



Since 1989

Wilton Manors Business Association

www.wiltonmanorsbusinessassociation.com

Wilton Manors - A Great Place To Do Business

October 2003

President's Message

The options reflected in the below message, are strictly personal and do not necessary reflect the views of the Wilton Manors Business Association.

Since our last meeting at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Board of Realtors auditorium, I have taken numerous calls regarding our association and what we do. These calls gave me an opportunity to explain our mission and purpose and to reiterate our commitment to the City of Wilton Manors. Many of the people I talked with expressed a desire to become more involved with the community and take an active role in the decision making processes that affect their businesses. Not only was I impressed at the level of concern and validity of their comments, but the degree in which these business owners were eager to dedicate their time and talent.

One such owner is Scott Strawbridge, of Strawbridge Construction. He has agreed to help in the restoration and improvements of the Richardson Park project. Recently, Scott has been nationally recognized as one of the top interior construction firms in the U.S. His company is experienced in historic reconstruction and writing grants for such projects. This is just one example of the many businesses willing to make our city a better place.

Many rumors circulate during an active redevelopment plan. As changes take place within our city, communication is a key factor. It is imperative that we, as leaders, keep an open ear to the needs of our existing, and well-established businesses. Plans for re-zoning, retention, and relocation simply won't work unless there is a significant 'buy-in' by the business community.

WMBA is comprised of many enduring businesses, experienced in the local history, culture and progressive changes of Wilton Manors. We are an organization made up of caring individuals who often place the needs of the community over making a dollar. We value the opportunity of conducting business with newcomers and embrace our long-term customers. WMBA is strong, experienced and organized and we are committed to our members.

WMBA has been actively involved with the improvements for 26th Street. At our next meeting we are pleased to have David Archaki, Director of Public Services for the City of Wilton Manors speak to us regarding these plans. Join us on October 13 at 6:00 PM at Independence Hall.

Sincerely,
Bill Mattax
President

Next Meeting

Monday, October 13, 2003

PLACE

Independence Hall
1639 N.E 26 Street

TIME

6:00 pm - Networking
6:30 Meeting Begins

SPEAKER

David Archacki,
Director Wilton Manors Public Works

PROGRAM

NE 26th Street Update and
Other Street Related Items

Members & Guests Are Welcome

Purpose

To Attract and Promote Businesses within Wilton Manors.

GOALS:

- A. Attract new and more customers to existing Wilton Manors area shopping.
- B. Attract new types of business to existing storefronts.
- C. Promote inter-commerce trade between Wilton Manors businesses.
- D. Encourage interaction between city officials and business leaders
- E. Help promote the small town image with advantages of big city surroundings.

WMES Special Academy

This school year, Wilton Manors Elementary has become part of the International Primary Years Academy. This program creates a trans-disciplinary curriculum which is relevant, challenging and engaging. They are actively involved in inquiry-based learning, with an emphasis on higher thinking skills. They will be learning a second language of either Spanish or French to go along with the internationalism component. This is an elite program in our school system and is a magnet program so students outside our area can apply to attend for limited openings. The children of Wilton Manors residents are afforded this opportunity without application, another reason living in Wilton Manors is "special." For further information, contact Lori Goldsmith, coordinator, at 954-390-0700.

26th Street Progress

It's been a long time in discussion and revisions, but finally we are coming to an agreement of a workable revamping of the NE 26th Street corridor east of Dixie Highway. Council approved recommendations at the August 11th Council Meeting. The plans will be on display and discussed at our October 13 meeting at Independence Hall. The plans will also be available on the city web site, or call Public Services Director, David Archacki at 954-390-2190. Bill Mattax also has some information.

Greetings from the Mayor

I'd like to thank WMBA, the Board of Realtor's and the staff of the city of Wilton Manors for an outstanding "State of the City" meeting. At least 130 people attended the meeting and it was standing room only. Thanks for a great presentation.

