

PRESS RELEASE

Martinez Historical Society

**PO Box 14 (1005 Escobar Street)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Martinez Home Tour

MARTINEZ – On Saturday, October 12th, experience the rich fabric of local history and residential architecture in Martinez by attending the 7th annual Historical Home Tour sponsored by the Martinez Historical Society. Take a tour of six or more private homes representing the historic home styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Martinez.

The tour begins at the Shell Club House with its intact Craftsman Era interior and the adjacent Shell Oil Museum – both located at 1635 Pacheco Boulevard. The tour includes the 1890 Borland House, a Carpenter Gothic structure which is the home of the Martinez Museum. It also includes John Muir's 1882 Italianate Victorian mansion and the 1849 Martinez Adobe.

Also, on the tour this is year is the First Congressional Church of Martinez with its symbolic stained glass windows. The most prominent is the Rose Window which is found over the altar. The Church was established in 1874.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door the day of the event. Tickets can be purchased with cash or check from Char's Flowers (635 Main Street), Romain's Jewelry (510 Center Avenue), Bagel Street Café (580 Center Avenue), The UPS Store (the Lucky Shopping Center) and I've Been Framed (411 Ferry Street). For purchases via credit card, please go to [Eventbrite](http://www.martinezhometour2013.eventbrite.com) (www.martinezhometour2013.eventbrite.com).

Proceeds from the Tour will benefit the Historical Society's effort to restore and reopen the Old Train Depot in downtown Martinez. Portions of the Depot date back to 1877.

The Tour is self-paced. You can drive the Tour route, or utilize the free shuttle service that will be provided, with bus departures approximately every 10 minutes. Tour guides on the bus will entertain you with stories of Martinez and its history.

You may wish to walk the tour and enjoy the quaint neighborhoods where the homes are located. You will also be able to visit with the Docents and learn more about each home. Enjoy the various demonstrations and music provided. You should allow approximately two (2) hours to completely experience the Tour event.

The Tour will take place rain or shine. Tour hours are from 10 am to 4 pm. Wear comfortable shoes.

For more information, please visit the Tour [website](http://www.MartinezHomeTour.com) (www.MartinezHomeTour.com). While you are at the website, enjoy viewing photos of the homes which were on past tours.

No children under 12 years of age (infants may be carried in arms or belly carrier). Due to the period of the homes, they are not wheelchair accessible. We regret that taking pictures is not allowed inside the homes.

A special thanks to the Tour's [sponsors](#). These are the gold sponsors:

- Shell Martinez Refinery
- S and S Supplies & Solutions
- Cole Real Estate

And these are the Tour's bronze [sponsors](#):

- Shell Chemical Company
- Allied Waste Services
- Hagin's Automotive
- Shell Western States FCU
- Wendt Heat & Air
- RemodelMe
- Bay Alarm Company
- State Farm Insurance Agent Mark Woodard
- Dolan's Lumber, Doors & Windows
- The City of Martinez

See photos below. Contact Janie Mori at morijane@yahoo.com for additional information or photos. You can also visit the [website](http://www.MartinezHomeTour.com): www.MartinezHomeTour.com



This historic home is replete with a wide array of wonderful Spanish Revival details: art tile, Moorish windows, stucco garden walls, arches, ornamental iron work and more.



This Colonial Revival home is entered via a classic portico supported by two columns.



In addition to the private homes, this beautiful Spanish Revival church (1st Congregational) will be a bonus stop on the Home Tour.



The Martinez Home Tour begins at the Shell Clubhouse which is located at 1635 Pacheco Boulevard on the edge of downtown Martinez. The Clubhouse still retains its 1937 Craftsman interior, original woodwork (including ceiling beams, paneling and decorative details), light fixtures and hardware.



The Shell Oil Museum is located near the Shell Clubhouse in Martinez. The Museum depicts the history of oil refining in Martinez -- beginning with the construction of the Shell Refinery in 1915. The Museum is staffed by docents who are retired Shell employees.



The Borland House is the location of the Martinez Museum which is operated by the Martinez Historical Society. The Borland Home will welcome visitors from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, October 12th, the day of the Martinez Home Tour.



When he wasn't trekking through his beloved Sierra Nevadas or when he wasn't visiting other wilderness areas, John Muir lived in this Martinez mansion from 1890 until his death in 1914.



The Martinez Adobe is one of the small number of structures in California dating back to Statehood and beyond. Constructed circa 1849, the building has been seismically retrofitted, and should now last the ages. It is currently displaying the first full scale exhibit on the historic de Anza Trail.