

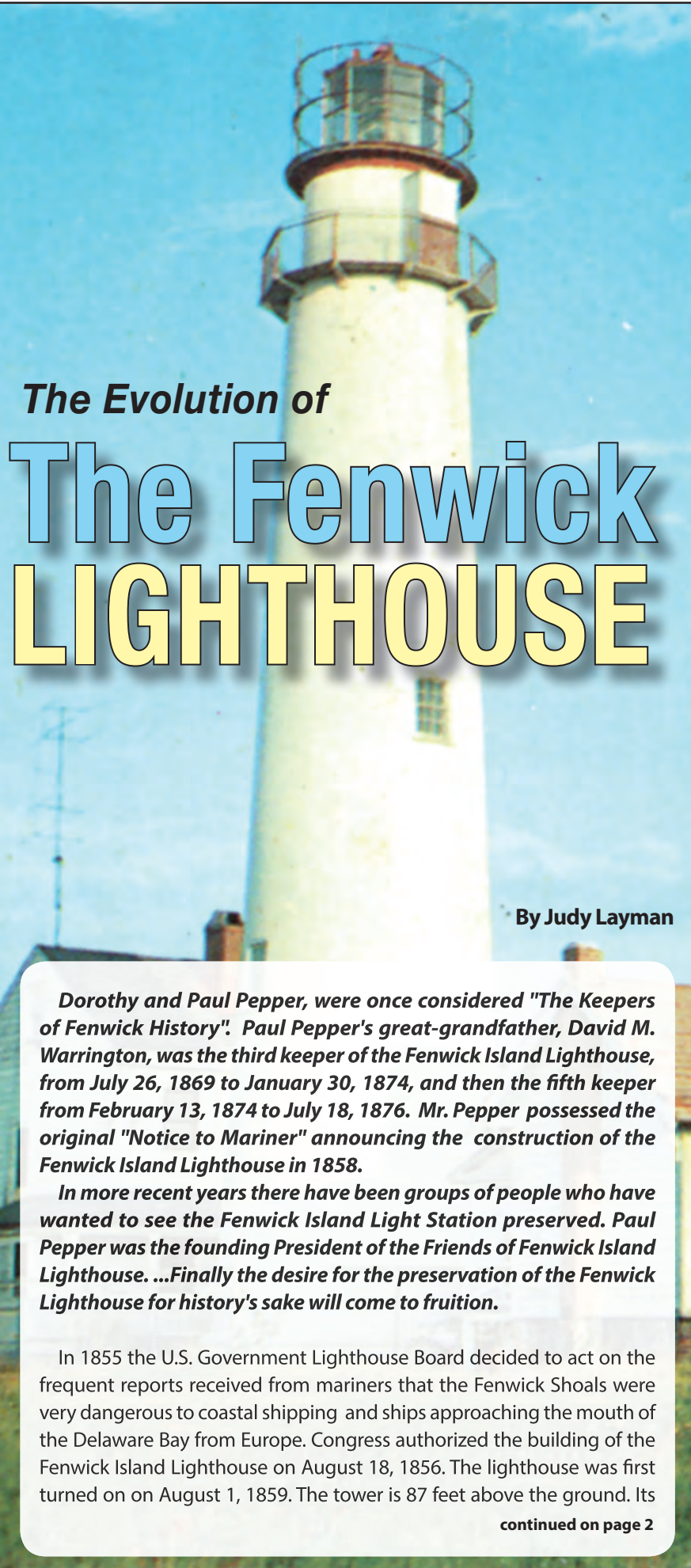
# High Tide News

July 2017

Local news for the people, by the people

Vol. 5 Num. 7

[www.hightidenews.com](http://www.hightidenews.com)



*The Evolution of*

## The Fenwick LIGHTHOUSE

By Judy Layman

***Dorothy and Paul Pepper, were once considered "The Keepers of Fenwick History". Paul Pepper's great-grandfather, David M. Warrington, was the third keeper of the Fenwick Island Lighthouse, from July 26, 1869 to January 30, 1874, and then the fifth keeper from February 13, 1874 to July 18, 1876. Mr. Pepper possessed the original "Notice to Mariner" announcing the construction of the Fenwick Island Lighthouse in 1858.***

***In more recent years there have been groups of people who have wanted to see the Fenwick Island Light Station preserved. Paul Pepper was the founding President of the Friends of Fenwick Island Lighthouse. ...Finally the desire for the preservation of the Fenwick Lighthouse for history's sake will come to fruition.***

In 1855 the U.S. Government Lighthouse Board decided to act on the frequent reports received from mariners that the Fenwick Shoals were very dangerous to coastal shipping and ships approaching the mouth of the Delaware Bay from Europe. Congress authorized the building of the Fenwick Island Lighthouse on August 18, 1856. The lighthouse was first turned on on August 1, 1859. The tower is 87 feet above the ground. Its

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## Christine's Consignments

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Christine Braverman, owner  
[chrisconsignments@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisconsignments@yahoo.com)

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Phone: 302-226-1126

Christine opened her first consignment shop in 2010 in Ocean View, Delaware. With near immediate success, she was able to open a second store in Rehoboth Beach. With her two stores, she is able to serve the entire area with a truly unique shopping experience.



