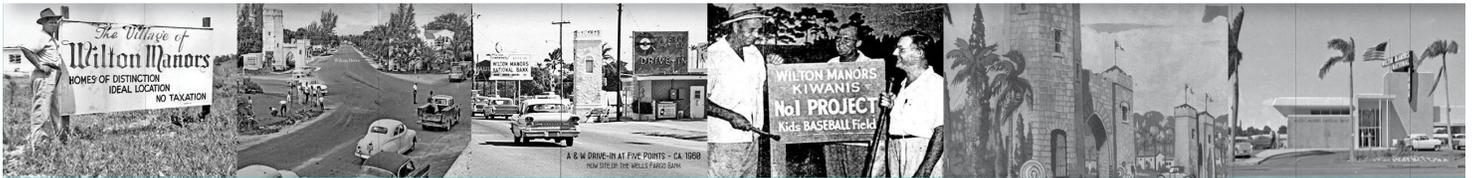




*Celebrating is Just Better Here*

# Celebrate Wilton Manors

Hagen Park | April 28: 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



*Images courtesy of the Wilton Manors Historical Society*

## Event Program

Welcome remarks by Mayor Newton

Pledge of Allegiance by Joy Rossy

Acknowledgement of sponsors by Commissioner Resnick

Presentation on the History of Wilton Manors by Adrienne Foland

1997 Time Capsule Letters:

- John Fiore read by John Fiore
- King Wilkinson read by Vice Mayor Rolli
  - Rich Pratt read by Rich Pratt
- ACM Daniel Keefe read by Dan Keefe

Suggestions for 2047 Time Capsule read by Commissioner Caputo

Acknowledgement of original Civic Association members in attendance  
by City Manager Leigh Ann Henderson

Acknowledgement of Historical Society members  
by Commissioner Bracchi

Mayor Newton Closing Remarks



BE SURE TO JOIN US AT THE 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
CANOE RACE AND 75<sup>TH</sup> CITY BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATION!

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022 10A.M.

*Celebrating is Just Better Here*

THE CANOE RACE WILL START OFF AT THE COLOHATCHEE BOAT RAMP (1975 NE 15TH AVENUE) AT 10A.M. (PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE BUT SPECTATORS WELCOME!)...



## 29th Annual Island City CANOE RACE & BIRTHDAY BASH



*Celebrating is Just Better Here*

Saturday May 21, 2022 | 10:00 a.m.

...AND FINISH AT APPROXIMATELY 11:30A.M. AT RICHARDSON HISTORIC PARK AND NATURE PRESERVE (1937 WILTON DRIVE) WHERE THE CITY'S BIRTHDAY BASH (EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T PARTICIPATE IN THE CANOE RACE!) WILL FEATURE A COOKOUT, DJ, AND GIANT BIRTHDAY CAKE—ALL COURTESY OF OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



## Message from Mayor Scott Newton

### Memory Lane

Right now is such a great time to live in Wilton Manors, but today, as we celebrate the City's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I want to take a look back. Having grown up here, I have so many fond memories from my childhood in the City. One of my first memories is playing baseball at Mickel Field. My parents lived on NW 29<sup>th</sup> Court, and my grandfather, Robert Lubbers, was a true entrepreneur. He built hundreds of single-family homes here, and he built the old Jenada pool that was on NW 29<sup>th</sup> Street. I attended St. Clements for a couple years, until I started fourth grade at the old Wilton Manors Elementary. Things were different back then, and I was allowed to ride my bike across town to the "5 and Dime" on Wilton Drive, home of the current Tropics Grill. I passed the collection at Sunday mass at St. Clements. My dad was the accountant for the City, and Mayor Metger's son Chris and City Council member Gerry Thompson's son Jed were pals, so I hung out at City Hall a fair amount.



After college I came home to live with my parents until I married Cindy in 1982. After trying my hand at several things, I went to work with my grandfather. He had a company called National Top and Glass which, among other things, made upholstery. I fell in love with that kind of work, and have had that same business for almost forty years.

After a brief stint of living in Oakland Park, Cindy and I bought our house on 27<sup>th</sup> Drive in 1986. We had our kids, Stephanie, Staci, and Patrick and I coached on every team they played on. Eventually I became the President of the City Sports League. I was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Board after I complained that the City Commission wasn't doing enough for the children of the city. From there, I was elected to the then-called City Council.

I am very proud and humble to have played a role in guiding the city to where it is today. I am especially proud of my contributions in developing our park and recreation system, investing in infrastructure, and leaving a financially-sound organization for the future. It's been so much fun and a true calling for me to serve our City. Compared to other cities, we are blessed to have a diverse and close-knit culture in our city. I believe in preserving our way of life for my grandchildren, and yours. Looking forward to the next 75 years!

## Message from City Manager Leigh Ann Henderson—23 years

Wilton Manors has been my home in one way or another for over 40 years. I grew up in the Coral Gardens neighborhood followed years later with a rewarding and eventful career at City Hall.

