



*The home at 2110 Hemphill St., once the main office of the Edna Gladney Home, will be featured in the 43rd Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes May 10-11. The property holds cultural and architectural significance in Fort Worth's historic Fairmount neighborhood. Owners Richard and Chandra Riccetti have spent years restoring the home and are now working to reclaim its missing Texas Historic Landmark designation. Their efforts aim to formally recognize and preserve this important piece of Fort Worth history.*

*Photo by Stacy Luecker*

A PUBLICATION OF THE FAIRMOUNT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# FAIRMOUNT

MAY 2025



**FAIRMOUNT  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

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

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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Fairmount neighbors,

As spring blooms across our historic district, I want to celebrate all we've accomplished this past year—and look ahead to what's next.

This past year brought renewed energy and meaningful connections. One of our proudest moments was the debut of the new Fairmount Neighborhood sign—a long-awaited update that now greets residents and visitors with a fresh welcome. A huge thanks to Mello Signs for the design and our board members, Kristin Klade and Barbara Crotty, for helping bring it all to life.

Our holiday Festivus event took on new meaning this year with a fresh spin since post-COVID. Homes lit up in dazzling displays, and the spirit of the season was truly alive with food trucks, performances, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and a warm neighborhood vibe. Our Festivus committee did a fantastic job of making this year's event original and engaging. This Festivus was also extra special—thanks to the Burnett School of Medicine at TCU for being a first-time sponsor and helping foster new relationships between the school and our community.

In fact, our new partnership with TCU has already blossomed—this year, the FNA proudly welcomed its first-ever TCU student intern to the board.

The university's Strategic Communication department partnered with the FNA as a "real-world" client for its Campaign classes, giving students hands-on experience while researching the neighborhood and developing creative marketing strategies tailored to our community.

Partnering with the university has built a meaningful bridge between two of Fort Worth's great institutions—TCU and Fairmount—and we're excited to see how this collaboration continues to grow.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for May 10–11 as we proudly host the 43rd Annual Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes on Mother's Day weekend. This year's tour includes several stunning homes and stops, each showcasing the character and charm that make our neighborhood truly one of a kind. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our history and support our neighborhood—proceeds help fund many important projects, from park benches to signage and social events.

Finally, I want to personally encourage you to get involved. Our general meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Arts Fifth Avenue, and they are open to everyone. These meetings are where the magic happens—ideas turn into events, concerns become actions, and neighbors become friends. Seeing fresh faces and new voices in the room would mean the world to us. If you love Fairmount and want to help shape its future, this is your invitation to jump in.

Here's to a spring filled with community, connection and continued momentum.

With gratitude,

**ANDREW EPPS**

President, Fairmount Neighborhood Association  
president@historicfairmount.com

Become a member and support your neighborhood! Membership fees improve the neighborhood's infrastructure and safety with projects like the addition of historic street lights, feline trap-neuter-release program and the annual Home Tour.

JOIN TODAY AT  
[historicfairmount.com/join](https://historicfairmount.com/join)

# 43RD ANNUAL Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes



Scan the QR code to  
buy tickets today!

**WHEN: MAY 10-11, 2025 NOON TO 5 P.M. | TICKET PICKUP: ARTS FIFTH AVE, NOON TO 4 P.M.**

Join the Fairmount Neighborhood Association (FNA) as they celebrate their 43rd tour of historic homes on Mother's Day weekend, 2025, in the beautiful Fairmount National Historic District on Fort Worth's popular southside.

This year's tour will feature eight fabulous houses and locations. Also, an outdoor fair will be held in Fairmount Park on May 10, featuring local artists and food trucks! Be sure to stop by for a visit to make your day complete. This event is a perfect Mother's Day gift! Buy your tickets by May 10th at 4 p.m. to receive a discount. Pre-sale tickets are \$20/each. Tickets are \$25/each on the tour weekend. We hope to see you there.

