



The Residents of Old Wilmington, Inc.

## *Neighborhood Messenger*

August 20, 2007

### **ROW Candidate Forum September 10!**

The invitations are out to the candidates for ROW's Candidate forum September 10 at City Stage. There will be three council seats and the Mayor's seat in contention (See [Candidates](#)). Ian Moseley has graciously offered ROW the use of City Stage for the forum. Alan Smith has agreed to be the time keeper and John Evans, former news anchor from WWAY-TV3, will be the host/facilitator. Meet the candidates at 6 pm; Forum begins at 6:30.

#### **Questions and Volunteers needed !!**

ROW members may submit questions for the candidates by e-mailing them to [webmaster@ROWilmington.org](mailto:webmaster@ROWilmington.org) or in writing to any Board member or to Marilyn. Marilyn Cantarella needs some volunteer help to serve as greeters the night of the forum. Please contact her to help with this important event. 343-5226

We are not alone !! Others plan candidate events. Click [Fori](#) to learn about them.

#### **NEXT MEMBER MEETING**

**When:** Sept. 12 ; **Time:** 7 p.m.; **Where:** Tileston School, 412 Ann St.  
**Speaker:** WPD Deputy Chief David Conklin,

### **BDKT Art to be Revealed August 23**

Member Jenny McKinnon Wright has completed, and donated, the signature art for ROW's 2007 Back Door Kitchen Tour. The work is titled "Sara's Back Gate"

Have you seen it yet?

No, you have not. It will be unveiled on August 23 at the Three Hounds Gallery between 6 pm and 8 pm. The work will be on display at Three Hounds thereafter

until the BDKT on October 6 (12 pm to 5 pm).

You are invited to the unveiling and to purchase both your chance to win Jenny's art (\$5 per chance) as well as your ticket to the BDKT (\$15 for advance sales).

If you have not yet volunteered to help with the BDKT, a signup sheet will be at the Sept. 12 ROW meeting.

It will be fun. Don't miss it!!

Click [HOMES](#) for the kitchens on tour.

## Gateway Rezoning Postponed

The proposed rezoning of the foot of Memorial bridge to RFMU came before the Planning Commission on August 1. After hearing the issues raised concerning traffic and land ownership, the Commission postponed the matter for 60 days.

At the August 1 hearing, the developer agreed to remove the “Proposed Future Building” from the North of the bridge. If the developer holds to this, the entire property to the north of the bridge will be landscaped.

The Commission directed the developer to come forward with a “better” traffic plan to accommodate the anticipated 16,000 trips per day.

In a related matter, the proposal to close Queen St., west of Surry, was postponed until the September 5 Commission meeting. If closed, half of the street would be given to the developer, half to NCDOT, the adjoining landowners. The City will receive nothing for this surrender of property.

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## Demas Applies to Planning Commission

Sherry Demas has submitted her application to a vacant seat on the Wilmington Planning Commission. Please support the application of our member, and President pro tem, to this important Commission. Members of the appointment committee are Jim Quinn, Mayor Bill Saffo, and Lethia Hankins. Please contact these City Council members and express your support for Sherry.

Currently the Commission includes Johnny Hennigan, one banker, and 4 developers. There are a total of three seats to be filled. Interested?

To apply, you can get an application from the secretary's office in the basement of Thalian Hall, or one can be downloaded. To download click [Boards](#) .

*Let us know if you apply.*

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## Airport Director to Speak

“Will we be able to hear him over the jet noise?”, many would ask.

Jon Rosborough, ILM director, will address ROW members at the October members meeting, October 10. Mr. Rosborough will answer any questions members may have. To insure that he has the information required he invites ROW members to submit their questions in advance. If you have specific questions please e-mail them to Kevin O'Grady, [kogradyl@ec.rr.com](mailto:kogradyl@ec.rr.com) , and the questions will be forwarded to Mr. Rosborough. Please submit your questions by September 21.



## Historic Wilmington Foundation 5K for Preservation

The Foundation is “running” a 5K for preservation on September 13. To participate click [application](#).

Enjoy your run !!

## What is the *Neighborhood Messenger*?

A long range goal of the ROW Board is to improve the dissemination of information to the members. The board felt that the monthly Newsletter did not give us enough space to transmit news and opinions.

The *Messenger* is a test this summer to meet this need. If the members like it, we will try to continue it on at least a quarterly basis.

