I'm going out to clean the pasture spring; I'll only stop to rake the leaves away (And wait to watch the water clear, I may): I shan't be gone long. — You come too.

– Robert Frost

VINEYARD GAZETTE

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.

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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Harbor Homes



Ray Ewing

Mary Alley.

New Shelter Director Leads With Her Heart

By EMMA KILBRIDE

For the past decade, the Harbor Homes overnight winter shelter has been a place for homeless Islanders to go on cold winter nights. This year's shelter opened on Sunday in the basement of the St. Andrew's Church parish house in Edgartown, with a new director at the helm: former Harbor Homes volunteer Mary Alley.

Last year's shelter operated at Harbor Homes' women's group home in Oak Bluffs, and the year before that it moved from the Martha's Vineyard Community Services campus to a series of churches, including St. Andrew's. This is the last time the shelter will be in a temporary location before a new permanent facility opens next year.

Ms. Alley was preparing for her fourth night on the job when the Gazette met her at the shelter Wednesday. She had a load of laundry in the washer for a guest and was anticipating the nightly dinner rush.

"First night we had five [guests]. Second night we had six. Last night we had seven," she said. "So I'm hoping tonight we're going to have eight."

Ms. Alley grew up on the Vineyard and worked for 20 years in administration at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. She got involved with Harbor Homes after the organization tried to purchase a property in her neighborhood a few years ago, sparking outrage among her neighbors. She reached out to Lisa Belcastro, the shelter director at the time, to ask how she could help.

"[Ms. Belcastro] said, 'Well, we always need volunteers,'" Ms. Alley recalled.

Ms. Alley started helping at the shelter a few nights a week. She worked the dinner shift, kept the place clean, and made sure guests had hot cups of coffee and tea. Later, Harbor Homes brought her on as a staff member to assist executive director Jeanette De Jesús.

Since starting as shelter director, she's talked with guests who remember her from her days as a volunteer. One guest told her he was glad she took the top job.

"That makes you feel good, that someone says, 'Wow, it's you,'" she said.

The shelter opens every night at 6 p.m. and closes at 8 a.m. through April 18, 2027. It will remain open all day when the weather is particularly cold, as well as on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Men and women sleep in separate rooms, where cots are set up and guests can leave their belongings during the

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Tim Johnson

Birds of a feather flock together at the edge of Lagoon Pond.

Election Sees Huge Turnout

Voters Headed to the Polls In Large Numbers, Backing Incumbents and Weighing in on Ballot Questions

By VINEYARD GAZETTE STAFF

The six Island towns voted in near unison at the midterm elections Tuesday, standing together in favor of Democratic incumbents and most of the ballot questions.

While the historic election saw Republican seats in other states flip, Vineyarders and Massachusetts continued to back the sitting state officials. Gov. Maura Healey enjoyed broad support from the Island over Mike Minogue, as did U.S. Sen. Edward Markey over John Deaton and U.S. Rep. Bill Keating over challenger Tyler Macallister.

Unofficial tallies had the six Island towns voting 7,064 to 1,895 in favor of Governor Healey and her running mate Kim Driscoll, who cruised to victory over their Republican rivals. Senator Markey was up 7,048 to 1,819 on the Vineyard and Mr. Keating had a 7,326 to 1,770 lead on the Island as both won easily.

There were few contested races locally. Seven candidates — Tristan Israel, Randy Milch, Doug Ruskin, Christine Todd, Peter Wharton, Michael Bellissimo and Katherine Putnam — were running for seven open seats on the Dukes County Commission.

On the Martha's Vineyard Commission, Ben Robinson, Doug Sederholm and Brian Smith were all reelected. Fred Khedouri, a Chilmark resident, and Katherine Putnam, an Edgartown resident, were also voted in.

There were nine open seats in the Martha's Vineyard Commission race, and the leading write-in candidates were Jannette Vanderhoop, Bernadette Cormie, Maria Krokidas and Michael MacKenty.

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Inspector General Notes Hurdles For New SSA Reservation System

By ETHAN GENTER

The Massachusetts inspector general is raising concerns about the Steamship Authority's planned new reservation system, nearly a year after releasing a report that called out the ferry line for mismanagement of a now-shelved website.

In a letter to the Steamship last month, inspector general Jeffrey Shapiro called out delays in the multi-million dollar ticketing system, which is still in development and has been pushed back due to struggles with the different types of bookings that drivers can make aboard the ferries.

He noted that the Steamship's treasurer and the chief operating officer appear to be expending a significant amount of time on guiding the new system, despite having full-time senior administrative duties in other departments. Mr. Shapiro also inquired into the cost of the system and how it would be incorporated into the website the Steamship spent millions on before putting it on pause.

"The OIG is pleased that SSA management and the SSA board are acknowledging and addressing the delays in the reservation system project, instead of downplaying them as they did with the website project, and that the SSA management and board are willing to review the project to determine the best course going forward," Mr. Shapiro wrote in his Oct. 6 letter.

"However, the project management issues highlighted above suggest significant hurdles remain," he continued.

The new reservation system is a major priority for the Steamship Authority, which hired an Italian firm with experience in ferry systems last year to build it. Though there were initial estimates that the system could be implemented in 2026, the Steamship has postponed its launch to next year.

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Ray Ewing

New reservation system has seen long delays.



Ray Ewing

Upcoming school construction project has performing arts teachers and local organizations worried about reduced seating.

PAC Capacity May Be Dramatically Cut

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

Oak Bluffs public safety officials have backed a plan for the regional high school building project that would limit occupancy of the Martha's Vineyard Performing Arts Center to just 49 people at a time, effectively closing the auditorium for two years beginning next summer.

"It's a preliminary plan [for] what the capacity of the performing arts center would be, given the nature of the construction and demolition that's about to take place," project coordinator Sam Hart told the high school committee Monday night.

"There is a scenario where we could potentially hold 300, but that would require some emergency egress and some other measures taken that might ... potentially delay the construction and add cost," Mr. Hart said.

With 791 seats, the performing arts center is the largest indoor venue on the Island, hosting major events, such as school band concerts, plays, town meetings and the Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival, throughout the year. Planners have been meeting with the school in recent months to consider if the stage could be used during construction.

A new two-story classroom wing is scheduled to be built in front of the performing arts center starting next July, followed by a two-level lobby connecting the buildings. The entrance to the theatre will be moved to the upper level of the lobby.

Amy Houghton, who serves on both the high school committee and the school building committee, said the occupancy limit reflects the initial concerns about public safety during construction from Oak Bluffs fire chief Stephen Foster and building commissioner Adam Petkus.

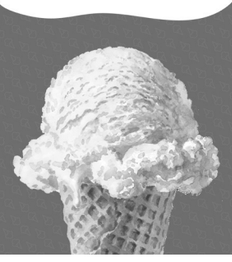
"The information ... just came to the building committee this week, and there is much more to be discussed," Ms. Houghton said.

Mr. Petkus said it all comes down to safety and following the state building code to ensure people can get in and out of the theatre.

"My first charge in this position is to protect people," he said in an interview this week. "I'm not willing to put anybody at risk."

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New Nursey Faces Scrutiny from the MVC

By ETHAN GENTER

Island planners raised concerns last week about a new garden center and nursery operating in Oak Bluffs.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission held a hearing last Thursday on Jordan's Nursery, a project that is largely built out but still needs approvals from the Islandwide agency. Stormwater runoff and additional nitrogen pollution from the 17-acre property were some of the biggest worries expressed, as well as the permitting process.

Located at 218 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road, next to the Eversource building, the nursery is backed by Michael Donaroma. The property is owned by Bayes Norton Farm, and was leased out to Atwood Farm LLC, the development company owned by William Cumming that has proposed several housing projects.

Atwood Farm LLC is subleasing the land to Mr. Donaroma, who is seeking to relocate some of his operations from the Upper Main street Donaroma's location in Edgartown.

Mr. Donaroma is asking the commission for its blessing for a commercial nursery that would have several hoop houses, two retail sheds, one glass and steel greenhouse, a pole barn, workforce housing and an office. All of the operations would be situated on 9.6 acres.

Some commissioners wondered why the development didn't come to the commission sooner.

"It feel like this is another thing where it's already happened, and, in retrospect, we're looking at it going 'Well, we would have put it on the back lot or further away from the watershed...' It's frustrating and I don't understand how this happens," said Aquinnah commissioner Jannette Vanderhoop.

MVC executive director Adam Turner said there were several factors that led to the project only coming before the commission this month.

Norton Bayes Farm had an agricultural tax exemption for the property, but, after years of the property sitting fallow, the owners were told by Oak Bluffs that it needed to be used for agricultural purposes to continue getting the credit, according to Mr. Donaroma.

The owner then decided to clear the trees from the property, and started to look for someone to use it agriculturally.

The clearing itself wouldn't have triggered a review by the Martha's Vineyard Commission, the body that oversees large development projects on the Island. But the creation of more than 6,000 square feet of outdoor commercial space, a 77-space parking lot, the potential for the storage of fuel or hazardous materials and other factors all would require MVC review, according to commission staff.

The project wasn't initially sent over to the commission, despite the insistence of Mr. Turner and former chair Fred Hancock.

"The building inspector went back and forth, saying you can build all the poly [hoop] houses you want [under an agriculture exemption]," said Mr. Donaroma.

In Massachusetts, a law known as the Dover amendment protects land being used for agriculture, education and religious purposes from being subject to many local zoning laws. Still, Mr. Donaroma said he asked for confirmation because, as a former chair of the MVC, he believed it would need to because of the commission's wide purview.

"I wasn't exactly ready to go in the beginning because I didn't know really the whole operation – what I wanted to do," Mr. Donaroma, a former Edgartown select board member, said. "But once I did get to know this plan that we put together, we actually walked it up [to the MVC] ourselves."

Oak Bluffs had a change in building inspector earlier this year, and soon after Adam Petkus took over the role this spring, he referred the project to the commission.

Commission members wondered how far their jurisdiction went back on a project that is already underway. Some members asked if their review would extend prior to the work to set up the hoop houses.

"What he is proposing, including all that he's put on it, is within our review," Doug Sederholm said. "Referred late or not, he may or may not have had any control over that, but the entire proposal is under our review."

A substantial portion of the Donaroma's operations is planned to move from the Edgartown location to the Oak Bluffs nursery. Retail floral operations would stay in Edgartown.

Mike Mauro, the commission's traffic planner, said that the new location would largely consist of a relocation of the existing customers, not a surge in additional of business. That change could pull some traffic out of the busy Triangle intersection in Edgartown.

Based on traffic statistics, Mr. Mauro estimated the new location would generate 271 trips per day, though he couldn't immediately give a breakdown between the busy spring landscaping time and the slower winter periods.

Much of Thursday's conversations revolved around water at the site, and the commission brought in former Cape Cod Commission water scientist Ed Eichner to help evaluate the Jordan's proposal.

The current design would put too much nitrogen into the already impaired Lagoon Pond watershed and mitigation will be needed, Mr. Eichner said.

"The way the project site is designed, it has that retention basin that drains all of the stormwater on the site into that retention basin, and that is within the subwatershed to Upper Lagoon," Mr. Eichner said. "So any of the stormwater phosphorus is ending up in that basin and will eventually get into Upper Lagoon Pond without any sort of mitigation."

The commission asked the applicants to supply a stormwater plan, and Ms. Vanderhoop suggested a catch basin similar to one that the commission required for a recent auto garage plan in West Tisbury.

No decision was made Thursday and the commission will resume the public hearing on Nov. 19.

John Rose Denies Allegations in Civil Lawsuit

By ETHAN GENTER

Former Oak Bluffs fire chief John Rose is denying the allegation from a recent lawsuit that he placed a hidden camera in the bedroom of a teenage girl.

Mr. Rose made the denial in a court filing on Oct. 29 after the family of the girl sued him in Dukes County Superior Court in August. The family claimed that he put the camera in the girl's room, and the incident caused her anxiety, humiliation and fear for her loss of safety and privacy.

"Mr. Rose denies that he placed, operated, or maintained any camera or recording device in the bedroom," his lawyer Cass Luskin wrote in their nine-page response to the lawsuit.

The allegations come after prosecutors brought a criminal case against the former fire chief in January 2024. At the time, prosecutors claimed that Mr. Rose had filmed the woman he was dating during sex without her knowledge or consent, and he was charged with photographing a partially nude person.

The Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office later added two counts of attempting to commit a crime in connection with the alleged hidden camera. This spring, Mr. Rose admitted to sufficient facts for a guilty finding for the two counts of attempting to commit a crime, and was given 14 months probation.

The admission is not the same as a guilty finding, and his case will be dismissed if he completes probation without any issues. The other charge was dismissed.

At the time, the district attorney's office voiced concerns about the strength of the evidence to move forward with a trial.

"Upon further review of the evidence, it was determined that there was insufficient evidence to proceed with prosecution on the dismissed charges," district attorney spokesperson Danielle Whitney said at the time.

The civil lawsuit from the teenager's family claimed emotional distress and asked for $1 million in damages.

They claimed that the daughter brought the device to her mother and Mr. Rose, who had been in a relationship. They said that Mr. Rose claimed he didn't know what the device was, and took it to examine it.

The family also contended that Mr. Rose removed the memory card, and attempted to delay the mother turning the device over to police so he could speak with his attorney first.

In his response to the lawsuit, Mr. Rose's attorney wrote the family's claims were caused by "acts or omissions of person for whose conduct Mr. Rose is not responsible..."

Both parties are calling for a jury trial. The family's attorney told the Gazette Monday that Mr. Rose's response allows the process to move forward.

"Now that Mr. Rose has answered and denied the claim, we will proceed with the usual discovery process," said attorney Bruce Bierhans.

MVC Urges Census Bureau To Drop Proposed Changes

By ETHAN GENTER

Vineyard officials are sounding the alarm on proposed changes to the U.S. Census that could undercount people living on the Island.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission argued against several of the amendments being considered by the Census Bureau in a letter last week, joining the more than 130,000 commenters nationwide in the decision-making process.

"It's a couple years away, but it is important to make sure that, after 250 years, we don't change the rules because one person is in office and has decided to do it," Adam Turner, the commission executive director, said at last week's commission meeting.

For the 2030 count, the Census Bureau is considering not counting immigrants who are illegally in the country and not asking all residents about their race and ethnicity. The bureau released the proposal on Sept. 10 and closed comments on Monday.

The proposed changes would be major departures from how the U.S. has counted people living in the country for more than two centuries, and could have ripple effects on the Vineyard. In the past, people living in each state, regardless of their citizenship status, were included in the census.

In the proposal, the Census Bureau argued that undocumented immigrants should not be counted "due to their lack of sufficient tie and allegiance" to the U.S.

The bureau also questioned the need to continue asking people about their race, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

"Substantial doubts about the meaning, significance, and impact of attempting to categorize persons by race and ethnicity, in particular, have featured prominently in our national discourse and have been reflected in shifts in the law," the bureau wrote.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission argued that rescinding the standing criteria for the census count and questionnaire did not appear justified and would clearly diminish the usefulness of the census moving forward.

"Many non-citizens in the US are devoted members of their communities, pay taxes, provide essential services, etc," Mr. Turner wrote in his letter to the bureau. "They spend the majority of their time working, raising families, and otherwise residing in a state. By longstanding convention, this should qualify them for inclusion in the Census."

Who is included in the census could have wide-ranging effects on the government and funding. For instance, the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are divided between the states based on the census. The race and ethnicity data is also used in redistricting and for civil rights laws.

Changes to the data could also hurt the MVC, according to Mr. Turner.

The commission works with state and local agencies to carry out initiatives for housing, transportation, water quality, economic development and climate resilience.

"Much of our work relies on accurate and consistent data from the US Census and American Community Survey," Mr. Turner wrote in his letter.

Pursuing accurate data is essential for municipalities across the country to address problems and improve the quality of life, Mr. Turner added.

"We strongly urge the Census Bureau to continue counting every resident regardless of immigration status, maintain the critical collection of race and other demographic data, and allow the enumeration period to encompass where people spend most of their time," Mr. Turner ended his letter.

Staying Vigilant to Stop the Lanternfly

By CHARLES LEITNER

As the invasive spotted lanternfly continues to spread across the Northeast, officials are looking to keep tabs on the Island to stop any infestation before it begins.

According to Jennifer Forman Orth, an environmental biologist at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, there have only been a few sightings of the spotted lanternfly on the Vineyard and the cause for concern is limited.

However, Ms. Forman Orth and her team are closely monitoring the presence of the insect and are encouraging Island residents to be on the lookout.

"We've been working with organizations that are on Islands that we know care about issues like invasive species and can help get the word out so that we can detect any populations of spotted lanternfly if they're there," said Ms. Forman Orth.

Lanternflies are not dangerous to humans but can have a negative affect on numerous crops.

Notices have been posted at various locations around the Island as part of an outreach effort led by the department of agricultural in partnership with BiodiversityWorks, a local conservation and wildlife monitoring organization.

"Seeing a single individual [lanternfly] on the beach doesn't mean you have an infestation," said Ms. Forman Orth. "It could easily just have hitchhiked over to the Island in someone's vehicle or something like that. So, it could just be one-off individual hitchhikers that are getting to the Island from the mainland."

According to Ms. Forman Orth, the first spotted lanternflies appeared in North America in 2014, arriving in Pennsylvania via shipments from abroad of crushed stone. Since then, they have been spreading across the continent and have been discovered as far south as Georgia and as far west as Indiana.

Once the adult insects have mated, the females lay their eggs, which are enveloped in a gray mud-like cocoon. As soon as the first frost of the year arrives, all of the adults die, leaving the egg masses behind.

After the eggs hatch in the spring, the insect will develop over four different stages of wingless nymphs, molting from one stage to the next.

"The nymphs eventually molt into adults, starting in late July to August, depending on the temperatures," said Ms. Forman Orth. "Then the adults are just around feeding until they start to mate and lay eggs in late September, early October."

When feeding, lanternflies will drill a hole into a plant to get to its sap. The process creates a gooey substance that can be harmful to plants.

"They excrete this sticky, sugary waste product called honeydew that coats everything around and under them, and it could just be a big problem," said Ms. Forman Orth.

While lanternflies will feed on most any type of plant life, they are most attracted to grapevines and the tree of heaven tree.

"BiodiversityWorks has been helping to track down locations where there are tree of heavens on Martha's Vineyard, because if there's tree of heaven in the area, the lanternflies will find it," said Ms. Forman Orth. "You can basically use a known site where there is Tree-of-Heaven as a place to go scout for lanternflies regularly. Several locations of tree of heaven on Martha's Vineyard have been added [to iNaturalist] over the summer."

Spotted lanternflies feed on over 100 different types of plants, added Ms. Forman Orth. They are also attracted to black walnut, and the nymphs can sometimes be found on poison ivy and Asian bittersweet.

"Part of the reason this pest is so successful is because it finds something to feed on that makes it taste very bad to any potential predators," said Ms. Forman Orth.

The department of agricultural has published a management guide to illustrate the appropriate process in dealing with a spotted lanternfly siting. It describes how to deal with an infestation as well as how to safely remove them if discovered.

For more information regarding the spotted lanternfly or to record a sighting, visit mass.gov/slf



Jeanna Shepard

New program will offer year-round discounts for veterans.

Steamship Honors Veterans

The Steamship Authority has launched a year-round discounted passenger travel program for qualified veterans living in its port communities, expanding upon its annual free travel promotion on Veterans Day.

The program offers qualified veterans a reduced fare for passenger tickets, which is the same discount currently offered to senior citizens. To be eligible, veterans must live in one of the boat line's five port communities — Barnstable, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Falmouth or New Bedford — and be able to prove an honorable discharge from a branch of the U.S. military.

The discount is approximately half off the cost of a passenger ticket on one of the SSA's conventional ferries serving Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, or approximately 25 per cent off the cost of a ticket on the high-speed, passenger-only ferry that serves the Hyannis-Nantucket route.

Additionally, all veterans — including active duty, military veterans, and retired military veterans — who have a valid military ID showing their active duty, honorable discharge or retired status can travel as a passenger for free on all Steamship Authority ferries, including both conventional ferries and the Nantucket high-speed ferry, on Veterans Day.

For details on both programs, visit steamshipauthority.com/veterans.

Tisbury Man Sentenced in Rape Case

A former Tisbury select board candidate was sentenced to five years probation after pleading guilty last month to two counts of rape.

MacAleer Schilcher, who ran for office in 2023, tendered the guilty pleas in Dukes County Superior Court on Oct. 23, and had two other charges of rape dismissed, according to court records.

Judge Peter Krupp sentenced Mr. Schilcher to five years probation, and he will need to register with the sex registry board and local police. He must also undergo a mental health evaluation and have no contact with the victim.

Mr. Schilcher, 41, was indicted on the rape charges in 2023. At the time, prosecutors said they were connected to a 2019 incident in Tisbury.

The case appeared to be headed for a trial last month when Mr. Schilcher's attorney Robert Moriarty told the court it was unlikely that a plea deal could be reached before the case was set to go before a jury on Oct. 26.

Reports on the incident were previously impounded.

Mr. Schilcher was one of four candidates who ran for select board in 2023, and came in last with just 49 votes.

Steamship Port Council Recommends Rate Hikes

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

The Steamship Authority's advisory port council agreed this week to recommend that the Steamship Authority governing board approve an across-the-board slate of fare increases for next year.

The hikes are needed to ensure the Steamship Authority ends 2027 in the black, treasurer and comptroller Mark Rozum said at the port council meeting Tuesday.

"Without a rate adjustment, we'd have a net income of approximately $150,000," he said.

If the authority's governing board approves the rates, passenger tickets would go up by 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children and seniors.

For vehicles, the recommended increases would raise the cost of excursion fares by $5.25 in each direction from mid-May to mid-September and by $4 each way the rest of the year. These fares include the 50-cent increase for two adult passengers included in the excursion rate, Mr. Rozum said.

