

Dariens' Carol Wilder-Tamme Gives a Backstage View of Preparing a Tournament of Roses Parade Float

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Carol Wilder-Tamme is on an adventure, and appearing in the Tournament of Roses Parade this Wednesday, Jan. 1, in Pasadena, California is just one part of it.

She's been posting pictures and descriptions about the preparations of the large Mayflower replica float being created by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants that she'll be riding on, and you can follow along here.

Wilder-Tamme has been posting pictures and messages on her "[Stayin' Alive" blog](#)" and gave Darienite.com permission to republish them.

The work is sometimes difficult, may have a little risk (at least enough to demand that the volunteers pay

attention to safety) and is resulting in a striking float, decorated with flowers and seeds, that commemorates the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower, which took some of Wilder-Tamme's ancestors to Plymouth.

You can see the Tournament of Roses Parade starting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, New Year's Day on ABC and NBC.

- **SEE ALSO:** [Darienite Carol Wilder-Tamme Will Be on Mayflower Float in Rose Parade](#) (Tuesday, Dec. 24)

Day One: Saturday Morning Post

In a 7:22 a.m. post, reporting on what happened on Friday, Wilder-Tamme wrote: "The first thing I did at the float barn was pick off tiny bits of yellow seeds that should not have been on the 'Mayflower' that will go on the back of the ship.

She wrote: "Then a group of four of us went to work on the 'Mayflower Compact.'"

Day Two: Posted Saturday Evening

"Today was lots of tiny detail work on the signs which will be on the sides of the ship," Wilder-Tamme wrote in an evening post on Saturday, Dec. 28.

In her late Saturday post, Wilder-Tamme wrote:

"Last night, they put the "White Rice" onto this sign. We added the red lettering, which was cranberry seed. Then we went to work on the ship, which was going to be made from statice flowers. We had such fine line to fill, we had to chop the statice with double scissors for about 30 minutes before it was fine enough to utilize for this detailed work.

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"Some of the rice that was put on overfilled into the space we needed for the riggings of the ship ... which meant we dug it out with tweezers!"

Wilder wrote on Saturday: "We have been putting on rice, seeds, beans, etc. so far — but buckets of flowers marked "Mayflower" are now surrounding one side of the float."

The Latest: Day Three — Sunday

Wilder-Tamme's latest update (the text is hers, captions are from Darienite.com):

This morning, I was working on the upper level of the ship. (because I raised my hand when they asked for people who did not mind some climbing.) Today at 6 a.m., we passed the "60-second test" for the masts. They need to be lowered in 60 seconds as part of our tech test.

While I was up on deck, I was able to slip into the "brake/hydraulic lift cabin." The woman in this cabin communicates with the driver in the back of the float. (This is her view!)

The driver looks down at his feet and follows the line on the road. The Brake woman brakes as necessary and needs to lower the masts in order of 1 2 3....so they fit down...and raise them 3 2 1 so they don't smash into each other.

I made sure NOT to TOUCH anything when I was in her cabin!!!!

While I was up top....guys were welding the crows nest and sparkles were flying...while six people were applying chopped straw flowers....YIKES! (I took note of the closest exit!)

After lunch, I worked on this wave...applying orchids to this coconut/statice base.

Viola...much more lovely....supposed to look like froth on waves.

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We could have used ear plugs today — the metal shop in the barn was grinding, soldering and in general making a great deal of high pitched construction noise.

The float riders (and their plus one) came back for a fun party and could tour other areas of the float barn. I thought I'd keep my eyes open for new ideas for the Flower Team at church. Maybe this one would be a bit over the top!

I did think these might be nice in the autumn for church!

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