

VOICES marks MLK Day: A sit-down with the Island's new NAACP president **B14**

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Revolution Wind allowed to resume construction

A federal judge rules the offshore wind farm can restart work in spite of national security concerns from federal agencies.

BY HAYLEY DUFFY

Another attempt by the federal government to step on the toes of the offshore wind industry faltered after a judge Monday granted Revolution Wind, an offshore wind farm located 12 miles off the coast of Aquinnah, a stay and preliminary injunction, which allows the project to restart construction. It represents a legal reversal of a suspension order issued by federal officials just last month.

Royce C. Lamberth, a federal judge in the District Court for D.C., wrote in court documents after the matter was heard in court Monday: "Revolution Wind has demonstrated likelihood of success on the merits of its underlying claims, it is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of an injunction, the balance of the equities is in its favor, and maintaining the status quo by granting the injunction is in the public interest."

He ruled against the Dec. 22 federal suspension that would've paused any progress on the project for at least three months, and even threatened cancellation of the project.

But the federal suspension and subsequent court decision are only reminders that the offshore wind industry potentially teeters on the edge of extinction, allowed to continue, despite yearslong approval processes, only by the mercy of the current federal government.

This awkward two-step dance — stop-work orders and suspensions, and then stays and preliminary injunctions — between offshore wind developers and President Donald Trump's administration seems to be almost choreographed by now. The federal government halts construction, and developers take the matter to the courts, which often allow them to restart. There's always the risk that the federal government comes back after them.

Progress of the Revolution Wind project alone has moved forward and back- *Continued on A9*



A breach was formed between Chappaquiddick and Norton Point following a New Year's Day squall.

EDGARTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chappaquiddick breach expected to remain through summer

Town officials and environmental professionals are monitoring the situation. BY EUNKI SEONWOO

A sudden and dramatic squall that landed on the Island on New Year's Day caused a break through of the thin spit of land between Chappaquiddick and Norton Point, and the wide breach is expected

to remain at least through the summer. Estimated at 500 feet wide, the breach was discovered by Edgartown town park officials on New Year's Day in the aftermath of the unusually powerful waves

and wind that came with the squall. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, the sudden weather change brought heavy snow, winds blowing at around 20 knots, *Continued on A7*

John Forté, celebrated recording artist, dies

Obituary:

BY THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD TIMES

John Forté, a Grammy-nominated recording artist and loving father of two young children, died suddenly in his home in Chilmark on Monday. He was 50 years old.

His death was confirmed by Chilmark Police, and a precise cause of death has not yet been officially determined. Forté was beloved among the community of musicians on the Island, and anyone who came across his path remembers him as generous, empathetic, and brilliant.

On an Island already grieving the tragic deaths of four legends over the past few weeks, Forté's death has compounded a collective wave of grief and shock, particularly *Continued on A8*



John Forté performs at Circuit Arts "Live from the Grange" series in July 2023.

DANIELLE MULCAHY/CIRCUIT ARTS

Remembrance:

BY CHARLES SENNOTT

The road John Forté traveled brought him from Brownsville, Brooklyn, where he was born, to Chilmark, where he died suddenly on Monday.

It led him on an extraordinary, half-century journey. Along that road, he navigated New York's toughest neighborhoods and made his way to elite academic institutions. It took a celebrated turn down city streets of hip-hop in its heyday, bringing him to a red-carpet walk at the Grammys. It sent him on a detour down the corridors of a prison and *Continued on A8*



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Vineyarders rally against Venezuela strike

Protesters also condemn an ICE agent's killing of a Minneapolis woman. **BY FIRSEUNKI SEONWOO**

Vineyarders who have been expressing their ire at the Trump administration for months through No Kings protests at Five Corners in Vineyard Haven have added a new call in response to the recent attack in Venezuela: "No wars."

Antiwar music and honking horns from passing cars filled the air at the intersection last Thursday afternoon as roughly 100 protesters waved signs calling for a stop to violence — messages included "Blood on their hands" and "Fight U.S. imperialism" — and to condemn the Trump administration's Jan. 3 strike in South America, which resulted in civilian deaths and the seizure of Nicolás Maduro, the president of Venezuela.

But protesters didn't just come out in opposition to the U.S. strike in Venezuela. They expressed anger at the conduct of federal officials under the Trump administration, especially over the death of 37-year-old Renée Good, who was shot and killed by a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent in Minneapolis on Jan. 7. While the protest was originally named "No Wars, No Kings," Carla Cooper, one of the protest organizers, said the gathering became a wider admonishment of the administration this week.

"It's an avalanche of criminality going on right now," Cooper said of the Trump administration. "You plan one rally, and in the interim, something else terrible happens."

In a culmination of escalating tension between the two countries, the U.S. struck the Venezuelan capital of Caracas shortly into the new year, and captured Maduro and Venezuelan First Lady Cilia Flores, who've both since been arraigned in New York on multiple charges that include narcoterrorism. President Don-

ald Trump also posted on Truth Social on Jan. 9 that he canceled a "second wave of attacks" after Venezuela began releasing a large number of political prisoners as a sign of "seeking peace."

Venezuelan oil also fell under U.S. control after the attack. U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright said at a Goldman Sachs energy conference in Miami on Jan. 7 that the U.S. will "let the oil flow," and sell the Venezuelan oil market to U.S. refineries as well as globally. He said funds will be given back to Venezuela in this process.

But protesters on the Island were not convinced of claims of goodwill by the Trump administration. Cooper said this attack is about "money and oil and a distraction from the Epstein files."

"This administration can't even run this country, and they're going to pillage Venezuela for their natural resources and pretend to care about the Venezuelan people," she said.

There's been a mixed reaction among Venezuelans. While some were worried about the repercussions of such a move, others celebrated the deposition of Maduro, who's been blamed for worsening Venezuela's economic collapse, resulting in mass migrations, hyperinflation, and shortages of food and medical supplies. Maduro's rule over Venezuela has also been marked by oppressive tactics to silence dissent, and his re-election to the presidency in 2024 is widely considered to be illegitimate. But there's also been dismay over a lack of turnover at the top of Venezuelan leadership outside of Maduro.

Cooper said there was "no doubt Maduro was a bad guy" as an oppressive leader, but she is still against the U.S. flying in to meddle with another country. She said a diplomatic path

should have been pursued, instead of sending "taxpayer-funded bombs" and "kidnapping a foreign leader."

"This country hasn't had success engaging in regime change," she told The Times. "It never leaves the native population better. It creates instability and civil war."

Karen English, a member of Indivisible Martha's Vineyard and the local chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice, said at Five Corners that protesters needed to be "prepared with every cell in our body ... and speak our mind."

"I have certain privileges that were given to me in my life growing up," English said. "A lot of people don't have those."

For some protesters, the Thursday rally was a continuation of years of pushing against various government actions. English said she protested the Vietnam War while attending Boston University, and Barney Zeitz, a Vineyard Haven artist, said he's long protested against the U.S. government on various issues, from the Vietnam War to nuclear weapons to the Iraq War.

"You name it, it's everything ... for myself, it's choose your thing you want to be upset about," Zeitz said. "I've been dealing with this for 55 years, my whole adult life." **MVT**



Protester's take to five corners for Venezuela.

NICHOLAS VUKOTA

news in brief

Steamship summer reservations begin for Islanders

The Steamship Authority has announced opening dates for summer reservations, and it's already begun for Vineyarders.

The local ferry line began accepting reservations for the Head Start program on Tuesday morning, which allows year-round and seasonal Vineyard and Nantucket residents the opportunity to make up to 10 summer reservations per customer before the general openings begin. Trips available for reservation during this time are from May 14 through Oct. 22.

Head Start is open to customers in either the excursion program for year-round Islanders or preferred program for seasonal residents, which provide preferential vehicle spacing. Year-rounders with excursion accounts also receive discounts for vehicle reservations.

According to a press release from the ferry line, Head Start provides Islanders "more assistance in traveling back and forth to the mainland for essential needs during the summer season, when vehicle reservations are more difficult to obtain."

The first week of Head Start will go on until Jan. 19, and will be exclusively for excursion and preferred program customers to book for their accounts only. Reservations made during this week cannot be made in another individual's name, and cannot be transferred to another person. Starting on Jan. 20 at 8 am, up to half of the 10 Head Start reservations Islanders reserve can be made in another person's name. Of those five, three can be transferable to another customer for a later trip.

The Head Start reservation period lasts until Jan. 26, and more information can be found at steamshipauthority.com/2026HeadStart.

The general opening for summer reservations to the Vineyard will be on Feb. 3 at 8 am. Reservations can be made online or by mail, and reservations made by mail will begin to be processed starting on Feb. 3. Summer reservations can also be made by phone or in person starting on Feb. 10 at 7:30 am.

According to the release, the authority will

have "extra technical support onsite, and the reservation office will be available to provide customers with assistance with login passwords or PINs."

The reservation office can be reached at 508-477-8600, and its mailing address is 509 Falmouth Road, Suite 1C, Mashpee, MA 02649.

Additionally, to avoid tech issues that have hindered the summer reservation process in previous years, the Steamship stated its information technology department and vendors have been conducting "increasingly demanding load tests in preparation for the upcoming reservation opening period." For those making reservations online, a virtual waiting room will be utilized to hold customers' place in line until a transaction can be made.

For more information on reservations, visit steamshipauthority.com/reservationtips.

County hires new health and human services director

The office that assists Island residents with state and federal services such as food assistance and health insurance is being overseen by a new director, one who county officials say they hope will bring innovations to the public programs that assist thousands of Vineyarders.

Diane Conroy-LaCivita, a recent Island resident with experience in nonprofits, immigrant safety, and senior services in New York, was appointed to the lead position at Dukes County Health and Human Services on Jan. 5. Conroy-LaCivita moved to the Vineyard full-time in 2025 with her husband Joseph LaCivita, who was hired for the role of Tisbury town administrator last year.

Conroy-LaCivita is set to manage the Dukes County Health Care Access and Public Benefits Access departments, as well as oversee emergency fund distributions and other public programs.

For Island residents who are enrolled in Massachusetts Health Connector insurance or federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, along with other public assistance, the Dukes County offices are

the local liaisons for residents who need any type of help navigating these programs.

When changes were happening in the health insurance market this fall, Dukes County Health Access Specialist Sarah Kuh saw a massive spike in calls from Islanders who were looking for guidance. And in October, Wendy Maseda, the public benefits caseworker for SNAP recipients on the Island, said she navigated through dozens of calls and emails a week after the food assistance program was abruptly frozen.

Dukes County Manager Martina Thornton said in a press release that she's looking forward to the new management by Conroy-LaCivita. Thornton said there's a "proven track record" in Conroy-LaCivita's professional history of collaboration with community organizations and innovative solutions for programs.

"I am confident that she has the right skill set needed to bring a professional level of services to our community and be effective in her new role," Thornton said in the release.

Conroy-LaCivita brings 35 years of leadership experience to the role. Most recently, she was the executive director of Colonie Senior Services Centers in Albany, N.Y., a nonprofit that provides services like healthy activities programming, housing, and transportation to senior citizens.

Prior to her role in senior services, Conroy-LaCivita was the executive director of the International Center of the Capital Region, a nonprofit in Troy, N.Y., that organizes international outreach events and focuses on positive assimilation of immigrant communities in the state.

Driver who crashed into Third World Trading given probation

Theodore Bennett, the Edgartown man who crashed his truck into the clothing store Third World Trading Co. and another property on Circuit Avenue in Oak Bluffs in November, appeared in Edgartown District

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news in brief

Court on Dec. 22 for a discovery compliance and jury election, where he was sentenced to 18 months of probation with a number of conditions.

Bennett, 43, was arraigned on Nov. 24 on charges including operating under the influence of alcohol, leaving the scene of property damage, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and improper operation of a motor vehicle.

At the discovery compliance and jury election at the courthouse in late December, Bennett changed his plea to guilty, and his charge of improper operation of a motor vehicle was disposed of. He was sentenced to probation on the other three charges.

The crash occurred around 7:20 pm on Nov. 22, when Bennett drove his gray 2025 Toyota Tacoma into Third World Trading's storefront at 52 Circuit Ave., causing damage to the building's front steps, front wall, large-pane windows, merchandise inside the store, and a vehicle parked in the area, according to a police report from the incident.

It was also reported that Bennett struck a building on 145 Circuit Ave. earlier in the night, damaging the railing on a stairway

at the front of the residence and causing damage to the lawn before fleeing the scene. According to the police report, Bennett subsequently drove northbound on Circuit Ave., a southbound street, before crashing into Third World Trading.

No serious injuries were reported, but a resident in an upstairs apartment said the impact caused her to hit her head while showering.

According to the report, police found Bennett sitting alone in his truck with the engine running, smiling and uninjured. Bennett declined medical attention.

Bennett's probation ends on June 21, and a restitution assessment hearing is scheduled for June 22 in the Edgartown District Courthouse to determine the final amount owed for property damage to the store and other structures, and vehicles.

Chilmark interviews fire chief candidates

In a bid to become next leader of the Chilmark Fire Department, two fire chief candidate finalists were interviewed by Chilmark of-

icials during a special select board meeting on Tuesday.

The select board interviewed Tisbury Deputy Fire Chief Marques Rivers and Chilmark Deputy Fire Chief Manuel ("Manny") Rose, one of whom will replace retiring Chilmark Fire Chief Jeremy Bradshaw. Questions touched on topics such as the long-term viability of the fire department, its strengths and weaknesses, the candidates' goals and leadership style, and how the select board can best support the fire department.

Rivers was sworn in as Tisbury's deputy fire chief in June; his 28-year-long career spans the towns of Oak Bluffs and West Tisbury, and the Martha's Vineyard Airport. Rivers comes from a long line of Island firefighters, including his grandfather, former Oak Bluffs Fire Chief Dennis Alley, and great-grandfather Tony Alley.

During his interview, Rivers emphasized the importance of collaboration between the fire department and other Chilmark entities, such as the police, emergency services, and town officials.

"As a new chief, my leadership approach would be listening, learning, and building

trust. Chilmark's a close-knit community and the fire department does not operate in isolation," he said.

Rose is a deputy fire chief in Chilmark. During his 32-year-long career, he served as the Oak Bluffs Deputy Fire Chief. In Oak Bluffs, Rose also temporarily led the department after the 2020 resignation of former Fire Chief John Rose following settled allegations of sexual harassment within the department — a case that was settled out of court. Rose, who is also Manny's brother, currently faces charges for attempting to conduct "electronic surveillance" on a "nude or partially nude persons," and attempting to pose or exhibit a "child in state of nudity or sexual conduct."

Manny Rose highlighted the need for training both within the fire department and with other groups, such as with the beach departments, to better prepare for emergencies.

"If we train together, we get familiar with each other. You put a name to a face," he said. "They want to work together more, and the rest of it kind of plays on itself."

The select board will announce its decision at the next meeting, Thursday at 4 pm. **MVT**

obituaries

William Vincent



William Vincent ("Bill") passed away on Jan. 12, surrounded by his family in his daughter's home after succumbing to his neurological disease. He was 73.

Bill was the son of the late Burton M. Vincent and Natalie A. Brown Vincent. He was born in Oak Bluffs. He lived on the Island until his family moved to Schenectady, N.Y.

Bill graduated from Linton High School in 1969, and went on to obtain a B.S. in marketing from Western New England College in 1973. He worked at Jonathan Reid, Ltd., selling men's fine clothing for 40 years, and rose through the ranks to sales manager at several different stores throughout the capital region. He loved spending time at his other home on Martha's Vineyard, and any opportunity to be outdoors and in the sun. His greatest joy and accomplishment in life was being Papa to his twin granddaughters; he took any opportunity to be there for them.

He was predeceased by his soulmate and wife, Priscilla Keiper Vincent. He was also predeceased by his older brother, Robert W. Vincent. He is survived by his daughter Katie Vincent Persons (Nicholas) of Rexford, N.Y.; and his granddaughters, Natalie Persons and Vivian Persons. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Sara Keiper of Glenville, N.Y.

Calling hours will be held at Glenville Funeral Home, 9 Glenridge Road, Glenville, N.Y., on Jan. 18 from 1 to 2

pm, with services following. A private burial will be held at Abel's Hill Cemetery in Chilmark on Jan. 20.

Contributions can be made for cerebral amyloid angiopathy research at Mass General Hospital, fund 028184, online at bit.ly/3NKf9H9, or by mail at MGH Development Office, Attn: Kylie Baruffi, 125 Nashua St., Suite 540, Boston, MA 02114-1101.

For online condolences, visit glenvillefuneralhome.com.

Terry Andrew Canha



Terry Andrew Canha, 72, of

Oak Bluffs, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 19, 2025, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Terry was born on the Vineyard on April 21, 1953, to Antone and Yvette Canha. A graduate of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, he remained rooted in the Island community most of his life, with brief periods spent living in other areas of Massachusetts.

Terry dedicated the majority of his career to carpentry, and worked alongside various Island carpenters. His craftsmanship could also be seen in the kitchens he installed and the furniture he built. He took pride in working as a shipbuilder at the General Dynamics Quincy Shipyard for several years. In the later years of his career, he brought his knowledge to the local lumberyard and hardware store before eventually retiring.

Outside work, Terry found joy in the simple pleasures of life. He enjoyed fishing, was a fan of the Boston Bruins, and loved food. He was a talented cook who enjoyed feeding

others, and had most recently boasted about his decades-long record of making Thanksgiving dinner. He frequently joked about the chore of tending his garden, but kept at it faithfully for his wife, Maria. Terry was known for his hospitality, generously welcoming visitors to the Vineyard over the years, from friends who came for the annual Chili Fest to his daughters' friends enjoying the

Island in the summer, to distant relatives visiting. He also enjoyed vacationing in Brazil many times with Maria, enjoying the culture and history of her large family there.

Terry is lovingly remembered by his wife, Maria Do Carmo Oggioni-Canha; his children, Lauren Cooley (Jason) and Eliza Canha; and his grandchildren, Chase, Max, Julian, and Eben. He

also leaves behind his siblings, Laurene Canha and Jeffrey Canha, as well as four nieces and nephews.

A graveside ceremony in his honor will be held at noon on April 11, 2026, at the Oak Grove Cemetery in Vineyard Haven, where he will be laid to rest among close family and friends.

Visit chapmanfuneral.com for online guestbook and information. **MVT**



TRUE NORTH
STRATEGY + TECHNOLOGY

RESERVATION SYSTEM PROJECT INFORMATIONAL OPEN HOUSES

The Steamship Authority will hold the second in a series of open house information sessions on the True North Initiative to replace the company's reservation system.

The True North project team will be available to discuss reservation policy changes that are under review as part of the change to the new system. Attendees will be able to ask questions and share their feedback on the policies and the project.

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Date: Thursday, January 22

Location: training/community room
Tisbury Emergency Services Facility
215 Spring Street, Tisbury

Virtual option—via Zoom

Time: noon-2 p.m. Friday, January 23

Link: <https://bit.ly/TrueNorthtownhall>

Questions? Email truenorth@steamshipauthority.com

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EDITORIAL

'If a tree falls in the forest, there are other trees listening'

In a canopy of trees, the branches often make space for one another, letting in sunlight and allowing new growth. Leaves and limbs make way for slight gaps in the blue skylines of spring and summer. In the off-season, Islanders are left with memories of the greenery, the structure of the forest, and if they're lucky, some downtime. But the effort of making space for one another is not an act reserved only for a forest.

This winter has been rife with loss. Too many individuals who were loved by the community passed away this month. The burden of grief on families and friends has been felt deeply across the towns, in Post Office and grocery store lines, and even lingers heavily in the air, and it can be hard to imagine shouldering the weight of it alone.

While there's no way to bypass the necessary process of grief, neuroscience proves it can be helpful to work through it together. Everyone moves through difficult feelings in their own way. There's no one avenue of healing that's above all others. But for those looking for extra support, there are ways to find it.

According to medical journals, such as the recently published "The Nature of Grief: Implications for the Neurobiology of Emotion," from Neuroscience of Consciousness, grief impacts multiple areas of the brain. Activity increases in some parts, like the amygdala, an area responsible for emotional processing, and decreases in others, such as the hippocampus, which is involved in memory processing. The impact of grief can exacerbate existing mental health conditions as well.

Apparently, the brain experiences grief as a difficult learning process. There are measured hormonal and cognitive changes that are unavoidable, such as spikes in cortisol, the stress hormone. But experts say some of the process can be eased by certain practices. Community outreach, therapy, and physical movement can all have a measured, positive effect on grief.

On the Island, there are spaces for healing, from places to come together to offerings for professional help. We want to strongly encourage Islanders, even those who have never had mental health counseling, to reach out for help if they need it. We are fortunate on



ALISON SHAW

A canopy of trees at Great Rock Bight.

this Island to have services, and we implore people to use them.

For clinical support, Martha's Vineyard Community Services offers counseling, crisis intervention, and support groups. The Red House offers individual and family resources for substance-use disorders, and Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous hold daily meetings. The Martha's Vineyard Hospital and Island Health Care have psychiatrists and mental health professionals on their staff, and there's a network of private therapists and psychiatrists on the Island.

The habitual aspects of our communal lives propel us forward through hard times, even more than we realize. Familiar bands like Mike Benjamin and the Keepers and Johnny Hoy and the Bluefish play weekly at the Ritz; there are comfort meals at local favorite restaurants, like a mashed potato pizza at Offshore Ale, or the Old Faithful breakfast platter for brunch at ArtCliff Diner; even a regular coffee at the shop of our choosing can move us from despair to connection.

There are events that take us out of our routine as well, such as the winter residency of Pathways Arts at the Chilmark Tavern, which features new performances from local artists and musicians. Stillpoint in West Tisbury offers yoga classes, educational discussions, and even group "naptime." Slough Farm

holds cooking classes and writing workshops. Featherstone has classes at its campus in Oak Bluffs, like pottery and fiber arts. There are Mah Jongg, cribbage, knitting groups, queer book clubs, jam sessions, and film screenings.

The Island is full of people creating together, or just being with each other. The simple act of togetherness has been scientifically proven to lead to better health, especially in times of high stress.

In the book "The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate: Discoveries from a Secret World," Peter Wohlleben researched the science behind forests and their social nature. His work showed that trees provide nutrients to one another, and are supportive of the whole ecosystem.

"A tree can be only as strong as the forest that surrounds it," Wohlleben wrote.

This time of collective sadness is a call to connect with each other. The Island community has the potential, in so many ways, to be an example of a group of people who love each other, help their neighbors, bring lasagna over for dinner, and provide for children who lost a parent through the supportive network of friends.

No one makes it through life alone. Grief reminds us that we are stronger together. As Wohlleben pointed out, "If a tree falls in the forest, there are other trees listening."

LETTERS

Edgartown: The new Woodstock?

To the Editor:

The recent decision by the Edgartown planning board to authorize outdoor amplified music at the Winnetu Resort raises serious questions about zoning integrity, environmental stewardship, and the responsibilities of public officials entrusted with safeguarding the town's residential character.

The Winnetu is a family-owned commercial enterprise operating within a residentially zoned neighborhood under a special permit. Similar requests for outdoor amplified music were denied — twice — by prior planning boards. This third request was met with substantial public opposition: More than 45 letters were submitted against the proposal, representing over 200 residents, including the Katama Association, the Navy Way Association, and every abutter to the Winnetu property. Those letters were not emotional ap-

peals; they were substantive and well-documented. They cited specific zoning bylaws that the approval appears to violate. They included peer-reviewed studies and scientific papers detailing the harmful effects of noise pollution on both human health and the fragile environment, including critically endangered species that inhabit the surrounding area. Actual decibel measurements were submitted, indicating that nearby homeowners would experience noise levels comparable to a jet flying overhead every 30 seconds.

Equally troubling are the predictable secondary impacts. Increased traffic congestion and parking shortages are inevitable, and clearly inconsistent with the health, safety, and welfare standards that zoning laws are designed to protect. The approval also undermines the residential nature of the neighborhood — the very character the planning board is charged with preserving — and sets a precedent that invites other commercial enterprises in similarly

zoned areas to seek comparable exemptions.

This decision was not about the financial survival of a business. It was about expanding entertainment offerings at the expense of residents, environmental protections, and longstanding zoning principles.

As a voter, I will be paying close attention going forward. I intend to reserve my future vote for individuals who prioritize their official responsibilities over personal relationships, who uphold zoning laws as written, and who recuse themselves when making decisions involving individuals or businesses with whom they are, or have been, financially connected.

Edgartown should not become "the new Woodstock" through incremental decisions that ignore precedent, public input, and the rule of law.

Angelo Guadagno
Edgartown

Keep offshore wind discourse civil

To the Editor:

There are many good reasons to be opposed to offshore wind farms.

A few are that they kill birds, possibly disrupt the ecosystem and could endanger marine life; as well as faulty blades breaking and creating hazards to both mariners and beachgoers, the lights are unacceptable, and they are "ugly," and many more legitimate reasons.

As we go into the new year, this debate won't go away, and there will be many more stories and comments. But, I ask that we keep it somewhat real.

Here are the three arguments that — in my opinion — top the "silly" list.

- "We don't get none of the power." If you believe that, please look up the basic concepts of how electricity and the grid work, then take a trip to

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Note to Readers

The Times welcomes Letters to the Editor on subjects of interest to Islanders. Each letter must include the name, address, and phone number of the writer. No exceptions, no anonymous letters, no pen names. All letters are subject to editing for style, taste, sense, and conciseness. A thousand words is the outer limit. We publish most letters, but not all. The editor chooses. Letters will normally be published in the week they are received, but not always. The Times accepts letters by mail, e-mail, and posted online at mvtimes.com (click on Submissions link). **MVT**

OP-ED

Manuel F. Correllus State Forest advisory opinion: How well-advised?

BY KATHERINE SCOTT

In her advisory opinion of Dec. 26, Tori Kim, director of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office, determined that there is no need for an environmental impact report (EIR) prior to execution of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR's) plan to clear-cut 175 acres of Eastern white pines in the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest (Correllus) on Martha's Vineyard by this coming October. Elimination of white pines is foreseen for hundreds more acres of Correllus.

WHAT IS AN ADVISORY OPINION?

The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act requires that state agencies study the environmental consequences of their actions (see bit.ly/MA_MEPApurpose). The option for use of an advisory opinion (AO) to avoid full MEPA review via an EIR was a clause that Director Kim added to MEPA in 2022 in order to streamline the MEPA process by providing a way for proponents of new projects, especially housing, to get a preliminary assessment as to whether an EIR would be needed before filing all the required project documents. But an affordable

housing project is not the same as a habitat conversion program.

The object of the Dec. 26 AO is a DCR project from 2001 for which the agency submitted an emergency environmental notification form (ENF) on August 31, 2001, to address a claimed fire hazard emergency by cutting down 500 acres of trees to widen firebreaks. All of the support documents from Island fire chiefs were written in the three days prior to or on this date, suggesting that state officials prevailed upon them to write these letters quickly, to support the ENF. Yet the genuine emergency of Hurricane Bob blow-down fuel removal had gone unaddressed for a decade prior. There was no new emergency in August 2001. And the idea of an emergency lasting for 24 years, into the present day, justifying multiple subsequent activities and mitigations of them, is absurd. There certainly is no emergency now. Secretary Bob Durand's response to the 2001 ENF was that the project required an EIR. If the 2001 "emergency" ENF has any relevance to the actual current situation, it is that the need for an EIR is even more pressing now than it was in 2001, because of the expansion of the project.

RUBBER-STAMPING?

The overriding impression created by the AO is that it is more important to rubber-stamp, ex post facto, activities by state agencies than to actually follow MEPA requirements to protect the environment via

careful assessment, and to weigh all impacts of large-scale projects. A series of DCR activities since 2001 should have been subject to far greater study and public scrutiny than they were — including connivance by the DCR in an aggressive program of illegal trail-cutting in Correllus from 2018 to 2021. This impression of bureaucratic pretzel-twisting to achieve a preferred outcome is reinforced by a lack of discussion in the AO of actual environmental impacts as they are understood today. The word "impact" appears just 10 times, and virtually all of these mentions either are part of a title or refer to impacts on rare species. There is no acknowledgment that the current scientific concept of environmental impacts encompasses far more than a narrow focus on creating habitat for a particular suite of rare species (which some people actually consider to be nearer to zoo creation than to nature). Massachusetts Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer has made a point of highlighting a more scientifically up-to-date, holistic view of the natural foundations of long-term biodiversity and of forests' contribution to it. Humans cannot predict the exact workings of nature.

WHERE IS THE SCIENCE?

The AO seems to imply that a series of mitigations can stand in for an EIR. Yet mitigations actually are piecemeal predictions and projections. Furthermore, the mitigations based on incidence of rare species

are based on a decades-old list of rare species! How can they be considered science-based? A survey of species currently using Correllus, including underground species, should be the first order of business of an EIR. Additionally, an evenhanded EIR would also revisit project proponents' designation of the Eastern white pine as a "non-native species," a label they wield as a bludgeon to neutralize critics of their extreme program of tree removal and replacement. But the non-native status is contended. It is worrisome that state agencies whose projects should be subject to MEPA requirements feel free to ignore them and to give themselves and one another permission to do what they want without scientific or public oversight, and to shield themselves by invoking exemptions from legitimate FOIAs. Kim's AO continues the pattern of state agencies' granting themselves exemptions from mandated oversight. It leaves all of the questions regarding both the checkered history of this project and its true environmental impacts unanswered.

WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG, BAD EIR?

Meanwhile, the biggest question of all: Why are Island conservation organizations and the Martha's Vineyard Commission not insisting on full environmental review of the impacts of this major project on the Island's largest conservation property, and on getting clear answers regarding its actual planned scope?

LETTERS

Continued from A4

New Hampshire and Connecticut, and thank all the people there for taking the risk of having nuclear reactors in their backyards that they don't get none of the power from 'cause "it all goes to Massachusetts."

- "When will my electric bill go down?" I assume this is just a rhetorical question, because most of the people asking this question actually expect wind power will somehow increase their bills. But, they certainly won't change it one way or the other until they are actually built and producing electricity. Simple math tells us that since all the offshore wind farms under some construction or permitting process off the New England coast will at best only provide one-third of the power of the New England power grid, they could put it in at \$1 per kwh, or give it to us for free, and it would make very little difference in your bill. (The current average price is 13¢ — Vineyard Wind 1 has a 20-year contract to put it at 9¢.)

- "They are foreign-owned." Yup — true that is. The U.S. is way behind on this, due to political priorities that suppressed our industrial research — the fact is there are no U.S.-based companies that can do this. By the way, Jim Beam, Anheuser-Busch, Alka-Seltzer, Trader Joe's, Citgo, Burger King, Vaseline, and hundreds of other well-known companies are foreign-owned. The majority of automobiles on U.S. highways were built by "foreign-owned" companies. So what? The Europeans complain that U.S.-based companies sell stuff there. We live in a global economy, after all.

But most of all, let's try to be civil. Please! Happy New Year.

