



The Residents of Old Wilmington

Neighborhood Messenger

May 22, 2009

NEXT MEMBER MEETING

When: Sept. 9, 2009 **Time:** 7:00 PM **Where:** Tileston School

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PICNIC

Our last gathering for this spring will be our annual picnic to be held on Saturday, June 13 at the home of Sherry and Ron Demas; 305 S. 3rd St.; from 4:00 until 6:00 PM. Children are welcome. Please bring some food to share with the group and some lawn chairs as these are limited. Our next scheduled membership meeting will be the second Wednesday of September 9, at 7:00 PM at the Tileston School.

BRICK STREETS

Recently ROW members Robert Erb, Dale Nixon, and Bob Wallen completed an extensive survey of the brick streets within our membership area. The following letter was sent to Jay Carter, Wilmington Streets Manager, Mayor Bill Saffo, and the City Council Members; Maggie O'Connor, Historical Planning; Kaye Graybeal, Director Developmental Services; George Edwards, Historical Wilmington Foundation; and Lloyd Rohler, Chairman HPC.



Residents of Old Wilmington
Post Office Box 1862
Wilmington, NC 28401

May 15, 2009

Mr. Jay Carter
Wilmington City Streets Manager
City of Wilmington
265 Coleman Drive
Wilmington, NC 28412

Dear Mr. Carter

Residents of Old Wilmington have always had enormous pride in their historic homes and districts. We enjoy the uniqueness and ambiance that our brick streets add to these historic areas and feel that they are an added attraction for our tourists. We have noticed, however, that many of these streets have been assaulted by asphalt and suffer other damages. At your suggestion, we formed a committee of ROW members Robert Erb, Dale Nixon, and Bob Wallen to make an extensive survey of the streets within our membership area (river to 8th Streets, Red Cross to Queen Streets).

We are attaching a twenty page report and have identified three areas that we feel are priorities. Repairs to these areas are vital to sustaining the character of our historic areas. ROW are so committed to maintaining the character of our historic districts that we would consider partnering with the City of Wilmington to make some of these repairs.

Once you and your staff have reviewed our report, I would appreciate your informing me of your decisions and conclusions so that I may report back to our membership.

Sincerely

Sherry Demas, Mayor Residents of Old Wilmington

CC: Mayor Bill Saffo and City Council Members, Richard King, Dept. Dir. Public Services; Kay Graybeal, Director Developmental Services; Maggie O'Connor, Historical Planning; George Edwards HWF, and Lloyd Rholer, Chairman HPC

Attachments: ROW's 2009 Survey of Brick Streets

Ann St. Median

Our Ann Street median initiative got a boost recently. Josh Mello, Associate Transportation Planner called Mayor Sherry Demas to his office to enlist the neighbors surrounding this intersection to sign off on the pedestrian light enhancers to be placed at the northern side of Ann at 3rd Streets where the crosswalks will be located. Robert Erb obtained all the required signatures, and the petition was rendered to Mr. Mello Friday, May15, 2009. The project will now be submitted to the state decision makers. If approved, we could see action on the median this summer.

This enhancer will be the first of its kind to be used in North Carolina. The only others in use are in Florida. Pedestrians will see a lighted sign with the word “crosswalk”, a lighted crosswalk symbol sign, and a lighted arrow pointing in the direction to walk. The crosswalk light will be activated by a pedestrian pushing the button on the light pole. Flashing LED lights that will be directed downward at a 20 degree angle to stop traffic and allow pedestrians a safe crossing.

ROW has pledged up to \$6,500 towards this project upon its completion.

Advisory Board

The Cape Fear Museum has an opening on its Advisory Board. Members of the Board support the activities and agenda of the Board, plan for new activities, and participate in fund raising if this is within their comfort zone. Currently the Board does not have a representative from the zip code 28401. Applications for this position can be obtained from

nhcgov.com/AgnAndDpt/com/Documents/committees/apply

Tree Fund Money

At its last meeting, members voted to appropriate \$3,900.00 from its tree fund to supply monies to the City of Wilmington to plant canopy trees within its membership area and \$480.00 to Cape Fear Museum to plant trees within its newly designed enclosed courtyard. Letters were sent to the Mayor and City Council members informing them of this action.



May 15, 2009

Mayor Bill Saffo
City of Wilmington
Post Box Office 1810
Wilmington, NC 28402-180

Dear Mr. Mayor,

It is with a great pleasure that I am able to inform you of some important contributions to the City of Wilmington made by the Residents of Old Wilmington.

Recently it was called to our attention that there is not any money in the City budget for the planting of trees in Wilmington. As ROW are committed to the beauty and preservation of our City, we have voted to give to the City the sum of \$3,900.00 from our tree fund to plant canopy trees within our membership district (river to 8th streets, Queen to Red Cross Streets).