Christine Braverman at Christine's Consignments, Rehoboth Beach, DE

**Christine's Consignments** carries a large array of items, including trendy clothes and accessories for Men, Women, Junior's and Children. Christine's also has shoes, purses, jewelry, furniture, home decor and linens. You never know what you might find when you shop at **Christine's Consignments!**

*"What a great consignment shop. The merchandise is fresh and interesting, the staff is so friendly and the prices are fabulous. A great place to shop while you are in Bethany Beach."*

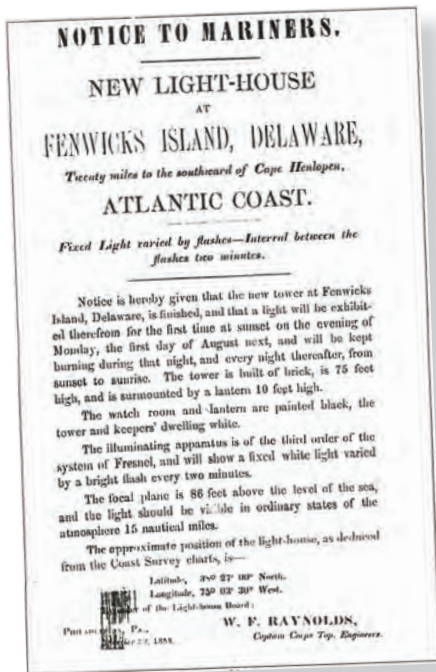
(a review left on Facebook from shopper Mary Ellen Hrutka)

At any given time you might find a selection of Lilly Pulitzer, Louis Vuitton, Coach, or many other top names in designer merchandise —*without designer prices!* New items come in every day which makes every day a new shopping experience. The majority of merchandise in Christine's shops is high-end and name-brand. She looks for all popular brands that are like new...in fact, some of the items still have the original tags on them.

Christine caters to both her customers and her consignors not only with good prices and good commissions, but she also hosts events like New York trips, wine

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15,000 candlepower light was visible 15 miles out to sea. The tower stands three-tenths of a mile inland from the shore. (...today a residential area on the border of Fenwick, Delaware and Ocean City, Maryland.)



On Jan. 11, 1858, the Federal Government purchased a 10 acre tract of land at Fenwick Island from Mary C. Hall. It was a portion of two early land grants known as Fishing Harbor and Lydia's Pasture. It was chosen because it was the highest point in the area.

The building of the lighthouse and a two story family dwelling was begun in 1858. The dwelling was completed that year and the lighthouse was finished early in 1859.

In 1878 a second keeper's dwelling was built by the Federal Government to overcome the crowded conditions. The second house was built on the west side of the lighthouse and was eventually the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Cropper. The keepers lived in the newer house, leaving the older house for the assistant keepers. The last keeper to live there was Mr. Charles L. Gray.

**The Crusade to Protect the Lighthouse**

Through the years there have been many people who have played an active part in keeping this lighthouse going. There was a volunteer group

called "The Friends of the Fenwick Island Lighthouse, Inc. headed by Paul Pepper and he was very active. For years no one seemed to care much about the lighthouse... it was run by the Lighthouse Board and then it was given to the Coast Guard and then to the State of Delaware, as "excess historic property."

Soon after taking control of the lighthouse in 1939, the Coast Guard sold off three-quarters of the station's land including the old dwelling to Charles L. Gray, the last keeper of the lighthouse. The second dwelling and most

of the remaining property were eventually sold after the light was automated, and in 1978, the lighthouse was deactivated and its Fresnel lens removed. This action caught many of the locals by surprise and the Coast Guard was soon receiving calls and letters from people protesting the decommissioning of the light. Paul Pepper, whose great-grandfather, David M. Warrington, was the third keeper of the light and whose grandfather, William Edward Pepper, served as an assistant keeper, was the driving force behind the campaign to restore the light. For sixty years, Paul and his wife Dorothy had enjoyed viewing the comforting beacon from their nearby home, and Dorothy was an unofficial historian for the lighthouse, having written numerous articles published in newspapers, magazines, and books.

