



**ADVENTURE CLOSE TO HOME**

## Fall for the Arts Across Cape Cod

*By Karen White*

When the calm cool of autumn crosses the bridges, Cape Cod will throw a humdinger of a party for itself and plenty of its closest (within driving distance!) friends.

The Fall for the Arts Festival will run Oct. 2-4. Hundreds of galleries, shops, restaurants, museums, libraries and theaters will join in this "open house" complete with events, music, entertainment, demonstrations, food, fun and freebies.

Sponsored by the Cape Cod Foundation for the Arts and Cape Cod View magazine, last fall's festival was held in only three towns – Dennis, Hyannis and Falmouth. On that weekend, artists welcomed visitors to their galleries, students displayed their watercoloring skills on village greens, fine shops offered discounts on fine products, and restaurant owners led cooking classes.

Almost immediately, Foundation President Margaret G. Van Sciver said, the phone started ringing. "Other towns called and said, 'Hey – what about us?' People spoke with such enthusiasm that it was clear there was a tremendous interest in a regional festival of the arts," she said.

And regional it is. From the canal to Commercial Street, arts and cultural organizations in all 15 towns are using the festival to introduce



*Last year's festival was such a success it was expanded to all 15 towns on the Cape.*

themselves to their fellow Cape Codders and anyone else who happens to wander in.

Here's a few examples of fun happenings – Harwich Junior Theater will run backstage tours, artists and crafters will invade the Osterville Library lawn, sheep will "baa" as the Cape Cod Spinners Guild demonstrates their homespun skills in Dennis. In Hyannis,

children will turn recyclables into art at the library or learn about African-American and Cape Verdean art at the Zion Union Heritage Museum, open for free throughout the festival.

There will be talks and walks, pottery demonstrations, gallery strolls, antique evaluations, bird carvings and band concerts. Doors will stay open late, artists-in-residence will expound on their techniques, and restaurants will offer specialties while slashing 10 to 20 percent off the bill. It's all to encourage people to appreciate the art and culture in their backyard.

"It falls on our shoulders to promote the Cape as an arts destination," Ms. Van Sciver. "And we do it with sincere joy."

A Fall for the Arts guide is available for free at local Chambers of Commerce and participating organizations. Visit [www.artsfoundation.org](http://www.artsfoundation.org) or call (508) 362-0066. 