



FOS Deeds & Needs

The Latest News from Friends of Onancock School – December 2008 – Number 4

For Your Calendar

- On First Friday, December 5th, from 5-8 p.m., three of our fine arts tenants will be open:
 - **Dragonfly Studio Gallery** will be featuring “Small Presence” – a show of miniature paintings. There will also be a glass-blowing demonstration by **High Point Glassworks** (see anchor ornament photo)
The gallery is pleased to introduce their delicate hand-blown ornaments, fused-glass vases and bowls. Share some cheer at the Christmas party 5 – 8 p.m.
 - **Dan Lawrence Studio**, Room 103, will show a series of paintings titled: “Painting the Hallways: a Portrait of Onancock School.” Refreshments will be served.
 - **Glass Expressions Stained Glass**, Room 106, for the Christmas season will have holiday season blown glass ornaments and other gift items. Open 4 – 8 p.m. with wine and cheese.
- The **Master Naturalists** will be working on the creekside nature walk on Monday, December 1st from 9 to 11 a.m. Come lend a hand and see how beautiful it is down by the creek now that most of the greenbrier is gone! For more information, call **Donna Ware** at **787-7845**.
- **Onancock Traditional Music Sessions** of Irish, bluegrass, and old timey music happen every third Friday at 7 p.m. in Rm 113. For more info, visit www.onancocksession.wordpress.com.
- The Onancock Business and Civic Association’s **Christmas Homes Tour** takes place from 2-6 p.m. on Saturday, December 13th. Onancock School will be the shuttle bus and ticket headquarters and several of our tenants are expected to be open that afternoon. Watch your inbox for more details.



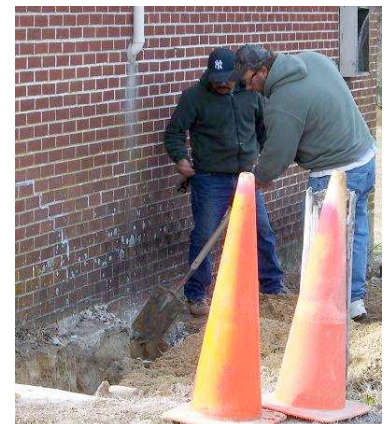
Deeds



- **Gerald Davis** installed railings on the First Grade porch, restoring this battered feature to safe and effective service (see photo at left). If you’re handy with a paint brush, you could apply the finishing touch by painting the railings. Call Gerald at **787-4416**.
- A committee of the **FOS Board** has completed evaluation of architecture and engineering proposals. We are very excited about our preferred design firm, which will be announced soon. Once we have a signed contract and have secured funding, we can begin to develop a firm

plan for renovation of the buildings and grounds. With our plan in hand, we can begin major fund raising to bring the dream to life.

- **Chris Rice** and crew have begun work on the failed north wing corner. This area had been a source of mud infiltrating into the building through holes in the foundation. Years of neglect of the old fashioned drainage network meant that every time it rained, water poured off the roof into a hole which grew and grew. Chris will backfill the area and repair the guttering above so that the problem will be gone for good.



- And, while they were at it, Chris and his crew removed some of the rickety items from the playground. This should make it safer and tide us over until we can create an all new play area for our future Friends of Onancock School.

Needs

- Have a commercial or other high-quality vacuum cleaner in working order you don't need? FOS could certainly use one. Please call **Russell Jones** at **302-0330** and let him know where to pick it up.
- If you know how to operate or maintain an old-fashioned steam heating system, or are a patient person who would like to learn, please volunteer to help us keep the heat on this winter. Call **Joe Ware** at **787-7845** or **Haydon Rochester** at **787-2097**.
- And, as always, if you can donate money to assist us with our heating, electric, and groundskeeping bills, please send a check to **Friends of Onancock School, P.O. Box 467, Onancock, VA 23417**. Contributions are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

Board and General Meeting Report

The FOS board held a short meeting prior to the November general meeting. Numerous topics were discussed, including progress on selecting a design firm, working with **Nandua High School** students on the picnic pavilion, a new sign for the school, and the **OBCA Christmas Homes Tour**. More information on the Homes Tour will be published in a special edition of *FOS Deeds & Needs* in early December.

The highlight of the general meeting was a presentation by Dr. **Brooks Miles Barnes** of the E.S. Public Library (filling in for Art Fisher who could not attend). Dr. Barnes's talk described the critical role of the railroad in shaping the Shore as we know it today. Prior to 1870, when the rail line was completed – straight down the spine of the peninsula, with little or no consideration of towns along the way – the Eastern Shore had been water oriented. After the railroad, roads and buildings focused on easy access to the railroad. It was the presence of the railroad, more than any other factor, that fostered the businesses of sport hunting and fishing, vegetable growing, and seafood harvesting that were the foundation of economic and population growth during the early part of the twentieth century.

The second part of the program was a panel discussion on what's happening at the school, with board representatives and tenants explaining how things are going as we near the end of our first year as a community center. **Larry Lees**, representing the **Onancock Table Tennis Club**, said he was very satisfied with the space and that the club could use more space to accommodate people from their waiting list. He would like to see a tournament on the Shore someday for players from around the state and hoped that Onancock School could be the host.

Subscription 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. 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. 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.