

SKIPJACK COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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Text Too Small? -Press "Control" and scroll up to make text larger. Tap and stretch fingers to zoom on a mobile device or tablet. Print newsletter from email, not Facebook.



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.

WINTER

BY WILLIAM W. WARNER

Long anticipated by the waterman, a big Northwest blow will churn the Bay milky white with steady forty-knot winds, 50 or higher in the gusts. When at last it stops, the water is gin clear and a new cold creeps over its surface. The grays and greens of summer's discoloring plankton blooms have been banished. Canada geese that rafted lazily far from shore on Indian summer days move closer to land and the hunters' guns. To be sure, sparkling days may yet come. But there will be no more "bluebird weather" during which the yachtsman sales in shirtsleeves or the hunter sweats uncomfortably in his blind. Autumn, a charmingly indecisive time on the Chesapeake, has given way to winter.

Changes take place above and below the Chesapeake's cooling waters. Many fish that delighted anglers through summer and fall are already well out of the bay. The rapacious bluefish no longer maraud crab pots. By now they are far down the Carolina beaches. Accompanying them are the beautifully pointillated trout, as weakfish are locally known; the huge cobias, also called "northern bonita" or crab-eaters; and vast school of menhaden. Younger fishermen suddenly miss the summer flounder or fluke, who swallows the baited hook so obligingly. Now the smaller and rough-scaled hog choker takes over as the reigning bottom flatfish. Other species follow the blue crab's example and move into deep holes to remain for the winter, from the brittle little pipefish, a close relative of the sea horse that abounds in summer eelgrass, to the rockfish and white perch beloved of sports fishermen.



Above the water, geese, ducks and wild swan begin to crowd the sky in astounding numbers. Canada geese, the diminutive green-wing teal, widgeon, pintails, scaup, scoters and the whistling-winged goldeneye have been flying irregularly into the Bay country since September. Now their number swell and they are joined by the traditional latecomers who have journeyed the longest, in some case from the highest latitudes of the Arctic. Again, from one day to the next, certain things happen. After the big blow you can almost count on the sudden appearance of the old squaw, called "southerlies" by the watermen. This handsome long-tail duck is truly a pride of winter, saving its best plumage for the time when others turn drab. The drake in autumn takes on a snowy white head with gaudy, clownlike eye patches. Even the hen follows suit, turning whiter and brighter for winter. The old squaw come from such summer breeding grounds as Baffin Island or the fjords of Greenland, where Eskimo hunt them for down that is the equal of eider. Once in the Bay they raft in small conjugal flocks, always far out on the open water. Landbound bird-watchers grossly underestimate their numbers and are surprised to hear watermen say the "southerlies" are one of the most common winter ducks.



Soon after the old squaw come the whistling swan. The swan have summered all along the broad roof of the Arctic, from the Mackenzie River delta in the west to

Ellesmere Island in east. The Chesapeake is the final winter ground destination for most of the Atlantic population. They have travel with few stops, flying to high road over city and country at 10,000 feet or better. Their arrival stirs deep emotions. There are a few more moving experiences in nature than the first sight of flocks overhead in perfectly spaced V-formation, long necks stretched to the limit, calling as they go. The sound is mournful, like the distant baying of a pack of hounds. Our pulses quicken and eyes accountably begin to water. A foolish way to react, we must remind ourselves, since the whistling swan, threatened with extinction by market hunting early in this century, is now protected and prospering all along the Atlantic flyway.



Add these and other species. By December the volume is overwhelming with the incessant honking of the Canada geese, whose total wintertime population in the Chesapeake is estimated at half a million. The snow geese are even noisier, but they mostly stay "over seaside" which is the Atlantic barrier islands and back bays. Duck concentrations can also add to the turmoil. They occur where there is a large shoal area of sandy bottom, averaging 10 to 15 feet deep, much favored by the soft clam.

So it is. Autumn passes, winter comes, and the watermen must still go out on the Bay without the pleasure of a pause. Most, but not all, will be well into oystering by the

time of dry gales and cold wind. In Maryland it depends on whether you tong or dredge. Both hand tonging, which is the taking of oysters at anchor by scissoring two long wooden shafts with opposable steel baskets or “tongheads” at the lower ends, and “patent tonging”, in which larger and hydraulically operated tong-heads are used, are customarily opened by the state on October first. But not until the first of November may the aging and still graceful skipjacks spread their great sails over the Bay. “That’s when we do it,” dredge boat crews will say. “When it’s snowin’ and blowin’ and anyone in his right mind wanes



off
this
Bay.”

There is no air of expectation, no joy at the changeover. Compared with oysters, crabbing is held a more agreeable occupation. It is also more of a family affair, affecting the lives of more people for a greater part of the year. The watermen can take their sons out to cull during school vacation. Women often work the shedding floats, help pack soft crabs, or pick crabmeat in the packing plants. But oysters are taken, culled, and sold for market by the men alone. In winter the waterman is finished with oysters for the day by the time he comes home and he doesn’t much talk about them at the dinner table.