The Membership has also voted to give to the Cape Fear Museum the sum of \$480.00 to plant ten trees within their gated courtyard to help with the re-planting and beautification of this area.

A three member team of ROW has just completed an extensive survey of the brick streets within our membership area. This survey is being forwarded to Jay Carter, City Streets Manager for him and his staff to review. We have designated three areas of priority in this report. We have suggested that ROW would be willing to partner with the City of Wilmington on the repairs of these vital historic streets.

Sincerely,

Sherry Demas
Mayor, Residents of Old Wilmington

Enc: Cover letters for each project

Membership Committee

The membership committee has developed a three step plan to increase its membership. It is the goal of ROW to be inclusive of all of the residents who reside within our membership area. A welcome basket consisting of sweets, cookies, and crackers made in North Carolina will be included in the basket as well as our ROW brochure and coupons from local businesses. If a new neighbor moves into your neighborhood, contact Sherry Demas at 910.343.3349. One of the committee members, Ann Erb, Pat Nixon, or Sherry will go with you to meet your neighbor, present our gift basket, and invite them to ROW.

Our second part of the new membership drive has been completed. Sherry Demas was given a list of old members that have not renewed their memberships. The list included members back to 2006-2007. In total there were 98 former members. A letter was mailed to all of these individuals last Tuesday, May 12, 2009 highlighting the current activities and accomplishments of ROW and asking them to join us once again as members.

Our third phase of this project is being done at this time. Door hangers will be printed with a summary of ROW activities and our generous contributions to the City of Wilmington. An invitation to join ROW follows. These hangers will be ready to distribute in August prior to our first meeting in the fall on September 9, 2009. Members will be asked to walk and place these door hangers on resident doors. We will start with residents living in homes on the north side first, go to the south side next, and then do the condos last. The extent of this drive will depend on the members, willingness to deliver the door hangers.

Dates to Remember

May 28, 2009 ROW's annual Good Neighbor Award will be presented at the HWF's annual Preservation Award Ceremony to be held at 6:30 PM at the City Courthouse. Every year the membership of ROW selects a member who has demonstrated outstanding service to the community by being a "good neighbor". All ROW members are encouraged to attend this event and support the recipient of this award.

June 6, 2009 Rape Safe Classes for ROW Members. Tracy Brown of TCB Jiu Jitsu Academy is offering "rape safe" classes for members of ROW. The classes will begin on June 6. There will be a 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM class, and the lessons will be \$15.00 per class for a series of three classes. A follow up class will be held 2 months after the completion of the series of classes. The studio is behind the Time at Last shop on Castle Street.

Tracey's reiterates that these classes do not require power and strength. For further information call Tracey at 910.294.1251 or email him at fifthL@hotmail.com.

June 7, 2009 Benefit for Stewart Willard
JD Davis, artist and former good neighbor honoree of ROW is spearheading a fundraiser for Stewart Willard the fourteen year old son of Hap Willard, former owner of Corporate Canvas. Stewart was recently diagnosed with a tumor around his heart and is in Duke for treatment. There will be live music, wine tasting, beer tasting, and food, live and silent auction. The benefit is

June 7 from 6-9 PM at St. Thomas Preservation Hall.
Tickets are \$10.00.

June 13, 2009 ROW'S annual family picnic to be held at the home of Sherry and Ron Demas at 305 S. 3rd St. from 4:00-6:00 PM. Bring some food to share and lawn chairs. Pond is four feet deep at center so be sure to watch children.

June 13, 2009 all chocolate lover's event—Sweet Tooth Benefit at the Hannah Block USO Center at Orange and 2nd Sts. From 7:30 to 10:30 PM. Deserts, silent auction, and dancing to the Duke Ladd band. \$25.00 per person. All proceeds benefit the Temple of Israel. For more information contact <http://www.sweettoothbenefit.com>

Oct. 3, 2009, Back Door Kitchen Tour.
Plans are under way for this ROW annual event. Nine homes have been selected for this year's event:

302 S. 3rd St. Dale and Pat Nixon
10 Dock Street. Dave Fortuna
314 S. Front St. Jenny Wright
321 S. 4th St. Herman and Suzanne Smith
503 Market St. Bellamy Mansion
208 Steve and Suzie Hamilton
10 S. 5th St. Tom Hughes
605 Dock St. Cary & Sabrina Neuman
418 S. Front St. Reid and Linda Murchison

Two house captains and docents are still needed for this event. The house captains obtain docents to serve as guides, and the docents act as host and hostesses for this event. Please call Gail Massey at 910.362.0517 to help with ROW's only fund raiser. It is a fun event for both the guests and the ROW participants.