



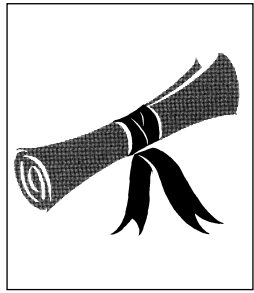
VINEYARD

Island of Martha's Vineyard, seven miles off southeast coast of Massachusetts. Winter population, 20,530; in summer, 94,650. Twenty miles from city of New Bedford, 80 miles from Boston and 150 miles from New York.



GAZETTE

Devoted to the interest of the six towns on the Island of Martha's Vineyard, viz.: Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury (Vineyard Haven), West Tisbury, Chilmark and Aquinnah. These, with Gosnold, constitute Dukes County.



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Congratulations to the regional high school graduating class of 2026! Graduation is Sunday, June 7, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Tabernacle in Oak Bluffs.

Ray Ewing

School Project Passes In Landslide Vote

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

The sweeping plan to renovate and expand Martha's Vineyard Regional High School drew a landslide of support in Tuesday's historic Islandwide election, with about 85 per cent of voters approving the \$333.5 million project. Soon after the polls closed at 7 p.m., unofficial tallies from the six town clerks showed decisive majorities.

"We won overwhelmingly in six towns. There was no question about it," all-Island school committee chair Amy Houghton said, as supporters gathered at the Portuguese American Club in Oak Bluffs Tuesday night to celebrate the landmark vote.

A provisional count, certified by school district secretary Rebecca Claussen and business affairs manager Mark Friedman shortly before 10 p.m., was 3,448 votes in favor and 647 against.

"There is a mandate across the Island... and it showed that people felt like their votes really counted," Ms. Houghton said.

The largest public project in Island history, work is expected to begin next summer on the two-story classroom wing addition, followed in 2029 by a year's worth of extensive renovations to the existing school.

Architects working with the 25-member school building committee have completed about 15 per cent of the design so far, said Sam Hart, the high school's staff coordinator for the building project. Their work has been funded by \$2 million that town meeting voters approved in 2022.

Tuesday's vote frees up the school to proceed with the project.

"The architect will come back [and] the engineers will come back and figure out what the spaces are going to look like, everything down to the furniture, the fixtures, the paint colors, everything," Mr. Hart said.

"We'll be shovel-ready in the spring

of 2027," he said.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has pledged to reimburse at least \$77 million of the construction costs, using revenue from the state sales tax, but Islanders first had to vote to borrow the rest.

They turned out in force to do it. Some towns saw hundreds more ballots than in the annual spring town election only a few weeks ago.

"It was very, very busy all day and did not ever stop," said West Tisbury town clerk Tara Whiting-Wells.

Many voters arrived in family groups. Sarah Hartenstine, who came to the Tisbury polls with her father Russ, voted yes with enthusiasm.

"I think people realize how important the high school is to the Island, and they didn't want to see it deteriorate."

"I went to high school here, and I know how badly we need a new one. I had a ceiling tile fall on me in Spanish class one year," said Ms. Hartenstine, who graduated in 2023.

Building committee member Tracey Stead voted in Tisbury alongside her sons Griffin, 21 and Elliot, 19, who was taking part in his first election.

All three said they looked forward to a new and improved high school for the youngest Stead brother, now 13 and in sixth grade.

Other parents brought smaller children, occasionally sweetening the deal for those too young to vote.

"Ice cream, ice cream, ice cream," one little girl chanted with a gap-toothed smile, as she and her dad headed for To Page Twelve

Charter School Students Forge Their Own Path

By HALEY SANDLOW

The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School graduates 15 seniors this year, the second largest class in school history. They are a close-knit group — like a family, or a "loud pack of cousins," said senior Winter Muric.

Graduation takes place Saturday, June 6, beginning at 1:30 p.m. on the school grounds. Last week the students gathered at Owen Park for the annual senior lunch.

With interests spanning many different fields, the graduating seniors have excelled in academics and trades, mentored younger classes and brought an infectious energy to the school's day-to-day activities.

"We all really display the values of what the charter school hopes to instill in people, and in ways that are fundamentally unique to each of us," said Bangii-Kai Bellecourt. "Everyone here wants to go into different fields and has really open minds about everything."

Members of the class of 2026 are: Amanda Silva, Angel Walker, Aubriel Tomkins, Bangii-Kai Bellecourt, Gabriela Lino, Ian Patricio, Jack Baer, Kali Spain, Nicola Capece, Landen Elderkin, Phoebe Nichols, Reid Kerns, Rose Smilie, Winter Muric and Wyatt McCarthy. To Page Eleven

Co-Valedictorian Penelope Haddad Thrives on Community

By HALEY SANDLOW

There was always something about the East Coast that Penelope Haddad, who grew up in California, loved. She was obsessed with the Freedom Trail in Boston, walking it with her dad every time they visited. She did her 5th grade state report on Massachusetts, although she mispronounced Worcester "Worchester," she admitted.

"I always felt like I belonged here," said Ms. Haddad. "I was so grateful that I got the opportunity to actually make my home here."

Ms. Haddad moved to the Vineyard the summer before 7th grade. Now, six years later, she also belongs at the top of her class as a co-valedictorian of the 2026 graduating class at the regional high school.

The Vineyard was a fresh start for Ms. Haddad and her family, who had been visiting for many summers. In the years before she moved, California was hit hard by wildfires, which made living during the Covid pandemic very claustrophobic. Ms. Haddad's mom had also undergone treatment for stage 4 breast cancer in California, surviving a terminal diagnosis to attend her daughter's many graduations.

"It was a good thing to...live in a new place, on this Island that represented healing for her," Ms. Haddad said.

A fresh start meant moving away from her childhood friends, giving up the



Jeanna Shepard

Penelope Haddad.

roots she had built in her early years at school. But she started right back into building new ones while attending the West Tisbury School.

At the regional high school, Ms. Haddad dove headfirst into extracurriculars: she played soccer for three years and hockey for one (a brand new endeavor, To Page Eleven

Co-Valedictorian Katherine Becker Blossomed on Island

By HALEY SANDLOW

When senior Katherine Becker first moved to the Island from Wisconsin the summer before her freshman year, she didn't know many of her peers. That quickly changed when she joined Best Buddies, a club that fosters one-on-one friendships between students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Now the co-valedictorian of her class, Ms. Becker has embraced her washashore status, in part thanks to the club that first embraced her when she arrived.

"Everyone [in the club] is super inclusive, super kind and I never felt out of place," said Ms. Becker, recalling boisterous karaoke sessions after school and bowling attempts on club outings. "That's something that I got from Best Buddies, the idea of everyone having a place."

Over the past four years, Ms. Becker has found a place for herself in music (she's played violin for the high school orchestra and the Cape Symphony Youth Orchestra), languages and academics at the high school. She credits her top spot in the class to her strong passion for learning, and the people who pushed her to succeed.

Growing up, summers were never a time to stop learning, Ms. Becker said, and she leaned into summer lessons and workbooks.

The same was true for last summer when it came to Best Buddies. After attending the Best Buddies leadership conference in Indiana, Ms. Becker spent her last few weeks of summer writing an application for a Tower Foundation



Jeanna Shepard

Katherine Becker.

grant. In October, she heard back: the club had won \$15,000.

That money will go to sending four students, two of them students with IDD, to this year's leadership conference. It has also funded Best Buddies sweatshirts, bowling trips to the Barn Bowl & Bistro, and bringing in speakers from the state department of developmental services.

"It's amazing what she's done," said Kevin McGrath, school librarian and Best Buddies advisor. "She's a force. To Page Eleven



Ray Ewing

Students run through a rehearsal on Thursday morning.

Class of 2026 Works Hard and Plays Hard

By HALEY SANDLOW

This year's class of graduating seniors at the regional high school is a big one. With 181 seniors and achievements across every area of the high school, it can be hard to characterize them as a group.

But class advisors Ena Thulin and Kiely Rigali wasted no time in pointing out the class's energetic spirit, which made its mark on the school over the past year.

"They get involved, they want to have fun, they play the games, they don't get embarrassed," said Ms. Thulin, a history teacher at the school. "They sort of just have fun and enjoy it, and then that energy trickles down to the younger grades."

"It was just unfiltered joy, I would say, with these kids," she said.

The regional high school class of

2026 will gather on Sunday, June 7, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Tabernacle in Oak Bluffs for its graduation ceremony.

This year's class excelled in all areas, from the classroom to the sports fields and creative arts, and along the way showed up for events, and each other, in big numbers.

"They're driven, they're self-motivated, they have this level of how they conduct themselves, and they've just been such a pleasure to teach," said Ms. Rigali. "They allowed teachers to bring out and challenge them."

Senior Adriana Young said there are many high achievers in the class.

"They're very, very intent on their work," she said of her classmates. "I could have a conversation with 90 per cent of my classmates and it would be To Page Twelve

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Robert F. Kennedy Jr. during his visit to the Vineyard in September.

Tim Johnson

RFK Invokes the Island In New Tick Efforts

By EMMA KILBRIDE

The Island's mounting tick-borne illness epidemic was highlighted by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. last week, as he announced new federal initiatives to combat Lyme disease and alpha-gal syndrome.

At a New Hampshire press conference Friday, Secretary Kennedy invoked the Vineyard's soaring rates of alpha-gal when rolling out new funding and research projects targeting tick-borne illnesses under the "Make America Healthy Again" agenda.

Secretary Kennedy, who has been controversial for his stance on vaccines, referred to the rise of both Lyme and alpha-gal as a "science fiction nightmare" that threatens Americans' health and safety. He said the Trump administration is pursuing a 25 per cent national reduction in Lyme disease cases by 2035, compared to the number of cases recorded in 2022.

"We're launching one of the most ambitious federal efforts ever to undertake and combat Lyme disease, accelerate research and improve care for parents and families," Secretary Kennedy said. Here on the Vineyard, Lyme disease rates are 11 times higher than the state average. Alpha-gal, the tick-borne allergy to mammalian food products such as red meat and dairy, is also on the rise, but only became reportable to the state in April.

Lea Hamner, the Island's tick epidemiologist, told the Gazette that she hopes the federal attention will tangibly improve the way these illnesses are prevented and managed.

"It feels somewhat surreal to hear our community highlighted at the federal level," Ms. Hamner wrote in an email. "Still, if the lemonade out of lemons is increased awareness, visibility, resources, and action nationally around alpha-gal syndrome and Lyme disease -- and a greater commitment to developing better tools to prevent, diagnose, and treat these conditions -- then I welcome that attention."

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is offering \$2.5 million in cash incentives for public awareness campaigns, advances in Lyme treatment with new or existing drugs and harnessing artificial intelligence to seek new ways of diagnosing and treating the disease.

Jeff Levy, CEO of Martha's Vineyard Medical and its new Tick Center, said the new funds could be a boon to Island organizations like his, which are involved in the research side of tackling tick-borne illnesses and allergies.

"I received a call from a very, very high-ranking person last week about having us potentially participate in a trial for use of a drug treating alpha-gal that would be funded by the dollars that Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was talking about,"

he told the Gazette.

Secretary Kennedy also said HHS plans to partner with tick control researchers to reduce the tick population and the transmissibility of disease by making deer, which support ticks' breeding cycle, less attractive to the arachnids. He also mentioned targeting mice, which carry Lyme, with feeding stations that can kill ticks or immunize against Lyme.

"We're going after the disease at its source," the secretary said. "By reducing tick population and disrupting their breeding cycles, we aim to slow the spread of Lyme disease and protect more Americans from infection."

Secretary Kennedy's stated focus on tackling tick-borne illness by reducing the total tick population echoes the efforts of Tick Free MV, the young Island nonprofit hoping that deer population management will help accomplish the task.

"The Island has been calling for action and we are now seeing mobilization at the community, state, and federal level," Tick Free MV executive director Virginia Barbatti wrote to the Gazette. "Having some of the highest levels of government and some of the best researchers in the country working towards possible breakthroughs in tick control is a very positive development."

It's an effort Secretary Kennedy said he hopes to undertake in collaboration with Wampanoag communities across the commonwealth, including the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). In September, he met with members of the tribe on Island to discuss critical health priorities, including the rise in tick-borne illnesses and allergies.

Paul Jeffers-Mayhew, health and human services director for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), told the Gazette that the tribe is interested in meeting with Secretary Kennedy again.

"We have nothing on the books currently, but we are looking forward to scheduling a meeting with Secretary Kennedy that will ideally include our tribe, any federal partners, and local Island agencies, such as Tick Free MV and the Aquinnah board of health," he said.

"We want to have everyone's heads on this, because it's something that we take very seriously," he added. Though Lyme is central to the initiatives discussed Friday, Secretary Kennedy also spoke on the administration's ambition to conquer alpha-gal syndrome.

"We intend to bring the same urgency, innovation and scientific rigor to alpha-gal syndrome that we are bringing to Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses," he said.

He said the administration is collaborating with private companies to

MVC Fights for Right to 40B Housing Projects

By ETHAN GENTER

The Martha's Vineyard Commission is attempting to reverse a ruling that threatens to cut the Islandwide planning agency out of the review process for many large-scale housing projects.

The ability of the commission to put conditions on so-called 40B housing projects was called into question earlier this year by the state Housing Appeals Committee (HAC), a state body that ruled that the Island agency shouldn't be one of the permitting stops for projects.

The commission, along with the Edgartown zoning board of appeals, is now arguing that HAC was wrong in its determination, and filed an appeal in Dukes County Superior Court on May 19 that asks for the ruling to be overturned.

The legal battle largely hinges on if the Martha's Vineyard Commission is considered a "local board" under the state's affordable housing laws, known commonly for its statute number 40B.

The law was enacted in 1969 to make it harder for communities to override the needs for affordable housing through extensive permitting and zoning. To help streamline the process, the state allowed projects with at least 20 per cent designated affordable units to have the application consolidated into a single permit request before the zoning board of appeals.

But here on the Vineyard, the Martha's Vineyard Commission has acted as another layer of review that is taken before the town zoning boards decide on the final approvals.

Decades of precedence was overturned this April when the state Housing Appeals Committee agreed with developer William Cumming that the Martha's Vineyard Commission was indeed a local board under 40B, and thus did not have jurisdiction over his proposed Edgartown Gardens project, which included a mix of market-rate and affordable units.

In the new filing, the MVC contends it is a regional body that has special dispensation to also oversee 40B housing projects.

"The Legislature enacted the MVC Act with full knowledge of Chapter 40B's constructive grant mechanism and chose not to exempt Chapter 40B applications from MVC review," the commission's attorneys wrote in the 25-page appeal.

The commission argues that calling the commission a local board violates the MVC's enabling legislation and overlooks past court precedent recognizing the MVC's regional and statewide mandate.

One of the commission's main functions is reviewing projects that are considered "developments of regional impact," or DRIs.

"When reviewing DRI applications, the MVC is expressly directed to consider the impact of the proposed development beyond the municipality in which the development is located to include other municipalities on the island," the MVC and Edgartown attorneys wrote. "This cross-municipal scope of review is a defining characteristic of a regional, not a local, permitting function."

The MVC also questioned the Hous-

ing Appeals Committee's expertise in dealing with the MVC Act, and noted past precedent was set in 2002 when a developer seeking to find the MVC as a local board was rejected by the Land Court.

The commission's nine at-large members, as well as a county representative and multiple governor's appointees, was also evidence that the MVC is a regional body, according to the lawsuit.

The Housing Appeals Committee reasoned that the MVC needed to be considered a local board to create uniformity across the state. Giving the Vineyard an extra layer of review and veto power was unfair, the three-member panel ruled.

"[S]uch veto power would exist only in those municipalities subject to the MVC Act, creating inequity between the island and the rest of the Commonwealth," the committee wrote in its ruling from April.

The jurisdictional question springs from Mr. Cumming's controversial Edgartown Gardens proposal, a 55-unit senior housing project that was rejected by the MVC for its size, location along Upper Main street, and the proportion of market-rate to affordable units.

In addition to questioning the MVC's authority to review the project, Edgartown Gardens said that the proposal should be approved because the town zoning board failed to open a public hearing on the proposal within the prescribed 30 days.

Past precedent on the Vineyard has been that the zoning board application is on pause until after the Martha's Vineyard Commission decides, often resulting in a project coming to the board several months after the initial application is submitted.

But with the commission being considered a local board in the eyes of the Housing Appeals Committee, that long wait period is unacceptable and the committee granted the request for a "constructive approval."

The commission and the zoning board have both argued against this.

"The HAC's ruling, if upheld, would undermine the MVC's ability to fulfill its fifty-year statutory mandate to protect the unique natural, historical, ecological, scientific, and cultural resources of Martha's Vineyard, and would give developers a mechanism to circumvent the MVC's regional review authority entirely by allowing local deadlines to lapse before MVC review is complete," their attorneys wrote.

Jay Talerman, the lawyer for Edgartown Gardens and Mr. Cumming, said it was disappointing to see the MVC file what he called a "fundamentally flawed" appeal rather than accepting the Housing Appeals Committee's ruling.

"Plainly, while the Island's affordable housing percentage continues to plummet, the MVC is clinging to its archaic veto authority over new housing projects that will provide much needed opportunities for low and moderate income households who can no longer afford to stay on the Island where they were born, where they work, where they have chosen to raise their families," he wrote in an email to the Gazette.

fast-track the development of medications to prevent and cure alpha-gal, and that the NIH is prepared to help fund clinical trials.

"One of those medicines is almost ready, we're fast-tracking it," he said.

It was in the context of the rise of alpha-gal that Secretary Kennedy brought up the Vineyard, at which point he claimed that half of Islanders suffer from the condition.

"I was surprised to learn this fall that 50 per cent of the population of Martha's Vineyard now has alpha-gal, including most members of the tribe," he said.

According to Ms. Hamner, Secretary Kennedy's claim is unsupported by the available data on alpha-gal on the Vineyard.

"While alpha-gal syndrome is a major topic of conversation on Martha's Vineyard and can sometimes feel like it is all around us, it is nowhere near 50 per cent of our community living with the allergy," she wrote. "That figure appears to stem from a common misunderstanding of what the available testing data can and cannot tell us."

Ms. Hamner said that in 2025, the lab at Martha's Vineyard Hospital performed 1,689 alpha-gal tests, 742 of which came back positive, or 44 per cent. She pointed out that these tests are only administered to patients whose symptoms already indicate they may have the syndrome.

"These data definitively tell us that awareness, concern, testing, and posi-

tive results have increased dramatically among patients and providers. They do not tell us that 44 per cent of Islanders -- or 50 per cent of Islanders -- have the condition," she wrote.

Mr. Jeffers-Mayhew said he's unsure where Secretary Kennedy got the statistic that "most" of the tribe has alpha-gal, but it is true that both alpha-gal and Lyme are increasingly present in Aquinnah. He said getting up-to-date statistics on these conditions is a priority for the tribe.

"I will say, just from personal experience, there are a staggering number of people that have contracted it at one point or currently have it," he said.

Previously, Secretary Kennedy has asserted that Lyme disease originated as a military bioweapon devised by the U.S. Military -- a popular conspiracy theory that many experts say has no backing.

Island tick biologist Patrick Roden-Reynolds said he's familiar with the theory, but that scientific evidence suggests against it. He pointed out that a mummy found in the Alps, estimated to be at least 5,000 years old, was found by researchers to be carrying Lyme.

"If you start looking into the literature, Lyme disease has a natural history of tens of thousands of years," he said.

Mr. Roden-Reynolds is ultimately optimistic about the federal attention and its potential to propel tick solutions forward.

"That is going to be critical for the future of the health of the United States, not just Martha's Vineyard," he said.



Ray Ewing

The bus route will service Meshacket Commons, pictured here.

New VTA Route Planned Near Affordable Housing Project

By CHARLES LEITNER

A new bus route will begin operations later this month to serve vacationers and Island residents living along Meeting House Way and Meshacket Road.

The Edgartown select board on Monday approved the proposal, which is expected to begin on June 19, based on assessments made by the Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) to maximize access for passengers along the proposed route.

According to Angie Gompert, the VTA administrator, the service will be provided every half hour for 12 hours a day during the peak season. After the summer months, the route will be evaluated further and adjusted, if needed.

The request came to the VTA from the board due to residential growth along Meshacket Road and the recent Meshacket Commons affordable housing project, said Ms. Gompert.

"With [this] option, we will serve West Tisbury Road much better," said Eddie Marques, an employee at the VTA. "Right now, we only have route six, which [runs] every half hour, and this option will also [run] every half hour serving Meshacket Commons."

This new route will take passengers on a short loop up West Tisbury Road, making a left at Morning Glory onto Meshacket Road followed by a right onto Road To the Plains and another right onto Meeting House Way leading back to West Tisbury Road and returning to the bus terminal in Edgartown so

passengers can connect to other transit routes.

Additionally, the select board signed off on a proposal by Andrew Nilson, vice president with Child Engineering, to rehabilitate Osborn Wharf, which is situated near the Edgartown Yacht Club.

The project was proposed in an effort to curb future issues related to rising sea levels which are expected to rise significantly by 2050, said Mr. Nilson. In addition to raising the pier by a little over two feet, the project would regrade the parking lot as the area often floods at high tide and during storms.

"We know that these structures need to be raised up, so they're not becoming submerged during high tide cycles, but we want them to be useful in 30 years," said Mr. Nilson.

During a survey conducted in 2020, inspectors took bathymetric and topographic data of the area. They assessed 50 per cent deterioration of the wharf and recommended that improvements be made since much of the structure had reached the end of its useful life, said Mr. Nilson.

With approval from the select board the project can now move forward and, over the next year, begin procuring funds and permitting as required before hiring a contractor. Extrapolating from the costs of past projects, Mr. Nilson expects the project to cost anywhere between \$7 million and \$8 million dollars.

Housing Trust CEO to Retire

The CEO of Island Housing Trust has announced he will retire in 2027.

In a statement on Saturday, Pamela Craven, chair of the board of directors of Island Housing Trust (IHT), said Philippe Jordi would step down in March 2027.

Mr. Jordi founded the organization 20 years ago and, according to the statement, by the end of 2027 IHT will have completed has over the years created 300 permanently affordable apartments and homes across the Island.

"From the beginning, Philippe brought vision and practicality to IHT's work," Ms. Craven wrote. "He helped establish IHT as both a Community Land Trust and a Community Development Corporation, unlocking tools like community investment tax credits for our supporters."

"In recognition of his service, we are establishing a \$2 million fund in



Ray Ewing

Philippe Jordi.

his honor to sustain and accelerate the mission he championed," Ms. Craven continued.

The board will begin conducting a national search for its next CEO, and will honor Mr. Jordi's tenure at events later this summer, the statement said.

Chilmark Picks New Building Inspector

By HALEY SANDLOW

Chilmark has picked a seasoned Vineyard building inspector to take over the same role in the up-Island town.

The board voted unanimously on Friday to offer Reade Milne, the current Edgartown building inspector, to Chilmark building inspector position left by outgoing inspector Adam Petkus. The appointment is pending contract negotiations, which officials said would come in at a higher rate than her current pay.

Mr. Petkus took the Oak Bluffs building commissioner job in March and since then Chilmark has been looking to fill its position. Ms. Milne was interviewed along with former Oak Bluffs building commissioner Matt Rossi.

While both candidates who interviewed for the position last week were qualified, Ms. Reade demonstrated the "better sense of the community of Chilmark and what building inspector style would serve Chilmark well," said select board member Matt Poole on Friday.

Select board members said they also appreciated her experience on multiple state boards that deal with building codes and standards.

The Edgartown building inspector since 2019, Ms. Milne grew up on Chappaquiddick, and has a long history in the many facets of the construction industry, from building houses to architectural design.

The volume of work in Edgartown means that Ms. Milne delegates many of the tasks associated with her position. In Chilmark, she would be able to handle zoning enforcement, permitting, plan review and inspections herself, she said during her interview last week. It's a fascinating process, she said, and she hoped to be able to work on the "entire picture" of a project.

"The three-acre zoning is pretty unique up here," Ms. Milne said in her interview. Protecting the character of the town is important to her, and zoning is "the nuts and bolts of what can hold a community together as the physical sense of what a community is."

Land Bank Buys New Chappy Parcel

By EMMA KILBRIDE

The Martha's Vineyard Land Bank purchased a parcel of land on Chappaquiddick last month, connecting two of its other properties.

The organization bought the 10.7-acre parcel on North Neck Road on Chappy for \$1.5 million and hopes to open the property next week. The land bank plans to divide it between the abutting Cove Meadow Preserve and Three Ponds Reservation. In addition to joining these two preserves, it connects to land bank trails on the north side of the island.

According to land bank executive director James Lengyel, the organization has been pursuing this since 2003 for its proximity to its other Chappy properties, which together total nearly 700 acres.

"I think it's fair to characterize it as having something of a surgical quality," Mr. Lengyel said. "This land was a notch of undeveloped land that is bordered by land bank property on the east and the south and the west, and so by purchasing it, the land bank has now dropped conservation into that notch."

Though there is a house on the property, the land bank only purchased the land around it, Mr. Lengyel said. The organization cooperated with an outside buyer who now owns the home.

Mr. Lengyel said the land includes a "very beautiful" glacial bowl.

"It will be enjoyable, because the land itself is a curiosity," he said.



Ray Ewing

Cases of alpha-gal from lone star ticks have risen sharply.

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The project will be located to south of Cuttyhunk.

Ray Ewing

Wave Energy Testing Site Planned

By ETHAN GENTER

A new project off the coast of Cuttyhunk aims to test out how well prototype technology can harness the power of waves for electricity.

The Marine Renewable Energy Collaborative (MRECo), a Massachusetts-based nonprofit, is in the process of installing a testing site to the south side of the island, where developers could measure the efficacy of hydroenergy devices in open ocean conditions before they go to market. The site, which is being supported by a \$1.9 million grant from Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and is expected to be in the water by September, is a critical step to harness the power of waves through tidal turbines, according to MRECo executive director John Miller.

"These test sites are about helping good ideas succeed," he said. "Many promising ocean technologies never make it past the drawing board because testing in the ocean is expensive and complicated. We're removing those barriers so innovators can safely test, learn and improve."

Hydropower is one of the oldest forms of renewable energy, but in the U.S., it has been largely limited to

freshwater dams. For years, scientists and developers have been trying to introduce tidal power as one of the next new sources.

Some methods include underwater turbines that are spun by the rising and falling of the tide. The idea is they require little external power and produce few harmful emissions by running naturally with the ocean waves.

MRECo has been testing tidal turbines in the Cape Cod Canal in Bourne for several years, but getting a place to test tidal turbines in the less forgiving ocean conditions has been a missing link in stepping up wave energy devices.

In the past, companies have gone from university test tanks to full-scale production, Mr. Miller said, sometimes to disastrous results.

"There are a number of companies that have close to commercial products," he said. "Whether they are economically viable or not needs to be decided by putting them in the ocean."

The Cuttyhunk test site was picked for its strong waves and its proximity to the remote island, which largely

runs on solar power and diesel generators. The town of Gosnold, which includes Cuttyhunk and the neighboring chain of islands, has been supportive and will receive the power generated by the test devices.

The site will include permanent moorings, power access and monitoring equipment to help the developers understand how their technologies work. The installation site will be small and unobtrusive, Mr. Miller said. "We're testing one at a time to see if the technologies work," he said. "We're not putting in a field of wave devices."

Last month, MRECo installed a buoy that measures waves at the Cuttyhunk site. The buoy will collect wave height, temperature and other environmental conditions that will validate the performance data of the prototypes.

Mr. Miller said it will essentially serve as the measuring stick for the potential new products.

"It's also a great testing ground for sensors," he said. "We always say you can't manage something you can't measure."

Please Adopt Us

We are delighted to report that we've had two litters of kittens that have found their forever homes with people on our kitten list. Best of luck to all of them and their new families. And if you would like a kitten, please contact us to have your name added to the list.

The annual garden party will be held on Monday, June 29 at 20 Old Farms Trail on the Edgartown Great Pond. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at animalshelterofmv.ejoinme.org/attend. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Are you or someone you know looking for community service hours? We are seeking 10 to 12 reliable volunteers to help with the garden party. Volunteer duties may include setup and breakdown, parking assistance, ticket sales, auction support, trash duty and general event help through-



out the day and evening. To volunteer, please call 508-627-8662 with your name, age, availability and any relevant experience.

We will be taking a hiatus from the nail clinic for a while. However, the Council on Aging in Oak Bluffs hosts a nail clinic twice a month by

appointment only. Call 508-693-4509, ext. 3 and ask for Rose Cogliano.

We would also like to thank everyone for their generous jewelry donations for the garden party. This is always a big draw.

The Animal Shelter of Martha's Vineyard is here for our community. We're always available and our door is always open should your adoption not be a perfect fit. Also, if anyone is in need of cat food, dog food or a crate, we have plenty and are happy to share. The Island Food Pantry also has pet food for those in need. Just give us a call during regular shelter hours: 508-627-8662.

Hours are: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Thursday; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 to 5 p.m.

Seeking New Ways to Stop Pine Beetle Spread

By GWYN SKILES

As the spread of the southern pine beetle wreaks havoc on the Island's forests, researchers at Polly Hill Arboretum are using the beetle's own biology to try and stop the invasive species.

The little black bugs, smaller than a grain of rice, were first detected on the Island in 2016 and in the last few years have devastated parts of the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest, West Chop and other areas.

Up to now, actions to save the forests have mostly involved thinning the forests in an attempt to slow the beetles down. At Polly Hill, the arboretum is experimenting with new ways to protect its loblolly pines — the southern pine beetle's favorite food — before the beetles arrive.

The 72-acre public garden in West Tisbury is using several different methods to stave off an infestation. The first is quite simple: nailing what's known as a verbenone patch to its trees.

"It's like a no vacancy sign," Ian Jochems, Polly Hill director of grounds and facilities, while displaying a patch no bigger than his hand.

As the southern pine beetle eats away at the bark of a tree, carving long tunnels, it releases a chemical called frontalin, which attracts more beetles. But this pheromone can also be used to repel the beetles.

