



• NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT •

# FAIRMOUNT

SPECIAL HOME TOUR EDITION

*29th Annual*

## HOME TOUR

Homeowners prepare to open doors  
to more than 1,500 visitors

**Neighborhood Library**

Volunteers help project grow

**Exploring  
Fairmount**  
Community projects,  
clubs & events

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Photography in this issue by  
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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to Fairmount's 29th Home Tour! Whether this is your first time to visit Fairmount or your 29th, we would like to welcome you all to the Southwest's largest historic district and one of the best neighborhoods in Fort Worth. Fairmount is a unique place in that we are not a living history museum, but rather a living neighborhood with wonderful residents who live in historic homes that we treasure.

For nearly 30 years, our annual Home Tour has taken place. That's a whole generation of people who have graciously opened their homes to thousands of visitors. What's even better is that we have fun doing it! We love meeting new people, showing them around, and making them feel at home in our homes.

I am most impressed that the 29 year history of the Fairmount Home Tour is a testament that there has been a steady, calculable rate of homes in Fairmount that have been rehabilitated and restored so that every year, we've been able to show at least 6 different houses. You can do the math. But besides the great strides that have been made in historic preservation, Fairmount has grown over the past three decades from a neighborhood that was at best, iffy, to an enclave of neighbors who resemble more of an extended family than just people that live next door to each other. Fairmount has two amazing assets, its houses and its residents and the neighborhood wouldn't be the same without either. Our residents are cut from a different cloth. For as many reasons as there are residents, we are drawn to a place that harkens back to earlier days when community was a tangible word, when neighbors were there for each other to support in times of crisis and where people developed a sense of place. Both factors come together to make ours a truly special place.



We hope that you will come away with a sense of our uniqueness after your Home Tour visit and experience some of the pride and joy we share from living in Fairmount. We also hope you'll come back again and again and see the ongoing progress we're making every day in restoration and in making Fairmount even better!

### On the Cover

Jane Kucko sets the dining room table in preparation for Home Tour. In keeping with the Arts and Crafts style, the Kucko's dining room sports Stickley chairs and an original beamed ceiling. See more on Home Tour preparations beginning on page 16.

*Photo by Eric Luecker*

Robert Wedding, President  
[president@historicfairmount.com](mailto:president@historicfairmount.com)



# The Fairmount Beat by Joel Stary, neighborhood patrol officer

I hope everyone is doing well and planting spring flowers. I want to talk about children this month because mine have been on my mind a lot lately as one gets ready to leave home for college.

I remember getting spanked in school when I was young. The first time was for cheating, which I never did again thanks to the spanking. The second was for fighting on the playground, which did happen a few more times. I'm sorry to say that my parents don't know about this, so please don't say anything to them.

The days of corporal punishment are gone, and now more than ever, parents need to step up and be active in every part of their child's life.

Having said that, raising a child is the most important job anyone can do, and also the most difficult. I have wondered many times during the course of raising my kids what to do in certain

**Joel Stary**  
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situations or what I was doing wrong.

The bottom line is that just as kids need strong leadership and support at home, parents need leadership and support raising their kids. We all worry about danger and how to protect our children from it, and we also work hard to keep them safe and out of trouble.

At the end of this article are a few resources that are available for children and parents in Tarrant County. Being a kid is tough, and so is being a parent. We should all work together when it comes to the future of our children and sometimes that means asking for help to get through tough situations. I'm a strong

believer in the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child."

Until next time, be safe today and safer tomorrow.

## **Santa Fe Youth Services**

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Fort Worth, TX 76118  
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www.santafeyouth.org

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## **Boys and Girls Club**

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www.fortworthkids.org

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# Fairmount Business Incubator holds business fair

**June 25, 9:30-noon**

The Bastion Restaurant  
2204 Lipscomb St.

\$15 per space. Free if attending as an aspiring entrepreneur.

The Fairmount Business Incubator was recently formed to help Fairmount residents get small businesses up and running. Part of their mission is to provide funding to assist people in starting their own business in Fairmount. This fair is for two groups of people. The first group is small business owners in the Fairmont neighborhood who would like to advertise their enterprises and who would be willing to meet with aspiring entrepreneurs to offer advice and encouragement. The second group served by this fair is individuals thinking of starting a new home based or small business who would like to network with folks who are already established. Fairmount is a growing area and this is a good way to assist in its growth.


E-mail [administration@historicfairmount.com](mailto:administration@historicfairmount.com) to reserve a space today.

Raffle tickets for a 23 inch square, portable butcher block cart will be sold as a fundraiser benefitting the Fairmount Business Incubator group. Tickets are \$5 each, and 100 tickets must be sold for the raffle to be held. Need not be present to win.



**A butcher block cart to be sold as a fundraiser to benefit the Fairmount Business Incubator group. Tickets are \$5 each and a minimum of 100 must be sold.**

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# NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

Volunteers, donations support local project

by Berlene Milburn

In November, 1999, Judy Branson, Mary and David Cantu-Crouch, and Berlene Milburn were looking diligently for a place to start a small library in Fairmount. They had more than 80 boxes of donated books and virtually no money.

Just as they were about to give up, Ralph Waterson, owner of Old Home Supply, offered them access to what seemed like a perfect location. The building was the right size and located on an easy to find street. But most of all, Ralph made it available at a price they could afford.

Todd Milburn, Shellie Gardner and her husband David Robinson, and Sandra Medina soon joined the library board and work began on transforming what was a deteriorating storage space into a neighborhood library.

In May 2009, the library officially opened with a non-profit 501(c)3 status, five “vintage” computers and thousands of books. Classes began being offered in Spanish, photography and computers. Kids’ summer art classes, reading programs and chess matches soon followed.

Today, the library has doubled in size to 2,000 square feet. There are 10 patron computers with internet access, as well as classroom space and a patio for meetings. The Cantu-Crouches, Medina, and the Milburns are still with the library. Denise Merkle was a very welcome addition in 2009.

The library is run by volunteers and completely supported through donations.

Please stop by 1310 W. Allen Ave. to meet the wonderful helping hand, Kathy Haines, on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 4-8 p.m. or chat with one of the founders, Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Volunteers at the Neighborhood Library love Fairmount and are very happy to provide this great community resource.

