HISTORIC DISTRICT

A monthly publication of the Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Volume 28, Issue 8

CANDIDATES FOR FNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We have some outstanding candidates for this year's board elections. We are so blessed to have neighbors who are willing to serve all of us, and many of our candidates are young and new to the neighborhood. That kind of volunteer spirit is refreshing to all of us. Also volunteering are neighbors who have lived here for several years, and their continuing contributions are a source of strength for us.

• For President:

Robert Wedding moved here in 2007 from the Gulf Coast after Katrina wiped out everything he owned. He wanted to live in an historic neighborhood, and we are so fortunate that he found Fairmount. For the past two years, Robert has served as our Director of Infrastructure and is an active member of the Historic Preservation Committee. His knowledge of architecture and architectural details is excellent. In addition, (in his spare time) Robert served as our 2008 Director of Home Tour, one of our most successful Home Tours ever.

For Director of Membership:

We have two candidates for this position this year.

Greg Taylor moved here two years ago. He and his wife Sara spentmany weekends on their bicycles touring Fort Worth neighborhoods but kept coming back to Fairmount. Greg volunteers at Arts Fifth Avenue and at Harris Hospital. He says that he has enjoyed seeing the area improve and would like to do whatever he can to ensure that more neighbors learn about our Association.

Ricky Pike moved to Fairmount in 2008. He and his wife Ann immediately became active in the neighborhood and the Fairmount Neighborhood Association. They have delighted us with their year-round season- and event-appropriate decorations. Their home at the corner of Washington and Richmond is the one that is always decorated to the hilt—at Christmas, at Easter, at Home Tour, you name it! Ricky and Ann and their newborn son Ezra fit in perfectly in our neighborhood, with their enthusiasm, energy, and inclusiveness.

For Director of Infrastructure:

We have two candidates for this position this year, also:

Sean Lynch, along with his wife Sara, moved to Fairmount in 2008. Sean has been active in many neighborhood activities in this short time. He and Sara are organizing the monthly Fairmount Happy Hours, to be hosted by local restaurants.

Frances Look is a member of Citizens on Patrol for Fairmount and attends neighborhood meetings regularly. She has been a resident since 2003.

For Director of Promotions:

Kev in Buchanan moved to Fairmount last year. But Kevin has been familiar with our neighborhood for several years before that, as he wrote about us and the surrounding areas on his website, www.fortworthology.com. Kevin is a member of the Historic Preservation Committee and is already a great promoter of Fairmount on his website, as well as being a supportive neighbor and friend.

PLEASE ATTEND THE AUGUST 25 GENERAL MEETING TO HEAR FROM THESE CANDIDATES AND VOTE FOR YOUR NEXT LEADERS OF THE FAIRMOUNT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION!

—The 2009 Fairmount Neighborhood Association Nominating Committee

September 2009

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FAIRMOUNT ASSOCIATION MEETING

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Tuesday

August 25

7:00 p.m. at

Hemphill

Presbyterian

Church

CGS.

Program:

FNA board elections

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Bring your neighbor!



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Fairmount Neighborhood Association P.O Box 12348 Fort Worth, TX 76110-8348

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FAIRMOUNT NEIGHBOR RESCUES THREE KITTENS FROM MAN'S WALL

While packing to move to an assisted living facility, an elderly man heard kittens mewing inside his kitchen wall. The man had been hearing them for several days already, but couldn't pinpoint their exact location. He was leaving that very day, and the thought of abandoning kittens to die greatly distressed him.

So, he called the Humane Society, Animal Control and several others, but none of them would come. Why? They said it was because they couldn't assume liability for entering into his home. So, in desperation he called his veterinarian, the Southside Animal Clinic, and Tina, their receptionist, answered. When hearing that he needed kittens rescued, Tina thought of Diana Koch. Ms. Koch is a co-founder of the Fairmount Trap/Neuter/Release Program for neighborhood cats. Ms. Koch, despite her lengthy to-do list, dropped everything and hurried over to investigate.

The man, who had supposed that the kittens might be in a vent, had already cut a small hole in the wall above his stove. Upon reaching the scene, Ms. Koch could hear the frightened mewing, not in the vent, but in the wall itself. The kittens had fallen down the inside of the wall, possibly from the soffit above. Ms. Koch quickly woman-handled the electric stove away from the wall. She cut a small hole eight inches above the floor wanting to avoid any electrical wires, and/or kittens.