Paul Pepper's crusade proved successful, and on September 21, 1981, the Coast Guard transferred ownership of the tower to the State of Delaware, which then leased it to the Friends of the Fenwick Island Lighthouse. Pepper was elected president of the group, and the following year the lighthouse, equipped with a less powerful light source and its returned Fresnel lens, was relit. By this time, the lighthouse was starting to show its age, but fortunately State Senators Cordrey and Sharp, both



Photos: Courtesy Tracy Lewis, New Friends of the Fenwick Lighthouse, Inc. Fenwick Lighthouse photographed from the sea in 1891.



Photo Courtesy Tracy Lewis, New Friends of the Fenwick Lighthouse, Inc. Fenwick Island Lighthouse and buildings. Early 1900's. The two brothers Charles and Neal Gray, who took care of the light station at the time are shown. Charles is at left Neal is shown on the right, cutting grass.

summer residents of Fenwick Island, were avid supporters of the lighthouse group and succeeded in obtaining \$400,000 to restore the tower.

During restoration work in 1997, the lighthouse was encircled with scaffolding, and this outer layer was then wrapped in protective coating. When the tower emerged after the reparative work, it was almost as good as new. In July 1998, a rededication ceremony was held at the lighthouse. A plaque honoring the tireless effort of Paul and Dorothy Pepper was presented to Paul Pepper and then later placed on display at the lighthouse. Unfortunately, Dorothy had passed away two years earlier.

Speaking at the ceremony, eighty-nine-year-old Paul Pepper stated, "When I look at the lighthouse now, I sorta feel like I have been the manager or quarterback of our team of The Friends of Fenwick Island Lighthouse and we have just scored a big winning touchdown by convincing the State of Delaware to do a complete renovation job for us. This would not have happened if we had not all pulled together, donating our time, effort and money. I want to thank everybody . . . I am so happy. I just wish Dorothy could have lived to see this accomplished. She



Photo Courtesy Tracy Lewis, New Friends of the Fenwick Lighthouse, Inc. Paul Pepper, founding President of the Friends of the Fenwick Island Lighthouse with his wife Dorothy at the lighthouse in 1993.



WILLIAM EDWARD PEPPER Assistant Lighthouse Keeper 1869 Courtesy of Helen Miller Hudson

**Lighthouse Keepers:**

Head: John Smith (1859 – 1861), William R. Hall (1861 – 1869), David M. Warrington (1869 – 1874), James H. Bell (1874), David M. Warrington (1874 – 1876), James H. Bell (1876), Samuel H. Vaughan (1876), John A. Gunn (1876 – 1880), Jehu D. Bennett (1880 – 1907), Samuel Soper (1907 – 1910), Willis B. Pardee (1910 – at least 1913), Alva F. Stites (at least 1915 – 1927), Charles L. Gray (1927 – 1940), Arthur Aydelotte (1940 – 1945), Neil Gray (1945 – 1948), John C. Gray (1948).

**Assistant Lighthouse Keepers:**

Handy Hickman (1859), Levin Smith (1859 – 1861), John C. Hall (1861 – 1865), George K. Lloyd (1865 – 1867), John C. Hall (1867 – 1869), William E. Pepper (1869 – 1885), Elias T. Elliott (1885 – 1889), William T. Brasure, Jr. (1889 – 1895), James K. Rickards (1895 – 1906), Samuel D. Bennett (1906), Oather F. Kirby (1906 – 1908), John S. Pusey (1908 – 1909), Willis B. Pardee (1909 – 1910), Charles H. Truitt (1910), Alva F. Stites (1910 – 1914), Charles L. Gray (at least 1915 – at least 1921), George Walker (at least 1930).

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**High Tide News**

Local news for the people, by the people

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# Baby Boomers Stick Together



The millennial generation (ages 18 to 34) is often thought of as being self-involved. But, in fact, there is an estimated 10 million millennials caring for adult family members who need help. About 25 percent of U.S. caregivers fall into that age range according to the National Alliance for Caregiving.

But there are challenges these young caregivers face. They often have little or no experience with serious illness, with making health care decisions or how to make life safer, more comfortable and more purposeful for the senior they care for. Additionally many of them

have new careers and young families and are trying to help an aging parent from a long-distance. They can feel tremendous guilt when they can't be physically present with their loved one.

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Seniors Helping Seniors' staff can do to make their daily lives more fulfilling. Lastly, but so very important, from this care-giver/receiver relationship, a grand friendship often develops.

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nights, and the wonderful relationships and friendships that are formed in the shop. **Christine's Consignments** is truly a unique and profitable shopping experience for both the shopper and the consignor.

**Shoppers:** Instead of shopping at the high-end, upscale mall store, and spending a fortune, check out **Christine's Consignments** for those high end items that you would love to own but don't want to spend a fortune on!

