

# SKIPJACK COMMUNITY NEWS

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE COMMUNITIES OF WENONA, DEAL ISLAND, CHANCE,  
AND DAMES QUARTER

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## CULTURE CORNER

*'BEAUTIFUL SWIMMERS Watermen, Crabs and the Chesapeake Bay' was written by William W. Warner, copyright 1976, 1994. The following story excerpted here is for your reading pleasure.*

### THE BAY

BY WILLIAM W. WARNER

It is so known through the length and breadth of its watershed. The Bay. There is no possible confusion with any other body of water, no need for more precise description. It is, after all, the continent's largest estuary. Its waters are rich, the main supply of oysters, crabs, clams and other seafood for much of the Atlantic seaboard. Its shorelines cradled our first settlements. It is the Chesapeake.

North to south, from the choppy wavelets of the Susquehanna Flats to the rolling surges of the Virginia capes, the Bay measures almost exactly 200 miles. Alone among its vital statistics, its breadth is not impressive. The extremes are 4 miles near Annapolis and about 30 miles near the mouth of the Potomac River. In all else the



Bay is champion. Its shoreline is prodigious. Put together the great rivers on its western shore: the York, the James, the Susquehanna and the Potomac. Add the labyrinthine marshlands of the Eastern Shore, always capitalized, since it is a land onto itself. The combined shorelines string out to about 4,000 miles, or more than enough to cross the country at its widest. The Bay's entire watershed extends north through Pennsylvania to the Finger Lakes and Mohawk Valley country of New York, by virtue of the Susquehanna, the mother river that created the Bay in Pleistocene time. To the west it traces far back into the furrowed heartland of Appalachia, but one mountain ridge short of the Ohio-Mississippi drainage, by agency of the Potomac. To the east the

flatland rivers of the Eastern Shore rise from gum and oak thickets almost within hearing distance of the pounding surf of the Atlantic barrier islands. To the south Bay waters seep through wooded swamps to the North Carolina sounds, where palmettos, alligators and great stands of bald cypress first appear.

To qualify as an estuary, a body of water must be well enclosed, provide easy entry and exit for open seawater and enjoy a vigorous infusion of freshwater from one or more rivers. These are minimum requirements. A good estuary with high biological productivity requires other things. Shallow water, for one, which the sun can penetrate to nourish both plankton and rooted aquatic plants. Extensive marshland is another. An estuary without it lacks the lacework of tidal creeks and shallow coves which trap nutrients and protect and feed the larvae and juveniles of a host of fish and invertebrates.

Also, to be a *summa cum laude* in estuarine productivity, there must be circulation. A good mix, one is tempted to say, is almost everything. Not just in one direction. There should be two-layered or horizontal circulation in which heavier salt water from the ocean slides under the lighter and fresher surface water from rivers. Inexorably, that is, with a net flow upstream on the bottom and downstream on the top which surmounts the temporary effects of wind and tide. Ideally, there should also be some vertical mixing, which is not found in every estuary, since it requires significant contrasts in depth and water temperatures.

The average depth of the Chesapeake, mother river and tributary channels included, is 21 feet. For most of the Bay, 15 feet or less would be a better figure. Shallower still are the vast areas along the

Eastern Shore, the waters surrounding the great marsh islands of the Tangier Sound, for example, which Captain John Smith called the Isles of Limbo, where vigorous sounding will fail to uncover anything deeper than 5 feet. These very shoal waters provide an optimum habitat for such rooted aquatic plants as wild celery and widgeongrass, the choice of waterfowl, or eelgrass and sea lettuce, which although acceptable to ducks and geese, are only preferred by small fish, crabs and young seed oysters. Almost invariably the shoals supporting these water plants are bordered by marsh. The marshlands in turn support a much greater growth of plants, plants which want to have their roots covered by water some of the time, but cannot tolerate it all the time.



Such are the Bay's estuarine assets. Each makes its contribution and together they combine to produce marketable marine resources of incredible volume. The Maryland portion of the Bay alone produces more oysters than any other state in the union. Since its inception in the 1950s, the Bay's soft or "steamer" clam industry has provided over half the national catch of the species, moving all of New England to second rank. But it is in the stocks of the familiar Atlantic blue crab that the Bay's bounty stretches belief. No body of water in the world has been more intensively fished for crabs than the Chesapeake, nor for a

longer period, with such successful result. Since its beginning in the mid 19 century, the Bay's blue crab fishery has made the United States the leading crab consuming nation of the world.