She cautiously made the hole wider and wider until she could get her hand inside. The first kitten, a y ellow striped one, was easy enough to retrieve from the wall. Little more than a bony ball of fur, Ms. Koch carefully placed the kitten in a box. The second kitten, however, was proving difficult. No matter how much she reached and coaxed, the kitten stayed put, very afraid. Ms. Koch had decided to give up and start making the hole bigger, when she realized her arm was stuck! Just then, the kitten made a desperate bidforfreedom and raced up her arm and into the waiting safety of the man's hands. With both kittens safely in the box, and her arm unstuck, Ms. Koch prepared to leave.

"Wait," said the man, "I still hear mewing"

Thinking that it was the kittens in her box that he was hearing, Ms. Koch took it to her car, and returned to the kitchen.

"Doyou still hear mewing?" asked Ms. Koch. Yes, he said he could.

"I was so sure [there weren't anymore], but I looked any way." In the section of the wall she had originally cut, Ms. Koch could hear nothing. She moved to the next section of wall, stuck her head in, and could hear the pitful mews of yet another kitten.

head in, and could hear the pitiful mews of yet another kitten.

Looking around inside the wall with her headlight, she couldn't see it, so she moved to the next section of wall, cut a small hole with her handsaw, and struck gold: another yellow striped kitten!

Now that all three kittens were in the box, Ms. Koch sat outside and waited for the mother cat to return for her litter. After several hours of the kittens crying, Ms. Koch gave up on the mother and

The second kitten, a tortoise shell, has already been adopted, but if you're interested in adopting one of the other babies, please call Ms. Koch at (817)-988-7079.

—Daisy Dillman (age 13)

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micah 6.8

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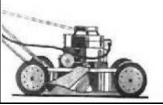
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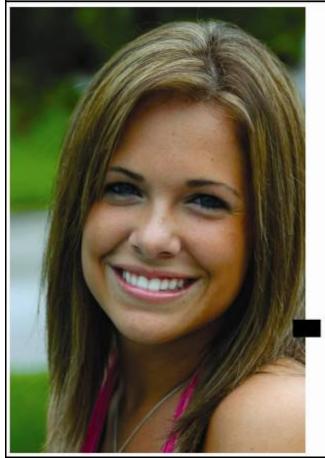
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THE FAIRMOUNT BEAT

Neighborhood Patrol Officer Joel Stary 817.944.1316 (c),817.871.8885 (o),

Joel Stary@fortworthgov.org In my last letter to you all, I wrote about the amount of contract work being done in the neighborhood on a daily basis and how this relates to burglaries in some instances. I will get off of my burglary "soap box" soon, but not yet. July should have provided a wake up call for all of us as far as burglaries are concerned. My discussion on the topic and recent events at the July meeting was serious, because I do not want any of you to become a victim of a type of crime that we can do so much to prevent. Ultimately, this is your neighborhood and each of us has to care about our property and our neighbor's property in order to deter crimes of opportunity such as burglary. Please get to know your neighbors. Please get involved in the Neighborhood Association and the COP's program. It is time for us to send a message to the would be criminals of Fort Worth or from anywhere. The message is: WE ARE WATCHING AND THIS IS OUR NEIGHBOR-HOOD! You are probably tired of hearing this, but if you see anyone or anything suspicious, always call 911 immediately. We need to identify people in order to discourage them from criminal activity in our area. You call because you care, so do not ever feel that the Police have better things or more important things to do. We are here to Protect and Serve in any way that you need us. Until next month...be safe today and safer tomorrow!



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FNA BOARD MEETING MINUTES—AUGUST, 2009

Call to Order 7:00 p.m. 10

Minutes of the last meeting - 7:00 - 7:05

Update on property at 2100 Hemphill – Richard & Chandra Riccetti – 7:05-7:15:They have bought property on Hemphill. They are very committed to seeing this property restored. Moving forward with re-zoning. Would like FNAs continued support for new zoning. Zoning will include a maximum of 8 apartments and a "green" parking lot on empty lot. They would like to have a work day with Fairmount volunteers to help cut back overgrown vines, trees, and weeds. Chandra will cook!

