

# POMONA

## Heritage

October 2006

www.pomonaheritage.org

Vol. 22, No. 5

### Home Tour

# Tour To Feature Over 100 Years of Pomona Housing

**H**ome Tour 2006 is almost here! On Sunday, October 15th home tour guests will be treated to a great selection of homes and public buildings spanning over 100 years of Pomona's residential history.

Our selection of homes repre-

sents the broad range of architecture styles. Tour guests will be able to see the development of Pomona's architectural development. You will be able to see an adobe that shares its long low lines with the Modern. You will see a Modern that takes its cue for deep eaves from Craftsman and

Prairie architecture. You will see the roots of the Craftsman in the lines of the Victorian.

Not only do the homes this year represent over 100 years of architecture, they also represent several

*You will see a Modern that takes its cue for deep eaves from Craftsman and Prairie architecture. You will see the roots of the Craftsman in the lines of the Victorian.*



*The 1850 "Casa Alvarado" Adobe, the only historic adobe in Pomona that is in private hands, is juxtaposed against the 1961 modern home representing over 100 years of Pomona's residential development. Both homes, as well as Victorian, Craftsman, and other styles of architecture will be featured on the 22nd Annual Pomona Heritage Home Tour. See additional photos on page 5*

photos by John Clifford



historic districts with two sites in Lincoln Park, one site in Wilton Heights, three sites in the Hacienda District, and one site in what some hope will be another historic district between Town and San Antonio.

In addition to the homes featured on this year's tour, there will be a couple of additional, featured, sites to see and things to do.

Pomona Heritage is excited to be able to, for the second year, offer its tour guests the opportunity to view a great show at the American Museum of Ceramic Art. Located at 340 South Garey in downtown Pomona,

*continued on page 5*

# Pomona Gets Good Press! Home Tour On Track

by Michael Schowalter

**G**reetings Pomona Heritage!  
It's Sunday evening and what a day to be writing when there were 3 positive articles about Pomona in the *LA Times* and *Daily Bulletin* today!

First was the *Bulletin* with a great article on the home tour. It talked about the tour and the diversity of homes in Pomona and our 3 Historic Districts. It's always great to get some good press to help boost ticket sales!

Second, what are the chances that the *LA Times* would run a terrific article on Lincoln Park titled "Lincoln Park's Wealth Lies in its History" on the same day? This article sings the praises of the neighborhood and compares us to Pasadena. "Lincoln Park rivals historic neighborhoods in Pasadena, but prices for these architectural treasures are considerably less."

Finally, there was a second article in the *Bulletin*, in the Real Estate section about a Historic House Tour today, which was held by local Realtors. The idea was to give home buyers the chance to see a number of homes on the same day, So 16 different homes held open houses. While the story was about the event there was historical info on the area and a great quote about getting more home for your money in Pomona than in Pasadena.

Could we possibly be turning a corner and could it be that people are finally getting the message that Pomona is a great place to live? I hope so. This town has a great story to tell and while I know I'm preaching to the choir, it's our job to help get the word out. So Bravo Pomona on a great Sunday in the press. It's about time.

It is also important that I revisit the topic of the 2006 Home Tour on Sunday 10/15, with the Dinner

Tour the night before. This is our major fund raiser of the year and we need everyone's support, be it as a member of the planning committee, a docent or volunteer the day of the tour, or just making sure you sell the tickets that have been sent to you.

Proceeds from the tour go to support our annual Home Restoration Grant program which this year generated a lot of interest since we raised the top award to \$2500. The judges will review the projects in November with the winners to be announced at the Christmas Progressive Dinner. Goal luck to all who applied!

So I look forward to seeing you all on Tour Day. Deb Clifford and her Committee have been working hard and it is shaping up to be a great tour!

PS: If any of you have any influence with the weather, it sure would be nice not to have a soggy tour day!

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## Welcome New Members

**T**he following are new members to Pomona Heritage who have joined since the last newsletter. We are pleased to welcome them to the Pomona Heritage family.

Maria Bell  
Antonia Brookshire  
Cynthia Guerra  
Bennett McClellan  
Maria Redinger  
Jan Singleton  
Don Stotts  
Freddie, Winston & Bertha Stokes



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# Tessiers Step Forward With Bid To Save Fox!

by John Clifford

Long-time Pomona Heritage members and preservation-minded developers of the downtown Pomona Arts Colony, the Tessier family has stepped forward in an effort to develop the long vacant Pomona Fox theater as an entertainment venue. Working with the Pomona Fox Corporation, a citi-

events such as small trade shows, filming and television production, corporate events, educational events, film festivals and special screenings, among others.