Wilton Manors was a wonderful place to be a kid. The neighborhoods were full of kids in the 80's and we went everywhere on bike. Wilton Manors had everything we could want – great parks, a bowling alley, the Dairy Queen, Slurpees at the 7-11, and ice cream floats at the Williams City Drugstore counter. There were even several fast food spots or, what we now call “quick service” dining options. There was a Kentucky Fried Chicken on NE 26 Street, the old Starbucks location was a Pizza Hut that offered free personal pan pizzas with honor roll report cards, and Rosie's was a Burger King where friends would share a large order of fries. Wilton Manors gave us a safe place to stretch our independence and create our own adventures.

I started working for the City in the late 90's for what I thought would be a temporary stint. I was returning from college, having studied health sciences, and learned about a part-time job opening in the Public Services Department. I didn't even know what Public Services meant, it sounded very broad. My grandfather, who was retired from a career as a County Administrator, advised me that if I had an opportunity to work in public service to take it. He said it would be rewarding and that it would instill in me appreciation for the hard-working people that take care of my community. My grandfather was right, and that short stint has led to a 23-years and counting career.

I quickly learned that Public Services was responsible for critical infrastructure, roadways, garbage, recycling, and drainage. My supervisor was Department Director David Archacki. His advice on my first day on the job was that being on time was being late, to treat everyone with respect, and to learn everything I could. Working for Dave was an educational experience in professional responsibility, customer service, and just plain hard work. Along with Dave and myself, there were only eight others in the Department. They were the first workers in the City to show up every morning and put in a solid day of work in the heat or rain and often in unfavorable conditions. They were veterans, single dads, and young men who dug drainage basins, replaced sewer pumps, filled potholes, and responded to midnight calls for emergency service. After a long day, some even left for their second job to make ends meet. To say that I gained an appreciation for the people behind the scenes in city services would be an understatement. The faces have changed over the years, but the values of hard work and commitment are still part of the organization.

I became passionate about the work that was being done in Wilton Manors and Dave encouraged me to pursue a master's degree in a field that would support a career working with the City. I did that and, serendipitously, a position opened in the City Manager's Office that I was selected for. It came at a time when the City was growing and evolving. Then City Manager, Joseph Gallegos, assigned me a wide range of projects from roadway planning to grants administration, that allowed me to grow and develop as a professional. Our office touched every project, every service, every issue, and was exciting and diverse. When he asked me to help lead the process for planning and constructing a new City Hall, I knew I was in for something big. Now, sitting in his old office in a building I took part in getting built, I am extremely proud of the contributions our team has made over the last several years. Much has changed. In fact, when I began my career, we didn't even have a city email address. Now, we have a small team of IT professional supporting a massive infrastructure and computer network. But the important things are the same. Wilton Manors has a great workforce of dedicated public servants that take pride in being part of this city. Volunteerism and neighbor support are as strong as ever. The community is still warm, friendly, and welcoming. We are still a collection of active and well-supported small businesses and non-profits. And the city remains a great place to find fun and make adventure. Cheers to another 75 wonderful years!



## Message from Police Chief Gary Blocker (30 year staff member)

### 75 Years of our Island City – Gary Blocker Memoir

After a stint working in Leisure Services, I began my career with our City's police department in October 1996 as a police service aide. Technology was basic, crime was prevalent, and community-oriented initiatives were scarce. In 1996 and through the first years of my career, officers handwrote or used a typewriter to write police reports and citations, and this information was mainly confined to Wilton Manors, and not readily accessible to other police agencies. Additionally, police officers had to wait in line on the radio for sometimes 10 minutes to run tags in search of stolen cars, or people with warrants. 2022 technologies have created efficiencies as our police cars have become our offices equipped with laptops and printers capable of authoring police reports and citations that are electronically transferred to our records management system upon completion. Tags and people can be run on these laptops with results returned in 10 seconds or less. In addition, criminal justice information sharing has vastly improved assisting our officers with connecting investigative "dots" using information from other city, county, state and U.S. police departments that has become immediately available through progressive policies, and technology.

Community relations were substandard, and it showed as the primary culture of the agency was the police could handle public safety matters with little or no public help. Fast forward 25 years, and our police department continues to build upon our "Together We're Better" culture by actively working with our community to accomplish our public safety missions. Our department's commitment to consistently meet with neighborhood and business associations, message using our website and social media resources, making ourselves readily available to those we serve, and seeking community assistance and input on public safety matters has proven successful in combatting crime trends, understanding their expectations, and being more transparent in our duties.

In my 25 years I have watched countless officers and professional staff members of the WMPD go above and beyond for our community. I have watched the team place our community first, and their families second, because of the energetic passion for their profession, a profession that is charged with protecting and serving others. I have watched our employees miss life changing moments with their families because they knew they had to investigate a critical crime, track down a wanted violent felon, or take some extra time helping someone who could not help themselves. For this, I have much admiration for these professionals. The law enforcement profession is like no other, and to me, it is the best and most rewarding profession one could ever enter. I am fortunate the City of Wilton Manors, and our community, has provided me the opportunities I have had, and embraced and supported me through the years that has enabled me to have genuine love for our community!!! Happy 75th Anniversary Island City Nation!!!