When the verbenone patch is attached to the tree, it tricks the beetles into thinking the pine has already been invaded and is overcrowded. The patches have a strong floral scent and cost under \$10 each, making it a cheaper option to the much costlier alternative of thinning out infested trees.

"The southern pine beetle is not something that we're going to get rid of. It's something we need to learn to live with."

Mr. Jochems said only one patch is needed per trunk, though the patches won't work for dense pine groves. Combined with regularly watering the trees to keep them healthy, Mr. Jochems said the patches provide a strong line of defense.

Tree injections are another option, though Mr. Jochems said the treatment requires both insecticide and fungicide.

The beetles spread a fungus that cuts deep into the trees and blocks the flow of water. The beetles also carry microscopic mites on their bodies to help speed up the job.

"It's girdling the tree in multiple ways," said Caroline Kanaskie, an assistant processor of forestry at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

The insecticide helps kill the beetles from within, which is key as female southern pine beetles lay about 160 eggs each as they move through the tree's phloem layer. The females also create more fungus to make it more nutritious for the larvae as they grow.

"The southern pine beetle is a pretty good parent," Ms. Kanaskie said.

As of yet, pine beetles have not found their way to Polly Hill Arboretum, but officials are not taking any chances. The nonprofit has hung traps in its trees that will let the arboretum know if the beetles arrive before the classic signs of compromise — dusky orange crowns and clusters of sap poking through the bark — start to show.



Pictures by Jeanna Shepard

Ian Jochems at Polly Hill Arboretum.



Polly Hill has not encountered pine beetle infestation yet but other areas on the Island have been hit hard.

The beetles have poor eyesight and mistake the traps, known as Lindgren funnel traps, as a tree. They fly into the funnels and then tumble down into a chamber for researchers to count.

"Why actively spray if we're not having them here, right?" Mr. Jochems said.

While spraying is an option often offered to homeowners, Mr. Jochems said it is not the most reliable method

and can harm other species as it drifts through the environment. The sprays often don't reach the canopy or crevices in the bark, which is deeply furrowed on pitch pines.

"If it rains, the rain will wash all the product off," he added.

As communities across Massachusetts debate how to better manage the beetles' growing presence, Ms. Kanaskie said efforts on the Vineyard could be an inspiration to other

towns.

"The Vineyard is such a special place with a really strong community," she said. "People come together around issues...and I feel the Vineyard could be a really cool example of how a community chooses to respond to something like this."

"The southern pine beetle is not something that we're going to get rid of," Ms. Kanaskie added. "It's something we need to learn to live with."

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10 TILTON WAY

This Greek Revival style home blends timeless architecture with a bright, modern open floor plan, all presented in impeccable condition. A welcoming front foyer leads into a beautifully appointed kitchen featuring high-end appliances, a large center island, and seamless flow into the dining and living areas. The living room is anchored by a fireplace and filled with natural light throughout. French doors open to a covered porch with a striking stone fireplace, overlooking a meticulously landscaped backyard with multiple patios, perfect for outdoor entertaining. Upstairs, the second floor offers a spacious primary suite complete with a private sundeck, along with two additional ensuite bedrooms and laundry room. The finished lower level adds exceptional versatility, featuring two additional bedrooms, comfortable sitting area with TV and a generously sized laundry space. A detached barn at the rear of the property includes a full basement and bathroom, as well as a large deck, ideal for a variety of uses. Additional highlights include two outdoor showers and parking for up to four cars. All of this is set on a quiet street just blocks from the vibrant downtown Historic District.

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Jacqueline Morby Helped Make a Difference

By HALEY SANDLOW

Jacqueline Morby taught her daughter Michelle many things. Some were her secrets to life: always dance, read poetry often, find a partner who is curious and loves adventure.

She also taught her daughter how to swim.

"She was a really fun swim instructor," said Michelle Morby, recalling her mom's lessons. "I just remember it was really funny to blow bubbles underwater. She was able to make it playful."

Jacqueline Morby, longtime seasonal resident of Martha's Vineyard, died on May 12 at 88 years old. A pioneer in venture capitalism and an active philanthropist, Ms. Morby left her mark on Island with her contributions to Martha's Vineyard Community Services, the YMCA pool renovation and the summer intellectual scene.



Jacqueline Morby

"She very much had the attitude of wanting to leave every place she came into better than she found it," said Michelle Morby.

Ms. Morby was born in 1937 in Sacramento, Calif. She earned a psychology degree from Stanford University, and later an MBA from Simmons University. She rose among the ranks at the private equity firm TA Associates, helping to establish venture capitalism and investing in the early industries of software and gaming.

"She really had an amazing vision for what venture capital could do," said Michelle Morby.

Ms. Morby's philanthropic interests, along with her husband Jeffrey Morby who died in 2023, were wide-ranging, from Planned Parenthood, to the World Wildlife Fund, National Public Radio and Alzheimer's research. They also extended to the Vineyard, her summer home for decades.

Ms. Morby first fell in love with the Vineyard in the 1970s, and built a house on Edgartown Great Pond in the '90s. Wanting the Vineyard to thrive year-round, she and her daughter donated \$3 million to community services for its new campus, in memory of Jeffrey Morby.

It was the "most important thing

we could do for the Island for people to go and seek understanding and support, without judgment," said Michelle Morby.

The Morbys' donation is a "significant investment in the mental health of the Island," said Gary Foster, a community services board member who led the capital campaign for the new campus.

"We can already tell, it will give both the providers and the clients, and our administration, a sense of pride and happiness of coming to work, or going to get your treatment to feel taken care of," he said.

Ms. Morby studied psychology in college, Michelle Morby said.

"She was always interested in the human condition, and sort of why we tick and how we tick," she said.

Another of Ms. Morby's investment in a thriving, year-round Vineyard was giving money to the YMCA pool. Ms. Morby was a lifeguard and a lifelong swimmer. She first taught her kids to swim while living in Brazil, and they continued at the YMCA in Cambridge.

"It's so essential for all children, just as important as learning how to read and write," said Michelle Morby. "We're really proud to support this new era of everyone learning to swim."

The YMCA pool was renamed the Morby Mako Pool after the local swim team.

Ms. Morby was always prepared to have a party, which often intertwined with her fundraising efforts, Michelle Morby said. For one event, the family pushed all their furniture aside and turned their house into a tango night club.

On the Vineyard, Ms. Morby's gatherings were a testament to her curiosity. She co-hosted the Women of the Island Speaker Series, a weekly lecture at the Morbys' home that invited women to speak about their life and work.

It is a group of curious, intellectual women, said Sandy Pimentel, co-host of the series.

"It really became a place of both learning and support," Ms. Pimentel said.

Ms. Morby spoke multiple times, reflecting on both her trajectory in venture capitalism and her short time living in Argentina with her family.

"She very humbly and quietly talked about her journey," said Ms. Pimentel, reflecting on Ms. Morby's diligence as she worked her way up through her firm. "She was so brilliant and so kind, she was always thinking of how to use both her resources and skills and parlay it into the world in a positive way."

This summer, the speaker series will continue at the Morby household.

"Even though she won't be there, we'll feel her presence and her generosity," said Ms. Pimentel.

The family will host a celebration of life in the fall, in time for the opening of the new community services facilities.



Ray Ewing



Kevin Johnson

Kevin Johnson Love To Be on the Water

Kevin H. Johnson, of Oak Bluffs, died on Monday May 25 at Faulkner Hospital in Boston, surrounded by his family. He was 67.

Kevin was born June 5, 1958, in Brockton. He went on to study biology at Old Dominion University and earned a masters in Marine Biology at Southeastern Massachusetts University where he met his future wife Anne O'Hara Johnson.

His love of water followed him throughout his entire life. He was a lobster culturist for 15 years at the Massachusetts State Lobster Hatchery where he raised lobsters. Anne followed him to Martha's Vineyard where they were married in St. Elizabeth's Parish on May 3, 1986. Kevin built a pool and spa caretaking company with Anne at his side, leveraging their love of chemistry and water yet again.

Kevin was an active member of the community working as the water commissioner for Oak Bluffs for 24 years and then superintendent for seven years. He was also an avid golfer and a member of Farm Neck Golf Course since moving to the Island. Finally, he was a loving father and husband having just celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary with Anne.

If you asked Kevin what time it was, he was the type of person who would tell you how to build a clock. He was always teaching others and having great conversations.

He will live on through his wife Anne, his daughter Katie, and son James and wife, Stephanie, and their two beautiful children Oliver and Jack. He was predeceased by his son Kevin Johnson II.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, June 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Chapman Funerals and Cremations, 56 Edgartown Road in Oak Bluffs. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Med Flight or 5K for KJ.

Peter Crumm

Peter Crumm, of Revere died unexpectedly on May 3, 2026. He was 77.

Peter was a lifelong visitor to Martha's Vineyard and a year-round resident for 10 years before moving to Revere.

He is survived by his brother Chad Crumm, his sister Nina Davis, his nephew Sam Crumm and niece Olivia Crumm. He is predeceased by his brother Nicholas Crumm.

In a private family gathering, Peter will be buried next to his parents in the Lamberts Cove Cemetery. Any charitable donation in his memory to Harbor Homes of Martha's Vineyard, PO Box 4795, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568 would be welcome and most appreciated.



Virginia Held

Virginia Held Was a Renowned Philosopher

Virginia Potter Held, a longtime summer resident of Martha's Vineyard, died on May 26. She was 96.

Virginia was born October 28, 1929 in Mendham, NJ. She was a world-renowned moral, social, political and feminist philosopher at the City University of New York Graduate Center and Hunter College. Her work on the ethics of care sparked significant research into the ethical dimensions of providing care for others, and critiques of the traditional roles of women in society.

A graduate of Barnard College and a Fulbright scholar, she earned her doctorate from Columbia University in 1968. She began her teaching career at Barnard College, was a faculty member of Hunter College from 1965-2001, and a faculty member of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York from 1996-2001.

She served as president of the American Philosophical Association, gave lectures at colleges and universities around the world, and served as a visiting scholar at Hamilton College, Dartmouth College, Yale University, UCLA and Harvard Law School. She also published books on feminism in culture, society and politics, several books on the ethics of care, and numerous articles and book chapters.

She mentored many graduate students throughout her career, and her work is often discussed in college philosophy courses.

She was preceded in death by her longtime partner Robert L. Thompson, and is survived by her children Julia Held and Philip Held, grandchildren Alexander White, Owen White, Madeleine Tillotson, Kailey Held and Nicolas Held, and great grandson Shepard Tillotson.

Margaret Williams

A celebration of life for Margaret Price Williams will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 11 at Union Chapel, 55 Narragansett Avenue, Oak Bluffs.

A repast immediately following the celebration will be held at the Portuguese American Club, 137 Vineyard Avenue, Oak Bluffs.

Samuel Arrives

Graciela Brito and Fabio Brito, of Vineyard Haven, announce the birth of a son, Samuel Bozan Brito, born on June 30 at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Samuel weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces at birth.

Safety First

Please drive with caution and at slower speeds on our crowded and narrow Island streets.



Grace Collins

Grace Ann Collins Cared for Others

Grace Ann (Martinelli) Collins, died in Florida after an extended illness, surrounded by her loving family. She was 77.

Grace was born in Massachusetts, the youngest of five children and the daughter of Italian immigrants from Montescaglioso. She grew up in Shrewsbury and attended the Shrewsbury public schools.

She faced significant hardship early in life, losing her mother shortly after birth. When she was a teenager living with her father, the family home burned down and she was welcomed into the home of her high school friend Mary Lou and her mother, Mary Driscoll, whose love and support became an important part of Grace's life and remained deeply meaningful to her always.

She met the love of her life, John (Jack) Collins, while he was a student at the College of the Holy Cross. They married 54 years ago and began building a life together grounded in love, resilience, family and community. While Jack attended law school, Grace worked to support their young family. Together they made their first home in Auburn before eventually returning to Shrewsbury, where they raised their daughter Kimberly and son Michael.

Grace spent much of her life working in human services and caring for others. In later years, she became deeply devoted to the recovery community through AA and Al-Anon. Sponsoring and mentoring others became one of the great purposes and joys of her life.

What made her truly unique was her remarkable character and her integrity. She was compassionate yet strong, and her heart overflowed with empathy for others. Through her honesty, humor and hard-earned wisdom, she helped many people find hope and healing. Even during her final years and illness, Grace remained committed to supporting others in recovery.

She found joy in simple things: the ocean, cooking, family gatherings, friendship and caring for the people she loved. She especially loved Martha's Vineyard, where she and Jack spent many cherished years together. Grace became a beloved presence at the Menemsha Market, where she was known and loved by locals and visitors alike.

Some of her happiest moments were spent with her granddaughter Courtney, taking her to Menemsha Beach to collect shells, swim in the ocean and watch the sunset. She could often be found swimming far out between the buoys in Menemsha in her wetsuit, much to the nervous concern of her children, who joked she looked like a seal bobbing in the harbor. She bravely took up scuba diving in her 50s because of her deep love for

Steamship Decides to Sell M/V Governor Ferry

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

The oldest ferry in the Steamship Authority fleet, M/V Governor, is set to go on the market this fall after spending one last summer as a backup boat on the Woods Hole-Vineyard Haven route.

The authority's governing board voted unanimously May 19 to sell off the 72-year-old double-ender, which the boat line purchased for \$1 in 1997. "Fully depreciated," joked longtime Barnstable board member Robert Jones.

A preliminary report from the Steamship Authority earlier this year put the Governor's potential resale value at \$325,000, although Mr. Jones cautioned that she may go for far less.

"Don't get enthusiastic about thinking you're going to get a lot of money for this," he said.

The ferry was scheduled for dry dock in 2027.

While the Governor remains in the Steamship Authority fleet for now, she is only called into service when another boat has broken down, seeing about 90 days of work a year.

The vintage ferry has inspired widespread affection among Islanders and other travelers who hail her speed and simplicity, but board member Ted Gavin said the Governor also has many limitations.

"It is of limited utility, and only runs from Woods Hole to Vineyard Haven, and only in calm seas and good weather, and only takes five trucks," said Mr. Gavin, who represents Martha's Vineyard on the governing board.

The boat line contemplated retiring the Governor once before, after a breakdown in 2011 that left her out of service for much of the year while her engines were replaced.

After studying options that included scrapping the Governor and installing her engines in another freight ferry, the Steamship Authority wound up keeping her in the fleet.

With the recent purchase and conversion of three 21st-century oil field vessels into the freight ferries M/V Barnstable, M/V Aquinnah and M/V Monomoy, the authority currently has five freighters, posing extra maintenance and docking costs.

General manager Alex Kryska said staff would begin this summer compiling the materials needed to market the Governor, which will need to be declared surplus property by the Steamship Authority board before she can be put up for sale.



Ray Ewing

The 72-year-old ferry was purchased by the SSA in 1997.

the sea. She spent decades diving throughout the Caribbean with Jack, his siblings, in-laws and other family and friends.

Food was her love language. Inspired by her Italian roots and the cooking traditions passed down through her father and by Mary Driscoll, she created a home where everyone felt welcomed and nourished. Her kitchen was the heart of countless holidays and gatherings, filled with the smells of sauce simmering for days, homemade lasagna and her beloved eggplant parmesan. For family and friends alike, Grace's table was a place of warmth, laughter, generosity and belonging.

She is survived by her loving husband, John (Jack) Collins; her daughter Kimberly; her son Michael; her granddaughter Courtney; her son-in-law Donny; her sister Mary; and many extended family members, friends, and members of the recovery community whose lives she touched deeply.

Her family will remember her for her strength, humor, resilience, generosity, enormous heart and for the way she made people feel cared for, seen and at home. In the final chapter of her life, she moved forward not

with fear, but with deep gratitude for all the love she was able to give and receive. She approached death, as she approached life, with tremendous grace.

A celebration of life will be announced soon. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to one of Grace's favorite organizations supporting those in recovery, The Vineyard House (vineyardhouse.org/donate-now).



Tim Johnson

VINEYARD GAZETTE WEEKLY SUDOKU AND CROSSWORD – June 5, 2026

1	9	7	8	3	5	4	6	2
4	5	3	6	1	2	8	7	9
8	6	2	7	4	9	1	5	3
2	1	5	9	8	6	7	3	4
7	3	4	5	2	1	9	8	6
9	8	6	4	7	3	5	2	1
5	7	9	2	6	4	3	1	8
3	2	8	1	9	7	6	4	5
6	4	1	3	5	8	2	9	7

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all the numbers from one to nine.

Difficulty this week: HOO BOY!

Answers to the puzzles can be found on page Five A of this week's Gazette.

ACROSS

- 1 Clipboard's larger relative
8 Nintendo game system
11 Styled after
14 Funny Fox
19 Law of motion topic
20 Behind bars
22 Fabric design
23 Execute the opening pool shot perfectly?
25 Iowa senator
26 Mid-voyage
27 Inquire
28 Unable to find your pool stick?
30 Actor Caine
34 1950s-'60s thunder president
35 Puts spin on a pool ball with no further tricks?
42 Animal throat
44 Chicken —
45 River of Bern
46 "Cops" sound
47 Office screech
49 Road furrow
50 Basie's music
53 Pool triangle packed in a suitcase?
56 Ultimatum end
58 Assist
60 Anticipates a treat, maybe
61 Stridex target
62 Some schlumpy physiques
66 Bits of land in the ocean, in French
67 Label anew
69 Toddler
70 who's a whiz at pool?
72 Really heavy herbivore
76 Lackluster
78 Street in Manhattan's Alphabet City
80 Scandinavian
81 Having a trio of components
86 Alex and — (jewelry brand)
87 "Quickly" or "slowly," e.g.
89 Perimeter of a pool table that people have plopped down on?
92 Habituate (to)
94 Org. for cavity fillers

DOWN

- 1 Peru's largest city
2 Santa — (some winds)
3 Certain small pooch
4 Reveries
5 Zeta follower
6 [not my typo]
7 Desert region in Africa
8 Devitalize
9 Vacation stop
10 Long-range nuke carrier
11 Gets mature pool ball?
12 Grasslands
13 Last name of singer Adele
14 Many PC pics
15 Alcove-hiding tapestry
16 Mixture baked in pies
17 Aetna offering
18 Kin of -ess
21 Grande of pop, for short
24 "Ozark" actor
29 "Uh-uh" Nelson
31 "No bid"
32 Attacked as a cat might
33 The, to Jules
35 Hoopla
36 Info provider
37 Breadth
38 Not a one
39 "Despicable Me" anthemo
40 Thigh locales

ACROSS

- 41 Actress Swenson
43 Pad thai pans
47 Cut, as ties
48 Reality shows, to some people
51 Not a one
52 Singer Barry
54 Similar
55 Baseballer
57 Guides, biblical-style
59 "A little dab'll —"
63 Mahmoud of Palestine
64 "seaQuest —" (sci-fi series)
65 Old Big Apple stadium
68 — -Roman
70 Decade
71 Lay waste to
73 "— Huckabees" (2004 film)
74 Swedish, say
75 Jerry of stage and screen
77 "The Simpsons" character once voiced by Hank Azaria
79 Ex-president Obama

DOWN

- 81 Old autocrat
82 In a spiral-shaped way
83 1960s World War II series, with "The"
84 Ostrich kin
85 Arena level
88 John of plows
90 Ottawa loc.
91 Abbr. on a bad check
93 Not looked for
97 Cen. divisions
101 Tiny drink
102 Over the line
103 Central New York lake
104 Complain
105 Turkey's tallest peak
107 Breadth
108 More bashful
110 Ohio-to-Utah direction
111 Suffix with fungi
112 Large joint
113 Berlin article
114 General — chicken
117 Witty sayings
118 Steinbeck migrant
119 Old Olds cars
122 Large joint
123 Call for help
124 Uno tripled

POOL PLAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10		11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18	
19								20				21				22					
23								24								25					
26							27				28					29					
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44				45					46						47	48					
49				50				51	52		53				54	55					
56				57				58		59			60								
61						62	63				64	65			66						
67					68		69						70	71			72		73	74	75



The practice of pairing two grades in the classroom will be ending next year.

Pictures by Ray Ewing

Chilmark to Change Multi-Grade System

By HALEY SANDLOW

Next year, the Chilmark School will replace its multi-grade classrooms with single-grade classrooms, ending a long-standing tradition in the K-5 school's educational model.

Kate Squire, principal of the Chilmark School, appeared before a packed select board meeting Tuesday to explain the reason behind the change to select board members and Chilmark residents, many of whom attended the school or raised children who did. The change has already been finalized with the school committee, and is supported by the parent teacher organization, school advisory council and superintendent.

Currently, first and second graders combine for a multi-grade homeroom, and third and fourth graders do the same. Kindergarten and fifth grade classes are single-grade.

Ms. Squire said that continuing this model has become increasingly hard on the students and staff. Compliance with new state-mandated literacy curriculums has required students to change classrooms for a single-grade, 90-minute reading block this year, in addition to the single-grade math block at a different time in the day. Children remain in their multi-grade classes for homeroom, snack, lunch, gym and art.

"Six and seven year olds are switching classes multiple times a day," said Ms. Squire. "The little ones don't know where to be and when. A lot of instructional time is wasted. The school day is chopped up, and our students are feeling very unsettled."

Ms. Squire said that if multi-grade learning continued next year, certain classes would have up to 30 kids in it.

"We know that that is not good for learning, or for kids," she said. That number also violates the teachers' collective bargaining agreements, she added.

There are 74 students enrolled at the Chilmark School this year, and projected enrollment for next year is 78 students.

Teachers came to Ms. Squire this year asking to change to single-grade classrooms, she said. Changing classrooms for literacy and math blocks -- often with different teachers -- means homeroom teachers, who are responsible for progress reports and communication with parents, have less time with the students

they are responsible for.

Teachers are also less able to make connections across subjects, and are often on a time constraint for project based learning, experiential learning and deep dives on a topic, other hallmarks of the Chilmark School, she said.

"The truth is that the multi-age experience you may remember, or your children had in the '90s or the 2000s, is not what's happening right now," said Ms. Squire. "To continue it for simply tradition's sake is not supporting children the way that we should. It's wrong."

Chilmark School teacher Robyn Dori agreed.

"Right now, the multi-age feels very performative," she said Tuesday. "It's not aligning, it doesn't allow for depth of projects, depth of study. I've had many kids say to me, why don't we just stay in our classroom for the rest of the day? Why do we have to switch back?"

"When I hear from students that they don't understand why we're doing all this switching, it lets me know, it's not what's best for them," she said.

Former students and parents of former students protested the change ahead of the select board meeting. A significant feeling, said select board member Matt Poole, is grief for the long-standing and rare educational model that pairs kids of different ages together. Mr. Poole attended the Chilmark School, then the Menemsha school, as a kid, and sent his children to the Chilmark School.

Ms. Squire said that multi-age experiences will continue in other, meaningful ways, such as morning circle, whole-school recess, and reading buddy partnerships.

"I want to acknowledge the feeling of loss, maybe even anger, from some of you here," she said. "I'm curious the reaction [about] a loss of the multi-age for current students or future students? Is it about the changing character of the school and what that might represent? Or is it not being part of the decision?"

Though school policy doesn't fall



Principal Kate Squire spoke to select board this week.

under their jurisdiction, select board members said they wish they were informed about the change sooner. Ms. Squire sent out a letter to families of current students on April 15 explaining the change, but did not notify the select board.

"This is a significant decision related to Chilmark School going back to day one, and we probably wouldn't be here tonight if this had been pushed out to the community differently," said Mr. Poole.

"I'm completely convinced that from the educational perspective, this is an advisable thing to do," he added.

Jessica Mason, a member of the school committee, pointed out that school committee meetings are open to the public and open to public comment. The committee also held open forums when interviewing for the open principal position two years ago, eventually hiring Ms. Squire.

"Nobody comes," said Ms. Mason. "Nobody comes to our school committee meetings."

Ms. Squire also invited parents to an informational coffee session in April to explain the reasoning behind the change. The meeting was sparsely attended, she said.

"To me, that reflects the trust and belief in the incredible teachers we have at our school, and their ability to know their students and know what they really need," said Ms. Squire.

Giving Back On the Real Estate Front

By CHARLES LEITNER

In 2016, when Jim Feiner began donating 10 per cent of every commission earned by his real estate firm to various nonprofit companies across Martha's Vineyard, he said many people thought he was crazy.

But since the first check was given to Island Housing Trust for \$4,500, Feiner Real Estate has given out \$500,000 over the last decade to 30 nonprofits on the Island, supporting efforts in housing, healthcare, conservation, education and food insecurity.

"When I started to do this, I think there was animosity towards my company and me personally because I was raising the bar on being socially responsible, and not everybody wants to be socially responsible, and everybody has a different relationship with money," said Mr. Feiner, who started his real estate firm in 1976.

Mr. Feiner said that recognizing the need for "good disruptors" within the real estate market across the United States inspired him to find ways to make a difference in the community.

"I think it's pretty clear we cannot build our way out of this problem of affordable housing shortage," said Mr. Feiner, who added that shifting demographics on the Island will create issues for nonprofit organizations who are overly dependent on donations from specific individuals.

Mr. Feiner said he has noticed that many nonprofits have been shifting their fundraising tactics to address these changing scenarios, something he hopes to address too.

"This is something that's come up more than once when nonprofits talk about the future," said Mr. Feiner.

To achieve wider results, Mr. Feiner also created a sister program called Refer2Give, a national real estate referral program designed to help buyers and sellers anywhere give back to their communities.

"I think giving back and making a difference is really important in a small community like ours, where the actions we take can have visible effects on the community and people in it," he said.

Carry In Carry Out

Remember to keep Island beaches clean. Leave only footprints behind.

IN VINEYARD SKIES

	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri., June 5	5:08	8:12
Sat., June 6	5:07	8:12
Sun., June 7	5:07	8:13
Mon., June 8	5:07	8:14
Tues., June 9	5:07	8:14
Wed., June 10	5:06	8:15
Thurs., June 11	5:06	8:15
Fri., June 12	5:06	8:16

Venus and Jupiter Conjunction

The two brightest planets in our evening sky will be only 1.6 degrees apart next Tuesday night. Venus and Jupiter will be so close you might think they are but one object. It is a remarkable event and the timing is perfect for the casual amateur astronomer.

 Last Quarter June 8	 First Quarter June 14
 New Moon June 14	 Full Moon June 29

Temperature:

Day	Max. F°	Min. F°	Precip. Inches.
May 29	71	50	0.18
May 30	71	54	0.06
May 31	63	46	0.37
June 1	68	50	0.05
June 2	63	39	0.00
June 3	70	50	0.00
Jan. 4	76	53	0.00
Water temperature in Edgartown harbor: 63°			

Recent Island Real Estate Transactions

Chilmark

William Bihrlé, Jacquelyn Bihrlé, Joshua Johnson and Marian Johnson purchased 116,122 and 124 Old Farm Road in Chilmark from Robert L. Green Trust and Allerton Farm Realty Trust for \$3,700,000 on May 28.

Edgartown

Byron Lynn and Lindsay Lynn purchased 44 Plantingfield Way in Edgartown from Maria Thibodeau Trust and Newton Thibodeau Family Trust for \$3,400,000 on May 26.

Oak Bluffs

Amy M. Holbrook purchased 14 East Side Road in Oak Bluffs from Megan W. Holbrook for \$1,595,000 on May 26.

Roberty Ridley and Kimberly Ridley purchased 3 Elmwood avenue in Oak Bluffs from Reginald A. Nunnally, Kathleen Nunnally, Dawn Nunnally and Ashley Nunnally for \$660,000 on May 26.

Felicia Everett Blake and Bruce Blake purchased 56 Garvin street in Oak Bluffs from Anthony Mottola and Nicole Gullotta for \$1,235,000 on May 29.

Vineyard Haven

Michael A. Irizarry and Carla N. Paizante Irizarry purchased 151 Tashmoo avenue in Vineyard Haven from Anna Nivala and Bryan Wood for \$2,000,000.

Summers & Santos LLC, purchased a portion of Lyle Lane in Vineyard Haven from Clifford Estrella for \$525,000 on May 29.

Record of Cases Heard in Edgartown District Court

May 26

Deborah A. Hills, 76, of Edgartown, was arraigned on May 26 charges in Edgartown of operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, leaving the scene of a property damage and marked lanes violation. She was released on personal recognizance and has a pretrial hearing on July 9.

Jean Karlo L. Milbratz, 51, of Oak Bluffs, was arraigned on May 26 charges in Oak Bluffs of operating under the influence of liquor, second offense, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. His bail was set at \$200 and he has a pretrial hearing on July 24.

Ronildo X. Ferreira, 38, of West Tisbury, was arraigned on May 26 charges in Oak Bluffs of operating under the influence of liquor and negligent operation of a motor vehicle. He was released on personal recognizance and has a pretrial hearing on July 24.

Sigmare Dos Reis, 46, of Edgartown, was arraigned on May 26 charges in Edgartown of operating under influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and speeding. He was released on personal recognizance and

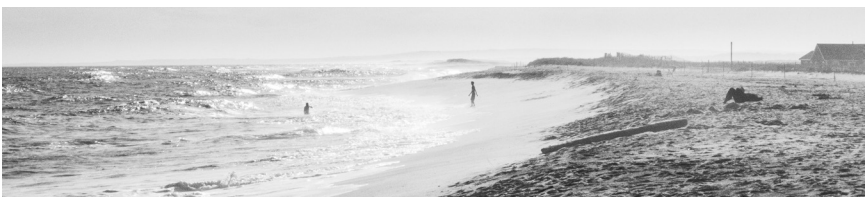
has a pretrial hearing on July 13.

Kai L. Bryan, 22, of Andover, was arraigned on May 26 charges in Oak Bluffs of negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operating under the influence of liquor, failure to stop, and disorderly conduct. He was released on personal recognizance and has a pretrial hearing on July 9.

Elias A. Ingraham, 46, of Vineyard Haven, was arraigned on May 26 charges in Tisbury of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and assault with a dangerous weapon. His bail was set at \$1,500 and he has a pretrial hearing on July 16.