According to the family, the decision to acquire the Fox came from Tessier patriarch, Victor Tessier, who had worked on earlier efforts, during the 1970s, for the creation of

a Pomona Civic Auditorium in the Fox. He called a family meeting and suggested that since the city seemed stalled in any redevelopment plans for the site, that they should see if it might be possible to make a go of it. Since the Tessiers already have an entertain-

ment tenant at the Glass House downtown, they sought the advice of the Tollett Brothers regarding how best to approach the Fox project. At the behest of Pomona Fox Corporation Trustee, John Clifford, they also met with Thaddeus Smith of Hollywood's highly successful Music Box at the Henry Fonda Theater, who became an invaluable source of marketing and economic information.

From their initial fact-finding, they realized that the best way to make the Fox a success would be to take the multiple use approach, favored by the Pomona Fox Corp. Neither films by themselves, nor concerts by themselves would generate the kind of revenue required for a quality project.

In speaking to the Fox Corp board of trustees, which includes several Pomona Heritage members, the Tessiers stressed a desire to have an active, working relationship with both the preservation community and the

entire community at large.

Pomona Heritage encourages the city and the Tessiers to work out a deal which will see the Fox restored to become, once again, the cultural centerpiece of the downtown and the entire city.

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## City Council Seeks Board Members and Commissioners

*From the City of Pomona eNewsletter*

If you have a strong interest in the community and you have the generosity to give of your time, why not apply to serve on one of the City's Boards or Commissions? Commissioners and Board Members have an opportunity to make a difference in the community by providing recommendations to the City Council. Commissioners serve on a volunteer basis and are appointed by the City Council. Anyone who is a resident of Pomona and is interested in serving on a Commission may obtain an application from the City Clerk's Office.

The City of Pomona is seeking individuals with a strong interest in the community to be considered for the following vacancies or reappointments in December 2006:

- Four (4) openings on the Community Life Commission.
- Four (4) openings on the Cultural Arts Commission.
- Four (4) openings on the Historic Preservation Commission.
- Four (4) openings on the Library Board of Trustees.
- Four (4) openings on the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Four (4) openings on the Planning Commission.
- Four (4) openings on the Vehicle Parking District Commission.

For further information about Commission or Board openings, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 909-620-2341.



*The 1931 Grand Opening of the Pomona Fox Theater*

*Archive photo*

zen-based non-profit organization originally set up by the Pomona City Council, the Tessiers have promised an historically sensitive renovation (using Secretary of the Interior guidelines) of the 1931 National Register Historic Landmark theater.

An offer is currently being developed between the Tessiers and the city of Pomona. While details of the offer have not been finalized, the parties are working together to develop a plan that will benefit the city, while making the project economically viable. The Tessiers have explained that, while it is in their interest, as major property owners in the downtown, to see a quality project go into the Fox, they cannot fully subsidize such a venue and it will need to be self sufficient.

Preliminary plans, not yet finalized, include a mixed use project which could accommodate large scale events such as concerts and productions, as well as smaller scale



## Historic Pomona Masonic Center To Be Site Of 2006 Pomona Heritage Home Tour Gala

This year's Home Tour Festivities kick off with the Preview Tour and Gala on Saturday, October 14th. Ticket holders will meet at Lincoln Park to pick up their programs, docent notes, and maps at 3:00. This preview of the homes makes them available for about a half an hour, each in succession, finishing with this year's Gala which will be held at the Pomona Masonic Center on Thomas Street in Downtown Pomona. Cocktails will be served from 6:30 until 7:30.

During the cocktail hour people will be able to take self directed tours of this historic facility. Members of the Masons will be available around the building to answer questions and help explain some of the history of this remarkable building.

In addition, guests will be entertained by Patti Amolette, playing the hammer dulcimer. Many may remember her from last year's Gala.

Dinner is being catered by Victor Sandoval, Chef and owner of 2nd Street Bistro. Attendees will have a choice of chicken, rib eye steak or a chef's choice vegetarian dish. Home Tour committee members will add a

festive air to the Masonic with centerpieces provided by Irises, architectural pieces and plants provided by The Garden, and candlelight. Tickets are available by calling Joan McIntire at (909) 629-4279.

### Membership

## Pomona Heritage To Change Annual Due Dates

by Scott Thomas, Membership Chairman

Pomona Heritage seeks to upgrade its Merchant Discount Program by changing the membership due date to January for all members. This change will also simply membership tracking as our organization grows its membership.

With this change, an annual membership card will be sent to all paid members. This card will identify the members and the current year of membership. The card can be displayed to participating merchants for

special offers and discounts.

