FROM THE BOARD

Happy New Year! We have exciting and important updates for you!

With funds willed to us by Korine Nelson, FOCS purchased the monument sign pictured here. It was designed and installed by Security Signs, Inc. of Portland. The sign has an LED electronic reader screen that can be changed to message upcoming events and other information. Landscaping around the sign will soon follow. What a gift this is to our community!

Other Construction:
The installation of a smoke/fire alarm system for the event center and community building started in late January and will be completed mid-February. The system is being installed by Certified Security/A & E Security. Next, additional interior/exterior lights will be purchased and installed. These two projects complete the scope of work funded by a grant from the Washington State Heritage Capital Project Fund.

As reported in our last newsletter, FOCS purchased the corner property west and adjacent to the school property on Highway 101. The property has now been cleared and rocked and will be further developed primarily as a parking area with other improvements.

There is additional work to be done on the interior of the community building and the board has decided to move forward with that work before fully opening the building for community use. Part of the work is painting and improvements to the cater-kitchen/coffee room.

Current Community Building use:
The Long Beach Peninsula Visitor Bureau has renewed their sublease agreement with FOCS through 2017. The bureau was happy with the test months this past November and December and will continue operating as a welcome center offering information to area visitors. Bureau staff assists Friends of Chinook School in day-to-day operations and in rental bookings. The LBPVB occupies the two small offices just inside the front doors.
**Looking ahead:**
At our February meeting, the Board will discuss a dedication date and grand opening for the community building. Watch for details on our website and in the *Chinook Observer* and *The Daily Astorian*.

We ask your continued support to help us operate, manage and maintain the Historic Chinook School Event Center and Community Building.

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**SHAKESPEARE EXPERIENCE**

FOCS is happy to report another successful Shakespeare program for our local school students. The sponsorship by Ocean Beach Education Foundation allowed us to, once again, invite Tames Alan, living history lecturer. She performed for middle and high school students on Wednesday, November 16, in the Hilltop Auditorium. Her performance of “Learning Among the Oak Groves: A Celtic Life” was enjoyed by all. Students enthusiastically participated in the question and answer session.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival actors, Domonique Champion and Annie Paul arrived in Chinook on Wednesday evening to stay at a local bed and breakfast. They taught and coached workshops in our event center on Thursday and Friday mornings. This year they performed scenes from “Julius Caesar” and used excerpts from that play in the workshop activities. Ilwaco Middle High School and Naselle Drama Club participated on Thursday the 17th and Astoria High School sent students from literature, history and drama classes to attend the workshops on Friday. This year we used rooms in our community building to provide snacks and beverages for the students awaiting their turn with the actors. The students and the actors were shown through both buildings and given short talks on the history of Chinook School and its relationship with Angus Bowmer, founder of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Students and actors made many positive comments on their experience and asked to be invited again.

On Friday evening, November 18, Domonique Champion and Annie Paul presented scenes from *Julius Caesar* and *Shakespeare SmackDown* for the public. Their performance was prefaced by a one act play, *Hello Shakespeare*, by the Naselle Drama Club. Musical entertainment was presented by the Ilwaco High School Jazz Band. All who attended truly enjoyed the evening.
The evening performance is the fundraiser that allows us to bring this event to the students and the community. This year we only raised half the amount needed to provide the experience. FOCS will be unable to continue this event without more financial support. If you have an interest in continuing this program for our local students and are willing to help by contributing money or time, please contact an FOCS board member or mail your donation, designated for Shakespeare, to FOCS, PO Box 243, Chinook 98614.

What a Fun Fall Fundraiser! Oktoberfest 2016

Even a big storm causing a one-week postponement could not stop our membership and great community from making Oktoberfest 2016 a success. It was a mad scramble to get the word out that the event date had been changed. Thanks to the Chinook Observer and local businesses and radio stations who broadcasted the change and alerted the community, nearly three hundred enthusiastic attendees arrived on Saturday, October 22nd and the event went off without a hiccup.

Oktoberfest has a tradition of great food, great music, great auction items, and great beer, wine and FUN! The community has wrapped their arms around this project and this event for 12 years expressing their love and appreciation for saving the Historic Chinook School buildings, now called the Event Center and Community Building. It was wonderful to wander the halls and classrooms of the beautifully restored community building that night allowing memories and reflections of the old school to fill minds and hearts throughout the evening. Friends of Chinook School thank you for your support.

