



The Residents of Old Wilmington

Neighborhood Messenger

September, 2009

NEXT MEMBER MEETING

When: Oct. 14, 2009 **Time:** 7:00 PM **Where:** Tileston School

Officers

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

Board of Directors

Robert Erb
Kevin O'Grady
Tank Nickerson
Paul Lawler, Matt

BDKT Painting Unveiled



Artist Larry Hovis and Mayor Sherry Demas

The unveiling of the painting Larry Hovis did for the Residents of Old Wilmington was unveiled in the back yard of Pat and Dale Nixon September 26, 2009. Larry's painting is of the old slave kitchen that has been restored by the Nixon's and will be one of the kitchens on the BDKT. Part of the old kitchen can be seen behind Mr. Hovis. Artist Hovis, a member of ROW, has generously donated his painting to ROW, and it will be auctioned off by selling raffle tickets. Raffle tickets are still on sale for five dollars each. The drawing for the winner of the painting will be held at 5:30 PM in the garden of the Nixon's home 302 S. 2nd Street.

The Back Door Kitchen Tour is our big fund raising event each year, and it takes place this coming Saturday from 12:00-5:00 PM. Encourage all your friends and family members to attend. It is a chance to see beautifully restored historic home kitchens and how the owners have adapted them for modern day use. Guests on past tours have expressed sincere gratitude for the opportunity to see the kitchens in these old homes.

Candidate's Forum

ROW'S Candidate's Forum was again held this year Sept. 22, 2009 at Level 5, City Stage. It was well attended. All but two of the candidates for Mayor and City Council attended. Jon Evans of WECT TV was again the moderator this year. Candidates had the opportunity to meet and talk with ROW members and guests in the small lobby prior to the event. After a short introduction, all candidates were given the opportunity to speak about their goals and aspirations for our city should they be elected. Then Mr. Evans randomly asked the candidates questions submitted prior to the event by ROW members. There were opportunities for rebuttals. During the next portion of the event, all candidates were asked to respond to the same questions. During the last part of the program, questions were taken from the audience. Marilyn Cantarella and Alan Smith superbly organized this smooth running and

informative program. When given the opportunity to talk with the candidates, several of them expressed gratitude to Mayor Sherry Demas for all of ROW'S many contributions to the City of Wilmington. They also expressed their thanks for being invited to participate in the Forum.

Pedestrian Art Program

The International Downtown Association (IDA) will convey an Award of Distinction on Wilmington Downtown Inc. on behalf of the City of Wilmington & in partnership with Creative Wilmington for its Public Art. The 2009 Downtown Achievement Award winners were recently recognized during IDA's 55th annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This is the program that brought pieces of sculpture art to public places.

The award will be presented to Mayor Bill Saffo in Riverfront Park at 10:00 AM on Friday, October 2, 2009. Many of us know the program as "Ped Art". Residents of Old Wilmington was a contributor to this project and will be recognized for its involvement. Alice Mitchell, Jerry Wine, and City Council woman Laura Padgett spearheaded this initiative through City Council. All members of ROW are invited to attend the event.

Bar/Crime Report

Kevin O'Grady, past ROW president, who worked on finding a solution for the downtown problems with the late night bar and crime scene has submitted the report to Council Woman Margaret Haynes to present to the V2020 committee for endorsement. It is hoped that the report will gain considerable positive support prior to being submitted to the City Council.

ROW'S LIST

Very few members of ROW have submitted information to be compiled into a provider's list for ROW members to use. If any member has used a provider (plumber, painter, etc), please submit this list to Bill Massey at wmassey3@ec.rr.com. You can also bring your list to our next meeting. Be sure to include the provider's category (plumber, painter, etc.), the phone number, your name, your phone number, the date you last used the provider, and rate the provider using a one to five star rating, five being the highest. Unless we get more submissions from the membership, we will abort this project.

Door Hangers

In an effort to increase our membership, the membership committee decided to try using door hangers to invite individuals within our membership district to come and check us out. Door hangers telling a little about our organization and our meeting place were designed. Our membership district was divided into fourteen different street areas for members to pick. Members are to take the door hangers and place them on door knobs of resident homes. Based on the previous experience of one member, it was estimated that it would take approximately an hour to place the door hangers on resident door knobs. Six participants are still needed to cover our ROW membership district. These are as follows:

North 4th and 5th Streets from Market to Red Cross
Market and Princess Streets from 3rd to 7th
Chestnut and Grace Streets from 3rd to 7th Streets
South 5th Ave. from Market to Queen
South 6th Street from Market to Queen
Nun, Church, and Castle Sts. From Front to 7th Streets

If any members are willing to do any of the areas above, please email Sherry Demas at Magnolia23@aol.com or give her a call at 910.343.3349. After our next meeting, we will just order

door hangers to use in the areas that members have agreed to distribute.

Ann Street Crossing and Bicycle Path

A task Committee has been formed by Adrienne Walters, Intern for transportation Planning, City of Wilmington regarding our future bicycle path and Ann and 3rd Streets crossing. Included in this task force are the Cape Fear Cyclists, City of Wilmington Planning Division, COW Traffic Engineering, COW Parks, Recreation, and Downtown Services Division, 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. Information will be distributed on the Bicycle boulevard to people in the local area, vouchers will be provided for Farmers' Market, bicycle vendors will be invited to these events, and maps and yard signs will be created for the bicycle boulevard.

There will be six events scheduled involving bike safety, nutrition and health screening, education events and bi-monthly Saturday bicycle train along the bicycle boulevard from South 15th Street to the Riverfront Farmers market. Members will be notified when the future events are scheduled.

ROW Artists to Exhibit

Row artists J.D. Davis, who was a past featured poster artist for Riverfest, Jenny Wright, past painter for BDKT 2008 raffle painting, and Larry Hovis, painter for this year's BDKT raffle painting will be exhibiting their paintings for sale at the home of Sherry and Ron Demas, 305 S. 3rd St, Sunday October 18, 2009 from 1:00-4:00 PM. There will be small and larger items for sale just in time for Christmas. Come and mingle with your friends, have a glass of wine, and enjoy a good time. This event

is just for members of ROW and for special guests invited by the artists.

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.

October 3, 2009, Noon-5:00 PM-Our annual Back Door Kitchen Tour. Bring all your friends and family members to this memorable event. Drawing for Hovis painting at 5:30 PM at the Nixon home 302 S. 3rd St.

Riverfest this weekend Oct. 3-4, Activities on the river, festival of arts and crafts downtown, lighted boat parade "invasion of the pirates Saturday evening.

October 14, 2009-monthly ROW Meeting at Tileston School beginning at 7:00 PM.

October 18, 2009-ROW artists show their paintings from 1:00-4:00 PM at 305 S. 3rd St. for ROW members only.

Halloween safe houses for our children-Oct. 3

Christmas party 2nd Wed. Dec. 9, Hannah Block USO Center 7:00-10:00