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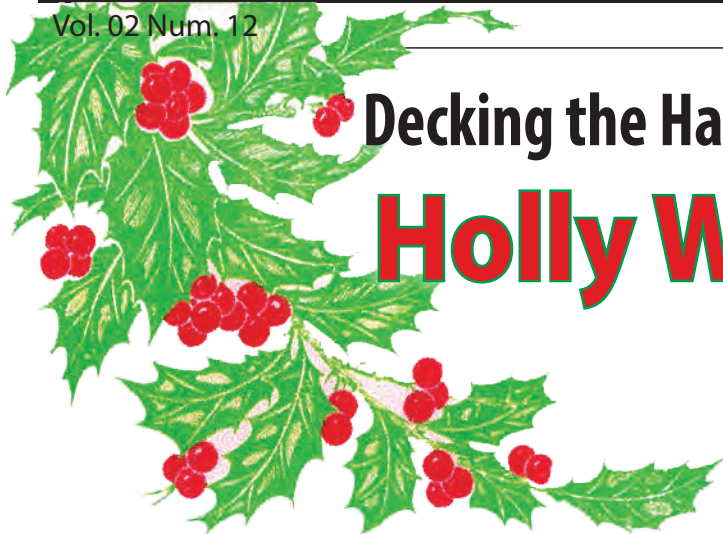
December 2014

Local news for the people, by the people



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Decking the Halls in Sussex County: Holly Wreath Making ... a forgotten art

By Sandie Gerken

Once a profitable, rural industry in Sussex County, holly wreath making has become a forgotten art, virtually disappearing as a business. From the 1880s to the 1960s, making holiday wreaths from holly branches was a source of supplementary income from Thanksgiving to Christmas for many local farmers and families.

Delaware once was the nation's leading holly wreath supplier. Since ancient times the holly tree has been a decorative symbol of cheer for the holiday season. It seems that the reason we associate the colors red and green with the Christmas season is because of the holly trees. The abundance of holly trees in Delaware, most notably in low swamp land, resulted in the rise of holiday

needed income from this "last cash crop" of the growing season. Families could earn as much as \$100 to \$500 for their few weeks' toil. Wreaths were sold to distributors for 4-6 cents each and marketed all over the country as coming from Delaware, the "Land of Holly". This home holly industry began on a small

buyers in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago. By 1900, as many as 5,000 wooden packing cases were being shipped per day by railroad. The organization of this cottage industry commercially is



Photo from "Run Forest Run", Megan Torrey, Chapter 2, Constructing the Woods, Salisbury University Environment Studies web-book.

A Woman Making Wreaths in her Kitchen



The shipping shed of W.B. Truitt at Bridgeville in December 1929 shows several boxes of holly sprays packed in crates and ready for shipment.

wreath making and the sale of holly boughs as a major export industry.

Farming families added much-

scale, but gained impetus by 1890 when William Buell of Farmington, DE shipped 3,000 crates of holly twigs and branches to



The company shipped wreaths in boxes tagged with colorful labels "From the Land of Holly".

officially credited to Milton fertilizer salesman, Chares G. Jones, known as the "Holly Wreath Man". He took pride in producing only the finest wreaths. The company slogan was "Quality is Remembered When Price is Forgotten". His business boomed and his son, W.T. Jones took over the company after his father's death in 1944. The company shipped wreaths in boxes tagged with colorful labels "From the Land of Holly". In 1951, Jones fashioned an eleven-foot wreath, to be placed

near Radio City Music Hall in New York City. Milton became known as the "Holly Capitol of the World" and at one time produced more

holiday wreaths than anywhere else in the world. W.T. Jones sold his last commercial wreaths in 1963 as the industry declined.

Holly wreaths were an important source of revenue during the depression. By 1936, Delaware was shipping 2 million wreaths, plus 6000 cases of holly and other greenery. About 9000 people were employed. At Christmas time, Sussex towns were transformed into wreath factories, employing whole families. Farmers and older sons gathered the

holly branches. "Twigging" the holly was done after harvesting, by cutting twigs with 4-5 leaves from the small branches. Wives and children made the wreaths in their kitchens, fastening the holly with wire to hoops fashioned from supple maple or other pencil-thin shoots. The only "store bought" part of the wreaths was the wire used to secure the ends of the hoops and to fasten the holly twigs. Several twigs were stacked together to make a thick bunch about the width of a hand, thick enough so you couldn't see through it. They were wired around the hoops with 4-5 clusters of red berries added at intervals. The holly wire was very