The council recently appointed a new city hall task force to investigate various options for a new city hall. Last year the council commissioned a space needs study to determine the square footage and parking needs. With all of the current investment and redevelopment in the beginning stages in the city, now is the time to plan our future city hall. The timeline on such a project could be anywhere from 3-8 years. I'd like to thank the volunteers for their willingness to serve on this committee.

The council is also looking forward to hearing your feedback regarding the NE 26th Street median plan and we realize this is like a broken record. It is frustrating, but I think staff has done the best they can do since NE 26th Street is a county road and requires county funding and approval.

See you at the meeting.

Regards,
Jim Stork
Mayor of Wilton Manors

September Board Of Realtors Workshop

Our September 8th joint meeting with the Board of Realtors, City of Wilton Manors and WMBA was an "overflowing" success and members and guests filled the Realtors room and flowed into the hallways. Mayor Jim Stork was the inspiration for this informative program and we were pleased to be a part of the presentation. Jeff Kahn from the Board of Realtors worked on the set-up, Realtor notification, and was a wonderful host. The City officials updated members and residents on the responsibilities and direction of city departments, upcoming park openings and plans, school activities, and several residential developments coming up. WMBA members who attended included: numerous Wilton Station Representatives; *Hal Miksch*, Wilton Manors Main Street; *Rick Miller*, Barton & Miller Cleaners; *Sandra Mahodi*, WoodTrends; *Fr John Joseph Reid*, Divine Mercy Church; Councilmember *Ted Galatis*, Attorney; *Gus Medosky*, Life Source Chiropractic; *Paul Manuez*, Infinite Health Massage; *M E DePalma* and *Bill Mattax*, DePalma-Mattax Enterprises; *Tracy Carroll*, Tracy Carroll Beauty Salon; *Michele Tusi*, Marrinson Senior Care; *Owen Kauman*, OK Promotions; *Al Charmelo*, Re/Max Partners; *King Wilkinson*, Realtor; *Len Dato*, SunTrust; *Vice-Mayor Scott Newton*, Scott's Auto Trim; *Carla Infante* and *Frank Rubino*, Infante Realty; *Audrey Arbuckle*, Realtor; *Mayor Jim Stork*, Stork's Bakery; *Scott Rosen* and *Steve Weil*, RMS Accounting; *Dean Hackley* and *David Cuthbertson*, Community Greetings; *Don Gudie*, Century 21 Hansen; *Jay Hatoff*, Majestic Realty; *Mark Eagle*, Russotto Realty; *Wade Shrack*, Florida Drapery; *Celeste Elich*, First Service Realty, *Debbie Blakely*, Big Dog Saloon; *Jock Crocket*, contractor; *State Representative Jack Seiler*, Attorney; *Lai Yeung*, Lotus Restaurant; *Dr Eileen Wills*, Principal, Wilton Elementary School, *Virginia Flaherty*, About Town Lock & Safe; and Councilmember *Craig Sherritt*, Regent Title and Escrow. City Representatives included *City Manager Joseph Gallegos*, Public Works Director *David Archacki*; Parks Representatives *Becky Thacker*, *Richard Rothe*, *Bill Wetzel*; Finance Director, *Lisa Rabon*, Police Chief *Rick Wierzbicki* and *Sgt. Shawn Chadwick*, Librarian *Marcia Ellington* and Community Services Director, *Harold Horne*. Many other realtors and residents also attended this informative forum.

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SPOTLIGHT

TRACY CARROLL SALON

2331 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Tracy Carroll

Tel: 954-564-2323

Tracy Carroll, a Wilton Manors native, just celebrated three years in her salon at 2331 Wilton Drive. With twenty years experience, she specializes in Goldwell hair color and precision hair designs. The salon offers hair, nail, waxing, and skin care services. They pride themselves on maintaining an upscale, friendly, and relaxed atmosphere.