This is the neighborhood's largest fundraiser and funds are used throughout the year for neighborhood events and infrastructure, such as the Fairmount National Historic District signs you see lining the perimeter of the neighborhood, the park benches in our Greenspace, our National Historic District marker, and more.

# From Home to School, From Small to XL: This Year's Home Tour Is All-Encompassing!

By Michael Tucker-McDermott

Every year since 1983, the Fairmount Neighborhood Association, one of the most active and successful neighborhood associations in the country, has strived to showcase a variety of styles and ages in homes and buildings during its annual Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes—or Fort Worth Urban Pioneer Home Tour as it is known back then.

## **What to Expect on This Year's Tour**

Expect to see the inside several nicely renovated and restored historic homes, an abundance of original features, and beautifully tiled fireplaces. Historic woodwork and built-ins, along with modern kitchens that incorporate vintage features into the design.

This tour may be one of the most diverse, ranging from a petite post-Victorian cottage to a grand brick and stone mansion, and even includes a house that was showcased as a work in progress two years ago and is now finished to perfection.

## **The Charming Mills House: Small in Size, Big in History**

The smallest of the homes on tour this year is not the least charming and is featured on this year's poster. Built around 1906, the historic Mills House is a lovely, diminutive late Queen Anne vernacular cottage. It had a large and varied series of occupations among its residents, especially in its first two decades, including a druggist, an ice company solicitor, a grocer, a blacksmith, a printer, and a fellow—ironically, a German named Ernst Rudolph.

Rudolph, who ran the Alamo Canteen in what is now Arlington Heights for the soldiers at Camp Bowie, trained to fight Germany in WWI. It was a way to prove that his second-generation family was backing his new country in the effort.

Owners Kristen Correa and Mark also purchased the home originally as an investment for her parents and now rent it out. One of the first things they did was remove the dirt-gray concrete-asbestos tile siding from the 1950s. As they did, a remarkable discovery was made.

The original #105 style wood siding, which was well-preserved, had only one color of paint in random chips barely left clinging to it, and another on the wood shake shingles in the gable. As best they could tell, if these weren't the original colors, they were indeed close to 100 years old.

The creamy yellow and green on the siding and gables, and buttermilk trim were those colors. Inside the house, it still has its original over 11-inch ceilings standard to our oldest Fairmount homes, picture railing, and beautiful, wide door and window trim and crown moldings, which they recreated, as much of the woodwork was missing.

The small but modern kitchen was recreated with a nod to the home's history, on the enclosed side porch where the original kitchen had been located outside the house.

## **A Colonial Revival Gem: 1424 S. Adams**

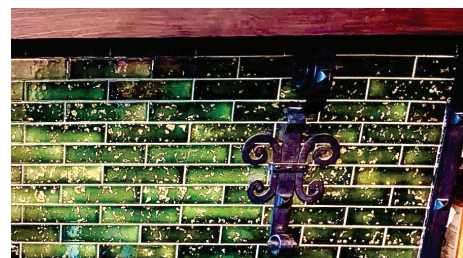
One truly amazing home, in almost all original condition, is 1424 S. Adams. The design is a Colonial Revival style with leaded glass Queen Anne windows, an incredible,

intricately designed leaded glass front door and sidelights, and massive round porch columns topped with cast stone block bases.

A large shingled front gable appointed in the center with a keyed oval window, rises above a second-floor balcony fronted by a railing in classical design. The entire house is a style unique to the rest of the historic district.

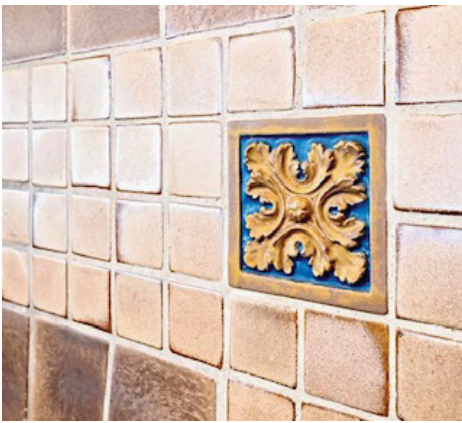
The two-story home was built in 1908 for a prominent Fort Worth real estate developer, Robert J. Parker, his wife, Florence, and daughter, Flo. The Parkers lived in the home until 1916 when it was purchased for \$5000 by Doctor Sydney J. Wilson, who moved in with wife Minnie, and kids Betty and Sidney, Jr.

