



*Saving Wilson's future
by preserving its past.*

PRESERVATION OF WILSON

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2 • SUMMER 2015

2015 Preservation Spirit Award goes to Cooke-Hawthorne Family

The Cooke-Hawthorne family was presented the 2015 Preservation Spirit Award during Preservation of Wilson's Annual Garden Party and Fine Art Show held Sunday, May 3rd at the Dr. C. A. Woodard-Cooke House, circa 1935 located in the West Nash Historic District. The Cooke family had a great appreciation for the arts and preservation.

President Dr. Frank L. Eagles made the presentation stating, "In recognition and appreciation for the valuable contribution that has been made to Wilson County through the generous and selfless service of The Cooke-Hawthorne Family for their gracious leadership and continuous work to promote historic preservation. Through their leadership, the revitalization efforts of our unique architectural heritage has been promoted and protected."



Jane Cooke Hawthorne accepted the award on behalf of and in memory of her parents and grandparents with Dr. Frank Eagles.

"We are grateful that the Hawthorne family has allowed Preservation of Wilson to be a part of the family's experience in saying farewell to the family home," Kathy Bethune, executive director said. "Besides marketing the property, we also worked with Jane in emptying the last bit of household contents and preparing the home for display during the Garden Party. Fortunately Preservation of Wilson, Wilson Area Habitat for Humanity and the Freeman Round House Museum were gifted many remaining items which benefitted each organization."

The Preservation Spirit Award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to promoting historic preservation in Wilson County, North Carolina. Past recipients are Woody Harrison, Ed Etheridge, Bobby Boykin, Rosa and Jerome De Perlinghi, Andrea and Paul Grigas and Gaynell Stallings.

Always held on the first Sunday in May and located in a private garden, the Garden Party and Fine Art Show is an appreciation event for those supporting the mission of Preservation of Wilson.

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Center City Partners

Center City Partners is a program concept which Preservation of Wilson has created to help the organization foster long-term success through on-going partnerships. This offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations with common interests to seek ways to strengthen relationships and

identify partnership opportunities.

The program was launched in 2014 with four groups: *Savings Neighborhoods Together*, *Building the Arts through Partnerships*, *Preserving Our Past* and *Making the Connection*. With an informal structure and flexibility, Center City Partners has great potential.

A new section of our Newsletter is reserved for updates on the happenings of some of our Center City Partners. To get involved, please contact any one of our Trustees or Kathy Bethune at 252-234-7694 or kfb@preservationofwilson.com.

Preservation of Wilson is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

If you would like to support financially, please make your check payable to Preservation of Wilson and mail to the below address. In appreciation, you will receive an invitation to the Garden Party and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to preserve some of Wilson's finest.

PO Box 2741
Wilson, NC 27894-2741
or join on-line at www.preservationofwilson.com
252-234-7694
info@preservationofwilson.com

Building the Arts Through Partnerships

May 9 - September 7, 2015

Nash Street, Wilson, NC
(between Pine & Pettigrew Streets)

100 Windows, 100 Days,
100 Photographs

Nash Street, the main street of Wilson, has been transformed into a vibrant gallery of large-scale photographs of main streets from around the world.

eyes
ON
MAIN STREET
WILSON
OUTDOOR PHOTO
FESTIVAL

Eyes on Fun Scavenger Hunt

Get involved in the exhibit by trying your luck on the Scavenger Hunt. Clues come from the photos relating to science, geography, landmarks, and the subjects of the photos themselves. This event is sponsored by the Wilson Times and spearheaded by Cindy Cash.

To enjoy the hunt indoors, purchase the catalog for \$9.95 and pick up a copy of the questions at the Wilson Arts Center and Imagination Station. Additional promotional items are on sale at several downtown businesses including Wilson Hardware, James Grey & Co., and Rummage Warehouse.



Imagination Station Science & History Museum
224 Nash Street at 10 a.m. each Saturday

Weekly geography and climate lessons on the countries which are part of *Eyes on Main Street* using the newest permanent exhibit at the Museum. Science-On-a-Sphere is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data on a six-foot diameter sphere.

Free for Imagination Station members or \$5 for non-members.

Eyes on Science & Technology
Every Saturday at 10 a.m.

**Imagination Station is the
headquarters for
*Eyes on Main Street.***
**T-shirts, posters, key chains, and
catalogs are available for purchase
everyday but Monday.**

Continued on page 6

Eyes on Wellness
Guided Docent Tours

To arrange for group tours by appointment:

cindy.cash1117@gmail.com
or the Wilson Arts Council
at 252-291-4329

Self-guided tour information
available with our QR Codes
on every photograph.

www.eyesonmainstreetwilson.com

**Walk and Gawk
Tours**

Fitness Walk & Guided Docent
Hosted by the
Wilson Family YMCA
Each Wednesday
11:30 am – 12:30 pm
July 22nd and 29th

Leave and return from the downtown
Farmer's Market on Green Street
behind the City of Wilson's
Customer Service Building.
Wear cool, comfortable clothes, walk-
ing shoes, and bring a bottle of water.
Weather permitting.