To make the adjustment, current members with dues paid into 2007 will received a prorated adjustment for the 2007 dues. Please check your December newsletter label for the amount due in January. We are also seeking recommendations for merchants to participate in the discount program. If you know of a merchant that may be willing to participate, please contact Scott or Debby Thomas at 620-6780.





Home Tour *from page 1*  
 the museum's current exhibition is on dinnerware of the Gladding McBean company from 1930 to 1950. This exhibition will be of special interest to history buffs and those who collect American pottery. Admission to the museum is free to all Home

Tour ticket holders. In addition to experiencing the exhibit, a special book signing by James Eliot-Bishop, author of *Franciscan, Catalina and Other Gladding McBean Wares* and *Franciscan Hand Decorated and Embossed Dinnerware* all included in the price of the tour.



This year we will have displays and information from community groups, but we will have no merchants or food vendors in the park. By special arrangement, the 2nd Street Bistro, 171 W. Second St., in downtown Pomona is opening its doors on this normally closed Sunday with a special Home Tour lunch menu from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

On the day of the tour tickets will be available at the park starting at 10:30. All persons holding pre-sale tickets must come to the park to have their tickets validated, and receive their programs and maps. Homes will be open for fully-documented tours beginning at 11:00 am until 5:00 pm.

Coffee and rolls available from 10:30 until 12:00.

# City Stables In Jeopardy, Pre-1945 Homes Slated For Demolition

by John Clifford

At the special study session on August 16 of the commission, commissioner Tad Decker asked for a report on the National Register Historic Landmark Pomona City Stables which he noted are in a condition of deterioration. A report was made at the next regular meeting of September 6, which stated that the city had no plans, nor funds allocated for work on the Stables.

Commissioner Decker noted that



if the structure were in private hands that it would be cited by code compliance as there is a requirement that historic structures be kept in good, safe, condition. It was also noted that the Stables continue to deteriorate, with a leaking roof, and that the structure has been deemed unsafe and is in serious danger of collapse.

City staff suggested that perhaps the preservation community, Pomona Heritage, and the Historical Society of Pomona Valley, might be recruited to assist with fundraising or donated labor to help stabilize the building.

According to Historical Society president Mickey Gallivan, who was instrumental in the designation of the Stables and continues to monitor their condition, previous offers to work on the Stable have been rebuffed by the city due to liability issues.

The current condition of the Stables is at odds with the stated goals of the Pomona Historical Preservation Ordinance which states: "The purpose

of this section is to preserve the City of Pomona's cultural, historical, and architectural heritage and resources as living parts of community life which will benefit and enrich the lives of its present and future residents." It goes on to state: "This section shall apply to all designated Historic Landmarks on private and public property, and to all designated Historic Districts (which may include private and public property) within the City of Pomona." (Section 2a and 2b, City of Pomona Ordinance No. 3871)

While we clearly understand that the city has a lot of top priority issues, we question how the city can function at all when they cannot even provide basic maintenance (we're not talking restoration) on their own property.

We hope that the city will recognize the importance of the Stables and do something to bring them into, at the very least, conformance with their own codes. If the city needs our help, both Pomona Heritage and the Historical Society stand ready to do whatever we can. The ball is in the city's court.

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**DEMOLITIONS:** Once again the Pomona Historic Preservation Commission will face the challenge of deciding whether or not to allow the demolition of pre-1945 structures for the sake of apartment and condominium development. With pressure to increase population density within the city, sites with small, older homes on medium to large lots are the targets for development.

One of the primary areas where we're seeing this played out in Pomona is in the area south of Mission Boulevard, south to 9th Street. Many of the properties in this area are long and narrow, with the narrow portion facing the street. These usually have one or more structures which

were probably small family farms (some of the structures include poultry sheds). Some of these properties had additional rental units built after the war with a driveway paved from the street. These are usually referred to as "flag lots" as the houses "fly" from the straight driveway at one side of the property line.

While not usually of particularly great architecture, these flag lots are examples of the way that the city has developed over the years. As city property disappeared through development, these uniquely shaped lots were re-developed, piecemeal, in unique ways. As the properties are razed for new development, that portion of the city's expansion is disappearing. In this past year, six pre-1945 units on Reservoir were approved for demolition to make way for a 9-unit condo project. In November, another pre-1945 home at 1390 Palomares and two at 1074 San Antonio will be considered for demolition as well.

As preservationists, we are often characterized as being anti-development and a roadblock to needed new construction and modernization.

However, what are the actual costs to our history, sense of community, and quality of life? Quality of life is enhanced by a sense of community. Community is enhanced by a sense of a common, shared history. New development is often said to be "devoid of soul." Is it "soul" or is it just devoid of these quality of life issues?

