

THE WILMINGTON CURRENT



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and more! ■

W CITY OF
WILMINGTON
NORTH CAROLINA

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT
FALL 2020**

FROM THE EDITOR

This most recent edition of the City of Wilmington's newsletter brings not only a fresh look and layout, but also some new features that underscore the city's commitment to helping all of our residents feel more connected to this community we call home.

For the first time, the newsletter takes a formal name—*The Wilmington Current*—which represents our historic economic and cultural connection with the Cape Fear River and our goal of providing residents with current public information on the plans and projects that are shaping our city's future.

We have incorporated a new feedback opportunity with a regularly-occurring survey on various topics to enhance the flow of information between you and your city government. We have also included enjoyable activities for children and residents of all ages that reflect unique features of our civic life and place.

On behalf of the entire city communications office, I hope you find this edition of the *Current* interesting, informative, and enjoyable.

Sincerely,



Jerod Patterson
Editor

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



City Honors Two Crew Members for Heroic Efforts

Recycling & Trash Services crewmembers Daniel Perry and Larry Hankins were recently awarded the Core Value Award for going above and beyond in their public service.

In August, while completing their routes, Perry and Hankins witnessed an elderly woman fall a short way from where they were working. Without hesitation, the pair rushed to her aid, not realizing their selfless act had been recorded on a Ring video. The neighbor is doing well and sustained only minor scrapes from the incident.

A few weeks later, a car passed the crew truck at the intersection of 14th and Castle streets when it suddenly came

to a stop. Hankins, who noticed something was wrong, found the driver having a seizure. He immediately put the car into park, called emergency services, and stayed with the driver until help arrived.

"Daniel and Larry have shown professionalism that we can only hope the rest of our employees would if they encountered a similar situation," Recycling & Trash Services Manager Rick Simpson said. "Their efforts represent how city employees interact daily with our customers' lives and how our actions as city employees benefit the community every day." ■

FILM

Christmas came early on Front Street for the Hallmark film "USS Christmas." Using strict safety protocols in the age of COVID-19, the film industry made a welcome return to Wilmington in September and local crews have been busy since. Productions completed or underway using the new safety protocols also include the feature film "Parkside," the TV series "Hightown," and the TV series "This Country."



CORONAVIRUS

City Funds Critical Responds Needs, Adapts Operations

Like all organizations, the city had to make major changes in its day-to-day operations to reduce the spread of COVID-19. In all phases of city operations—from public safety to trash collection, city parks, administrative offices, and emergency operations—city staff take this threat seriously and made necessary adjustments to maintain city services and operations in a safe way. The city will continue adhering to guidance and orders from the Governor's Office and health professionals to help our community navigate through this crisis.

Funding critical response needs

The city is actively administering Federal CARES Act funding to address economic, social, and educational impacts of COVID-19 on Wilmington households in areas of housing security, learning loss among school age children, and food and personal protective equipment (PPE) assistance. This involves funding local service organizations for programs they administer to help alleviate the impacts of COVID-19. Examples include:

- \$1 million to the Good Shepherd Center's Eviction Prevention Project, which helps qualified tenants with rent payments for up to three months
- Over \$44,000 to the Brigade Boys & Girls Club to provide food and education programs for youth experiencing learning loss and food shortage (the program serves 180 students in grades K-6)
- Over \$35,000 to the Wilmington Residential Adolescent Achievement Program for a virtual learning program to serve an additional 40 youth in grades 3-8
- \$25,000 to Cape Fear Communities in Schools for a six-week literacy program
- \$5,000 to the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church for a reading program for low income youth

Adapting city operations

In the early stages of the pandemic, the city tapped the unique attributes of the Wilmington Convention Center (WCC) as a safe venue for holding necessary public

meetings. The WCC has the ability to split groups up into multiple rooms and connect them all with real-time two-way audio and video. Since April, City Council and other city boards and commissions have held public meetings at the convention center, allowing important business and public hearings to proceed while still complying with the governor's mandates on social distancing and maximum room occupancy.

Individuals who cannot attend a public hearing but wish to comment on items can do so via an electronic form on the website. Those that do attend are required to wear masks and are temperature-tested at the door. All of the meetings are televised on Spectrum Channel 8 and webcast at wilmingtonnc.gov/gtv.