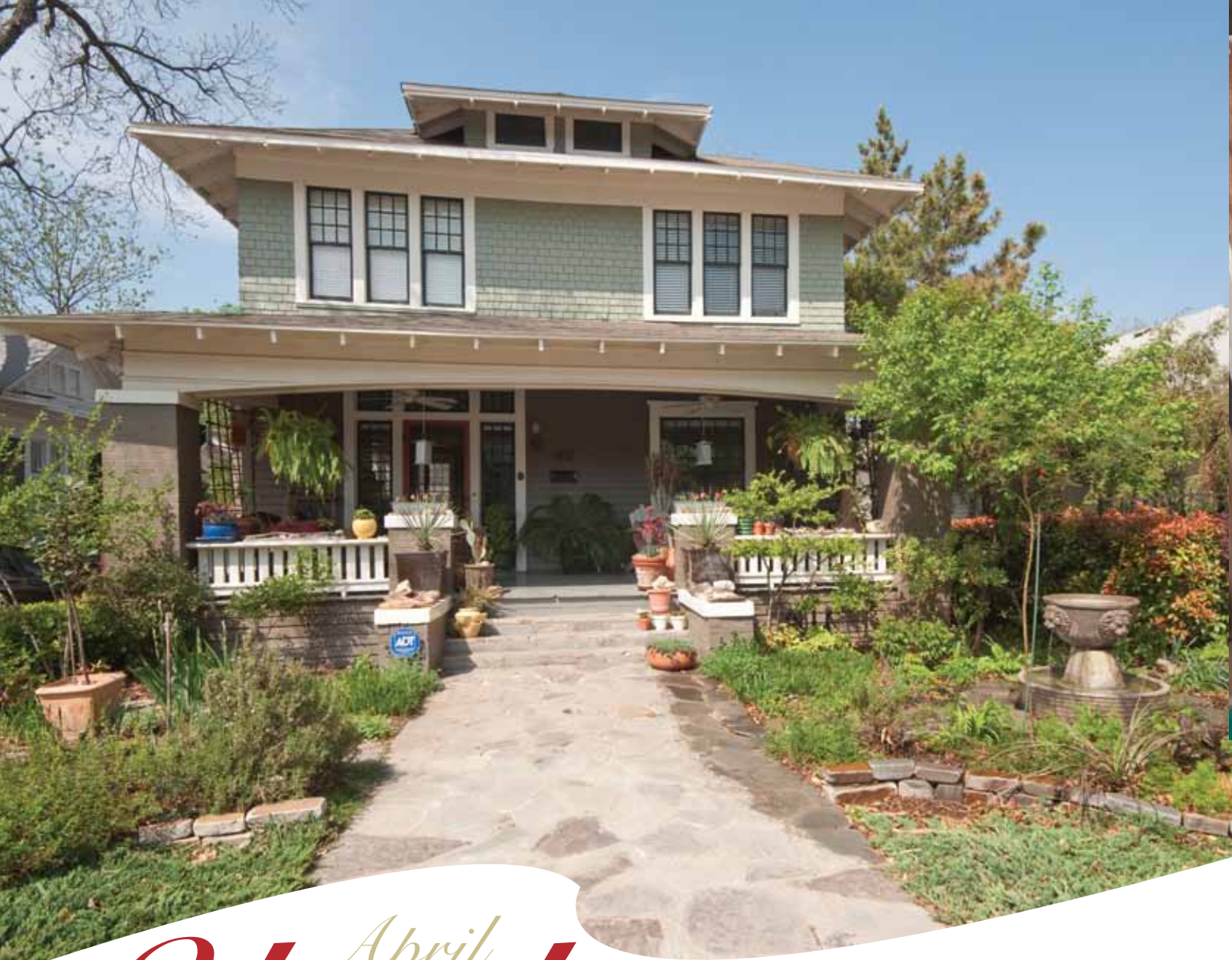


**Neighborhood library members (standing, left to right) Sandra Medina, Todd Milburn and Mary Cantu-Crouch. Seated (left to right) Berlene Milburn and David Cantu-Crouch.**



**Located in what was once a storage building, the Neighborhood Library offers a variety of programs, books and internet access for Fairmount and surrounding neighborhoods. The library is run by volunteers and holds regular hours.**





# *April* *Yard of the Month*

In late 2006 new home owners Bob Zetnick and Kevin Davis wanted a drought tolerant garden. Open to new adventures and looking forward to dressing up the neighborhood, they began their journey the following year by turning their creative thoughts into a true garden oasis in Fairmount.

After much thought, preparation and hard work, they removed their lawn and installed an herb garden along with a Mt. Atlas Cedar, Possumhaw Holly, Purple Smoketree, Texas Mountain Laurel, American Beautyberry, antique roses and native grasses. They tried to keep the existing landscape plants where possible. Since then, they have installed Mexican Feather Grass, Purple Desert Willows, Xemenia and Salvia Greggii between

the curb and sidewalk. A low stone wall separates a ground-cover of Blue Rug Juniper from the rest of the garden. Blue Yucas with Sedum in pots flank the porch steps. More perennials like Oxeye Daisy, Turk's Cap, Ruellia, Winecup, Ageratum and Peruvian Verbena have been tucked into any remaining blank spots. A fountain off to one side along with the garden helps to attract the birds, bees and butterflies. The owners also benefit daily from the herbs by incorporating them into their cooking.

Take a stroll over to 1412 S. Adams St. to be inspired by this fabulous garden and yard. You will drift away in its beauty.

Thank you to CC's Touch of Nature for the \$35 gift certificate that Bob and Kevin will receive.





Larry Gilbreath, Old Home Supply employee and Hemphill Heights resident, measures an old wood frame window. Old Home Supply offers a selection of old windows for replacement and decorative purposes.

## Opening doors to understanding

# OLD WINDOWS

by Susan Harper

Old wood windows seem to constantly be under discussion. In Fairmount they come in all shapes, sizes and conditions, from functional to caulked shut.

