

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

\*Reminder to current members: 2007 dues are now due.

Membership in the Onancock Business and Civic Association (OBCA) is open to anyone living in the Town of Onancock or to any business paying Town taxes.

OBCA provides a forum for the discussion and promotion of issues and ideas relevant to the local business community and organizes civic projects and community activities that enhance the quality of life in Onancock.

The fee for business or civic membership is \$50 annually. Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Onancock Fire Station, except quarterly (March, June, September and December), when an 8 a.m. breakfast meeting is held at a local restaurant.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Web site \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check and completed form to: PO Box 111, Onancock VA, 23417

## Mark your Calendar

for these other events happening in Onancock this spring:

### January

28 Cokesbury Concert Series "Out of the Blue," 3 p.m.

### February

8 Onancock International Films "Gloomy Sunday," 8 p.m.,

Roseland Theatre

14 Valentine's Day

25 Cokesbury Concert Series "Going for Baroque," 3 p.m.

16-17, 23-24 "Driving Miss Daisy," 8 p.m., North Street Playhouse

Feb. 25 "Driving Miss Daisy," at 2:30 p.m., North Street Playhouse

### March

2-3 "Driving Miss Daisy," 8 p.m., North Street Playhouse

3 ACES presents the Richmond Ballet, 8 p.m., Nandua High School

8 Onancock International Films "Il Postino" 8 p.m., Roseland Theatre

24 "Tales as Tall as the Sky," 1:30 p.m., North Street Playhouse (for ages three and up)

### April

7 ACES presents 'Belle of Amherst' 7:30 p.m., Nandua High School

14 Spring clean-up of Market Street, sponsored by OBCA, 8 a.m., Town Wharf

27-28 "Leading Ladies," 8 p.m., North Street Playhouse

### May

4-5, 11-12 "Leading Ladies," 8 p.m., and May 6 at 2:30 p.m., North Street Playhouse

12 **Super Saturday** town-wide yard sale and business street sale. Vendors welcome and volunteers needed. 787-7600



### Onancock Business & Civic Association

Would you like to get involved? Join the Onancock Business & Civic Association. We meet the 1st Tuesday of every month, 7 pm at the Onancock Fire Station. Everyone is welcome!

Phone 757-789-7711  
Mail PO Box 111, Onancock VA, 23417  
E-Mail [info@onancock.org](mailto:info@onancock.org)  
Website [www.onancock.org](http://www.onancock.org)



# Onancock News

Onancock Business & Civic Association

Winter 2007

## Jamestown 2007 Comes to Onancock

Onancock is the place to be as our town celebrates the nation's gala observances of the 1607 founding of Jamestown and the birth of America.

Our tiny community is in for a year-long parade of events and activities. The town's special citizens' team has pulled out all the stops to have fun and attract visitors who want to share in a year's worth of special events.

Here's a line-up of special 2007 events, together with some of the town's regular annual events to be given a Jamestown spin. Clip and save this calendar to refer to throughout the year. Check out the website: [www.Jamestown2007.org](http://www.Jamestown2007.org) for more details on America's birthday bash, or contact the Onancock committee through Cynthia Walton, [udclee@dmv.com](mailto:udclee@dmv.com) or 787-7667.



**Feb. 16:** Hesperus Concert, famous early colonial musical instrument group, 8 p.m., Nandua High School. \$18; \$5 students.

**March 18:** Early American Music, by Mac Walter and Barbara Martin, 3 p.m., Historic Cokesbury Church. Guitar and vocals program traces the history of spirituals, blues and jazz. \$12 in advance; \$15 at door.

**April 28:** Historic Garden Week tour on the Eastern Shore. Ker Place in Onancock will again be featured. [www.esgardentour.com](http://www.esgardentour.com)

**May 18:** Lecture by biographer Alex Loker (*Fearless Captain: the Adventures of John Smith*), 7 p.m., Ker Place. Kicks off the John Smith weekend festivities by relating the saga of the man who pioneered the first mapping the Chesapeake Bay.

**May 19-20:** SIGNATURE EVENT: John Smith/Happy Birthday NOAA Weekend on the Wharf. Onancock will be the only Eastern Shore of Virginia stop for a recreation of Capt. John Smith's 121-day voyage circumnavigating the Chesapeake Bay in 1608. An escort boat parade of citizens will accompany the 28-foot open boat powered by sail and 12 oarsmen. The flagship of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will also visit, along with an exhibit celebrating NOAA's own 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Salisbury Zoo brings their new traveling exhibit of

Eastern Shore wildlife of the 1600s. There will also be a dedication of the Onancock portion of the new Chesapeake Bay National Water Trail. To participate in the escort boat parade, contact Chuck Wheat, [cbwheat@verizon.net](mailto:cbwheat@verizon.net) or 787-8844. [www.johnsmith400.org](http://www.johnsmith400.org)

**June 17:** Old-fashioned town picnic and worship service on the lawn at Ker Place beginning at 11 a.m. Everyone's invited to come and bring a side dish. Fried chicken, lemonade and music provided. *Rain date: June 24.*

