

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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By boat and by shore, looking to cast their luck as the derby continues.

Ray Ewing

East Chop Bluffs Project Loses Federal Funding

By EMMA KILBRIDE

The federal agency that promised Oak Bluffs \$10 million to fix a crumbling section of East Chop Drive four years ago says it is no longer required to award the town the money, citing permitting delays and the agency's decision to limit grant extensions moving forward.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declined to give the town more time to access the grant to repair the eroding stretch between Brewster avenue and Harrison avenue, which has been closed for nearly a decade, after the eligibility period to use the grant lapsed in May of this year. The project has been plagued by delays, and certain state and federal permit applications necessary for the project to proceed are still outstanding.

Town administrator Wendy Brough, who is also the project manager, announced the loss of funding at last Tuesday's Oak Bluffs select board meeting and said the project's future remains uncertain.

"Right now, we are in a bit of a stall with East Chop regarding the funding," Ms. Brough told the board.

The town first closed East Chop Drive to motor vehicles in 2018, citing its precarious position on an eroding bluff overlooking the Vineyard Sound. The stability of the area has been an issue for decades, worsened by major weather events such as Hurricane Bob and Hurricane Sandy.

The town's proposed solution is to construct a 1,200-foot barrier along the bluff to restore what has been lost to erosion and protect the area from future degradation.

The town got to work on the plan to repair and reopen the area in 2018 and received word from FEMA in 2022 that it had won the \$10 million grant. But shifting priorities at FEMA and a delayed project timeline led the agency

to pull the grant — a possibility Ms. Brough first raised in April 2025.

"The denial was tied to FEMA's policy direction concerning extensions under an expired grant program and broader grant closeout and administrative management objectives, rather than any identified deficiency in the East Chop project itself," Ms. Brough wrote to the Gazette last week.

Meanwhile, the project is only getting more expensive. Back in 2018, its estimated cost was \$16.9 million. That cost has now risen to \$33.3 million, according to the town.

"At some point, it has to be done. As long as we don't do anything, the road will stay closed."

In a letter to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), FEMA acknowledged that the East Chop project was experiencing "significant permitting delays" but nonetheless made the unappealable decision to not offer the grant extension.

"FEMA is strategically limiting application and performance period extensions to improve administrative management of the program while continuing to comply with applicable regulatory and policy requirements," the letter reads. "Accordingly, FEMA has denied the Recipient's request for a twenty-two-month Period of Performance extension."

The East Chop project is still waiting on approvals from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management after applying for permits in March 2025. *To Page Seven*

Vineyarder Aims to Change Cornell Culture

By EMMA KILBRIDE

Two weeks ago, a former Cornell University student filed a lawsuit in New York alleging that seven male students gang raped her at a fraternity house in 2024. The woman, identified only as Jane Doe, said the Chi Phi fraternity members assaulted her for hours after pressuring her into snorting ketamine, smoking marijuana and drinking high-proof liquor. She is suing the school, the fraternity and the seven men she claims assaulted her, among others.

For Vineyarder and Cornell junior Olympia Hall, the alleged rape has dominated nearly every conversation of the past several weeks. As co-president of Cornell's Sexual Assault Prevention and Safety Club, Ms. Hall spends much of her time working to dismantle a campus culture that permits and enables assaults like the one Ms. Doe allegedly endured two years ago.

"It's overwhelming," Ms. Hall told the Gazette this week by phone. "I mean, this is my school. This is my community. I think this has hit this campus hard, and ... people are definitely outraged. They're upset."

Ms. Hall graduated from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School in 2024, and has been a member of Cornell's *To Page Seven*



Donnie Benefit, captaining the Edgartown dredge.

Ray Ewing

Vibrio Infection Sidelines Shellfisherman

By CHARLES LEITNER

After contracting a rare form of vibrio in Vineyard waters, a local fisherman nearly lost his foot to infection.

Donnie Benefit, a 68-year-old Edgartown resident and captain of the Edgartown town dredge, noticed a blister growing between his index and big toe on his left foot after three days of shellfishing. At first, he didn't think much of it and did some home treatments. But the wound got worse, and he went to Martha's Vineyard Hospital after the infection began to devour the skin off the top of his foot, exposing the muscle and tendons below.

"When they finally got me in there, it looked like I pulled my foot out of a wood stove," said Mr. Benefit.

After the staff at the hospital saw how far the infection had progressed, Mr. Benefit was flown to Mass General Brigham in Boston, where he underwent several rounds of surgery. Despite the aggressive nature of the infection, Mr. Benefit is expected to make a full recovery under his current treatment.

"The recovery is actually going really well," Mr. Benefit said. "I had four surgeries to get rid of the infection and then another one to clean it up."

What Mr. Benefit contracted was a rare bacteria called vibrio vulnificus. While Islanders are often familiar with vibrio parahaemolyticus, which is typically contracted when eating contaminated raw sea food, vibrio vulnificus

can lead to more severe infections that can include gastrointestinal inflammation (gastroenteritis) and redness or swelling around a wound (cellulitis). In extreme cases, flesh-eating disease (necrotizing fasciitis) or sepsis can also occur.

Edgartown officials announced the vibrio vulnificus case in August, but said there was not a widespread public health concern.

"Generally speaking, while there is increased bacterial activity as water continues to warm, infection is much more common in the South than the Northeast," said Brice Boutot, the Edgartown health agent. "When enjoying the waters of Martha's Vineyard, risk of infection remains low for those who

To Page Seven

Zoning Ballot Question Stirs Debate

By ETHAN GENTER

A new proposal headed to the Nov. 3 state election could open up traditionally undersized lots to home development in the down Island towns.

Ballot question seven, if passed, would allow single-family homes to be built in residentially zoned areas as long as the land is at least 5,000 square feet (approximately 11 per cent of an acre), has 50 feet of land bordering a road, and has access to public sewer and water.

The initiative has drawn support from Gov. Maura Healey, housing advocates and the Vineyard's state senator Julian Cyr for its ability to help bring more housing opportunities to Massachusetts.

Island planning, building and zoning officials said the measure, if passed, would open up many parcels in Tisbury, Oak Bluffs and Edgartown to develop-

ment that would have been considered too small under existing zoning.

That has caused some concern among Islanders, who worried the proposal could bring more development that feeds the second home market. Proponents say the law does allow towns to prohibit the new development from being used as short-term rentals, and there is a potential to put further restrictions on them in the future.

The ballot question was put forward by Legalize Starter Homes, a Lowell-based organization that hopes to see more options for people trying to make a living in the Bay State.

"The goal is to create homes that are smaller, lower cost, lower maintenance," said Andrew Mikula, the chair of the Yes on 7 campaign. "This should be the baseline allowance everywhere in Mas-

sachusetts that has the infrastructure."

Municipalities would be able to put restrictions on height, setbacks, parking and whether the properties could be rented out on a short-term basis.

The ballot question would only affect the down Island towns, as Aquinnah, Chilmark and West Tisbury don't have municipal water or sewer. But planners said the down Island towns have many of these sorts of lots that would be eligible should the question pass.

"There are a slew of small lots, postage stamp lots, in Oak Bluffs, Vineyard Haven and Edgartown," said Adam Petkus, the Oak Bluffs building inspector.

The proposal has drawn criticism from organizations such as the Massachusetts Municipal Association, a nonprofit that provides advocacy and *To Page Seven*



Question 7 has the support of Governor Healey, but local officials have reservations.

Ray Ewing

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Erin Tiernan, part owner of Basics.

Joanna Shepard

Circuit Avenue Retailer Plans To Close this Year

By EMMA KILBRIDE

A year-round Island clothing store in Oak Bluffs is set to close its doors for good this winter.

Basics Clothing Company, the family outfitter at 24 Circuit avenue, is preparing to shut down in December, co-owner Erin Tiernan told the Gazette last week.

According to Ms. Tiernan, she and business partners Thomas and Laurel Welch came to the decision after the owner of the building, the Barmakian Realty Trust, expressed interest in selling the property. Attempts to reach the trust and trustee Luke Barmakian were unsuccessful.

Ms. Tiernan, who also runs Oso and is a part owner of Eastaway with the Welches, lives in a condo above Basics, and said an ownership change would create too much uncertainty for both her business and her personal life.

"There's a big disconnect on the Island between what businesses can produce and what real estate is worth..." she said. "If the whole [building] goes and somebody else buys it, and then we have a new person renting to us, obviously with that change in mortgage payment, our rent would become too high for the business to sustain."

A real estate listing for the building, which is also home to The Corner Store, has not been posted publicly. The property is assessed at over \$3 million.

Ms. Tiernan said she and her business partners are still deciding what to do with Eastaway, Basics' seasonal sister store at 20 Circuit avenue.

"Without Basics, the corporation really doesn't support all three of us," she said. "One of us will be going forward with it, but we're still trying to sort out that part."

Ms. Tiernan has been involved with Basics for more than half her life. She has been part-owner of the store for 17 years and has worked there for 23 years in total.

"It's the most time I've spent on anything in my life, and it definitely feels like an entire chapter is closing," Ms. Tiernan said. "New doors open, and we're all going to be fine... but it's still a loss to the community."

Running a year-round Island clothing business has meant a great deal to Ms. Tiernan.

"We see people at their best when they come in because they need something for ... a wedding, and we see them at their worst when they need black pants for a funeral," she said.

As Basics prepares to offload its inventory, all items are currently at least 25 per cent off, with certain items as much as 50 per cent off. To Ms. Tiernan, the empty store will leave a hole in Island retail.

"I think everybody will really feel it the first time it snows, and it'll be hard to find snow boots for kids," she said.

High School Project Poses Uncertainty for Film Fest

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

One of the Island's most prominent summer events, the Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival, this week issued a call for submissions to its 25th-anniversary festival in 2027.

But exact dates for the film series are up in the air, due to uncertainty over when the Martha's Vineyard Performing Arts Center may be available for public use next summer.

The 790-seat auditorium, which has been the film festival's home for the past decade and a half, will lose its parking area at the end of the current school year, when the \$333.5 million Martha's Vineyard Regional High School project gets under way.

As the future home of the high school's first two-story classroom wing, the parking lot will become an active construction site as soon as school lets out in June, according to the work plan from project management firm W.T. Rich.

The performing arts center building also will be affected by the removal of nearby classrooms to make way for new administrative offices, Evan Moore of W.T. Rich told the high school building committee Sept. 29.

Mr. Moore said the performing arts center could be available for part of the summer, but public entrances will have to change and the Oak Bluffs building and fire departments will need to issue new occupancy permits.

The final decision on whether or not to allow public events at the performing arts center during construction will be up to the regional high school committee, once the building committee makes its recommendation.

That can't happen until, at the earliest, November, when Tappé Architects is scheduled to deliver its designs for the building work.

Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival co-founder Stephanie Rance said the uncertainty is preying on Island businesses that rely on the festival for crucial revenue in August.

"We're just in a precarious predicament right now [because] all of these businesses and hotels ... are really banking on this happening so they can meet their bottom line," she told the building committee.

"I don't know what to say to them,"

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Island School Committee Eyes System-Wide Changes

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

An outside review of payroll and human resources procedures for public schools on Martha's Vineyard has found costly inconsistencies between the five districts, according to a report from the Collins Center for Public Management at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Island towns would save money if their school committees unified the practices for all school employees, regardless of where they work, two Collins Center consultants told the all-Island school committee on Sept. 24.

"Because there are so many different software systems across the Island, the default systems have been very manual and very paper-based," said Marie Altieri, who presented the report with Monica Visco.

The all-Island committee engaged the Collins Center to review school practices after discovering inconsistencies in how transportation workers were being paid under a new timekeeping system that was negotiated with the bus and van drivers earlier this year.

"There really is room to be able to create some efficiencies," said Ms. Altieri, listing some potential software solutions.

"There are absence management programs out there, whereby people can report a request to take time off, and then that is handled electronically. There are also substitute placement programs out there, where it can automatically go out and offer substitutes the job, and again, that would create a bunch of efficiencies," she said.

"And there are definitely employee portal programs out there for self-service, so that employees can do it themselves rather than have to email and then a staff member has to keep track of everything," Ms. Altieri said.

The Collins Center's top recommendation was to unify employment and payroll procedures across all six public schools.

At present, staffers at the Edgartown, Oak Bluffs and Tisbury schools — each of which has its own school district and elected school committee — are town employees who are paid through their municipalities.

The Chilmark and West Tisbury schools, which also serve children from Aquinnah, compose the up-Island school district, which has a single elected committee and handles its payroll and other finances through the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools superintendency office in Vineyard Haven.

The superintendent's office also manages fiscal affairs for Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, which has its own district and committee.

In addition to updating payroll and staffing processes, the Collins Center report strongly recommends a centralized human resources department to ensure all public school employees are treated equally.

Currently, Island teachers' seniority is limited by contract to the district in which they are currently working. Teachers in the three down-Island towns can't change schools without losing their seniority and up-Island teachers may only keep seniority if they transfer between Chilmark and West Tisbury.

Superintendent of schools Jaime Curley, who started her job July 1, said she's already working to make some procedures more consistent across districts, including the Family Medical Leave Act process and the way resignations are handled.



Ray Ewing

Policy changes are afoot.

She also found that about 30 Island teachers were working without the required licenses, Ms. Curley said.

"It's not completely unusual to have staff unlicensed in a district, but generally there's a process that you need to follow," she said.

Unlicensed teachers may work at schools under waivers from the state education department, but only once the job has been posted and other candidates considered, Ms. Curley said.

"Our first priority was making sure that we had all of our unlicensed people either on a waiver or to get licensed," she said.

About 10 of the teachers have obtained their licenses so far, she said, and the waiver process is under way for the rest.

Ms. Curley also noted that her assistant superintendent for operations, former Mashpee Public Schools finance director Ashley Lopes, previously oversaw human resources on a district-wide basis.

"Having an HR director costs money," Ms. Curley said. "We're lucky to have Ashley and her skill set."

Business manager Mark Friedman said an attendance software program is already in the works for the school system.

Further savings could be found by centralizing some of the schools' food and custodial services, according to the Collins Center report.

Ms. Lopes will meet with the food service departments and the facility directors from each of the schools this year to consider potential efficiencies, Ms. Curley said.

The Collins Center study included on-Island visits with more than two dozen people, with follow-ups on Zoom, Ms. Visco said.

"We met with town and school officials [and] reviewed related payroll and HR forms and procedures," she said.

All-Island school committee chair Amy Houghton said that putting the center's cost-saving recommendations into practice will require some initial spending that should be included in the next budget.

"How many years have we been saying that HR needed to be a priority within the district ... I think for the better part of five years," Ms. Houghton said.

"Every time, it has been kicked down the street because there was financial cost associated there, [but] at some point we can't just say, 'Well, we're not going to do it,'" she said.

"The fact that... a staff member can't go to a portal and find out how much time they have off is ludicrous. Ludicrous," Ms. Houghton said.

"We need to change. We need to have more efficiencies," she said.

New Tick Program Offered

The Tick Center at Martha's Vineyard Medical is hosting a new mindfulness and stress management group program beginning Wednesday, Oct. 14 and continuing for eight weeks.

The program will be led by Vineyard-based psychologists Ruth Folchman, and aims to help patients living with alpha-

gal syndrome, chronic Lyme disease and other persistent tick-borne health conditions through stress-management and mindfulness skills.

Ms. Folchman will be guiding patients with tools for managing the stress, anxiety and disruption that come with a chronic tick-borne health condition.

Event Bylaw Put off in Oak Bluffs

By EMMA KILBRIDE

Oak Bluffs has once again decided to hold off on proposing a controversial new bylaw at town meeting that seeks to regulate commercial events at residential properties.

At last Tuesday's select board meeting, the board narrowly voted to postpone asking voters if they'd like to force commercial event hosts at private homes to get the town's blessing beforehand.

Voters tabled a previous version of the bylaw at town meeting in April, and select board member Mark Leonard spearheaded the rewrite presented this week. He said it was designed to mitigate safety concerns that arise from a lot of people congregating in one place by making event holders apply for a permit with the town 30 days prior to the event.

The bylaw would have applied to events with paid participation or ticketing and would have exempted nonprofits and political groups.

"If you want to have your daughter's wedding at your house, perfectly fine, no issues. It's your house, you can have as many people as you want," he said. "If you start renting out your house to have weddings, now you're becoming a commercial event in a commercial venue, and so this requires those people... to apply for a permit."

The bylaw received pushback from members of the public earlier this year, as many feared it would cut their ability to have events at their homes.

Among the concerned was Keija Minor, who appeared virtually at Tuesday's meet-

ing to express her opposition to the bylaw as written.

"The idea that 10 people, 20 people, is going to be a public safety threat or disrupt the neighborhood, I don't know if we've seen data that shows that," she said.

Ms. Minor said Mr. Leonard invited her specifically to a small group to workshop the bylaw. But she criticized the process, noting that agendas, minutes and schedules for the small group were not made public.

"To do this in the shadows, I think, is a misstep that we won't be able to undo," Ms. Minor said.

Select board member Emma Green-Beach said she was not aware that meetings were taking place to craft a corporate events bylaw. She contrasted the process with the working group headed by select board member Bill Cleary over the past several months to hammer out a short-term rental bylaw. Meetings for that group were advertised to the public with agendas and minutes.

"That concerns me a little bit," she said.

Under state law, town boards, committees and subcommittees are required to post agendas 48 hours ahead of a meeting, and then keep minutes of those meetings. While the short-term rental working group was formally created by the town, making it subject to these rules, Mr. Leonard told the Gazette that his group was not created by the select board, meaning it did not need to adhere to open meeting law.

"This work group invited people. Everybody got copies of minutes. Everybody got

copies of different drafts. We incorporated inputs, and it went forward through a process," Mr. Leonard said at Tuesday's meeting. "It just was not on an agenda published on the town website."

Select board vice chair Sean DeBettencourt both acknowledged Mr. Leonard's efforts and said he wished the process had been more transparent.

"I would celebrate member Leonard's efforts to try to engage with as many stakeholders as he could ... and he went out of his way to make that process more transparent than potentially it needed to be, in that he could have simply written [the bylaw] and brought it to us..." Mr. DeBettencourt said. "I do wish [the meetings] had been agendaed. I do wish they had been posted."

"The fact that the select board asked member Cleary to lead the [short-term rental] process and go through the public meetings doesn't mean that every bylaw requires that," he later added.

Ultimately, Mr. Leonard and Mr. Cleary voted to move the bylaw forward, while Ms. Green-Beach, Mr. DeBettencourt and select board chair Dion Alley voted against the measure.

"I do think that we have all worked really hard to gain and keep and build trust in Oak Bluffs and all the different facets of all the hard work that we do, and a lot of hard work went into this," Ms. Green-Beach said. "We know that, but if other people don't feel that, then ... there could be detriment to that."

Edgartown Seeks Deal on County's Katama Farmland

By ETHAN GENTER

Edgartown officials are eyeing a deal to preserve a pair of farmland parcels in Katama that the county government is looking to offload to bolster its budget.

The town select board held a closed door executive session Monday to discuss the properties at 9 and 13 Aero avenue after the Dukes County Commission announced its intentions to sell the land.

The potential sale of the land raised concerns among town officials and the Farm Institute, which has been using the property for its animals and to access its farmland.

While details have not been hammered out, Edgartown town administrator James Hagerty said the town doesn't want to see the combined 1.2 acres, assessed at \$1.5 million, become built up.

"The town is interested in not having those turn into single family lots," said Mr. Hagerty said in an interview Tuesday.

