



The Residents of Old Wilmington

Neighborhood Messenger

October, 2009

NEXT MEMBER MEETING

When: Nov. 11, 2009 **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
Tank Nickerson
Paul Lawler
Matt Magne

Back Door Kitchen Tour



Dale Nixon and tour guests.



Lee Wallach and artist Larry Hovis

Once again ROW had a very successful Back Door Kitchen Tour thanks to all the many volunteers within and outside of ROW, the many committee chairs, and BDKT chairperson Lee Wallach. Our profits for this year were only about \$300.00 less than what we did last year. Considering the economic conditions of our country and the number of tour tickets that sold at the reduced pre-tour price, ROW members are to be commended for all their efforts. All profits from this event will be used to benefit our

community. In past years, ROW has donated or pledged monies for a Sedgway for the downtown police, theater seats for the Hannah Block USO building, the Ann Street Crossing, a new window for St. Mary's Tileston School, the 1898 Memorial, PedArt, and monies to plant trees in the downtown area, just to name a few. Art Wallach, the husband of Chairwoman Lee Wallach was the winner of the painting by Larry Hovis that was raffled off.

Publicity and Advertising Committee

At the Oct. 1 Board meeting, members discussed a need to have a permanent public relations and advertising committee. Several candidates for city council and the mayoral position have approached Mayor Sherry Demas thanking ROW for the many things that it does for the city of Wilmington and expressing surprise that the general population is unaware of ROW's contributions to the city. ROW uses the profit it makes from our Back Door Kitchen Tour to generously give back to our great city. Sometimes ROW can be known for the positions it may take against an issue, and this can over-shadow the many many good things that ROW contributes to Wilmington.

It was felt that if we had a permanent PR and Advertising Committee, the public could be made more aware of our contributions made to the City of Wilmington. When an event or an occasion comes up that ROW contributes to, the committee can be contacted and the proper energies can be expended in the right directions to make the citizens of Wilmington more knowledgeable about ROW's many contributions to our city.

Randy Shackelford, Mayor-pro-tem, had agreed to chair this committee. Matt Magne, Board member, has agreed to handle Internet based media. Also on the committee are Vivian Burnett, Kathy Bramble, and Tom Behm.

New Voting Members

Our new by-law changes now allow the Board to give voting privileges to members who have moved out of the district but still pay dues and are still active in the events of ROW. Members who expressed an interest in having this voting privilege are Catherine Ackiss and Lynn McIntyre. Both of these ladies were voted by the Board to be given voting privileges. If there are any

other members who are in the same circumstances and wish to be given voting privileges, please make this known to one of the officers or one of the Board of Directors.

Next Speaker at our Row Meeting

Adrienne Walters, Intern and Josh Mello, Transportation Planning for the City of Wilmington will be our guest speakers at our November 11, 2009 meeting. They have developed the Fit Community Task Force for the Ann Street Crossing and the Bicycle path that will be created. Members of this task force include Cape Fear Cyclists, City of Wilmington Planning Division, City of Wilmington Traffic Engineering Division, City of Wilmington Parks, Recreation and Downtown Services Division (Farmers Market), City of Wilmington Parks, Recreations and Downtown Services Division (Martin Luther King, Jr. Center), New Hanover Regional Health Network, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Residents of Old Wilmington, The Bottom Neighborhood Improvement Association, University of North Carolina Wilmington, and WMPO BikePed Committee. They are counting on all of these organizations to contribute to making this effort a success.

Our speakers will present a slide presentation showing the Ann Street Crossing, the bicycle paths, resources to promote walking, biking, and nutrition in the target areas, support policies that will improve the walking and bicycling environment throughout the city, and conduct outreach activities that educate and inspire the community to exercise and eat nutritious foods. This is an extensive program developed for the community to promote exercise, nutrition and fitness. Don't miss this presentation.

Downtown Parking Advisory Committee

DPAC has made some progress with the parking situation downtown. They recommended that the surface lot at the southwest corner of Market and 2nd Streets be closed at midnight. This was done at the urging of the Wilmington Police Department. Crowds were gathering in the lot after midnight, and officers had no means to disperse the crowds as long as the individuals had the right to be there. Closing the lot allows the Police to have the authority to make citizens leave when the lot is closed. Citizens who have parked in the

lot will be allowed to go in and get their cars and then leave. No crowds will be allowed to loiter in the parking lot.

DPAC is also working to alleviate the tension that has been associated with parking downtown. A new series of marketing tactics will be unveiled. Working with the Front Street renovations to help make that process successful has been another activity recently associated with DPAC. The parking program, after years of losing money, should be on a break even basis for the 2008/09 fiscal year.

Creative Movement Class

The Hannah Block USO is offering a “creative movement” class geared towards people over 40. The class will start Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 5:00 PM and will last one and one half hours. The cost is \$40 per month or \$12.50 per session. If any ROW members are interested, please call Donna Green at 910.341.7860.

Art Show

ROW members had the opportunity to meet our ROW artists, Jenny Wright, J.D. Davis, and Larry Hovis at a private art show on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009. Guests met the artists “up close and personal”. There was the opportunity to see other works of the artists including new paintings, prints, giclees, note cards, and books of poetry. Over fifty guests enjoyed a glass of wine, mingled with friends, and met the artists, and saw more of their work. Mr. Hovis gave the BDKT a painting to be auctioned this year. Jenny Wright’s painting was auctioned off for the 2008 tour, and JD Davis has been the artist featured on the Waterfest posters for many years.

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.

Nov. 3, 2009, 5:30 PM Creative movement class at the Hannah Block USO Center

Nov. 3, 2009, Make your voice heard by voting.

Nov. 11, 2009, ROW monthly meeting at 7:00 PM at the Tileston School

Nov. 12, 2009, Historic Preservation Commission meets at 5:30 PM at the Thalian Hall Ballroom on the second Floor. Come and be a part of this group that strives to maintain the integrity of our Historic Districts. Visitors have to opportunity to speak on issues brought before the commission.

Dec. 9, 2009, ROW annual Christmas party at the Hannah Block USO Center from 6:00-9:00 PM. Come and share food, wine, and holiday cheer with all your fellow ROW members. Families are invited.