



The Residents of Old Wilmington

Neighborhood Messenger

November, 2009

NEXT MEMBER MEETING

When: Jan. 13, 2010 **Time:** 7:00 PM **Where:** Tileston School

Officers

Mayor: Sherry Demas
Mayor Pro-tem: Randy Shackelford
Treasurer: Bill Massey
Secretary: Patricia Wilson

Board of Directors

Robert Erb
Kevin O'Grady
Dale Nixon
Paul Lawler
Matthew Magne

Kevin O'Grady Elected to City Council



Kevin O'Grady and wife Diane

Congratulations to our past Mayor Kevin O'Grady on his election to the City Council. Kevin ably served the Residents of Old Wilmington for two

consecutive years, and we have the utmost confidence that he will serve our great City of Wilmington just as well. It was through Kevin's strong knowledgeable leadership that we were able to win acceptable concessions on the Gateway Project. Kevin will be sworn in at the Dec. 1, 2009 City Council Meeting which begins at 5:30 PM. All ROW members are encouraged to attend the meeting in support of Kevin.

Christmas Party

Our Christmas party will be held December 9, 2009 at the Hannah Block USO building at the corner of Orange and 2nd Streets. The party will be from 6:00 until 9:00 PM. All family members are welcome to attend. This year guests are asked to bring a non perishable item of food that will go into a food bank to help feed a needy family at Christmas time. Music and an open bar will be available. Please email Lynn McIntyre at flower33@bellsouth.net and let her know what food you will be bringing.

New Board Member

Dale Nixon has been appointed to fill out the term of Tank Nickerson who bought a new home and moved out of our district. Tank will be greatly missed on the Board, and Dale is a welcome addition to our Board. Citing work and family demands, Matt Magne has announced that he will be resigning from the ROW board at the end of his first year. The Board will appoint another ROW member to serve out the remainder of his term.

Webmaster Needed

Matt Magne will also be resigning as the webmaster for ROW. If there are any members who have experience managing a web site, please contact Matt at webmaster@rowilmington.org.

BDKT Chairs Honored

Lee Wallach, past chair of the BDKT, and her husband Art honored all chairmen of the BDKT at a party November 15, 2009 at the Railroad Museum. It was a time to breathe a sign of relief and pat each other on the backs for the many accomplishments that were achieved during this tough economy with our last tour. Monies made on our 2009 Tour were only about \$300 less than the year before.



Lee Wallach and Karen Behm sharing a moment at the Railroad Museum.

Resolution

Mayor Sherry Demas represented ROW at the last City Council meeting when a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Residents of Old Wilmington was presented at the Council Meeting. The resolution stated that the ROW agreed to pay 10% or up to \$6,500 to the city upon completion of a pedestrian crossing at Ann and 3rd Streets. The project will include a median closure, curb extensions, high visibility crosswalks, advance warning signage and pavement markings, drainage improvements, and a push button activated rectangular rapid flash pedestrian beacon. The resolution will be signed by Mayor Bill Saffo and Mayor Sherry Demas and entered into the records.

Tree Money Check to be Presented to City of Wilmington

Mayor Sherry Demas will present a check in the amount of \$3,900 to Mayor Bill Saffo at the next City Council meeting December 1, 2009. ROW voted to give the money to the city to plant trees in our region. Thirty nine residents have been on a waiting list to have trees planted in front of their homes or in the median. Some of them have been on the list for two years. There wasn't any money in the City's budget to plant any more trees, so ROW made this donation using the Trees Forever program. ROW will be able to have thirty nine trees planted for everyone on the list and aid in beautifying our City. All members of ROW are encouraged to attend this

City Council meeting and share in the joy of being able to present our City with this gift.

Paul Lawler's Crime Report

Paul Lawler attended the Star-News Forum on crime, and here is what he reported. Police area 101 is the Central Business District. It covers 3rd St. to the river and Red Cross to Castle (save for part of the block on Castle between Surry and Front). It is roughly 33 city blocks. It has also had the most violent crimes over the eleven and one half year period used for the Star-News story. There were 610 violent crimes during the period reported. Three of those were murders. Twenty-six of those were rapes. The rest were robbery or aggravated assault. Sixty three percent of those occurred in the midnight to 3:00 AM period.

There is some evidence that crime is decreasing. Area 101 had a peak of seventy three violent crimes in 2002 and then declined to forty eight in 2005, fifty two in 2006, forty four in 2008, and thirty five through Aug. 5, 2009. These facts somewhat mirror city wide numbers. At less than fifty two crimes per year, there is less than one violent crime per week in the CBD. Although this is not good, it is a different picture from the impression left in the news story.

St. Thomas Preservation Hall Valentine Big Band Dance Benefit

St. Thomas will be presenting a Valentine Big Band Dance Thurs., Feb. 11, 2009 to raise money to install an elevator to provide handicap accessibility to make the facility more available to all. The goal is to raise \$25,000. It will include music, dances, beer and wine tasting, silent auctions to include some 30 originals from local artists, a variety of other merchandise from local retailers, a raffle, and lots of fun and frivolity. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased by calling the Hall at 910.512.0215.

Dates to Remember

Dec. 1, 2009, Kevin O'Grady will be sworn in as a new City Council Member at City Council Chambers in Thalian Hall beginning at 5:30 PM.

Dec. 1, 2009, at the same City Council Meeting, ROW Mayor Sherry Demas will present a check to Mayor Bill Saffo in the amount of \$3900 to plant thirty nine trees in our ROW district.

First Wed. of the month, Front Street Brewery will host a meet and greet for ROW members and all people working downtown. Appetizers will be provided as well as beer tasting.

Dec. 9, 2009, ROW will have its annual Christmas Party at the Hannah Block USO Center at Orange and 2nd Sts. beginning at 6:00 PM.

Dec. 10, 2009, December HPC will be held in the Thalian Hall ballroom beginning at 5:30 PM.