continued on page 2



Holly Trivia

- The holly tree is dioecious, which means that you need both male and female trees to produce fruit. Only female trees produce the fruit, properly called drupes, not berries. One male tree can pollinate several female trees.
- It is a myth that the abundance of bright red holly berries in the fall means that a harsh winter is on the way. The trees become flush with berries because of warm autumn weather when the drupes are ripening.
- There are 400 species of holly shrubs and trees worldwide. The predominance of the North American holly grows along the Atlantic coast and in southern states.
- The holly has had medicinal uses. The Native Americans chewed the berries for indigestion to induce vomiting. Other ancient uses were to make decoctions of crumbled holly leaves to treat bronchitis, colds, flu, or as a diuretic for rheumatism or gout. An infusion of boiled holly bark was used as a tranquilizer for epilepsy or hysteria. Holly bark tea could ingested for laxative effects.
- The holly berries are highly toxic if ingested, might cause severe vomiting, and could be deadly.
- There is an old legend that the powers of evil hated the holly and the yew. For that reason, hollies were planted in churchyards. The early Christians felt that the thorny leaves represented the crown of thorns and the berries were symbols of blood drops. These were felt to be protective.
- In other legends, holly blessed the home with prosperity and good fortune. Holly used for the Christmas season was left up past the New Year.

thin, like sewing thread, and the wreath makers would rewind it around corn cobs so that the wire could be passed through the hoop many times to secure each twig and berry cluster. Often a farmer, like Rollin Hudson from Frankford, would use his barn or shed for wreath making and hire several neighbors on a piece work basis, with the farmer furnishing all the material. They made a few cents per wreath with the chance for a bonus if the wreaths sold at auction over a certain price. A family might produce 1000 wreaths or more per week. In 1940, a family could produce 10,000 wreaths in the 4-6 week season, making about \$500. Two men could pick enough holly per day for 450 wreaths. They sold the wreaths to the distributors, who piled them on sticks a few dozen high on wagons to transfer them to auctions near the railroads. An auctioneer and buyers would stand on a vacant lot to buy the wreaths as the lines of wagons, cars, or trucks would pass them. The auctioneer would "sell" them to the bidding buyers. Once one truckload was sold, another vehicle drove up to sell their wreaths. The sold wreaths were loaded into large trucks to be repacked in wooden crates for overnight transport to the city markets.

As the national markets spread, the need for preservatives to keep the wreaths fresh longer arose. Makers began to dip the wreaths in vats of calcium chloride glycerine and formaldehyde to lock in the moisture. Artificial plaster of paris red berries became the norm. Towns like Selbyville, Georgetown, Bridgeville, and Milton became major suppliers in Sussex County.

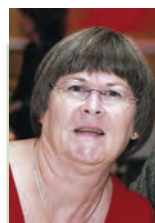
While the old-timers made about 5 cents per wreath, makers were getting from 20 cents to \$1 each by 1955. However, the U.S. Department of Labor put a major crimp on the "holly jolly" industry by mandating a wage of at least \$1.00 per hour for wreath makers, even if working at home. Furthermore, the wholesale distributors, who bought the wreaths from the makers, were required to pay the wage to the makers instead of just buying the product. With no guarantee that the sale of the product at auction would bring the required \$1 per hour, the industry was doomed. Senator J. Allen Frear of Delaware introduced

a bill to permit wreath makers in Delaware to be exempt from the federal wage hour law. But, the high cost of labor was not the only factor threatening the holly industry. In the 1940s, plastic wreaths came on the market and gradually replaced the live wreaths as a cheaper, durable commodity. Plastic also solved the problem of drying, wilting greenery as well as dead berries. The industry once considered by the Delaware State Forestry Commission as "exceedingly important" to the economy slowly became defunct. With the changing times, the younger generation



Making Wreaths in the Milford Holly Factory

Photo: archives.blogs.delaware.gov



Author, **Sandie Gerken** lives in Dagsboro, DE. As a native Sussex County, local history is one of her passions.

Retired now, she devotes her time to genealogy research (her greatest passion since 1978), watercolor painting, grandchildren, soccer for kids with disabilities, books, and things creative and historical. She recently authored the book *Memories of the Clayton Theatre* as a fundraiser to help the Clayton go digital. She is now exploring her writing skills with local history articles for *High Tide News*.

Dec 15, 1975.

The History of Sussex County, Harold B. Hancock, c. 1976, pp. 102-103.

"Holly Jolly Christmas, Delaware Holly Industry"; Delaware Public Archives Blog, www.archives.blogs.delaware.gov, 13 December 2011.

A Woman Making Wreaths in her Kitchen Photo from "Run Forest Run", Megan Torrey, Chapter 2, Constructing the Woods, Salisbury University Environment Studies web-book.

had no interest in wreath making, so it may have died a natural death anyway!

The American holly, *Ilex Opaca* became Delaware's state tree on May 1, 1939 by an act of the General Assembly. Governor Richard C. McMullen signed the act recognizing the holly tree's importance in Delaware's economy.