**Want to contribute?** This first issues come solely from the Board. We intend the *Messenger* to be open to input from all members. We are getting tired of writing the whole thing. Please contribute!! Submit your articles, comments, photos etc. to Kevin O’Grady or other board member for inclusion in future issues. Our motto “All the news that fits, we print”

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## NEWS Bits and Pieces

**Congratulations to Keith Rhodes.** Keith has won the **NC Goodness Grows Best Dish in NC. Not one prize, but two!!** He won 1<sup>st</sup> place for the upscale restaurant **Deluxe** (where he is the Executive Chef) & 1<sup>st</sup> place for casual meal at his own restaurant **Catch**. Keith will be featured at the NC State Fair where the Food Network's Paula Dean will be presenting him an award. *Our State* magazine will do a spotlight on Keith.

**Congratulations** to Sherry and Ron Demas. They have learned that their Murchison House will be listed in the next edition of *1000 Places To See Before You Die*.

### **Family Participation:**

Mona Taylor has taken the lead on organizing a "Family Committee" to increase family participation in ROW. Contact her at [samonabeam@yahoo.com](mailto:samonabeam@yahoo.com).

## Dates to Remember

**September 10 ROW candidate forum, Level Five. Meet candidates at 6 pm; forum at 6:30**

**September 12, First Fall Members Meeting, Tileston School 7 p.m.**

**October 6, Backdoor Kitchen Tour, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

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## Historic Wilmington Vanity Plate?

The Historic Wilmington Foundation is considering an initiative to institute a North Carolina Vanity auto plate for "Historic Wilmington." The process requires passage of a bill in Raleigh. After that, the plates will not be produced until there is at least 500 pre-sold (at about \$25 over the normal plate fee). HWF would like to know if there is sufficient interest in such a plate. Please e-mail HWF if you would be interested [garethevans@historicwilmington.org](mailto:garethevans@historicwilmington.org). At best, the plate could not be available before the 2009 annual registration.

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## DPAC Report

by Paul Lawler, ROW's DPAC Member

My first meeting as a member was July 19. Other new members are John Hinnant the new Executive Director of Wilmington Downtown (WDI), Joseph Lee, acting co-head, of the Children's Museum, and Tom Harris of the Front Street Brewery

restaurant. Hunter Brown of Blowing in the Wind Kites who had been Vice Chair was elected Chair.

Miscellaneous reports were given that security is being increased at the decks, a police substation and a bank will be going into the retail space at the Market St. Deck, new brochures explaining the parking options have been produced and are being distributed. The Roxy which has late night problems some evenings and Tropix are for sale. New trash cans are being considered for the decks and cigarette receptacles may be coming to downtown via WDI.

Lt. Pigford, apparently downtown's Lt., reported on a number of problems. First is a late night accumulation of folks in the Market St. deck. No trespassing signs are being erected which will give the police authority to ask people to move along. Lights are needed in the lot next to Slice of Life Pizza as the darkness doesn't help. Any action there will be up to the property owner.

A request was made for another study of the time limits on downtown meters (some are one hour and some are two hours). Sounds like that might move forward although such a study was completed not too long ago.

The one potential parking issue that has come to my attention concerns the old USO building on 2nd and Orange. This will likely increase traffic to the area when finished. I haven't found anyone who knows if plans have been made to address this possibility.

August 16

The Downtown Parking Advisory Committee met today, took one action of interest to ROW members, planned another and was advised of an additional potential residential parking zone.

Loading Zones in the 100 block of Princess will have a dual use as soon as signs noting the new rule can be erected. This dual usage will maintain the loading designation during the day but allow parking in the evening. The new policy arose after merchants complained that large numbers of spaces were kept out of service at night. This action is seen as a pilot program which will be expanded if effective.

Another residential parking zone may be in the works. Interest has been expressed for the 400 block of south 2nd street. This process will require approval by the residents of that block and the completion of a parking study to ascertain the need.

DPAC will take a comprehensive look at its marketing efforts later this year. Do visitors and residents know that there is plenty of parking in downtown? The Market street deck is only filled to 37% of capacity. Do they know that the

first hour is free in the decks? Currently the marketing responsibilities are spread over a number of entities. Their efforts need to be as effective as possible to get the positive word out about downtown parking.

In miscellaneous items, it was noted that an investor is looking at 2nd and Grace, that Wachovia has leased 7,000 feet in their new building, and that work will soon begin on the old Wachovia building. These actions will all reduce current parking availability in the downtown area. The City Council may be finalizing the purchase of the Water Street Deck next week. We should have a better idea of the impact on parking and downtown after that action.

Your comments on marketing Wilmington's parking situation are particularly welcome.