Stories told by Fairmount residents of the past claimed Dr. Wilson would climb out of an upstairs window onto the balcony and look for his next patients to arrive.



*Tortoise shell mottled green tile from the American Encaustic Tiling Co. (AETCo.) adorns the Arts & Crafts inspired fireplace at 1424 S. Adams St. while heavy scrolled iron brackets support the mantle.*





*One of two fireplaces at 2110 Hemphill with tile by the Rookwood Pottery & Tile Company of Cincinnati, OH. They were as famous for their highly collectible pottery from 1888-1940 as much as they were for their wonderful tile. (Photo by Stacy Luecker).*

He also kept an office in the old historic First National Bank building, still standing downtown.

### ***Incredible Original Interiors***

The wonderful interior has all original woodwork and built-ins inside in their original dark-stained finish, popular in that era, as well as beautiful quarter-sawn white oak floors. The large front entry hall features an incredible staircase with hundreds of long, ceiling-height, delicately turned spindles that create a wooden screen.

The entry and parlor are defined by a huge classical colonnade and

a matching second colonnade delineates the parlor and dining room. The dining room is still adorned with a built-in eye-level plate rail that surrounds the space.

As you enter the living room you will see one of the most beautiful Arts and Crafts era fireplaces in all of Fairmount. The entire face and hearth are covered in original deep green mottled 'tortoiseshell' tile from the American Encaustic Tiling Co.

The mantel, which stretches all the way across the top of it and two flanking built-in bookcases, is supported by an unusual pair of huge scrolled iron brackets, and above all that, a pair of leaded glass diamond pane windows above each bookcase.

### ***Staging with Style***

The homeowners Kelly and Gabriel Moreno, the latter who is head of the PTA at De Zavala Elementary School, also on this year's tour, have worked with the owners of Boomerang Boutique and Antiques on Park Place, to help stage their house with many wonderful vintage items to help set proper mood for this truly amazing historic home.

### ***A Tour Highlighting Fairmount's History and Schools***

The year's exceptional tour features seven homes and a stop at historic De Zavala School, the only A-rated

elementary school on the Southside and the longest continuously running school in Fort Worth.

Other homes include a charming Craftsman 1913 bungalow on Fairmount Avenue, another from 1916 on Alston Avenue, a quaint turn-of-the-century bungalow with gorgeous back gardens on Lipscomb, and a truly rare look into one of Fort Worth's last post-Victorian, early 1900s mansions in complete original condition on Hemphill Street.

Also featured next door to the mansion is the former Edna Gladney Home and adoption agency. The first two private homes were built side by back, then purchased by a prominent Fort Worth oilman in 1950 and donated to Edna Gladney as their new location.

The home was featured on our tour two years ago as a work in progress, and now owners Richard and Chandra Ricetti have finished its total restoration and are ready to show off what they've done.

*The keyed oval window and 'asterisk' pattern railing contribute to the Neo-Classical design of 1424 S. Adams St., a rare style in Fairmount.*







## A New Chapter Begins: FNA and TCU Celebrate First Student Intern

We're thrilled to welcome **Imani Mogaka**, FNA's first-ever student intern from TCU! Imani is a junior at Texas Christian University, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Strategic Communication with a minor in Communication Studies.

She's passionate about community service and actively gives back through TCU organizations and her local church. Imani said she's grateful for this opportunity and is thrilled to learn and grow in her role as she prepares to pursue higher education after graduating in the Spring of 2026.

Imani's interests span across donor relations, community engagement, the creative arts, and real estate—and she's always eager to explore more!