In addition to several city boards and commissions, other local agencies such as the NC State Ports Authority, the CFPUA, and New Hanover County have utilized the WCC to help them continue their work during the pandemic. ■

Planning Director Glenn Harbeck gets his temperature checked prior to a city council meeting at the Wilmington Convention Center.



City Council voted to partner with the Downtown Business Alliance to convert city blocks into outdoor dining areas over the summer. The program, Downtown Alive, provided a safe opportunity to support local businesses. In the fall, the program transitioned to convert parking spaces into "parklets" for outdoor dining.



BOND PROJECTS UNDERWAY



Transportation Bond Progress

The \$55 million transportation bond includes 37 projects, several of which are complete with many more in the works. Below are some that will be taking shape in the coming months:

Wrightsville Avenue Sidewalks and Roundabout: These projects involve filling sidewalk gaps on the north side of Wrightsville Avenue between Castle Street and Hawthorne Road near the NHRMC Orthopedic Hospital. Additionally, a roundabout will be constructed at the intersection of Wrightsville Avenue and Wallace Avenue. Construction is slated to begin mid-2021.

Masonboro Loop Trail: This 1.4 mile multi-use path will run along the west side of Masonboro Loop Road from Pine Grove Drive to Navaho Trail. Construction is slated to begin in the spring.

Oleander Drive Sidewalks: A new sidewalk on the north side of Oleander Drive will fill in existing sidewalk gaps and improve pedestrian crossings between Wooster Street and Mimosa Place and between Hawthorne Road and 42nd Street. These projects are slated for construction in 2021.

Dawson and Wooster Street Streetscape and 8th Street Crosswalks: This project involves curb bulb-outs and handicap ramps, pedestrian crossings, filling in sidewalk gaps, and landscaping between 5th Avenue and 15th Street on both Dawson and Wooster Streets. Construction on this project is slated to begin in the spring.

17th Street Sidewalks and Dawson Street Crosswalks: Filling in sidewalk gaps on 17th Street to the south of Dawson Street and adding safe pedestrian crossings at Dawson Street at 16th Street and Dawson Street at 17th Street are the primary elements included in this project. Construction of this project is slated to begin in early 2021.

Kerr Avenue Trail: When complete, the new trail will connect with the existing multi-use trail on Kerr Avenue at Patrick Avenue, run south along Kerr Avenue, and cut through to College Road where there is a signalized pedestrian intersection leading to the UNCW campus at Hurst Drive. It will connect to the Cross City Trail. Construction of this project is slated to begin in 2022.

Greenville Loop Trail: This 4.3 mile trail will begin at Park Avenue and run the entirety of Greenville Loop Road, then along Pine Grove Drive and Holly Tree Road to connect with the recently completed Central College Trail at Holly Tree Road. Construction is slated to begin in early 2022.

Pine Grove North: Planned improvements include a realigned perpendicular intersection at Pine Grove and Oleander with a new traffic signal, additional turn lanes, pedestrian crossings, and sidewalks. It will also include

An aerial view of progress on North Waterfront Park, a voter-approved parks bond project slated to open in the summer of 2021.

intersection improvements at Pine Grove and MacMillan Avenue. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2022.

Pine Grove South: This project includes an installation of a two-lane roundabout at Pine Grove Drive and Greenville Loop Road with pedestrian and sidewalk improvements. The project also includes intersection improvements at Pine Grove Drive and Holly Tree Road, including an additional southbound lane on Pine Grove Drive between Greenville Loop Road and Beasley Road. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2022. ■



Construction is underway on the Derick GS Davis Community Center at Maides Park, a 2016 voter-approved parks bond project slated for completion in the spring of 2021. The new facility will include a gymnasium and multipurpose room.



Refurbished clay tennis courts, a new clubhouse, a walking path, and a public pool are among the amenities at the new Echo Farms Park. The city and county both pitched in to purchase the land and make the improvements to this facility, which will be maintained by the county. The park officially opened in October.