Dio Sanchez—22 years

I moved to Wilton Manors in 1999, and went to work at the old City Hall at 524 NE 21 Court. There was an old abandoned building where City Hall sits today. Our employee parking lot was across the street where The Gables sits today.

To say the City was a lot different than what it is today is an understatement! There was no Arts and Entertainment District. Ritz Camera Shop was replaced by Galanga, which is now Thai Me Up. Many bookstores occupied Wilton Drive. Our local print shop, Advertising

Advisors, sat on Wilton Drive directly in front of Richardson Park with other small businesses including the Dairy Queen. Our neighborhood plant nursery was at the far end of the Gables building closest to the Shoppes of Wilton Manors. For celebrations, many of us went to Mustards Restaurant, also in the Shoppes of Wilton Manors. Where Belle Isle sits today was one of two remaining mobile home communities. The second mobile home community was



where the Metropolitan Apartments sit today. I remember the old Burger King being an empty building when I started working for the City. Later that became Hamburger Mary's and today it is Rosie's.

So much has changed throughout the years and our beautiful little City has thrived. Wilton Manors is now a vibrant community with lots to offer. Wilton Drive has become a destination while still preserving the sense of community in our neighborhoods. Residents and businesses alike show their Wilton Manors pride. While I enjoy reflecting on what Wilton Manors was, I love what it is, and can only imagine what it can become. Life is really just better here.



### Joy Rossy—Retired After 48 Years

When I started with the City of Wilton Manors in 1973, City Hall was a small building, the size of a single wide trailer-- but the people inside were like family. That one small building held everyone involved with city operations, and since everyone was packed together in a small space, we really did get to know each other well. At the old City Hall, you also saw everyone every day, knew when they went to lunch, knew if they were having a good or bad day. If the City Commission was considering an item of impact to employees, we would all attend the meeting together. We were a family, and that warm feeling from the people I worked with is what made me love the City and led me to stay for 48 years.



Being the first face people would see when they came to City Hall gave me such a wonderful opportunity to meet and get to know many of our great residents. Some residents just loved coming in to pay their utility bill, and to have a good chat every month. Mr. McJunkin once brought me a basket that he carved out of a peach seed. One older gentleman would bring me a flower every month, (although most of the time it was just a weed) but he was so very thoughtful. Both then and now, residents just love coming into City Hall and talking about their lives, vacations, and to make a human connection with us.

Back in the 1970s, the city phone system was a black board that had cords, and when a call came in you had to plug the cord into the correct extension. This system was the size of a desk and you had to wear headphones when answering a call.

One of the bad memories of the old City Hall, was the smell of rats. You always knew when we had a dead rodent in the ceiling because candles were burning everywhere. The “new” City Hall is a big beautiful building with up-to-date bathrooms and no rodent smells. We may not see each other every day, but the family bond is still there.

When I first started with the City we had three meter-readers. It would take all of them about three days to read a cycle of billing. Now we have only one meter reader and each cycle of billing is read in a couple of hours.

When the meter readings came back into the office, we had to enter each reading to the customer’s account. It would take two of us several hours to enter the readings manually into our system. We then had to run several reports and print the bills. A lot of paper was used. We used 3x5 cardstock bills, and they had to be separated into zip codes for mailing. Now everything is electronic and immediate. Reports are saved online and utility bills can be sent online or printed for mailing. We can now retrieve data that can be very helpful for accounting purposes and also for our residents. We can get average usage, detect if a resident may have a leak, or higher usage than normal, plus much more. I really did love working for the City of Wilton Manors, because the opportunities I had and for the people who shared the experience with me.

Kim Holinko—29 years

When I was 11 years old I attended Saint Clements School. During this time, my mom Judy worked for the Utilities Department. Being afraid to be at home alone, I would come to City Hall after school and do homework in the breakroom. The Assistant Director of the Building Department asked me if I would like to do some filing and she would pay me 4 dollars an hour. I thought to myself, that's candy money, heck yeah I'll do some filing for you.

Five years later when I was 16, I was officially put on the payroll working part time after school and on days off from school. From age 16 to 22, I was part time (39 hours a week). Working in the Building Department gave me the pleasure of getting to know the residents and business owners, which was really important to me. For ten years, I reviewed permits, answered phones, filed, mailed out business tax licenses and made many personal and work relationships with some really great people.

The Code Enforcement Department was under the Building Department at that time, so I would hear the guys talking about the different things they got to do that day and how every day was different. I thought, I could do that job; get on the road, meet even more people and have a little more freedom. I ended up going to the Director of the department, who thought it was a great idea for me to expand my horizons and embark on a new journey in my career. He made it happen! I will be 46 this July and am grateful beyond words that I am still employed with this amazing city in which I also reside. I still run into people that I met 20 years ago, know them by name, and they know me. It is such an incredible feeling to be able to have those relationships with the residents and business owners of Wilton Manors. I have been lucky enough to see this city develop into what it is now. From the trailer park on NE 24 Street and Dixie Hwy now the Metropolitan and the trailer park and drive through Farm Store on Wilton Drive that is now the Arts and Entertainment District, it really is surreal.

