

Holiday tour showcases Alpine homes, history

Ring in the Yule season with the annual Christmas in Alpine Holiday Home Tour!

The opportunity to visit five lovely homes, a 1930s barn that is now home to a church, and Alpine's two Historical Museum houses ---- all wonderfully decorated for the holidays ---- will be held on Sunday, Dec. 7.

The event is also a fund raiser that helps preserve the original Alpine Town Hall, built in 1899, for the community. The Town Hall is currently the home of the Alpine Woman's Club.

"It's now a county historic building, so we have to pay for all the repairs and everything," said Joan Waterworth, a former Woman's Club president who is chairwoman of this year's home tour committee. "We also have a scholarship program."

The scholarship program also will receive money from the home tour through the club's non-profit Scholarship, Preservation and Education Foundation.

So far, more than 170 Alpine high school students have benefitted from more than \$80,000 in scholarships under the program, Waterworth said.

Those taking the tour will have an opportunity to see the gracious Town Hall, where refreshments will be served the day of the tour. There also will be drawings for opportunity prizes as well as a money prize.



Alpine Historical Mesuem



Alpine Women's Club

In addition to the Town Hall, the Alpine Historical Society's two century-old houses will be highlighted on the tour. The holiday décor at the museum houses will include hand-made ornaments, pine cones and lace in the style of pioneer Christmases.

The picturesque barn built in the 1930s and lovingly renovated inside for the Christ Our Saviour Anglican Church will also be decorated for the holiday tour. The congregation held its first church service there on Christmas Eve, 2006.

Yuletide décor reaches new heights at the tour homes of Dona Christensen; Jim and Peggy Easterling; George and Joyce Hill; Patricia Cannon and her husband, Brent, and George and Pat Wood.

The residence of Patricia Cannon, president and chief executive officer of the Alpine & Mountain Empire Chamber of Commerce, will showcase the talents of three local professional floral designers and a gardening center.

The designers are Louise Spiegler and Kathy Matranga of a Country Lady Florist; Jamie Lewis, Alpine Artistic Florist; Lori Fay, Alpine Earth, Wind & Sea Florist, and Laura Harrelson, manager of the new Petunia & Pomegranate.

"We are doing the living room, including the fireplace mantel, with a combination of silk flowers and fresh arrangements," said Spiegler of a Country Lady at 2650 Alpine Blvd.,

Ste. 5. "It's going to be coordinated with her home, so that she will be able to use it through the holidays."

At a Country Lady Florist at 2560 Alpine Blvd., the staff is accustomed to providing gorgeous floral arrangements and decorating homes and offices year-round. That includes buying furniture.

"What we're really zeroing in on is events," Spiegler said. "We love to do weddings, holiday parties, birthday parties and corporate events. We love to decorate the commercial sites for the holidays."

When it comes to decorating an office building or a home at any time, she said, her staff meets first with the owner to put together a portfolio and a budget "and then we order everything."

Lewis of Alpine Artistic Florist at 1730 Alpine Blvd., Ste. 103, will decorate Cannon's connected kitchen and den. Handmade garlands with greens and red and white flowers will make patio entry stand out.

"In the kitchen, I'm going to use some candles, because it's an area where they eat," Lewis said. "I have a surprise decoration for the den."

With customer service a priority and an array of affordable gifts as well as lovely flowers at Alpine Artistic Florist, Lewis said she can design arrangements for customers or provide whatever they specifically want for the year-end holidays and other occasions.

"We can do the traditional red and green or even the winter wonderland décor, using the blue and white and silver colors," she said.

Lots of snow-like flocking is planned by Fay of Alpine Earth, Wind & Sea Florist at 2530 Alpine Blvd., Ste. E, for Cannon's indoor patio.

"It's going to be the winter wonderland," said Fay. "There might be penguins and stuffed animals. I think I'm going to be using the fresh Christmas pine, so they can smell the outdoors. There'll be a lot of different accents."

She has an unusual style and likes to add her flair to any arrangement, including those made from photos brought in by customers.

Fay said Alpine Earth, Wind & Sea Florist will provide her natural, earthy designs in addition to poinsettias, Christmas tree topiaries, and fresh Christmas garlands, swags and wreaths for Yule decor. The shop also offers high-style holiday designs.

The Petunia & Pomegranate gardening center, which opened around the first of November at 2442 Alpine Blvd., will decorate the areas outside the Cannon house.

"We are going to try to bring in some color, and then we want to bring in some containers, just to show what you can do with our containers," Harrelson said. "We're bringing in some of our pansies, because that's an awesome fall plant."

She said a mix of annual and perennial plants also will be used to provide variety at the tour home.

The Petunia & Pomegranate offers landscaping and container potting as well as a broad array of plants and a full gift center. Gift baskets, poinsettias, and a selection of plants and flowers for floral arrangements also are available for the holidays and year round, Harrelson said.

Tickets for the self-guided home tour are now \$25 per person. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

The ticket office at the Town Hall at 2156 Alpine Blvd. will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 29, and Saturday, Dec. 6. On the tour day, the ticket office will open at 9:30 a.m. for the day.

Call (619) 445-5716 or (619) 659-3946 for more information or to request tickets. Mailed ticket requests can be sent to P.O. Box 231, Alpine, CA 91903.



The Wood's Residence