



The Residents of Old Wilmington, Inc.

Neighborhood Messenger

June 20, 2007

The ROW Picnic

June 10 saw cloudy skies, but they did not dampen the fun at the ROW annual picnic. Organized by Lynn McIntyre, and hosted by Sherry and Ron Demas, over 100 members and guests of ROW enjoyed food, drink and friends in the beautiful gardens of the Murchison House. In the end, the sun joined us and made the day complete. Here are a few photos from the afternoon.

NOTICE

SPECIAL MEMBER MEETING

When: June 25

Time: 6 p.m.

Where: NHC Main Library, 3rd Floor
New Hanover Room

To discuss the ROW position regarding the Gateway project now scheduled to go before Planning on JULY 11. Please Attend

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More at [Pictures](#), click or go to page 4.

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 issue comes solely from the Board. We intend the *Messenger* to be open to input from all members. 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"

ROW Candidate Forum coming this September!

Marilyn Cantarella is busy preparing ROW's Candidate forum for this November's City elections. There may be three council seats and the Mayor's seat in contention. Marilyn reports that 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. Likely dates are: Monday - 9/17 , Wednesday - 9/19, or Monday - 9/10.

ROW members may submit questions for the candidates by e-mailing them to webmaster@ROWilmington.org or in writing to any Board member or to Marilyn. Marilyn needs some volunteer help - someone to assist with publicity, prepare tent cards for the candidates and will need several greeters the night of the forum.

CBD Cleanliness Improves

In June, Jennifer O'Keefe of Keep America Beautiful of New Hanover County reported on the progress of downtown cleanliness.

Keep America Beautiful of New Hanover County, along with the City of Wilmington, Wilmington Downtown, Inc., and Residents of Old Wilmington began a Cigarette Litter Prevention Program this winter and the results are in.

KAB of NHC surveyed downtown Wilmington on February and July 2006 and found that the number of cigarette butts in the survey area now averages about 59% less.

What changed according to KAB? The City of Wilmington installed ash receptacles downtown to provide a proper way to dispose of cigarettes. Keep America Beautiful of New Hanover County distributed posters, coasters, and brochures to downtown businesses to promote the new receptacles, and to make the connection that cigarettes are litter too. Downtown business owners have joined together to improve the cleanliness of downtown in general. More business owners are cleaning their sidewalks, and even organized a cleanup of downtown the weekend after Azalea Festival.

KAB believes reducing cigarette litter can be attributed to providing a proper receptacle, educating the public, and having a business community that wants to see a change.

“No Forgiveness” – a new Policy for COAs

The City's Historic Preservation Planner, Maggie O'Connor informed

ROW that “the City has stepped up enforcement of its regulations in the historic districts and historic districts overlays that require a Certificates of Appropriateness (COA) before any exterior construction or alteration may

be made to any structure in the districts and overlays. Revisions to all facades of a building, landscaping and appurtenant features are subject to design review in the Residential Historic District (HD-R), Theater Historic District (HD) or the Mixed Use Historic District (MX HD), regardless of whether or not it can be seen from the public right-of-way. Only that which can be seen from the public right-of-way excluding alleys is reviewed in the Downtown Commercial Historic District Overlay (CBD-HDO) and the Carolina Heights/Winoca Terrace Historic District Overlay (HD-O).

In addition to requiring compliance, civil penalties are being assessed in accordance with the City Code. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Maggie O'Connor by e-mail (maggie.oconnor@wilmingtonnc.gov) or by phone at 341-3251. “

Conclusion, as of June, there will be no “forgiveness” for altering without authority. Now an errant resident may be cited AND FINED, for failure to obtain a COA before altering the property.

Be forewarned, there is a new policy in town.

NEWS Bits and Pieces

Farewell to Wendy Larimer - We were sad to hear that Wendy Larimer will be leaving the City in July. She is taking a position at U.Va.

Congratulations to Paul Lawler, appointed to the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee, succeeding Herman Smith as ROW’s representative.

Planning Board Seeks New Members

Sherry Demas reports that there will be a vacancy on the City Planning commission in September--and possibly another one sooner as one member has missed too many meetings.

Currently the Commission includes Johnny Hennigan, one banker, and 4 developers. It would be beneficial to this city if a member of ROW was on that commission as we all are very community and neighborhood minded.

Members of the appointment committee are Jim Quinn, Jason Thompson, and Lethia Hankins. Once you submit your application (with a little history about yourself) you could petition them of your intentions and request their support in their actions. ROW really needs to be represented on this highly influential commission.

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.*

More Picnic Pictures





Memorial Day in The Port City



Dates to Remember

June 25 – **Special Member meeting** to discuss Gateway project. 6 p.m New Hanover Main Library, 3rd floor, New Hanover Room

September 10 (tentative) ROW candidate forum, Level Five.

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

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

Neighborhood Messenger

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

Kevin O'Grady kogradyl@ec.rr.com

Sherry Demas Magnolia23@aol.com

Patricia Wilson trishaRwilson@gmail.com

Bill Massey wmassey3@ec.rr.com

Alice Mitchell amm789@earthlink.net

Dan Camacho dfcamacho@gmail.com

Robert Erb roberterb@bellsouth.net

Randy Shackelford

randy.shackelford@rodgersbuilders.com

Herman Smith hsmithjr@ec.rr.com