I truly take an immense amount of pride to live and work in the city I love so much. I cannot wait to see the new developments the city has in store in the near future. After 29 ½ years of being employed here, I cannot see myself working anywhere else and enjoying it as much as I have. I guess that's why they say, "Life's Just Better Here".





Patricia Staples, Deputy City Clerk—27years

I began my career in the City Clerk's Office in 1994. At that time, there were only two of us working in a small room, which had two desks and two large file cabinets. We had to maneuver around each other in order to not to bump into the other person or run into the cabinets. Also, across the hall from our office was the vault, and it was a small space overcrowded with boxes, file cabinets, and shelves filled with documents stored for preservation.

As for the Commission Meetings, we had to prepare thirty copies of the agenda and documents, which we had to copy, print, sort, and assemble by hand. Since we had no counter space in our office, I recall going into the Commission Chambers and using the dais to organize the documents and hoping there were no mistakes or any removal of documents from the packet. Once the packet was complete the Police Department would provide delivery to the Mayor and Commission until one night when someone forgot to deliver the packets. Then, it was decided to have the city's courier deliver the packets and the only problem with that was the packet had to be completed before 5 pm, however, sometimes it was difficult to complete all of the documents in a timely fashion.

Whereas the meetings of the Boards/Committees and City Commission were recorded on cassette tapes and transcribed by the City Clerk. Eventually, the boards/committees' meetings were assigned to other departments and boards/committees secretaries attended the meetings and prepared the minutes during that time they were paid for their assistance. Now, staff liaisons assist the boards/committees with their meetings and an outside vendor prepares most of the minutes. If anyone requested an audio copy of the meeting, we had our faithful friend the radio with dual cassette players. (We still have that radio cassette player as of today.) Throughout the years, the City Clerk's Office has invested in other devices for recording and preserving audio recordings of meetings. (My favorite so far is the Civic Clerk, which allows you to post the agendas, the packet, the minutes, and audio and video on the city's website for everyone to access). I am thankful for our new City Hall and large offices.

## 75 WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE ISLAND CITY

### CELEBRATE WITH ART

- Explore all the murals hidden throughout the Island City.
- Visit the [Art in Plain Sight website](#) and check out some of the more unusual art in the Island City.
- Visit the Art of Sensuality exhibit at Art Gallery 21.
- Look Up! Check out [Up in the Air](#), a wire sculpture installation on Wilton Drive.
- Explore Wilton's art scene during Artwalk on the third Saturday of every month.
- Take a selfie in front of a landmark, like the candy heart statue on Wilton Drive.
- Check out an art exhibit presented by the World AIDS Museum.
- Shop local at one of the many small businesses.

### CELEBRATE WITH COMMUNITY

- Nominate a friend, coworker, or neighbor for Skip Stadnik Community Spirit Award recognition.
- Check out a Community Affairs Advisory Board (CAAB) meeting (the first Wednesday of each month) in the Commission Chambers at 7p.m.
- Spread kindness by writing a message on the city's kindness wall starting in April 2022.
- Volunteer to help the City with the Stonewall Pride Street Festival and Parade, scheduled for June 18, 2022.
- Attend a Commission meeting on the second or fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers.
- Check out [wiltonmanorshistoricalsociety.org](http://wiltonmanorshistoricalsociety.org) for some great oral histories about the early days of Wilton Manors.
- Pick up the Town Crier for lots of deets about our City's history.
- Apply for a library card at the Richard C. Sullivan Public Library.
- Learn a new language with Mango Languages, available through the Richard C. Sullivan Public Library.
- Join a volunteer group, like Friends of the Library.
- Make your voice heard- apply to sit on one of the City's committees or advisory boards.
- Get involved in the local community by joining a neighborhood association.
- Download an ebook from the Richard C. Sullivan Public Library.
- Check out the community resources at the Pride Center at Equality Park.
- Volunteer at a local nonprofit here in the Island City.
- Sign up for the Wilton Manors weekly newsletter to stay in the know.
- Show your Island City pride and sponsor a City event.
- Live in a historic home? Get it registered!
- Our history is rich and our future is bright- take a look at the City's strategic plan.
- Embrace our small-town feel—meet a new neighbor or friend.

### CELEBRATE WITH NATURE

- Visit the Colohatchee Dog Park with your furry friends.
- Circumnavigate the Island City with a kayak or canoe.
- Take the City's self-guided nature tour.
- Visit the Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve. Look for the grey fox mom with her kits and the visiting birds!
- Spend time outside at one of our Island City parks.
- Certify your yard through the [NatureScape program](#).
- [Calculate your carbon emissions](#) to help preserve the environment.
- Go green! Plant a tree.
- Take a photoshoot at one of the City's many parks.
- Nurture Island City soil by using a compost bin for food scraps.
- Visit Justin Flippen Park in memory of our late Mayor.

