



ORANGE PRESERVES

Spring 2024

REFLECTIONS



By Ron Boice | *President, OTPA*

I was one of the street fighters who, 38 years ago, formed the Old Towne Preservation Association to halt the demolition of historic homes.

It was OTPA who petitioned the State of California to designate Old Towne as a Residential Historic District, the largest in the state.

Old Towne's charm is found in the more than 1400 homes built before 1941. This rich tapestry of side-by-side historic homes is why our home values are so high.

OTPA's mission is to protect and preserve Old Towne's historic heritage.

Our Preservation Committee covers City Council, Design Review Committee, Planning Commission and Code Enforcement meetings, speaking up on projects contrary to the Historic Preservation Design Standards. These are the City's regulations and codes regarding our Historic Districts, and keep Old Towne a rare pocket of yesterday's charm.

Old Towne enjoys high property values, our kids go to quality schools, our streets are safe, and we walk and dine around a charming Plaza.

I pledge that OTPA will work to keep it that way.



PRESERVATION AWARDS GALA



SET FOR MAY 19TH

OTPA's Annual Preservation Awards Garden Party & Dinner event returns to The Woman's Club promising a delightful Sunday evening of neighborhood fun, food and recognition.

It's always a full house and the Garden Party features music, cocktails, and a fun hour of mixing and mingling with City officials, civic leaders and neighbors. Door prizes offer an amazing collection of theme baskets including Travel and Plaza Dining.

"For 27 years, OTPA has honored and thanked home and business owners for improvements to their properties," said Brandy Romero, gala chair.

**RECOGNITION IS MADE IN NINE CATEGORIES.
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS.**

Judging chair Carol Fox encouraged residents to nominate their own improvements or a neighbor's. Nomination deadline is April 2 and can be submitted online at otpa.org. Judging will be April 6 and honorees will be announced at the May 19 gala.

**TICKETS OR TABLES MAY BE PURCHASED
ONLINE NOW AT OTPA.ORG**



SPRING 2024 EVENT CALENDAR



OTPA'S 9th ANNUAL STATE OF OLD TOWNE FORUM

6:00 pm • Thursday, April 25, 2024
City Hall Council Chambers



Come hear Mayor Dan Slater, Mayor Pro-Tem Arianna Barrios, City Manager Tom Kisela and Police Chief Dan Adams discuss the big issues facing Old Towne. Free and open to the public.

RSVP ONLINE NOW at otpa.org

OTPA'S 27th ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS GARDEN PARTY & DINNER GALA

5:30 pm • Sunday, May 19, 2024
The Woman's Club of Orange



Enjoy a fun evening with friends and neighbors honoring significant improvements to Old Towne homes and buildings.

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE NOW at otpa.org

OTPA ON-THE-ROAD DISCOVERY TOUR

10:00 am – 2:30 pm • Saturday, July 13, 2024



Our luxury bus leaves City Hall parking lot for a fascinating visit to the legendary Gamble House in Pasadena, the iconic 1909 American Craftsman summer home of the Gamble family of Proctor & Gamble. Afterwards, we'll have lunch in Pasadena's historic Old Town.

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE NOW at otpa.org

OTPA AT THE INTERNATIONAL STREET FAIR

Friday • August 30 – Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024

Yep, we'll be back on Irish Street offering those delicious Bangers, cold Guinness and a swinging Irish band. Come dine and dance!

OTPA'S 2024 CANDIDATE FORUM

6:00 pm • Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024



Candidates for Mayor and City Council discuss the issues impacting Old Towne and all of Orange. It is important for members and non-members alike to come out, stay informed, and show support for our great city.

OTPA'S 6th ANNUAL HAUNTED HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST



Judging 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm • Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024

Spook up your home or business in the Historic District for Halloween fun. The Judges will decide the best in categories of Creepy Street, Orange & Black, Horror House and Spirit of Old Towne. (categories subject to change)



2023 Best Theme Winner, 314 East Maple

OTPA'S 5th ANNUAL ART OF WINE GALA

5:00 pm • Saturday • Nov. 16, 2024
Hilbert Museum of California Art



Enjoy the best in California boutique wines, and help fund the Anne Siebert Preservation Scholarships.

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE NOW at otpa.org

OTPA'S 37th ANNUAL HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Judging 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm • Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024

Old Towne loves to decorate for the holidays, and OTPA loves to recognize the best in categories of Most Beautiful, Most Old Fashioned, Best Use of Lights, Most Original, Most Whimsical, Best Block, Most Festive (Commercial), and Honorable Mention. (categories subject to change)



OTPA Board at its 2024 Planning Retreat.