The county purchased the properties in 1979 for \$7,500 a piece, according to assessor records, but in recent months has been looking at selling them after conducting an inventory of all of the county-owned land.

After that study, the county's land use committee determined the county didn't have a use for the two potentially very valuable lots, according to Martina Thornton, the county manager.

"Therefore, [the Dukes County Commission] declared them surplus to see if the State or the Town would have use for them and the County could raise some additional revenue, as has been the request of the Towns to the County for many years to ease the burden of county expenses on taxpayers," she wrote in an email.

Town officials expressed worries about a potential sale at the beginning of the year. The town conservation commission wrote to the county in January to say that Edgartown was running under the assumption that these properties were intended for long-term conservation agriculture and open space.

"These lands play a role in supporting open space, habitat protection, and the rural character of the area, all of which are central to the shared conservation objectives of the Town and the County," Edgartown conservation commission chair Edward Vincent wrote.

The county first offered the properties to the state, which declined to purchase them, and then turned to the town in September.

At a select board meeting earlier this

month, Lindsay Brown, a senior manager at the Farm Institute, said farm staff cross these properties daily to get to the 162-acre farm. The land has also been used for grazing.

"It's a pretty crucial part of the farm there," she said.

Christian Walkis, the farm manager at Slough Farm, also told the select board that preserving every last piece of farm land on the Vineyard is crucial.

"Farm land on the Island is sort of a vanishing resource," he said. "And it feels important to me personally and to us organizationally to continue to protect and preserve as much of it as we possibly can."

Though the land has been used for farming by the Farm Institute, Dukes County Commission chair Christine Todd said it was unclear if it was ever actually set aside for the nonprofit's use.

"I think that we've got to find out exactly where this land stands in terms of title and everything else she said at Monday's meeting," she said. Ms. Thornton said she was unaware of any standing agreement.

"I've been a county manager for the last 12 years, and I have never heard of or signed any lease or anything on behalf of the county."

Charles Leitner contributed to this article.

Land Bank Revenues

The Martha's Vineyard Land Bank reported revenues of \$677,352 for the business week ending on Friday, Sept. 25, 2026. The land bank receives its funds from a two per cent fee charged on many Vineyard real estate transactions.

Much of the land bank revenue last week came from the town of Oak Bluffs, where four transactions resulted in \$247,025, and Edgartown, where two transactions resulted in \$202,967. One transaction in Chilmark earned \$140,000, three transactions in Tisbury earned \$77,360.34, and one transaction in West Tisbury resulted in \$10,000. No eligible transactions were recorded in Aquinnah.

The land bank uses its revenues to purchase and manage land for purposes of conservation, preservation and passive recreation. To date the agency has participated in the purchase of more than 4,242 acres of Vineyard land.

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Island Hip Hop performing at last year's event.

LadyFest Returns to Alley Waban Park

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

The ninth annual LADYFEST takes place Saturday at Waban Park in Oak Bluffs, bringing together local artists across a range of genres, as well as artisans and food vendors.

Founder Kelly Feirtag first came up with the idea for LADYFEST with Rose Geurin while working as the manager of the Ritz. She noticed that while the Vineyard's male musicians were frequently featured in professional photographs on the establishment's walls, there were far fewer photos of the Island's female musicians.



Kelly Feirtag at LadyFest 2025.

Please Adopt Us

We have no adoptions to report but we do have kittens! We have seven, 10-week-old black and orange kittens looking for their forever homes. Males and females, short hair and long. If interested act fast because these cuties won't last long.

Also available is Toosie, a four-year-old, male tuxedo cat with big green eyes. Toosie has been here a while and is beginning to feel sad and lonely so we're hoping he finds his forever family sooner rather than later. However, he is indoor/outdoor, friendly, playful and affectionate. Since he can get overstimulated, we feel he would do best in a home without small children. And he also has a lovely purr. Toosie has been diagnosed with diabetes and will need an owner comfortable with giving his daily injections and managing his special diet. He is also a food lover and will steal some whenever he can.



Come meet Toosie to experience how much fun he is and see if he could be the perfect cat for you.

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 and ask for Rose Cogliano.

gone directly to the organization.

Last year, the festival moved from downtown Oak Bluffs to Waban Park, which comes with additional fees paid to the town of Oak Bluffs. Ms. Feirtag wanted to ensure that LADYFEST could continue making a substantial donation to CONNECT to End Violence despite the increased costs. As a result, tickets now cost \$35. Until last year, admission was based on suggested donations.

But Ms. Feirtag does not expect the ticket price to deter attendees.

"Last year I think there were about 1,000 people, and I just feel like because people saw how awesome it was last time, I think more people will show up this year," she said.

The event has always taken place in October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For Ms. Feirtag, the timing is important because it allows LADYFEST to put the year-round Island community at the center of the event.

"I know for fact that the community aspect of this is the biggest thing [for attendees]," Ms. Feirtag said. "You see all of your friends and neighbors there that may have not been out and about since the spring, because the summer is so wild for everybody. It just feels like a giant family reunion."

This year, LADYFEST is being joined by HERitage, a new event organized by Sarah Shaw Dawson. HERitage takes place on Friday, the day before LADYFEST, at Stillpoint in West Tisbury.

This summer, Ms. Shaw Dawson noticed women-led bands were playing far fewer gigs than male ones, and she wanted to do something about it. As a performing musician herself, she is immersed in the Island's music community. She reached out to fellow female and non-binary performers to ask if they'd be interested in an event like HERitage.

Originally, Ms. Shaw Dawson hoped to host the event at a different time of year so it would not overlap with LADYFEST. But she eventually saw an opportunity for the two events to complement one another.

"It's separate events at two separate places, but since the causes are so aligned, it's in solidarity," she said.

Although the events have been organized separately, Ms. Feirtag said she welcomed HERitage and its connection to LADYFEST's mission.

"I don't feel like I own LADYFEST. I feel like everybody gets a piece of it, and the fact that [HERitage] thought to reach out to us was really meaningful," Ms. Feirtag said. "And I am so happy to be able to support them, and that they're supporting us. I hope everybody goes. It's a cool kickoff to an amazing weekend."

Ms. Shaw Dawson said HERitage will have a distinct atmosphere.

"The intention of the festival that I'm putting together is really cozy, with warm lighting, an enclosed space, lots of color and a lot of art that you have time to look at," she said. "A little more

kind of like languishing in the energy, interacting with musicians on the same level."

The HERitage stage will sit just a few inches off the floor, Ms. Shaw Dawson said, creating a more intimate space between performers and audience members.

Ms. Shaw Dawson was quick to emphasize her support for LADYFEST.

"I think LADYFEST does an incredible job," she said. "That's kind of how this all came about. I think there should be more and more spaces [like LADYFEST]."

For years, Ms. Feirtag did not publicly acknowledge her own connection to the issue at the heart of LADYFEST. Last Tuesday, she shared her experience with domestic violence publicly for the first time through the LADYFEST Instagram account.

"I posted on our social media a little bit about my own background with domestic violence. I haven't talked publicly or barely privately about that," she said. "For the first eight years of LADYFEST, I don't think I would admit to myself that I was in that group. But I know that my heart was like, 'This is why you're doing it.'"

In the post, Ms. Feirtag wrote about an abusive relationship she was in 20 years ago, and how her father and her sister helped her secretly move out of her ex-partner's home.

"When I was young I was in a really scary relationship," she wrote. "I didn't have the words to know what was happening. I just knew I was wildly anxious, isolated from my friends, and scared all the time."

Ms. Feirtag says she wishes she would have had access to a resource like CONNECT to End Violence at that time in her life, but she's glad she can now help others access it.

"I'm grateful for how everything turned out, but if I had a place like CONNECT to End Violence when I was young I might not have missed out on so many life experiences and years of carefree adolescence," she wrote.

Ms. Feirtag said the Vineyard itself has played an important role in her healing. After escaping the bad relationship, her parents bought her a one way ticket to Martha's Vineyard, where she had spent many summers with her childhood friend's family.

"Martha's Vineyard was my place to come and heal after that happened," she said. "The Island is just deeply meaningful to me, and I am incredibly grateful for everything that this Island has given me."

Now, Ms. Feirtag hopes she can take that experience and use it to help others.

"LADYFEST MV is my small way of giving back to the Island and people that saved my life in hopes that it helps another person get out of an uncontrollable and unbearable situation," she said.

LADYFEST takes place in Waban Park from 1 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3.

St. Andrew's Welcomes New Rector

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

Rev. Rita Teschner Powell, the new rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Edgartown, has become the first female settled priest in the church's 131-year history.

She arrived in the pulpit last month, more than a year after the retirement of Rev. Vincent (Chip) Seadale. Rev. Cynthia Hubbard acted as interim pastor following Reverend Seadale's departure last spring.

Reverend Powell, 48, came to the Vineyard from a chaplaincy at Harvard University. She is also a poet, a singer and a former varsity softball captain at Barnard College, where she first became interested in Christianity after a decidedly secular upbringing.

"I was an athlete, and to be honest, that was absolutely my religion," Reverend Powell told the Gazette last month, during an interview at the small brick church on the corner of Winter and North Summer streets.

The outdoorsy daughter of a left-leaning Western Massachusetts couple, Reverend Powell absorbed her earliest sense of reverence while spending time on her grandfather's dairy farm in Brookfield.

"I grew up outside of religion, but very much with a strong kind of New England sense of gratitude for the land and the blessings of the created world," she said.

Music provided another stepping stone toward her religious vocation, she said.

"My uncle was a choir boy at All Saints Worcester, so my family had a deep love for Anglican church music," she said.

A third, decisive influence was a certain contrarian streak in Reverend Powell's own personality. At Barnard, observing what she saw as an intellectual disdain for Christianity, she decided to study the faith for the first time.

"I began to be curious about what it would mean to take seriously inheriting something that you didn't necessarily create, or even belong to, [yet] formed so much of what we think of now as secular America," she said. "I wanted to sort of take account of what I [had] lived and breathed without even knowing it."

As she studied, Reverend Powell said, she began to discover surprising parallels with sports.

"I started realizing how much of my athletic experience had elements of religion," she said. "Arguably, a game has strong components of ritual practice. You wear uniforms like vestments. There are very strict rules about who can go where [and] if you're not playing, you can't go in this area... all these kind of things."

She developed the idea in more depth for her undergraduate thesis.

Reverend Powell also found herself drawn to the formative history of Christianity, particularly the first few centuries after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

"That sort of absurd idea of claiming that Jesus is fully human while simultaneously being fully divine... when it was first originated, it was felt to be an absurd idea, and lots of fighting ensued, like, punching in the street," she said. "It tracked with what I felt I was finding in the religion-of-sports conversation: that the divinity in the world is very much present in embodied experience."

As absorbing and enriching as her



Ray Ewing

Rev. Rita Powell was a chaplain at Harvard University.

studies were, however, neither Reverend Powell nor her parents expected them to lead to a vocation. Instead, like many other liberal-arts graduates, she went to work in a field completely unrelated to her degree.

At Central Park Conservancy in New York City, she managed construction projects that ranged from repainting iron bridges in historically accurate colors to installing new irrigation at the park's Sheep Meadow.

"I spent all my working hours in the park, which was a really amazing way to live in Manhattan," she said. "I loved a job where I wasn't in an office. I loved being out and about."

"The park felt like a sacred place to me," she added, likening its hushed seclusion to that of a church sanctuary. "Two blocks away, there's screaming and honking and this and that, and you cross over into the park and a different experience becomes available."

She also enjoyed the cross-section of New Yorkers she got to know on the job, from immigrant laborers to Fifth Avenue socialites, she said. But becoming a landscape architect didn't feel like her path, so she chose the Yale Divinity School instead.

"I wanted to study religion more, and I wanted to study Christianity more, [and] in the process of that, I sort of realized that actually there was a call there to the priesthood, which was very surprising to everyone that knew me," she said.

More surprises were in store. After visiting an ecumenical monastery in Taizé, France, with a group of teenagers she met as a youth pastor in Connecticut, Reverend Powell would return to the monastic community with young people from the Lakota congregations she ministered to during her posting in South Dakota.

Both places spoke to her soul, she said, and so it was in South Dakota that she meditated on her decision to become a monk at Taizé.

"I thought I needed to do some spiritual listening, so I went out there that summer, planning to go to the monastery in September," Reverend Powell said.

After working at a diocesan summer camp in the Black Hills, she was ready to leave for Taizé when a chance meeting upended her long-term plans.

"On my way out of South Dakota — to be a monk, you understand — I met a very handsome, blue-eyed baseball player," she said.

She and Justin Beebe hit it off instantly, Reverend Powell said, and although she was determined to return to the monastery as planned, it was no longer an open-ended commitment.

"I spent the semester with the community at Taizé, but then I knew I needed to come back to South Dakota," she said.

The couple married and remained in South Dakota for several years before moving East with their two children. Son Jackson Beebe, 16, is a senior at Belmont High School, and their 14-year-old daughter Juliet Beebe is a rising sophomore.

The children and their father have been spending weekends with Reverend Powell at the St. Andrew's rectory on Bold Meadow Road, and will move in for good once Jackson is finished with high school.

Juliet is looking forward to attending Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, said Reverend Powell, who told the Gazette the recent Islandwide vote to fund the high school's \$335.5 million renovation and addition was a major factor in her decision to accept the job at St. Andrew's.

"The fact that the Island decided to make this huge investment in the high school — that's a powerful statement," she said.

Her husband also is looking forward to Island life.

"Both of us were really craving a smaller community," she said.

The couple's enthusiasm was appealing. St. Andrew's church warden Barbara Rush told the Gazette.

"She and her husband were very vocal about wanting to be back in a smaller community. They're active, outdoor people that love the ocean," Ms. Rush said.

She also applauded Reverend Powell's sermons, which often mingle early church texts with contemporary inspirational poetry.

"Her sermons are fantastic. She preaches with joy [and] it comes through," Ms. Rush said.

In addition to her master's in divinity from Yale, Reverend Powell holds an MFA in creative writing from Seattle Pacific University, for which she studied with poet Scott Cairns.

Her first book of poems, *A Light from the Burial Ground*, is scheduled for release later this fall by St. Julian Press.

Sunday worship at St. Andrew's begins at 9 a.m., with organist Robert Lehman providing music before and after the service.

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Timothy Collins

Timothy Collins Was A Passionate Filmmaker

Timothy Garland Collins, an award-winning filmmaker, died on Sept. 8 at his home in Atlanta, Ga. He was 37. Tim was born on Oct. 10, 1988, and grew up in Atlanta. His enduring passion, beginning at an early age, was filmmaking. As soon as he could hold a video camera, he was making films. He started with his neighborhood friends, and later attended the Art Institute of Atlanta, where he graduated with a degree in digital film-making, magna cum laude.

During his college years he made several short films that were exhibited at dozens of film festivals around the world (including the Cannes Film Festival) and won numerous awards. He excelled at every aspect of filmmaking, from screen-writing, casting and set design to directing, photographing and editing. He even created posters and DVD art for his films. Most recently, he was working on a screenplay that he hoped to develop into an independent feature film.

Tim was also a student of film history, with an almost encyclopedic knowledge — from classic films to contemporary films, including many foreign language films. Watching a film with Tim was always a special experience, since he could provide a sophisticated commentary track for just about any film.

His knack for turning ordinary moments into memorable ones extended beyond his films. His quick wit drew people in. He connected with others through humor, creating countless shared memories and lasting joy.

Tim loved animals, too, and had a special affinity for cats. For a time, he worked as a volunteer at an animal shelter. He was assigned the cats because he could relate to them better than any of the permanent staff.

The members of Tim's extended family (great-grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and numerous cousins, from as far away as Australia and Austria) have a century-old tradition of gathering each summer on Martha's Vineyard. Tim especially enjoyed those annual visits and developed strong bonds with his many cousins, who would keep in touch throughout the year. He knew that he was part of a large, extended family who cared deeply about him. He also enjoyed photographing the wildlife and natural beauty of the Island.

Tim was a gentle soul, who left a legacy of kindness and compassion wherever he went. His passing was unexpected and all too soon. The world of his family and friends is now sadly diminished, but they will cherish his memory and the many blessings he provided them.

Tim was predeceased by his grandparents, E.B. Collins and Judith M. Collins of Edgartown, and John L. Garland and Paula J. Garland of Atlanta.

He is survived by his parents, Steven M. Collins and Anne G. Collins of Edgartown, and his sister, Erin Marie Collins, her partner, Anthony Parton, his nephew, Calvin E. Collins and his nieces, Cassidy L. Collins and Courtney M. Collins of Melbourne, Australia.

A memorial service is planned for July 2027 in Edgartown.



Katharine Dreier

Katharine Dreier Loved Vineyard Summers

Katharine Eaton Dreier died on Sept. 28 in Lincoln. She was 96.

Kit sang in a chorus, grew vegetables and painted watercolors into her 90s. In her younger years she played tennis and the cello, hosted dinner parties and scribbled effusive letters to friends and relatives worldwide.

She promoted Vineyard land conservation and environmental causes, and loved raising children, until they became teenagers and became perplexing. The kids generally came back around to her in their 20s.

Kit spent more than 50 summers on Martha's Vineyard, most of them in a house modeled on a neighboring barn, down a dirt road in the back of West Tisbury's beyond. She designed the Cape Codder in 1975 with her second husband, the late Theodore Dreier Jr. Its broad double doors opened to views of Vineyard Sound, where she enjoyed taking chilly swims off Saltworks Beach and watching deep-red sunsets over Naushon.

The couple were members of an extended family that maintained Vineyard ties for five generations. The loose-knit clan was based on Seven Gates Farm, a wooded 1,600-acre shorefront enclave and former dairy farm where Kit did a stint on the community's board of trustees.

Down the beach on Seven Gates was classy, elegant Aunt Margot Wilkie, who threw a birthday party for Kit each July 29 and lived to 101. Inland were Kit's in-laws, Ted Sr. and Margot's sister Bobbie Dreier, who helped found Black Mountain College and lived to 99.

Kit was born in Cambridge in 1930 to Gertrude Sturgis Eaton and Richard Jefferson Eaton, and raised in Lincoln. She attended Shady Hill School, Concord Academy and Smith College, graduating in 1952 with a BA in political science.

In 1956, Kit married Arthur Hinton Read, a Scottish mathematician who had spent World War II decoding Nazi military messages in a top-secret project outside London. The couple lived in St. Andrews, Scotland, where Arthur taught mathematics at the university.

Their son Rich was born in 1957. Daughter Kate was born two years later. Kit co-founded and directed Almost New, a nonprofit clothing exchange.

Tragedy struck in 1961. Arthur, an experienced climber, was killed by an avalanche while climbing in the Scottish Highlands.

Kit moved back to the Boston area with the children and taught school. In 1965, she met Ted Dreier Jr., a psychiatrist and fellow cellist. On dates, they often drove separately, unable to fit both cellos into one car.

Kit and Ted married in 1967. Their daughter Lisa was born that year. Another daughter, Ruth, was born in 1969. The couple raised their children in a house they remodeled in Cambridge, where Kit and a friend opened a boutique called Friends Gallery. Working for the Cambridge Art Association, she piloted her Volkswagen bus into

congested downtown Boston to install large modern paintings in lobbies of law firms and banks.

Later Kit and Ted moved to Belmont, where she was elected a town meeting member and led historic-preservation and land-conservation projects.

They loved escaping to their Vineyard place nicknamed Cranberry Hollow, planting big gardens, clearing trails and gathering with neighbors for beach barbecues and singalongs. Summers were carefree in those pre-Lyme, lone-star, alpha-gal and Asian-longhorned days.