**Consignors:** If you have quality, high-end merchandise that you would like to consign, check with Christine to find out about her very generous consignment percentage and start earning some money for those used items!

To find out more about this unique shopping experience, call **Christine's Consignments** at the Ocean View store 302-829-1425 or the Rehoboth store at 302-226-1126, or visit the Ocean View location at 42 Atlantic Avenue. Visit the Christine's Consignment facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/christinesconsignmentsatrendyplacetoshop>



Christine Braverman at *Christine's Consignments*, Ocean View, DE

**The Renovation of the Lighthouse Keeper's Complex.**

**On Tuesday, May 23rd, 2017, The New Friends of the Fenwick Lighthouse, Bernardon Architects out of Wilmington, and the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs gave a presentation at the Fenwick Island Town Hall. They invited a mix of people from the surrounding community to discuss what was transpiring with the design of the renovation of the Lighthouse**



Photo Courtesy Tracy Lewis, New Friends of the Fenwick Lighthouse, Inc.

**Keeper's Complex. In attendance were local business owners, decedents of the lighthouse, and the Cropper family (who sold the house to the State of Delaware)....**

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs announced that the state had acquired the keeper's dwelling west of the lighthouse and had hired a Wilmington architecture firm to return the house to its original state. As part of the restoration, a greenhouse will be removed and a new handicap accessible entrance will be added.

At the end of the renovation project the keepers house will be transformed and returned as much as possible to its original design when it was build, including some modernization and updates to make it handicap accessible. At the end of the project it will be open to the public for seminars, events, and will continue as an important historical presence in the community.



Photos Courtesy Tracey Lewis, New Friends of the Fenwick Lighthouse, Inc.

**The above rendering from the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs and Bernardon Architects shows the future Lighthouse Keeper's Complex from above. The historical building is to be restored, modernized and open to public events.**

Phase one of the project is the exterior renovation of the house including the roof which has already been done and siding will be done and eventually the windows and doors will be restored to the original design or as close to the original design as possible. The next phase will be the inside, including heat, air conditioning, all new electrical system, and replacing the sheetrock and then phase three will be the finishing phase. The basic footprint of the house will stay along with the additions.

**SOURCES:**

<http://www.lighthousefriends.com>

Archives: "Friends of Fenwick Island Lighthouse, Inc."

Information from Tracy Lewis, New Friends of Fenwick Island Lighthouse, Inc.

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# Summer Tips for your Garden

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At **Bella Terra Landscapes**, we strive to make your plants and outdoor living environment the best they can be year round. The summer months can take a toll on beautiful landscapes. Following are a few tried and true tips that can help keep your property looking beautiful. First, make sure your plants are getting adequate water. In the spring, we often experience rain showers in this area and our irrigation and watering schedules

*"Meeting and exceeding our customers' expectations."*

may be set accordingly. Keep an eye on the weather, and if hot, dry spells are becoming more common, adjust your watering frequency and time. A good rule of thumb is to water plants in the early morning or at dusk as there is less likelihood of water evaporation during these times. Also – remember that potted plants and hanging baskets tend to dry out more quickly

and may not be within your irrigation range, so make sure you give them a nice cool drink as well. Additionally, consider topping off the mulch around trees, shrubs, and plants. This will dramatically improve the root environment and make for sturdier plants and continuous, healthy growth. Another pesky problem that often occurs during the summer months is the infestation of insects. Make sure to inspect your plants for any signs of infestation or distress. Drought

stressed plants can be particularly problematic, so be mindful of weather patterns for not only irrigation, but infestation as well. Finally, if you do not have a fertilization plan, consider treatment for the autumn, which aids in recovery and will promote healthy growth for the following spring. As always – enjoy the summer season and the great outdoors!

# Zwaanendael Women's Club Donates \$8,500

On Tuesday, June 20, Members of the Zwaanendael Women's Club of Lewes met to make final distributions of the over \$8,500 that club members have raised during the last 12 months.