Perhaps the first thing to consider when making a decision about windows is this: your windows contribute at most, to only 20 percent of your utility bills. And if you use your windows as they were designed, they could be less.

Double hung windows operate with ropes and pulleys allowing them to open from top and bottom, which allows heat to escape while cool air is pulled in.

Insulating the cavities where the pulleys operate eliminates drafts and increases efficiency.

Old windows are made from old growth wood which is more dense and has a greater R value than new wood.

Roof overhangs are designed to shade your windows from direct sun much of the day.

Consider that the R value of the glass in your old window all by itself is 1 and the R value of a double pane, argon gas, low E, 366 window is 3.5. Now consider that your walls, insulated should be around 18, your attic with blown insulation over 40 and your crawl space just sitting there is over twice the R value of a slab and that extra 2.5 Rs might not seem like such a big deal.

A couple of other things to take into consideration: replacing a 34 X 65 double hung window with a 1 over 1 wood double hung window with that highest R

value will cost you about \$650 installed. Add more if your house is brick, if your size is larger, or you have mullions.

You can have old windows refurbished for around \$350 a window. If you want to add a storm window, you can do that for as little as \$135 — still cheaper and longer lasting than the \$650 window. And the Fairmount Historic Guidelines do allow painted metal storm windows with clear glass.

According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection it is more cost effective to refurbish an old window. ([www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/4sustain/windowsave\\_b.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/4sustain/windowsave_b.pdf)).

New wood windows are less durable as soft wood and new growth timber has replaced hardwoods in construction.

New multi-light windows are hard to find and expensive to have custom made.

Vinyl, PVC and plastics used in some of the components break down and discolor in sunlight with a life expectancy of about 25 years. Additionally, they are not acceptable in the Fairmount Historic District. Compare this with your nearly 100-year-old windows which, properly maintained, are good for another 50 years or more.

The seals around double glazing can fail within 10 years requiring replacement.

Because window designs change, replacement parts can be difficult to find. Conversely, an old wood window is more easily maintained and repaired because the technology hasn't changed for more than 100 years.

Assume for the sake of discussion that a single pane window has an energy cost of \$733.79. Using that scenario, replacement with the best wood triple-pane window would have an energy cost of \$625.57, a savings of \$108 per window, per year.

Count your windows and multiply by \$650. That's \$17,550. Now, divide that by \$108.

Oops. Looks like it's going to take over 162 years to amortize that investment; longer than the warranty on the windows. Maybe starting work on that next window is a better idea.

Last, but certainly not least, window replacement requires a certificate of appropriateness from City Planning while restoration of your old wood windows or the addition of storm windows does not.

## To Learn More

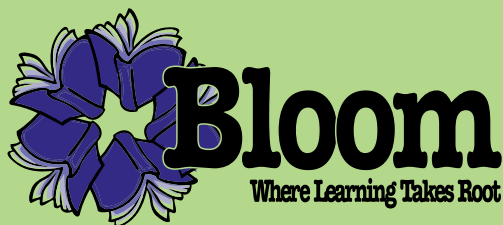
Online you can find resources for research, repair and studies on windows, energy efficiency and affordable storm windows.

Here are a few places to begin your research.

**This Old House**  
[www.thisoldhouse.com](http://www.thisoldhouse.com)

**Stained Glass, Ltd.**  
[www.stainedglassltd.com/newsite/removingadouble-hungwindow.php](http://www.stainedglassltd.com/newsite/removingadouble-hungwindow.php)

**Historic Fairmount Online** offers a list of neighbor's recommendations for contractors and window repair.  
[www.HistoricFairmount.com](http://www.HistoricFairmount.com) (*Click on resources*)



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## Fairmount general meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 26

The next Fairmount Neighborhood Association general meeting will be 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 26 at the College Avenue Baptist Church, 1400 College Ave.

Joanne Weber, proprietor of the T&P Tavern, will be speaking about the tavern, located at the T&P Station, which will include information about the history, restoration and business.

If you aren't a member of the FNA, the general meeting is a great time to join. Memberships are available for \$15 for individuals, \$20 families, \$20 businesses or \$15 for friends of Fairmount. Membership also includes delivery of the monthly newsletter to your home.

If you aren't receiving notifications from Fairmount via e-mail, why not sign up? Visit <http://www.HistoricFairmount.com>.

Hope to see you at the next general meeting.

## Join Fairmount on Facebook



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# Wide-reaching opportunities abound

*Fairmount neighborhood offers wealth of community involvement, events*

by Patti Randle

*Amazing things are happening in Fairmount. Learn more about our community.*

## ■ Community Garden

Thanks to the inspiration of TCU, the assistance of Fort Worth South, Inc., the city of Fort Worth, the efforts of Susan Harper and a host of Fairmount residents, we have one of the very first community gardens in our city. Now into its second year, the Fairmount Community Garden gives neighbors a chance to learn about gardening, share information, seeds and plant starts with each other, and visit, learn and laugh together. If you haven't checked it out, it's on 5th Avenue across from Fairmount Park, just north of Allen. Contact Susan Harper at [sharprone@swbell.net](mailto:sharprone@swbell.net) for information.

## ■ Garden Club

If you love gardening or want to learn more about it, visit the Garden Club meetings on the fourth Saturday of the month. The club is an opportunity to visit neighbors and share gardening skills. Contact Edward Mayfield at [mayfelde@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mayfelde@sbcglobal.net) for more information and the location of the next meeting.

## ■ Historic Preservation Committee

The Historic Preservation Committee, head by Sue McLean, is here to help you learn more about the proper way to restore your home, the history of your home or about the neighborhood historic guidelines. The committee will give you pointers, help ease the process of getting approval for your plans, and assist you in making your home not only more beautiful but also more valuable. Contact Sue McLean at [sue.mclean@att.net](mailto:sue.mclean@att.net).



**Allison (left) and Nathan Helt sit among daffodils on Allen Avenue. Thanks to a generous donation of 1,000 bulbs from 5th Ave. Greenhouse, the Fairmount Garden Club and volunteers participated in a planting last fall. This year a host of golden flowers lined the street.**

## ■ Tour of Historic Homes

Chelsie Thornton and Ashley Paz are heading up this year's Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes. On Mother's Day weekend (May 7-8), Fairmount will show off what makes it unique: its delightful architecture, history and community. It is how the Fairmount Neighborhood Association raises money to make improve-

ments to the neighborhood (such as all the period streetlights).