 Learn more about these bond projects and others at wilmingtonnc.gov/transportationbond



City Creates Clean Energy Task Force to Help Determine Clean Energy Goals

In May 2020, the city's Clean Energy Task Force was formed. Comprised of 35 citizen volunteers and four subcommittees, the task force studied and prepared recommendations to improve the city's clean energy and sustainability practices. The group's report will be presented to City Council in January 2021, covering matters related to:

- Adopting a clean energy policy, including a target for 2050
- Reducing the city's reliance and use of fossil fuels in fleet and building operations
- Promoting renewable energy and reduce harmful energy-related environmental impacts
- Creating a socially equitable strategy that benefits all residents, especially low income
- Providing strategies on how to engage Wilmington residents in support of a clean energy policy ■

i Learn more about the task force at wilmingtonnc.gov/cleanenergy

RECYCLING

How to Recycle Plastic Bags and Film



Curbside recycling bins are not able to accept plastic bags and plastic film, such as dry cleaning bags, produce bags, plastic wrap, and bubble wrap. These items may be recycled at several drop-off locations, including many grocery and retail stores.

i For a list of these locations, please visit plasticfilmrecycling.org

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

City Awarded \$1.8 Million Grant for Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes Program



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently awarded the City of Wilmington a \$1.8 million Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control grant to support its Lead Hazard Reduction / Healthy Homes Program, which provides grants to low-income homeowners with young children under six years old and rental property owners whose priority is to market units to low income families with young children. These grants assist in testing for and remediating lead-based paint health hazards and other health hazards in homes built before 1978.

Lead-based paint is a major source of lead poisoning for young children and can cause permanent damage to a child's brain and nervous system. Lead based paint is found in many homes built before 1978.

The city will also provide EPA approved lead renovator certification training, EPA approved lead hazard control work classes and certification training, and healthy homes training courses at no cost to local contractors. As a result, the city aims to grow the pool of local qualified companies that can perform this work. ■

i Learn more by calling 910.341.7836 or visiting wilmingtonnc.gov/communitydevelopment



City Launches Initiative to Plant 1739 Trees by Next Fall

The City of Wilmington and its partners started the Wilmington Tree Initiative to enhance the tree canopy across Wilmington, which has suffered from ongoing development and damaging storms. The tree initiative created the following goals:

- Plant 1739 trees by Fall 2021

- Develop partnerships with businesses, schools, neighborhood associations, and other organizations to promote tree planting on both public & private property
- Educate the public about the value of trees by developing resources and classes related to trees including planting, species selection, and maintenance

There are many ways for businesses and the public to be involved in the initiative including:

- Becoming a sponsor
- Volunteering at a tree planting event or tree giveaway event
- Attending a workshop or program
- Sharing information with others

Help us reach 1739 trees by getting involved with the Wilmington Tree Initiative. ■

i Learn more at wilmingtonnc.gov/urbanforest





Rise Together: Bridging Divides to Make a Stronger Community

On August 18, the City Council unanimously voted to adopt the Rise Together initiative to support values and policies that advance equal opportunity for all citizens to fully participate in community life.

The initiative emerged as our community, along with many others across America, engaged a larger national conversation about race, equity, and justice. The Rise Together resolution acknowledges our city's long history of challenges regarding race, such as the 1898 Massacre, segregation, and the Wilmington Ten. While much work remains to be done, the resolution also honors the progress our community has made to address the wounds of our past, including major annual investments in community partnerships that address systemic needs.

Rise Together seeks to build upon our commitment to justice and equity by identifying the unfinished work and developing a constructive response that involves our entire community—from local governments to the non-profit and business communities.

Late this past summer, when national tensions were at their height, I hosted a series of conversations with community leaders who have nurtured a sense of collective purpose for works of healing and reconciliation in our community. These leaders include retired educator Bertha Todd, pastors Mike Queen and Derek Macleod, non-profit leaders Frankie Roberts and Linda Pearce Thomas, Judge James Faison, and business leader Chip Mahan.

While challenges of race began this conversation, Rise Together extends beyond race to advance equity in any number of facets, and better include all our neighbors as full participants in community life. This is not about one group versus another but what we can do as a community to become a place where every citizen feels valued and has an equitable opportunity to prosper and enjoy quality of life.

I hope you enjoy reading some excerpts of this conversation series and invite you to watch the full series online at wilmingtonnc.gov/risetgether.

Sincerely,
Mayor Bill Saffo



RISE TOGETHER

Mike Queen on the Importance of Relationships

Bill: How do we talk to one another in a way to understand the hard issues that face different parts of our community? How do we bridge that gap?