# Beloved Elementary School to Join Historic Home Tour One Last Time Before Possible Closure

*By Elizabeth Schon, Michael Tucker-McDermott and Gabe Moreno*

For decades, De Zavala Elementary School, located at 1419 College Ave, has stood as a cornerstone of the city's historic district, not just as a place of learning but as a symbol of community, culture and continuity.

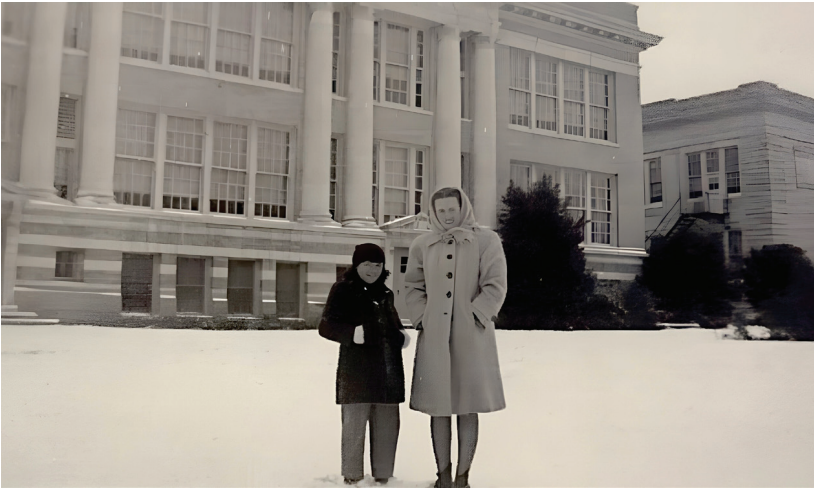
According to the Fort Worth Report, De Zavala Elementary is proposed to close at the end of the 2026-27 school year. Trustees are expected to consider formalizing the closure in late May.

Generations of families have passed through its doors, with some current students walking the same corridors their grandparents once did. As the city possibly prepares to shutter the school's doors for good, residents will have one final chance to walk its storied halls during this year's Home Tour on Saturday, May 10.

One of Fairmount's first "urban pioneers," Michael Tucker-McDermott, a historic preservationist, the FNA's co-director of historic preservation and the author of Fort Worth's Fairmount District (Images of America), answered a few questions about the historic landmark and his familial roots to the school.

Gabe Moreno, Fairmount resident, De Zavala PTA member and school advocate, also shined some light on the school's impact on the community.





*The school that had the most impact on Fairmount was De Zavala School, where Jennie D. Snyder (Michael's great-aunt) taught, and the generation that followed attended, as did Charles Clark and Wilson Baker. For a while, it was two schools in one. Rather than add onto the original school, at right, it was decided a second building would be constructed in 1914. The first building was demolished to create room for a new playground just after Ann Van Arsdale and Marguerite Miller posed in the snow for this photograph in the early 1950s. It was at De Zavala that the Fort Worth Children's Museum was started in two classrooms. It later became the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. (Courtesy Dalton Hoffman.)*



*Built in 1892, this rarely seen image of the Beacon Hill School appears in the 1901 annual report of the Fort Worth Public Schools. It was located at Alston Avenue and Myrtle, where the 1914 structure now stands. It predated most of the homes in the Fairmount District and was enlarged to six rooms when this 1899 photograph was taken. The little school on the prairie served grades one through six for 14 years. (Courtesy Fort Worth Independent School District Archives.)*

## MICHAEL TUCKER-MCDERMOTT REFLECTS AND DISCUSSES THE SCHOOL'S HISTORY

### ***A Brief Description of the School's Founding***

The first school built on the property was a two-room, wood-frame schoolhouse that opened in 1892, called Beacon Hill School. This served the children of the scattered rural population in the area at that time, with only a few dozen houses in what is now Fairmount, as well as some of the surrounding area.