Standard vehicle fares would rise by between $6 and $18 each way, depending on the time of year, and freight service is facing a flat 7.5 per cent increase year-round.

Daily parking fees would go up $1 and permit parking would increase by $50 a year for the Palmer Avenue lot and $200 a year for the Woods Hole lot.

The port council also voted to recommend the 2027 operating schedule for the Martha's Vineyard route, including a 5:30 a.m. summer departure from Woods Hole that Falmouth residents have opposed for years.

The vote included a new restriction on the corresponding 5:30 a.m. summer ferry from Vineyard Haven, prohibiting it from carrying large trucks to the mainland.

The Vineyard's two port council members, Joseph Sollitto of Oak Bluffs and John Cahill of Vineyard Haven, voted against the truck size limit, which Steamship Authority general manager Alex Kryska had said was meant as a concession to Woods Hole and Falmouth residents.

Mr. Kryska also won the council's approval to recommend a 10 per cent fee increase for the Steamship Authority's licenses to the regional bus lines Peter Pan and Plymouth and Brockton, both of which are up for renewal at the end of this year.

"We haven't raised the rates in five years and we have done significant improvements, and we'll continue to do significant improvements to the terminals, so I think it is a good time," he said. "Costs have gone up across the board."

Mr. Rozum said the bus lines pay fees of between $15.90 to $16.80 per trip, depending on the season, with revenues from both companies totaling close to $500,000 over the past five years.

The Steamship Authority board is expected to take up the port council's recommendations on Nov. 17.

Land Bank Revenues

The Martha's Vineyard Land Bank reported revenues of $323,801 for the business week ending on Friday, Oct. 30, 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 Edgartown, where four transactions resulted in $251,101. Three transactions in Tisbury earned $37,100, one transaction in Oak Bluffs resulted in $11,000, and one transaction in West Tisbury earned $24,600. No eligible transactions were recorded in Aquinnah and Chilmark.

The land bank uses its revenues to purchase and manage land for purposes of conservation, preservation and passive recreation.

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Shelagh Hackett

Cast of Dog Park.

Canine-Inspired Play Has Humor And Heart

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

Shelagh Hackett used to hate the dog park. Now, she's written a musical about it.

DOG PARK! The Musical: A Workshop Production will take the stage at the Martha's Vineyard Playhouse from Nov. 13 to 15, five years after Ms. Hackett first ventured to the dog park.

Ms. Hackett had always walked her dog, Chaka, on the beach, and was never comfortable with dog parks.

"It all felt kind of like manufactured sociality or something to me," she said "I just dreaded it."

But after a knee injury left Ms. Hackett unable to take Chaka for long walks, she decided to try out John G. Rogers Dog Park in Vineyard Haven, at the end of Holmes Hole Road.

Chaka needed the exercise, and soon, Ms. Hackett found her community.

"I was very reclusive at first, but the scene at the dog park kind of changed my world," she said. "I loved watching the dogs interact with each other, and then I got to know people, and it was actually really interesting...It became a very healing place for me through all seasons."

Soon, Ms. Hackett decided she wanted to write a musical about the scenes at the park. She taught herself to play piano and began writing songs from the perspective of dogs she had met there.

Ms. Hackett worked on the musical on and off for years, completing a first draft two and a half years ago. She gathered friends for an initial reading.

"That was wonderful because I was so nervous, and everyone was just lovely and supportive," she said "It's been a process since then of tightening it up. I'm still nervous, but it'll be exciting."

Ms. Hackett is also the house manager at Circuit Arts, so the partnership to put on the production was a natural fit. She said she has a lot of admiration for the organization.

"They're very supportive of new work and giving people a shot, and really supportive of taking a chance. I just love that about Circuit Arts," she said.

The musical has a cast of 15 actors, with eight people playing dogs, seven playing humans and Ms. Hackett playing the piano throughout. The crew had their first rehearsal this week.

"So far, my favorite parts of the musical are the group numbers where the dogs are singing and dancing," she said. "I could hardly play the piano because I was laughing so hard and having so much fun watching everybody."

Ms. Hackett emphasized the lightheartedness of the show, calling it "45 minutes of raucous dog fun."

"It's a really simple play. Part of the point of it is it's not a Pulitzer prize winning piece of writing. These songs aren't going to win any Tonys," she said. "It's a simple, easy piece of fun that's just from my heart."

At the same time DOG PARK! touches on true human connection and community. "It's about connection and how you find safety and who you find it with, whether it's a human or your pet," she said. "It's about love and real connection."

DOG PARK! takes place at the Playhouse on Friday Nov. 13 and Saturday Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., with a matinee showing at 2 p.m. on Sunday Nov. 15.

In the Driver's Seat for a Creative Journey

By EMMA KILBRIDE



Courtesy Ellie Brelis

Ellie Brelis performed her one-woman show on the Island in September.

Ellie Brelis hated the first one-person show she ever saw. She was in third grade, and she vividly recalls the second-hand embarrassment of watching the actress alone on stage, swapping characters by flipping the top of her dress down into an apron.

"I think one person shows are inherently, like, really cringey and egotistical," she told the Gazette in a recent interview. "I promised myself I would never, ever, ever do one."

Brelis, now in the middle of touring the world with her original one-person show called Driver's Seat, acknowledges some might call her a hypocrite.

Brelis' play, which explores her lifelong experience with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD), made its Island debut at the Martha's Vineyard Playhouse in September, directed by Island actor and writer Leif Moore. Before the Vineyard, Brelis brought the play to New York, Los Angeles and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Brelis' Vineyard roots stretch back seven or eight generations — far enough that when someone stops her on the street to announce that they are a cousin, she tends to believe them. The summers of her youth were spent in Chilmark with her grandparents, John and Molly Flender.

Growing up with OCD was alienating for Brelis, especially attending high school in Cambridge, where peers were unrelenting in observing her differences. While Vineyard life was not free from difficulty, it had its oases, like the Green Room, the Vineyard Haven skate and surf shop where she worked as a teen.

"I was like, oh, these are my people," Brelis remembered thinking. "This is where I feel at home and free, and finally in my body and not in my head."

While studying theatre at Emerson College in Boston, Brelis acted in her first Martha's Vineyard Playhouse production, Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing. At that point, Brelis had little patience for the Bard.

"[I] thought Shakespeare was pretentious and elitist," she said. "It made me feel really, really stupid."

But under the tutelage of Brooke Hardman-Ditchfield and Alexandra London-Thompson and, she grew to connect with Shakespeare in a new way.

She connected with the Vineyard's arts community, too, and went on to act in Island productions of Julius Caesar, Hamlet, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, and Twelfth Night. There, Brelis first encountered Leif Moore, her future Driver's Seat collaborator.

"I ended up just kind of falling in love even more with the Island, and with the creative people on the Island," Brelis said.

In 2020, Brelis entered inpatient treatment for her OCD. It was during this time that she began writing the earliest iteration of Driver's Seat.

"I was like, I am the only person I have right now," she said. "I don't know how to process anything challenging in life without using the arts to do it."

Driver's Seat examines the contours of Brelis' time in treatment, including her relationships with clinicians and other patients and the daily realities of her illness.

It also examines how OCD colors her life's pivotal moments: realizing she's queer, the death of her grandfather, a long-term boyfriend absconding suddenly from their shared life before resurfacing on an episode of Wheel of Fortune.

Brelis' process of learning to drive a car, a fear she sought to conquer as part of her exposure therapy, acts as the play's essential metaphor, anchoring her quest to gain control over her own life.

"I want[ed] to make my world bigger," she said. "I want[ed] to live my life based on my values, not my fears."

Driver's Seat, accented with an inpatient dance break brought to its emotional and comedic acme by the Miley Cyrus song The Climb, exercises a comedic sensibility straddling the Gen Z and millennial worlds. Brelis, born in 1995, straddles these generational worlds herself. She said this can be an asset, helping her reach both young people used to meme-ing about mental illness and older generations that don't share that same impulse.

"It helps me kind of find the sweet spot," she said.

Where some previous directors hesitated to capitalize on what made Brelis' story comedic, Moore, who has a background in improvisational comedy, did not.

"Leif's the funniest person in the world, so they were like, no, we have to find the joy, we have to find the humor, we have to lean into it," Brelis said. "We're not belittling any of the experiences. We're finding the humor in the horror of it all."

Brelis admires stand-up comics Gary Gulman and Hannah Gadsby, both of whom are frank about mental illness in their work. At the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2024, Brelis was starstruck when her name appeared alongside Gadsby's in a publication's list of must-see acts.

And despite Brelis' disdain for the soapy blockbuster film version of Girl, Interrupted, she adores its source material, the 1993 memoir penned by Susanna Kaysen. Ms. Kaysen writes about her time in inpatient treatment for borderline personality disorder at the same Belmont hospital where Brelis was treated for OCD.

Brelis once met Ms. Kaysen, who was delighted when Brelis described Girl, Interrupted as "one of the funniest books [she'd] ever read."

"When it's an authentic story being told from the person who lived it, that's what really moves me and inspires me," Brelis said.

Some of Brelis' great inspirations are her real-life mentors: Ms. Hardman-Ditchfield, Island performer Shelagh Hackett and her own family, largely composed of creatives.

Brelis was proud to bring Driver's Seat to the Island, which was so crucial to nourishing her talent.

"It's taken on a life of its own and has gone to so many different places," she said of the play. "To have it be able to come home was the greatest performing experience of my life."

Please Adopt Us

Heaven got a 10 last Saturday. Our dear friend and volunteer for the past 15 years, Maureen Creney, passed away. There is now an empty chair in her place. Condolences to her family.

The adoption news of the week is that all four of Coco's kittens have gone to their forever homes. Both of the girls and both of the boys went to homes together. Here's to years of love and happiness. And Alfie, a two-year-old orange and white cat who came in a few days ago, is being adopted as I write this. Good news all around!

If you're looking for a very friendly and affectionate cat you can't do better Toosie, our pet of the week. Toosie is a four-year-old, male tuxedo cat with big green eyes. He is indoor/outdoor, friendly, playful and affectionate, yet we feel he would do best in a home without small children. Toosie has been here a while and is feeling lonely so we're hoping he finds his forever family sooner rather than later. And he also has a lovely purr. Toosie was diagnosed with diabetes but at his last check-up his bloodwork was normal! We're hoping that he may be able to come off his insulin in a few weeks. Additionally, he is very food oriented so he would be easy to train and teach tricks. Come meet Toosie to experience how much fun he is and see if he could be the perfect cat for you.

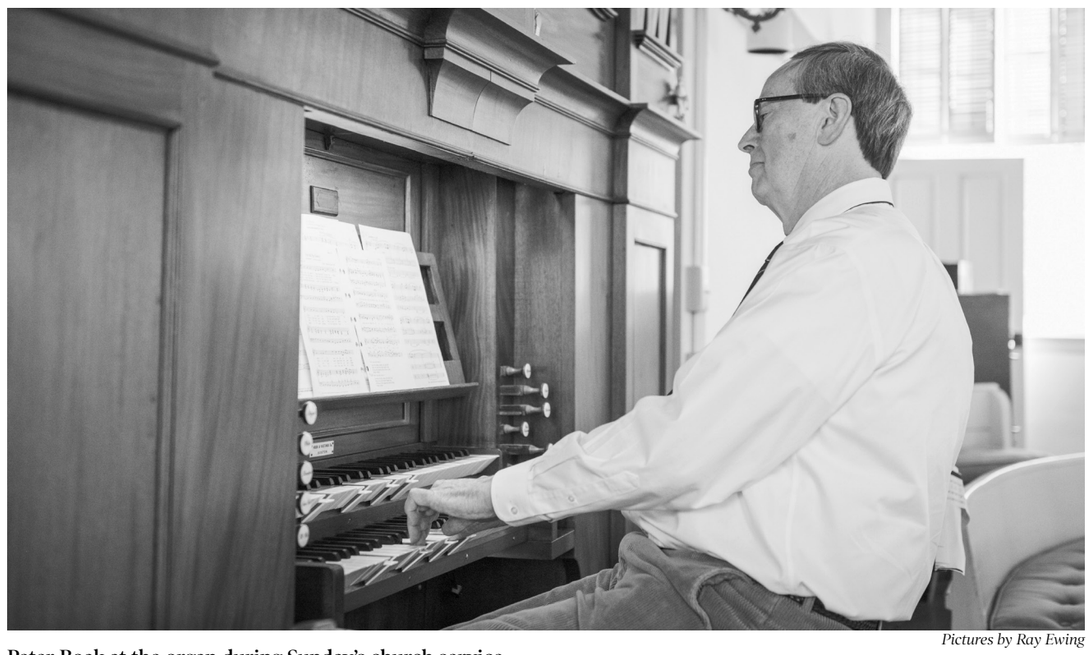
Do we have any Persian cat lovers? Olaf is a seven-year-old male who is just so sweet and kind. He won't be ready to go to a new home for a week or two but please stop in and visit and, maybe, fall in love.

The Animal Shelter of Martha's Vineyard is here for our community. Just give us a call during regular shelter hours: 508-627-8662.

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



Toosie.



Pictures by Ray Ewing

Peter Boak at the organ during Sunday's church service.

Federated Church Honors Peter Boak

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

The Federated Church in Edgartown celebrated Peter Boak's 30 years as music minister on Sunday with the world premiere of a new choral work commissioned in his honor.

Composer Thomas LaVoy traveled from Tennessee to take part in the first performance of his anthem For the Beauty, For the Glory, singing bass with a well-rehearsed choir of some three dozen Islanders who gathered around Mr. Boak at the church piano.

Soprano Pam Butterick was the soloist and Rebecca Laird played violin, before a full house of music-loving worshipers.

The new anthem's lyrics, by the late preacher, poet and Yale Divinity School professor Thomas Troeger, build a rapturous song of thanksgiving from four stanzas, each one tracing a path to God's peace through sacred music.

Mr. LaVoy's piece also bears a dedication to Mr. Boak, Federated Church pastor Rev. Mark Winters told the congregation.

"Any choir who sings this anthem will see this dedication," Reverend Winters said. "It says, 'Commissioned by the Federated Church of Martha's Vineyard for its 30 years of music ministry with Peter Boak.'"

The word "with" honors the collaborative nature of Mr. Boak's work at the Federated, Reverend Winters continued.

"Music ministry is something we have done with Peter together," he said.

Reverend Winters continued his theme of musical collaboration in a sermon that riffed on I Corinthians 12, which liturgist Janet Holladay had just read to the congregation.

"The tenor cannot say to the soprano, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the conductor to the accompanist, 'I have no need of you.' But God has so arranged the body that if one singer suffers, all of us cover our ears together. If one member is honored, all rejoice together in beautiful harmony," Reverend Winters said.

The choir also performed an earlier work by Mr. LaVoy, a psalm setting titled Neither the Moon By Night, during the offertory, as well as a piece called The Cloud's Veil by Irish priest and composer Liam Lawton.

Following Sunday's service, the church threw a reception at the Edgartown Reading Room for Mr. Boak and Mr. LaVoy, who are both alumni — from different generations — of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J.

The two musicians have introduced three new works since 2019, when the Island Community Chorus — which Mr. Boak founded in 1996 and directed until 2022 — premiered Mr. LaVoy's cantata In Heaven, Hereafter, a setting of poetry by the Vineyard's famed "chicken lady" Nancy Luce.

Mr. LaVoy, who had not visited the Vineyard before then despite long-ago family ties in Edgartown, discovered Nancy Luce's story after seeing a print by Island artist Dan Waters that showed her ascending to heaven with her chickens.

Captivated by the imagery, he sought out Mr. Waters and then Martha's Vineyard Museum librarian Bow Van Riper to learn more about the poet and her beloved flock, before setting her words to music for In Heaven, Hereafter.

That world premiere was followed in 2022 by a first performance of Mr. LaVoy's Before the Dawn, composed in honor of the chorus's 25th anniversary.

On Sunday, at the reception, he said he welcomed the chance to visit the Island again.

"I travel and I speak with people and I work with choirs of all types in so many different places ... but coming back to Martha's Vineyard is always a homecoming for me," Mr. LaVoy said.

He made a special trip to West Tisbury to visit Nancy Luce's former home and her gravesite, Mr. LaVoy told the Gazette.

At the Reading Room, Mr. Boak called Mr. LaVoy his number one collaborator and comrade.

"He not only is a wonderful colleague and an exquisite musician and a gentle man in every sense of the word, but he's also my friend. And it just makes it all the better to work with somebody who just encompasses all those aspects," he said.

Mr. LaVoy returned the compliment in his remarks.

"The people that I enjoy working with the most, and get the most out of having this really strong artistic relationship with, are people that I now call gatherers," he said.

"They have this innate ability to gather people to them and to foster relationships and have this beautiful quiet leadership that is not something terribly common in the world that we live in. And Peter is certainly one of those people," said Mr. LaVoy, who also expressed appreciation for Reverend Winters's preaching.

"I am not a religious person. I am an agnostic, and I often feel alienated in churches. But I did not feel that today," he said.

Mr. LaVoy's commission was funded by donations from 30 church members, Reverend Winters said.



Federated church applauds Mr. Boak.

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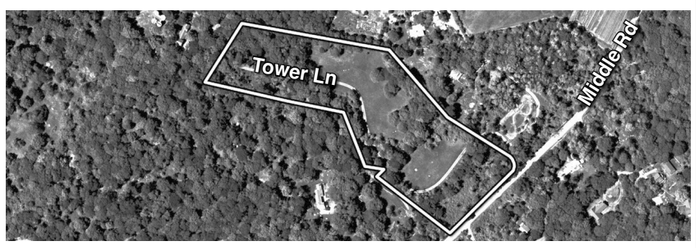
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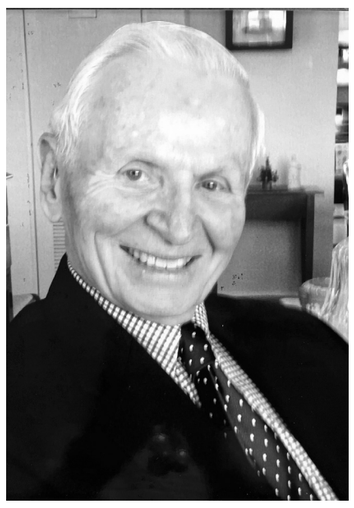
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John Daggett

John Daggett Jr. Loved Music and Art

John (Jack) Tobey Daggett, Jr, a former long-time summer resident of Martha's Vineyard, died at his home in Glenmore, Keswick, Va. on Oct. 28, his 98th birthday.

John was born Oct. 28, !928 in Boston , the son of John Tobey Daggett and Emily Chambers Daggett, of.Marblehead. He is a direct descendant of John Howland, one of the Mayflower pilgrims and John Daggett, one of seven men who were granted land on Martha's Vineyard by the Thomas Mayhew family around 1642.

He attended Marblehead schools and played guard for four years on the high school football team. He went to Mount Herman School for Boys in Gill, where he was introduced to the sport of wrestling which he dearly loved. He received his A.B. from Bowdoin College (1951) and was elected vice president of his class.

Soon after joining the U.S. Army in 1951 he was chosen to serve in the National Security Agency, stationed in Arlington, Va. until his discharge in 1954.

He began a career selling medical supplies for Becton Dickenson & Co, Rutherford, N.J. in their mid-west territory and became its top national salesman. Thus began a highly successful career in sales and sales management for supplies and instruments to the biomedical industry. Having established connections in the biomedical field he joined Management Recruiters in Boston and concentrated on the search for personnel to fill executive positions in that industry.

The Daggett family has an extensive history on Martha's Vineyard. Jack and his family were summer residents at the Daggett homestead, Cedar Tree Neck, West Tisbury, until 1988. The Cedar Tree Neck estate had formerly been the longtime residence and farm of Obed Daggett, Jack's grandfather, and much of the original land from the property had been transferred to the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation in 1967 to form the core of what is today Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary.

Taught to sail by his father and, following in the tradition of his mariner ancestors, Jack developed a love for the sea and the sport of sailing. In 1964, when sailing his Olympic Class Flying Dutchman sailboat on Michigan's Lake St. Clair in the final race of the summer (always with his wife Jan in the trapeze) he placed third for the season.

He retired to Charlottesville, Va. in 1988. No longer tied to the maintenance of a second home, he and Jan enjoyed cruising the world. Music and art played important roles in Jack's life. He sang in the glee clubs of his schools, enjoyed attending the Metropolitan Opera in NYC and the Charlottesville Tuesday Evening Concerts. Always interested in different art forms, Jack began making sculpture using copper pipe to form figures, tables, chairs, candelabra, decorative screens and bird feeders. The works were exhibited at local galleries in Charlottesville. Both local collectors and others throughout the U.S. purchased his sculpture. The late Lydia Gasman, a renowned art historian and UVA art history professor, commissioned several pieces.

He was an indefatigable fundraiser for his schools and local causes such as Charlottesville's Christmas in April program. In 2021, he received Bowdoin College's Polar Bear Award for his outstanding success in raising funds for the college.

Jack was a former member of the Edgartown Yacht Club, the Grosse Pointe Sail Club, and Charlottesville's Beacon Club (past-president). He was a member of the Chilmark Community Church.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Janet Hoffman Daggett, to whom he was married for 68 years; his son, Gregg; daughter-in-law Karei; and granddaughter, Jennifer; all of whom reside in Keswick, Va. He was preceded in death by his youngest son, Peter Daggett.

A memorial service will be held on Martha's Vineyard at a later date in the spring or summer of 2027.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, PO Box 3000 PMB 3162, West Tisbury, MA 02575, or online at sheriffsmeadow.org.

Fella Cecilio Loved Family

Fella Cecilio died on Oct. 29 at his home in Vineyard Haven, surrounded by loved ones. He was 78.

Fella was born on Feb. 29, 1948 in Oak Bluffs. He was the loving son of Adelina Cecilio, devoted husband of Jane Cecilio and proud father of Michael and Kate.

