Out and About

By Sara Barbee

A day out is a good day

An unexpected adventure. Everyone has had a misadventure. On a recent Tuesday, my friend and I headed for Wilson, about a two-hour drive from here. I had raved about the whirligigs, and she looked forward to browsing Wilson's antique and vintage stores. Arriving downtown at the Whirligig Park, my friend whipped out her iPhone to practice photographing moving pictures for her iPhone class. Alas, there was no wind. A few of the bicycle wheels were turning, but most of the gigantic kinetic sculptures were still.

In case you haven't heard of the Vollis Simpson Whirligigs, they really are awesome. Mr. Simpson repaired machinery, and out of his profession began to build incredible, and uniquely whimsical, gigantic whirligigs. Read more about Mr. Simpson and the park at wilsonwhirligigpark.org.

Undaunted, we stopped at Tig's Courtyard for coffee and headed out in search of vintage stores. The ones that were still in business were closed on Tuesdays. Boone's Antiques was only allowing serious buyers in and limiting shopping to a particular item. Boone's is reported to have a large warehouse to ramble through, but these are not normal times for casual shopping.

Lunch at Bill's Grill for the daily special of chicken pastry was a comforting treat. I had chosen October for cooler weather and the Eyes on Main Street photography on display downtown. Oops. These 100 mural photographs from 45 countries have been moved to October 31 through May 2021. Take a look at this project at eyesonmainstreetwilson.com.

We stopped by for one last view at the park, but the whirligigs still did not whirl. We thought about visiting Wilson's Imagination Station Museum for children, but opted to head out since there were some vintage places on our way home to check out. Our next and last stop was Max's Auto Service, Inc., 807 S. John Street, in Goldsboro. I won't go into details, but I do recommend traveling with a friend who knows how to use her iPad and iPhone for directions.

In spite of the unexpected outcome, I still count it as a worthwhile day spent with a friend—and we'll head back to Wilson another time to do it all over again.

Tryon Palace gardens. In mid-October, I headed to New Bern for a relaxed garden walk at Tryon Palace. Though there are no guided tours at this time and no staff members to answer questions, it still made for a perfect day of reflection and solitude. Sometimes we can be our own best company.

I began with the kitchen garden on this pleasant, sunny day. Eggplants, gourds, squash, peppers, collards and herbs were easy to spot. One large green plant was unknown to me, but I assumed it must have been edible since it was featured so prominently in the kitchen garden. It looked like a large green weed or a large oakleaf kale. Espaliers edged this whole garden. I'm not sure what all of the espaliers were but recognized one as a fig.

Next I wandered into the wilderness garden. This was my favorite because it was woody and shady and serene and contemplative. This was not a garden from Governor Tryon's time but rather a modern-day example of our coastal

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Every Litter Bit Hurts

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containers. Household garbage and recyclable material are anything that you would put in your kitchen trash can or your household recycle container. Household garbage is not beach chairs, furniture, televisions, plywood, 2x4s, or roofing materials. If you have any questions about what is allowed at this site, please do not hesitate to contact any town staff member. Thank you for helping us keep Pine Knoll Shores the paradise it is.

Scam of the Month

Any reputable bank, creditor, lender, financial institution or government agency (including the Internal Revenue Service) will never call you and ask you to verify your information. You should never give your date of birth, social security number, credit card information or bank account numbers to anyone over the phone. The IRS will never call you and threaten to have you arrested if you do not immediately pay them over the phone. If you get a call like this, you should refuse to answer any questions and hang up. These reputable institutions will also never ask you to pay them with a gift card. If you get any of these types of calls, they are a scam. Unfortunately, people still fall victim to these crimes on a regular basis. If you have a question or need help understanding if something is a scam, please call and ask to speak to a police officer. You can reach the onduty Pine Knoll Shores police officer 24 hours a day by calling 252-726-1911.



