



The Residents of Old Wilmington

Neighborhood Messenger

July, 2009

NEXT MEMBER MEETING

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order for Alice Mitchell, past Mayor of Residents of Old Wilmington. Alice was elected President of Downtown Wilmington, Inc. History dictates that she will provide a competent and inspiring leadership.

BDKT

Much progress has been made on the Back Door Kitchen Tour. Six sponsors have been obtained. The painting by Larry Hovis of the outside kitchen of Pat and Dale Nixon's home was unveiled at the last BDKT meeting. Pictures of the painting were taken and the preliminary rack card was presented for input. Ten cases of water have been donated. House captains have been scrambling for docents. Designations for pre-tour ticket sales have been obtained. Publicity has been planned, and food has been secured for some of the homes. We will only have one regular ROW meeting prior to the tour.

ROW BOAT

Alan Smith needs some volunteers. ROW will once again be represented by a boat in the pirates' flotilla that will attack downtown Wilmington's waterfront during this fall's Riverfest weekend. The "ROW boat" will get underway with other pirate boats for the annual "invasion of the pirate flotilla" at dusk on

Saturday, October 3, 2009, bombarding the city and showing onlookers what the Pirates of old Wilmington can do.

Help is needed in transforming the 41 foot power boat into something worthy of its ROW flagship during the invasion. In the past, "Pirates of the CarROWbean" was used as a theme. The boat was decorated with fake cannons and a swashbuckling crew on deck. A new theme and decorating scheme is needed for this year. Anyone with ideas can email them to Alan or Beverly at alanbeverlysmith@ec.rr.com or phone them at 910.762.2906. Volunteers for decorating the boat can respond at the email address or phone number also. A short meeting to discuss ideas will be held at the Smiths' home at 5 Church Street on August 20, 2009 at 5:30 PM.

Business 17 Designation

As authorized by the members at our last regular meeting, Kevin O'Grady accompanied representatives of the Carolina Place/Ardmore Association to a meeting with Mayor Saffo and Traffic Planner Mike Koslofsky. Laura Trivet and Bill Jayne presented the proposal to terminate the Business 17 designation or alternatively, moving it to Military Cutoff-Oleander. Proposed signage changes were outlined to discourage through traffic and truck traffic in our residential neighborhoods. The Mayor and staff were receptive to the proposals. It was suggested that the group attend the August 28, 2009 Transportation Advisory Board meeting and make their proposals. Staff also said that they believed that the designated changes would require a public hearing. Signage changes could be effected through NCDOT if approved. The group will attend the TAC meeting and pursue the required changes.

Candidates' Forum

Once again ROW will host its annual Candidates Forum. This year the event will be held on September 22, 2009 from 6:00-8:30 PM at City Stage, Level Five. There will be a time to socialize and possibly meet the candidates from 5:30-6:00 PM.

Jon Evans of WECT TV will once again host the event. ROW members are invited to submit questions through a special email address set up specifically for this purpose at forum@rowilmington.org. All submitted questions will be held in the strictest of confidentiality prior to the forum and not all questions can be included due to time constraints. There will be time allotted at the event where the audience can ask questions as well. The positions of the Mayor as well as three city councilmen are up for election.

Convenience Store

There has been much controversy regarding the convenience store located in the North End Historic District on the corner of Chestnut and 5th Avenue. Although it has been allowed to continue operating as a convenience store, it was recently denied a liquor license.

ROWS LIST

The final format for ROWS list has been completed and will be available for ROW members in September if enough information is provided by the members. Members may submit provider information to Bill Massey now at wmassey3@ec.rr.com. Give the service category (painter, plumber, etc), the provider's name, address, your name and telephone number, date that you used the provider, and a rating of the provider. Rate the provider using one to five stars, five being the highest. It is the desire of the Board to keep all of this information positive by not providing negative comments about the provider. A one star rating will tell the story.

Mayor Saffo

Mayor Bill Saffo has specifically requested ROW's support in helping to pass SB 222 which is pending in the capital. This bill would permit Wilmington to have a referendum on a 1/2% Sales Tax. This is to allow the referendum only. The Tax

cannot be levied unless approved by the voters. The bill limits the use of any funds collected by this voter approved tax for congestion mitigation programs and to retire indebtedness for those programs. For the purposes of this Article, congestion mitigation includes any expenditure for programs that increase capacity of public rights-of-way or that manages travel demand to improve transportation efficiency. The mayor indicated the projects would be the remaining road projects in the City's plans needed to relieve congestion. One of those would be to extend Independence Ave. to MLK thereby relieving traffic on Market St. Email addresses for the legislatures are as follows:

Carolyn Justice: Carolyn.Justice@ncleg.net

Julia Boseman: Julia.Boseman@ncleg.net

Sandra Spaulding-Hughes: Sandra.Hughes@ncleg.net

Dates to Remember

First Wednesday of each month-the Downtowners Meet and Mingle at the Front Street Brewery. All ROW members, residents of downtown, and all those working downtown are invited to meet at the Brewery at 5:00-6:30 PM for appetizers and beer tasting. Introduce yourselves, exchange cards, and have a good time.

August 5, 2009-ROWboat meeting at the home of Alan and Beverly Smith, 5 Church Road, 5:30 PM.

August 16, 2009-BDKT at the home of Lee Wallach, 115 Church Street at 3:00 PM.

August 22, 2009-Candidates forum at 5:30 PM at City Stage-Level 5.

August 25, 2009-ROW Board will meet on Tuesday instead of Wednesday at 7:00 PM at the home of Sherry Demas. The unveiling of the painting for the BDKT will be on Wednesday.

August 26, 2009-Unveiling of the painting by Larry Hovis for the BDKT will be held at the home of Pat and Dale Nixon, 302 S. 3rd St. from 5:00-7:00 PM.

October 3, 2009-ROW's 4th annual BDKT from 12:00-5:00 PM.

In Memory of ALICE WINE

She always had a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye. I never heard her utter an unkind word about anyone. Her enthusiasm for life invaded her space and captured all those around her. Her circle of friends grew with each encounter she made. I would sometimes see her walking to church at St. Mary's. She loved to shop for clothes, and it showed. She was the epitome of classiness. Alice Wine passed away this morning, July 28, 2009. She was loved, and our hearts ache for us and for her husband Jerry Wine. She will be sorely missed. *Sherry Demas*