**July:** "The Bare and the Cubbe," by Cartland Berge, North Street Playhouse. This first documented English-language play in the New World was performed in 1665 in Pungoteague. *Date and time TBA; ; check [www.northstreetplayhouse.org](http://www.northstreetplayhouse.org) or, 787-2358.*



Top photo by Shirley Zamora; bottom by Drew McMullen

**August:** "To Frame a Place," by William Nicholson, highlights Onancock's founding and its relations with Jamestown. *Date, time and location TBA; check [www.northstreetplayhouse.org](http://www.northstreetplayhouse.org) or, 787-2358.*

**Sept. 13-16:** The *Godspeed*, the replica flagship of the Jamestown settlers, visits Onancock Wharf for an exciting weekend. Jamestown exhibits, escort boat parade and band concert.

**Oct. 6:** Planting and dedication of a huge Virginia live oak, Onancock's first example of this native Eastern Shore tree in many decades, in the new Onancock Landing Park across Mt. Prospect Street from the town wharf.

**Nov. 9:** Concert and conversation with musician-historian Bill Evans, 7:30 p.m., Historic Cokesbury Church. Evans takes us through the history of the banjo from its African origins to the five-string banjo, which was invented in Tidewater. \$18

**Dec. 8:** Onancock Christmas Homes Tour with a 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary Colonial theme.

**All year:** Our mail will receive a special new cancellation the U.S. Post Office has created for Onancock.

Learn about Onancock's 400 years of history in the newly released *A Voyage Through Time: Onancock 1607-2007*, by 11 local authors. Available at gardenART on King St. & The Book Bin.

# House of Deals

20 Market Street, Onancock  
787-8213

By Shirley Zamora

For 24 years, Bobby and Rosalie Lewis have provided hardware to Onancock residents. Starting out their first year where the Blarney Stone is now located, they moved to their current Market Street location in 1983. Originally built as a Model T dealership, the building still has its original tin ceilings and walls.

Rosalie enjoys her customers and it shows in her warm greeting so familiar to regulars and new faces alike. She'll give lessons in crab peeling or call to let you know what fish or produce is in.

Goods have expanded from the original hardware that filled only the front room of the store to produce, cheese, fruit, old time candy, holiday gifts and toys.



Rosalie Lewis has been at the counter at House of Deals for nearly a quarter of a century. Photo by Mary Burnham

Older customers are delighted with the familiar look of hardware stores they remember. Rosalie has expanded her inventory again and is now one of the few stores on the shore carrying wallpaper. You can buy one nail or materials to renovate an entire house, fishing supplies, garden seeds, onion sets or the newspaper.

A famous group can be found in the rear of the store playing a 20-year-old game of Crazy Eights. The six to eight regular card player are often augmented by others.

Please give yourself a gift and visit this icon of Onancock.

*Open Monday through Saturday  
8:30 am to 5:30 pm;  
and Sunday 12-5 p.m.*



House of Deals carries a large assortment of boat repair supplies and Bobby will drive visiting boaters to other dealers if he doesn't have what they want. Boaters return to visit year after year. They love the quiet small town and are from many states and countries.

## Around Town: News & Notes

**Runniger's Pharmacy** is considering starting a prescription delivery service to a limited area. If you have an interest, call 787-3500 for details.

One of our favorite restaurateurs, **Miguel Bizzotto**, is taking a well deserved winter off. There will be no dinner service through February. Winter hours are Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch only, with the Gallery open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Don't forget your sweetheart...**Creative Concepts** wants to remind everyone to put your Valentine custom orders in early!

The **Roseland Theater** has resumed the Sunday evening movie after a brief hiatus. Show times are back to 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

**Check out these new businesses in town!**  
-Rebecca Eskridge & Linda Herman opened **Chesapeake Traditions** on Jan. 19, specializing in 8-layer Smith Island Cake, sweet potato biscuits, breads, homemade soups and fudge. Stop in at 158 Market St to welcome our newest neighbors and taste one of their homemade delights.

-Kathy Kromer opened the **Onancock Canvas Company** in early January. Located upstairs at 49 King St., Kathy will repair your canvas or fashion bimini tops, mooring covers or boat interiors. What a great service for our harbor town.

-Downstairs at 49 King St., is **Harbor Pool and Spa**. If you are looking to install an indoor or outdoor pool or spa, come in and see Sandy Bilinski. Pool supplies also available.

-**The Inn at Onancock**, 30 North Street, is taking reservations beginning Feb. 9, offering five guest rooms with private spa baths, and a full gourmet breakfast.

**Change is in the air for these North Street eateries:**

-**North Street Market** will be closed during February for renovations resulting in a trendy wine bar....look for more to come!

-**Flamenco Restaurant** is expanding into the space next door for a club featuring dancing, entertainment and a light, tapas-style menu. Projected opening is early May.

