

STROLL *THROUGH* HISTORY

WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

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STROLL THROUGH HISTORY ANNOUNCES 2011 EVENTS

On Saturday, September 10th Woodland Stroll Through History will return to the 1880s for its 23rd year with a Heritage Homes Tour of five Victorian residences and a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Woodland Train Depot. Besides the ticketed tour of residential interiors, strollers are also offered two air-conditioned bus tours as well as the traditional choices of free neighborhood walking and bicycle tours, or self-guided tours of landmark buildings.

Heritage Plaza, located at 2nd and Main Streets in front of the Opera House, will be the information center for ticket sales and the starting place for finding information about an assortment of walking, biking, and bus tours that will explore Woodland's historic areas. Events will be scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Heritage Homes Tour is a highly anticipated feature of each year's Stroll. Docents will be costumed in clothes authentic to the period of each home. Vintage automobiles and strolling entertainment will be located at the homes and throughout the area. The homes tour will be open from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and can be visited in any order.

A highlight of the Heritage Homes Tour is the residence known as Roselawn located on Gibson Road near the Gibson House Museum. Costumed docents will explain the unique features of this home.

Also on this year's tour are four Victorian era homes clustered in the historic neighborhood near the intersection of College and Cross streets. Included in this group is the original Stroll Through History house opened to the public specifically for the purpose of celebrating Woodland architecture in 1988.

The day will also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Woodland Train Depot. . The Depot will be open for free tours during the day. The Depot building was moved to its present site in the Historic District and is gradually being restored by local volunteers as funding becomes available. Mike Adams, president of the Sacramento Valley Historic Railways Association, is enthusiastic about the 100th anniversary of the Depot.

“We have just received permission to start holding events and are looking forward to hosting community activities,” he said. The Depot received a \$10,000 grant from the Stroll Through History in 2006 to assist with restoration of a handicapped accessible restroom. “We are still spending that money,” Mike said as he shows off the progress being made. “Most of the heavy work like restoration of the chimney supports has already been finished.” Additional construction will be financed by Woodland Redevelopment Funds.

A series of different guided tours will provide opportunities to learn about historic Woodland residential neighborhoods. Tours lasting approximately one hour will leave from either Heritage Plaza or First & Cross Streets every half hour from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For those who don't want to walk so far, guided bus tours will leave the Plaza at 1:00 and at 3:00 p.m. One bus tour will cover the south side of town and one bus tour will cover the neighborhoods to the north. Those who bring their own bicycles and a helmet will have an additional choice of bicycle guided tours scheduled for 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. All terrain is flat and family participation is encouraged. Each tour will cover different aspects of Woodland architecture and significant neighborhood features.

The Stroll will add a new walking tour of the 37-acre National Register of Historic Places Downtown Woodland Historic District to highlight the 58 historic buildings in the District as part of the celebration of the 140th year of Woodland's founding in 1871. This year will feature buildings once used as movie theaters.

“A special tour would be fantastic,” said Cindy Norris, senior planner for the city of Woodland. “We have a nationally registered district that we should be proud of. It is the city's goal that residential and commercial historic structures are the heart and jewel of our town. The city wants to help and encourage vitality in this area as a key goal,” she said. “The city's general plan policy is to encourage preservation.”

Many Stroll Day events in the Downtown Historic District will continue to be free as in prior years. Maps will be available for self-guided tours of designated landmark buildings. The Stroll Committee is partnering with the recently incorporated nonprofit Historic Woodland Downtown Association who will manage the Main Street entertainment, vendor street fair, and downtown exhibits portion of the festival. Many downtown restaurants will be open.

Additional information and tickets are available on the strollthroughhistory.com website. Carolyn Van Hoecke is president of the Stroll Through History and can be reached at vanhoeckec@gmail.com or 666-6972.