Rachel R. Wild, 44, of Vineyard Haven, was arraigned on May 26 charges in Edgartown of operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and marked lanes violation. She was released on personal recognizance and has a pretrial hearing on July 9.

Rafael M. Da Silva, 36, of Vineyard Haven, was arraigned on a May 26 charge in Tisbury of operating under the influence of liquor. He was released on personal recognizance and has a pretrial hearing on July 24.



Ray Ewing

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Edgartown Lighthouse Undergoes Repairs

By CHARLES LEITNER

Visitors to the Edgartown lighthouse these days are encountering more of a mystery object fully encased in white wrapping rather than the usual iconic structure. Work to repair the lighthouse began in mid-May and involves both structural and aesthetic repairs.

Although contracting for the project began nearly eight months ago, the current appearance of the structure has caught many in town by surprise.

"I didn't think it would be as much of a site until I actually saw it myself," said James Hagerty, the town administrator, during a recent conversation with the Gazette.

At last week's Edgartown select board meeting, Mr. Hagerty acknowledged that the town should have put the word out earlier that the lighthouse would look a bit different for a short time, but that the information regarding the repair work is now up to date on "the town's website."

Mr. Hagerty also said that the work

is on track to finish by June 18.

"Basically, the scope of work is kind of removing the coating from the exterior, which needs to be sandblasted," he said "They're sealing, re-coating the exterior, restoring two of the windows, preparing four of those kind of cast iron porthole windows, they're looking at the railing and some of the components and bracket repairing some of that, they're caulking the panel joints, they're doing some cast iron replacement."

Mr. Hagerty added that a dome was placed over the lighthouse by design to address environmental concerns related to the project. He said the cost for the project is about \$643,000.

"It's not easy to get public construction contractors to do work on the Vineyard, as you can see from the price of the high school," said Mr. Hagerty. "Getting someone who can specialize in sandblasting an old lighthouse is kind of indicative of the market."

The Martha's Vineyard Museum op-



Tim Johnson

Work will finish in late June.

erates the lighthouse under a license agreement from the town. According to the museum website, the lighthouse will be open again to the public in June as intended.

next chapter," wrote Karen Davis, chair of the Vineyard Vision Fellowship Board of Directors, in a statement announcing the appointment. "She understands the unique challenges and opportunities facing our community and is deeply invested in nurturing the local talent that addresses them."

The Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship was founded in 2006 and provides financial support and professional development to Islanders who are committed to environmental and social sustainability.

Vineyard Vision Fellowship Taps Next Executive Director

The Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship has appointed Rebekah Thomson as its next executive director.

Ms. Thomson is a year-round resident of West Tisbury and has served as the president of the Chilmark Preschool board of directors. She succeeds retiring executive director Melissa Hackney.

Ms. Thomson was also a founding director of the Field Fund and a longtime early parenting and infancy coach for Martha's Vineyard Community Services.

"Rebekah's passion for the Island, combined with her proven leadership and collaborative spirit, makes her the ideal person to guide the Fellowship into its

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Ocean View

Editors, Vineyard Gazette;
The following letter was sent to the
Copeland Plan District Review Board.
Please deny the Ocean View hotel
rebuild proposal, passed by the Mar-
tha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) in
December. It shuns replacing the Ocean
View Restaurant and is a misguided at-
tempt to bring the Victorian era back to
the neighborhood, whose longstanding
residents are opposed. A three-story
hotel, feet from those neighbors, com-
promises the community's character
and aesthetics, and dwarfs the previous
beloved gathering spot regarding views,
size, parking, traffic, activity and noise.
The Ocean View neighborhood falls
within the Copeland Plan District, des-
ignated a district of critical planning
concern by the MVC. At their hybrid
commission meeting on Dec. 4, 2025,
some commission members said the
MVC is not bound by a change to Oak
Bluffs regulations regarding the Cope-
land Plan District.
Per a Vineyard Gazette article from
Dec. 5, 2025: "While town meeting vot-
ers had approved language that would

Oak Bluffs

Gretchen Mayher

Historic Character

Editors, Vineyard Gazette:
As an owner of the national his-
toric landmark building across from
Oakwood for nearly 50 years, we have
consistently ensured the building's im-
portant historic character and value
the unique qualities of the town. We
are enthusiastic about seeing the eye-
sore hardware building replaced with
much needed housing and recognize
that virtually anything would be an
improvement.
But visitors come to Oak Bluffs be-
cause it is a genuine window into our
past rich history. The Martha's Vineyard
Commission (MVC) is mandated to
consider historic context for replace-
ment buildings on Circuit avenue. Two
qualified architects and the commis-
sion's own consultant said the proposed
building does not satisfy historic re-
quirements. In fact, one commissioner
dubbed it a "cheap imitation of a style
of building."

No Welcome Mat

Editors, Vineyard Gazette;
Just to be clear, the production com-
pany of The Real Housewives of New
York, trash TV, just my opinion, did not
obtain permission to film or use Look-
out Tavern's name or likeness under any
circumstances. No one contacted me
nor did I or any of my staff members
speak with them or give them permis-
sion. As it is, Lookout Tavern is now
associated with them by default.
Lookout Tavern does not need this
type of unrealistic fake exposure. My

customer bases are real people who
are unpretentious. It's too bad they
misrepresented themselves and led the
selectboard on, that one of the popular
businesses in town were on board.
I, for one, as a resident and former
selectman, think our town deserves
better representation than being used
for this type of fake production. Please
know the welcome mat is not out for
The Real Housewives of New York
production as a whole, at any one of my
entities.

Michael J Santoro
President, Santoro Hospitality Group



Tim Johnson

VINEYARD GAZETTE

Martha's
Vineyard's
Newspaper
for 179 Years

Established
in 1846
A Journal
of Island Life

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•

Bill Eville, Editor
Ethan Genter, Managing Editor

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Julia Wells, Editor Emeritus
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◆

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Richard Reston and Mary Jo Reston
Publishers 1988-2010

Sally Fulton Reston and James Reston
Publishers 1968-1988

Elizabeth Bowie Hough and Henry Beetle Hough
Publishers 1920-1965

Ray Ewing

The Magic and Make Believe of Parenting

By BILL EVILLE

I have been thinking about fairy houses lately, those tiny structures created out of whatever materials are lying around in nature. That's what makes the fairies feel safe, my daughter would tell me when she was quite young, that the house is built out of wild materials — twigs and moss, leaves and stones, perhaps a roof made from the tops of acorns, and a walkway of fallen pine needles.

They can't be planned either, she would add. A fairy house had to come together by a sort of search and rescue mission of assembled bits and pieces. And as you worked, the fairies would watch from some nearby nook, out of sight but always there, deciding whether the structure and the builders were right for them.

I miss many things from my daughter's way-back childhood but today, while sitting on the porch a few days before her high school graduation, it is the fairy houses we built out there, where the lawn meets the woods, that I can't stop thinking about.

Pickle often wore a toy hard hat as she worked, but not like her older brother who wore the little yellow hat in regulation style, ready for whatever project awaited him. Pickle liked to peel away

Bill Eville

Pickle digs in.

the plastic inside of the hat and wear only that on her head. She looked a bit odd this way, her small head encased in clear plastic, and that is another thing I miss as I contemplate her leaving later this summer for college — the endless costumes she created as a little kid out

of whatever she found lying around the house. Colorful scarves and hats, sunglasses too large for her face, her brother's soccer socks, which on her stretched way past her thighs — the list of her eccentric outfits is long and wondrous. And as we worked on our fairy house constructions I could almost hear the fairies laughing at the sight of us.

"Do you hear that?" I would ask her.

Then we would both grow quiet, Pickle's four-year-old cheek pressed against mine as we listened intently to the sounds of the woods, a rustle in the leaves, a ripple in the wind.

"It's them," Pickle would whisper back.

"Maybe, but let's keep listening," I would answer, not wanting the moment to end, the two of us breathing together as one, lost in a world of magic and make believe that also felt more real to me than anything I had ever encountered before.

When you become a parent, you know your life will change drastically, but it is more of an overwhelming force rather than a feeling filled with specifics. Basically, you have no clue about what awaits, the highs and lows of emotions,

or that on many Saturday afternoons you will be rummaging around in the dirt, collecting twigs and leaves, rocks and clover to welcome a fairy family into your life.

Nor do you know that so many years later, long after the fairy houses have been swept away by the wind and rain, you will be sitting alone on the porch when your daughter returns from her high school graduation rehearsal, holding her cap and gown in her hand. She will smile and laugh and stop for a moment to tell you the story of her day, and although you are smiling and laughing too, you are really holding on to each word with a ferocity that will startle you because once again you realize how much you love this child and can't imagine ever letting her go.

Then she will enter the house, still laughing and ready to tell her mother the story of her day, while you remain on the porch, not really sure of who you are anymore.

And you will sit there, unable to move at first, until the wind picks up, just a little, and the leaves rustle out there in the underbush, where the yard meets the woods. And then you will smile, just for a moment, as you think, maybe you are not so alone after all.

Giving Thanks to the Island Community

By RICHIE SMITH

I would like to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes and deepest gratitude to our Island community. In stepping away after 24 years serving in the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVYPS), I will miss all the support this Island has shown my family and me. I've had the tremendous honor of working with the most talented and caring school staff, school committee members and community members that I have ever known. I've been blessed to create lasting relationships with our dedicated students and their families, who have provided me with the inspiration for my daily work. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to the well-being of our students and the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools as a whole.

As a steward of MVYPS, I am keenly aware of the privilege and honor it has been to serve in the role of superintendent. I am grateful for the trust you placed in me.

During my tenure as superintendent, Martha's Vineyard Public Schools enhanced our academic programs, strengthened our support systems for our students and continued to build a school environment where all children can thrive.

We have moved forward with common curricular programming in the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Into Reading Program for all kindergarten through fifth grade students and we are instituting practices that will better support our students as they transition to ninth grade freshmen at MVRHS. We have instituted and grown our co-teaching efforts to provide alternative instructional methods to better support our chil-

dren. We continue to train staff in the collaborative problem-solving model, ThinkKids, to support our students to better address the behaviors that challenge their learning.

MVYPS has strengthened our culture of feedback from staff, students and parents to inform and organize programmatic interventions and increase family and community engagement to guide our schools.

MVYPS is working to increase our focus on standards-based learning to more effectively support our students' achievement through direct collaboration with each MVYPS school administration in the composition and implementation of intervention plans. Multiple common assessments such as the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) will inform student growth and achievement. I am incredibly proud of the progress MVYPS has made over the past four years in significantly improving our MCAS accountability scores across all six of our schools.

MVYPS will remain committed to meeting the changing needs of our students and community, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed academically, socially and emotionally. This includes not only focusing on the excellence of our academic curriculum but also nurturing the values of kindness, respect and resilience that will serve our students well beyond their time in school.

I believe principals who model care, empathy, trust and respect create schools that cultivate strong relationships through collaboration, effective communication through the sharing of

Ray Ewing

Richie Smith at graduation.

information, and capacity building of organizations through the support of staff members. To this end, we recruited critical administrative staff in four of our six schools with principal Kate Squire in the Chilmark School, principal Jeremy Light in the Oak Bluffs School, principal Kate Campbell in the Edgartown School and principal Bryan Lombardi in the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. All six of our building principals possess the characteristics necessary for our students' growth and the growth of our schools.

During my four years as superintendent, we celebrated the opening of the beautifully renovated Tisbury Elementary School. This building is a testament to the community's collective commit-

ment to education and the future of the town's children.

The Island community, as of the Islandwide vote on Tuesday, June 2, also overwhelmingly supported the high school addition/renovation building project. This was the result of four years of painstaking planning from so many people and organizations. Thanks to this vote of confidence, our Island stands to receive \$75 million dollars in reimbursement from the Massachusetts School Building Authority to build this project and then successfully move forward to benefit our Island's children and communities for many years to come.

Additionally, I wish to acknowledge and thank key municipal representatives, school committee members, union leaders and school administrators as we have successfully completed collective bargaining agreements for our schools' five bargaining units; teachers, administrative support personnel, food service workers, educational support professionals and custodians while other school districts across the Commonwealth met challenges in working to reach agreement in their collective bargaining efforts.

As we look to the future, we will continue to rely on the collective strength of our Island community, parents, educators, students, town leaders and community members to uphold our shared commitment to every child's well-being and success. Together, we are building a future that is brighter, more inclusive, and more supportive of the next generation of leaders, thinkers and compassionate Island members.

Richie Smith, superintendent, Martha's Vineyard Public Schools.

THE GAZETTE CHRONICLE

The Caprice of Fate

From the June 8, 1928 edition of the Vineyard Gazette:

Forty years ago and more there was a hotel of considerable size and many cottages in the section of Lagoon Heights, Oak Bluffs, where now there are but few houses and many scrub pine trees. Taste, fashion or the caprice of fate, perhaps a combination of all three, have removed this summer colony to other locations, and although there is now a move to build in the locality, it has but recently begun and the spot, so near the village, has become quite wild.

Yet it is a fair place to look upon, a spot to dream dreams about, for the land slopes from the woods down to ward the shore of Lagoon Pond, whose blue waters gleam in the sunshine or deepen into a dark purple beneath the shadow of the high woods of Hines Point and Cedar Neck.

Doubtless there are many persons yet living who know the history of the place from years gone by. Certainly there are a few who have driven there in the days when the buildings graced the hilltop, but these have departed with the houses and the memory of the golden past. But one person yet remains clinging tenaciously to a holding that is being battled for by nature. A pioneer of the first settlement who watched progress in building wax and wane, seeing the colony take shape, then vanish, and who bids fair to see a newer and larger one reappear.

This is Mrs. Clara P. Norton, who living alone upon the heights, has stored up historical data on this place and many others.

Her own family history is extremely interesting. Born at Lamberts Cove village, she was the daughter of one of the Vineyard's best known whalers, William Heckley Athearn, but on her maternal side she is a descendant of Joseph Daggett, who married Alice Sassetom, daughter of the Sachem of Sanchacantacket, to the bitter indignation of Governor Mayhew.

As a child she visited relatives in Nomansland, a place that she has always loved. This was in the palmy days of the Nomansland fisheries and there were many men living there in the fishing shanties.

One thing she mentions that no history records, that Nomansland produced a great deal of cheese in those days, so much in fact that the housewives who made it had small buildings for its storage. These were called cheese safes and when not in use, she utilized them as playhouses.

She tells of the many wrecks on Nomansland, of the fragments of vessels that always strewn the shores and of the many graves of shipwrecked seamen that were to be seen in the Island burying ground.

It is somewhat more than forty years ago since her husband, one of the Farm Neck Nortons, purchased the land where he soon after built his home. From a very early date that portion of the heights had been a sheep pasture and the farmers of the vicinity had used it in common. Just a short distance west of the new home was the house of one of the last survivors of the great tribe that once lived at the head of the pond. That portion of Oak Bluffs, sometimes called "Fayal", was then covered with a heavy growth of oak trees and there were no houses there whatever.

In speaking of family or Island history, Mrs. Norton talks most freely and easily when showing her antiques of which she has many. Each article is associated with some member of her family, perhaps having descended through several branches before coming into her possession and as she speaks of the article, the memories of its former owners return. Thus she exhibits the huge applewood ladle fashioned by her grandfather for use in dipping food from the great cauldrons that hung over the wide fireplace. This leads to a talk on old fashioned handicraft, cooking over an open fire and the various methods employed by different people she has known.

Perhaps the greatest treasures in her possession are letters which were written to her grandmother by the latter's two brothers during the war of 1812. These two brothers, Josiah and Presbury Luce, were the sons of Gamaliel, himself a member of the Sea Coast Defense. Like all of the Luce family they took to the sea and to the bearing of arms. Tempted by the wealth and adventure promised, they shipped on one of the numerous privateering craft during "Mr. Madison's War" and at length were captured by the British and confined in Dartmoor Prison. It was while they were imprisoned that they letters were written and perhaps they were more carefully preserved because of the death of Josiah while a prisoner.

The listener feels a fascination like that of opening an ancient book as he listens to this elderly lady's words and marvels at the memory that reaches so far into the past. "I am almost an antique myself," she says humorously, for she loves a joke, but her wiry, upright figure and brisk movements give no hint of the number of winters she has seen. Loving the solitude as she does, she seldom leaves her home for long, but is fond of visitors and entertains many who call to see her antiques or to listen to her stories.

Compiled by Hilary Wallcox
library@vineyardgazette.com

Attack on the Commission Is an Attack on the Vineyard

By PETER WHARTON

For more than 50 years, the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) has been the Island's first line of defense against over-development. Created by the Legislature in 1974, the MVC was given broad authority to ensure that growth on Martha's Vineyard occurs responsibly, balancing economic development with the protection of the Island's unique environmental, cultural and community resources.

Today, that authority is under direct attack.

A Chapter 40B developer is arguing that the MVC is merely a "local board" and therefore should have no meaningful role in reviewing large housing developments that include a few affordable units. If successful, that argument would not simply alter a permitting process, it would fundamentally undermine the legislature's vision for Martha's Vineyard and weaken one of the Commonwealth's most successful regional planning institutions.

The stakes extend far beyond a single project. They involve the future of the Island itself.

Martha's Vineyard is not just another community. It is a place of extraordinary natural, historical, ecological and cultural significance. Its great ponds, coastal ecosystems, sand plains and rare species are resources of statewide importance. Recognizing that unchecked development threatened those resources, the legislature created the MVC and charged it with reviewing projects that have regional impacts.

For decades, that system worked. Development continued, but it occurred in a way that preserved the Vineyard's rural character, protected sensitive environmental resources and respected the Island's limited infrastructure.

Today, however, the pressures facing the Vineyard are greater than ever. Nitrogen pollution threatens the great ponds. Summer traffic strains roads and ferries. Workforce housing remains in short supply. Homes once occupied by year-round residents are increasingly converted into seasonal residences, investment properties and short-term rentals.

The Island is approaching a crossroads.

In response, the MVC has done exactly what the legislature intended it to do: carefully scrutinize large developments and ensure that their benefits outweigh their impacts. Most projects have been approved with conditions. A very small number have been denied when their impacts were simply too great.

Not surprisingly, some developers have pushed back.

Most recently, the developers of the Green Villa and Edgartown Gardens projects argued that the MVC should be treated as a local board under Chapter 40B and therefore be stripped of its authority to review major housing developments that include predominantly market rate units with a limited number of affordable units. Unfortunately, the State Housing Appeals Committee (HAC) accepted that argument in the

Edgartown Gardens case, prompting ongoing litigation by both the MVC and the Town of Edgartown.

This is not a technical dispute over permitting authority. It is an existential challenge to the MVC itself.

If the MVC is reduced to local-board status, its ability to protect water quality, preserve open space, manage traffic impacts and encourage workforce housing will be dramatically diminished. Towns operating under the constraints of 40B cannot impose conditions on 40B projects to protect these key Island interests in the way the MVC does. Developers will have every incentive to bypass the regional review process that has protected the Vineyard for half a century.

Nor is this a debate about whether affordable housing should be built. The MVC has consistently supported affordable housing development and has helped create hundreds of income-restricted units while securing millions of dollars for affordable housing initiatives across the Island. The Commission has approved nearly every Chapter 40B project that has come before it. The issue is not whether housing should be built; it is whether large developments should be required to account for their impacts on the broader community.

If the HAC decision stands, developers will increasingly submit projects that ignore traffic, water quality, open space and infrastructure concerns because they will know the MVC no longer has the authority to protect the Island from the regional impacts of their projects. That is precisely the outcome the legislature sought to avoid when it created the MVC in 1974.

Martha's Vineyard is different. Its environmental resources are fragile. Its infrastructure is limited. Its character is irreplaceable. The legislature recognized those realities more than 50 years ago and created a regional commission with the authority necessary to protect them.

In light of the recent HAC decision, the question now is simple: will the Commonwealth honor that vision or will it allow decades of thoughtful regional planning to be swept aside?

The future character of Martha's Vineyard may depend on the answer.

Importantly, the MVC is not fighting this battle alone. The Island is fortunate to have Sen. Julian Cyr and Rep. Thomas Moakley as strong advocates in the legislature who recognize that protecting the Vineyard's natural resources, infrastructure and quality of life is not inconsistent with creating housing opportunities for Islanders. Rather, it is essential to ensuring that the Island remains a viable place for year-round residents to live and work. Island residents who care about the future of Martha's Vineyard, the protection of its unique character, and the creation of responsible affordable housing should take a moment to thank Senator Cyr and Representative Moakley for their commitment to these issues.

Peter Wharton is the chair of the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

Ruffled Feathers

My Vineyard backyard's blooming
With three wild turkey celebrants
Of sex, emergent bright red snoods,
Caruncles tumbling

With the iridescent hope
Of feathered matings.
At the moment, I am their only admirer.
A quarrel among them crackles

And clacks (are they competing
For my attention?).
As if on ball bearings,
They roll toward each other,

Disputatiously, skittering
Over dead leaves.
Disorder subsides.
The turkeys return to jabbing

For insects, and I think of
My architect friend who weathers
Project disputes, waiting for
Ruffled feathers to settle.

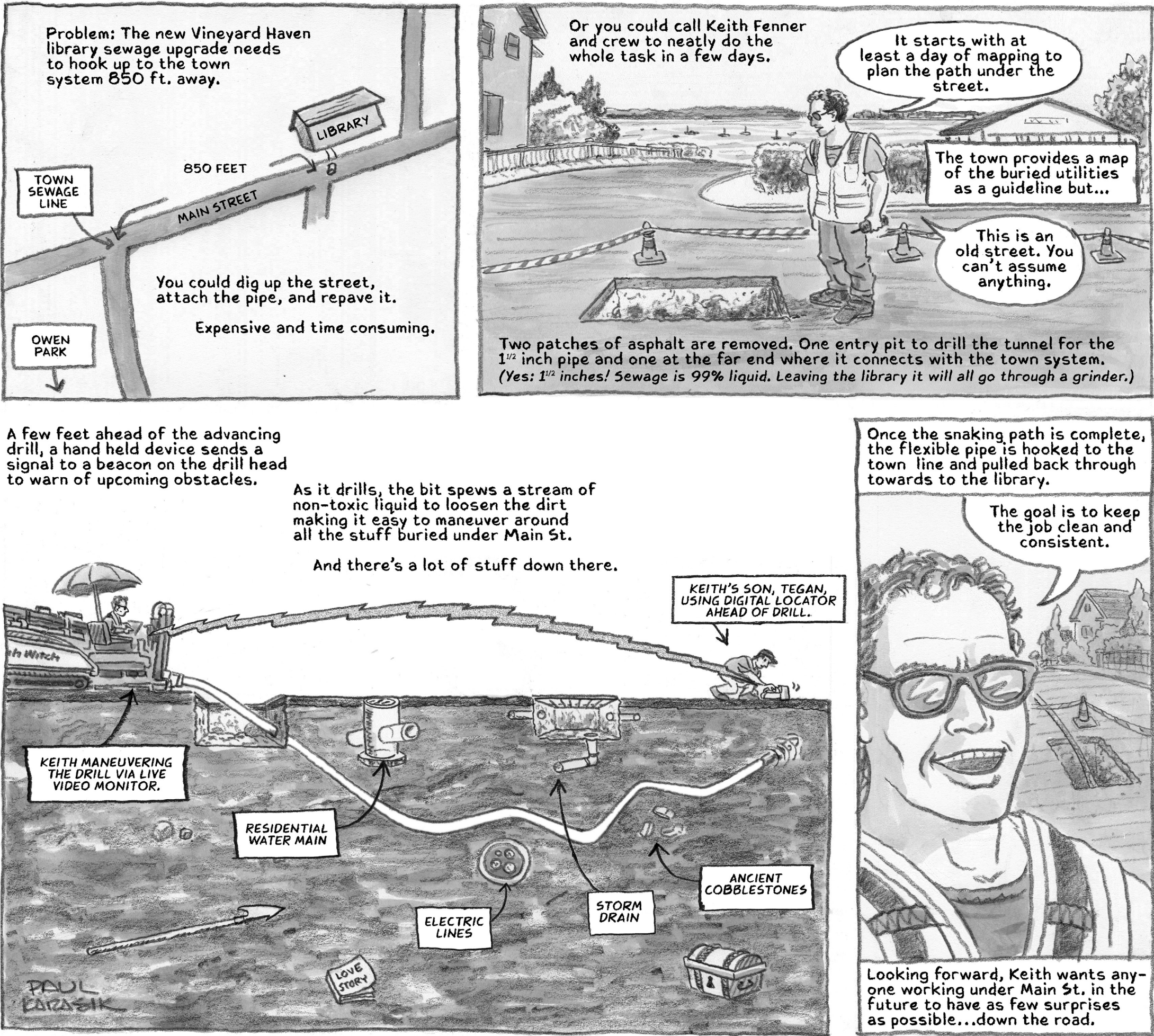
History's replete with war
And peace. In my yard, just now,
Feathers of forgiveness
Float on the spring air.

-Holly St. John Bergon



Roy Ewing

COMMENTARY



Slow Food Founder Had Big Influence on Island Life

By JAN BUHRMAN

Carlo Petrini died last month, and that should not go unnoticed on Martha's Vineyard.

Many Islanders may not recognize his name, but his ideas helped shape much of what we now witness in food produced here: our farmers' markets, our food education programs, our farms and our belief that where food comes from matters. And most urgently, his ideas planted the seed of something we are committed to: that everyone on this Island, regardless of income, regardless of circumstance, deserves access to good, clean, fair food.

Mr. Petrini was the founder of the Slow Food movement, which started in Italy in 1986 when he famously protested the opening of a McDonald's near Rome's Spanish Steps. Armed not with anger but with a bowl of pasta, he challenged the fast-food culture spreading across the world. His response was simple and revolutionary: food should be good, clean and fair. Food should be rooted in local tradition, honor its home. Simple words. But on an Island where extraordinary wealth and quiet struggle share the same roads, the same shoreline and the same dinner hour, they are complicated and challenging.

In 2006, I returned from Terra Madre, the international Slow Food gathering in Turin, where I had traveled with Joan Nathan. I came home energized and inspired, and I wanted to bring some of that meaning back to the Vineyard. And as the world works, so too were these ideas percolating with Ali Berlow. She gathered a small group of food-minded Islanders for an evening with chef John Ash, a pioneer of California's local food movement. We ate oysters from Rick Karney, fish from Menemsha, lamb from Allen Farm and salad from Chilmark, all food that told the whole story. Many questions followed, and we landed with one: How could we create a stronger local food culture on Martha's Vineyard?

None of us realized that evening would help spark two organizations that would leave a lasting mark on this Island.

It is worth remembering that Martha's Vineyard was already a farming community long before any of us gathered to talk about it. Allen Farm was bringing wool and lamb to Island tables. Nip 'n Tuck was producing raw milk. Morning Glory was growing vegetables and rais-

ing eggs and meat. Native Earth Teaching Farm was connecting people, especially children, to the land in ways that went beyond food, rooting a new generation in the rhythms of farming and the natural world.

Smaller farms like Blackwater, Whiting Farm, Quansoo and others, were quietly tending the land the way it had always been tended here. And North Labor Farm was just getting off the ground, already turning heads with its extraordinary lettuces, produce and flowers. These farmers did not need a movement to tell them what they were doing mattered. They already knew. What the conversation was really about was how to support them, how to promote their value to a community that was changing around them, and how to make sure that what they had built would not be lost.

Rick Karney had already attended Slow Food events in Italy and was eager to establish a chapter here, and this gave him the push to do so. The founding Slow Food Martha's Vineyard board would eventually include Cathy Walthers, Rick Karney, Jessica Roddy, Hara Dretaki, Suzan Bellincampi, Roxanne Kapitan, Karin Stanley, Bill and Betty Haynes, Abigail Higgins, Thalia Scanlan, the late Summer Silverman, and myself. At the same time, another group with Ali Berlow, Randi Baird, Kathy Forsyth, Rebecca Miller and others began asking how we could better support Island farmers. I was one of the founding members of Island Grown Initiative, with Ali Berlow as the lead.

In those early days, a farm map, the logo and the signs of origin that identified local produce in stores was launched. These were labels that displayed how far produce had traveled before reaching Island shelves. It was a simple idea that turned out to be quietly radical. Not everyone welcomed it. Grocers, at least at that time, were not eager to call attention to the distance between their suppliers and their customers. The uncomfortable truth was that knowing where food came from also meant knowing what it really cost. A cost that not everyone was or is ready to acknowledge.

But the conversation is what mattered. In time, IGI's work grew to include Island Grown Schools, bringing food education directly into classrooms, and Island Grown Recipes, a project I worked on for a time, helping connect the ingredients

grown here to our tables. Once that foundation was in place, I shifted my focus to Slow Food Martha's Vineyard while continuing to support IGI wherever I could.

The word "gleaning" itself carries centuries of meaning. It is the act of gathering leftover crops after a harvest — tied to an ancient, biblically mandated tradition where farmers were instructed to leave the corners and remnants of their fields unharvested, specifically for the poor, the widow and the stranger. Jean-François Millet captured it forever in his 1857 painting of three peasant women bent low over a golden field, gathering what others had left behind. It is one of the most quietly radical images in the history of art. Here on Martha's Vineyard, Morning Glory Farm offered many of us that same opportunity — to go into the fields and harvest what remained. I recall one early morning when my husband and I filled an entire van with passed-over tomatoes. The hardest part was weighing them on my small scale so I could pay the going price of \$1 per pound. From those tomatoes I made cases of sauce that sold at the farmers' market and lined my pantry shelves for two years. That is what good food, honestly grown and carefully used, can do.