Please help us in this incredible endeavor by volunteering and by sprucing up your property — mow your yards, clean up any debris and make your home part of the "wow" factor of Fairmount. E-mail [historichometour@gmail.com](mailto:historichometour@gmail.com) to volunteer.



Neighbors eat donuts and cheer on runners of Joe's 10K last month as they run past W. Jefferson and Washington Ave. Thanks to Ricky and Ann Pike for supplying the adult beverages and coffee. Joe's Run benefits Samaritan House, a residential facility for homeless men and women living with HIV/AIDS.



### ■ Home Rescue

Last year, the Fairmount Neighborhood Association took on a big responsibility. The neighborhood voted to invest funds and people-power to save endangered homes in our midst. As absentee landlords and owners neglected their properties and let them deteriorate, the city of Fort Worth swooped in to condemn and subject them to demolition.

The entire mission as a neighborhood is to preserve these homes. Fairmount Neighborhood Association overwhelmingly said yes to saving its first house at 1405 Fairmount Ave. The former owner had neglected this house for so many years that it was in danger of collapse. Fairmount convinced the city and the owner's bankruptcy attorney to let the FNA buy the house. It was stabilized and sold it to wonderful new owners who are restoring the property. This home is on Home Tour this year as an example of a home undergoing restoration. One house saved, many more to come.

### ■ Mid-Month Socials

Started in 2009, the Fairmount Mid-Month Social continues to bring members and neighbors together to get to know one another outside of "official" neighborhood meetings. It's a great way to visit and share stories. If you haven't attended a social, plan to come to the next one. Even if you are not a member, please join us. You are always welcome! Social dates are advertised on the Fairmount website at [www.HistoricFairmount.com](http://www.HistoricFairmount.com).

Fairmount's March Mid-Month Social was held at the Neighborhood Library on Allen Avenue. The weather was perfect for an outdoor party on the library's patio. Two raffles were held benefitting the library. Winner of the romantic package was Shari and Vida Phoenix. Ashley Paz won the kids birthday party package including party goodies donated by the library. The event was a great chance to meet neighbors and explore the library.

### ■ Other Committees

Fairmount sponsors a Trap Neuter Release program to keep its cat population under control. Diana Koch managed the program for many years but recently moved from the neighborhood. If you care about this issue, contact any Fairmount board member. We need to continue this much needed service.

The recently formed Fairmount Business Incubation Committee is working to design parameters to help local entrepreneurs fund and start new businesses in and around Fairmount. For information, e-mail Greg Taylor at [greg8083@sbcglobal.net](mailto:greg8083@sbcglobal.net).

### ■ More information

Remember to visit [www.HistoricFairmount.com](http://www.HistoricFairmount.com) often. It's the best source for knowing what is happening in Fairmount. And, if you aren't up to date on happenings in Fairmount, join the Fairmount Neighborhood Association to get involved.

# A GARDEN FOR ALL

## SEASONS

COMMUNITY PROJECT SPROUTING  
FUN, NATIONAL RECOGNITION

by Susan Harper

**S**pring has sprung and the second year of the Fairmount Community Garden is in full swing. All 77 garden plots are leased for the year and most are already providing fresh salads and veggies for tables around our neighborhood, and a couple of other 'hoods as well. Half of the fun is watching how excited everyone gets as seeds begin to sprout. Not to mention the discussion about the merits of chicken poop versus horse poop ... well, you would just have to hear it to understand.

This year Second Saturday in the Garden will begin to get everyone together in the morning and take care of any cleaning, mulching, composting or adding to that the garden needs, as well as taking time to share information, plants and produce. A pumpkin patch may be added to the alley behind the garden for Halloween and a fall festival in the park next fall. Watch for future developments.

The big project this year will be constructing an arbor to serve as a meeting place, a message place and a source for rain collection. Everyone is really excited about the gorgeous structure that has been designed for us by Ken Loose and will be built by our own community.

Fairmount is one of the most active and organized neighborhoods in Fort Worth, with residents who are involved in multiple ways of improving both the neighborhood and the city.

Fairmount was nominated in the Neighborhoods USA competition this year by our president, Robert Wedding, for two projects started in 2010: saving 1405 Fairmount and the Community Garden.

Fairmount is one of 12 finalists across the United States competing for Neighborhood of the Year. The conference will be held in Anchorage, Alaska in May. We'll do our best to do our neighborhood proud.



Leah Suasnovar (right) and her daughter Zoey tend their family's planting space in the Fairmount Community Garden.



Garage sale visitors search for treasures at Michael McDermott's Fairmount Avenue home during the Fairmount Neighborhood Garage Sale. The sale is an annual event held in April.



# FABULOUS FAIRMOUNT FINDS

## NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE ANNUAL EVENT

*by Sean Lynch, Director of Infrastructure*

Fairmount's annual garage sale provides a chance not only to find deals, but to take in the beauty of Fairmount as well. There is nothing better than a leisurely stroll around your neighbors' homes while perusing through their stuff.

This annual event allows everyone to indulge the nosy neighbor in all of us and find some deals and hidden treasures. This year we had more than 40 homes participate with offer-

ings such as antique furniture, classic toys and items best categorized as "stuff."

"I love cleaning out my house and making a little money in the process," Lori Gallagher, Fairmount resident, said.

The chance to haggle and visit seems too good to pass up. It's always fun to pass things on that you may not use anymore, but can be put to work by your friends and neighbors.

**Below: Steve Cocanower examines a table, one of several items for sale at Lori Gallagher's home on 6th Avenue.**

**Right: Mickey Bradley loads a music roll onto a phonograph during the Fairmount Neighborhood Garage Sale**





# MORE HOME TOUR

## Fun

**A**lmost as exciting as Home Tour itself are the activities surrounding the event. Zio Carlo - Magnolia Brew Pub is the place to be on Home Tour weekend.