Directors' Reports -7:15 - 7:45

- Director of Infrastructure Robert. Light poles going in on 6th. Pole in middle of 1400 block of 6th needs to come out. Robert is investigating how to get it removed. Streetlights should be placed every fourth house on alternating sides. Checking to see if the city can take inventory of our streetlights and tell us areas that are in need of more light. Do we move forward on other projects while we wait to finalize our streetlight inventory and needs? Went to Parks Department to look into the purchase of historic trashcans for Allen.
- Director of Finance Chewy. Checking \$27,940. Cash CD \$15,225.65 for total of \$43,165.74. New budget proposal in October.
- Director of Administration Serena. City weatherization program will be presented at next general membership
 meeting. Discussed other ideas for home weatherization presentations such as the Oncor program, Radiant Barrier,
 and Cool Coat paint. City Parks Department has our and NPO Joel Stary's request for park hours, curb your dog
 and no alcohol signs to be posted in Fairmount Park. Fairmount is requesting special hours that will serve our
 neighborhood best. Dawn to 10 p.m.
- Director of Historic Preservation Sue. Spoke to Landmarks on changes Fairmount would like to the zoning ordinance. In particular, Fairmount needs two forms of non-contributing structures not just one. One for improper infill structures and one for historic structures in need of restoration. This is a huge issue for Fairmount. Also, materials were discussed but not how they should be used (like mortar should be thinned when laying bricks.) There are still a bunch of issues Sue wants addressed. She will send a letter of all her points. Landmarks update: 1920 College case pending the outcome of appeal later this month, 1700 5th is a non-contributing structure that got approved for tax exemption. 1512 Lake and 1325 Fairmount were approved for demo. 1825 6th half-story addition case will be continued next month. Contractor is working with the homeowners to come up with a plan that is more within the historic guidelines, 1512 Lipscomb demolition of the garage and building a new garage was approved, 1527 Alston new house proposed and approved.
- Director of Public Safety David. National Night Out update. 30 flag brackets need to be put up. Discussed sponsorship of flag brackets. Will put them up Friday evening before Labor Day. No volunteers for COP training.

New Business - 7:45 - 8:50

- Tiny Mart discussion and planning on running an article in newsletter.
- Signage replacing and getting new signs. Design options that board can review and then present to general meeting for approval.

Adjournment 8:50

—Serena Keeler, Director of Administration

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FNA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES—JUNE 23, 2009

Call to Order - Patti Randle 7:00 – 7:05

Program - Geri Cotten introduced Eartha Pitre for barcode program 7:05-7:15

Special Thank You to Kristi Wiseman and Joel Burns - presented by Patti 7:15-7:25

• Recognition for all they do to make Fairmount a better place to call home and their continued help in making Home Tour such a success. A Gift certificate to Lili's was given to Kristi Wiseman.

 Update from Joel Burns: Joel gave kudos to Patti Randle and Sue McLean for keeping him and staff informed of Fairmount's needs. Safety & Cleanup 7:25-7:35

NPO Officer Joel Stary – Asked residents to signup for August COP training course. Health and Safety Fair will be held in September in the back parking lot of Wal-Mart off 121 from 11-2 p.m. We have a burglary problem happening in Ryan Place. Officer Stary needs our help. Contact the police if you see anything suspicious. Look for persons walking up to houses and looking into windows, knocking on doors and putting their ear to door, or people you don't know. Specifically looking for three black males. Ages 20 to 25. One tall and thin. The other two are average height and slim. 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. is when these crimes are taking place. Call 911 and then Officer Stary, 817-944-1316, if you see these guys. 19 burglaries have taken place and the police believe it is the same three guys. They are bold. They look for open garages and lawn equipment. They use the alleyway to steal electronics from homes. Unmarked vehicles will be in the neighborhood. These guys have been spotted in Fairmount and there is reason to believe they are casing our area.

Door Prizes given out - Jerry

Reports from Directors: 7:35-8:10

- Chewy Redding, Finance Home Tour Audit final results. Everything came in on budget. Ticket sales were up. Sponsor monies were down. Total sales were slightly down from last year, which was expected due to economy.
- Serena Keeler, Administration Welcome packets are available.
- Robert Wedding, Infrastructure Wants to see traffic planning committee reformed. Looking for a volunteer to head
 up this committee.
- Old Business: 8:10-8:15
- Nominating Committee update New Business 8:15-8:25
- Bylaws Amendment vote Chewy. A motion was made, seconded and passed. No discussion.
- Thank you to Robert Wedding, 2008 Home Tour Director Patti
- Fairmount Happy Hour Sara and Sean Lynch. Rotating happy hour. 3rd Wednesday of every month. Chadra will
 host the first Aug 19th 4-7 p.m.
- "State of Fairmount" Patti Randle. Her term is wrapping up. She named some of the dynamic issues that the Fairmount Neighborhood Association has been a part of over the last two years.