As the family grew to include a granddaughter, its members marked the years by clambering into a long-armed oak tree for hurried annual photos before racing to departing ferries.

"The renters are coming!" Kit would declare, sweeping her way out of the house.

The home's sturdy post-and-beam structure came in handy in 1991, when Kit weathered Hurricane Bob alone behind boarded-up windows, tracking reports of 100 mph winds on a battery-powered radio. She emerged to find that waves had swept away dunes, converting the property's placid one-acre pond frequented by river otters into an ocean inlet. A backhoe restored the pond and rebuilt the dunes, which were stabilized with beach grass and poison ivy.

Back on the mainland, Kit and Ted returned in 2018 to the town where she was raised, moving into a retirement community, the Commons in Lincoln. Kit co-founded the Commons Green Initiative, organizing presentations on climate change, an issue that deeply concerned her.

Ted died in 2019 at 89. To Kit's great sadness, her daughter Elizabeth (Lisa) Low Dreier lost a battle with breast cancer in 2024.

Kit's survivors include her son, Richard Read and his wife, Brenda, of Seattle, Wash.; two daughters, Katharine (Kate) Read Villars and her husband Thom, of Norwich, Vt., and Ruth Antoinette Dreier, of Sebastopol, Calif.; a granddaughter, Nehalem Kunkle-Read, of Seattle, Wash.; a brother, Jefferson Taft Eaton, of Lincoln; and a sister-in-law, Barbara Beate Dreier, of Livingston Manor, N.Y.

A memorial gathering will be held at a date to be determined. Arrangements are under the care of Dee Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Concord.

Donations in Kit's memory may be made to the Vineyard Conservation Society.

Mildred Scott Service

A celebration of life for Mildred Scott will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 4 p.m. at Sunset Lake Hill in Oak Bluffs. Millie died on May 21, 2026 at the age of 91.

Catarina Arrives

Ana and Rodrigo Honorato, of Chilmark, announce the birth of a daughter, Catarina Oliveira Honorato, born on Sept. 28 at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Catarina weighed 9 pounds, 2 ounces at birth.

Hello Théo

Patricia de Barros and Fabio Junior Aparecido, of Oak Bluffs, announce the birth of a son, Théo de Barros Aparecido, born on Sept. 29 at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Théo weighed 6 pounds, 9.3 ounces at birth.



Tim Johnson



Craigin Salsgiver

Craigin Howard Salsgiver Embraced Volunteer Work

Craigin Howard Salsgiver, a resident of Dorset, Vt., died on Sept. 23, after a short but hard-fought battle with cancer. She was 70.

Craigin was a force in sickness, just as she was in health, making friends with fellow patients and health care workers while holding onto hope that she would beat her cancer until the very end.

The daughter of Dr. Calhoun L. H. Howard and Dorothy Johnson Howard, Craigin was born on August 25, 1956, in Oak Bluffs. She grew up in Summit, N.H., and spent her summers on Martha's Vineyard.

After graduating from Bucknell University in 1978 with a degree in economics, Craigin completed the management training program at Manufacturers Hanover Trust. She began her career in small business lending before joining Chemical Bank's Metropolitan Division, where she became a large corporate lending officer. She later joined the merchant banking subsidiary of Lloyds Bank International, working in project finance and concentrating on greenfield projects, including a number of continuing care retirement communities. She retired from banking following the birth of her first child.

Craigin placed great value on giving back to her community. Her volunteer work ranged from supporting her children's schools and recreational activities to serving as an active member of the Junior Leagues of Stamford-Norwalk and New York for many years. More recently, she served as chair of The Barn Sale in Manchester, Vt., an annual fundraiser that has raised more than \$1 million over the years for United Counseling Service, the primary provider of social services in southwestern Vermont, including mental health and early childhood services and programs.

Craigin was deeply loved by her family and friends and will be remembered for her warmth, energy, compassion, and sense of humor.

She leaves behind her husband of 39 years, Jim; her daughter Elizabeth and husband Ryan Werffli of New York City; her daughter Charlotte and husband Maeshal Abid of New York City; her daughter Katherine and husband Guido Crutchett of New York City; her daughter Amelia and partner Dr. Adam Spitz of Plainfield, N.H.; her three grandchildren, Layla and Lucy Abid and James Werffli; her mother Dorothy Howard, of Dorset, Vt.; her sister Susan Caplan of Dorset, Vt.; her sister-in-law Janet Howard of Oak Bluffs; her sister and brother-in-law Karen and Peter Coveney of Westport, Conn.; and her sister- and brother-in-law Jan and Tom Moloney of Palm Beach, Fla.

She also leaves behind many extended family members and dear friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to The Barn Sale (thebarnsalevt@gmail.com).

Bonsai Beauty; Small Tree, Big Impact

By CHARLES LEITNER

The wooden door that leads into the bonsai shed at Donaroma's in Edgartown acts as a portal to another world, where tiny trees line the shelves and various mudmen, miniature figures often used to decorate bonsai tree arrangements, peer from behind cupboards and in between pots of various shapes and sizes.

And at the center of it all is Ernie Carlomagno, Donaroma's nursey manager, who was first introduced to the practice of bonsai as a teenager growing up in New Jersey.

"I was probably about 15 years old, and I bought one from a mall in New Jersey, and promptly killed it," he recalled during a recent tour of the bonsai shed. "Then, as I got a little bit older and was driving, I took classes at Brooklyn Botanical Garden with the Great Swamp Bonsai Society in Morristown, N.J., which was a really good find."

Bonsai is a living art shaped by months or years of careful cultivation. Some collections include trees that have been passed down through families for generations and are well over 100 years old.

"The art is the human hand at work, perhaps causing a tree a few years old to look 100 years old," reads a pamphlet on bonsai cultivation that Mr. Carlomagno gives to customers. "To evoke the spirit of nature is the essence of bonsai."

There are many techniques Mr. Carlomagno, now 67, utilizes to achieve this effect.

"The first thing you want to do is really get in there and show the trunk," he said.

Long wayward branches are trimmed to reveal a tree's initial shape, exposing ever so slowly the trunk and the branches which are the most profound and aesthetically pleasing.

"It's always nice to put a little movement in the branch," said Mr. Carlomagno. "And this is where it gets a little tricky."

Often, bonsai practitioners will wrap wire around branches to mold them and achieve a desired effect — to look like a tree with branches that have been swept



Ray Ewing

Ernie Carlomagno with his bonsai display at Donaroma's.

back by decades of ocean breezes or to pull a root system so that it can grab hold and anchor itself to a small rock.

"You're trying to get back to the framework of the tree," said Mr. Carlomagno. "You prune to get the initial shape, then the wire is what really defines it."

Sometimes a branch will be purposely split or snapped, then stripped of its bark and bleached using lime sulfur as a preservative. The process is known as "jinning," and can create swirls of deadwood that exist in tandem with a tree's still living parts.

Mr. Carlomagno recalled when he was first learning the craft and an instructor began bending a branch on a tree that Mr. Carlomagno had been shaping. He watched in horror as the instructor twisted the branch to the point where it snapped.

At first, Mr. Carlomagno thought the tree was ruined, but when instructor stepped back to observe his work, he smiled and said, "That's perfect."

Mr. Carlomagno's collection of bonsai includes more than 50 trees, some of which date back to when he started working on them as a teenager.

A Career In Aviation Guidance

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

Robert Cassidy, air traffic controller and tower manager at Martha's Vineyard Airport, retired last week after 14 years of service on the Island.

Mr. Cassidy began working on the Vineyard in 2012, spending seven years as an air traffic controller before being promoted to tower manager, where he has had a front row seat to the busy airport.

"It hasn't changed significantly, except for the size of some of the private airplanes," he said. "The private jets are getting bigger and bigger."

Mr. Cassidy began his career in the Air Force, where he trained to become an air traffic controller. His assignments took him all over the country, from Mississippi to N.J. to Oklahoma City.

After leaving the Navy, he became a civilian air traffic controller. His first assignment was in Warwick, R.I., where he worked until he turned 56, which is when the Federal Aviation Administration requires that air traffic controllers retire. But Mr. Cassidy wasn't ready to stop working.

"I felt I was a little bit too young to stop working at that point," he said. "Some people like it, but I wasn't ready to retire at 56."

He applied to a company that provided contract air traffic control services to the government. They happened to have an opening on Martha's Vineyard.

The Island was already somewhat familiar to Mr. Cassidy. His brother, Michael Cassidy, had been a longtime resident of the Vineyard, and Mr. Cassidy had spent six months on the Island



Tim Johnson

Robert Cassidy in the tower at Martha's Vineyard Airport.

during the winter of 1981 while awaiting his FAA acceptance.

Mr. Cassidy shared that he enjoyed the challenges the job presented, particularly during the Island's busiest season.

"In the summertime, all the traffic ramps up, and we have lots of airplanes," he said. "It gets sort of challenging, challenging and exciting, and you get a better sense of worth for what you're doing."

Another challenge he faced was his commute, traveling weekly from his home in Warwick to the Island. Every Monday morning, Mr. Cassidy drove to Woods Hole, caught the ferry and worked five days on the Island. After his Friday shift, he returned home for the weekend, before starting over again

on Monday. Now, after years of working and commuting, he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

"I'm really into gardening, and I love my yard work and taking care of my property. That's something my wife and I like to do together," he said. "I have a daughter and three grandchildren in Rhode Island, and I'd like to spend more time with them and see them more."

Looking back on his career, Mr. Cassidy said he feels fortunate to have found work he genuinely enjoyed.

"I think I'm lucky that I had a profession that I enjoyed because over the years, I've talked to a lot of people in different professions that don't really enjoy their jobs," he said.

VINEYARD GAZETTE WEEKLY SUDOKU AND CROSSWORD – October 2, 2026

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2						3			9	6

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: A NICE CHALLENGE!

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 "May I talk to you briefly?"
8 Placed
12 Motor oil additive
15 TV character whom you "better call"
19 Certain outlet accessory
20 River of Aragon
21 Weeding tool
22 Singer Amos
23 Like a gallery that has five dozen paintings by artist Antoine?
25 Sort of
27 Shar — (wrinkly dogs)
28 What a hailstorm is doing when composer Jean-Philippe is caught in it?
30 Hawaiian for "appetizer"
32 Little League precursor
33 Calling device in a forest east of Paris?
41 Banquet, e.g.
45 Four eighth's
46 Let borrow again
47 Monte —
- 48 Oil from flower petals
49 Wine enjoyed near a hearth?
53 Aliens, briefly
54 August hrs.
55 Guilty feeling
56 Garage oil
58 Hilo hellos
64 Giving the go-ahead for
68 Atmosphere
69 Raised, flat land that you are visiting today?
72 Rapa — (Easter Island)
73 Bookish sort
75 Giorgio of fashion
76 Apartment policy about animals
78 Island porch
80 Goat's cry
82 Application file extension
83 Festive antique hat?
91 Slanting
93 "Nay" sayers
94 Shower
95 100-page story, maybe
97 Portland
98 That powerful essayist
Henry David?
- 101 Sea's edge
102 Have — (lose it)
103 Flat-bottomed vessel sailing across the River Styx from Hades?
111 Notion, in Paris
115 An hour before midnight
116 Teasing tribute held at the Green Bay Packers' stadium?
119 Sold out, say
120 "Rock and Roll, Hoochie —" (1973 hit)
121 Leg, e.g.
122 Tom Cruise/Dustin Hoffman film
123 Puts in place
124 Pastor's talk: Abbr.
125 Legs counterparts
126 Iran neighbor
- DOWN**
- 1 [I'm in shock]!
2 Comics dog
3 Metered car
4 Bldg. units in complexes
5 Pig's home
6 "Ick!"
7 Deep-fried crustacean appetizers
8 Riga native, old-style
9 Aid in crime
10 "Dies —" (Latin hymn)
11 Gloomy
12 Tibias
13 Native of Nuku'alofa
14 Eye care chain
15 Fruit discard
16 Top-tier
17 — Major (constellation)
18 In — of 24 Tightly strung
19 Mineo of "Exodus"
29 "— to Be You" (pop standard)
30 Bartlett, e.g.
31 "Friendly skies" carrier, for short
33 Python's kin
34 — coated aspirin
35 Large central feature of the Astros' logo
36 — asso
37 Bo mistaken
38 Singer Brenda
39 Chicago Loop trains
40 Luau paste
41 British bud
42 Previous to
43 Taking after
44 Singer Rawls
47 Chevy pony car
50 "Let's just leave — that!"
51 Toy train, when repeated
52 "— Matata!" ("The Lion King" song)
54 Part of FDR
56 Car tankful
57 Spreads out, as fingers
59 Meadowland with black-and-white wings
60 Crew tool
61 Engine noise
62 Org. for cavity fillers
63 It rises daily
65 Kicked out of a country
66 Chocolate spread brand
67 U.S. soldiers
70 — Sea (salt lake in Asia)
71 "Sands of Iwo —"
74 Basic trick for a skateboarder
77 Actor O'Toole
79 Baseless bit of gossip
81 Ditty relative of Samantha on "Bewitched"

- 83 Sharp punch
84 Singer Yoko
85 "Inc." relative
86 Orbiter with a tail
87 — polloi
88 Olympic code for Kabul's country
89 Oom — band
90 "C" — la vie!
91 State firmly
92 Fraternity "I"
96 "Well now!"
98 Flat, hollow sounds
99 Crested bird with black-and-white wings
100 Harvard rival
101 Submission encl.
103 Pleads
104 Balm plant
105 Camp shelter
106 Nights before
107 Stewpot
108 Impartial
109 "I wonder ..."
110 Recedes
111 Actress
112 Sky
112 Accurse
113 Morales of film and TV
114 Volcano in Sicily
117 Egypt and Syr., once
118 Crater's edge

JUST ADD WATER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11		12	13	14		15	16	17	18
19								20					21				22			
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	53							54							55					
56						57		58	59	60	61	62	63		64			65	66	67
68						69		70							71				72	
73						74											76		77	
83	84	85																		

FARM AND FIELD



Coffee Vibes Keep the Caffeine Close

By HALEY SANDLOW

When volunteering on a series of farms a few summers ago, I met a man who would not eat chocolate. It's grown on the other side of the world, he said. I shrugged my shoulders and split my bar of chocolate with another volunteer. There are pleasures even I will not give up, as much as I value eating locally.

He has a point, though. I take care to learn where my produce, grains, meat and dairy comes from. But what about those things we can't grow in this climate? Bananas? Chocolate?

And what about coffee, which is not a treat, but a given, a daily necessity for so many of us?

Leif Iversen, owner of the local roastery Martha's Vineyard Coffee Company, knows this better than anyone. What does "house blend" mean, in terms of where the coffee comes from? Not much. Even "single origin" doesn't really tell you about how and where the coffee was grown beyond the country, least of all who grew it.

"So much of coffee is really anonymous," he told me, when we sat down for a coffee and an interview. "You don't know where it comes from."

But Leif does. Two of his offerings use a direct-trade model, meaning he has direct relationships with the farms, or fincas, that grow his coffee. It means a high-quality product that Leif screens himself, a higher wage for the farmers he buys from, and an assurance that the product is grown responsibly and sustainably.

Leif grew up in West Tisbury and graduated from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School in 2011. He first got started in cafes while pursuing his undergraduate degree in Montreal. He studied anthropology and sociology in Costa Rica during a semester abroad, and brought his love of coffee back to

the Island in 2021. He's been selling bags of coffee beans and freshly-brewed cups at markets since then, and has hopes of expanding.

Both farms he direct sources from are located in Tarrazú, a well-known coffee growing region in the highlands of central Costa Rica. Every year, Leif travels to Finca El Chiral, run by Don Beto and his son Reynor Jiménez, and Finca Temática, the farm of Carlos Montero. Mr. Montero is also a multi-generational coffee farmer who Leif met through his girlfriend, who grew up in the region.

Mr. Montero's coffee is shade-grown, meaning the plants grow among other plants and trees instead of monocrop plantations like many coffee producers, according to Leif. The side-by-side growing ensures the soil microbiome remains healthy and diverse, supporting many different beneficial organisms.

Shade-grown coffee takes longer to ripen, but it also means the cherry is sweeter and has more flavor, influencing the final coffee bean. Yes, coffee comes from a cherry, a fruit a little bigger than a blueberry but smaller than the red cherries we know well. Like them, a coffee cherry is red and shiny, and it's super sweet — like eating nectar, and you can't eat more than a few at a time, said Leif. The flesh gets warm in the sun, like summer tomatoes on the vine.

Inside the cherry is the seed, which is extracted from the fruit, dried and roasted to make coffee beans. In many coffee-growing parts of the world, fincas sell their product to coffee collectors, which process and export the seeds. While it's a reliable alternative



Leif Iversen (left) with coffee growers in Costa Rica.

for farmers who do not have processing capabilities — an expensive endeavor — it means they collect less for their product, according to Leif. The collectives also blend many different farms' coffees — high and poor quality alike. It passes through many hands. The farmer's work becomes anonymous.

For Leif, his roastery is all about traceability. On his bags of Vineyard-roasted coffee beans, you can find the farmer, the region, the variety and the notes. And he can tell you the rest. This coffee was picked by hand at 1,600 meters above sea level. There were three harvests to account for the three blocks of ripening fruits. They ate rice and beans for dinner at the end of the day.



Rory Ewing

"I think, really, the most trust and the most accountability you can have is by visiting the farm personally," he said. "It's a basic concept of a farmer getting credit for their work."

To taste the coffee, they pour water directly into the coffee grounds to try many different kinds at once, without influencing the taste through various brewing and filtration methods. The grounds rise to the top, you push them to the side and slurp the coffee, Leif explained.

In Costa Rica, coffee is not there for a morning jolt of caffeine. Cafes in town don't even open until mid-afternoon, he said. Instead, coffee is a beverage to be enjoyed after work, alongside family and friends, socializing and catching up after the day.

Leif's coffee represents not only the farms they come from, but the relationships he's developed. He continues to buy from them through hard harvests, rising production costs and inflation of local currency. That's why his coffee is more expensive.

"We're both invested in each others' successes and longevity," he said. "People want to make good decisions with their purchases, especially here on Martha's Vineyard."



Rory Ewing

Mr. Iversen at the Edgartown Village Market.

Tisbury to Replace Historic Douglas Rock Warning Marker

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

Douglas Rock, a submerged hazard to navigation in Vineyard Haven, is getting a new warning marker after its previous signpost broke off in late summer.

The spile, which dates from 2001, may have suffered a collision or simply collapsed from age, Tisbury harbor master Michel Gately told the Gazette last week.

"It could have been an impact, or fatigue," he said.

The damage was reported by boaters, he said, and the broken stake itself now poses a risk because it sticks up above the waterline.

"You're equally as likely to hit the piling as the rock," Mr. Gately said.

A bright orange ball is serving as a temporary marker until the new one can be installed, he said.

Last Tuesday, the Tisbury select board authorized a \$6,500 fund transfer for the project, which Mr. Gately said he expects will cost \$9,500, with the remaining \$3,000 coming from harbor master department savings.

A boulder about the size of a Volkswagen bug, Douglas Rock lurks invisibly off West Chop, never breaking the water's surface — yet close enough, especially at low tide, to inflict costly damage on boats.

The late Vineyard Haven resident and sailor Francis (Pat) West, Jr., who was born in 1906, recalled run-ins with the rock from the late 1920s to recently as the year 2000.

naming Douglas Rock, had intended to honor Robert S. Douglas, who built the topsail schooner Shenandoah and founded the Black Dog Tavern on Vineyard Haven harbor.