## CELEBRATE WITH FUN

- Bring the family out to Spring Fest on April 9, 2022, at Hagen Park, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Bring your fur baby to Colohatchee Park on April 14, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. to mix and mingle at Woof & Wine.
- Shoot us an email and let us know what should be included in the time capsule to be opened in May 2047.
- April 28, 2022, – come out at 5:00 p.m. to Hagen Park to take a walk down memory lane, check out the 1997 time capsule and other fun stuff.
- Attend the CAAB sponsored Bike Safety Day on May 14, 2022.
- Join the party at Richardson Park on May 21, 2022, as we celebrate first, the winners of the 29th Annual Canoe Race and then party on to celebrate the City's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday! Let's all eat cake!
- Check-in at [wiltondrive.org](http://wiltondrive.org) to learn more about happenings on the Drive.
- Share the Town Crier on social so all your friends can enjoy.
- Enjoy brunch on the Drive.
- Register your child for a School Days Out Program.
- Go thrifting at one of the many thrift stores.
- Donate pre-loved clothes to one of the Island City's thrift stores.
- Eat somewhere new at one of the many restaurants and cafes in the Island City.
- Host an Island City trivia night with friends.
- Follow the City on Facebook @OfficialWiltonManors.
- Follow the City on Twitter @WiltonManorsCty.
- Follow the City on Instagram @OfficialWiltonManors.
- Tag the city on your social media accounts.
- Interact with the City's Instagram stories.
- Share why you love the Island City on social.
- Invite family and friends to explore all Wilton Manors has to offer.
- Use your \$5 rideshare discount and take a ride to Wilton Drive!
- Catch a show at the Island City Stage.

## CELEBRATE WITH FITNESS

- Take a boot camp class at Mickel Park.
- Need to start slow? Try Chair volleyball.
- Need to Destress? Take a yoga or meditation class at the Richardson.
- Try something new, like a beginner's hula dance class.
- Over 60? Try the Brains and Balance class.
- Embrace your inner Serena Williams and spend the morning at the Hagan Park Tennis Center.
- Put on your dancing shoes and stomp around at a square-dancing class.
- Grab your spandex and neon colors for a jazzercise class.
- Pickleball! Enough said!
- Explore on two wheels- take a bike ride down Wilton Drive's green bike lanes.
- Conserve gas—try to go car-free once a week and walk or bike instead.
- Burn some iron at an Outfit workout class.
- Start meeting your fitness goals—get a Fitness Center Membership.

**And yes, that's 75 things! Now get busy!**



DEDICATION OF CITY HALL  
1957  
MARCIA STAFFORD, FRANCIS CUSTIS,  
MARGE WALKER, RAY HOONAN,  
VIRGINIA VAN WINKLE, NAKIE KARSTEN,  
MADIE DAVIS.

Dedication of City Hall—1957



First Council Meeting in New City Hall—1957



Police Force—1956



Tropical Club—1959



5 Points Publix—1968



City Hall—Circa 1968



Elementary School—1968



The Grand Union—1968



Library—Circa 1968

## WILTON MANORS PANTHEON THE GREATS AND THEIR PARKS

By Benjamin Little, Wilton Manors Historical Society

Printed by permission of:

# WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

With enough money, you can get a stadium named for you. In Wilton Manors, to get your name on something, you have to be pretty special. M.E. DePalma joins a very small, very select group of people who, over the last 90 years, have had an inordinate influence shaping the City. To honor and recognize her, the City Commission has created **M.E. DePalma Park** at N.E. 7th Avenue and N.E. 20th Drive.



Municipalities name things for people who have contributed to the improvement of civic life. This is a great honor and creates a "buzz" when it happens. Generations later, sadly we lose sight. Is Hagen a kind of plant? Did the Mickel Beer Company buy naming rights to the ball field on Powerline Road? By honoring M.E. for her efforts to have Wilton Manors certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, the City Commission has also re-honored the entire pantheon of Wilton Manors greats.

Who comprises this pantheon?

**Perry Mickel (Mickel Field)** was Willingham's right-hand man in the 1920's. When Wilton Manors and the whole building boom failed and Willingham returned to Georgia, Mickel took over. He and his wife Dorothea lived in Willingham's house. He started a farm and bought land west of Andrews Avenue. He leased the ball field which bears his name to Wilton Manors Sports, Inc for \$1 a year and finally sold it to the City in 1960. He was the first Mayor of the City of Wilton Manors and a key player in its founding. The bridge at the south end of N.E. 15th Avenue into Fort Lauderdale is also named for Perry Mickel.

**Alvar "Al" Hagen (Hagen Park and Community Center)** bought eight acres in Wilton Manors in 1941. After World War II he bought a lot more property and with his Tropical Homes Company developed much of the south-central part of the city. He built a golf driving range about where Hagen Park and Community Center now sit. "Hagen Island," suggested in Willingham's plat, was realized by Al Hagen as "Townhouse Isles." His wife Ginny was one of the founders of the Wilton Manors Woman's Club in 1948, the land for which was donated by Hagen. He was the first President of the Village Council when Wilton Manors was incorporated in 1947. He continued to serve on the Council until 1952 and on the Zoning Board into the 1970's. He played a significant role in organizing the first Wilton Manors *Civic* Association which set the agenda for how the Village was run in the early days.

