

Martinez News-Gazette

Home Tour raises \$8,000

By

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The Third Annual Martinez Home Tour, held last Saturday and presented by the Martinez Historical Society, attracted roughly 650 attendees from all over Northern California.

“It was great, in the past few weeks my phone was ringing off the hook, and we exceeded all projections,” said co-organizer Cheryl Grover, who yesterday reported a final tally of \$8,000 in ticket sales. Grover’s phone number was on all the brochures and event listings. “A lot of people saw [the event] listed in the Home & Garden section of their local newspaper, apparently.”

John Curtis, Martinez Historical Society President, said Monday he was surprised by “how far a field” visitors came from, adding that he met folks from Fresno, Sacramento and San Jose.

The earnings will be set aside for the renovation of the old train station, said Curtis, and will supplement any grants the Society is able to solicit. The group’s vision for the refurbished station includes a museum gift shop in the former waiting room and additional museum exhibit space in the eastern section of the building.

“We’re working with one of our committee members, a volunteer engineer and with the City to figure out the best use for the building,” said Curtis. “Most likely it will be multi-use and we hope to include a community room available to anyone who needs a place to [hold meetings].”

This year’s tour featured seven Martinez homes, as well as the John Muir Historic Site and the Martinez Museum.

Grover said the addition of musical entertainment was well-received, as was the kick-off wine tasting event at the home of Tom Powers.

“We had the groups Spinning Wheel and Ancestral Waters, who play historical bluegrass-type music and lyrics from stories of people who settled the area in the 1800s,” said Grover. “They played early in the morning when we had the biggest crowds and it added a lot to the whole event.”

As Grover pointed out, there were scores of other events scheduled the same day, both around the Bay Area and in Martinez, and in a spirit of cooperation, Home Tour docents and volunteers passed out fliers advertising the simultaneous Restaurant Tour and Jug Band Jamboree.