As might be expected, the Chesapeake's grand mixtures of fresh and salt water are also ideal for anadromous fishes, or those who spend part of their life in the sea and part far up estuaries for spawning and early growth. Most prized by both sport and commercial fisherman is the striped bass, always called rockfish in the Bay country. Maryland's fresher half of the Bay regularly leads all other states in the annual catch of rockfish.



The Bay has other treasures, not all at the head of the list: enormous herring runs, mink, muskrat, nutria and otter, sky-darkening flocks of migrating and wintering waterfowl in the thickest concentrations of the Atlantic flyway.

Enough superlatives. They mislead. The Chesapeake does not impress those who know it best as the grandest or most of anything. For all its size and gross statistics, it is an intimate place where land and water intertwine in infinite varieties of mood and pattern. None has captured the essential Bay better than its principal discoverer, Captain John Smith. After rounding the sand dunes of Cape Charles and Henry, he wrote:

"a faire Bay compassed but for the mouth with fruitful and delightsome land. Within is

a country that may have the prerogative over the most pleasant places of Europe, Asia, Africa or America, for large and pleasant navigable rivers. Heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation."

Delightsome, fruitful, pleasant. So it is, most would say, to this day.

## COMMUNITY RECIPES

*The following recipe was excerpted from "Shore Fare", a book of favorite recipes compiled by the United Methodist Women of St. John's Methodist Church, 1982.*

### DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE

Donna Lee Davis

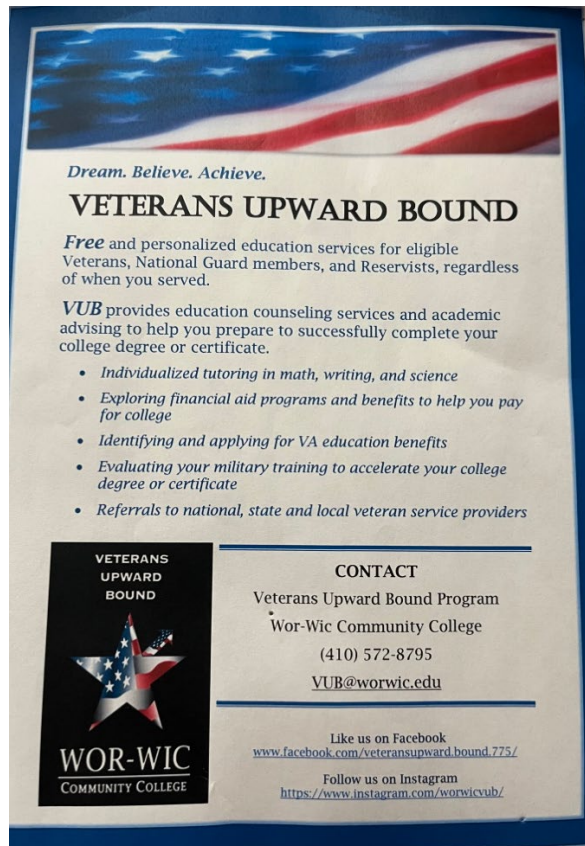
2 c. sugar	2 tsp. vanilla
2 tsp. baking soda	½ c. butter
2 ½ c. plain flour	2 eggs
1 c. boiling water	½ c. milk
2 sq. unsweetened choc., melted	

Combine sugar, butter, flour, eggs, milk and vanilla in a bowl and mix until light. Add chocolate, water, and soda, mixing for a short time. Pour into a greased and floured sheet pan or layered pans and bake in 325° oven 40 to 60 minutes. Apply icing when cooled.





## COMMUNITY NEWS



*Dream. Believe. Achieve.*

## VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

**Free** and personalized education services for eligible Veterans, National Guard members, and Reservists, regardless of when you served.

**VUB** provides education counseling services and academic advising to help you prepare to successfully complete your college degree or certificate.