But the U.S. Board on Geographic Names — the final authority — doesn't allow commemorative names for living people, so they fell back on Mr. Douglas's father, former secretary of the Air Force and deputy secretary of defense James Henderson Douglas, Jr. (1899-1988) who had summered with his family in West Chop for more than 25 years. (Robert Douglas lived on until 2025.)

Although the board's approval cleared the way for Douglas Rock to appear on navigational charts, it would be another two years before a warning

sign would mark the spot for mariners.

The Coast Guard declined to fund a marker, but issued a license to Tisbury to set one up at its own expense.

Locals — not just from Vineyard Haven — chipped in to make it happen. Ralph Packer donated the spile and Edgartown dock builder Steve Ewing donated time and equipment to install it at the rock, where the warning sign went up in April, 2001.

Mr. West was there to see it happen and, when he died the following year at 96, his obituary noted the pride he had taken in having Douglas Rock named and marked.

Mr. Gately said he's planning for the new marker to be installed by Mr. Packer's company next month.

IN VINEYARD SKIES

	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri., Oct. 2	6:39	6:22
Sat., Oct. 3	6:40	6:20
Sun., Oct. 4	6:41	6:18
Mon., Oct. 5	6:42	6:17
Tues., Oct. 6	6:43	6:15
Wed., Oct. 7	6:44	6:13
Thurs., Oct. 8	6:45	6:12
Fri., Oct. 9	6:46	6:10

Planet Saturn

The ringed-planet Saturn, the brightest and most visible planet in our evening sky, reaches opposition, its closest, on Sunday. The planet is at its brightest, especially

now, as both the planet and the rings glow together. Saturn is in the zodiacal constellation Pisces. You don't need a telescope to appreciate this planet's beauty rising in the eastern sky just after sunset. You might see the rings with a small telescope.

Saturn is 784 million miles away. It takes light from the planet 70 minutes to reach us. For comparison, it only takes eight minutes for light from the sun to reach us.

Saturn will be our evening planet well into winter, though brighter Jupiter will start showing up in our early evening skies later in the year.

Jupiter is now in the zodiacal constellation Leo, a constellation we associate with late winter and spring.

Last Quarter Oct. 3

New Moon Oct. 10

Full Moon Oct. 26

Temperature:

Day	Max. F°	Min. F°	Precip. Inches.
Sept. 25	65	57	0.00
Sept. 26	63	60	0.73
Sept. 27	66	59	3.80
Sept. 28	68	60	0.44
Sept. 29	70	56	0.12
Sept. 30	64	56	T
Oct. 1	68	56	.01

Water temperature in Edgartown harbor: 61°

Recent Island Real Estate Transactions

Chilmark

Gordon O. Thomson TRS, Christin Clements Thompson TRS and Lynn Owen Trust purchased 26 Harbor Hill Road in Chilmark from Brian R. Kenney TRS, Elizabeth Blair Kenney TRS and Kristen Brock Kenney TRS for \$7,000,000 on Sept. 24.

Edgartown

Sandbox Group LLC purchased 19 Chappaquiddick Road in Edgartown from Nehhoff Realty LLC for \$1,973,350 on Sept. 21.

43 PPWS LLC purchased 43 Peases Point Way South in Edgartown from PPWS LLC for \$8,175,000 on Sept. 23.

Oak Bluffs

Gordon S. Cameron purchased 26 Sea Glen Road in Oak Bluffs from Charlie Deshazer and Sylvia Thomas Ballinger for \$1,390,000 on Sept. 21.

Rober Cox and Jennifer Ellis Cox purchased 150 East Chop Drive from Paul Massey and Gretchen Massey for \$8,300,000 on Sept. 22.

James L. O'Hare purchased 28 Webster avenue (Lot 2) in Oak Bluffs from Michael T. O'Hare for \$511,250 on Sept. 23.

Donald Richard Joy Jr. and Elise Joy purchased 3 Hidden Cove Road in Oak Bluffs from Stephen and Susan Adamo for \$2,150,000 on Sept. 24.

Vineyard Haven

Mark S. Nickowal TRS, Peter J. Nickowal TRS and Barnacle Bill Realty Trust purchased 2 Barnacle Bill Way in Vineyard Haven from Joseph A. Nickowal for \$483,000 on Sept. 23.

Robert Donohue TRS and Saga-maore Avenue Realty Trust purchased 272 Bigelow Road in Vineyard Haven from Joshua H. Gordon TRS and Deborah J. Hales Trust for \$3,005,000 on Sept. 25.

Kenneth J. Stiles TRS purchased 124 Skiff avenue (Unit B-12, Unit 19) in Vineyard Haven from Marilyn Moses TRS and Cam Realty Trust for \$380,000 on Sept. 25.

West Tisbury

Daniel Davies Cabot purchased 48 Tiasquam Road (lot 6) in West Tisbury from Isabelle Lumb for \$500,000 on Sept. 21.



Rory Ewing

Class of 1966 High School Reunion

Members of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School class of 1966 and their guests are invited to gather on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 17 from 1 to 4 p.m. at The Wharf in Edgartown.

The cost is \$45 per person and does not include the cash bar. For more information and to sign up, contact Herb Ward at 508-693-7683, wakemewhenitistime@outlook.com.

Leage of Women Voters Candidate Forum

The League of Women Voters of Martha's Vineyard will hold a candidate forum on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Edgartown Library. Positions for the Martha's Vineyard Commission and the Dukes County Commission will be on the local ballot in November.

For more information about the League of Women Voters of Martha's Vineyard, the organization will hold an informational tea on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 3 p.m. at the Martha's Vineyard Museum.

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Thaissa Marta
Vineyard Haven
Banking Center Manager
412 State Road, Vineyard Haven



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9 WESTON AVENUE

This beautifully situated 4-bedroom, 3-bath home sits at the highest point of East Chop, offering sweeping views of Vineyard Sound. The property features a spacious creterory living room with a fireplace, along with a combined family room and kitchen, also centered around a cozy fireplace. A large, screened porch opens onto an expansive deck, perfect for relaxing or entertaining. The first floor includes a private guest bedroom with its own bath, while the second floor offers two additional guest bedrooms and a generous primary suite with access to a large deck. These rooms share two well-appointed bathrooms. With dual road access, thoughtfully landscaped grounds, and a versatile garage space, this home provides both comfort and flexibility in a prime location.

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Departure Dates	Depart Falmouth	Depart Oak Bluffs
Mon - Fri	4:00 a.m.	4:30 a.m.
Mon - Fri	5:45 a.m.	6:15 a.m.
Mon - Fri	7:15 a.m.	7:45 a.m.
Mon - Fri	8:45 a.m.	9:15 a.m.
Mon - Fri	10:30 a.m.	11:15 a.m.
Mon - Fri	1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
Mon - Fri	3:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
Mon - Fri	4:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.

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Compiled by Hilary Wallcox
library@vineyardgazette.com

Islander Grapples With Bacterial Infection

Homeowners Win Injunction for OSV Trail

From Page One

practice common sense safety.” Infections from vibrio vulnificus are more commonly found in places along the Gulf Coast, such as Louisiana and Florida, where the water is warmer. A report published by the Massachusetts Department of Health in 2025 found that over the last several years there were seven confirmed cases of vibrio vulnificus in Massachusetts. Of those cases, four were likely due to exposure in the state.

“In general, public risk remains minimal for those who do not swim with open wounds, but for people over 65, immunocompromised individuals, or those with liver damage, or pregnant people, or children under five, are generally more susceptible,” Mr. Boutot said in August.

The Department of Health’s most recent report states that there has been a total of 110 vibrio type infections since the start of 2026. This report was constructed from every documented vibrio infection, of which there are well over a dozen, including the vibrio vulnificus.

According to Mr. Benefit, doctors used 30 to 40 staples to graft animal skin to help stimulate re-growth on the damaged area.

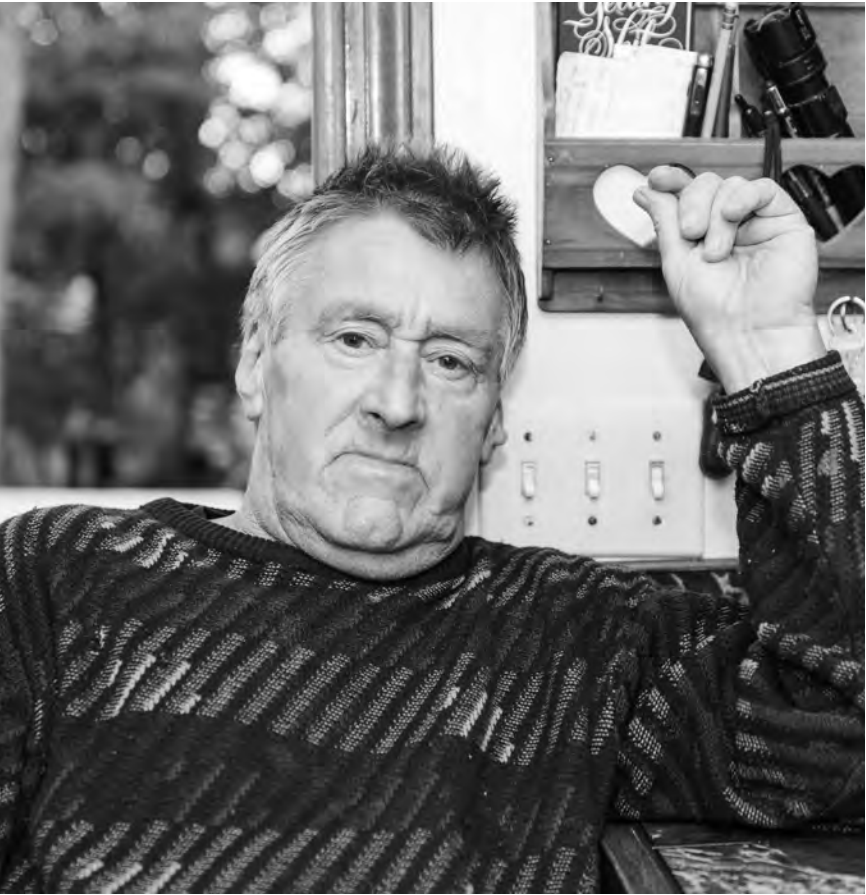
“They put that on the wound and it helps to grow a layer like meat, not skin, but a layer underneath, because the tendons were exposed,” Mr. Benefit said.

In the coming weeks, Mr. Benefit plans to undergo another round of grafting from a plastic surgeon, and his overall recovery timeline is about six months.

Mr. Benefit believes he contracted the bacterial infection in one of the several Edgartown ponds his digs for clams in.

“I was in Poucha Pond, I was in Shear Pen Pond and I was in Caleb’s Pond, all within those three days,” said Mr. Benefit. “We know it’s vibrio, but it’s weird...I’ve been out there for 68 years scalloping and I’ve never seen anything like this.”

To help cover his mounting medical bills, Mr. Benefit’s girlfriend Martha Montesion started a fundraising campaign with the help of Jennifer Bettencourt, while he is out of work. The Gofundme page has already generated



Donnie Benefit at home recuperating.



Courtesy Donnie Benefit

Infection killed the flesh on his foot.

more than \$17,000.

“Anyone that knows him knows that he’s not a sit-around guy and he would do anything he could to help you,” said Ms. Montesion. “[And] he’s trying to be a good patient.”

After weeks of bedrest, Mr. Benefit is now back up on his feet, and was making apple sauce and chicken soup during a visit with the Gazette. He is awaiting his next surgery and is ready to get back out into the world.

“I’m trying to get this [healed] so they put the new skin on, so I can still dredge the channel this winter,” said Mr. Benefit. “I also got a job off the lighthouse, which I kind of don’t want to miss. But the doctor told me if they do it next week, then I’ll be in good shape because he said it’s going to heal so fast once they put the skin on.”



After long delay, \$10 million in federal funding has been rescinded.

Pictures by Ray Ewing

East Chop Bluffs Project Loses Steam

From Page One

A spokesperson for the Army Corps told the Gazette that the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management must make a decision before it can finalize a permit decision.

“For projects of this scope and technical nature, a review duration of several months is standard,” the spokesperson wrote.

Ms. Brough said the Office of Coastal Zone Management is supposed to make a decision after the appeal period for a different permit through MassDEP concluded this week.

The East Chop project first gained Martha’s Vineyard Commission approval in 2018 and subsequently attained the other permits necessary to complete the project. The town then brought on municipal planning firm Tighe & Bond in 2023 to help execute the plan, at which point consultants deemed the plan faulty as approved, identifying issues with the engineering and logistics of the project.

This essentially necessitated a second round of permitting, delaying the project further.

“This additional engineering and permitting review affected the project timeline,” Ms. Brough wrote.

FEMA first granted Oak Bluffs a two-year extension on the grant in May 2024, pushing the project end date to May 2026. In May 2025, the town applied with FEMA for another extension to 2028, but it was denied.

Oak Bluffs voters first approved borrowing \$6.9 million for the project four years ago. Voters reapproved the

measure at town meeting in 2024. Ms. Brough said the town has not yet borrowed those funds.

Additionally, Ms. Brough said that Oak Bluffs has not spent borrowed or local funds on the project at all thus far. She said permitting and design work was funded through a \$3 million state grant, \$1.5 million of which has been spent.

According to Ms. Brough, the path forward now is to seek money from the state through a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant in January 2027.

“While this is a disappointing setback following several years of planning, de-

sign, permitting, and coordination, the East Chop project remains one of the Town’s highest coastal resiliency and infrastructure priorities,” Ms. Brough wrote.

Oak Bluffs highway superintendent Rich Combra told the Gazette he has not seen the area of East Chop Drive significantly deteriorate in recent years, but that the work needs to be done if the stretch of road is to reopen.

“At some point, it has to be done...” he said. “As long as we don’t do anything, the road will stay closed.”



Erosion on the bluffs has long been an issue.

By ETHAN GENTER

Public oversand vehicle access over a stretch of trail on Chappaquiddick was halted this week after the latest ruling in an ongoing court battle between Cape Pogue homeowners and the Trustees of Reservations.

State Land Court judge Sarah Turano-Flores on Monday granted Victor and Dawn Colantonio a preliminary injunction that prevents the Trustees, which manages the trails that criss-cross Chappy, from allowing the public to drive over the Colantonios’ land just north of Tom’s Neck.

The question of who is allowed to take their four-wheel drive vehicles over which easements has been a contentious topic in recent years. The Colantonios sued the Trustees in 2022, claiming the conservation nonprofit did not have the right to sell permits to the public to drive out to some of the northernmost sections of Cape Pogue.

Monday’s ruling was based on easements going back 135 years, and came after the judge last month said that the Trustees had already overstepped what was allowed under an 1800s easement.

The preliminary injunction stops the Trustees from allowing oversand vehicle permit holders from crossing the trails north of an area known as Division Lot 1 until the overall case is decided. A trial is scheduled for March 2027.

Public access to the trails that lead to Chappy’s beaches has been a contentious issue in recent years, resulting in several legal complaints and testy public hearings.

Access for the area in question in the Colantonio lawsuit remains open by foot or by boat. Other parts of Chappaquiddick, including Leland Beach and the area north of the Dike Bridge before the lot, will remain open to oversand vehicles.

In a statement Tuesday, the Trustees called the ruling disappointing but vowed to continue fighting for public access to the trail.

“This action by the Court will curtail OSV operations at [Cape Pogue], limiting access to this extraordinary place for Chappaquiddick residents and visitors for the first time since 1959,” the nonprofit wrote. “While this is a deeply disappointing outcome for everyone, The Trustees will continue working to provide meaningful access to this special place.”

The Colantonios’ lawyer Denise Chicoine appreciated the judge’s ruling.

“The Trustees were behaving as a business, not a conservation entity by treating Cape Poge as a means of rais-



Ray Ewing

The case is set to go to trial next spring.

ing revenue,” she said. “The preliminary injunction is an appropriate restraint and is the right decision from an environmental perspective. The Trustees can use their own tour trucks to provide members of the public with access to the lighthouse.”

The Trustees had tried to argue that the trail in question on Division Lot 1 was not actually the trail that was being referred to in the 1891 easement. Instead, the trails being used now, the Trustees contended, were part of a 1988 easement, which did allow for wider use.

But Judge Turano-Flores was not convinced by the argument.

“The Trustees point to no survey, plan or photographic evidence to support their claim that the network of OSV trails that traverse Division Lot 1, including the primary trail, are not in the same location as” the trail in the 1891 easement, the judge wrote.

Ballot Question Worries Island Town Officials

From Page One

training for communities, for overriding local planning by setting a new limit regardless of existing neighborhoods and other conditions.

“Local officials are directly responsible to taxpayers, and this would remove significant oversight on behalf of their residents,” association executive director Adam Chapelaine wrote in a rebuttal to the ballot question.

Some Island officials had similar concerns.

“It seems to me that it makes a huge change in how zoning works in Edgartown,” said Julia Livingston, a member of the town planning board.

With the Island’s housing market continuing to climb to new heights, Ms. Livingston worried that this law could encourage more market-rate single fam-

ily homes instead of affordable units.

“The market is for homes that most people on the Island can’t afford,” she said.

Ms. Livingston described the proposed legislation as a “sledgehammer” that would break up the local regulations that have been put in place over the years.

“It would just change the look and feel of parts of Edgartown where the lot sizes are bigger than 5,000 square feet,” she said.

The law doesn’t go into detail on what “access” to water and sewer means, and Tisbury planning board member Ben Robinson felt that sewer capacity could be one of the biggest factors for the legislation on the Vineyard.

“What happens when there is not enough sewer flow,” he said.

When legislation is passed by petition at the election, lawmakers often make tweaks to the law to make it easier for implementation. Laura Silber, the Martha’s Vineyard Commission’s housing planner, said Islanders will advocate for rules that work for resort towns.

“Polls are showing the question is likely to pass, so we are working with the district legislative delegation on statutory language amendments which would ensure anything subsequently enacted aligns with the year-round housing needs of seasonal Communities,” she said.

The petition backers looked at sewer, water and land maps to attempt to calculate how many homes the proposed law could create. Their study did not have a number associated solely for the Vineyard, but they estimated it could result in between 116 and 185 homes per year for the Cape and Islands, with a majority coming on the Cape.

Based on the sewer systems on the Vineyard, though, it was likely that Edgartown would be the Island community that could see the most development.

Senator Cyr said he endorsed the proposal because Massachusetts is experiencing one of the worst housing crises in the country.

“We were last of all 50 states for permits per capita,” he said.

Still, he understood concerns from Islanders about whether these homes would become seasonal properties as Islanders struggle to continue to live here.

“Almost any home, whether it is an existing property or a new build, is likely to go to the second home or investment market without any sort of restriction,” Mr. Cyr said.

A chair of the state legislature’s joint committee on housing, Mr. Cyr said lawmakers would explore restrictions for the Island to require the homes be used year round, and said that the measure could create smaller homes that would be cheaper to put affordable housing restrictions on.

“Overall, I think this is a good policy that will build more housing for Massachusetts and put more housing in reach for working people,” the senator said.

Stepping Up to Keep Cornell Accountable

From Page One

Sexual Assault Prevention and Safety Club since her first year of college. She became aware of it through her older sorority sisters in Kappa Alpha Theta, one of whom brought her to her first meeting.

“It was so powerful,” Ms. Hall recalled. “It felt like I was part of a really amazing community.”