In 2015, the Martha's Vineyard Film Festival screened two films: The Future of Farming and Sustainable Vineyard: The Story of Seeds by local filmmakers Liz Witham and Ken Wentworth. I was invited on the panel that followed alongside Caitlin Jones, Liz Parker and her son Owen, Clarissa Allen, Eric Glasgow, Noli Taylor, Rebecca Miller, Rebecca Gilbert and others. I'm not sure that particular gathering has happened since. The Future of Farming moved the audience so deeply that \$24,000 was donated on the spot, with one simple ask: use it to support women and local agriculture. Not long after, many of us sat around my kitchen table trying to figure out exactly how to do that. Out of those conversations grew the Martha's Vineyard Gleaners program, and once it launched, more money followed. We passed it on to Island Grown Initiative, and it has been feeding Islanders ever since.

Like many volunteer-driven organizations, Slow Food Martha's Vineyard eventually faded. But perhaps success should not be measured by whether an

organization survives forever. Perhaps it should be measured by what it leaves behind because what it left behind is considerable.

Today we have two thriving farmers' markets, the Island Grown Initiative, the gleaning program, food education and food processing through the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society. We have community-supported agriculture, Island beekeepers, shellfish advocacy and recovery, the Martha's Vineyard Seafood Collaborative, and the seed-saving work that continues to grow.

And yet even with so many groups working to build a more sustainable Vineyard and a deepening culture that understands the value of supporting local farmers and fishermen, there is still so much that is out of balance in our bigger world. And perhaps that is exactly why we must turn back to our community, because this is where we can make a difference.

I had the opportunity to meet Petrini years later in Cambridge, at the home of Abby Rockefeller. Woody Tasch had brought him there for a gathering that included food writer Corby Kummer, one of the first American journalists to introduce Petrini's philosophy to the United States, often translating for him, helping Americans understand that the pleasure of eating cannot be separated from protecting the land and the people who tend it. It was a table of thinkers who wanted to make the world a better place, and Petrini was exactly as his words suggested, philosophical and funny, warm and genuine, a man with sparkling eyes and a peasant's directness, equally at home quoting utopian theory and making the table laugh.

"Those who sow utopia reap reality," he liked to say and sitting with him that evening, you believed it completely. He left me with a question I have never stopped asking: Where does this food come from and at what cost to the planet, to the people who grew it and to ourselves?

There is one more complicated truth that sits beneath all of this, and it is particular to living on an Island of extraordinary wealth alongside neighbors who struggle to put food on the table. That contradiction is not new, but it is sharpening. When the cost of living forces families toward the cheapest option, we

lose something beyond nutrition. We lose the very system that could sustain us. Raw milk is slowly disappearing from our world. Our fishing industry is collapsing as we reach for farmed Atlantic salmon flown in from overseas rather than the mackerel swimming right off our shores. In the time since those early conversations around Ali Berlow's table, we have seen two Island dairies disappear: Nip 'n Tuck and, just last summer, Grey Barn. Mermaid Farm hangs on and we hold our breath for it.

The food world is folding in on itself, and we act as though it doesn't matter because the farms that are closing are small. But that smallness is precisely the point. Small farms regenerate our soils. They regenerate our communities, our environment, and our health. Think of every dozen eggs trucked onto this Island versus the dozen laid here. Think of what we are choosing and what we are losing every single time.

And yet the answer, at its core, is not complicated. Carlo Petrini gave it to us 40 years ago. Ask of everything you eat just three questions: Is it good? Is it clean? Is it fair?

Those who farm in good faith, with honest purpose, face an uphill battle every single day against a subsidized industrial system where animals never see daylight and the true costs are hidden from every plate. If we could learn to ask those three questions, at the farmers' market, then we can justify the costs. If we ask it at the grocery store and at the school cafeteria, we can continue to bring about change — one egg, one fish, one glass of milk at a time.

Carlo Petrini often spoke about food as a bridge connecting people, culture, ecology and place. Here on Martha's Vineyard, his ideas found fertile soil. The seeds he planted in Italy found their way to a dinner table on Martha's Vineyard. From there, they spread across fields, farms, kitchens, schools, shellfish beds, beehives, farmers markets and communities. And they continue to grow today.

For that, Carlo Petrini deserves our gratitude, our remembrance, and a place in the story of Martha's Vineyard.

Jan Buhrman lives in Chilmark. She ran Kitchen Porch Catering for over 30 years, and was a founding member of both Slow Food Martha's Vineyard and Island Grown Initiative.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the

CLASS of 2026!



Kiara Kelle Queiroz Alves



Rafaela De Araujo Alves



Sabrina Robadel Alves

Sophia Delazare Da Silva
AlvesAna Clara Bernardes
Amaro

Isabelle Parker Anthony



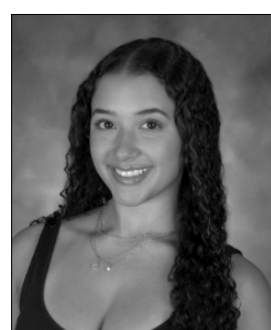
Gabriel Soares Arado

Joao Victor Rodrigues
Araujo

Simon Arbelaez Ramirez



Tripp Mason Arciaga



Kelly Marques Aredes

Emanuely Moreira Verdum
Assis

Raphael Sarmento Aviles

Matilda Adelai
Backus-Clement

Julie Barbosa



Sarah Boeno Barros



Katherine June Becker



Grace Edith Bennett-Rock

Tatiane Sara Berninger
Marcelino

Grażina Meilutė Biskis



Hunter James Bolduc



Isabella Charlotte Bollin

Kiandra Julianne Paim
Borges

Emily Thomas Boyd



Kylee Joe Brasefield

Debora Luiza Roumualdo
Brito

Hunter Holomua Broderick



Sydney Priscilla Bruguiera



Kayla Marilyn Bruni



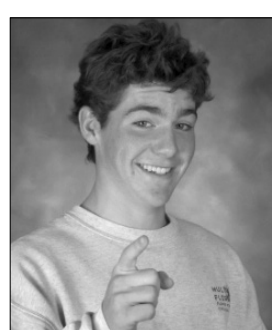
Eli Copper Bryant



Warren Byrne Cabana



Julia Marie Caldwell



Griffin Boyce Callahan



Finlee Adair Callen



Cristopher Paul Cardoza



Aidan James Christensen



Esme Catherine Colón



Annie Grace Combra



Bobby Joe Cook

Maeve Youngblood
McKion Cook-Martin

Luis Otávio Soares Costa



Grace Ann Cotton



Kaua Silva Cruz



Teagan Drew D'Arcy



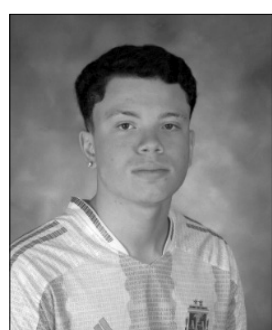
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Bailen Carolina Darack



Matthew Hunter Day

Victoria Evelyn Rosa De
Jesus

Autino De Lemes Neto



Roberta Vieira De Moraes



Yury Da Silva De Moraes

João Pedro Vilela De
OliveiraRebecak Nunes de
Oliveira

Giovanna Soares De Paula



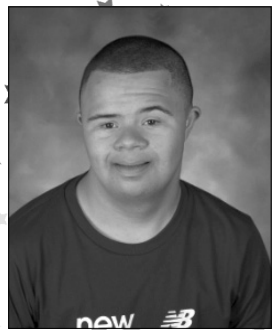
Leah Nicole deBettencourt



Ruby Molina Dello Russo



Georgia Marie DeRoche



Kayden Keith Devine



Jennifer Almeida Dias



Itallo Siqueira do Carmo



Autumn Anne Donnelly



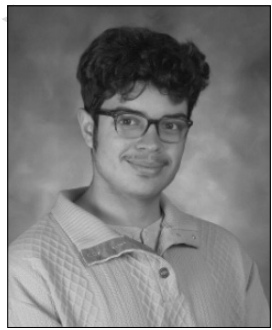
Mackenzie Ann Duart



Ella Francis Ehrman



Eirene Siobhan Eville



Bryan Leandro Fernandes



Lucas Lopes Ferreira



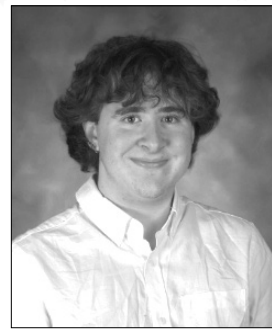
Elaine Firstenberg



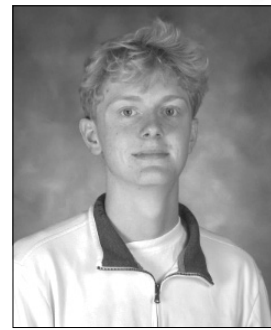
Ava Wild Fisher



Lily Wild Fisher



Zyler Laurence Flanders



Thomas Edward Flynn III



John Christopher Gallagher



Anina Marie Garvin



Eva Antoinette Giordano



Anthony Augusto De
Oliveira Goncalves



Gustavo Chaves Goncalves



Holden Benjamin
Graczykowski



Alyssa Maria Guarino



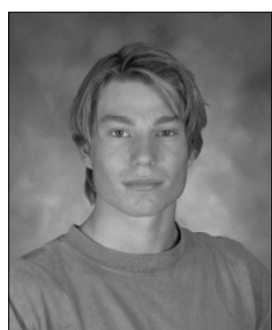
Samilly Alves Fernandes
Guimaraes



Penelope Rose Fletcher
Haddad



Jacoby James Harris



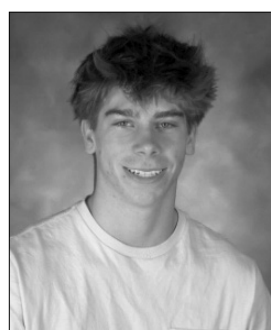
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Braylin Kayl Hattingh



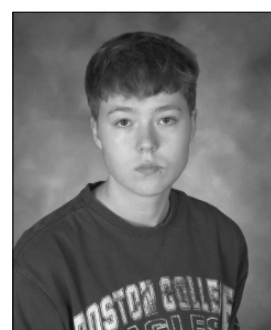
Floyd Anthony Hershey



John Francis Hoff V



Abigail Lorraine Horrgan



Jason Jarrell



Antonina Marianna
Kaluzna



Lathrop John Backus Keene



Roman Kelly



Nikita Zeppa Kleeman



Larissa Gabriela Fernandes
Klein



Beckett Michael Kochin



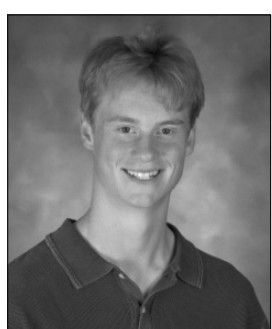
Luiz Ricardo Andrade
Lacerda



Matheus Lacerda



Xander Basilio Laiacona



Nathan James Larkin



Natalie Elizabeth Larsen



Emily Malia Lawyer



Harrison Adams Barnes
Lazarus



Isaac James LeFebvre



Maria Eduarda Ferreira
Leoncio



Rose Ellana Levesque



Vincenzo Michele Loconte



Murillo Martins Da Silva
Lopes



Jonah Abraham Mafcher



Gannon Thomas Gathright
Magden



Lucy Stanton Love Magden



Sampson Witte Mallory



Reese Christine Malowski



Christopher Rodrigues
Marçal



Highley Victoria Marsh



Carron Ojare Marson



Nicholas Wray Mathias



Savannah Rose Matthews



Hannah Lee McCormick



Joseph Medeiros



Landin Douglas Medeiros



Nicholas Thayer Merriam



Danielle Maeda Meyer



Caleb Nunes Miller



Xeandre Javier Miller



Greta Ellison Milne



Eleanor Thayer Mone



Ana Paula Marques Moraes



Rayssa Pessotti Moraes



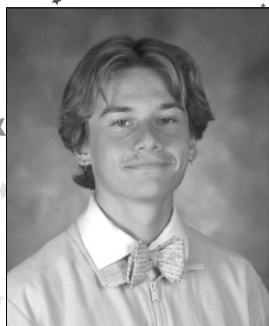
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Ronan Thomas Mullin



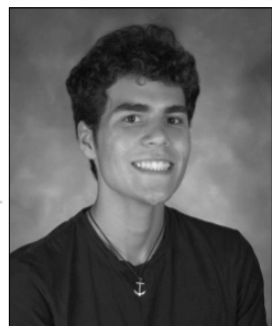
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Gianni Emelio Navarrete



William Henry Nicholson



João Fortunato Nunes



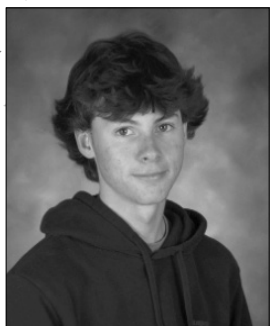
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Rhayanne Oliveira Beça



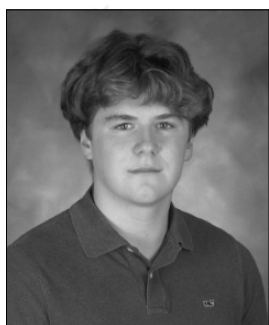
Victoria Emmanuella
Oliveria Dias



Aiden Richard Olsen



Avelly Zotte Ottoni



Walter Gage Prescott



Philip Carvalho Pruciano



Soraya Lynn Randolph



Syius William Rivera Rigali



Karla Isabelly De Paula
Robadel



Maria Letycia Da Silva
Rodrigues



Brody Michael Royal



Nola Adjudwi Savard



Brynn Josephine Savva



Charlotte Carolan
Sebastian



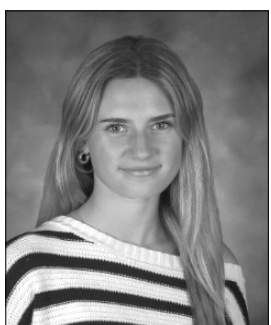
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William Topley Simmons



Anthony Richard Smith



Carolina Grace Smith



Claus Maple Smith



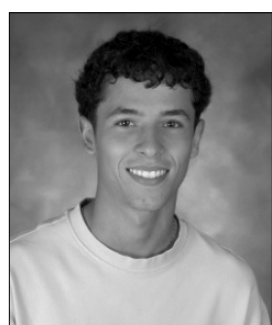
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Paige Priscilla Smith



Isla Jane Solon



Lucas Marinho Botelho
Souza



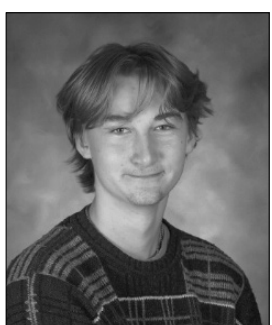
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Grady Patrick Stalgren



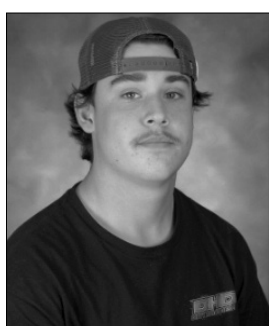
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Tasman Kristianson Look
Strom



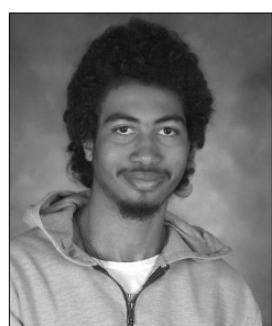
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Peyton Lee Tabares



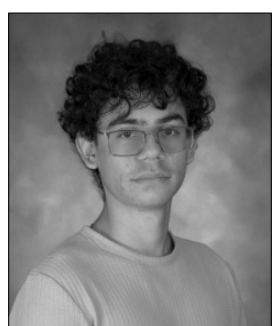
Leelyn Marissa Thompson



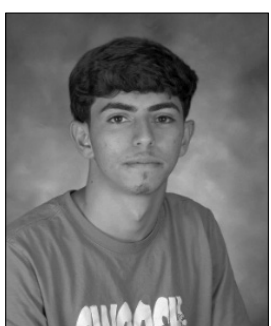
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Josselin Ibeth Guevara
Vasquez



Pablo Henrique Albefaro
Venâncio



Kayllison Rafael Da Silva
Vial



Brady Nicholas Vought



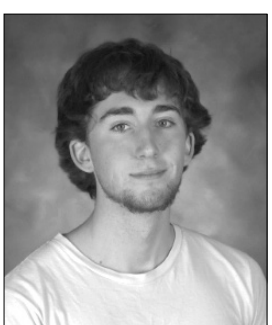
Tahirah Satimah Waite



Patrick James Ward



Isabella Rose Webster



Wyatt Evans Wiggin



Cayhana Akheelah
Williams



Adriana Ceara Young



Ronan Thomas Young

Congratulations
Molly Elisabeth Crawford
Choate Rosemary Hall Class of 2026!



Molly received an Honorable Mention for the David T. Layman, Jr. Prize, awarded "to the graduating senior who, through perseverance, resilience, and growth, has taken full advantage of the opportunities at Choate Rosemary Hall."

We are incredibly proud of all that
you have accomplished!

Love,
Momma, Dad, Jack, Sadie, Margot
and Bridgette

Congratulations
Penelope!

We are so proud of your kind heart & hard
work. We can't wait to see what you do
in the world!



*"...it is not really necessary to
look too far into the future;
we see enough already to be
certain that it will
be magnificent.
Only let us hurry and
open the roads."
—Wilbur Wright*

Love,
Mom, Dad, Roman, Aunt Lesley
& the Reidys, BonBon & Adam

Congratulations Class of 2026



TEA LANE ASSOCIATES | **Forbes**
MARTHA'S VINEYARD REAL ESTATE | GLOBAL PROPERTIES

Hats Off to the Top 10 Seniors of the Class of 2026

Pictures by Maria Thibodeau



Katherine Becker has earned top honors as co-**val**edictorian for the class of 2026. She is the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Becker of Tisbury. Katherine will attend the University of Wisconsin.

Penelope Haddad has earned top honors as co-**val**edictorian for the class of 2026. She is the daughter of Munir Haddad and Laura Holmes Haddad of West Tisbury. Penelope will attend Dartmouth College.

Teagan D'Arcy has earned salutatorian honors for the class of 2026. She is the daughter of Kim and Jack D'Arcy of Oak Bluffs. Teagan will attend Duke University.

Eleanor Mone has earned fourth honors for the class of 2026. She is the daughter of Nika and Greg Mone of West Tisbury. Eleanor will attend Middlebury College.

Eirene (Pickle) Eville has earned fifth honors for the class of 2026. She is the daughter of Cathlin Baker and Bill Eville of West Tisbury. Eirene will attend Yale University.

Nora Motahari has earned sixth honors for the class of 2026. She is the daughter of Orchid and Aris Motahari of Oak Bluffs. Nora will attend the University of New Hampshire.

Ella Ehrman has earned seventh honors for the class of 2026. She is the daughter of Holly Thomas and Greg Ehrman of Oak Bluffs. Ella will attend New York University.

Harrison Lazarus has earned eighth honors for the class of 2026. He is the son of Elizabeth Barnes and Randy Lazarus of Edgartown. Harrison will attend Brown University.

Syius Rivera Rigali has earned ninth honors for the class of 2026. He is the son of Kiely Rigali and Saidi Rivera of Edgartown. Syius will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Emily Boyd has earned tenth honors for the class of 2026. She is the daughter of Mary and Jonathan Boyd of Chilmark. Emily will attend Wellesley College.

Charter School Class Is Second Largest Haddad Embraces Change Becker Leads by Listening

From Page One

This year's seniors are an "exceptional group," said school director Pete Steedman, who is also in his last year at the charter school this year. Mr. Steedman arrived at the school in 2018, and is leaving to teach theatre at Sturgis Charter Public School in Hyannis.

Christopher (Chris) Nace was chosen in March as the school's next director, beginning work in July.

Mr. Steedman praised the class for taking on the challenge of the International Baccalaureate (IB), a rigorous academic program the school adopted five years ago. And the achievements didn't stop at academics.

"We have artists in there, culinary specialists, we've got bakers and playwrights, we've got such a vast and wide range of experiences in this class," said Mr. Steedman.

Aubriel Tomkins took advantage of the IB program's work-study opportunity, working at Conroy's Apothecary across the street from the school. Next year she will head to University of Rhode Island to start a six-year doctor of pharmacy program.

"If you know what you want to do in life, it's a great way to jumpstart that and get a head start on your knowledge," she said.

Phoebe Nichols got that jumpstart in an independent study this year with the second grade class at the charter school. Ms. Nichols will attend Westfield State University next year to study psychology with the hopes of becoming a mental health therapist for young children.

"I want to be a voice, I want to be an advocate for them," she said.

Rose Smilie is also attending Westfield State University, to study social work. She reflected on what her time in high school taught her, which she feels is especially unique at the charter school.

"I've learned a lot about how to be a good community member," she said.

"We have artists in there, culinary specialists, we've got bakers and playwrights, we've got such a vast and wide range of experiences in this class."

Other graduating students will attend colleges across the east coast and in Pennsylvania, pursuing fields in the humanities, arts and sciences.

Landen Elderkin, who moved to the Island last year, worked at Red Cat Kitchen while finishing his studies. Next year, he will attend the Culinary Institute of America for culinary arts.

Mr. Elderkin said he will miss the community at the charter school, especially this close-knit group of seniors.

When the seniors took their IB exams in the month of May, the school was "really quiet," said Ms. Muric. It's a testament to the way the senior class has led the school in the past few years, including younger classes in school government, working with the youngest students and organizing all-school events.

Ms. Muric started the now-annual Mayday celebration, including the

iconic Maypole dance, four years ago.

Last year, Nicola Capece led a school-wide project inspired by The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein, creating her own "giant storybook" called The Receiving Tree and using it to talk about giving back to nature.

"I think that's something we really worked for — bridging the gap between freshmen and seniors, and even eighth graders, having the sense that everyone in the whole school is one community and one pod," said Ms. Capece, who has been attending the charter school since kindergarten.

Ms. Muric and Ms. Capece both plan to study comparative literature. Ms. Muric will attend Haverford College, while Ms. Capece is headed to Swarthmore College.

The class has a strong international perspective, said Mr. Steedman. That comes in part from the IB program, but also from the class trips the students have taken together. They stayed with host families in Costa Rica as sophomores, and many of them went to Italy as eighth graders.

The trips were transformative for the class, he said, in their cultural perspectives and language abilities.

Ms. Capece agreed. But, she added, the trips were also transformative for the students as a unit.

"We were alone in a country that speaks another language, but it brought us together," said Ms. Capece. "There's a big family vibe."

The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School graduation takes place Saturday, June 6 at 1:30 p.m. on the school grounds.

From Page One

Ms. Haddad will spend this summer working at the Fish House, a stark transition from her first summer job at Nell MV, a women's clothing store in Edgartown. She is casual about that change, even if it comes with tuna blood, a lingering scent of fish on her clothes, and an upcoming mandatory de-facing of blue crabs.

"Gnarly stuff," she said. "But it's also been a different look at an industry on-Island that I wasn't aware of, how it carries our Island. It's definitely given me an appreciation for where our food comes from."

On Sunday, at graduation in her valedictorian speech, she will encourage her classmates to embrace the mixed emotions they will encounter next year: the sadness of endings and the joy of beginnings. Things shouldn't always be so black and white, said Ms. Haddad.

"I love working in that gray area now," she said. "I've just really been able to trust myself this year, and I'm feeling really confident going into next year."

From Page One

She's done more for the club than any other student leader we've had."

This summer, Ms. Becker is working at Camp Jabberwocky and Island Autism's summer camp. She hopes to continue working one-on-one with people, a passion that has led her to pursue medicine.

Next year, she will return to the mid-west to attend University of Wisconsin-Madison and study neurobiology in the honors program. A lover of problem solving and Spanish, Ms. Becker hopes to find a challenge in her upcoming coursework, as well as a blend of her passions.

"Cross cultural communication in the field is really important," she said. "I just think [medicine] is a really good fit for me."

Ms. Becker is interested especially in women's health and oncology. Many of the women in her life are older, and she learned firsthand about the lack of research on topics in women's health, such as menopause. Last summer, she worked for the hospital on the community needs assessment, a project that allowed her to get to know the Island's own challenges with healthcare. Ms. Becker worked on getting a survey out to younger populations and LGBTQ populations, two demographics that were underrepresented in the assessment.

"Something that really stuck out to me was the difficulty with traveling off Island and getting care off Island, because we don't have a lot of specialists here," she said.

Mr. McGrath said Ms. Becker's ability to listen and empathize with all kinds of people will make her an excellent

medical practitioner.

"She's definitely found her voice," said Mr. McGrath. "She's really blossomed."

She is also a good, committed friend, he said. He recalled Ms. Becker sitting with her buddy, freshman Ariel Meyer, on the boat and bus to the Unified Track meets, laughing and being silly. Unified Sports is a division of the Special Olympics, where students with IDD compete as a team on the varsity level.

In her speech to the graduating class, Ms. Becker will reflect on the Island's singularity, sharing the things she's noticed that makes the Vineyard special. Public speaking usually makes her anxious, she said, but for this speech she doesn't feel as worried. She credits this to the students she's met in Best Buddies, citing their example of positivity, speaking and singing in front of people and approaching the things that scare you with a smile.

"Watching all these people go out to perform, or to speak, or to share a story — just the way they approach it is something that I definitely took away," she said.



Ray Ewing



Jeanna Shepard

Top: Angel Walker, Aubriel Tomkins, Ian Patricio, Winter Muric, Reid Kerns, Amanda Silva Middle: Jack Baer, Rose Smilie, Nicola Capece, Gabriel Lino, Bangii-Kai Bellecourt, Phoebe Nichols Front: Landen Elderkin Not Pictured: Wyatt McCarthy, Kali Spain

Falmouth Academy

Falmouth Academy

Falmouth Academy

Falmouth Academy

Falmouth Academy

BEST WISHES TO THE CLASS OF 2026!



Pictures by Ray Ewing



School Project Gets Decisive Mandate

From Page One

the family car.

Tuesday's vote opens a new chapter in the long-running campaign to update and expand the high school, which opened in 1959 as the Vineyard's first all-Island public school and saw its last capital improvements in the 1990s.

Starting in the 2010s, the high school applied six times to join the MSBA building program, finally winning provisional acceptance in 2022 after Island voters approved a \$2 million feasibility study and town leaders agreed on a cost-sharing formula.

The school building committee has spent the past two years developing the project, working with Tappé Architects — the company that designed the Tisbury School renovations — on a design that could meet the school's many needs without overburdening Island taxpayers.

The 199,000-square-foot design meets current state requirements for classroom size, energy efficiency and other standards that did not exist when the original school was drawn up seven decades ago.

While some Islanders have balked at the project's high cost, supporters have pointed to the school's many obsolete systems and its general decay as problems that will grow no cheaper to address as time goes by.

"Spend the money," said Sam Hall, a West Tisbury resident with two kids currently in the high school. "We will spend it now, or spend more later."

Every single town voted in favor of the project, and by wide margins. Edgartown voted 733-115; Oak Bluffs voted 787-164; Tisbury voted 762-169; West Tisbury voted 679-108, with two provisional ballots yet to be certified and one blank ballot; Chilmark voted 365-54; and Aquinnah voted 122-37, according to the



Amy Houghton celebrates at the PA Club on Tuesday night.

certified results.

"When I heard the first towns coming in, I literally welled up," said superintendent of schools Richard Smith. "I'm just ecstatic, and I feel like the Island has come through."

While the election night vote totals are still subject to change, Mr. Friedman said the outcome is not.

"Two of the clerks have notified us that there are still a handful of provisional ballots out there, [although] these won't remotely jeopardize the results," he said.

In Oak Bluffs, a steady stream of voters came in to cast their ballots as the day waned. Select board member Emma Green-Beach was among them, and voted yes.

"I feel confident that the committee did their due diligence in the process

thus far," she said. "I've been on a tour of the high school, and getting this MSBA funding is so important."

School building committee member Sally Rizzo said the turnout and landslide showed voters' commitment to their community.

"I think people realize how important the high school is to the Island, and they didn't want to see it deteriorate," said Ms. Rizzo, who estimated that 30 per cent of the Vineyard's registered voters cast ballots in the election.

Mr. Hart gave thanks to everyone who turned out.

"Thank you, voters," he said. "We're so proud of this community."

Haley Sandlow, Bill Eville, Emma Kilbride, Charles Leitner and Ethan Genter contributed to this report.



All quiet for now as students prepare for Sunday's ceremony.

Graduating Class Looks to Next Chapter

From Page One

an interesting one."

The class of 2026 also found balance alongside their academics.

"They're all really good students, and they're really dedicated, but they don't sacrifice that in exchange for just having fun," said Ms. Thulin. "It's a rare group that does that, and this class has always been that way."

Their joy and energy extended to athletics, with droves of students showing up to support their classmates.

Senior Elle Mone achieved a 100-point milestone in hockey this year. Senior Ronan Mullin broke his own 100-meter butterfly record, and teamed up with seniors Grady Stalgren and Claus Smith to secure a new 400-meter freestyle relay record.

Girls swim captain and senior class vice-president Nora Motahari recalled leading a 45-person swim team this year, helping the newer swimmers — many of them from other sports teams — get comfortable in the water and learn the butterfly stroke.

The girls swimming team finished 3rd in the league, the highest they have ever placed in the Cape and Islands Championship.

Ten student-athletes will continue their athletic careers at Division III schools next year, one of the largest groups in recent memory.

In the class's favorite unofficial sport of the year — hacky sack — students probably broke records for most hacky sacks stuck in high places in the school, like the one senior class president Milo Sullivan kicked on top of an AC unit.

"I remember the janitors were actually mad," he recalled. "Me and all my friends played hacky sack probably every day for the last few weeks, in the courtyard or the gym."

Success was abundant in performing arts, where seniors helped fill a double cast of Hometown this winter and led the Minnesingers in their performances across Italy. Fourteen seniors sang with the Minnesingers this year.

"I'm inspired by competition," said Brady Vought, who was Hades in Hometown, a section leader of the Minnesingers and first trumpet in at least three school bands. "We had some extremely talented musicians going off."

Ms. Young, who is attending Rhode Island School of Design next year, reflected on the senior's creativity. The diversity among her peers was stunning, she said, from watercolor artists, to digital designers, to comic book-style artists.