A graduate of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, he played football before spending two years at art school in Boston. Though he loved culture and the arts, he knew a life in the city was no match for the Island he loved most.

Fella's love for his Martha's Vineyard community was reflected in his commitment to serving others and in his passion for food. Alongside his wife Jane, Fella started a catering company and spent his summers sharing a piece of his Island home with visitors. He became known for his "clambake" and received many "Best of the Vineyard" awards for his work as a caterer.

Despite his many successes and the admiration he earned Island-wide, Fella found his greatest satisfaction in welcoming guests from near and far, sharing local traditions, and making sure they received only the best.

In his free time, Fella was a true green thumb, happiest tending to his garden and landscaping around his home. An avid hunter, he spent the off-season in a tree stand in Chilmark, taking in the beauty of the Vineyard. He also enjoyed attending high school football games, where he was known for ringing a cowbell anytime the team made a big play.

Fella will be remembered for his hard work, his deep commitment to his community, and the love and care he showed to others. His family finds peace knowing that Fella will always be with them, as there was no place in the world he'd rather be than with his family and friends on the Island he loved.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Agricultural Hall in West Tisbury. Family and friends are invited to gather to share memories, celebrate Fella's life, and honor the many ways he touched the lives of others.

In lieu of flowers, a donation in Fella's memory may be made to Hospice & Palliative Care of Martha's Vineyard and/or the Tunnels to Towers Foundation.

Priscilla Belain

Priscilla L. Belain, of Aquinnah died on Tuesday evening, Nov. 3 at the Regalcare at Harwich. She was 83.

Priscilla was predeceased by her husband Irving C. Belain on June 6, 2003.

Visitation will be held at the Community Baptist Church of Gay Head on Sat., Nov. 7 from noon to 1 p.m., followed by her funeral service.

Burial will be in the Gay Head Cemetery.

A complete obituary will appear in another edition of this paper.

From the Town Columnists

CHAPPY

PETER WELLS

I don't have as much free time as I thought I would have upon retirement. And I have only retired from the Chappy Ferry. Now I can pay a lot more attention to my next career at the tree farm up in West Tisbury. I like the pace of life there much better than that of the ferry. The cycle of life of the Chappy Ferry is about seven minutes. Under favorable conditions and circumstances that's about the interval of a round trip. At the tree farm the interval between planting a sapling and digging it up as a full-grown tree is about seven years. I like that pace a whole lot better.

The ownership of the Chappy Ferry changed hands just over four months ago. Brian and I met at the ferry at midnight. We asked Gazette photographer Ray Ewing to come down to memorialize the event. He got pictures of us shaking hands and hugging. I'm so grateful that someone was willing and able to relieve me of my responsibility for Chappy's lifeline.

It took a whole year to get all of the details addressed. When I took over the ferry two decades ago, it was a much simpler process. There are similarities between now and then. There was a breach just as there is now. A breach has a great effect on the wear and tear of the ferryboats and slips. There was stress in the economy as there is today. The price of diesel fuel affects not only the ferry, but also travelers using the ferry. Those two factors improved over time and I expect that they will do the same this time around.

I didn't walk away from the ferry that night. As in the past, ferry captains were in short supply. Driving the ferry suddenly became a pleasant job. Brian still had many aspects of the job to become familiar with and lots of concerns that we hadn't thought of previously had to be dealt with. It looks like a simple operation, ferry boats shuttling back and forth. It's a complicated business. Brian is detail oriented so he took all of the surprises in stride. With the haul out of the On Time 2, there are now enough captains to fill all of the shifts and my initials no longer appear on the captain's calendar.

Veronica Whyte

Veronica M. Whyte, formerly of 6 Mourning Dove Road, died on Oct. 28, surrounded by her loving children.

An accomplished tennis player, mother, revered raconteur, curator and lover of fashion, Veronica was born on Sept. 8 1944 and spent 82 years loving life, traveling and spreading joy.

Truly an original, even in her final moments she always had a popped collar and bling. After a battle with cancer, she passed peacefully of her own volition.

Her friends and family would like to give a special thanks to the oncology team at UCSF including Dr. Jablons, Dr. Van Loon and Dr. Collisson.

In lieu of flowers, her family would encourage you to donate to North Hawai'i Hospice or Hawai'i Island Humane Society.

Ciao Amore.

Julie Robinson Service

A celebration of life for Julie Robinson will be held on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 2 to 5 pm at the Grange Hall in West Tisbury.

Please join us to remember Julie, share stories, and celebrate her life.

CHILMARK

KATIE CARROLL

The heart of Halloween evening beat brightest in Menemsha where the day-to-day was transformed into a magical hub where community gathered under a canopy of stars that chased away the autumn chill. Parents chatted while a lively sea of little ghosts, fairies and caped superheroes filled Basin Road with laughter and entertaining costumes.

Although there was no official costume parade at the community center this year, this central hub created a magical, welcoming focal point for the assortment of family-themed costumes and those that were clearly hand crafted.

I'm not sure who "Who Sunk my Battleship" was, but the costume was fantastic despite it's cumbersome nature. Sadie, Henry, Jenna, Cody and Linda Coutinho outdid themselves with the Home Alone family theme, as did Quint, Jesse and Denny Jason. For those of you who know the movie, Denny quite literally appeared to have been whacked in the face with a hot iron. One word to describe his make up is realistic.

The festive energy spilled over to a few dedicated spots around town, specially designated to welcome the youngest trick-or-treaters. Beetlebung Farm, Julie Flanders, Claire Ganz, Janet Stoddard, Janet Weidner and Tom Ruimerman, thank you for having your lights on away from the waterfront.

From our town's children and their parents, I extend a grand thank you to Station Menemsha, Chilmark Fire, Chilmark Police, Tri-Town Ambulance, Pandora's Box, Copperworks, MV Fishermen's Preservation Trust, Ruel Gallery, Chris Jones, Diane Lucey, the Oliver family, Ed Greenebaum, Joan Caulton, Micaela Cullinan, the Slaters, Robin Smith, Fred and Sarah Khedouri, Lynne Silva, Dave Tilton, Ann and Hal Noyes, John and Hillary Keene, Gordon Thompson, Deb Hancock, Patrick Echlin, Chris, Oona, Emme Carroll, Kendra Buresch, Marilyn Vukota, Keith Fenner, Marie Larsen, Larsen's Fish Market, David and Kathleen Wright, Jill and Ted Bernhard, Amy Cody, John Furst, Sarah Flanders, Sam Erickson, Menemsha Texaco, Sage Pfaelzer, Kathie and Bradley Carroll, Judy Mayhew, Emily Josephs, Haven Huck, Hugh Singer, Ruby Dix, Kyle Bullerjahn, and young Willis Cronin whose angler fish skeletons added just the right touch to the scene.

Quiet gratitude also goes out to Elise Elliston, Susan Heilbron, Andy Goldman, Meg and Dan Athearn, Pat Knapp and Linda Thompson for their behind the scenes contributions.

While I prefer filling this column with commentary rather than dates, a couple of upcoming events are too good not to share this week. Bear with the quick housekeeping, and look out for our usual casual chat next week.

Fishermen are the true first responders at sea — when an emergency happens offshore, help can be hours away, making the crew the first line of care. To ensure you have the vital skills needed before medical experts can take over, the Fishing Partnership is offering a free, enhanced CPR and first aid course at the CCC on Monday, Nov. 16. Tailored specifically for commercial fishing environments, this hands-on training certifies fishermen in adult First Aid/CPR/AED and fully meets U.S. Coast Guard requirements under 46 CFR 28.21. Participants will learn critical life-saving techniques, including wound care, splinting, hypothermia management and tourniquet application, and are eligible to receive a free, customized vessel first aid kit. For more information or to register, please reach out to Julia at 774-840-9418.

The Oak Bluffs Climate & Energy Advisory Committee and the Oak Bluffs Public Library are hosting a free community discussion on Managing our Forests for Climate Resilience, including wildfire mitigation on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. This public event features professional forester and Chilmark resident Robert Perschel, who will discuss Martha's Vineyard forest stewardship and climate mitigation. He will be joined by MA DCR Forest fire warden Josh Nigro to cover wildfire prevention, prescribed burns and free home safety assessments.

I had a chance to chat with Molly Peach Mayhew who mentioned her job with The Trustees is granting her the remarkable opportunity to collaborate with India Whitcombe at the museum to preserve the history of the Brickyard. They are looking to connect with anyone who might have a personal connection. Maybe your grandfather worked there, maybe your family has passed down stories about the clay pits or the schooners that carried bricks off-Island, or maybe you simply grew up knowing this land.

They are inviting people to sit down for an in-person recorded conversation. If this is you, or if you know someone they really should talk to, please reach out to either at mpeach@thetrustees.org or iwhitcombe@mvmuseum.org.

Jane Slater, this is right up your alley.

EDGARTOWN

KATHIE CASE

Indian summer has extended into November. There is beautiful sunshine and warm days, but when the sun goes down, we are reminded of what time of year it is. Even the plants are confused as I still have New Guinea impatiens blooming and Angelonia with new buds. Reality is about to hit though, as our Christmas trees, wreaths and poinsettias will be coming in the next two weeks.

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated their day this past week. Big balloons go out to Samantha De Freitas, Kelcean Peart, Davi Soares, Lavinia Abreu, Bernardo Amaral, Brooklyn Cancellare, Lorena Abreu, Nathaniel Frias and Hazel Tuper who all celebrated their day this past week.

Since the middle of August, I have been trying to drive to the beach for a few minutes before going to work. I don't get out of the car, I just park and enjoy the surroundings. At first there were a few people on the beach trying to get a swim in before their day started or to simply get there before the crowds. There was one swimmer that swam the length of the beach in a peaceful way. Some were simply standing ankle deep just enjoying the surroundings, and another just diving in.

As the weeks went on, it was just a few beachcombers, and people walking on the bike path. Now that it is fall and even the ride up is a short adventure as some mornings the turkeys are in the middle of the road, you can see the birds swooping down and around the pond and the egrets are walking through the grass on the pond side.

Each day is different if you watch closely. Some mornings the water is choppy but also a pretty blue green. My favorite is when the water is like glass, reflecting the houses on the shoreline and a boat that is always on the pond at the bend of the road. There are the days that the Cape looks so close and you can see the houses, and the days that you can just see the land and no houses.

The trees are displaying their fall colors and I urge everyone to spend just 10 minutes on the way to work enjoying the view. It always helps make my day a little better.

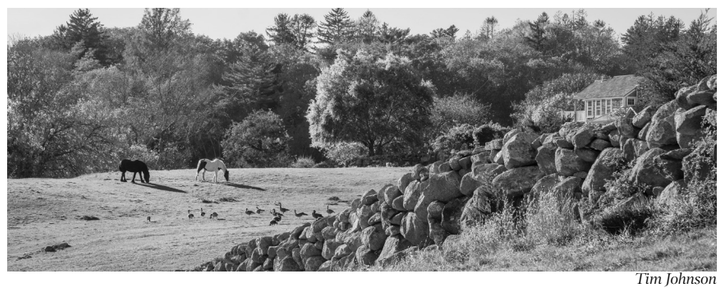
Have a great week and keep the home candles burning.

VINEYARD HAVEN

NANCY GARDELLA

There is so much to say about the Hulberts, both Chris and Chicklet. They came into my life seven years ago but many of you knew them longer. They both followed Grateful Dead concerts and tribute shows across this country. Chris came upon Chicklet in California over 16 years ago. He estimates they have crossed the country together about 16 times.

Chicklet, a trained therapy pup, made many visits here to Windemere when it was at our hospital, to the Martha's Vineyard Center for Living, and to many of our Councils on Aging. They spent winters in Key West.



Tim Johnson

Chicklet was friends with everyone but she quickly learned who the dispenser of treats was in each household. She zeroed in on that person. Chicklet Hulbert passed on-Island on Sept. 6. We are all heartbroken. But one thing I know for certain is Chris and Chicklet gave each other the best of lives.

Our Harbor Homes winter shelter opened this past weekend.

Jack Ryan, postmaster and acclaimed artist, has an exhibit of his work up at Mocha Mott's. Check it out.

Ted Hewitt's 10-foot high painting of the Book Tree is back on the wall of our renovated library.

Barbara Pope Peckham has a new book out on Amazon. It's called A View from the Attic. She made a whirlwind trip here to read from it at the Chilmark library. It was very well received.

Alas, the Island Cup stays on Nantucket this year. But the girls soccer team defended their Golden Anchor win.

Jacoby Light, our golfing senior, earned a 17th place finish at the state golf finals. Then he was voted the Cape and Islands League MVP. Congratulations.

The Oak Bluffs police department hosted a wonderful Trunk or Treat last weekend.

What to say about Fella Cecilio's passing this past weekend. Chef, restaurateur, barbecue sauce maker, friend to all. There is a big hole in our lives now.

The birthday bandwagon pulled along Marie Laursen on Nov. 1, and on Nov. 3 Marie Duncan Napolitano took the cake. Many happy returns.

WEST TISBURY

EILEEN MALEY

As far back as I can remember, November had been my least favorite month. The trees were bare, it was cold, dark, windy, bleak and black. Without much enthusiasm in my family, Thanksgiving in Canada takes place in mid-October. There were no warm gatherings to look forward to. There were no vacation days, no holiday weekends in November. Bleak.

The snow will come in December, which was light years away, and the snow will brighten the streets, cover our sins and provide a pliable substance to form into balls, to roll in, fall into,or slide down. But that was eons away.

The arenas and outdoor skating rinks open in November. I couldn't skate but because of my nationality, my obligation, my heritage, I was duty-bound to do so. I skated on my ankles, holding on to the boards for dear life. So embarrassing.

To make matters worse, to rub it in, my bff/frenemy Jane McSomething belonged to the figure skating club. Jane took me along to her skating practice sessions so that I could watch her from the other side of the boards. She glided and spun, as elegantly as possible, considering the extra weight she stuffed into that jaunty little red skating costume she wore. She wore that short red skirt even when practicing or taking lessons. Yet I always went with her after school, just to watch her skate.

One good reason to emigrate to the United States is Thanksgiving, which makes me forget about all those unpleasantnesses of November.

Another good reason to be on the Vineyard in November is the Barn Raisers Ball, taking place Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Agricultural Hall, starting at 7:30 p.m.

It has been 32 years since a group of 30 or more Islanders drove to Woodville, N.H. to dismantle and pack up a 1905 dairy barn and bring it back to its new home. They unloaded the wooden pieces of the barn onto the empty field at the corner of State Road and Panhandle Road. With about 300 or more volunteers on hand, the crew spent the day re-assembling the structure into the headquarters of the society, and the heart of the annual fair.

At the end of that day, Nov. 7, 1994, the workers didn't simply disperse. They celebrated their success with an impromptu party. Johnny Hoy and the Bluefish made the music and the barn builders danced the night away.

This Saturday, for the 32nd time, the barn will be the site of the Barn Raisers Ball. Again, for the 32nd consecutive year, Johnny Hoy and his Bluefish will make the music for the celebration. All are welcome. Bring a dessert to share.

Earlier in the day, wanna-be architects of all ages are invited to come to the barn, collect glue, tape, cardboard, Legos, Play-doh, scissors, whatever, and construct a model of the building. The contest entries will be on display later that evening, and the winner receives membership in the Agricultural Society.

Happy birthday on Friday, Nov. 6, to horsewoman Vicky Thurber. The artist Washington Ledesma celebrates Monday, Nov. 9, and Binnie Ravitch is the birthday girl on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Happy birthday Wednesday, Nov. 11, to Scarlet Johnson.

Nicole Alley and Arsen Hambardzamian were married in West Tisbury on Nov. 12. Happy anniversary Thursday and congratulations.

Welcome Wilhelmina

Katherine Antik and Ted Desrosiers, of West Tisbury, announce the birth of a daughter, Wilhelmina Worth Desrosiers, born on Nov. 2 at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Wilhelmina weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces at birth.

Greetings Theodore

Katherine Peck Clark and Keenan Ricardo Dyke, of Edgartown, announce the birth of a son, Theodore Ricardo Clark-Dyke, born on Oct. 15 at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Theodore weighed 7 pounds, 11.8 ounces at birth.

Hello Maisy

Hadley and Marc Natichioni, of Chilmark, announce the birth of a daughter, Maisy Louise Natichioni, born on Nov. 1 at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Maisy weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces at birth.

Asher Arrives

Adam Sopko and Sarah Alexander, of Boulder, Colo., announce the birth of a son, Asher Klockner Sopko, born Oct. 27 at Boulder Community Foothills Hospital in Boulder, Colo. Asher weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces at birth.

He joins his older brother, Hunter, as well as his maternal grandparents Fred Alexander and Karen Klockner of Edgartown, who look forward to welcoming him to the Island this winter.

VINEYARD GAZETTE WEEKLY SUDOKU AND CROSSWORD – November 6, 2026

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

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.

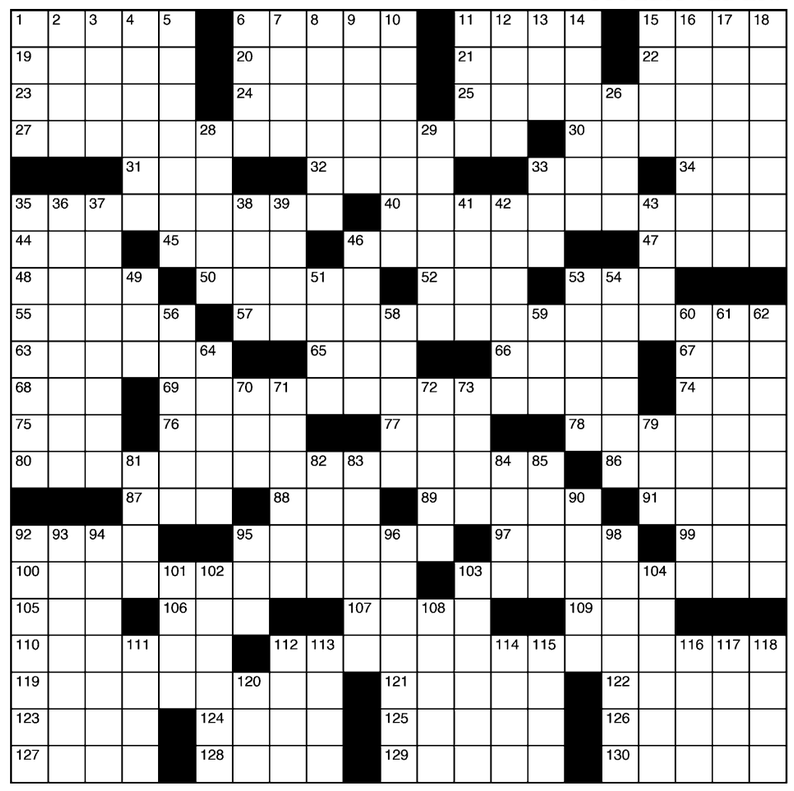
Difficulty this week: EASY PEASY!

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

ACROSS
1 Perp's excuse
6 Bee-related
11 Lipids
15 In addition
19 "Cheers!," in Spain
20 Cousin of largo
21 Concept
22 Geometry, e.g.
23 Photo-sharing app, casually
24 Be finished by
25 "Shakespeare in Love" Oscar winner
27 "A Pocket Full of Rye" novelist
30 Device connecting to a computer port
31 "Alley —!"
32 High mountain peaks, in Italy
33 "J to — L-O!" (2002 album)
34 Put on
35 Portrayer of Emma Peel on "The Avengers"
40 Longtime editor-in-chief of Vogue
44 Purported psychic gift
45 Reebok rival
46 One-celled swimmer
47 — 500 (auto race)
48 Ren or Stimpy, e.g.
50 "Peanuts" blanket toter
52 Cherry-hued
53 "Dr." of rap
55 Gazes at creepily
57 "Rebecca" novelist
63 Fee-free, as a mutual fund
65 Come — halt
66 Succotash ingredient
67 Kung — chicken
68 12-month period, in Rio
69 Longtime Royal Ballet luminary
74 Sick-dog link
75 Levy
76 Conical-bore woodwind
77 Wed.-Fri. link
78 Kind of gas that's banned for autos
80 Best Actress winner for "BUtterfield 8"
86 Large-eyed primate
87 — jiffy
88 Cattle call
89 Presley called "The King"
91 Morning TV's Kelly
92 Trotsky of Russia
95 Copier clogs
97 Free-for- — (melees)
99 Eggy drink
100 "The Good Apprentice" novelist
103 1986 Grammy winner for Best Jazz Vocal Performance
105 La Paz's country: Abbr.
106 Tee preceder
107 See 53-Down
109 Cut the lawn
110 Old Jewish ascetic
112 With 119-Across, "South Pacific" song ... or a declaration about the nine women featured in this puzzle?
119 See 112-Across
121 Mann of pop
122 Apple drink
123 Pernicious
124 British trolley
125 Atlantic, e.g.
126 Siri's cousin?
127 Bears' lairs
128 1980s Dodge
129 Quickness
130 Catnaps, e.g.