Adjournment – 8:30 pm

—Serena Keeler, Director of Administration



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OUTSIDE YOUR OLD HOUSE

This is the time of year that's hardest for gardeners. Most of the day is too hot to enjoy being outside but you can't curl up inside with plant catalogs 'cause everything would die of heat prostration! I'm actually amazed at how much is still blooming: the Crepe Myrtles, of course (and if you keep deadheading they'll keep blooming), the Plumbago, Coneflowers. Vinca, the roses sporadically and the Pentas. If your Crepe Myrtles drip on you when you stand underneath them, it's the "honeydew" from aphids. Go grab your hose and spray them hard to knock the little suckers off. I just found out that geranium leaves turn white when the salts from fertilizers get to heavy in the soil. Don't fertilize for awhile and water 'til the water runs thru the pot. If some of your plants seem to have the type of yellowing that looks like iron deficiency, it may only be the heat. According to the A&M website, 'iron chlorosis is found where soils are highly alkaline. (ours are) The high pH of the soil ties up the iron...making it unavailable to the plants...High soil temperatures and high light intensity can also increase [the] problem." Liquid chelated iron applied as a foliar spray is best but go easy and keep it off your hardscape (it stains). Too much iron can damage or kill some plants.

Do a little rain dance when you go out early in the morning or late in the evening—it can't hurt. And visualize cooler weather so we can all get back on our front porches!

Happy Gardening!—Susan Harper

NEW FLAG BRACKETS

You may have noticed the Neighborhood Association has begun to change out the flag brackets on Allen Ave. The Flags Over Fairmount program began several years ago as a promotion for Home Tour and the neighborhood. That year we had no money in the FNA account, and it was accomplished with donations from neighbors, and we even passed the hat at a FNA meeting collecting funds.

Those home made brackets have served us well, and everyone seems to enjoy the flags, so this year we purchased several real flag brackets that should last us many years. It was suggested at a board meeting that we offer these new brackets to houses off Allen Ave. If You have been lucky enough to have recently new street lamp post added to your street and wish for a new set of flags and brackets. The cost for 2 flags, 2 heavy duty brackets and straps would be \$30.

Now, here's where I need your HELP: Putting up the flags for Labor Day weekend. We'll gather at 1418 Washington Friday September 4th at 7pm. Please bring a cordless drill, Phillips bit, and a socket set. We'll need these to install the remaining new brackets. This will be a lot of fun to kick off the holiday weekend, and maybe we'll grab a beverage after.

Thanks for your support. And don't forget to fly those flags Labor Day weekend.

—David Thrapp, thrappville@sbcglobal.net



SEPTEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH -1010 Hawthorne

Our choice for September's Yard of the Month is the home of Nate and Anna Kogan at 1010 Hawthorne. The recently completed landscape handsomely accents the homes freshly painted blue, crème and brick red color scheme.

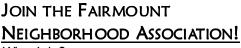
The front walkway is lined with a mixture of native and adapted drought tolerant plants creating a beautiful and environmentally friendly landscape. The pink blooms of the Salvia are enhanced nicely by the golden yellow of the Lantana and the Marigolds. Mexican Mint Marigold provides a licorice scent and will boast bright vellow blooms in the fall. A rock borders separates the lush Saint Augustine lawn from the planting beds as well as the charming rock path which leads to the back yard.

A mixture of pink and white Vincas, Dianthus and Petunias spill from a pair of bright aluminum planters

which flank the steps. Extending east of the steps, Boxwood line the front of the house, anchored on the end by a Crepe Myrtle awash in hot pink blooms.

The porch is comfortably fumished with an iron love seat and a wicker chair unified by matching striped cushions and a round iron table perfect for setting down a drink. Craftsman style porch lights complete the look.

Thank you to CC's Touch of Nature for the \$25 gift certificate that Nate and Anna will receive. If you see a yard that you believe should be considered for Yard of the Month, please let me know. Diana Koch (diana-koch@excite.com) or 817-988-7079.



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Accomplishments of the Fairmount Neighborhood Association

From September 2007 through August 2009, it has been my honor and privilege to serve the Fairmount Neighborhood Association as your president. Your Board of Directors is a dynamic, thoughtful and creative group. Each and every one of the directors has worked hard to make our neighborhood safer, deaner, more connected, and more respected throughout the city. You should be proud of every one of your directors, and I ask that you continue to give the new board your support and encouragement.