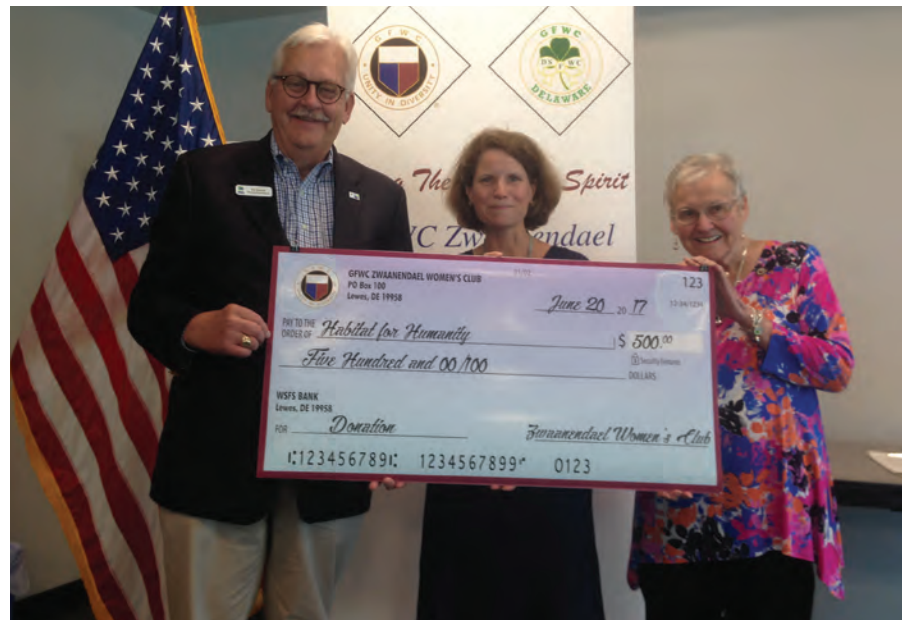
The Sussex County and Southern Delaware organizations benefitting include Little Grace Kids Closet, Home of the Brave for Women, Lewes Fire Department, Peoples Place Domestic Violence Fund, Lewes Library, Milford Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Cape Henlopen High School Scholarship Fund, Peoples Place Girls Group Home, Lewes Historical Society, The Culinary School at the Food Bank of Delaware, Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Foundation, Shields Elementary School Reading Specialist Book Fund for 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades, Beebe Nursing School Scholarship Fund, Shields Elementary School Adopt A Classroom, and Fisher House for Military Families.

One of the Club's signature projects

is assisting in need students from Cape Henlopen High School and their families. This assistance includes stocking the school food pantry; donating 2,500 clothing items to the student clothing closet and holding semi annual clothing distribution days; and providing Baskets of Basics for college bound students that include items needed to comfortably set up their dorm room. The Baskets of Basics is funded by donations from local businesses and individuals.

This year Club members' time and talents also supported the community through collection and donation of 1,300 pounds of food for local food pantries; 100 books for the Community Resource Baby Pantry; and clothing and supplies to Little Grace Kids Closet.

The source for much of these donated funds is the Club's Antique & Jewelry Appraisal event, Christmas Raffle, Paint with a Purpose fundraiser, Valentines Tea, Victorian Tea, and Geranium



(l-r) Jay Gundy, Development Director, Habitat for Humanity; Cindy Winkler, Vice-President, Zwaanendael Women's Club; Muriel Pfeiffer, President, Zwaanendael Women's Club.

Sale. The Zwaanendael Women are very appreciative of the community support of these fundraisers.

The Zwaanendael Women's Club of Lewes, founded in 1905, is a member

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# My Fourth of July Abroad

By Vincent Paez

Back in 2000, my family and I lived in Germany for three years, while I was on an international business assignment as an ex-Patriate (ex-Pat). We truly loved the experience and made many friends, some of them American, some British and some German. One year, we decided to celebrate the Fourth of July at our German home on a beautiful summer day. We planned this mainly to celebrate with our fellow American ex-Pats, but we found that our British and German friends were also very eager to celebrate with us. When I mentioned to the Brits that I found it ironic that they wanted to celebrate the Fourth of July, they replied while chuckling, "We'd like to celebrate the day we got rid of you rabble." Clearly it was a tongue and cheek joke, and I realized that they just wanted to join us in a summer party. Naturally, they were welcome.

Europeans are used to celebrating in a similar fashion to Americans. Eating barbecued hot dogs and drinking beer is the same in Germany as it is in the USA. But there are some differences. First of all, Germans usually prefer hot dog to hamburgers. The second difference is ice. Europeans normally do not use ice. Back in 2000, it was impossible to find ice in a store. There simply was no demand for ice to put in drinks, so we needed to make enough ice for everyone in our own freezer. Fortunately, we brought ice cube trays from the USA to Germany, but, unfortunately, the ice the ran out early.

The next thing that was very different for Europeans was the barbecue. Barbecues in Germany are typically used at festivals, not in private homes. We brought our barbecue from the USA, and our guests were fascinated by it. The American men hovered over it and demanded to have some time cooking on it, because that's what American men do. Most of them did not bring a barbecue and these things

are very expensive in Germany. And so, the barbecue became the center of male bonding for a couple of hours.

