

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

DANIEL RALPH “DANNY RAY” WEBSTER
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF DI-C FIRE COMPANY

BY CHRISTINE WEBSTER EVANS

What an amazing story to write! I do have to add that prying this story out of a humble man, who didn’t like tooting his own horn, made him even more likable. The dedication of one fireman is in this article, a man who is entering his 50th year of duty to the island. As a rule, if the truth be known, ladies dream of a man in uniform and firemen are no exception.

Gene and Anne Webster would be so proud of the man, their son Danny Ray, has become. He and his 5 siblings were raised in a Christian home and church going was mandatory, but these are not the reasons for the many achievements of their son. Danny’s success story is admired and his hard work getting to where he is today is a direct result of his ambition and drive.

He graduated from Deal Island High School in 1969, the last class from that school. Danny and I attended the same school from 1st grade to 11th grade. We didn’t graduate in the same year as Danny

had not completed the mandatory number of English classes which meant one more class for him. Soon after his graduation, Danny enlisted in the Coast Guard from 1970 to 1974, where he was ranked E-2 as a Machine Technician. He continued to serve with inactive duty for the next two years, but was not called. These two years proved to be a blessing for the Deal Island-Chance Fire Department. But I am getting ahead of myself here, read on!

While in the Coast Guard, he was stationed in Boston on the Lightship named “Boston”, which was later refurbished and named the “Overfall” and now rests in the museum in Lewis, Delaware. Danny was fortunate to miss the war in Vietnam.

Danny’s sister Jeanne, who has every right to be proud of her brother, recalled a special church service on Mother’s Day at St. John’s church in Deal Island, Md. She wrote an article which I got published in the book entitled No Time to Reef.



Unfortunately, her article got the wrong title by the printing that suggested he was in the Deal Island

Chance Lions Club. As we know, it should

have honored Danny with his title, a fireman! So today I get a second chance to make this right. Second chances are rare!

Danny wrote a special letter to be read in church to surprise Anne, his sweet Mother who had no idea what was going to happen. The pastor was asked to read the letter to the congregation and to begin by reciting Proverbs 31:10-31- the virtuous woman and signed it "I love you Mom and Dad from Danny Webster". There were not many dry eyes in church that day. This was an example of a man who thought of others and as Jeanne said, "doing the right thing". (This made me cry too).

After Danny's service to his country, he followed his Dad and brother Glenn in the Deal Island-Chance Fire Department in September 1974. He was President in 1981, 1982, and 1994. He was Chief Engineer in 1994-1996; he was Chief in 1996-2003 and was Assistant Chief in 2007 to this present day. He was the treasurer in 1995-1996, and 2004 to this present day.

His awards include perfect attendance in the years 1980, 1981, 1985, 1998, 2003, and 2011. Danny was voted Top Responder in 2011. He was also voted Fireman of the Year in 1995, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2021, and 2022. He was the recipient of the Jefferson award in 2017 in recognition of his community service.



Danny served as President of the Somerset County Fireman's Association. He was inducted into the Eastern Shore Fireman's Hall of Fame in the year

2011. He serves on the house committee, the banquet committee, the fundraiser committee, the advisory board, and the board of directors for the Fire Department. I received this information from his sister, Jeanne from the article I mentioned above. Prying this information out of Danny Ray was not going to happen. I have never met a more humble man!

Apparently, Danny has the keys to the Firehouse and he has to approve all functions there. (talk about busy!) But that is not all, he was also the General Manager of the Phillip's Island Food Incorporated as it was called then. Much later it was called Kool Ice Seafood as it was sold to Jamie Harrington two years ago. Jamie thought of Danny as a valuable worker and asked him to stay on. Of course, this added to a busy crabbing season with Danny putting in long hours at Kool Ice and being so active in the Fire Department. Yet Danny Ray is rarely seen without that big smile that I remember from high school. Maybe he hears the beat of a different drummer? Wish that I heard it too!

Eventually that mysterious waterman's blood revealed itself in the island boy. Danny's grandfather, Valiant, was the Captain of several Skipjacks, but being a Captain of a Skipjack was not in Danny's destiny. He did have a working crab boat named the Rosalyn Ann. Many years later, Danny thought of a better use for his boat. She was sold to the Fire Department in 2015 as a rescue boat to help any waterman or any boat in distress! She was refurbished in 2020, painted red with new motors and renamed Marine 401 when she was considered active and ready for duty.

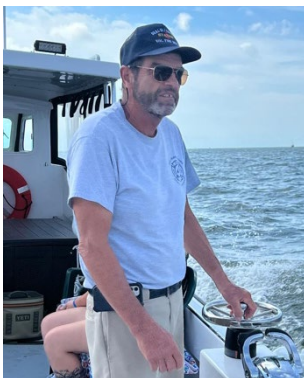
Danny says Marine 401 has been very busy with calls from sinking boats and stranded boats. Danny Ray is the Captain.



