

'Zebulation' celebrates work of Preservation Zebulon

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ZEBULON — Zebulation, Preservation Zebulon's annual meeting, celebrated the work of the organization, as well as offering a venue to present two merit honor awards, elect officers for the upcoming year and watch a film about the life of Calvin Pippin.

The event Nov. 3 at the Olde Raleigh Distillery was sold out.

One of the major accomplishments achieved by Preservation Zebulon in the past year includes getting the Zebulon Historic District officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The organization also celebrated its historic home tours, featuring six

houses 100 years old or older, and a church from 1949.

Preservation Zebulon works in the community to preserve and restore old buildings.

The organization began when MaryBeth and Scott Carpenter began work to restore their home. The couple found others interested in preservation and began their group, which gained nonprofit status in 2016.

MaryBeth Carpenter says the group's main purpose is preserving the important history and legacy of their community.

"When a building goes away, the memories behind it are lost," MaryBeth Carpenter said. "And when a building stays up, when it's preserved, then the history and memories

of the families and businesses that were there stay, then are relevant in the future."

One of the merit awards for the evening went to Nelle Estes Carroll for her philanthropy and participation in Preservation Zebulon. Carroll's business, Whitley Galleries, was the Preservation Zebulon's first sponsor.

Jim and Becky Perry also received one of the merit awards for their work in restoring a country store belonging to Jim Perry's grandfather Walter Perry, as well as several agricultural buildings they restored and moved to create a compound.

Walter Perry was born in 1879 and ran his store through two world wars and the Great Depression.



Preservation Zebulon, which works in the community to preserve and restore buildings, holds its annual meeting, Zebulation on Nov. 3. Laura Browne | The Wake Weekly

"We forget how important country stores and community stores were in the life of a community," Jim Perry said.

Jim and Becky Perry are now working to restore Perry's grandfather's house, where his mother was raised. He said the restoration work is a way to pay tribute to his relatives.

"It's all about honoring my mother and my

grandfather because they were very influential in my life, and they were influential in the community's life," Jim Perry said. "So, we thought it'd be a nice tribute to restore the home place to look like it did maybe in the day when they were there."

The restoration process has taken the Perrys about four years so far. According to Jim Perry,

the two have done a lot of detailed work to maintain the character of the property.

"We're losing our history," Jim Perry said. "And we don't talk about it much anymore and we don't restore it much anymore, so it's very important for people to understand how things were and how they've transitioned to what they are today."