Today, holly is a traditional image of the holidays,

and Sussex, Delaware had a big hand in making the holly wreath an icon! Nowadays, the only holly harvesting in Delaware is in our own backyards for personal season decorations.

You can learn about this lost art on the second Saturday in December at the Milton Historical Society Museum. The Milton Holly Festival will be held on Saturday, December 13 at the Milton Fire Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The day features a Holiday House Tours, holly wreath demonstration, crafter booths, Santa, and more. For information, go to www.miltonhollyfest.com.

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"Holly Industry Relic of Christmas Past", Christopher Scanlon, Delaware State News,

Photo credit: George M. Ward

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19th Annual Leo Brady Exercise Like the Eskimos & Hair of the Dog Run

Ring in the New Year in downtown Bethany Beach! Join over 700 runners and walkers choosing from a 5K or 10K course finishing ocean front on the Bethany Beach Boardwalk. Stop by the post race party at Mango's and then cool off with a dip in the Atlantic at High Noon with the Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce's Leo Brady Exercise Like the Eskimos!



Photo: Courtesy Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce

This event is a tradition in Sussex County, named after Leo Brady, one of the members of the original council that began the event. This year it is sponsored by the Cottage Cafe, Coastal Tented Events and the Coastal Point. Proceeds benefit The Quiet Resorts Charitable Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) organization. Join your neighbors and friends and welcome the New Year with a splash! For more information and to register: www.thequietresorts.com or www.hairofthedogrun.com

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Submitted by Pastor Andy Ehlers

High Tide Church
Andy Ehlers, Pastor
andy@hightidechurch.org
302-245-5542
PO BOX 127
Dagsboro, DE 19939
We meet at:
John M Clayton Elementary School
252 Clayton Ave
Frankford, DE 19945
Sundays at 10am

High Tide Church started in July of 2002. We had 12 people at our first bible Study, that met in our home. Our first public service was held at Lord Baltimore Elementary in late October 2002. We had 38 people at our first service. We met at the school for almost 3 years and we grew to 185 people. Our church moved to the Roxana Fire Hall where we stayed for over 8 years and grew to 400 people. In the past year we have moved to the John M Clayton Elementary school where we have had crowds as large as 450 people. Ocean City Baptist church was our parent church. They supported us through prayer, volunteers and monthly financial support. Our church was supported from churches in NC, GA, TN, and MD. High Tide is a part of the Southern Baptist Convention. Through their church planting ministries we received a salary and insurance for our first two years. They also paid for our rental facilities for two years. We started the church in our home in July of 2002.

My wife and I felt called to plant a church

after we finished our master degrees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. I earned a Masters of Divinity in biblical languages with an emphasis in evangelism. My wife Tanya earned her masters in Christian Education. We both felt called to plant a new church in an area that needed a church. After much prayer and many visits to places in our country and Canada, God opened up and opportunity for us to start a church here in Southern Delaware.

High Tide Church has found its niche in our community by providing excellent ministries for youth, children and preschool. As we met people in the community we learned quickly that there was not a lot of opportunities for youth and children in churches. We invested our limited resources and volunteers in our children's ministry and set out to engage Children in learning the Bible. We have seen Children get so excited about Jesus that they beg their parents to bring them to church! We have honestly experienced a shift.

"Where my generation was made to go to church by their parents, this generation the children are making their parents go to church."

We have over 33% of our attendance 18 and under which is more than double the national average. Our Gforce and Pre-school programs are for birth through 5th grade. Each week the children learn from a passage of scripture and also learn how



Pastor Andy Ehlers of High Tide Church

that passage fits into the whole story of the Bible. The kids learn through bible teaching, videos, song, skits, snacks, and crafts. It is an hour packed full of learning and fun. Our kids truly leave church knowing more and more about the bible. They even challenge our parents in Bible knowledge and scripture memory.

High Tide Church became self supporting after our first two years. We currently have two full time staff members and 3 part time staff members. We meet at John M Clayton Elementary on Sunday mornings. Our church also rents space in Banks Plaza in Frankford. We call it our Frankford campus. We host our H2O ministry there on Sunday Evenings. H2O is our High School and Middle School ministry that meets Sundays from 5:30-7:30 and is for 6-12th grade. Our church was also given 20 acres of land that we are working on a plan to develop and eventually build a building on. We have baptized over 150 people and we have seen many lives changed through a relationship with Jesus. We have walked with many people through the storms of this life. Offering them a hope in Christ that promises not to disappoint!

"The Bible never guarantees an easy life. But it does guarantee an eternal hope that far out weighs our life here on earth."

High Tide has been recognized throughout the Mid Atlantic Baptist Network and the Eastern Baptist association as a successful church plant and having an effective children's ministries. We have had numerous opportunities to share our stories and philosophies with other churches throughout our region.