Don Keller
Vineyard Haven

Music helped make it happen: A national MLK holiday

To the Editor:

Next week some will celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. I continue to see resistance within the broader national community to fully celebrating Dr. King. Recently, there has even been a movement to curtail this holiday. But within the African American community, it has become a community day marked by breakfast celebrations, award ceremonies, youth-centered activities, public service, concerts, and more. Here on the Island, the NAACP will celebrate with a public luncheon featuring live music, guest speakers, and more. It is truly an affirming holiday — one that encourages unity, strengthens youth, and fosters community building.

But the road to making the day a holiday was rocky, met with congressional stalls and resistance. It was four days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. on April 8, 1968, that Rep. John Conyers introduced the first legislation to honor him with a national holiday. It was not until Nov. 2, 1983, that President Ronald Reagan signed a bill making it a federal holiday, effective Jan. 20, 1986. Up until that time, there were countless efforts to ratify the holiday. Coretta Scott King, Rep. Conyers and others drafted bills that were not ratified by Congress. Many states, including Illinois, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, instituted their own MLK state holidays. But one turning point was when Stevie Wonder got involved and wrote the song "Happy Birthday" in 1981, to raise awareness and support for the effort.

Music has been at the forefront of all revolutionary movements. On both sides of the aisle, music has been used to rally the masses. Musical chants have been an integral part of protest and social justice campaigns — from "Si Se Puede" to "I Can't Breathe" from the Black Lives Matter movement. And even President Barack Obama used Sam Cooke's "Things Gonna Change" to rally his supporters during his presidential campaign. Celebrities like John Legend, Angélique Kidjo, Harry Belafonte, Nina Simone, Kendrick Lamar, and others have used their music to shed light on critical topics and move people to action.

So, when Stevie Wonder wrote and performed this song, it was a chant that filled the space with unity and joy, and renewed the efforts for a national holiday. And even today, Black Americans and others use the song when celebrating their birthdays. Take a good look at the lyrics (bit.ly/YT_WonderHappyBirthday), and you will come to understand the power behind the song to commemorate not only Dr. King, but the values we all should stand for.

"Why has there never been a holiday /Where peace is celebrated all throughout the world?" — "Happy Birthday"

Yvonne Mendez
West Tisbury

Support Meals on Wheels

To the Editor:

I have been a Meals on Wheels delivery driver for nearly six years. Over that time, I have seen the difference the program makes by providing meals at no cost to recipients. I have become

friends with many of the people on my route, and I have learned from them how important it is that they have someone come to their house to check in on them, and perhaps have a conversation.

Like many social services agencies, Meals on Wheels funding is under threat. In May, Barnstable had to eliminate Meals on Wheels deliveries on Tuesdays. As of today, the Vineyard has been able to avoid service cuts, but the threat looms.

Meals on Wheels provides food and companionship to nearly 300 Island seniors who find it difficult or impossible to take advantage of other food equity programs. According to a survey conducted by Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands (ESCCI), which runs Meals on Wheels, 18 percent of meal recipients report that the Meals on Wheels volunteer driver is the only person they see most days — and more than 80 percent report that their home-delivered meal is their main meal of the day, comprising roughly half their daily caloric intake.

Meals on Wheels is only one strand in the precious web of services that support our community, but it is critical to those who rely on it for daily food and companionship. Please consider supporting Meals on Wheels through a donation to ESCCI — any amount will make a difference. If you have time to spare, they are always looking for drivers. You can choose how often you volunteer; even once a month will help make our seniors' lives less difficult and less lonely. If you would benefit from Meals on Wheels services, call the ESCCI Vineyard office at 508-693-4393.

Marta Van Ranst
Oak Bluffs

Saving the maturing pines

To the Editor:

This letter was also sent to Tori Kim, director of MEPA (Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act) Office.

I am contacting you regarding the forest I spent close to 25 years caring for and conducting silviculture work in for the state under Manuel Correllus and with Tom Robinson, while clear-cutting a section of mature white pine that was the former nature trail behind the headquarters.

Clear-cuts are never a preferred way to manage a forest, especially in one of the more beautiful parts of the forest, which also sequesters a great deal of carbon. Many people on the Island, plus visitors who walk, ride bikes, and walk their dogs on the Red Trail, are amazed at the beauty of the area, which is selected to be basically turned into an ugly mess if clear-cut. Plus, this is a great waste of state funds, which could be used more wisely. I recently broke my clavicle in an accident because of the deplorable condition of the bike trails, which desperately need repair, and I have a friend who shattered her elbow because of the conditions.

I hope you reconsider this endeavor, as it will release significant amounts of carbon into the atmosphere at a time when the international court considers this a crime. We need more mature stands of timber, not fewer. Thank you.

Chas de Geofroy, forester
Chilmark

Red House finds new location

The only peer center for locals navigating substance-use recovery will move to a more central area in March.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

After months of uncertainty about the future of the Island's only substance-use recovery center, the Red House has found a new home.

It was announced on Jan. 7 that the Red House Peer Recovery Support Center, which has become an established space for healing on the Island for locals suffering from substance use and addiction, will relocate to a building on the Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) campus. Its current lease with the Martha's Vineyard Hospital was not renewed last April.

Abigail ("Abby") Foley, chief clinical officer at MVCS, said since the Red House is already a program under the MVCS umbrella, bringing the location closer to its home base felt like kismet.

"We figured bringing the Red House to the main MVCS campus was a really great way to help support our clients — and the Red House members — with this continuity of care that we're able to provide," Foley said to The Times. She added that access to other services at MVCS, like counseling, could be a huge deal



EUNKI SEONWOO

The Red House has found a new home at the Martha's Vineyard Community Services campus.

for members of the program, and vice versa.

"Everything's sort of at our fingertips there, including the Counseling Center and medication-assisted treatment," Robert Cropper, the director of recovery management services at the Red House, said in an interview. "And because it's very central on the Island at Community Services, it makes it even better."

The Red House, which has been open since 2021 after a

brief closure in 2020 due to the pandemic, serves about 200 people a week. It offers peer groups, nightly meetings, and various services and activities for individuals in recovery from alcohol or drug use. The center also offers family support.

"There's sometimes a lot of feelings associated with seeking recovery and wellness, and this gives us the opportunity to really help support people along that journey, and to feel

connected and comfortable," Foley said. "So we're really excited just to be able to have a very streamlined approach."

The move will go into effect on March 1. The new space — in Building D on the MVCS campus — is much larger than the old location, at 2,400 square feet. It's ADA-accessible, has a commercial kitchen, a discreet reception area that's separate from the main room, and private offices, all of which are needs

that were identified by Red House staff prior to finding a new building.

"All the needs that were identified were met in this relocation," the chief advancement officer at MVCS, Patrick Ramage, said in an interview with The Times. "It's pretty much upgrades across the board for the members, and meets the expanding need that the Red House is facing."

Last April, staff at the Red House Recovery Center were told its 10-year lease with the Martha's Vineyard Hospital would not be renewed. The center is currently located in a red house at 12 Beach Road, a stone's throw from the hospital. Hospital executives at the time said they were prioritizing expanding their specialty and primary care services, and decided not to renew the lease for that reason. They gave the Red House a year to find a new location, in accordance with the lease agreement.

Although the recovery center is moving, Foley said the Red House will maintain ongoing collaboration with the hospital.

The move to a permanent place comes at a time when Islanders have cited concerns that their mental health needs, including support for substance abuse, are not being met. A recently published report called the "2025 Community Health Needs Assess-

ment," put together by the Martha's Vineyard Hospital and Island Health Care, pointed to a lack of services in those areas.

The assessment included a survey completed by more than a thousand Island residents that showed recovery programs and continued mental health and substance-use care were at the top of the list of concerns for many, with a large portion of the anonymous answers saying their needs were not being met and calling for an increase in care options.

Foley said membership at the Red House has risen significantly in the past few years, and is continuing on an upward trajectory. With more space at the new location, she said the capacity of the center is higher than ever. Cropper said they plan to offer additional nightly meetings in the new office spaces and expand their reach.

Officials at the Red House and MVCS pointed to a potential for more outreach, and the intention that their services improve to meet the need.

"That's one of the biggest things about having this bigger space — is that we're going to be able to offer more programming, have more flexibility for different offerings, and then have more space for more membership to come in," Foley said. **MVT**



This disclosure is required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities

Content Label for Cape Light Compact Retail Access Electricity Supply Customers

Data for this label is provided by NextEra Energy Services, Cape Light Compact's selected supplier.

The electricity you consume comes from the New England power grid, which receives power from a variety of power plants and transmits the power throughout the region as needed to meet the requirements of all customers in New England. When you choose a power supplier, that supplier is responsible for generating and/or purchasing power that is added to the power grid in an amount equivalent to your electricity use. "System Power" includes the mix of power generating resources in the regional electricity market.

Although the power delivered to Compact customers comes from the regional New England power grid, the Compact's supplier provides 100% renewable energy to Compact customers by retiring renewable energy certificates ("RECs") and clean energy credits ("CECs") to match customers' usage as follows: 1) RECs and CECs to meet the state-mandated Clean Energy Standard ("CES") and Renewable Portfolio Standard ("RPS"), which includes a mix of RECs from wind, solar, biomass, and other qualified renewable generation resources, equal to 69.3% of usage; 2) RECs in addition to those required by the RPS and CES from a MA Class 1 resource located in MA in a quantity equal to 1% of usage; and 3) RECs in addition to those required by the RPS and CES representing generation from North American wind resources in a quantity equal to 29.7% of usage. This renewable content is reflected in the "Power Attribute Content" table to the right.

NextEra Energy Services will update fuel sources and emissions data to its customers quarterly, allowing customers to compare data among the companies providing electricity service on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard.

Generation Prices*

- Residential customers: prices in effect for January 2026 - July 2026 are 14.064¢ per kWh
- Commercial customers: prices in effect for January 2026 - July 2026 are 14.185¢ per kWh
- Industrial customers: prices in effect for January 2026 - April 2026 are 14.266¢ per kWh

*Prices include an adder of \$0.001/kWh for the Cape Light Compact Operating Fund. Prices do not include regulated charges for customer service and delivery. Those charges are billed by your local distribution company. For a breakdown of supply pricing, visit capelightcompact.org/power-supply.

Air Emissions

Emissions for each of the following pollutants are presented as a percent of the region's average emission rate based on the System Mix. System average emission rates were prepared for New England Power Pool (NEPOOL) by ISO New England and are based on data from Q3 2024 - Q2 2025 for residential, and commercial and industrial rates.

Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) is formed when fossil fuels and biomass are burned at high temperatures. They contribute to acid rain and ground-level ozone (or smog), and may cause respiratory illness in children with frequent high level exposure. NO_x also contributes to oxygen deprivation of lakes and coastal waters which is destructive to fish and other animal life.

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) is formed when fuels containing sulfur are burned, primarily coal and oil. Major health effects associated with SO₂ include asthma, respiratory illness and aggravation of existing cardiovascular disease. SO₂ combines with water and oxygen in the atmosphere to form acid rain, which raised the acid level of lakes and streams, and accelerates the decay of buildings and monuments.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) is released when fossil fuels (e.g., coal, oil and natural gas) are burned. Carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, is a major contributor to global warming.

Disclosure Label Based on Data from Q3 2024 - Q2 2025

New England System Mix	
Power Source	System Mix Percentage
Air-source heat pump	0.38
Biogas	0.01
Biomass	1.56
Coal	0.33
Diesel	1.55
Digester Gas	0.11
Efficient Resource (Maine)	0.00
Energy Storage	0.07
Fuel Cell	0.92
Ground- and water-source heat pump	0.03
Hydroelectric/hydropower	5.64
Hydrokinetic	0.00
Jet	0.01
Landfill Gas	0.38
Liquid Biofuels	0.21
Municipal Solid Waste	0.49
Natural Gas	46.11
Nuclear	21.58
Oil	5.36
Solar Photovoltaic**	9.32
Solar Thermal	0.00
Trash-to-energy	1.81
Wind	3.29
Wood	0.84
*TOTAL	100

*Based on data from Q3 2024 - Q2 2025. Actual totals may vary slightly from 100% due to rounding

**Includes 1.14% of Known Resources reflecting energy purchased from Farmington Solar in Q2 2025.

Power Attribute Content* Cape Light Compact Aggregation Standard Supply Product	
Source	Percentage
MA Renewable Portfolio and Clean Energy Standard Requirements (includes Wind, Solar, Biomass, and other renewable resources pursuant to MA regulations)	69.3
Voluntary Wind & Solar	29.7
Additional MA Class 1 RECs	1
TOTAL	100

*Power Attribute Content table reflects 2026 REC retirement Requirement.

Note: Electricity customers in New England are served by an integrated power grid, not particular generating units. The System Mix information is based on the most recently available information provided via the NEPOOL Generation Information System. Cape Light Compact's Power Supplier procures electricity supply through system power contracts, not from specific generating units.

Emissions Data

Emission Type	Lbs. per MWh	% NEPOOL System Average
Nitrogen Oxides (NO _x)	0.582707	100
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	0.27915	100
Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	715.287	100

New unit emissions data for CO₂ is 895lbs/MWh; for NO_x is 0.055 lbs/MWh; for SO₂ is 0.011 lbs/MWh.

Islanders raise money for couple lost on New Year's

The Scheffer family is fundraising to restore the damaged boat.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

The 28-foot Carolina Skiff that overturned in frigid waters on New Year's Day and led to the deaths of beloved Island couple Roy Scheffer and Patricia Bergeron is in the process of being salvaged, and currently rests in Edgartown on a trailer. The vessel is at the center of an effort by the Scheffer family to preserve the memory of Scheffer, a pioneer in the aquaculture community on the Island, and help the family continue the legacy that he inspired in the next generation.

A GoFundMe campaign organized by Matteus Scheffer, his grandson, titled "Honoring Roy: Restoring Our Family's Boat," has already raised \$49,265 of a \$60,000 goal as of Tuesday evening. The money raised will be used to repair the skiff that Scheffer and Bergeron were on that day. It was the primary vessel used for Scheffer's oyster farm and scalloping operation, which he built over 25 years and shared with his family, according to the



Roy Scheffer's boat rests on a trailer in Edgartown.

NICHOLAS VUKOTA

campaign's information. "While our family continues to grieve the loss of our loved ones, my family now faces the additional hardship of losing the boat that allowed them to operate the oyster farm and to scallop," the young Scheffer wrote in the GoFundMe description. "Thanks to the

incredible efforts of close friends, the skiff was recovered and removed from the water. However, it now requires extensive repairs before it can be used again. This boat is key to keeping our family connected to the water and continuing the oyster farm that my grandfather was dedicated to. By

donating, you are helping restore more than a boat. You are supporting local fishermen, a way of life, and honoring the dedication and work of a man who committed himself to the water and his community." The boat was recovered and towed, inverted, from Cow Bay to Edgartown

Harbor on Saturday, Jan. 3, by the Edgartown harbor-master, Massachusetts Environmental Police, and local fishing boats. On Tuesday morning, the boat, which was tied up to a piling inside Edgartown Harbor, was righted with help from Aquamarine Dockbuilders in Edgartown, the Edgartown harbor-master, State and Environmental Police, and the Scheffer family. The Scheffers towed the vessel away, and it currently rests on a trailer in Edgartown.

"My grandfather taught us to love and respect the sea, understanding that it provides when treated with care and dedication. Watching him and so many in my family build a life on the water shaped who I am today. His path connected our entire family to the ocean and to this Island. This connection is a legacy worth preserving. Thank you for your support, kindness, and for helping us carry my grandfather's legacy forward," his grandson also wrote.

A separate campaign for Bergeron's family, titled "Support for the Bergeron Family after Loss," has raised \$25,291 toward a \$28,000 goal. The GoFundMe seeks to help with immediate expenses and provide stability to the Bergeron family during their grieving process.

"We are heartbroken to share that our mom, Tricia Bergeron, has tragically

passed away on New Year's Day while being on the water doing what she loved with the one she loved. This loss has left our family devastated, and we are doing our best to support each other through this incredibly tough time," Benjamin MacLean-Peters, her son, wrote on the GoFundMe page. "Your support will go directly toward helping us cover these costs and providing some stability for our family as we grieve and begin to heal."

The loss of Scheffer and Bergeron has deeply touched every corner of the Island. Their lasting impacts and far-reaching connections have united Martha's Vineyard in mourning, and it showed on Tuesday at Bergeron's celebration of life at the Portuguese-American Club. More than 700 Islanders gathered at the local bar, packing the venue shoulder to shoulder, with cars overflowing into nearby streets. While the event primarily celebrated Bergeron's lifetime of service to the Island as the president of the P.A. Club, a retired emergency room coordinator at Martha's Vineyard Hospital, and a beloved figure in the Island's hockey and cribbage community, friends and supportive loved ones from both families, including the entire Scheffer family, filled the space. A joint celebration of life is planned at a later date, as announced on the P.A. Club's Facebook page. **MVT**

Chappaquiddick breach expected to remain through summer

Continued from A1

and waves up to six feet. This unexpected turn in the weather was part of the same New Year's Day squall that led to the deaths of two beloved Islanders in a scallop boat accident, when one of the most experienced fishermen on the Island was caught off guard by the shifting weather conditions off Cow Bay in Edgartown.

Andrew Kelly, an Edgartown parks commissioner and deputy fire chief, said the size of the breach surprised town officials, since the squall on Jan. 1 only lasted about an hour. Kelly highlighted that even the powerful winter storm that pummeled the Island in 2024 had not caused a breach this wide. He added that the breach that occurred two years ago was between 50 and 100 feet wide.

"We assume ... that this breach will be here for at least a year," Kelly said, although there is a possibility the breach could take years to mend. In one instance, a 2007 breach took eight years to become sealed through a natural cycle in which the tides in the area moved sand and sediment until the gap was shut.

Kelly said that, historically, breaches tend to move slowly in the direction of Wasque Point on Chappaquiddick as the coastline is restored. Breaches are nothing new to the thin strip of land connecting Norton Point and Chappaquiddick, with maps from as far back as the 18th century showing openings in the beach.

But this eastward movement that repairs the breach will subject Wasque to "immense erosion," according to Darci Schofield, the Trustees of Reservations' islands director.

"It currently has such a massive, beautiful beach our visitors have been enjoying for two years since the last breach," Schofield said. "This situation is demonstrative of the magnitude of changing beach conditions and the unpredictability of climate change impacts on the weather and the beaches."

Meanwhile, Kelly said there isn't an immediate public safety concern, since people don't swim in the area during the winter.

However, Kelly said warnings will be issued as the

summer gets closer so that beachgoers can be aware of the risks swimming in the breach can entail. Photos of the breach, taken via drone by the Edgartown Police Department, show that the current between the segments of land differs from that in the surrounding water. Kelly said the two currents that meet in the channel form a depth of

four to five feet at the center of the breach and could be risky for people who enter it. He said he's been a part of rescues for people pushed out into deeper waters while swimming too close to a breach. "It's basically like jumping into a washing machine," Kelly said.

And the warning to stay away wouldn't be just for

swimmers. Gary Kovack, Edgartown harbor-master, said he'd "highly advise" against others on the water, such as those aboard a boat or kite sailing, from traversing the area. He underscored that it is a risky place to sail, and if something were to go awry, many people could be placed in harm's way in a rescue effort.

"It's not a navigable channel," Kovack said, highlighting the breach as a shallow area with shifting depths. "The

depth changes daily because of the way the sand moves."

The sandy terrain between Norton Point and Chappaquiddick is the only stretch of land that connects Chappaquiddick to the rest of the Vineyard, so the breach cuts off the one land-based access point. Park department staff will be at the breach on a daily basis to monitor the situation, according to Kelly.

Kara Shemeth, Edgartown conservation agent, said the area where the breach occurred is flat and low with little vegetation, so it frequently experiences washovers, but the land usually doesn't break. She also expects a coastal waterbird technician will be sent out to the area, since the breach occurred where a large tern colony tends to live. Shemeth said town staff will be working closely with the trustees, which owns property a half-mile from the breach.

"Our immediate concern is the shorebirds breeding on that barrier beach at Norton Point," Schofield said. "We will continue to work very closely with Edgartown to collaborate and coordinate on shorebird protection programs to ensure the greatest success for the endangered shorebirds."

But all town officials can really do right now is to wait and see.

"Mother Nature always wins," Shemeth said. **MVT**



The wide breach is expected to remain at least through the summer.

EDGARTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

"This situation is demonstrative of the magnitude of changing beach conditions and the unpredictability of climate change impacts on the weather and the beaches." —Darci Schofield

John Forté, celebrated recording artist, dies

Remembrance:

Continued from A1

then to a dramatic exoneration, which led him to an on-ramp back on life's highway.

Ultimately, the road led Forté to the Island. He first came in 1998 through an invitation from his friend Ben Taylor, son of Carly Simon and James Taylor, and Forté was drawn in by its unique community spirit. He often described immediately falling in love with the place. He developed a deep friendship through music with Ben Taylor and Simon, and about a decade later, he chose to settle here. In the end, it seemed Forté had so much more distance to travel as he was going through what he felt was one of the most creative and productive periods of his life as a musician and recording artist.

Forté ran out of road far too suddenly this week. And those of us on the Island who counted him as a friend are left devastated, and are looking back over his extraordinary life. He was 50 years old, and would have turned 51 at the end of this month. What he accomplished is nothing short of amazing. The loss just feels unbearable, and it is hard to imagine this Island without him on it.

Those who did not know Forté are learning that a truly extraordinary man lived quietly here among us in a small home with weathered clapboards and a bowed roof in the woods off Hewing Field. He lived there for many years with his former wife Lara Fuller, a freelance photographer, and when they separated, he stayed in the house and made it a home as a loving and devoted father to his two young children: Wren, 10, whom everyone knows as Zazi, and Haile, who is 7.

One of Forté's favorite ways to spend time was kicking a soccer ball with his kids in a nearby field or chasing them around the woods behind their home. They loved to walk those woods, through which the Tiasquam River passes. And they would explore its meandering streambeds, which trickle through Chilmark's stone walls, across Middle Road, and ultimately feed Tisbury Great Pond. Forté was a dedicated father, who attended soccer games and dance recitals and who loved to create magic for his kids. He was fiercely proud of both of them. When *The Martha's Vineyard Times* featured an article about a Chilmark Preschool art class, a picture of his son Haile with his artwork appeared on the cover. Forté came over that same day to the newsroom to see if he could get an extra bundle of papers to mail to his mom

and sister, and to share with friends.

The fuel that carried him along through all of his life was music, as well as his love for his family and friends, his clarity of thinking, his curiosity about all things, and his incredible generosity of spirit. Forté never forgot where he came from even as he garnered awards, accolades, and fame. He kept his Island friends close while he developed a relation-



LARA FULLER

"We feel so lucky to have had him woven into our lives and with us every day. He was always there at the center of so many musical gatherings that brought together people across different generations and across all genres and cultures. John could mesmerize an audience that included all ages, from 97-year-old Rose Styron to 7-year-old Haile. All felt included, and all felt welcomed by John."

- Gogo Ferguson

ship with former President Barack Obama, and he worked alongside a commander in chief of the jazz world, Herbie Hancock. But there are also some quieter things about Forté's life on the Island that are perhaps less well-known:

- He was incredibly tidy. I recently went over to spend time with him to go through some of his writing and letters from his days in prison, and I was struck by how incredibly organized he was in the way he kept his letters, and the discipline of his penmanship. Everything had a place. Everything was folded. The floors were swept clean.

- He was passionate about applied artificial intelligence, and all of the potential it brought to inno-

vation in music. He loved to demonstrate how he could weave AI into his work flow, and one of my favorite afternoons with Forté was him walking me through what AI made possible for him as a musician. He meditated on AI and music in detail in a lengthy interview for the *Arts & Ideas* magazine, published by *The Martha's Vineyard Times*.

- He became a gifted gardener, who painstakingly cared for his plants,

particularly certain hemp plants that he was growing for medicinal marijuana. His workday included steady sampling of the product, and the sweet smell of the large blunts he rolled is now an olfactory memory that is unforgettable. I made the mistake of smoking with Forté, and ended up horizontal on lawn furniture looking up at the stars for the entire night while I tried to re-enter my own galaxy.

- He was not as good a gambler as he was a musician. Forté enjoyed gathering for Texas hold'em at the dining room table with friends, or in a more spirited competition with members of a men's group he was part of. Yes, our wives roll their eyes at the idea of a men's

group, but we members will cherish it even more with its memories of Forté. On Friday night, just three days before he died, Forté was playing low-stakes poker with the men's group at the home of mutual friend John Battelle. Forté kept being dealt one bad hand after another. He would curse, he would fume, but then he would laugh and offer a despairing shrug of the shoulders, and end up quite content to turn his attention to the NFL's AFC Championship, which was playing in the background. At one point, Forté admonished the table, "When you have no cards, you have to play with gumption." The word stuck with us: gumption. From one deal to the next, we returned to his lesson on bad cards with a chuckle: "Gumption!"

- He was exceptional at riding an electric unicycle. It was not uncommon to see Forté moving gracefully at a good clip and with perfect balance on his e-unicycle down the dirt road of Hewing Field between his home and that of his neighbors, Gogo Ferguson and Dave Sayre.

Ferguson and Sayre were close friends, and he was in and out of their home all day long to commute down the basement stairs to his elaborate music studio, where he meticulously worked and reworked mixes with many artists, from Harry Belafonte to Ben Taylor. This was where he practiced his art, and the sounds of remixing, the smooth sounds of a steady beat and discordant edits as one note was played backward and forward, were ceaseless until Forté found just the right spot, and had it polished just the way it needed to be.

This week, as friends clustered in grief at her home, Ferguson said, "We feel so lucky to have had him woven into our lives and with us every day. He was always there at the center of so many musical gatherings that brought together people across different generations

and across all genres and cultures. John could mesmerize an audience that included all ages, from 97-year-old Rose Styron to 7-year-old Haile. All felt included, and all felt welcomed by John."

Those of us who got to know Forté owe Ferguson and Sayre deep gratitude for hosting so many gatherings and giving Forté the space he needed to create and to share his music. The musicians who came to their welcoming home found an expansive deck with a hillside for audience seating, and a set of stairs that were usually the best seats in the house, provided an informal, classically Vineyard way to hear music on a back porch. The audience stretched across generations, and on many memorable nights included my wife and our four sons, who are all in their 20s. The artists closest to Forté, such as Simon, Ben Taylor, and the Austin-based songwriter Peter More, were just not able to summon quotable sentences this week that could explain their feelings about this loss. Ben Taylor, when he learned of Forté's death, simply walked down to the basement studio and screamed. That spoke to the moment more than words.

When I called More in Austin, he was despondent, and his sentences would trail off into an inarticulate speech of the heart, ramblings punctuated by certain key words like notes in a song in the making — "brother" and "loved him" and "teacher," and one unanswerable question: "How are we going to live without him?"

Wyclef Jean, who was Forté's longtime friend and musical collaborator as a founding member of the Fugees, posted his attempt to express his sadness on Instagram with a memory captured on video of the two performing together. And he wrote just three words: "This one hurts." **MVT**

Charles Sennott is publisher and editor of The Martha's Vineyard Times, and lives in Chilmark.



Support for John Forté's family

A GoFundMe was created for help with living expenses and care for Forté's children as well as unforeseen costs associated with his funeral. It can be found at bit.ly/GFM_ForteFamily.

Obituary:

Continued from A1

over the loss of such a talented, nationally recognized artist in such a creative and productive period in his life. The loss is made even harder as he was a father always bursting with both pride and love for his children.

Forté, who first visited Martha's Vineyard in 1998 at the invitation of fellow musician Ben Taylor, fell in love with the Island and its sense of community. He moved here approximately 10 years later and met Lara Fuller, a freelance photographer who would become his wife and the mother of their children, Wren, 10, and Haile, 7.

He built an elaborate recording studio in the basement of the Hewing Field home of his next-door neighbors and dear friends in Chilmark, Gogo Ferguson and her husband David Sayre. Their home, with its welcoming outdoor deck and stone fireplace, became a kind of hometown stage for Forté over the past decade, and he often participated in memorable jam sessions there with musicians from across the Island and all over the world. On that porch, he unfailingly brought not only original music but his uniquely generous spirit, his deep love for life — especially anything that he was doing with his two children — and his passion for thoughtful conversations with a close-knit circle of friends. In those conversations, Forté was a consummate listener.

Forté was known and loved on the Island by many through performances at Island venues with the legendary recording artist Carly Simon and her son, Ben Taylor, as well as many other musicians well-known to the Vineyard, including the Austin-based songwriter Peter More. Forté and More recently collaborated to write the score for a documentary film about the beat writer Jack Kerouac, titled "Kerouac's Road: The Beat of a Nation." In 2024, Forté completed work on the score for a six-part HBO series that revitalized "Eyes on the Prize," the award-winning documentary series that began on PBS in the '80s. The series chronicles the Black experience in America in the wake of the civil rights era.

Summer resident of Oak Bluffs Dawn Porter, award-winning documentary filmmaker and executive producer of the documentary series, noted that Forté had flown her and the crew to New Orleans to hear 12-year-old Fiona, cousin of Taylor and from the Island, sing the lead anthem.

For many years, Porter was a fan of Forté, and told *The Times* she contented herself

Continued on A9

Obituary:

Continued from A8

with “random Island sightings of him, usually with his children.” One day, she connected with him, and when he saw the first cut of her film on Breonna Taylor and how the artist Amy Sherald painted her portrait, he said he knew the exact song for it. From then on, she said, their “collaboration continued in an even more meaningful way.”

“It was a profound experience watching him work. I am gutted at the loss of this beautiful human,” Porter said.

Chilmark Police Chief Sean Slavin said a neighbor discovered Forté alone on the kitchen floor Monday, and called 911 at 2:25 pm. Slavin said his officers Liz Rogers and Bret Stearns were the first to arrive at Forté’s home on Hewing Field in Chilmark, at 2:32 pm, and reported him not responsive and not breathing. Slavin said he arrived at 2:48 pm.

Slavin said that Forté was pronounced dead at the scene, adding, “There is no foul play suspected.” Chapman’s Funeral Home took Forté’s body at approximately 4 pm.

Pending a report by the medical examiner’s office, the case is expected to fall to the Massachusetts State Police Detectives Unit, attached to the Cape and Islands District Attorney’s Office, as is standard operating procedure in what are known in police jargon as “unattended deaths.” Slavin, who knew Forté socially for many years, and is a longtime friend of the Fuller family, said, “It is such a small community, this death hits close to home. It’s the upside and the downside to living on such a small Island.”

The news of his untimely death has devastated those who knew him on the Island. The cause of death has not yet been determined, Slavin said, but family friends confirm that Forté suffered a serious health setback one year ago when he was hospitalized after a seizure. Since then, Forté, who would have been 51 on Jan. 30, had been taking medication to control the threat of a grand mal seizure.

On Monday night, there was one interior light still on inside Forté’s home, and his car was parked out front. The sudden death cut short a life that began in Brooklyn.

