

**Anoka County Historical Society
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Anoka's Oakwood Neighborhood Featured on Heritage Home and Garden Tour

Tickets are on sale now for the July 11 Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour, offered by the Anoka County Historical Society, and may be purchased by phoning 763-421-0600. An annual summer tradition, the Home and Garden Tour features historic homes and beautiful gardens in Anoka's Oakwood neighborhood. The tour runs from 1:00pm to 5:00pm and tickets to the event cost \$15. The open house format and the fact that the homes are in close proximity to one another enables ticket holders to visit roughly a dozen homes and gardens during the event. Volunteer tour guides will be on hand to share information about the homes and the people who have lived there.

The homes on the tour were built in the middle of the last century, when Anoka was still a small town. The farmland on the edge of town, along the Mississippi River, was purchased and sold off in smaller units to be developed into upscale housing. All homes built on river lots in Schmidt's First Addition needed to be valued at \$7,500 or more, according to a 1939 covenant contract to land purchasers. They are architecturally beautiful, and rich in local history. Many were owned by affluent Anoka businessmen and prominent entrepreneurs, like Roy Carlson, co-founder of Main Motors. The neighborhood has always been friendly, and was known in the 1950's and '60's for its lavish dinner parties.

Local businesses will offer raffle prizes to ticket holders. Ticknor Hill Bed & Breakfast, also stop on the tour, will raffle off a one night stay at their location.

The Anoka County Historical Society, organized in 1934, is headquartered in the Anoka County History Center and Library at 2135 Third Avenue North in Anoka. For more information on its programs and activities please visit www.ac-hs.org or look for them on Facebook.