2024 OTPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Rob Boice
Vice President Diana Zdenek
Past President Sandy Quinn
Treasurer Meg Shields
Secretary Jim Karras

Carrie Frisby, Membership
Robert Paul, Fund Development
Garrett Smith, Special Events
Will Hare, Education & Research

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Long Duong, Preservation
Brandy Romero, Community Involvement

Carol Craig Mark Wallace
Wil Dee Mignon Whitaker
Brian Lochrie John Zimmerman
Tita Smith

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE MILLS ACT:



What does it do?

Adopted by the California Legislature in 1976, the Mills Act gives local governments the authority to give property tax relief to owners of qualified historic properties in exchange for preserving and maintaining the property in accordance with specific historic preservation standards.

What are the key elements?

- It's completely voluntary.
- Must be a historically qualified property.
- Mills Act tax assessment is transferable to subsequent owners.
- It is a contractual agreement with the City.
- Contract is for ten years and is automatically renewed yearly thereafter, unless terminated by the owner or the City.
- Historic homes and commercial properties are eligible.

How do I sign up?

Since the City of Orange participates in the Mills Act, applicants can find out if they qualify by contacting the City's Community Development office at 300 E. Chapman Ave., Orange, CA 92866. 714/744-7220 or online at cityoforange.mills.act.

DRESS UP YOUR FRONT DOOR!

with an impressive brass plaque identifying the year your historic property was built and the first owner's name. TO ORDER go online to www.otpa.org/otpa-plaques-info.html.



Make a nomination at otpa.org

SWEET, SWEET ORANGE AWARD

For exceptional preservation, restoration or rehabilitation/adaptive reuse of a building. Best in Show!

PRESERVATION AWARD

For outstanding preservation of a building. Includes repairs, paint, and appropriate upgrades to electrical, plumbing and structural systems.

RESTORATION AWARD

For outstanding restoration of a building. Includes incorporating research to discover historic elements in order to remove inappropriate changes and additions, and/or to reconstruct missing historic elements.

ADAPTIVE REUSE AWARD

For outstanding adaptive reuse of a building. Includes converting to a compatible use for the property, through repair, alterations and additions while preserving character defining features.

THE PITCHER PARK AWARD

For outstanding landscape or garden enhancement on an historic site in Old Towne.

THE GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

Recognizes a new structure, or a non-contributing in-fill project, that is sympathetic in design as well as materials that demonstrates outstanding compatibility and harmony with neighboring historic structures

THE SPECIAL MERIT AWARD

Is given to a person, group, program, process or building that has contributed to preservation in Old Towne.

THE SPIRIT OF OLD TOWNE AWARD

Is given to a person or group who has contributed most to the mission of OTPA, which is to preserve and enhance the unique Old Towne Orange area through education, communication and community involvement.

DALE RAHN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is given to an individual who demonstrates a commitment to Old Towne Orange by volunteering their time in various community programs and concerns to support the goals of OTPA.



OLD TOWNE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

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www.otpa.org

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FOOTNOTES



PODCAST PLANS

OTPA will soon introduce a series of video and audio podcasts. Our inaugural podcast will feature OTPA founders Russ Barrios, Rob Boice, Dale Rahn and Tita Smith offering first hand accounts of how Old Towne's historic homes were saved from demolition, how OTPA was formed, and the Historic District was created.



OTPA FOUNDERS (l to r) Russ Barrios, Rob Boice, Tita Smith and Dale Rahn rally support in 1986 to save Old Towne.

ANNE SIEBERT SCHOLARSHIPS

Anne Siebert was one of Old Towne's preservation pioneers helping to establish the Residential Historic District. OTPA has pledged funds to provide interns to the Office of the Mayor and Office of the District One Council member to assist with preservation projects.

MEETINGS WITH CITY STAFF

OTPA meets monthly with members of the City's Community Development and Code Enforcement staff to review violations of the Design Review Standards. Frequent violations include vinyl fences, solar panels visible from the street and artificial grass in front yards, unpermitted work, to name a few. Design Standards are available online at City of Orange Historic Design Review Standards.



WANT BACKGROUND ON YOUR HOME? CHECK OUT THE HISTORY CENTER!

The History Center at the Orange Public Library is an incredible resource for information on your home or business property and the development of Old Towne and Orange, dating back to the early Spanish ranchos.

Archivist Aida Cuevas says the special interest is on the citrus industry, historic local businesses, architecture, civic and religious organizations, city agencies, and the people of Orange.

Materials from 1871 through today include books, periodicals, photos, manuscripts and maps.

Location: **Main library, 407 E. Chapman Ave.**
For info: **714/288-2465** or history@cityoforange.org