"We all have such unique, different styles to how we do things," she said.

Her own 17-piece AP art portfolio centered around her mixed Korean and white identity, and Ms. Young's work won her multiple prizes this year.

"Everybody is super understanding of any person," she said. "I think our class is very open."

This year's graduating class also made sure the culture of its large Brazilian population was represented, said Karla Robadel. The last four years have been filled with Brazilian nights, dinners and World Cup watch parties, and the number of Portuguese language classes at the school has grown.

"We just all feel represented, every-



Xeandre Miller during high school band concert.



body has a place," she said. "I think it's not so divided anymore."

Ms. Robadel reflected on the recent walkout in support of freshman Nicolas Al Varenga Lima, who was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in May.

"We are all united and it's beautiful to see," she said.

Ms. Robadel was one of over a dozen students in her class who earned their Nursing Assistant Certification last year. This year, Ms. Robadel worked at Island Health Care in a work study program, and next year she'll pursue her nursing degree.

"I see the impact I can have at such a young age," said Ms. Robadel.

It's a testament to the trust the Vineyard places in the class of 2026 — not just as students, but as active community members. In the automotive technology classes, a division of the school's



Luiz Lacerda performing in high school production of Hometown.

Islandwide Vote Sees Huge Turnout

VINEYARD GAZETTE STAFF

Concerns about the aging Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, the high cost of construction and the need to invest in education were on the minds of voters this week who turned out to cast their ballots in the historic Islandwide school building referendum.

More than 4,000 residents went to the polls on Tuesday, at times in stronger numbers than at the annual town election earlier this spring. Dozens of people talked to the Gazette to explain their votes, their worries and how they wished to see education continue on the Vineyard.

The referendum passed in a landslide. Deborah Maher in Oak Bluffs showed her support by strapping a hulking purple sign advertising the all-Island school vote to the top of her car.

"We need this for our kids and our future," she said. "The fact that it's an all-Island vote to me is very exciting, because we need to be one Island."

Richard Combra, the highway superintendent in Oak Bluffs, was also in favor, citing the disrepair of the current high school facilities.

"I know it's a lot of money, and I know for a lot of people it's a struggle to see that type of tax increase, but I don't think we can put it off any longer," Mr. Combra said. "I think it would be a source of pride for the Island."

Voter Susan Desmarais, who voted no, said she's skeptical and worried that the new school will deteriorate just like the old one did.

"If you were a parent of a kid that left their bike outside and it got all rusty, you'd say, well, I'm not going to buy another one until you take care of what you have," she said.

The school vote passed in each of the six towns, and received strong support in West Tisbury. Neila Decker, former children's librarian at the West Tisbury Library, had biked to the polls.

"I'm hopeful that all the people who have benefited from the high school, whether they have had kids there or maybe hired a high school graduate, vote yes today because they realize the essential benefit of education in a community," she said.

Ms. Decker lingered outside talking to Tucker Hubbell, who was wearing his Polly Hill Arboretum hat.

"It's a tough sell but I'm voting for it," Mr. Hubbell said.

Although Mr. Hubbell worried about a potential drop in the number of high school students in years to come due to the high cost of living on the Island, he noted that he was "all in for education."

Micah Thanhauser, of Merry Farm Pottery and father of three kids ages 6, 4 and 2, joined the conversation.

"I hope it passes so it doesn't drag on forever," he said.

At the Chilmark Community Center, residents, including many retirees, cited the state of the building, the importance of supporting education and the financial benefit of completing the project now, with aid from the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

"The place is a wreck," said Elizabeth Larsen, who has a grandson who is a freshman at the high school, and another who is 10 years old.

Lucia and John Diamond, both retired, also voted yes.

"I think it's real important for the community to have good, strong schools and a good building," said Mr. Diamond. "I know it's expensive, but it's a necessity, and it's good for the community."

"I believe in a really good education,



Marshall Carroll collects ballots in Chilmark.



Sally Rizzo is pumped.

even though I don't have any kids in school," Ms. Diamond added.

Nancy Grundman voted alongside Eddie Stahl, accompanied by his daughter, 7th grader Lucille.

"This is our future," said Ms. Grundman, gesturing to Lucille. "They deserve to have a good environment for education."

Residents who voted against the measure cited the high price tag.

Everett Healy, a 23-year-old construction worker who grew up on the Vineyard and attended the charter school, said he voted no.

"It's too expensive," he said. "It's way too much money."

In Tisbury, voter William Mabie voted yes, saying Island children need every advantage to succeed. He cited the school's career and technical education programs as one of the reasons he was in favor.

"It's just so expensive to live here. How can kids make it?" he said.

"Education is the key," Mr. Mabie said. Aquinnah, the Island's smallest town, saw a strong turnout, with nearly 160 of the 468 registered voters participating.

Resident and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) member Beverly Wright was one of the early voters.

"It's always important to vote," she said. "We had our ancestors and every-one fight for our ability to vote, and I will say I was the first graduating class out of the regional high school in 1960, so I've seen the progress of how the school and the enrollment has grown."

Ms. Wright hoped the measure would gain approval so the school could move forward.

"If you keep putting it off and you keep putting it off, it's just going to cost us more and more," she said.

In Edgartown, John Burritt was one of the first voters who came out of town hall, and said he supported the initiative. He felt it was important to take the approximately \$77 million from the Massachusetts School Building Author-



Making it count in Edgartown.

ity that was on offer.

"I think it'd be foolish if we leave the state money on the table," he said. "I think the building looks like it needs help."

Soon after Mr. Burritt, Jonathan Chatinover, his wife Beth O'Connor and their son and former Dukes County commissioner Keith Chatinover, exited the town hall after voting.

Jonathan acknowledged that the \$333.5 million price tag was high, but he said that just comes with any Island infrastructure.

"It's a lot of money, but you know it's building on the Vineyard and the state is kicking in a good chunk," he said.

Ms. O'Connor voted in favor, but had some reservations about the project. She said initially her hesitancy was due to some of the scare tactics she had seen, but felt that wasn't a good reason to vote it down. Still, she worried about what it could cost Islanders.

"It's going to be a real tax impact," she said.

Keith, a charter school graduate, also voted in favor.

"I just believe that our public schools should really promote excellence and I think that public institutions deserve to be pillars of the community," he said.

Sara Piazza, who remembers the regional high school being formed when she was a child, voted against the idea, and was generally against a regional high school. Instead, she wished to see the high school grades return to the town schools, strengthening the individual town identities.

"I think there's a lot to be said for mixing the grades and mixing the ages," Ms. Piazza said. "It's very healthy for little children to have big kids to look up to and for big kids to have little children that they might be able to mentor in the classroom."

Emma Kilbride, Haley Sandlow, Louisa Hufstader, Charles Leitner, Bill Eville and Ethan Genter contributed to this report.



Julia Barbosa with a llama during pre-prom festivities.



Softball player Isabella Webster.

career and technical education (CTE) program, students work on cars, lawn mowers and leaf blowers that Islanders bring in, knowing the students can fix it.

"When somebody needs something to be fixed — a teacher, a student — they come to one of us. They come to me, they come to Hunter, they come to Gannon," said Xeandre Miller, who is heading to Cape Cod Community College next year to study aviation mechanics. "We as a senior class are trusted to work on peoples' cars, to go and help people."

"They're totally contributing citizens," said Ms. Rigali. "They're setting an example of what it is like to be involved."

This year, student body vice president Hannah McCormick started a generations club, an initiative born out of her junior year capstone project that brings together high school students and older adults to share their stories and experiences.

"I think it's had such a big impact on

both generations," said Ms. McCormick. "They give us so much advice and we hear all their stories, but we tell them about what it's like growing up as a young person in this world."

"A lot of the students in this class do a lot of work in the community — with older adults, at the food pantry, at the library," she added.

Students also came out in large numbers for their senior class fundraisers. Mr. Sullivan said his SAT was the same morning as electronics disposal day. When he finally showed up to the fundraiser, he saw dozens of student volunteers already helping out.

Their camaraderie shone through at pep rallies and even in their game of senior assassin, a weeks-long water gun elimination tournament which "technically pits them against each other," said interim principal Sean Mulvey. But the seniors especially showed up for their prom, which class advisors said was fantastic.

"Every kid went, every kid stayed, every kid danced," said Mr. Mulvey. "They really bonded over that."

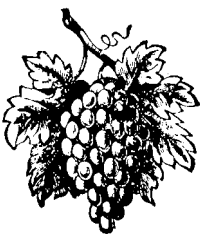
"I had never danced so much," said Ms. Motahari. "My calves the next day were sore."

The class of 2026 will be remembered for their energy, loyalty and camaraderie, advisors said.

"It seems the whole class has gelled, and they're really enjoying each other," said Mr. Mulvey.

"They all look out for each other," added Ms. Rigali.

Graduation is Sunday, June 7, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Tabernacle in Oak Bluffs.



Keeping Students Needs Front and Center

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

Cheers rang out Tuesday at the Portuguese American Club as Martha's Vineyard superintendent of schools Richard M. Smith arrived for an election night gathering to celebrate the historic high school project win.

The successful vote caps a 24-year career in Island schools for Mr. Smith, universally known as Richie, who is retiring at the end of the month.

"People are behind this, and that just makes me feel incredibly happy," he said. "It makes me feel like I wish I wasn't leaving, you know?"

Promoted to superintendent four years ago after seven years as assistant superintendent, Mr. Smith has seen the Island school system through the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, a wave of principal retirements, expansions in special education and English learning programs and the long, complex process of winning voter support for the high school project.

"Richie has done a remarkable job of building relationships, making people feel heard and supporting education," all-Island school committee chair Amy Houghton told the Gazette this week.

He's also weathered a tricky time in American public education, as federal funds have tightened and immigration enforcement fears have roiled the Island's Brazilian community.

Apolitical in public, Mr. Smith has steadfastly supported the Island's immigrant schoolchildren and their families. Just months into his job, in September of 2022, he joined the volunteers helping Venezuelan migrants who were unexpectedly dropped off on the Vineyard by a plane from Texas.

Last month, Mr. Smith connected with the advocacy group MV LUCE to help a 15-year-old high school student detained by federal immigration officials.

"There are certain things that are beyond our control, but we will try all we can to support the child," he said at the time.

The student has since returned to the Island.

The well-being of Island students is his ultimate priority, he told the Gazette



Pictures by Ray Ewing

Richie Smith moved to the Island in 2002 and has made a huge impact.

during a interview at his office in a converted church across from the Tisbury school.

While the future regional high school may represent the most visible aspect of his legacy, Mr. Smith himself points to the people he has hired as principals, assistant superintendents and program directors.

"Choosing the right leaders is, for me, the right way to run an organization," he said.

"The stamp that I've tried to make as a teacher and as a principal and now as a superintendent has been that we lead with care [and] that all of our staff take care of our children," he said.

"That is the underlying value that really drives the things that I do as a school leader," he added.

Mr. Smith began his Island career as a counselor at the Oak Bluffs school and later became its principal, after a stint at the Tisbury School. His wife, Melissa

"I'm a believer in finding talent and bringing talent over into areas where I feel like they are going to [flourish]."

Smith, has been a teacher at the Oak Bluffs school since the couple arrived on Island in 2002. They will now return to their home state of Virginia to care for her aging father, Mr. Smith said.

The all-Island school committee at first was divided on promoting Mr. Smith to the top job, after former superintendent Matthew D'Andrea moved to a mainland school district in 2022 with two years left in his contract.

After agreeing to have Mr. Smith finish Mr. D'Andrea's term, the school



Mr. Smith became the superintendent of schools in 2022 and now heads off into retirement.

committee decided after the first year not to search for a permanent replacement. Mr. Smith also won the committee's support for a series of changes at the district's central office, stepping up grant applications, expanding special education and English language services and using his own former salary to hire two retired Island principals as part-time assistant superintendents to separately oversee curriculum and operations.

"I'm a believer in finding talent and bringing talent over into areas where I feel like they are going to [flourish]," he told the Gazette.

More recently, Mr. Smith hired former Martha's Vineyard Regional High

School principal Sara Dingley to work with town schools on coordinating their middle-school curriculum to prepare students for high school classes.

He also has picked the current principals of the Chilmark, Edgartown and Oak Bluffs schools and convinced high school guidance counselor Sean Mulvey to fill in as that school's principal for the past year.

After Mr. Mulvey decided to return to the counseling department, Mr. Smith worked with a volunteer advisory group to interview candidates and ultimately decided on current Stoneham High School principal Bryan Lombardi, who is moving to the Vineyard at the end of June.

"You are going to love the manner in which he supports kids," Mr. Smith said. "He's exactly what I want in this system, because with the relationships he builds and the trust he builds, he's going to be able to move the school forward."

Mr. Smith also is enthusiastic about his own replacement, Jaime T. Curley, currently assistant superintendent of student services for the Old Rochester school district in Plymouth County.

"I've really grown fond of her. We have worked together a lot and spoken a lot, and I'm really excited for our system," he said. "She's going to lead with care, but I believe she's going to bring in a different lens."

"I know she's going to respect the

work that has been done, and I think we're in really good hands with her," he added.

Mr. Smith will receive more accolades June 27, when the Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition presents him with its first Friend and Leader Award at the volunteer antiracism group's annual Truth and Joy Celebration.

It may be hard, however, to top the joy and gratitude of election night, when the high school project met with overwhelming voter approval after years of painstaking preparation.

"People have just put their heart and soul into this, so it just makes me happy," Mr. Smith said. "I feel better than I've felt a long time."

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Friday, June 5

EFF'n Move Series with Tuni. a low-impact training approach focused on why you move, Stillpoint, 20 Stillpoint Meadows Road, West Tisbury, 9 to 10 a.m., \$20 — if cost is a barrier, email us, stillpointmv.org.

Kayak and Paddle Board Quest, a self-guided tour, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary of Mass Audubon, 100 Felix Neck Drive, Edgartown, weekdays, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., mas-saudubon.org, 508-627-4850.

On Exhibit — Margot Datz: Recreator, exhibition highlights the creative process of Island muralist, The Carnegie 58 North Water street, Edgartown, daily, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$5, vineyardtrust.org, 774-549-9107.

On Exhibit: Love Takes the Cake: Vintage Wedding Toppers from the Collection of Paula Conover, The Carnegie, daily, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., suggested donation \$5, vineyardtrust.org, 774-549-9107.

Alpaca Walk and Talk, with an alpaca in our pastures, Island Alpaca 1 Head of the Pond Road, Oak Bluffs, 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 2:30 to 3 p.m., \$20 to \$30, islandalpaca.com, 508-693-5554.

Kid's Music Class, for ages 0 to 5, West Tisbury Public Library, 1042 State Road, West Tisbury, 10:30 to 11 a.m., free, westtisburylibrary.org, 508-693-3366.

Mini-Maker Craft Club, a different-themed craft will be offered every week, Edgartown Public Library, 26 Edgartown-West Tisbury Road, Edgartown, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., edgartownlibrary.assabetinteractive.com, 508-627-4221.

Seasonal Crafting, craft projects for ages 3 to 11, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 56R School street, Oak Bluffs, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., free, oakbluffslibrary.org, 508-693-9433.

Tech Pro Drop-in Help, bring your questions and devices and get the tech support you need, Oak Bluffs Council on Aging, 21 Wamsutta avenue, Oak Bluffs, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., free, techpromv.org, 508-693-4509.

Toddler Time, stories and songs, Chilmark Free Public Library, 522 South Road, Chilmark, 11 to 11:30 a.m., 508-645-3360.

The Vineyard Landscape, a celebration of the Island, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 30 Featherstone Lane, Oak Bluffs, daily, 12 to 4 p.m., free, featherstoneart.org, 508-693-1850.

Book Donations for Friends of West Tisbury Library Summer Sale, book donation shed at West Tisbury School, Friday, Monday, Wednesday, 1 to 2 p.m., westtisburylibrary.org, 617-543-7898.

Friday Game Time at the Museum, afternoon of board and card games in the museum's First Light Café, Martha's Vineyard Museum, 151 Lagoon Pond Road, Vineyard Haven, 1 to 4 p.m., free, mvmuseum.org.

Art Reception: Linda Ziegler, on display through the month of June, West Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 4 p.m.

Renee Balter Retrospective Reception, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m., 508-693-5444.

Plein Air Painting: Keeping it Simple with Liz Taft — Three Day Workshop, Featherstone Center for the Arts/Poly Hill Arboretum, 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., \$240, featherstoneart.app.neoncrm.com, 508-693-1850.

Magic the Gathering Gaming Group, all skill levels are welcome, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 6 to 9 p.m.

Ghosts, Gossip and Downright Scandal Walking Tours, Edgartown, 7 to 8:15 p.m., \$20, vinehistours.com, 508-627-2529, please text.

Silent Disco, DJ KB Free, DJ I Love and Radio Silence, Owen Park Beach, 19 Owen Park Way, Vineyard Haven, 9 to 10:30 p.m., free, pathwaysmv.org, 508-627-2516.

Moss Henry in Edgartown, live music, The Port Hunter, 55 Main street, Edgartown, 10 to 12 a.m., free, mosshenrymusic.com.

Saturday, June 6

Loving Kindness and Mindfulness Meditation: A 90-Minute Journey, former Thai monk Boonyod Nonthong for mindfulness meditation, Stillpoint, 8:30 to 10 a.m., \$20 to \$40 sliding scale.

Pruning Spring-Blooming Woody Plants with Ian Jochems, register online, The Polly Hill Arboretum, 795 State Road, West Tisbury, 9 to 11 a.m., members: \$20; non-members: \$30, pollyhillarboretum.org, 508-693-9426.

Barnyard Buddies, spend your Saturday morning exploring the farm and meeting our animals, The FARM Institute, 14 Aero avenue, Edgartown, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., \$15/member pair; \$25/non-member pair, tickets.thetrustees.org, 508-627-7007.

Tyke Hikes, walk with your little ones alongside a naturalist as you explore a new habitat, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary of Mass Audubon, 100 Felix Neck Drive, Edgartown, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., 508-627-4850.

Linocut Pet Portrait with Ann Meleney, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$70.

New Member Show featuring Harriet Bernstein and Rebecca Everett, Old Sculpin Gallery, Martha's Vineyard Art Association, 58 Dock street, Edgartown, daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., oldsculpingallery.org, 508-939-4092.

Sourdough Baguettes for Beginners with Vineyard Baker, learn the basics of sourdough in this hands-on class, The FARM Institute,

Bountiful



Pictures by Ray Ewing

West Tisbury Farmers' Market Opens

A tradition since 1974 gets back to work this weekend. On Saturday, June 6, The West Tisbury Farmers' Market puts out its tables of produce and jams, beverages and scones, flowers and local fanfare on the grounds of the Agricultural Hall.

The time is 9 a.m. to noon and runs on Saturdays through Oct. 31. The Wednesday market begins next week, on June 10, and runs through August 26.

Parking is free, so bring the whole family, except the dogs. The history of the market goes back even further than the '70s, first appearing in 1934, in response to the Great Depression to help feed the Island community. After taking a long pause it was revived by the local population of farmers, hippies, teacher and more.

Today the vendors span all areas of the Island, from farms to seafood, Yonmi pops to Alpaca fur goods, local honey to fresh pasta and apothecary goods. There truly is something for everyone.

Visit wtfmarket.org.



10 a.m. to 12 p.m., \$40/member; \$50/non-member.

Mini-Maker Craft Club, a different-themed craft will be offered every week, Edgartown Public Library, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Light of Awareness: Meditation Workshop with Jonathan Herrick, Jonathan Herrick has been in the private psychotherapy field for over 40 years, Edgartown Public Library, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Library Friends Book Drive, Oak

Bluffs Public Library, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sensory Friendly Barnyard Buddies, a morning on the farm in a quieter-sensory environment, The FARM Institute, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., \$15/member pair; \$25/non-member pair.

Spring Spectacular Show, Louisa Gould Gallery, 54 Main street, Vineyard Haven, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 508-693-7373.

Wonderful Weeds, how weeds benefit your health and your lawn,

Native Earth Teaching Farm, 94 North Road, Chilmark, 12 to 3 p.m., free, vineyardconservation.org, 508-693-9588.

Pokémon Club, talk, look at cards, play and draw, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 1 to 2 p.m.

All Ages Chess Club, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Author Talk: Belle Burden — Strangers, a conversation with Belle Burden about her memoir, Winnetu Oceanside Resort, 31 Dunes Road, Edgartown, 3 to 5:30 p.m., \$150, mv-bookfestival.org.

Irish History 101: Presentation with Sean Murphy, presentation on the long and fascinating history of Ireland, Edgartown Public Library, 3 to 4 p.m.

Model Railroad Group, share ideas, tips, projects and more, West Tisbury Public Library, 3 p.m.

Simply Schumann Concert, features David Behnke and David Rhoderick performing Schumann to support MVCMS education programs, Stillpoint, 3 p.m., \$20.

Pet Preparedness: How to Keep Your Pets Safe in an Emergency, West Tisbury Public Library, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 7

Honoring and Celebrating our Magical and Bright Souls with Pride with Rita Brown, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, 10 a.m., free.

Oak Bluffs Open Market, locally grown produce, specialty foods, flowers, designers and more, Washington Park Chapman avenue, Oak Bluffs, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., free, 508-939-1076.

Exhibit Opening Reception: Bernstein and Everett, Old Sculpin Gallery, Martha's Vineyard Art Association, 4 to 6 p.m.

Local Off-Season Contra Dance with Live Music by The Flying Elbows, come to dance or just to listen, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, 4 p.m., free, engagedpatrons.org, 508-696-4211.

The Island Table with North Tabor Farm, a multi-course, family-style meal celebrating the Island community and farms, North Tabor Farm, 4 North Tabor Farm Road, Chilmark, 4 p.m., \$190, events.humanitix.com.

Sundays In The Park Concerts, live music, Ocean Park Ocean avenue, Oak Bluffs, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., free, 508-939-1076.]

Monday, June 8

Drop-in Mahjong, mats, tiles and cards provided, Edgartown Public Library, 1 to 3 p.m., edgartownlibrary.assabetinteractive.com, 508-627-4221.

After-school Switch Club, kids 8 and 9 need caregiver in building, West Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m., westtisburylibrary.org, 508-693-3366.

Writers Read, meets in-person or on Zoom — email Niki for info: galmuse@gmail.com, West Tisbury Public Library, 7 p.m., free, westtisburylibrary.org, 508-693-3366.

Tuesday, June 9

Little Naturalists, free play and sensory activities, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary of Mass Audubon, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Botanical Printing for a Concertina Book, create botanical monotype prints for a concertina book, Seastone Papers, 53 Christiantown Road, West Tisbury, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$85, seastonepapers.com, 508-693-5786 .

Edgartown Village Market, local vendors selling fresh produce, flowers and provisions, Dr. Daniel Fisher House, 99 Main street, Edgartown, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., vineyardtrust.org.

Play Kitchen and Store, for ages 2 to 6, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Squad Fitness with Triva Emery, BeWell-MV, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Balance with Kanta Lipsky, a one-hour class based on the gentle, flowing movements of Qigong, Stillpoint, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., sliding scale — \$10-\$30.

Lego Club, Chilmark Free Public Library, 2:45 to 4 p.m.

All Island Youth Chorus, choral group of fourth to sixth graders, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, 100 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road, Oak Bluffs, 3:15 to 4:30 p.m., free, 774-236-0268.

Teen and Tween Drop In Arts and Crafts Class, West Tisbury Public Library, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Cleveland House Poets with Rose Styron, Martha's Vineyard Museum, 4 to 5 p.m.

Music Class for Littles, includes a combination of songs, rhythms and movement, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 4 to 4:45 p.m.

The Revolutionary Plate: Forgotten Foods of the 18th Century, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 4 to 6 p.m.

Knitting Group, a relaxing hour of creativity and conversation, West Tisbury Public Library, 5 to 6 p.m.

MV Shellfish Group 50th Anniversary and Film Premier, share a story, eat some cake, nosh on snacks, Grange Hall, 1067 State Road, West Tisbury, 5 to 7 p.m., free, mvshellfishgroup.org, 508-693-0391.

Table Tennis, for all ages and skill levels, Tisbury Senior Center, 34 Pine Tree Road, Vineyard Haven, Tuesday and Thursday, 5 p.m., free, mvtabletennis.com, 508-728-5898.

Lecture: The Effects of Salmon Farming in Patagonia, with Oceanographer Alex Bocconcelli, speaking about his experience in Chilean Patagonia, Stillpoint, 6 to 7 p.m., free.

Panel: Ticked Off? What You Need to Know, expert panel on ticks, tickborne diseases, community action and research, Katharine Cornell Theater, 54 Spring street, Vineyard Haven, 6 p.m., free, vnhpl.blogspot.com, 508-696-4211.

Ghosts, Gossip and Downright Scandal Walking Tours, Edgartown, 7 to 8:15 p.m., \$20, vinehistours.com, 508-627-2529, please text.

Live Band Karaoke with Agreeable Men, The Ritz Cafe, 4 Circuit avenue, Oak Bluffs, 9 p.m., theritzmv.com.

To Page Three-A

CHECK OUT OUR
ONLINE
CALENDAR
FOR EVEN
MORE EVENTS!



calendar.vineyardgazette.com



MOVIE LISTINGS JUNE 5-11

MARTHA'S VINEYARD FILM CENTER

79 Beach Rd, VH • 508-696-9369

FRIDAY 06/05

Stolen Kingdom (NR) 4:00 p.m.

Tuner (R) 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 06/06

Project Hail Mary (PG-13) 4:00 p.m.

Tuner 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY 06/07

Tuner (R) 4:00 p.m.

Stolen Kingdom 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY 06/08

Closed

TUESDAY 06/09

Closed

WEDNESDAY 06/10

Tuner (R) 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 06/11

Tuner (R) 4 p.m.

Project Hail Mary (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

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FRIDAY 06/05

Masters Of The Universe (PG-13)

3:45 p.m., 6:45 p.m.

Scary Movie (R) 4:00 p.m.

Backrooms (R) 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY 06/06

The Sheep Detectives (PG)

1:15 p.m.

Masters Of The Universe (PG-13)

4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

The Devil Wears Prada 2 (PG-13)

1:15 p.m.

Scary Movie (R) 4:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m.

SUNDAY 06/07

Masters Of The Universe (PG-13)

1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.

Backrooms (R) 7:00 p.m.

Scary Movie (R) 1:15 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

Jaws (PG) 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY 06/08

The Devil Wears Prada 2 (PG-13)

6:45 p.m.

Masters Of The Universe (PG-13)

6:45 p.m.

TUESDAY 06/09

The Sheep Detectives (PG)

7:00 p.m.

Scary Movie (R) 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 06/10

Star Wars: The Mandalorian and

Grogu (PG-13) 6:45 p.m.

Masters Of The Universe (PG-13)

6:45 p.m.

THURSDAY 06/11

The Backrooms (R) 7:00 p.m.

Scary Movie (R) 7:00 p.m.

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Crystal Palace

**Renee Balter
Retrospective Show**

June 5th – 30th | 2026

Oak Bluffs Library

Reception | June 5th | 3:00 – 5:00 pm

presented by GalaxyArtsMV www.galaxyartsmv.org

Come visit the Aquinnah Cultural Center's Wampanoag History Museum this summer!

Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11 AM – 4 PM.
Admission: \$10/adults, \$8/seniors, \$6/children ages 7–17
Free admissions for tribal members and children ages 6 and under.

Maintaining Our Sovereignty

The Aquinnah Cultural Center presents: *Maintaining Our Sovereignty*, an exhibit that situates the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah's fights for federal recognition and land return in the 1970s and 1980s within the tribe's larger history of self-determination on Nôepe. Supported by a MassHumanities "Expand Massachusetts Stories: Promises of the Revolution" grant, *Maintaining Our Sovereignty* assembles archival materials; newly commissioned works from Aquinnah Wampanoag artists; and oral histories to tell a story of Wampanoag political, cultural, and social mobilization.

19th Annual Native Artisan Market & Festival

Saturday, July 18 | 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Aquinnah Circle

Save the date for our 19th Annual Native Artisan Market & Festival! This event is free and open to the public. Join us to shop directly from artisans, listen to live music, watch artist demos, and make a craft of your own!

Check our website for the latest information and any schedule changes: www.aquinnah.org

From Page Two-A
Wednesday, June 10

Library Walking Group. library director Lisa Sherman leads a walk around town, Edgartown Public Library, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Acrylic Painting with John Holaday. Featherstone Center for the Arts, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., \$50.

Drag King Storytime. celebrate Pride, West Tisbury Public Library, 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Outdoor Storytime. stories, songs, scarves and a parachute, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Farmer's Market Storytime. stories and songs, Agricultural Hall, 35 Panhandle Road, West Tisbury, 10:30 to 11 a.m., free, westtisburylibrary.org, 508-693-3366.

Community Meeting. an opportunity for members to stay informed and share ideas, The Red House Peer Recovery Support Center, 111 Edgartown Road, Vineyard Haven, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., free, redhouserecovery.org, 508-693-2900.

Exploring Printmaking with Allison Doherty. Featherstone Center for the Arts, 1 to 4 p.m., \$65.

Watercolor Wednesdays. kids activity, Chilmark Free Public Library, 2:45 to 4 p.m.

Drop-in Knitting Group with Cindy Bonnell. all levels welcome, Edgartown Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m.

Fit Camp with Bonnie Kingsbury. after-school youth fitness program, Edgartown Public Library, 3 to 4 p.m.

Virtual Reality for Teens and Tweens. West Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m.

Best of the Vineyard 2026, celebrate Martha's Vineyard magazine's annual competition, Farm Neck Golf Club, 1 Farm Neck Way, Oak Bluffs, 5:30 p.m., eventbrite.com.

Community Potluck Pride Dinner. celebrate with LGBTQIA+ friends and allies, First Congregational Church of West Tisbury, 1051 State Road, West Tisbury, 6 to 8 p.m., free, fcwotw.org, 508-693-2842.

Homegrown Club Meeting. a monthly meetup for backyard growers on the island, Agricultural Hall, 6 to 7 p.m., free.

