

# SKIPJACK COMMUNITY NEWS

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

## *In this Issue...*

Culture Corner	Community Recipes	Community News	Community Photos	Calendar of Events
1	2	3	7	10

**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

### GREAT CAMPMEETING DAYS ON DEAL ISLAND

BY BEN EVANS

*Ben Evans was a correspondent for The Baltimore Sun, Daily Times, and Maryland and Herald whose stories were reprinted by the Marylander and Herald in 1977 in a book titled Memories of Steamboats, Campmeetings, Skipjacks, and the Islands of the Chesapeake. The story excerpted here is for your reading pleasure.*

At Deal Island, around 100 years ago, campmeeting time came in the early summer. It lasted two weeks, with services every afternoon and evening. Practically everybody on the island took part.

Days before campmeeting time girls would be fretting over new dresses. Mothers tidied up all the boys' clothing, because when you went to campmeeting you went in your best.

Friday before the opening Sunday, Captain John Bennett would load his trucks at our house with beds, chairs, chinaware and so on, for we moved from our home in Wenona up to a 2 or 3 acre site beside St.

John's Church. This would seem odd today, for the distance was only 1 ½ miles, but campmeeting was pretty much an around-the-clock business, and many families did not want to miss any of it.

Some folks in Wenona went up only for evening services. There were two or three automobiles in the little town which would haul passengers, 15 cents to ride inside, 10 cents to hang onto the running board.

It wasn't only Deal Islanders who came to hear the well-known ministers from nearby charges, from Baltimore and Philadelphia. Some of the older folks remember as many as seven steamboats of the old Chesapeake and Atlantic Line standing offshore, waiting to discharge passengers who had come from miles away to worship.

I think the Deal Island campmeeting was the most noted of all Chesapeake religious gatherings, for it had been founded in 1828 by the Reverend Joshua Thomas, the famed "Parson on the Islands". Those very early campmeetings were conducted on a site then called Old Hill. That original Old Hill site would now be a half mile out in Tangier sound, due to erosion of the island's shoreline.

In those days when I knew the campmeetings, they centered in an open-sided tabernacle, a big wooden structure.

Around this in a grove of trees was a circle of tents and roughly built wooden sheds. Here whole families lived. Each abode had a small porch of sorts, for visiting with old friends was a big part of the event.



Some families had food brought to them from their homes nearby. Many people ate at Miss Treachie's boarding tent, where fried chicken and seafood were the specialties.

Because I was so young then, I remember little of the actual religious programs. The sermons and prayers, according to the custom of the day, were quite long. I remember such grand old hymns as "Old Rugged Cross", "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning", "Brighten the Corner" and "Bringing in the Sheaves."

The sermons must have been good ones, for at most services there were those who made their way to what we called the mourners bench, a long bench in front of the pulpit, to repent and pray.

I remember that the tabernacle was lighted at night by pitch and rosin burning in wooden boxes filled with sand. It was quite warm even without this flaming illumination. Women used reed fans to keep cool. Some carried small switches to whisk away mosquitoes.

The campmeeting had its romantic aspect, called the promenade. After the evening services, girls began strolling around the

tabernacle in groups of two and three. The young men stood in an outer circle. When a girl caught a young man's eye, he would approach, offer his arm, and ask: "This time?"

She might smile and take his arm. Then they strolled around the tabernacle together. Or she might play it coy and murmur: "Next time."

Some of the bolder young fellows might walk up and take a girl's arm without going through the formalities. This could result in a smart slap or a purse bounced off his head. I speak from experience.

All of these things were a thrill for us boys – getting to sleep in the tent at night, eating at the boarding tent, watching or taking part in the promenade. But we had work to do, too. We were kept busy carrying buckets of drinking water to different tents from the old hand pump back of the tabernacle. We also had to spread fresh straw around frequently to keep things clean underfoot.

Until the 1920's most communities in the tidewater country had yearly campmeetings. Now very few are held. The last one among the bay island communities, to my knowledge, is the one at Smith Island.