Paul

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## City to Pursue Scenic Byway Grant

ROW has been in contact with the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) concerning grant money to enhance South Third Street. (See <http://www.wmpo.org/> for information on this organization.)

City traffic department and WMPO employee Joshua Miller explains the process the City is following to seek grant money for the Scenic Byway (which includes South Third) declared last year. He briefly explained the steps to seeking grant funds. The first is the completion of a "Corridor Management Program". To do this, WMPO has already secured an engineering consultant, URS Corporation and its related company Greenways, Inc. A sub consultant for community involvement will be Susi Hamilton.

Mr. Miller explained that WMPO plans to have a Steering Committee which will include ROW, the Foundation and others. He tentatively indicated that the Committee would be formed "at the end of August." ROW indicated to him our strong interest, that we had several ideas, and we wanted to actively participate. He was aware of our meetings with Jim Flechtner regarding pedestrian safety on Third Street.

To quote the Beatles, getting this grant money is "a long and winding road."

## **Wilmington Candidates**

### **Mayor**

Justin LaNasa, 36, 13 Market St., Wilmington. Occupation: owner of Hardwire Tattoos & Body Piercing. Political affiliation: unknown. Political experience: none.

Harper Peterson, 58, 212 Orange St., Wilmington. Occupation: businessman. Political affiliation: Democrat. Political experience: mayor 2001-03, Council member '95-'99.

Bill Saffo, 46, 1807 Odyssey Drive, Wilmington. Occupation: Broker in charge of Hanover Realty. Political affiliation: Democrat. Political experience: elected as council member in 2003; appointed mayor in 2006.

### **City Council (three seats)**

Susan E. Clarke, 53, 3406 Bethel Road, Wilmington. Occupation: attorney. Political experience: previously ran unsuccessfully for local office.

Michael DeHart, 50, 3409 Sparrow Hawk Court, Wilmington. Other information was not immediately available.

Kevin Joseph Delahunty, 62, 1410 Bexley Drive, Wilmington. Other information was not immediately available.

Pat Delair, 53, 511 N. Third St., Wilmington. Occupation: former downtown business owner. Political affiliation: Democrat. Political experience: elected to city council last October in a special election.

Charles Denson Jr., 42, 4616 Fillmore Drive, Wilmington. Other information was not immediately available.

Andy Koeppel, 3409 Red Berry Drive. Occupation: Realtor. Political affiliation: Republican. Political experience: served on the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority board.

Jeffrey S. Kohl, 39, 1181 Brougham Drive, Wilmington. Occupation: owns Kohl's Frozen Custard. Political experience: previously ran unsuccessfully for local office.

Ricky Meeks, 38, 3610 Caswell St., Wilmington. Occupation: on disability. Political affiliation: Republican. Political experience: has run unsuccessfully for political office numerous times and member of mayor's committee for people with disabilities.

Laura Padgett, 58, 210 Castle St. Occupation: financial consultant. Political affiliation: Democrat. Political experience: three terms on Wilmington City Council.

Ronald Sparks, 52, 206 N. 13th St., Wilmington. Occupation: professional engineer. Political

experience: none.

Kristi Tomey, 38, 6420 Green Arbor Lane, Wilmington. Occupation: project manager with IBM. Political experience: ran for city council in 2003.

J. Todd Turner, 35, 4905 Pine St., Wilmington. Other information was not immediately available.

[Return to Article](#)

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## Other Candidate Fori

Here are other Candidate events planned for this year's Elections:

CONA Forum (Council of Neighborhood Organizations) plans a Candidate Forum on September 26, 7 pm, Warwick Center Ballroom, UNCW

On both September 21st and October 5th, THE BIG TALKER FM and WWAY TV3 will host its '2007 Stand Up & Vote Candidates Forum' for the Wilmington City Council elections at the Scottish Rite Temple Auditorium in Wilmington, North Carolina.

[Back to article](#)

### ***Neighborhood Messenger***

Contact us; send some news; write an article; tell us what you think.

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## Back Door Kitchen Tour Homes, 2007

311 S Front St., Sara and Lyle Strassle,  
5 Church St., Alan and Beverly Smith,  
10 Church St., David and Kathy Spetrino,  
520 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Linda and Ben Moore,  
320 Nun St., Lou and Jeanne Criscuolo,  
322 S 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Rob Powers and Sidney Penny,  
219 S 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Pat and Tom Debello,  
215 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Alice and Tom Mitchell, and  
609 Dock St., Peggy and Dar Ferry.

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