After coming of age in Brownsville, Brooklyn, where he chose to learn the violin, Forté, a gifted student, was invited to attend Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire on the suggestion of a junior high guidance counselor. He entered New York University as a music business major, and his roommate was the rapper Talib Kweli. Forté dropped out of NYU to

work at Rawkus Records.

From there, he set out on a celebrated career, which began on a professional level when he was introduced to the Fugees by Lauryn Hill in the early 1990s. He co-wrote and produced several songs on the Fugees’ multi-platinum and Grammy-winning 1996 album “The Score.” At 21 years of age, Forté was nominated for a Grammy for his work on the album.

Forté went on to tour all over the world with the Fugees, and lent both production and vocal performances to Wyclef Jean’s “The Carnival” in 1997. Forté also partnered with former Fugee member Pras for the hit single “Avenues” from the “Money Talks” soundtrack. Forté released his debut solo album, “Poly Sci,” produced by Wyclef Jean, in 1998.

In 2000, Forté’s life took a dramatic turn when he was arrested at Newark International Airport with liquid cocaine. He was charged with possession and intent to distribute. While awaiting trial in 2001, Forté recorded the well-received “I, John” album. The album featured guest appearances by Herbie Hancock and included a duet with Carly Simon. Forté was convicted and sentenced to 14 years under the controversial mandatory minimum guidelines. He was incarcerated at a low-security federal prison in central Pennsylvania.

Simon and her son Ben Taylor championed Forté in prison, and became fierce advocates on his behalf, believing he did not receive a fair trial. They joined his fight for an appeal of the punitive mandatory minimum drug laws, which advocates for prison reform have long criticized for perpetuating mass incarceration.

In a 2009 profile in New York magazine, Forté said, “Carly is a mentor to me, a guide, absolutely my spiritual godmother.”

Forté’s prison sentence was commuted by President George W. Bush on Nov. 24, 2008, and he was released from prison four weeks later, just before Christmas.

His final album, “Vessels, Angels & Ancestors,” was released in 2021, and in a 2024 interview with Arts & Ideas, a magazine published by The Martha’s Vineyard Times, Forté was asked about the long journey of his music, and how all of the talented musicians he had had a chance to perform with impacted what he was currently working on. In his response, Forté’s love for his children shaped his answer.

“It’s mind-blowing. It really is. But the music that I think of most recently, its purpose — it feels like a time capsule for my children. I make music now that I really want my kids to like, when they’re able to receive it,” he said. ■■■

Revolution Wind allowed to resume construction

Continued from A1

ward in stops and starts for the past six months. The developers were issued a stay and preliminary injunction by the same judge in late September, after Revolution Wind was singled out and issued a stop-work order by the federal government in late August.

In the latest assault on offshore wind, the administration targeted five projects, and suspensions were issued just before Christmas on two fully permitted projects visible off the coast of Martha’s Vineyard — Vineyard Wind 1, which was already largely up and running, and Revolution Wind, which was last reported to be 87 percent complete, as well as three other projects under construction off the East Coast — Sunrise Wind, Empire Wind, and Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind. Based on the orders issued by Matthew Giacona, acting director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), all of the projects are or were likely to be suspended for at least 90 days.

But now, because the Revolution Wind developer took the matter to court, construction can resume on the project as litigation continues on in the background. Officials from Ørsted, part owner of the Revolution Wind project, said in a statement Monday that they plan to “restart impacted activities immediately while the underlying lawsuit challenging the August 22, 2025, and Dec. 22, 2025, BOEM director’s orders progresses.”

“Revolution Wind will determine how best it may be possible to work with the U.S. administration to achieve an expeditious and durable resolution,” the statement also said. A spokesperson for Ørsted wouldn’t further comment beyond the statement.

The pause is attributed to publicly undisclosed national security concerns identified in classified reports by the Department of Defense (DoD), which the administration now refers to as the Department of War (DoW). And the suspensions not only force stakeholders to battle the federal government in court, but also further delay benefits promised to the Island, including jobs and funds from Vineyard Wind 1 for onshore energy projects.

Lamberth was able to read the classified reports, and Katie Segal, senior director of offshore wind at the Environmental League of Massachusetts, who previously worked for the federal government in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Grid Deployment Office, said the judge wasn’t persuaded by the national security concerns.

In her work for the federal government, Segal said, approval processes for offshore wind farms are stringent.

“Developers were in touch with the Department of Defense the whole time, and they agreed on mitigation actions,” she said.

“The developers and the federal government and everyone else knows that [national security concerns] could be a thing, but it’s not as big of a deal as what the administration is now making it out to be, and steps have already been taken to mitigate and communicate about ongoing changes in the landscape,” she added. “That does not mean the project should not continue.”

The national security concerns in the classified reports aren’t spelled out, but a press release from the Department of the Interior (DoI), which oversees BOEM, references previous unclassified reports that say the movement of the turbine blades and reflective towers cause radar interference called “clutter,” which can obscure objects and create false ones within the wind projects. Also available in court documents is a declaration from Dale Marks, deputy undersecretary of war for acquisition and sustainment, on the classified reports, but the document is heavily redacted.

Fred Khedouri, who is the owner of Martha Rose Fisheries, a member of the zoning board of appeals, and a Land Bank commissioner in Chilmark, previously worked in the White House under Ronald Reagan as associate director for natural resources, energy, and science at the Office of Management and Budget. He told The Times that national security is the hardest thing to challenge. That’s made harder when the developers don’t actually know the concerns, as listed in classified reports by the DoD, that they have to challenge.

Jacob Tyner, deputy assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management within the Interior, also submitted to the court a declaration on Jan. 8 that said, “Given the foreign control over the Revolution Wind project, BOEM is coordinating with DoW on whether access to the classified material with a secret designation by developers is possible, and/or whether certain information can be declassified, or an unclassified summary could be created. Regardless of the 90-day time frame in the suspension letter, BOEM plans to review and analyze any mitigation measures proposed by DoW and/or developers as expeditiously as possible.”

And despite national security concerns, the suspension order handed out to Vineyard Wind 1 allows the project to continue producing power. “In addition, given that this project is partially generating power, you may continue any activities from those wind turbines that are

necessary for the current level of power generation,” the order said. South Fork Wind, a 12-turbine project developed by Ørsted that is completely operational, was not suspended either.

“If their concern is radar, then it’s really the turning of the turbines that is driving a lot of that concern in my technical understanding of it,” Segal said. She added that the concern doesn’t feel legitimate to her, because South Fork is allowed to stay operational, and Vineyard Wind 1 is allowed to still produce power.

In a document from the defendants in opposition to the developer’s motion for a stay and preliminary injunction, they referenced Trump’s executive memorandum from Jan. 20 that directed federal agencies to suspend all new leases for wind projects before a large assessment of the approval process. The same day, Walter Cruickshank, then acting secretary of the Department of the Interior, issued a written order that suspended for 60 days, though that period came and went, the authority for federal agencies to issue wind approvals.

However, a federal judge overturned that action, taken pursuant to Trump’s memo, in early December, and ruled in favor of a lawsuit by Massachusetts and several other states that challenged the current administration. It essentially created a path for new wind projects not under construction to move forward. It didn’t protect projects already under construction.

And so federal defendants in this case used the memorandum and written order to justify their suspensions of projects under construction. They also defended their authority to issue a suspension order under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), and said that national security concerns outweigh harm to the developer.

Developers of all of the projects but one, Vineyard Wind 1, have taken the matter to court. In the discourse on wind, Vineyard Wind officials have remained mostly silent since Trump entered office, and that seemed to work for them for most of the year. The project survived unscathed by the bombardment of stop-work orders and threats of permit reconsiderations by the federal government seen by other projects, and even made good progress on outreach through an amended agreement on a series of commitments owed to the town of Nantucket by the company, which Vineyard towns may replicate. That’s all changed now. James Hagerty, Edgartown town administrator, said officials from Vineyard Wind 1, 15 miles from the Island, understandably won’t sit down un-

til February at the earliest.

Though Revolution Wind is visible and close to Island shores, the project holds power purchase agreements, contracts that allow states to purchase energy produced by a project, with Rhode Island and Connecticut. In a legal document from the developer’s lawyers, the developer proved enough harm, which included but wasn’t limited to that construction delay, could lead to “potential termination of the majority of Revolution Wind’s power purchase agreements” for the federal judge to issue a stay and preliminary injunction. They also said that their contract with a turbine installation vessel expires late next month, and that they’ve incurred millions of losses since the suspension.

Green Oceans, a nonprofit against industrialization in the ocean, also intervened in the case, and is listed as an intervenor defendant on court documents. The group said in a statement they respected the court’s decision, but referenced a separate case by them that is two years old, and raises statutory, environmental, and national security issues that they said differ from those addressed by Lamberth on Monday.

“The court’s ruling today does not change the federal government’s obligation to protect national security and the marine environment,” Dr. Elizabeth Knight, president of Green Oceans, said in the statement. “Those responsibilities continue under federal law.”

The statement also spoke to concerns over radar interference, which they said has been addressed by other countries, subsidies paid by taxpayers, a lack of local, long-term jobs for the project, and electricity prices. They suggested that turbines be sited outside of radar line-of-sight interference zones.

Meanwhile, ACK for Whales, a self-dubbed non-partisan grassroots environmental group, separately sued the federal government in the District Court of D.C. over Vineyard Wind 1 last Friday. The suit said that under then-President Joe Biden, the DoI and BOEM violated the OCSLA and the Administrative Procedures Act when the agencies approved the Records of Decision and Construction and Operations Plan for the Vineyard Wind 1 project.

Danny Pronk, a Nantucket lobsterman, and William (“Buddy”) Vanderhoop, a member of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and a fisherman, joined the lawsuit as well.

“The Biden Administration chose a big, foreign-owned wind company, Vineyard Wind, over local businessmen, hurt my business, and jacked up our electric rates in the process,” Vanderhoop said in a statement from the group. “All in the name of a big green lie.” ■■■

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HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS

\$2,250,000 MARILYN MOSES OCEAN PARK REALTY 617-462-0381 NEW CONSTRUCTION

Welcome to Lagoon Ridge, Oak Bluffs' newest and most sought-after neighborhood. Build your 3-bedroom dream home in this elevated enclave, set 95 feet above Lagoon Pond and capturing sweeping sky views, colorful sunsets, and refreshing sea breezes. This exceptional home site represents one of the final opportunities in this thriving new community. To be built — The Naushon — features 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, and over 2,400 square feet of thoughtfully designed living space. A grand wrap-around covered porch provides a welcoming entry and the perfect place to enjoy morning coffee or cool evening breezes. Inside, the open-concept floor plan connects the chef's kitchen with spacious living and dining areas, ideal for entertaining family and friends. Each bedroom suite includes a tiled en-suite bath with customizable fixtures and finishes, and the second-floor suites may offer private balconies for added relaxation. Classic Oak Bluffs cottage architecture meets modern comfort and energy efficiency, making The Naushon an ideal year-round or seasonal retreat. Lagoon Ridge offers direct access to conservation lands with walking and biking trails, and nearby Lagoon Pond invites kayaking, sailing, and shell fishing. All utilities—electric, town water, and a private, state-of-the-art Amphidrome wastewater system—are located at the street. This innovative system serves the entire neighborhood, providing convenience and peace of mind. Lagoon Ridge is a covenant-protected community with architectural review and professional management by First Property Management Co. This beautiful home site is ready for the construction of your Vineyard dream home. Eleven lots have sold—only two remain available. Call for details!



HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS

BEING OFFERED BY RENE' BEN DAVID, REALTOR @ AT OCEAN PARK REALTY INC. CALL OR TEXT 508-847-4864. \$999,999.00

Location, Location, Location! This unique property on the beautiful island of Martha's Vineyard presents an incredible opportunity for the buyer with vision to complete and personalize a home full of potential. The original residence, built in 1920, offers 2 bedrooms and 1 bath and has been expanded with a substantial newer addition, creating increased living space and a finished garage area suitable for storage or future use. Above the garage, another 2 bedrooms and a full bath await final town approvals — providing the perfect framework for an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) or additional living quarters. With creativity and planning, this property could be transformed into a spacious single-family home or a multifamily residence. Set on a large corner lot within walking distance to town, the ferries, and the harbor, the location alone makes this a must-see. The property also features a newer 4-bedroom septic system installed in 2006, which has already been inspected and passed. After being lovingly cared for by the same family, the three siblings who inherited the home are now ready to pass it along to new owners who can bring their own vision to life. This year-round residence is truly a property you need to visit in person to fully appreciate its possibilities. Seller is offering buyer's broker compensation.



IMPROVED PRICE: \$1,795,000 CONTACT MARILYN MOSES AT 617-462-0381 FOR MORE DETAILS!**

OCEAN PARK REALTY Discover the beauty of **THE PRESERVE AT THE WOODLANDS** in the highly coveted Oak Bluffs community! This is your chance to own one of the last remaining building lots in this prime location, just moments away from town, beaches, harbor, ferry ports, and the Farm Neck Golf & Tennis Club. Underground utilities are already in place, making this rare offering perfect for developing your dream family compound. Enjoy a peaceful and private setting, surrounded by conservation land and trails ideal for hiking, walking, and biking. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to embrace the Oak Bluffs lifestyle!



HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS

IMPROVED PRICE \$4,999,000 CALL ALAN SCHWEIKERT 508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112

FARM NECK GOLF & TENNIS CLUB : The original 1780 Farmhouse was tastefully restored in 1985 to honor the land and legacy of Farm Neck. This serene 3.7-acre oasis of rolling greenery with a variety of mature trees and lots of natural privacy has an up Island feel with the down Island convenience to fine dining, shopping, ferry, airport, bike paths and includes Stockholder Membership in the popular Farm Neck Golf Club. This exceptional property is situated between the 7th and 8th fairways and is just a short walk to the clubhouse restaurant, tennis courts and pro shop. For water enthusiasts there is the opportunity to have a mooring, with Harbor Master approval, off the private beach on Sengekontacket Pond giving you direct boating access to Nantucket Sound. Although this historic home features 5 bedrooms with 4.5 bathrooms and lots of intimate spaces, there is still plenty of room on the property for expansion of the main residence..... with the existing detached garage/ apartment, this country estate is truly an Island treasure that will provide lots of recreational enjoyment for family and friends throughout the years.



HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS

IMPROVED PRICE \$700,000 CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381 OCEAN PARK REALTY

Welcome to Lagoon Ridge.....Oak Bluffs' newest and most sought-after neighborhood! Build your 3-bedroom dream home with M Duffy Builders on this lofty setting, 95 feet above Lagoon Pond, featuring sweeping sky views, colorful sunsets, and refreshing salty sea breezes. This exceptional building lot is among the last of the remaining opportunities in this thriving new community. Utilities are already at the site, including town water, electric; and a private Amphidrome wastewater system that will save you the cost and inconvenience of a septic system. Lagoon Ridge borders acres of pristine conservation land with abutting access to scenic biking and hiking trails providing the perfect blend of privacy and outdoor adventure. Located in desirable Oak Bluffs, and central to all down Island towns, this is an active and vibrant community with plenty of construction momentum—don't miss the opportunity to become part of this attractive neighborhood! Easy to show — contact us today for a private tour of this exceptional offering! Price is for lot only, home pictured is a sample of home to be built..call for details.

Real Estate Transactions Jan. 5 - 9, 2026

Aquinnah

Jan. 9, Laurie S. Manchester, Nancy J. Hawes, and Wendy A. Nansberg, trustees of Betty B. Joslow Revocable Trust-1996 and Marvin S. Joslow Revocable Trust-1996, sold 453 Light-house Road to Margaret Driscoll and Matthew Baltay for \$1,575,000.

Chilmark

Jan. 7, John R. Zeisel and Jacqueline C. Vischer, trustees of VZ Realty Trust of 2020, sold 146 Quansoo Road and 0 Quansoo Beach to Daniel J. Sudman for \$4,350,000.

Edgartown

Jan. 5, Pipn Road Properties LLC sold 5 Pipn Road to Raymond S. Bradley and Elizabeth J. Bradley for \$1,330,000.
Jan. 6, Lisa Lawson-Young, trustee of Irrevocable Trust of Lisa Lawson-Young, sold 46 Bold Meadow Road to Cynthia Kropp and Joseph Kropp for \$2,401,000.

Jan. 6, Rosemary Mancini and John M. Mancini sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 352 Week 44 to Marie Bishop for \$500.

Oak Bluffs

Jan. 6, Carol J. Borselle, trustee of Carol J. Borselle Living Trust, sold 44 Tiffany Drive to Sunshine Apartments Inc. for \$1,600,000.

Tisbury

Jan. 5, April S. Knight sold 208 Irenes Way to Kaieteur Group LLC for \$1,160,000.
Jan. 5, Robert Allen Schmetterer and Stacy Lynn Schmetterer, trustees of Robert Allen Schmetterer Revocable Trust Agreement, sold 662 Chappaquonsett Road to 662 Vineyard LLC for \$6,825,000.
Jan. 9, Charles Thomas Felder, trustee of Charles T. Felder Trust, sold 209 Cove Road Unit IVC to 209 Beachies & Cream LLC for \$1,650,000.

Classifieds

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE VINEYARD HAVEN

11 A Evelyn Way. 675 square foot unit, bathroom, back deck, plenty of parking. Year-round lease. All electric heat and utilities. \$3500 a month, available November 1. First and last month rent & security deposit required. Contact Chris 508-627-2895 for appointment.

STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE

- Near Edgartown Triangle
- Multiple Configurations
- 24 Hour Access
- Secure Location
- Professionally Managed
Text or call: 617-659-2417

WEST TISBURY RIGHT ACROSS FROM CRONIGS

Winter Rental huge clean 2 bedroom with laundry - 1 bath can sleep 5. Month to month available. Immediately - 3,000 which included utilities, cable, trash - a steal
Text Lisa 310 213 5472
Possible year round thereafter.

WINTER RENTALS

INCREDIBLE COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR SALE IN WEST TISBURY OFF THE ROAD ACROSS FROM CRONIGS.

\$3 million - nothing else like it on the market - take a look. Ready to move in. Beautiful 2 bedroom apartment above. Text Lisa 310 213 5472.

ROOM FOR RENT VINEYARD HAVEN

\$1500 winter includes utilities, internet and trash. New laundry, tub shower - for one or two people. Text Lisa 310 213 5472.

HOUSES FOR RENT WEST TISBURY HOUSE FOR RENT

One-bedroom 1,000 SF guest house. Fully furnished, new construction, gourmet kitchen, 1.5 baths, HVAC, all electric, wood stove. Covered parking, large deck. \$4,200 per month, first, last, security. Ready to move in. Call Debbie at 617-921-6584.

AUTO SALES



2004 ALPENLITE LIMITED, EXCELLENT CONDITION.

Just professionally cleaned. 4 seasons, solar panels, bump outs, tons of included accessories. \$11,000 OBO. Email 9goodest@gmail.com for inquiries.

BargainBox

JIGSAW PUZZLES SCRABBLE, PARCHEESI, ETC.
Good/Excellent condition.
\$3-\$12. 508-693-7472 -
Call anytime, 7:30am-12:30pm
is best.

SUNNY HEALTH & FITNESS AIR WALK TRAINER
Provides an aerobic workout, giving you all the benefits of stretching, walking, running, and aerobic dancing. \$100. 508-693-6221.

3 TWIN BEDS
With box springs and mattresses. 20 years old. 774-277-7953.

EXERPEUTIC INVERSION TABLE FOR BACK PAIN RELIEF
Like new. Will need light assembly. \$100 or best offer. Call Rebecca at 774-563-3205.

Bargain Box ads are free; call and renew after 2 weeks • 24 words maximum. Maximum sale price is \$100. • Prices must be listed with each item. BUSINESSES MAY LIST FREE ITEMS ONLY. NO LISTINGS FOR ANIMALS. LISTED FLOWERS, GARDEN PLANTS, FIREWOOD, AND MANURE MUST BE FREE.

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Real Estate

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



OFFERED BY RENE' BEN DAVID/ REALTOR®, OCEAN PARK REALTY INC.
23 Circuit Ave Extension
Cell 508-847-4864

3 bedrooms/1 bathroom, Rare Opportunity with Endless Possibilities – Unmatched Harbor & Vineyard Sound Views. Location, Location, Location! A truly rare offering in the heart of Oak Bluffs, where properties like this seldom become available. Positioned directly across from the iconic Oak Bluffs Harbor, this property boasts unobstructed harbor views and sweeping vistas of Vineyard Sound—a setting that captures the very best of island living. From your front yard, watch ferries come and go, boats drift through the harbor, and enjoy the stunning backdrop of open water stretching toward Vineyard Sound. This is a property that puts you right in the middle of everything, while still offering the charm and character of a classic island home. Zoned B-2 Commercial, the opportunities are truly endless. Continue the legacy of a successful to urist-oriented business like the longtime Anderson Bike Rentals, create a new commercial venture, or reimagine the property as your personal dream home. Whether you renovate the existing structure or build from the ground up, you'll benefit from one of the most visible and vibrant locations in Oak Bluffs. Walk to everything—ferries, beaches, the marina, restaurants, movies, shopping, Ocean Park concerts, the OB fishing pier, and the beloved Oak Bluffs Fireworks. This is a must-see, legacy property with rare potential in a location that can't be beat. Very easy to show. Pre-approval or proof of funds required with all offers.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



PRICE IMPROVEMENT
46 KENNEBEC AVENUE
OAK BLUFFS, MA
\$1,495,000

CALL OR TEXT ALAN SCHWEIKERT 508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112 OCEAN PARK REALTY

This exquisite Victorian home, lovingly preserved by the same family for over a generation, stands in outstanding condition and is perfectly situated in the vibrant heart of Oak Bluffs Center. Enjoy the convenience of being just steps away from the Public Beach, Steamship Authority, Oak Bluffs Harbor, a supermarket, and a variety of charming restaurants and shops that contribute to Oak Bluffs' allure as a premier summer destination on Martha's Vineyard. This delightful three-season cottage has been carefully modernized over the years, offering a rare investment opportunity. Located within the highly sought-after B1 Zone, this residence has been cherished as a family home while also providing the potential for commercial endeavors. The property features a well-designed floor plan that includes four bedrooms-one conveniently located on the first floor-along with a full bathroom, two half bathrooms, a laundry storage area, an eat-in kitchen, and a cozy living room. The home is adorned with stunning wood flooring throughout, bright and airy rooms with original windows, a new hot water on demand system, and a charming front porch, perfect for leisurely afternoons. With its four bedrooms and prime in-town location, this property offers substantial rental potential, making it an exceptional opportunity for both personal enjoyment and investment.

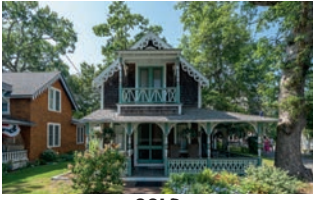
HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD \$500,000 by Rene Ben David/ Ocean Park Realty Inc
CELL 508-847-4864.

Location, Location, Location. Rare Opportunity to own a 10,000 sq ft South facing level corner lot on a paved road that may accommodate up to 3 bedrooms with Board of Health approval. A sandy beach on Lagoon Pond is just a short stroll (about 1500 ft.)enjoy the beach, walk your pet, watch the stunning sunsets, and GREAT shell fishing . How nice would little necks on the half shell or baked scallops sound for dinner! Have a boat? With permission from the Oak Bluffs Harbormaster, you could be steps away from your own private mooring. A convenient bike path nearby links your access to miles of safe paved trails leading to downtown Oak Bluffs, Edgartown, Vineyard Haven, West Tisbury and 6000 acres of the State Forest. Martha's Vineyard Hospital and Oak Bluffs Elementary School are a 5-minute drive away. This established neighborhood is perfect for both vacation or year round living. The seller is working on securing an engineer to begin the process for a survey, perc test and septic design.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD \$839,000 CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381 OCEAN PARK REALTY

Just steps from the iconic Tabernacle and Trinity Park, this charming cottage is nestled in the heart of the historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association- a designated National Historic Landmark District. Surrounded by colorful gardens and picturesque pedestrian walkways, it offers an easy stroll to Oak Bluffs Harbor, beaches, ferries, art galleries, restaurants, and all the vibrant charm of town. This delightful two-bedroom, one full bathroom cottage blends historic character with thoughtful updates, making it an ideal 3-season or extended seasonal retreat. With additional insulation under the house, a buyer could potentially make it suitable for year-round use. An expansive wrap-around farmer's porch with classic gingerbread trim invites you to relax and soak in the community's unique atmosphere. Inside, painted wood-beam ceilings, arched windows, and timeless built-in details enhance the welcoming living spaces. A versatile bump-out area offers flexible use as a guest sleeping nook or office, with direct access to the porch for summer breezes. The dining room provides an inviting space for dinner parties and entertaining, while the kitchen with adjoining laundry and pantry adds convenience and charm. The cottage comfortably sleeps seven, including two bedrooms, a single bed in the bump-out, and a sleep sofa in the living room. The property is partially insulated and features propane forced hot-air heat in the kitchen, bathroom, dining room, and one bedroom, with a new furnace installed in 2019. Additional features include an electric stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, garbage disposal, 50-gallon propane hot water heater, and approximately 200 sq. ft. of storage. Mature gardens and lawn with irrigation further enhance this special offering. Best of all, the cottage is offered TURNKEY and FULLY FURNISHED, ready for you to enjoy from day one.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD & CLOSED IN 30 DAYS \$1,995,000 CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381 HOUSE & STUDIO ABOVE GARAGE~

Welcome to 26 Tia Anna Lane! This exquisite residence is immaculate, stylish, and fully renovated, ready to welcome its new owners! Situated on a beautifully landscaped 0.30-acre lot adorned with vibrant plantings, the home boasts pristine conditions both inside and out, featuring newer Hardi Plank siding. The inviting farmer's porch, complete with Mahogany decking, sets the tone for this charming property, while a lovely pergola graces the back of the house. Upon entering, you are welcomed by a whitewashed wood with high ceiling that enhances the warm ambiance. The flooring throughout the home is first-growth Southern Pine, meticulously crafted with pegged and bunged details. The expansive entrance leads into the living and kitchen areas, which are bathed in natural light, creating an airy atmosphere. Uncover the charm of the wood-burning stove nestled in the family room, equipped with a circulating fan adds warmth, efficiency and focal point for gatherings. Culinary enthusiasts will appreciate the kitchen, which is outfitted with stainless steel GE Cafe Series appliances, attractive quartz countertops, walk in pantry and ample cabinet space to store all your cooking essentials. The screened porch offers an ideal setting for entertaining guests or enjoying a peaceful morning coffee amidst the lush surroundings. All bathrooms in the home have been meticulously renovated, ensuring modern elegance and functionality, while custom window treatments elevate the aesthetic. Additional updates include, a hot water heater (installed in 2020), pull-down stairs to a fully insulated attic (upgraded in 2021), energy-efficient heat and air conditioning with mini-splits, in ground sprinkler system for easy maintenance and a forced hot water boiler for optimal comfort throughout the year. The beautifully landscaped yard provides ample space for outdoor enjoyment, and deeded access to the Lagoon from Gull Landing opens up opportunities for kayaking, swimming, fishing, boating, clamming or simply savoring the picturesque waterfront scenery. Call now for your private tour!

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD BEING OFFERED BY RENE BEN DAVID/OCEAN PARK REALTY INC.
CELL 508-847-4864
\$1,250,000

11 ONONDAGA AVE, OAK BLUFFS OPEN HOUSE

Comfortable Island Home on a Quiet Dead-End Road in Oak Bluffs: Welcome to 11 Onondaga Avenue, the second home on the left on a short, quiet dead-end road in a well-established Oak Bluffs neighborhood enjoyed by both year-round and seasonal residents. This well-cared-for 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home offers space, comfort, and a truly inviting island lifestyle—just a short walk to the Oak Bluffs Sailing Camp Park and beach, where beautiful sunsets over the water await. Inside, the open-concept layout connects the kitchen and dining area to the living room, creating a bright and functional space perfect for both entertaining and relaxed daily living. An inviting deck off the dining room extends your living space outdoors into a serene landscaped setting ideal for enjoying meals in the fresh Vineyard air. The home is set on a peaceful lot with both front and back yards offering a sense of seclusion and quiet retreat. Two additional bedrooms and a full bath complete the upper level, and a half bath with washer /dryer is conveniently located on the main floor. The full basement includes both indoor and outdoor access, offering flexibility and additional potential. A finished room in the basement is ready for your creative touch—whether as a media room, home office, playroom, or guest overflow. The property also includes a spacious storage shed and a driveway that easily fits three to four cars. A new roof installed in 2023 adds peace of mind and value. Located minutes from downtown Oak Bluffs, local beaches, ferries, and all the charm the Vineyard has to offer, this home is ready to be your island getaway, year-round residence, or next investment.



NEW LISTING IN OAK BLUFFS \$999,000
ALAN SCHWEIKERT OCEAN PARK REALTY
508-221-1708

Oak Bluffs: Home Sweet Home Situated on over a quarter acre of beautifully landscaped, level grounds with colorful perennial plantings and mature trees, this sun-filled ranch offers a perfect blend of comfort and charm. The open kitchen, dining, and living areas feature cathedral ceilings, classic vertical knotty pine walls, and a cozy brick fireplace. Enjoy a convenient first-floor bedroom and a spacious second-floor primary bedroom with a private deck. The finished basement provides additional living or hobby space. Updates include a 2017 oil burner and Roth oil tank. An inviting outdoor shower completes this well-maintained home, offered furnished and ready for your personal touches. Located in a quiet residential neighborhood close to all that Oak Bluffs has to offer.

SOLD \$4,075,000 CALL OR TEXT JAYNE ISFORD
203-962-4317

Spectacular waterfront home with stunning water views from every room. Situated in a private location in the Sengkontacket Association, this is an exceptional property in a rare setting. In addition to the breathtaking water view of Major's Cove and of Felix Neck throughout the home, the front of the property faces serene pastoral views. This home offers four bedrooms with a main floor master and ensuite, exquisite craftsmanship throughout and a unique setting on the water. Great care was taken in the planning of this home to ensure maximum enjoyment of the tranquil surroundings and views. Each of three bedrooms on the second floor has a water view. The quality of materials used in the construction of this home is outstanding. As you walk through the property, the landscaping and gardens are impeccable and have been featured in MV Magazine. The back yard gently slopes down to the water. Carefully planned by the owners, this home was constructed to follow net zero design principles which provide an energy-efficient retreat. Completely renovated in 2014 and lovingly maintained, this property is a true one-of-a-kind sanctuary on the Vineyard.



