



Waterford Foundation Newsletter

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www.waterfordva.org

Winter 2007

Fire at the Old School

During the early hours of January 25th neighbors and passersby noticed smoke pouring from the basement of the Old School on High Street. Immediately, the Hamilton Fire Department arrived on the scene to a fully-involved structure fire. Soon, the entire auditorium was engulfed in flames. Throughout the day, as the 1928 addition to the school continued to burn and smolder, fire and rescue workers and emergency vehicles from ten different fire departments worked together to save as much of the historic structure as they could. While the auditorium was lost entirely, the firemen managed to save the older part, built in 1910 to replace an 1880s school that burned to the ground. Witnesses to the fire attest to the fact that saving the classroom section was truly due to superior firefighting on the part of the attending fire departments.



The blaze, smoke, and heat pouring out of the auditorium caused some damage to the classroom section, but a hyphen or breezeway connecting the two sections saved the older part from ruin. No one was inside the Old School when fire broke out and no serious injuries occurred. The Fire Marshal determined that it was an accidental fire, possibly caused by a heating unit underneath the auditorium. Firemen allowed Waterford Foundation staff and volunteers to go into the classroom section to retrieve archives and antique furniture stored in the attic and classrooms. These items only sustained smoke damage. Though we lost the newly-restored auditorium, no artifacts or historic documents were inside that section. We will rebuild, of that you can be sure! And we are deeply indebted to the firefighters who did all they could to save the classroom section.

Rebuild the Old School Fund

Please consider a donation to help rebuild the lost auditorium section of the Old School.

- ◆ Make your donation online at www.waterfordva.org/fire.shtml
- ◆ Enclosed please find my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

Check enclosed VISA MasterCard

Acct. no. : _____ Exp.Date _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____

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Notes from the Board Room

Much has happened since our last newsletter and I would like to update you on some of it:

- For the second straight year the Fair was a rain event. With near-heroic efforts by volunteers and staff we still raised about 2/3 of our normal profit. That's pretty good considering the circumstance.
- In December, we completed the match and received the \$50,000 from the anonymous donor. This helped mitigate the reduced Fair revenues. Extra efforts went into achieving the match including the Development Committee's inaugural and successful Christmas at the Mill. Expect more in the future.
- Previously, I forecasted closing by now on the sale of our 25 acre property at the intersection of Old Wheatland and Milltown Roads. It hasn't happened as the buyers opted out in October. However, they have come back and we ratified a new contract in January. Hope to close by May.
- Hurrah!! We received \$200,000 of the 2005 TEA-21 grant money in December and used it to pay off the last Phillips Farm loan!
- The final concerts of the 2006-2007 Season were absolutely fabulous and played to sell-out crowds. Those that attended know how very special it was to enjoy world-class performances in the Old School. Heartfelt thanks go to Eric Christenson for two years of masterful leadership as the Concert Series Chairman and master of ceremonies!
- The Board is losing three exceptional directors in April. Bruce Cleveland and Chris Gleckner are completing six years and Barbara Josselyn three years on the Board. The Foundation owes them a huge debt of gratitude for outstanding service. I'll have more to say at the Annual Meeting. Hope to see you there.



Jim Behan
President

Comments about the tragic fire

"I cannot begin to describe the deep sadness and sense of loss I feel at the passing of an old friend. The "Old School" was as much a part of my youth as a kindly neighbor or gifted teacher. Maybe it was both of these."

–Kristen Keating-Pauchnik

"We are exhibitors at the Fair and want to help you all as much as possible."

–Stan and Sue Jennings

"Those firemen can't be given enough credit for the job they did."

–Rachel Everhart Swann

"Waterford has suffered a serious and sad calamity."

– W. Brown Morton, III

"I take particular satisfaction in renewing my concert series subscription, at this time of great stress to the entire Waterford community. I have no doubt that the auditorium will rise again."

– Edward Ryan

The Show Will Go On! The 2007 Waterford Concert Series to Move to Lucketts Community Center

Due to the tragic fire which destroyed our beloved Old School auditorium and our beautiful piano on January 25th, the 2007 Waterford Foundation Concert Series will move to another "Old School" – the Lucketts Community Center, newly renovated, 8 miles north of downtown Leesburg, with plenty of parking. Now in its 13th season, the Waterford Concert Series will present five magnificent classical performances—all on Sundays at 4:00 p.m.

Opera in Waterford arrives on March 18th when Bel Cantanti, "beautiful singers," will sing, in costume, selections from Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro" directed by Katerina Souvorova. Since its first performance in 2003, this talented local ensemble has won fame and high praise. This concert is sponsored by The Physicians of the Western Loudoun Medical Center.