He told me that she has a crew specially trained for water disasters and laughed when I asked him where he got his training and where did the crew receive it? He responded, "I trained myself and the crew". Yes indeed, just one more job for Captain Danny Ray!

Danny Ray serves as the Treasurer of the Watermen's Association and did serve on the Tidal Fish Advisory Commission with the Department of National Resources. He is the Chairman of the Oyster Shell Committee for Somerset County and was a spokesperson for the Waterman's Affairs in Annapolis. He has lobbied several bills introduced to legislators on behalf of the waterman. During these times, he forfeited many days pay without reimbursement. Danny Ray is a true man of integrity! How many of us would work for free? Not me.

Danny Ray has one son, Danny Jr., who teaches the Paramedic Program at Warwic Tech. For sure, the service to others in making the community a safer place to live and that dedication is felt by his son as if the service was contagious or genetic.



Danny Ray's granddaughter, Miranda, is a Paramedic Firefighter in the Salisbury Fire Department. This is the third active

generation of firefighters, as his Dad was a firefighter with the Deal Island-Chance Fire

Department. Gene Webster would be so happy to see that the legacy lives on! Four generations of dedication to the community!

What an outstanding family, one of love, compassion, and endless service! Not many families can live up to this one, as God has blessed the Webster's with the gift that keeps on giving.

This article has blessed me beyond my wildest dreams. I pray Danny finds time to read this, lol.

Thanks to Tracy Horner for the photos. Special thanks to Jeanne Abbott Webster for supplying the history in this article.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

AARP TRIP

Upper Somerset AARP presents a trip to Savannah, Jekyll Island and Beaufort, South Carolina. This is \$790 per person for double occupancy, April 1-6, 2024. Cost includes transportation, lodging, and guided tours. \$100 deposit will save you a seat. For more information, go to www.GroupTrips.com/uppersomersetarp

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.

YARD SALE

St. John's Indoor Yard Sale
 Saturday, Oct 7th from 7:30 am to 2 pm
 Hot dogs, chips and baked goods.
 Lots of bargains to be had!
 Donations of gently used and/or new items accepted.



CHRISTMAS STORY COLLECTION

Christmas is meaningful to many of us and we would like to invite you to share the very best of your Christmas memories with us! We hope to showcase those memories in the December edition of Skipjack Community News.

"And her memories of Christmas, how in those years, the tree was put up on the 24th. Young children only saw the decorated tree on Christmas morning, never before, all part of the magic of the celebration. And always an angel on the top of the tree. Everybody came to the house to celebrate and everyone had a good time."...Alverda Hoffman

You can email your favorite memories to skipjackcommunitynews@gmail.com, put pen to paper and share your favorites in writing or simply call Carrie Day at 443-614-9926. Pictures would be a plus.



GIRLS ON THE RUN

Deal Island Elementary School is looking to bring the Girls on the Run program to 3rd-5th grade girls. The afterschool group would meet twice a week to work on a variety of topics including exercise. At the end of the 20-week session, the girls and volunteer coaches participate in a celebratory 5K walk/run/skip/hop to celebrate their achievements. This United Way program provides all of the lessons and materials. There will be a session offered in the late winter/early spring. Volunteers are needed to bring this program to our community. If interested, please contact Ashley Walter, Principal at awalters@somerset.k12.md.us



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC](#)

HOLIDAY ORNAMENT SALE

The Deal Island-Chance Lions Club is excited to share that the 2nd ornament in the Home of the Skipjacks series is available to purchase for \$25. The 2023 ornament features St. John's Methodist Church. To purchase contact Carrie Day at 443-614-9926 or diclions58@gmail.com.



DECEMBER CALENDAR RAFFLE

The DI-C Lions Club will once again be conducting a daily Christmas Season raffle from Thanksgiving Day thru New Year's Eve Day. Money raised will be spent on Christmas in Deal Island!! All widows/ widowers in our community will receive a ham & amp; fruit basket. The Christmas Lights contest will be sponsored and we will provide transportation and dinner for our 5th grade judges. Santa Assistance will be provided. The Lions Club will sponsor a \$500 day on the calendar. Island Christmas will receive \$2,000 in funding. And once again, the Senior Fund will receive \$3,000!!! Calendar donors will be able to reserve tickets in advance of sales to the general public. If you commit to donate \$25-\$99, you will be able to reserve up to 5 tickets; if \$100+, you will be able to reserve up to 10 tickets. The calendar will be posted to the DI-C Lions Club's Facebook page prior to any actual ticket sales. For example: Donor sponsors \$100 to the calendar. Donor reserves 10 tickets. Donor can choose to purchase (\$10 each) all 10 tickets or any number less than 10 for the calendar raffle. Donations to fill the calendar are being sought. We are again hoping to have a donation of at least \$50 on the calendar for each day with more generous days listed on random days as well. If you cannot sponsor a day by yourself, we will happily combine your donation with that of someone else. Donations can be cash, gift cards, gift baskets, seafood, general items, etc. Donations of all sizes and shapes are welcome, we only ask that they be in new condition.