Much was accomplished over the last two years. These accomplishments are the result of the directors, members, and other nearby neighborhood associations, as well as City officials and staff who have worked hand in hand with Fairmount. Over these past two years,

- Fairmount won the 2007 Fort Worth Pride Award from the City of Fort Worth & the League of Neighborhoods. April 2008
- 2. We had an active role in the first annual SOLD! On Historic Neighborhoods event, sponsored by Historic Fort Worth Inc and the Board of Realtors. We participated again in the second annual SOLD! event. Spring 2008-2009
- 3. In cooperation with Ryan Place, Berkeley Place, Paschal Heights & Mistletoe Heights, we stopped a proposed drill site on 8th Avenue. This was the first time that a major drill site in the city was stopped by opposition of residents, and we earned the unanimous support of the City Council and the Mayor. Summer 2008
- 4. We participated in the Hemphill Corridor Task Force, an on-going collaborative group, which, in conjunction with City staff, planned and had approved rezoning for the Hemphill Corridor from Allen Avenue to Seminary Drive. We are currently looking at design guidelines for the corridor to encourage good development. (And a wonderful new restaurant, The Bastion, is going in on Hemphill, a landmark that will change the face of Hemphill.) November 2008 present
- 5. We updated the By-Laws to expand the Board of Directors from seven to nine, to encourage greater participation by members and more in-depth activities by Directors. Summer 2008
- 6. We participated in the City appointed ER Zoning Task Force which reviewed and revised the Residential/Business Zoning ordinance to be more compatible with neighborhoods and a more useful tool for neighborhoods and developers alike. Summer/Fall 2008
- 7. We expanded the Fairmount website to be more interactive and informative for members and visitors and posted photos of homes from throughout the neighborhood. Fall 2008
- 8. We began the process of updating and improving Fairmount's image within the area and with City Officials. Fall 2008 to present
- 9. From member suggestions, we implemented the Bulk Trash Signs program to alert residents when it is appropriate to put out bulk trash. Fall 2008
- 10. We re-implemented the new neighbor welcome program, putting together a packet to let new residents know about Fairmount and City services. Spring/Summer 2009
- 11. We received 501(c)(3) status from the IRS, which will encourage better support from businesses for Home Tour as well as donations from individuals and organizations. Fall 2008
- 12. We worked with the City's Transportation and Public Works Department and Ryan Place representatives to design train quiet zones. These three crossings, which will positively impact Fairmount and Ryan Place, will be implemented over the next two years. Winter 2008
- 13. Our Historic Preservation Committee began revision of Historic Guidelines to better protect our historic structures while addressing today's needs and materials. Spring 2009 present
- 14. We held our 26th and 27th annual Tour of Historic Homes, engaging members and raising more money for improvements in Fairmount, while giving people outside the neighborhood a chance to see the best of the best homes in Fairmount. Spring 2008-Spring 2009
- 15. We completed the period streetlights installation and are now looking at new uses within the neighborhood for Home Tour funds. Spring 2009 to present
- 16. We are working with FWISD to have Gun Free/Drug Free Zones signs installed near our neighborhood schools.



This program would raise the level of violations from misdemeanors to felonies. Summer 2009

17. We won the 2008 Community Collaboration Award from the City of Fort Worth & the League of Neighborhoods for the ongoing endeavor known as Home Tour. This award honored us for supporting our neighborhood projects through efforts of our members, rather than relying on grants. Spring 2009

- 18. We were a national finalist in the NUSA Community Collaboration Award, giving the Fairmount Neighborhood Association national recognition. Spring 2009
- 19. We adopted Allen Avenue for deanup. Spring 2009
- 20. We started rezoning discussion for Fairmount. Summer 2009
- 21. We started a dialogue with TAD officials for property tax reform. Summer 2009

But some of the most important achievements over the past two years are intangible.

We are experiencing an amazing increase in volunteerism in our neighborhood. We have neighbors that are volunteering for all kinds of leadership roles, volunteering to be directors or committee members or just active members with new ideas for projects and activities that make us an even more cohesive neighborhood.

The directors who have served you over the last two years have had, more than ever, the opportunity to voice their achievements, their concerns and their inspiration.

In the past few years, we have worked more closely than ever with other neighborhoods on civic projects as well as social activities, and we have forged a strong relationship with organizations such as Fort Worth South Inc and Historic Fort Worth Inc.