DOWN
1 China's home
2 Singer k.d. —
3 "Casablanca" woman
4 Part of a blouse or a mouse
5 Boise native
6 A Baldwin brother
7 Phnom —, Cambodia
8 How RuPaul performs
9 "Garfield: — of Two Kitties" (2006 film)
10 "Move to inbox" email phrase
11 Pacific island nation
12 In unison, in music
13 TV coach Lasso
14 Voiced a quick greeting
15 "That's for sure!"
16 "Arnie" actress Sue Ane —
17 City NW of Minneapolis
18 Classic chocolate candy bar
26 — about-face (flip-flop)
28 May preceder
29 Unrefined source of element #50
33 Pan Am rival
35 Explode, as a bomb
36 Having equal angles
37 Moon-landing mission
38 "Just jokin' with you"
39 Actress Rowlands
41 Must-have
42 Carry off illegally
43 Arena level
46 Take — at (try)
49 Prefix with colonial
51 As many as
53 With 107-Across, he had many hit songs with John Oates
54 Small stream
56 Apia native
58 Three-nation pact of '94
59 Skier Tommy
60 Small tablet from Apple
61 De-intensify
62 Driver's fit of anger
64 "Yabba — doo!"
70 Fish eggs
71 Become irate
72 "That's for sure!"
73 — and void
79 — Lingus
81 California wines, in brief
82 — sapiens
83 "Ooh, good comeback!"
84 Circle relative
85 Irritate
90 Replay mode, for short
92 Defamed in print
93 Causing to wear down
94 Raincoat fabric
95 Srs., last year
96 Ancient Egyptian king
98 Toy racer
101 Actress Suvari
102 In the habit of
103 Regions, weatherwise
104 For a bit
108 Camera brand
111 Morays, e.g.
112 IRS guy, e.g.
113 Half: Prefix
114 Chair part
115 Hawaiian goose
116 — of March
117 Following
118 Mardi —
120 Chair part

TITLEHOLDERS



Going Back in Time for Creativity

By CHARLES LEITNER

Throughout the fall, the Vineyard Preservation Trust has been inviting third and fourth grade students to travel back in time with them as part of a newly expanded creating writing initiative.

The program is called Island Inspiration Education Initiative, and is designed to challenge students to imagine and write about what it would be like to live on the Vineyard during the colonial era.

"When we bring [the students] into our buildings, we want to also open up their eyes to what we do as preservationists," said Julie Hatt, the event and development manager at the Vineyard Preservation Trust. "We're trying to spark interest in history."

Last Thursday, students from the Edgartown school were led on a tour of the Vincent House by Norah Van Riper, a historian who was dressed in clothing reminiscent of the period.

"When they go into the Vincent House, they get to experience what it might be like to be in 1776 and consider how their lives today are the same as and different from the ways children's lives were in 1776," Ms. Van Riper said.

The Vineyard Preservation Trust owns and maintains numerous historic buildings across the Island, including the Vincent House, Grange Hall, Union Chapel, Old Whaling Church, Alley's General Store and many more.

"We call them living landmarks for a reason," said Laura Pla, the educator and curatorial projects coordinator at the organization. "We want the public, whether it's a Vineyarder, a visitor or tourist, we want people to engage with our buildings, learn about them, learn about the history that happened in them, the stories that happened in them."



Pictures by Ray Ewing

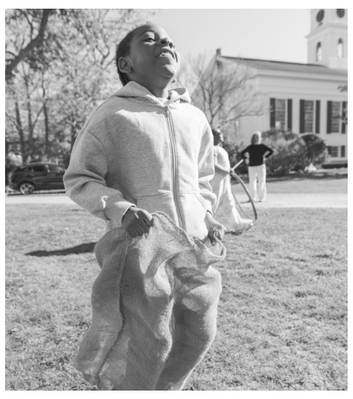
Norah Van Riper in period costume inspires Edgartown students.

The program has been ongoing but in previous years it had been only a one-day writing project. This year, it has been expanded into a year-long experience where the students work alongside their teachers to develop stories considering what a day in the life of a child living on Martha's Vineyard in the 18th century might look like.

In the spring, the stories will be entered into an Islandwide writing competition. Students will be recognized for their creativity, historical understanding and growth over the course of the school year.



Laura Pla talks to students about history of the Old Whaling Church.



Sack races get the heart pumping.

"We're going to see how they progress throughout the year," said Ms. Hatt.

For their participation, every student will receive one free pass to the Flying Horses Carousel, which the Vineyard Preservation Trust also owns and maintains. The winner of the competition will get a free season pass.

Ms. Hatt is hopeful that this initiative will continue to grow and is looking to implement a similar program at the high school in the coming years. Her five-year plan is to have the Vineyard Preservation Trust award scholarships to graduating seniors during class night.

"We want the buildings to stay for generations to come so that more stories can happen and their kids and their kids' kids can enjoy them just like we are," said Ms. Hatt.

Historic Rug Returns to Felix Neck

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

In 1976, Joan Tewksbury walked into the Lilly Pulitzer store in Edgartown and purchased a raffle ticket for one dollar. With that one ticket, and a bit of luck, she won an intricate needlepoint rug.

The rug followed Ms. Tewksbury from her summer home on the Vineyard through her time in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Santa Rosa, Calif., where she resides today.

Fifty years later, the rug has found its way back to the Vineyard.

The rug was originally donated by the Silver Needle of North Summer street in Edgartown, and was raffled in August of 1976 for the benefit of Felix Neck Sanctuary. A few weeks ago it returned to Felix Neck after Ms. Tewksbury decided it needed to be back on the Vineyard, where she has a long family history.

"My family started going there in 1922," she said. "My mother's family built a house the year I was born. So the first time I went was in June of 1937."

"It was sort of a no-brainer when I thought to give it back," she added.

Claudia Mohr, who was artist-in-residence of the Silver Needle at the time, designed the rug, and seven Vineyard women worked together to create it. This drew Ms. Tewksbury to the rug, as she knew how difficult it was to collaborate on needlepoint.

"If you know anything about needlepoint, the hardest thing is being consistent, even when just one person is doing it. When you've got this many people working on it, it is amazing that it turned out so incredibly beautiful," Ms. Tewksbury said.

The rug is made up of six squares, each of which consists of 60,860 stitches. The combined total for the rug is 365,160 stitches.

"I love the fact that it's got all these features of the Vineyard, the birds and the flowers," Ms. Tewksbury said. "I think the design is really very special."

Each square features a creature who calls the Vineyard its home, including the American kestrel, least tern, belted kingfisher, sandpiper, plover and bobwhite.



Each square has over 60,000 stitches.

"I think the sandpiper is probably my favorite, just because I love sandpipers," Ms. Tewksbury said.

In 2023, Ms. Tewksbury reached out to Suzan Bellincampi, the director of Felix Neck. She visited Felix Neck that summer, and they spoke about the rug and its possible return to the Island.

"She told me about this rug and I thought it was amazing," Ms. Bellincampi said. "She said, 'Maybe someday it will get back here.'"

A couple of weeks ago, the rug arrived in the mail. Ms. Bellincampi said she plans to display it at the Felix Neck facility while also preserving it for as long as possible.

"I want to be really careful about it," Ms. Bellincampi said. "It's lasted 50 years...I want to make sure that it's safe and secure for another 50 years."



Pictures by Ray Ewing

Lauren Elsea, Suzan Bellincampi, Liz Cosgrove and Linda Cheng.

IN VINEYARD SKIES

	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri., Nov. 6	6:19	4:30
Sat., Nov. 7	6:20	4:29
Sun., Nov. 8	6:21	4:28
Mon., Nov. 9	6:23	4:27
Tues., Nov. 10	6:24	4:26
Wed., Nov. 11	6:25	4:25
Thurs., Nov. 12	6:26	4:24
Fri., Nov. 13	6:27	4:23

Venus and Crescent Moon

There is a slight chance you might start to see Venus low in the southeastern sky before sunrise as it makes its way into our morning sky. With all likelihood if you can look tomorrow morning, you'll see a thin sliver of a crescent moon nearby.

Even better, if visibility and your location is ideal, you might see the bright star Spica right next to Venus. If the weather doesn't help, Venus is committed to being our morning planet for the months ahead.

Venus will get easier to see as it appears higher and higher in the southeastern sky before sunrise. Take a look. Thanksgiving week will be ideal, as the planet will be really high.

Tthe Taurid meteor shower takes place this week. The meteors appear to radiate from the constellation Taurus, hence its name.

The constellation Taurus rises in the eastern sky after sunset. Go outside any time in the evening and position yourself looking east. The highlight of this shower is the increased frequency of really bright fireball meteors. Not guaranteed, but you might see one or two amid the usual. You may see as many as ten meteors in an hour of looking.

M.A.L.

New Moon Nov. 9

Full Moon Nov. 24

First Quarter Nov. 17

Last Quarter Dec. 1

Temperature:

Day	Max. Fº	Min. Fº	Precip. Inches.
Oct 30	65	55	0.00
Oct. 31	72	46	0.00
Nov. 1	56	34	0.00
Nov. 2	63	42	0.00
Nov. 3	69	53	0.00
Nov. 4	69	55	0.00
Nov. 5	70	56	0.00

Water temperature in Edgartown harbor: 59º

Recent Island Real Estate Transactions

Aquinnnah

Tory Field purchased 1 Old Field Road in Aquinnah for $360,000 from Daniel Brudney Trust, Mary Ann Lazarus Trust, Richard J. Lazarus Trust, William B. Lazarus Trust and Straight Toe Realty Trust on Oct. 27.

Edgartown

Laudiceia Amaral Trust and Amaral Family Trust purchased 87 Whalers Walk in Edgartown for $585,000 from Marie T. Hunt on Oct. 27.

Aren Gallagher and Charlotte Stabler purchased 40 Crocker Drive in Edgartown for $965,000 from Torrey R. Sweetser, Louis Litchison Trust, Krista H. Sweetser Trust and Litchison-Sweetser Living Trust on Oct. 27.

Darren Joseph Langis Trust, Rebecca Anne Langis Trust, Rebecca Anne Langis Revocable Trust 2021 and Darren Joseph Langis Revocable Trust 2021 purchased 2 Noras Lane in Edgartown for $7,350,000 from Lawrence Neal and Natalya Naidoo on Oct. 28.

William Blake Trust, Margaret S. Arquit Trust, William Blake Revocable Trust and Margaret S. Arquit Revocable Trust purchased 128 West Tisbury Road in Edgartown for $3,650,000 from Darren J. Langis on Oct. 30.

Oak Bluffs

Michelle Gerhard Jasny Trust, Maximilian D. Jansy Trust, Michelle Gerhard Jasny Revocable Trust and Maximilian D. Jasny Revocable Trust purchased 89 Pond View Drive in Oak Bluffs for $550,000 on Oct. 28.

Vineyard Haven

Patricia Jean Loferski and Robert R. Seal II purchased 72 Moonstone Way in Vineyard Haven for $1,080,000 from Ann Cochrane Trust and Ann Cochrane 2022 Revocable Trust on Oct. 28.

John and Connie Amaral purchased 60 Beach Road (Unit 4) in Vineyard Haven for $175,000 from Christine Hart on Oct. 28.

Melinda A. Sansoucy purchased 136 Franklin Street in Vineyard Haven for $600,000 from Laurie J. Hagerty on Oct. 28.

West Tisbury

Danubia Prata and Eliedson Ribeiro purchased 145 Vineyard Meadow Farms Road in West Tisbury for $1,230,000 from Nancy A. Sartori on Oct. 30.

Martha's Vineyard SPARK TradesUp x MVBA

MARTHA'S VINEYARD BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

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Thank you to the Presenters who created unique, interactive and fun experiences for all who attended SparkMV

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South Mountain Company ◆ Trades Up ◆ Vineyard Power ◆ Gannon & Benjamin ◆ WH Russell

Dukes County Audio Visual ◆ Vineyard Wind

Last but not least, THANK YOU to the community who attended and celebrated our community's design and skilled trades people.
Tune in for next year's event date!
We plan to make SparkMV bigger and better than ever!

With Much Gratitude,
The Team at SparkMV and MV Builders Association

Proposed Census Changes Do Not Make Good Sense

By ADAM TURNER

Editor's note: the following letter was sent to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) urges the Census Bureau to rescind both the proposed residence criteria and regulations for demographic questions, which do not appear justified by any objective standard and would clearly diminish the usefulness of Census and American Community Survey data going forward.

The MVC is the Regional Planning Agency (RPA) for Dukes County, MA, which has a year-round population of about 21,000, and summertime population of up to 95,000. We work regularly with local and state agencies to identify and carry out planning initiatives in the areas of housing, transportation, water quality, economic development, and climate resilience. We also administer a county-wide geographic information system (GIS) program, and are one of two RPAs in the state with regulatory jurisdiction over Developments of Regional Impact. Much of our work relies on accurate and consistent data from the US Census and American Community Survey.

The proposal argues that excluding certain residents from the Census will still comply with the Constitutional requirement to count the "whole number" of people in a state. The argument appears to be that by "people" the Constitution actually means "citizens." However, this would go against 230 years of practice, during which the Census counted all people regardless of their status. In addition, the historical references to the term "inhabitant" cited in the proposal (even if that is what the Constitution means) do not appear to necessarily exclude non-citizens.

The proposal asserts that "illegal aliens (among others) should not be included... due to their lack of a sufficient tie and allegiance to the United States." But what constitutes "sufficient tie and allegiance," is defined only by having legal residence (part 60.2(a)). Many non-citizens in the US are devoted members of their communities, pay taxes, provide essential services, etc. They spend the majority of their time working, raising families, and otherwise residing in a state. By longstanding convention, this should qualify them for inclusion in the Census.

This section also leaves open the question of who exactly to include or not include in the count, suggesting that "aliens whose legal status is less durable and indefinite in length than lawful permanent resident status" should also be excluded. The question of how such people would be identified is also unresolved, as the Federal databases referenced are known to be imperfect, and excluding people based on their answers to the Census questions would likely dissuade many from answering in the first place.

Overall, this change would lead to a significant undercount — including many of the poorest and most vulnerable residents — due both to exclusion and the disincentive for people whose status is uncertain to respond at all.

The proposed enumeration period of Jan. 3 – April 1 (part 60.2(c)) would have further negative consequences, as it would create a bias in favor of winter residents who may actually spend most of their time somewhere else. This is especially relevant for the Cape and Islands (including Dukes County) where a significant portion of the population spends winters abroad or in another state. We agree with our colleague Susan Strate, senior program manager for the Population Estimates Program at the UMass Donahue Institute, that a better criterion for determining residency would be where someone spends the majority of days in the six months preceding April

A section asserts that prohibiting questions related to race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation (part 70.2(a)) would increase response rates by not asking people for personal information. However, even if that were true, it would have the consequence of eliminating some of the most important data for assessing community needs, identifying planning initiatives, complying with various state and Federal requirements, etc. Without this data, the American Community Survey would also have no reference point for determining margins of error for its race and ethnicity data. Pursuing other methods of obtaining comparable data would likely be a major administrative and cost burden for state and local agencies. As with the previous section, no research or data are referenced to justify the proposed changes.

Accurate data is essential for towns, cities, states, and the country as a whole to address problems and improve the quality of life. We strongly urge the Census Bureau to continue counting every resident regardless of immigration status, maintain the critical collection of race and other demographic data, and allow the enumeration period to encompass where people spend most of their time.

Adam Turner is the executive director of the Martha's Vineyard Commission.



Tim Johnson

VINEYARD GAZETTE

Martha's Vineyard's Newspaper for 180 Years

Established in 1846 A Journal of Island Life

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Bill Eville, *Editor*
Ethan Genter, *Managing Editor*

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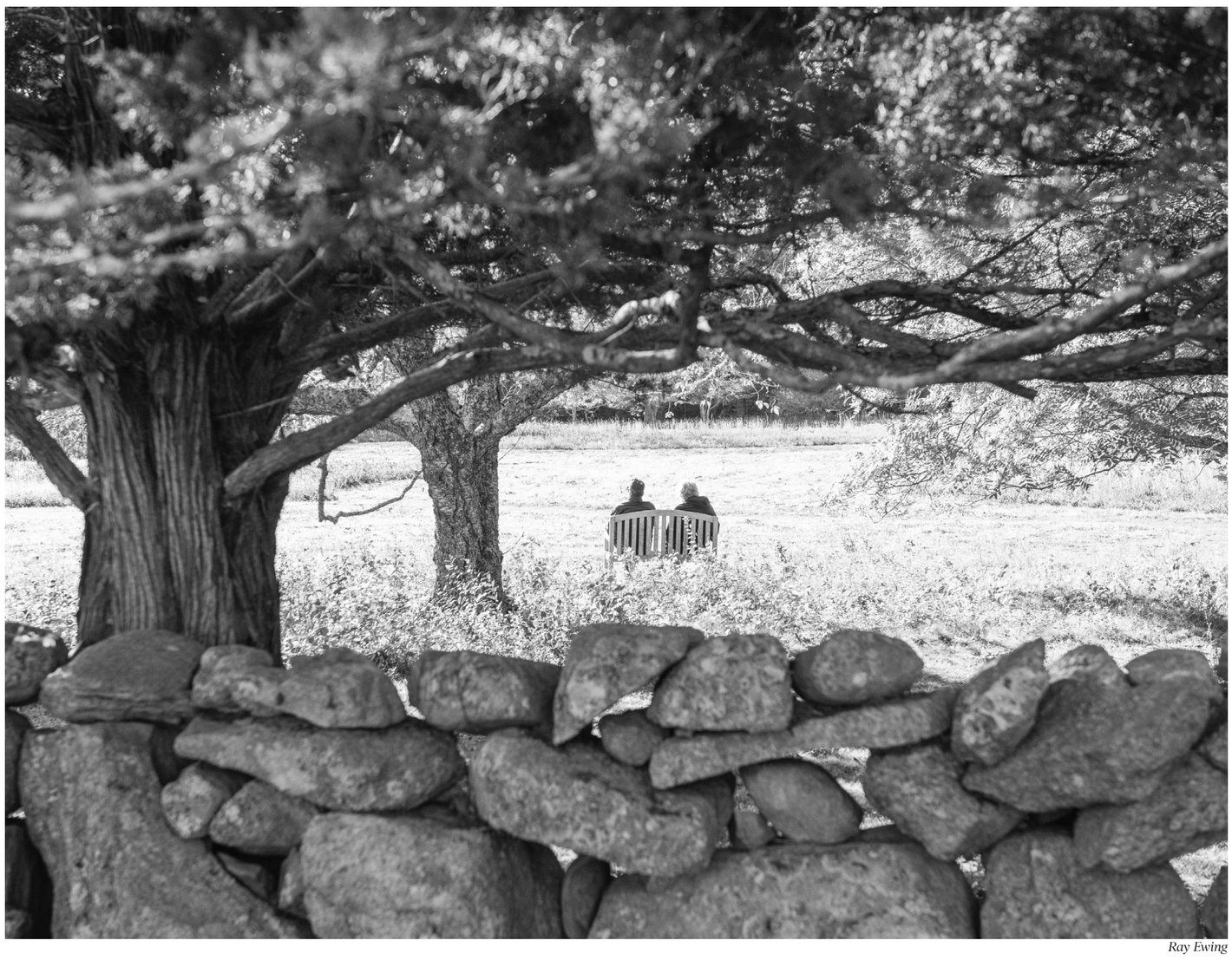
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A Polly Hill Moment



Ray Ewing

Performing Arts Center Is Essential Element

By ABIGAIL CHANDLER

Editor's note: The following letter was read to the high school committee on Monday.

My name is Abigail Chandler. I have been a music teacher at MVRHS since 2009 and department chair since 2018. I am an alumnus of the Edgartown School and MVRHS, where I was involved in the band and choral programs. My own children are students here, one who is currently a sophomore and the other who will be a freshman next year. They have both been involved in Island public music programs since third grade. I have been the Island-wide performing arts teacher leader since the beginning of that program, and have worked closely with my colleagues in the elementary schools in strings, band, theatre and general music.

All of this is to say that I have an intimate knowledge of all sides of the impact performing arts education can have on students. I am joined by my colleagues Steph Aurenz and Charlie Esposito. We are here to express our concerns about the possibility of the PAC being unavailable for performances for the 2027-2029 school years.

We are asking that careful consideration be given to try to minimize the impacts to students in music and theatre, at the high school and elementary levels. The proposed 49-person capacity would throttle these programs Island-wide. We understand that this option is probably the cheapest and easiest for the building project, but we are asking that the 300-person capacity be the goal toward which we are all striving. At a 300-person capacity, we can still have regular publicly attended performances. At 49 persons, we cannot.

At the high school, we use the PAC for performances eight times a year. We present four department concerts where all of our performing groups present the music they have been working on for the 10 weeks of classes prior. These serve as summative assessments in our classes. We also present a musical in February, as well as a play in May. The Minnesingers have a show in May, and the Evening of the Arts involves the PAC and the green room, also in May. Most of these events historically attract more than 300 people, but we could restrict the audience if it meant that we could keep the space usable.

At the elementary level, the All Island Strings and All Island Band programs each use the space twice a year. These four concerts include students from 3rd to 12th grade, involving literally hundreds of students. The beginning strings and band concerts often have close to 100 students on stage at a time. These programs directly feed into the strings and band program at the high school.

One of the hurdles we would face if the PAC is restricted to 49 people is finding a stage large enough to hold all of the performers — there isn't another venue on the Island that could accommodate everyone. An even bigger hurdle in relocating these concerts would be all of the equipment that is used during these performances: chairs, music stands, heavy percussion equipment, choral risers, pianos, set pieces, tech, etc. All of this lives at the high school for use by both the high school and elementary groups. Moving all of this to another venue 12 times a year for two years in a row would cost money in moving van expenses, equipment repair and replacement from damage due to the moves, and rental fees at other venues.

For the theatre program at the high school, a large part of the curriculum is in the technical aspects of theatre: lighting and sound design, set design and build, costuming, marketing, stage management, etc. While moving performances to another space is possible, the time spent in the classroom (the PAC) is meant to be leading towards a live performance where those students are running a show. We have had many students graduate from our program and immediately begin working professionally in these fields. Without the experience of running a large theater during a live performance, our students won't have the hands-on, on the job training necessary to be gainfully employed, on Island and off.

As an Island, our schools are the only show in town when it comes to performing arts education. Our students don't have the option of a community music school or a local college that could supplement an off-Island school in a similar situation. We know this building project is multi-faceted, many-layered, hugely expensive and affects many, many people. We are asking for the easy solution of closing the PAC to school performances to be considered from the performing arts view. If the solution really is to stop having performances, we object wholeheartedly. The performance aspect of the performing arts is not simply a fun time — it is a vital part of the process and of our curricula. It is the thing towards which we aim, the closing of the loop that starts with the composer or playwright, moves to the performer, and finally loops the audience in for the culmination of a human experience not paralleled in any other discipline. The PAC is crucial to this part of the process, and cannot be replicated on the Island.