Tracy is very proud of her dedicated team. Stephen Anthony, a hair stylist with thirteen years experience specializes in Paul Brown Hair Straightening and has worked with Tracy for the past eight years. Lisa Plattor, a well-trained esthetician, offers quality facials using a seaweed-based product called Repechage.

Treat yourself to a complete salon experience and enjoy a glass of wine during your visit! The salon is open Tuesday through Saturday with flexible early and late appointments. Please call and book your appointments with Abbie, our Salon Coordinator at (954) 564-2323

SPOTLIGHT

BIG DOG SALOON

Debbie Blakely

2283 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Tel: 954-561-4304

The Big Dog Saloon is just like the line in the sitcom song a "place where everyone knows your name". A local neighborhood full liquor sports bar, where a construction worker can talk with his buddies about the days labors.

On Sundays you can watch your favorite football teams on one of the 17 TV's. There's always ice cold beer on tap or bottle. On holidays they have family BBQ's where everyone brings a dish. At the Big Dog Saloon they feel that the customers are their extended family.

Debbie Blakely, the owner has been in Wilton Manors for a long time; Bits & Bottles Inc. is one of the oldest corporations on Wilton Dr. and as such she feels an obligation to our community. They put on several events through out the year to benefit local charities. Such events include an annual golf tournament that last year benefited breast cancer, on Oct. 11th they are holding their 8th annual Chili Cook-off to benefit Hospice of Broward County. Locals cook their best chili and are judged on taste, heat, and presentation. Come out and enjoy the fun and find some new friends.

The Big Dog Saloon is a place to come and test your skills, at darts and pool. They sponsor several teams in county wide competition. The Big Dog also has the 2004 Golden Tee Golf which tests your abilities on the course and you'll never have trouble finding someone to compete with.

So the next time you need a place to cool off with ice cold beer and a shot (and you can even enjoy a cigarette legally) Go on in to The Big Dog Saloon.

Remember they open at 7 AM and close at 2 AM Mon. - Fri., 7 AM to 3 AM on Sat., and Sundays 9:30 AM to 2 AM. Big Dog Saloon is located at 2283 Wilton Dr. but come early because as so many on the Drive parking is limited. To keep in touch visit their web site at www.bigdogsaloon.com.com, join the mailing list and the e-mail list.

Government Day

Wilton Manors is hosting an open house and block party from 5:30 -7:30 PM on Tuesday October 14, 2003 to celebrate "Florida City Government Week-My City-I'm Part of It, I'm Proud of It" The party will be held in and around City hall, 524 NE 21st Ct and open house will be held throughout various departments. Bring your family and guests. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. For further information, contact Parks & Recreation at 954-390-2115. City Council Meeting will follow in Council Chambers at 7:30 PM.

Florida Tax Amnesty

The October 31 tax amnesty deadline is fast approaching. Florida tax amnesty is a one-time opportunity for you to voluntarily pay overdue taxes with no penalty and reduced interest. This includes sales and use tax, corporate income tax, intangible personal property tax, fuel taxes, estate tax, gross receipts tax and communication services tax that was due on or before June 30, 2003.

For further information call taxpayer services at 1-800-352-3671 or online at www.myflorida.com/dor

Worker's Comp Exemption Update

There are some significant changes in the workers' compensation law. Here is a brief update. For more details, contact FUBA at 1-800-262-4483 and ask for Karen or Lance. Until December 31, 2003, contractors holding exemptions can use them on both commercial and residential jobs, regardless of the job size. Effective January 1st, 2004, construction exemption will be limited to 3 corporate officers who each own at

least 10% of corporate stock. Sole proprietors and partners in construction will no longer be allowed to exempt themselves. There will be no grand fathering provision allowing corporate officers to continue to use their exemptions past 1/1/04. The good news is as of October 1, 2003, workers' compensation rates for Florida employers will be reduced by 14%



P.O. Box 24332
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-4332

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