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**CONTACT**  
 Veterans Upward Bound Program  
 Wor-Wic Community College  
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 VUB@worwic.edu

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<https://www.instagram.com/worwicvub/>

**VETERANS UPWARD BOUND**  
**WOR-WIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

Somerset County Library, in Princess Anne, offers a variety of free programs for all ages. Each month there is a story time and music program, Lego Club, Gaming, Teen Hangout, STEAM programs, family paint night, Crafternoons, adult yoga, bingo, crafts, book discussions, knitting, and senior social and art activities. Programs to Go are available for all ages to check out items needed for activities, crafts and games. The library also offers one-on-one sessions on job skills, pre-employment readiness, resume' resources, and tech help. For more information and to register for programs visit [www.somelibrary.org](http://www.somelibrary.org) or [facebook.com/somelibrary.org](https://facebook.com/somelibrary.org)



## BREATHE, RELAX, REPEAT: YOGA DVD SERIES

JOIN US FOR A FREE YOGA DVD SERIES PROGRAM AT BOTH LIBRARIES. MATS AND CHAIRS ARE AVAILABLE FOR USE, AND ALL LEVELS ARE WELCOME - NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

AT THE CRISFIELD & PRINCESS ANNE LIBRARIES  
 EVERY TUESDAY AT 11AM

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY



*Please Join Us For Senior*

## Bingo Night

**Seniors (60+) \$5**

**No Pre-Sale - Purchase Entry at the Door**  
**Saturday, March 22, 2025**

**Deal Island-Chance Fire Department**  
 Doors Open at 4:00 p.m. - Games Begin at 5:00 p.m.

**20 Regular Games - 2 Special Games - 50/50**

\*\$5 entry includes: 6 Bingo Cards for each game, 1 Bingo Card for each special game, 1 Dabber and a Chance to win some awesome prizes!

**Concessions Will Be Available**

Any questions or to volunteer, please contact Carrie Day at 443-614-9926 or email [DICLIONS58@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DICLIONS58@GMAIL.COM)

## ENERGY BILL ASSISTANCE

Federal and state energy assistance programs are available to eligible Maryland residents who need help paying their bills. Delmarva Power payment options can help you manage your bills including budget billing, payment arrangements, and extended payment date plans. For additional information call 800-375-7117 or visit [delmarva.com/EnergyAssistance](http://delmarva.com/EnergyAssistance).

### UPPER SOMERSET COUNTY AARP TRIPS

Newport Rhode Island trip June 16-19, 2025. 14 seats left! Make all checks payable to Upper Somerset AARP. Mail to: Sharon Malone

13371 Oyster House RD, Princess Anne, MD 21853. Questions? Call Sharon Malone 410-621-0091 H or 410-726-1049 C.

[swmalone@comcast.net](mailto:swmalone@comcast.net)

UPPER SOMERSET AARP PRESENTS....

## Newport, Rhode Island

**June 16 - 19, 2025**      **4 Days & 3 Nights**

**Package Includes:**

- \*Deluxe Roundtrip Motorcoach Transportation
- \*3 Nights Deluxe accommodations in the Newport Area
- \*3 Great hotel breakfasts
- \*3 Sumptuous dinners at fine New England Restaurants
- \*Newport Harbor Cruise
- \*Admission to 3 Newport Mansions
  - The Breakers Mansion
  - The Elms Mansion
  - The Marble House
- \*Admission to the Touro Synagogue
- \*Visit to the Brick Marketplace
- \*A Visit to Bowen's Wharf
- \*All Taxes and Meal Gratuities

**Package Price:** \$700.00 / pp dbl  
Singles Add: \$195.00 extra

For Information & Reservations Contact Sharon @ 410-621-0091

\$100 Deposit due with Reservation  
Balance due by May 1, 2025

**Travel Insurance**  
If you wish to purchase Travel Insurance, go to our website [msaarp.org/upper\\_somerset](http://msaarp.org/upper_somerset) and click the RED Travel Insurance button on screen right and follow instructions. Or call 1-800-243-3174 and give your Tour agency account number 44993

**NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND**



### DI-C FIRE DEPARTMENT

Oyster Fritter Sandwich Sale Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. \$15 includes sandwich and drink. Drive-thru only.



## INTERESTED IN BEING A FOSTER CARE OR RESPITE PARENT?

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### SKIPJACK HERITAGE MUSEUM

Skipjack Heritage Museum will be open on Saturdays only during February, and both weekend days in March. Call 443-783-5180 for private showings. The Mister family reunion is March 8<sup>th</sup> with lunch provided. Memory Moments is April 26<sup>th</sup>.





