

# FAIRMOUNT



HISTORIC  
DISTRICT

A monthly publication of the Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Volume 29, Issue 8

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This is election month for our neighborhood association. At this month's meeting we'll elect four new board members (one is running for re-election). Bios on our candidates can be found on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter. Please be sure to read them and get to know, somewhat, the prospective new board members. They'll be your voice on the board. With these elections that means we're losing four people on the board who deserve our thanks and gratitude. Fairmount is a big neighborhood with a very active membership and a very big agenda. John Murphy, Director of Communications (and newsletter editor/publisher); Chewy Redding, Director of Finance; David Thrapp, Director of Public Safety; Serena Keeler, Director of Administration; and Sue McLean, Director of Historic Preservation, have all gone above and beyond the scope of their directorships and have contributed so much to the betterment of Fairmount. Often, they have given of themselves in such small ways and thankless ways that it goes unnoticed. The volunteer man-hours that anyone who serves on the Fairmount Board has to put out would make many others shun the responsibility and stay at home. These particular board members have often served more than one term and in more than one capacity. Their combined service hours to Fairmount mount up in to the tens of thousands. Ladies and gentlemen, that is no small feat. I would ask each of us to personally thank them the next time you see them at a meeting or by chance. We are deeply indebted to them and although, I'm sure the candidates for the new board are up to the challenge, they have some pretty big shoes to fill. On behalf of the entire neighborhood, I'd like to express our vast appreciation for all your efforts and a humongous THANK YOU to each of you for what you've done for Fairmount.

See you on Tuesday night,

—Robert.

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR (AND THE WORD IS "THANKS")

Before I hand the newsletter over to the next editor, Jacqueline Brown (go, Jacqueline!), I want to thank all the neighbors who helped get the newsletter published for the last three years: Frequent columnists Serena Keeler, Susan Harper, Sue MacLean, David Thrapp, and Pattie Randle; the current and past monthly delivery-team members, Sheryl Helt, Diana Koch, Jerry Hawkins, Pam & Doug Sorrels, Stan Tucker, Robert Wedding, David Thrapp, Tim & Patti McGraw, and Becca Guttery; delivery coordinator Angela Popko; and all the volunteers who made light work of the biannual all-'hood newsletter deliveries. I couldn't have done it without you—thanks!

—John F. Murphy

-30-

## September 2010

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## FAIRMOUNT ASSOCIATION MEETING



Tuesday  
August 24  
7:00 p.m.

College Avenue  
Baptist Church  
1400 College Ave.



*Jerry will have Parker  
County watermelons  
(among other good-  
ies) as door prizes!*



**Bring your neighbor!**



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## THE FAIRMOUNT BEAT

Neighborhood Patrol Officer Joel Stary  
817.944.1316 (c), 817.871.8885 (o),  
Joel.Stary@fortworthgov.org

Well, by the time you get the newsletter summer will almost be over. I will not miss the heat or the kids being out of school...the kids that are up to no good that is. The Fort Worth Police Department has implemented the new alignment for divisions and many other changes. We are all getting used to the changes and new faces. I'm very excited to have another great group of Patrol Officers in our area and they are committed to serving this community each and everyday. We have been working hard to keep the number of burglaries down in the area and have been very successful in tracking down and apprehending several offenders. Having said that, home burglaries and garage burglaries are down this summer and vehicle burglaries are up. I have preached about vehicle burglaries in the past and the information will always be the same in regards to preventing vehicle burglaries. Remember, burglaries are a crime of opportunity and if we don't protect ourselves we are creating opportunity for those that would prey on us. We can't afford to leave property in our vehicles! We can't afford to leave our vehicles unlocked! We can't afford to leave windows rolled down! We can't afford to leave keys in the vehicle! We can't afford to not report suspicious activity! Please do your part to help prevent all burglaries and I am available to help you with security inspections if needed. I would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all of our Citizens On Patrol members for the volunteer work they do in this community to help keep us all safer! Please get involved in our Citizens On Patrol group or in any group that strengthens our community. Until next month, be safe today and safer tomorrow.



## TREE CARE & TRIMMING TIPS

Hey neighbor, hot enough for you? This heat really makes you thankful for all the shade your trees provide.