If you plan to make a donation, please contact Carrie Day at 443-614-9926, or email DICLions58@gmail.com and share the specifics of your donation by October 26 so the prize calendar can be created. Please keep in mind the actual donation does not need to be received by the Deal Island-Chance Lions Club until Friday, November 17. Thank you for your support, any help would be truly and sincerely appreciated. We look forward to again celebrating the Christmas season with our community!

Snowman Painting with Mrs. Bonnie

10A-1P

\$15 PER PERSON

21 October | **Rock Creek Church**
23580 Deal Island Road
Chance, Maryland

Deal Island-Chance Lions Club | PLEASE SIGN UP AT **SOCOARTS.ORG**



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 OCTOBER 16TH
12:00pm- 2:00pm
Deal Island VFD
10090 Deal Island Road, Deal Island MD

Please Join Us for Senior



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

Saturday, October 7, 2023

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 443-514-9926 or email DICLIONS3@GMAIL.COM

FALL WREATH MAKING WITH LILLY

\$25 PER PERSON

October 6, 2023
5p-8p

Rock Creek Church
23580 Deal Island Rd
Chance, Maryland

PLEASE SIGN UP AT
SOCOARTS.ORG

November Soap Making

November 11, 2023
3p-5p

\$10 PER PARTICIPANT

PLEASE SIGN UP AT
SOCOARTS.ORG

Rock Creek Church
23580 Deal Island Road
Chance, Maryland



READING BUDDIES WANTED

Deal Island Elementary School is actively looking for Reading Buddies to participate in the Read to Succeed program. A "Reading Buddy" meets one day a week for 30 minutes with a child who reads a book to you to help them improve their reading skills and reach their appropriate reading level. If you are interested in participating, contact Lois Hartstein at loishartstein@gmail.com.



FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The Fire Department Auxiliary serves breakfast on the last Saturday of each month from 7 am-10 am at the Deal Island-Chance Fire House. Choose from a variety of items with great prices. Next date is Saturday, October 28th.



October 21, 2023
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Skipjack HERITAGE Day

Vendors & Demonstrations:
 That Kitchen - food vendor
 Bill Snively - Trailboards
 Don Willey - Ropes
 Stoney Whitelock &
 Steve Townsend - Shucking Oysters

Free Admission - Donations Accepted

Skipjack Heritage Museum
 23529 Deal Island Road • Chance, Maryland 21821

DEAL ISLAND ELEMENTARY FALL FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE FOR TRUNK OR TREATING, OUTDOOR MOVIE, CARNIVAL GAMES, CAKE WHEEL, CARNIVAL GAMES WITH FOOD FOR SALE. MORE INFO TO COME.

OCT
 THURSDAY **26** 5:30-7 PM
 2023

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED
 CASUAL DAY FOR STUDENTS WHO DONATE
 VOLUNTEER TRUNKS NEEDED
 CONTACT MRS. WALTERS
 410-784-2449

COMMUNITY PHOTOS

JEWELRY WORKSHOP



SENIOR BBQ AND CRAB FEAST



All Donations will be given to the dedicated Senior Activities fund managed by the Deal Island-Chance Lions Club. We truly hope you enjoyed spending your afternoon





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10/6, 5 pm-8 pm	Fall Wreath Making Workshop at Rock Creek Church
10/7, 7:30 am-2 pm	Yard Sale at St. John's Church
10/7, 5:00 pm	Senior Bingo at Fire Department, doors open at 4:00 pm
10/16, 12 pm-2 pm	Maryland Food Bank truck at DI-C Fire Department
10/21, 9 am-4 pm	Skipjack Heritage Day at the Skipjack Museum
10/21, 10 am-1 pm	Driftwood Snowman Workshop at Rock Creek Church
10/26, 5:30 pm-7:00 pm	Deal Island Elementary School Harvest Festival
10/28, 7 am-10 am	Auxiliary Fire Department Breakfast at Fire House
11/11, 8 am-1 pm	Auxiliary Fire Department Holiday Bazaar
11/11, 10 am-1 pm	Christmas Cookie Decorating Workshop
11/11, 3 pm-5 pm	Fall/ Christmas Soap Making Workshop
11/23, 2 pm-4 pm	Community Thanksgiving Dinner- Deal Island-Chance Fire Dept.
11/25	Miracle of Christmas Lancaster bus trip
12/2	Island Christmas at Deal Island Harbor
12/6	Deal Island Elementary School Christmas Concert at WHS
12/8, 6 pm-9 pm	Sea Glass Christmas Tree Workshop
12/9, 10 am-1 pm	Sea Glass Christmas Tree Workshop
12/13	Somerset AARP trip to Toby's Dinner Theater in Columbia, MD
12/14	Christmas Bazaar at Deal Island Elementary School