-The **Blarney Stone Pub** is now smoke-free for the dinner hour (6-9 p.m.) Drop in to enjoy some hearty Irish food and be sure to check out the weekly entertainment!

March Milestones: Both **Blarney Stone** and **gardenART on King St.** celebrate second anniversaries, while **North Street Market** celebrates their third. These milestones are achieved because of your loyal patronage. Many thanks.

Hot off the press! The first annual **Gourmet by the Bay** will be held in Onancock on **Saturday, June 30**. This premier event will focus on the treasures of the Eastern Shore, our fine restaurants, seafood, local wineries and local artisans. Put this event on your calendar, more details in our next issue.

The **Orchestra of the Eastern Shore** is always looking for good musicians. Rehearsals are Monday at 7 p.m. at Cokesbury Church in Onancock. Contact Dr. Peter Dundon at 787-4647. An audition may be required.

Downtown Onancock businesses are here for you all year round. Some may have winter hours, so be sure to call first. Don't forget to make reservations for Valentine's Day at our local eateries. Many will feature special events for the night. **Mallard's at the Wharf** will also be celebrating Mardi Gras with two bands. Check it out.

This quarterly newsletter is for you, the Onancock residents and visitors, sponsored by OBCA. Please let us know what you would like to hear about so we can make this a valuable community resource. Send items for the next **Around Town** to: Joani Donohoe at [jdonohoe1@verizon.net](mailto:jdonohoe1@verizon.net)



# Interview: TERRY BLISS

## THE NORTH STREET PLAYHOUSE

34 Market St., Onancock  
787-2050



By Jean Hungiville

*Did you know that The North Street Playhouse's stage has roots dating back to 1914? And did you know that founder and director Terry Bliss has roots in theatre that go back three generations?*

Long time fans of The North Street Playhouse remember the early years in the mid-80s when rehearsals and an occasional performance were held in various locales: Onancock's Town Hall/Firehouse, The Hermitage, the Country Club, Arcadia High School or one of the middle schools.

In 1995 the troupe found its first "real" home at 4 North St. - now Flamenco's Restaurant - and the first regularly scheduled season was launched. The next year nonprofit status was awarded and a VA Commission for the Arts grant soon followed. Four years later Dollar General vacated a 9,000-square-foot building at 34 Market St., and cast and crew moved props and costumes around the corner to the Playhouse's present home. As part of the extensive renovation to transform this huge space into an intimate but versatile theatre, care was taken to locate the main stage on the former site of the 1914 silent movie house, The New Theatre.

The North Street Playhouse's artistic director Terry Bliss' love of theatre was genetically predisposed. She was literally almost born at Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA (the first state-supported theatre in the country, founded in the 1930s). Her mother was an actress and her father was promotional director there. The third generation theatre roots are from Terry's maternal grandfather, a member of the original stagehands' union in pre-WWI New York City.

The family business "The House of Bliss Celebrity Bureau, Inc.," based in Richmond, booked concerts, ballets, The National Symphony Orchestra and various professional artists into small towns and colleges throughout the country. Can you imagine being a child whose "dress-up clothes" are a trunk full of Shakespearian costumes?! Or being a four-year-old, creeping down the stairs one night, climbing up on Pernel Roberts' lap (during his post-Arena Stage, pre-Bonanza days), and watching mom dye costumes in a huge pot on the stove?! Reminds one of the line from John Irving's *Hotel New Hampshire*: "Everybody thought we were weird, but we were just family!"

Small town roots and a dedication to community service brought Terry and her new law degree to the Virginia's Eastern Shore and the Legal Aid Corp. in August 1985. Three weeks later, Hurricane Gloria drenched her rented cottage and three more weeks later her car's engine "fried" - not a great welcome to the Shore. But a combination of tenacity and flexibility gave this young lawyer the spirit to thrive here.

Now, more than 20 years later, Terry Bliss has *hit her mark*. With more than 100 productions, loyal audience members from Maryland's Eastern Shore to Hampton Roads have come to know and enjoy The North Street Playhouse for its quality theatre and exciting programming. Onancock's award-winning playhouse has a loyal following of about 1,700 members from 17 states.

If you haven't seen one of the many top-notch productions lately, check out the upcoming programs listed in *Mark Your Calendar* or visit:

[www.northstreetplayhouse.org](http://www.northstreetplayhouse.org).  
See you at the Theatre!

## Christmas Homes Tour a Success

More than 330 people attended OBCA's 7th annual Onancock Christmas Homes Tour, supporting the Orchestra of the Eastern Shore through ticket proceeds amounting to \$4,000, the largest donation to date.

Members of the orchestra performed in small groups in each of the eight homes during the tour, uniting in a performance that evening at the Cokesbury Holiday Music Festival.

After the tour, John Selby, Jr. of Onancock and Portsmouth was the winner of a gift basket filled with prizes donated by 29 local businesses and assembled by Creative Concepts

Thanks to tour organizer Lisa LaMontagne, as well as the homeowners who opened their doors. **The 2007 event will be held on Dec. 8**, and suggestions for homes are already being accepted.