Presenting:

Oktoberfest 2010 “Chinook Style”.

We are pleased to present an evening of fabulous food and fun in the rehabilitated (almost complete) Chinook School Gymnasium.

This is not quite Opening Night for our gym but will be a dynamite Dress Rehearsal. The doors of the gym will fly open welcoming our audience to the sneak preview of this fine new facility. We are moving toward completion of the project and continued public access, but we have a ways to go. For now we have been given “thumbs up” to set the stage for one huge, marvelous community celebration on Saturday, October 23rd.

Please join us and enjoy wonderful food, adult and soft beverages, awesome auction items, live band music, friends, friends, and more friends. Read on – there’s more!
Oktoberfest Dinner and Auction Action

Prologue: Setting the Stage

... and the tables and the scene. Work continues toward completion of the Chinook Gymnasium with special incentive to be ready for the gym’s big audition - Oktoberfest 2010. Our plumbing team has been hard at work, Port and FOCS members are selecting special finishes, “scene builders” are planning great décor and all teams are readying for the big night. We are eager to see you all. Let the play begin!

Act 1: Scene 1

Once again the Friends of Chinook School devotees are preparing for a fabulous evening of fun and fellowship. A special part of each Oktoberfest has been an outstanding dinner prepared by Chef Joanne Leech of the Sanctuary Restaurant. Dinner will be served from 5:00 until 8:00 pm.

Act 1: Scene 2

A silent auction will begin as soon as the doors open at 5:00. Silent bids continue throughout dinner, music and frolicking until 8:00 p.m. There will be incremental warnings as the silent bidding is about to end so bidders can try one more time for that special item they are wanting. As the gavel sounds to begin the live auction, be ready to pull up a chair and be part of the action.

Act 1: Scene 3

The Beach Buddies Band will appear “on stage” throughout the evening and there will be special appearances by Brittany and Inez Greenfield.

Act 1: Scene 4

Live Auction begins at approximately 8:15. Come early, stay late, Enjoy!

Intermission:

As the curtain closes on Act 1, there will be an intermission, perhaps as long as a year, while the building is completed to open for all sorts of play and work. No one can be as eager for a grand opening as folks of the Port of Chinook and FOCS. There will be newsletters, volunteer opportunities, fundraising activities and an open suggestion box throughout the intermission so stay tuned for Act 2.

Help the Project: Auction Items Needed

To have an awesome auction we need to acquire and display plenty of enticing items. Friends of Chinook School welcomes donations of material goods, arts and services (please no used clothing, appliances or bedding). To make a donation, contact auction chairman John Billups at 360-777-8367 or co-chair Karen Leu at 206-713-6981. Donations will be gladly accepted until 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 22nd.

Your generous support means so much. Thank you.
Last newsletter in A Tale of Two Architects, you read about original designer/builder of the Chinook School and Gym, John E. Wicks. We promised a profile of our second architect, Long Beach Peninsula’s David E. Jensen.

Jensen has led the design team for our beautiful gymnasia renovation. Do not be looking for Mr. Jensen to announce that he is a master builder. He is, of course, but he is far more subtle in his explanation of his role as architect. FOCS can brag on him a bit, however, noting Jensen’s knowledge and experience in restoration of historic facilities so valuable to the Chinook School property rehabilitation. His path to our project is paved with an interest in and love of early 20th century architecture. He has plenty of successful projects in the genre. He completed the exterior restoration of the Pacific County Court House, did all the design work on the historic Shelburne Inn restoration, worked on the Ocean Beach Boardwalk, the Ilwaco Heritage Museum, Key Bank and many other public spaces and local homes.

With four years served, now First Lieutenant Jensen set his sights on the University of Oregon earning his Bachelor of Architecture in 1977. While at the U of O, he developed a real admiration for the work of Ellis Lawrence, first Dean of the University School of Architecture. Lawrence, too, had a special interest in the craftsman style and was, in fact, a contemporary of our original architect, John Wicks. Lawrence also was connected to our area as designer of the McGowan home just upriver of the Chinook tunnel. David Jensen also has a number of connections to that house and comments that there could well be a stack-up of architect vehicles as they slow to catch a glimpse of the magnificent shoreline home.

After college, Jensen interned for two years with influential Seattle architect, Ralph Anderson, where his interest in early-century and craftsman style architecture deepened. A second internship brought him to the coast to work in the firm of Long Beach architect, Michael Kabush.