Those trees do need to be care for on a regular basis. Make sure you water your trees weekly to ensure their continued growth and good health. Also, make sure to prune your trees that are near the sidewalk so your neighbors can walk by with out dodging limbs. A well-cared for tree adds value and beauty not only to your home, but all of Fairmount.

Sean M. Lynch, Director of Infrastructure



## **FNA MEETING MINUTES**

July 27, 2010

Call to Order - Robert Wedding 7:00 - 7:05

Welcome New Members! 7:05 - 7:10

### **Safety & Cleanup 7:10 - 7:20**

#### **NPO - Officer Joel Stary**

This summer our crime is down 30%. In June 17 part one crimes. From these 17 crimes there have been three arrest. Washington Ave has had an upswing in crime. 4 graffiti taggers have been identified and will be arrested. Police Station is now in new building at corner of Hemphill and Magnolia. August will kick off changes to the Police Department city wide. There will be more patrol officers in the area. Department will move to zones and teams instead of beats. Our area will now have three shifts with more officers in each shift. Shifts will overlap. Officer Stary will stay in our area. Call 911 if you see suspicious activity.

### **Announcements & Candidates 7:20-7: 25**

#### **Robert Wedding**

- Community garden message board can be found at [www.historicfairmount.com](http://www.historicfairmount.com)
- Special events ordinance will be before council on Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. FNA board has opposed this ordinance.
- There is a flyer being distributed around the hood advertising a new type of wood look alike porch flooring. This new material has not been approved and will need to be permitted and approved on a case by case basis for its certificate of appropriateness.
- Elections are next month.
- Discussion on new city ordinance that wants to ban roosters.
- Gift certificates were given to Home Tour directors for a job well done.

### **Reports from Directors: 7:25 - 7:45**

- Ricky Pike, Membership update
- Chewy Redding, Financial: \$3000 net income for month. Cash total \$44,864.59
- Serena Keeler, Administration: Block captain and welcome packet information. She wants feedback from hood to see if there is enough interest in participating in the free parkway tree program this year. We have planted over 400 trees in the past three years.
- David Thrapp, Public Safety: Alley closure information and applications. There is no city funding for alleys to be mowed. Cannot build on alleys. It is still an easement. 100% of neighbors on your street have to sign petition to obtain closure permission. Flags for lamppost update. Gas lease update.
- Sean Lynch, Infrastructure: Clean up on Allen and happy hour update.
- Kevin Buchanan, Promotions: Looking for Fairmount photos to post on Facebook of events, etc.
- Sue McLean, Historic Preservation: Do you have an old picture of your house? Email it to Sue. We have been able to stop the demolition at 1405 Fairmount for the moment. This property is savable. A Preservation Task Force is being set up to try to save endangered properties in the neighborhood.

### **Presentation: Deborah Rogers 7:45-8:30**

Deborah Rogers is a goat farmer and a member of the Fort Worth League of Neighborhoods. She lives on her family farm on the west side of Fort Worth. Chesapeake has a 12 drill pad site next to her property. The city of Fort Worth and The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) are not required and therefore have not done any environmental impact studies to know the possible impact on air and water quality due to urban drilling. Deborah has spent \$30,000 of her own money to get air and water quality testing for her farm. She did a baseline study of before drilling and testing done while drilling. She has seen a significant increase in chemicals such as benzene ( a carcinogenic) and other neuron-toxins in the air and in her well water. The DFW airport negotiated a lease that has "no emissions technologies" or "green completion" provisions. What this means is that the emissions are captured, no flaring is allowed, numatic valves are installed, vapor recovery systems are in place. The gas industry is exempt from the clean air act and other environmental laws. Neighborhoods need to negotiate for these things in their leases. Gas companies will not just volunteer to do the right thing. Individuals have to make sure these provisions are in the lease they sign. Insist on "No emissions technology," "No flaring," "Numatic valves," "Vapor recovery systems" and "Green completion." Deborah also believes we still don't have clear answers on how hydraulic fracturing will / is impacting our water quality. Or if chemicals are migrating into our aquifer and the effects of run off. She also encouraged us to continue placing pressure on our elected officials to do the right thing and to hold our officials and gas companies accountable.