Mike: I think it all starts with relationships. You have to develop a relationship with somebody. You can't solve the big problems if you don't know how to talk about smaller stuff, personal stuff. I came to Wilmington in 1986 and in the first 10 or 12 years I was here, I was part of some groups that were trying to deal with some of the divisive issues we faced. We didn't make much progress until, one day, Ben David brought together a group of Black pastors and White pastors, and the sad thing was we didn't know one another. But I developed such a great relationship with Rob Campbell and James Utley, two Black pastors. We came to a place where we trusted one another completely. Until we are intentional about building relationships across these divides, we just stay in our corner.

Bill: We've had a tough history here. What people thought in 1898 and what people thought in 1971 is light years away from what people think today, but it seems to be the flash point even into the 21st century of what we're dealing with still today. Any thoughts?

Mike: Dad used to say, "The only problem you can't solve is the one you won't talk about." We can't ignore the problems that we face. Ignoring them doesn't make them go away. It only makes them worse. It's tedious. It's painful. You inch along when you want to take big steps, but as long as we keep talking to people who don't agree with us and people who are different from us, I think we have a chance at finding out what their hope is. Once you understand their hope, and they understand your hope, I think you begin to find common ground.

The Rev. Mike Queen is the retired pastor of First Baptist Church of Wilmington. During his 25-year pastorate, he helped found The Harrelson Center to support local non-profits and community ministries, and also served on the Board of Trustees for his alma mater, Wake Forest University.



“You inch along when you want to take big steps, but as long as we keep talking to people who don't agree with us and people who are different from us, I think we have a chance at finding out what their hope is.”

— Pastor Mike Queen

Bertha Todd on Understanding and Reconciliation

Bill: Mrs. Bertha Todd, thank you for speaking with me about where we are as a community. You're a lifelong educator here in Wilmington—you were my librarian way back at Williston many years ago.

Bertha: I came here with a master's degree; of course, I thought I was going to be a pediatrician. But from a family of educators, I ended up in education and I've been here 50-plus years since. Little did I realize, being in the library at that time, I was going to hear all about the riots and complaints and it was protest after protest. By then I became an expert. I knew how to guide the students to the gym and hear them out. I met with Black students from Hoggard and Hanover. There were about 200 or more students there, and they had no adult leader, and so I became the leader by default. I had to do what I had to do in order to keep the peace in the schools so that the teachers could teach.

Bill: I remember that was about the time of desegregation of the school system in New Hanover County.

Bertha: '68. The fall of '68.

Bill: And, of course, it was a tumultuous time.

Bertha: We've made a lot of progress in Wilmington since I came in '52, and I've helped a lot of that progress along. I'll never forget speaking at a church here in Wilmington—all white—and I was the only Black individual. Someone said,

“Well, Bertha, what do the Blacks want?” I said, “Let me answer your question with another question. What is it you want out of life? The same thing you want, Blacks want, Hispanics want, Asians want. We are all human beings and we want the same thing. Check yourself and see what it is you want out of life and what you want your children to have out of life. They want the same. We are all humans.”

Bill: Did you have times when you thought this thing is going to come apart at the seams?

Bertha: Yes, yes, yes. We were simply trying to heal a wound and move towards healing our souls. I've spoken to about every group here in New Hanover County, all Black, all White, mixed groups, you name it. I let them know that we are not out there to get you and everything we do from now on is a part of the progress of reconciliation. My 13 years working with

the 1898 community project gave me a lot of hope in people because we worked as a unified group, White and Black together. Whether we take a huge step or whether we take a small one, we've got to continue to move on.

Bertha Todd is a retired educator who was instrumental in integrating Wilmington's local schools. For her lifetime of service to the community, she received one of North Carolina's most prestigious honors, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, as well as Lifetime Achievement awards from the YWCA and Star News, and an Honorary Doctorate from UNC Wilmington.

i These are excerpts from conversations with the Mayor. To view the full videos, visit wilmingtonnc.gov/risetgether

“Whether we take a huge step or whether we take a small one, we've got to continue to move on.”

— Bertha Todd



DEBRIS CLEANUP

By the Numbers: Hurricane Isaias Storm Debris

Hurricane Isaias made landfall to the west of Wilmington as a Category 1 storm on Aug. 3, resulting in an estimated \$4.53 million in commercial property damage and \$5.99 million in residential property damage. The city activated the pre-positioned debris removal contract with DRC and trucks with a mechanized claw began debris removal efforts on Aug. 10 and finished operations on Sept. 9.

