue: Landmarks approved 1958 Travis to be demolished. City has a demo request for 1405 Fairmount. Owner has 30 days to stabilize the house. Mehl building wind turbine was moved to a new building on Hemphill due to historic overlay requirements. New construction approved at 2114 Hurley.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Announcements: Robert Wedding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 11 Forest Park pool party 7-9 p.m.</li> <li>• Need members for Nominating committee for 5 board positions coming up in August.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Presentation: Mike McDermott presents his book "Fort Worth's Fairmount District" 7:15</li> </ul> <p>Door Prizes: Jerry Hawkins 8:05 Adjournment 8: 15 Refreshments, sign sales, and book sales and signing in the reception hall.</p> <p><b><u>MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS DRIVERS</u></b> Meals on Wheels has 5 open routes without designated drivers in the Southside area of Fort Worth. Food is picked up at the southside distribution site located within University Methodist Church and then delivered to clients close to the area. It takes about one hour to delivery meals. For more information please contact Julie Donovan at (817) 258-6409.</p>
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## **THE FAIRMOUNT BEAT**

Neighborhood Patrol Officer Joel Stary

817.944.1316 (c), 817.871.8885 (o),

Joel.Stary@fortworthgov.org

I hope everyone is well this month and that you have not melted from the early heat or been swept away by the downpours we have seen recently. I wanted to discuss gangs with you this month and hopefully give you some information that will help you determine when a group of kids roaming through or hanging out in our neighborhood needs to be looked at a little more closely.

We all know that graffiti shows up from time to time on fences, vacant building, garages, signs and other structures in our area. Like with other types of crime, and graffiti is a crime, we tend to see an increase during the summer months when kids are out of school.

So now for some statistics: since 1983 there have been 12,000+ gang members documented and 400+ gangs documented here in Fort Worth, today there approximately 60 active gangs. Gangs are dealt with all over the nation and there are many types of gangs. There are two main "turf" gangs that we deal with in our area which include: Varrio Centro (VC) whose colors are blue and white, Surenos (SUR 13) aka Varrio South Side (VSS) whose color is mainly brown. These gangs are considered "turf" gangs, because they spend most of their time fighting over turf. The majority of the fighting is done by means of tagging and marking their turf for each other to see. Although, these are typically not considered to be violent gangs or organized criminal gangs, we have found that VC and SUR 13 will be involved in burglaries and thefts in this area.

Gang members will communicate to each other and the public by the colors that they wear, graffiti/tagging, hand signs, tattoos and language. The gang unit within the Fort Worth Police Department is the largest in the state and they work tirelessly to stop gang crime in our city and neighborhoods. Just as important as being able to recognize gang activity in our neighborhood, please pay attention to what is going on in your own home with your children. Your children could become prey to the recruiting that occurs in school or just about anywhere by these gangs. Pay attention to your children's behavior, dress, language and new friends.

If you have questions about gangs or gang activity or you are having a problem with your own child, please do not hesitate to contact me or the FWPd Gang Unit. Our Gang Unit consists of Enforcement, Intelligence, Investigative Division, Intervention-Prevention and Graffiti Abatement sections and can be contacted at 817-392-3670. As always, please take care of our neighborhood and call 911 when you see something or someone suspicious. Please remember to be safe today and safer tomorrow.



## **CLEAN AIR UPDATE**

Behind someone with black smoke coming out of their tailpipe? Report it with your wireless phone:

- Dial #SMOKE (#76653) on your wireless phone
- Note the following: the license plate, date and time, type of vehicle (i.e.: car or truck, etc.), and location

Smoking vehicles are worse than other vehicles. Statistics indicate that 10% of these vehicles create more than 50% of the emissions.

How to Get Assistance Fixing Your Smoking Vehicle:

The AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine Program is designed to help vehicle owners comply with vehicle emissions standards. It targets the highest polluting vehicles by offering financial incentives to repair or remove them from the roadways.

Residents of the Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment counties (Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, and Tarrant) may be eligible to receive vouchers for \$3,000 toward the purchase of a newer qualifying car or truck and \$3,500 toward a qualifying hybrid vehicle from participating auto dealers. Up to \$600 for emissions repair assistance is available.

For more information about the AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine Program, call 1-800-898-9103.