At **High Tide** we strive to make our guests feel welcome! Since the start we wanted High Tide to be a place we the unchurched would want to attend. We also strive to preach and teach the Word of God. And of course we wanted to make Sunday one of the most exciting hours of a child's life.

We are trying to focus on reaching young families with children. Our church has all four generations in it! The older people love seeing the youth in our church. I hear comments from people on a regular basis that they can't believe how many children we have coming to church.

"Life is difficult and challenging, and nobody likes going through it alone. High Tide offers a place for the whole family!"

High Tide is a place where you can do life together with people that are going through the same things you are going through.

High Tide has been growing since it started and continues to grow! We have our best days ahead of us. It is exciting to watch some of the children that we have seen grow up in our church. We have sent some to Seminary and others on mission trips. We have also seen children grow out of an area of ministry to only come back and serve as a volunteer in that same area years later.

My wife and I have four children. We have been Married for almost 13 years. We have adopted two of our four children and currently are active foster parents that help out with respite and other foster care needs.

A note from the editor

In all of my local travels selling ads and getting stories for *High Tide News* since its inception, I have been hearing about *High Tide Church*....People are always asking if we are affiliated with the church and even though I have to say "no", I have been so curious because of all of the good things I have heard about the Church and how well known and well respected this Church is in our community.

It is with pure pleasure and honor that I welcome Pastor Andy Ehlers to share his story about his *High Tide Church* in my *High Tide News*! This Church and Pastor Andy's commitment and dedication has had an obvious, profound impact on our children and our community. Thank you, Pastor Andy Ehlers!

Judy Layman, High Tide News





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PENINSULA HOME CARE OFFERS FREE CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

SEAFORD, DE – *Some people are sick and tired - of being sick and tired? People diagnosed with chronic diseases such as cancer, arthritis, heart disease or diabetes face an uphill battle most days to find the strength to manage their illness, curb their pain and have a positive outlook on life.*

Peninsula Home Care at Nanticoke with Delaware Division of Public Health is offering Chronic Disease Self-Management workshops in the community, free of charge. The workshops provide the tools, resources and training to the community to help improve

About Peninsula Home Care

Peninsula Home Care ensures that all patients are involved in their plan of care and strives to give them every opportunity to maintain their independence in the home. The agency has served more than 35,000 patients on Delmarva and has been named to the "Home Health Care Elite" three times in five years. For more information visit www.peninsulahomecare.com.

health and lower health care costs to those suffering from chronic illnesses.

Examples of chronic diseases the workshops focus on include the following:

- Diabetes
- Heart Disease
- Arthritis
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Asthma
- Parkinson's Disease
- Stroke
- Cancer
- Depression
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's Disease

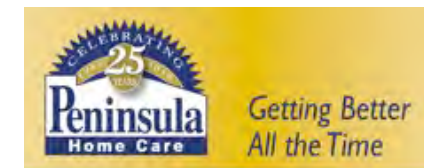
"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," said Therese Ganster, Peninsula Home Care community liaison. "We are arming patients with the resources and knowledge they need to make better life decisions. As healthcare reform will undoubtedly impact the way the medical profession cares for patients, we knew it was time to be proactive and take responsibility

for preparing people in our community to take an active role in their plan of care. Self-management is the key. With the right tools, patients will empower themselves to make changes that will improve their health and overall quality of life."

Workshops – Working Towards Better Health

Self-Management programs empower people to take an active role in managing their chronic illness. The workshops being co-led by Peninsula Home Care will help participants make lifestyle choices and changes, adhere to prescribed medication treatments, and become educated, responsible, informed patients.

The model being used is from Stanford University, has shown significant, measurable, and sustainable improvements in health status, increased exercise, reduced fatigue, self-efficacy, and psychological well-being in addition to improved and enhanced partnership with physicians, health care providers and care givers. (The initial program showed a two-year savings of \$390 and \$520 per participants based on reduced hospital-



izations and outpatient visits.)

The six week long workshops focus on pain management, eating, exercise, medication use, emotional management, and communication with physicians and other health care providers.

The programs are available to the community and will be held at Peninsula Home Care at Nanticoke, assisted living facilities, places of worship or churches and various other community centers. FREE of Charge! Those interested in a Chronic Disease Self-Management program scheduled in Sussex or lower Kent County can call 302-629-4914. PHC Community Liaison, Therese Ganster is available to coordinate programs in a community space close by.

The Maryland (Salisbury/Ocean Pines) PHC offices also provide Chronic Disease Self-Management workshops. Call or visit www.peninsulahomecare.com for more information on dates, times, and locations of classes in your area.