Talkin' Trash Word Search

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Bin | Landfill |
| Biodegradable | Metal |
| Bulky | Organic |
| Collection | Paper |
| Compost | Plastic |
| Debris | Reclaim |
| Dispose | Recycle |
| Energy | Reduce |
| Environment | Reuse |
| Garbage | Trash |
| Glass | Upcycle |
| Green | Vegetative |
| Incineration | Waste |

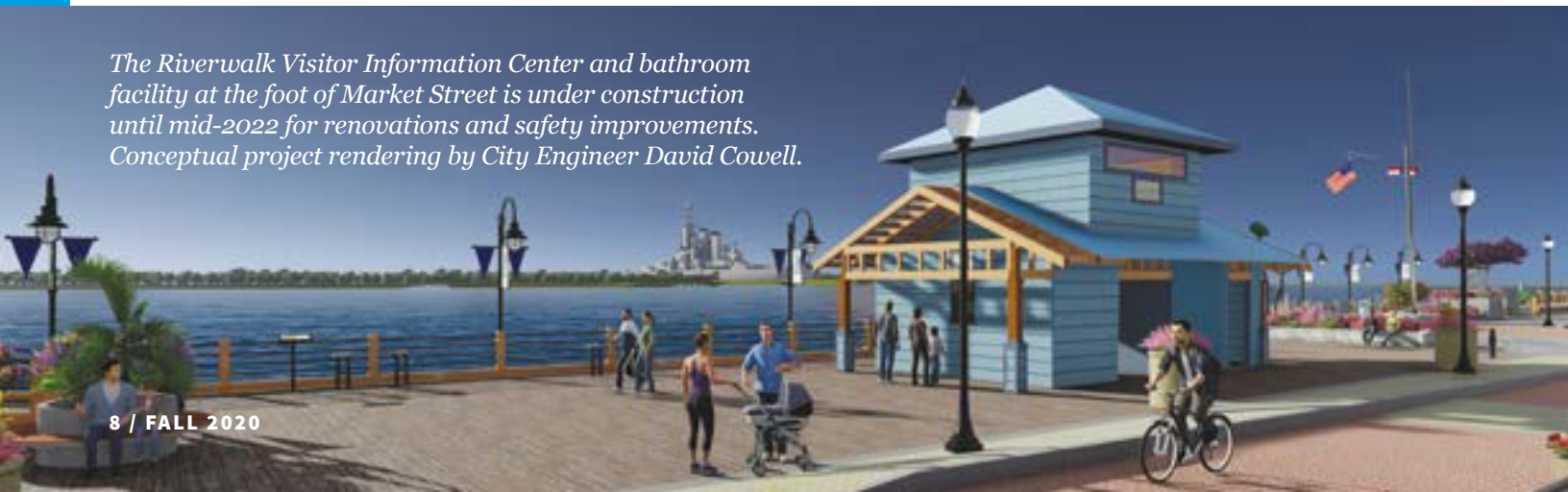
4,538
TRUCK
LOADS

230,000 CUBIC YARDS
OF VEGETATIVE DEBRIS

32 DAYS
OF COLLECTION

W U E T G H R S E V I T A T E G E V B S H U K S R Y X Q U I M D L N Q V O X I N O S H L G N
S A G L A T E M R E D B Y D N U I Y A U C Z G A J H C K Z K E N V I R O N M E N T E J N S A
H T A C R Z P X O S M Q O W Z Q Z D I E O J T M S B U L K Y X H X G B K N A B E X V O S R L
N S Y A E G A I U J I E G A B R A G Z O D L O J E U S Q K U X I S Y C F W N
S I N I B S G V C
I U M T C U W D

The Riverwalk Visitor Information Center and bathroom facility at the foot of Market Street is under construction until mid-2022 for renovations and safety improvements. Conceptual project rendering by City Engineer David Cowell.



FALL 2020 RESIDENT SURVEY:

Staying Informed and Getting Connected

The Fall 2020 Resident Survey is designed to better understand how our community shares and receives news and information. Future surveys will cover a variety of topics to provide valuable resident feedback. All responses are kept anonymous. Please see the back for information on how to submit your responses. Thank you for your participation.