Another interesting thing was the many questions that were asked of me about the history of the Fourth of July. There were many discussions about our founding fathers and the notorious King George III, and we all compared notes and realized how little history we truly knew. Regardless, they were fun conversations and our lack of history knowledge was masked by our love for the beer being served.

Beer is very special in Germany and is part of the culture. I wanted to make a nice impression on our guests, so I went to the best local brewery and bought a half-keg of their finest pilsner beer. The tap was tricky, so a friendly neighbor helped me tap it. We had known each other for two years, but always addressed each other as Herr (Mr.) Paez and Herr Gunner. Formality is the Germany way. After Herr Gunner helped me tap the keg, I offered him a glass of the beer, and he delightfully accepted. He mentioned to me that we should finally have "the talk." I did not know what he was referring to, and I just let him speak on. Apparently, after a certain time, two German men can decide to address each other by their first names, but this is most appropriately done over a beer. As we were drinking the beer, Herr Gunner said, "You may call now me Berndt." I immediately responded with, "And you may now call me Vincent." We clinked our beer glasses together with a toast and smiled admirably at each other. I immediately felt more accepted in the neighborhood.

The other difference is the hot dog itself. Germans eat a variety of hot dog called wurst. Some-



times they put curry on it and call it "curry wurst." We stayed away from the curry wurst on the Fourth. The bun is also hard, compared to typical American hot dog or hamburger buns.

In the Midwest USA, you can find such German hot dogs, which are call brats (short for bratwursts). The closest food to German wurst, that I have ever found in the USA was at last month's Brat Fest on Memorial Day in Madison, Wisconsin, where many Germans settled. The people and bands at Brat Fest even looked and sounded similar to those found in a German festival. Whether it was Fourth of July in Germany or Memorial Day Brat Fest in Madison, I felt privileged to be able to mix German and American cultures and enjoy great food and drink. If you ever make it Germany or to Madison, take advantage and enjoy the cultural blend!

Author, **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 Ocean City. He has two sons attending Florida State University. ... "Go 'Noles!" He is married to a wonderful girl from Iowa, Sherri.

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# Cancer Support Community Presented Special Tribute in Memory of Mary Jane Brummell

A Community Tribute Walk was held on May 13, 2017 in Bridgeville in memory of Mary Jane Brummell. Mary Jane, who lost her 18 year long cancer battle, was an advocate for all

are offered at Nanticoke Cancer Care Center in Seaford. Please call 645-9150 for additional program information.

The Cancer Support Community is



Shown at the Check presentation are (l) Alice Brummell, Mary Jane's Daughter, Jo Allegro-Smith, Sussex County Director of the Cancer and Mary V. "Ginger" Speight, Friend of Mary Jane.

cancer survivors especially in western Sussex and also a long time supporter of the Cancer Support Community in Sussex County. Her family and friends planned this fitting tribute in Mary Jane's memory and recently presented Jo Allegro-Smith, Sussex County Director, with a check for \$780.00, more than double their 2017 goal.

The Sussex facility of the Cancer Support Community is located at 18947 John J. Williams Hwy., Suite 312, Rehoboth. All educational programs, stress release programs and support groups are offered at no cost to the person coping with cancer and their loved ones. Off site programs

part of a national nonprofit organization that provides support, education and hope to people with cancer and their loved ones. Through participation in professionally led support groups, educational workshops and mind/body classes, people affected by cancer learn vital skills that enable them to regain control, reduce isolation and restore hope regardless of the stage of disease. At the Cancer Support Community Delaware, all programs are free of charge. More information about the Cancer Support Community is available on their website at [www.cancersupportdelaware.org](http://www.cancersupportdelaware.org).



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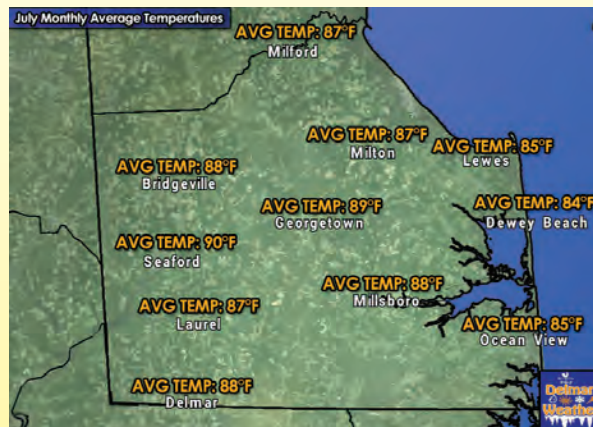
## WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR JULY

By Hunter Outten

June started out as a lamb but ended as a fierce lion. Temperatures soared well into the 90's and we seen destructive thunderstorms across the county. As we head into the heart of summer, what should you expect? On Delmarva, July always has proven to be the most intense with heat than any other month of the year. That's exactly what you are

