FROM THE BOARD

Happy New Year! Thanks for your continued support to restore the historic Chinook School. The following construction work is nearing completion: a new concrete floor in the food bank, sidewalks, general wiring, installation of a ductless HVAC heating system, insulation of walls and ceiling, preliminary plumbing, and sheet rocking of walls and ceilings.

Next step construction includes the refurbishing and finishing of interior doors/jambs, painting, wood construction (walls and window trim) and connection of the school building to a new electric underground service.

Following will be the completion of two bathrooms, installation of an ADA lift (front door location), completion of an alarm system, and wood floor refinishing. These items are made possible by a grant to the Historic Chinook School Restoration Project from the Washington State Heritage Capital Project Fund and administered by the Washington State Historical Society.

We are excited to report all this news to you. Enjoy the pictures.
Please keep in mind that even with all these improvements, we still need your volunteer help and financial support to get the school building operational. Memberships, donations and fundraising are critical to complete the school building and operate it as a community center for area residents and visitors to enjoy.

“Whatever good things we build end up building us.”
--Jim Rohn
Thanks to the support of our FOCS membership and the greater community, the annual Oktoberfest fundraiser was a great success. The event included a delicious German-style Shepherd’s Pie dinner served up by Joanne Leech and her team. The auction items were really great this year and included an opportunity to bid on items such as 100 lbs. of frozen tuna and the old bar from Chinook’s iconic Fish Trap Tavern. Silent auction items were artfully displayed by Pat Krager and were energetically bid up by the curious and enthusiastic attendees. The GoPro 4 Hero camera generated a huge response in raffle ticket sales.

Our thanks to the “Beach Buddies” band who entertain by playing a wide variety of musical standards. Aaron Schlosser came on the event team this year to manage the bar and the bright, festive decorations by Laura Osborne always enhance the party atmosphere. We should all be proud of the work that has been done over the past eleven years to complete the Chinook School Event Center and the work in progress on the school building, which will be known as the Chinook School Community Building.

Please plan to attend 2016 Oktoberfest this coming fall. Join your friends, neighbors, and community for a great evening as we all celebrate the pride and joy in what we’ve accomplished. Mark your calendars for October 15th!

Awesome Junior Wait Staff!
The Shakespeare Experience was set in a different manner this year. The workshops were taken to the Ilwaco Middle High School rather than bussing students to the event center. Another change added a preface to the workshops. A generous grant from the Ocean Beach Education Foundation allowed us to bring Tames Allyn, historical-dress lecturer and performer, to the Hilltop Auditorium. Tames’ performance was a real hit with the students who eagerly participated in the question and answer period. We also had a nice turnout of adults from the peninsula who were greeted by Laurie Anderson, of the Shelburne Inn, with tea from her samovar. Hopefully we will be able to repeat this worthwhile event as a part of the experience.

On Friday, November 13, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival actors, Kristin Hammargren and David Huynh, performed and led three workshops in Ilwaco Middle High School for about 75 students. Friday the thirteenth gave us peninsula weather. We had inches of rain and high winds but the storm did not stop the enthusiastic students from having a good time with the actors. That evening, the Ilwaco High School Jazz Band gave community members a treat as they performed in the “warm up” show before the actors’ performance. This year the players performed scenes from Hamlet for their Shakespeare work and then presented bits and pieces from many contemporary plays. All of the entertainment was enjoyed with snacks and beverages from the Shelburne and Depot restaurants.

FOCS believes that bringing Shakespeare Festival actors to Chinook is not only a great learning experience for our school students but is a way to remind and teach everyone of our history. Angus Bowmer, founder of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, is a part of the history of Chinook School and Chinook. We are proud to have dedicated our stage in his name. We have been able to provide this educational program with the support of you, the community. Ticket sales and donations are the contributions that pay this bill. We ask you to please continue your attendance and support.
The Chinook Food Bank certainly was blessed over the holidays this year. With three separate food drives/fundraisers the shelves were stocked with everything needed for a holiday dinner and more.

Chinook Coffee Company’s third annual Holiday Food Drive brought in approximately 2,000 pounds of food, laundry soap, and hygiene supplies. The food drive was again in partnership with students from Kelli Schimelpfenig’s Ilwaco High School class. Students delivered all the food to the food bank and stocked the shelves. Chinook Coffee Company also purchased bananas, apples, oranges, grapes, and tomatoes with the monetary donations.