The last at Deal Island was in the summer of 1922. When it went, I thought that an important part of the life I knew was gone.

## COMMUNITY RECIPES

### OYSTER STEW from Grace Burton

1 pt. oysters	½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. Worcestershire	1/8 tsp. pepper
1½ qt. milk, scalded	½ cup butter
1/16 tsp. cayenne pepper	½ tsp. paprika

Place oysters and juice in sauce pan and heat gently. While the oysters are heating, add ¼ cup of butter, then salt, pepper and Worcestershire sauce. When the oyster juice begins to simmer and the edges of oysters curl, add scalded milk. Heat to boiling, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat at once. Cut remaining ¼ cup of butter into six pieces, placing one in each of the heated soup plates. Pour soup over and sprinkle with paprika. (serves 6).



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRIES

St. Paul's Church- Contact Pastor David Webster at 443-783-1007 (area churches combined pantry)

Deal Island Elementary School- Contact Principal Ashley Walters at 410-784-2449

### DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The DI-C Lions Club assists in the provision of medical equipment to members of our community. All equipment is collected via donation. This service helps relieve the financial burden this type of purchase can bring. Donations are always accepted of

items such as: wheelchairs, rollators and walkers, shower chairs and tub transfer benches, hospital beds, bedside commodes, wheelchair ramps, etc. Please contact Roy Ford at 410-422-0339 if you have a request for assistance or if you have any medical equipment to donate.



## RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE PROJECT

Pull Together for the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore! The 22B Lions Clubs are collecting pull tabs! You can help us in our efforts! We are inviting churches, organizations and individuals to collect pull tabs from soda, fruit and vegetable cans for the next several months. How can a pull tab help? We will combine all of the tabs collected and they will be weighed at a recycling center. The proceeds will then be given to the Ronald McDonald House who in turn will use the money to fuel their vans. For more information, visit [www.22blions.org](http://www.22blions.org) and click on district projects.

Please contact any member of the Deal Island-Chance Lions Club if you have tabs to donate.



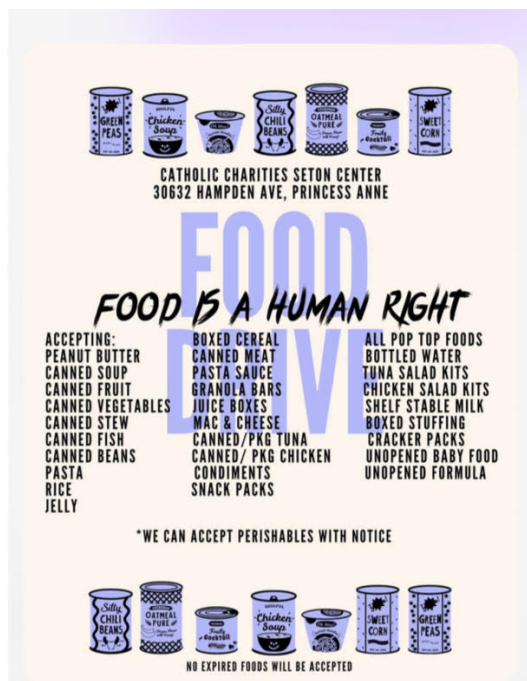
### SKIPJACK COURT

Members of the 2023 Skipjack Court: Miss Skipjack, Emily Whitelock, Master Skipjack, Carter Weber and Little Miss Skipjack, Courtney Holland in the 77th annual Salisbury Jaycees Christmas Parade presented by Mountaire.



### SENIOR BINGO SPECIAL RAFFLE

In an effort to help Catholic Charities Seton Center stock their shelves, there will be a special raffle at the Senior Bingo held on January 20, 2024. A ticket will be entered in the drawing for each donated food item. The winner of the raffle will receive a \$100 Cash Prize!!!



### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTEST

THANK YOU to all who decorated and brightened our community with the holiday spirit!!

