

Hello All,

Hope you had a great 2023. We members of the Wilson Historical Society had a very busy year!

In December of 2022 we held our 2nd annual "Day With Mrs. Claus." A program we have created for Kindergarten through first grade children in an effort to introduce them to the museum. This December we will add Zaneis students to the program.

In January we closed down, as usual, to update our exhibits. We added a large section representing past businesses which our visitors really enjoy. We brought in our Wilson high school artifacts and a Boy Scout display along with our Chuck Norris items. We added new pictures which really enhance the displays.

This past spring we were finally able to remedy the problem of spring rains seeping into the annex. We had the green space between the buildings landscaped, part of the old sidewalk torn out and a new portion added.

The No-Host Reunion took place this April for the first time in 3 years. The Historical Society was represented by several of our volunteers who manned our table full of merchandise.

In an effort to get a little cash back in the till, after paying for the sidewalk/landscaping, we decided to have a few fund raisers.

Sherry Gray and Denise Holt hosted a Paint Party as a our first fund raiser. Paint Parties are popular right now and ours was a huge success. We didn't even have to advertise!

While it was nice and hot we had a garage sale/bake sale. It turned out well. There was a baseball tournament going on at the time and everyone sought out the cool of the annex.

In August we had a blue grass concert with the Kent Schoonover family providing entertainment. At the intermission we auctioned off baked goods.

September 30th brought Wilson's Fall Festival and with it our 2nd annual quilt show. We had 70+ entries with over 100 visitors. Della Updike donated a 1950s Snowball pattern quilt for our quilt raffle. Daniel Taylor was the winner of the quilt raffle.

November 3rd was the 25th anniversary of the Wilson Historical Society. We celebrated with a dinner at Khakis and were delighted to have Carole and George Pinches in attendance. Bill and Denise earned the award of Friends of the Museum. Carolyn Fox, our treasurer, was awarded with the Volunteer of the Year Award and Ava Bryant, who has been helping since she was 3, was given a new award, the Student Volunteer of the Year Award. I hope to hand this award out again in the future.

Through our many activities, we began to gain volunteers. Janet Asbury helped on several occasions. Della Updike became more involved as the year progressed. We also had several

people in the community who offered their services when called upon. We could not have made it through the blue grass concert without Boy Scout leader, Thad Kassheimer and his wife Jenny along with the Boy Scouts who attended! Zane Gray pitched in when it came time to change out the sidewalks, and there were several non-members who helped by donating baked goods for the bake sale and auction. Frank Schaff and one of the city employees helped us put up a new quilt railing with the loan of Michael Baker's scaffolding. Dottie Stearn's grandson, Daniel took care of our plumbing problems and even Nita DeLano's little grandson Ethan helped by washing windows during our spring cleaning day. Courtney, our librarian donated old Ardmorettes (from which Wilson's news is extracted). Brandon, Christy and Jean at the funeral home, print out the funeral folders that we file with our obituaries.

Of course our core group of volunteers showed up at as many events as possible and were always helping in the background. We could not have had a successful year without Ava Bryant, Nita DeLano, Carloyn Fox, Chris & Susan Hammett, Bill & Denise Holt, Juanette Miers, Carole & George Pinches, Dottie Stearns, Ron Taylor and Della Updike. I am sure I have missed naming some of the people who have volunteered this year, but believe me, every one of them was appreciated.

So happy anniversary to us and I hope the museum succeeds for the next 25 years!!! Thank you to all our volunteers and thank you to all who support our museum monetarily. Have a great 2024!!