**Door Prizes - Jerry Hawkins 8:30 - 8:45**

**Adjournment - 8:45 pm**





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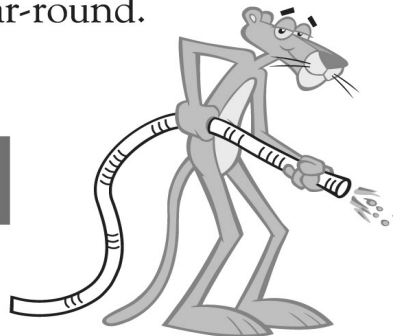
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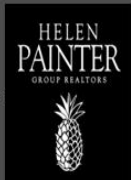
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**OUTSIDE YOUR OLD HOUSE**

Susan Harper

We can only hope that this heat has broken by the time you read this! It's been so hot, even thinking about gardening is daunting. However, if you want those lovely fresh fall vegetables, this is the time to plant. There is a spreadsheet attached to the Fall Vegetable message in the Discussion Board of the Community Garden which should help. Go to the Historic Fairmount website, click on the Community Garden link, then the Discussion Board. You'll need to set up a username and password but there's some good information in there.

If you've lost some flowering plants to the heat, spend some time in the nursery for plants to fill the empty spaces. The reds and oranges that seem too hot to enjoy in the heat of summer will be radiant in September and October. Most of the flowering plants will produce thru until frost. If you've lost shrubbery, you may want to wait until early October to replace them.



At the tail end of August and early September you can sod or seed the bare spots in your lawn. Early September is also the time to apply corn meal gluten to your lawn to prevent spring weed seeds from germinating. Be careful not to get it in areas where your spring flowers are reseeding themselves. It's not discriminating between seeds.

If you have animals, you've probably been fighting fleas this summer. Many organic gardeners recommend food grade Diatomaceous earth ("DE") spread on your lawn as a preventative. DE will work but it's hard to spread and has to be reapplied after rain or watering. A longer lasting solution—and one that works for flies, grubs and fire ants as well as fleas is Beneficial Nematodes. Two applications 5-7 days apart is recommended but it's good for a number of years—until all the larva is depleted. According to one source, they control over 250 species of insects.

As the weather cools, I hope to see you in the garden...

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### SiNaCa Studios...School of Glass

will host their grand opening on Saturday, Sept 11 from 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm. at the school's location at 1013 W. Magnolia in Fort Worth. The opening is scheduled to coincide with the annual Fall Gallery Night in Fort Worth. Demonstrations of various forms of glass art will be held throughout the day in this new space. The gallery will also have glass art for sale to the public. Contact Elizabeth Semrad for more info: [easemrad@att.net](mailto:easemrad@att.net)/ 817-923-9983.



## RECEIVERSHIP: A TOOL FOR SAVING ENDANGERED HISTORIC HOUSES

Receivership is not a new legal term. It is a concept/law that has been on Texas books for many, many years. However, it was very seldom used in the past because it was cumbersome and required a long payback period for the potential receiver. Receivership is intended to (temporarily or permanently) take historic homes from neglectful owners and put them into the hands of responsible organizations or individuals before the houses experience "demo by neglect."

Last year, Fort Worth City Attorney Chris Moseley worked with the Texas legislature to craft a more "user friendly" receivership, and that revised statute is now in place.

Once a house is stabilized (and that can be from the very minimum—e.g., new roof and repaired foundation and replaced windows—to a more extensive restoration), the receiver is entitled to be reimbursed for all expenses plus 10%, either by the previous owner or by any organization or individual wishing to buy the house. The former owner is not entitled to be reimbursed for any previous investment, and so the sales price can be very attractive to a new investor.



Historic Fort Worth, Inc., and City staff members have met with representatives from Fairmount to explain the process, so that we can determine if this new version of receivership can help us save more homes in Fairmount. We'll be learning more in the weeks and months to come and will share that information with you as it becomes available.

—Patti Randle, President Emerita



# Noche de Fiesta



Noche de Fiesta is a Catholic Charities annual fundraiser that benefits the families of Tarrant County. This year, Noche de Fiesta will be held on **September 18** at the Historic Hilton Hotel in downtown Fort Worth. The evening includes a deluxe Mexican dinner served at your table, live music and silent and live auctions. Last year, over 600 guests helped to raise over \$444,000 for Catholic Charities. Because of the ever-increasing needs in our community, our goal this year has been raised to \$460,000! The Noche de Fiesta benefits the all the programs of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities has been serving the Diocese of Fort Worth since 1910. Last year, our programs served over 111,000 children, families, elderly, refugees, and immigrants in our community.