—Serena Keeler





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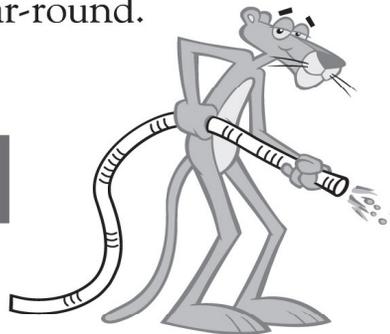
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**OUTSIDE YOUR OLD HOUSE**

Susan Harper

According to Edward Lorenz, when the butterfly flaps his wings in Tokyo, it can cause a tornado in Kansas. I wonder if we could keep a butterfly alive long enough to get it to flap its wings in Antarctica...



By the time this comes out we'll be well into the dog days of summer. My water bill begins to look like a line item in the national debt and going outside any time after 2pm feels like Death Valley it's so still.

Most of us water our lawns too much. Wait until your lawn just begins to show signs of wilt—the leaf blades will begin to roll or fold. Another sign is when walking across the lawn leaves tracks. You'll want to water just before that time, watering to a depth of 4 to 6 inches in the early morning if at all possible. Your garden beds will probably need more frequent watering. If all your garden beds aren't mulched, get them done to conserve water and keep your plants happy. I've been using soaker hoses in many of my beds but I'm going to start converting to drip this summer to see if I get better results.

Many of the vegetables in the garden are still producing. If yours have stopped, it may be time to cut your losses and prepare for the fall season. If you went with an indeterminate variety of tomato, you may be able to cut the plant back to about 12" tall and let it give you a fall crop. If you're putting in new tomato plants, they need to be in the ground by around the 15th of August. Depending on whether you're starting with seeds or seedlings, planting time for fall is usually between the last week or so in July and August 15th. This is the best time of year for broccoli and cauliflower which don't always do well in the spring garden.

I've seen one bald cypress in the 'hood with bag-worms so keep an eye out for those. And some of our trees have webworms this year. The Trichogramma wasp may provide some control of these pests and can be purchased at Marshall Grain. If the webs are low enough, you can sometimes break them open with a jet of water. I just hate those nasty little white worms dropping on me!

See you in the garden...



## HOW TO REDUCE MOSQUITO PROBLEMS

Mosquitoes not only irritate and annoy people, but they also can transmit many disease-causing organisms to humans and animals. They spread such diseases as encephalitis, dengue, yellow fever, malaria and filariasis. Mosquitoes are also responsible for transmitting heartworm in dogs. Here are some ways to alleviate mosquito problems around your home:

### • Eliminate breeding sites for larvae

- Reduce standing water that provides breeding sites. Eliminate containers such as old tires, buckets, cans and bottles that collect and hold rainwater and become good breeding sites for mosquitoes. Drain water from flower pots, bird baths, rain gutters, rain barrels, pet dishes, livestock watering troughs, etc. at least once a week.
- Empty your plastic wading pool weekly and store it indoors when not in use.
- Fill holes or depressions in trees with sand or mortar, or drain them after each rain by drilling holes into the tree.
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
- Reduce adult mosquito populations
- Mow tall grass or reduce the amount of brush and other foliage in your area to reduce the resting sites for adult mosquitoes.
- For temporary relief in yards or high traffic areas, use fog treatments or surface treatments of insecticides that are labeled for that use and apply them following directions on the product label.
- Use mosquito fish or other fish species in permanent bodies of water whenever the water will support them. Mosquito fish can be found in other ponds, pet shops or bait stores.
- Use *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (also known as "Bt") products such as Mosquito Dunks® to treat permanent water bodies to eliminate larvae.
- You can use oil treatments on the surface of standing water to kill larvae. Use commercial products according to the instructions on the product label. Be aware that other organisms in the water body may be affected by the treatment.
- If you are aware of a mosquito breeding site that you cannot eliminate or treat, please contact the Code Compliance Department. They can be reached by phone at 817-392-1234, e-mail at [CodeCares@fortworthgov.org](mailto:CodeCares@fortworthgov.org) or online at <http://www.fortworthgov.org/codecompliance>.

### • Avoid contact with mosquitoes

- Use screening in your homes and pet kennels. Keep the screens in good repair and be sure that they seal around the frames of the door or window.
- Schedule outdoor activities during times when mosquitoes are not active. Mosquito species that are active at dusk and dawn can often be avoided. Species that bite throughout the day are more difficult to avoid.
- Wear long, loose-fitting clothing to avoid mosquito bites. Use head nets when mosquitoes are very abundant.
- Use repellents whenever in a mosquito infested location. Products that contain DEET have been shown to be the most reliable repellents.
- For short-term relief in outdoor areas such as patios and picnic areas, use citronella candles or dunks as a deterrent.
- Protect your pets with drugs that eliminate heartworm.