For the elementary schools, losing PAC performances could start the same snowball effect we saw during Covid that we are just righting ourselves from: fewer kids would start playing and singing, more would quit and most of those wouldn't return once we are open again. Our All-Island band program is already starting to fracture. This regionalized program has been going strong since at least the 1980s; losing the PAC I fear would be its death knell.

For performing arts students, music and theatre are not just nice to have, they are vital to their wellbeing and senses of self. If a student is never given a real chance at experiencing what can be a life-changing endeavor, we are doing them a disservice. Two years in the life of a child is a really long time. My experiences as a student of, and a teacher of, and a parent of kids in, the performing arts on this Island is that what is taught in the classroom is, among other things, skills and techniques; what is learned on the stage is a clearer sense of who they could be in life. It is where our students find out what they are capable of, how to push themselves, and how to lean on their ensemble members. Please help us continue this important work by pushing for the 300-person capacity in the PAC.

Abigail Chandler is the department chair of performing arts at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. She lives in Edgartown.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Derby Necessity

Editors, Vineyard Gazette;

For 81 years, the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby has celebrated the Island's fishing traditions and brought families, friends and neighbors together on its shores. The derby is far more than a fishing contest. It is an annual five-week opportunity for participants to renew long standing friendships, create new relationships and enjoy the beauty of the Vineyard.

At the conclusion of the 81st derby, the derby committee expresses its deep disappointment and concern over the recent injunction issued by Massachusetts Land Court in a lawsuit brought by the Colantonio family, private landowners on Cape Pogue, against The Trustees of Reservations.

The injunction took effect midway through this year's derby. It ended public oversand vehicle access to approximately 2.6 miles of Chappaquiddick shoreline, including some of the Island's most productive and cherished fishing beaches that our participants have enjoyed for generations.

These beaches have long been part of the derby. They are where first fish and derby winners were caught, where experiences and wisdom were passed from parent to child, and where many of the tournament's best stories began.

This year, in the middle of the very event that honors those traditions, anglers were suddenly shut out. The 81st derby and its participants were harmed by this closure. Now that the 81st derby has concluded, we'd say that harm was irreparable.

Our greater concern is the future. As legal proceedings continue, these beaches could remain closed to derby participants and the fishing community forever.

The derby has always supported conservation, responsible stewardship and respect for private property. But public access is meaningless if the public cannot actually reach the beaches. For remote shorelines like Chappaquiddick and Norton Point, oversand vehicle access is not a luxury or a convenience. It is essential to keeping these historic fishing grounds accessible to generations of fishermen, especially our older and less mobile participants. What is being lost is far more than 2.6 miles of shoreline. It is generations of fishing traditions, opportunities and memories.

We hope a path forward can be found that respects everyone involved and restores responsible public access to these historic fishing grounds. Fishing seasons come and go, but the traditions built along our shoreline should endure. Future derby participants deserve the same opportunities as those who came before them.

Sincerely,

John Custer, derby president, Joe El-Deiry, derby chairman, and the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby Committee.

Tree Party

Editors, Vineyard Gazette;

On Saturday, Oct. 17 at 9 a.m., when it was still raining, about 30 Oak Bluffs Tree Stewards (OBTS), all hardy volunteers, planted 10 trees in Oak Bluffs parks. There are now four more trees in Naushon Park, one more in Nashawena Park and five in Sunset Lake Park, including three weeping willows on the southwest side of the lake.

In total, we have planted 71 trees over the last three and half years. All but one (killed by insects) are growing well thanks to the efforts of our volunteers who have watered the newly planted trees three times a week all summer long every year. It is a huge commitment, and we appreciate the Oak Blffs residents who have contributed their time to watering the trees.

The cost of the trees and the planting materials are covered by donations to OBTS and CPA funding. This year, we are applying for CPA funding again so that we can plant 60 more trees; 10 each in the fall and spring for the next three years.

All of this has been made possible by Tony Lima, chair of the Oak Bluffs parks commission, who chooses the tree types and locations, Chris Joyce, Oak Bluffs parks manager, who picks up the bare root trees, digs the holes and provides the planting supplies, and Dana Hughes, parks commissioner, who supervises the volunteer watering and care of the trees after they are planted. Together, Oak Bluffs elected officials, staff and residents are greening up our parks.

A big hurray for all our donors, friends and volunteers. We couldn't do this without all of you.

Thank you,

Kelly Joyce and Peter Meleney

THE GAZETTE CHRONICLE

Horsing Around

From the November 3, 1933 edition of the Vineyard Gazette:

When the last horse chestnut is gone from the tree next to the Gazette, we know that autumn is fading out. There are many attractions implicit in human affairs, such as that of the sea for the sailor, of home for the wanderer, and of man for his mate. But lists of such things are usually made up by strenuous persons, and they always overlook the lure of the horse chestnut for the small boy. Where is there a tree which has lacked its circle of eager youngsters after school? To boyhood the season we have just had should be referred to as horse chestnut days.

Of course the horse chestnut is really useless. A boy won't tell you what he wants of such things (he expects you to know, and you are awed into pretending that you do), and a man cannot remember. Yes, horse chestnuts were used in games, and you could tie then together with strings and send them winging through the air. But how to explain that acquisitiveness in a boy's eyes, that conviction of abiding value that gives you pause?

Cull one out of the fleshy burr and let it lie in your hand, so smooth, softly brown and shiny. Your adult intelligence regards it wistfully, through a mist of years. Good for nothing! But then you hear the sound of boyish voices on the October air, and the rapid beat of footsteps away from a harmlessly pillaged tree. After all, was there ever anything good for nothing which was good for so much?

"A short season but a merry one" was the prediction of the Vineyard scallopers who fared afloat on Wednesday, the opening day, in three towns 250 strong at least, landing between 500 and 600 gallons of scallops before nightfall of the first day of the season.

While there has been some scalloping done in the smaller places, Wednesday marked the opening of the principal beds in Edgartown and Tisbury, while Oak Bluffs joined with the latter town in opening the beds in Lagoon Pond and Vineyard Haven harbor.

The scallopers were abroad at an early hour. The best scalloping was found in the Eel Pond, Edgartown, where many men were ashore with their limit of three bushels before 7 a.m. A few of the boats in the harbor arrived early also, but those from the pond were first. In Cape Pogue Pond a scarcity of scallops was reported, although a fine set of large seed was found there. In general the fishermen agreed that the supply could not last long, especially with the force of men who are taking the bivalves. It was estimated that 200 men or more were out with dredges in Edgartown waters in the early morning, which, although a few less than last year, is fifty or sixty more than the average number to set forth on the opening day of the season.

The largest number of boats reported in Lagoon Pond was forty-seven, most of them carrying but one man, although a few had two. These were all rowboats, power craft being forbidden to operate dredges in the pond, as in the Eel Pond at Edgartown. Nearly all got their limit, although a certain number of amateurs were late in getting ashore. This group of fishermen was composed of men from both Tisbury and Oak Bluffs, and the Vineyard Haven harbor waters were left untroubled.

Contrary to predictions by some of the dealers themselves, the price of the scallops did not drop, but opened at Edgartown at $3.50 a gallon. The catch there ran to a good fair medium, with a light sprinkling of small sized. Both buyers opened at the same price, and both appeared to believe that there would not be any great change unless the catch at Nantucket was heavy.

At Vineyard Haven, where most of the scallopers of Lagoon Pond marketed, the price paid by Sam Cahoon's agent was $3.50 a gallon, while that of L. S. Eldridge was $3.75, the reason given being that the Lagoon scallops were superior in size to those of Edgartown.

Yesterday Sam Cahoon raised the price to $3.75 a gallon in both Edgartown and Vineyard Haven. His decision was made following the receipt of the first shipment from Nantucket, where the scallops ran smaller than those of Edgartown. Eldridge's quickly raised the ante to $3.85 and then $4 a gallon to take most of the day's fishing, Cahoon refusing to increase his offer. At Eldridge's it was said that 270 gallons Wednesday and about 300 gallons Thursday was their buying total, all from Edgartown, besides considerably more than 100 gallons each day from Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs. Captain Brown, for Sam Cahoon, bought 225 gallons Wednesday and 135 yesterday.

Gossip around the markets revealed a belief that the southern catch of scallops will be light this year, which, if true, may possibly cause the local price of scallops to reach new high levels before the season is over. There is no actual support for this belief other than the somewhat singular way in which the scallop market has behaved since the first beds were opened in Rhode Island a month ago.

Compiled by Hilary Wallcox
library@vineyardgazette.com

Shelter Opens With New Face at Helm

From Page One

day. At the foot of each bed is a quilt, colorful and neatly folded. They're made and donated by an Island group called the Silver Quilters, and guests can take them when they leave at the end of the shelter season.

The shelter is equipped with a kitchen, a bathroom with a shower and a laundry room, where volunteers wash guests' clothes. Meals are provided by St. Andrew's, the Hebrew Center, the Federated Church of Martha's Vineyard, Grace Church, the First Congregational Church of West Tisbury, the United Methodist Church and Good Shepherd Parish. Dinner takes place each night at a long, banquet-style table, currently adorned with pumpkins and mums for fall.

While it's warm enough that many people still elect to tent in the woods or live in their car, Ms. Alley expects the shelter will get busier when the temperature drops. If the need arises, she said Harbor Homes can ask the church to put air mattresses in the upstairs level of the parish house.

Some guests choose to stay at the shelter every night, while others come and go. Some don't stay the night at all, but come by for a meal or to pick up fresh socks and underwear.

Guests' trust is important to Ms. Alley.

"We're not here to be punitive...We're here to make sure people are healthy and happy and safe as well as we can, and show them that there are people in the world that care about [them]," she said.

She said it's important to respect that not every person experiencing homelessness will have the same needs, or be interested in the services the shelter provides.



Pictures by Ray Ewing

St. Andrew's offers beds and meals.

"We try to get the word out, but we can't make anybody come to us," she said.

The shelter currently has about 12 volunteers, plus paid staff members who stay at the shelter overnight. One challenge is finding enough staff and volunteers to support the program, but Ms. Alley is heartened that many new people have joined the team this year.

The shelter also relies on donations of items such as bedding, clothing and toiletries. One volunteer donated several sets of AirPods so that guests can listen quietly to the music they like.

"[With] the amount of people that just reach out and say, you know what, we can help, we'll do this and that, it's a comfort to be here," she said.

In March, Harbor Homes teamed up with the Island Housing Trust to buy a building at 515 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road in Tisbury for a permanent overnight winter shelter, expected to open in fall 2027. The new space will include computers, space for social programming, and several bathrooms, showers and washing machines. It will also include congregate housing, a long-term collaborative living opportunity for Islanders who are housing insecure.

Ms. Alley looks forward to the new facility. She said the Harbor Homes team designed it thoughtfully, relying on input from shelter guests who would be using the space themselves.

"I think that's so important, because, you know, sometimes people will build something and they don't talk to the people who are in the space," she said.

One of Ms. Alley's main goals as shelter director is to help shelter guests find stable housing. She's seen many former shelter guests go on to find steady housing and employment, though the Island's lack of affordable housing has forced some of these guests to leave the Vineyard behind.

Despite the challenges of Island living, Ms. Alley is grateful for the Vineyarders who band together to keep their neighbors from falling through the cracks.

"It takes a village, as they say," she said. "I think that we're lucky we live in this village."



Shelter opened on Nov. 1.

Islanders Back Incumbents on Election Day

From Page One

The midterm election saw a strong turnout throughout the day.

All 10 voting booths were filled and there was a line out the door of the West Tisbury public safety building at 8:30 a.m.

"It's more like a presidential election than a midterm one," said West Tisbury town clerk Tara Whiting-Wells.

Ms. Whiting-Wells knew it would be a busy day based on the mood of the country, she said. Preparations began during early voting, which saw about 25 per cent of the Island's 17,000 registered voters participate.

"We had over 700 ballots by mail, and over 200 early voters in two weeks," the West Tisbury clerk said.

Ms. Whiting-Wells also knew that voters would need some extra time to read through the 10 ballot questions this cycle. Ordinarily, voters stand to fill out their ballots but on this election day a chair was provided at each booth.

"I wanted everyone to be able to take their time reading through the questions," she said.

Voters were indeed doing that, heads bent over their ballots, black markers in hand, while those in line read over their ballots once again, or shared good mornings with neighbors.

"People are enthusiastic to vote, which is great," Ms. Whiting-Wells said.

Island residents were largely on the same page when it came to the 10 ballot questions, voting in favor of maintaining existing gun control regulations, keeping adult-use marijuana stores, and creating a new nature fund to support conservation.

Island towns backed question 1, which would open the governor's office and state legislature to public records law. The question had widespread appeal statewide, passing with nearly 86 per cent of the vote. The aggregate for the six towns was 7,798 in favor and 1,205 opposed, according to unofficial tallies.

On question 2, which would allow collective bargaining for employees in the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the Island voted in favor with a tally of 6,279 to 2,608.

Question 3 would have changed the way Massachusetts conducts its primaries. If passed, it would have eliminated political party primaries and instead would have had one central primary.

The question failed overall and Vineyarders balked at the idea, voting 3,734 to 5,293.

Islanders backed the potential for a new statewide nature fund with question 3. The proposal was backed by Mass Audubon and The Trustees of Reservations.

On that question, Islanders voted 6,365 in favor and 2,515 against, and it passed at the state level.

Question 7, which still hadn't been called Thursday morning, was where the Island towns differed.

Aquinnah, Tisbury and Oak Bluffs voted in favor of the measure, which would allow single-family homes to be built on traditionally undersized lots if the municipalities had access to town water and sewer.

West Tisbury, Chilmark and Edgartown voted against the proposal, which would only affect the down-Island towns — West Tisbury, Chilmark and Aquinnah don't have public water or sewer.

As of Thursday, only a few thousand votes separated the two sides at the state level, with 94 per cent of the state reporting, according to the Associated Press.

The Vineyard rejected question 8, which would have rolled back the law that legalized recreational marijuana sales. The measure failed statewide and here it lost 1,833 to 7,369.

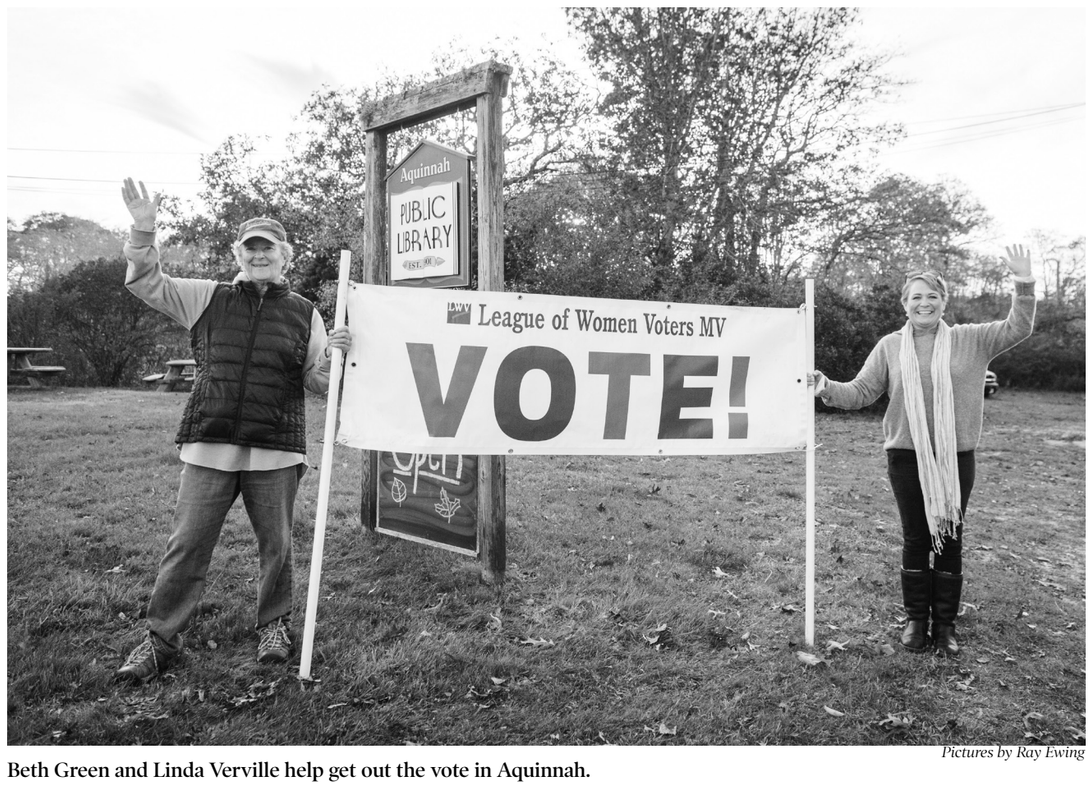
The Island was also unanimous on keeping the existing gun control laws under question 9. The six towns voted 7,300 for the status quo and 2,168 to make changes. The yes vote also carried the state.

Residents voiced their preferences as they came in and out of the polls.

"I have to admit, I voted all Democrat," said voter Stephanie Michalczyk at the Oak Bluffs library after voting. "If you listen to the news, you know why."

Fellow Oak Bluffs voter Susan Burgoyne said she felt ousting Republican leaders would be good for the economy. She suggested Gov. Maura Healey represented the kind of change she'd like to see at the federal level.

"I voted for Healey because I love her," she said.



Pictures by Ray Ewing

Beth Green and Linda Verville help get out the vote in Aquinnah.

Many brought up the future of legal marijuana sales as a ballot issue that concerned them. Question 8 asked voters if they were in favor of repealing the law that allowed adult use marijuana stores.

Lois Adams said that, in addition to wanting to see the state maintain its firearms legislation and pool tax revenue from outdoor recreation for a natural resources fund, she wanted to see purveyors of marijuana products retain access to their livelihood.

"I definitely didn't want to see the marijuana law changed at all," she said. "I felt that would be difficult after people have invested so much money, built businesses.... Anything that takes away their ability to make a living, I don't want to have anything to do with."

Others questioned the purpose of rolling back legislation that has been in place for years.

"Why make it illegal again?" said Keith Dodge. "No point in that."

Geoff Rose, who owns Island Time, the lone marijuana store on the Vineyard, was pleased that voters rejected the ballot question.

"I think the voters overwhelmingly acknowledged that this is a highly regulated industry. That the product is safe, and I think they also recognize that there are tax benefits to both the state and the local towns," Mr. Rose said after the election. "Voters are saying that they want to keep the status quo, and we're very pleased about that."

In Chilmark, Annie Rudner voted in favor of the gun control question because she wanted to see the rules remain the same.

"We have a gun problem in this country, but we also have a mental health problem," she said.

During the day in Edgartown, staff for The Trustees of Reservations held signs along Main street in support of question 6.

"Clean air, clean water, access to nature — these are really fundamental to our humanity and ensuring that we have appropriate resources dedicated to protecting nature in Massachusetts and on Martha's Vineyard is, in my mind, instrumental to our health and well-being," said Darci Schofield, Islands Director for the Trustees. "No matter where you come from or what political party you represent or your place of origin, we rely on just these fundamentals of clean air and clean water."

Pride in civic duty was also evident among voters and poll workers Tuesday.

There were 30 volunteers in Chilmark helping with the counts, which is more than there usually are at local elections.

"There are always more in the presidential elections and midterms because there are so many ballots....This is an A-team," said Chilmark clerk Jennifer Christy.

Ms. Whiting-Wells in West Tisbury had spread the word that a lot of help would be needed to help count all the write-in ballots. In addition to longtime volunteers there were some first-timers, such as Richard Backer who has had a home on the Island since 1985 but moved here full time last year and was eager to help out.

"It's been very busy all day, an exceptionally high turnout," he said.

The voters all took their time processing the ballot questions, he added, "and that was wonderful to see."

In Edgartown, the last voter of the evening had the wrong eyeglasses, but was able to read the ballot with the help of constable Scott Ellis's spectacles.

Mr. Ellis has manned the polling station in town hall for years, helping residents put their ballots in the town's electronic counters.

"I love doing my civic duty, being part of the community and helping people vote," said Mr. Ellis. "I guess that's why I keep doing it."

Lily Echeverria, Bill Eville, Emma Kilbride, Louisa Hufstader and Charles Leitner contributed to this article.



Long lines in West Tisbury were the norm all day.



Trustees staff rally around question 6.

Inspector General Judges SSA Progress

From Page One

Last week, Steamship general manager Alex Kryska said the boat line was looking into getting an outside assessment of the reservation system rollout plan to see if it is plausible. Officials said they wanted to avoid issues that other ferry services, such as the Caledonian MacBrayne ferries in Scotland, have run into with similar booking systems.

The inspector general's letter, which also asked for updates on several of the recommendations highlighted in the inspector general's 2025 report on the website, came up at the Steamship's advisory port council meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Kryska said that the ferry line has not yet responded, but he was in the process of writing to Mr. Shapiro.

"I've been working on that myself, and trying to get insight from others who were here before I was, so that I can provide a clear and complete response to him," Mr. Kryska said.

"I do respect the [inspector general] and the report that he provided, and his continued guidance," he said.

The 2025 inspector general's report, released last December, tore into Steamship leadership for a lack of oversight into the new website that cost the ferry line millions of dollars. The inspector called the situation a "cascade of failures" and made 15 different recommendations for staff, the board and state officials.

Steamship staff are in the process of interviewing candidates for their first staff project manager, addressing the inspector general's concern about other managers being pulled away from their main duties.

"The project manager is a long time coming. We're excited about getting that position filled sooner rather than later," Mr. Kryska said.

Ted Gavin, the Vineyard's representative on the Steamship board, was pleased that the inspector general was keeping a watchful eye on the ferry line and noted the Steamship's progress on many of the issues raised in the 2025 report.