To learn more, visit the Noche de Fiesta web page at <http://www.ccdofw.org/fiesta.html>, or contact Rachel Wilkes at [rwilkes@ccdofw.org](mailto:rwilkes@ccdofw.org) or 817-413-3916.



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 letter.  
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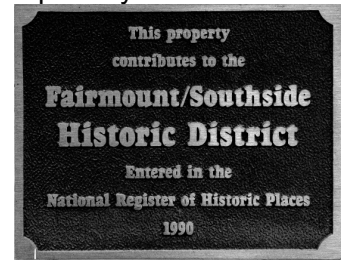
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**HISTORIC PLAQUES AVAILABLE**

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 \$100.00. Please contact Sue McLean, Director of Historic Preservation, at 817.924.6100, or by email at [preservation@historicfairmount.com](mailto:preservation@historicfairmount.com).



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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.



**CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS OUTDOOR EVENTS ORDINANCE DESPITE NEIGHBORHOOD OPPOSITION**

A new outdoor events ordinance, approved by the City Council last week, goes into effect Oct. 1. The Council unanimously approved the ordinance despite heavy opposition from Fort Worth neighborhoods, including Fairmount.

The ordinance applies to any outdoor gathering on public or private property that attracts more than 500 attendees, requires a street to be closed, sells food or beverages, or uses tents, stages, bleachers, fireworks, open flames or portable toilets. It would also apply to parades, neighborhood events requiring the use of city streets, events in parks and some First Amendment activity.

An advisory committee—supposedly made up of Fort Worth residents, “neighborhood advocates” (though none from Fairmount) and stakeholders who organize and manage outdoor events—met for more than a year to formulate new outdoor events policies and practices that were adopted into the ordinance.

Events conducted entirely on the property of a church, educational institution, college or university campus, or on property containing an occupied residence are exempt from the new ordinance. Additionally, events contracted with the city or at city-owned facilities and at the Texas Motor Speedway are exempt.

Event organizers will be required to attend two committee meetings—the Events Calendar Committee and the Pre-Event Committee—and must provide notice to surrounding property owners. The two committees will be in charge of scheduling events, reviewing event plans and applications.

The Fairmount Board is evaluating how the ordinance will affect long-standing neighborhood activities such as Home Tour and the Home Tour Parade.

You can view the complete ordinance at [FortWorthGov.org/specialevents](http://FortWorthGov.org/specialevents).





## AUGUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the last meeting. Motion to accept, seconded, and carried.

### **Director's Reports 7:05**

**Finance**, Chewy- cash total \$44,429.50

**Administration**, Serena- trees on Allen will be watered twice a week until heat lets up. Don Maunder has volunteered to take over recycling.

**Historic Preservation**, Sue- 1315 7th aluminum windows are being restored back to wood. Apt on Hurley and Myrtle stucco was put on top of bricks and a compromise is being sought. 2110 Washington submitted a proposal for a garage. 2219 5th Ave infill house is being updated to look more historic with a porch and wood framed windows. 1941 Hurley discussing receivership with city. 1908 Fairmount will be a copy of new construction house on Lipscomb and Morphy.

**Public Safety**, David- Fred Harper and David went to city council to oppose Special Events Ordinance. Unfortunately ordinance passed. It will be up for review in a year. Still waiting on "the city fees" for holding parades and events, etc. Alley update. City gave the forms. When forms were sent back signed, the city sent them back saying the wording on the form had to be changed. David has the new forms with new wording. Oct 3 National Night Out.

**Communications**, John- introduced Jacqueline Brown who will be taking over the newsletter. Advertising is and can continue to pay for the newsletter. Final plug to keep printing the newsletter. It is a vital part of our neighborhood.

**Membership**, Ricky- 9 new members. \$90 made on signs at last meeting. About 6 big ones left. Ideas are coming in for meeting topics.