Submitted by Jenni Pastusak, Media Contact, Peninsula Home Care

EIGHT TIPS TO HELP SOMEONE GRIEVING DURING THE HOLIDAYS

For many people, the holiday season is a special time of year marked by celebrations and gatherings with family and friends. For those struggling with the death of a loved one, the holidays may be a difficult time full of painful reminders that emphasize their sense of loss.

Often, friends and family members of those affected by a loss are unsure how to act or what to say to support their grieving loved one during the holidays.

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization offers some suggestions from hospice professionals, who are experienced at helping people deal with grief and loss:

1. Be supportive of the way the person chooses to handle the holidays. Some may wish to follow traditions; others may choose to avoid customs of the past and do something new. It's okay to do things differently.
2. Offer to help the person with decorating or holiday baking. Both tasks can be overwhelming for someone who is grieving.
3. Offer to help with holiday shopping. Share catalogs or online shopping sites that may be helpful.
4. Invite the person to join you or your family during the holidays. You might invite them to join you for a religious service or at a holiday meal where they are a guest.
5. Ask the person if he or she is interested in volunteering with you during the holidays. Doing something for someone else, such as helping at a soup kitchen or working with children, may help your loved one feel better about the holidays.
6. Never tell someone that he or she should be "over it." Instead, give the person hope that, eventually, he or she will enjoy the holidays again.
7. Be willing to listen. Active listening from friends and family is an important step to helping some cope with grief and heal. Remind the person you are thinking of him or her and the loved one who died. Cards, phone calls and visits are great ways to stay in touch.
8. "One of the best ways to help those who are grieving during the holidays is to let them know you care and that their loved one is not forgotten," said J. Donald Schumacher, PsyD, president and CEO of National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. "Lending an ear and holding a hand can be one of the greatest gifts we can give."

Delaware Hospice offers help to people who are struggling with grief and loss through grief support groups and workshops.

Listen to how some individuals benefited from Delaware Hospice's bereavement support through a National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's "Moments of Life" video at: <http://www.momentsoflife.org/support-groups> For more information about Delaware Hospice's programs and services for the community, call: 800-838-9800 or visit: <http://www.delawarehospice.org>

Submitted by Beverly Crowl, Public Relations Specialist

About Delaware Hospice

Since 1982, Delaware Hospice has provided exceptional care and support to 46,000 patients and their families. Its mission is to help each patient, each day, live the fullest, most comfortable life possible. Delaware Hospice is the largest and only licensed, nonprofit, community-based hospice serving Delaware and southern Chester and Delaware counties in Pennsylvania. Delaware Hospice is honored to be accredited by the Joint Commission, the nation's leading health care standards-setting and accrediting organization. For more information about Delaware Hospice's programs and services, upcoming events, or employment opportunities, call 800-838-9800 or visit our website, www.delawarehospice.org.

Contact: bcrowl@delawarehospice.org

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A designated area is set up in the Information Center on Coastal Highway in Fenwick Island which contains all *Primed for Maturity* members' information, making it a "one stop shop" for visitors who may be thinking about retiring to The Quiet Resorts, or find themselves caring for an elderly resident here. If you would like to learn more about *Primed for Maturity*, contact Sue Nilsson at the Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce: (302) 539-2100 x116.



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The Key Largo Experience

By Vincent Paez

Many people have had the pleasure of experiencing the Florida Keys. Located only half an hour from Miami, the Keys are a stretch of tropical islands connected by Highway US1. It takes about three hours to drive from the beginning of this stretch at Key Largo to the end at Key West. The warm, aqua-colored Caribbean water surrounding the Keys, the charming towns inbetween, and the palm trees throughout the islands make for a relaxing destination.

This past summer, I accepted an invitation to visit a new friend,

Vincent Paez is a chemist and international businessman. He has a B.S. in Chemistry from Stony Brook

University and an M.B.A. from UCLA. He speaks five languages and has lived/worked on four continents for three Fortune 500 companies. He is also a passionate musician and loves the music scene, especially in the Ocean City area. He lives in Florida and spends much time in Ocean City. He has two sons attending Florida State University. ... "Go 'Noles!"



Rob, who lives in Key Largo, only ninety minutes south of my home in West Palm Beach. The idea was simply to relax, enjoy the sunshine and lower the blood-pressure. My new friend has a house right on the water on the south side of Key Largo, close to the strip of bars and restaurants on US1. His boat is docked right outside his bedroom. "Ah, what a life," I thought when I first saw it. He told me that as a child in Key Largo, he and his buddies would commute to high school on their boats, the way students on the mainland commute to high school in their cars. "Ah, what a life."

Upon arriving at his house, he offered me a libation, and I thought it would be rude of me to deny his hospitality. So he made me a rum and cola, but I struggled to find any evidence of cola in the drink. After a couple of these libations, he showed me his patio on the water, and I noticed a stand-up paddleboard.

"I always wanted to try this," I told him.