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**GET YOUR FAIRMOUNT CURB NUMBERS!**

Show your neighborhood pride *and* help the pizza delivery guy find your house by having the Fairmount logo and your house number painted on your curb! For just \$15, neighborhood resident Ray Feyen will paint your house number in two locations. The cost per address is \$15. Give Ray a call at (817) 924-6729 (home) or (682) 552-0791 (cell) and leave him a message, or email him at [rfeyen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rfeyen@sbcglobal.net). Although the Association has selected a new design for pole-mounted signage, we will keep using the traditional "F" design for curb numbers.



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## **JUNE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Fairmount Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting  
Date: July 5, 2010

Call to Order 7:30 p.m.

Minutes of the last meeting - sent via email.

Director's Reports -7:35 p.m.

-- Director of Finance - Chewy, will email out latest financials. A few Home Tour bills still outstanding. Waiting on city to deposit \$13K check. Will do a final audit to see if all new street signs are in. 5x3 sign still needed for the green space.

-- Director of Administration - Serena, no report.

-- Director of Historic Preservation - Sue, no report.

-- Director of Public Safety - David, \$189 spent on flag brackets.

-- Director of Membership - Ricky, signup sheet at next meeting will have a column for folks to fill in their profession / interest. New babysitter set up for meeting. Greg Taylor has someone lined up for Fairmount resident talk for next meeting. Made \$300 in old sign sells at last meeting.

Old Business - 7:45 p.m.

-- Draft Special Events Ordinance - FNA board opposes the ordinance and will write a letter to the League of Neighborhood.

-- Nominating Committee - still forming and will meet next week.

New Business - 7:50 p.m.

-- Robert is setting up a meeting with Building and Standards to discuss historic preservation in Fairmount.

-- Newsletter Editor update.

-- Park Adoption/Master Plan - park adoption allows FNA to take care of our parks. FNA also wants to come up with a master design plan in the near future.

Motion made to adjourn. Seconded. Carried. Adjourned 8:00 p.m.

—Serena Keeler



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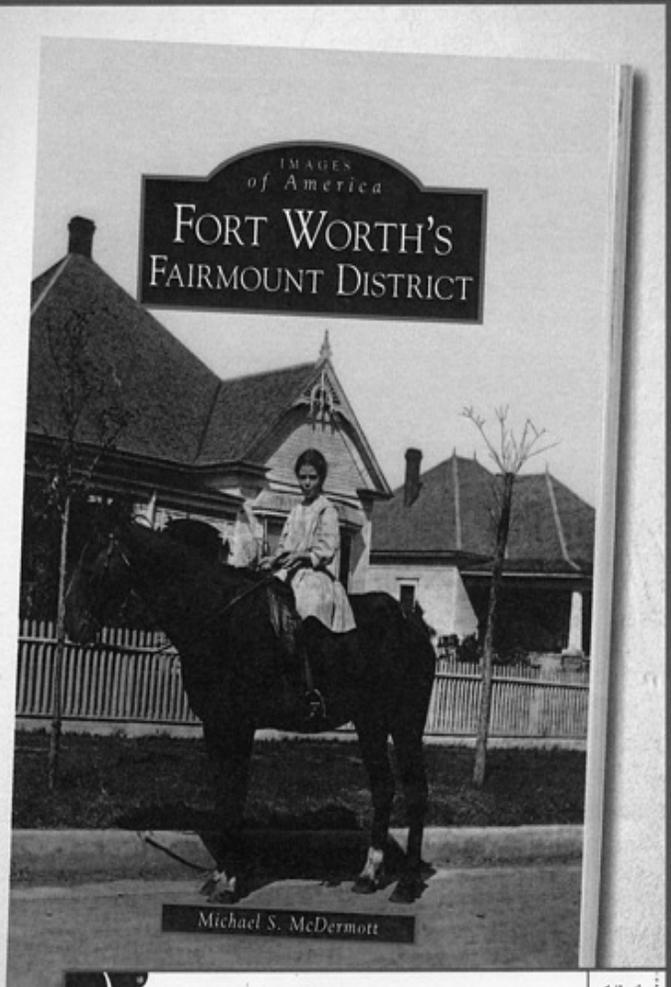
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to get your own signed copy. \$22.00 (no tax)

Michael S. McDermott



**JULY YARD OF THE MONTH: 2214 FAIRMOUNT**

This month we choose as Yard of the Month to honor the home of Lisa Thomas and Janet White at 2214 Fairmount Avenue. This couple worked hard to get the inside of their home restored in time for the 2006 Fairmount Historic Home Tour. They have now turned their focus to the outside. The yard is always well manicured and watered by Janet. The flowerbeds and pots are planned by Lisa and Susan Harper of Beyond the Front Porch.