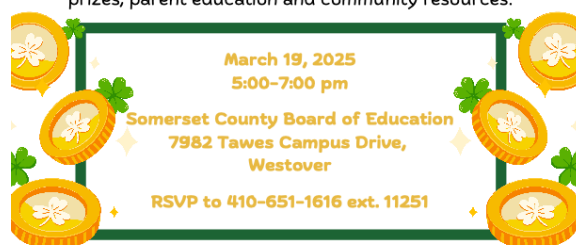


The Somerset County Judy Center invites you to a

### *Community Baby Shower*

honoring expectant Moms & Dads and those with infants up to 6 months old.

Event will include dinner, photography, games, door prizes, parent education and community resources.



Seniors, you are cordially invited to join us for a complimentary dinner

**Saturday, February 8.**



Doors will open at 4:00 p.m. with seating ending at 6:00 p.m.  
Deal Island-Chance Fire Hall



Spaghetti with Meat/Meatless Sauce  
Garden Salad  
Dessert

Seats are first come, first served.  
Please RSVP by February 2 so that we can adequately prepare.  
Limited delivery also available.

Carrie Day 443-614-9926  
Text or Call  
Email: skipjackcommunitynews@gmail.com

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**



Please note the Love Dinner's intended audience is seniors (60+). It is a free meal; however, RSVP is important as it will be helpful in our planning.

- If one spouse is 60+ and the other is not, you are both more than welcome to attend.
- If you are seniors and babysitting your grandkids that evening, you are welcome to bring them.
- Limited delivery is available. If you are able, we would love to see you in person but if you are ill, without transportation, or simply prefer your own company, please sign up for a delivery.
- If you are in need, no matter your age, please reach out. We can arrange a delivery for you.

### DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

Returning in 2025, Somerset County Health Department is offering a free program that includes 16 weekly sessions followed by six months of follow up sessions with a health coach. Successful participants can expect to lose at least 5% of their body weight and reduce risk of diabetes and other chronic diseases. Learn how to eat better, plan healthy meals, increased physical activity and manage weight loss. Registration is required. For more information, call 443-523-1700.

### HEALTHY HEARTS

Somerset County Health Department is offering a free program that will help you manage high blood pressure, identify and control triggers that raise blood pressure, as well as learn how to eat healthier and find ways to move your body. The program offers 6 one-on-one sessions from a trained coach over a 4 month period (virtual or in person), a free blood pressure monitor, and teaching how to properly take, record and share your blood pressure measurement. Learn how to reduce sodium, shop, prepare and cook food for a healthy heart. Criteria to participate: you must be 18 years



old, diagnosed with high blood pressure, have not experienced a recent cardiac event, do not have atrial fibrillation or other arrhythmias, and are not at risk for lymphedema. For information or to enroll call 443-523-1700.

### CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM

Somerset County Health Department provides cancer screenings for limited income Maryland residents who are uninsured or underinsured. Screenings are available for breast, skin, colorectal, cervical and lung cancers. If you qualify, Somerset County Health Department staff will help guide you through the screening process, explain test results and recommendations, set up doctor visits, find transportation for appointments, and find translators.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH TODAY  
Somerset County Cancer Control Program  
443-523-1700



### SHOP the TRUCK!

The Maryland Food Bank Eastern Shore's **MOBILE MARKET** is visiting!  
We're inviting ALL to receive healthy foods and resources.  
Hop on board and shop the truck, fresh groceries and dry goods will be offered.

**Thursday, February 27th**  
**12:00pm – 2:00pm (or until done)**  
Deal Island Volunteer Fire Dept  
10090 Deal Island Rd, Deal Island MD



# Wreath Making with Lilly

**March 29, 2025  
10a-1p**

Rock Creek Church  
23580 Deal Island Rd  
Chance, Maryland

**\$40 per person**

When signing up,  
let us know which  
letter you need!

To join us, go to:  
[socoarts.org](http://socoarts.org)






## DEAL ISLAND SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the school at the superintendent's meeting at the beginning of January. Please be on the lookout for more information about how you can advocate and support our school.

With the snowfall, DIS had the opportunity to implement the Virtual Learning Plan in January. Staff were very impressed with the students' attendance rate and participation and are very grateful for the support they received at home too!

"Send a Snowman" Wintergrams will be on sale at the beginning of February and delivery will be on Valentine's Day. The money raised will go towards a STEAM night this spring.