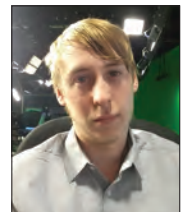
going to see is more frequent heat waves. Starting off July, a large high pressure ridge will develop across the Eastern US pumping in very warm and humid air to our area. When we have persistent hot and humid conditions, we tend to start seeing more MCS's (Mesoscale Convective Systems) driving lines of strong thunderstorms through the Mid-Atlantic. On a good note, these heat waves brings residents down to the beach resorts to cool off. Some very nice economic gain to the beach towns. Temperatures across the county will range from 85-90 degrees for the month. Precipitation on the hand can vary in locations due too not seeing constant storm systems. Most of our rainfall during the summer months come from thunderstorm activity. With Delaware climate data, amounts range from 3 to 5 inches of rainfall for the month of July. Which is about what we typically will see

this time around. A reminder for this month, severe weather is most active on Delmarva during this month. I have chased several dozen destructive storms in this month over the last 9 years. Middle of the month looks to be pretty active with thunderstorms. Waves of energy from Canada dipping into the Northeastern US provide a perfect



setup in place for storms. For all of your weather forecasting needs, visit our Facebook page at Delmar Weather. Voted the most accurate weather forecasters on Delmarva!

Author, **Hunter Outten** is a Meteorological Scientist with 9 years of experience. Specialism in monthly to seasonal forecasting, and Mesoscale Severe/Winter Dynamics. I am the Co-operator of Delmar Weather since 2012. Nation wide Storm Chaser. Developer of the Pattern Cycle Theory for long range forecasting.



# REHOBOTH BEACH MUSEUM HOSTS SCOOTER HISTORY PROGRAM



Rehoboth Beach - Scooters are not just a mode of transportation; they have become a cultural phenomenon. Whether you are going to work or just out for a fun spin, scooters are an economical and ecologically friendly way to get where you are going. Scooter and mopeds have become very popular in the coastal region particularly during the tourist season. However, it is not just because of convenience that scooters have become so popular. Social groups have evolved in Rehoboth and Dewey Beach made up of scooter riding enthusiasts. Talking with scooter owners and riders in the area, when asked why they ride a scooter the most common phrase is "and it's fun." There is a lot of economical fun for young or old.

Janet Bowen, a Reference Librarian at New Cumberland Public Library, and a historian in South Central, Pennsylvania, will share her enthusiasm and knowledge of scooter history at the Rehoboth Beach Museum on July 13th at 7p.m. The museum is located at 511 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The program is free for Historical Society members. A \$5 donation is suggested for non-members. Reservations are required. Please call (302) 227-7310 to make a reservation.

Janet Bowen's passion for scooters grew out of an interest in American transportation and traveling. Her first scooter was a Yamaha Vino 125cc and she currently rides a Vespa Granturismo 200 cc. Janet's interest in scooters has led her to do research on the evolution of scooters. Owners of scooters are invited to attend and to share scooter stories and experiences.

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# Sussex Academy Celebrates the School's First Graduating Class

Georgetown, DE. On Friday, June 2 Sussex Academy held its first commencement for 38 students.

Academic Counselor, Debbie Fees, recently provided the following information about the graduates. Thirty seven of the 38 students will attend college and 1 has joined the United States Army. The senior class applied to a total of 119 colleges/universities and received acceptances to 72% of them. Sussex Academy graduates will be attending Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute, NYU Stern School of Business, Boston University, University of Delaware, Lynchburg College, Lafayette College, Salisbury University, Villanova, University of Central Florida, University of Dallas, Juniata College, Delaware Technical Community College, as well as other colleges. Collectively, the class received over \$3.7 million in scholarships.

Twenty-eight of the graduates sat for at least one International Baccalaureate exam and 15 are IB Diploma candidates. The IB results will be announced in early July.

Sussex Academy is a public charter, tuition free, school centrally located in Georgetown. Serving grades 6-12, the school practices a project based learning approach and all grade 11 and 12 students participate in the International Baccalaureate program.

For additional information contact Gina Derrickson, Community and Communications Manager at 302-856-3636 or gina.derrickson@saas.k12.de.us



**PHOTO: Sussex Academy Academic Counselor- Debbie Fees**

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*Atlantic Menhaden*

(Brevortia tyrannous)

*Lewes, Delaware*

**By Local Author, Joanne K. Guilfoil**

This Atlantic Coast fish is also known as “pogy; “mossbunker”; “fatback”. Like other herrings, it is flattened sideways and has a sharp-edged belly. Menhaden have a very large scale-less head and a toothless lower jaw that projects beyond the upper jaw. It is very distinguishable in appearance which includes a conspicuous large dark spot behind the gill opening, then smaller irregular spots farther back. Top colors range from dark blue, blue-grey, or blue-brown. Sides, belly and fins are greyish-silvery, with a strong yellowish or brassy luster.

