

N.P.C. NEWS



NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING COUNCIL NEWSLETTER  FALL 2012

City of Wilmington, Department of Planning James M. Baker, Mayor NPC Editor, Sophia Hanson, Planner II

IN MEMORIAM



The NPC Leadership would like to dedicate the Autumn 2012 issue of the NPC Newsletter to the memory of Chris Dolley (1957-2012).

The Leadership had the pleasure of working with Mr. Dolley on many community projects over the years. Mr. Dolley was the Executive Director of the William "Hicks" Anderson Community Center (WHACC). In this capacity, he was instrumental in bringing the NPCs on board to assist with playground upgrades to Helen Chambers Park and to install the new security fencing at Hicks Anderson. Mr. Dolley was an advocate for the people that are often overlooked in society and his presence and leadership will be greatly missed.

1st District Community Forum Workshop

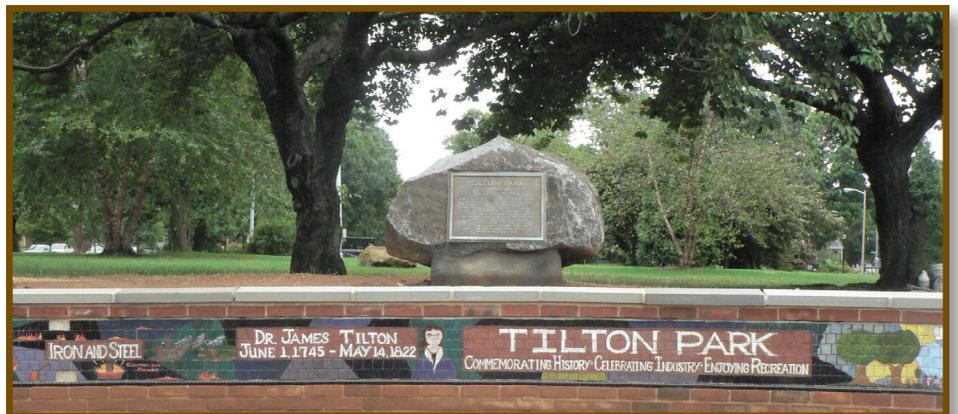
On April 14, 2012, the 1st District Neighborhood Planning Council organized a Community Forum Workshop led by Ivey Ibrahim, Vice-President of the 1st District NPC. The focus of the workshop was to create a development plan to address economic development, education, crime, streetscape, zoning and wellness. The Workshop was attended by residents from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Districts as well as by State, County and City elected officials and staff. The 1st District



Community Forum participants discuss the development plans for their district.

is currently working to implement key goals identified at the Community Forum.

Tilton Park Tile Mural



Beginning in 2010, the 5th District NPC collaborated with mosaic tile artist Sharon Jones of SJ Studios to fabricate a picturesque informational mural in Tilton Park. The park covers approximately 3 acres and features a wide variety of beautiful shade trees which are complimented by flowering trees. Of special note are the flowering Japanese Kwanzan Cherry Trees, which offer a special treat to neighbors each spring.

Working in conjunction with Stan Kozicki, Project Manager for the Department of Parks and Recreation, the 5th District NPC recently funded park repairs and upgrades, including new lighting and benches. The NPC was then inspired to add an artistic element to the park designed to link residents and visitors to the history of the park and Wilmington.

Through this effort, the idea of the mural was born.

The NPC's primary goal was to depict the historic themes (including that of the park's namesake Dr. James Tilton) and industries intrinsic to Wilmington and to Delaware. The images range widely from Delaware agricultural and chemical inventions to banking and finance. The mural also features scenes of children playing soccer and images of Quakers and the Underground Railroad. The mural is comprised of over 2,300 handmade 2" x 2" tiles inset into a 90' brick face sitting wall with a bluestone cap. The 5th District NPC is very pleased with the artistic mural and encourages the residents of Wilmington to visit Tilton Park to view the mural firsthand. Tilton Park is located at 8th and Broom Streets.

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Community Project Day 2012

The NPC Leadership teamed up with the City of Wilmington for the 2nd Annual Community Project Day. The event included over 44 projects from across the City, including an open house at William “Hicks” Anderson Community Center, approximately 25 street cleaning ventures, the painting of two senior centers and a Wilmington library, recycling outreach, civic association outreach, and many landscaping and community garden projects. The City held a barbecue in Freedom Plaza to thank the volunteers for their hard work!



Brad Siegfried of the 7th District NPC at Community Project Day.

The 2nd District NPC

The 2nd District NPC has had a very active year. The District held board elections in July of 2012 and was pleased to elect five (5) board members focused on grassroots community development. Among other projects, the 2nd District NPC oversaw the rehabilitation of the interior of the 2nd District NPC office building, including a vacant apartment, which is now occupied. The first floor office space is now occupied by the YESS program, which offers afterschool and mentoring programs.

Seeing a need for streetscape improvements, the 2nd District NPC applied for a Transportation Enhancement grant through DELDOT. The NPC also teamed up with several City Departments to complete key community projects. In partnership with the City’s Pub-

lic Works Department and Recycle Bank, a recycling outreach survey was completed. The NPC also teamed up with the Parks Department on the redevelopment of the 24th and Tatnall Street Playground. It has been a busy year for the board, and the 2nd District NPC is poised to become an even stronger planning and economic development resource to the community.



Concord Avenue Community Gardening Project.

Street Trees City trees are valuable!

What is a street tree?

Street trees are trees that fall within the public right-of-way. Usually these trees are planted between the sidewalk and curb in tree pits. Sometimes they are on the yard side of the sidewalk, depending on the width right-of-way. To be sure, call the Dept. of Public Works.

When do I need a tree permit?

A tree permit is required for all street trees in the city for tree removal, planting and pruning of large branches. The permit is free and applications can be submitted online.

Who maintains street trees?

Caring for the urban forest takes everyone’s help! The City Code states that street trees are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. However, assistance is often available through various sources.

What if I applied to remove my street tree and my permit was denied?

Permit appeals are heard by the City Tree Commission.

Do I need a permit for trees located entirely on my own property?

No permit is required for trees on private property.

How can I get involved with trees in the City?

Attend a Wilmington Tree Commission Meeting, join the Wilmington Beautification Commission’s “Trees for Wilmington” working group, or get involved with the Tree Program at the Delaware Center for Horticulture.

You may have a specific tree concern and wonder if the City will assist you with this matter. Feel free to contact the Public Works Urban Forest Administrator, Mandy Tolino at 576-2582, or contact the following numbers for more information.

- **General Tree Questions:**
Public Works 576-2582
- **Street Tree Concerns:**
Public Works 576-2582
- **Park Tree Concerns:**
Parks and Recreation 576-3820
- **Private Property Tree Complaints:**
Licenses & Inspections 576-3030
- **Trees and Power Lines:**
Delmarva Power 1-800-375-7117
- **Tree Blocking Road During Business Hours:**
Parks and Recreation 576-3820
- **Tree Blocking Road After Business Hours:**
Wilmington Police Dept. . . . 656-4357

DON'T be misLEAD!

Find out how to get your home tested for Lead Paint.

For further information, please contact DE-Lead Wilmington at (302) 655-7338 or visit www.WilmingtonDE.gov/residents/de-lead