**Infrastructure**, Sean- Allen cleanup at end of month. Meeting with city about putting a gazebo in Fairmount Park. College Ave waterline was cut when putting in streetlights. Any problems with the work being done please let Sean know. Gas lines are being replaced on the 1300-1400 block of S Henderson. Brenda Howell will be taking over the monthly social.

### **Old Business 8:00**

- Signage Update- getting an audit of all the signs that have been put in. Sign being worked on for Green Space.
- Membership House Signs- prototype coming soon.

### **New Business 8:15**

- Nominations and elections update for August meeting.
- Victorian Inn has a proposal to be a half way house with up to 50 units. Fred Harper and Sean Lynch are going to meet with potential buyer.
- Tad tax update. Patti Randle met with Jeff Law about inequities in property taxes within Fairmount.
- Community Garden wants to put a shade structure on property. Wants FNA to fund it.

Adjourned 8:30



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## **BOARD NOMINEE AUTOBIOGRAPHIES**

### **DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION—SUE MCLEAN**

As a resident of Fairmount since 1983, I became active in the Neighborhood Association in 1990 after my house was on Home Tour. I was Newsletter Director for 5 years in the 1990's and created the Home Tour brochures for several years. I took a 5 year break, then returned as Director of Infrastructure and assistant to the Director of Historic Preservation, Mike McDermott. Mike and I created the Historic Preservation Committee which meets each month to discuss the Certificate of Appropriateness applications going before The Historic and Cultural Landmarks Commission to decide the recommendations for the District. Since taking over for Mike and finishing his term and then one term of my own, I attend the monthly HCLC meetings and present the Committee's recommendations on the cases.

As Director of Historic Preservation, I consult with home owners, investors and new home builders almost daily if not by email or phone, reviewing and meeting them at their projects, and often having to help some to do the right thing and restore, not remodel.

As the current Chairman of the Fairmount Guidelines Committee, we have spent the past 2 ½ years, (and gone through 2 other Chairpersons), with the overwhelming project of rewriting the District Guidelines to clarify them and to allow some new products to be used. They are now complete, just waiting on HCLC Staff to rewrite some of the City input, then will be submitted to them.

I began taking periodic photos of the over 1400 structures in the District in 2005, and after scanning the 1995 photos taken by the Fairmount Garden Club, and merging with others taken by Bill Walton prior to 2005, I created the Fairmount digital photo archives – which are now on the Fairmount website. I am currently working with the HCLC Staff to get digital copies of the rest of their 2000 photo survey to add, and they have just completed a new 2010 photo survey to go with the new Guidelines. Once we have them, we will be conducting a re-survey of the District, deciding which structures are contributing and which are not. We hope to rectify the original survey done in the late 1980's by the National Trust which was done very arbitrarily with houses that have even been on Home Tour which were inexplicably listed as non-contributing.

This position is a big job, and I have a lot of work yet to do ahead of me. So please allow me continue for another term, and vote for me.

### **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY—GERI COTTON**

Twenty-six years ago, I bought a home at 2212 College Avenue that they told me could be condemned on the front outside alone. These have been very interesting, challenging and rewarding years. A group of us even set up a corporation to purchase and restore homes in Fairmount. These were the early years spent setting up the neighborhood association, in planning home tours, working on our national registry designation and the historic overlay, helping to rewrite the code for the City of Fort Worth, having a music festival on Magnolia Avenue and more. Helping curb crime in our neighborhood was an enormous part of reclaiming Fairmount for families so when we were asked to assist the police department, we volunteered. A graduate of Oklahoma State University in Interior Design, I've worked in design, real estate law, antiques, sales and currently in logistics/transportation. My hobbies are gardening and needlework. I'm married to Calvin Clayton, Citizens on Patrol Coordinator for the Fort Worth Police Department, Central Division.

### **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE—JANE WEDDING**

My name is Jane Wedding. I have been a resident in Fairmount for almost two years. I moved to Fairmount at the suggestion of my brother, Robert, who is a Fairmount resident. I have since discovered for myself that all of the positive reasons he gave me for moving into the neighborhood are true indeed. Fairmount is a very friendly, dynamic, and resourceful place to live. And, the fact that it is an historic neighborhood is just "icing on the cake" for me.