It was located at Alston and W. Myrtle, facing Alston, just like the first De Zavala building. As the near Southside grew quickly and was incorporated into the city limits, a new and much larger two and a half-story brick school building named for Lorenzo DeZavala, first vice president of the Republic of Texas, opened in 1905 next to the old Beacon Hill School, which then became part of De Zavala School.

Architect S. Wyness Smith designed the new building. As the area grew, a second building was built and opened in the fall of 1914. Decades later, after the first building had years of costly maintenance issues, it was torn down. This made room for a larger and much-needed playground, though, and as time passed, the current 1914 structure was added. Its entrance faces College Ave.

### ***Setting the Historical Record Straight***

Also significant, while Daggett Elementary claims to be the oldest continuously operating elementary school in Fort Worth, it is not. Daggett is the oldest continuously

operating school building, but De Zavala was started in 1905. Daggett was started in 1909. So, De Zavala is the oldest continuously operating elementary school in Fort Worth. Older schools once existed but have since been discontinued. Paschal is the oldest operating school.

### ***The School is Not Technically Historically Preserved***

Much of the school is still preserved, but some remodeling changes have occurred over the years, most of which took place before 1990, when the local H&C zoning designated the Fairmount Southside Historic District.

Non-conforming additions, remodeling and shortened windows from the original full story height windows have somewhat compromised the historic integrity of the building. These changes were made decades ago, before the district was formed and before historic preservation of school buildings was "a thing."

Like most older schools, those kinds of changes were made to save on energy costs, and often because retrofitting old windows or completely recreating them with modern materials, and restoring old exterior doors was just too expensive.

The building is not currently listed on our FNA website as a "contributing structure," but it could easily be listed due to its history and significance to Fort Worth.

When the historic district was formed, many structures listed as non-contributing in 1990 by different standards





*Fairmount's Eighth Ward school, De Zavala Elementary, named for Lorenzo De Zavala, first vice president of the Republic of Texas, is seen above from Alston Avenue (Above, courtesy Genealogy, History, and Archives unit, Fort Worth Public Library; below, author's collection).*



*Image of the Fort Worth Children's Museum located at the Harding home circa 1950—image courtesy of the University of Texas at Arlington.*

have been relisted as contributing since then. Regardless, the structure is solidly within the Fairmount Southside National Register Historic District and the local Historic and Cultural District. Therefore, it has protections, just like all the other structures in Fairmount.

## **ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS MAKING THE SCHOOL BUILDING HISTORICALLY VALUABLE**

The school building's design is classical revival, evident in the huge pairs of classical Greek columns, dentil molding, decorative cornice with parapet, and classical railings and pedimented gabled entrances. It is built of alternating stripes of yellow brick and cast stone on the raised basement floor, and yellow brick and cast stone trim on the first and second floors. It's a slightly larger and much more decorative structure than was "De Zavala No.1."

### ***Michael's Fun Fact about De Zavala***

The Fort Worth Children's Museum, now known as the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, was started in a classroom at De Zavala School during the 1940s. It then moved into a large old house and was later relocated to its correct location in the 1950s.

## **GABE MORENO EXPRESSES CONCERNS ABOUT THE SCHOOL'S CLOSURE**

### ***Public and Community Response to the City's Decision to Close the School***

Our community is mainly blue-collar, and volunteers

regularly dedicate their time to creating meaningful experiences and memorable events for our students at De Zavala. The potential closure has placed an additional burden on these dedicated families, who have already made a substantial effort to preserve something deeply valued. This situation mirrors broader issues faced nationally, where public institutions are under strain and communities fight to maintain resources critical to their children's futures. For our students, losing teachers, friends, and the familiarity of their educational environment would leave lasting impressions. Our community believes preserving De Zavala is not just about a building—it's about safeguarding stability and opportunity for our children.