**Dave (not David) Turner (Oakland Park Boulevard bridge across the Intra-Coastal Waterway)** moved to Wilton Manors with his family in 1945. Turner bought 283 lots from the Willingham estate. With James Dean and others, he also platted the land east of the FEC railroad and south of N.E. 26th Street. Turner was the Village of Wilton Manors' first Mayor from 1947 to 1952. In 1955, he became the first President of the Wilton Manors National Bank. He donated the land for the Village Meeting Hall, which became the Public Library, and the Elementary School, both on N.E. 26th Street. Governor Fuller Warren appointed *him* in 1949 as the first Board Chairman of the Central & Southern Flood Control District. He was appointed in 1953 by Governor Charley Johns to the State Road Board as the representative for the southeastern district, and was instrumental in getting six bridges built over the Intra-Coastal Waterway in Broward County.

Continued on next page.....

**Continued... WILTON MANORS PANTHEON—THE GREATS AND THEIR PARKS**

By Benjamin Little, Wilton Manors Historical Society

**Dave (not David) Turner (Oakland Park Boulevard bridge across the Intra-Coastal Waterway)** moved to Wilton Manors with his family in 1945. Turner bought 283 lots from the Willingham estate. With James Dean and others, he also platted the land east of the FEC railroad and south of N.E. 26th Street. Turner was the Village of Wilton Manors' first Mayor from 1947 to 1952. In 1955, he became the first President of the Wilton Manors National Bank. He donated the land for the Village Meeting Hall, which became the Public Library, and the Elementary School, both on N.E. 26th Street. Governor Fuller Warren appointed *him* in 1949 as the first Board Chairman of the Central & Southern Flood Control District. He was appointed in 1953 by Governor Charley Johns to the State Road Board as the representative for the southeastern district, and was instrumental in getting six bridges built over the Intra-Coastal Waterway in Broward County.

**James C. Dean, Jr. Games C. Dean, Jr. Bridge across the North Fork of the Middle River on N.E. 26th Street at Federal Highway) arrived** in Florida in 1936 After World War II, Dean returned to Florida and his old firm and was named Manager of Gulf Life Insurance, Fort Lauderdale Office. With Dave Turner, Dean played an important role in the development of the area east of the FEC tracks. He was the moving force behind making N.E. 26th Street a major thoroughfare and he raised private funds to build the bridge connecting N.E. 26th Street with Federal Highway. He was very active in many local organizations, serving on the Board of Directors of several. As President of the Village Council, he carried the Articles of Incorporation to make Wilton Manors a "City" in 1953.

**Gerald and Dianne Thompson (bridge over the North Fork of the Middle River at NE 6th Ave.)** Gerald was elected to the City Council in 1964 and was Mayor from 1968 thru 1974. His wife, Dianne was an important civic and social contributor. She was a major force in accomplishing the oral histories, recorded in the mid-1970's, and President of the Historical Society. The bridge over the North Fork of the Middle River on N.E. 6th Avenue is named for both of them. Note that the sign on the bridge says, "Jerry," which was *his* nickname. It also says "Diane," a misspelling of "Dianne."

**Rachel Richardson Park, at N.E. 21st Court and Andrews Ave.,** was dedicated in August 1968. Rachel and her husband, George Richardson, Senior, had built the golf course between Andrews Avenue and Wilton Drive along the South Fork of the Middle River. This was the first commercial enterprise to "put Wilton Manors on the map." The park represents the northwest extent of the golf course.

**The Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve** is a monument to George Richardson Senior and Junior, Rachel Richardson, Senior's wife, and Helen, Junior's wife. George Richardson, Junior, contributed to Wilton Manors for over 70 years. He served as City Attorney and on the City Commission.

**Donn Eisele Park,** Apollo 7 astronaut, was a City Commissioner in the troubled 1980's. The City honored him with the Donn Eisele Park, at 701 N.W. 29th Street, a one-acre jewel on the site of the old Jenada Swimming Pool. There is boat access to the North Fork of the Middle River. It was opened in 2001.



The next time you cross the Gerald and Dianne Thompson bridge, pull in to Hagen Park, pass Rachel Richardson Park, pause to chat with a butterfly, or cheer at Mickel Field, remember that these were ordinary people, trying to do their best to make Wilton Manors a better place, and doing a damn good job.

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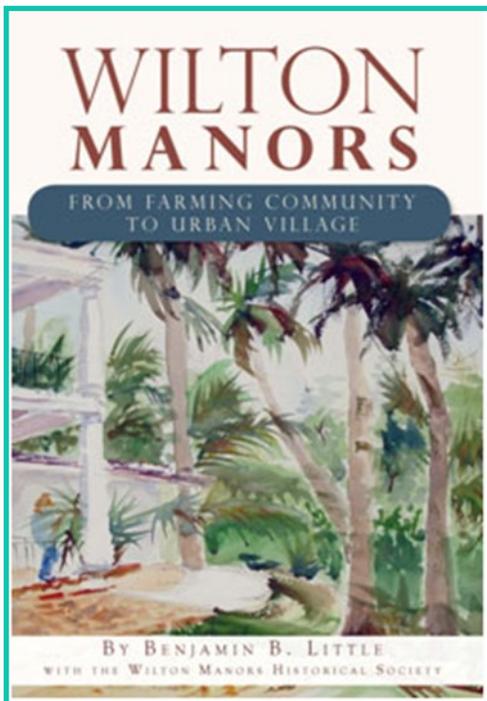
**WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



