



# *FOS Deeds & Needs*

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The Latest News from Friends of Onancock School – November 2009 – Number 13

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## For Your Calendar

- Join the **Master Naturalists** for a work day, from 9 to 12 a.m., on Thursday, **November 5<sup>th</sup>** and **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. RSVP to **Donna Ware** at [djwares@gmail.com](mailto:djwares@gmail.com) or call her at **787-7845**.
- **Second Friday (November 13<sup>th</sup>**, from 5-8 pm) Onancock School tenants confirmed to be open are:
  - **Dan Lawrence Studio** – Room 103 – Will show recent work and continue his Portrait of the Shore Project. Stop by for a free 5 x 7 portrait. Refreshments will be served. Open 5 – 8 p.m.
  - **Dragonfly Studio Gallery** – The gallery’s theme for November is “Fire” featuring an outdoor Raku firing demonstration by Elizabeth Hunt. Appropriate to the Fall weather, cider will be offered.
  - **Roberta Dean Studio** – Come out and see what’s new in the green room.
  - **Eastern Shore Art League Gallery** – Enjoy the gallery’s exhibit of paintings, pottery, jewelry, photography, and basketry – all available for purchase. Get a jump on your Christmas gift shopping for your family and friends. Refreshments of wine, cheese and homemade delights will be served 5 – 8 p.m.
  - **Glass Expressions Stained Glass** – Custom stained glass pieces designed by Ann Schlaefer and Shelley Renaud. We also have a good selection of retail glass supplies.
  - **Orchestra of the Eastern Shore** will perform a short program of works in, including portions of Mozart’s A Little (2nd-Friday) Night Music along with his Andante for Flute and Orchestra with **Dan Lawrence** as soloist. Program concludes with some **Beatles** tunes, including “It’s Been a Hard Days (2nd-Friday) Night.” Bring an instrument to play along (sing too!) with this very casual preview. Downbeat is at 7 p.m.
  - **The Quilt Studio** – Room 104 – Featuring extraordinary quilts and textile arts by Lois Sprague. Refreshments served 5 – 8 p.m.
  - **P. Bose Schur Studio** – Room B2 – Paintings and sketches from a recent trip to New Mexico. Don’t miss this exciting art studio in the basement of Onancock School. Refreshments will be served.
  - **Student Showcase Gallery** – Art work by local students. Your chance to see the work and meet the artists of the future.
- The **Eastern Shore Art League** will hold its annual Members Exhibition on two weekends at Onancock School – Reception & Awards: Friday, **November 20<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m.**; Exhibit: Saturday, **Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>** and Sunday, **Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12-6 p.m.**; Friday, **Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>** and Saturday, **Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, 12-4 p.m.**
- Two members of the **Artisans Guild** will open their Onancock School studios during the AG’s Open Studio & Vineyard Tour. Visit **Sprague Quilts & Textile Arts** and **Glass Expressions** on **November 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, or 29<sup>th</sup>**. More info and map at: [www.easternshoreartist.com/main\\_files/studiotour.asp](http://www.easternshoreartist.com/main_files/studiotour.asp).
- The 10th annual **Onancock Christmas Homes Tour** is on Saturday, **December 12<sup>th</sup>**. Onancock School will be open for tickets, parking, and shuttle bus. Houses this year are on North, Onancock, Market, and Ames Streets. Details and a map will be in your December *Deeds & Needs*.

## Deeds

- **Accomack Soccer League** is holding practices Monday-Thursday each week, with games on Saturdays, through November 21st. To find out more, visit the league's web page: <http://s1.webstarts.com/AccomackSoccerLeague/index.html>. Below are some photos of the kids having fun at Onancock School.



- Furnace improvements have been continuing this fall. **Joe Ware** reports the water level has been adjusted to achieve quicker heating, which should save fuel. Four gallons of sludge was removed from the boiler, which should improve efficiency. Further adjustments to the firing mechanism and controls were made. Both of these are expected to improve efficiency and avoid downtime. More work will be done in November, with the expectation that the system will be cheaper to operate this winter.
- **Ye Olde Accomack Garden Club** recently transplanted several plants and two small shrubs, donated by **Joani Donohoe** of GardenArts on King St. and the family of **Coach Trent Serini**, to the south lawn (where old cannon is located). This is the first step in an ongoing project to create a formal garden. Watch for full plans and progress reports in a future *Deeds & Needs*.