She quickly rose up through the club’s leadership ranks. She joined the executive board last year and helped bring renowned writer and sexual assault awareness advocate Chanel Miller to speak on Cornell’s campus. She became co-president of the club this fall, just as Ms. Doe’s lawsuit cracked open a conversation that had largely lay dormant on campus for two years.

“A lot of students had conversations, but only until recently, when the recent lawsuit came out, did people start talking about it again,” she said.

After Ms. Doe first reported being assaulted in 2024, Cornell notified the student body and reportedly expelled some of the accused students, suspended others and banned Chi Phi from continuing to operate on campus. According to Ms. Doe’s complaint, the university gave the accused the opportunity to write essays to Cornell as part of the disciplinary process, a claim

Cornell denies.

Now, Ms. Hall said students’ horror is mixed with uncertainty about what Cornell’s administration is going to do next and what the campus is going to feel like moving forward. She said a lot of students are dissatisfied with the way Cornell has handled Ms. Doe’s case.

Meanwhile, the wave of national attention is taking its toll on students. Reporters are posted all over the quad, and the coffee shops that surround campus are full of students sitting down with journalists. This week, Ms. Hall was interviewed by NPR for Tuesday’s Morning Edition and the New York Times.

Though the world’s eyes are on Cornell, Ms. Hall said it’s important to remember that the problem of sexual assault stretches far beyond any one campus.

“I think that the sad truth of the matter is that sexual assault is a prevalent cultural problem across the United States,” she said. “We’re in the hot seat right now, but a lot of colleges and universities have had major sexual assault incidents.”

Ms. Hall pointed to party culture and Greek life as places where rape culture can fester, aided by copious amounts of drugs and alcohol. She’s optimistic, however, that things could someday be different.

She and the other members of her club are working on a new sexual assault awareness curriculum and educational program for all students involved in Greek life at Cornell. The group has been working with the school’s administration to develop the program since the spring.

“Education is not the only solution ...



Courtesy Olympia Hall

Olympia Hall is currently a junior at Cornell.

but I’m hoping that education can be a forward momentum to help change the culture here,” she said.

She contrasted the group’s vision with typical sexual assault and harassment trainings, which she said often don’t invite engagement beyond watching a video or completing a questionnaire.

“If you’re not actively involved in the conversation, then you’re likely not going to take much away from it,” she said.

Ms. Hall and her club are also pushing for active involvement in other ways. On Tuesday, the group made a point of inviting all of Cornell’s fraternities and

sororities to its bi-weekly meeting to discuss the alleged assault at Chi Phi.

“We got a lot of new people there, and I think it went really well,” she said.

She added that on Monday, the Cornell student body will hold a school-wide protest in response to the alleged assault. The Sexual Assault Prevention and Safety Club will table nearby, handing out purple ribbons for sexual assault awareness.

“Things are happening around campus now,” Ms. Hall said. “I’m hopeful for change.”

CALENDAR

Upcoming Vineyard Events
For the Week Ahead –
calendar.vineyardgazette.com

Friday, October 2

Bass in the Grass, a collection of wooden fish created by local artists in celebration of the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby, The Carnegie, 58 North Water Street, Edgartown, daily, free, 774-549-9107.

Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby, daily morning and evening weigh-ins on Dock street from 8 to 10 a.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., 12 a.m., mvderby.com.

Acrylic Painting with John Holladay, intermediate/advanced, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 30 Featherstone Lane, Oak Bluffs, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., \$50, featherstoneart.app, neoncrm.com, 508-693-1850.

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., massaudubon.org, 508-627-4850.

First Friday Vineyard Haven, an all day event celebrating local art and food, Vineyard Haven Harbor Cultural District, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., free, firstfridayvh.com.

Leo Convery: A Lifetime of Carvings, wooden sculptures of striped bass, tuna, shorebirds and other familiar creatures of the Vineyard, The Carnegie, daily, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., free.

MVAA All Members Show, Old Sculpin Gallery, Martha's Vineyard Art Association 58 Dock Street, Edgartown, daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., oldsculptingallery.org, 508-939-4092.

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

Friday Kids Crafting, for ages 3 and up, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.

Knowhere Continues This Fall, Center of Knowhere, 73 Circuit Avenue, Oak Bluffs, daily except Monday and Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., knowhereart.com, 917-960-9344.

Maintaining Our Sovereignty, a public history project that centers contemporary Aquinnah Wampanoag struggles for sovereignty in traditional territories, Aquinnah Cultural Center, 35 Aquinnah Circle, Aquinnah, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., aquinnah.org, 508-645-7900.

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

Featherstone Board and Instructor Show, Featherstone Center for the Arts, daily, 12 to 4 p.m., free.

Music is Medicine: Using Music to Help People Coping with Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease, West Tisbury Public Library, 2 to 3 p.m.

HERitage: A Multimedia Music and Arts Festival Honoring Historic Vineyard Women, a multimedia retrospective exploring the lives of Island women of the past, Stillpoint, 20 Stillpoint Meadows Road, West Tisbury, 3 to 8 p.m., \$15 to \$40, email if cost is a barrier, stillpointmv.org.

Magic the Gathering Gaming Group, all skill levels are welcome, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 56R School Street, Oak Bluffs, 6 to 9 p.m., free, 508-693-9433.

Saturday, October 3

Loving Kindness and Mindfulness Meditation: A 90-Minute Journey, training designed for all levels, from beginners to longtime practitioners, Stillpoint, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., \$20 to \$40, email if cost is a barrier.

West Tisbury Farmers' Market, rain or shine, Agricultural Hall, 35 Panhandle Road, West Tisbury, 9 a.m.

to 12 p.m., free, wtfmarket.org.

TweenSTEAM: Science Through Art, Slough Farm, 60 Slough Cove Road, Edgartown, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., \$20, cvent.com, 508-627-7222.

Children's Saturday Crafting with Helen Hall, for ages 6 and up, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., \$40.

Saturday Storytime, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Circus: To the Moon and Back, family entertainment by circus performers Joy and Aaron, Vineyard Haven Public Library, 200 Main Street, Vineyard Haven, 10:30 a.m.

Fall Bulletin Board Craft, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Oktoberfest Weekend, all ages welcome, Nomans, 15 Island Inn Road, Oak Bluffs, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., nomansmv.com, 508-338-2474.

Storytime, for ages 3 to 6, Chilmark Free Public Library, 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Mahjong Group, weekly registration required, email gwilbur@clamsnet.org for more information, West Tisbury Public Library, 12 to 2:30 p.m.

LadyFest, music festival and fundraiser for Connect to End Violence, Waban Park in Oak Bluffs, 1 to 9 p.m.

A Conversation with BoSama: Wisdom, Healing and Higher Guidance, with Janet Griffin, Vineyard Pilates and Bodywork, 1 to 2:30 p.m., \$25, apath4change.com, 410-960-3376.

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

Climate Conversation Chilmark: Menemsha's Working Waterfront, Chilmark Free Public Library, 2 to 4 p.m.

Island Quilters Quilt Show, for more information, visit westtisburylibrary.org/art-exhibits, West Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Model Railroad Group, West Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 4 p.m.

West Tisbury Quilting Circle Show and Reception, West Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Back Porch Trio, harmonica rhythm blues, beer and pizza, Bad Martha Farmer's Brewery 270 Upper Main Street, Edgartown, 4 to 6 p.m., free.

Community Remembrance Event, write or draw a message on a stone in memory of someone who has died, Joseph Sylvia State Beach Beach Road, Edgartown, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., hospiceofmv.org, 508-693-0189.

Haunted Edgartown, spooky stories and ghostly vibes, Edgartown, 7:30 to 9 p.m., 30, hauntededgartown.com, 508-212-3035.

Sunday, October 4

Meditation, group meditation, both in person and online, Bodhi Path Buddhist Center, 21 Laurand Drive, West Tisbury, 10 to 11 a.m.

Noepe: These Are Our Lands, Forever with Brad Lopes, online or in person, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, 10 a.m., free.

Oak Bluffs Open Market, Washington Park Chapman avenue, Oak Bluffs, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., free, 508-939-1076.

Oktoberfest Weekend, all ages welcome, Nomans, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., nomansmv.com, 508-338-2474.

Softening Into Stillness, guided meditation, Stillpoint, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., \$30 single class, \$125 for five-class pass.

Football and Yard Games, Nomans, 1 to 5 p.m., 508-338-2474.

Open Writing Hours, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 1 to 3 p.m., free.

Understanding Guitar with Shelly Jones, email gwilbur@clamsnet.org to register, West Tisbury Public Library, 1 to 3 p.m.

Healing Hour with Sue Angeley, with sound and crystals, Stillpoint, 3 to 4 p.m., \$20 to \$40, email if cost is a barrier.

Sundays In The Park Concerts,

Fish On!



Jeanna Shepard

Hooked on Bass in the Grass

Meg Mercier chose an Edgartown lighthouse theme. Chris Sainato went patriotic and Mitch Gordon went heavy — very heavy.

The artists are all taking part in the annual Bass in the Grass fundraiser, finding creative ways to celebrate the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby.

"They are given the same piece of wood, but what they choose to do with it can sometimes blend into a 3-D effect," said Alison Bauriedel, who helps with the visitor's experience at the Carnegie Heritage Center, where the bass are on display.

Mr. Gordon abandoned his piece of wood for three large stones which he then assembled into the shape of a fish.

"It weighs maybe 300 pounds," Ms. Bauriedel said of the piece, urging a doubtful visitor to try and lift it from its place at the front desk. The visitor was unsuccessful in giving the stone fish more than a minor wiggle. More than 20 artists took part this year, with each fish sponsored by a local business. The event is run by the Edgartown Board of Trade and the money raised is divided between the artists and the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby scholarship fund.

David Joseph arranged numerous wrenches and other tools onto his fish, giving it a decidedly industrial look. Steve Lohman created a wire sculpture. Althea Freeman went blue with her block print design that was sponsored by the Vineyard Gazette, and Tara Reynolds found her calling with shellfish.

Leah Fraumeni, a derby committee member and regular at the weigh-in station, decorated her fish with derby pins, a colorful display that was also informative. In her artist's note, she reflected on the importance of the derby tradition, now in its 81st year.

"Each regulation badge used to create this piece represents an angler who stood at the scale, a fish that was caught, and a moment that became part of Derby history," Ms. Fraumeni wrote.

The Carnegie Heritage Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

-Bill Eville

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

Monday, October 5

Martha's Vineyard Poetry Reading Group, contact library to join, 10 a.m.

Moving Stories Dance Class, creative movement dance for kids ages 2 to 6, West Tisbury Public Library, 11 to 11:45 a.m.

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

Beetlebung Farm Tour, with one of our farmers, Beetlebung Farm, 410 Middle Road, Chilmark, 4 to 4:30 p.m., \$5, beetlebungfarm.org.

Blue Monday — The Back Porch Trio, The Inkwell Beach Club, 7 to 9 p.m., free.

Tuesday, October 6

Assisted Knitting Open Studio, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., \$10.

Digital Compass: Tech Support, technology help for older adults, Tisbury Council on Aging, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., free, techpromv.org, 508-696-4205.

Memory Training, a course teaching memory enhancing techniques and practical strategies to boost

memory functioning, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 2 to 4 p.m.

After School Club, Aquinnah Public Library, 1 Church Street, Aquinnah, 3 to 5 p.m., aquinnahlibrary.org.

Basics of Metalsmithing with Liam McGorman, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 3 to 6 p.m., \$95.

Creator Club, a different hands-on craft each week, Edgartown Public Library, 26 Edgartown-West Tisbury Road, Edgartown, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Lil Lab Tick Workshop, a four-week, hands-on exploration of ticks using microscopes, art, 3D printing, photography and more, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

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

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

Table Tennis, for all ages and skill levels, Tisbury Senior Center, 34 Pine

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The Complete Martha's Vineyard
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Tree Road, Vineyard Haven, Tuesday and Thursday, 5 p.m., free, mvtabletennis.com, 508-728-5898.

The Somatics of Language: How Words Land in the Body, Stillpoint, 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., \$20-\$35; email if cost is a barrier.

Soil Testing 101, learn how to build your soil by testing for what it needs, Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Community Pizza Nights, pizza and optional potluck for our Island community, Chilmark Community Church, 6 to 7 p.m., free, 508-645-3100.

Meditation, group meditation in person and online, Bodhi Path Buddhist Center, 6 to 7 p.m., free.

Virtual Literary Lecture Series: Gender Dramas with Professor Philip Weinstein, explore themes of yearning and desire in three novels, 7 to 8:30 p.m., vhlpl.blogspot.com.

Wednesday, October 7

What to Do if ICE/Federal Agents Come to the Island, learn how to protect staff and others, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., mv4aproject.org.

Play Reading, Tisbury Senior Center, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., free, tisburycoa.com.

Wednesday Storytime, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Children's Storytime, recommended for ages 0 to 5 but all are welcome, West Tisbury Public Library, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Hello/Hola/Oi! Bilingual Storytime, a story time in both Spanish and English /una hora del cuento tanto en español como en inglés, Edgartown Public Library, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Mahjong Group, registration required, observers are not permitted, Edgartown Public Library, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Lego and Magna-tile Club, for kids of all ages, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Climate Conversation Oak Bluffs: Caring for Our Coastal Ponds, panel discussion on the Island's ponds in a changing climate, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m.

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

Rug Hooking Open Studio with Island Hookers, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 3 to 6 p.m., \$10.

Virtual Reality For Ages 10 to 18, West Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m.

Living Alongside Grief: A Somatic and Positive Psychology Workshop, Stillpoint, 4 to 6 p.m., \$40 to \$55; email if cost is a barrier.

Beekeeping Club, all Island beekeepers and bee enthusiasts invited to the monthly meeting, Agricultural Hall, 5 to 6 p.m., free.

CSL Test Prep, in person construction supervisor's license prep course, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, 100 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road, Oak Bluffs, 5 to 8:30 p.m., \$725, contractorsuccess.com, 978-939-

3435.

Advanced Improv Classes, Grange Hall, 1067 State Road, West Tisbury, 6 to 8 p.m., \$150, circuitarts.org.

Beginner Improv Classes, Grange Hall, 6 to 8 p.m., \$150, circuitarts.org.

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

Fall Film Showcase: Burgundy, Grange Hall, 7 p.m., \$40 includes film screening and reception, circuitarts.thundertix.com, 508-696-6300.

Wednesday Night Karaoke, hosted by Ryan and Douglas from Brew Brother's Trivia, Indigo Martha's, 8 to 10 p.m., free, indigomarthas.com, 917-710-1066.

Thursday, October 8

Mahjong for Beginners, registration required, Vineyard Haven Public Library, 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

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

Chair Caning Workshop with Fred Thornbrugh, to register or for more information, email gwilbur@clamsnet.org, West Tisbury Public Library, 2:30 to 5 p.m.

Naptime with David Stanwood, experience the calming effect of harmonic vibration, Stillpoint, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., \$10 to \$30 sliding scale.

Pokémon Club, bring your Pokémon cards to show others, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Ukulele Jam, public jam session meeting every other Thursday, West Tisbury Public Library, 3:30 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.

Philosophy Café, email gwilbur@clamsnet.org for more info or to register, West Tisbury Public Library, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Meditation, group meditation in person and online, Bodhi Path Buddhist Center, 6 to 7 p.m., free.

Sip 'n Stitch, share needlepoint tips and tricks, Erica Wilson, 6 to 7:30 p.m., free, 774-549-9488.

Vineyard Haven Cultural District Community Conversation, with local arts organizations and grantmakers, Vineyard Haven Public Library, 6 p.m.

Jeremy Berlin Plays Jazz Piano, The Sweet Life, 63 Circuit avenue, Oak Bluffs, 6:30 to 9 p.m., sweetlifemv.com, 508-696-0200.

Jimmy and the Janitors and The Back Porch Trio, with a New Orleans feel, Pawnee House Restaurant, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., free.

Fall Film Showcase: I Play Rocky, Grange Hall, 7 p.m., pay-what-you-can ticketing, circuitarts.thundertix.com, 508-696-6300.

Thursday Night Trivia, Indigo Martha's, 8 to 10 p.m., free, instagram.com, 917-710-1066.



Tim Johnson

MARTHA'S VINEYARD
FILM CENTER
79 Beach Rd, VH • 508-696-9369

FRIDAY 10/02
Manhattan Short Film Festival (NR) 4:00 p.m.
The Rivals of Amzeah King (R) 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY 10/03
Metropolitan Opera Live: Cosi Fan Tutte (NR) 1:00 p.m.
The Rivals of Amzeah King (R) 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY 10/04
The Rivals of Amzeah King (R) 4:00 p.m.
Late Fame (NR) 7:30 p.m.
MONDAY 10/05
Closed
TUESDAY 10/06
Closed
WEDNESDAY 10/07
National Theatre I've: The Misanthrope (NR) 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY 10/08
Late Fame (NR) 7:30 p.m.
The Rivals of Amzeah King (R) 7:30 p.m.

EDGARTOWN CINEMAS
Main St, Edgartown • 508-627-8008

FRIDAY 10/02
Primetime (R) 4:00 p.m.
Digger (R) 6:45 p.m.
Heart Of The Beast (PG-13) 4:00 p.m.
Verity (R) 6:45 p.m.
SATURDAY 10/03
Forgotten Island (PG) 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.
Digger (R) 7:00 p.m.
Heart Of The Beast (PG-13) 1:15 p.m., 4:00 p.m.
Verity (R) 7:00 p.m.
SUNDAY 10/04
Forgotten Island (PG) 1:00 p.m.
Digger (R) 3:45 p.m., 6:45 p.m.
Heart of the Beast (PG-13) 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.
Jaws (PG) 6:45
MONDAY 10/05
Practical Magic 2 (PG-13) 3:45 p.m.
Primetime (R) 6:45 p.m.
Heart of the Beast (PG-13) 4:00 p.m.
Verity (R) 6:45 p.m.
TUESDAY 10/06
Forgotten Island (PG) 4:00 p.m.
Digger (R) 6:45 p.m.
Coyote Vs Acme (R) 4:00 p.m.
Verity (R) 6:45 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 10/07
Practical Magic 2 (PG-13) 3:45 p.m.
Primetime (R) 4:00 p.m., 6:45 p.m.
Heart of the Beast (PG-13) 4:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m.
THURSDAY 10/08
Primetime (R) 4:00 p.m.
Digger (R) 6:45 p.m.
Coyote Vs Acme (R) 4:00 p.m.
Verity (R) 6:45 p.m.

CIRCUIT ARTS
FALL FILM SHOWCASE
THE GRANGE HALL
1067 State Road, WT • 508-696-6300
WEDNESDAY 10/07
Burgundy 7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY 10/08
1 Play Rocky (PG-13) 7:00 p.m.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD ART ASSOCIATION
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2026 Derby | Sunday, September 13 - Saturday, October 17

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Closes Oct. 18 at 8 pm





Most ferries were cancelled over the weekend.

