

September 1, 2009

BB&T Lighthouse Project and Preservation of Wilson

Wednesday, September 2nd beginning at 12:30 p.m. will be the kick-off for the BB&T Lighthouse Project focusing on Preservation of Wilson and the Old Wilson Mile. Starting this Wednesday and continuing on upcoming Wednesdays during the next few weeks, over 30 BB&T employees from the Corporate Information Security Department will help to prepare selected houses for marketing and showing.

The work will begin at 12:30 p.m. and continue throughout the afternoon. The first house will be a 1922 Landmark, the James E. Wilkins House located at 106 Gray Street. They will then move on to the Presbyterian Manse built in 1927 located at 107 Gray Street and then finish up at 311 Green Street, a duplex built in 1925.

These houses have been vacant for some time. BB&T employees will measure and draw out floor plans, insure that the locks work properly, secure broken windows, remove broken glass, garbage and debris that are not part of the sale, minor cleaning, and minor yard work to clean-up the exterior of the property. BB&T is providing the equipment and supplies for Preservation of Wilson to continue on their own when the Lighthouse Project is concluded.

Preservation of Wilson is focusing its strategic initiatives on the Old Wilson Mile as a pilot area to gain better understanding of how to promote economically strong residential historic districts. There are 87 properties, beginning on Vance and Rountree at the entrance of Barton College, wrapping around Hill and Green and then back to Barton. They have six houses currently under Option and are working to obtain others in the area.

An Open House will be held this fall to showcase these properties. Preservation of Wilson will focus its advertising efforts for this event both local and regional in an effort to draw interest from the Raleigh/Triangle market and beyond.

Preservation of Wilson is a nonprofit corporation that provides leadership in the revitalization efforts of Wilson County's unique architectural properties. It actively promotes historically, architecturally and culturally significant properties. For information, call Kathy Bethune at (252) 234-7694.