1. Where do you get your news and information about local government and the local community? Check all that apply.

- Community groups
please specify _____
- Printed newspapers
please specify _____
- Online newspapers and websites
please specify _____
- Radio
please specify _____
- Social media
please specify _____
- Television news
please specify _____
- Word of mouth
please specify _____

2. Do you follow the City of Wilmington on social media (such as Facebook and Twitter)?

- Yes, I follow the city on social media
- No, I do not currently follow the city but might in the future
- No, I do not follow the city and do not plan to
- I do not use social media

3. For which of the following reasons do you follow (or might consider following) the City of Wilmington on social media? Check all that apply.

- Stay up to date on the current issues before the city council
- Learn about community news and events
- Receive emergency communications
- Give input on matters concerning the city
- Report a problem with a city service
- Ask a question

4. In which of the following ways have you seen information from the City of Wilmington on social media? Check all that apply.

- Seen information from the city on social media
- Follow the city on social media
- “Liked” or reacted to social media posts by the city
- Shared posts from the city
- Commented on posts by the city
- Sent a private message to the city
- I use social media but have not seen information from the city
- I do not use or do not frequently use social media

5. In which of the following ways would you most prefer to communicate with the city to share an opinion, report a problem, or ask a question?

- Send a message through the website
- Make a telephone call
- Send a message or post on social media (like Facebook or Twitter)
- Send an email
- Use a smartphone app

6. Have you visited the City of Wilmington’s website, and if so, for what reason?

- No, I have not visited the city’s website
- Yes, I have visited the city’s website to

7. Are there activities that you do not currently use the city’s website for but would like to be able to perform through the website? If so, what?

8. On which of the following social media platforms do you follow the city?

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- Nextdoor
- Twitter
- YouTube
- I do not use social media

9. Which of the following social media platforms do you use?

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- Nextdoor
- Twitter
- YouTube
- Medium
- Parler
- Pinterest
- Reddit
- Snapchat
- TikTok
- Tumblr
- WhatsApp
- I do not use social media

KID'S CORNER

My Carnivorous Plant



The Venus Flytrap is North Carolina's Official State Carnivorous Plant, meaning that it eats meat! Its leaves look like mouths that snap shut as bugs walk over them. The Wilmington area is one of the few places in the U.S. where the Venus Flytrap grows naturally in the wild.

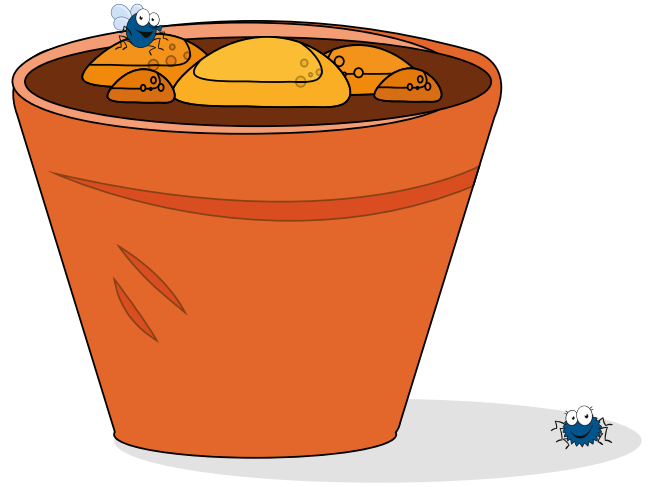
We'd love to see your imagination at work! Draw a plant that attracts, captures, and digests insects or other animal life.

Artist's First Name and Age:

Plant Name:

Describe how your plant traps its food:

Fun Fact: Venus Flytraps are native to the savannas and coastal bogs of North and South Carolina.



To return a completed survey and/or Kid's Corner submission, use the postage paid reply envelope enclosed with the newsletter.

If you have completed the survey, your responses will be included with those from all other participants to provide valuable feedback to help inform and improve city decisions and operations. All survey responses are kept anonymous. If you are returning a Kid's Corner submission, you are granting the city permission to publish the artwork along with the artist's name and age. Thank you for your participation.

The mailing address for submissions is City Manager's Office, PO Box 1810, Wilmington, NC 28402-1810. Submissions may also be scanned and emailed to newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov.

 **Questions? Reach out to us by email at newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov or phone at 910.341.7800**

PUBLIC SAFETY

WPD, WFD Provide Life-saving Services, Navigate Historic Challenges

Between a pandemic, civil unrest, and a hurricane, the City of Wilmington’s public safety departments have adapted to overcome historic challenges this year.

