



*Produced by the Friends of Old Oxnard*

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **Who decides which homes will be on the Tour?**

The AHT Home Selection Chair and Committee have the responsibility of selecting homes each year for the Tour. They solicit suggestions for possible Tour homes, contact homeowners, and after careful review, make the decision by members of the Committee and the Homes chair. Naturally, homeowners must agree to have their homes on the Tour and be comfortable with the idea of hundreds of strangers going through their homes. For the name of the current Home Tour Committee Chairman, see the [Contacts](#) section of the Website.

### **How are the homes selected?**

First the Committee has to have some candidate homes. These are identified by Members' personal knowledge, inquiries by interested homeowners, and suggestions by other neighborhood residents including the prior year's Tour homeowners. Naturally, big, visible restoration or rehabilitation projects tend to draw the attention of the Committee Members. Once a set of candidate homes has been identified, the Home Tour Committee considers a number of factors in making its selection of homes:

- Geographic distribution across the neighborhood
- Variety of architectural styles
- Variety of sizes and configurations of homes
- Ability of the homes to represent the neighborhood to a wide audience
- Willingness of the homeowners to be part of the tour
- Convenience of crowd handling and traffic flow in the homes' interiors
- No repeats on the tour within approximately 5 years

Before the final selection, the Committee Members personally visit the candidate homes and discuss the potential arrangements with the homeowners.

### **Aren't homeowners concerned about all those people coming through their houses?**

Certainly every homeowner on the Tour has a few qualms in this regard. Who wouldn't? However, as they work with the Tour Committee, they find themselves reassured by the careful preparations for the Tour:

- A well-thought-out set of tour rules is published and enforced to protect furnishings and the privacy of the homeowners.
- Trained docents are assigned to every room in the house during the Tour to act as guides and to ensure tour rules are followed
- Traffic flow through the house is carefully planned to minimize confusion and bottlenecks

### **Where does the money from the ticket sales go?**

The *Oxnard Autumn Home Tour* is the primary fund raising activity of the *Friends of Old Oxnard (aka FOO's)*. The FOO's makes donations from the proceeds of the Tour to non-profit community organizations who serve the needs of the neighborhood and the community.

**I'd like to have my home be on the tour. How can I put it into the running?**

Anyone can suggest their home for the Tour. Simply contact the Home Tour Committee Members. See the [Contacts](#) page in the website for details.

**Are all the homes on the tour big, grand mansions?**

Definitely not. While there certainly are some wonderful, larger homes in downtown Oxnard, there are mostly wonderful, smaller homes in the Greater Oxnard Historic area. A well tended and nicely furnished 1200 square foot Craftsman bungalow is just as likely to be selected for the tour as a 3000 square foot larger home. The Committee strives for a balance of larger and small homes for each year's Tour. In fact, one of the common reasons why a home being considered for the Tour may not be selected is to maintain the desired mix of sizes.

**What architectural styles are going to be on this tour?**

Typically, there are Craftsman Style homes (including Bungalows), simply because there are so many in the Henry T. Oxnard National Historic District. Usually, there will be at least one or two Spanish Colonial Revival Style or Colonial Revival Style homes. There are many other styles represented in downtown Oxnard which also might appear on the Tour: Prairie Style, Tudor Revival, Queen Anne Victorian, and so on.

**What homes are on this upcoming tour?**

That's our little secret! The homes on the Tour are revealed the day of the Tour when the Programs are distributed to Tour guests. We'll tell you enough in advance to whet your appetite and suggest the types of homes you'll be seeing.

**I don't live in Oxnard; can I buy tickets by phone or Internet?**

You can purchase tickets on-line directly from this web site. Go to the Tour Information page ([link on the Tour page](#)) and look for the link to On-Line sales. Once there, you can use your regular credit card or PayPal account to pay for tickets. Tickets will be mailed to you if there is enough time before the Tour or will be held at "will call" at the Carnegie Art Museum the day of the Tour. If you prefer not to use a credit card for Internet commerce, you can also print out an order blank and mail it in with a check.

**How many people does it take to put on the tour?**

Lots! Typically each home on the Tour will have 3-5 volunteer guide positions plus one Home Captain. Each guide position is filled by two individuals working in 4 hour shifts. That alone requires upwards of 60 volunteers. Then there are ticket sellers, refreshment hosts, subcommittee chairs, etc., etc. Altogether close to *70 neighborhood and community volunteers* participate to make the Tour a success each year.

**How can I volunteer to help?**

Contact information will be posted on this site for volunteering for the many assignments in making the tour a success. See the [Volunteers page](#) for details.

**Where do the illustrations come from that are used for the Tour Program?**

"F" street resident and artist, June Lawrence has hand drawn the illustrations since the inception of the tour in 1996. The homeowners receive a box of greeting cards with the artwork of their home as a token of thanks from the *Friends of Old Oxnard*.

**When will the date of next year's Tour be announced?**

The date for next year's tour will typically be the fourth Sunday of September.

**Who are the Friends of Old Oxnard?**

The *Friends of Old Oxnard* is the organized group that has put on the Oxnard Autumn Home Tour since 1996. They are residents of the Henry T. Oxnard National Historic District, surrounding Wilson or Hobson East neighborhoods or for that fact any interested individual can be Board Members and to serve on committees or as volunteers. All positions in the *Friends of Old Oxnard* are staffed by volunteers. The *Friends of Old Oxnard* work with the *Oxnard Heritage Foundation* as its parent nonprofit umbrella.