SOLD \$815,000 AND CLOSED IN LESS THAN 30 DAYS
MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381

Welcome to 17 Siloam Avenue, a delightful cottage nestled in the historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, offering spectacular sunset views of Sunset Lake and the distant harbor from its inviting porches. The current owners have cherished this home year-round for 13 years, and it's easy to see why. This spacious residence features an open living and dining area that seamlessly flows into a beautifully renovated kitchen, perfect for both family gatherings and entertaining. The first floor also includes a delightful partially renovated bathroom adorned with attractive painted wood beam ceilings, adding a touch of elegance to the space. Venture to the second floor, where you'll find three comfortable bedrooms filled with natural light thanks to the abundant windows. Located just steps away from the harbor, beaches, ferry ports, and all the vibrant attractions that Oak Bluffs has to offer, this cottage is the perfect retreat for those seeking both tranquility and adventure. Don't miss your chance to own a piece of this picturesque location! Most of the furniture is included and personal items will be removed prior to closing.



SOLD \$899,000 NEW SPRING LISTING CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381

Experience the charm of this exquisitely renovated Victorian Gingerbread Cottage, nestled within the historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association. Just moments away from Oak Bluffs Harbor, ferry terminals, art galleries, restaurants, public beaches, and vibrant shopping areas, this cottage offers an unparalleled location next to all of Oak Bluffs' picturesque parks. This rare gem features two side yards adorned with vibrant landscaping, enhancing its curb appeal. Step inside to discover a breathtaking chef's kitchen, designed with chic shiplap walls and custom cabinetry. Recent updates include a brand-new roof, modern electrical and plumbing systems, a state-of-the-art HVAC system, and energy-efficient, high-quality Blomberg appliances. The cottage showcases gleaming hardwood floors throughout, complemented by a fresh coat of paint and designer finishes that add a touch of elegance. This three-season home is move-in ready, making it the perfect place to enjoy a fantastic location where everything is within walking distance.

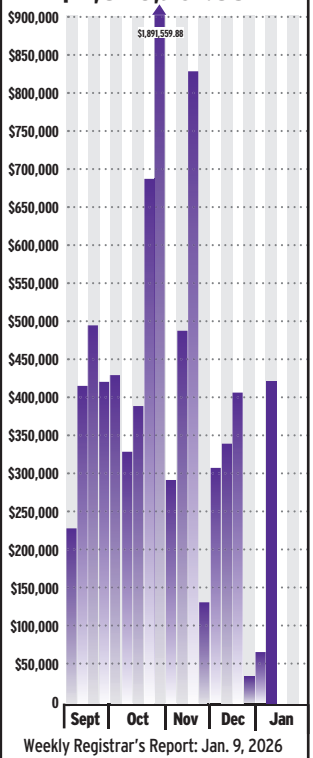
See What You Can Build for 33% less!

Schedule Your Free In-Person or Video Walk Through Today!

YOU CAN AFFORD TO BUILD ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD
Save 1/3 off convention building methods. New homes and additions. High-end home shells are custom designed, constructed in a controlled environment, and delivered to your MV site for about \$135/sq.ft. (Estimated price for finished house: \$550/sq.ft.) Packages include: Custom design, post and beams, roof and walls, doors and windows, siding and trim, insulation and floors. The pre-construction wall and roof panels go up in about 3 weeks. View model in Aquinnah by appointment. (508) 645-3572 Broker participation invited
Posner@MVPostAndBeam.com

LAND BANK WEEKLY INCOME

FY 2026, Year to Date: \$11,846,907.85



SOLD COASTAL CHIC CONDO PRICE IMPROVEMENT \$1,149,000 SENGKONTACKET WATERFRONT COMMUNITY | MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Stylish, sunlit, and superbly located – this architecturally designed end-unit townhouse offers 2 bedrooms, a flexible third-floor loft, and 1.5 baths across 1,323 sq. ft. Enjoy a sleek chef's kitchen with stone countertops, custom built-ins, and a 288 sq. ft. private deck ideal for entertaining. With upgraded flooring, windows, systems, and a successful rental history, this property is perfect for year-round living or as a strong investment. **Community amenities include:**
• Access to fresh & saltwater ponds
• Ocean access dock + boat ramp
• Clubhouse, tennis/pickleball courts
• Kayak storage + potential mooring
• Minutes to Farm Neck, bike paths & beaches
Offered \$1,149,000 Exclusively by: Marilyn Moses | REALTOR®
617-462-0381 | marilyn@oceanparkmv.com



PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD TODAY!
EMAIL VALERIE@MVTIMES.COM,
OR CALL 508-693-6100.

Real Estate

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD
OAK BLUFFS SENGEKONTACKET
\$1,995,000 CALL
OR TEXT JAYNE ISFORD
203-962-4317

This delightful home is on a scenic lot nestled within the Sengekontacket Association. Every room in the home is filled with natural light and beautiful views. It is a very short walking distance to the community boat dock and kayaking, as well as the walking trails of Sengekontacket. Updated in 2008 by the architect owner, this home has 3 bedrooms in the main house and a lovely bedroom and bathroom in the studio that is attached to the main home by a stunning overhead trumpet walkway. Cathedral ceilings in the main family room and kitchen with light from every angle. The renovated kitchen, living room and addition of a screened porch complete the main floor of the home. The lower level of the home has 3 sets of sliding glass doors that walk out to the gardens. There are 2 large bedrooms, one full bathroom and a separate washer and dryer room. The top floor has a completely updated and very large master and ensuite with lovely views of the property and surrounding woodlands. This property has an intimate feel because of the care taken with the design but also allows for everyone to have their own private space for relaxation due to the large square footage and open floor plan. There is also an outdoor fire pit and large wrap around deck off of the main floor. Solar panels on the main home. Family members and friends leave after their visits to 26 Box Turtle each year saying, "When can we come back". A special home in a special location. The Sengekontacket Association has an active group of pickleball and tennis residents who will welcome you on the courts. Owners will offer a 1997 Island Jeep Wrangler to be included in the sale of this property with roughly 55,000 miles.

HOUSES-VINEYARD HAVEN



15 MAIN STREET VINEYARD HAVEN \$2,900,000
OCEAN PARK REALTY
CONTACT ALAN SCHWEIKERT
508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112

Prime Commercial Building – Main Street, Vineyard Haven Exceptional opportunity in the heart of downtown Vineyard Haven. This well-maintained mixed-use property offers over 3,100 sq ft of versatile space, featuring two ground-floor retail storefronts with excellent street visibility and two updated 1-bedroom apartments above—ideal for staff housing or rental income. A full basement provides flexible storage or utility space, and deeded rear access allows for deliveries and logistical ease. Recent updates include plumbing improvements and a fully renovated apartment. Whether you're an investor seeking steady income, a business owner looking for a flagship location, or a developer exploring mixed-use potential, this property delivers exceptional value in one of Martha's Vineyard's most desirable commercial corridors.

HOUSES-WEST TISBURY

INCREDIBLE COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR SALE IN WEST TISBURY OFF THE ROAD ACROSS FROM CRONIGS.
 \$3 million - nothing else like it on the market - take a look. Ready to move in. Beautiful 2 bedroom apartment above. Text Lisa 310 213 5472.



WEST TISBURY \$1,485,000
CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES
617-462-0381

This coastal contemporary residence is located on a private 1.60-acre lot in WestTisbury, with convenient access to Long Point Wildlife Refuge. The home features four bedrooms and two full bathrooms. On the first floor, you'll find two bright bedrooms, a modernized bathroom, and sliders from the living area that lead to a new AZEK deck and enclosed fenced gardens, perfect for outdoor enjoyment. The open floor plan includes attractive beadboard ceilings that create a sense of space and light. Recent upgrades feature a remodeled kitchen with a tiled backsplash, granite countertops, and an LG induction stove along with matching stainless-steel appliances. The first-floor bathroom has been fully renovated with a tiled shower and glass door, tiled floor, new toilet, vanity/mirror, rainfall showerhead and all new hardware. Additional updates include a newer roof, Azek window trim, an outdoor shower enclosure, and gutters with leaf guards. The basement has a 9-foot ceiling with four windows, providing potential for further finishing with town approval. Other improvements include updated plumbing and electrical systems, a new well pressure tank, new Culligan Water Filtration and Conditioning system, and a Generac whole-house generator installed in 2022. Partially furnished and with additional updates available in the documents, this property is well cared for and ready for new owners. Potential to be a STRONG RENTAL PROPERTY.

FOLLOW US!

To stay up to date on all things MV, enter our exciting giveaways, and for a chance to be featured on our page.

@MARTHAS VINEYARDTIMES

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES

APPOINTMENTS
 Dukes County Commissioners are accepting applications for representatives to the following board:
 • DC Health Council
 More information at www.dukescounty.gov **The deadline for applications has been extended to January 20th, 2026.**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket 24 SM 000004
ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Evie B. Flanagan; Terence Flanagan AKA Terrence Flanagan and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee, as successor-in-interest to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, in trust for registered holders of Credit Suisse First Boston Mortgage Securities Corp., CSMC Trust 2006-CF1, CS Mortgage PassThrough Certificates, Series 2006-CF1, claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Vineyard Haven, numbered 47 Fawndale Road, given by Terence Flanagan AKA Terrence Flanagan to TCRM Advisors, Inc., dated September 23, 1998, and recorded in Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 741, Page 758, as affected by Default Judgment recorded in Book 1449, Page 764, as affected by Agreement for Judgment recorded in Book 1595, Page 819, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before February 16, 2026, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on January 5, 2026. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 16-014745

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET NO. 25 SM 004052
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: **John Sundman; Betty Burton** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): **HSBC BANK USA, N.A. as Trustee for Deutsche ALT-A Securities Inc. Mortgage Loan Trust, Series 2003-2XS** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Tisbury, numbered 50 Circuit Avenue**, given by **John Sundman and Betty Burton to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for First National Bank of Arizona, its successors and assigns, dated June 23, 2003**, and recorded in **Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 954, Page 286**, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Service members status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Service members Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 02/16/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 12/31/2025. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder

Notice of Intent to Request the Release of Funds (NOIRROF)
1/16/26

Town of Oak Bluffs
56 School Street
PO Box 1327
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:
 On or about the 3rd day of February,

LEGAL NOTICES

2026 the Town of Oak Bluffs will submit a request to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities (EOHLC) for the release of CDBG funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act 1974 (PL 93-383) as amended to undertake a project known as the Oak Bluffs Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program for the purpose of completing moderate rehabilitation of homes in the town of Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, and Chilmark totaling up to \$944,000.

The activity proposed is categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at Oak Bluffs Town Hall and is available for public examination and copying, upon request weekdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Dion Alley, Chairman of the Select Board at Oak Bluffs Town Hall on or before February 2, 2026. All such comments so received will be considered prior to authorized submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Town of Oak Bluffs certifies to EOHLC that Wendy Brough, in her official capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's and Massachusetts EOHLC's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Oak Bluffs to use Program funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS Massachusetts EOHLC will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Oak Bluffs certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

- The certification was not in fact executed by the Town's Certifying Officer;
- The Town has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58;
- The grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD or the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities; or
- another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant, Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300, Boston, MA 02114. Potential objectors should contact the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development to verify the actual last date of the objection period.

Wendy Brough, Environmental Certifying Officer
 Oak Bluffs Town Hall
 PO Box 1327
 56 School Street
 Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The West Tisbury Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 5:15 pm, on an application from the Martha's Vineyard Hospital for a special permit under Section 8.4 of the zoning bylaws to install a free-standing sign and a building mounted sign on the property located on Assessor's Map 16, Lot 86, 20 Indian Hill Road, MB District. For more information and/or to review the application please contact or visit the Planning Board office on the second floor of the Town Hall. Please address any comments to: Leah Smith

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

Planning Board
 P.O. Box 278
 West Tisbury, MA 02575
 Topic: Planning Board
 Time: Feb 2, 2026 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
 Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84553501630?pwd=335gCSX2zaeRPhx4Ta2khAaoxTAA2X.1>
 Meeting ID: 845 5350 1630
 Passcode: 786840
 +1 309 205 3325 US
 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Town of West Tisbury Owner's Project Manager Services Request for Services

Overview
 The Town of West Tisbury or "Town" is seeking the services of qualified Owner's Project Managers ("OPMs") as defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Section 44A½ and as further defined by the provisions of this RFS, to provide On-Call Project Management Services for the Town. To receive instructions to bidders and a detailed description of requested services please register here: <https://www.westtisbury-ma.gov/bids.aspx>
 Jennifer Rand, Chief Procurement Officer (hereinafter "CPO")
 Town of West Tisbury
 PO Box 278, 1059 State Road
 West Tisbury, MA 02575
 Telephone: 508-696-0102
 FAX: 508-696-0103
townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov

WEST TISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Anam Cara Hospitality LLC

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in the Selectmen's Meeting Room (2nd floor Town Hall 1059 State Rd) and on zoom on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 4:30 pm to act on the application of Anam Cara Hospitality LLC 90 Manuquayak Road, West Tisbury for a transfer of a Seasonal Wine and Malt Beverages license for the retail sale of wine and malt beverages from LCI Hospitality, LLC. Contact the Board of Selectmen at 508-696-0102 or townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov. Written comments will be accepted into the record upon receipt by Friday, January 23, 2026 2:00 pm at the Board of Selectmen's Office 1059 State Road, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85766108793>
 Meeting ID: 857 6610 8793
 Dial by your location 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
 Join instructions <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/85766108793?invite=ZuXJ2X8Emx7rmQY8viqy5TJhRw6iMwLMB4GnL6fDA>

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On **Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 5:30pm** the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2 nd floor meeting room on an application for a Special Permit from **Ubaldo Cristiano Miller** on behalf of Richard and Patricia Knoth, to install an inground 16'x40' fiberglass swimming pool under section 8.5-4C of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw at 35 **Woody Bottom Rd., Map 30 Lot 7.1**, in the RU district.
Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov or mail comments to: Zoning Board of Appeals, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. Please call 508-696-0107 for information on the application.

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On **Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 5:45pm** the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2 nd floor meeting room on an application for a Special Permit from **Schofield, Barbini & Hoehn, Inc.** on behalf of 15 Old Herring Creek LLC, to allow the removal and re-construction of an existing beach storage shed located in the Flood Plain district, under Sections 6.7-4B and 6.7-7A1 of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw at **15 Old Herring Creek Rd., Map 6 Lot 13**, in the RU district.
Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov or mail comments to: Zoning Board of

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or call 508-693-6100.

More than 350 chickens euthanized for bird flu

All of the birds, located at Slough Farm, have been depopulated by the state.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

A large flock of chickens were killed by state authorities at a farm in Katama after contracting highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), more commonly known as bird flu, the largest case on the Island in recent years.

The spread of the viral infection among the local chicken flock was discovered around the holidays by personnel at Slough Farm. The first chicken death occurred on Dec. 26, and by New Year's Day, more than 100 had died. The incident was an alarm bell for farms across the Island, one of which has updated its cleanliness practices in response to the news.

Julie Scott, the executive director of Slough Farm, said she called state officials as soon as they confirmed bird flu was the cause of the deaths. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) arrived on Tuesday to eradicate the remainder of the flock.

"Half of them had died by the time MDAR came," Scott told The Times in an interview.

The area where the flock had been kept, then quarantined once they tested positive for the avian flu, will be in a fallow period, meaning no poultry products are allowed in, or out, for 120 days.

While Slough Farm is a massive supplier of eggs to food donation services Island-wide, another farm that supplies eggs to local supermarkets and farmstands said they're concerned about the spread of bird flu, and have taken steps to mitigate risks as a result of the incident at Slough.

"It's concerning," Simon Athearn, CEO of Morning Glory Farm, said in an interview with The Times. "We are the gatekeepers for the food sources for the group, so we do take our job seriously."

Athearn said Morning Glory Farm staff added disinfectant footbaths, separated

workers of each flock so that they don't cross-contaminate, and are diligently recording any changes in flock behavior. The farm has 900 hens across five different flocks, and supplies more than 50 cartons of eggs each day to the Island community.

Brice Boutot, the Edgartown health agent, was the point person when bird flu hit the Island last year, and he's spearheading efforts locally this time as well. Last February, 20 turkeys were found dead from presumed bird flu. A month later, a flock of 50 chickens was killed after testing positive for the avian infection.

But the elimination of more than 350 chickens on Tuesday was the largest known incident of a flock being euthanized because of bird flu on the Vineyard to date. News of bird flu circulated around the Island in 2022 after hundreds of birds washed up on local beaches, but at that time, health officials told The Times they were emaciated and died of starvation, not of avian flu.

Officials said this year's incident was dealt with swiftly, and within the scope of state standards. Poultry products, including eggs, were checked by MDAR, and no contaminated products left the Slough Farm premises. But Boutot is still recommending that the public take precautions, especially those with a backyard chicken flock of their own.

"The risk to humans remains low," Boutot said in an interview with The Times. "By practicing biosecurity measures, like keeping your backyard flock away from open areas where migratory waterfowl can come and infect them, that prevents the backyard flock from getting it. Because once a backyard flock is infected, it has an extremely high mortality rate, and it's very likely that you'll lose the whole flock."

Boutot also recommends people adhere



MV TIMES

Over 300 chickens, similar to the ones shown here, were euthanized due to bird flu.

to the state standards of mitigation, which include steering clear of any dead birds one comes across, removal of birdbaths or feeders, and keeping pets in sight and away from any avian life.

Boutot also pointed to a new state recommendation, which is to stay away from "raw diets," a feeding method that has gained popularity in recent years, for pets. But besides the food items from Slough Farm that were taken out of circulation, health officials aren't advising the public to avoid all poultry products as of now.

"There's no risk advisory for getting HPAI from eggs or chicken at this time," Boutot said.

At Slough Farm, the recent incident has sparked increased risk prevention. Scott said they've introduced disinfectant footbaths and tend to their surviving chickens from a separate flock and area of the farm prior to doing other work, minimizing the risk of contamination.

But she said the farm took a hit with the loss of the flock. They're now unable to

provide poultry products for food equity programs. In the year 2025, Scott said Slough Farm donated more than 3,000 cartons of eggs to Island residents who struggled with food insecurity through the Food Pantry, the free food fridge at the West Tisbury library, and other donation services.

Slough Farm has a program where they purchase food from farms in order to donate those items to food equity programs. Scott highlighted that service as a way of bridging relief to the inevitable loss of egg and poultry donations, and said more information on the program can be found on the Slough Farm website.

According to Athearn, Morning Glory Farm enrolled in the program to provide its eggs to the food donation service, and said Slough Farm has placed a few orders so far, and that they'll try to continue to fill the gap.

"Now is the time, if [farms are] able, to help support other food equity initiatives on the Island," Scott said. **mvvt**

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

Appeals, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. Please call 508-696-0107 for information on the application.

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 6:00pm the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2 nd floor meeting room on an application for a Special Permit from Vineyard Land Surveying & Engineering Inc. on behalf of Karl Langmuir, to allow the construction of a 1,122 sq. ft. garage with second floor studio on a pre-existing, non-conforming lot, under Section 11.2-2 of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw at 22 Alex Way, Map 26 Lot 12.9, in the RU district.

Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov or mail comments to: Zoning Board of Appeals, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. Please call 508-696-0107 for information on the application.

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

Oak Bluffs Harbor Resident Slip Program

The Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen, upon the advice of the Harbormaster and the Harbor Advisory Committee, is offering a resident slip program for year-round Oak Bluffs residents. The town will designate twelve slips for Oak Bluffs residents. The rate will be based on the marina's nightly in-season rate, but with a 20% discount, waived shore power costs, and waived

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

Derby slip fees. The twelve resident slips will consist of:

- Four slips with a beam of 12'4"
- Three slips with a beam of 11'2"
- Two slips with a beam of 11'10"
- Two slips with a beam of 10'
- One slip with a beam of 12'8"

This rate is based on the marina's nightly in-season rates, which start at \$5 per foot, with a 20% discount. The in-season dates this year are June 19 - September 7, totaling 80 nights. There is a 30-foot minimum and a \$1.50 infrastructure fee per night. The applicant is only required to pay for the in-season dates (June 13 - Labor Day), though the applicant can utilize the slip before and after that time period. Proof of year-round Oak Bluffs residency is required to be eligible for this program. If the town receives more than twelve applicants, a lottery will be held to determine who is granted a slip.

Additional rules and regulations, and the application can be found on the town website: www.oakbluffsma.gov. The deadline for applications is January 23rd.

Questions and/or completed applications can be emailed to obmarina@comcast.net or dropped off at the town hall.

PUBLIC HEARING FY26 OAK BLUFFS REGIONAL CDBG GRANT

The Oak Bluffs Select Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 5pm at Oak Bluffs Town

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

Hall, 56 School Street in Oak Bluffs, MA, to discuss the town's FY26 regional CDBG application including housing rehabilitation and childcare subsidies serving residents of Oak Bluffs, Tisbury & Chilmark. Residents from all three towns are invited to participate and will be heard. Written comments will also be accepted and considered and must be submitted to the Select Board by January 26, 2026 at 5:00pm. Residents of the three towns may also join the meeting by computer or tablet at:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://oakbluffs.zoom.us/j/83258611546?pwd=qnbeyor3rUrqeiHvKNF92qGgwTE.1> Meeting ID: 832 5861 1546 Passcode: 821361

For additional information or questions please contact Cassie Boyd Marsh, grant administrator, at 508-430-4499 x1.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS, MASSACHUSETTS 2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND Community Development Block Grant

The Town of Oak Bluffs invites competitive proposals from qualified consultants to provide Housing Rehabilitation Services for a Community Development Fund FY25 CDBG grant awarded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities through its Community Develop-

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

ment Block Grant Program (CDBG). Complete specifications and proposal requirements are available on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 9:00am online at www.baileyboyd.com/services or by emailing the town's Grant Administrator, Cassie Boyd Marsh at cboyd@baileyboyd.com. Proposals must be received no later than, 2:00pm on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at the offices of the Grant Administrator Bailey Boyd Associates, Inc., 9 Hillside Road, Scituate, MA 02066 in the manner and format as required in the Request for Proposals, and should be addressed to Cassie Boyd Marsh, Grant Administrator. The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities in the proposal procedure, to cancel this Request for Proposal or to reject any and all proposals received deemed not in the best interest of the Town. The Select Board shall award contracts under this procurement. The Town encourages Women and Minority-owned businesses to submit proposals.

TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS, MA PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LAGOON RIDGE APPLICATION FOR MODIFICATION OF SPECIAL PERMIT - CONTINUED DELIBERATIONS

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 40A, Section 11, and Oak Bluffs Zoning Bylaws 10.3 (Special Permits); and 7.3 (Flexible Development), the Planning Board

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

will hold a virtual public hearing on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom for continued deliberations on the following Application for Modification of Special Permit: Owner: Lagoon Ridge MV, LLC (formerly CapeBuilt Lagoon Ridge, LLC) Applicant: Lagoon Ridge MV, LLC (formerly CapeBuilt Lagoon Ridge, LLC) c/o Eric L. Peters Law Office Location: Lagoon Ridge Subdivision - Double Ox Road, Hope's Way, and Sage's Way Special Permit: The Applicant Requests modifications to the Special Permit for the Lagoon Ridge Subdivision issued in 2021

Plan and Public Inspection: Application, plans, and relevant documents are available online at: <https://oakbluffsma.gov/560/Lagoon-Ridge-2025>

This will be a virtual meeting, in accordance with orders issued by the Governor. There will be no in-person attendance by the public. Persons may access and participate in the hearing by the methods listed below: Join Zoom Meeting <https://oakbluffs.zoom.us/j/89768441388?pwd=g5iuh6ay6DCobUmoEGKWMvAuTcyXv.1> Meeting ID: 897 6844 1388 Passcode: 849845 One tap mobile +13017158592, 89768441388# US (Washington DC) +13052241968, 89768441388# US Please forward comments to Planning Board Administrator, PO Box 1327, Oak Bluffs MA 02557 or via email:

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov * Please note when you join, you will first be put in a waiting room and must be let in to the meeting in an effort to reduce "zoom-bombing" interference. Although not required, it is very simple to register for a free Zoom account that will automatically identify you when you do join a Zoom. Visit www.zoom.us

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

Public Hearing Martha's Vineyard Commission The public is invited to a public hearing concerning the following Development of Regional Impact #780 Katama Meadows

Applicant: Meeting House Way, LLC; Doug Hoehn & Rob Moriarty (Agents) Location: 30, 40, 50, 60 & 70 Division Road, Edgartown. Map 37, Lots 47.1, 47.2 & 47.3 and Map 28, Lots 47.4 & 47, respectively (approximately 54.36 acres).

Proposal: Subdivision to create 14 Affordable housing lots gifted to the Town of Edgartown, 12 Community/Attainable housing lots, 26 market rate lots, open space, and a private way. Date & Time: Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. Place: Hybrid Meeting MVC Office - 1st Floor, 33 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA and Zoom Meeting ID: 834 1838 8478; Password: 231737

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

Vineyard hockey leads league, loses to underdog

The Vineyard boys are looking to grow from tough losses.

BY MATTHEW MACMILLAN

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) boys' varsity hockey team entered the weekend with a lot of buzz — not only because of their 6-1 record, but because they were also ranked first overall among 42 teams in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) power rankings.

"It put a target on our back," said Assistant Captain Max Metell, a junior. "Everyone wants to come out and beat the No. 1 team."

Despite its first-place ranking, the Vineyard finished the weekend 0-2, with a loss to a tough Falmouth team and a stunning upset by Dennis-Yarmouth. It's not all bad news for the boys, though. There were some positive moments.

On Friday evening, the puck dropped at Falmouth Ice Arena in a game much anticipated by the fans and players of both teams.

"[Falmouth] is always a game that you mark on the schedule," said senior forward Joseph Medeiros. Falmouth is a known hockey pow-

erhouse on the Cape, ranked fifth in Division 2.

Full of broken sticks and physical play, the Falmouth game did not disappoint. Medeiros started the scoring in the first period with a quick wrist shot to put the Vineyard up 1-0.

"Getting on the board first gave us momentum," said Medeiros.

Falmouth quickly responded, however, and tied the game going into the second period, where both teams continued battling. The Vineyard struck first, with sophomore forward Donnie Gregory finding the back of the net for the 11th time this season. (Gregory leads the Vineyard in points this season, with 16.)

Heading into the third period, the Vineyard had a 2-1 lead, but things started to come together for Falmouth. The Clippers scored two goals to close out the game and secure the win with a final score of 3-2.

The Vineyard suffered another loss that game when sophomore forward Jason Alton left the ice with a broken finger, adding to a



MATTHEW MACMILLAN

Angus Cummings (No. 28) skates through the neutral zone.

growing list of injuries for the team. There are currently three players out for the Vineyard.

Fresh off the tightly contested game with Falmouth, the Vineyard — along with everyone else in Tony Kent Arena — came into Saturday's game against Dennis-Yarmouth (D-Y) with the expectation of a bounce back. D-Y is currently ranked 30th in Division 4. What happened next was something nobody anticipated.

The first period started off quietly, with the Vineyard dominating possession but unable to find a hole in the Dolphins' defense. Then D-Y scored at the end of the period, putting the

team up 1-0 going into the first intermission.

The second period followed the same trend as the first. The Vineyard controlled the puck for a majority of the time, but was not able to find the net.

When the third period began, the momentum swung entirely. D-Y put up three goals, two of which came shorthanded on Vineyard power plays.

Once the final buzzer rang, the D-Y bench cleared as players jumped onto their goalie. The arena — filled with confusion about what had just happened — applauded the massive upset.

Metell spoke about the team's next steps. "We need to get back to our team standards and hold each other accountable," he said.

And the potential growth that comes with a few hard losses can sometimes be a necessary step for many teams to build resilience and grit. "We're just looking to come back better next game," said Medeiros.

The Vineyard has the opportunity to prove its legitimacy as a top-ranked team this Wednesday. They host the Sandwich Blue Knights at 5 pm, after our press deadline, at the Martha's Vineyard Ice Arena. Sandwich is currently ranked second in Division 4. **MVT**

Matthew Macmillan is an MVRHS junior. He is a reporter for the High School View, which is published weekly in The Martha's Vineyard Times. He plays defense for the high school's varsity hockey team, but is out for the season with an injury.

Wrestling comes home

Continued from A16

LeFebvre (165 pounds), Tripp Arciaga (175 pounds), Zebediah Athearn (190 pounds), Simon Arbelaez (215 pounds), and Xander Laiacona (285 pounds) winning their weight classes with pins.

"It feels great to be at home in front of the home crowd, it felt great to have Falmouth here. We are glad they made the trip over," said Athearn after his match. "It was great to see people on the Island get excited about wrestling. A lot of people here, when you say 'wrestling,' they think WWE. But I like to see people get excited about it, and hopefully more people join up."

Coach Kadien said the team was stoked to have its first home meet after being on the road for every match since the program's first full season in 2023.

"I think all their kids fought great, and our kids said right back, 'OK, here's our real match-



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

Zebediah Athearn pins Falmouth's Joao Andrade with a cradle at the MVRHS Pachico Gymnasium.

es, we are going to get after it," said Kadien.

For Kadien, it was the early matches that excited the crowd and gave the Vineyarders a leading momentum and set the tempo for the later matches.

"A couple of kids came out and executed

and got the crowd pumped up early on," said Kadien. "Robinson [is] coming off an extended break. He struggled early on with the conditioning, but he's one of our top guys, and I saw

his mindset shift over for the mental game."

With some gaps in both the Vineyard team and Falmouth's weight classes, the Vineyard was forced to forfeit four weight classes, including 113 pounds, 126 pounds, 150 pounds, and 156 pounds.

"I think they realized even though we were

getting a lot of pins, we have some holes in our weight classes," said Kadien. "It feels like we should've had more, but if you're giving up forfeits and you have those holes, you have to make sure that you're following through and getting those wins as well. So I think those matches early on set the tempo for the later classes."

For Kadien, who commutes to Martha's Vineyard every morning, it has been a lot of hard work getting the program to where it is today, but it's all been worth it. This coming week in practice, Kadien said the team needs to get back into match condition after a long winter break.

"You come back from the break, and you're a little loose, and then you are back to the real thing, and that can be a shock to your system. We will have a good, hard practice tomorrow, then we are back in Cohasset on Friday," said Kadien.

The Vineyard wrestling team's next home match is against Sandwich High School on Wednesday, Jan. 21. **MVT**

High school construction expected to impact track program

Public forum about high school building project mainly met with support.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

As preparations continue for a new high school and public forums about the future of the building are officially underway, one sacrifice down the road will be experienced by the Vineyard's track team, which will take a hit from the upcoming construction.

In a meeting room at the West Tisbury library on Thursday night, a few locals made their voices heard, mainly in support of the project. But some expressed concerns that the information presented wasn't reaching the far corners of the community.

The public meeting was the first in a series intended to educate the public about plans for the high school building, spearheaded by the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Building Committee.

While much of the presentation referenced the steps the committee has

taken thus far, such as designing the school through Tappé Architects and navigating Massachusetts School Building Authority reimbursement funding, there was also a new announcement: The track and field program will take a huge hit during construction of the building.

"We're going to lose seasons for our track team," Sam Hart, coordinator of pathways and special projects at MVRHS, said in Thursday's public forum.

The sport, which begins in the spring, usually sees dozens of signups from students who participate in events such as the high jump, hurdles, and shot put. Since the track itself will be demolished during construction of the high school, the team won't have anywhere to practice for those years.