"I was glad to see it," he said of the letter. "I want to know everything the OIG knows. Sunlight is the greatest disinfectant."

Mr. Gavin had previously questioned assigning the new reservation system to current employees, and had raised the potential of delaying the project to ensure that it is working properly when it goes live.

He also agreed with the inspector general's call for policies and procedures to ensure major projects cross the finish line.

"I agree wholeheartedly with standardizing management practices and capital planning," Mr. Gavin said.

The inspector general has asked for a breakdown of the cost for the new reservation system, and any extra money spent on keeping the old one going during the delays.

The Steamship has spent between $1 million and $2 million on the reservation system, and has not gone over the $5.5 million allocated, which includes licensing fees, according to Mr. Gavin.

The inspector general also urged the Steamship Authority to keep the board up to date on work from the previous, abandoned website project, and wondered if that earlier work would be integrated into the new reservation system.

"Both the ultimate value of the initial website project's work and the current cost of the reservation system project are unclear, and the latter's delays are cause for concern," Mr. Shapiro wrote.

Mr. Gavin said he understood the concern, but that the website would be launched in conjunction with the new reservation system. Islanders who attended a budget hearing in Vineyard Haven last week also got a first glimpse of the site, which cost more than $4 million before it was paused.

The Steamship was working to ensure that the reservation system project didn't snowball into a similar situation as the website, according to Mr. Gavin.

"Over my dead body," he said after being asked about that prospect.

The inspector general's letter did have some praise for the Steamship, citing progress on some of the recommendations in the 2025 report and a change in attitude at the ferry line.

"While the SSA's recent ferry cancellations due to lapsed inspections were troubling, the swift response to address the problem as well as the assurance of a full, public review of the underlying issues that led to the failures shows meaningful change from past practices, starting with a more responsive tone from the top," Mr. Shapiro wrote.

Mr. Kryska plans to see the inspector general in person next month.

"He is going to be coming to Falmouth, I believe the second of December, to do a community listening session, and I will be there," he said.

Louisa Hufstader contributed to this article.



Jeanna Shepard

Inspector general (far right) weighs in during an SSA meeting.

Performing Arts Teachers Push Back on Proposed PAC Reduction

From Page One

The different capacity limits all had to do with how people can exit the building safely, according to the building commissioner.

"The more people you add, the more egress that is required," he said.

Music department head Abigail Chandler, joined by music teacher Stephanie Aurenz and performing arts center director Charlie Esposito, asked the school committee Monday to support the 300-person scenario for the sake of the Vineyard's music and theater students.

"The proposed 49-person capacity would throttle these programs Islandwide," Ms. Chandler said, reading from a statement.

"The beginning strings and band concerts often have close to 100 students on stage at a time. These programs directly feed into the strings and band program at the high school [and] there isn't another venue on the Island that can accommodate everyone," she said.

The project's professional team planned to hold a meeting this week with Martha's Vineyard Commission staff, high school principal Bryan Lombardi and superintendent of schools Jaime Curley.

"[They will] identify those areas that we really need to be cognizant of, if we're going to allow the public to come into the building," Ms. Houghton said.

There will also be a meeting with representatives from the Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival, she said.

Mr. Petkus said he was approached by the district to see if there were any scenarios that could keep the performing arts center open during construction. School officials would need to come back to him with formal plans that he would then check to see if they meet the building code.

He said there is potential, but it could be costly and push back construction schedules.

"They are looking at added costs and time," he said.

Still, Mr. Petkus, an alumnus of the school and a musician, knows how important the arts are to the Island. He raised the potential of other venues.

"The room is full of very intelligent, capable people who can think outside of the box," the building commissioner said. "I know we can utilize other spaces."

If the school does consider other locations, it would still be looking at smaller venues. The next largest indoor performance space is the Old Whaling Church, which holds 470 people.

Even if another venue was secured, there would still be logistical struggles, according to Ms. Chandler.

"An even bigger hurdle in relocating these concerts would be all of the equipment that is used during these performances - chairs, music stands, heavy percussion equipment, choral risers, pianos, set pieces, tech, etc," she said. "All of this lives at the high school for use by both the high school and elementary groups."

Moving those items a dozen times a year for two years would be an expensive prospect, she said.

While discussing the issue Monday, Ms. Houghton said the school committee was going to consider all of its options.

"We hope that there will be opportunities to keep the PAC open, but we also need to recognize that adding [egresses] and delaying the construction really poses a significant cost on the project," she said.

Also Monday, Ms. Curley announced the upcoming departure of Island school business administrator Mark Friedman, who will leave in a month to become the director of business and finance for Middleborough Public Schools.

Mr. Friedman, who grew up in Oak Bluffs, has worked in the school system for 17 years, starting in 2009 as accounts manager for the high school and taking on the district job in 2020, Ms. Curley said.

Unlike his job on the Vineyard, Mr. Friedman's new position will be wholly within a single municipality.

Middleborough has about 2,700 students in its five schools, compared to the Vineyard's 2,062 across all six towns.

Ethan Genter contributed to this article.

CALENDAR

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

Friday, Nov. 6

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.

Costume Collection for 2027 Costume Swap, drop off your gently used, clean Halloween costumes for 2027 swap, West Tisbury Public Library, 1042 State Road, West Tisbury, daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free, westtisburylibrary.org, 508-6933-366.

Fleeced! An American Revolution Story, interactive family exhibition explores Grey's Raid and Island Revolutionary history, Martha's Vineyard Museum, daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free.

Friday Kids Crafting, for ages 3 and up, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 56R School Street, Oak Bluffs, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., free, oakbluffslibrary.org, 508-693-9433.

Kid's Music Class, for ages 0 to 5, West Tisbury Public Library, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Holiday Art Pop Up, art in all mediums by over 15 artists, 510 State Road, West Tisbury, Friday, Saturday, Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., agalleryartdesign.com, 508-939-0518.

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

Art Reception: Sarah Moore, West Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Self Care Club, for kids ages 8 and up, West Tisbury Public Library, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

The Metabolic Brain: A Three-Day Immersive Retreat, three day immersive retreat with cooking classes, lectures, and meals, Vineyard Arts Project, 215 Upper Main Street, Edgartown, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 5 to 8:30 p.m., $850 off-site, $1,375 on-site, janbuhrman.com, 508-360-4491.

Celebrating the Harvest in Wampanoag and Jewish Culture, with Brad Lopes, Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., free, mvhc.shulcloud.com, 508-693-0745.

Harvest Art Reception and Potluck, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, 6 to 8 p.m., circuitarts.org, 508-696-6300.

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

Saturday, Nov. 7

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

Baby and Toddler Storytime, stories, songs, scarves, and shakers, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

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

Storytime Saturdays, Martha's Vineyard Museum, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., free.

Harvest Art Exhibition, Circuit Arts' first annual fall group exhibition, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, 24 Church street, Vineyard Haven, Saturday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., circuitarts.org, 508-696-6300.

Lighting the Trail — Book Talk, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

Ballroom/Partner Dance Class, for more information visit: westtisburylibrary.org/calendar, West Tisbury Public Library, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Exploring Printmaking with Allison Doherty, block printing, dry-point etching, mixed-media and monotype, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 12 to 3 p.m., $65.

Featherstone's Annual Holiday Gift Show, 'tis the season for supporting the arts community, daily except Wednesday, 12 to 4 p.m.

Felting Workshop, learn the basics and sculpt pumpkins, Aquinnah Public Library, 1 Church Street, Aquinnah, 12 to 2 p.m.

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

Annual Barn Raisers Day, miniature barn building, Agricultural Hall, 35 Panhandle Road, West Tisbury, 1 to 2:30 p.m., free, marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org, 508-693-9549.

Climate Discussion — Managing our Forests for Climate Resilience, including Wildfire Mitigation, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Children's Ceramic Exploration, for ages 7 and up, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 2 to 4 p.m., $40.

Creative Movement for Birth, a supplemental birthing class for pregnant people and partners, West Tisbury Public Library, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Model Railroad Group, share ideas, tips, projects, and more, West Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 4 p.m.

Sound Bath with Anna Marden, gongs, crystal singing bowls and more, Stillpoint, 20 Stillpoint Meadows Road, West Tisbury, 4 to 5 p.m., $20 to $40, email if cost is a barrier, stillpointmv.org.

Barn Raisers Ball, celebration of the community barn raising, Agricultural Hall, 7:30 to 10 p.m., suggested donation of $10 at the door, marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org, 508-693-9549.

Sunday, Nov. 8

Art and Spirit: Why We Create, in person or online, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, 10 a.m., free.

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

An Exploration of Somatic Meditation, Stillpoint, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., $30 single class, $125 for five-class pass.

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

Glaze 101 Workshop with Sabrina Kuchta, learn more about application, techniques and glaze science, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 1 to 4 p.m., $70.

Second Sunday Jazz: The Scott Avidon Quartet, for more information, visit westtisburylibrary.org, West Tisbury Public Library, 2 to 3 p.m.

Between the Oaks Outdoor Church, intergenerational, outdoor worship service followed by a pizza supper, First Congregational Church of West Tisbury, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.,

Monday, Nov. 9

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

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

Letters of Gratitude: Kids Letter Writing Workshop, Edgartown Public Library, 3 to 4 p.m., edgartownlibrary.assabetinteractive.com, 508-627-4221.

Sound Bath, bowls, gongs and chimes, The Red House Peer Recovery Support Center, 111 Edgartown Road, Vineyard Haven, 5 to 6 p.m., free, redhouserecovery.org, 508-693-2900.

Construction Careers Seminar, hear from leaders in the construction industry, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, 100 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road, Oak Bluffs, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., acemv.org, 508-693-9222.

Hunter Safety Course, Massachusetts Free Hunter Safety Certification Course for first time hunting license purchasers, Martha's Vineyard Rod & Gun Club, 265 The Boulevard, Edgartown, 6 to 8 p.m., free, 508-389-6300.

Barn Raisers!



Ray Ewing

Dancing to the Beat of the Ag Hall

In 1994, more than 300 Islanders gathered to help raise the building that is now home to the Agricultural Society. Afterwards, the community gathered to celebrate with Johnny Hoy and the Bluefish providing the music.

Without knowing it at the time, a tradition was born.

This year, the 32nd Annual Barn Raisers Ball takes place at the Agricultural Hall on Saturday from 7:30 to 10 p.m. as a celebration of that particular moment in Martha's Vineyard's history.

"It has a really wonderful tone of celebration and community," said Laura Lynch, president of the Agricultural Society. "We'll have fire pits and heaters outside, so you can have a cozy fall evening outside, or be in the barn, dancing the night away."

The event is free to the public, but donations made to the Agricultural Society will be accepted at the door.

Johnny Hoy and the Bluefish will once again perform, as they have every year. The event also includes a dessert potluck and the Agricultural Society is encouraging people to bring in their finest sweets.

"There's a really good mix of people that come to the Barn Raisers Ball," said Ms. Lynch. "As we're going into winter, I think everybody always wants something to look forward to."

During the day, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., parents and their children can craft a replica barn using materials provided by the Agricultural Society. Entries will be displayed during the evening's festivities.

For many Island children, the building and its surrounding fields are an extension of their backyards.

"They're like a swarm of bees or something," said Ms. Lynch. "They just kind of move in unison and it's really nice. So, I think it's the ultimate Islander event."

Just as Taste of the Vineyard highlights the start of the summer season, the Barn Raisers Ball celebrates a seasonal shift.

"It's kind of like a transition period too, because Thanksgiving is coming up, so it is sort of a transition into the holiday season," said Ms. Lynch.

For more information, visit marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org.

-Charles Leitner

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

Writers Read, email Niki to sign up: gaialmuse@gmail.com, 7 to 8 p.m., westtisburylibrary.org, 508-693-3366.

Tuesday, Nov. 10

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

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

Seasonal Storytime with Rachel, celebrate fall with stories and hands-on fun inspired by the season, Edgartown Public Library, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Family Movie Day: Coco, popcorn provided, Edgartown Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m.

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

Community Sound Bath, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Homegrown Club Meeting, Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School, 424 State Road, West Tisbury, 5 to 6 p.m., free, marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org, 508-693-9549.

Knitting Group, creativity and conversation, West Tisbury Public Library.

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., free, vhpl.blogspot.com, 508-696-4211.

Wednesday, Nov. 11

Old-Time Appalachian Jam, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 8:15 to 10 a.m.

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

Balance with Kanta Lipsky, a one-hour class based on the movements of Qigong, Stillpoint, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., $10 to $30 sliding scale.

Children's Storytime, West Tisbury Public Library, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Magical Magnets, fun with magnets, Chilmark Free Public Library, 2:30 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.

CSL Test Prep, in person construction supervisor's license prep course, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, 5 to 8:30 p.m., $725, contractorsuccess.com

Construction — Green Building Seminar, hear from local leaders in the construction industry, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., acemv.org, 508-693-9222.

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

Brews Brothers Music Bingo, hear the song, mark your card, sing along, win prizes, Indigo Martha's, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., free, instagram.com, 917-710-1066.

Dinner and a Movie — One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Pawnee House, 6:30 p.m., thepawneehousemv.com.

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, Nov. 12

Little Naturalists, for young children and caregivers, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary of Mass Audubon, 100 Felix Neck Drive, Edgartown, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., massaudubon.org, 508-627-4850.

Painting Still Life with Liz Taft, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., $60.

Drop-in Mahjong, no instruction provided, Vineyard Haven Public Library, 200 Main Street, Vineyard Haven, 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., free, engagedpatrons.org, 508-696-4211.

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

Can You Shuck It: Shellfish Shucking with Chris Look, Edgartown Public Library, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Virtual Art History Series: Feast or Famine — Food as a Subject in Art, led by Meg Black, register on library event calendar, 2 p.m., free, engagedpatrons.org, 508-696-4211.

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

Sewing Lab, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 3 to 5:30 p.m.

Bitesized Bookworms, afternoon storytime for littles with a related snack after, West Tisbury Public Library, 3:15 to 4 p.m.

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

Zine Workshop, Aquinnah Public Library, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Bobby Alfano Piano Concert, for more information, visit westtisburylibrary.org, West Tisbury Public Library, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Art Night — Jewelry: Stamped Charm with Ivry Russillo, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., $50.

Functional Strength with Alyssa Camara, please register for each date you wish to attend, Edgartown Public Library, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Philosophy Cafe Book Group, for more information or to register email gwilbur@clamsnet.org, 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.

Jeremy Berlin Plays Jazz Piano, The Sweet Life, 63 Circuit Avenue, Oak Bluffs, 6:30 to 9 p.m., sweetlifemv.com.

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.

Thursday Night Trivia, with prizes, Indigo Martha's, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

MOVIE LISTINGS
NOV 6-12

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

FRIDAY 11/06
Wicker (R) 4 p.m.
Once Upon a Time in Harlem (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY 11/07
Anne Packard: An Artist's Resolve (NR) 4 p.m.
Once Upon a Time in Harlem (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY 11/08
Once Upon a Time in Harlem (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.
Wicker (R) 7:30 p.m.
MONDAY 11/09
Closed
TUESDAY 11/10
Closed
WEDNESDAY 11/11
Wicker (R) 7:30 p.m.
Behind the Lines (NR) 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY 11/12
Once Upon a Time in Harlem (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.
Wicker (R) 7:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY 11/06
The Cat in the Hat (PG) 1 p.m., 3:45 p.m.
You Can See Everything (R) 6:30 p.m.
Wildwood (PG-13) 12:45 p.m., 3:30 p.m.
Godzilla Minus Zero (R) 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY 11/07
The Cat in the Hat (PG) 1 p.m., 3:45 p.m.
You Can See Everything (R) 6:30 p.m.
Wildwood (PG-13) 12:45 p.m., 3:30 p.m.
Godzilla Minus Zero (R) 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY 11/08
You Can See Everything (R) 2 p.m., 6 p.m.
The Cat in the Hat (PG) 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m.
Godzilla Minus Zero (R) 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY 11/09
Wildwood (PG-13) 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Godzilla Minus Zero (R) 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY 11/10
You Can See Everything (R) 5 p.m.
The Cat in the Hat (PG) 3:30 p.m.
Wildwood (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 11/11
You Can See Everything (R) 2 p.m., 6 p.m.
The Cat in the Hat (PG) 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m.
Godzilla Minus Zero (R) 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY 11/12
You Can See Everything (R) 5:30 p.m.
Wildwood (PG-13) 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by MARTHA'S VINEYARD BANK



Tuesdays *in the* Newsroom

A monthly community discussion series that takes place during the off-season.

GAZETTE REPORTERS ALUMNI PANEL

JOIN US

for a roundtable discussion with former Vineyard Gazette reporters:

The New York Times — **Remy Tumin,** Reporter, The New York Times
THE NEW YORKER — **Maia Coleman,** Reporter, The New York Times
HELL GATE — **Diego Lasarte,** Editorial Staff, The New Yorker
Holly Pretsky, Editor, Hell Gate, *a New York City news outlet*

November 17 | 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Vineyard Gazette Office – 34 S. Summer St., Edgartown
This event is FREE but please R.S.V.P. in advance at **rsvp@vineyardgazette.com**

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CALENDAR FOR EVEN MORE EVENTS!
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Ray Ewing

It's **EASY** and **FREE** to enter your event on our online and print calendars!
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The Complete Martha's Vineyard CALENDAR | VINEYARD GAZETTE MEDIA GROUP
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COOK THE VINEYARD presents
Holiday 2026 Cookie Market
DECEMBER 5, 2026 | 1-3 PM
Inkwell Beach Club, Oak Bluffs
JOIN US FOR HOMEMADE COOKIES, THE STOP & SHOP HOT COCOA CAFÉ, AND HOLIDAY FUN!
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EMAIL: events@vineyardgazette.com for more information
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CLASSIFIED SECTION

Real Estate
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Articles for Sale



FOR SALE, COMMERCIAL

SALVATORE'S
CUCINA ITALIANA
Martha's Vineyard
EST 2019

SALVATORE'S RESTAURANT

ESTABLISHED LOCAL ITALIAN RESTAURANT FOR SALE

A Turnkey Business Opportunity

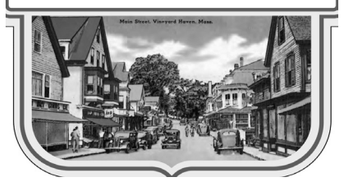
An exciting opportunity to own a well-established Italian restaurant with a strong reputation among both local residents and tourists. This beloved local establishment offers the perfect foundation for a new owner looking to step into a thriving restaurant business without starting from scratch.

Business highlights:
- Established reputation: well-known and recognized by locals and visitors alike.
- Turnkey operation: fully equipped, furnished, and ready for immediate operation.
- Fully staffed: an existing team in place to help ensure a smooth transition.
- Secure lease: current lease with three years remaining.
- Year-round liquor license: A valuable asset offering additional business potential.
- Established customer base: A recognized destination with an existing presence in the local community.

Whether you're an experienced restaurateur or an entrepreneur ready to enter the hospitality industry, this is a rare opportunity to take over an established business with its essential operations already in place. Step in, take the reins, and make it your own.

Serious inquiries only.
For more information please call or email (786)479-4703 or italplat.inc@gmail.com.

ESTD 2023
LA STRADA



LA STRADA

ESTABLISHED LOCAL ITALIAN RESTAURANT AND DELI FOR SALE

A Turnkey Business Opportunity

An exciting opportunity to own a well-established Italian restaurant with a strong reputation among both local residents and tourists. This beloved local establishment offers the perfect foundation for a new owner looking to step into a thriving restaurant business without starting from scratch.



FOR SALE, COMMERCIAL

Business highlights:
- Established reputation: well-known and recognized by locals and visitors alike.
- Turnkey operation: fully equipped, furnished, and ready for immediate operation.
- Fully staffed: an existing team in place to help ensure a smooth transition.
- Secure lease: Current lease with two years remaining.
- Year-round liquor license: a valuable asset offering additional business potential.
- Established customer base: a recognized destination with an existing presence in the local community.

Whether you're an experienced restaurateur or an entrepreneur ready to enter the hospitality industry, this is a rare opportunity to take over an established business with its essential operations already in place. Step in, take the reins, and make it your own.

SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY.
Please call or email for more details:
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LAND FOR SALE
60 20th Street South in Edgartown, 1/2 acre plus with approved septic for 3 bedrooms and well installed. $595,000. Text (508)939-1168.

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EDGARTOWN (KATAMA)
10/1/26-5/1/27. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Rent $2,750 per month, plus utilities. If interested, call Peter at (401)789-3127.

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BEAUTIFUL DISCOUNTED WINTER RENTAL | WEST TISBURY
Huge two-bedroom apartment for $3,000/month. Utilities, trash, and internet. November 1 or later through May 31, with possible year-round rental if it's a good fit. Dog OK. No cigarette smokers. Don't miss out. Text: (310) 213-5472.

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Beautiful one-bedroom plus office. One person preferred. Very spacious. Washer, dryer, Wi-Fi and patio. Utilities included. Lambert's Cove area. $3,000/month. Text or call (508) 939-1414.

WEST TISBURY | WINTER RENTAL
Furnished three bedroom and two bath home. Clean, bright and private. Available November 1 to May 1. $2,000/month plus utilities. Contact Rich: (916) 215-1915.

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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.
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EXPERIENCED HORSE TRAINER WANTED
Care and train two to four horses on a beautiful, down-island farm overlooking a large pond. Must be experienced and qualified. Free room in a one-bedroom apartment plus salary. Salary and terms of employment will be discussed after a review of qualifications. References required. Send resume to: island_aviators@yahoo.com.



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AMERIGAS, EDGARTOWN
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AmeriGas is hiring a detail-oriented Islander to support our Edgartown field operations.
Job Responsibilities:
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- Pull files and documents for our customer service team.
- Pick up permits from town and county offices.
- Enter inventory counts and transfers in SAP.