Quilting Circle. all are welcome, West Tisbury Public Library, 6 to 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 11

Balance in Nature with Kanta Lipsky. The Polly Hill Arboretum, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., PHA members: \$10; non-members: \$15.

Wiggle with the Words. a movement-based storytime with Elyce, Edgartown Public Library, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Tick Talk Thursdays: Community Q&A with the Martha's Vineyard Tick Program. register on library event calendar, 12 to 1 p.m., free, vtpl.blogspot.com, 508-696-4211.

In the Whale Film Screening and Q&A with Filmmaker David Abel. Edgartown Public Library, 1 to 3 p.m.

Virtual Writing Series: Great Travels Writing Workshop with Caroline Joy Adams. online workshop for writers of all experience levels, 2 p.m., free, vtpl.blogspot.com, 508-696-4211.

Wings of Fire Book Club. discuss the books with other kids who love the series, Edgartown Public Library, 2:45 to 3:30 p.m.

Lego Club. for kids ages 5-11, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m.

Book Buddies. high school students reading to kids, West Tisbury Public Library, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Library Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting. the board's monthly meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday, Edgartown Public Library, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Naptime with David Stanwood. harmonic vibration with pianist David Stanwood, Stillpoint, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., \$10 to \$30 sliding scale.

Anime and Manga Club. for kids and tweens is grades 4 through 7, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 4 to 5 p.m.

Open Studio Washington Ledesma. ceramist and painter opens his studio for visitors, Washington Ledesma's Studio, 4 to 6 p.m., 508-560-2648.

Book Talk with Judith Bailow Hemphill. author and former Vineyard teacher presents her new book, **Teaching: The Inside Story.** West Tisbury Public Library, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Taste of the Vineyard. featuring over 100 local food and beverage vendors, live music and dancing, Dr. Daniel Fisher House, vineyardtrust.org.

Graveyard Walking Tour. Old Westside Graveyard, Edgartown, 5 to 6:15 p.m., \$20, vinehistours.com, 508-627-2529, please text.

Panel Discussion — The Cottagers: 100 Black Women Serving the Vineyard for 70 Years. members of The Cottagers Incorporated reflect on the organization's past and future, Martha's Vineyard Museum, 5 to 7 p.m., MVM members \$20; non-members \$30.

Girls Tennis Keeps Playoff Run Alive

By HALEY SANDLOW and BILL EVILLE

The girls tennis team is one step further in its division 3 playoff run after a 4-1 win in the round of 16 against North Reading on Monday afternoon.

The top-seeded Vineyarders, with an 18-0 record, will meet 8th-seeded Wilmington in the quarterfinals. The home match takes place Friday, June 5 beginning at 3 p.m.

The girls have been the team to beat all season. Last year, the girls reached the finals in the state tournament, but lost to Dover-Sherborn. The team avenged that loss in April when they beat Dover-Sherborn 3-2 in a regular season match.

The Vineyarders took control of the courts quickly against the 16th seeded North Reading Monday, with all but first singles cleaning up in two sets.

“The girls played great today, great competitive spirit, from first singles all the way through to doubles,” said head coach Bill Rigali after Monday’s match. “I’m very proud of the girls, and [we’re] getting ready for a couple good days of practice.”

Last week, the team swept Auburn High School 5-0 in their first playoff game.

“It was a great, great start,” said Coach Rigali after that match. “We got some nerves out of the way, and our girls did great.”

For both matches the Vineyard faithful were out in force to cheer on the girls, and there is sure to be an even larger crowd on Friday in what will be the team’s last home match. Both the semifinals and finals are played off-Island at a neutral court.

Coach Rigali is excited about his team’s chances to go all the way this year, but is also careful with his words. “One match at a time,” he said.

The boys tennis lost in a heart-breaker Wednesday afternoon, falling 3-2 to 3rd seed Newburyport in the second round of the division 3 playoffs.

“The boys battled hard,” said head coach Jock Cooperrider. “I’m so proud of them. It would have been a nice upset, but it was still a great match.”

Considered a rebuilding year after the loss of six seniors from the 2025 starting lineup, the team quickly showed they were a contender. After earning a 13-4 regular season record, the team easily won their first playoff round against Fairhaven.

The 14th seeded Vineyarders faced much stiffer competition against powerhouse Newburyport but nearly pulled off the upset. Tied at two matches apiece, the whole team gathered around the second doubles court which would decide the match.

Anderson Berger had won at first singles (6-4, 2-6, 6-3) and Nate Walsh notched a victory at third singles (7-5, 6-4), while Tommy Flynn lost at second singles (2-6, 3-6) and the first doubles team of Moses Thomson and Aeneas Forrester fell 5-7, 6-7.

The future was on the racquets of



Laina Dubin in action on Monday against North Reading

Pictures by Roy Ewing



Boys baseball team lost to Falmouth in the second round of the playoffs.

Jayden Fuller and Carter Masselli at second doubles, tied at a set apiece (0-6, 6-3), and 5-5 in the deciding third set.

The heat was a factor, said Coach Cooperrider. “One of our players had heat stroke but continued to fight hard.”

In the end Newburyport prevailed 7-5 in the third set.

Coach Cooperrider, who stepped up just a week before the season began for his rookie season as coach, said that while a deeper playoff run would have been exciting, the real measure of success is how much improvement the players experienced.

“If we had played Newburyport at the beginning of the season, I am sure we would have been blown out,” he said. “But here, at the end of the season, we took them to the limit.”

“To see how much we improved this year, as a coach, that is exactly what you want to see happen,” he added.

And next year already looks promising.

“We are a very young team, only losing one senior starter,” Coach Cooperrider said.

Last weekend, the girls and boys track team wrapped up a “super satisfying season” with the Division 5 state championships, said head coach Joe Schroeder.

Coach Schroeder cited “epic” wins against Monomoy High School and Naussett High School this season. The boys team took 2nd in the Cape and Islands League, while the girls



First singles player Anderson Berger during first round of the playoffs; the boys lost in the second round.

took 4th, both finishing with their best record in five years.

The boys team claimed three school records this year. Lucas Martins, Anthony DaSilva, Luis Costa and George McDow joined forces for a record time in the sprint medley. Enzo Reis swapped with Martins on the same team for a record 4x400m relay time. Reis also set a new school record in the 110m high hurdles.

At the state meet, Reis took 8th place in the 400m hurdles. Ben Fuller took 8th place in the 2 mile, and Maria Xavier placed 6th for the girls in the 200m.

Multiple athletes will race in post-season competitions. Reis heads to Merrimack College this weekend to compete in the 110m hurdles at the Meet of Champions, which represents

the top 32 athletes in their events in the state.

In two weeks, the spring medley team will compete at the Nike Outdoor Nationals competition in Eugene, Oregon.

“We reached some really high standards and I was very pleased with our athletes’ performance throughout the season,” said Coach Schroeder.

The boys baseball shutout Medfield 8-0 last week in their first round of playoffs, but came up short against Falmouth High School in the round of 16.

Falmouth defeated the Vineyarders 1-0 on Monday, with a walk-off single to left field in the 9th inning to bring a run.

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Bloomsday Celebration Arrives

Bloomsday returns on Saturday, June 13, thanks to Arts and Society, and the steadfast creative determination of organizer John Crelan.

The event celebrates the work of James Joyce, and is named after Leopold Bloom, the character in his novel Ulysses. The book takes place during one day, June 16, 1904, and many places around the world set their Bloomsday clock around June 16. The Vineyard dares to be different, so on June 13 head

over to the Katharine Cornell Theatre to revel in the performances of Peter Boak, Ian Chickering, Molly Conole, Mark Lovewell, Pam Schnatterly, Isadora Toccolinni and Becky Williams.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at the door or in advance tickets at Bunch of Grapes bookstore, cash or check only.

For more information, visit artsand-society.org.

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Wed July 15 | 7pm | Chilmark Communiy Center
Daniela Gerson *The Wanderers*
Thur July 16 | 7pm | Performing Arts Center
Jill Biden *View from the East Wing*
Sun July 19 | 7pm | Chilmark Communiy Center
Christin Geall *Flora Culture*
Sun July 26 | 7pm | Performing Arts Center
A discussion on Freedom of Speech
Lee Bollinger *University: A Reckoning* & Jelani Cobb *Three or More Is a Riot*
Thur July 30 | 7pm | Performing Arts Center
Sally Mann *Art Work*
Tickets & Sponsorships
mvbookfestival.com

Sun Aug 2 | 7pm | Performing Arts Center
Maggie Haberman *Regime Change*
Thur Aug 13 | 7pm | Chilmark Community Center
Sen. Raphael Warnock *The Crooked Places Made Straight*
Sun Aug 16 | 7pm | Chilmark Community Center
Eugene Robinson *Freedom Lost, Freedom Won*
Thur Aug 20 | 7pm | Chilmark Community Center
Richard Russo *Under the Falls*
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FOUR-A

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT, CHILMARK

REDUCED RATE CHILMARK RENTAL
Loft-style, sleeps up to 6, 2 full bathrooms. Private pass to Lucy Vincent, outdoor shower, new grill and more.
Available 9/1-9/15. \$1,800 a week. CLpena74@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT, EDGARTOWN



THE CAPTAIN MORSE HOUSE
Vacations, weddings, retreats, reunions. Open year-round - locals save 10%
www.captainmorsehouse.com
(508)693-0809

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT, AQUINNAH

CONDO COTTAGE SUMMER RENTAL NEAR THE GAY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE
June 15 - October 1, 2026. Two bedroom, 1 bath condo cottage with deck with a breathtaking view of the Gay Head Lighthouse. Comforts of home with a fully equipped kitchen, W/D on-site. Walk to the beach, the Aquinnah Cliffs, and shops. Short drive to Menemsha Village, Chilmark.
Week minimum (flexible stays of 3-4 days considered). For more information, please contact: gayheadlight26@gmail.com

HOME FOR RENT
June-October 2026, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, water view. Big decks. Great kitchen. Private master. Whirlpool. Week minimum. Aquinnahome@gmail.com



PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.
VINEYARD GAZETTE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT, OAK BLUFFS



SUMMER RENTAL
Two bedroom, one bath beach cottage. Fabulous views, on Vineyard Haven harbor. Cathedral ceiling. Starting at \$3,000.
Contact Art (561)301-8383, email: asmith@nosctel.com.



REAL ESTATE FOR RENT, COMMERCIAL

STUNNING COMMERCIAL/MEDICAL OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
\$6,500 (under priced) entire first floor with possible basement storage, parking for 15 cars, koi pond, porches, 3 entrances, kitchenette, 2 baths. Apartment upstairs for additional rent as well. Text Lisa (310)213-5472.

1,300+ SQUARE FEET OF PRIME RETAIL SPACE
Rare opportunity to rent this high visibility location on bustling Main Street in Vineyard Haven. Beautiful high ceilings and large picture window invite customers in. Available 8/1. Possibility exists for 7/1. Year round preferred, pop-up may be considered. Call Amy (510)559-0222.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
One room 1,200 sq. ft. office space for rent. Unique building on Beach Rd in Vineyard Haven. Office space only use. Call Stephen at (508)627-2750.

WANTED TO RENT

PARKING
Parking space for SUV needed June 15-August 6th while I'm off-island.
Email: eelpndonmv@gmail.com

HELP WANTED

CAMP COUNSELOR
Counselor needed for culturally and environmentally conscious creative arts camp. Must love children, be spontaneous, kind and creative. For more information please call (508)693-3142.

HELP WANTED - MOBIL/XTRA MART
Hiring cashiers. 5 Corners, Vineyard Haven, (508)693-9316. Stop by, ask for Joe. Good starting rate.

MVPCS LEARNING FACILITATOR
The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School has an opening for a Learning Facilitator in our special education department starting September 1, 2026. Please email resume, letter of interest, and completed application to Peter Steedman, Director, psteedman@mvpcs.org. Applications can be found on the school website: mvpcs.org



HELP WANTED Development Assistant

The Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club is seeking a Development Assistant. Reporting to the Director of Development & Advancement, this role is essential for managing the Club's relationships through administrative processes, including donor services, grant research, and event coordination.

Key Responsibilities

- Database Management: Regularly update the constituent database and mailing lists, ensuring accurate contact information and coding.
- Manage the gift acknowledgement process, including producing donor letters and maintaining financial documentation of pledges and revenue.
- Conduct grant research, maintain records for all past and current grants, and ensure multi-year grants are tracked and paid on schedule.
- Assist with all stages of special and community event planning and oversee the creation of marketing materials for prospect meetings.

Qualifications

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Proficiency in database management (MCH/Salesforce preferred)
- Exceptional attention to detail and ability to work collaboratively.

How to Apply

Please submit your resume and a brief cover letter outlining your experience to office@mvbgclub.org.

The Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club is an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

HELP WANTED

CIRCULATION ASSISTANT AT THE WEST TISBURY LIBRARY

The West Tisbury Free Public Library is hiring. We are looking for a full time (40 hours) Library Circulation Assistant. This position will have hours that will include weekends and some nights.
The ideal candidates will have excellent customer service skills, an enthusiasm for learning, and strong knowledge of computers and new technologies. Work involves standing, stooping, carrying, lifting up to 30 lbs. Previous library experience and Associate's degree or higher strongly preferred. Starting wage is \$27.69 an hour.
Submit resume and Town of West Tisbury application (available at the library or on the Town of West Tisbury website) to Alexandra Pratt, Library Director, West Tisbury Free Public Library, 1042 State Road, Vineyard Haven MA 02568 or by email at aprat@clamsnet.org by June 5th, 2025. Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH DEPARTMENT

The Town of Edgartown Shellfish Department is looking to fill the following temporary part-time position for the 2026 Summer Season:
Deputy Shellfish Warden - \$15.40-\$18.71/hour
Applications, position requirements, and full job descriptions are available at (508)627-7570 or in the Human Resource Office. Please send completed applications to HR@edgartown-ma.us or P.O. Box 5130 attn: Human Resources, Edgartown, MA 02539. The Town of Edgartown is an equal opportunity employer. Positions are open until filled.



DRIVERS AND LABORERS WANTED
Bruno's Rolloff, Inc. is looking for full-time and part-time CDL and NON-CDL drivers as well as Laborers for year-round and seasonal work. Applicants must be able to work seasonal overtime and early morning hours. Competitive wages, excellent benefits, and yearly bonuses are offered.
Applications can be picked up at our office at 11 East Line Road, Edgartown, or emailed upon request. (508)693-5454.



MVCS DISABILITY SERVICES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Sign-On Bonus available to employees in good standing.

Family Support Center Program Manager (\$63,000-\$78,000 per year)
We're looking for a compassionate, culturally responsive leader who honors families lived experiences, diversity, and cultural values. In this role, you'll direct programming and support families in navigating complex systems, accessing resources, and exploring self-directed options across the lifespan. Experience preferred but paid on the job training may be provided. Apply at: mvcommunityservices.org/employment

Family Support Center Service Navigator (\$23.07-\$27.40 per hour)
Do you love helping families thrive? We're seeking a compassionate and resourceful Service Navigator to support families in identifying resources, solving problems, and building strong community connections. Join a team that values family strengths, diversity, and self-direction across the lifespan. Experience preferred but paid on the job training may be provided. Apply at: mvcommunityservices.org/employment

HELP WANTED



DUKES COUNTY IS HIRING

Come join our team of dedicated public employees.
Director of Health & Human Services
Manages multiple departments and initiatives that improve access to health and human services across Dukes County; ensures compliance with state and federal guidelines for benefits and health insurance programs; serves as a key liaison to towns, service providers, and community partners. Responsibilities include grant writing and reporting, supervising staff, managing programs, handling complex customer service issues, and coordinating public outreach. The position requires substantial knowledge of public health and benefits systems, strong leadership and communication skills, and the ability to make independent decisions in a dynamic environment.
Beach Patrol
Responsible for issuing parking tickets on State Beach, educating patrons of beach rules, and keeping the beach clean. Candidates must be at least 18 years old. CPR certification is preferred.
Temporary Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
Greet clients, answer phones, and provide basic office assistance to the staff at the Dukes County Health Care Access office. Bilingual preferred (English/Portuguese).
Health Care Access Specialist - bilingual preferred
The Health Care Access Specialist provides public health insurance application and enrollment services for state and federal systems including MassHealth and Medicare. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills required. Proficiency with office equipment, MSO 365 and requisite software programs, ability to input/manage data, and maintain confidentiality required. Must be able to work independently and be a positive team member in our busy multi-cultural Health Care Access office. 40-hour/week position, Portuguese- and/or Spanish-speaking helpful. Benefits include a competitive salary; health insurance; discounted dental plan; and a full retirement package based on years of service.
Dukes County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Full job descriptions and job application available at: <https://www.dukescounty.gov/employment-opportunities>. Send letter of interest to: manager@dukescounty.gov

ROSEWATER MARKET IS HIRING
Come join our amazing team. Rosewater Market & Takeaway in Edgartown is accepting applications for a full-time year-round front-of-house position.
For consideration, please e-mail jared@rosewatermv.com with a resume and availability.

INDIGO FARM

Landscape Design • Build • Maintenance

GARDENER WANTED
We're looking for an experienced gardener. Knowledge of organic methods helpful. Must speak fluent English and have valid working papers. Please reply to: info@indigofarm.com

MVPCS SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR

The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School has an opening for a part-time School Adjustment Counselor (LCSW, LICSW or LMHC) for the 2026-2027 school year.
Please email resume, letter of interest, and completed application to Peter Steedman, Director, psteedman@mvpcs.org. Applications can be found on the school website: mvpcs.org

HELP WANTED

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Seeking applicants for the following:
Varsity Girls Head Coach- Ice Hockey
Assistant Girls Coach- Ice Hockey
Application of Support Staff can be found on our website at www.mvyps.org under Employment; forms or at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 4 Pine Street, Vineyard Haven, 02568, (508)693-2009
Return completed application to the Superintendent's Office
Deadline: Until Position is Filled
No person shall be excluded or discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. EOE



VINEYARD GAZETTE

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

The Vineyard Gazette is seeking a creative, organized, and detail-oriented Graphic Designer to join our production team. This role supports the layout and design of award-winning publications, as well as the creation of print and digital advertisements in a fast-paced publishing environment. Responsibilities include layout and design for recurring publications, creating print and digital ads across all publications, preparing files for print, coordinating with printers, and managing prepress.
Apply to publisher@vineyardgazette.com



HOME HEALTH RNS WANTED

Looking for a nursing career with purpose, flexibility, and island charm? The VNA of Cape Cod is seeking compassionate RNs to deliver exceptional in-home care across Martha's Vineyard. Whether you're experienced in Home Care or ready to transition into community-based nursing, we'd love to meet you.
Send your resume today:
CCHCHRR@recruitment@CapeCodHealth.org
Or call (508)862-5787
Your next nursing opportunity awaits on Martha's Vineyard.

ISLAND AUTISM GROUP

Is hiring for several seasonal and year-round positions in West Tisbury. We are looking for motivated, compassionate individuals to join us in the following roles: Direct Support Professionals (including Substitutes), Farm Workers, Administrative Support, and Farmer's Market Sales. Whether you enjoy hands-on outdoor work, community engagement, or behind-the-scenes office operations, we have an opportunity for you to make a meaningful impact.
To view full job descriptions and apply, please visit islandautism.org or email lena@islandautism.org



CB STARK JEWELERS IS HIRING

Friendly, detail oriented and energetic salespeople for the 2026 season. Retail experience is a plus but not required. We offer a generous end of season bonus and provide ongoing training.
Full-time and part-time, night and weekend shifts are available in Vineyard Haven and Edgartown. We give a great employee discount.
Email resume to: cbstark@cbstark.com

HELP WANTED



JUNIOR SALES ASSOCIATE

The Vineyard Gazette is seeking a motivated and organized Junior Sales Associate to join our advertising team. This position helps build client relationships, generate advertising revenue, and support the daily operations of our print and digital advertising department. The position also works closely with advertisers, sales staff, and production teams to ensure accurate ad placement, timely campaign execution, and excellent customer service.
publisher@vineyardgazette.com



LANDSCAPE AND NURSERY POSITIONS

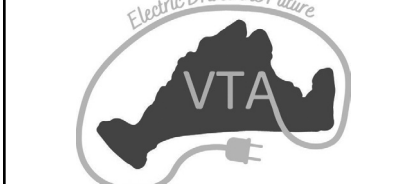
Love plants, design, and working with a great crew? Vineyard Gardens is looking for positive, friendly, energetic, and motivated people to join our landscape and nursery teams this year. Openings for: Cashier, Landscape Foreman, Garden Designer, Irrigation Specialist, Stone Mason, and Nursery Groundskeeper. Eligible positions may include health and pension.
Email mv@vineyardgardens.net or fill out the application online at: www.vineyardgardens.net.

INDIGO FARM

Landscape Design • Build • Maintenance

LAWN MAINTENANCE

Established landscape company looking for experienced mowers with lawn maintenance knowledge. Must have a valid driver's license, speak fluent English and have legal working papers. Please email office@indigofarm.com.



MARTHA'S VINEYARD TRANSIT AUTHORITY (VTA) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Mobility Manager / Transportation Coordinator - Full Time
Salary Negotiable
The Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) is seeking a motivated, community-focused individual to assist with transportation education and outreach services for the Island community, older adults, and people with disabilities.
The ideal candidate must enjoy talking to people and have strong problem-solving skills.
Applicants should be comfortable with technology and Microsoft Office, able to work both independently and collaboratively, and demonstrate strong communication and interpersonal skills. Experience in training, travel training, outreach, customer service, education, or human services is preferred.
VTA is willing to consider splitting the role into two part-time positions if a full-time candidate cannot be secured.
Please send resume and cover letter to: Lauren Thomas, Deputy Administrator, info@vineyardtransit.com

HELP WANTED

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Performing Arts Center Assistant
Part-time (4) Year Round Position
Assist in all aspects of running the PAC; Be able to work flexible work hours as needed; Work alongside and fill in for PAC Director as needed; Knowledge of lighting; sound mixing, and carpentry. Ability to lift and move heavy objects. Ability to work in high places; Strong technical theater background a plus.
Application of Support Staff can be found at: www.mvyps.org under "Employment forms" or at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 4 Pine Street, Vineyard Haven, 02568, (508)693-2009
Return completed application to the Superintendent's Office
Deadline: June 1, 2026
Starting immediately
No person shall be excluded or discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. EOE

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The West Tisbury Free Public Library seeks organized, technology-savvy, creative and charismatic candidates for our Program Coordinator position. This position is responsible for all development, planning, coordinating, promoting and execution of adult library programs and use of the library's social media accounts.
High School Degree required, Associate's or Bachelor's Degree preferred; 2 - 4 years of experience in event planning; experience working with computers; experience working with the public and responding to customer service requests or any equivalent combination of education and experience.
The ideal candidate would have strong familiarity with public event planning, building and maintaining local relationships, confidence with social media, Google Suites, Canva etc. and excellent customer service and communication skills. Nights and weekends required. This is a benefited full time position (35 hours/week, \$33.50/hour), beginning July 1, 2026.
Submit Town of West Tisbury application and resume to Alexandra, Library Director, West Tisbury Free Public Library at aprat@clamsnet.org by June 5th. Applications and job description are available at the Library or online at the town of West Tisbury website: <https://www.westsbury-ma.gov/391/Employee-Committee-Openings>. EOE.



MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMUNITY SERVICES IS SEEKING THE FOLLOWING POSITION:

Program Director - Island Wide Youth Collaborative (IWYC)
(\$73,000 - \$88,000/year).
Sign-On Bonus available to employees in good standing.

The Program Director will lead the IWYC, a Massachusetts Family Resource Center. Responsibilities include program oversight, designing and planning the IWYC program, supervising staff, working with Leadership to develop program budgets, managing state and federal contract compliance, and collaborating with community partners. Some evening and weekend hours are required.
Qualifications: Bachelor's degree required (relevant field preferred) and 1-3 years of nonprofit program management or leadership experience. Strong communication, leadership, and organizational skills required. Passionate about helping families thrive? We encourage you to apply at: mvcommunityservices.org/employment



We are looking to add to our team!

The following three positions available are:

- Site Supervisor / Experienced Machine Operator - CDL license a plus
- Laborer
- CDL Class A or B Truck Driver

These positions are year-round and include excellent benefits!
Please call our office at (508)693-5975 or email us at office@johnkeene.com



Office Staff Position

John Keene Excavation, Inc. is looking for a motivated individual to join our office staff. The role includes clerical work, assisting customers, and other office-related tasks.

This is a year-round position with excellent benefits. Please stop by our office or email us at office@johnkeene.com for an application.



Join the Martha's Vineyard Bank Team! Office Coordinator

Martha's Vineyard Bank, a local community bank, has an exciting opportunity available for an Office Coordinator. This role facilitates HR administrative processes, assists with MV Bank Charitable Foundation initiatives, coordinates internal/external events, and handles general clerical operations.

Please visit www.mvbank.com for detailed information or to apply. We offer an exceptional benefits package, growth opportunities, and a competitive compensation package based on experience.

Equal Opportunity Employer: Vets/Disabled

HELP WANTED

PROJECT FINANCE
MANAGER

Support the financial coordination of construction projects at South Mountain Company.

You'll ensure project finances are accurate, organized, and aligned from early estimating through billing and closeout. Working closely with our Director of Construction, Director of Finance and Project Leads, you'll maintain clear records, support decision-making, and keep projects financially on track.

We offer an exceptional, family-friendly compensation package, including medical/dental/vision insurance (SMCo covers the full deductible), profit sharing, 401k, and the potential for ownership.

Learn more about this position, how to apply, our compensation policy, and our culture at: <https://southmountain.com/meet/>

SERVE ON THE UP-ISLAND REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

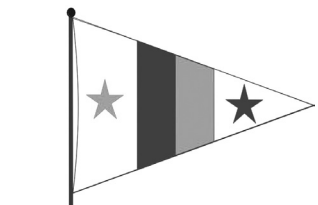
The Up-Island Regional School District is currently seeking candidates to serve on the school committee. If you believe you can make a meaningful impact on the future of our schools, this is your chance. School committee members play an important role in the oversight of the island's schools. As a member, you would:

- Set the district's vision and policy, establishing long-term educational goals in alignment with state law, while leaving day-to-day operations to the superintendent
 - Oversee the Up-Island Regional School District and other budgets, reviewing and voting on annual spending, allocating resources, and approving payroll and accounts payable
 - Hire and evaluate the superintendent, including participation in collective bargaining with teachers and staff
 - Represent the community, advocating for the district's needs, with a primary obligation to the students we serve
- Nomination papers are available at the Superintendent's Office at 4 Pine Street in Vineyard Haven, and must be submitted for certification no later than 5:00PM on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. If you have any questions about the role or time commitment, please contact the Superintendent's office at (508)693-2007.

THE BOATHOUSE & FIELD CLUB

Join our team this summer. Seasonal positions — June through Labor Day

Swim Instructor
We are seeking a certified Water Safety Instructor (WSI) to lead swimming lessons and aquatic programming for our members. WSI certification is required.
Lifeguard
Current lifeguard certification required. Membership Front Desk
A welcoming presence at the heart of our member experience. Responsibilities include greeting and assisting members, managing inquiries, and supporting day-to-day operations. Prior customer service or hospitality experience preferred.
To apply, at boathousemv.com or emailing Davina.webb@boathousemv.com. We look forward to welcoming you to the team.

VINEYARD HAVEN YACHT CLUB
TAKEOUT KITCHEN HELP

Fun work with the best view of Vineyard Haven Harbor. Breakfast/lunch takeout counter kitchen help needed. Experience in food prep preferable, but not required. Competitive pay. Contact galley@vhyc.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT /
BOOKKEEPER

Rosbeck Builders is seeking a detailed-driven bookkeeper to join our administrative team. Provide supporting coordination on various projects, A/P and A/R, bank/credit card reconciliation, basic financial reports, light payroll support. Year-round position, competitive pay and benefits. Email resume: info@rosbeck.com

HAPPY FERRY CAPTAIN

Happy Ferry is always looking for ferry captains. Minimum 50 ton license. It could be as little as one shift a week but it could be more. If interested please text Peter Wells at (508)627-1577 or email at peterhappyferry@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS COTTAGE
THE ISLANDS ONLY CHRISTMAS
SHOP

Santa is looking for a couple of part time elves to help out this summer. We're celebrating our 54th anniversary of spreading Christmas cheer to islanders and visitors alike. If you would like to join us this summer we'd love to talk with you. Add something a little different to your week and make some \$ at the same time. Perfect for retirees or anyone else who loves Christmas. We're located overlooking Oak Bluffs harbor (best view in town). If you're interested please give us a call at (508)509-5974 or (800)227-8444.

TEACHER'S ASSISTANT MVPCS

The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School has an opening for a full-time Elementary Teacher's Assistant to start September 1, 2026. We are looking for a creative, enthusiastic individual wishing to explore or advance a career in education within our project-based learning curriculum. Competitive salary and full benefits provided. Please email a resume and letter of interest to Peter Steedman, School Director, at psteedman@mvpcs.org and complete an application on our website, www.MVPCS.org.

HELP WANTED



DELIVERY TEAM

Vineyard Decorators is hiring for our Warehouse and Delivery Team. We are offering \$25-\$33 per hour, depending on experience and whether the position is seasonal or year-round. This role requires assembly work and heavy lifting, and a valid driver's license is required. Immediate start available. Please apply in person at 35 Airport Road and ask for a manager.

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Edgartown (full-time). Looking for a stable, long-term position in a supportive dental practice? Experience is preferred, but we are willing to train the right candidate. If you are motivated, dependable, a quick learner, and have a positive attitude, please apply at dental.mvineyard@gmail.com

JOIN THE ALEX MILL TEAM
ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

We're opening on Main Street in Edgartown and looking for friendly people to join us for the summer season.

If you've got an eye for style, care about the little things, and enjoy helping people find the pieces they'll actually wear, you'll be in good company.

Interested? Please email your resume and a short introduction to: lori@alexmll.com.