The pub-in-progress will be transformed into the Home Tour Welcome Pavilion which, in addition to the ticket sales booth, will feature an artist fair. Many local artists and craftspeople, including stained glass artist Selena Burns and eco-friendly jewelry company Priolo and Co. will have work on display.

Additionally, Fairmount historian and author, Mike McDermott, will be signing copies of his book *Images of America: Fort Worth's Fairmount Historic District*.

"I'm blessed for the opportunity to write this book and, as always, a portion of the proceeds will go directly back into the neighborhood that made it possible," McDermott said.

Some of Fort Worth's most acclaimed food trucks will set up temporary residence next to the Welcome Pavilion at SiNiCa Glass Studios. Hungry tour-goers can grab a quick and easy snack at the food truck rally and later have dinner at one of Magnolia Avenue's many fine dining establishments.

Walking between so many gorgeous properties during Home Tour weekend can be tiring, so keep your eyes peeled for pedicabs circulating along the tour route. Rides between tour stops (offered on a first-come, first-served basis) will be complimentary, but don't forget to tip your driver. Check out Fairmount Bike Taxi's ad on page 25 for additional information.



**Robin Glaysher, Fairmount Bike Taxi, makes neighborhood rounds. Rides will be available for weary visitors Home Tour weekend.**



**Ayyoub Ajmi, 2010 Home Tour visitor, examines stained glass art by Fairmount resident Selena Burns. Selena will be exhibiting at this year's Home Tour event in the artist fair at Zio Carlo - Magnolia Brew Pub.**

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Warm colors envelope the room with its stained woodwork and interesting objects. The built-in bookcases flanking the fireplate are a common Arts and Crafts feature.

# HARD WORK & LOVE

by Ashley Paz  
and Chelsie Thornton

## Homeowners prepare for Home Tour

**W**hen you hear about the efforts that go into the Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes, it is usually from the prospective of the planning committee. The amount of work that goes into preparing the actual homes that are showcased is rarely mentioned. We were lucky enough to talk to a few of this year's featured homeowners even though they are busy prepping and finishing up last minute projects.

### 2205 LIPSCOMB ST.

Leslye Nunnelee, who purchased 2205 Lipscomb St. last June, has worked tirelessly to restore her home. At that time, the beautiful Tudor had seen only three previous owners and minimal refurbishing. "I really lucked out on the fact that the property has seen little remodeling work. That means that it was left almost perfectly preserved," Leslye said. She was thrilled to be invited to

participate in the tour this year. For the past 10 months, Leslye has poured her heart into bringing her home back to its original luster and she's excited to show it off. "There is an old 1964 musical, *My Fair Lady*, with Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison that reminds me of this endeavor. I call this house My Fairmount Lady. It's so charming it has to be energetically feminine," she said. With the remodel finally complete, Leslye is





**Above:** A mission style bed surrounded by rich fabrics creates a cozy space in the Kucko home at 1901 Alston Ave.

**Left:** The Randle home at 1716 South Adams St. is a classic A-frame bungalow. The home will be one of eight locations on this year's Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes. The tour will be Mother's Day weekend, May 7-8 from noon to 6 p.m.

taking it easy in the final weeks before Home Tour. "Keeping it clean, embellishing the landscape a bit, and hopefully having some fun are my main priorities at this point," she said.

### 1716 SOUTH ADAMS ST.

Patti Randle, 1716 South Adams St., won't be relaxing much in the upcoming weeks. After accepting the invitation to feature her home, Patti immediately went to work on improvement projects. "I'll be doing all the things I thought I'd do over the next five years, like painting the outside and re-landscaping. Plus all the things you'd do when you invite company over for dinner — times

ten," she said. Patti is no stranger to big projects though. Since purchasing her home in 2004, she's completely restored it, taking special care to "add back the character it once had."

### 1901 ALSTON AVE.

This will be the second time that Jane and Dale Kucko's home at 1901 Alston Ave. has been featured on Home Tour but don't expect the same old story. They've made some exciting changes since their last appearance and, like the other homeowners, the Kuckos are working hard to get their already pristine home into tour-worthy condition. "We enjoyed the experience so much last

time and were just thrilled to be asked again, especially since we've done some improvements in the past few years," Jane said. She teaches interior design at TCU and is an avid crafter so, in addition to having a beautiful home to show off, she has some really neat stuff.

### FEATURED LOCATIONS

The eight locations featured on this year's Home Tour are the Nunnelee home at 2205 Lipscomb St.; the Kucko home at 1901 Alston Ave.; the Randle home at 1716 South Adams St.; the Clifton home at 2243 Fairmount Ave.; the Bordeleau home at 1912 Alston Ave.; a new construction owned by the Nissens at 1527





Pocket doors separate the dining and living room at 2205 Lipscomb St. Unpainted woodwork and oak floors add warmth to the rooms.



A bright yellow kitchen provides an inviting space for cooking and conversation. To the right is a breakfast nook with built in bench seats and table.

Alston Ave.; a restoration in-progress by the Portwoods at 1405 Fairmount Ave.; and the Blanchard Schaefer Advertising and Public Relations building at 1228 South Adams St.

All of the homeowners' hard work and preparation will surely pay off Mother's Day weekend when around 1,500 tour goers will admire their lovely homes.

### **PURCHASE TICKETS**

Advance tickets are available for \$12 at Old Home Supply, Old Neighborhood Grill, The Butler's Antiques, Montgomery Street Antique Mall, and online at [www.HistoricFairmount.com](http://www.HistoricFairmount.com). Day-of-tour tickets may be purchased for \$18 at the Home Tour Welcome Pavilion located at Zio Carlo - Magnolia Brew Pub at 1001 W. Magnolia.





Warm colors create an inviting living space at 1901 Alston Ave.

## A transformation complete



During renovation.

Jane and Dale Kucko's living room is a favorite place for friends and family to relax and enjoy conversation. It is hard to imagine that during their home's restoration it was possible to see through walls to the outside.

In 2004, the home needed to be stabilized, the walls and windows reset and old lath and plaster replaced with new sheetrock. The original ceiling beams, doors, windows, fireplace and hardware still remain. The Kuckos did not perform the structural work on their home, but have appropriately appointed it with warm colors and rich fabric. Leather chairs, a floor rug and stained glass complete the effect.