But many who attended on Thursday were more concerned with the community ben-

efits for an estimated \$334 million project, a portion of which taxpayers will be liable for for the next 30 years. Thus far, the school building committee has mainly highlighted the need for a new building due to mechanical and electrical issues with the current building, along with recurring mold and flooding problems that have posed a health risk to students and teachers.

"I think you need to start off ... with what this does for the community," Kate Warner, an attendee and the former energy planner at the Martha's Vineyard Commission, suggested on Thursday.

Warner and other attendees said there's a high importance to educating the public about the utility of the building itself, especially since so many Islanders who will help pay for the project don't have students enrolled in the school. There were also a few calls for more specifics about tax rates, which the school building committee addressed, saying a tax calculator is in the works for its website.

"The whole community uses this building at some point or another," school building committee member and art teacher at MVRHS Elsbeth Todd said in response.

Todd pointed out that the high school building is used for adult learning courses

through Adult and Community Education (ACE), as well as town meetings in the Performing Arts Center.

The cost of the project was a concern of some attendees, but school building committee members noted that the costs of high school building projects across the state have skyrocketed in the past few years.

"School construction around the state has increased," said Sally Rizzo, a school building committee member. "We are at a disadvantage because we're on an Island. We don't have a labor force, and we have to bring everyone on." Rizzo estimated that it costs 30 percent more to build a high school on the Vineyard than anywhere else in the state.

Attendees also asked about transportation and the move from gas-powered to electric buses.

"We don't know where we're putting the bus lot," Hart said in response. "We do know sometime in the near future, our buses will be electric."

There are three more meetings scheduled, each in a different town. Aquinnah residents spoke up about the project at a meeting in November, when the school building committee presented its updated plans for a new school. **MVT**

Vineyard basketball on a hot streak

The victory against New Mission High School marks the Vineyard's sixth win in a row.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA



Milo Sullivan pulls up at the hoop with a short jump shot.



Leo Napior drives to the basket.



Fletcher Zack takes a free throw.

PHOTOS: NICHOLAS VUKOTA

The Vineyard boys' basketball team knew heading into Saturday's matchup that New Mission would be one of the tougher teams they faced all season, and that was made even more apparent when the other team immediately set a strong pace from the first tip-off.

But the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School boys' varsity basketball team came through and defeated New Mission High School in an intense game at home, preserving their winning streak.

Head Coach Mike Joyce said the Vineyarders prepared to face a team with strong rebounding skills and a more physical style of play, and felt that his team ultimately executed its game plan well.

"That was the best team we have played so far," said Joyce after the game. "On the glass, I knew rebounding was going to be an issue, but I think we did OK. They had a couple possessions where they got three or four second

chances, but for the most part, we kept them to one or two [rebounds], which was a big deal."

The game kicked off at 3 pm on Saturday at the Island's Pachico Gymnasium, and throughout the majority of the first quarter, the Vineyarders trailed behind New Mission. But with only minutes to go in the first quarter, the tides seemed to turn as the Island team started to find consistent success on offensive pushes. The Vineyarders ended the first quarter 17-10 in their favor.

And the Vineyard boys continued to run away with the lead in the second quarter, while New Mission kept slowly chipping away at the deficit, keeping themselves within reach of a comeback. The second quarter ended with the Vineyarders leading 32-20.

At the start of the third quarter, New Mission looked like they had some newfound momentum, coming out with a fresh intensity. Clawing their way back into the game with a series of successful offensive pushes and some

sloppy fouls by the Vineyarders, New Mission tied the game up with minutes left in the third at 38-38.

"In the second half we got a little sloppy at the start," said Joyce. "I felt like we threw the ball away five or six times in that third quarter, but then we cleaned that back up. I was very happy with how we took care of the ball, especially against that constant pressure."

After some back-and-forth on the scoreboard between the two teams, with just minutes to go in the third quarter, the Vineyarders found their footing again. A series of fouls proved to be devastating for a potential New Mission comeback, awarding the Vineyarders' Jacoby Light six free throws. He drained all of them, and the MVRHS team ended the quarter with a healthy 47-41 lead.

"That's the game," said Joyce of Light's free throw points.

"They had all that momentum ... and that's an eight- or nine-point play in a tie game. In

a game like that, if you get eight points, that's big."

The fourth quarter drew out some last-ditch attempts from the New Mission team as the Vineyarders played a reserved and patient game to hold the lead and run out the clock. The game ended 61-47, and became the Vineyard basketball team's sixth victory in a row.

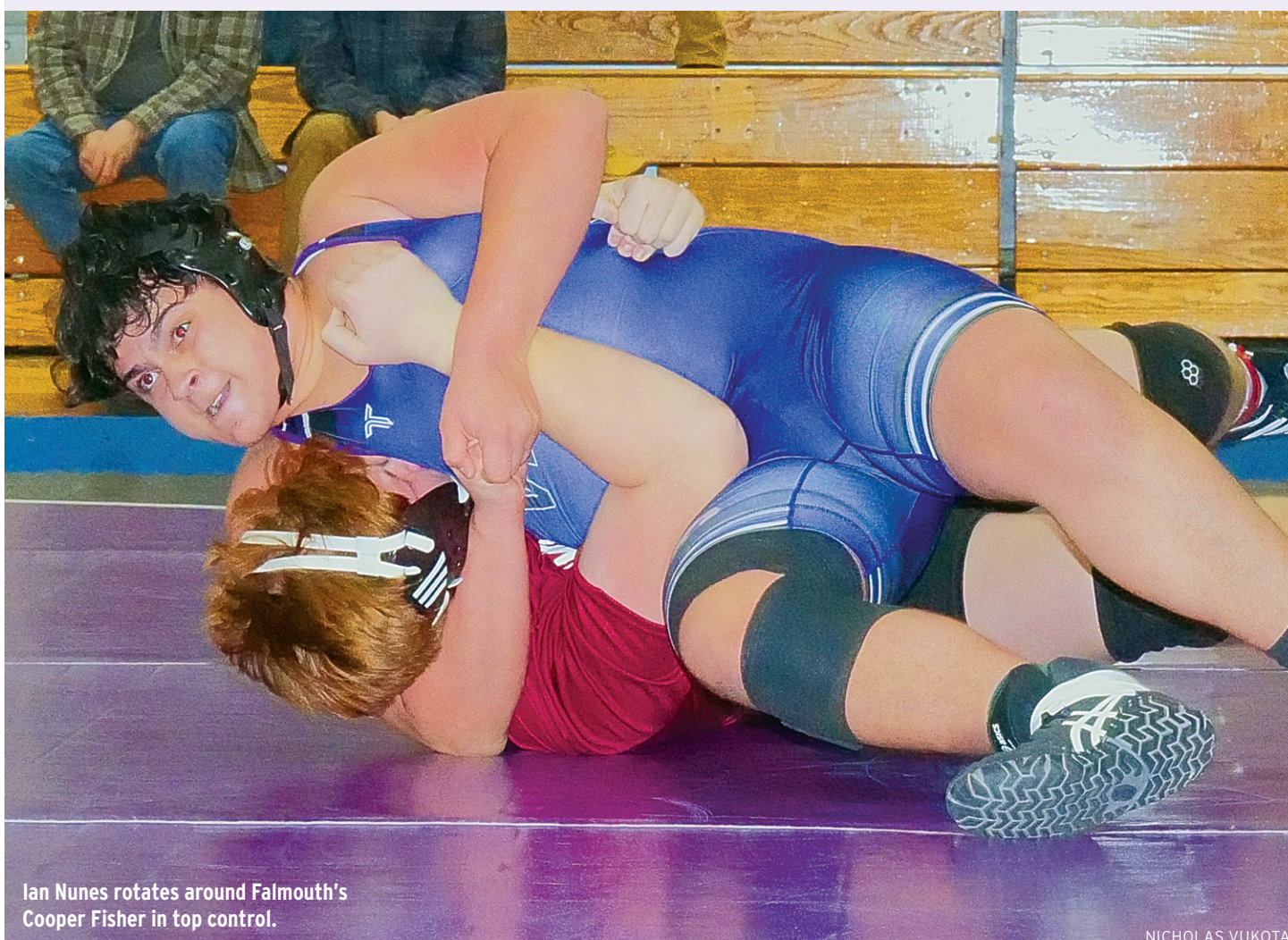
So far this season, the Vineyarders have lost only one game; it was to the Nantucket Whalers in early December. Joyce said since that loss, the team has discovered an appreciation for the importance of ball control.

"From that first loss at Nantucket, the kids have taken it to heart about taking care of the ball and playing hard. That's 80 percent of wins. If you do those two things, you're in good shape," said Joyce.

The basketball team's next game is on Wednesday against Dennis-Yarmouth at 5:30 pm, at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School. **MVT**

Wrestling comes home

Vineyarders take the win in the first home meet in decades. BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA



Ian Nunes rotates around Falmouth's Cooper Fisher in top control.

NICHOLAS VUKOTA

For the first time in almost 44 years, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) hosted a wrestling meet at the Pachico Gymnasium last Wednesday afternoon, and secured a victory against Falmouth High School, marking a massive milestone for

the revived high school program.

Fans and families packed the gym to cheer on the Island's wrestlers and celebrate the sport's return to the Vineyard community at the first match held on the Island since 1982.

Head Coach Jerry Kadien said that after he started teaching math at MVRHS in 2020, he worked to rebuild the program.

"It's wild," Kadien said about hosting the first home match in decades. "It's been a long, hard road from the summer of 2020 until now."

The Vineyard wrestling team finished its second consecutive full season last year, when it won the Cape and Islands league championship despite some roster shortages.

At the Pachico Gymnasium last Wednesday, the Vineyarders defeated the Falmouth High School Clippers 54-24. Despite a significant gap in the score, the matches were close, and Falmouth's program, in its very first season, showed promising skill among its wrestlers.

The 285-pound weight class kicked off the evening. For the Vineyard, Ian Nunes stepped onto the mat, and for Falmouth, Cooper Fisher. Nunes earned three points in takedowns against Fisher, pinning him at the two-minute mark to win the match and ignite the already ecstatic Island crowd early in the match.

Odin Robinson, who competed in the 138-pound weight class, took on Falmouth's Stanislav Pashkevich. Pashkevich was the underdog, but he went the distance with Robinson, who is one of the strongest wrestlers in the Cape and Islands League. After back-and-forth takedowns, Robinson pinned Pashkevich at the 6:28 minute mark to win the bout.

The Vineyarders won the meet overall, with Joshua Rodriguez (144 pounds), Isaac

Continued on A15

THE PEOPLE, TOWNS, AND STORIES OF ISLAND LIFE + RESTAURANTS, GALLERIES & ENTERTAINMENT

MYTimes

community & calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

Shawn Ramoutar
is the new
president of the
Martha's Vineyard
NAACP.

THE NAACP ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

*If not us, who? The work continues only if we do. **SEE B14***

DENA PORTER

The library as community

Ongoing programs for adults.

BY ABBY REMER

When does a library become more than just a library? The answer is: When it is a Vineyard library, all of which serve as community centers with a wide variety of ongoing, year-round programs. There's everything from games and dance to sign language and book groups, as well as a tea club and multiple types of yoga classes. With so many options, it can be hard to decide where to begin. So whether you're revisiting an old passion or trying something new, enjoy connecting with other Islanders in the "other" season.

AQUINNAH LIBRARY
aquinnahlibrary.org,
508-645-2314

The Winter Wellness series will be recurring once monthly

- "Nourish to Flourish: Winter Eating and Mental Well-Being": Thursday, Jan. 29, 4 pm
- "Mind Matters: Stress Less, Live More": Thursday, Feb. 26, 4 pm
- "Winter Motion: Stay Active, Stay Strong": Thursday, March 26, 4 pm

aquinnahlibrary.org, and use the QR code on its website, to sign up for the newsletter.

CHILMARK LIBRARY
chilmarkma.gov/chilmark-library, 508-645-3360

WEEKLY:

Mah-Jongg (Tuesdays at 2 pm): Join in a friendly game of Mah-Jongg.

Chilmark Coffee and Conversation (Wednesdays at 10:30 am): Staff-facilitated conversation about important town issues and the history of Chilmark, with occasional guest speakers.

Community Knitting Circle (Thursdays at 1 pm): Beginning to experienced knitters meet to share skills.

MONTHLY:

Brown Bag Book Club (last Tuesday of each month at noon): Participants discuss a selected book focused on community connection and the human condition.

Zoom Tea Club (third Wednesday, through

April, at 4 pm): Group meets virtually with Michelle Larsen from Martha's Vineyard Teas, Herbs, and Apothecary to explore local herbal and black teas with health and medicinal benefits.

Lunch and Learn (first Friday of the month at 11:30 am): A monthly speaker focuses on a specific historical event, introduces a nonprofit program, or shares their work.

Sound Bath (Saturdays, Jan. 10, Feb. 21, and March 21, at 3:30 pm): Chilmark resident Trish Ginter performs a sound bath. Registration required; email chil.programs@gmail.com.

EDGARTOWN LIBRARY
edgartownlibrary.org,
508-627-4221

WEEKLY:

Mah-Jongg (Mondays at 1 pm): Come practice your game skills with other players.

Drop-in Knitting Group (Wednesdays at 3 pm): Master knitter Cindy Bonnell works with beginners to experienced knitters looking for support, inspiration, and advice.

Restorative Reset with Jelisa Difo (Wednesday at 5:30 pm): A class with restorative yin postures performed near the ground that promote deep rest and encourage relaxation.

Vinyasa Power Yoga with Colleen Macsuga (Saturdays at 9 am): Vinyasa class designed to promote healing and maintain peak physical fitness through strength-building exercises.

MONTHLY:

Chef Look Cooks (Thursday at 2 pm; dates vary): Cooking demonstration and an opportunity to sample that month's featured dish.

International Film Night (Thursday at 6 pm; dates vary): Rotating selection of foreign films.

Virtual Poetry Workshop with Donald Nitchie (Friday at 4:30 pm; dates vary): Poet Donald Nitchie leads a monthly poetry class for all levels, in which participants create their own poem, prompted by a selection of poetry that is read at the beginning of the workshop.

OAK BLUFFS LIBRARY
oakbluffslibrary.org,
508-693-9433

WEEKLY:

Squad Fitness (Tuesdays at 11 am): Triva Emery leads an energizing fitness class that focuses on improving balance, flexibility, and overall stability.

Drop-In Crafternoons (Tuesdays at 1 pm): Drop in for a crafts circle, welcoming those working on crochet, knitting, needlepoint, drawing, calligraphy, or other pursuits.

American Sign Language Practice Group (Tuesdays at 5 pm): Drop-in conversational practice group for all levels.

Intermediate Tap (Wednesdays at 8:15 am): Professional instruction provided most mornings. Experience recommended.

Adult Board Game Night (Wednesdays at 7:30 pm at the Barn, Bowl and Bistro). Participants may select from the library's extensive board game collection, including the current favorite, Space Base.

Red Dragon Mah-Jongg

(Thursdays at 1 pm): Join in a friendly game of Mah-Jongg.

Beginning Crochet (Saturdays at 10:30 am, beginning Feb. 14): Ever wondered how yarn turns into cozy scarves, hats, and blankets? Come unravel the mystery at our beginning crochet class.

All Ages Chess (Saturdays at 2 pm): Play with a dedicated group of chess lovers in a welcoming environment.

BIMONTHLY:

Magic: The Gathering Club (first and third Friday at 6 pm): Players of all skill levels are welcome.

MONTHLY:

Second Saturdays with Strong Martha (second Saturday of the month at 10 am): Explore

the world of strength training in this beginner-friendly class geared for women and taught by Strong Martha's Emily Mizer. (Preregistration is required.)

WEST TISBURY LIBRARY
westtisburylibrary.org,
508-693-3366

WEEKLY:


Zoom Chair Yoga and Meditation Class (Mondays at 7:30 am): All levels and ages are invited to virtual chair yoga and meditation led by Jason Mazar-Kelly (YogiJay).

Zoom Balance Class (Mondays and Fridays at 11:30 am): Kanta Lipsky leads students in exploring

Continued on B3

1

Ballroom/Partner Dance Class



Meets the Second Saturday of the month

Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 9

Free and open to the public.

West Tisbury Library

COURTESY OF WEST TISBURY LIBRARY

3




COURTESY OF WEST TISBURY LIBRARY

1. Ballroom Dancing, West Tisbury library.
2. Open Mic Night, Vineyard Haven library.
3. Tea sorting, West Tisbury library.
4. LGBTQI+ Book Club, West Tisbury library.
5. Poetry reading group, Vineyard Haven library.
6. Mah-Jongg players, Chilmark library.

5

Martha's Vineyard POETRY READING GROUP



The Martha's Vineyard Poetry Reading Group meets via Zoom at 10 AM on the first Monday of the month, September to June. The Poetry Reading Group has been meeting for over 10 years to share and discuss poems by favorite poets from around the world. No qualifications, except a love of poetry.

Vineyard Haven Public Library
508-696-4211 | www.vhlibrary.org
vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org

COURTESY OF VINEYARD HAVEN LIBRARY

2

Open Mic Night!

@ the Katharine Cornell Theater
51 Spring Street, Vineyard Haven

6 pm Tuesdays
Jan 6th, Feb 3rd,
March 3rd & 17th

Open Mic Nights are moving to the Katharine Cornell Theater, hosted by Vineyard Haven Library and the Vineyard Haven Harbor Cultural District! Come sign up to play, or just to listen. Sign-up on arrival, free and open to all.

Also join us for free performances at the Theater
6pm Tues Jan 20th: The Jeremy Berlin - Eric Johnson Duo
6pm Tues Feb 17th: The Tristan Israel Band




Please note the theater is an historic venue, food & drink are not allowed inside.

vhlibrary.org | 508.696.4210

COURTESY OF VINEYARD HAVEN LIBRARY

4


Join us for our LGBTQI+ Book Club!



at the West Tisbury Library

Email Alexandra
apratt@clamsnet.org

to sign up and get a free copy of the next book!



WEST TISBURY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
1042 State Road • West Tisbury • 508.693.3366
westtisburylibrary.org facebook.com/westtisburylibrary @wtlib

COURTESY OF WEST TISBURY LIBRARY

6



COURTESY OF CHILMARK LIBRARY

The library as community

Continued from B2

ways to strengthen our connection to the earth and improve our bodies' ability to maintain good balance.

Knitting Group

(Tuesdays at 5 pm): Join other knitters and help yourself to supplies provided by the library, or bring your own. Open to adults and teens, and all levels.

Quilting Circle

(Wednesdays at 6 pm): Socialize with other quilters while working on your project.

Stitch Society

(Thursdays at 5 pm): Drop in and work on your needle-felting, embroidery, or needlework.

Zoom Kripalu Flow

(Thursdays at 7:30 am): An all-levels virtual Kripalu Flow Yoga led by Jason Mazar-Kelly (YogiJay) that soothes the nervous system through a combination of movement, breathwork, and meditation.

Adult Community Dance

(Saturday at 10:30 am): Jesse Keller Jason makes every(body) feel comfortable in a class that builds strength, stability, and flexibility.

BIMONTHLY:

Ukulele Jam (alternating Thursdays at 4 pm): All ages come together to make music, sing, and have a great time. Ukuleles can be borrowed (or bring a guitar or banjo).

MONTHLY:

Writers Read

(second Monday of the month at 7 pm): Community members read short original fiction and nonfiction, with an optional critique to follow.

LGBTQI+ Book Club

(last Monday of the month at 5:30 pm): Librarian Alexandra Pratt leads a discussion about that month's book.

Model Railroad Club

(first Saturday of the month at 3 pm): Meet with long-time model railroad enthusiast Rick Fischer to share ideas, tips, and projects.

Ballroom Dance

(second Saturday of the month at 11:30 am): Get into the swing of things with Tom Carberry from the MV Ballroom Dancers. No experience or partner needed.

Second Sunday Jazz

(second Sunday of the month at 2:30 pm): Come listen to a rotating roster of musicians perform.

VINEYARD HAVEN LIBRARY

vhlibrary.org,
508-696-4211

MONTHLY:

Martha's Vineyard Virtual Poetry Reading Group

(first Monday of the

month at 10 am, through June): Meeting for more than 10 years. Participants share and discuss poetry by favorite poets from around the world.

Open Mic Night

(first Tuesday of the month at 6 pm): With the closure of Island Music, its popular Open Mic Night will move to the Katharine Cornell Theatre, co-hosted by the Vineyard Haven Cultural District and the Vineyard Haven library.

Local Music Evenings

(third Tuesday of the month at 6 pm): Local music evenings throughout the winter, at the Katharine Cornell Theatre, 54 Spring St, Vineyard Haven. Tuesday, Jan. 20: the Jeremy Berlin-Eric Johnson Duo; Tuesday, March 17: TBA.

Science and Nature Book Club

(first Wednesday of the month at 3 pm): For patrons who enjoy reading, thinking, and sharing ideas about science and nature; meets at Grace Church, 36 Woodlawn Avenue, Vineyard Haven.

VHPL Hybrid Book Club

(third Thursday of the month at 2 pm): Selections include contemporary fiction, and the occasional memoir or nonfiction. Meets at the EMS Facility at 251 Spring St. in Vineyard Haven. A Zoom option is also available.

Virtual Personal Writing with Caroline Joy Adams

(first Thursday of the month at 2 pm): An annual series of personal writing workshops with Caroline Joy Adams. Topics include Writing about Love, Writing a Mini-Memoir, The Mindful Art of Haiku, The Return of Spring, and Travel Writing.

Adult Craft Series

(first Sunday of the month, various times) run by the multitalented Jennifer Rapuano, at the Tisbury EMS Facility at 251 Spring St.

"Great Decisions" foreign policy reading and discussion group

(dates and time TBD): The Foreign Policy Association program provides patrons the opportunity to learn about some of the most critical global issues facing America today, around topics selected by a panel of foreign policy experts. Virtual or hybrid format; for details, contact the library at 508-696-4211 or vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Virtual Literature Seminar series with Professor Philip Weinstein

(dates and time TBD): Each year, Professor Weinstein focuses on a different author or theme in literature. For details, contact the library at 508-696-4211 or vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org. **MVT**

Celebrating Our MVRHS Grads

Ivry Russillo

Finding success in creative entrepreneurship.

BY MARGE HARRIS

Ivry Russillo, class of 1998, couldn't wait to graduate from MVRHS. She made it through high school by focusing on her art classes. After graduation, she attended the Museum School in Boston, where she took a variety of courses, finding metalsmithing as her passion. She completed two years at the Museum School

in jewelry-making, and took a one-year sabbatical to figure out which direction to head next.

Ivry researched diploma programs within the U.S. for continuing education in jewelry fabrication, and found limited resources. She came across Art Studio Fuji in Florence, Italy, and was fascinated by the students' portfolios, teachers' cred-

ibility, and class offerings. After six months there, she was invited to become a teacher's assistant, which allowed her to work with some outstanding teachers and artisans for the following 2½ years. She finished the program at Fuji and received her diploma in jewelry-making.

During the summers, Ivry came home to the Island to work (like many Islanders) in a variety of jobs: bartending, cleaning houses, caretaking, etc., while creating jewelry at home and making small sales.

Eventually, Ivry packed up her truck with her jeweler's bench and tools and moved to South Beach in Miami, Fla., where there was a thriving arts community. She enrolled in a martial arts class. Interestingly, while learning how to gooseneck someone's wrist at one of these classes, she heard two participants talking about ArtCenter/South Florida and its need to hire a jewelry instructor. Ivry applied and got the position. For the next four or five years, she

taught jewelry making at the ArtCenter in Miami, hosted workshops, offered pop-ups throughout the area, and enjoyed the beach.

In 2015, Ivry returned to the Island and began her current career of selling her jewelry full-time at the Chilmark Flea Market, the Vineyard Artisans Festival, and the Edgartown Village Market. In addition, she teaches workshops at Featherstone in Oak Bluffs, where she's now been an instructor for five years.

Ivry is an entrepreneur and a survivor. Kudos, Ivry, for your persistence in creating a life built on passion for your craft. Luckily, Islanders see your exquisite craftsmanship at the above-listed markets and holiday festivals. Ivry, we celebrate you as another one of our graduates making us so very proud. Thank you. **MVT**

Marge Harris was a teacher at MVRHS for 27 years. You can contact her at margeharris@comcast.net. This column appears twice a month.

POET'S CORNER

The Wind

By Amarylis Douglas

Last night the wind cried.

It had got itself caught up again
among the empty winter branches
the gray oak trees.

It thought it had to live there alone
until it reached out,

pulled its arm down, into a sweep through the black sky, then down more into the wet harbor.

Even though I had lit a candle,

placed it here in the window,

put a soup on the stove

and had already called everyone I call

to not feel so all alone.

So I turned to my book

then to my own words,

finally climbed up into the high hug

of a bed, its soft comforters,

pillows, around me.

I have purposefully filled it with them.

Finally I fell into a sleep, letting go the night

to a dream.

The wind continued to cry, then howled

a song of its own loneliness

a song to the cold waters of the harbor.

A few times it woke me, but I

fell back into the dream sleep.

In the morning, the wind had calmed.

I looked out into the new daylight,

into its hopefulness,

a hopefulness that paints with an orange brush, a powerful, soft brush, filling in behind the black lines of those empty trees.

This is how the sun returns then looks down onto the harbor

offering all of us a new morning.

Amarylis Douglas lives in Vineyard Haven. Her book "The Fellowship of the Rain" was published in 2020. Her writing also appears in "Pathways Arts" and in "Our Place: An Anthology of Berkshire Hills Poets."

Poets with a connection to Martha's Vineyard are encouraged to submit poems to poetlaureatemv@gmail.com. Please include a two- to three-sentence bio.

Tisbury

By Kay Mayhew
tashmoorock@gmail.com



Heard on Main Street: Take a deep breath. It calms the mind. A special friend brought me a pizza last week. It was late afternoon, but I was certainly ready for supper. We sat down together and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. Just as she was ready to leave, the phone rang. I almost didn't answer it, thinking whoever it was could leave a message.

But later I realized I should be very happy that I did. I said hello. A male voice asked if my house number was 63. I said no, it is 74. He asked, "Are you sure?" I said, "Who is this?" He was delivering gas. I assured him he was at the wrong house. Then I told him he could not pull into the driveway until my guest left. I turned on the outside lights for her. But I don't have a light

where the tank is. I called the number, no answer. Then I heard the sounds of the tank being filled. Soon my phone rang. "OK, you are all set," he said. Then my phone rang again. My friend said, "I made it home safely." Then she told me the guy told her that he had nearly decided to fill the tank at my neighbor's house before he called. He had only a scrap of paper with my name and phone number on it. I was shocked and sur-

prised. But also very pleased that in this cold weather I now had the fuel for my heater. Author Elyse Graham will discuss her new book, "Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II." This is the untold story of the academics who became Office of Strategic Services (OSS) spies, invented modern spycraft, and helped turn the tide of the war to defeat the Nazis. She will be at the Cornell Theatre at 7

pm on Wednesday, Jan. 21. At the start of WWII, the OSS was quickly formed. In an effort to fill its ranks with experts, it recruited literature professors, librarians, and historians, training them to perform undercover operations and investigations. These surprising spies went on to shape both the course of the war and our cultural institutions with their efforts. Learn about the High School Building Project at the Tisbury School on

Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 pm. Representatives from MVRHS and the building project team will share the latest design updates, outline next steps, and answer questions. Join the discussion about the future of educational facilities on the Island. See also more on the MVRHS project website, at mvrhsbuildingproject.info. Big bunches of birthday balloon wishes go out Saturday to Chuck Downing. Happy birthday to Jan Patti Linn on Monday. Cathy Deese and Anne Downing party on Wednesday. Heard on Main Street: Celebrate Benjamin Franklin's birthday on Saturday. Go fly a kite. **MVT**

A special friend brought me a pizza last week. It was late afternoon, but I was certainly ready for supper.

Edgartown

By Marnely Murray
marnely@gmail.com



The process for writing this weekly column, at least for me, is two-pronged. First, I open a few websites and start narrowing down events happening this coming week, and second, I mass-text locals asking if they have any news to share. Some of you truly deliver with the consistent drip of information, but let me tell you, January is a tough month to source news, gossip, and information about Edgartown. And honestly, I'm not mad about it. It forces me to think a bit deeper, finding the smaller moments, the more unique tidbits; making them into a cohesive column that you'll

hopefully gain something from is my weekly goal. Today's column is just that: a sprinkling of notable yet unique moments that either passed or are coming up, alongside some suggestions on what this month looks like for a lot of us. Most of you know, but for

those who don't, my full-time job is in marketing, and one of my favorite parts of the job is food photography. Coming from a restaurant background, being able to capture dishes and cocktails in their best light is truly a dream come true. They say we eat with our eyes first, and I truly believe it. Recently, I was hired to photograph the new menu at Town MV, a menu that I helped consult on, and the outcome was more than 300 photos of food and drink that will have you drooling to go in and try the food out. Might

I suggest the Truffle Street Corn Nachos? One of the tastiest appetizers in town at the moment, in my opinion. Talking about tasty, I also recently registered for a food and poetry class at Slough Farm with Ejiro Edward, "What The Tongue Remembers," and it reminded me not only what a gorgeous space this is, but that its community offerings are always so interesting and approachable. I urge you to subscribe to its newsletter, and keep them top of mind whenever you're looking for some-

thing new and exciting to do in Edgartown. Learn more on their website, sloughfarm.org. Coming up, they have yoga, Pilates, pasta-making, writing, how to make empanadas, and more types of classes! Something that might not be as exciting, but still worthy of your time, is learning about the work Vineyard Power does. Recently on their website, I noticed they have no-cost energy coaching available — whether you are starting to learn about climate and energy, have a project and need technical advice, are considering an electric vehicle, or need a home energy assessment, they can help. All Eversource customers on Martha's Vineyard are eligible to receive a no-cost energy assessment. Find out more on the website vineyardpower.org. As we add more community classes and opportuni-

ties for connection, I urge you this week to reach out to a friend, neighbor, or family member you haven't chatted with recently. Winter is the coldest season, but it should not be the loneliest. Invite a friend to take a free class at the Edgartown library with you. Call a neighbor and ask if they want to come over for coffee. Connect with a stranger in the Stop & Shop line and ask them how their week is going. What's the point of living in such a small community and not taking the time to connect with one another? May it become your word for the week, month, and year: Connection. Birthday shout-outs go to Mark Bateman and Hayley Duffy on Jan. 18, Jade Deslauriers on Jan. 22 and also, to me on that same date! Cheers to us all January babies; may our days be filled with joy! **MVT**

I recently registered for a food and poetry class at Slough Farm with Ejiro Edward, "What The Tongue Remembers," and it reminded me not only what a gorgeous space this is, but that its community offerings are always so interesting and approachable.

