

## 6 HISTORIC FAIRMOUNT FORT WORTH, TX

### Join Neighbors on The Porch

When urban-core neighborhoods began to decline after World War I, money and energy drained from Fairmount. Things began to look up in the late seventies. Graceful bungalows and American Foursquares attracted renovators to this neighborhood of about 1,400 homes south of downtown. "Fairmount was still a little scary in 2002 when I bought my house, but the porch just reached out and grabbed me," says homeowner Patti Randle. Later, good schools and safe streets attracted parents looking for close-knit neighborhoods. With the help of Fort Worth South Inc., restaurants, shops, and a police substation returned.

"A lot of families come to look at the old homes, but it's the closeness of the neighbors that sells them," says neighborhood association president Robert Wedding. "Families move here for the sense of place and belonging," adds Fran McCarthy, who relocated to Fairmount seven years ago. "Who knew suburban flight would be a round trip?" *historicfairmount.com*



A family-friendly attitude pervades Fairmount.



LEFT: The Old Home Supply House is a perfect fit for Fairmount. It has a little of the old, a little of the new, and a whole lot of character.



Quaint picket fences give Phelps Grove the feel of a small town.



Craftsman bungalows define Phelps Grove.



An old corner grocery store finds new life as a neighborhood restaurant.

## 7 PHELPS GROVE SPRINGFIELD, MO

### Learn in a College Town

"We called this the student ghetto," says Andy Faucett, co-owner of Bambino's, a cafe in Phelps Grove near Missouri State University. Couches on rooftops, weekend parties, and student rental houses made the area near the university seem more frat house than family-friendly. Those in the community for the long haul fought against blight—not with conflict, but with a neighborhood plan that lifted the pride of student renters and homeowners alike. "Everyone is beginning to take responsibility for the neighborhood," says homeowner and neighborhood association president Terry Rowland. "It's about quality of life. After 27 years, we're back to knowing it's all about the people and the porches." *phelpsneighborhood.org*