1405 Fairmount Ave. prior to being saved by the Fairmount Neighborhood Association. Once slated for demolition, the home was purchased by Brian and Sheila Portwood and will be open during Home Tour weekend, May 7-8, from noon-6 p.m., as an example of a home undergoing restoration.

## One house SAVED

When Brian and Sheila Portwood purchased their home at 1405 Fairmount Ave., they knew they were in for a job that would require long hours and lots of hard work. Saved from demolition by the Fairmount Neighborhood Association, stabilized and then put up for sale, the Portwoods thought the home was exactly what they were looking for. Work is currently underway and the house will be open for Home Tour weekend. Be sure to stop by and see the progress.



**A Shriner clown rides in last year's Home Tour Kick-off Parade. This year's event will be held Saturday, June 7 at 10 a.m. The parade is the annual beginning to Home Tour festivities.**

## Home Tour kick-off parade Saturday, May 7

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

Get ready to begin Home Tour weekend this year with another great Fairmount parade.

If you live on the parade route (see map below), please let your neighbors know that the parade is coming so that we can have a lot of spectators this year.

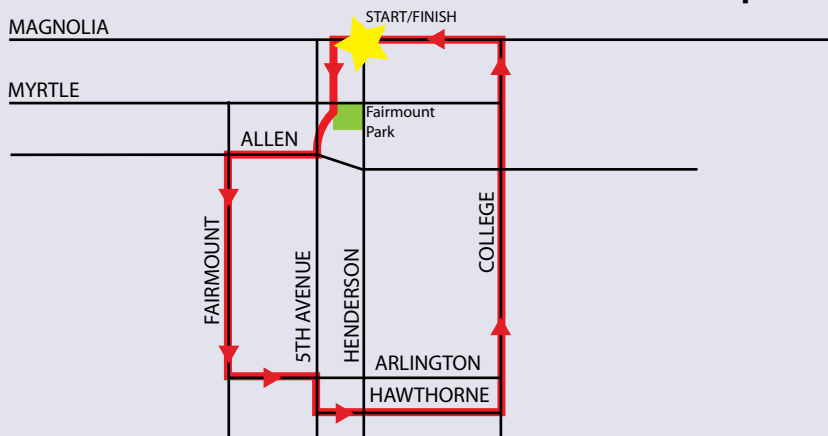
If you are not on the actual route, please come to Fairmount Park to watch.

The parade will feature the usual participants — politicians, The Neighborhood Library, Arts 5th Avenue, the incredible Greater Fairmount (retired from) Marching Band, and more.

There will also be a Dress Up your Pet Contest in the parade this year with an award for the Best Pet in Costume. In addition, judges will determine a winning float/group for Spirit of the Neighborhood, Most Creative, Most Fun, and more.

For more information or to make a suggestion, contact Pat Bradley at 817-915-5436, Kathy Halliday at 817-239-8304 or Brenda Howell at 817-991-2834.

### 2011 Fairmount Home Tour Kick-off Parade Map



# Wine Down benefits Home Tour volunteers

*by Daisy Cromer*

For every Fairmount Home Tour, there is a Wine Down event, and this year will be no different. Wine Down is the official celebration of Home Tour and a show of appreciation to volunteers, sponsors and families opening their homes to hundreds of visitors.

This year's event will be Saturday, May 7, 7-10 p.m., at the home of Jason and Kelly Bowden, 1714 S. Henderson St. The Bowdens have worked tirelessly to prepare and we are grateful to them for hosting.


Additionally, we are thrilled to announce a few integral businesses that will make the event possible. The Bastion is the official food sponsor of Wine Down this year and will cater the event. Rahr & Sons Brewery and Finn Mac Cool's Pub will supply beer and Put A Cork In It will provide wine.

Hyry and Sullivan will entertain the crowd and there will be wonderful silent auction items available, including donations from The Fort Worth Cats Organization, Urban Yoga, Brandt Fitness, Yucatan Taco Stand, Fort Worth Bike Taxi and many, many more!

Your ticket into this fun-filled evening is to volunteer, volunteer, volunteer. There are tons of opportunities to get involved during Home Tour weekend.

Contact Dena Silva at [historichometour@gmail.com](mailto:historichometour@gmail.com) for more information.





Statues copied from those designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for Chicago's Midway Gardens, guard the front steps to the porch of 1901 Alston Ave.

What style is

# YOUR HOUSE?

Home Tour

## Architectural styles varied in Fairmount tour of homes

by Mike McDermott

**I**t is often said in Texas that if you don't like the weather, wait five minutes and it will change. When touring the streets of Fairmount, if you don't like one style of house just drive five more minutes and you're sure to find one you do. Although this column usually spotlights one style of house, we felt the houses of this year's Fairmount Home Tour deserved special illumination.

On tour, and representing the most common house form in the district, are four diverse architectural styles. Although each is considered a bungalow, none are the "Craftsman" bungalow, which is the most common style. The Randle home at 1716 South Adams St. would be the closest to that, but is a classic A-frame bungalow with some Arts and Crafts elements such as exposed rafter tails and knee braces along the front gable. The front door with its band of vertical windows along the top and

the "bracket shelf" just underneath, is also a classic Craftsman design. This style of bungalow is very symmetrical, a hallmark of the A-frame subtype. Also unusual in Fairmount on a house of this era is a brick exterior instead of wood siding, since 95 percent of the homes are wood.

At 2243 Fairmount Ave., the Clifton home, is a hipped roof bungalow. The hipped roof variety is common throughout the district but is different from the gabled type in that on all four sides, the roof slopes down. This subtype can also have boxed eaves derived from the Prairie style, but this home has exposed rafter tails. The window configuration on the north side is a common "dining room window set" found on both bungalows and foursquares. The high center window, often with decorative panes, is to allow for placement of a high-back sideboard or server underneath.