Oak Bluffs

By Joanne Lambert
joannelamber@gmail.com



"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." —Arthur Ashe These are feeling like dark and confusing times. We are grieving on the Island for loved ones lost, and the news is all about chaos and controversy in the world. These words by Arthur Ashe are simple but powerful. When the world seems dark, we must do what we can to bring light. I was checking out the schedule for the MVRHS

Senior Luncheons, where you can enjoy a three-course gourmet dining experience prepared by the Culinary Department for a mere \$15. They are once a month on Thursdays — the next one is Jan. 15, but you can plan ahead for Feb. 5. Seating is at 11:15 am, lunch is served at 11:30. Call for a reservation: 508-939-9440. Upcoming dates: March 12, April 9, and May 14. By the way, at any time if you or someone you know has need for emergency

food, please know that you can call the Senior Center: 508-693-4509. Did you know that the Shopping Shuttle brings older adults in O.B. and V.H. out for shopping and to run errands, on Wednesdays and Fridays? Call M.V. Center for Living at 508-939-9440 for more info. It seems like only yesterday that Kelly Hill became the manager of Tony's Market. Kelly started working there in 1995, was promoted to manager in 2001, and

in 2010 she became vice president, chief of operations, and a director of the company. Kelly was the first manager of the store who was not family since the market began in 1877! Kelly has done a fabulous job, stocking and staffing the store, weathering many a storm, including changing ownership and the COVID pandemic, and always greeting us all with a smile and an encouraging word. Congratulations to Kelly as she retires! She was celebrating

her last day on Friday. It's going to be weird to not see her there, but she leaves an excellent team, led by Leah and Nancy, who will maintain Tony's Market as our neighborhood cornerstone. This Saturday, Jan. 17, I'll be over in America to dance at Grumpy's! Delanie Pickering and Jeremy Berlin will be there to play the blues with Mudcat Ward and Tom Ferraro. Expats Mary Beth and Cliff Meehan will be joining us, along with Delanie's Island

fan club. The show is from 6:30 to 9 pm, so you can make the last boat back if you need to! Birthday happiness to rock star James Murray on Jan. 16! Tyrone Araujo will also party on the 16th — happy birthday, Tyrone! Jan. 17 brings the big day for another rock star, Buck Shank. He shares the day with Michelle Obama. Birthday hugs to Liz Howe Brown on Jan. 18, and we also remember Shawn Cordwell, Sara Smestad, Marcia Valentzas, and Patti Linn will party on Jan. 19. Mary Jean Connolly will celebrate on Jan. 20, along with John Gonsalves and Nancy Rogers. Jan. 21 is the day for Talia Rogers, Catherine Deese, Samantha Greene, and Tristan Araujo. Send me your news! **MVT**

This Saturday, Jan. 17, I'll be over in America to dance at Grumpy's! Delanie Pickering and Jeremy Berlin will be there to play the blues with Mudcat Ward and Tom Ferraro.

TOWN COLUMN

Aquinnah



By Kathie Olsen
aquinnahcolumn@gmail.com

The leaden skies of January are surely upon us. I've continued to be plagued with a nasty cough and the soreness and weariness that go with it, so the weather seems somehow appropriate. It's giving me a mind-set to do some reading and some deep thinking.

Our town had a great gathering last week to honor and celebrate the election of Kevin Devine as chairperson of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe. The Town Hall was filled with townspeople and tribal members joining

together to celebrate what promises to be a great collaboration between town and tribe as we search, together, for solutions to challenges. Many thanks to Tom Murphy for the idea, and to Kevin Devine for allowing us to gather as neighbors who all care passionately about this place we call home.

If you're looking for things to do this week, there's much going on. On Thursday, Jan. 15 from 4 to 6 pm, the Aquinnah library hosts a Kid's Movie Night. They'll screen "Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken." The movie is rated

PG, and refreshments are provided. It's for the kids, but please note that children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult throughout the screening.

Then on Saturday, Jan. 17, the Aquinnah Library Film Group hosts a free screening of "King in the Wilderness," a documentary that participants of all ages are invited to explore Wôpanâak material culture across time, from soapstone and wood to woven cedar and cattail mats, then to create their own items. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final years,

from his part in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to his assassination in 1968. Please note that this film is rated R and features "mature themes." It's being shown in honor of Martin Luther King Day on Monday, Jan. 19. It warms my heart that our nation has dedicated this day to honor him. Up until now, you could visit our beloved national parks for free in his honor on this day. It hurts my heart that our president has decided to replace that day with his own birthday as the day for free fun on our national lands. (I

swear, if you aren't outraged by this guy, you really aren't paying attention.) Anyway, replace that bitterness with some great viewing.

On Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 4:30 until 6 pm, go to the Aquinnah library to join Brad Lopes, education manager for the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe and education coordinator for the Aquinnah Cultural Center, for a special hands-on workshop. You'll get a chance to learn about cultural boundaries and respectful appreciation around creation. Brad is a warm and knowl-

edgeable teacher. Try not to miss this one! The program is free, and all are welcome.

Then at 10 am on Saturday, like all Saturdays in January, Jannette Vanderhoop is offering an hourlong Kripalu yoga class suitable for all ages and yoga levels. It's a virtual class, meaning you can gather your kin about you, turn on your screen, and all try breathing and stretching calmly together under the guidance of a wonderful, local, registered yoga teacher. Sounds good to me. To register you can call the library at 508-645-2314, or email gwilbur@clamsnet.org. If you don't have Wi-Fi, the library even has Wi-Fi hotspots available for check-out, so no excuses.

Happiest birthday wishes to Tom Murphy on Jan. 16, and to Carrie Anne Vanderhoop on Jan. 18. **MVT**

Participants of all ages are invited to explore Wôpanâak material culture across time, from soapstone and wood to woven cedar and cattail mats, then to create their own item.

Chilmark



By Claire Ganz
cganz@live.com

January is beautiful, the sunlight warm and coming at a gentle slant — except when you are driving East early in the morning or West in the evening.

The news and video of another death, this time at the hands of an ICE agent, ripped through my grief for the friends and families of islanders lost the week before.

Domestic violence behind closed doors is real. Emotional cruelty and violence I thought we all agreed are abhorrent are perpetrated in

public, caught on video and continuously streaming.

Hateful actions — cruelty, intimidation, and violence unchecked — destroy individuals, families, and communities. And connections strengthen them.

Speaking up. Saying hard

things instead of keeping silent. Helping someone make a hard phone call. Or stepping in with an offer to take a walk and listen with a promise to keep the confidence, when you notice something is off, can be lifesaving.

A friend recently reminded me of the saying, "When offered a tart, take it." Hearing it made me laugh, and feel glad we've come so far, because my father would say this with the double meaning of a terrible term for a woman, and women can turn that away and accept

with pleasure when lovely things are offered to us.

Thank you to Linda Ferrini for giving me her space at a gathering of women for a singing bowl sound bath by Priscilla Warner. It was a beautiful gathering hosted by the inimitable Spring Sheldon of S&S Kitchen. I encourage you to seek out whatever she offers. She described this as "about tuning in with ourselves and each other, building support and amplifying love." It certainly delivered.

We are lucky to have beautiful gathering places

like Katie and Marshall Carroll's Menemsha Texaco, our libraries, Pathways, Native Earth Teaching Farm, and Stillpoint, that promote community listening and speaking.

Native Earth Teaching Farm is open Sunday afternoons, 2 to 4 pm, and by appointment.

The Chilmark library offers Coffee and Conversation Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Thursdays, Community Knitting Circle, 1 to 3 pm.

On Saturday mornings in January, Drawing Nature, 10:30 to noon. Meet Penny Weinstein, Jan. 17, 3 to 4:30 pm, at a reception for her exhibition of her paintings. She writes, "Because I live in one of the farthest corners of the island, I am often in a car, trying not to be distracted by the most beautiful

views — maybe just shadows on a sunny road, but often it's a sweeping landscape with water in the distance.

In 'Vineyard Byways' I am painting the paths and roadways that connect us on this special Island." Her exhibit is on display through Jan. 31.

Bring your mending or sewing project to our Slow Stitching Circle at Pathways, Thursdays, 2 to 4 pm.

On Friday, Jan. 16, 7 to 9 pm, Pathways presents father and son Brian and Niden Weilan Mark Cohen playing Celtic music on fiddle, guitars, hammered dulcimer, and mandolins. Missis Biskis, with Ellen Biskis, Kestutis Biskis, Taurus Biskis, and Bruce Millard, will play music from Hank to Hendrix, Loretta to Lucinda, and all the stops along the Americana Highway. **MVT**

Stepping in with an offer to take a walk and listen with a promise to keep the confidence, when you notice something is off, can be lifesaving.

COMMUNITY NOTE

Community in Conversation at the Carnegie returns

The Vineyard Preservation Trust invites Islanders to gather this January for Community in Conversation at the Carnegie, an early evening speaker series that brings the community together around timely topics rooted in Martha's Vineyard life.

"Community in Conversation is about creating space for Islanders to come together — especially in the quieter winter months — to listen, learn, and reflect on the forces shaping our shared experience," said Sissy Biggers, community engagement director for the Vineyard Preservation Trust. "These programs connect local expertise with universal questions, and the Carn-



CAROLINE BREHMAN

egie is the perfect setting for that exchange."

Wednesday, Jan. 21 "The Doctor Is in: Winter Medicine on Martha's Vineyard"

Dr. Gerry Yukevich, Martha's Vineyard Medical

Dr. Gerry Yukevich draws on 27 years of emergency and hospice care on Martha's Vineyard, and will share stories of winter medicine and the lessons they hold for all of us. An actor, author, and gifted storyteller, Yuke-

vich weaves together the history of healthcare on the Island with firsthand accounts from emergency rooms, offering practical insight on what to heed — and what to avoid — during the cold season.

Wednesday, Jan. 28 "Reimagining Higher Education: Learning, Work, and Community" Ana Keilson and Justin Reynolds, co-directors, Gull Island Institute

What should higher education look like today, and

what role should it play in local, national, and global communities? Ana Keilson and Justin Reynolds will lead a conversation about the mission and work of the Gull Island Institute, a Falmouth-based education nonprofit that reimagines liberal arts education through academics, physical labor, and student self-governance. The institute will bring a small cohort of undergraduates from across the country to Martha's Vineyard for a month-long program in May and June 2026. **MVT**

Community in Conversation at the Carnegie programs are open to the public. Seating is limited.

For more information, visit vineyardtrust.org or call 774-549-9107. Carnegie Heritage Center, 58 North Water St., Edgartown.

West Tisbury



By Hermine Hull
hrmhull@comcast.net

Hermine's column will return next week.



BOOKS

Cambodia comes to life on the page

slender Sue Guiney's "Where We Find Ourselves: A Cambodian Love Story." It is very much a love story, in every sense of the term, among the characters that populate the novel, as well as about the country Guiney so adores.

At the center of the book is Deborah, an American expat who runs Khmer Home for Blessed Children, an orphanage filled with children whose parents have died, or from families who can no longer afford to keep them. With guts, determination, and love, Deborah is the glue that holds together the lives of the children and the assorted adults who care for them.

Written in the first person, Deborah introduces herself to us by sharing a Cambodian proverb: "Negotiate a river by following its bends; enter a country by following its customs."

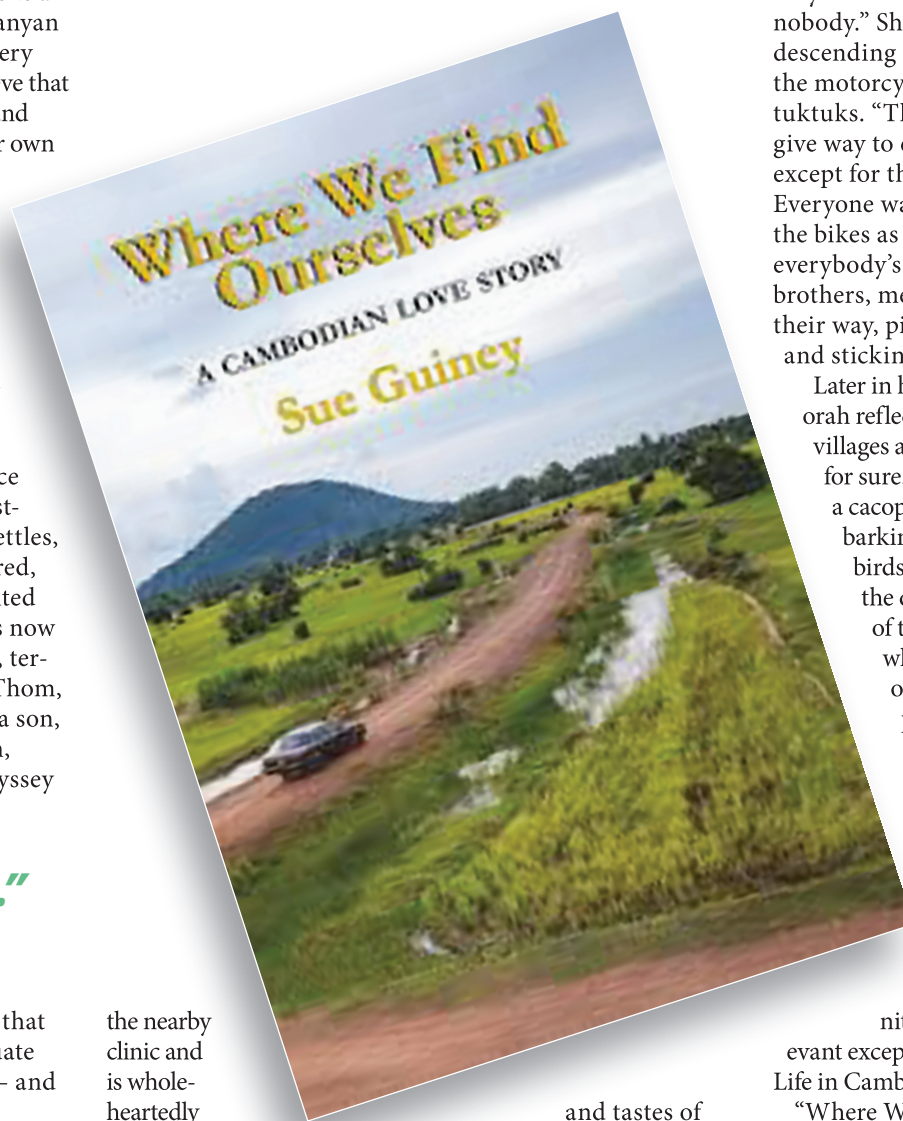
"By that, they mean be flexible and try to fit in. I've always tried to do just that all these decades of living here, but really, there's only so much fitting in that a somewhat overweight white woman in her sixties with a terrible Khmer accent can

god or Buddha that I can still be sitting here today, pretending not to smoke a cigarette under the banyan tree beneath the nursery window, and still believe that all of us, indeed each and every one of us in their own unique way, is okay."

The story launches into action when two of Deborah's charges, 14-year-old Kiri and 23-year-old Thom, attend a demonstration after the elections that turns violent, and riot police come after the protesters. When the dust settles, Kiri is critically injured, and Thom has assaulted Kiri's attacker, and is now on the run. Deborah, terribly worried about Thom, whom she considers a son, goes in search of him, leading her on an odyssey

Sue Guiney's "Where We Find Ourselves."

BY ABBY REMER



They go slowly, but they go wherever and whenever they want. They wait for nobody." She continues in descending order of power: the motorcycles, scooters, tuktuks. "They have to give way to everyone else, except for the bicycles. Everyone watches out for the bikes as if they were everybody's adorable little brothers, merrily going their way, picking a path and sticking to it."

Later in her travels, Deborah reflects, "Country villages are noisy, that's for sure. There is always a cacophony of dogs barking, cows lowing, birdsong mixed with the diesel rumblings of tractors." Then, when she is way off the beaten path, Deborah says, "Out here, where the heat of the country really beats, you remember there is no such thing as modernity. Time is irrelevant except for the seasons. Life in Cambodia just is."

"Where We Find Ourselves" is the last in a trilogy about Westerners working against the backdrop of politics in the post-Khmer Rouge era. The books came about by happenstance. Growing up during the Vietnam era, Guiney least expected to travel to, let

alone fall in love with, Cambodia. But in 2006, while living in London, she and her husband took their teenage son to Cambodia, where they built houses in rural communities, worked in an orphanage, and traveled around the country. "The trip changed my life," Guiney says. "I fell in love with the place, especially the people. Here was this country that had gone through so much, yet the people were moving forward, had a great sense of humor, and were incredibly generous. I became interested, too, in the Westerners who worked with them."

After the first novel, "Tangled Roots," was published, Guiney notes, "I knew I wanted to bring it back to the people who inspired me." She ended up teaching writing workshops for English as a second language learners at a shelter. "They said, 'If you come once, you can't connect with these kids and never see them again. Their whole background is woven up in abandonment.'" Guiney returned every year for more extended periods. In 2015, she founded Writing Through, an international educational nonprofit that partners with local organizations to provide specially developed workshops in which creative writing is used to develop thinking skills, creativity, language fluency, and self-esteem.

Guiney reflects that now, after this third Cambodian book, "I believe I'm done writing about these characters, having lived with them for 10 years. I think I have set them on their way." **MVT**

"Where We Find Ourselves: A Cambodian Love Story," by Sue Guiney, is available at Edgartown Books.

"I fell in love with the place, especially the people."
-SUE GUINEY

do." She admits to being stubborn, but prefers the word "persistent." "I know it's persistence ... that has kept me going despite the soul-destroying poverty and corruption, the frustration, anger, and bewilderment that surrounds us every day. Sometimes that stubbornness does get me into trouble, but I know that it is only by the grace of some

through the country that forces her to re-evaluate the choices she has — and will — make.

As the story unfolds, we are introduced to Deborah's chosen family, including her adopted daughter Samnang; Kyle, an Australian who co-manages the home with her and feels more like a younger brother than a best friend; and Dr. Kim Reith, who operates

the nearby clinic and is wholeheartedly devoted to Deborah and the children. As the story unfolds, Guiney develops these rich characters so they become familiar, tangible friends of ours.

Guiney also masterfully evokes the sights, sounds,

and tastes of Cambodia, bringing the country she loves to life on the page. About the streets of Phnom Penh, Deborah tells us, "There is a sort of system to it all, a hierarchy dictating who goes where, when. The cars are the top dogs, of course.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Opioid addiction and the role of libraries

The opioid addiction crisis impacts communities across the nation, creating challenges around public health, safety, and access to support services. Libraries are uniquely positioned to play a meaningful role in addressing this public health emergency. This Zoom discussion with Leo Beletsky J.D., MPH; Alexander Y. Walley, M.D., M.Sc.; and Stephen Murray, MPH, NRP, will explore the realities of opioid addiction, including its far-reaching social impacts, and the barriers individuals face when seeking treatment and recovery resources.

Participants will examine how libraries — through

their commitment to equitable access, privacy, and community outreach — can help bridge gaps in care. Some of the topics will include discussing how we can assist in connecting patrons to local treatment providers, offering evidence-based educational materials, partnering with public health organizations, training staff in trauma-informed service, and developing safe, stigma-free environments where individuals and families can find support.

This session aims to empower library professionals and community stakeholders to collaborate in reducing harm, expanding access to care, and fostering resilience within the communities they serve.

Jan. 17, noon to 2 pm, via Zoom. Join Zoom Meet-

ing at bit.ly/OBPL_OpioidsAndLibraries.

Meeting ID: 850 5188 6759, Passcode: 987158.

Death Café

On Sunday, Jan. 18, from 2:15 to 3:45 pm at the West Tisbury library, Heather Massey, facilitator and co-founder of Massachusetts' first Death Café, and Island Death Café facilitator Joyce Maxner will host a talk. This gathering will provide a comfortable atmosphere in which to share a respectful, thought-provoking, and life-affirming conversation on the topics of death, dying, and bereavement.

Death Café is an international movement started in Europe to encourage people

to talk about the taboo subject of death. The concept originated with Swiss sociologist Bernard Crettaz, who held Café Mortel events in Switzerland (and later in France) beginning in 2004. At these events, people came together in a relaxed, confidential, and safe setting to discuss death. A Death Café is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives, themes, or affiliated religious organization. It is a discussion group rather than a grief-support or counseling session.

This event is free and open to the public, and cake will be served. For more information, visit deathcafe.com. For more information about this event, please email wt_mail@clamsnet.org. **MVT**

MVTimes mytimes.com

ISLANDERS WRITE

Thank you to the Farm Neck Foundation, the Martha's Vineyard Cultural Council, and the Martha's Vineyard Community Foundation for your continued support of Islanders Write, and for supporting so many cultural organizations that strive to keep Martha's Vineyard "The Vineyard" that we love.

Islanders Write - For people interested in writing and the writing life on Martha's Vineyard.
www.islanderswrite.com



calendar

Event spotlight for the week of 1-16 - 1-21

FRI 1/16

Online poetry workshop

Poet Donald Nitchie invites participants to create their own poem, prompted by a selection of poetry which will be read at the beginning of the workshop. Writers will have a chance to read and discuss their own poem during the second half of the workshop if they choose. This workshop is perfect for beginning writers or

anyone curious about writing in groups. Once registered, you will be emailed the workshop materials. Virtual. Registration with Edgartown library is required: bit.ly/EL_NitchieWorkshop. From 4:30 to 6 pm.



MVTimes

SAT 1/17

Kindness and meditation class

This class, led by Thai monk Boonyod Nonthong (a.k.a. Monk Benny), is designed for participants of all levels, and offers a blend of loving-kindness meditation, mindfulness practice, and shared experiences. The program begins with guided instruction, then transitions into mindfulness meditation, also known as insight meditation. Please bring a notebook. Price is \$20 to \$40. Email info@stillpointmv.org if cost is a barrier. From 10:30 to noon. Stillpoint, 20 Stillpoint Meadows Road, Vineyard Haven.



stillpointmv.org if cost is a barrier. From 10:30 to noon. Stillpoint, 20 Stillpoint Meadows Road, Vineyard Haven.

SUN 1/18

Off-Season Dancing and Music

The MV Ballroom Dancers will host an afternoon of off-season Dancing and Music, with live music by Delanie and Johnny. Come to dance, or just to listen. Winter music and dance events begin at 4 pm on the first and third Sunday of the month at the Unitarian Universalist

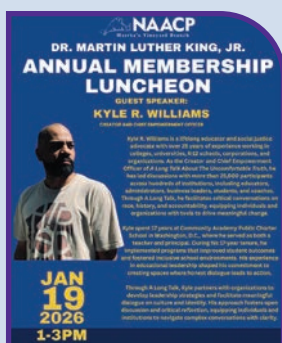


Society's Stevens Chapel at 238 Main St., Vineyard Haven. vhp1_programs@clamsnet.org

MON 1/19

Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Membership Luncheon of the Martha's Vineyard NAACP branch will feature African American cuisine, live music, guest speaker Kyle R. Williams, and more. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at naacpmv.org. Ticket price is \$75, and includes a year's membership in the NAACP. NAACP of Martha's Vineyard. From 1 to 3 pm. P.A. Club,



137 Vineyard Ave., Oak Bluffs. Contact Grace Robinson with questions at grobinsn100706@gmail.com.

TUES 1/20

Seed Starting and Garden Prep

Learn the art and science of seed starting and the basics of early season vegetable garden prep with Rosemary Confalone. Topics will include different seed sources, elements required for growing healthy seedlings, how to set your seedlings up for success when transplanting, and spring soil prep. All levels of experience are welcome. Free. 5:30 to 7 pm. Registration is helpful: bit.ly/MVAS_SeedsSpring.

Contact Lucy Grinnan with questions at programs@mvasoc.org. Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, Agricultural Hall, 35 Panhandle Road, West Tisbury.



WED 1/21

Kids Card Club



Children are welcome to share their card collection with other card fans. Kids will also have an opportunity to design their own trading cards using our blank templates. Card

games, sports cards, and other collectible cards are all welcome. From 2:45 to 4 pm. Ask Drew Dubno questions at chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com. Chilmark library, 522 South Road, Chilmark.

Events

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

Virtual Kripalu Flow Yoga
7:30 am, West Tisbury Library. On Zoom with Yogijay. Sign up at <https://www.wholesomermv.com/classschedule> 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.
Kaiut Yoga
8:30-9:30 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, valerie@peakedhillstudio.com.
Mindfulness & Meditation Open Practice Offering
9-10 am, Aquinnah Town Hall, Aquinnah. Drop in Mindfulness & Meditation Practice Group 413-575-0110, ruth@drruthfolchman.com.
Balletics
9-10 am, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Total body conditioning, learning body's strengths & weaknesses, how to prevent injury. coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov, 508-693-2896.
Fit for Flow with Maggie Bucci
9-10 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This fitness class, led by Maggie Bucci, is designed to get you fit to flow with the journey of life info@stillpointmv.org.

Wiggle with the Words Storytime
10:30-11 am, Edgartown Library. Fun props and interactive stories. Geared for ages 1-5, but all are welcome. No sign-up. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.
Family Yoga
11-11:30 am, West Tisbury Library. For children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Supportive and fun. hburbridge@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.
Creative Movement for Birth
12-1:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Learn & practice proven techniques to build your confidence going into labor for you & your partner. Free! More Info? Email birthwithjesse@gmail.com 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.
Mah Jongg for Beginners (or a Refresher) Course
12:30-2:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Classes will take place on January 6th, 8th, 13th, and 15th 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.
Needlework Group
1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Needlework Group @ Up Island Council on Aging. Thursdays 1-3:00 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov.

Red Dragon Mah-Jong
1-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join us for a fun weekly Mah-jongg meetup! Bring your board or use one of ours, subject to availability. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.
Community Knitting Circle
1-3 pm, Chilmark Library. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of knitting in the Martha's Vineyard Room. Our knitters love to share their knowledge and beginners are welcome! 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.
VHPL Book Club Reads "Stone Yard Devotional: A Novel" by Charlotte Wood
2 pm, Tisbury EMS Facility, Vineyard Haven. Enjoy a lively discussion in a casual "hybrid" format. Send an email to Ishick@clamsnet.org to be added to the list. Everyone is welcome! 508-696-4211, vhp1_programs@clamsnet.org.
Slow Stitching Circle: Rebecca & Claire Gantz
2-4 pm, Pathways Arts at Chilmark Tavern. Hands on with fabrics & trims for small projects. Bring materials or use those provided. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

Lego and Magna-tile Club
3-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in anytime between 3 to 5pm. For kids ages 5-11. When playing, children develop creativity, problem solving, spatial reasoning and teamwork. 508-693-9433, mlynych@clamsnet.org.
YOU and Your World
3:15-5:30 pm, Ms.Lanis Art Studio, Vineyard Haven. Art class for children ages 9,10, and 11, studying Picasso, Matisse, van Gogh, Degas, Renoir, Pissarro, as young artists with Ms. Lanis. 774-563-3069.
Ukulele Jam
3:30-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. All ages and abilities. The library has ukuleles to borrow, or bring a guitar or banjo, or come to sing. wt_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.
Jane's Journey - A Tribute to Jane Goodall's accomplishments
4-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. It would be hard to name anyone who has had more of an impact in the realm of animal research and wildlife conservation than Jane Goodall. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.
Book Discussion - History Matters by David McCullough
4:30-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join a small group discussing David Mc-

Cullough's book "History Matters". Of all times in our history, it surely does matter! 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.
Stitch Society Crafting Group
5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Drop-in and work on your project. Needle felting, embroidery, needlework, and more. 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.
When the Island Burned: Fires that Shaped the Vineyard
5-6 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. An online talk with Bow Van Riper examining catastrophic fires that shaped Vineyard history, from 19th-century blazes to the fires of 1965. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.
Book Club
5-6 pm, Bunch of Grapes Bookstore, Vineyard Haven. Join us for an informal discussion of National Book Award Finalist, The Antidote by Karen Russell. 508-693-2291, molly4books@gmail.com.
Good Shepherd Parish Community Suppers (Dine-in or Take-out)
5-6 pm, St. Augustine's Church Hall (handicap accessible), Vineyard Haven. GSP Community Supper, Thurs Jan thru Mar, 5-6pm. St. Augustine's Church 56 Franklin St. VH call 508-684-6270 by 6pm on Monday to record your request 860-992-7012, burkewg@comcast.net.

Table Tennis
5 pm, Tisbury Senior Center, Vineyard Haven. Table tennis for all ages and skill levels. 508-728-5898, raeobrm@gmail.com.
Trivia Night at The Black Dog Bakery Café
6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly trivia night hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Thursdays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. Prizes are awarded to the top three teams. bdbbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.
"Father Mother Sister Brother" at the MV Film Center
7:30 pm, The MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. MOTHER FATHER SISTER BROTHER at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16
Cardio and Conditioning with Alyson Parker
7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. Cardio and strength work with weights and conditioning using your own body weight for resistance. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.
Kid's Music Class
10:30-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Sing fun songs and play instruments with friends! Ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

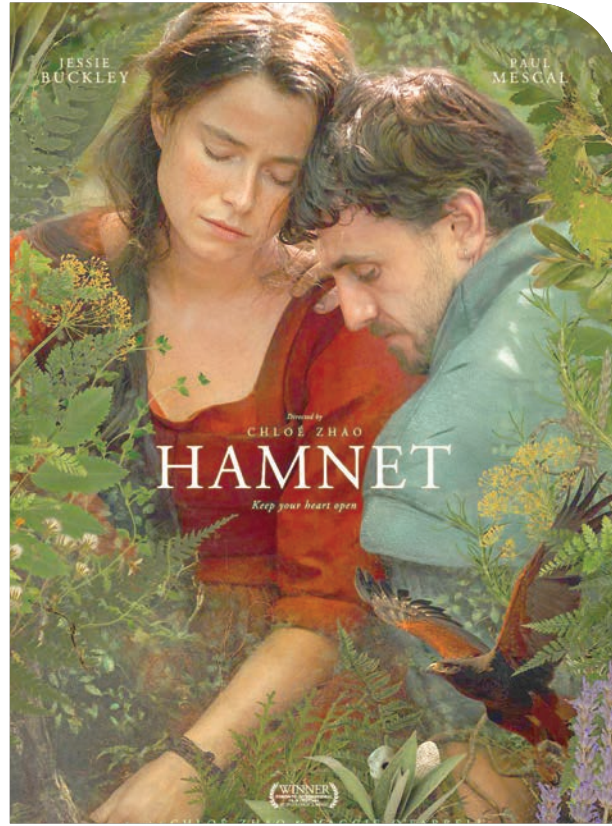
A powerful work of art

'Hamnet' playing at the M.V. Film Center. **BY ABBY REMER**

Mystery, beauty, grief, and love course through Chloé Zhao's "Hamnet," based on Maggie O'Farrell's best-selling novel of the same name. The two wrote the script for the film adaptation of "Hamnet," which screens at the Martha's Vineyard Film Center starting Jan. 16. The story fictionalizes the relationship between William Shakespeare and Agnes Hathaway, who suffer a tragic loss that O'Farrell proposes inspires "Hamlet."

