

CORAL GABLES

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Connecting Communities

Villagers' popular Holiday House Tour returns Dec. 10

Villager Joan Bounds (Coral Gables) puts the finishing touches on this year's hand-crafted quilt *Birds of a Feather* in honor of Tropical Audubon's historic Doc Thomas House.



The group also has brought back their holiday tradition of raffling off a hand-crafted history-inspired quilt. This year's one-of-a-kind piece *Birds of a Feather* is in honor of the historic Doc Thomas House, owned by the Tropical Audubon Society. The pattern of birds sitting in a tree is a tribute to the longtime support the Villagers have given for the restoration of the site. Tickets can be bought from members or during the House Tour and the lucky winner does not need to be present at the drawing.

Curated vendors, hand-made angels, and food trucks also will be available at homes along the route. These historic properties cannot accommodate wheelchairs or strollers, and homeowners request no high heels or photography.

Tickets are \$50 and are available through Eventbrite on the Villager website <https://thevillagersinc.org/house-tour-3/>. Ticket holders drive their own vehicles between the properties and will receive tour directions with their ticket purchase.

Proceeds support the preservation and protection of historic sites in Miami-Dade County. Through educating, advocating, fundraising, restoration, and documentation the Villagers work to preserve the cultural and architectural heritage of local historic sites and neighborhoods. Since 1966, the Villagers have selected more than 75 local organizations as grant recipients and awarded university scholarships to advance historic preservation.



Villager president Susan Medina (of Pinecrest) and House Tour chair Marlin Ebbert (Coral Gables) explore properties for the Dec. 10 Historic House Tour.

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Coral Gables' villages and homes of the Roaring '20s will be center-stage during the Villagers' annual Holiday House Tour on Saturday, Dec. 10. Open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., "Gables' Gems from the Roaring '20s" tour will offer guests a peek inside a few of George Merrick's iconic themed villages as well as homes built in the Mediterranean Revival style.

After a two-year, pandemic-related hiatus,

the return of the House Tour this year marks the 37th year The Villagers have offered the popular event. Members of the Villagers will be on-hand explaining each home's distinctive history and features as well as the unique story of Gables' thematic villages.

"We are delighted to be able to showcase the incredible vision of George Merrick," explained Marlin Ebbert, House Tour chair. "Because of Merrick's creativity, detailed planning, and dreams, we all benefit from the 'City Beautiful' as we know it today. His work truly has stood the test of time."