But all go
oystering
sooner or later.
(In 1994)
Maryland

estimates it has some 4,000 watermen

totally dependent on working the Bay. Eighty percent take out oyster licenses. They do so, because although oystering is rough and uncomfortable work, it can sometimes be highly lucrative. Oysters represent (in 1994) about 65% of the annual \$17-\$20 million dockside value of all Maryland fish and seafood landings; crabs, the next most important item, account for 16 to 20%. There is good money in the oyster if the winter is not severe, that is, and natural parasites or man-made pollution do not interfere and cause the health department to close off prime beds. The men are willing to take the gamble. They go out at all but the worst weather, hoping there will be no freeze ups, and complain to each other. The complaints are half-hearted, of course, and intended mainly for mutual encouragement.

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.

STRAWBERRY JAM
1 c. strawberries

LOLA WHEATLEY
1 c. sugar

Bring strawberries and sugar mixture to a boil and cook 20 minutes. Pour into jars and seal.

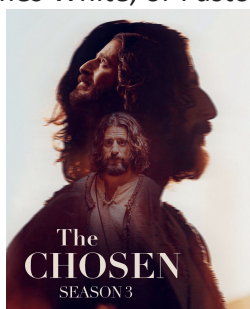



COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY CHURCH SCHEDULE

January services will be at St. Paul's in Wenona starting at 10 am. Please join community bible study Tuesday evenings at 7 pm for Season 4 of the Chosen, starting January 14th at St. Paul's Church.

The Deal Island Churches have an Emergency Food Pantry - If you know of/have a need for food, contact Leah Webster, James White, or Pastor David.






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.

- Individualized tutoring in math, writing, and science
- Exploring financial aid programs and benefits to help you pay for college
- Identifying and applying for VA education benefits
- Evaluating your military training to accelerate your college degree or certificate
- Referrals to national, state and local veteran service providers



WOR-WIC
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CONTACT

Veterans Upward Bound Program
Wor-Wic Community College
(410) 572-8795
VUB@worwic.edu

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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, 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. New events for 2025 are Toddler Art classes and 3D Snow Globe Picture Frame class. For more information and to register for programs visit www.somelibrary.org or facebook.com/somelibrary.org



DI-C FIRE DEPARTMENT

Oyster Fritter Sandwich Sale Saturday, January 15th at 11:00 am. \$15 includes sandwich and drink.



UPPER SOMERSET COUNTY AARP TRIPS

Please Join Us For Senior



Bingo Night

Seniors (60+) ↔ \$5

No Pre-Sale - Purchase Entry at the Door

Saturday, January 18, 2025

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

B I N G O

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

NOAH at Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA on April 10, 2025
One seat left!

Cost is \$190 due when you sign up. The cost includes the show, bus transportation, buffet lunch at Hershey Farms and driver tip as well as water and snack on the bus. Leaving Ollie's in Salisbury at 8AM. Return approximately 10PM. Newport Rhode Island trip June 16-19. 10 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




**Free Food
Free Resources**

Delivering Hope to
Our Neighbors

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.

Monday, January 6th
12:00pm – 2:00pm (or until done)

Deal Island Volunteer Fire Dept
10090 Deal Island Rd, Deal Island MD

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



NEWPORT
RHODE ISLAND

NEWPORT

DEAL ISLAND SCHOOL

December was a fun and busy month at Deal Island School! Thank you to the Deal Island-Chance Lions Club for sponsoring the attendance incentive. Our students really enjoyed it! The bazaar was a huge success also and we are very grateful for St. John's Church and the Lions Club for donating their proceeds to the school.

Our first week back after break will be a busy one. On Thursday, January 9th, we will have two meetings to learn more about how to best advocate for our students and our school. The first one, led by Mrs. Walters, begins at 5:00. The second meeting will be led by Somerset Schools Superintendent Dr. Tasker-Mitchell and begins at 6:00. ALL are encouraged to attend - families, friends, and community members.

We would also like to post a correction to the December newsletter. The Nutcracker field trip was paid for through a Title 5 Arts Grant.

Deal Island School

PARENT TEACHER COMMUNITY MEETING

Come learn how you can be the best advocate for our school and our students' education! All are welcome - parents, family members, & friends.

Thursday,
January 9, 2025

Deal Island School
cafeteria

5:00-6:00
Information shared by
Mrs. Walters, Principal

6:00-7:00
Information shared by
Dr. Tasker-Mitchell,
Superintendent



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTEST

We are very pleased to announce this year's winners of the annual Christmas Lights Contest! A very special thank you to our esteemed judges, the 5th grade class of Deal Island Elementary School.

Wenona: 1st- James and Debbie White, 2nd- David and Suzanne Malinger. Deal Island: 1st-Teresa O'Neal, 2nd-Debbie and Jamie Benton. Chance: 1st-Tony Panowitz and Michele Hinchcliffe, 2nd- Jason and Amy Skinner. Dames Quarter: 1st-Shaun and Amanda Roth, 2nd-Kevin and Michele Horner. Oriole: 1st-Nicky and Jax Benton-Ware, 2nd-Mike Howell.