And we have built on the previous board members' relationships with City staff, as well as developing new relationships with City and State officials, all of which will help Fairmount achieve even greater accomplishments in the future. Fairmount is well respected in the community, the neighborhoods, and throughout the City government. Those relationships will help us achieve even greater things in the coming years.

I, personally, will continue to be involved, working on the newly formed FNA Advisory Board in support of your next Fairmount President and Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity of serving you and our city. I can't wait to see what the members and directors, working together, accomplish over the next decade. As I've said before, Fairmount, you rock!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

So you're a little concerned about crime in the neighborhood with the recent near-by burglaries. Now's the time for Fair-mount to gather and show the criminals we are organized and are fighting back by participating in National Night Out Against Crime on Friday October 6.

Fairmount throws one of the biggest going away parties for crime in the city. This event brings neighbors together to meet each other and local officials for one-on-one time. There will be representatives from Fairmount Citizens' Patrol, the Fort Worth Police, and several city officials. We usually have the mayor, the chief of police, horses, and McGruff the crime dog. Now, to make it fun we'll have a bounce house for the kids, and we're working on a special fall craft that should be fun for everyone. If you would like to help with this fun party, or have a band or ideas to make this event bigger and better, please contact me today.

Save the date—Tuesday October 6—when we'll take a "bite" out of crime. David Thrapp

thrappville@sbcglobal.net





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WHAT HAPPENED TO TINY MART?

This is a follow-up to an article in the October 2008 Fairmount Flyer announcing that although it was listed as a non-contributing structure to the District, it was proven that the "Tiny Mart" building at 1920 College was the only remaining original 7-11/U-Totem convenience store left in Tarrant County, and that it was in danger of demolition.

After negotiations with the owner in March 2009, the Fairmount Historic Preservation Committee voted unanimously to approve the COA application to demolish the non-original additions to the building, move the structure to the rear of the lot, restore it to its original appearance to be used as an outbuilding to a new house to be built on the south 40 feet of the lot. The Fort Worth Landmarks Commission approved this plan and also

approved the new house to be built on the north 50 feet of the 90 foot lot. Once the additions to the building were removed, the remaining walls were found to be rotten and concreted into the ground both inside and out, making a successful move very difficult. The one mover they asked for a bid gave one, then declined after seeing the condition of the remaining structure. Consultation with the City about the possibility of moving it to Fairmount Park or the Greenspace on Allen convinced Fairmount that it would be impossible to move it to City-owned land. That left the possibility of the lot which was to be designated as a community garden if the City ever came though and deeded the lot to Fairmount, or a vacant lot which would have to be purchased or donated. With these facts, in July 2009, the Fairmount Historic Preservation Committee



discussed and voted on the COA application for demolition of the remaining structure. The vote was a majority of one in favor of demolition. Because there was no dear majority and the passionate feelings of those who wanted to save it, the official letter to Landmarks was written with no opinion, leaving it up to the Commission to decide. Presentations against the demolition were made by two Fairmount residents at the Landmarks meeting. They requested time to come up with a plan to get another moving bid, or to take it apart and move it to somewhere else in the neighborhood to be restored. The Commission denied the request to demolish the remainder of the building. The owner appealed the decision, to be heard in late August.

The owner hired workers to take the building apart instead of moving it intact to the back of the lot, still feeling that he was moving it in good faith in accordance with the COA. Even more rot, termite, and fire damage resulting in missing and scabbed-on boards to "fix it" over the years was revealed. Two Historic Preservation members were consulted, and agreed they should go ahead and save as much as they could. Determined to do so, the roof was propped up with supports underneath inside. Then the roof was cut from the walls so it could be moved to the back of the lot by crane, with the plan to move whatever walls survived by cutting them from the concrete pad they were sunk in, and hauling them to the back as well.



Meanwhile a Committee member found a mover who gave a bid of \$8500 to move it to "near Fairmount Park".

Because it rained constantly that week, the holes to be cut in the roof for the crane to lift it were left until last. As two workers were cutting the holes in the roof with another worker behind it, the building suddenly leaned toward the back and collapsed. Luckly no one was injured.

Code came out to the site, and after looking at the remains of the walls and photos of them prior, determined that even if the structure had been successfully moved, they would never have allowed the deteriorated walls to remain, so they would have needed to been rebuilt from scratch. The crane people were unwilling to move the fallen roof to the back of the lot, and they were unsuccessful in pushing it with a bobcat. So the roof was cut into 3 pieces and moved by hand which exposed the fact that most of the roof joists had been

split lengthwise in the crash. As of this writing, the roof and the walls that remained intact are now at the back of the lot, and the unsalvageable remains are in a dumpster on the lot.