The DeZavala school community has mobilized actively and constructively to express opposition to the proposed closure. School staff have spent evenings and weekends developing practical solutions to boost enrollment, including proposals for new educational programs and petitions advocating for an official "school of choice" designation. Meanwhile, the PTA and parents have consistently attended district board meetings and community forums, clearly communicating the community's strong desire to keep the school open and highlighting the educational disruption students would face if forced to relocate.

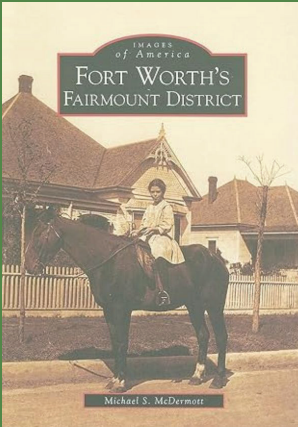




Photo by Stacy Luecker

### QUESTIONS OR MORE INFO?

Visit De Zavala Elementary's website at [dezavala.fwisd.org/about-our-school](http://dezavala.fwisd.org/about-our-school) or contact FWISD by calling (817) 814-2300. **To learn more about the school's closure, please visit the Fort Worth ISD Slates De Zavala Elementary for Possible 2027 Closure published by the Fort Worth Report.**



Want to learn more about the history of De Zavala and the Fairmount neighborhood? Get your copy of Fort Worth's Fairmount District (Images of America).



Visit this link: [bit.ly/fairmountdistrict](http://bit.ly/fairmountdistrict) or scan the QR code.



Visit this link: [bit.ly/dezavalaclosure](http://bit.ly/dezavalaclosure) or scan the QR code.



# Yard of the Month

*By Bonnie Blackwell*

## **APRIL 2025 WINNER: 1805 5TH AVENUE**

The April 2025 Yard of the Month winner is 1805 5th Ave, owned since 2000 by David and Mary Boyce. Built in 1908 for Charles De Vol, the house is a Queen Anne folk cottage with an L-shaped porch and the distinctive diamond muntin windows also found nearby Victorian cottage, 1831 5th Ave. De Vol, an oil leasing agent, mostly rented 1805 5th to railroad and oil field workers for decades while his family lived at 1208 Lipscomb.

### ***The Stevens Family and an Unusual Trade Offer***

When DeVol passed away in 1942, 1805 5th was purchased by long-time tenant Amanda Stevens for her son George, who was born there in 1920. George Stevens evidently wanted a change: he immediately advertised in the Star Telegram that he wanted to trade his 1805 5th for a car, or to exchange his 1938 Fiat 500 Topolino for a different house.

### ***Enter George and Carrie Cartlidge***

In late 1943, George Frederick Cartlidge, a "joiner"

(carpenter) from Liverpool, England, came to look at the Fiat. A pilot who liked speed and adventure, George loved the car, but owned no house to exchange; luckily the cooler head of his highly educated wife Carrie, prevailed, and they purchased the house instead of the car, moving in with their 12-year-old son just after New Year's 1944 (Star Telegram).

### ***Their Son, Francis Cartlidge***

The Cartlidges had one son, Francis, born in 1931, who attended De Zavala, Daggett, and Paschal, where Aunt Ruby taught him history. Frank was active in ROTC in high school and joined the Navy after graduation (Star Telegram). He served as a Chief Warrant Officer and attained the rank of Corporal.

Francis died at age 40 in San Diego, where he was stationed, in 1971. By then, Carrie had retired from teaching and rented out rooms at 1805 5th Ave. When Carrie died in 1985, the home passed to her nephew, John Mixon, who later sold it to Judy Gaither, who still lives in Fairmount to this day (History Deed Cards).