Qualifications:
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- Martha's Vineyard resident.
- Two years of office experience.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.

Benefits Include:
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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.

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SHERIFF
COMM. OF MASSACHUSETTS
2017
DUKES COUNTY

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

POLICE OFFICER
EDGARTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT
MPTC full-time Police Academy and POST Certified officers preferred. Applicant must be a U.S Citizen, at least 21 years of age, have a high school diploma or equivalent, and possess a valid MA driver's license, as well as a valid LTC or ability to obtain one. Applicant must be able to perform the duties and responsibilities of a Police Officer. Successful applicant will be required to pass a medical and psychological examination, fitness test, and an extensive background investigation. Full-time Police Officer starting salary is $100,391.04 (8-step annual increase pay scale), plus an educational incentive (Associates 6%, Bachelors 12%, Masters 15%), overtime pay, and detail pay. Health insurance benefits, retirement benefits, 10-hour patrol shifts, 4 shifts on - 3 off work week, vacation, holiday pay & accrual, personal days, sick days, longevity pay, and shift differentials.
Qualified lateral transfer candidates are encouraged to apply and may be eligible for placement at a step equal to their current salary or on a higher step on the salary scale based on experience and qualifications.
New Hire benefits also include a $5,000 sign-on incentive. The first installment of $2,500 will be paid as a one-time lump sum on the employee's second paycheck. The remaining $2,500 will be paid as a one-time lump sum upon the successful completion of the employee's one-year probationary period.
Applications are available at the Edgartown Police Station, or on our website: (https://edgartownpolice.org/about/employment).
Please submit a completed Employment Application, cover letter, and resume to:
Chief Christopher Dolby
Edgartown Police Department
PO Box 1118 / 72 Pease's Point Way S
Edgartown, MA 02539.

Applications due no later than 4pm November 30, 2026.

The Town of Edgartown is an equal opportunity employer.

HELP WANTED

ESPRESSO LOVE HIRING
YEAR ROUND STAFF
Espresso Love is looking for people to join our team. Must be available through late fall or year-round. Hiring for baristas, supervisors and kitchen staff. Housing available. Email: jobs@espressolove.com to inquire.

FLANDERS UP-ISLAND REAL ESTATE
PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant to oversee the day-to-day operations of a small Up-Island Real Estate Office. Must have strong customer service skills, organizational skills, leadership skills, and the ability to problem solve. Additionally, manage the Broker's and staff schedules. Flexible hours. Email resume to: flandersre@flandersrealestate.net.

ISLAND AUTISM IS HIRING
Join our team supporting individuals with autism and developmental disabilities on Martha's Vineyard.
Open Positions:
• Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) – Residential & Substitute
• House Manager & Live-In House Manager
• Residential Program Coordinator – Housing Available
Competitive pay and benefits. Seeking compassionate, motivated, and dependable applicants. For more information or to apply, please contact lena@islandautism.org.

ISLAND GROWN INITIATIVE | OAK BLUFFS
Hiring full-time, year-round Food Pantry Assistant Manager.
$28–$30/hour. English/Portuguese preferred. Send cover letter and resume: merrick@igimv.org.

ISLAND GROWN INITIATIVE
HIRING FULL-TIME FIELD MANAGER
Hiring for regenerative vegetable farm. Five plus years farming and tractor experience. $70K–$75K plus benefits. Send resume and cover letter to: tim@igimv.org.

Care • Compassion • Community
HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE of Martha's Vineyard

ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND DEVELOPMENT

EMPLOYEE HOUSING AVAILABLE

Full- or part-time position. $25 - $30/hour. Benefits eligibility varies based on employment status.
Seeking organized, adaptable professional to support our Executive Director, Board of Directors, and Development and Communications team. Responsibilities include administrative support, BOD meeting coordination and minute-taking, social media content and graphics, and assistance with annual fundraising events.
Strong proficiency across multiple software platforms is essential, including Microsoft 365, Zoom, Little Green Light, Canva, and Constant Contact, or comparable tools. Candidates should have relevant administrative and digital communications experience, excellent communication skills, strong attention to detail, and the ability to learn new systems, manage varied responsibilities, and shifting priorities. Nonprofit or event experience preferred. Occasional evening and weekend availability required.
Please submit your resume and cover letter to mdevaney@hospiceofmv.org or visit: https://hospiceofmv.org/careers/ for more information and to apply.

No person shall be excluded or discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. EOE.

HELP WANTED

MVY AIRPORT
MARTHA'S VINEYARD

The Martha's Vineyard Airport has an employment opportunity for the following full-time, year-round Dukes County benefited position:

Business Manager

Duties include: Coordinating administrative operations, procurement/purchasing activities including contracts, asset inventory, airport insurance coordination and claims, employee onboarding and offboarding, and airport and federal compliance requirements, Title VI, ACDBE. Reports to the Airport Director and Assistant Airport Director.

Strong internal candidate.

Starting wage is $52.08/hour based on experience. Application and job description available online at: www.mvyairport.com/employment-opportunities, or at Airport Administration Office/ General Aviation , 71 Airport Road, West Tisbury, MA 02575, (508)693-7022 or gfreeman@mvyairport.com. Experience preferred.
The Martha's Vineyard Airport is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications must be received by **Monday, November 9th at 12:00 PM.**

CURATORIAL ASSOCIATE
MARTHA'S VINYEARD MUSEUM
Do you love history, culture, and bringing stories to life? Join our team as a Curatorial Associate and help preserve, interpret, and share the stories that connect our community to its past.
Interested in being part of something meaningful? We'd love to hear from you.
Visit: mvmuseum.org/careers for the full position details and how to apply.

POLICE OFFICER
TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

The Oak Bluffs Police Department is looking for motivated individuals who want to serve their community and be part of the next generation of police officers. We currently have one open position for patrol officer that we intend to fill immediately.
We are a progressive department that offers great opportunities including specialized units and assignments such as the Motorcycle Unit, Drug Task Force, Tactical Response Team, Community Outreach, School Resource Officer, Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, Detective Unit, Bicycle Patrol, and Accreditation Team.
The minimum requirements include:
Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
Must be a United States citizen.
Must have no felony convictions.
MA driver's license and ability to obtain License to Carry Firearms.
Must be in good health and physical condition.
Applicants who have completed a full-time police academy prior to applying are preferred. We encourage lateral transfers to apply. We are a non-civil service department, and the patrol officers are represented by MassCop.
We offer a highly competitive pay structure including an education incentive, starting salary range
$100,077 - $103,836, with detail and overtime opportunities.
Employment applications and all inquiries can be obtained by calling Lt. Curelli at (508)693-0750.
Oak Bluffs is an EOE, AA. Applications reviewed as received.

HELP WANTED

LIBRARY AIDE
TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS
The Oak Bluffs Public Library is accepting applications for part-time library aides, 3-19 hours per week, Tuesday through Saturday.
Duties include using software to locate and circulate materials, organizing physical items, helping patrons access digital resources and assisting with programs.
Successful candidates will have superior customer service, detail-oriented organizational skills, and ample technology experience.
Hourly range: $20.85 - $24.18.
Interested candidates can apply through the online portal at oakbluffsma.gov/Jobs or email wbrough@oakbluffsma.gov for an application form and for any inquiries.
Applications reviewed as received. Oak Bluffs is an EOE.

THE POLLY HILL ARBORETUM

Join The Polly Hill Arboretum team as our **Education Manager.** This position is responsible for the strategic growth of adult and youth education at the Arboretum and the day-to-day operations of PHA's education programs, including planning, implementation, and evaluation. This involves the development of curricula and supporting materials for our youth education program and the development of a yearly schedule of educational events for adults.
Application deadline: November 16, 2026.
For more information: pollyhillarboretum.org/get-involved/employmentopportunities/.

JEWELRY WELDER | RETAIL ASSOCIATE
Stefanie Wolf Designs, a woman-owned jewelry brand in Oak Bluffs, is hiring for a combined retail sales and permanent jewelry welding role.
Friendly, reliable, detail-oriented, and love jewelry? Training provided. Pay based on experience. Email coral@stefaniewolf.com or stop by.
Details: stefaniewolf.com/pages/hiring.

VINEYARD GAZETTE

EDITOR - THE VINE (PART-TIME)
The Vineyard Gazette is seeking an experienced editor to lead The Vine, a publication delivered seven times a year to every mailbox on Martha's Vineyard. Responsibilities include assigning and editing stories, managing the editorial calendar, and coordinating freelance writers and photographers.
The ideal candidate is well-connected to Island life, with a keen eye for compelling local stories, people, and events. Strong editorial judgment, excellent organizational skills, and the ability to develop engaging content that reflects the Island and its community are essential. Design experience is a plus but not required.
This is a part-time position.
Send your resume to vczarnecki@vineyardgazette.com

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.

