

HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Wayne Mattox's home near at 82 Main St. North will be on the 15th annual Holiday House Tour Saturday, raising funds for scholarships, local food banks and other charities. This tree sits in the second floor living area. For the complete story and more photos, see Page 9B.





STEVEN VALENTI / REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Wayne Mattox's home near Canfield Corner at 82 Main St. North will be on the house tour in Woodbury. The Woman's Club of Woodbury will host its 15th annual Holiday House Tour on Saturday, raising funds for scholarships, local food banks and other charities.

HOLIDAY TOUR

Woodbury residents open up homes to visitors Saturday

BY RICK HARRISON
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WHEN Wayne Mattox bought his home just north of Canfield Corner from his parents five years ago, he knew he was acquiring a treasure to fill with other treasures.

His parents bought the Greek Revival house in 1972, working to restore it to a condition closer to its origin around



Mattox

1830.

"My mom spent a lot of time taking old paint off the woodwork and sanding and painting it by hand," Mattox said. "A lot of her sweat is in this house."

On Saturday, Mattox will allow visitors to see the prod-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Colonial Revival home of Don and Lois Fiftal on Pleasant Street, built in 1903 for Frederick A. Strong, father of Woodbury historian Fred Strong. The music room features an 1886 grand piano and shelves of books and antique instruments. The living room and dining room contain Victorian-era furniture and art.

uct of that effort, as well as his own and his wife's, as part of the Woman's Club of Woodbury's 15th annual charitable Holiday House Tour.

Mattox sells antiques on the house's first floor. On Saturday, he and his wife,

Kathleen Dowd, will allow ticket holders to view the upstairs living area, where a Christmas tree outfitted with period ornaments stands above antique toys.

In the study, books crowd a cherry-wood bookshelf,

handmade by resident craftsman Stephen Blanchette.

"People say they don't make things like they used to," Mattox said. "But yeah, they do. There are guys just as skilled now as there ever were."

Other artifacts dotting both floors include a table by celebrated cabinet maker Duncan Phyfe, a carousel horse, a giant bust of George Washington and an old diving helmet.

"This is not a fuddy-duddy place," Mattox said. "Antiques can keep with today's modernistic tastes."

A wall across from Mattox's bed features a horse-shaped weathervane from a Cheshire barn. In the corner of a guest room rests an American Rococo Colonial tea table made from San Domingo mahogany with dolphin carvings and a collapsible top. Paintings from local artists adorn several walls.

"This is a fun place to live," Mattox said. "When I walk around my house, I'm always looking at something that's interesting."



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Denis and Diane Langlois' house on Pleasant Street. Built in 1898, the house features a large living room with many windows and a seating area up close to the fireplace. An original-to-the-house chandelier hangs above the dining room table. Drapes throughout the house were made by Diane Langlois.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Steeple View Lane home of Robert and Gretchen Groebel, a Colonial-style house built in 2001. The living room, with its rich chocolate walls and crisp white trim, features photographs and an oil painting by Michael Palmer, a contemporary artist who is in the collections of Oprah Winfrey and Bill Cosby.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The family room of Robert and Gretchen Groebel's Colonial-style house, built in 2001. The rooms are decorated with color, accessories and Oriental rugs. Of particular note are Gretchen's own photographs and photos by Imogene Cunningham and William Wegman in addition to a chandelier by lighting designer Ingo Maurer and a 1906 wine advertising poster by Italian illustrator Leonetto Cappiello.



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Gail Lettick's home and barn on Main Street South, Pantry and Hearth at the 1775 Barn, are a showplace for 17th and 18th century antiques. Among many other prized antiques, in the office and in the downstairs and upstairs hallways are a print of William Penn signing a treaty with the Indians, engraved in England by John Boydell, one of the great engravers of the 18th century; a turned table made in 1660 in Guilford; a 1690 raised-panel chest that was exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the 1930s; and a pair of gloomy, dark portraits of an admiral and his wife.

IF YOU GO The Woman's Club of Woodbury will host its 15th annual Holiday House Tour on Saturday, raising funds for scholarships, local food banks and other charities. Six homes and Walker Road Vineyard will be open to ticket holders from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 if bought in advance, and are on sale at Woodbury Pharmacy, Canfield Corner Pharmacy, Video World, and A Touch of Holly in Woodbury; Down on Main and Newbury Place in Southbury; and Yankee Quilter in Oxford. On Saturday, tickets can be purchased for \$25 after 10 a.m. at the Woodbury Senior and Community Center at 265 Main St. South.