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**HOUSES AVAILABLE TO BE MOVED:** Due to the project plan described above, the City of Pomona and the developers, are offering these pre-1945 structures free to anyone who will move them from their current locations. Unfortunately, the city has no property designated where

*continued on page 7*



# Haunted Mansion - Premature Burial In October of 2006

The Phillips will again be opened to explore one of the most frightening Victorian themes -- premature burial. The Historical Society of Pomona Valley,

Valley's office in the Pomona Ebell Museum of History.

For more information on this exciting and terrifying event you can visit [premature-burial.com](http://premature-burial.com)



**Location:**

The event will be held at the Phillips Mansion. For the last 132 years it has remained at 2640 Pomona Blvd. in Pomona, CA. The Mansion is between Humane Way and Temple Ave. It is not easy to find.

The Phillips Mansion is the only remaining "Second Empire"

Architecture or Classic Haunted Mansion style house remaining in Southern California.

Tickets include group guided tours into the world of Premature Burial, a scary maze, and "other" items.



The experience is based on actual history, that you will never be able to forget. Additional information can be gotten by emailing [Info@Premature-Burial.com](mailto:Info@Premature-Burial.com)

Funds from the event are used for historical restoration and educational projects of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley, a non-profit organization.

# Thanks To Our Special Sponsors

Pomona Heritage wishes to extend a special thank you to those who made our 2005 Sponsorship program such a success. We have grouped donors under a variety of headings based on their contribution levels.

Wish to become a Pomona Heritage Special Sponsor? Sponsorship by companies or individuals at all levels are greatly appreciated.

Benefits at the sponsorship levels include invitations to all Pomona Heritage events, tickets to the home tour, special discounts, listing in all Pomona Heritage publications—including the newsletter, and other special consideration for upcoming events. For more information on Sponsorship, please write to [membership@pomonaheritage.org](mailto:membership@pomonaheritage.org) or [president@pomonaheritage.org](mailto:president@pomonaheritage.org).

**Historic District Level: \$2500 +**

Fairplex

**Citrus Grove Level: \$1000 +**

Display Tech Exhibits

**Ranchero Level: \$500 +**

Laura and Greg Estel/  
Greg's Refrigeration

**Pioneer Level: \$250 +**

Jeved Management

Commission *from page 6*

they might be moved to, nor is there any assistance available for moving these homes. Pomona Heritage urges the city to consider finding suitable lots within the city where such structures may be moved. We further suggest that when individuals step forward with moving plans for such structures that the developers be required to pay, at least, the amount that they would have paid for demolition toward moving costs. This would result in a win-win situation where a structure would be preserved and no additional costs would be incurred by the developer.

Pomona Heritage's sister organization, is, once again, opening the National Register Landmark Phillips Mansion for Halloween revelers.

With the premature burial theme, the Historical Society promises that "You will find yourself in the middle of a Victorian nightmare worse than death itself." Edgar Allen Poe himself felt this truth was more horrifying than fiction.



It would be a grave error to prematurely think of this event as being

an "Ordinary Halloween Haunted House."

You can join the undead on: October 20 & 21 (6:30-11:00 PM) for the price of \$15, or on October 27 & 28 (6:30-11:00 PM) for \$18. There is a \$2.00 discount on all presale tickets. Tickets can be purchased in Pomona at The Garden, Frantz Cleaners or at the Historical Society of Pomona



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### Special Note Upcoming Events

**Saturday, October 14:** Home Tour  
Preview Tour and Gala.

**Sunday, October 15:** HOME TOUR

**Sat-Sun, October 20-21, 27-28:**  
Historical Society Haunted Philips  
Mansion

**Tuesday, October 31:** HAPPY HAL-  
LOWEEN

**Tuesday, November 7:** Pomona Heri-  
tage Board of Directors meet at the  
home of Dan and Joan McIntire. 7:30

**Tuesday, November 7:** Election Day,  
Don't forget to VOTE!

**Saturday, December 2:** Holiday Pro-  
gressive Dinner

DON'T FORGET: *Pomona Heritage HOME TOUR*  
Sunday, October 15

# JOIN POMONA HERITAGE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Complete and return with membership dues to:

Pomona Heritage  
P.O. Box 2813

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or use PayPal to renew from our web site at: [www.pomonaheritage.org](http://www.pomonaheritage.org)

Benefits: Newsletter • Merchant Discounts • Special Events • Guest Speakers • Grant Program

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 Heritage \$100  Friend \$50  Family \$30  Individual \$25  Student/Senior \$20

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) Daytime: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

eMail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests: I am interested in helping as:  Docent  Guest Speaker  Misc. Volunteer  
 Committee Member  Having My Home on Tour  Membership