"Well, get on and try," he responded, as he tossed the paddleboard in the water and handed me the paddle.

I found this exercise more difficult than I anticipated. I found it difficult to find and keep my balance, while using muscles in

my ankles and calves, which I had never used. Whether it was due to the alcohol or the lack of practice, I struggled on that paddleboard, trying to prevent myself from falling into the water.

"I feel like I can't hold my balance!" I screamed to my friend.

"Well, you better!" he replied. "There's a nurse shark right next to you!"

I looked down, again struggling to keep my balance, and, sure enough, I saw in the clear water a six foot shark with its dorsal fin clearly out of the water. "Don't worry," said Rob. "He's probably just looking for food." "Yeah, but what if he likes to nibble on humans!!" I screamed.

It took all my strength and balance to paddle safely back to the dock and jump the heck off of that paddleboard. I suppose I'll never know if nurse sharks prefer human flesh.

We then jumped in his twenty foot Sea Ray boat with a 150HP Evinrude outboard engine. We went for a thirty minute ride to Islamorada. He asked me if I liked toilet seats, which I thought was odd.

"What do you mean do I like toilet seats? I guess I'd prefer not to live without them." "Well, good, because you're about to see a bunch of them." As he turned a corner around

some mangroves, he entered a channel, which was marked on both sides not by buoys but by toilet seats.

He explained, "It's called Toilet Seat Channel! We locals have marked this channel for years with toilet seats. Each one has its own design and has different things written or painted on it. Look, there's one with an epitaph, 'Rest in Peace.' There's another one in the shape of a pirate. And another one paying tribute to New York Firemen in 911." There must have been a hundred toilet seats marking the channel. How interesting, I thought. How Key Largo that was. "Ah, what a life."

After our tour of the mangroves, we returned to Rob's place and got in his car to go to Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill, a great bar and restaurant, owned by the famous University of Miami and Dallas Cowboy football coach. The food was fabulous and the live rock band had people on the dance floor. It reminded me of MR Ducks or De Lazy Lizard in Ocean City. The band's guitarist was impressive, playing lead like a rock star. I mentioned to Rob that I really liked the way the guitarist played and that I'd like to meet him.

"OK, I'll introduce you to him," he said. We walked

over to the band during their break and he introduced me. "Rob, I'd like to introduce you to a new friend of mine, Vincent." We shook hands. "Nice to meet you, Rob. I see you have the same first name as my new friend." I said. "Yeah, I have the same last name as him too. He's my dad," he replied with a smile. Rob had never told me that the lead guitarist was his son.

After enjoying the experience of The Big Chill, we walked next door to the Caribbean Club, where another band was playing. The Caribbean Club was made famous by the movie Key Largo, starring Humphrey Bogart. It looked like nothing had changed since the movie was made many years ago. I was as impressed at the local musical talent as I was the hospitality of the people I met in the town.

If you ever have the chance to visit the Keys, I would recommend flying into Miami, Fort Lauderdale or Key West. I'd recommend seeing as much of the Keys as possible and bypass the crowds of Miami. Finally, it's important to know that the beaches in the Keys are not very exciting or large, like they are in DE, MD or mainland FL. But the boating, fishing, and nightlife are second-to-none. Ah, what a life...

News from the Veteran's Administration

Submitted by Isaac Goodman

We are excited about getting the "paperwork" done for starting a Georgetown Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. We are awaiting the national office to approve everything and issue our "Chapter Number." In the mean time, the chapter is meeting monthly at American Legion Post #8, (Log Cabin across from Wal-Mart on Hwy 113N) third Wednesday @ 12 noon.

Several of the local elected representatives have voiced support for looking at the available land and buildings in the "Stockley Center," for needy veterans, aging/disabled persons in Sussex County. Bob has discussed this at the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs (DCVA) commission meeting. The commission supports this as well.

We still have the electric wheelchair for donation to a "Needy Veteran." For more information contact: ISAAC GOODMAN; 302-841-4545; igoodman45@hotmail.com



Bob Corsa with the donor of a wheelchair for a needy veteran.



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71st Anniversary of the Singing & Praying Band

Submitted by Lenny Brittingham, Antioch AME Church

71st Anniversary of the Singing & Praying Band at Antioch A.M.E. Church, 194 Clayton Ave., Frankford, Delaware on Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 3:30 P.M. Guest preacher will be from Mt. Zion UMC, Artic & Magothy Road, Pasadena, Maryland followed with singing by bands from the Eastern and Western Shores.