A mighty wind blows through the forest at the beginning of the film. A young Agnes (Jessie Buckley), dressed in a deep red gown, draws a falcon she has partially tamed onto her gloved hand. As it devours the meat she is holding, we sense its wild, voracious nature, one coursing through Agnes' own veins.

She soon encounters her match in William (Paul Mescal), whose passionate personality, despite being an impoverished Latin tutor at the time, rivals Agnes'. Early on, Agnes asks William to tell her a story about something that moves him, as they sit deep in the forest. He recounts the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, in which Orpheus tries to save his deceased lover from the underworld. Orpheus fails because he breaks the condition of not looking back to see whether Eurydice is following him out to the upper world. The story introduces themes of the dark underworld and the loss of a loved one. Afterward, Agnes, said to be the eldest daughter of a



"Hamnet" starts on Friday, Jan. 16, at the M.V. Film Center.

forest witch, introduces William to the healing gifts of the forest's roots and herbs, along with the ability to see the future — knowledge and skills passed down through women in her family for generations. These themes also echo throughout the story.

We feel the frisson of Agnes and William's courtship, and trust that they will wed, despite strong opposition from both their families. The couple's ardor continues through the early years of their marriage, highlighted by intensely dramatic scenes of the birth of their first daughter and then twins — a boy and a girl who share a special bond. The family thrives as the children grow, with close bonds between the parents and their offspring interrupted only by William's journeys to London for work.

Both Buckley and Mescal deliver powerful performances, capturing the very souls of their respective characters — Agnes in a grief that pierces her, and William wrestling with profound inner guilt after they suffer a tragic loss that wrenches their (and our) hearts. The incident threatens the essence of their relationship, and in O'Farrell's story, ultimately inspires William to write "Hamlet." The film's sophisticated weaving of the famous tragedy with the couple's life and loss is seamlessly executed, making the story a powerful work of art. **MVT**

Continued from B7

Events

Friday Crafting
10:30 am-4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Craft projects for ages 3-11. New craft each week. Drop in. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Fri-YAY Crafts
10:30 am-2 pm, Edgartown Library. DIY craft station in the Children's Room. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Toddler Time
11-11:30 am, Chilmark Library. We'll read classic and current children's literature, and sing, move, and play together. Ideal for preschool ages. chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Online Balance with Kanta Lipsky
11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. To strengthen our connection to Earth and maintain balance. To sign up, email wt_mail@clamsnet.org. 508-693-3366.

Needle Felting for Young Adults - ages 10-18
3-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Needle Felting for Young Adults - ages 10-18 508-693-3366, lheartm@clamsnet.org.

[Online] Build It, Build It Better: Poetry Workshop with Donald Nitchie
4:30-6 pm, Edgartown Library. This workshop is perfect for beginning writers or anyone curious about writing in groups. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Music Bingo at The Black Dog Bakery Café
6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly music bingo hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Fridays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. Prizes are awarded to the winner of each round. bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

Magic the Gathering: Gaming Club
6-9 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. All skill levels are welcome. You can bring food and drink. Under age 14 should be with an adult. mdaniels@clamsnet.org, 508-693-9433.

Weiland & Missis Biskis
7-9 pm, Pathways Arts at The Chilmark Tavern, Chilmark. Two family and friends ensembles: Brian & Aiden Weiland, with Mark Cohen. Missis Biskis, with Kestutis Biskis, Tauras Biskis and Bruce Millard. Free 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

Vinyasa Power Yoga
9-10 am, Edgartown Library. Therapeutic and creative, with elements of strength building. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

Kaiut Yoga
9-10 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga is works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, vsonnenthal@gmail.com.

Baby and Toddler Storytime
10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us for a fun-filled storytime with stories, songs, and shakers! Play-based! Tummy time for our smallest pals! 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Adult Community Dance with Jesse Keller Jason
10:30-11:30 am, West Tisbury Library. For adults and seniors of all levels. No sign-up. wt_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Loving Kindness and Mindfulness Meditation: A 90-Minute Journey
10:30 am-12 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This class offers a blend of loving-kindness meditation, mindfulness practice, and shared experiences through personal reflection info@stillpointmv.org.

Storytime
11-11:30 am, Chilmark Library. We'll read classic and current children's literature, and sing, move, and play together. Ideal for ages 3-6. adubno@clamsnet.org, 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

MV Community Seed Library's Annual Seed Swap
12-2 pm, West Tisbury Library. Bring your saved open-pollinated/heirloom seeds to share, swap, and help restock the Seed Library Cabinet! 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

The Opioid Addiction Crisis and the Role of Libraries
12-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. The opioid addiction crisis continues to impact communities across the nation. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Pokemon Club
1-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. This is a club to talk about Pokémon, look at cards, and draw! To keep things positive for everyone, there is no trading allowed. Ages 5-11. 508-693-9438, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Fermenting Cranberry Relish w/Laurisa Rich
1-2:30 pm, Chilmark Library. Learn how to make a nutritious spread with island grown cranberries! Registration required. Email chil.programs@gmail.com 508-645-3360.

All Ages Chess Club
2-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us in a fun and welcoming environment. oakb_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-9433.

Afternoon Piano Lounge with Adele Dreyer
2-3 pm, Edgartown Library. Join us for a casual, relaxing hour of piano music performed by Adele Dreyer 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Jazz Film Screening
3 pm, West Tisbury Library. A documentary screening and discussion hosted by MVY Radio's Dave Kish. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Artist's Reception: Penny Weinstein: Vineyard Byways
3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Celebrate Penny Weinstein's watercolor show, "Vineyard Byways." The work is a selection of landscapes of roads and pathways across the island. 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.

Live Music, Roman Pinsa Pizza, & \$3 PBR Night
4-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. An evening featuring Roman pinsa pizza and \$3 PBRs from 4-8 pm, with live music scheduled from 6-8 pm. bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

Community Supper
5:30-7 pm, Trinity Parish House, Oak Bluffs. Community Supper 508-693-4424, umcmv@outlook.com.

Trust (me)
6:30-8:30 pm, Pathways Gathering Space, Chilmark. An evening-length work created in a one-day collaborative intensive in which the makers and performers respond to a prompt. Doors at 6:30. Show at 7pm 508-717-2887, builtontstills97@gmail.com.

Abby Bender's TRUST (ME) Collaborative Multimedia Performance
7-8:30 pm, Pathways Arts at the Chilmark Tavern. A collaborative multimedia performance with 15 artists & dancers, led by Abby Bender 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

Meditating With The Body
11 am-12:15 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Through a series of guided practices, you'll learn to relax habitual tension, and cultivate embodiment that supports you on and off the cushion. AwakeningTheWildHeart@gmail.com.

Sunday B-Side Brunch
11 am-2 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum. Sunday B Side Brunch: 11-2 at First Light Café. Great food, views, and soulful vinyl by DJ Vincent Patricola. Free and open to all. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

Opera Club: Puccini's "La Fanciulla del West"
1-4 pm, Edgartown Library. Sung in Italian with English subtitles, the opera runs three hours, including intermission 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Death Cafe
2:15-3:45 pm, West Tisbury Library. A comfortable atmosphere to share a respectful, thought-provoking & life-affirming conversation on the topics of death, dying and bereavement. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Local Off-Season Dancing & Music with live music by Delanie & Johnny
4 pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. An afternoon of off-season music and dancing at UUSM's Steven's Chapel. Come to dance, or just to listen. Everyone is welcome! 508-696-4211, vhppl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Sound Bath
5-6 pm, The Red House PRSC, Oak Bluffs. Pause, listen and restore. Many people find returning to sound work deepens its impact over time. 508-693-2900, jtau@mvcommunityservices.org.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Cardio and Conditioning with Alyson Parker
7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. Cardio and strength work with weights and conditioning using your own body weight for resistance. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

MVRHS Building Project Information Sessions
8:30 am, Edgartown School. MVRHS Building Project Information Sessions Sam.Hart@mvvps.org.

Kaiut Yoga
8:30-9:30 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, valerie@peakedhillstudio.com.

Little Naturalists
9:30-11:30 am, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown. Spark your child's curiosity at Felix Neck's Education barn with hands-on free play-water play, sensory bins, experiments, and more. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

Play Kitchen and Store
10 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Come enjoy watching your kids be creative and solve problems! For ages 2-6. Drop in between 10am-noon. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Free Range Fun
10:15-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Enjoy a room filled with parachutes, scarves, bubbles, music and more to explore! Recommended for ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Drop-in Play-Doh Group
10:30 am-12 pm, Edgartown Library. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Vineyard Haven Library Story Circle with Aria
10:45-11:30 am, Martha's Vineyard Family Center, Vineyard Haven. Library storytime on Mondays 10:15 at Grace Church, Tuesdays 10:45 at MV Family Center. vhppl_children@clamsnet.org, 508-696-4210, 508-696-4211, vhppl_programs@clamsnet.org.

SQUAD FITNESS with Triva Emery • BeWell-MV
11 am-12 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. SQUAD FITNESS with Triva Emery • BeWell-MV 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

MARtha's VINEYARD film society
The MV Film Society • Now celebrating 28 years • 1999-2026

Thurs 1/15	THE SECRET AGENT LAST SHOWING	4:00 PM
	FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER	7:30 PM
Fri 1/16	FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER	4:00 PM
	HAMNET	7:30 PM
Sat 1/17	NT LIVE – THE FIFTH STEP	1:00 PM
	FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER	4:00 PM
	HAMNET	7:30 PM
Sun 1/18	FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER	1:00 PM
	THE SHORT ANIMATED FILMS OF MAX FLEISCHER with Two-time Eisner Award winning cartoonist Paul Karasik	4:00 PM
	HAMNET	7:30 PM
MON & TUES, JAN., 19 & 20 - FILM CENTER IS CLOSED -		
Wed 1/21	HAMNET	7:30 PM
Thurs 1/22	FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER	4:00 PM
	HAMNET	7:30 PM

WINNER BEST ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATION 2025
Voted by the Vineyard Community

The MV Film Center is open to the public and masks are optional for all individuals. Please join us for an in-person movie experience soon!

scan code for complete schedule

Information & Schedules mvfilmsociety.com 508.696.9369

Continued from B8

Events

Mah Jongg
2-4 pm, Chilmark Library, Chilmark. Multiple tables for all levels and ages. Instruction on first Tuesday of the month. chil.programs@gmail.com, 508-645-3360.

Book Buddies
3-4 pm, Oak Bluffs Library, K-4th. Join the MVRHS Book Buddies Club on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00 at the Oak Bluffs Library for weekly readings together! 508-693-9433, hydee.turner@mvrhs.org.

Environmental Explorers Afterschool
3-5 pm, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown. Environmental Explorers is a weekly drop-off program, that connects students to nature at Felix Neck. Each week students dig into a new topic. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

Tween Art & Craft Class
3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury. Teen and Tween Art & Craft Class at the library-meets every Tuesday, from 3:30-4:30pm. ages 10-18, supplies provided. 508-693-3366, lheartm@clamsnet.org.

Writer's Workshop with Amy Reece
3:30-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. All levels of writers are welcome to join in a weekly writer's workshop with local author Amy Reece. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Knitting Group
5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Creativity and conversation. Use supplies provided or bring your own. Adults and teens. No sign-up. wt_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Table Tennis
5 pm, Tisbury Senior Center, Vineyard Haven. Table tennis for all ages and skill levels. 508-728-5898, raebomv@gmail.com

American Sign Language Practice Group
5-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in on our conversational practice group. No experience necessary. anelson@clamsnet.org, 508-693-9433.

Seed Starting and Spring Garden Prep with Rosemary Confalone
5:30-7 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Seed Starting and Spring Garden Prep with Rosemary Confalone 508-693-9549, programs@mvasoc.org.

The Jeremy Berlin - Eric Johnson Duo at the Katharine Cornell Theater
6 pm, Katharine Cornell Theatre, Vineyard Haven. Local piano-guitar duo playing a mix of original songs, music from the Great American Songbook, and jazz treatments of some more modern fare. 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Chilmark Church Free Community Suppers
6 pm, Chilmark Church Fellowship Hall, Chilmark. Church members and friends provide a homemade potluck meal, free for the community. 508-645-3100, pclarkeoff@comcast.net.

Poetry & Prose Tues: Poet Thea Matthews & OPEN MIC
7:30-9 pm, Pathways Arts at the Chilmark Tavern. Poet Thea Matthews reads from her new collection, GRIMES. OPEN MIC follows for all writers & poets. In person and on Zoom at PathwaysMV.org. Free. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
Play Reading at Tisbury Senior Center
9 am-12 pm, Tisbury Council on Aging, Vineyard Haven. Play Reading for Artistic, Literary and Dramatic Pleasure 201-207-7568, monahennessy@gmail.com.

Storytime
10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Fun-filled story time with stories, songs, scarves, and a parachute. Geared toward kids ages 1.5 to 5 years old, but all ages are welcome. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Children's Storytime
10:30-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Join Hannah for silly songs and stories. Ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Tumble Bugs
10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library. Drop-in movement program geared toward ages 1-5. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Creature Feature with Felix Neck
10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library. Come learn what creatures call Martha's Vineyard home 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Creature Feature
10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library. Learn about the animals of Martha's Vineyard and their seasonal activities through stories, biofacts, and crafts. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

Tummy Time
11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Join Pediatric Physical Therapist Dr. Katy for a Circle Group Newborn-Walking 508-683-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Mah Jong
1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Come join us for Mah Jong every Wednesday from 1-3:00 @ The Up Island Council on Aging. 1042 State Rd West Tisbury 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov.

Free Cuts For Recovery
1-3 pm, The Red House PRSC, Oak Bluffs. Free Haircuts are offered to our members as part of our commitment to dignity wellness, and support in recovery. 508-693-2900, jtau@mvcommunityservices.org.

Kids Card Club
2:45-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Kids Card Club at the Chilmark Library 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Virtual Reality for Tweens & Teens
3-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. For ages 10-18. Each participant's time depends on the turn-out. lheartm@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Kids Crafts - Sand Wax Candle
3-5 pm, EMS Building, Vineyard Haven. Make a candle with sand wax pellets - no heat necessary! jrapuano@clamsnet.org.

Drop-in Knitting Group with Cindy Bonnell
3-5 pm, Edgartown Library. All levels are welcome to bring their projects for support and inspiration. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

Wonder of Animals
3:15-5:30 pm, Ms.Lani's Art Studio, Vineyard Haven. Draw and paint boldness, our awareness of the wonder of animals and the need to protect them at Ms. Lani's art studio. 774-563-3069, shastinaart@gmail.com.

Make & Eat
3:15-4:15 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. This is a hands-on afterschool activity where kids prepare a simple, healthy snack and then enjoy eating it as a group. Allergy-free recipes. Ages 8+. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

COMMUNITY IN CONVERSATION: The Doctor Is In with Dr. Gerry Yukevich
5-6:30 pm, Carnegie Heritage Center, Edgartown. Dr. Gerry Yukevich draws on 27 years of emergency and hospice care on Martha's Vineyard to share stories of winter medicine and the lessons they hold. 774-549-9107, leslie@mvpreservation.org.

Financial Foundations for the New Year
5:30-6:15 pm, Zoom, Vineyard Haven. Learn steps to build healthy budgeting and personal finance habits. 508-693-9222, sonja@acemv.org.

Restorative Reset with Jelisa Difo
5:30-6:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Postures close to the ground for deep rest and relaxation. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

Quilting Circle
6-7:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. All are welcome. For details, email Wendy at wgnierenberg@yahoo.com or call the library at 508-693-3366.

Virtual: How Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II
7 pm, Vineyard Haven Public Library. Join author Elyse Graham for a discussion of her book, "Book and Dagger," the true untold story of the librarians and academics who became OSS spies. 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Free English Classes
7-8 pm, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day saints, Vineyard Haven. Free English Classes offered by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Basic conversational classes offered. To register text 774-563-0460.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22
Virtual Kripalu Flow Yoga
7:30 am, West Tisbury Library. On Zoom with Yojjay. Sign up at https://www.wholesomemv.com/classschedule 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Kaiut Yoga
8:30-9:30 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, valerie@peakedhillstudio.com

Mindfulness & Meditation Open Practice Offering
9-10 am, Aquinnah Town Hall, Aquinnah. Drop in Mindfulness & Meditation Practice Group 413-575-0110, ruth@druthfolchman.com.

Balletics
9-10 am, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Total body conditioning, learning body's strengths & weaknesses, how to prevent injury. coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov, 508-693-2896.

Fit for Flow with Maggie Bucci
9-10 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This fitness class, led by Maggie Bucci, is designed to get you fit to flow with the journey of life. info@stillpointmv.org.

Mermaid Tales: Story and Swim at YMCA
10-10:30 am, Martha's Vineyard YMCA, Oak Bluffs. Enjoy stories and songs with Luna Tide, the Oak Bluffs Mermaid. For kids ages 2 through 5. Adults must be with their children at all times. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Wiggle with the Words Storytime
10:30-11 am, Edgartown Library. Fun props and interactive stories. Geared for ages 1-5, but all are welcome. No sign-up. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

Family Yoga
11-11:30 am, West Tisbury Library. For children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Supportive and fun. hburbridge@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Needlework Group
1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Needlework Group @ Up Island Council on Aging. Thursdays 1-3:00 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov.

Red Dragon Mah-Jong
1-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join us for a fun weekly Mah-jong meetup! Bring your board or use one of ours, subject to availability. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Community Knitting Circle
1-3 pm, Chilmark Library. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of knitting in the Martha's Vineyard Room. Our knitters love to share their knowledge and beginners are welcome! 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.

Chef Look Cooks - Patron Favorites: Swedish Meatballs
2-3:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Patron Favorites: Swedish Meatballs 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Slow Stitching Circle: Rebecca & Claire Gantz
2-4 pm, Pathways Arts at Chilmark Tavern, Chilmark. Hands on with fabrics & trims for small projects. Bring materials or use those provided. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

Lego and Magna-tile Club
3-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in anytime between 3 to 5pm. For kids ages 5-11. When playing, children develop creativity, problem solving, spatial reasoning and teamwork. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

YOU and Your World
3:15-5:30 pm, Ms.Lani's Art Studio, Vineyard Haven. Art class for children ages 9,10, and 11, studying Picasso, Matisse, van Gogh, Degas, Renoir, Pissarro, as young artists with Ms. Lani. 774-563-3069.

Book Buddies
3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. High Schoolers reading to elementary-aged children Thursdays 3:30-4:30 at the West Tisbury Library 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Naptime with David Stanwood
3:30-4:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Experience the calming effect of harmonic vibration, with pianist and acclaimed piano technician David Stanwood. info@stillpointmv.org.

String Games Club!
3:30-5 pm, Grace Church, Vineyard Haven. Re-member playing Cal's Cradle with friends? Kids & nostalgic adults, learn classic solo figures like Cup and Saucer, Eiffel Tower, and Jacob's Ladder! 508-696-4210, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Book Discussion - History Matters by David McCullough
4:30-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join a small group discussing David McCullough's book "History Matters". Of all times in our history, it surely does matter! 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Stitch Society Crafting Group
5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Drop-in and work on your project. Needle felting, embroidery, needlework, and more. 508-693-3366, lheartm@clamsnet.org.

Good Shepherd Parish Community Suppers [Dine-in or Take-out]
5-6 pm, St. Augustine's Church Hall [handicap accessible], Vineyard Haven. GSP Community Supper, Thurs Jan thru Mar, 5-6pm. St. Augustine's Church 56 Franklin St. VH call 508-684-6270 by 6pm on Monday 7012, burkewg@comcast.net.

Table Tennis
5 pm, Tisbury Senior Center, Vineyard Haven. Table tennis for all ages and skill levels. 508-728-5898, raebomv@gmail.com.

Cheese 101 + Guided Tasting with Morgen Schroeder (MV Cheesery)
5-6:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Cheese 101 + Guided Tasting with Morgen Schroeder (MV Cheesery) 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Trivia Night at The Black Dog Bakery Café
6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly trivia night hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Thursdays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. Prizes are awarded to the top three teams. bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

MVRHS Building Committee Building Project Information Sessions
7 pm, Tisbury School, Vineyard Haven. MVRHS Building Project Committee Information Sessions Sam.Hart@mvps.org.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23
Cardio and Conditioning with Alyson Parker
7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. Cardio and strength work with weights and conditioning using your own body weight for resistance. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Kid's Music Class
10:30-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Sing fun songs and play instruments with friends! Ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Friday Crafting
10:30 am-4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Craft projects for ages 3-11. New craft each week. Drop in. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Fri-YAY Crafts
10:30 am-2 pm, Edgartown Library. DIY craft station in the Children's Room. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Toddler Time
11-11:30 am, Chilmark Library. We'll read classic and current children's literature, and sing, move, and play together. Ideal for preschool ages. chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Online Balance with Kanta Lipsky
11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. To strengthen our connection to Earth and maintain balance. To sign up, email wt_mail@clamsnet.org. 508-693-3366.

Kid's Magic: The Gathering Club
3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Learn to play Magic: The Gathering for ages 8+. Cards provided, drop-ins welcome 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Inside 19th-Century Whaling Logbooks
5-6 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. A behind-the-scenes look at 19th-century whaling logbooks, revealing the personal stories and artistry hidden within daily records at sea. 508-627-4441, rpiece@mvmuseum.org.

Music Bingo at The Black Dog Bakery Café
6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly music bingo hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Fridays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. Prizes are awarded to the winner of each round. bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

Friday-Night Forum: The High School Project
7-8:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. In this edition of Friday Night Forums, Ian Douglas will facilitate an exploration of the topic: "The High School Project." info@stillpointmv.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24
Vinyasa Power Yoga
9-10 am, Edgartown Library. Therapeutic and creative, with elements of strength building. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

Kaiut Yoga
9-10 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga is works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, vsonnenthal@gmail.com.

Farm to Focaccia: Bread Art with Vineyard Baker
10 am-12 pm, Farm Institute, Edgartown. (508) 627-7007, (978) 921-1944, information@ttor.org.

Baby and Toddler Storytime
10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us for a fun-filled storytime with stories, songs, and shakers! Play-based! Tummy time for our smallest pals! 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Adult Community Dance with Jesse Keller Jason
10:30-11:30 am, West Tisbury Library. For

adults and seniors of all levels. No sign-up. wt_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Storytime
11-11:30 am, Chilmark Library. We'll read classic and current children's literature, and sing, move, and play together. Ideal for ages 3-6. adubno@clamsnet.org, 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Chain Reaction: Kid's Building Activity
1-3 pm, West Tisbury Library. Build and create to make a Rube Goldbergesque-contraption! All ages welcome. 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Pokemon Club
1-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. This is a club to talk about Pokémon, look at cards, and draw! To keep things positive for everyone, there is no trading allowed. Ages 5-11. 508-693-9438, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Get Ready for Tax Season w/ Thomas L. Porter, PhD, CPA
1-2:30 pm, Chilmark Library. Dr. Porter will provide info about free tax prep resources and highlight changes in tax code for 2025. Register by emailing: chil.programs@gmail.com 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.

All Ages Chess Club
2-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us in a fun and welcoming environment. oakb_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-9433.

Author Talk - Don Hinkle
2-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Don Hinkle will speak about his lifelong career as a writer, sharing a few misadventures along the way. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

2026 Vision Board Workshop with Jelisa Difo
2-4 pm, Edgartown Library. we will explore aspirations for personal growth and transform them into a visually engaging collage 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Music Video Series
3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Music Video Series 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Live Music, Roman Pinsa Pizza, & \$3 PBR Night
4-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. An evening featuring Roman pinsa pizza and \$3 PBRs from 4-8 pm, with live music scheduled from 6-8 pm. bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com



For events for the full week scan code or visit mvtimes.com/things-to-do.

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BY **ABBY REMER**

Although it may seem that our Island becomes sleepy in the winter, there are a surprising number of eateries open all year. Dining out during the colder months offers several benefits. Naturally, there's the simple pleasure of having someone else cook for you after endless meals at home. Then, too, this time of year, we don't need to worry about parking ... or traffic. It's easier to get a reservation, and it feels truly festive to enjoy a meal with friends when it's freezing outside. And of course, supporting one of our local eateries helps boost the local economy, so you leave feeling good — inside and out. **MVT**

(Please note: Although each venue has been contacted for information, it's best to call ahead to ensure that plans have not changed.)

VINEYARD HAVEN

9 Craft Kitchen & Bar
508-338-7431
(closed April) New world cuisine, opens at 4 pm

The Attic
508-687-9448
(closed part of January, exact dates TBD) Classic American, opens at 3:30 pm

Beach Road
508-693-8582
(closed Feb. 22–March 22) Locally sourced seafood and New American fare, opens at 5 pm Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday

Black Dog Bakery Café
508-696-8190
Full breakfast and lunch menu, plus specialty coffees, cakes, pastries, and more, opens 6 am

Black Dog Tavern
508-693-9223
Local seafood, chef-crafted entrées, homemade desserts; breakfast opens at 7 am, lunch starts at 11:30 am, dinner begins at 4 pm

Black Dog Water St. Bakery
508-693-4786
Baked goods and coffee, opens 5:30 am

Bobby B's Restaurant & Bakery
508-693-8266
Italian, opens 6:30 am

Cat Boat Coffee Co.
774-563-5296
Cozy cafe featuring specialty lattes and Lebanese breakfast sandwiches plus vegan options, opens 7 am

Delicious MV Bakery
508-693-2223
Desserts, pastries, breads, including gluten-free, vegan options, opens 6:30 am

First Light Café at the M.V. Museum
508-627-4441
Coffee, baked goods, sandwiches, salads, and rotating lunch specials, opens 10 am (closed Mondays)

La Choza Burritos
508-693-9050
Burritos and tacos, opens 11 am

Mikado Asian Bistro
508-338-7096
Asian, opens 11 am

Ocean Club
508-338-7965
(closed March 9–26) Coastal Mediterranean cuisine, opens 4 pm

Porto Pizza
508-693-6200
Casual bakery/pizza, deep-dish and gluten-free options, opens 11 am

Quitsa Kitchen
508-338-7787
Crafted salads and delectable main courses, opens 6:30 am (closed Sundays)

Rocco's Pizzeria
508-693-1125
Pizza, sandwiches, pasta, salads, sides, and beverages, opens 11:30 am (closed Sunday)

Sweet Bites
508-684-8257
Sandwiches, pastries, and cakes, plus breakfast options with a Brazilian flair, opens 6 am

The Attic
508-687-9448
(closing one week in January, TBD) Classic American eats, including lobster rolls and burgers, opens 3:30 pm

The Maker Pasta Shop & Café
508-687-9794
Fresh pasta, seasonal menus, and Island-inspired flavors, opens 11 am (closed Sundays)

Vineyard Grocer
508-693-2000
Fresh organic foods, daily-made meals, and a wide variety of groceries, opens 6 am

Waterside Market
508-693-8899
All-day breakfast, salads, lobster rolls and other sandwiches, opens 7 am

Wolf's Den Pizzeria Tisbury
508-687-9112
Specialty pizzas, grinder sandwiches, and calzones, open 6 am–5 pm

Woodland Variety and Grill
508-693-6795
Breakfast, burgers, and convenience store

OAK BLUFFS

Aquila Café at the YMCA of Martha's Vineyard
508-696-7171
Fresh smoothies, acai bowls, weekly specials, and beverages, opens 8 am Monday to Friday, and at 9 am Saturday (closed Sunday)

Black Joy
267-377-9344
(Limited hours) Food of the African diaspora, Wednesdays opens 6 pm, Sundays 10 am–3 pm

Bangkok Cuisine
508-696-6322
Thai, opens at noon Monday through Saturday, at 4 pm on Sunday

Barn, Bowl and Bistro
508-696-9800
Buzzy bar/eatery with burgers, pizza, aand other bites, plus games, TVs, and a 10-lane bowling alley, opens 11:30 am

Honorary Tavern at the VFW
508-338-7209
Classics like wings, burgers, subs, seafood, and ribs, call for hours

Mo's at the P.A. Club
508-687-974
Sandwiches, snacks, salads, pies, and fun stuff, opens 11 am (closed Sunday and Monday)

Offshore Ale Co.
508-693-2626 (closed Feb. 2–14) Micropub with pizza, burgers, and other fare

Sharky's Cantina
508-693-7501
Mexican grub and cocktails, opens 11:30 am

Sweet Life Café
508-696-0200 (closed January) Seasonal, area-sourced New American fare and ample wine list, call for hours

The Ritz
508-296-8159 (closed Feb. 15–March 15) Historic dive bar and music venue, opens 4 pm (closed Sunday and Monday)

Tony's Market
508-693-4799
Deli takeout and premade salads, opens at 6:30 am

Winston's Kitchen
508-687-9572
Takeout homestyle food, open 8 am–8 pm

EDGARTOWN

Alchemy Bistro and Bar
508-627-9999 (closed Jan. 1–Feb 11) Creative New American fare, opens 5:30 pm (closed Sunday and Monday)

Bettini at Harbor View Hotel
508-627-3761
Coastal chic, refined American fare and a bar, Mondays through Thursdays opens at 4, and Friday and Saturday opens at 3 (closed Sunday)

China House
508-627-7272
Chinese, opens 11 am, pickup only (closed Monday)

Cozy Corner
508-939-3988
Espresso drinks, sandwiches, poke bowls, and smoothies, opens 7:30 Monday through Saturday, 8:30 am on Sunday

Dock Street Coffee Shop
508-627-5232
Iconic breakfast joint open 6:30 am–1:30 every day

Edgartown Fish and Meat Market
508-627-6200
Fresh seafood, prime meat, prepared foods, bagel bakery, cafe, sushi, groceries, and Starbucks cafe, opens 7 am

Edgartown Pizza
508-627-7770
Pizza and Brazilian plates, including gluten-free and vegan options, opens 10:30 am

Espresso Love
508-627-9211
Espresso drinks and homemade pastries, sandwiches, salads, and bagels, opens 7 am

Great Harbor Market
508-694-6888
Fresh salads, hot and cold sandwiches, and amazing Brazilian specialties, opens 6 am

Indigo Indian Restaurant
508-939-4030
Indian, opens 11 am

Rockfish
508-627-9967 (closed Feb. 22–March 4) Wood-fired flatbreads and other American bites, opens 11:30 am

Rosewater
508-627-1270
(closed through Jan 19) Breakfast and lunch plus gluten-free and vegetarian options, open Monday and Tuesday 7 am

Soigne
508-627-8489
(closed briefly mid-March) Gourmet grocery store offering sandwiches and wine, opens 10 am

Square Rigger Restaurant
508-627-9968
Seafood and other American fare, lunch 11-3 Monday–Saturday, dinner 4–9 Wednesday–Saturday

The Neues from America Pub
(508-627-6380)
Rustic pub with traditional fare such as burgers, lobster rolls, and chowder, alongside fish-and-chips, Wednesday and Thursday opens at 4 pm, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 12 pm (closed Monday and Tuesday)

The Wharf Pub and Restaurant
508-627-9966 (closed Feb. 16 to March 16) Local seafood and bar fare, plus sports TV, video games & live music, opens 11:30 am

Town Bar and Grill MV
774-310-8696
Casual bar and restaurant offering burgers, sushi, seafood plates, pasta, and steak. Monday through Friday opens at 5 pm, Saturday and Sunday at 12 pm

Wicked Burger
774-549-9700
(closed until Feb. 2) counter service for lunch and dinner

Wolf's Den Pizzeria Edgartown
508-627-9994
Pizza and subs like steak and cheese, plus vegetarian fare, opens 11 am

WEST TISBURY

7a Foods
508-693-4636
Casual sandwich shop with breakfast and lunch options alongside coffee and desserts, opens 7 am (closed Sunday)

Plane View Restaurant
508-693-1886
(scheduled to reopen soon)

State Road Restaurant
508-693-8582 (closed Feb. 22 to March 31) Creative New American fare, opens for lunch at 11 am, opens for dinner at 5 pm on Thursday, Friday, Saturday (closed Sunday through Wednesday)

CHILMARK

Menemsha Fish Market
508-645-2282
Rustic fish market, live and cooked seafood, gluten-free options, prepared meals, Friday and Saturday at 11 am, Sunday at 12 pm (closed Monday through Thursday)

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Orange Peel Bakery
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Tricia Bergeron, right, next to Ed Montesion, gleefully beating Bill Russell, left, and Ray Lincoln, far left, occluded.