LINE COOK

We are looking for a line cook for the 2026 summer season at The Terrace, located at The Charlotte Inn. We are seeking someone with 1-2 years' experience as a line cook who can work in an intimate setting with a fine-dining menu. Inquiries to: info@theterracemv.com or call us at (508)627-6227 or (508)627-4751.

SAFE HARBOR
— VINEYARD HAVEN —
MARINE
FORKLIFT OPERATOR

We are looking for an operator to run our valet in/out rack service forklift. Must be good with people, driven and energetic. Must have experience on boats to 40' and able to work weekends. Will train and certify the right person. Email chris.scott@shmarinas.com with why you would fit.

SAFE HARBOR
— EDGARTOWN —
MARINE SERVICE ADVISOR

We are seeking a driven and qualified person to help lead our service team. If you have experience on or around recreational or smaller commercial boats, love working with people, then this may be a great opportunity to join our growing team. Work along side our Service Manager to assist in daily tasks, customer requests, workflow and billing. Great pay and benefits. Full time, year round. Please email a cover letter and resume to Chris.Scott@shmarinas.com

SAFE HARBOR
— VINEYARD HAVEN —
TECHNICIAN WANTED

Do you love fixing things? Want to work near the water and on boats? Must be driven and motivated by learning and growing. Join our team and get paid, manufacturer training and certifications, tool purchase assistance, full benefits and great pay. Email Chris at cscott@shmarinas.com.

PART-TIME OFFICE MANAGER NEEDED
MVHC

MVHC seeks a skilled part-time Office Manager to support daily operations, manage communications and calendars, and serve as a welcoming point of contact. Ideal candidates are organized, tech-savvy, and comfortable juggling multiple priorities. Flexible schedule and competitive pay. Apply with a resume to: info@mvhebrewcenter.org.



TRANSFER STATION LABORER

Bruno's Roll-off Inc. is looking for a reliable, safety-conscious individual to join our team as a Transfer Station Laborer. This role is essential to maintaining an organized, clean, and efficient facility. This job requires the ability to work outdoors on your feet for extended hours each day. This is a seasonal position spring through mid-November. Requests for applications can be sent to jobs@brunosmv.com

HELP WANTED

DUKES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PUBLIC SAFETY
TELE-COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS

** \$500 Monthly Housing Stipend for Full Time Island Resident Tele-communications **

Are you looking to kick-start your career, while helping the Island Community? Duties include, but not limited to receiving, processing, transmitting and/or dispatching emergency and non-emergency calls for police, fire, emergency medical, and other public safety services via telephone and other communication devices. Effective oral and written communications skills, sensitivity to working with confidential material; flexibility and willingness to adapt to changing environment and priorities; positive attitude, integrity and, excellent judgment.

Work schedule includes assignments to the day, evening and night, weekend, and holiday shifts. Paid on-site training, as well as off-island Academy training upon completion of probationary period. Full-time position with a generous benefit package, including paid leave, insurance and retirement. Full time Tele-Communicator-In-Training pay range is \$71,140.94-\$78,545.22 annually, plus \$500 monthly stipend.

Applications and job description available at dukescountysheriff.com/careers

RELIABLE HELP WANTED

Seeking dependable, energetic individual for mid-August through end of September. Outdoor estate work including grounds, pool, dock, and general maintenance. Great opportunity for someone who enjoys physical work and teamwork. Competitive pay. Must have reliable transportation to the work location. Send resume to hr@ludwigfam.com



SEASONAL GARDENER

PHA seeks a full time seasonal gardener who enjoys working outdoors, appreciates plants and values being part of a collaborative team. Responsibilities include planting, maintaining garden beds, pruning, watering and engaging with garden visitors. \$25/hour. Great opportunity to learn and build horticultural skills. Application instructions and job description found at: pollyhillarboretum.org/get-involved/employmentopportunities

BOOK A BOAT

Seeking full time and part time seasonal positions. Duties include boat cleaning, kayak rentals, deliveries, rental check outs. Small boat experience, drivers license helpful. (508)645-2400

LAW FIRM

Seeks individual for full-time secretarial or paralegal position. Will train and promote qualified island resident. Email letter and resume to: info@btmlegal.com.

MVPCS SPECIAL EDUCATION
TEACHER

The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School has a part-time opening for a Special Education Teacher. Applicants should hold a MA teaching license in Moderate Disabilities or have a degree in special education. Please email resume, letter of interest, and completed application to Peter.Steedman@mvpcs.org. Applications can be found on the school website at MVPCS.org.



TREE CLIMBERS NEEDED

SavATree is hiring for Tree Climbers. The Tree Care Team is involved in all aspects of pruning, removals, cable bracing and other concepts related to tree care. This position pays a range of \$25 - \$35 an hour depending on experience plus paid PTO plus paid benefits, 401K. We offer housing for rent and a \$1,800 sign on bonus. Please contact ichabot@savatree.com if interested.



TREE CREW FOREMAN NEEDED

SavATree is hiring for a Tree Crew Foreman. We are looking for someone with 2-5 years of tree care/tree climbing experience. Leadership experience in directing and guiding a tree care team on daily routines and activities.

This role pays up to \$40/hour based on experience and includes benefits, PTO, and 401K. We are offering a \$1,800 sign on bonus and have housing available to rent. Please contact ichabot@savatree.com if interested.

JOIN OUR LOCAL MARTHA'S
VINEYARD TFC CARE DIVISION

We are seeking a full-time, career-oriented individual who enjoys working outdoors in a professional and safe working environment.

We offer full benefits, including 401K, paid holidays, vacation, and uniforms. Wages starting at \$30 to \$35 based on experience and incremental wage increases based on performance. Contact us at (508)693-4846 or (508)404-4912.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

The Town of Edgartown Wastewater Department seeking applicants:
Chief Operator (Full-time/year-round) – \$37.63-\$49.50/hour (+\$5,000 Sign-on Incentive)
Plant Operator (Full-time/year-round) – \$32.54-\$2.80/hour (+\$5,000 Sign-on Incentive)
Junior Operator (Full-time/year-round) – \$26.19-\$34.48/hour (+\$5,000 Sign-on Incentive)

Applications, position requirements, and full job descriptions are available at edgartown-ma.us or in the Human Resource Office. Please send completed applications to HR@edgartown-ma.us or P.O. Box 5130 Attn: Human Resources, Edgartown, MA 02539. The Town of Edgartown is an equal opportunity employer. Positions are open until filled.

VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Non-profit organizations looking for volunteer help can advertise their openings for free in the Vineyard Gazette. Volunteer opportunities appears in both the print edition of the newspaper and online. Any tax-exempt charitable or arts organization wishing to advertise for unpaid help may do so without charge. Email classifieds@vineyardgazette.com.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD 4H IS LOOKING
FOR LEADERS

Martha's Vineyard 4H is back, and we're looking for adults interested in sharing hands-on extracurricular activities with Island youth.

4H is a national organization offering place-based programming for youth ages 5-18 in 3 program areas: STEM and agriculture, healthy living, and civic engagement. Past Martha's Vineyard 4H programs have focused on nature crafts, goats, and farm chores, but the sky's the limit.

If you are interested in leading a group or in finding a group for your kid, please email 4h@mvagssoc.org.

AFRICAN ARTISTS' COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

African non profit needs help with social media and marketing, website and newsletters. Accompanying on fundraising tours to Italy and Zambia could be a perk. We work with disabled children, provide scholarship money for individuals, create women's income projects and market crafts for Zambian artisans and their families. Very interesting work for the right person. www.aacdpafnca.org, info@aacdpafnca.org (508)560 2620

AMERICAN RED CROSS OF MARTHA'S
VINEYARD

Help our community here on MV. ARC on MV is looking for volunteers for our Disaster Action Team, Sheltering Team, Homefires Campaign and more. For more information: ilona.metell@redcross.org.

ANGELS HELPING ANIMALS

Seeking volunteers and foster homes. Please call (508)274-2604.

BIODIVERSITYWORKS

BiodiversityWorks is a non-profit that promotes biodiversity conservation across Martha's Vineyard through wildlife research and monitoring and community outreach. Our spring and summer initiatives include monitoring beach-nesting birds, tracking northern long-eared bats, spotted turtle research, and invasive-clearing at our headquarters. More information is at www.biodiversityworksmv.org/work-with-us. We are restarting our volunteer program while still observing COVID precautions, and generally welcome volunteers ages 15 and up. Please contact volunteers@biodiversityworksmv.org.

CHICKEN ALLEY THRIFT SHOP

Make new friends. Learn something new. Support your community. Be environmentally friendly. Volunteer at Chicken Alley. Send email to: chickenalleyvolunteers@gmail.com

EDGARTOWN ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Edgartown Energy Committee is seeking a volunteer to run its Facebook page, providing news and information from the Committee to Facebook friends. Learn new things about the town's use of energy and how residents can save energy and lower costs. Email or text Alan Strahler, Chair, alan@bu.edu, (617)791-8959, for details.

GOT WHEELS?

Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands are in need of Meals-on-Wheels drivers on Martha's Vineyard. For just 1 to 2 hours per week you can make a huge impact on a home-bound seniors life. Please call Michelle Dupon, (508)693-4393 ext. 192 for further information.

FELIX NECK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Love nature and wildlife? Want to learn more and share your knowledge with others? Come volunteer at Mass Audubon's Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary and help to maintain the property, assist with education programming, monitor wildlife, or be the warm welcome for everyone that comes to the sanctuary.

Learn more at phone: (508)627-4850, Email: felixneck@massaudubon.org, or Website: www.massaudubon.org/felixneck

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF MV

Do you have building experience? Are you a building professional willing to lend your expertise? We are looking for people to join our building committee to plan and execute our next project. We are also looking for a materials donations expediter to help us gather and organize building materials and appliances donated to us. The commitment can be as large or small as you like. Join our team! Contact us at houses@habitatmv.org or (508)939-4573.

HEALTHY AGING MV
SEEKING DRIVERS

MV Connect, our program to help older adults maintain their independence, is looking for volunteer drivers. Sign up online at www.hamv.org or call or text (508)240-4929.

HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE OF
MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Hospice & Palliative Care of Martha's Vineyard (HPCMV) welcomes new volunteers to help out with the following:

- Patient Care
- Administrative Tasks
- Fundraising and Events
- Camp by the Sea

No prior experience required; just a desire to be a member of the HPCMV team. Call and ask for Jennifer Angell, Volunteer Coordinator, or email jangell@hospiceofmv.org (508)693-0189 hospiceofmv.org 459 State Rd., Unit 18, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

WEEKLY SUDOKU AND CROSSWORD ANSWERS – June 5, 2026

1	9	7	8	3	5	4	6	2
4	5	3	6	1	2	8	7	9
8	6	2	7	4	9	1	5	3
2	1	5	9	8	6	7	3	4
7	3	4	5	2	1	9	8	6
9	8	6	4	7	3	5	2	1
5	7	9	2	6	4	3	1	8
3	2	8	1	9	7	6	4	5
6	4	1	3	5	8	2	9	7

L	A	P	O	E	S	K	W	I	I	A	L	A	J	A	M	I	E
I	N	E	R	T	I	A	C	E	N	C	A	E	D	E	N	C	E
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VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

ISLAND GROWN INITIATIVE
Sign up for a stocking or sorting shift at the food pantry, come out to an island farm to glean produce, join us in the kitchen to prepare and pack meals to share with islanders in need. If you enjoy working with food and want to connect with community, visit www.igimv.org to sign up to volunteer.

LAGOON POND ASSOCIATION
Help protect and preserve Lagoon Pond through community events, shoreline cleanups, water-quality initiatives, and environmental stewardship. All ages and experience levels are welcome. Great opportunity to support local waters and connect with others who care about the Island's environment. For more information or to get involved, please contact: info@lagoonpondassoc.org or visit www.lagoonpondassoc.org

MEDIA VOICES FOR CHILDREN
Media Voices for Children is an online 501(C)(3), tax exempt educational charity that reports on the welfare of children in the U.S. and around the world. Media Voices needs volunteers who are computer literate, have a compelling interest in children's welfare and are willing to research and work with our team on the keeping the site up to date. We also welcome seasoned grant writers. For more information, please visit mediavoicesforchildren.org. Contact: mediavoicesforchildren@gmail.com

MISTY MEADOWS EQUINE LIVING CENTER
We're looking for passionate, kind-hearted volunteers to help care for our horses, support our programs, assist with feedings and barn chores. Whether you love horses, nature, or giving back to the community, there's a place for you at Misty. No experience necessary, training is provided. Email volunteer@mistymeadowsmv.org to get started.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
The Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club is looking for volunteers to make a positive impact on the lives of Island children. We need volunteers to help with our after school and summer programs, coaching, fundraising events, facility maintenance, and gardening. Contact Meghan (508

BOATS SALES & ACCESSORIES



PAC-18 KAYAK

Chesapeake Light Craft wooden kayak with natural topsides and dark blue hull. 18' long and 40 lbs. Max paddler weight 175 lbs. \$2,700.
Contact: Brian bpodonnell43@gmail.com



NEW BOAT TRAILERS - IN STOCK

New Venture boat trailers, in stock, on-island, sizes for boats up to 27'. Email Chris Scott for pricing. cscott@shmarinas.com

SLOOP REPAIR AND MOVE TO MOORING NEEDED

My 34 foot Tartan sloop Pegasus resting on a salt marsh needs repair. She lies adjacent to Safe Harbor Marina. Frank Brunelle, frankbrunelle@yahoo.com, (508)221-7618.

DOCK SPACE & MOORAGE

VINEYARD HAVEN MOORING
Rare opportunity to purchase a transferable, deeded Lagoon Pond parcel, allowing you to have your own mooring. Parcel is not buildable. \$299,900. MV Sales & Rentals. (508)423-1443.

INSTRUCTIONS



TUTORING

The Center for New Learning MV offers fun, impactful tutoring.
We do the research to hire top Vineyard talent among summer and year-round tutors:

- * Math (elementary through Calculus)
- * Test Prep (SSAT, SAT, ACT)
- * Reading (Orton-Gillingham, Wilson)
- * Writing (K-12+, Hochman)
- * ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia Specialists
- * Study Skills for rising high schoolers
- * College Application Essay Support
- * Foreign Languages (all ages)

Contact Alice at: info@cnlmv.org, (920)410-4577, www.cnlmv.org



THIS SUMMER WRITE YOUR COLLEGE APP ESSAYS

Work with bestselling, award-winning author Liz Benedict, former Princeton writing prof. A compassionate coach with top results: Harvard, Yale, MIT, NYU, Brown, Barnard, Bates. Private/Zoom, sessions on/off-Island.

DontSweatTheEssay.com
1-855-99-ESSAY
Liz@DontSweatTheEssay.com



Commonwealth of Massachusetts



County of Dukes County, ss.

To the Constables of the Town of Chilmark,

Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, we are hereby directed to warn and notify the inhabitants of the Town of Chilmark, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to assemble at the Chilmark Community Center at 520 South Road in said Town of Chilmark on Monday, the twenty-ninth day of June in the year Two thousand and Twenty-Six AD at 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, there and then to act on the Articles in this Warrant.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the town will vote to appropriate **\$200,000** to be added to Article 5 of the April 28, 2025 Annual Town Meeting a **Reserve Fund** to be administered by the **Finance Advisory Committee**, for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2025, and to fund this article \$100,000 be transferred from available funds in the treasury

LOST AND FOUND

THE VINEYARD GAZETTE'S LOST & FOUND CATEGORY

Lost something important? Want to see if someone has found it?or....found something of value and want to do the right thing? Let the Gazette help you.

The Lost & Found category is a free service. Deadline for publication is 3:00PM, Tuesdays. 25 words or less, please. Ads will be published for 4 consecutive editions. Email - classifieds@vineyardgazette.com

LOST BOAT CUSHION

Small square white vinyl boat cushion flew out of boat between Vineyard Haven and Aquinnah. Hope someone's found it. (508)645-3667.

AQUINNAH LEGAL NOTICES

THE AQUINNAH PLANNING BOARD PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Will hold a Public Hearing at the Aquinnah Town Offices and via Zoom on Wednesday June 17, 2026, at 6:40PM to act upon a request from Bruce MacNelly, MacNelly Cohen Architects P.C. (applicant) of 343 Light-house Road Map 5 Lot 58 under sections 3.2-1, 3.4-1, 3.9-1, 13.4-1, 13.4-7, 13.4-11 of the Aquinnah Zoning Bylaw for the siting of a 3-bedroom dwelling and utilities on a pre-existing non-conforming lot located in the Roadside District where the total footprint on the lot will exceed 2,000 sf. Site Visit at 5:40PM.

Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82849623453> - or dial 1 929 205 6099 - Meeting ID: 828 4962 3453 - Passcode: 500452
Inquiries can be emailed to: adminassistant@aquinnah-ma.gov. may29,jun5,2-t

CHILMARK LEGAL NOTICES

CHILMARK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Will hold a ZOOM Public Meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 9:02AM, under the MA Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L.c.131, Section 40 and the Chilmark Wetlands Protection Bylaw, on an application filed by Schofield Barbini & Hoehn Inc on behalf of Robert J. Vila and Diana Barrett, Trustees. The project proposes conversion of an existing structure into an ADU within 100' of a BVW at 183 State Road (AP 33-115)

Plan requests and questions via email to chilmarkconservation@gmail.com. Zoom meeting access will be posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting at: <https://www.chilmarkma.gov/conservation-commission>. jun5,1-t

CHILMARK

Seeking bids for the sale of a used 26 foot Ericson 1988 sailboat. Located in Menemsha Basin. Sealed bids are due before June 19, 2026 at 12:00 noon in the Select Board Office, Chilmark Town Hall, 401 Middle Road, Chilmark MA 02535. Information (508)645-2846, harbor@chilmarkma.gov. Bids will be opened and read aloud at 12:00 noon on June 19th, 2026. jun5,1-t

CHILMARK

The Harbor Department is seeking sealed bids for seasonal operation/cleaning of the Menemsha Comfort Station and seasonal trash collection (multiple times a day) in the Menemsha park and West Dock areas. This is a three-year contract. The Comfort Station is operated from April 15–November 4 (approximately) each year. Trash collection is primarily Memorial Day Weekend – Columbus Day Weekend, with off-season trash collection and seasonal cleanup efforts. Please contact the Selectmen's Office for the Invitation For Bids. Deadline to submit your sealed bid is June 19, 2026 at 12:00 noon in the Selectmen's Office, Chilmark Town Hall, 401 Middle Road, Chilmark MA 02535. jun5,1-t

CHILMARK

The Select Board will be holding a public hearing on changes to the Waterways Rules & Regulations and the Fee & Fines Schedule on July 7, 2026 at 6:15PM in the Select Board Meeting Room, Town Hall on sections: L. Notch. I. Charter log. K. Purpose. N. Winter Storage. O. Notch. Fees: Winter dockage \$1,000. "Notch" space \$2,000. Resident youth dinghy dock \$250. jun5,1-t

CHILMARK ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

There will be a remote Zoom public hearing on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 9:10AM to act on a petition for a Special Permit under Chilmark's Zoning By-Law Article 4 Section 4.2A3 filed by Nathan Riggs. The applicant seeks to construct a 120' x 60' tennis court in a location that meets set-

CHILMARK LEGAL NOTICES

back requirements. The project is proposed for the property located at 9 Welles Way; Assessors' Map 25 Lots 7.4 & 14.2.

Please see <https://www.chilmarkma.gov/zoning-board-appeals> or email akisselgof@chilmarkma.gov for Zoom information.

Administrator
2X 6/5/26, 6/12/26
jun5,12,2-t

CHILMARK ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

There will be a remote Zoom public hearing on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 9:02AM to act on a petition for a Special Permit under Chilmark's Zoning By-Law Article 4 Section 4.2A3 filed by Schofield, Barbini & Hoehn Inc. on behalf of Richard Sauber and Pamela Sauber. The applicant seeks to construct a 16' x 55' in-ground swimming pool. The project is proposed for the property located at 4 Meetinghouse Road; Assessors' Map 18 Lot 58.

Please see <https://www.chilmarkma.gov/zoning-board-appeals> or email akisselgof@chilmarkma.gov for Zoom information.

Administrator
2X 6/5/26, 6/12/26
jun5,12,2-t

CHILMARK ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

There will be a remote Zoom public hearing on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 9:05AM to act on a petition for a Special Permit under Chilmark's Zoning By-Law Article 8 Section 8.3 filed by Schofield, Barbini & Hoehn Inc. on behalf of Robert J. Vila 11-Year Residence Trust, Robert J. Vila 14-Year Residence Trust, Diana Barrett 9-Year Residence Trust and Diana Barrett 12-Year Residence Trust. The applicant seeks to convert a pre-existing non-conforming detached bedroom into an accessory dwelling unit. The project is proposed for the property located at 183 State Road; Assessors' Map 33 Lot 115.

Please see <https://www.chilmarkma.gov/zoning-board-appeals> or email akisselgof@chilmarkma.gov for Zoom information.

Administrator
2X 6/5/26, 6/12/26
jun5,12,2-t

EDGARTOWN LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Wednesday June 10, 2026 at 4:40PM the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing via Zoom on a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Schofield Barbini & Hoehn, Inc on behalf of Oyster Oaks LLC under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking a determination regarding the development of a currently vacant property. The plans include a dwelling, ADU, pool, gym, driveway, parking, septic system, landscaping and view channels.

The property is located at 18 Oyster Watcha Road (AP Map 40-1.11)

For a copy of the application or for questions related to participating in the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us jun5,1-t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Wednesday June 10, 2026 at 4:45PM the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing via Zoom on a Notice of Intent filed by MV Engineering & Design on behalf of Sara Wells, Tr of the Katama 2 Nominee Trust under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission to remove existing wood stairs to a pier and construct a new set of stairs and a 10'x20' viewing platform on a coastal bank.

The property is located at 9 Green Hollow Way (AP Map 29-130.1)

For a copy of the application or for questions related to participating in the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us jun5,1-t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Wednesday June 10, 2026 at 4:35PM the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing via Zoom on a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Schofield Barbini & Hoehn, Inc on behalf of Drew & Kimberly Conway under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking a determination regarding a proposed garage expansion and brick patio and relocation of a brick parking area within a FEMA flood zone.

The property is located at 71 North Water Street (AP Map 20D-292.1)

For a copy of the application or for questions related to participating in the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us jun5,1-t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Wednesday June 10, 2026 at 4:30PM the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing via Zoom on a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Shearwater Construction on behalf of Denise Mulica under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking a determination regarding the expansion of a garage footprint to accommodate an ADU. The expansion is 11 linear feet and within the buffer of a great pond and within the FEMA flood zone.

The property is located at 15 Garden Cove Road (AP Map 53-8.2)

For a copy of the application or for questions related to participating in the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us jun5,1-t

EDGARTOWN LEGAL NOTICES

EDGARTOWN ZONING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Section 5.1.D.e of the Edgartown Zoning Bylaw, the Edgartown Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 4:40PM, at the request of Doug Hoehn, SBH, Inc., on behalf of Mimis House LLC to construct alterations and additions to existing dwelling in the Shore Zone of the Coastal District. The subject property is located at 144 Plantingfield Way, Assessors Parcel #13-16.3.

This public hearing will be conducted using Remote Conference technology, in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023. Interested parties may 'attend' the meeting online by visiting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87110257189>, or voice phone call to (646) 558-8656 (when prompted, enter Meeting ID #8711 025 7189)

Application Materials may be reviewed online on the Edgartown Planning Board page on the town's website -- <https://www.edgartown-ma.us> -- or at the Edgartown Planning Board Offices, PO Box 5130, Edgartown, during regular business hours. Please direct questions or comments to Brae Edleston, Administrator, planningboard@edgartown-ma.us Edgartown Planning Board may29,jun5,2-t

EDGARTOWN PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Section 5.5.D.2 of the Edgartown Zoning Bylaw, the Edgartown Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 4:30PM, at the request of Reid Silva, Vineyard Land Surveying & Engineering, on behalf of Maria Ann Roglieri to construct a 16x35' pool, 7.5x7.5' hot tub, and pool equipment shed. The subject property is located at 4 Plains Head Lane, Assessors Parcel #45-16.56. This public hearing will be conducted using Remote Conference technology, in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023. Interested parties may 'attend' the meeting online by visiting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87110257189>, or voice phone call to (646) 558-8656 (when prompted, enter Meeting ID #8711 025 7189)

Application Materials may be reviewed online on the Edgartown Planning Board page on the town's website -- <https://www.edgartown-ma.us> -- or at the Edgartown Planning Board Offices, PO Box 5130, Edgartown, during regular business hours. Please direct questions or comments to Brae Edleston, Administrator, planningboard@edgartown-ma.us Edgartown Planning Board may29,jun5,2-t

EDGARTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 4:45PM the Edgartown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a remote public hearing via ZOOM on the request by **R. Paul Achin & Paula J. Achin** for a special permit under section 10.1.G of the zoning bylaw to **construct a renovation/addition to an existing single family residence**. The property is located on a pre-existing, nonconforming, 5-acre lot at **21 Briarwood Drive** (Assr. Pcl. 11-45) in the R-60 Residential District. Written comments should be received no later than noon on June 16, 2026. For information on how to use Zoom or to view the plans please contact Brae Edleston, Administrator, zba@edgartown-ma.us or check the town's website.

To Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88666724579>

Or Join by Phone:
646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 886 6672 4579
may29,jun5,2-t

EDGARTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 4:00PM the Edgartown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a remote public hearing via ZOOM on the request by **G. Drew & Kim G. Conway** for a special permit under section 10.1.G of the zoning bylaw to **expand an existing non-conforming one-car garage 8 feet closer to the street with utility and storage space**. The property is located on a conforming .31-acre lot at **71 No Water St** (Assr. Pcl. 20D-292.1) in the R-5 Residential District. Written comments should be received no later than noon on June 16, 2026. For information on how to use Zoom or to view the plans please contact Brae Edleston, Administrator, zba@edgartown-ma.us or check the town's website.

To Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88666724579>

Or Join by Phone:
646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 886 6672 4579
may29,jun5,2-t

EDGARTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 4:30PM the Edgartown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a remote public hearing via ZOOM on the request by **Andrew Herzog** for a special permit under section 10.1.G of the zoning bylaw to **construct a renovation/addition to an existing single family residence**. The property is located on a pre-existing, nonconforming, 89-acre lot at **8 Old Dunhams Corner Way** (Assr. Pcl. 36-157.9) in the R-60 Residential District. Written comments should be received no later than noon on June 16, 2026. For information on how to use Zoom or to view the plans please contact Brae Edleston, Administrator, zba@edgartown-ma.us or check the town's website.

To Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88666724579>

Or Join by Phone:
646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 886 6672 4579
may29,jun5,2-t

EDGARTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 4:15PM the Edgartown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a remote public hearing via ZOOM on the request by **Kayla M. Montambault** for a special permit under section 10.1.G of the zoning bylaw to **construct a 320 sq ft addition to the existing dwelling**. The property is located on a pre-existing, nonconforming, 33-acre lot at **66 Fourteenth St South** (Assr. Pcl. 11B-102) in the R-20 Residential District. Written comments should be received no later than noon on June 16, 2026. For information on how to use Zoom or to view the plans please contact Brae Edleston, Administrator, zba@edgartown-ma.us or check the town's website.

EDGARTOWN LEGAL NOTICES

website.

To Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88666724579>

Or Join by Phone:
646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 886 6672 4579
may29,jun5,2-t

TISBURY LEGAL NOTICES

TISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Tisbury Conservation Commission will meet to review the Notice of Intent under G.L., C. 131, §40, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Tisbury Wetlands By-law, on June 16th, 2026, at 4:00PM at the Tisbury Town Hall Annex, 66 High Point Lane. The proposed project is filed for Thomas Deutsch to shore entire existing dwelling with beams and wood cribbing to allow for excavation below dwelling for new, full, foundation. Remove existing crawl space material, leave existing full basement below water side portion of building. Pour new footings and foundation walls, block remaining 8'-24" to achieve full bearing. Remove cribbing and backfill with clean sand, new land scaping to match existing. The project is located at 21 Old Oklahoma Road (Assessor Parcel 16A7) in the R50 Zoning District. The application and project plans are available for public review at the Tisbury Conservation Office and Martha's Vineyard Engineering and Design. jun5,1-t

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for furnishing the following will be received at the Department of Public Works, 115 High Point Lane, Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts 02568 until the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. The time received will be stamped on each bid and for a consistency of time, the time clock in the Public Works will be the determining time.

ITEM
On Call General Construction Services for the Department of Public Works, Tisbury, MA
BID OPENING
June 25, 2026 at 3:00PM

Bid Documents and bid forms may be obtained at the Department of Public Works, 115 High Point Lane, Vineyard Haven MA, or by emailing the Marie Maciel at mmaci@tisburyma.gov.

Bids will be opened in Public Works Department, 115 High Point Lane, Vineyard Haven, MA.

No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of thirty (30) days, after the date set for the opening thereof.

Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Sections 26 to 27D inclusive.

The bidding and award of this Contract will be under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 149, Section 44A, et seq. and the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30, 39S.

Tisbury is an affirmative action/equal opportunity purchaser. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all bids or take whatever other action may be deemed necessary to be in the best interest of the Town. jun5,1-t

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for furnishing the following will be received at the Department of Public Works, 115 High Point Lane, Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts 02568 until the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. The time received will be stamped on each bid and for a consistency of time, the time clock in the Public Works will be the determining time.

ITEM
On Call Masonry Services, For the Tisbury Public Works Dept.
BID OPENING
June 25, 2026 at 3:15PM

Bid Documents and bid forms may be obtained at the Department of Public Works, 115 High Point Lane, Vineyard Haven MA, or by emailing the Marie Maciel at mmaci@tisburyma.gov.

Bids will be opened in the Tisbury Public Works Department, 115 High Point Lane, Vineyard Haven, MA.

No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of thirty (30) days, after the date set for the opening thereof.

Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Sections 26 to 27D inclusive.

The bidding and award of this Contract will be under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 39M and the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 39S.