Very different from these two styles is the so-called camel back bungalow at 1557 Alston Ave., the Nissan home. Built new



less than a year ago, it is nice to see a new bungalow of a more unique design. The camel back type may look like an airplane bungalow, discussed in an earlier article, but is different for the lack of the ‘wing-spread’ type eaves with their horizontal line. The second story is also larger in this type than the cockpit-like second story of an airplane bungalow. This new home is a welcome addition to Fairmount’s great variety of bungalows.

The last bungalow-like home on tour is the work-in-progress Portwood home at 1405 Fairmount Ave. This home has a hipped roof, gable combination, but is unlike the Arts and Crafts style. This transitional bungalow has elements of Colonial and Classical revival with a triangular gable over the entry, raised panel posts and a railing with Chippendale-like design inserts. This house nearly collapsed and was saved by both the Fairmount Association and the Portwoods. It is a great example of a risk taken by the neighborhood association that paid off after Fairmount spent its own funds to save the house from demolition, and then a buyer was found to take on a from-the-ground-up restoration.

The fifth home contains many features of the Arts and Crafts Movement within its walls, as well as displaying some of those elements on the exterior. The Kucko home, at 1901 Alston Ave., is a classic foursquare type house. Its exterior gives homage to the Prairie style by Frank Lloyd Wright which originated in Chicago before 1900. The style spread across the U.S. during the next two decades and the foursquare type house began as a derivative. This example has more Prairie elements than most, with wide horizontal eaves. The triplets of decorative brackets lining those eaves are rare in Fairmount, but found commonly throughout the rest of the country, and further give the illusion of the eaves reaching out. Out front is a nod to Wright; a pair of statues copied from those designed by Wright for Chicago’s Midway Gardens, guarding the



2205 Lipscomb St., an English Revival style home, is characterized by steeply pitched gables, a brick exterior and decorative chimney.



2243 Fairmount Ave.



1557 Alston Ave.



A breakfast nook provides a cozy spot to dine. Complete with built-in bench seats, table, shelves and a skeleton wainscot.





**A Batchelder tile fireplace graces the living room at 2205 Lipscomb St. Batchelder started making hand-crafted tiles in California in 1909.**

front steps to the porch. The beautiful Arts and Crafts style door with its long narrow beveled pane insets is another feature of the style. Inside, the horizontal lines continue with trim boards just under the ceiling in many rooms, and plenty of wide original woodwork everywhere.

The built-in bookcases flanking the fireplace, another common Arts and Crafts feature in both bungalows and foursquares, contain leaded glass in the doors with Tiffany style slag glass in a Prairie style geometric design. Four-square type homes are the second most common house form in the district.

A different kind of foursquare can be found at 1912 Alston Ave. Exposed rafter tails and slightly tapered boxed columns give the house a more Arts and Crafts feel, contemporary to the Prairie style. The house also exhibits a common foursquare finish on the exterior. Sometimes known as a “shirtwaist” house, the home has one type of siding on the upper story (wood shingles), and another kind on the first floor (horizontal 117 board

siding). The late Queen Anne style windows in the front entry and upper sashes of the other windows were carried over into the Craftsman era and found in both foursquares and bungalows.

The compact home contains a simple Craftsman fireplace in the front room, and simple boxed paneled newel post and railing, matching the style of the front columns.

The final style represented on the tour is uncommon in Fairmount, but a great example of the style. The Tudor “L” Nunnelee home at 2205 Lipscomb St. is one of a number of English Revival styles constructed across America in the 1920s and 30s. The style is very prevalent in the historic neighborhoods of the near South and Westside of Fort Worth, but the number in Fairmount can be counted on one hand, and none as large as this home. All English revival styles are characterized by steeply pitched gables, brick or stone exterior surfaces, and highly decorative chimneys.

This home has a stepped chimney

on the front wall that pierces the point of the gable and terminates with a storybook like niche. Like many English styles, the home shares elements of the previous Arts and Crafts period with a heavy wide front door adorned by huge iron strap hinges, Craftsman-derived exterior lighting, and lots of built-ins within.

The pinnacle of the Arts and Crafts features of the house is a wonderfully picturesque breakfast nook off the kitchen, complete with built-in bench seats and table, diminutive windows, corner shelves and a skeleton wainscot.

Finally, the most beautiful feature in the home, often found in homes of the 20s, is a Batchelder tile fireplace. Ernest Batchelder started making hand-crafted tiles in California in 1909.

Highly prized and second only in value to Rookwood tiles of the same era, some houses being demolished in recent years have had the entire Batchelder fireplace removed and sold due to its high value.



