



# The Courier

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## Keep the beat! Dance Studio opens

By Em Hench

**P**am Wood, instructor and proprietor of Ballroom Made Simple (BMS), is celebrating the opening of her much anticipated dance studio. Dedicated solely to ballroom dancing, BMS offers a full schedule of classes primarily targeted to beginners and, as Pam puts it, “those who think they may be dancing impaired or rhythmically challenged.” Whether it is learning a smooth waltz, a nostalgic swing, a hot tamale

been her source of inspiration. So, with her mom by her side for moral support, it was five years ago when Pam set sail on the “Dancers At Sea” cruise ship where she discovered her passion for ballroom dancing. The theme cruise was limited to a small number of passengers dedicated to dance, and included nearly 50 professional ballroom dancers to provide one-on-one instruction. Her first professional ballroom instructor was Robert Cooper, a four time U.S. Latin Formation champion. Pam says his words of inspiration will remain with her forever; “Don’t walk your steps, dance them.”

Since the cruise, Pam has been developing her skills non-stop. She has had the opportunity to train with champions Nathan Simler, and Amanda Showell Cook. She has also danced and taken instruction from Maksim Chmerkovskiy and Mayo Alanen, two favorites from the hit TV show, “Dancing With the Stars.” This past June, she hosted a professional workshop that included world champion dancers Sam and Denise Miller of Portsmouth, Virginia. Pam is

a charter member and past president of the local USA Dance Chapter of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

On August 22, Pam hosted an open house reception at her new studio. Family, friends, and fellow dance aficionados were there to celebrate. Pam graciously welcomed all who dropped by, and even provided one enthu-

for a first dance, and receive tips on music selection as well. Plus, “Singles” classes will provide men and women, who do not have a regular dance partner, with a comforting venue to learn the basics of ballroom or social dancing. Pam also hosts fun and informal theme dance parties for both new and seasoned dancers.

Future plans include putting her mom to work. This beautiful and exuberant octogenarian, at just 87 years of age, is an incredible dancer.



*Pam attempts to show Em a few steps*

salsa, a seductive tango, or simply having fun and feeling more confident on the dance floor, BMS promises to deliver.

Originally from the Washington, D.C. area, Pam grew up performing all aspects of dance. She says her mom, Reba, has always



*Pam and her mom, Reba, with Maksim Chmerkovskiy*

siast with an abbreviated Cha-Cha lesson. The studio is charming, welcoming, and modestly adorned with Pam’s favorite pictures of her many dance partners.

In addition to group, couple, and individual classes of Rumba, Foxtrot, East Coast Swing, Waltz, Tango, Cha-Cha, Samba, and Salsa, the studio also offers boutique events and classes. Future brides and grooms can arrange for a complimentary demo on styles appropriate

Reba can Rumba with the best, and Pam plans to get her involved as an assistant instructor for classes dedicated to seniors.

Ballroom Made Simple is located at 325 Snow Hill Road in Salisbury. Call for more information at 443-783-3060, or log on to [www.ballroommadesimple.com](http://www.ballroommadesimple.com) for information on classes and upcoming events.

In the words of Pam Wood: “Keep The Beat!”