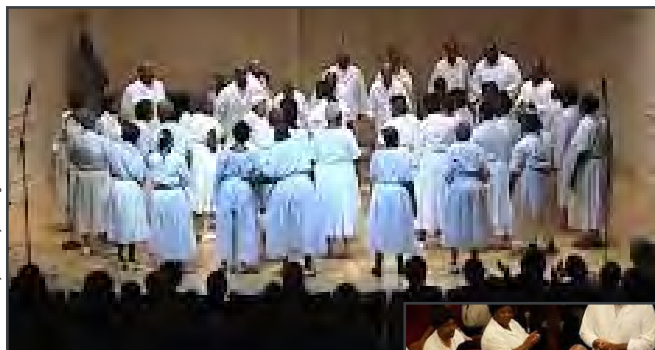
Singing & Praying Bands in America originated by the "brush arbor" and secret worship meetings of plantation slaves when they did not have the freedom to openly express praise and worship to God. When slavery was abolished, the Singing and Praying Bands started decreasing in numbers. In 2013, Singing & Praying Bands performed at the Library of Congress. In 2014, they

were recipients of the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship which is the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts.

Antioch A.M.E. Church under the leadership of 1st Captain, George Beckett, is one of the few churches keeping the tradition alive. Everyone is invited to Antioch to experience an African American devotional/musical tradition that is unique to the Delmarva region, probably the oldest living African American musical

tradition in Delaware and Maryland.

For more information, please call the church at 302-732-1005. Rev. Dania Griffin, Pastor and Rev. Zakiya Griffin, Associate.



Photos courtesy of: Lenny Brittingham



Photo submitted by Kent Sussex Community Services

Kent Sussex Community Services receives donation from Smyrna Clayton Moose Riders

Kent Sussex Community Services (KSCS) Executive Director Dave Parcher, left, is handed a donation check for \$3,000 from Mike Czetti, president of the Smyrna Clayton Moose Riders. The generous donation will be used by KSCS to provide HIV counseling, substance abuse and mental health treatment, Smart Start for a health pregnancy program, Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity outreach and additional services for residents of Kent and Sussex counties. For more information about Kent Sussex Community Services, visit www.kscs.org, like them on Facebook or follow @KSCS302 on Twitter. Submitted by: Katie Kazimir, Media Outreach Specialist, Kent Sussex Community Services, Phone: (302) 943-7303, Fax: (302) 854-0176, www.kscs.org.

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How to Heat Your Home and Save Money in Sussex County, DE

The first thing to know about heating your home in Sussex County is that heating with electricity costs a lot less than heating with propane as much as 4 times less. This makes Sussex County very different from most areas in the country. In most areas electricity is the most expensive way to heat a home. That is because most areas have natural gas. Sussex County is mainly propane. Natural gas is coming to Sussex County. But that may take decades.

If you have a propane furnace with an air conditioner you can easily cut your heating bill in half. The way to do this is to replace your air conditioner with a heat pump.

This is called a hybrid or dual fuel system it's

been around since the eighty's.

Cut Your Heating Bills in Half

In places that have natural gas it doesn't pay *but in Sussex County a hybrid heating system does pay by cutting heating bills in half.*

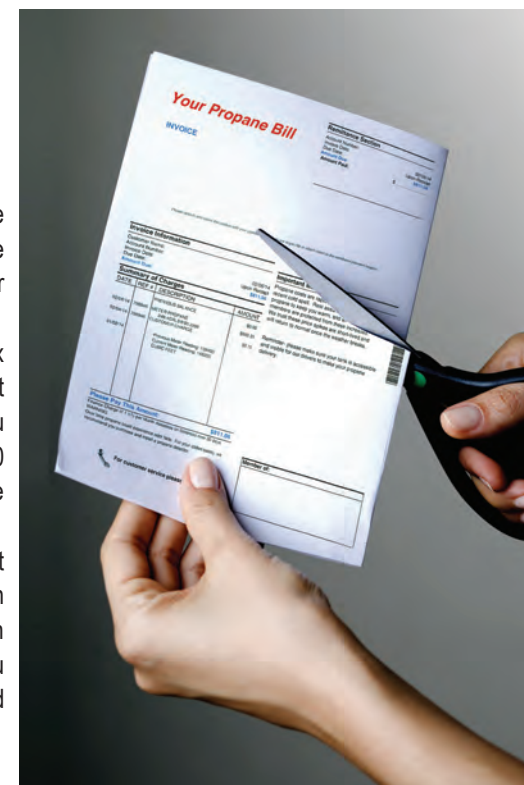
How does it work? The heat pump heats the home until the outside temperature drops into the thirty's at that point the furnace takes over to heat the home. In Sussex County heaters run for about 6 months. Most of the winter is over forty degrees which means the heat pump is heating the home at least half the time for up to four times less.

A heat pump delivers very hot air to the home when the outside temperature is forty degrees

or above. Sussex County is the perfect place for a hybrid heating system because of the price of electricity vs. propane and the winter temperatures.