Wenona:

1st Place: Terry & Megan Daniels

2nd Place: Winston & Hope Taylor

Deal Island:

1st Place: Gerald & Brenda Benton

2nd Place: Grant & Ellen Corbin

Chance:

1st Place: Terry & Janie Webster

2nd Place: David & Nancy Cropper

Dames Quarter:

1st Place: Delmas & Vickie Benton

2nd Place: Kevin & Michele Horner



### SANTA CLAUS

A very special thank you to the Deal Island-Chance Fire Department for providing Santa his transportation to visit all of our community's children. Santa caused much excitement on the evenings of December 23 and December 24 as he visited the homes of children from Wenona to Champ.





### OYSTER SHELL ORNAMENTS

Oyster Shell ornaments were painted by Somerset County Arts Council volunteers and students at Deal Island Elementary! They were displayed during the Somerset County Historical Society Christmas Candlelight Tour and Candlelight reception at Teackle Mansion. A special thank you to Roxanne Dale for organizing the community's participation and to Michele Messick for organizing the school's participation. The result of your efforts is absolutely stunning!



### SKIPJACK MUSEUM WINTER HOURS

Skipjack Heritage Museum will be open Saturday's from 11:00 to 3:00 during the months of January and February. Closed on Sundays during these two months only. Private showings are available anytime by calling 443-783-5180. Happy New Year from Skipjack Heritage Museum.

### DIS INCENTIVE

Thank you to St. John's Community Church and Deal Island-Chance Lions Club for sponsoring the daily drawings at DIS each day of December. Students were eligible for the drawing based on attendance and positive behavior!



### BOOK FAIR

Every single student at DIS received a book from the Scholastic Book Fair thanks to the Deal Island-Chance Lions Club!!



### DIS HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Thank you to St. John's Community Church and Deal Island-Chance Lions Club for purchasing items that the students could buy at the bazaar for only \$1.00. Thank you to the students from Washington High School who donated their time to wrap the gifts that the students purchased.



### Please Join Us for Senior



No Pre-Sale ♦ Purchase Entry at the Door  
Seniors (60+) ↔ \$5 To Play\*

**Saturday, January 20, 2024**

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

\*\$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!



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

**Concessions Will Be Available**

Any questions or to volunteer, please contact Carrie Day at 443-614-9926 or email DICLIONS36@GMAIL.COM





COMMUNITY PHOTOS

SEA GLASS CHRISTMAS TREE WORKSHOP









## ISLAND CHRISTMAS

The 3rd Annual Island Christmas was held on Saturday, December 9. Thank you to the entire Island Christmas Committee but a very special thank you goes to Tracy Horner for leading the team of elves. It was a wonderful Saturday evening setting the tone for a very Merry Christmas!



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

**Saturday, February 17.**

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  
Garlic Bread  
Dessert



Seats are first come, first served.  
Please RSVP by February 7 so that we can adequately prepare.  
Limited delivery also available.

Wendy Seiler 443-614-7697  
Carrie Day 443-614-9926  
Email: skipjackcommunitynews@gmail.com



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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/6/2024, 7:30 am-2 pm	Indoor Yard Sale at St. John's Church
1/20, 5 pm	Senior Bingo at DI-C Fire Department, doors open at 4 pm
1/27, 7 am-10 am	DI-C Auxiliary Breakfast at Fire Department
2/3, 7:30 am-2 pm	Indoor Yard Sale at St. John's Church
2/17, 10 am-1 pm	Resin Charcuterie Board Workshop at Rock Creek Church
2/17, 4 pm-6 pm	Senior Spaghetti Dinner at DI-C Fire Dept., doors open at 4
2/24, 7 am-10 am	DI-C Auxiliary Breakfast at Fire Department
2/29, 12 pm-2 pm	Maryland Food Bank Mobile Market at DI-C Fire Dept.
3/2, 10 am-1 pm	Charcuterie Board Making Workshop at Rock Creek Church