At the August 2009 Landmarks meeting, the second house for the south side of the lot was proposed. It was given a continuance until the Appeals board ruling for demolition was known.

As of this writing, the slab has been demolished and the lot is being deared to begin building the first approved house as soon as possible.

This series of events was regrettable, but we wanted everyone to know that many attempts were made to try to save the building. Fairmount thanks all those who tried for their passion, expense, and time.

—Sue McLean, Director of Historic Preservation



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TOWER 55 PUBLIC MEETING REPORT

At the Intermodal Transportation Center on August 3rd, the North Central Texas Council of Governments presented alternatives for relieving rail traffic at Tower 55, the congested at-grade railroad crossing located under the I-30/I-35 interchange near Downtown Fort Worth and the Near Southside. We attended and will provide a summary of the proposals. Tower 55, as currently configured, can only allow about 100 trains per day to pass through. At peak times, there are actually now around 120 trains per day trying to get through the crossing, leading to backups and wait times of up to 90 minutes. This impacts freight rail and passenger rail, as Amtrak uses these same lines. It also impacts scheduling of the Trinity Railway Express and the future Southwest-to-Northeast commuter rail line. Improving the congestion at Tower 55 is also important for local noise, safety, and air quality reasons - reducing the problem of idling freight trains creating noise and pollution while waiting in congestion at Tower 55.

The fixes to the Tower 55 problem were presented in three groups: near-term, mid-term, and long-term.

The meat of the meeting was discussion of the two proposed mid-term solutions. Each proposal calls for the creation of a large trench to route one direction of rail traffic under the other, eliminating the at-grade crossing and its resulting backups. The two proposals are for a North-South trench and an East-West trench.

The North-South trench would create a trench approximately 1.5 miles long from 287 to Rosedale. Built mostly within existing right-of-way, the North-South trench would add a third track and eliminate the conflict of the current crossing. Road reconstruction along with the North-South trench would be minimal. As part of the North-South trench, the east end of Lancaster Avenue in Downtown would need to be reconstructed to be depressed 25 more feet to get under the new trench. The depression would be small - Lancaster would be back to existing height by Jones, to maintain existing connections with other Downtown streets. In addition, the crossing at Vickery near I-35 would be dosed. A new bike & pedestrian bridge would be constructed at this location to offset some of the lost connectivity. The North-South trench would have little to no impact on the planned Fort Worth modern streetcar system. The North-South trench is estimated to cost \$565-\$690 million, a figure which we have been told includes the street reconstructions. It is estimated that it would take 5-10 years to construct.

The other proposal presented was for an East-West trench. The East-West trench would run approximately 2 miles from 8th Avenue to Tennessee Avenue on the east side. It would also eliminate the at-grade crossing to free up congested rails. It would add additional east-west capacity along Union Pacific's lines. The East-West trench would, however, provide no improvements to commuter rail projects, adding no changes and improvements to either TRE or SW2NE or future lines. The East-West trench would be built almost entirely within new right-of-way, and as such requires huge amounts of land acquisition. Under the design, approximately 56 full properties and 2 partial properties would have to be acquired. It would result in the demolition of approximately 35 structures, related to 18 businesses, 3 residences, 2 cell phone towers, and the T's park & ride at the T&P station.

Virtually the entire length of the north side of Vickery Blvd. in the Near Southside would be wiped out for the new trench, removing a significant amount of land from potential urban redevelopment and likely negatively affecting the value and redevelopment efforts of nearby properties in the Near Southside in general and South Main Village in particular. Straight-through travel along Henderson between Downtown and the Near Southside would be removed permanently. Because of the East-West trench, Henderson would shift from a small underpass to a huge,70-foot-high overpass, going over I-30 as well as the railways, beginning some distance south of the Interstate and railways and ending near the existing I-30 offramp into Cherry & Lancaster. There is not enough room for a straight rise & fall to and from the new Henderson's 70-foot height, so two spiral ramps would need to be built to take traffic up and down to the Henderson overpass. This is where straight-through traffic would be eliminated entirely. Northbound traffic from the Near Southside to Downtown would have to spiral down and to the right to re-join the surface streets, and southbound traffic from Downtown to the Near Southside would have to spiral up to the overpass. The spiral ramps and overpass would add further obstruction, barriers, and blight to the Near Southside-to-Downtown junction. In addition, one of the spiral ramps would wrap around the historic Public Market building, further reducing that building's appeal to new uses and potentially even requiring the demolition of the structure. The new Henderson overpass would also block off access to the historic former Dr. Pepper bottling plant across the street.

