

Entertainment

Holiday Home Tour

Tour of Homes highlights historic districts

If you've ever wanted a peek inside the fabulous homes of the Highland and Fairfield Historic Districts, an upcoming event will give you the chance, plus a healthy dose of holiday cheer. The Highland Restoration Association's Holiday Tour of Homes will take place 5-9 p.m. Dec. 10 and from 1-5 p.m. Dec. 11. Tickets are \$20 per day, and discounts to HIRA members and two-day package deals are available.

The Saturday night candlelight tour will begin at the Meadows Museum at 2911 Centenary Blvd., where tickets will be sold. Wine will be served, and transportation to the featured homes by mini-buses will depart from there.

Spectators will then visit the workplace of Scarlett Hendricks, Studio 1311, on Louisiana Avenue. Constructed in 1931, this former dry cleaners is now a multi-purpose photographer's space. She and husband Jefferson also live in the Highland neighborhood.

City Councilman Jeff Everson and his wife, Andrea, live in the next stop on the tour. Featuring stately architectural elements, their home had reached a state of disrepair following a fire in the 2000s and was saved from demolition by former Councilman Monty Walford. Now thoroughly restored, the home is soon to be shown on the TV series, "Ghostbreakers."

The next home on the tour is one of Fairfield Historic District's showcase homes, Barret Place, built in 1908 by Lt. Gov. Thomas Charles Barret on property purchased by his father in 1866. The current homeowner has put his own unique touches on the décor of this historical site.

Marty and Mona Williams now own the Hughes House on Robinson Place, which is the next stop. The Mediterranean Revival home was built in 1914 and retains many of its original features, including a beveled leaded-glass front door.

The tour continues to the home of Blake Lee. Built in 1914, this beautiful American foursquare features a double-sided staircase and has recently been placed on the National Registry of Historic Homes.

Pine Wold, the home of Tom Giles and Sherry Kerr, is the last visit on the candlelight tour. Pine Wold was designed by notable local architect Edward F. Neild Sr. when he was largely unknown. Neild went on to be the supervising architect for renovations to the White House.

Sunday afternoon's tour will begin at C&C Electric Company, where tickets will be sold. There will be complimentary coffee, cookies, live music and transportation to the homes by trolley.

The tour begins at the bungalow belonging to Wayne and Gale Simmons. They have remodeled the home, turning it into a showroom for C&C Electric and Lighting, and it is decorated for the holidays for the tour.

The next home on the tour is a craftsman-style house from the early 1900s that has been in only two families

since 1910. Elizabeth Montgomery Arceneaux was born and raised in the home that she and husband Tom restored in 2009. Much of the original floor plan and architecture of the house remains heralding the simple but elegant style of the workmanship of its origins.

Barbara Ramsey owns the next home featured on the tour – a modified foursquare built in 1919. Barbara and her husband purchased the home in 1992 after it had been vacant and neglected for years. "The house is a fine example of the opportunities available in Highland to those willing and able to do the work necessary to capture the essence of a bygone era," touted literature from the sponsoring organization.

Katherine Brandl owns a bungalow on Washington Street that is next on the tour. These smaller but highly functional homes comprise a large part of the Highland Historic District that is southeast of the older Victorian homes of the Fairfield Historic District. Brandl's interpretation of the rehabilitation of her home includes bold colors and eclectic design with a second-floor bathroom that is not to be missed.

Another Neild home is presented next on the tour and is owned by Russell and Susanna Van Norman. The home displays a unique curved staircase and beautiful plaster millwork, along with chandeliers, sconces and fans original to the home.

Sunday's tour ends at 2439 Fairfield, the home of Jimmy Harris. The 1905 Queen Anne Victorian home is decked for the season with a stunning array of sparkling decorations. Harris is only the second owner of this marvelous home, which he purchased in 1988 and repurposed into the bed and breakfast it is today.

Teresa Edgerton Scott, who is president of the board for the Highland Restoration Association, said, "We do the tour for several reasons – we want to highlight the eclectic architecture, and we want people to have a good time." The association has been in existence since 1977 and has steadily presented the tour since its inception. For tickets or more information, visit www.restorehighland.org.

— Noma Fowler-Sandlin

Highland Restoration Association's Holiday Tour of Homes

When: 5-9 p.m. Dec. 10; 1-5 p.m. Dec. 11

Where: Highland and Fairfield Historic Districts

Cost: \$20 per day; discounts and packages available

For more information or tickets, visit www.restorehighland.org or call 221-7629.



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