Family Docent Tours

In conjunction with
Disney's Winnie the Pooh.
August 1st at 3 p.m.

This is a shorter, more focused
walk of just a few blocks
to cater to young people.

Leave and return from the lobby
of the Boykin Center.
Weather permitting.

Making the Connection



The Impact Initiative:

Cultivating Visionary Leadership for Wilson

Beginning this fall will be a first of its kind leadership training program designed to identify, train, and place individuals with an interest in leadership positions in and for Wilson County. The Impact Initiative seeks candidates from a wide range of backgrounds with the goal to achieve a diverse class that appropriately reflects our community. Acceptance to the program is competitive, with the most critical selection being the willingness and ability to serve the community in a highly visible public capacity.

For more information email wilson2020director@gmail.com

**Churches Coming Together
August 30th at 5 p.m.**

Services held once a quarter and at different church locations

Churches Coming Together is an interdenominational spiritual coalition of local clergy and lay leaders seeking to celebrate and draw inspiration from various faith traditions, with six services held to date.

Pastors have been Rev. Paul Dunham, Winstead United Methodist Church, Rev. Ernestine McGee, Faith Temple United Holy Church, Rev. Jamie Eubanks, Barton College Chaplain, Rev. John Thomas, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Rev. Tuck Taylor-Loveland, United Methodist Church, Asst. District Superintendent, and Rev. Maurice Barnes, White Rock Presbyterian Church.

The August 30th service will offer opportunities for reconciliation in our community through a program called "Living the Word: Churches Coming Together for Justice," which is sponsored by the NC Conference of the United Methodist Church. The location is yet to be determined. To receive updates on CCT services and events, email George Loveland at gwloveland@barton.edu or call 540-493-0656

Continue on page 11

2015 Spring Garden Party & Fine Art Show

Thanks to Jane Cooke Hawthorne, the 8th Annual Spring Garden Party & Fine Art Show was held at her family home, a brick Georgian Revival style home built in 1935. The Woodard-Cooke House was the perfect place to celebrate preservation and the many volunteers supporting this effort. Mark your calendar for the first Sunday in May each year!



2015 Spring Garden Party & Fine Art Show



The Fine Art Show held each year during the Garden Party is open to all artists working in any medium. Art work must be ready to hang, framed or with a 2 inch gallery wrap and never shown before. Inspiration for work must be generated from historic architecture, interiors, events, cityscape and/or landscape found similar to that of historic Eastern NC. For more information go to www.preservationofwilson.com or contact Betsy Peters Rascoe at elizabethppeters@gmail.com.

Message from the President

2015 has been something of a busy year for Preservation of Wilson. The Annual Garden Party held at the Woodard-Cooke House on May 3rd was a great success. Some 200 people attended the event and enjoyed the culinary delights prepared by Pam Grawburg, Betty Lou Walston, Garland Homes, Jr., Martha Lane Camp, Dot Eagles, Sarah Ann Lamm, Kathy, and John Bethune, as well as all types of liquid refreshments. The Fine Art Show as usual was an added attraction and several artists were pleased to sell their paintings.

It was a pleasure to present the Preservation Spirit Award to Jane Cooke Hawthorne and her family. Jane is the daughter of Dorothy Woodard Cooke and Dr. Charles Cooke and the granddaughter of Dorothy Whitehead Woodard and Dr. Charles Woodard. Both Dorothy's were avid preservationists and their daughter/granddaughter is following in their footsteps. The Woodard-Cooke House is for sale and it is hoped that it will be purchased by a family interested in preserving this beautiful example of Williamsburg architecture so popular in this area beginning in the 1930's.

A second quite popular event was held at the Wilson Visitor's Center on Tuesday, June 2nd. It was a program presented by Perry Morrison, former Preservation President, entitled *Eyes on Wilsonians: The Most Famous Wilsonians of Whom you Might Never have Heard*. It was something of a "Jeopardy" like program with the audience attempting to guess the identify of the *unknown*

famous Wilsonians. Perry had the group in the palm of his hand and they seemed to have a wonderful time guessing who the various individuals might have been. The overflow group said it was one of the best programs Preservation has offered and suggested that additional programs of a similar nature would be welcome in the future. Their comments have been duly noted.