Chinook Food Bank was open an extra day Christmas week. Hot cocoa, apple cider, coffee, and plenty of delicious goodies were served to shoppers as they filled their bags and boxes with holiday food, including a ham for Christmas dinner. The hams were generously donated in part by Lighthouse of Glory church and the Food Bowl.

Pacific County employees participated in a Food Bowl with Willapa Harbor Hospital and Ocean Beach Hospital. The Food Bowl was a challenge between the county and hospitals to see who could collect the most food in pounds. Participants were also able to donate money that was converted to pounds with each five dollars accounting for one pound of food. Pacific County won the Food Bowl collecting a whopping 19,000 pounds. The hospitals contributed 9,000 pounds, but the real winners were the four food banks in Pacific County that received the food and cash donations.

The Chinook Country Store employees came up with a fabulous way to raise funds for the Chinook Food Bank during the holiday season. Green paper Christmas trees were sold to customers who then wrote their name and donation on the tree. The idea was first pitched to the store owners and they not only agreed, but said they would match the funds donated by store customers. Inside the store little green trees were hanging in any available space. At the end of the fundraiser we received a check for $1,000.00.
The Holiday Dance was a terrific family-oriented success! The North Coast Big Band inspired both toe-tappers and dancer with their large, brassy sound and danceable beat. Silver and white lanterns, sparkling lights and Christmas trees romanced the room, while tables with snacks and fresh-popped corn encircled the dance floor. And what a happy dance floor it was! Folks of ages 3 to 93 mingled on the floor, trying out steps that were brand new to some and old friends to others. Everyone had a great time, and we urge anyone who likes music, dancing, and old-fashioned togetherness to come on down next year and help fill up that big dance floor with us!

IT WAS A SWINGIN’ GOOD TIME!
Oh, Tannenbaum!
The Washington Nature Conservancy again donated a large spruce tree for the front lawn of the school building. Aaron Schlosser, Pastor Nels and David Johnson cut it down and erected it securely in the ground. Dale and Kathy Hughes and Jill Wirkkala decorated it with strings of lights and reflective tape ribbons. Large presents wrapped in white paper and red ribbon underneath the tree completed the effect. Carolers were treated to hot beverages and old-fashioned donuts inside the event center. Pat Krager led the crowd in a sing-along accompanied by Loma Billups on the piano and Joanne Leech on the accordion. What a heart-warming way to welcome the holidays!

MEMORIALS
We are grateful for the opportunity to apply honor funds to our Chinook School rehabilitation project. As mentioned before, we have plans to place a memorial plaque in the school building when the restoration has been completed. This plaque will serve to remember departed family and friends and the generosity of those who contributed in their memory. The complete list can be viewed on our website:

www.friendsofchinookschool.org

New donations since the fall issue of this newsletter are:

Lowell Dean Wallace
James “Jimmy” McCulley
S. Dorene (Mattson) Couch

Previously Mentioned and again honored are:

Douglas William Anderson    Donna Lee (Ford) Wallace
Judy (Church) Williams       Lee H. Timmen, Jr.
John “Jack” Whealdon         Fred “Birdman” Warden
Lydia S. (Kehus) Fauver      Korine Jewell (Anderson) Nelson

RENT THE CHINOOK SCHOOL EVENT CENTER
For rental information: check availability on the FOCS website
www.friendsofchinookschool.org
then call 360-244-FOCS (3627)

The mission of Friends of Chinook School is to refurbish and utilize the historic Chinook School and gymnasium for the cultural, educational, social, economic and recreational benefit of the community.
FRIENDS, TAKE NOTE...

If there is not an orange Membership Form inserted in this newsletter, you are already current for 2016, and we thank you.

If there is a Membership Form inserted, please fill it out and return with $10.00; yes, it’s only ten dollars for a single person or the whole family! Donations are also welcome.

Every membership we receive shows community support for the rehabilitation of the Chinook School property when we apply for grant funds, and every penny donated is appreciated and applied directly to the continuation of the project. The school building will be near completion by the end of this year, thanks to friends like you!!