I joined the Neighborhood Association when I arrived. I was a volunteer during the 2009 Home Tour, and my home was featured in the 2010 Home Tour. I am a member of the Fairmount Garden Club and Historic Fort Worth.

I am running for Director of Finance. I would like to have the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing success



of the Neighborhood Association by sharing my financial and accounting knowledge. I have 20 years experience in public and private accounting, and 3 years in banking, and I currently work for a CPA firm in Grapevine.

Fairmount is a thriving neighborhood yet there is still much more potential just waiting to be addressed. I would like to assist my neighbors in achieving still more success and making our living experience the most enjoyable it can be.

#### **DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION —GREG TAYLOR**

My name is Greg Taylor and I am running for the Director of Administration position in the Fairmount Neighborhood Association. My wife Sara and I moved to Fairmount approximately three years ago, and have thoroughly enjoyed our decision to escape the relative sterility of the suburbs where we used to live. You may have seen us walking our dogs through the neighborhood, where we relish the gentle hum of activity on streets and porches. We joined the FNA because a community is only as vibrant and exciting as its citizens want it to be, and that is why we volunteer in the community and support as many neighborhood activities as we can. I hope that my involvement in a strong and committed neighborhood association like ours will help make life here even more enjoyable for you and me as we continue to grow.

Five top reasons to consider me:

5. Anagram of my name is great glory
4. Letterman would have made you read ten reasons, I kept it to five
3. I live on Washington, named after a great leader. Coincidence?
2. The Director of Administration is responsible for taking notes. I particularly like do, re, and mi.
1. As of this writing, no one else has applied!

#### **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION —STACY LUECKER**

As a two-year Fairmount resident with a background in art and communication I want to contribute as much to the neighborhood as possible. Over the past two years I have expanded and implemented new media for Fairmount and hope to contribute even more as a Board member in the position of Director of Communications.

Contributions to Fairmount:

- Designed and implemented a content managed website and currently update with announcements, articles and up-to-date events calendar.
- Aid Board members in communicating through Constant Contact.
- Created a searchable Web gallery for the Fairmount online house archive.
- Created a listing of contractor and business recommendations as a resource for Fairmount residents.
- Participated in the initial design process for new neighborhood signage.
- Succeeded in securing \$1,000 donation for the Fairmount Flag Program.
- Provided photography and video during 2010 Home Tour and made available online during the tour.
- Designed the 2010 Home Tour booklet.

Projects and goals:

- Continue to maintain and expand the availability of media offering current information, upcoming events and resources including expanding the use of video and photography.
- Unify the website and newsletter content and add features on current residents and home restorations to emphasize preservation in the neighborhood.
- Make more research materials available directly through the Fairmount website.
- Implement a phone compatible website to encourage the use of Web media for access to immediate information.



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## A DESIRE NAMED "STREETCAR": CITY UPDATES STREETCAR PLAN

On Monday night, August 9, at the Intermodal Transportation Center, a public input meeting on modern streetcars was held. Presenting were Charlie Hale of HDR Consulting Inc., the consulting firm charged by the City of Fort Worth with the preliminary study of the feasibility of streetcars in our city; and David Gaspers, Senior Planner in the Planning and Development Department of the City of Fort Worth.



After an introduction by Mr. Gaspers, Mr. Hale provided insight into the study to date. Details and further study will be presented to City Council in September with the final report in November.

Several different routes are under study, with emphasis on ridership, potential economic development as well as initial capital outlay and operation costs. By studying the different scenarios, HDR can help the City of Fort Worth determine which route would be the best starter route, if the City decides to move forward with Modern Streetcars.

Last month, the City of Fort Worth was awarded the largest potential grant by the Federal Transportation Department, \$25 million, to fund the beginnings of a modern streetcar system for Fort Worth. If implemented, matching funds would need to be provided, and most likely those funds would come from sources such as Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIFs) and Public Improvement Districts (PIDs). (Much of the improvements along Magnolia and other areas in the Near Southside has been funded by TIFs.) Other cities that have implemented streetcar systems, notably Portland Oregon, have found that the economic development that accompanies the streetcar grids provides a huge payback in the form of new property and sales taxes. Many other major cities across the nation are beginning to implement streetcar systems as an integral part of their public transportation system.