Then on May 6th comes the Grammy-nominated Borealis Wind Quintet and world famous Leon Bates in an amazing program of "Suite Francaise," music by French composers from Rameau to Poulenc. As a special treat the next day, pianist Leon Bates will visit Waterford Elementary School for a special concert and educational program for the children. Loudoun Mutual Insurance Company sponsors this concert.

The ever popular Next Generation Concert will take place on June 3rd with competition winners from the

Levine School of Music. Sponsored by Nordstrom, these young virtuosi never fail to delight, and aspiring area musicians are invited to attend with their parents.

On October 21, the fall concerts will begin with the Duo Pianists Heidi Louise Williams and Sandra Wright Shen, two brilliant former students of Ann Schein's at Peabody Conservatory. They will be introduced by their teacher, herself a great concert pianist. This concert is sponsored by Lauten Construction Company.

The last concert of the season on November 11 will feature the Daedalus Quartet, praised by The Washington Post as "...so hot you could almost smell wax in the air." Sponsored by Presidential Bank, this group has drawn rave reviews here and abroad.

Support for the Concert Series in 2007 will help us rebuild the Waterford Old School auditorium. Become a season subscriber now, and pay just \$100 for all five concerts, plus receive priority seating, an invitation to a reception with performers, and a savings on your tickets. At the door, tickets are \$25 and seating is limited. Due to the popularity of the Waterford Concert Series, advance ticket purchase is recommended. For more information, to subscribe, or purchase tickets, visit www.waterfordva.org or call 540-882-3018.



Lucketts Community Center built in 1913 and now on the National Register of Historic Places

Directions to Lucketts Community Center

The center is at 42361 Lucketts Road, Leesburg, VA.

From the DC area:

Take 495 (beltway) to the Dulles Toll Road- Route 267 (The Greenway) W. approx 13 miles and exit 1 A to Route 15 N to Lucketts. Turn right at stoplight onto Rt. 662 (Lucketts Road) and take the next right into the parking lot.

From the Dulles Greenway:

Take Greenway to end, take Rt. 15 North exit. Go 8 miles to Lucketts. Turn right at the stoplight onto Rt. 662 (Lucketts Road) and take the next right into the parking lot.

From Baltimore:

Take Rt. 70 West to Rt. 15 South to Lucketts, VA. Turn left at the stoplight onto Rt. 662 (Lucketts Road) and take the next right into the parking lot.



LOST: The turn-of-the-century home of African-American schoolteacher, Lizzie Simms. Ms. Simms taught at the segregated one-room schoolhouse on Second Street. The house fell into disrepair and the arbitrated settlement between the county and owners allowed for the house to be demolished. The structure fell on Dec. 6, 2006 at 9:20am.

Restoration Work on Schooley Mill Barn and the Chair Factory

This fall the Foundation made considerable progress on some larger repair and restoration efforts. Routine superficial work on the Schooley Mill Barn revealed substantial damage to the foundation of the building, which put the structure at risk. With the hard work of Bob Sanders, the foundation was properly repaired and other structural issues were addressed. Additionally, much of the siding on the inside "U" of the building was replaced along with doors and windows. Schooley Mill Barn is rejuvenated (and now much more water tight!).

There were also a few unpleasant surprises with the restoration work at



Bob Sanders works on the Chair Factory.

the Chair Factory (home to the archives). It was discovered that roof joists that were built of poor quality wood were in very bad shape after years of heating by a nearby woodstove. The entire roof along the original portion of the building had to be reinforced. Work on fixing the walls and electrical system have progressed substantially.

With spring just around the corner the Foundation is looking forward to being able to cross some smaller "handy man" projects off the to-do list, and continue to make substantial progress on the larger projects. Stay tuned to our preservation efforts.



Margaret Good, Director of Special Projects (Center) and Sherry Satin, a Foundation Board member (Right) met with state legislator Mark Herring at the Virginia General Assembly on January 30th. Margaret and Sherry traveled to Richmond, VA to visit with our Congressmen.

Special Thank You! To Loudoun Mutual Insurance Company in Waterford for allowing us to use their building for a Board retreat.



Waterford Foundation
P.O. Box 142
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Mark Your Calendar

The annual Waterford Homes Tour and Crafts Exhibit will take place October 5th, 6th, and 7th this year. If you haven't already done so, now is the time to renew your membership, which includes free admission to "the Fair."

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