Think of this... if you buy a home in Sussex County when you're thirty years old and heat your home with propane only for thirty years you would have spent between \$40,000 to \$100,000 dollars too much. The bigger the home the bigger the savings.

Even if you don't do it now make sure when it is time to replace your air conditioner do it with a heat pump. If you would like more information on converting to a hybrid heating system you can call me, Ron Ferrell, at Ferrell Cooling And Heating 302.436.2922.



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Getting well at home...sounds good to me! It's a rarity to stay in a hospital bed for very long these days; seems as if they could put a drive-through window on the side of those big buildings, they would do so. OK, what you have today is a variety of services falling under the banner of home health care, but they're not all the same. Remember, the name of the game is always going to be "who's paying?" The late Christopher Reeve, the actor (Superman), fell off a horse and broke his neck. His home care consisted of a mechanical device known as a ventilator to help him breathe, and the services of Registered Nurses 24 hours a day. That level of care is going to be rather pricey, and my guess was

Did you know?

We all know Delaware is the first state to ratify the US Constitution, the second smallest state, and the home of tax-free shopping, but DID YOU KNOW?.....

Delaware is the only state in the US to have an arc as a geographical boundary. It separates Delaware from Pennsylvania with a 12 mile radial arc drawn from the County Courthouse in New Castle to the western boundary of the state.

Delaware is 97 miles long, 37 miles wide at its widest point and 9 miles wide at its narrowest point. It covers 2500 square miles.

Delaware has 25 miles of Atlantic Ocean shoreline.

130 states of Delaware would fit into Texas.

that he didn't have insurance that paid for catastrophic injury associated with steeplechase, so it was helpful that Hollywood pays their stars fairly well.

Most of us would like to get home as soon as our physician will let us out the hospital door, but don't worry, the hospital is way ahead of you. Today you could be leaving with an IV still in your arm, directions as to how to care for that surgical incision, as well as what to look for in your urine. ...that bed you were in for that one night is still going to be warm when the next patient admitted needs it.

Medicare, if you'll remember, the federal health care insurance program for the elderly and disabled, as the largest health payer on this continent, pretty much tells us what is available in the way of home care, and whether any insurer will pay. What you have is "skilled" and "unskilled" services in the home. Skilled services are supervised by a physician, a nurse (RN/LPN), or a therapist (physical, occupational, speech or respiratory). At the risk of oversimplifying these services, if you might have received these services in an inpatient setting, and you still need them upon discharge, you probably can get them in your home. Medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, a hospital-style bed (usually on a loaner basis) may be prescribed for your home care.

"Unskilled" (or "non-medical") services are

not always as easily separable from "skilled", but God bless them, our bureaucrats give it a good try. Unskilled usually refers to "companion" or "personal care" activities such as grooming, bathing, dressing, along with meal preparation, light housekeeping, among others. It might also include reminding mom to take her medication, but that is not as clear as all that, in that brittle diabetics are frequently short on assistance in the administration of their insulin injections, yet not qualifying for "skilled" nursing care. And then there's the case of the patient who was discharged to home, where she lived alone, with the directive to look for any evidence of blood in her urine. That was a little difficult, as the patient was also blind. Unskilled services are delivered by Home Health Aides or Certified Nursing Assistants, and can be purchased (remember most insurances are not going to cover these needs) for a few hours, to 24 hours per day.

Medicaid (or Medical Assistance, as it is sometimes known) is another federal program, but administered by each state individually, provides for some home care services, but their resources are limited. Medicaid has been the payer of last resort for the indigent. They have been the source of payment for individuals with disabilities. Their resources are increasing limited, and waiting lists for coverage of care are commonplace. Their rolls are expanding as a byproduct of the pending

federal Affordable Care Act (better known as "ObamaCare"), and are awaiting federal dollars to travel up 95 from our Capital.

Now what's a citizen to do? If you are expecting a stay in a hospital anytime soon, begin your planning now. A hip or knee replacement is going to involve the shortest of hospital stay, to be sure (and besides that, they're not going to have that liverwurst from the G&E that you like, so you're going to want to get home soon). Contact the hospital before admission to see how they will handle your discharge, and the referral to home care. Many hospitals are affiliated with a local branch of the national Visiting Nurses Association. Amedisys Home Health Care, is a Medicare Skilled Services Provider serving Sussex County. Visiting Angels Living Assistance Services is a Sussex County provider of home-based services not covered by Medicare.

Parent Educator

Seeking applicants interested in working with children and families as a Parent Educator with our Parents As Teachers (PAT) program in Sussex County. Position is part time and flexible. Bachelors degree required. For more information and to apply visit www.lf.k12.de.us. Click on "District Employment" and select "Delaware Early Childhood Center". Questions? Contact Amanda at [302-398-8945](tel:302-398-8945) x103