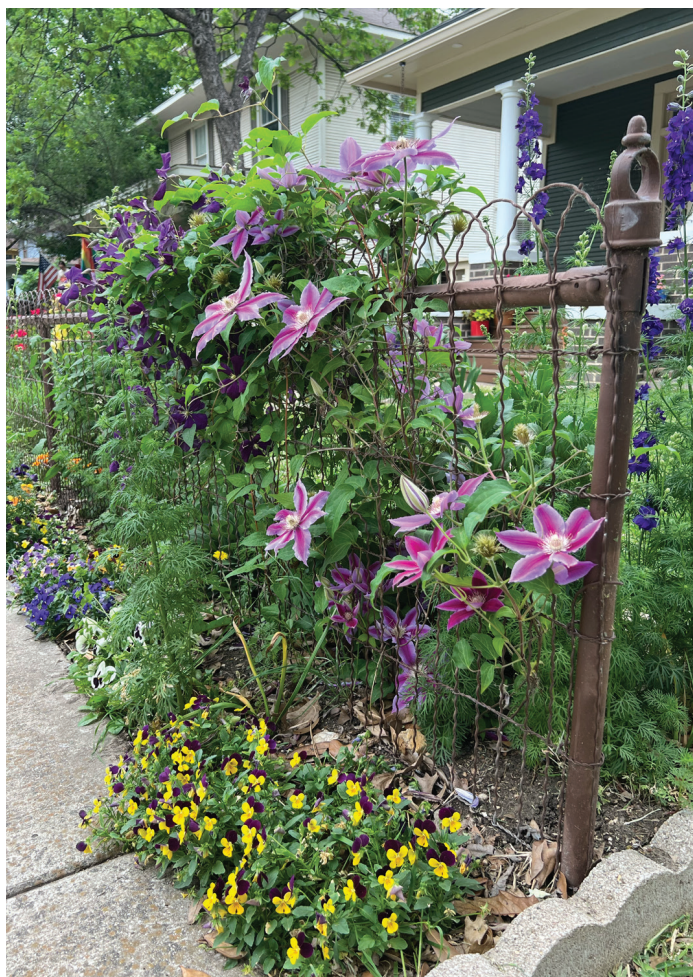


*Front of 1805 5th Avenue, the April 2025 Yard of the Month.*



*1938 Fiat Topolino, "the little grey mouse" model, first enticed the Cartlidge family to 1805 5th Ave. in 1943, when they bought the house instead of the car.*





### ***Restoration and Renewal by the Boyces***

Over the last five years, David and Mary undertook significant work on the 1908 home. They moved out during the pandemic for a complete renovation, although they retained the original claw-foot bathtub where George Cartlidge ended his life. They moved out during the pandemic for a complete renovation, adding more than 1,000 square feet in an extension and attic conversion. 1805 5th, which had been painted white with a green roof for 30 years, is now a pleasing Craftsman green with cream-colored trim.

### ***Mary's Garden Masterpiece***

Mary, a longtime member of the Fairmount Community Garden board, installed low ornamental iron fencing and began planting the front yard with a charming assortment of colorful plants.

Her composition delights with the juxtaposition of royal purple against

orange or gold. Along the driveway, there are dozens of shade-loving ajugas with purple flowers. Trained on the iron fencing are two climbing clematis vines, Dr. Ruppel (in hot pink) and Jackmanii (deep violet). Behind the fencing are roses in light pink and deep fuchsia, alongside yellow and purple irises and delicate spires of blue delphinium.

### ***A Blooming Tribute***

When these early spring flowering beauties have finished, they are replaced with the blooms of feathery yarrow and drought-hardy summer perennials, including half a dozen members of the Salvia family, from the native "Mealy Blue" sage, to Autumn sage in deep coral and pink.

On the steps of the newly rebuilt porch, a dozen planters lining the steps create more pleasing contrasts, such as orange pottery against burgundy and chartreuse coleus, cobalt blue glaze with hot pink petunias, and so on.

The front walk is lined with every possible color of pansy and viola, but especially with the variety known as "Johnny Jump Up" or "Love in Idleness" (viola tricolor). According to Oberon of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the viola, also known as "Heart's Ease," was created when Cupid shot his arrow at a maiden but instead struck and colored a white flower, making it purple and giving it the power to induce love.