A third program with which we were associated is *Eyes on Main Street*. This was kicked off by a well attended 5 p.m. social event at the corner of Nash and Tarboro Streets with the band, music by Moonlight Swing, and refreshments by Quince A Southern Bistro. The exhibit has transformed Nash Street into a vibrant gallery attaching on storefront windows 100 large-scale paragraphs done by prominent and emerging photographers from 24 countries. This program is proving to be a decided success. It is hoped that these photographs of international main streets will help to increase interest in preserving the historic buildings that line the main street of Wilson.

Again, it is my privilege and pleasure to thank you for being a member of Preservation of Wilson and supporting our community's efforts to preserve our many historical treasures. We hope we can count on your continued support.

Frank L. Eagles

Morrison put all Eyes on Wilsonians



Perry Morrison, Jr. hosted a "Jeopardy night event" on June 2nd at the Wilson Visitors Center. The category was *The Most Famous Wilsonians of Whom you Might Never have Heard*. Looking at the crowd, this *Eyes on Main Street* community event was a huge success.



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Letter from the Director

Over the last year, the Marketing Committee has been working on a special project - Wilson: Where Art and Preservation Intersect. Today I share, along with this group, a special story which takes us right to this intersection.

Through one condemned house, one sale and one more artist moving to Wilson, in the De Perlinghis, Preservation of Wilson found a neighbor, a diligent artist and passionate promoters of their adopted hometown.

Jerome and Rosa De Perlinghi discovered Wilson through our website. The Mack Bass House was vacant, boarded up and ready to be demolished, but the De Perlinghis took on the challenge of restoring the house and preserving a piece of our unique architectural heritage.

But they did not stop there. Wilson somehow invited this artist to look around and explore and, then, to produce some of his best works inspired by the town.

The art museum exhibit, *The Wilson Project*, showcased 90 black and white portraits of the faces of local citizens from every area of the community taken by Jerome at random downtown locations. The

following 12 months hosted an outdoor exhibit with a dozen of the portraits turned into life-size prints decorating vacant storefront windows.

Inspiration from *The Wilson Project* led De Perlinghi to *Eyes on Main Street*. With photographers from 24 countries joining forces to help revitalize Historic Downtown Wilson - the concept: *100 Windows, 100 Photographs, 100 Days* are bringing people back downtown. The exhibit of street scenes from 35 countries spans six city blocks, taking visitors across the railroad tracks and blending east Wilson and west Wilson into one shared community.

We still have much work to do to ensure our historic districts contribute in the aesthetics of the community, increase the value of surrounding properties, and create a safe and welcoming place to call home.

But today we are thankful for the restoration of that one condemned house, grateful for that one sale, and in awe for that one more artist moving to Wilson to help, and challenge, us to get a bit closer to a strong arts-driven community.

Kathryn Ferrari Bethune

Eyes on Photography

Whirligigs Written With Light Photo Contest & Exhibit

The Vollis Simpson Whirligig Project and Museum would love to see your pictures! We know there have been thousands of photographs taken of Vollis Simpson's whirligigs since he began creating them over 35 years ago. Whether you took a picture of a whirligig out at the pasture in Lucama, in Historic Downtown Wilson, in your backyard, or anywhere in the world, please send or bring us that picture.

**Photographs will be accepted from July 12th through July 25th
Exhibition to run from August 5th to September 7th**

The exhibition team will judge the images and declare one "Best of Show" and four "Runners- Up." Winners will receive prizes and will have their photographs exhibited at Whirligig Conservation Headquarters. The other images will be exhibited in video form at Whirligig Conservation Headquarters and online at Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park and Museum sites.

To submit an image for the contest and exhibition, send a digital image by email to wilsonwhirligigshop@gmail.com OR bring it to Conservation Headquarters at 305 Barnes Street (corner of Douglas Street).

For more information contact Jefferson Currie at wilsonwhirligigshop@gmail.com.

**DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ON-LINE OR BY CHECK
www.preservationofwilson.com**



*Saving Wilson's future
by preserving its past.*

PRESERVATION OF WILSON

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Name _____ Email _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- Contributor \$25 – \$49
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(Payment may be in full or with semi-annual or quarterly billing.)

If you feel you have a service which may be of value to Preservation of Wilson, please contact us. Subject to approval, your service may qualify as a contribution. Preservation of Wilson is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which operates its Annual Giving Campaign under the calendar year. Please make check payable to Preservation of Wilson, P. O. Box 2741, Wilson, NC 27894-2741, or contribute online at www.preservationofwilson.com.

Mission Statement

Preservation of Wilson provides leadership in the revitalization efforts of Wilson County's unique architectural heritage. As stewards of Wilson's historic buildings, we actively promote historic, architectural, and culturally significant properties. Our efforts are to ensure that revitalized properties will contribute in the aesthetics of the community, increase the value of surrounding properties, and create a safe and welcoming environment.

To learn more and get involved, please visit our website or give us a call.

www.preservationofwilson.com

252-234-7694

info@preservationofwilson.com

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