*Life's Just Better Here*

## **ABOUT THE CITY OF WILTON MANORS**

Wilton Manors was laid out in 1925 by Edward John “Ned” Willingham, a land developer from Georgia, as an upscale residential community. It was recognized as a Village in 1947 and incorporated as a City in 1953. Today, the City of Wilton Manors offers all the benefits of a big city from shopping, to hip restaurants and bars, a burgeoning arts community and tons of community events, yet still maintains a cozy, community-feeling offering miles of natural waterways perfect for kayaking, paddle boarding and other outdoor activities. Recently named the “Second Gayest City” in the United States, the City of Wilton Manors celebrates a diverse population of approximately 12,000 residents. To learn more about the live, work, and play opportunities in Wilton Manors call (954) 390-2100 or visit [www.wiltonmanors.com](http://www.wiltonmanors.com).



## **WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **And where can you learn even more ABOUT THE CITY OF WILTON MANORS?**

There is also a wealth of information (like the “Colohatchee Train Station” article on the previous page) available from the Wilton Manors Historical Society! Visit their website at:

[www.wiltonmanorshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wiltonmanorshistoricalsociety.org).

The Wilton Manors Historical Society is the publisher of “Wilton Manors: From Farming Community to Urban Village” wherein you can learn ALL of the history of the Island City. It is available to purchase at the Wilton Manors Library, various retail establishments in Wilton Manors, book retailers, and on the internet (or directly from the publisher at:

<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781609494377>).

## CITY OF WILTON MANORS OFFICIALS

### MAYORS

DAVE TURNER	1947-1952	KING WILKINSON	1994-1998
PERRY MICKEL	1952-1955	JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER	1998-2000
J. FRANK STARLING	1955-1960	JOHN R. FIORE	2000-2002
HAROLD T. PRICE	1960-1968	JAMES "JIM" STORK	2002-2004
GERALD THOMPSON	1968-1974	SCOTT NEWTON	2004-2006
JAMES E. MAURER	1974-1975		2006-2008
	1980-1984	GARY RESNICK	2008-2018
EUGENE METZGER	1975-1976		2010-2012
ARTHUR WELLING	1976-1980		2012-2014
ROBERT DUBREE	1984-1986		2014-2016
TRACY STAFFORD	1986-1990		2016-2018
SANDRA J. STEEN	1990-1994	JUSTIN FLIPPEN	2018-2020
		SCOTT NEWTON	2020-



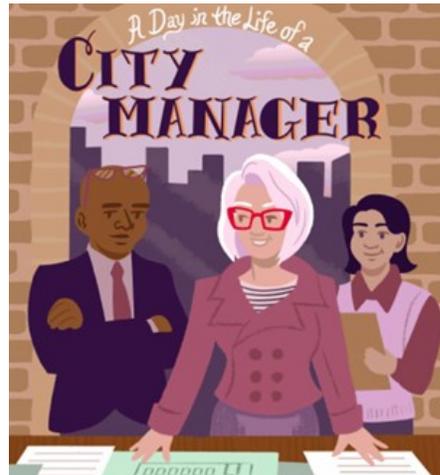
### CITY COUNCIL/COMMISSION MEMBERS

ALVAR HAGEN	1947-1952	SANDRA STEEN	1976-1982	1985-1986	1988-1990
ARTHUR CABOT	1947-1952	JACK ZEMAN	1976-1984		
WILLIAM ROBINSON	1947-1952	MICHAEL B. CURREN	1970-1984		
J. MARVIN BROWN	1947-1952	JAMES GRADY	1980-1985		
JAMES BOYD	1947-1952	DONN EISELE	1981-1982		
JAMES DEAN	1952-1953	DIANE CLINE	1982-1986		
EARLE MIDDLETON	1952-1953		7/23/2008-11/12/2008 ( Interim)		
J. FRANK STARLING	1952-1955	WILLIAM TURNER	1982-1986		
EARL GURNEY	1952-1954	LOREN "DUKE" MALTBY	1982-1984		
CHARLES SAXER	1953-1955	SHEROD "RAB" ROUSER	1985-1985		
CLARENCE RIGGS	1953-1956	MARVIN BUSH	1984-1988		
GEORGE RICHARDSON	1954-1956	WAYNE MUSGRAVE	1984-1986		
FRED STEVENS	1955-1958	SUSAN OLSON	1986-1993		
WILLIAM JOSLIN	1955-1958	RICHARD MILLS III	1986-1990		
VERNON BURNELL	1956-1960	JOHN FIORE	1988-2000		
HAROLD T. PRICE	1956-1960	GLORIA O'GORMAN	1990-1998		
ROBERT SCHMIDT	1958-1960	RICHARD PRATT	1990-2000		
CARL BIMILY	1958-1961	JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER	1993-1998		
HOWARD GOLL	1959-1962	JOANNE FANIZZA	1998-2002		
GERALD MCCULLEY	1960-1964	GARY RESNICK	1998-2008		
GEORGE NICHOLS	1960-1963	SCOTT NEWTON	2000-2004		
JOHN HANRAHAN	1960-1965		2/9/09-11/2/10(Special Election 2 year term )		
MARCIA STAFFORD	1961-1975		2010-2018		
WILLIAM E. SMITH	1962-1974	CRAIG S. SHERRITT	2000-2004		
GERALD THOMPSON	1964-1968		2004-2008		
LAWRENCE SULLIVAN	1966-1968	TED GALATIS, JR.	2002-2014		
MARVIN MEACHAM	1965-1971	JOSEPH ANGELO	2004-2008		
EUGENE METZGER	1968-1974	JUSTIN FLIPPEN	2008-2010		
JAMES MAURER	1968-1974		2014-2018		
	1979-1980	TOM GREEN	2008-2020		
ARTHUR WELLING	1971-1976	JULIE CARSON	11/25/2008-2/17/2009 (Interim)		
SAMUEL STEVENS	1974-1979		2010-2020		
FRED B. FETZER	1974-1979	PAUL ROLLI	2018-		
WAYNE GOLTZ	1974-1976	MIKE BRACCHI	2020-		
TRACY STAFFORD	1975-1981	CHRIS CAPUTO	2020-		