The generous sea of violas outside 1805 5th every spring is a fitting tribute to the international paramour George Cartlidge, who finally settled down with a public-minded and educated woman, and became a family man at this address.

### ***A Job Well Done***

The Boyce family has our thanks and a \$30 gift certificate to Calloway's Nursery for their hard work in beautifying Fairmount.





## A New Voice in the Neighborhood: FNA Partners with TCU Strategic Communication

*Pictured above: TCU students at the Campaign Pitch Contest, with the winning teams proudly holding their trophy and wearing medals. The contest featured teams from two TCU Campaign classes that partnered with the Fairmount Neighborhood Association (FNA) this past year. The FNA played an active role by attending a Q&A session and participating in the final Pitch Day. FNA President Andrew Epps and Communications Director Liz Sehon—who also serves as a TCU instructor—helped guide the students in developing strategies to enhance communication throughout the Fairmount neighborhood.*

This issue marks an exciting new chapter for our newsletter—one that brings fresh perspectives and strengthens ties between the community and the university. For the first time, the Fairmount Neighborhood Association has partnered with TCU's Strategic Communications department to give students hands-on experience in community journalism.

As part of their coursework, TCU students have contributed original pictures, captions, and articles that spotlight the people, stories and heritage that make Fairmount unique. These contributions not only showcase promising talent but also reflect the spirit of collaboration that defines our neighborhood.

The following is the winning feature article written by TCU student Zoe Farnsworth.

We're thrilled to welcome these new voices and their contributions.







# The Faces We Forget, The Memories We Inherit: Finding Lost Photos in Fairmount's Old Home Supply Store

*By Zoe Farnsworth | TCU Student and Newsletter Contributor*

There's a certain scent that clings to history—a mix of aged wood, metal and dust—that hits the moment you step inside Fort Worth's Old Home Supply.

I didn't know the past had a smell until I opened the store's heavy, creaking wooden doors.

The floor groans beneath your feet, guiding you through a labyrinth of clawfoot tubs, vintage chandeliers hanging from above, and framed portraits lining the walls like ghostly sentinels.

Across the street, the store's yard art section feels like a sculpture graveyard—pots, birdbaths, and statues rest in quiet disarray.

But most striking are the six large wooden boxes tucked away on a corner bookshelf, each filled with lost and forgotten photographs.

Many of these are family portraits, team photos, snapshots of weddings, and of strangers. Some are labeled. Most are not. All are sepia-toned or black and white, curled at the corners with time. Where did they come from?

Whose lives did they once decorate?

I asked Stasha, an employee perched behind an old-fashioned cash register at the front desk.

"Most of the things here come from estate sales or are brought in by people clearing out homes," she said. "It's sourced from all over the place."

She explained that the photos have no known origin—they are ownerless and untethered. The people in them likely have no idea that their memories now sit quietly in a back room, tucked inside a dusty box.

"We're not out there scavenging for Fairmount-specific photos," she said with a smile, "But I'd say most of them probably come from local homes."

I asked Stasha if there was any catalog of where the photos were sourced and who could possibly be in them. The answer was simple: there's no real system with these sorts of items.

"This store's been open too long, and there are just too many photos to keep track of everything."

Of course, we take inventory, sure—but we've been collecting things for 30 years. There's no way to trace where or who is in the photos."

In a world where every moment can be digitized and stored in the cloud, these photographs stand out. They're remnants of analog lives—unlabeled, unscanned, nearly forgotten. And yet, they remain. Some of these images likely predate the store itself.

There's a quiet poetry in the mystery. These photos—snapshots of birthdays, wartime portraits, wedding days—exist in a liminal space, suspended between memory and obscurity. Wandering the aisles of Old Home Supply feels more like time travel than shopping. Each creak of the floorboards and faded photograph seems to murmur something just beyond reach.

Maybe these memories aren't entirely lost. Perhaps they achieve new immortality through the people who pause, pick them up, and wonder—Who were you? What life did you live?



**Fairmount Neighborhood Association**

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