Thereafter Jensen began using his architectural degree and enjoying work on buildings with a traditional bent plentiful on the Long Beach Peninsula. Much of the Jensen practice involves restoration and renovation of wonderful old houses and public buildings. Jensen, in fact, selected his own home first built in 1915 (the Bill Tetz home of Ilwaco) to renovate. It is now the Jensen home where he and his wife Chris raised two fine children now off on their own life paths.

Jensen is active in the community having served twelve years on the Long Beach Planning Council and serving since 2002 as Ilwaco City Councilman. Friends of Chinook School is so pleased to have him as our designer and guide on the gymnasium restoration project.

David Jensen grew up in Portland, Oregon and had an early connection to our Peninsula visiting a great-aunt at her cabin here. His heartstrings were tethered to this area and his opportunities to be here grew when he inherited that little cabin. He completed K-12 education in Portland followed by graduation from the U.S. Field Artillery Officer Candidate School in 1968. He had just 30 days to breathe deeply the NW air before shipping out to Vietnam. Jensen served one year in the combat zone as a Second Lieutenant in artillery. He also studied the Vietnamese language for a year. He returned to Fort Lewis for his final year of service.
Save the Date in 2010 and 2011

Take a moment to mark **Oktoberfest**: Saturday, October 23, 2010 on your current calendar. Marking all red letter days will be easier and more fun in 2011 when you purchase the First Edition Friends of Chinook School Calendar available at Oktoberfest.

The FOCS calendar features pictures of life in Chinook through the years and large square spaces for your personal notes. Proceeds from calendar sales will go to the FOCS general operating budget. Help us reach our goals and enjoy a pictorial trip back in time. Buy extra copies for holiday giving. FOCS calendars will sell for $13.00 or 3 for $30.00.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead (1901 - 1978)
As passersby admire exterior improvements and note workers’ trucks on site, much work continues behind the scenes. The Port of Chinook makes important land and building decisions; project manager, Corky Wilson, works daily on details of improvements and future planning in consultation with David Jensen, Architect; the Friends of Chinook School (FOCS) manages operating budgets, plans fundraising efforts and keeps a close eye on current progress all the while planning completion of the gym and future renovation of the school. Board President, Eileen Wirkkila, does a masterful job of leading her team toward possible funding sources and preparing for whatever the next set of important decisions might be.

Some results of all these efforts are worthy of a rousing Hip, Hip, Hooray! The gym renovation has come this far because of successful grant writing efforts seeking both private and government funding. This is a good and worthy project and many grantors have agreed to help. Currently, a $50,000.00 revenue sharing grant has been awarded to the Port of Chinook from Pacific County. This grant money is slated to help fund a new septic system, continue kitchen improvements and develop public meeting space. Pacific County has been a wonderful partner in our efforts including early work with our planning grant to start the initial plan.

Additionally we have been selected for a grant amount of $45,000.00 (pending) from the Washington State Heritage Capital Project Fund. This is a follow-up sum to an initial Heritage Project grant that really helped move gym renovation forward. This funding, however, must be met with matching funds, so it remains very important that our supporters, large and small, continue to remember us in their giving plans. We do anticipate successful granting of these funds and if all goes as planned, we could see these funds allocated by summer of 2011.

Some grant applications submitted over the course of this project have been turned down. While disappointed, FOCS board members remain positive and resolute in seeking funding to complete this wonderful community project. In addition to writing for grants appropriate to our project, other fundraising efforts continue behind the scenes. Working to secure matching funds and maintain our operating budget, FOCS actively seeks new members, accepts donations, presents wonderful Oktoberfest celebrations and welcomes new fundraising possibilities. We depend on our community and hope to soon reward us all with a terrific center for community activity and historical pride.

Join us any way you can!

Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work.

-Vince Lombardi
Memorials

Joan (Whealdon) Ames ◆ Walter L. Hansen ◆ Catherine (McGowan) Garvin

We are grateful to families who memorialize their loved ones in donations to Friends of Chinook School. 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 remind all of us of departed family and friends and the generosity of those who contributed in their memory.

If you make the unconditional commitment to reach your most important goals, if the strength of your decision is sufficient, you will find the way and the power to achieve your goals.

-Robert Conklin

The plumbing team’s mobile van.

Searching, Searching

Please help us gather as many pictures and as much local memorabilia as possible. We are happy to make copies, scan pictures and/or display and return any special items of historical value. These items are very valuable in our efforts to bring our early century buildings back to life. If you have pictures and treasures in the attic or basement and would be willing to share, contact any FOCS board member to make loan arrangements. If there are items you no longer want to keep, remember that we will have a history room when the school itself reaches its grand re-opening. Thank you for helping our efforts to remember and share a wonderful history.

Pass-through from kitchen to gym interior.