## CITY OF WILTON MANORS OFFICIALS CITY ADMINISTRATORS/MANAGERS

J. FRANK STARLING	1960-1981
TRACY STAFFORD	1981-1982
J. SCOTT MILLER	1982-1985
BERNARD SCOTT	1985(acting)/1986(acting)
DALE REITH	1986-1986
LAURA Z. STUURMAN	12/86-3/87 (interim)
WALLACE A. PAYNE	1987-1993
LISA C. RABON	7/93-9/93(acting)
RICHARD L. BLACK	1993-1993(interim)
DONALD LUSK	1993-1994
LISA C. RABON	1994-1995(interim)
DR. ROBERT A. LEVY	1995-1997
DANIEL W. KEEFE	1997-1999(interim)
LISA C. RABON	3/11/99-3/31/99(interim)
JOSEPH L. GALLEGOS	4/1/99 – 10/1/2015
LEIGH ANN HENDERSON	10/1/2015-

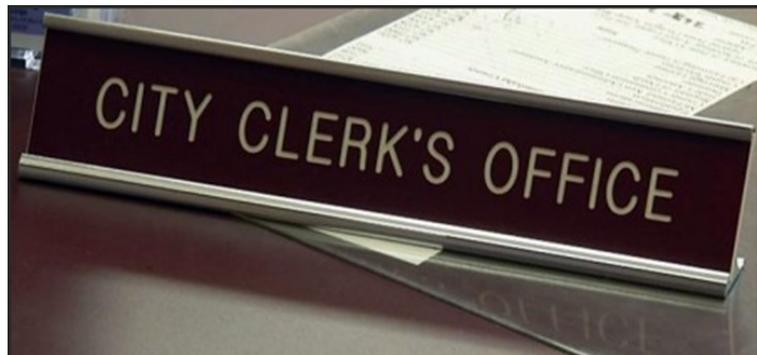


### CITY ADMINISTRATORS/ASSISTANT CITY MANAGERS

DANIEL KEEFE	1996-1997
LEIGH ANN HENDERSON	2009 – 10/1/2015
PAMELA LANDI	2015-

### CITY CLERKS

KATHRYN JOHNSON	1947-1950
MARY HARVEY	1950-1952
MARCIA STAFFORD	1952-1960
J. FRANK STARLING	1960-1978
DOROTHY GROSSER	1978-1979
MARGARET MITCHELL	1979-1980
DEBBIE BASONE	1980-1982
DEANNE J. DOHERTY	1982-1984
DIANE HOMINICK	1984-1984
SHARON BIRKEN	1984-1988
ANGELA D. SCOTT	1988-2009
KATHRYN P. SIMS	2010-2017
PATRICIA STAPLES	7/5/17-12/11/17 (Interim)
FAITH LOMBARDO	12/11/17-



### POLICE CHIEFS

HARLEY SANDERSON	5/13/47 – 11/1949	RICHARD WEIRZBICKI	1999-2005
MARK MITCHELL, JR.	11/1949 - 1950	ELIZABETH GRIBBON (Acting)	2005-2006
R. BEANEY	3/1952-1957	RICHARD E. PEREZ	1/10/06- 10/19/10
TOM BRACE	6/21/57-1961	DORRIS SEIBERT (Acting)	10/13/10-10/17/10
HAROLD GAIR	11/24/61-5/1966	EDWARD COSTELLO (Acting)	10/18/10- 11/15/10
FELIX MILLER (Acting)	1/1966-8/1966	SHARON ANDERSEN (Interim)	11/15/10 – 4/18/11
BERNARD SCOTT	1966-1989	PAUL O'CONNELL	4/18/11 - 4/2/21
STEPHEN P. KENNETH	1989-1999	GARY BLOCKER	4/2/21 -



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