



WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORICAL NOTES

JULY 2019

Donald Scott Newton Wilton Manors Pioneer - 2019

by Mary Ulm and Benjamin Little

Wilton Manors Historical Society

Donald Scott Newton represented the City of Wilton Manors as its Pioneer at the Broward County 45th Annual Pioneer Day on May 11, 2019. This is an honor bestowed on people who have been important to a City's evolution.

Scott was born and grew up in Wilton Manors. The Newton's house was next to the Jenada Pool, where the Donn Eisle Park is now. There were about 100 kids in the neighborhood, and they all stayed close to home. Mickel Field, now Mickel Park was a couple blocks away.

Scott played football, basketball, and baseball at Mickel Field. He went on to coach baseball. As a child he cruised the rivers in a little skiff with a motor. He said that it was a fun time growing up here. He married Cindy Preston and they have been married almost 40 years. Scott has owned his business, Quality Interiors, for over 25 years.

Wilton Manors was not doing well in the 1990's. Scott was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Board where he focused on encouraging smart growth. He was elected to the City Commission in 2000 and served for four years before being elected Mayor for two terms. He was re-elected to the Commission in 2008 and served until 2018. He was elected as Mayor in 2020.



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Scott shares his memories of Wilton Manors below:

"I can remember riding my bike as a kid up to the Five & Dime that used to be on Wilton Drive. Quite a bit has changed in Broward County since that time over 50 years ago, especially in the city of Wilton Manors. We have grown from a sleepy haven of mobile home parks to a thriving city rooted in community and diversity.

“I take great pride in being one of the ‘pioneers’ of our city – helping to transform Wilton Manors by keeping the best of our past and building for the challenges of the future. My adult years have been dedicated to building our community into a better place, whether it was guiding youth on the sports field, encouraging smart growth on the Planning and Zoning Board, or shaping policy for Wilton Manors on the City Commission.

“My wife and I enjoy being a part of a city where neighbors still know each other and residents regularly attend community events, as well as public meetings. The level of engagement of our residents with civic activities is a wonderful sight to see.

“We have raised three children that are building careers of public service through their professions in law enforcement and education. When my children and their children are counted, I am part of a family that has been in Broward County for five generations!

“I am grateful to have grown up here, raised my family here and been a part of the metamorphosis of this city. I guess I want what every ‘pioneer’ for their city wants. For present and future generations to enjoy a better tomorrow and to have contributed in some way to making that happen.”

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