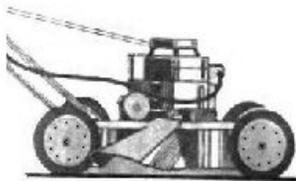
The front yard is flanked by two Chinese Pistachio trees, perfect for delivering the much needed shade during the long, hot, dry summers in Fort Worth. The summer flower beds are filled with white, red and green Caladiums and white Petunias with a backdrop of dwarf Barberry bushes whose leaves range from dark red to deep green. On either side of the porch are dark pink Crape Myrtles, a Red Chinese Fringe Flower shrub and a gorgeous blooming Hydrangea.

Pots of white Hibiscus, red and green Coleus with Ivy spilling out greet the neighborhood at both ends of the sidewalk. The porch is decorated with white wicker furniture and a vintage metal glider in addition to a Schefflera plant that has been in Lisa's family for around 30 years and a Crown of Thorns flowering cactus that is now pushing 20 years old.

Thank you to CC's Touch of Nature for the \$35.00 gift certificate that Lisa and Janet will receive.

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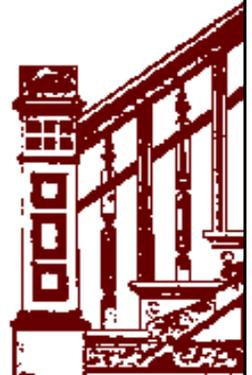
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Sue McLean 817-924-6100  
 Geri Cotton 817-926-6507  
 David Thrapp 817-923-4807  
 FMCops@att.net.

COP meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 6pm at the police station 1000 Magnolia Ave.

**RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Batteries, light bulbs, household chemicals can be taken to the Environmental Collection Center at 6400 Bridge Street near I30 and 820 east. The hours are Thursdays-Fridays 11-7 pm and Saturdays 9 am- 3 pm. Staples recycles cell phones, batteries, cartridges. Good Will recycles electronics. Working appliances, cabinets, counter tops, doors, windows, light fixtures, sinks, toilets, bricks, etc. can be taken to the Habitat ReStore. Call 817-626-5000 for information or a pick up.

**JOIN THE FAIRMOUNT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION!**

*Why Join?*

- Get this newsletter delivered to your doorstep 11 times a year!
- Know what's going on in Fairmount and the City that will affect *you* and *your* property!
- Make your voice heard on neighborhood issues!
- Meet old and new friends at members-only parties!

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a \_\_\_new \_\_\_renewing member (check one)

I have lived in Fairmount for \_\_\_ years.

\_\_\_ Individual (\$15) \_\_\_ Family (\$20) \_\_\_ Business (\$20)

**FORT WORTH CITY CONTACTS**



- Animal Services ..... 817.392.3737
- City Council..... 817.392.6193
- City Councilperson Joel Burns..... 817.392.8890  
 district9@fortworthgov.org
- Code Officer Oscar Reyes ..... 817.879.4230  
 Oscar.Reyes@fortworthgov.org
- Fort Worth Police Dept. (nonemergency) ... 817.335.4222  
 NPO Joel Stary 817.944.1316  
 Joel.Stary@fortworthgov.org
- Garbage info/Illegal dumping ..... 817.392.EASY
- Graffiti ..... 817.212.2700
- Historic Preservation (Planning)  
 Jamie Zwolak ..... 817.392.8037  
 James.Zwolak@fortworthgov.org
- Potholes ..... 817.392.8100
- Streetlight outages ..... 817.392.7595  
 http://www.fortworthgov.org/applications/tpwcrf/
- Fort Worth Public Library ..... 817.871.READ

**ADVERTISE IN THE FAIRMOUNT NEWSLETTER**

Contact John Murphy at fairmountnewsletter@gmail.com. Items must be received by the 10th of the month.

**Monthly Rates**

Classified Ad Give-A-Ways	Free
Classified Ad For Sale Items	\$5.00
Business Card Ad	\$10.00
1/4 Page Ad	\$25.00
1/2 Page Ad	\$50.00
Full Page Ad	\$100.00

**Yearly (11 months) Advertiser Rates**—Pay for your ad a year in advance and get 1 month free!

Business Card Ad	\$100.00
1/4 Page Ad	\$250.00
1/2 Page Ad	\$500.00
Full Page Ad	\$1000.00

The Fairmount newsletter is published 11 times a year (November/December issue is combined) and distributed the weekend prior to the 4th Tuesday of each month.

**We're on the Web!**

<http://www.historicfairmount.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52455614262>