## Needs

- **Ideas from YOU!** One of the old **goal posts** from OHS was uncovered by the Master Naturalists while bush-hogging for the Onancock Nature Path. What would you do with it? Is it worth nothing more than for scrap? Can we use it in fund raising? Share your ideas with the FOS board. Contact **Haydon Rochester** at [hrjr2@verizon.net](mailto:hrjr2@verizon.net).
- Become a **member** of Friends of Onancock School. For a mere \$25 per year (individual) or \$45 (family), you can support the school project and receive discounts on event tickets and promotional items. Go to <http://www.onancockschool.org/membership.htm>.
- And, as always, if you can donate money to assist us with our heating, electric, and groundskeeping bills, please send your check to **Friends of Onancock School, P.O. Box 467, Onancock, VA 23417**. Contributions are greatly appreciated and tax deductible.

## Board Meeting Report

The board is working on its annual progress report to Town Council. It's amazing to see how far we have come. Who would have thought that from September of 2007:

- Our Pig-Nic fundraising event has been held three times, most recently in 2009, and a membership program was started in 2009 with 145 paid members to date.
- Nearly all interior spaces deemed rentable have been rented, with 12 year-round tenants, including establishment of a Student Showcase Gallery developed with grant funds.
- Field space has been used by three soccer programs over the past two years.
- The north corner of the main building was repaired to correct mud/water intrusion.
- Three porches have been entirely or partially redecked and painted by FOS and tenants.
- Significant upgrades have been made to our 1978-vintage furnace and 1920s steam heating system.
- Much of the interior of the main school building, including hallways and the former auditorium, has been painted with significant help from two youth work groups: YMCA and YouthWorks.
- Deteriorating tile floor has been removed and replaced with carpeting in some rooms.
- FOS has selected Becker Morgan Group as our architectural design firm and obtained preliminary conceptual drawings.
- The north boundary of the school has been surveyed and marked.

Besides our own Pig-Nic, the following events now call Onancock School home:

- Onancock Baptist Church "Trunk or Treat" (now Fall Festival; 3rd year in 2009)
- OBCA Christmas Homes Tour, parking and ticket sales (3rd year scheduled in 2009)
- March of Dimes Walk for Babies (2nd year in 2009)
- Paint Onancock Plein Air Event, as a venue for painters (2nd year in 2009).
- Artisans Guild annual picnic (1st year in 2009)
- Arbor Day Family Fun Day (1st year in 2009; approx. 600 attended)
- Shore Bank Family Fun Day (1st year in 2009)
- Eastern Shore Art League Members Exhibition (scheduled 1st year in 2009)

- Artisans Guild Open Studio and Vineyard Tour (2 stops; scheduled 1st year in 2009)

The board also worked on plans for hosting the OBCA Christmas Homes Tour ticket sales and parking, which would include showing off our PowerPoint presentation of conceptual designs for school renovations to all visitors. We hope to have refreshments and recorded Christmas music at the school in the newly painted and carpeted large meeting room (old auditorium).

The board decided to omit the November general meeting this year because it would fall during Thanksgiving week when the large meeting room will be set up for the Eastern Shore Art League's Members Exhibition.

FOS is currently exploring the possibility of acquiring antique lights from a local school that would be identical to those that used to hang in the old auditorium. If obtained, these lights would be rewired to modern standards and used to give an authentic look to the restored auditorium.

New signs will be ordered for the entry ways to the school to make clear what the rules are regarding vehicles, parking, skateboarding, dog walking, and casual use of the school property.

Cindy Downing and Eliza McBride recently attended a Norfolk Foundation-sponsored workshop on increasing volunteer participation. They found the workshop very helpful. Now the search is on for a volunteer coordinator to make it happen!

### Subscription and FOS Office Information

FOS Deeds & Needs is an **E-MAIL** newsletter of the Friends of Onancock School. It is also posted on the FOS website at <http://www.onancockschool.org/>. E-mail reports of your deeds and needs to Haydon Rochester at [hrjr2@verizon.net](mailto:hrjr2@verizon.net). Be sure to include all relevant dates, contact info, number of participants, and other details. To **subscribe** or **unsubscribe**, send an e-mail to [info@onancockschool.org](mailto:info@onancockschool.org). Please include your name, postal address, phone number, and class year if you're an alum of Onancock School. Unfortunately, we cannot offer a printed, postal mail version of FOS Deeds & Needs at this time.

The FOS office at Onancock School, 6 College Ave., Onancock, VA, is open on Wednesdays from 9 am to noon. Call the office with your questions or comments at **757 302-1331**. If Karen is not in when you call, please leave a message.