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# Heights of Brady



**By Susan Hylton Assistant Editor**

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**Oral Roberts University history professor Paul Vickery will portray Tate Brady at the Brady Mansion during the Brady Heights Historic Home Tour Sunday.**

*Community World staff photos by Susan Hylton*

## Renovators' showcase kicks off tour of homes

Brady Heights is ready to put on a show.

As hosts to a Renovators' Showcase and Historic Home Tour Father's Day weekend, the neighborhood's growing sense of pride and improvement will no doubt be evident to visitors.

Great strides are being made in the renovation of the Brady Mansion purchased by Tim Lannom in November. More and more renovations of old and historic homes in the area are taking place, and developers are having success building new homes that blend in with the architectural styles of the neighborhood.

The event kicks off with the Renovators' Showcase from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Brady Mansion, 620 N. Denver Ave. Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the mansion and see a work in progress.

For the past six months, a tremendous amount of work and sweat has been poured into the mansion in an effort to restore it to its original grandeur after it had been converted into an apartment building since the 1940s. Want some tips on plastering? Want to learn how to strip paint, decorative paint, drywall or simply fix up your old home?

Interior designers and professional remodelers will be stationed in various rooms of the mansion to offer do-it-yourself renovation tips in a workshop setting.

Charles Faudree, Interiors Design and the Main Street Antique Mall of Sand Springs will furnish some of the rooms in the mansion with period pieces.

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Banks and real estate companies will be set up to offer information about home purchases, rehabilitation programs and real estate opportunities. One can learn about buying used materials from Habitat for Humanity. Visitors can also learn more about the history of the neighborhood and the mansion itself.

Chef Dennis Berno of the St. John Fitness Center will be offering outdoor cooking techniques, the Fourth Quarter Barbershop Quartet will perform and the members of the U.S. Amateur Ballroom Dance Association will be burning up the Brady Mansion's ballroom floor once again with swing and ballroom dancing.

Day two of the event will be the Historic Home Tour, which will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday. A dozen sites are on the tour along Denver and Cheyenne avenues, including those of some of the city's founding fathers.

One of those founding fathers, Tate Brady, will be portrayed by Paul Vickery, Oral Roberts University history professor, at the Tate Brady Mansion.

Vickery has made a name for himself in Tulsa portraying such historic characters as Sen. Joe McCarthy, C.S. Lewis and Henry Ford in the Chautauqua series.

Tate Brady established himself in Tulsa as one of the original incorporators of the city in 1898. He also worked with community leaders to bring railroads to the new community and was president of the state capitol building committee.

Several artists from the Artists' Way Gallery at Windsor Market will also be displaying their works at the mansion.

Some of the historic homes on the tour will include the former homes of J.S. Hopping, C.O. Winterringer and architect James P. Curtin, who was the architect for the Brady Mansion.

The Hopping House at 636 N. Denver Ave. is an American Foursquare that features an impressive tile roof. It was built in 1911 and sports its own 'escape tunnel.'

The Winterringer House at 774 N. Denver Ave. is a two-story Craftsman with a gabled roof and dormers. The Curtin House at 902 N. Denver Ave. still features its original wood fretwork archway and a sun room in the shape of a pentagon.

One of the homes on the tour is not old at all, it is the Brady Heights infill house at 1174 N. Denver Ave., the first new home built in the neighborhood in 60 years.

Darrell and Sherrie Jefflo recently purchased the home and are first-time home buyers.

'So many people have been driving by asking about the reconstruction,' said Teresa O'Rourke, real estate agent with Keller Williams. 'I could sell this house all day long, seven days a week.'

There are several more lots in the neighborhood owned by the Tulsa Development Authority going from \$2,000 to \$4,000, O'Rourke said.

The Jefflos have a positive outlook for the future of their new neighborhood.

'It takes people like ourselves to help revitalize the neighborhood. It's not just our duty but our privilege to help with the restoration of the neighborhood,' Darrell Jefflo said.

Bankers from NationsBank and Bank of America say they are offering loans with special incentives for buyers wishing to live in several North Tulsa neighborhoods including the Brady Heights neighborhood.

'This is the last frontier in the Tulsa market,' O'Rourke said. 'What we're seeing happening here is like what happened with Cherry Street.'

Also on the tour is a home at 618 N. Cheyenne Ave. which was recently restored and spared by the neighborhood from demolition.

Two historic churches will be featured as well, the Centenary United Methodist Church and the Parish Church of Saint Jerome, formerly Westminster Presbyterian.

Tulsa's Early Ford Club will also be displaying antique cars throughout the neighborhood.

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