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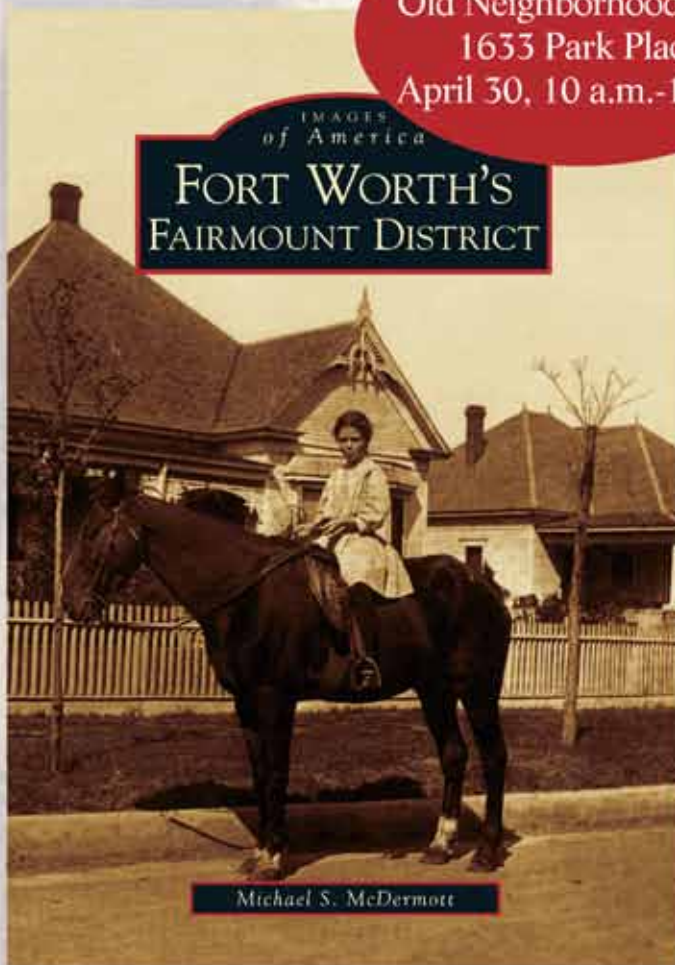
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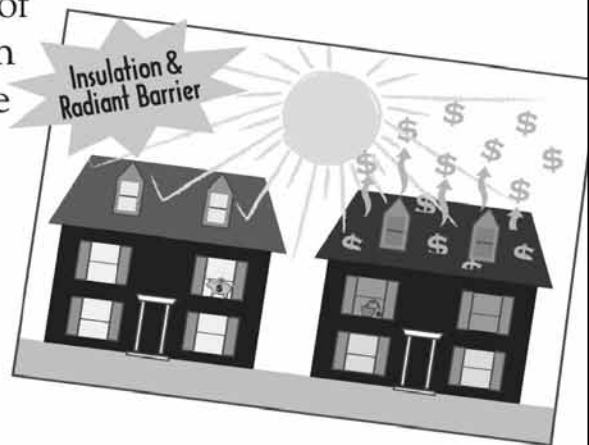
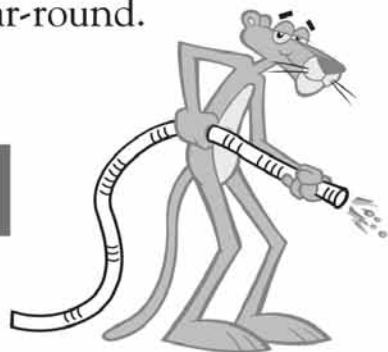


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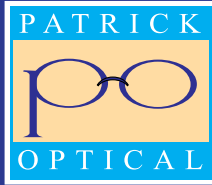
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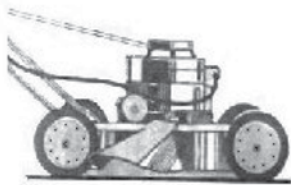
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Fairmount homes have held their value because they are unique. Help preserve that uniqueness, not only for the neighborhood and for history, but also for your own enjoyment and profit. What you do to your house on the inside and the outside will make a huge difference in all of those areas.

Also, if your house has unpainted brick, please do not paint it. Fairmount Guidelines do not allow unpainted brick to be painted.

To download a copy of the current historic guidelines and learn more about Fairmount, please visit the Fairmount website at [www.HistoricFairmount.com](http://www.HistoricFairmount.com).


Information that can be found on the Fairmount website

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Member SIPC ©Edward Jones, 2010



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 26 .....Fairmount Neighborhood Association general meeting
- April 30 ..... FNA fund raiser at Rahr Brewery (1-3 p.m.)
- May 2 (First Monday) .....FNA Board Meeting
- May 5.....Historic Preservation Committee meeting
- May 6 (First Friday) ..... Buddy's Big Band at Southside Preservation Hall
- May 7-8..... Home Tour weekend
- May 9.....Landmarks hearing
- May 10.....Newsletter submission deadline
- May 13 (Moved to second Friday for May).....First Friday on the Green
- May 16 (Third Monday).....Bulk trash collection
- May 16.....Landmarks filing deadline (5 p.m.)
- May 24 (Fourth Tuesday) .....Fairmount Neighborhood Association general meeting
- May 30.....Memorial Day



## Historic Plaques Available

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

These lovely plaques are available for \$100.

**Contact Sue McLean**

817.924.6100

or e-mail

preservation@historicfairmount.com.

## Lost or found pet?

If you have lost or found a pet, please visit the Fairmount Neighborhood Association website at [www.HistoricFairmount.com](http://www.HistoricFairmount.com) to post a notice. Click on the Discussion Board link in the sidebar and sign-up to post comments or notices.



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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 only \$15, neighborhood resident Ray Feyen will paint your house number in two locations. The cost per address is \$15. *Although the association has selected a new design for pole-mounted signage, we will keep using the traditional "F" design for curb numbers.*

**Contact Ray Feyen at 817.924.6729**  
or e-mail [rfeyen@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 historic brown or new burgundy.*

**We're Online!**

Visit [www.HistoricFairmount.com](http://www.HistoricFairmount.com)  
or join us on Facebook

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

### JOIN the Fairmount Neighborhood Association

**Why join?**

- Get the 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.
- 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 Ricky Pike at 817.727.4577 or e-mail [membership@historicfairmount.com](mailto:membership@historicfairmount.com).

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I am a  new  renewing member (check one)

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

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

Business (\$20)  Friend of Fairmount (\$15)



### Fort Worth City Contacts

Animal Services .....	817.392.7297
City Council .....	817.392.6193
City Councilman Joel Burns .....	817.392.8890
district9@fortworthgov.org	
Code Officer Oscar Reyes.....	817.879.4230
Oscar.Reyes@fortworthgov.org	
Fort Worth Police Department	
Non-emergency .....	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
www.fortworthgov.org/applications/tpwcrf	
Fort Worth Public Library.....	817.871.READ

### Advertise in the Fairmount Newsletter

*Contact the Fairmount Director of Communications at [fairmountnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fairmountnewsletter@gmail.com). Items must be received by the **tenth** day of the month.*

#### Monthly Rates

Classified Ad Give-a-Ways .....	Free
Classified Ad For Sale Items.....	\$5
Business Card Ad.....	\$10
1/4 Page Ad.....	\$25
1/2 Page Ad.....	\$50
Full Page Ad.....	\$100

#### Yearly (11 months) Advertiser Rates

Pay for your ad a year in advance  
and get one month FREE.

Business Card Ad.....	\$100
1/4 Page Ad.....	\$250
1/2 Page Ad.....	\$500
Full Page Ad.....	\$1000

The Fairmount newsletter is published 11 times a year (*Dec./Jan. issues are combined*) and distributed the weekend prior to the fourth Tuesday of each month.



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