Congratulations to our winners! Thank you to all who participated and for helping our community shine a little brighter. Thank you as well to the DI-C Fire Department Auxiliary and the staff of Deal Island School for helping make this wonderful community event a success!



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BEING A FOSTER
CARE OR RESPITE
PARENT?**

Even just on the weekends?

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FOSTER CARE

RESPITE

PARENT
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MONITORING

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Maryland State High School Diploma Now!
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Take advantage of FREE classes
Any Maryland Resident 18 and over!

**10AM - 1PM
TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAY**

SOMERSET TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
7994 Tawes Campus Drive • Westover, MD 21871
CALL 410-651-2285

ONE STOP SOCIAL SERVICES BLDG 3
30415 Mt. Vernon Rd • Princess Anne, MD 21853
CALL 410-677-4282

SKIPJACK HERITAGE MUSEUM

Skipjack Heritage Museum will be open on Saturday's only during the months of January, February, and March. Private showings are still available. Call 443-783-5180. Annual memberships are due for 2025. We have had a great year with historical contributions and working on completing the "City of Crisfield". We have also had a sad year with losing two of our longtime, faithful members, Gordon Gladden and Jack Willing. Please continue to keep these families in your thoughts and prayers. April promises to be eventful at the museum!

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 January 29 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 January 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.

FREE HELP WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

Maryland Health Connection is available to make getting health insurance simple. Trained experts will help you find a plan that saves you money. Open enrollment is through January 15, 2025. Free enrollment events are Friday, January 10th from 3 to 8 PM at Crisfield Library, Saturday, January 11th from 9 to 3 PM at Pocomoke Health Department and Sunday, January 12th from 10 to 4 pm at Lower Shore AJC in Salisbury. Information needed: birthdate, Social Security number, employer and income form, citizenship or immigration information, job related health insurance available, and photo ID. Shop and compare plans at MarylandHealthConnection.gov

Need health insurance?



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

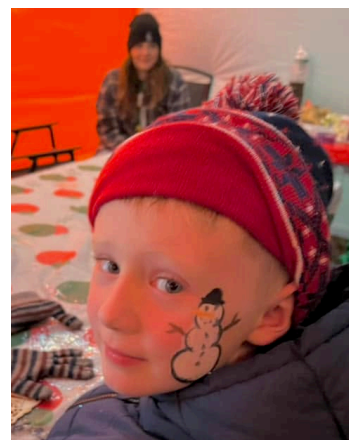
Somerset County Cancer Control Program
443-523-1700

COMMUNITY PHOTOS

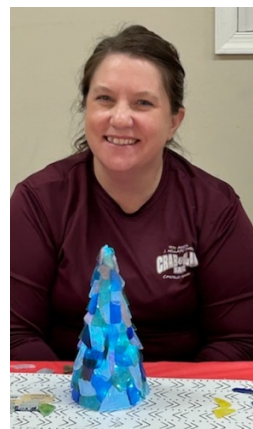
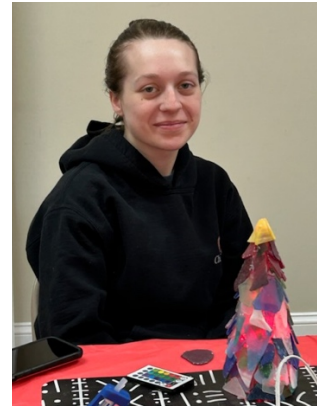
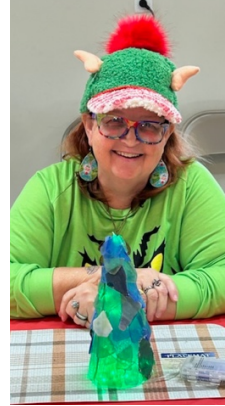
DIS 5TH GRADERS



ISLAND CHRISTMAS



SEA GLASS WORKSHOP



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/1/2025	Lions Club Daily Raffle drawings end
1/6, 12 pm- 2 pm	Mobile Food Market, DI-C Fire Dept.
1/9, 5 pm	Parent Teacher Community Meeting at DIS w/ principal
1/9, 6 pm	Parent Teacher Community Mtg. at DIS w/superintendent
1/11, 11 am	DI-C Fire Dept. Oyster Fritter Sandwich sale
1/14, weekly at 7 pm	Bible Study of Season 4 'The Chosen'-St. Paul's in Wenona
1/18, 5 pm	Senior Bingo at DI-C Fire Dept., doors open at 4 pm
1/25, 7 am-10 am	DI-C Fire Dept. Auxiliary Breakfast
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.
2/22, 7 am-10 am	DI-C Fire Dept. Auxiliary Breakfast
4/10	AARP trip to Sight and Sound for NOAH
6/16-6/19	AARP trip to Newport Rhode Island