Tim Johnson

Storm Brought Wind and Rain But Not Much Damage

By ETHAN GENTER

The northeaster that hit the Vineyard last the weekend brought strong winds and heavy rains that caused some coastal flooding and sporadic power outages. Many of the low-lying parts of the Island, including Dock street in Edgartown and Five Corners in Vineyard Haven, were inundated. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation closed Beach Road from Five Corners to Martha's Vineyard Hospital Saturday morning because of the floodwaters, and advised travelers to take alternate routes. The Vineyard received approximately five inches of rain during the week-end. There was no major damage reported but some boats did break their moorings and washed up on shore. The Vineyard had one of the highest reported gusts in Massachusetts, with a gust of 60 miles per hour recorded at the airport early Saturday morning. The Steamship Authority had stopped running ferries on Friday and suspended all service on Saturday, but by Sunday morning had restarted service. Even the West Tisbury Farmers' Market, which is normally held rain or shine, was canceled Saturday. The Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby continued on through the storm, though several popular fishing areas were inaccessible when the Trustees of Reservations closed oversand vehicle access to parts of Chappaquiddick



Some downed trees were reported.

Sydney Goldstein



Flooding closed some streets.

Jeanna Shepard



Five Corners felt the effects, as per usual.

Ray Ewing



OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina
"Praised be Jesus!"

September 25, 2026 Message to The World

"Dear children! May this time be a time of prayer for peace. I am calling you to renew in your families the prayer of the Rosary for my intentions, so that I may be able to multiply your prayers and intercede for you before the Most High, [for Him] to heed your prayers and to give you peace. I am with you and like never before I pray for you and with you, my little children. Thank you for having responded to my call."
(With Ecclesiastical approval)

Little Children of Mary ★ Prayer Group Daily @ 3 pm
littlechildrenofmary@gmail.com
For prayer requests or to join us in prayer!

THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND BANK COMMISSION

The Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission purchases property for conservation and passive public recreation and the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority seeks property appropriate for the construction of affordable housing. These two agencies can work cooperatively on projects of mutual interest.

Please contact the land bank office (508-627-7141) if you are disposing of your property and believe that your land may be suitable for conservation or for a joint land bank - housing authority venture.

MAKE YOUR GUESTS FEEL AT HOME



All new for
2026

A handy shortcut to all of the Island's charms.

ON NEWSSTANDS for just \$9.95.

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Edgartown harbor spills over.

Ray Ewing

Strong winds equal big waves.

Jeanna Shepard

VINEYARD GAZETTE

WINNETU OCEANSIDE RESORT

PRESENT...

CAR-B-Q CLASSIC

AUTO SHOW & POWER CRUISE

★ FREE FAMILY FUN! ★



October 11, 2026 ★ 11AM - 2PM

on the lawn of the WINNETU OCEANSIDE RESORT

FOOD

DOZENS OF ANTIQUE CARS

VOTE ON YOUR FAVORITE CAR!

REGISTER YOUR CAR



Tashmoo Insurance

ASPEN AERO GROUP

LandVest

AMT AUTOMATES AUTO REPAIRS

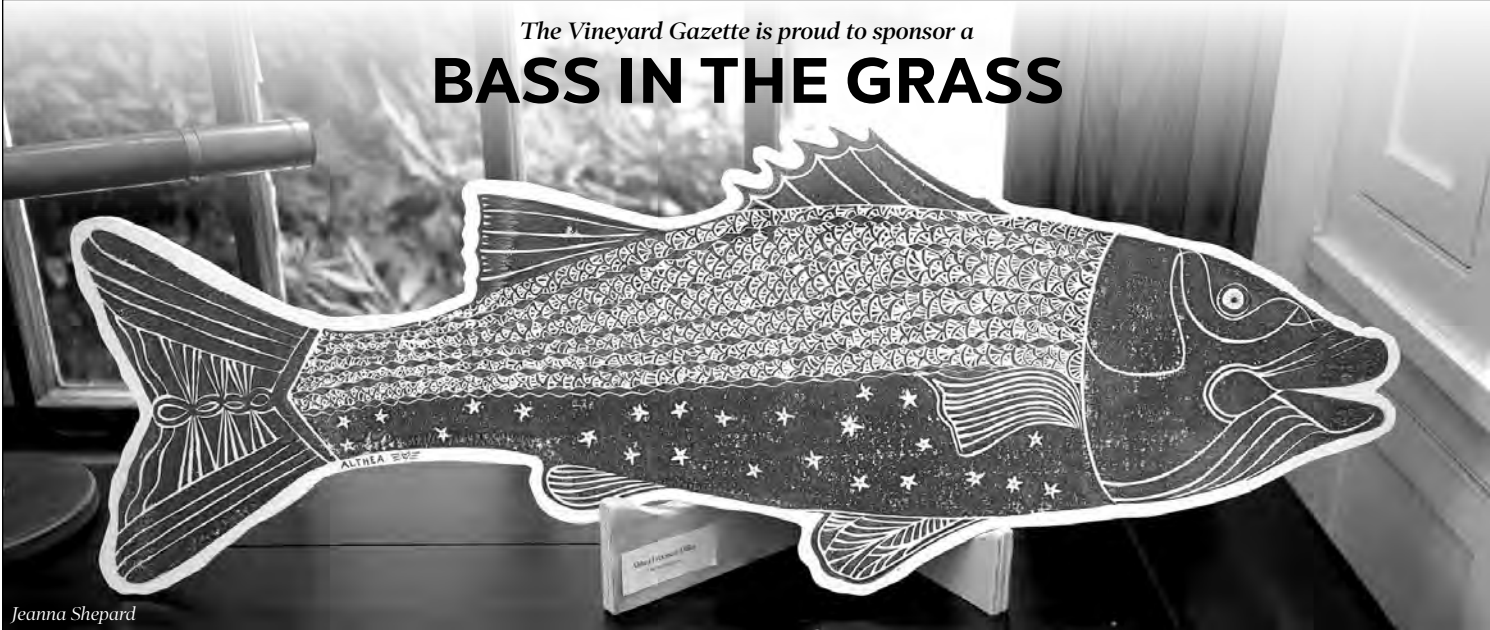
CONOVER Real Estate

PATRICK AHEARN ARCHITECT



Ron McKee with a bonito.

Pictures by Ray Ewing



Jeanna Shepard

The Vineyard Gazette is proud to sponsor a

BASS IN THE GRASS

Althea Freeman-Miller is a Martha's Vineyard-born artist, printmaker, and creative wellness facilitator selected by the Vineyard Gazette to create fish art for the Bass in the Grass Auction. She used her block-print technique to carve this unique work of art. See the bass on display at the Carnegie Heritage Center in Edgartown

You can bid on this and other artworks on bass in at BASSINTHEGRASSMV.COM

Proceeds support the Derby Scholarship Fund.

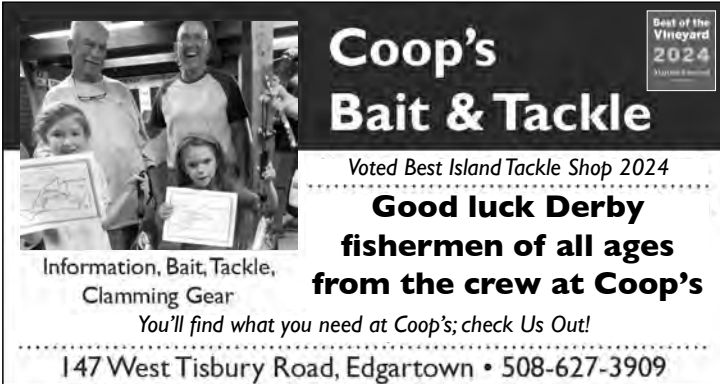
VINEYARD GAZETTE
MEDIA GROUP



Casting his luck.



Another keeper.



TIDE AND TIME																							
Sunday, Oct. 4				Monday, Oct. 5				Tuesday, Oct. 6				Wednesday, Oct. 7				Thursday, Oct. 8				Friday, Oct. 9			
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.
Cape Pogue.....				6:49 8:06 12:48 1:05				8:55 9:14 1:53 2:12				9:56 10:17 2:54 3:15				10:49 11:11 3:50 4:12				11:36 --- 4:39 5:03			
Edgartown.....				8:00 8:17 1:02 1:19				9:06 9:25 2:07 2:26				10:07 10:28 3:08 3:29				11:00 11:22 4:04 4:26				11:47 --- 4:53 5:17			
Oak Bluffs.....				7:35 7:52 12:36 12:53				8:41 9:00 1:41 2:00				9:42 10:03 2:42 3:03				10:35 10:57 3:38 4:00				11:22 --- 4:27 4:51			
East Chop.....				7:32 7:49 12:32 12:49				8:38 8:57 1:37 1:56				9:39 10:00 2:38 2:59				10:32 10:54 3:34 3:56				11:19 --- 4:23 4:47			
Vineyard Haven.....				7:30 7:47 12:45 1:02				8:36 8:55 1:50 2:09				9:37 9:58 2:51 3:12				10:30 10:52 3:47 4:09				11:17 --- 4:36 5:00			
West Chop.....				7:21 7:38 12:15 12:32				8:27 8:46 1:20 1:39				9:28 9:49 2:21 2:42				10:21 10:43 3:17 3:39				11:08 --- 4:06 4:30			
Off Lake Tashmoo.....				4:45 5:20 11:57 ---				5:51 6:25 1:27 1:15				6:52 7:21 2:07 2:08				7:45 8:10 2:40 2:52				8:33 8:55 3:06 3:33			
Cedar Tree Neck.....				3:47 4:22 11:18 ---				4:53 5:27 12:48 12:36				5:54 6:23 1:28 1:29				6:47 7:12 2:01 2:13				7:35 7:57 2:27 2:54			
Menemsha Bight.....				3:39 4:14 10:23 11:53				4:45 5:19 11:41 ---				5:46 6:15 12:33 12:34				6:39 7:04 1:06 1:18				7:27 7:49 1:32 1:59			
Gay Head.....				3:31 4:06 10:31 ---				4:37 5:11 11:49 ---				5:38 6:07 12:41 12:42				6:31 6:56 1:14 1:26				7:19 7:41 1:40 2:07			
Squibnocket Point.....				2:52 3:27 9:44 11:14				3:58 4:32 11:02 11:54				4:59 5:28 11:55 ---				5:52 6:17 12:27 12:39				6:40 7:02 1:53 1:20			
Off Chilmark Pond.....				3:21 3:56 9:50 11:20				4:27 5:01 11:08 ---				5:28 5:57 12:00 12:01				6:21 6:46 12:33 12:45				7:09 7:31 12:59 1:26			
Off Jobs Neck Pond.....				3:38 4:13 10:08 11:38				4:44 5:18 11:26 ---				5:45 6:14 12:18 12:19				6:38 7:03 12:51 1:03				7:26 7:48 1:17 1:44			
Waeque Point.....				5:39 6:14 1:46 1:06				6:45 7:19 2:36 2:24				7:46 8:15 3:16 3:17				8:39 9:04 3:49 4:01				9:27 9:49 4:15 4:42			
Begin Flood		Begin Ebb		Begin Flood		Begin Ebb		Begin Flood		Begin Ebb		Begin Flood		Begin Ebb		Begin Flood		Begin Ebb		Begin Flood		Begin Ebb	
Wasque Point (2 mi. SW).....				5:49 6:06 11:30 11:52				6:57 7:14 --- 12:43				7:59 8:16 1:03 1:46				8:53 9:11 2:05 2:40				9:41 10:01 3:00 3:28			
Hedge Fence Gong 22.....				7:07 7:24 12:01 12:55				8:15 8:32 1:17 2:08				9:17 9:34 2:28 3:11				10:11 10:29 3:30 4:05				10:59 11:19 4:25 4:53			
East Chop (1 mi. N).....				6:59 7:16 --- 12:40				8:07 8:24 1:02 1:53				9:09 9:26 2:13 2:56				10:03 10:21 3:15 3:50				10:51 11:11 4:10 4:38			
Norton Point (.5 mi. N).....				8:14 8:31 --- 12:10				7:22 7:39 12:32 1:23				8:24 8:41 1:43 2:28				9:18 9:36 2:45 3:20				10:06 10:26 3:40 4:08			
Gay Head (1.5 mi. NW).....				5:49 6:06 11:45 ---				6:57 7:14 12:07 12:58				7:59 8:16 1:18 2:01				8:53 9:11 2:20 2:55				9:41 10:01 3:15 3:43			
Source: National Ocean Survey and Tidal Current Tables																							



Dylan Kral with a bluefish.



Abbie Schuster and her kids at the weigh-in station.

CURRENT DERBY LEADERS

ALL TACKLE		
Name	Date	Weight
BOAT BLUEFISH		
Lilly G. Gwin	9/30	18.74 lbs.
SHORE BLUEFISH		
Ben T. Ciciora	9/20	15.88 lbs.
BOAT BONITO		
David Kadison	9/29	10.98 lbs.
SHORE BONITO		
Jackson J. Munson	9/28	6.30 lbs.
BOAT FALSE ALBACORE		
Sherry L. Countryman	9/17	19.91 lbs.
SHORE FALSE ALBACORE		
Angela Fisher	9/22	13.70 lbs.

FLYROD		
Name	Date	Weight
BOAT BONITO		
Zachary C. Horrocks	9/17	8.81 lbs.
SHORE BONITO		
Abe Pieciak	9/23	5.70 lbs.
BOAT BLUEFISH		
Robert D. Morrison	9/20	13.26 lbs.
BOAT FALSE ALBACORE		
Thomas J. Rapone	9/16	14.40 lbs.
SHORE FALSE ALBACORE		
Todd A. Godfrey	9/20	7.27 lbs.

JUNIOR		
Name	Date	Weight
BOAT BLUEFISH		
Christian E. Fisher	9/30	16.42 lbs.
SHORE BLUEFISH		
Dylan J. Kaddy	9/19	9.88 lbs.
BOAT BONITO		
Colton Stedman	9/19	7.17 lbs.
SHORE BONITO		
Latham Kurth	9/20	5.82 lbs.
BOAT FALSE ALBACORE		
Scarlett Stedman	9/13	18.73 lbs.
SHORE FALSE ALBACORE		
Sam A. Dublin	9/19	7.00 lbs.

SENIOR		
Name	Date	Weight
BOAT BLUEFISH		
Stephan A. Van Tol	9/29	16.88 lbs.
SHORE BLUEFISH		
Eric F. Pachico	9/28	13.76 lbs.
BOAT BONITO		
David Kadison	9/29	10.98 lbs.
SHORE BONITO		
Scott Duerr	9/21	5.44 lbs.
BOAT FALSE ALBACORE		
David Kadison	9/19	16.62 lbs.
SHORE FALSE ALBACORE		
Clement Green	9/1	8.34 lbs.

MINI JUNIOR		
Name	Date	Weight
BOAT BLUEFISH		
Calvin Stedman	9/13	13.47 lbs.
SHORE BLUEFISH		
Clifton M. Colby	9/19	9.32 lbs.
BOAT BONITO		
Tucker Schaefer	9/18	5.90 lbs.
SHORE BONITO		
Clifton M. Colby	9/20	4.07 lbs.
BOAT FALSE ALBACORE		
Calvin Stedman	9/13	15.62 lbs.
SHORE FALSE ALBACORE		
Clifton M. Colby	9/19	8.27 lbs.



Ray Ewing

BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

Report any Sea Turtle sightings at: 1-888-Sea-Turt (1-888-732-8878) or visit seaturtlesightings.org



CLASSIFIED SECTION



Real Estate
For Sale/Rent
Help Wanted
Articles for Sale



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026

VINEYARD GAZETTE, MARTHA'S VINEYARD, MASS.

ELEVEN

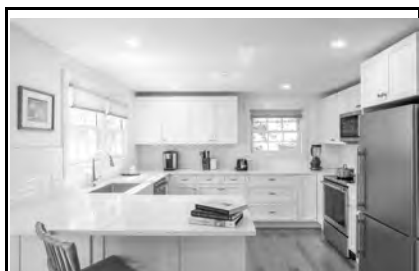
FOR RENT, EDGARTOWN



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

WINTER HOUSE RENTAL EDGARTOWN (KATAMA)

10/1/26-5/1/27. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Rent \$3,000 per month, plus utilities. If interested, call Peter at (401)789-3127.



FRESHLY REFURBISHED AND FULLY FURNISHED 1-BEDROOM APARTMENT
Laundry, off-street parking and modern kitchen, available for two year lease at \$3900/per month, plus utilities. Abuts Edgartown, Village Green. Please email: stephen@imprimisllc.com



EDGARTOWN OFFICE SPACE
400 sq. ft. Office space. Perfect Edgartown location.\$1,000, utilities included. September 1, 2026 availability. Call (401)633-4104. Staged photo.

FOR RENT, VINEYARD HAVEN

TWO BED, TWO BATH
Beach access, pets OK. One mile from town. \$2,400/month plus utilities; internet included. November 1st - May 1st. Contact kharcourt.mv@gmail.com.

VINEYARD HAVEN COMMERCIAL SPACE

Great opportunity to rent near downtown Vineyard Haven. Right on Lagoon Pond Road, 1,260 square feet garage and office, with full bathroom. Office is roughly 300 square feet. Full 10' garage door for garage. \$3,800/month. Call Chris (508)889-8524.

FOR RENT, WEST TISBURY

YEAR-ROUND RENTAL HUGE BEAUTIFUL TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT, 2ND FLOOR

\$4000 a month which includes all utilities, internet, and garbage removal. First and last month required, and security deposit - totaling \$9000. New dishwasher, dryer, microwave and washing machine. Great high porch and side yard. Great references, professionals preferred. (310)213-5472.

WEST TISBURY/ WINTER/YEAR-ROUND
Lambert's Cove area. Beautiful one bedroom plus office. One person preferred. Approximately 900 square feet. Utilities included. \$3,500/month. Text or call (508)939-1414.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT, COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT
Zoned B1 off Holmes Hole Road in Tisbury. 1,400-2,100 sf available. Overhead door, parking, heat, and bathroom. Call: (508)294-4261.



15 CHURCH STREET LANDING
Attractive 1,300 sq. ft space available immediately, suitable for professional or retail use. Heat and private parking included one block from the ferry. Hardwood floors and wall to wall carpeting, handicap accessible bath, bright interior, \$3,750/month. Call (508)274-0452 for details.

HELP WANTED

CHAPPY FERRY CAPTAIN

The Chappy Ferry is looking for Ferry Captains. Must hold a 50 ton license and be willing to work outdoors. We have morning and afternoon shifts available. Please contact Brian at: info@chappyferry.com

DIRECT SUPPORT CAREGIVER

Multiple shifts available - full-time, weekend and live-in. Do you have a calling to enrich the lives of others with disabilities? If you are able to make a long term commitment and join our team, we have several openings for energetic direct care givers. Applicants must possess a strong desire for loving, kindness and joy, be a positive team player and have a valid MA drivers license. Positions offer paid training, hourly rate of pay, benefits, paid vacation time and more. In this peaceful, loving setting for the right team player, there is possible private staff housing available. If this is your calling give us a call. Call (774)487-4392 for more information.



DUKES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TELECOMMUNICATOR-IN-TRAINING

\$500 Monthly Housing Stipend for Full-Time Island Residents.
Looking to kick-start a rewarding career while serving the Island community? Duties include, but not limited to receiving, processing, and dispatching emergency and non-emergency calls for police, fire, emergency medical, and other public safety services.
Requires effective oral and written communications skills, high integrity, positive attitude, sound judgement, and the ability to handle confidential material and adapt to changing environments and priorities. Essential functions include rotating assignment to the day, evening and night, weekend, and holiday shifts. Paid on-site training, plus off-island Academy training. Full-time position with a generous benefit package including paid leave, insurance, state pension and deferred compensation matching.
Full-time Telecommunicator-In-Training pay range is \$73,986.64 - \$81,687.06 annually, plus \$500 monthly stipend. Candidates must pass skills-based aptitude testing, interview, background check, and post-conditional-offer medical and audiology evaluations.