The East-West trench was reported in the presentation to cost a similar amount as the North-South trench - \$560-\$685 million. Significantly, and rather deceptively, this figure does not include the cost of road reconstructions and land acquisition. It is extremely likely that the East-West trench would cost significantly more than the North-South trench in the end. The fact that this was not made more dear in the presentation was a bit misleading. It was mentioned by the speaker but not included in any of the materials.

There will be plenty more to come - analysis of the alternatives is to be complete by September, with environmental analysis taking place in the first quarter of 2010. In the mean time, you can go to NCTCOG's Tower 55 web site at http://www.nctcog.org/tower55 to download the presentation and schematics for each of the two trenches.

—Kevin Buchanan (a longer , more detailed version of this artide appears on Kevin's blog, fortworthology.com)





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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





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Joel Burns gets RESULTS in Fairmount

Major Boost for the Housing Industry

In a major boost for the Housing industry, the National Association of Realtors reported that Pending home sales are up for the fifth consecutivem onth in a row, rising 3.6 percent in June, which far exceeded the expected 0.7 percent. As historically low mortgage interest rates continue to hold, home sales should continue to increase. If you would like to evaluate your situation, whether buying or selling, I would love to share with you them ore accurate and up-to-date information about the current market. You may find the best time to move is now!

If you are considering listing your home, please give me a call at 817-RESULTS (817-737-8587) to talk about the current market conditions in & around Fairmount.

New Listing on Historic Chase Ct. in Fairmount



Great natural light and original hardwoods throughout. Formal living room features great fireplace and leads into bright sunroom. Sunroom has direct access to separate front porch. Updated kitch en has ample countertop space and large island-great for entertaining. Master bedroom features large closets and private balcony. Newly renovated upstairs bath features travertine floors and beautiful vanity sink. Gorgeous chandeliers grace the home throughout. Front and back driveways have remote-controlled automatic gated entry.

***Home also features approx. 687 sqft. guest quarters with separate bath, bed, and living/kitchen areas.

Call 817-RESULTS for a private viewing!

Active Fairmount Listings						
1714 S. Henderson St	4939'	4/4	\$550,000			
13 Chase Ct	2449'	3/1	\$339,000			
2221 6th Ace	2600'	3/3	\$280,000			
2205 Lipscomb St	2556'	3/2	\$262,500			
1701 College Ave	2444'	3/2	\$260,000			
1330 Lipscomb St	3601'	3/2	\$259,000			
1931 5th Ave	3418'	5/2½	\$245,000			
1900 Fairmount Ave	2187'	4/3	\$229,950			
1517 Hurley Ave	2003'	3/2	\$229,900			
1601 S. Henderson St	2147'	3/2½	\$219,900			
2234 6th Ave	2352'	3/2	\$219,000			
1924 6th Ave	1806'	3/2	\$199,900			
2108 6th Ave	1704'	2/2	\$189,000			
2200 Hurley Ave	1874'	3/2	\$189,000			
1407 S. Adams St	2234'	4/2	\$187,000			
1824 Alston Ave	2108'	4/2½	\$185,000			
1700 5th Ave	1550'	3/2	\$184,900			
2259 Hurley Ave	1815'	3/2	\$170,000			
2009 Fairmount Ave	1546'	2/1½	\$169,900			
2000 Hurley Ave	2339'	3/2	\$169,500			
1928 Fairmount Ave	1488'	3/1	\$159,950			
1611 6th Ave	1438'	2/2	\$135,000			
1905 S. Adams	1204'	2/1	\$129,900			
1603 S. Adams	1768'	3/2½	\$124,900			
1328 5th Ave	2030'	4/2	\$105,000			
2019 Alston Ave	1425'	2/1	\$95,000			
2241 Alston Ave	2311'	3/2	\$94,900			
2262 Washington Ave	1200'	2/1	\$90,000			
1016 Hawthorne Ave	1108'	2/1	\$89,000			
1921 Hurley Ave	1572'	3/3	\$87,000			
1621 S. Henderson St	1552'	3/1½	\$85,000			
1526 Lipscomb St	1569'	3/2	\$59,000			

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