FOCS is indebted to our sponsors who annually contribute to defraying the cost of putting on such an event: Bank of the Pacific, Key Bank, Raymond Federal Bank, Great Northwest Federal Credit Union, and Sid’s Market.

We also acknowledge the gracious donations of items from individuals and businesses who make the fundraiser auction so successful.


We’ll hope to see you this year on October 21st for another great party!
All year several individuals and organizations donate food items and monetary gifts to keep the food bank shelves stocked. Regular donors are Jeff & Kiko Hightower, Nikki Ramey, Bank of the Pacific, Chinook Coffee Co., Chinook Lutheran Church, Great NW Federal Credit Union, Naselle Lutheran Church, Peninsula Quilt Guild, Priscilla Circle, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, and the Fred Meyer Rewards Program.

Again this year, Chinook Coffee Company organized a food and monetary drive for the holidays and Chinook Country Store collected monetary donations as well. To those who so generously gave cash and food items, you know who you are and please know we are grateful for your contribution and that your donation was put to good use. Unexpected kindesses also came from one of our regular CFB customers and from a man standing in line at the grocery store during one of the big buys for stocking shelves.

Those who donated by check are the same listed as regulars above plus the following: ABATE of WA, Advanced Energy, Brim’s Farm & Garden, Columbia River Bar Pilots, Oregon Tuna Classic, Linda Fryberger, Laurie Green, Pat & Jon Krager, Herb & Gail Messick, Capt. Curt Nehring, Richard Nunley, Gloria Park, Jane Reese, Daniel & Leanne Sass, Sidney Snyder & Robin Powell, Sandra Toomey, Josephine Wilson.

CHINOOK FOOD BANK HOURS AND LOCATION

OPEN FIRST AND THIRD WEDNESDAY
10:00 to 1:00
AT THE BACK OF THE CHINOOK SCHOOL

Oh, Tannennbaum!

We gave up having an outdoor tree due to extreme weather conditions for decorating it and then keeping it upright and lit. The community building affords the perfect place to showcase a tree visible from outside through the front entry double doors. The piano was rolled out into the hallway for caroling around the tree led by Pat Krager and accompanied by Inez Greenfield. Hot chocolate, cold sparkling cider, donut holes and candy canes got everyone in a holly-jolly mood. Please consider joining in this tradition on the Saturday following Thanksgiving.
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INCREASE

When the gymnasium rehabilitation was completed and the building ready for occupancy as the event center, Chinook Observer Editor, Matt Winters, wrote an editorial admonishing readers not to think their part is over when the construction is done. He wrote, “Like other buildings run by nonprofit groups, the Chinook School will require nearly constant fundraising efforts to stay ahead of maintenance and pay operational costs. As every property owner knows all too well, there are no enduring victories when it comes to keeping up buildings in this robust climate”.

FOCS has been collecting $10 memberships from alumni and other contributors for the rehabilitation of the Chinook School buildings for over ten years. We are grateful for every $10 we receive as well as any extra donation toward this community project. While it is true the Korine Nelson Estate has been a boon to the completion of the buildings, we still have unfinished projects. We are attempting to be good stewards of that gift by holding a sum for unforeseen expenses. Grant funds are not available for maintenance needs.

Friends of Chinook School Board of Directors has made the decision to raise the membership dues to $25 per year for an individual, a couple, or the whole family. Several members have already renewed for 2017 at the $10 rate and we will honor that amount as current for this year. If there is a letter ‘c’ behind your name on the address label, it means you have paid your dues for 2017. All others will find a bright green Membership Form enclosed for you to join or renew your membership.

MEMORIALS

Three new names have been added to the beautiful memorial board hanging in the community building entry hallway. The entire list of names may be viewed on our website: friendsofchinookschool.org.

Frances Marie Clark
Hazel & Howard Dunsmoor
Sally (Nelson) Jones
Janet (Olsen) Marlowe

Previously mentioned and again honored are:
Fred “Birdman” Warden
John W. “Jack” Whealdon
Friends take note:

If there is not a bright green Membership Form inserted in this newsletter, you are already current for 2017 and we thank you! Of course, we welcome any additional donation you may wish to make.

Please read inside about the new membership rate now that the rehabilitation phase is nearly complete and we look forward to the management and maintenance of these beautiful buildings for the future.

RENT THE CHINOOK SCHOOL EVENT CENTER

Please check availability on the FOCS website www.friendsofchinookschool.org and then call 360-244-FOCS (3627) to reserve your date.