WPD



In January, Police Chief Ralph Evangelous concluded his 15-year term with the department, passing the torch to then-Assistant Chief Donny Williams, with nearly 30-years of experience with WPD. City Council unanimously appointed Williams as Chief of Police in June.

Despite the many challenges of 2020 including the ongoing pandemic, the day-to-day operations of the police department continued unabated. From Jan. 1 to the end of October, the agency responded to over 129,000 calls for service, investigated 16 homicide cases,

and several difficult crash investigations.

The WPD Public Affairs Division worked to create virtual and socially-distant events, such as Drive-Thru Demo Day, to allow officers to connect with residents with a reduced risk of spreading of the virus.

In August, Wilmington experienced yet another hurricane—the third to hit the city in three years. Using generators and the agency’s two M-ATVs, various units helped clear roadways and restore power to major intersections after the storm.

WFD

During the previous calendar year, the Wilmington Fire Department responded to 11,540 calls for service. Of those, 461 were for fires, 1,733 were for motor vehicle accidents, and 6,116 were for medical emergencies.

WFD does more than responding to emergencies. During this same time period, the department inspected 4,500 businesses and occupancies, more than 6,000 fire hydrants, and made 22,490 educational public contacts.

WFD is currently hiring for its next recruiting class. The application period begins Dec. 1 and concludes on Dec. 31.

Applicants accepted into the recruiting class complete six months of training, including more than 100 hours of physical

training. During this time recruits achieve state certifications for Emergency Medical Technician, Firefighter, Shipboard Firefighting, and Hazardous Materials Operations, as well as Child Passenger Safety Seat Technician. The class is also trained in Firefighter Rescue, Safety, and Survival. ■

i If you’re interested in joining WFD, visit wilmingtonnc.gov/firerecruitment



“I love working for WFD because the family bond is unmatched.”

— Firefighter Nick Shepard

CONTACT

Wilmington City Council

Bill Saffo, Mayor
Margaret E. Haynes, Mayor Pro-Tem
Charles H. Rivenbark, Jr.
Kevin O’Grady
Neil Anderson
Clifford D. Barnett, Sr.
Kevin Spears

General Information Phone Numbers

City Information 910.341.7800
Cape Fear Public Utility Authority ...910.332.6550
Code Enforcement 910.341.3266
Fire Non-emergency..... 910.341.7846
Parking 910.762.5678
Parks and Recreation 910.341.7855

Police Non-emergency 910.341.3600
Street Maintenance 910.341.7879
Stormwater..... 910.341.4646
Trash and Recycling 910.341.7875
Zoning..... 910.254.0900

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are generally held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Wilmington Convention Center until further notice. Council meetings are replayed Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday the week of the meeting at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Meetings are available for remote viewing via:

- GTV8 (Spectrum channel 8)
- wilmingtonnc.gov/gtv
- [youtube.com/user/cityofwilmington](https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofwilmington)

Stay Informed

Stay up-to-date with what’s happening in the city by following us on social media.

- @cityofwilmington
- @cityofwilm
- @cityofwilm
- cityofwilmington



WILMINGTON NAMED FIRST "AMERICAN WORLD WAR II HERITAGE CITY"

In September, masked crowds gathered along the Riverwalk and USS Battleship North Carolina to watch the President of the United States officially name Wilmington the first American World War II Heritage City – an honor almost thirteen years in the making.

The national designation recognizes the home front contributions to the war and the efforts taken to preserve that history. For Retired Navy Captain Wilbur Jones, who successfully led the effort to establish this designation for Wilmington, it was a matter of perseverance and collaboration.

“Achieving the designation as the first American World War II Heritage City, a national history preservation program Wilmington conceived, planned, and led, is a 12.5-year classic case study in cooperation, leadership, and determination by volunteers, elected officials, government staffs, the media, community organizations, and the state’s congressional delegation,” said Jones, who also serves as the Chairman of the World War II Wilmington Home Front Heritage Coalition. “We thank Senator Thom Tillis and Congressman David Rouzer who pushed the legislation through and paved the way in Washington. My credo: Never Give Up.”

Learn more about this national honor at: wilmingtonnc.gov/wwii



*Front Cover Photo: Hannah Block Historic
USO Building / Community Arts Center*