HELP WANTED

Apply today. Download applications and job descriptions at:
dukescountysheriff.com/careers



DUKES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CORRECTIONAL OFFICER I

\$1,000 Monthly Housing Stipend for Full-Time Island Residents.
Looking to kick-start a rewarding career while serving the Island community? Correctional Officers at the Dukes County Jail & House of Correction are responsible for the care, custody, control of inmates, as well as other assigned duties.
Must be at least 19 years of age with a valid MA Driver's License, have effective oral and written communications skills, 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 Correction Academy training (may be hosted on or off-island) with a strong commitment to supporting employees' ongoing professional growth.
Full-time position with a generous benefit package, including paid leave, insurance, state pension and deferred compensation matching. Full time pay range is \$65,516.88 - \$70,933.46 annually, plus \$1,000 monthly housing stipend. Candidates must pass interview, background check, and post-conditional-offer medical evaluations and meet the physical fitness testing requirements.
Apply today! Download applications and job descriptions at:
dukescountysheriff.com/careers

FELIX NECK IS HIRING LEAD EDUCATION COORDINATOR & CAMP DIRECTOR

Love nature and want to share it with others? To Apply: massaudubon.org/jobs

HARBOR HOMES OF MV IS HIRING DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Harbor Homes seeks an experienced, highly organized Director of Administration to join the leadership team. This full-time, year-round position works closely with the Executive Director and plays a key role in ensuring that the people, systems, finances, technology, and administrative infrastructure behind our programs operate effectively.
We're looking for someone who enjoys making organizations work well and can see both the big picture and the details required to get things done. Ideal candidates will bring at least three years of experience in nonprofit, human services, operations, administration, or management, along with effective organizational, project-management, communication, and technology skills. Use your administrative experience to help make homelessness on MV rare, brief, and non-recurring. To apply, email your resume to:
executivedirector@harborhomesmv.org.

HARBOR HOMES OF MV IS HIRING DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Harbor Homes seeks a strategic, relationship-driven Director of Development to join the leadership team. This full-time, year-round position works closely with the Executive Director and leads the annual fundraising program, major gift efforts, foundation relations, and Harbor Homes Center Capital Campaign.
We're looking for a confident fundraiser who enjoys building relationships and turning strategy into action. Ideal candidates will bring at least five years of experience in fundraising, business development, sales, philanthropy, or a related field, along with demonstrated success securing gifts or other significant support.
Use your fundraising expertise to make

HELP WANTED

homelessness on Martha's Vineyard rare, brief, and non-recurring.
To apply, email your resume to:
executivedirector@harborhomesmv.org
For more information or to apply online, visit:
https://tinyurl.com/yjhna6vp

CNA/HHA

Assisted living residence is looking to hire. Prefer a CNA or HHA but will train the right person. Our residence is small with a home like environment. If you enjoy caring for elders with a supportive staff call Ellen at (508)627-0131 for more information.

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

TEMPORARY LEGAL ASSISTANT/ADMIN

Ten hours per week for \$200.00. Paperwork, technical, computer skills, research, and analysis. (504)460-2804 or Jsmith@globalcommserv.com

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Edgartown Yacht Club is looking for a skilled, reliable maintenance professional to care for clubhouse, grounds and property year-round. To apply, contact Michelle Hogan at michelle.hogan@edgartownyc.org.

LEARNING FACILITATOR

The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School has an opening for a full-time Learning Facilitator in our student services department. We are looking for creative, enthusiastic individuals to support students with academic and social/emotional needs within our project-based curriculum. This position is ideal for individuals wishing to explore or advance in the field of education. We offer exciting opportunities for professional development in a supportive work environment.
Please email resume, letter of interest, and completed application to Christopher Nace, Executive Director cnace@mvpccs.org. Applications can be found on the school website at MVPCCS.org.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD SHIPYARD IS SEEKING AN ORGANIZED AND DEPENDABLE FULL-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM.

Your prime focus will be managing employee timecard data to ensure our customers are billed accurately and on time. Key responsibilities will be to collect & review daily employee timecards for completeness: enter hours & work data into our billing system, verify accuracy and identify & resolve discrepancies quickly and help the office team with other basic admin tasks as needed.
If you have great attention to detail & love keeping things organized, have proven experience in data entry, office admin and strong time-management skills, we can teach you how to do the rest. This is a full-time, benefited position. Please send your resume & a brief note about your availability to jhale@mvsbiyard.com with the subject line "Office Admin".

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR / SKILLED LABORER

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OAK BLUFFS
Town of Oak Bluffs is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Skilled Laborer or Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) position. Applicants who possess a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) are encouraged to apply; however, candidates may be hired without a CDL and will be given the opportunity to obtain one within the first two years of employment. All costs associated with obtaining the CDL will be covered by the Town of Oak Bluffs. In general, this position performs maintenance of municipal grounds, streets, sidewalks, and storm drains; rubbish collection; snow removal; and related work as required. Duties may also include serving

HELP WANTED

as a landfill attendant. As an HEO, the position performs additional skilled work involving the operation and use of various vehicles, heavy equipment, and mechanized equipment on assigned projects.
Hourly range is \$31.29 - \$41.80, commensurate with CDL certification and years of experience.
Full-time, Union position with generous benefits including paid leave, retirement and health, dental and eye insurance.
Job description and online application available from oakbluffsma.gov/jobs .
For all inquiries or to request an application form, email Human Resources at wbrough@oakbluffsma.gov.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

The Deputy Fire Chief is part of the leadership command and assists the Fire Chief with the day-to-day administrative and management operations, supervising of fire and EMS personnel, emergency management planning and fire prevention officer duties.

Candidates must have extensive knowledge on the principles, practices and techniques of fire suppression, fire prevention and hazardous materials; ability to supervise, train, evaluate, and lead the work of others while maintaining a high level of discipline and morals. Must be able to communicate and work effectively with subordinates, other Town departments, elected officials and members of the public; ability to react quickly and remain calm when directing firefighters in emergency situations. Position is required to respond to emergencies and be available 24/7, 365 days of the year. Residency on the Island of Martha's Vineyard required.

Salary Range \$109,620 to \$125,280.
For a complete list of certifications, job duties and application process, visit oakbluffsma.gov/jobs or email Human Resources at wbrough@oakbluffsma.gov. **Deadline for applications is 10/20/2026 - 4:00pm. Oak Bluffs is an EOE.**



GREENHOUSE ASSISTANT

PHA seeks a Greenhouse Assistant to propagate and care for plants, trees and shrubs in our greenhouse and nursery. This is a part-time, seasonal position from March thru November (flexible) and pays \$25/hour. Job description and application instructions found at
https://www.pollyhillarboretum.org/get-involved/employmentopportunities/.

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.



FULL-TIME YEAR-ROUND HOUSEKEEPER WANTED

The Charlotte Inn is seeking a reliable, detail-oriented housekeeper to join our team. Duties include cleaning guest rooms, maintaining common areas, and ensuring a high standard of presentation. Experience preferred, but we will train the right candidate. Above competitive pay and a very welcoming work environment. Apply in person at The Charlotte Inn, 27 South Summer Street, Edgartown, or call (508)627-4751.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT VINEYARD CONSERVATION SOCIETY

VCS seeks an entrepreneurial fundraising leader to build a dynamic development program on Martha's Vineyard. Major gifts, annual giving, grants, events and campaigns. Ten plus years experience required. Full description and application: vineyardconservation.org/career-opportunities



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ANDREW!



HELP WANTED

VINEYARD DECORATORS IS HIRING

FRONT DESK MANAGER | HOUSING AVAILABLE

Vineyard Decorators seeks an organized, detail-oriented Front Desk Manager to handle calls, scheduling, product replenishment, and daily front desk operations. The role also supports our Bookkeeper with scanning, filing, and other administrative tasks. Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Google Workspace required. Saturday availability required. Opportunity to grow into a full-time Operations Assistant role. Benefits include a 401(k), paid vacation, health insurance, and housing if needed. Send your resumé to: sophia@vineyarddecorators.com.

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR | HOUSING AVAILABLE

Vineyard Decorators seeks an Operations Coordinator to support our Operations Manager and showroom management team. Responsibilities include inventory management, cycle counts, quality control, damage claims, website updates, pricing, and operations spreadsheets. Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Google Workspace required. Saturday availability required. Benefits include a 401(k), paid vacation, health insurance, and housing if needed. Send your resumé to: sophia@vineyarddecorators.com.

VINEYARD GAZETTE

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Martha's Vineyard Magazine is seeking an associate editor to join our team and play a key role across a range of projects. Responsibilities include copy editing and proofreading, writing and story development, social media, and website management. Familiarity with WordPress and Adobe InDesign/Photoshop is preferred. This is an opportunity to work alongside a creative team and help shape the stories and digital content that connect readers with Martha's Vineyard. For more information, visit vineyardgazette.com/employment.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Martha's Vineyard Magazine is seeking an experienced graphic designer/art director to join our team in a temporary role. Responsibilities include page design and layout, photography selection and editing, directing freelance photographers and illustrators, and preparing files for print production. Potential for continued graphic design opportunities within the company following the initial term. For more information, visit vineyardgazette.com/employment.

GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTER

The Vineyard Gazette has an immediate opening for a general assignment reporter. We are seeking candidates with excellent writing and editing skills. To apply, please send a resume and not more than three writing samples to Bill Eville at bill@vineyardgazette.com.

OFFICE MANAGER

The Office Manager is responsible for the day-to-day administrative operations of the Vineyard Gazette office, helping ensure that the organization runs efficiently, professionally and smoothly. This position serves as a central point of coordination for office administration, subscribers, employee support, vendors, facilities, supplies, records and internal communications. For more information, visit vineyardgazette.com/employment.

The Vineyard Gazette Media Group is an equal opportunity employer committed to inclusion and diversity in the workplace.

VOLUNTEERS

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.

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

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.harmv.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. Email jangel@hospiceofmv.org (508)693-0189. hospiceofmv.org

VOLUNTEERS

THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

The Trustees of Reservations is Massachusetts' largest conservation and preservation organization and is home to seven unique properties on island including Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge, the Farm Institute, and Long Point Wildlife Refuge. Menemsha Hills. There are plenty of ways to get involved including walking trails and alerting staff of blocked pathways or down trees, beach clean-up, garden planting and maintenance, and livestock help. To volunteer, call our Vineyard Haven office at (508)693-7662.

VINEYARD VILLAGE AT HOME

Our mission is to help older residents maintain their independence. We need volunteer drivers to take our members to social and cultural events, medical appointments, shopping and errands, and the like. We also would like volunteers for friendly visits or taking our members on outings. The volunteers and members usually enjoy each other's company, and it is fun and rewarding for both. Contact: vineyardvillage@gmail.com

STORAGE

SUN SELF-STORAGE

Monthly rentals. Paved, lighted, fenced. On-site management. State Road, behind Cronig's Market. (508)693-1036 and Old Colony Edgartown.

CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS



SEE WHAT YOU CAN BUILD FOR 33% LESS

You can afford to build on Martha's Vineyard. Save 1/3 off conventional building methods. New homes and additions. High-end home shells are custom-designed, constructed in a controlled environment, and delivered for about \$135/sq.ft. (Estimated price for finished house: about \$550/sq.ft.) Packages include: Custom design, posts, beams, roof, walls, doors, windows, siding, trim, insulation, floors. Schedule on-site or video tour. MVPostAndBeam.com, (508)645-3572, Posner@MVPostAndBeam.com

PAINTERS

WALLPAPER, PAINT, FINISHING TOUCHES

Wallpaper and painting. High quality and professional. Great results and advice please call (508) 680-6379 and leave a message or text.

ARTICLES - WANTED TO BUY



**Looking To Buy Classic,
Foreign Car Project's**
Mercedes-Benz,
Porsche, Maserati,
Ferrari, etc.
• Immediate payment, hassle free.
• Transport available. • Finders fee paid.
Call Adam: (203) 507-7900
Email: foreign.classics@Cloud.com

BUY CLASSIC FOREIGN CARS

GIVEAWAYS

FREE CRIB AND CRIB MATTRESS

Expecting a child or grandchild, and in need of a new crib and mattress? Call or text (301) 602-1114.

FREE PAPERBACK BOOKS

Over 3 dozen on my porch in Edgartown. Mysteries, romance, detective, and more. Pick up whatever you want. Call for directions. (508)627-8438.

FREE FUTON

Queen futon, good used condition. Pickup in downtown Edgartown. (202)412-7904.

HOUSEHOLD

Stately vintage desk, leather top, nice condition, 48x24x30H; \$95. MV art/artifacts, MV books, vintage fair posters, \$18-95. (860)391-1893.

CANNING EQUIPMENT

It's canning time. 33 quart enamelware canner with rack. Brand new in box. Paid \$87, selling for \$50. Text (774)563-8391 if interested.

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE DESK

Painted white with 6 drawers and 2 pull out side desk tops. 60L x 33.5W x 30.5H. \$99. Call or text for pics. (774)451-3129

NEW CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING SYSTEM!

Submit your Classifieds online at
www.vineyardgazette.com/classifieds

\$24 FOR 24 WORDS

1 week in print, 10 days online
.65 each additional word

CUSTOMIZE YOUR AD:

☒ Add a border: \$4 ☒ Add a logo/photo: \$15

Legal Ads: legals@vineyardgazette.com

Classified Advertising Deadline:

Tuesday at 3 p.m. for the Friday print edition

Questions?

Email Classifieds@vineyardgazette.com or call 774-549-9711

GIVEAWAYS

FREE CRHISTMAS DECORATIONS
Holidays are not far away. Three boxes of tree ornaments and other stuff. Dodgers Hole, Edgartown. Text Al at (401)219-0231. Free.

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES



WANTED
ANTIQUES, GOLD JEWELRY, STERLING, APPRAISALS
Highest prices paid for fine antiques, gold jewelry, sterling silver. Call for safe appointment, 28 years serving MV. Ed Tessier. Call (508)939-0556. Americana-auction.com

TOP \$\$\$ PAID
For antiques, jewelry, silver, oriental carpets, fine art, Chinese works of art, etc. From one item to entire estates. References available. Island property owner. (617)803-5145.

SHIP MODELS AND OLD NAUTICAL ITEMS
Paying cash for ship models and old nautical items. (202)812-1144.

TRAILER SALES

TRAILER FOR RENT, WEST TISBURY
Available September 25th–December 1st and March 1st through to summer 2027. \$800/month for one person or \$1,000/month for two people. Contact Lisa (310)213-5472.

YARD SALES



ESTATE SALE
Antiques, vintage, collectibles, art, furnishings, kitchenware, household items, outdoor furniture. There is something for everyone. Saturday & Sunday, October 3rd & 4th. 10am-2pm. 61 Canonicus Ave - Oak Bluffs. (850)293-4345.



SECOND TREASURES MV ANNUAL INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE
Estate items, antiques, vintage collectibles, rugs, jewelry and art. There is something for everyone. Saturday & Sunday, October 10th & 11th. 10 am - 2 pm. Featherstone Center for the Arts (just off Barnes Rd). (850)293-4345.

BICYCLES AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT

PELOTON EXERCISE BIKE - \$650 OBO
Original Peloton Bike (3rd Gen), purchased 2023. 21.5" HD touchscreen streams live and on-demand classes. Used but in excellent condition. Compact footprint, quiet magnetic resistance. Custom mat and two pairs of Peloton shoes, sizes 6 and 9 included. Local pickup only. Cash or Venmo. Serious inquiries. Text (617)359-3692.

BOAT SALES AND ACCESSORIES

NEW BOAT TRAILERS
New Venture boat trailers, in stock and on-Island. Sizes for boats up to 27". Email Chris Scott for pricing: cscott@shmarinas.com.

LOST AND FOUND

THE VINEYARD GAZETTE'S LOST & FOUND CATEGORY
Found something of value, and want to do the right thing? Let the Gazette help you. The Lost & Found category is a free serves. Deadline for publication is 3:00PM Tuesdays. 24 words or less, please. Ads will

LOST AND FOUND

be published for 4 weeks in print and online. www.vineyardgazette.com/classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

AQUINNAH LEGAL NOTICES

AQUINNAH PLANNING BOARD
The Aquinnah Planning Board Plan Review Committee will hold a Public Hearing at the Aquinnah Town Offices and via Zoom on **Wednesday October 14, 2026, at 6:40PM** to act upon a request from Noa Meyer and Edward Minoff of 4 Duck Pond lane Map 10 Lot 64.8 under sections 2.6-1, 3.2-1, 3.4, 3.9-1 (A 1, A3), 6.6-1, 13.4-1 (A 1-2), 13.4-7 and 13.6-1 of the Aquinnah Zoning Bylaw for the siting of two dwellings (connected through breezeway), utilities, driveway, boardwalks, associated site work, relocation of a stone wall barway and replacement and relocation of an pre-existing non-conforming structure where total footprint on the lot will exceed 2,000SF.

Site Visit at 5:40pm – Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88562746806> - or dial 1 929 205 6099 - Meeting ID: 867 7846 9649 - Passcode: 692719 - Inquiries can be emailed to: adminassistant@aquinnah-ma.gov. sept25,oct2,2t

AQUINNAH PLANNING BOARD
The Aquinnah Planning Board Plan Review Committee will hold a Public Hearing at the Aquinnah Town Offices and via Zoom on **Wednesday October 14, 2026, at 6:40PM** to act upon a request from Michale David Fernandez and Jessica Berman of 446 Lighthouse Road Map 5 Lot 93 under sections 3.4, 3.9-1, 13.4-1 and 13.4-11of the Aquinnah Zoning Bylaw for the siting of renovations and additions to an existing single-family residence on a pre-existing non-conforming lot located in the Roadside District. Site Visit at 5:20pm – Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88562746806> - or dial 1 929 205 6099 - Meeting ID: 867 7846 9649 - Passcode: 692719 - Inquiries can be emailed to: adminassistant@aquinnah-ma.gov. sept25,oct2,2t

CHILMARK LEGAL NOTICES

CHILMARK ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
There will be a remote Zoom public hearing on **Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 9:02 AM** 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 Alecue Trust. The applicant seeks to construct a 16'x32' in-ground swimming pool that will meet required setbacks. The project is proposed for the property located at 2 Young's Way; Assessors' Map 25 Lot 137.

Please see: <https://www.chilmarkma.gov/zoning-board-a> ppeals or email akisselgof@chilmarkma.gov for Zoom information. oct2,9,2t

CHILMARK ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

There will be a remote Zoom public hearing on **Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 9:05 AM** to act on a petition for a Special Permit under Chilmark's Zoning By-Law Article 6 Section 6.6 filed by Schofield, Barbini & Hoehn Inc. on behalf of Stephen L. Kass & Joan S. Kass, Trustees. The applicant seeks to construct an exterior stairway for second floor egress that will not meet required setbacks. The project is proposed for the property located at 90 Hammett Road; Assessors' Map 9 Lot 11.

Please see: <https://www.chilmarkma.gov/zoning-board-a> ppeals or email akisselgof@chilmarkma.gov for Zoom information. oct2,9,2t

CHILMARK ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

There will be a remote Zoom public hearing on **Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 9:10 AM** to act on a petition for a Special Permit under Chilmark's Zoning By-Law Article 6 Section 6.11 filed by Sullivan + Associates Architects on behalf of Jill Greenwood/Augustus I. duPont Revocable Trusts. The applicant seeks to demolish an existing main dwelling and build a new structure that would require extra total living area. The project is proposed for the property located at 30 Huntington Way; Assessors' Map 16 Lot 16.1.