Other benefits of streetcar systems are improved air quality due to decreased automobile usage; and encouragement of higher density in the urban center, thus discouraging urban sprawl and its further dependence on cars and more highways.

One of the potential streetcar routes under consideration by HDR would come down Main Street and turn west on Magnolia to connect the hospital district with downtown Fort Worth and the Intermodal Transportation Center and thus a connection with light rail to DFW Airport and other destinations.

If the system is implemented, the first line would be chosen based on its potential for success. Other routes would be added incrementally.

For more information, visit [www.streetcarfortworth.com](http://www.streetcarfortworth.com), [www.fortworthgov.org/streetcar](http://www.fortworthgov.org/streetcar), or [www.facebook.com/fortworthstreetcar](http://www.facebook.com/fortworthstreetcar)

—Pattie Randle, President Emerita

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## FAIRMOUNT PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT EMERITA MEET WITH HEAD OF TAD

In July, Patti Randle and I met with Jeff Law, Director of the Tarrant Appraisal District. We met with the purpose of seeking answers about the inequities of property appraisals within Fairmount.

Many have noticed and commented on the frequently gross differences between tax appraisals of owner-occupied properties and non-owner-occupied properties, often numerous holdings by families and corporations (what many refer to as 'slum lords'). I specifically brought to his attention some holdings of a family with many Fairmount rental properties, whose valuations have not increased for the past three years while many other properties have increased every year.

Although we didn't get specific answers, Mr. Law was responsive and very open to our concerns and inquiries, giving us several examples of how the differences in appraisals might come about. The most likely scenario is that these particular property owners hire a tax consultant who consistently protests the appraisals and wins using the income approach to justify the appraisal protest.

(Property appraisals can be valued on sales price, comparable sales, or a "stream-of-income" approach. Properties which produce a low stream of income can use a formula to back into the "fair market value" and protest any increase in valuation based on that.)

Mr. Law was very gracious and wants to set up a meeting between representatives from Fairmount and his assessment team that actually appraises property in Fairmount, so we can help educate them about particular circumstances that are unique to Fairmount. Hopefully, with a better informed team, they can better apply the appraisal rules to everyone in Fairmount and help achieve a fairer appraisal system.

We'll keep you posted on any new events.

—Robert Wedding, President



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## JULY YARD OF THE MONTH: 1257 W MORPHY

The yard of the month for August is the 1257 W Morphy cottage of Charlotte and Craig Burrell. The couple has lived in Fairmount for four years sharing their home with cats Arty and Oscar, often seen sitting in the window looking out over the front courtyard, and dogs Jack and Chief, who eagerly greet you at the fence. Charlotte acts as garden designer and both she and Craig bring the plan to life.

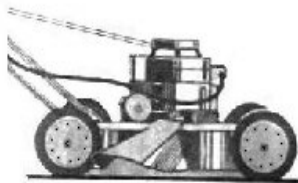
The design celebrates early cottage gardens or as Charlotte calls them "Grandmother Gardens". Native and naturalized plants are incorporated into the design including flowering shrubs and trees, grasses, antique roses, perennials, and annuals. Plants are not only selected for seasonal interest but also as a buffet for native and migrating wildlife, building a multi-layered cottage garden. The garden's backbone is a mix of crepe myrtles, red berried possum haws, pink hawthorns and antique roses, as well as grasses and day-lilies. *Salvia gregii* and obedient plant bloom in the fall and poppies, guara, phlox, and hollyhocks in spring and summer. Annuals such as trailing periwinkle, sunflowers, zinnias, and pansies add splashes of color to the landscape throughout the seasons. Charlotte's favorite, moonflowers from seed shared by her neighbor the year she moved in, give nighttime passersby, visiting lunar moths and bees a fragrant treat. Plumbago, tricolored sweet potato vine, lavender, and lantana tumble from mixed pots on the porch and stoop.



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

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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.

**DAGGETT PAPER-RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Daggett Middle School invites Fairmount to participate in its paper recycling program! You will find a green recycling bin on the east side of the campus, accessible from Lilac Street. Daggett uses the money from the recycling program to purchase plants for the school flower bed and trees for the campus.

**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!
- 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) \_\_\_ Friend of Fairmount (\$15)

**FORT WORTH CITY CONTACTS**  
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- 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
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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.

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