# KIDS BOXING CLASSES

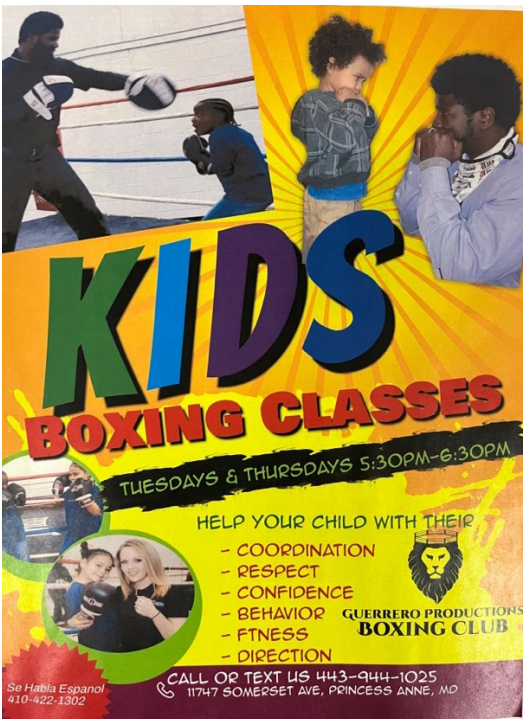
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 5:30PM-6:30PM

HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR

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SPANISH INTERPRETER AVAILABLE





## COMMUNITY PHOTOS

### NATIVE AMERICAN SPEAKER AT DIS



### MD SCIENCE CENTER ASSEMBLY



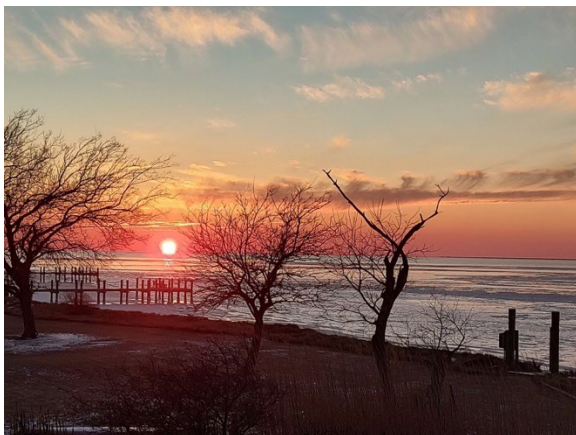
ISLAND ICE



By Jody Crone



By Tony Panowitz



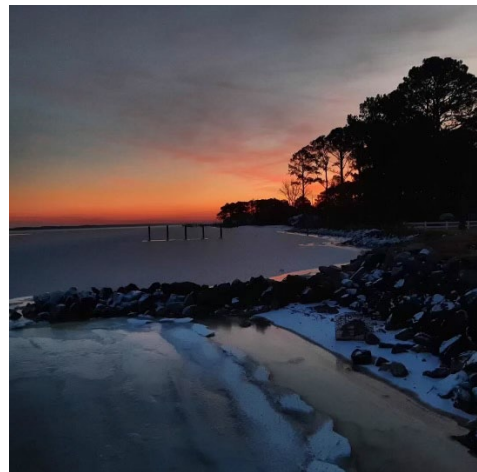
By Tracy Fickett



By Cheryl Stirling



By Mark Potler



By Dawn Whitelock



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2/1, 7 am-2 pm	Indoor Yard Sale at St. John's Church
2/8, 4 pm-6 pm	Senior Spaghetti Love Dinner at DI-C Fire Dept.
2/14, 9 am-3 pm	Wintergram deliveries at Deal Island School
2/15, 11 am	DI-C Fire Dept. Oyster Fritter Sandwich sale, Drive-thru only
2/22, 7 am-10 am	DI-C Fire Dept. Auxiliary Breakfast
2/27, 12 pm-2 pm	Mobile Food Market, DI-C Fire Dept.
3/1, 7 am-2 pm	Indoor Yard Sale at St. John's Church
3/19, 5 pm-7 pm	Community Baby Shower at Somerset Board of Ed
3/22, 5 pm, doors open at 4	Senior Bingo at DI-C Fire Co. (rescheduled from 1/18)
3/29, 10 am-1 pm	Wreath Making Workshop at Rock Creek Church
4/5, 6 pm	DI-C Fire Co. Designer Purse Bingo at DIS, doors open at 5
4/10	AARP trip to Sight and Sound for NOAH
4/12, 5 pm, doors open at 4	Senior Bingo at the DI-C Fire Dept.
6/16-6/19	AARP trip to Newport Rhode Island