Tisbury is an affirmative action/equal opportunity purchaser. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all bids or take whatever other action may be deemed necessary to be in the best interest of the Town. jun5,1-t

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for furnishing the following will be received at the Department of Public Works, 115 High Point Lane, Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts 02568 until the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. The time received will be stamped on each bid and for a consistency of time, the time clock in the Public Works will be the determining time.

ITEM
Repairs to the Metal Exterior to the Transfer Station
For the Public Works Department, Tisbury, MA
BID OPENING
June 25, 2026 at 2:45PM

Bid Documents and bid forms may be obtained at the Department of Public Works, 115 High Point Lane, Vineyard Haven MA, or by emailing the Marie Maciel at mmaci@tisburyma.gov.

Bids will be opened in the Public Works Department, 115 High Point Lane, Vineyard Haven, MA. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security of **CERTIFIED**

TISBURY LEGAL NOTICES

CHECK, or BID BOND issued by a responsible bank or trust company licensed to do business in the State of Massachusetts in the amount of 5% of the total bid.</

From the Town Columnists

CHAPPY

PETER WELLS

Good news, the long-awaited Chappy Community Center calendars have arrived. Remember that this annual calendar is a fundraiser for the center. The calendar is not just about knowing what day it is. It is also a celebration of Chappaquiddick through the eyes of the photographers who captured and shared images of the island.

The CCC is abuzz with pre-summer activities. Yoga is now twice weekly, a per usual on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. with Yogi-Jay and now Wednesdays with Craig Ranucci at 8:30 am. Sign up online at the CCC website. While you are on the website, peruse the summer activities. Lots of great events to plan for and to sign up for.

The next CCC potluck supper is on Wednesday, June 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. Please bring a dish to serve 8 to 10 people.

On Saturday, June 20 (rain date June 21), the CCC will hold its third annual classic golf tournament at the Royal and Ancient Chappaquiddick Links. There are still several spots available, and you don't need a team to sign up. You can sign on as a single. See the CCC website for complete information.

The annual Chappy Point to Point foot race is on Sunday June 28. Proceeds from this year's race will be used to purchase a vessel composter to be installed at Slip Away Farm for the benefit of Chappy residents. The composter will divert food scraps and organic waste from the waste stream, reducing the volume of trash hauled off Island and cutting the methane emissions that result when organics decompose in landfills. The finished compost will be used to enrich soil with nutrients and beneficial microbes, improving water retention, supporting healthier plant growth, and reducing the need for chemical fertilizers. This is a convenient, sustainable way to manage household waste while contributing to the productivity of Chappy's very own Slip Away Farm.

Mark your calendars for the annual Chappaquiddick Island Association meeting on July 11 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the community center. The gathering is always entertaining and informative.

Start collecting your household hazardous waste for the collection on July 18. The Chappy groundwater committee will be organizing a group collection at the CCC that morning. Stayed tuned for further information.

The opening reception for the Chappy art festival is on July 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. Some amazing Chappy artists and artisans from all over the Island will be featured. We're still on the lookout for a few more artisans to join us on the porch on Saturday, July 25, from noon to 5 p.m. If you know anyone who would love to share their wonderful crafts and artwork, please have them reach out to Tina at chap-pyccenter@gmail.com.

CHILMARK

KATIE CARROLL

Outdoor weddings are often planned with visions of golden hour light, gentle breezes and perfect sunshine. However, for Ben Sinnett and Hannah Kauffman, their Allen Farm wedding did not follow this idyllic script. As the first couple in 2026 to complete their intention paperwork at the town hall, Mother Nature decided to challenge them. While conventional wisdom might view the cold, rain and wind as a wedding's worst nightmare, it instead became the foundation for a deeply memorable and joyful celebration.

With Ben's sister Ty and Hannah's brother Ezra officiating, the weather became almost like a character in the day's story, turning a standard ceremony into a legendary, intimate event that forced everyone to laugh at the absurdity of the elements. Ben and Hannah proved that a wedding's perfection is measured by the attitude of the couple and their loved ones — and, of course, a song written and performed just for them by Isaac Taylor was a bonus.

Years down the line, Ben and Hannah won't just look back at their wedding and remember the tempest; they will remember the roaring laughter under the tent that was doing some dancing, and the overflowing joy of loved ones who rallied around them.

As an aside, Ben's grandfather Kim Bramhall and Hannah's grandmother Constance Ellis have been friends since their teen years. As I told Ben, I love receiving tidbits of information like this because I get to respond wide-eyed with the simple phrase, "No way!"

Eight members representing three generations of the extended Speer family (Jan, Dawn, Drew, Renée, Christian, Kylie, Caitlin and dear friend Devon) traded the relentless pace of daily life for much-needed quality time at their home on Chowder Kettle Lane. Although the weather was slightly unpredictable, the group leaned into the cozy atmosphere and reveled in spending quality hours together. They embraced the overcast days by sharing stories, laughs and reconnecting in the warmth of the living room. This occasion marked Devon's first visit and, in true New England style, he simply couldn't get enough seafood. For him, the dining table may have been the centerpiece of his visit. Ultimately, the rainy spells served as a perfect reminder that time together is invaluable, and the group was left with a renewed sense of closeness and lasting memories.

The luggage is unpacked, and the quiet has settled in for Ann and Forrest Speck. Two weeks at one of the Creek Hill camps serves as a cherished prologue — a "home away from home" reset before the joyous chaos of the kids and grandkids arrive. This undisturbed interlude is defined by its gentle, unhurried rhythm. When the younger generations pull into the driveway with

TIDE AND TIME																																											
Saturday, Jun. 6				Sunday, Jun. 7				Monday, Jun. 8				Tuesday, Jun. 9				Wednesday, Jun. 10				Thursday, Jun. 11				Friday, Jun. 12																			
High Water		Low Water		High Water		Low Water		High Water		Low Water		High Water		Low Water		High Water		Low Water		High Water		Low Water		High Water		Low Water																	
a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.																
Cape Pogue.....																4:30	5:12	10:13	10:29	5:18	5:57	10:59	11:20	6:08	6:44	11:46	---	7:02	7:32	12:14	12:35	7:57	8:23	1:09	1:26	8:54	9:15	2:05	2:20	9:52	---	3:03	3:14
Edgartown.....																4:41	5:23	10:27	10:43	5:29	6:08	11:13	11:34	6:19	6:55	---	12:00	7:13	7:43	12:18	12:49	8:08	8:34	1:23	1:40	9:05	9:26	2:19	2:34	10:03	---	3:17	3:28
Oak Bluffs.....																4:16	4:58	10:01	10:17	5:04	5:43	10:47	11:08	5:54	6:30	11:34	---	6:48	7:18	12:02	12:23	7:43	8:09	12:57	1:14	8:40	9:01	1:53	2:08	9:38	---	2:51	3:02
East Chop.....																4:13	4:55	9:57	10:13	5:01	5:40	10:43	11:04	5:51	6:27	11:30	11:58	6:45	7:15	---	12:19	7:40	8:06	12:53	1:10	8:37	8:58	1:49	2:04	9:35	---	2:47	2:58
Vineyard Haven.....																4:11	4:53	10:10	10:26	4:59	5:38	10:56	11:17	5:49	6:25	11:43	---	6:43	7:13	12:11	12:32	7:38	8:04	1:06	1:23	8:35	8:56	2:02	2:17	9:33	---	3:00	3:11
West Chop.....																4:02	4:44	9:40	9:56	4:50	5:29	10:26	10:47	5:40	6:16	11:13	11:41	6:34	7:04	---	12:02	7:29	7:55	12:36	12:53	8:26	8:47	1:32	1:47	9:24	---	2:30	2:41
Off Lake Tashmoo.....																1:21	1:56	8:08	8:13	2:08	2:43	8:51	9:13	2:57	3:31	9:41	10:26	3:48	4:23	10:36	11:43	4:46	5:21	11:31	---	5:50	6:22	12:50	12:27	6:53	7:22	1:48	1:21
Cedar Tree Neck.....																12:23	12:58	7:29	7:34	1:10	1:45	8:12	8:34	1:59	2:33	9:02	9:47	2:50	3:25	9:57	11:04	3:48	4:23	10:52	---	4:52	5:24	11:48	---	5:55	6:24	1:09	12:42
Menemsha Bight.....																12:15	12:50	6:34	6:39	1:02	1:37	7:17	7:39	1:51	2:25	8:07	8:52	2:42	3:17	9:02	10:09	3:40	4:15	9:57	11:16	4:44	5:16	10:53	---	5:47	6:16	1:47	---
Gay Head.....																12:07	12:42	6:42	6:47	12:54	1:29	7:25	7:47	1:43	2:17	8:15	9:00	2:34	3:09	9:10	10:17	3:32	4:07	10:05	11:24	4:36	5:08	11:01	---	5:39	6:08	11:55	---
Squibnocket Point.....																---	12:03	5:55	6:00	12:15	12:50	6:38	7:00	1:04	1:38	7:28	8:13	1:55	2:30	8:23	9:30	3:25	3:28	9:18	10:37	3:57	4:29	10:14	11:35	5:00	5:29	11:08	---
Off Chilmark Pond.....																---	12:32	6:01	6:06	12:44	1:19	6:44	7:06	1:33	2:07	7:34	8:19	2:24	2:59	8:29	9:36	3:22	3:57	9:24	10:43	4:26	4:58	10:20	11:41	5:29	5:58	11:14	---
Off Jobs Neck Pond.....																12:14	12:49	6:19	6:24	1:01	1:36	7:02	7:24	1:50	2:24	7:52	8:37	2:41	3:16	8:47	9:54	3:39	4:14	9:42	11:01	4:43	5:15	10:38	11:59	5:46	6:15	11:32	---
Wasque Point.....																2:15	2:50	9:17	9:22	3:02	3:37	10:00	10:22	3:51	4:25	10:50	11:35	4:42	5:17	11:45	---	5:40	6:15	12:52	12:40	6:44	7:16	1:59	1:36	7:47	8:16	2:57	2:30
SLACK WATER																Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood	Begin Ebb	Begin Flood
Wasque Point (2 mi. SW).....																2:41	3:21	8:17	8:57	3:30	4:07	9:05	9:45	4:22	4:55	9:55	10:34	5:15	5:44	10:47	11:24	6:09	6:33	11:41	---	7:03	7:22	12:15	12:36	7:58	8:12	1:05	1:30
Hedge Fence Gong 22.....																3:59	4:39	9:42	10:22	4:48	5:25	10:30	11:10	5:40	6:13	11:20	11:59	6:33	7:02	---	12:12	7:27	7:51	12:49	1:06	8:21	8:40	1:40	2:01	9:16	9:30	2:30	2:55
East Chop (1 mi. N).....																3:51	4:31	9:27	10:07	4:40	5:17	10:15	10:55	6:32	6:05	11:05	11:44	6:25	6:54	11:57	---	7:19	7:43	12:34	12:51	8:13	8:32	1:25	1:46	9:08	9:22	2:15	2:40
Norton Point (.5 mi. N).....																3:06	3:46	8:57	9:37	3:55	4:32	9:45	10:25	4:47	5:20	10:35	11:14	5:40	6:09	11:27	---	6:34	6:58	12:04	12:21	7:28	7:47	12:55	1:16	8:23	8:37	1:45	2:10
Gay Head (1.5 mi. NW).....																2:41	3:21	8:32	9:12	3:30	4:07	9:20	10:00	4:22	4:55	10:10	10:49	5:15	5:44	11:02	11:39	6:09	6:33	11:56	---	7:03	7:22	12:30	12:51	7:58	8:12	1:20	1:45
Source: National Ocean Survey and Tidal Current Tables																																											

excited shouts and running footsteps, the grandparents are rested, grounded and ready to soak up every ounce of family time.

Barbara Morgan Armstrong has been putting her photography skills to work. She will facilitate a Chilmark Library/ Chilmark historical commission collaboration called Lunch & Learn on Friday June 5 at 11:30 a.m. Barbara's contemporary photos juxtaposed with historic images of Menemsha harbor curated from a Vineyard Gazette article of the 1938 Hurricane and antique images courtesy of the Martha's Vineyard Museum photo collection will be one display through June 21.

Scott Larsen was greeted with a gigantic Card My Yard sign as he arrived at work. The words displayed were simple, "Happy Birthday Scott." June 1 marked the day he completed 40 years on Earth. They say the weather on your birthday is a reflection of your year. For Scott, the sun was shining so I'd say it was a good one. To wrap up his day, he gathered with some friends at Nomans in Oak Bluffs. Kick off time for the celebration was a very respectable 7:30 p.m. Is he showing his age?

While all this is going on in town, the West Tisbury School eighth graders have jetted off to England for the second half of the UK exchange program. Stepping up to the ultimate rite-of-passage challenge are Chilmark and Aquinnah kids including: Keyshawn Devine, Oceana Dias, Stella Glickman, Abby Karlinsky, Liam Keene, Freya and Hailey Mayhew, Lewis Moore and Violet Simon. Mixed in with spending quality time with their individual host families, they will pack their schedules with visiting historic Chester and Liverpool, Alton Towers Amusement Park, Stockton Heath, Bridgewater High with their exchanges and the medieval

fortification of Conwy Castle in Wales.

EDGARTOWN

KATHIE CASE

When 2026 arrived I think Mother Nature decided to let us know who is in control. We had record breaking snow, it was cold and windy all winter. Now we are in the month June and we have had a mini northeaster, the temperatures are too low for this time of the year, and we know in one day it will be 80 degrees and summer will be here. Yes, Mother Nature is in charge; now we wait to see what she has for us next.

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated their day this past week. Big balloons go out to Arielle De Assis, Aiden Ryan, James Le Blond and Leroy Thibodeau, who all celebrated May 31; Fletcher Foster, June 1; Olivia Silva, June 2; Adeline Chandler, Cecillia Carletti, Sophia Pimenta, Beau McLaughlin, June 3; and to Quinn Millard and Sajada Fair, who celebrate their day today June 5.

Meg Mercier, local artist extraordinaire and who has supported many local charities through her art among them Possible Dreams and animal shelter fundraiser, turned 63 on Wednesday. Yup, she was born on June 3, 1963. Happy special birthday Meg, enjoy it with laughter and goopy cake.

If you have been to one of these events you would know that Meg arrives with a blank canvas and proceeds to paint her surroundings while the event is going on. This becomes a memorable painting to be auctioned off. Her talent is amazing.

A few more summer shout-outs: traffic was backed up to Shady Oak Lane; most of the registers are filled at the Stop & Shop; there are many more

bikes on the bike path; Edgartown Seafood is back in operation; the harbor has more boats arriving; the Amity running club is back meeting at Bad Martha's; if you are an early riser the sun is shining when you get up and it is still daylight when you go to bed; some college students are arriving for summer jobs; a few more stores are opening on Main street; the children are getting excited as there are only a few for weeks of school; we are back mowing the lawn; the irises are blooming.

It has been a very busy spring and I think it will be a busy summer. Hope we can all take some time to enjoy it.

Have a great week and keep the home candles burning.

VINEYARD HAVEN

NANCY GARDELLA

I usually do not begin my column with an obituary but here we are. My beautiful Toby passed away at age 18 years and two months old on April 15. He was born on Valentine's day. He was a love bug and a character. I like to joke that because my house is small I had two groups for his birthday party. The first group were those he had bitten. Second tier were those he had not. Guess which group was larger?

Oh, I always made sure his rabies and distemper shots, and heartworm medicine were up to date. But after I saved him from euthanasia he was devoted to me. Just ask our wonderful animal control officer, Heather Maciel. Toby stayed by my side when I returned from every hospitalization. He resented anyone who hugged me on my birthday. He looked askance at every letter carrier, UPS and Fe-

dEx delivery person. He chewed the cushions on countless chairs. When he passed during National Poetry Month all I could think of was Robert Frost's poem Bereft. I suggest you look that up if you are not familiar with it.

My life is empty now. But one thing I know for sure is we gave each other the best of lives.

WEST TISBURY

EILEEN MALEY

The world around us says June. Trees, grasses and flowers beds are glowing with youth and are robust with vitality. Nature is thumping its breast.

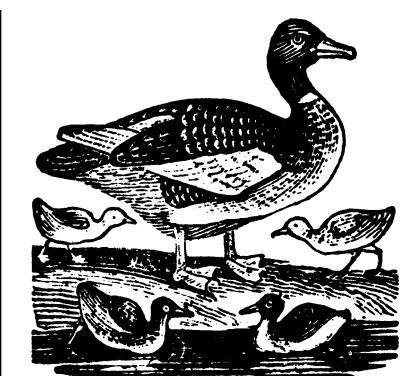
The early June calendar is popping with activities. The first of the season's farmers' markets is Saturday, June 6, at the Agricultural Hall grounds.

Last summer the market achieved national attention when attorney Alan Dershowitz was refused service at a stand called Good Pierogi. Mr. Dershowitz threatened to sue the owner for violating his rights. The dispute attracted national attention, a flurry of letters to the editor, a re-write of the farmers' market bylaws and a line of customers who had never before tasted a pierogi.

In the old days, nobody paid attention when the opera world's acclaimed soprano Beverly Sills donned a pair of bibbed denim overalls, set up a card table and sold her own-grown onions at the farmers' market. She should, at least, have attracted a photographer.

Weddings are taking place in churches and gardens and porches. Spare no expense. One mature woman we know says she will earn \$6,000 this weekend alone, baby-sitting the bride's eight-month-old nephew during events related to one Island wedding. Baby-sitting!

West Tisbury's civic leaders will host the annual town picnic next weekend, on Saturday, June 13 at noon. The party will be held at the Grange Hall. All are welcome. Bring your own food and a blanket. The town will provide games for all ages and ice cream. If it rains, as it did last year, the picnic will move indoors.



All Outdoors

Humble Bees

by SUZAN BELLINCAMPI

"Life is hard. After all, it kills you."

This dramatic statement came from no other than actress Katharine Hepburn, who was not thinking of big buzzy bees when she uttered it. But it could be these insects' tag line.

Lately, I have been finding bodies of bulbous beasts, including carpenter and bumble bees, strewn on the ground, on the deck and along the trails. Is it an insect apocalypse or just nature at work?

Probably both, but it is the latter that describes my local observations. Most of the dead bees I am observing are victims of life cycle, predation and potentially some human-induced threats. Their demise provides an opportunity for an up-close look at these fascinating insects and a deep dive into the details of their demise.

Carpenter and bumble bees are two of the large spherical species bumbling about. They can be differentiated in life and death. Carpenter bees are often seen targeting wood for their nests and making and using holes in buildings, while bumble bees are not interested in your trim or siding. They nest in the ground, grasses, old rodent and bird nests, and under sheds and structures. The bodies of these bees diverge in color and markings. Carpenter bees are mostly shiny black with a yellow section on their thorax, while bumble bees are super fuzzy and have yellow and black striping. In both species, the female has a stinger but rarely uses it. In Shakespeare's time, bumble bees were called "humblebees," with the connotations of modest, lowly, kind and benevolent.

Valued for their pollination services, these bees are especially important for crops such tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, melons and many berries, as well as native and nonnative plants. More than 25 commercial food crops depend on bumble bees for pollination services.

Bee lives are short, with most existing from a few weeks up to a year, depending on species, gender, and season. Of course, there are deaths from natural causes such as old (in bee

terms) age. This time of year, it is not unusual to see a handful of dead bees put outside of a nest by workers, the result of hygiene and spring-cleaning activities to ready the nest for the season.

Predators are another cause of mortality for bees and sometimes those deaths are self-evident. Bees that became prey are often observed missing a head, thorax or abdomen. Birds are the likely culprits, and will pick and eat the best parts (think head and brains), leaving other less desirable parts behind.

If you find a dead bee roadside it might have been a victim of a car or truck collision. Bumbles are large, but no match for our much more massive vehicles. High numbers of dead elsewhere could be poison or colony death due to parasites or other conditions. Lack of food and poor weather can also cause bee mortality.

In an interesting type of assisted suicide, consider certain varieties of lime and linden trees. Some varieties of these species can kill bees that have drunk too much of their nectar, which can act as a narcotic and is even toxic in quantities to the point of death.

Sometimes, though, motionless bees are just resting. Sleeping bees may resemble those that have passed, but note that live ones hold their bodies upright, and are often found on plants and will move when touched.

While some fear these bees and many avoid their presence or curse their activities, I cannot help but be thankful for their pollination services, beauty and functionality in the face of a harsh world. American playwright and novelist Thornton Wilder might not have been considering bee bereavement, but captured my feelings about these buzzy buzzies: "The highest tribute to the dead is not grief but gratitude."

Suzan Bellincampi is director of the Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary in Edgartown, and author of *Martha's Vineyard: A Field Guide to Island Nature and The Nature of Martha's Vineyard*.



Suzan Bellincampi

A bee life is a short one.

Bird News

Migration Wanes

By ROBERT CULBERT

Four migrant warblers were spotted this week. Jacob Llodra found one blackburnian warbler along Pease's Point Way on May 25, and Nick Teague spotted a bay-breasted warbler at Seven Gates on May 25 and a worm-eating warbler at the Hoft Farm on May 30.

Blackpoll warblers were seen along Moshup Trail. Bob Shriber observed one on May 25 and Nick Teague located two on May 27. Elsewhere, David Padulo saw one at Sheriff's Meadow sanctuary on May 25 and another at Menemsha Hills on May 26. Nick Teague observed one at Menemsha Hills on May 27, and Ruth Richards found one at Lucy Vincent on May 28.

Norton Point is the place to go for shorebirds. I walked from the left fork to the breach on May 26, finding 14 species, including nesting piping plovers, American oystercatchers (with chicks), willets and killdeer in addition to the following transients: 90 black-bellied plovers, four semipalmated plovers, one short-billed dowitcher, one greater yellowlegs, 380 ruddy turnstones (!), seven red knots, 125 sanderlings, 45 dunlins, three least sandpipers and two semipalmated sandpipers. Nick Teague spotted a spotted sandpiper at Seven Gates on May 26, and Jeff Bernier located another spottie at John Butler's Mudhole on May 28.

On May 18, Diane Lucey found a male dickcissel in Chilmark, and Beth Biros discovered an adult red-headed woodpecker on Chappaquiddick.

On May 29, Kayla Smith found one purple finch at North Neck on May 18, and Cynthia Bloomquist and Thaw Malin observed one at their West Tisbury home on May 25.

A yellow-crowned night-heron is surprising; Brendan Lynch spotted one at Felix Neck on May 27.

The rest of the birds mentioned in this column may be summer residents rather than transients.

Bob Shriber, Nancy Weaver and Janet Woodcock found a willow flycatcher along Moshup Trail on May 25, as did Nick Teague on May 27. Ruth Richards spotted one at Lucy Vincent on May 28.

Orchard orioles abound. Nick Teague and Nancy Nordin both found one at the Gay Head Cliffs on May 18, Nick Teague observed one in the state forest on May 23. Four observers (Rich Couse, Shea Fee, Luanne Johnson and Nancy Weaver) located one at the Hoft Farm on May 25. Luke Ulicny discovered one at the Mill Pond on May 26, Derrob Hagy-Weatherbee spotted one at Dike Bridge on May 29, and Matt Pelikan had one at his Oak Bluffs' home on May 31.

Yellow-billed cuckoos have been heard frequently. Lanny McDowell had



Lanny McDowell

A merlin keeps watch.

one at his Vineyard Haven home on May 20. Polly Bassett heard one at her house on May 20, Charles Morano located two at Austin Pasture Road in Chilmark and one Squibnocket Pond Preservation North on May 21. On May 25, Rich Couse discovered one at the Hoft Farm and Bob Shriber located one along Moshup Trail. David Padulo had one at Menemsha Hills on May 26, and Janet Woodcock, Nancy Weaver, David Padulo and Ruth Richards each located one at Great Rock Bight on May 28.

Most ruby-throated hummingbirds reports come near feeders but not all of them. Rob and Pam Davey spotted one at Waskosim's Rock Reservation on May 10, Kayla Smith found one at North Neck on May 18 and another at Caroline Tuthill Preserve on May 20. Charles Morano saw one at Squibnocket Pond Reservation north on May 21. Steve Carey located one at Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary on May 22, and Monica Carroll had one at Farm Pond on May 25. At Great Rock Bight, Nick Teague, Janet Woodcock, David Padulo, Nancy Weaver and Charles Morano each observed one at Great Rock Bight on May 28.

Cedar waxwings have been seen in every town: Moshup Trail (Nick Teague, May 27); Great Rock Bight (Ruth Richards, David Padulo, Nancy Weaver, Janet Woodcock May 28 and Nick Teague, May 30); Seven Gates (Nick Teague, May 26); Menemsha Hills (Shea Fee, May 30); Abel's Hill Cemetery (me, May 27); Mill Pond (Luke Ulicny, May 26); state forest, near the youth hostel (Bridget Dunnigan and Sea Williams, May 30); Kanomika Neck (Helena Firlings, May 27); Poucha Pond Reservation (Derrob Hagy-Weatherbee, May 26); Wasque (Luke Ulicny, May 30); Tisbury Meadow (Helena Firlings, May 25); Hoft Farm (Nancy Weaver, Luanne Johnson and Shea Fee, May 25 and Nick Teague, May 30); James Pond Preserve (Ruth Richards, Nancy Weaver and Ja-

net Woodcock, May 26).

Shea Fee saw a field sparrow at Long Point on May 29, and Luke Ulicny observed another at Wasque on May 30.

Nick Teague spotted a rose-breasted grosbeak at Hoft Farm on May 30.

Nick Teague also found a merlin at Great Rock Bight on May 18. I observed one speeding past at the Gay Head Cliffs on May 20, and at Wasque, Derrob Hagy-Weatherbee watched one on May 29. Luke Ulicny located a pair on May 30.

Eastern bluebird chicks have already fledged. Laura Murphy had chicks hatch in her yard in early May. Sophie Lindheimer saw chicks being fed near Oyster Pond on May 25. Nick Teague watched three wood ducks with seven ducklings at a pond at the Hoft Farm on May 30.

The MV Bird Club Birding 101 walk in the State Forest on May 30 found 32 species, with the following highlights: four chimney swifts, one eastern phoebe, six bluebirds (including three fledglings), seven cedar waxwings, two field sparrows, three Baltimore orioles, five ovenbirds, two common yellowthroats, two pine warblers and one prairie warbler.

A flock of six great blue herons flying southwest over Seven Gates on May 23 (observed by Nick Teague) is unusual as single individuals are more likely. Maureen Brodoff found one at Felix Neck on May 23. Janet Woodcock, Nancy Weaver and Ruth Richards observed one at James Pond Preserve on May 26. Charles Wortz had one in Menemsha Harbor on May 26, and Luke Ulicny saw one as it flew over the Chappaquiddick Ferry on May 30.

Are these birds dispersing after a failed nesting attempt elsewhere?

Please email your sightings to birds@vineyardgazette.com.

Robert Culbert is an ecological consultant living in Vineyard Haven.

The Vineyard Gardener



Locust Trees

By LYNNE IRONS

It was yet another chilly, windy and rainy weekend. Too bad the rain actually did not amount to much in the gardens. By Tuesday, I was hauling hoses around.

There is so much on which to report in garden world. The Rosa Rugosa between Beach Road and the bike path are at their peak. It must be tempting for homeowners who often plant a stand of them on the properties. No offense, but it's never a good idea. They really do belong on the beach. They never look good after the bloom even with the colorful "hips" in the fall. They are thorny and unwieldy. I have found it helpful to cut to the ground in early winter. They



Mark Alan Lovewell

Looking good.

always come back and refreshed. Word to the wise — get good gloves.

Dark blue salvia is in full bloom. If a person continues to "dead head" all summer there will be significant rebloom all season long. Again, don't be shy, cut down to the fork to encourage tidy blooms. Speaking of salvia, the pineapple sage is a big hit with the hummingbird watching public. It comes in both green and yellow leafed varieties with an impressive red bloom. Deer proof, it has a pleasing pineapple scent.

The locust trees are in full bloom along the highways. Sadly, the wonderful smelling flowers are way too high to reach. Considered a weed tree by many, it's one of our family's favorites. As firewood it can be burned "green" and barely needs kindling. The trunks make long-lasting garden posts or trel-

lises. The only drawback is that the youngsters are covered in scary thorns.

I'm not a huge fan of radishes, however, cooked they are great. I sautéed several with leeks and cooked chicken and dumped them on a pizza crust. It made an alpha-gal friendly supper.

I have a couple of pet peeves. The amount of plastic (pots, labels and underliners) generated by a trip to the nursery is alarming. I try to reuse as many as humanly possible and/or put them into tidy piles of family groups. I never just leave them somewhere, but ask if the receiver actually wants them. For you folks leaving them at my house — no thank you!

The other peeve is the behavior of some people in traffic. When there is a slow moving line and someone is trying to get into the queue, why fill in the space? You aren't moving anyway. A friendly waggle is always appropriate when some kind soul lets you in. On the bright side, isn't it wonderful to live somewhere that others want to visit?

I went to college in Texas, at North Texas State in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Denton triangle. I've always been interested in Texas politics given my

Appalachian upbringing. It produced George W. Bush, LBJ and the great Ann Richards. The senate race has really caught my attention. I'm still sour that Ted Cruz won over Beto O'Rourke. Trump putting his thumb on the scale for Ken Paxton to best John Cornyn in the primary may have given James Tarlario an edge. Then again, Americans rarely go for the decent, scandal-free guy. To wit: Jimmy Carter and Joe Biden both were considered feckless and non-fighters. Jimmy Carter had to build houses for poor people for 40 years after his defeat to Ronald Reagan to get noticed. But, hey, rich people got their tax breaks and voters believed they would get rich someday to take advantage of those breaks!

Have mercy.

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I heard a thousand blended notes, While in a grove I sate reclined, In that sweet mood

VINEYARD GAZETTE

Dedicated to the interest of the six towns on the Island of Martha's Vineyard, viz: Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury (Vineyard Haven), West Tisbury, Chilmark and Aquinnah. These, with Gosnold, constitute Dukes County.

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