Menhaden weigh close to one pound and grow to one foot in length. They swim closely in schools of hundreds or thousands. On warm, still sunny days they can be seen (from land, sea or air) as dark ripples on the water’s surface. Menhaden feed on microscopic plants captured by their own filtering apparatus. They swim with mouths wide open and gill openings spread, catching all plankton units.

This fat oily fish, swimming in schools is helpless to protect itself and often falls prey to whales, porpoises and sharks, tuna and bluefish. If not taken by these natural enemies, they also strand themselves in shallow water, perish and pollute the air for days with their smelly carcasses.

Menhaden have been important commercially in the manufacture of oil, fertilizer and fish scrap. Along the Atlantic Coast they are used for bait. Most menhaden are taken by purse seines and in pound nets on large boats, as they never bite a baited hook. And they are so oily and smelly that they would not be good food fish.

Along the mid- Atlantic Coast they were “fished out” by the 1960’s, but they are coming back, and have been spotted along the Delaware Coast in 2016!

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## Delaware trooper inducted to IRHS Hall of Fame

Indian River High School Hall of Fame welcomed the newest inductee for 2017: John Scott "J.S." Evans Jr. of Frankford Del.

"I can't think of a finer person to put in the Indian River High School Hall of Fame for what he has done for his community and how he has lived his life," said Principal E. Bennett Murray IV.

Evans graduated from Indian River in 1989 and Delaware Technical & Community College in 1993.

He joined the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves from 1988 to 1994. Happily joining Delaware State Police in 1994, Evans has climbed the ranks, from recruit to sergeant at Troop 4 in Georgetown. He's been a patrol trooper, detective, supervisor of both, K-9 handler and recently, supervisor at the Delaware Information & Analysis Center, supervising intelligence analysts who ensure information flows between Delaware and federal government for homeland security threats.

This May, he transferred back to Troop 4 as supervisor of the Criminalistics Unit, which processes major crime scenes for evidence.

DSP Captain Sean Moriarty described him as a good employee, leader and community member. Not only has he achieved many police awards, he has also helped guide

others, like junior troopers, toward personal and professional improvements.

Evans has also volunteered with Ocean View Church of Christ and Lower Sussex Little League. After 10 years in active service, he remains an honorary member at Dagsboro Volunteer Fire Company.

The Hall of Fame induction was part of the IRHS Annual Senior Awards Ceremony on May 24. Evans was presented with a wooden plaque designed and laser cut by the IRHS construction/technology department. His portrait will join the Hall of Fame gallery in the high school's main hallway.

"What an honor ... it's also very humbling, as there are many other deserving Indian River alumni here," Evans said. "I believe this recognition does not come for what I've done by myself, but by those who have guided me, stood beside me and walked with me."

He attributed his success to his own faith in God, plus family, friends and colleagues.

Speaking before the graduates, Evans encouraged students to begin their path by setting goals.

"Back in middle school, one of my goals was to become a Delaware State trooper," which meant path of volunteerism, college, work experience and

Coast Guard Reserves.

"Each of those short-term goals built upon each other to help me gain experience, maturity and wisdom to help me reach my long-term goal of becoming a trooper," he said.

But reaching one's dream job doesn't mean the dreams end.

"I love being a trooper and after 23 years, I still love going to work every day," said Evans, but he keeps improving. "The goals I never stop reaching for are to be a good husband, a good father, a good friend and a good citizen." Those are the true long-term goals, the ones that will mean the most to you and the goals that you should always strive to be the best at."

After all, "If you aim for nothing, you will hit it every time," he advised.

After his own award, Evans and his wife, JoAnna, remained in the audience to watch their older son receive scholarship honors. John graduated from IRHS this spring, and Joel is finishing seventh grade.

The Indian River High School Hall of Fame was established to recognize IR graduates who have made outstanding achievements in this world. They demonstrate great character, citizenship and leadership in a manner that will inspire students in the pursuit of excellence.

Previous inductees include educa-



John Scott "J.S." Evans Jr. of Frankford

tors, artists, civic leaders, athletes, first responders and more from across the country.

The nomination and induction process is facilitated by Indian River High School Alumni Association. The nonprofit group formed in 2012 to connect alumni, while supporting and promoting IRHS.

Indian River High School Alumni Association meets monthly and always welcomes new members, including graduates, parents, staff and other friends of the school. Free registration is online at [www.IRHSA-lumni.com](http://www.IRHSA-lumni.com).