Please see: <https://www.chilmarkma.gov/zoning-board-a> ppeals or email akisselgof@chilmarkma.gov for Zoom information. oct2,9,2t

CHILMARK LEGAL NOTICES

CHILMARK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Will hold a ZOOM Public Hearing on **Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 9:02 AM**, under the MA Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L.c.131, Section 40 and the Chilmark Wetlands Protection By-law, on an application filed by Vineyard Land Surveying & Engineering on behalf of applicant Daniel Sudman. The application is for an "after-the-fact" construction of a prefabricated sauna, and landscaping work within a FEMA Flood Zone at 146 Quansoo Rd (AP 22-11).

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>. oct2,1t

EDGARTOWN LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 87, Section 3 of the Massachusetts General Laws and amendments thereto, that Donaroma's Nursery & Landscape Services Inc., agent for John and Mary Reilly has requested permission to remove the following public shade trees. The trees are (A) English Elm, (B) American Beech, and (C) Honey Locust with 16' to 18" inch DBH and 40' to 45' foot height. In addition, request permission to trim channels, with pruning of understory shrubbery limited to the buffer zone and all mature trees to remain, and to relocate landward (and reconstruct if necessary) an existing beach access stairway threatened by coastal bank erosion, with coir logs to be installed to help stabilize the bank near the stairway.

A public hearing will be held upon said request at 4:00 PM on Monday October 19, 2026 in the Fred B. Morgan meeting room of the Town Hall, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, Massachusetts.

Select Board / Tree Warden oct2,1t

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN MASSACHUSETTS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT SERVICES

The Town of Edgartown is seeking qualification from qualified and experienced vendors for Landscape Architectural Services contract for the Town of Edgartown.

RFQ documents are available electronically on the Town of Edgartown Procurement Webpage: <https://www.edgartown-ma.us/departments/p> rocurement-office . For a hard copy; please call 774-310-5106 or email hmclaughlin@edgartown-ma.us to obtain a copy.

RFQ responses must be submitted to the Edgartown Procurement Office at Town Hall, 70 Main St., Edgartown, MA 02539 in a sealed package plainly marked "RESPONSE FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT SERVICES RFQ, Ref. LBR-27-01" on or before **12:00 PM, Wednesday, October 28, 2026**. No items may be submitted after that time will be accepted. Qualifications must include all the required materials and information; the qualifications will be reviewed within fifteen (15) days after the due date. The Town of Edgartown reserves the right to reject any and all submissions and to waive any informality in submissions received whenever such rejection or waiver is in its best interest. The Town of Edgartown fully complies with federal, state, and local laws and directives governing equal opportunity, affirmative action and non-discrimination in all Town activities and actively solicits bids from MBE/WBE businesses. sept25,oct2,2t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 4:40 p.m.**, the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at Edgartown Town Hall, Second Floor, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, on a Notice of Intent filed by Doug Hoehn (SBH) and Caleb Nickerson (Contemporary Landscaping) on behalf of Little Beach Trust under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is proposing to level a lawn and create a native peastone parking area with additional plantings within FEMA Flood Zone AE10.

The property is located at 40 Gaines Way (AP Map 20B, Lot 98.2). For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting remotely, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us oct2,1t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 4:35 p.m.**, the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at Edgartown Town Hall, Second Floor, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, on a Notice of Intent filed by Doug Hoehn (SBH) on behalf of The Henderson Personal Residence Trust under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is proposing to plant within the bordering vegetated wetlands and buffer zone, and is seeking after-the-fact approval for a shed constructed within the buffer zone.

The property is located at 51 Edgartown Bay Road (AP Map 46, Lot 44). For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting remotely, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us oct2,1t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
On **Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 4:30**

EDGARTOWN LEGAL NOTICES

p.m., the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at Edgartown Town Hall, Second Floor, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, on a Notice of Intent filed by Chris Alley (SBH) on behalf of Lisa Berkower 2012 Trust under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is proposing to construct an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) adjacent to the existing single-family dwelling, including a septic system connection and other underground utilities, all within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.

The property is located at 67 Kanomika Road (AP Map 38, Lot 8.5). For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting remotely please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us oct2,1t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 4:45 p.m.**, the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at Edgartown Town Hall, Second Floor, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, on a Notice of Intent filed by Reid Silva (VLSE) on behalf of Little Falls Partners, LP under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is proposing to trim, prune, and remove vegetation within existing view channels, with pruning of understory shrubbery limited to the buffer zone and all mature trees to remain, and to relocate landward (and reconstruct if necessary) an existing beach access stairway threatened by coastal bank erosion, with coir logs to be installed to help stabilize the bank near the stairway.

The property is located at 11 Jacobs Neck (AP Map 43, Lot 1.3). For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting remotely, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us oct2,1t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 4:50 p.m.**, the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at Edgartown Town Hall, Second Floor, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, on a Notice of Intent filed by Reid Silva (VLSE) on behalf of Bridgette Minicus under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is proposing to construct, maintain, and license a 24-foot fixed pier addition and a 24-foot float addition to an existing timber pier.

The property is located at 85 Edgartown Bay Road (AP Map 51, Lot 38). For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting remotely, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us oct2,1t

OAK BLUFFS LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Pursuant to MGL Chapter 138, Section 12 the Oak Bluffs Select Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** at Oak Bluffs Town Hall lower-level meeting hall 56 School Street. This hearing is regarding a change of class from seasonal to annual all alcohol license for KIKIMV Inc, dba 11 Circuit Ave located at 11 Circuit Avenue, Oak Bluffs, MA.

This application is on file in the Select Board Office for review Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. oct2,1t

WEST TISBURY LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC HEARING
Martha's Vineyard Commission
The public is invited to a public hearing concerning the following Development of Regional Impact **#778 Hoft Barn Demolition** Applicant: The Nature Conservancy; Rebekah Myers.

Location: 74 Lambert's Cove Road, West Tisbury. Map 3, Lot 44-0 and Tisbury Map 64-A, Lot 4 (approximately 58 acres). Proposal: Demolition of a barn listed in MACRIS with no replacement structure proposed.

Date & Time: **Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 6:35 p.m.**
Place: Hybrid Meeting **MVC Office - 1st Floor**, 33 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA and Zoom **Meeting ID: 831 5537 2107; Password: 103121**

The application and plans are available on the MVC website. Written testimony may be submitted prior to or during the hearing. Check for updates on the online calendar. oct2,9,2t

GENERAL LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DOCKET NO. DU22P0047PM IN THE MATTER OF: LAURA J. HAIRSTON OF EDGARTOWN, MA PROTECTED PERSON/DISABLED PERSON/RESPONDENT

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons:

You are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate and Family Court that the Temporary

WEEKLY SUDOKU AND CROSSWORD ANSWERS – October 2, 2026

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GENERAL LEGAL NOTICES

Conservator's 1st and Conservator's 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th and Final Account(s) of Rebecca R. Carey of New Bedford, MA, as Conservator of the property of said Respondent, have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of October 27, 2026. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file an appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day, or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order, you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Susan L. Jacobs, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 29, 2026

Rosemary P. Quirk, Register of Probate oct2,1t

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT DUKES PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DOCKET NO. DU22P0027EA DATE OF DEATH: 02/08/2022 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

Estate of: David B. Vietor
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by:
Robert A. Brown of requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before:10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/27/2026 .

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Susan L. Jacobs, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 22, 2026
Daphne DeVries
Register of Probate
Dukes Probate and Family Court
PO Box 237
81 Main Street
Edgartown, MA 02539
(508)627-4703
oct2,1t

NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

0 Tower Lane, Chilmark, MA 02535

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by TOWER LANE COLLABERATIVE LLC to LAURENCE S. CLANCY and KATHLEEN M. TILTON said mortgage being dated January 14, 2026 and recorded with the Dukes County Registry of Deeds on January 14, 2026 at Book 1727, Page 996, of which mortgage the undersigned, LAURENCE S. CLANCY and KATHLEEN M. TILTON are the holders, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction at **12:00 O'clock noon on October 23, 2026**, on the premises known as 0 Tower Lane, Chilmark, MA 02535, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:

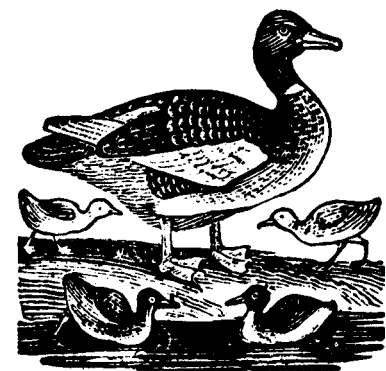
The land with the buildings and improvements thereon situated at 0 Tower Lane, Chilmark, Dukes County, Massachusetts, and being more particularly

GENERAL LEGAL NOTICES

described as follows: "Conservation Lot B" on a plan entitled "A Plan of Land in Chilmark, Mass. prepared for Araldo A. Cossutta Sale: 1" = 100' September 7, 1988" by Smith & Dowling, which plan is recorded with the Registry as Chilmark Case File No. 237, together with all rights and easements appurtenant thereto (the "Premises" or "said premises"). For mortgagor's title see Book 1646, Page 814.

The premises shall be sold subject to and together with all rights, easements, restrictions, and reservations of record insofar as the same are in force and applicable. The above premises will be sold subject as above and subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, association dues, liens, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record created superior to the aforesaid mortgage. The premises are to be sold subject to all laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances, if any.

Terms of Sale: Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) will be required to be paid by certified check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale as earnest money, a further deposit to bring the deposit to ten percent of the amount bid will be due one week from the auction date and the final balance is to be paid by certified check or wire transfer actually received on or before November 23, 2026 by 10:00 A.M., at the office of Jeffery Johnson, Esquire, time being of the essence of this sale. The successful bidder shall be required



All Outdoors

Prickly Pear

by SUZAN BELLINCAMPI

Eric Brown always points me in the right direction.

While I don't hear from him often, when an email arrives I know it will be a good one. With an eye for detail and an interest in the unusual, he has observed and shared sightings and photos of brook lamprey, freshwater mussels and leeches over the years.

He most recently reported a perfect pear. There were, in fact, more than a pair of pears. To his surprise, nestled into a dry field in Oak Bluffs, his sharp eyes observed a sharp shape. A curious colony of prickly pear cactus.

Which leads me to an aside — is the plural form cactuses or is it cacti? A prickly predicament? Nope, both are acceptable (though we will see what the Vineyard Gazette style guide suggests).

When we think of cactus, hot, dry deserts most often come to mind. But, in fact, we do have cactuses in New England and there is even some reporting of prickly pear cactus.

Eastern prickly pear, *Opuntia humifusa*, is a native cactus that has been documented in Indigenous archaeological sites in Massachusetts and remains a rare resident of the Commonwealth. A species of greatest conservation concern, it is endangered (and protected as such) in Massachusetts, with less than 50 records in five counties. Middlesex, Essex, Barnstable, Nantucket and, of course, Dukes

are counties containing populations of this peculiar plant.

Prickly pears are well adapted to heat, sandy and dry soils, and harsh coastal conditions. Form and function forecast survival. Its large pads, also called nopal, are actually stems, not leaves, that are photosynthetic, can hold water and are edible. True leaves (though they be little) can emerge from each areole at the tip of new pads, but usually fall off quickly.

Those areolas are cushion-like structures on the pads that hold its spines, called glochids. These can present a thorny issue if touched and serve as protection from predators whether those are deer, rabbit or humans. Glochids are quite difficult to remove and can be painful, so look but don't touch cacti without gloves or tools.

Large showy yellow flowers emerge in the summer ahead of the fruits that start green and ripen to pink or red. The flowers and fruits are edible, though as mentioned, must be handled with care to avoid the plant's glochids and cleaned of their ahead of consumption.

Fruits can be eaten raw, candied, juiced and made into beers or cocktails. The pads can be boiled or grilled as vegetables, though with the rarity of this plant, consumption of wild ones is not recommended. Obtaining prickly pear plants through native plant nurseries and establishing them in the driest areas of your yard or garden is the best way to have a harvest.

And if the flavor of those fruits is unappealing, they can be used as dye, as can an insect found on these cacti.

Cochineal are scale insects that live on prickly pear cactuses and are used to derive a coloring for food, fabric and cosmetics akin to the color of its host fruit.

Barbs and bugs may not sound enticing but I promise that this plant provides the most perfect pear.

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.



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Bird News

In the Wind

By ROBERT CULBERT

Northeast storms can blow pelagic birds (ocean dwellers) in close to shore so we can see them if we are at the right place at the right time. Charles Morano found a parasitic jaeger from State Beach on Sept. 26.

Another result from a northeaster is that waterbirds tend to seek sheltered spots out of the wind. One of the favored spots is Eel Pond. This seems counterintuitive since much of Eel Pond is exposed to northeasterly winds, but the Eel Pond side of Little Beach is protected and easily viewed from the boat ramp at Braley's Way. Note that the numbers and species observed changes over time.

On Sept. 26, Charles Morano visited there in the morning and spotted two American oystercatchers, one greater yellowlegs, nine ruddy turnstones, one Bonaparte's gull, 10 laughing gulls, five ring-billed gull, 22 herring gulls, one great black-backed gull, one lesser black-backed gull and two common terns.

I visited in the afternoon and saw three oystercatchers, two ruddy turnstones, seven laughing gulls, 18 ring-billed gulls, 25 herring gulls, two great black-backed gulls and two black skimmers.

The next day the storm had abated somewhat. Nancy Weaver and Janet Woodcock added one Hudsonian whimbrel and three greater yellowlegs, while Bob Shriber added one black-bellied plover, one semipalmated plover and one spotted sandpiper. These last two reports also include the lone lesser black-backed gull.

Ocean Park and Waban Park are other places birds try to escape from the storm winds. Even though these parks are exposed to the strong northeasterly winds, there are low protected spots.

At Ocean Park on Sept. 26, I found one killdeer, 29 laughing gulls, 10 ring-billed gulls, 15 herring gulls and two great black-backed gulls, while in Waban Park I counted 39 laughing gulls, one ring-billed gull and 46 herring gulls.

In Aquinnah on Sept. 26, Bob Shriber observed one spotted sandpiper, 36 laughing gulls, two ring-billed gulls, seven herring gulls, 15 commons terns and one roseate tern.

At Katama Farm on Sept. 26, Charles Morano counted 110 black-bellied plovers, one American golden plover, one greater yellowlegs, one pectoral Sandpiper, six ring-billed gulls and 13 herring gulls. Later that day, Nancy Weaver saw 109 black-bellied plovers, one golden plover, one ruddy turnstone, 10 laughing gulls, 10 ring-billed gulls and five herring gulls. The same day, Bob Shriber observed 120 black-bellied plovers, one golden plover, one ruddy turnstone and the following gulls: 30 ring-billed, 16 herring and one lesser black-backed gull.

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Lanny McDowell

Bonaparte's gull.

On State Beach on Sept. 26, Charles Morano found three black-bellied plovers, eight semipalmated plovers, one greater yellowlegs, two sanderling and three dunlin on Sept. 26. He also added one Arctic tern and 24 common terns.

Helena Firlings observed one Bonaparte's gull on Norton Point on Sept. 27.

Species hiding from the strong winds are far from the only sightings this week. Most unexpected is an Hudsonian godwit, which was first reported by Chris and Cathy S at Lilly Pond at Squibnocket Pond Reservation South on Sept. 19. This large shorebird with an up-curved beak hung around for a few days. Nancy Weaver and Janet Woodcock spotted it there on Sept. 21 along with six semipalmated plovers, eight sanderling and six semipalmated sandpipers, and I spotted it again on Sept. 23 along with six semipalmated plovers, one Hudsonian whimbrel, one western willet and two pectoral sandpipers.

Other unexpected southbound migrants include a veery observed by Caroline Heald at the Hoft Farm on Sept. 24, and a male scarlet tanager that Thaw Malin and Cynthia Bloomquist found at their West Tisbury home on Sept. 26.

Two autumnal arrivals were also observed. Jennifer Slossberg found one American bittern in a marsh across Major's Cove from Felix Neck on Sept. 21, and Charles Morano watched two American pipits from a beach along Moshup Trail on Sept. 26.

Warbler migration continues to be rather slow in September — usually a peak month for warbler migration. The most notable sightings have been: Caroline Heald spotted the first palm warbler of the season at Chappaquosett on both Sept. 20 and 21, Nancy Weaver and Janet Woodcock observed what may be the last northern yellow warbler of the season

at the pumping station on Sept. 22, and Nancy Weaver located one magnolia and three pine warblers along Blue Barque Road on Sept. 23, the same day that Bob Shriber and Nancy Weaver found one blackpoll warbler near State Road in Aquinnah.

Pine warblers are still the most abundant warbler, with three other sightings. Caroline Heald counted nine at the Phillips Preserve on Sept. 20, Rich Couse observed one near Katama Bay on Sept. 24, and the early birders saw three at Felix Neck on Sept. 24.

Charles and Jess Barbieri report what may be the last black-billed cuckoo sighting of the year; it was perched on the railing of their Makonikay deck on Sept. 20.

Ospreys are still widespread, although many of "our" nesting adults have already migrated south. This week they were seen at the following locations: Lucy Vincent Beach (Chris Schmandt, three, Sept. 20; Nancy Weaver and Janet Woodcock, one, Sept. 25), Squibnocket Beach (Janet Woodcock and Nancy Weaver, two, Sept. 21), Squibnocket Pond Reservation South (Nancy Weaver and Janet Woodcock, one Sept. 21), Aquinnah (Bob Shriber, one, Sept. 22 and one, Sept. 26), Gay Head Cliffs (Nancy Weaver, one, Sept. 23), Menemsha Harbor (Janet Woodcock and Nancy Weaver, one, Sept. 25), Seven Gates (David Hunter, one, Sept. 21), Chappaquosett (Caroline Heald, one, Sept. 23 and two, Sept. 22), Crystal Lake (Cynthia Bloomquist and Thaw Malin, one, Sept. 24), west arm of Lagoon Pond (Nancy Weaver, one, Sept. 22), and pumping station (Nancy Weaver, three, Sept. 22).

Please email your sightings to birds@vineyardgazette.com.

Robert Culbert is an ecological consultant living in Vineyard Haven.

The Vineyard Gardener



Storm Follow

By LYNNE IRONS

That was some serious rain over the weekend. I may have heard the word biblical thrown around. The good news was we did not lose power and there was minimal wind damage. This was only in comparison to last winter's big blizzard. I totally enjoyed the time at home and managed quite a bit of puttering. Now it's time to get some fall projects done. Hope I get to some of them.

When Danny and Marie Larson sold the Edgartown Fish Market, Danny gave me a number of fish totes. They are handy planting containers. I grew all my potatoes in them covered with hay.

After harvesting a large number of spuds, I tipped out the dirt and hay — mixed it up — and placed it back into the totes with a healthy dose of compost. Right before the storm, I seeded lettuce, spinach, kale and carrots. On Tuesday, everything had germinated. When it gets really cold I can cover with Remay, although all those crops can take a freeze.

We checked several job sites for storm damage. On a construction site there was an overturned Porta Potty, which amused the crew for some time.

Dahlias were beat up but not ready to be lifted and stored. They need a freeze before digging for winter storage. I took apart several ornamental pots. Any perennials were popped right into garden beds.

Because I'm crazy, I save the geraniums. I cut them back and repotted several into larger pots. They spend the winter in an unheated but not freezing back room. Most survive with little to no attention.

On State Road right before the turn



Ray Ewing

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