OFFICE MANAGER
The Office Manager is responsible for

GRAHAM

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="
    width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>Happy Birthday Graham!</title>
  <style>
    body {
      display: flex;
      justify-content: center;
      align-items: center;
      height: 100vh;
      margin: 0;
      background-color: #fff0f5;
      font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
      text-align: center...
```


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

MARTHA'S VINEYARD BANK
Best of the Vineyard 2026 Martha's Vineyard Magazine
AMERICAN BANKER 2025 Best Banks to Work For

Join the Martha's Vineyard Bank Team!

Martha's Vineyard Bank, a local community bank, has some exciting opportunities available. If you are seeking a career with an organization that has a strong commitment to the communities we serve, then we want to hear from you!

AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES:
Executive Assistant to the President & CEO
Financial Advisor

Please visit www.mvbank.com for detailed information or to apply. We offer an exceptional benefits package including both 401k and pension plan, growth opportunities, and competitive compensation.

Equal Opportunity Employer: Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran.

JOHN KEENE EXCAVATION



We are looking to add to our team!

- **Experienced Deisel Mechanic**
- **Site Supervisor / Experienced Machine Operator**
- **Laborer**
- **CDL Class A or B Truck Driver**

These four positions are year-round and include excellent benefits! Please call our office at 508.693.5975 or email us at office@johnkeene.com

Help Wanted

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.

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR
Vineyard Preservation Trust seeks an experienced professional to manage the administrative office's day-to-day operations, ensuring it is organized, welcoming, and equipped to support the Trust's work. Responsibilities include supporting the Executive Director and board administration, managing office systems, and coordinating across a busy nonprofit that cares for twenty historic landmarks.

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.

BIODIVERSITYWORKS
BiodiversityWorks is a non-profit that promotes biodiversity conservation across Martha's Vineyard through wildlife research and monitoring and community outreach. Our spring and summer initiatives include monitoring beach-nesting birds, tracking northern long-eared bats, spotted turtle research, and invasive-clearing at our headquarters. More information is at www.biodiversityworksmv.org/work-with-us.
We are restarting our volunteer program while still observing COVID precautions, and generally welcome volunteers ages 15 and up. Please contact:
volunteers@biodiversityworksmv.org.

CHICKEN ALLEY THRIFT SHOP
Make new friends. Learn something new. Support your community. Be environmentally friendly. Volunteer at Chicken Alley. Send email to:
chickenalleyvolunteers@gmail.com

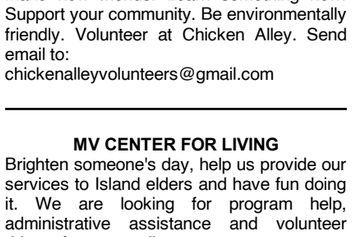
MV CENTER FOR LIVING
Brighten someone's day, help us provide our services to Island elders and have fun doing it. We are looking for program help, administrative assistance and volunteer drivers for our small van.
For more information please call Mary Holmes at (508)939-9440 or email to maryh@mvcenter4living.org.

MV HOSPITAL
MV Hospital is looking for volunteers for several positions within our organization. For more information, please visit our website at:
https://mvhospital.org/charitable-giving/volunteer/

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

Giveaways

CAMPING EQUIPMENT
REI 4HC tent, two backpacks and lots of cooking equipment. Must take all items. Text: (650) 296-8515.

Giveaways

FREE BEAUTIFUL WOODEN QUEEN PLATFORM BED FRAME | HEADBOARD | UNDER BED STORAGE
Must have a truck and two people to load it. Currently disassembled and on the ground floor, in Chilmark. Please email me at: ekw02468business@gmail.com if you can come and get it.

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.

Heavy Equipment

TAYLOR Auction Co. PICK UP: WEST TISBURY, MA

LIQUIDATION OF THE WEST TISBURY HORTICULTURE FACILITY
Online Auction

TIMOTHY PFISTER - #AU342 WWW.TAYLORAUCTION.NET

AUCTION
Lab equipment, LED grow lights, commercial refrigeration, mixers, generator, shop tools and more. Preview: November 4. Auction closes November 5, 12pm - 4pm. Pickup begins November 7.
Online now: taylorauction.hibid.com.
90 Fisher Dr., West Tisbury.

Auto - Sales - Accessories

GREAT ISLAND CAR
- 2011 Navy Blue Volvo XC90 SUV.
- New tires, new brakes and new shocks.
- Needs a little work to pass inspection.
- $5,000 OBO.
- 141K miles.
- (508) 294-4675.

2016 LAND ROVER LR4 | 125K MILES | DARK GREEN | TAN INTERIOR
Goes anywhere. Never wrecked. Has scratches and needs work to pass inspection. $3,000 OBO. Email: sellingthebeast@yahoo.com.

2012 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4DR | 4WD
31,000 miles, six-speed manual transmission, leather interior, power door/windows, trailer hitch, new black soft top. Garaged. No accidents.
$14, 000 OBO. sbartletta@gmail.com.

Motorcycles, Mopeds, and Bicycles



BICYCLE FOR SALE
2024 Boomerang Platinum PEDAGO. In mint condition, low mileage, long range with lock, saddle bags and charger. Original: $3600. Used: $1600.
(707)972-6902.

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

Announcements

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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 November 18, 2026, at 6:40PM** to act upon a request from John Floros of 14 Old South Road Map 9 Lot 58.8 under sections 3.2-2, 3.9-1 (A.1-3), 13.4-1(A.1-2), 13.4-7 of the Aquinnah Zoning Bylaw for the siting of renovations to the existing dwelling, relocation of the driveway, siting of a garage with studio and associated landscaping where total footprint on the lot will exceed 2,000sqft.
Site Visit at 4:00pm – Join Zoom meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87493334137 or dial 1 929 205 6099 - Meeting ID: 874 9333 4137 - Passcode: 985501 - Inquiries can be emailed
to: adminassistant@aquinnah-ma.gov.
oct30,nov6,2t

Chilmark Legal Notices

CHILMARK PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE
Will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 19 at 3:00 PM, in the Select Board Room at Town Hall, to receive public comment on a proposed amendment to the Committee's Menemsha Bulkhead Lot Rules and Regulations.
Questions via email to cstoeber@chilmarkma.gov.
Proposed amendment is posted at: https://www.chilmarkma.gov/1791/Park-Recreation-Committee.
nov6,13,2t

CHILMARK PLANNING BOARD
Monday, December 14, 2026, 4:35PM
Chilmark Town Hall
401 Middle Road
Chilmark, MA 02535

In accordance with Section 5 of Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Chilmark Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, December 14, 2026, 4:35PM** at the Chilmark Town Hall, at 401 Middle Road, Chilmark, MA 02535 to review proposed amendments to the Chilmark Zoning Bylaws as follows:
To amend the Chilmark Zoning Bylaws Article 4 Use Regulations, Section 4.2B Non-Accessory Uses, 6. Wireless Communications, Equipment and Facilities, b., 4. a., 5. Height, 10. Noise and to eliminate 11. Term.
Copies of the full text of proposed amendments are available from the Planning Board office at the Chilmark Town Hall, 401 Middle Road, and by electronic mail. Interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and/or send comment. Please address any comment or a request for copies of proposed amendments to:
Chilmark Planning Board
Chilmark Town Hall
P.O. Box 119
Chilmark, MA 02535
Phone: 508-645-2107
Fax: 508-645-2110
Email: jchristy@chilmarkma.gov
oct30,nov6,2t

CHILMARK
ABEL'S HILL CEMETERY MOWING AND TRIMMING

The Town of Chilmark is seeking written quotes for mowing and trimming of Abel's Hill Cemetery for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2027. Quotes are sought per mowing, for the cemetery as is and as expanded.

Quote forms, scope of work, and minimum qualifications are available from townadministrator@chilmarkma.gov, or at 401 Middle Road, Beetlebung Corner, Chilmark, MA.

Quotes are due by **12:00 noon on Monday, November 30, 2026**, by email to townadministrator@chilmarkma.gov, in person at 401 Middle Road, Beetlebung Corner, Chilmark, MA, or by mail to PO Box 119, Chilmark, MA 02535.

The contract will be awarded under M.G.L. c. 30B, § 4 to the lowest responsible and responsive vendor. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all quotes.
nov6,1t

CHILMARK
Select Board is seeking interested registered voters to serve as their representative on the Dukes County – Programmatic Advisory Council (PAC). Deadline to submit a letter of interest is **12 Noon November 13th 2026**.
Info:https://www.dukescounty.gov/events/17310/
nov6,1t

CHILMARK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Will hold a ZOOM Public Hearing on **Thursday, November 19, 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 on behalf of applicant Squibby LLC. The applicant is proposing to construct and maintain a studo and landscaping within the buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland and Round Pond at 22 Round Pond Road (AP 35-1.12)

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/1554/Conservation-Commission.
nov6,1t

Chilmark Legal Notices

application filed by Vineyard Land Surveying on behalf of applicant Squibby LLC. The applicant is proposing to construct and maintain a studo and landscaping within the buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland and Round Pond at 22 Round Pond Road (AP 35-1.12)

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/1554/Conservation-Commission.
nov6,1t

Edgartown Legal Notices

EDGARTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
On **Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 4:00 pm** the Edgartown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a remote public hearing via ZOOM on the request by Albert & Erica Arcand for a special permit under section 10.1.G of the zoning bylaw to construct a renovation and an addition to a pre-existing nonconforming structure. The property is a pre-existing, nonconforming .70-acre lot at 19 Hillman Drive (Assr. Pcl. 36-120) in the R-60 Residential District. Written comments should be received no later than noon on November 17, 2026. For information on how to use Zoom or to view the plans please contact: zba@edgartown-ma.us or check the town's website.

To Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86487465572

Or Join by Phone: 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 864 8746 5572
oct30,nov6,2t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
In accordance with Sections 5.1.D.e and 10.1.G of the Edgartown Zoning Bylaw, the Edgartown Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 4:30 PM**, at the request of Chris Alley, SBH, Inc., on behalf of Carolyn & Mark Mason to relocate and reconstruct the single-family dwelling on a pre-existing, nonconforming lot partially located in the Shore Zone of the Coastal District.
The subject property is located at 19 Earl Avenue, Assessors Parcel #12A-40.
This public hearing will be conducted using Remote Conference technology, in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023. Interested parties may 'attend' the meeting online by visiting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89031048990, or voice phone call to (646) 558-8656 (when prompted, enter Meeting ID #8903 104 8990
Application Materials may be reviewed online on the Edgartown Planning Board page on the town's website -- https://www.edgartown-ma.us -- or at the Edgartown Planning Board Offices, PO Box 5130, Edgartown, during regular business hours. Please direct questions or comments to Brae Eddleston, Administrator, planningboard@edgartown-ma.us
oct30,nov6,2t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
In accordance with Section 5.5 of the Edgartown Zoning Bylaw, the Edgartown Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 4:35 PM**, at the request of Tiago De Souza, Smart Build MV, on behalf of Suzanne and Lee Feldman to construct approximately 919sqft of new living area and 185sqft of covered entry porch on existing dwelling.
The subject property is located at 25 Thaxter Lane, Assessors Parcel #45-16.28.
This public hearing will be conducted using Remote Conference technology, in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023. Interested parties may 'attend' the meeting online by visiting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89031048990, or voice phone call to (646) 558-8656 (when prompted, enter Meeting ID #8903 104 8990
Application Materials may be reviewed online on the Edgartown Planning Board page on the town's website -- https://www.edgartown-ma.us -- or at the Edgartown Planning Board Offices, PO Box 5130, Edgartown, during regular business hours. Please direct questions or comments to Brae Eddleston, Administrator, planningboard@edgartown-ma.us.
oct30,nov6,2t

Tisbury Legal Notices

TISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Tisbury Conservation Commission will meet to review the Request for Determination of Applicability under M.G.L., C. 131. S.40, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Tisbury Wetlands By-law, on **November 17, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.** at the Tisbury Town Hall Annex, 66 High Point Lane. The proposed project, submitted by Tashmoo Woods Property Owner's Association, is to hand drive ¾ inch stainless steel piezometer tube to approximately 12 feet depth for ground water sampling. The project is located on the shoreline of Lake Tashmoo (Assessor Parcel 33A8). The application and project plans are available for public review at the Tisbury Conservation Office and Cooper Environmental Services LLC.
nov6,1t

TISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Tisbury Conservation Commission will meet to review the Request for Determination of Applicability under M.G.L., C. 131. S.40, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Tisbury Wetlands By-law, on **November 17, 2026, at 4:00 p.m**. at the Tisbury Town Hall Annex, 66 High Point Lane. The proposed project, submitted by Thomas Deutsch, is for the installation of septic system components and related site work. The project is located at 21 Old Oklahoma Road (Assessor Parcel 16A7). The application and project plans are available for public review at the Tisbury Conservation Office and Schofield Barbini and Hoehn.
nov6,1t

Weekly Sudoku and Crossword Answers – November 6, 2026

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

A	L	I	B	I	■	A	P	I	A	N	■	F	A	T	S	■	A	L	S	O
S	A	L	U	D	■	L	E	N	T	O	■	I	D	E	A	■	M	A	T	H
I	N	S	T	A	■	E	N	D	A	T	■	J	U	D	I	D	E	N	C	H
A	G	A	T	H	A	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	E	■	D	O	N	G	L	E
■	■	■	O	O	P	■	■	A	L	P	I	■	■	T	H	A	■	D	O	N
D	I	A	N	A	R	I	G	G	■	A	N	N	A	W	I	N	T	O	U	R
E	S	P	■	N	I	K	E	■	A	M	O	E	B	A	■	■	I	N	D	Y
T	O	O	N	■	L	I	N	U	S	■	R	E	D	■	D	R	E	■	■	■
O	G	L	E	S	■	D	A	P	H	N	E	D	U	M	A	U	R	I	E	R
N	O	L	O	A	D	■	■	T	O	A	■	■	C	O	R	N	■	P	A	O
A	N	O	■	M	A	R	G	O	T	F	O	N	T	E	Y	N	■	A	S	A
T	A	X	■	O	B	O	E	■	■	T	H	U	■	■	L	E	A	D	E	D
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	T	A	Y	L	O	R	■	L	E	M	U	R
■	■	■	I	N	A	■	M	O	O	■	E	L	V	I	S	■	R	I	P	A
L	E	O	N	■	■	J	A	M	U	P	S	■	A	L	L	S	■	N	O	G
I	R	I	S	M	U	R	D	O	C	H	■	C	L	E	O	L	A	I	N	E
B	O	L	■	E	S	S	■	■	H	A	L	L	■	■	M	O	W	■	■	■
E	S	S	E	N	E	■	T	H	E	R	E	I	S	N	O	T	H	I	N	G
L	I	K	E	A	D	A	M	E	■	A	I	M	E	E	■	C	I	D	E	R
E	V	I	L	■	T	R	A	M	■	O	C	E	A	N	■	A	L	E	X	A
D	E	N	S	■	O	M	N	I	■	H	A	S	T	E	■	R	E	S	T	S

Tisbury Legal Notices

TISBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
UTILITY EASEMENT

The Tisbury Select Board will hold a town wide utility easement public hearing on **Wednesday November 18, 2026, at 4:30 pm** at the Tisbury Emergency Services Building, 215 Spring Street. This Public Hearing will review and consider the request of CBN America LLC, who is responsible for installing new fiber-optic cable within certain public rights-of-way located in Tisbury with a goal to deliver modern, high-capacity broadband infrastructure to income-restricted properties while ensuring minimal disruption to the community.
The public can attend in person or participate in the hearing by joining zoom meeting:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87813842013
Meeting ID: 878 1384 2013 Passcode: 433764

Full proposal available upon request in the Tisbury Select Board office, 115 High Point Lane. Contact jgatchell@tisburyma.gov for a copy.
nov6,nov13,2t

West Tisbury Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WEST TISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The West Tisbury Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing under the requirements of G.L. Ch.131 § 40, as amended, and West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw and regulations to consider a Notice of Intent filed by Schofield, Barbini & Hoehn, Inc., on behalf of Edward Beason and Alexandra Styron for a project located at 44 Scotchman's Lane, Assessors Map 25 Lot 10.1, for the construction of a 60 sq ft kitchen addition and a 27 sq ft entry within the Outer Riparian Zone. The public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 5:35 PM** in the Select Board's meeting room at the West Tisbury Town Hall and via remote participation (Zoom). The procedure to join the meeting is provided on the Conservation Commission meeting agenda posted on the Town website (www.westtisbury-ma.gov). For information contact the Commission office at (508)696-6404 or by email at: concomm@westtisbury-ma.gov.
nov6,1t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WEST TISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The West Tisbury Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing under the requirements of G.L. Ch.131 § 40, as amended, and West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw and regulations to consider a **Notice of Intent** filed by Vineyard Land Surveying & Engineering, Inc., on behalf of Brian Athearn, Trustee of Runamok Farm Gift Realty Trust for a project located at 200 Lamberts Cove Road, Assessors **Map 3 Lot 65.3**, to permit the "after-the-fact" addition to an existing barn at Runamok Farm. A 14' x 24' addition was constructed within a riverfront area to serve the existing farm. The public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM** in the Select Board's meeting room at the West Tisbury Town Hall and via remote participation (Zoom). The procedure to join the meeting is provided on the Conservation Commission meeting agenda posted on the Town website (www.westtisbury-ma.gov). For information contact the Commission office at (508) 696-6404 or by email at: concomm@westtisbury-ma.gov.
nov6,1t

General Legal Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Marquenio De Souza Pereira and Aline De Freitas Gomes to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for OCMBC, Inc., dated October 28, 2024, and recorded at the Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 01693, Page 731, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by an assignment of mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for OCMBC, Inc., to U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as trustee on behalf of PRPM 2025-NQM1 Trust, dated June 10, 2025, and recorded at said Deeds in Book 01711, Page 909. 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 P.M. on the 19th day of November 2026, at 129 Dunham Avenue, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:

The land together with the buildings thereon situated in Tisbury, County of Dukes County, Massachusetts, being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

General Legal Notices

Being known as and numbered 129 Dunham Avenue and being Lots 17 and 18, as depicted on a plan of "Aldworth Height's Vineyard Haven, Mass." surveyed in January, 1913 by H.A. Hancox, C.E., Kewbury, NH, which said plan is recorded in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 7, Pages 38 and 39, and to which plan reference is hereby made for a more particular description of the granted premises.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

Terms of sale: A deposit of ten thousand dollars ($10,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to Demerle & Associates P.C., 10 City Square, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
oct23,30,nov6,3t

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRAIL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DOCKET NO. DU26P0131EA
ESTATE OF: WILLIAM AUSTIN PINNEY
DATE OF DEATH: 03/27/2022

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Jonah Muir-Gouin of Miami FL
requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Jonah Muir-Gouin of Miami FL
be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

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 11/24/2026.

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.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Susan L Jacobs, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 28, 2026
Daphne DeVries
Register of Probate
Dukes Probate and Family Court
PO Box 237
81 Main Street
Edgartown, MA 02539
(508)627-4703
nov6,1t

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRAIL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DOCKET NO. DU26P0132EA
ESTATE OF: MARY L. MELVIN
DATE OF DEATH: 07/22/2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Daniel G. Johnson of Stamford
requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:

General Legal Notices

Daniel G. Johnson of Stamford CT
be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

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 11/24/2026 .

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.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Susan L Jacobs, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 28, 2026
Daphne DeVries
Register of Probate
Dukes Probate and Family Court
PO Box 237
81 Main Street
Edgartown, MA 02539
(508)627-4703
nov6,1t

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DOCKET NO. DU26P0128EA
ESTATE OF: DAVID HART STEVENS
DATE OF DEATH: 01/16/2021

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by
Nathaniel Stevens of Fairfield CT
requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Nathaniel Stevens of Fairfield CT
be appointed as Personal Representatives) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

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 this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 11/24/2026.

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.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Susan L Jacobs, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 21, 2026
Daphne DeVries
Register of Probate
Dukes Probate and Family Court
PO Box 237
81 Main Street
Edgartown, MA 02539
(508)627-4703
nov6,1t

Girls Soccer Retains Golden Anchor

By CHARLES LEITNER

The Battle of the Atlantic on the playing fields of Nantucket last weekend saw tough competition but only the girls soccer team emerged victorious for the Vineyard.

The girls team defended their Golden Anchor trophy last Saturday in a 1-0 victory in extra time, with Laney Light scoring the winning goal, on an assist from Leah Thomson.

"[Leah] just made a perfect through ball," said Ms. Light. "Then I had a good touch and just shot and it worked out."

The field hockey team lost a close 1-0 game, and the boys soccer team was defeated 2-0.

The football team, back competing for the Island Cup after having to forfeit last year, had a long day on the field, losing 56-7.

Throughout the girls soccer game, the team's defense was constantly put under pressure. Ultimately, the game came down to intensity, said head coach Matt Malowski.

The field hockey team also fought valiantly, letting up just one goal in the second quarter. The team had six penalty corners and senior goaltender E.B. Carestia made 12 saves, earning her over 140 saves all season.



On the field hockey pitch.

The boys soccer team gave up one goal early and another late in the game.

"It's unfortunate that today didn't go our way," said head coach Rodrigo Honorato. "Congratulations to Nantucket for winning the Battle of the Atlantic."

All the teams were supported by a robust fanbase who made the ocean crossing and continued to cheer the teams until the final moments of each game.

"What are our school athletics without the support of parents, friends and family," said Liane Dixon, the head coach of the field hockey team. "I think they could definitely hear it and feel the positive energy, especially once we started rolling. It was pretty invaluable, to be honest."



It was a rough day on the gridiron.



Boys soccer lost a tight 2-0 game.



Pictures by Tim Johnson

Girls soccer was the only victorious team last Saturday at the Battle of the Atlantic.

TIDE AND TIME

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

Source: National Ocean Survey and Tidal Current Tables

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All Outdoors

An Enduring Legacy

By SUZAN BELLINCAMPI

There are so many reminders of her.

A sunflower, the forgetting of complicated plant names that she taught me (for example, Lespedeza and Crocosmia), eggplant and ice cream (yes, please), lentils (no way), art, knitting, flowers, farming, creativity, friendship and service to others all bring forth memories of Susan Silva.

A true Vineyarder, Susan was a woman who could do almost anything — the kind of person that embodied the goodness, independence and can-do spirit of the Island. I met her at the turn of this century, and was immediately captivated, wanting to learn from her, hang out with her and be more like her.

Susan died on her own terms last January and leaves behind an army of admirers and a large legacy. A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Grange Hall in West Tisbury.

Susan's spirit nudged me recently when I passed her driveway and saw some leaves so enormous that I had to pull over to get a closer look.

Those giant leaves were attached to a small tree that didn't seem to belong on the roadsides of West Tisbury.

Identified as Bigleaf Magnolia, this tropical-looking plant seemed oddly out of place among the local oaks, brambles, and shrubby undergrowth. How this warm weather wonder appeared at Sue's driveway entrance makes perfect sense now that I have dug into the tree's origins.

Another exceptional woman is credited for bringing this southern star to our northern climes. Yes, it was the determined Polly Hill who is responsible for Bigleaf Magnolia's existence on Martha's Vineyard. Though they said it couldn't thrive here, Polly set out to prove them wrong,

She brought the first fruit here in 1960, planted it and, over time, selected the strongest specimens that acclimated to our Island climate. Polly named hers, after officially describing and registering it as a selection, Magnolia macrophylla 'Julian Hill,' after her husband, and pronounced it "too tropical for words for Martha's Vineyard."

Nevertheless, she persisted and continued to grow plants that shouldn't or formerly couldn't survive here. That original Magnolia fruit produced eight seedlings, of which two survived to be planted, and one of those took. That stalwart specimen became a tremendous tree and can now be seen at Polly Hill, next to the nursery, living large and, also, spreading its seeds Islandwide (with some help of course).

Those luscious leaves can grow to two feet long, the largest of any deciduous trees. The flowers, which bloom from the middle of June through the end of July, are also immense, boating 18-inch fragrant blossoms.

Polly Hill gave some plants away, as did staff over the years, and Susan and others were given (and are still nurturing) offspring of this majestic magnolia. Some stalwart Polly Hill volunteers received them and I suspect that is how Susan got hers, for she was dedicated to her work there.

Former Polly Hill Arboretum director knew both women, sharing that "their love language was plant propagation." Like that original magnolia, Susan spread herself around the Island, leaving seedlings of her creativity, art and talents everywhere. Her life will be celebrated this weekend.

Magnolia flowers symbolize beauty, patience, love and inner strength, qualities that Susan also possessed. And while many of us will take a few hours on Sunday to share stories, affection for and remembrances of Susan, memories of her will continue to pop up everywhere, like the Magnolia, reminding us (as Author Kat Savage explained) "Life is simply a mixture of mayhem and magnolias, so embrace this gentle riot and gather flowers along the way."

Suzan Bellincampi is director of the Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary in Edgartown, and author of Martha's Vineyard: A Field Guide to Island Nature and The Nature of Martha's Vineyard.



Suzan Bellincampi

Bigleaf Magnolia.

Bird News

Western Stray

By ROBERT CULBERT

Scott Stephens saw either a rufous or an Allen's hummingbird at his Vineyard Haven yard on Oct. 28 as it fed at his pineapple sage. Although they are hard to identify, he says it was "definitely not a ruby-throated!" Please keep your eyes out for any hummers, as this is the season for western strays, and photograph it if possible to help with identification.

A couple more species have returned for the season. Bob Shriber spotted 21 harlequin ducks at Squibnocket Beach on Oct. 29, and Nancy Weaver found 26 harlequins there the next day.

John Nelson observed a female redhead at the Katama boat ramp on Oct. 30, along with 14 red-breasted mergansers (the highest count so far this season). Bob Shriber found one winter wren along Meeting House Road on Oct. 26.

Other notable waterfowl sightings include Nancy Weaver finding two hooded mergansers at Cove Meadow Preserve on Oct. 25. I found one ruddy duck on Lilly Pond at Squibnocket Pond Reservation South on Oct. 29, and Nancy Weaver observed it there the next day. Nancy Nordin and Susan Whiting had a high count of 44 bufflehead from Tisbury Marketplace on Oct. 29, and Olsen Houghton located a wood duck, one hooded merganser and an American wigeon at Mink Meadows Pond on Oct. 31.

Nancy Weaver spotted maybe the last three lingering American golden plovers within a flock of 70 black-bellied plovers, as well as three American oystercatchers, six semipalmated plovers, 12 greater yellowlegs, four ruddy turnstones and 40 sanderlings at Cove Meadow Preserve on Oct. 25.

Nancy Nordin and Susan Whiting observed 28 black-bellied plovers, four greater yellowlegs and 30 sanderling at Tisbury Great Pond on Oct. 25.

Bob Shriber and Nancy Weaver watched 10 killdeer at Thimble Farm on Oct. 26, Lisa Maxfield counted 22 killdeer at Ocean Park on Oct. 30, John Freedman saw two lesser yellowlegs on Upper Chilmark Pond on Oct. 30, and John Nelson found a flock of 18 greater yellowlegs at Eel Pond on Oct. 30.

Tree swallows are also lingering. Nancy Weaver estimated 300 were at Cove Meadow Preserve on Oct. 25, and Prudy Burt figured there were 500 near Black Point Pond on Oct. 27.

Ruby-crowned kinglets are lingering. Bob Shriber spotted one in Aquinnah on Oct. 24 and three on Oct. 27 and Oct. 28. He also saw one along Meeting House Road on Oct. 26. Nancy Weaver joined him and they located one at Thimble Farm on Oct. 26, and Nancy found one at Pancake Hollow on Oct. 30.

Golden-crowned kinglets will stay through the winter. Nancy Nordin located two at her home on Oct. 24, Bob Shriber had one in Aquinnah on Oct. 27 and Oct. 28, and Thaw Malin and Cynthia Bloomquist observed one at their home on Oct. 28.



Lanny McDowell

Field sparrow.

Bob Shriber saw four hermit thrushes in Aquinnah on Oct. 27, and Nancy Weaver spotted two at Pancake Hollow in Aquinnah on Oct. 30.

Eastern bluebirds are another thrush. On Oct. 24, Nancy Nordin watched three bluebirds and five cedar waxwings at her home and three bluebirds at Katama Farm. Nancy Weaver counted eight bluebirds at Thimble Farm on Oct. 26.

Nancy Nordin observed three yellow-bellied sapsuckers at her West Tisbury home on Oct. 24. Bob Shriber found one sapsucker in Aquinnah on both Oct. 27 and 28, and Thaw Malin and Cynthia Bloomquist observed one sapsucker at their home on Oct. 28.

Northern flickers are also around. Nancy Nordin had two at her home on Oct. 24, Nancy Weaver watched one at Tea Lane Farm on Oct. 26, Bob Shriber watched one in Aquinnah on both Oct. 27 and Oct. 28, and I located two at the Gay Head Cliffs and one at Squibnocket Pond Reservation South on Oct. 29.

Blackbirds are passing through. Nancy Nordin saw two eastern meadowlarks at Katama Farm on Oct. 24, Bob Shriber counted 12 brown-headed cowbirds in Aquinnah on Oct. 24 and one red-winged blackbird in Aquinnah on Oct. 27.

A variety of sparrows were reported this week. Bob Shriber found the only two field sparrows in Aquinnah on Oct. 28. There were two sightings of dark-eyed juncos on Oct. 29. I spotted three at the Gay Head Cliffs and Cynthia Bloomquist and Thaw Malin observed two at their home.

There were five sightings of chipping sparrows. Jennifer Slossberg counted six at Tea Lane Farm on Oct. 25, Nancy Weaver saw one at Tea Lane Farm the next day, Bob Shriber and Nancy Weaver found three at Thimble Farm on Oct. 26, and Bob Shriber observed one in Aquinnah on both Oct. 24 and Oct. 28.

White-throated sparrows were seen even more frequently, with nine sightings. In Aquinnah (Bob Shriber, one, Oct. 24 and two on Oct. 28), Gay Head Cliffs (me, two, Oct. 29), East Pasture Way (Bridget Dunnigan and Sea Williams, four, Oct. 24), Squibnocket Pond Reservation South (me, three, Oct. 29), Tea Lane Farm (Nancy Weaver, one, Oct. 26), Meeting House Road (Bob Shriber, one, Oct. 26), Thimble Farm (Bob Shriber and Nancy Weaver, one, Oct. 26), and Katama Farm (Nancy Nordin, two, Oct. 24).

Of course, the year-round song sparrows are just about everywhere with even more sightings.

There were four sightings of great blue herons. On Oct. 25, Nancy Weaver spotted one at Cove Meadow Preserve, Susan Whiting and Nancy Nordin observed one at Tisbury Great Pond, and Ray Ewing found two at Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary. Nancy Weaver saw one at the pumping station on Oct. 29.

Finally, Nancy Weaver had the only snowy egret sighting, one at Eddy's Island on Oct. 28.

Please email your sightings to birds@vineyardgazette.com.

Robert Culbert is an ecological consultant living in Vineyard Haven.

The Vineyard Gardener



A Cup of Tea

By LYNNE IRONS

By the time this hits the newsstands on Friday, I'm hoping we will get some rain. It's been several weeks since we have had a drop. Don't get me wrong, we have had a series of beautiful days but I am beginning to worry about the gardens and trees.

Many of the job sites no longer have water available at the outdoor spigots, so I hesitate to divide and move some of the perennials.

At my house, I spent time replacing the rubber washers in all of the hoses. There were several that had been leaking and I'm loathe to waste water. This behavior goes back to childhood. Our water system in Rew, Pa. was iffy at best. We hauled drinking water from a spring down the mountain and my parents constantly admonished us about waste. I still turn the water off even when brushing teeth.

I know I've mentioned this before but it bears repeating. When the nuclear plant melted down at Chernobyl in 1986, I became concerned about worldwide water contamination. I canned many quarts which, oddly, I still have on top shelves in the pantry. During power outages, I have it as a back-up.

My children say, "She's busting out the Chernobyl water." They threaten to serve it at my funeral.

How I digress.

The sugar maple has dropped most of its leaves. I raked them from the driveway and covered the perennial beds with them. They are so pretty and the plants and soil are all cozy for winter.

Every year for Mother's Day, my son Jeremiah gives me a little shrub or tree. Over the years, because nature is grand, and time, as is it's custom, moves along, they have grown to respectable size.

One of my favorites, viburnum carlcephalum, AKA fragrant snowball, sadly died. It was over 15 feet tall and perfumed the entire property in spring.

Wonder of wonders, a tiny shoot about a foot tall, has sprouted from the dead stump. I'm still on the search for a larger replacement. None of the nurseries seem to carry that variety.

A trip to the Vineyard Haven post office is like being in a Hitchcock movie. There is an inordinate number of crows. I wonder what the big attraction could be?

The lettuce, spinach and beet greens are coming right along in the fish totes that I planted less than a month ago. Already a couple of salads have been harvested (see photo).

I'm trying to think of a politically correct euphemism for the dispatching of the cornish game hens that arrived via the US mail a couple of months ago. It will be nice to fill the freezer and stop purchasing expensive organic feed. I'm actually amazed that store-bought food is so cheap given the amount of time and money to produce it.

Because I write on Tuesday afternoons, none of the polls have closed. I'm about to make a cup of tea so I can stay up past my bedtime to watch the results come in. The pundits have been talking endlessly about possible outcomes.

Here it is — now the middle of the night. I guess a late afternoon cup of tea does the job. I watched TV long enough to go to bed happy.

It remains to be seen how Washington reacts in the morning.



Violet Southwick

Lettuce, spinach and beet greens are still flourishing.

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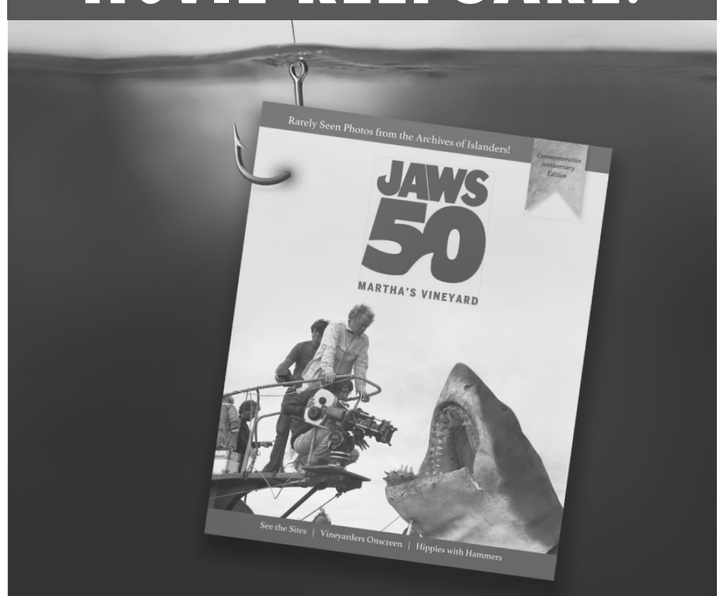
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