A full table of cribbage players.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY MARY ALICE RUSSELL, UNLESS NOTED



Mary Alice Russell, Ed Roman, and Tricia Bergeron.

BILL RUSSELL



The original Cribbage Club, 2019.



From left, five iconic cribbage players: George Giomas, Roy Scheffer, Dick Kelly, Danny Ben David, and Ron Ferrara.

The club

Cribbage, Tricia, and Roy.
BY MARY ALICE RUSSELL



This has been a tough week for us all. This cribbage club simply would not exist if it were not for Tricia and Roy's passion for the game.

You see, I am what the Island calls a washashore. Back in 2005, cribbage (and love) brought me to Martha's Vineyard.

After experiencing a grassroots cribbage club off-Island, I wanted to start a club here, but lacked the confidence to even try. Life with kids and a new relationship kept me busy.

I started working with Tricia Bergeron at the hospital in 2016, and we discovered a shared love of cribbage, a card game that is won by gaining 121 points while moving pegs around a wooden board. Tricia played regularly with a tight group

of friends. She said she would love to help—making it QUITE clear that she would assist, but not be the director. (I am still laughing.) She just could not help herself, and for that, I will be forever grateful.

Not surprisingly, just a few weeks later, we soft-launched a tournament at her beloved P.A. Club. I expected about 10 people as I nervously set up, sat, and waited. Tricia was curious but confident.

Twenty-four people showed up, and we were off! We met weekly.

The people who showed up were friends with Tricia and Roy. Then they told a few friends, etc. ... and the players immediately said they were in. We had more than 40 members before COVID. We now have 37 registered members, with roughly 20 to 25 showing up weekly.

Aside from having fun every week, Roy (who was known as the Royster) was affectionately known as the Trickster at the club. My husband started calling him that, and if you ever had the joy to play him, you totally get the nickname! He was an extremely skilled player, as was Tricia. They were my sales pitch! I always promote when I meet someone new, and my pitch has always included my asking if they knew Tricia Bergeron or Roy Scheffer — and always, their faces would light up, and they would enthusiastically nod. Now their interest would be piqued.

Roy was voted Rookie of the Year in the American Cribbage Congress the first year our club was sanctioned (the 2019–20 season), and this year they were both in the top 50 of the Eastern

Region in cribbage. It is a game of luck and skill. The skill they had in spades ... see what I did there? ;) We decided we would

My pitch has always included my asking if they knew Tricia Bergeron or Roy Scheffer — and always, their faces would light up, and they would enthusiastically nod. Now their interest would be piqued.

start a scholarship for a graduating senior going into the trades. This is a point of pride for us. Most of our members are tradesmen. We will be renaming the scholarship to honor Roy and Tricia.

My heart is heavy. We lost true friends. I felt our rela-

tionship blooming, and wore it like a badge of freaking honor. Because it was. I am a better person because of them both. They were gentle giants of the community — and will be dearly missed.

So we came together this first week in January, because they would want us to. We invited people to come to the club and share a story, and we were touched that the family members who could attend, after such a tragedy, showed up and expressed their gratitude for the club.

They said that Roy and Tricia talked about it all the time. If ever there was a chance to get together as a

reminded us lovingly. If we wanted him back, we had to be prepared to lose!

And as they left, we had 18 members of the **Vineyard Cribbage Club**, to play our favorite game of cribbage. The results are below:

- First**, Jack Silvia with a 10/5 +70 card
- Second**, Doug Werther with a 10/5 +61 card
- Third**, Michelle Aluia with a 10/5 +43 card
- Fourth**, Collin Evanson with a 10/4 card

There were five 24-point hands, by Jack Silvia, Juli Vanderhoop, and Doug Werther. Mary Alice and Bill Russell both had their 24-point hand "in the crib," the absolute KING of 24-point hands. It felt like a huge hug from Roy.

Only four people got skunked! (That's when a game is won by more than 30 points.)

We meet at the American Legion in Edgartown (176 Katama Road, next to the General Store) on Wednesdays. There is a potluck every week at 5:30, and we start play at 6 pm sharp.

If interested in playing, or learning, shoot me an email at maonmv@mac.com, or give me a jingle at 508-524-1220. We can figure something out! Hope to see you there. **MAR**

family, it simply could not be a Wednesday night! Any other night was fair game — but not Wednesdays.

Two of Roy's sons have actually played as guests in some tournaments, and are sharks as well — the apple didn't fall far from that tree, as one of them

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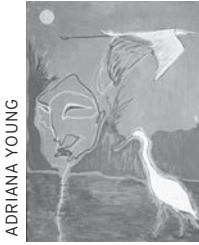
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ADRIANA YOUNG

The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times.

Carestia and Coogan: Goalie cousins carry on hockey tradition

BY MARIA BARROS

For juniors Eliza Belle Carestia and Russell Coogan, family time has often been spent at the ice rink, where growing up together meant sharing practices, games, and countless hours on the ice. This winter season, these two cousins stepped into their first year as starting goalies for the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's (MVRHS) girls' and boys' varsity hockey teams, an accomplishment that has been years in the making, and carries a storied family connection to the sport.

"I feel like we've practically lived with each other our entire lives. We were over at each other's houses at least four times a week, and I feel

like we're really close because of that. Now that we've played the same position, we understand each other a bit more," Russell said.

Eliza Belle and Russell's hockey careers began at age 4, when they played for the MV Youth Hockey program's House Mites team. Russell started playing goalie when he was 8, and encouraged Eliza Belle to try the position when she was 10 years old.

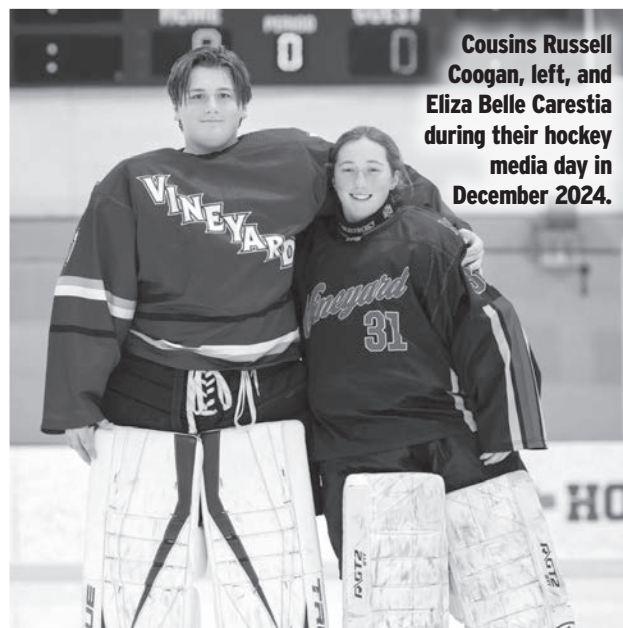
Nell Coogan, a guidance counselor at MVRHS, is Eliza Belle's mother and Russell's aunt. Ms. Coogan explained that she first noticed Russell's willingness to help guide Eliza Belle's development as a goalie during a hockey clinic. "As an aunt, I was super-impressed with Russell and how much

he wanted to teach [Eliza Belle]," she said.

For Eliza Belle and Russell, the love of hockey is a family tradition, passed down from parents who were both former MVRHS hockey players. William Coogan, Russell's father and Eliza Belle's uncle, also played goalie, and said that the sport is woven into the family's history. "My father — their grandfather — always said 'Coogans play hockey,' so they have both played since they were able to skate," Mr. Coogan said.

Eliza Belle explained that being a goalie is as much a mental game as it is a physical one, demanding focus, resilience, and the ability to reset after every shot.

"To be a goalie, you have



Cousins Russell Coogan, left, and Eliza Belle Carestia during their hockey media day in December 2024.

JOE MIKOS

to be a person who's willing to get shot on for fun, and it takes one crazy person on each team to do it. It's a big responsibility, and it takes a lot of guts. And my cousin and I do it for fun, so that means we're the crazy ones," she said.

Eliza Belle added, "In hockey games sometimes goalies

have to be like goldfish, because they have short-term memory. You just gotta be like 'all right, that sucked, but I just have to stop the next shot' and let it go."

Teammates have witnessed firsthand how much Russell and Eliza Belle have grown over the years. Junior Max

Metell, assistant captain of the boys' hockey team, shared his appreciation for Russell. "I think Russell has been great about handling some stressful situations and being able to navigate those. He's been a really good leader, he's been a great teammate, he's a great guy. It's a pleasure to be able to play with him," said Max.

Junior Kelly Pachico, who has played with Eliza Belle since they were 4, highlighted Eliza Belle's performance in the last home game. "She was making saves left and right, sliding across the net — glove save over here and blocker save over there. She was just killing it," said Kelly.

For Eliza Belle and Russell, being cousins has meant always having someone to lean on. "It's big to know that we always had each other's back, no matter what. Just knowing that we're going through the same thing and that we always have each other to fall back on," Russell said. **HSV**

Ethical questions arise as AI use grows

BY DIVYA RANDOLPH, CHARLOTTE CRAMER, ALICE SMITH, AND LUIZA MEDEIRO

The use of artificial intelligence is increasing at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), and it sparks debate among teachers and students about the ethics of its use, whether it's a tool or a form of cheating, and where that line is drawn. Some have also noted environmental concerns with the data centers that facilitate AI.

Many teachers regard the use of generative AI on writing assignments as plagiarism. A sophomore who were recently caught using AI to

compose essays was willing to speak about their experiences anonymously. "My essay was due at midnight, but I put it off until 11:50 pm, so I had 10 minutes to write it," they said. "Plagiarism seemed to be [my teacher's] main concern, and not the fact that I used AI. I didn't get a grade on it, and had to redo it."

Spanish teacher Erin Slossberg often encounters student work that has been generated through students' use of Google Translate. "If I find that a kid has represented work that isn't their own using a translating service, I

document it," she said. "[I tell students] these are not your words, and therefore you need to redo this assignment."

Many teachers agree that AI can be used as a tool. History department chair Ena Thulin, who is a parent of two current students, explained potential benefits. "I think AI can be very effective for coming up with study strategies," she said. "I use it for recipes, workout routines, and for interior decorating ideas. Then for my job I use it for lesson planning ideas."

Ms. Slossberg also believes there are benefits to using AI. "I don't think kids use it enough as a tool to help them unpack a difficult concept. I would love to have kids come and tell me how they had this type of experience with ChatGPT," she said.

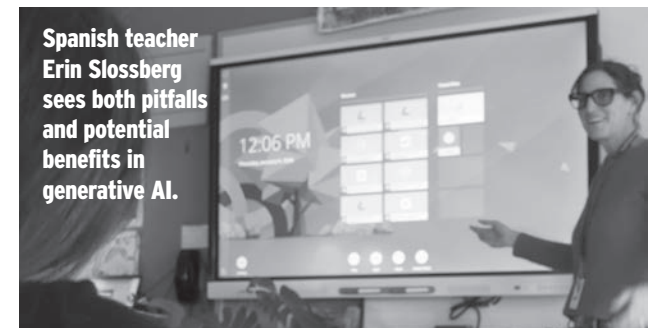
Because this is a new and evolving technology, students and teachers are simultane-

ously learning how to work through ethical questions in real time. As a result, many students are feeling a lack of clarity around when it's OK or not to use AI for learning.

Sophomore Fabiano DeOlivera explained how he distinguishes between using AI as a tool to help him with schoolwork from passing off AI's text as his own. "[Submitting AI text as my own] defeats the purpose of learning. If I copy off AI, I won't have actual knowledge for when I'm tested on it in school," he said.

Some students have questioned why staff members are allowed to teach and assess students using AI-generated materials. Students report feeling unsure about what they can and cannot do with AI, whereas some say they are too fearful to go near it.

Environmental concerns have also risen to the surface



Spanish teacher Erin Slossberg sees both pitfalls and potential benefits in generative AI.

TESSA SCHULZ

as AI use increases. According to Newsweek, AI data centers in Texas used 436 million gallons from 2023 to 2024, at a time when residents of the state were grappling with a stage 3 drought and were limited to watering their lawns once per week.

English teacher Jessica Russell has prioritized educating herself on AI: "I signed up for a course on generative AI. While in that course, ... my concerns outweighed the benefits. I think it's the one course I've ever dropped out of."

"I happen to be terrified of climate change and what's going to happen to our planet," Ms. Russell added. "I'm doing my best to recycle and walk or bike rather than take a car, but why am I doing all these things if I'm going to blow it all on AI? I've been writing stories and papers, searching up restaurant suggestions, and creating my own travel plans for the past 43 years. I'm not going to use energy on things I can do myself, even if it seems easier in the moment." **HSV**

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CELEBRATING ISLAND DIVERSITY



1. Kivie Kaplan standing begins his wife Emily Kaplan, Dr. Myrlie Evers-Williams and NAACP president and OB resident Della Hardman. 2. Prayer meeting, 1963. 3. The Martha's Vineyard NAACP participating in the Fourth of July parade, Oak Bluffs, 1964. 4. Williamston Group Visit, 1963.



PHOTOS COURTESY MV MUSEUM

VOICES by Sharisse

THE NAACP ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

If not us, who? The work continues only if we do.

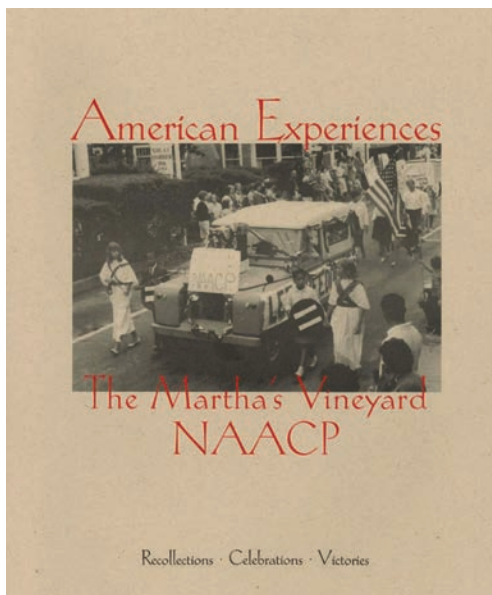
BY SHARISSA SCOTT-RAWLINS

Long before equity became a popular talking point, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was born out of necessity. According to the Martha's Vineyard branch "NAACP Centennial Souvenir Journal," the NAACP was founded in 1909 at a time when "lynchings were all too common," and racial violence was woven into the fabric of American life. The booklet notes that the NAACP emerged when reformers united "not by color, but by cause," with a shared commitment to "promote equality and eradicate prejudice among citizens of the U.S." That national mission would eventually take root here on Martha's Vineyard — not because the Island was exempt from injustice, but because it was not.

The Martha's Vineyard Branch of the NAACP was established in 1963, during a period of national upheaval and local reckoning. As the centennial booklet makes clear, while there was no

overt, headline-grabbing racism on the Island, there were "subtle things happening that would be extremely hard to prove," particularly in housing, employment, and social access. For example, Realtors "would not refuse to take you around," the history recounts, "they would just take you around where they wanted you to go." These quieter forms of exclusion demanded urgent attention.

From its earliest days, the Vineyard branch understood that change would not come from policy alone. Quoting the NAACP's foundational philosophy, the booklet re-



minds readers that "change would have to come from the people." That belief shaped the branch's approach — meetings held in church halls, volunteers organizing fundraisers, and members advocating for fair hiring practices, education, and access to housing and health-care. Over time, the Martha's Vineyard NAACP became a steady presence, committed to what the booklet describes as "conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors."

Perhaps most striking is how often the centennial

journal emphasizes continuity over completion. "It is better," one passage reflects, "but it is not equal." The work, then as now, remained unfinished. Leadership was never viewed as a title alone, but as responsibility. "Leadership is not a torch that can be passed on," the booklet states. "It is a torch that has to be grasped and built upon."

As the Martha's Vineyard NAACP enters a new chapter under new leadership, it does so grounded in this history — one shaped by ordinary Islanders who refused to accept inequity as the cost of comfort. The legacy they leave behind is not just institutional, but moral: a reminder that justice on this Island has always required intention, courage, and care — and still does.

That legacy is not abstract. It is documented, embodied, and visible. The early years of the Martha's Vineyard NAACP are remembered not only through written records, but through images

Continued on B15

CELEBRATING ISLAND DIVERSITY

Continued from B14

that capture the spirit of a community finding its voice. Some of those photographs live in private collections and local archives; others are preserved in the Martha's Vineyard branch "NAACP Centennial Souvenir Journal," anchoring memory to documented history.

One photograph preserved in the journal captures this truth with quiet power: Kivie Kaplan standing just behind his wife Emily Kaplan, Dr. Myrlie Evers-Williams, and beloved Oak Bluffs resident and NAACP M.V. officer Della Hardman. The image visually anchors the Vineyard's local work within the broader national movement. Kivie Kaplan, who served as president of the national NAACP from 1966 to 1975, and spent many summers on Martha's Vineyard, helped strengthen the Island's connection to national leadership. The presence of Dr. Myrlie Evers-Williams — widow of Medgar Evers, and a towering figure in the civil rights movement — alongside local and regional advocates reinforces what the booklet makes clear again and again: The Vineyard branch has never existed in isolation. Its work has always been in conversation with a larger fight for justice, drawing strength from national voices while remaining grounded in local responsibility.

Other photographs from the branch's earliest years tell complementary stories. One reflects the Vineyard's connection to Williamston, NC in 1963, when Island members traveled South to deliver food and supplies and to stand in solidarity with Black residents facing overt racial violence and voter suppression. Participants were arrested after protesting segregation, and spent a night in jail. One woman later reflected that she acted because she "wouldn't want my grandchildren to know that I had a chance to make a change, and didn't do it." The image stands as quiet testimony to a defining belief of the Vineyard NAACP: that justice requires showing up, even when the work leads far from home.

Another photograph from 1963 captures a prayer meeting — an early gathering that speaks to how the branch sustained itself before its work became visible in public life. Faith communities were central to the NAACP's formation on the Island, offering not only meeting space but moral grounding. They steadied resolve, strengthened courage, and affirmed that the struggle ahead would demand both spiritual and civic commitment.

By the summer of 1964, that commitment had moved into the open. A photograph

preserved in the "Centennial Souvenir Journal" shows the Martha's Vineyard NAACP participating in the Fourth of July parade in Oak Bluffs. On a day dedicated to celebrating American freedom, the branch stepped forward visibly — claiming space within a national ritual while reminding the community that liberty must be actively upheld. The image captures a pivotal shift, from organizing in private rooms to asserting presence in public life. It reflects what the booklet documents throughout: that the Vineyard NAACP understood visibility itself as a form of advocacy.

If the Vineyard branch's early history teaches us anything, it's that the NAACP was never meant to exist as a symbol. It was built as a tool — designed for moments when people feel unheard, when systems feel immovable, and when silence becomes more dangerous than speaking up. That understanding has carried the organization forward for more than six decades. Today, it arrives in a new chapter — one shaped by a changing Island and led by a president who sees the work not as ceremonial, but as necessary.

That urgency shapes how Shawn Ramoutar, the newly elected president of the Martha's Vineyard NAACP, understands his role. For

Ramoutar, leadership is not just about preserving legacy — it is about ensuring the organization can respond to the Island as it actually exists today.

"Now the population is rapidly moving toward 30,000 year-round residents," he told me. "Our infrastructure needs to be changed ... and the ultimate thing is housing — rising inflation, cost of living. These are all things that always affect communities of color disproportionately." In other words, the Vineyard is not frozen in time. And neither are the pressures facing the people who live here.

Ramoutar's vision begins with bridging a gap many Islanders feel but rarely name — the divide between summer visibility and year-round isolation; between knowing a community exists and actually being held by one. "I'm looking for tons of professional Black people on this Island," he said, "not just to be social, but to get you connected into the community ... so you know you're not alone here." He laughed as he recalled a familiar sentiment — "There's some kind of secret party going on that we're not invited to" — but beneath the humor is a serious truth. Too often, belonging is left to chance. Ramoutar imagines the NAACP as a bridge,

where presence leads to participation, and where isolation is no longer mistaken for invisibility.

That work, he believes, must also be intergenerational. "Our membership is getting older," he said. "They're doing the most ... and this is their time where they should be winding down ... and due to the situations of life, that is not possible." Rather than viewing elders as stepping aside, Ramoutar sees them as carrying too much alone. "Young people need to step up and come out and assist our elders," he said. "You're losing opportunities to glean knowledge from the generation before us ... you're going to look up, and they're going to be gone ... and then you're going to wonder, 'How do we do this?'" His reminder lands hard: "You're asking Google — but you got the source right next door to you."

Under Ramoutar's leadership, the Vineyard NAACP is moving forward with renewed intention and structure, guided by the footsteps of our elders who carried the work. "I'm trying to reorganize this organization, and I need committee members," he said. "I need people who work in the health field ... finance ... political ... municipal and state government." He envisions systems that allow the chapter to respond quickly: clear communica-

tion, consistent meetings, and modern tools that keep people informed when something is happening. "I want our local chapter to have the same type of alert system ... 'Something is happening. This is going on.'"

Because for Ramoutar, the NAACP should be most visible at the exact moment someone feels invisible.

Education is another area he believes requires immediate attention. "We're spending money on these new school complexes," he said, "but are we paying our teachers? ... What are the children learning?" He calls literacy "a huge issue," and believes it must be addressed directly — because education is not just a school issue; it becomes a life issue.

At the heart of Ramoutar's leadership is a civil rights framework grounded in knowledge, connection, and responsibility. "One thing that remained true," he said, "is having knowledge of self — knowing where you came from and where you're going." While the NAACP has always fought for Black civil rights, Ramoutar is clear about the broader impact. "Yes, we're fighting for the rights of Black people — but the benefits are for all people in general ... When Black people have civil rights, everyone else does as well."

Still, his message is not

abstract. It is an invitation. "If you're feeling like it's an impossibility," he said, "it's only an impossibility because you won't come to the table. Everyone needs a seat at the table. Everyone needs to be heard." And the challenge he keeps returning to: "Everybody's waiting for somebody else to do it first. No — change starts with you."

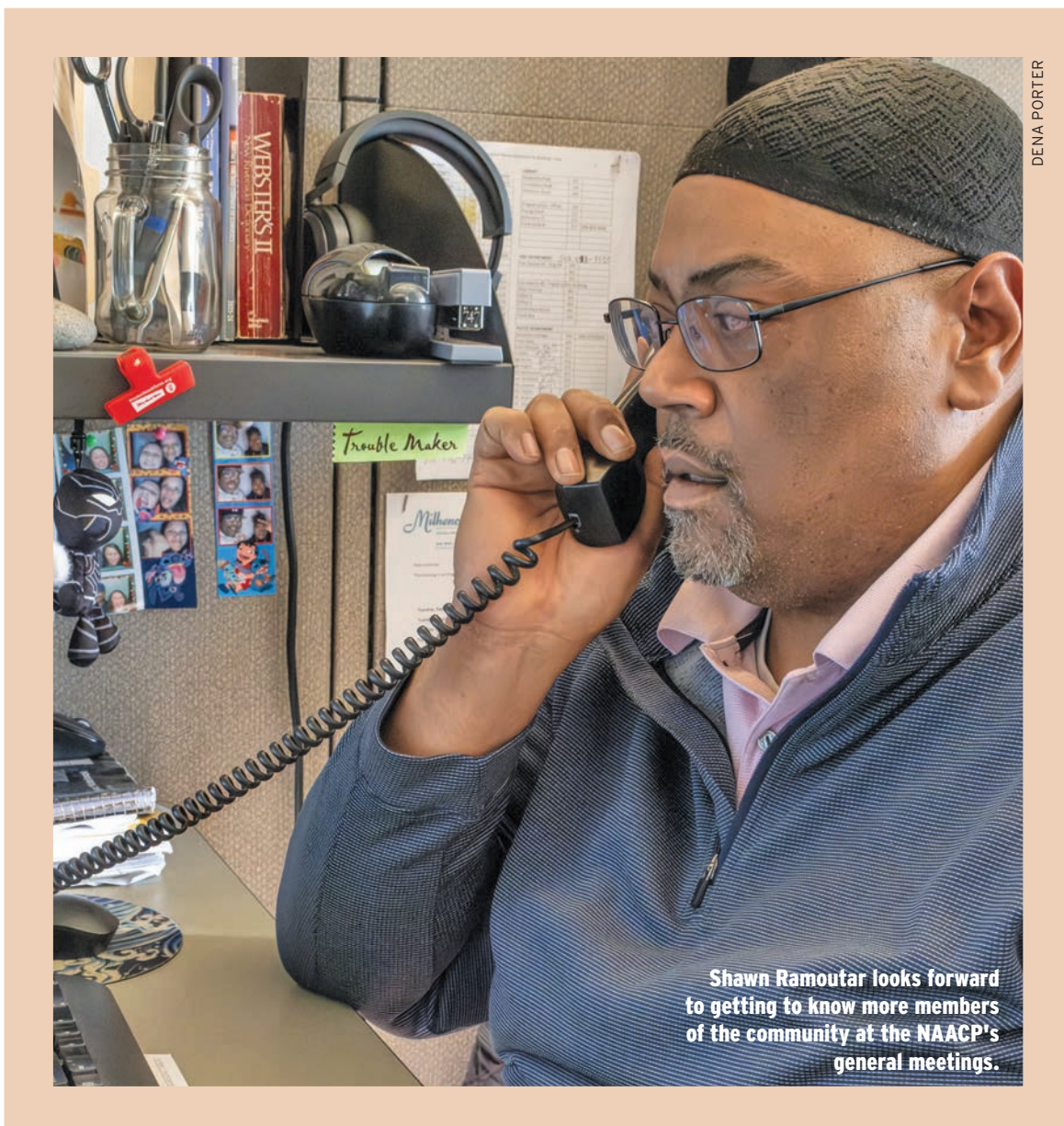
That philosophy, participation over symbolism, is perhaps most visible at the branch's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Luncheon. More than a commemorative event, the luncheon has long served as the organization's primary membership drive, and a yearly call back to the work.

Each January, the Martha's Vineyard Branch of the NAACP gathers the Island community for its MLK Day Luncheon — an event that has become both a ritual and a reckoning. On Jan. 19, 2026, the community will once again come together for an afternoon rooted in reflection, remembrance, and responsibility. Through shared meals, words of tribute, and moments of collective pause, the luncheon honors Dr. King's legacy not as history alone, but as a living call to action — one that asks each of us to show up, listen, and participate.

Long a cornerstone of the branch's work, the MLK Day Luncheon serves as both a moral reset and an entry point — reminding those in attendance that justice is not sustained by admiration alone, but by presence. Attendance becomes membership. Membership becomes service. And service becomes the quiet, necessary work of building a more equitable Island.

The Vineyard NAACP also continues to support longstanding health initiatives, including advocacy and outreach around prostate cancer — work Ramoutar notes is especially urgent given the disproportionate impact on Black men specifically. These efforts reflect the organization's enduring commitment to addressing inequity where it shows up most clearly: in health outcomes, education access, housing stability, and civic participation.

The story of the Martha's Vineyard NAACP has never been one of perfect progress. It has always been a story of people choosing engagement over comfort — again and again, decade after decade. The early organizers who traveled South, who prayed together, who stepped into public view on the Fourth of July, did not do so knowing how the story would end. They acted because the moment required them to. This new chapter asks the same thing of us now. Presence. Membership. Service. Action. The work continues — only if we do. **MVT**



DENA PORTER

Shawn Ramoutar looks forward to getting to know more members of the community at the NAACP's general meetings.

"Everybody's waiting for somebody else to do it first. No — change starts with you."

—SHAWN RAMOUTAR, PRESIDENT OF NAACP OF M.V.

GardenNotes

BY ABIGAIL HIGGINS



Dealing with the freeze/thaw cycle.



Early snowdrops break ground.



Frost cracking.

ALL PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL HIGGINS, UNLESS NOTED

In with the new

A meadow under the rising moon, glowing with tawny grasses, punctuated by dark candle-flame cedars — this is a quintessential Vineyard scene. Small wintering birds hop about looking for a seed or an insect. Flowers of hybrid witch hazel begin their furling and unfurling. Early snowdrops break ground in the lawn. Catalogue enticement is at maximum strength.

The Island's first winter snows are a delight. Views into distant woodlands or across fields emerge. When rendered in black and white, landscapes present an entirely fresh aesthetic, and an entirely new perspective.

New Year's Day 2026

Two good people were lost on New Year's Day, somber news sending shockwaves through multiple layers of Island life. They were well-known figures, for the two were strongly enmeshed here. A couple, they worked together, died together with their boots on, in the middle of their life together.

Like life anywhere, Island life is a many-layered structure — embedded, meshing, or siloed — depending upon the circumstances.

A lively tribute to both Patricia Bergeron and Roy Scheffer that will endure is contained in "The Sea Table" cookbook. Local effort and

daily risk to earn a living seemingly shrink alongside national and international struggles for resources. Yet our own waters, right here, mirror international struggles for them.

"Think globally, act locally," the adage goes. The grab for fishing permits that vertically integrated, mega-funded international outfits are able to mount squeezes out our fishing community and its markets.

The onrush of events on global stages eclipses our small sorrows. In years to come, will the traumatic events of New Year's Day 2026 be remembered? Families, friends, colleagues, rescuers, all who answered the call and who tried to help in rough conditions, will remember.

Freeze/thaw

Signs appear to point to a more severe winter, or to more abrupt shifts between weather events. More snow

arrives, and then initial delight may turn to annoyance, especially when experiencing the infamous "wintry mix."

Mild winters have bred newbies unfamiliar with snow driving and how accidents can happen in a flash; others must polish up their snow-driving chops all over again.

And then, rocketing between daytime temperatures in the 30s and 40s and night-



Early hybrid witch hazel.

time ones in the high teens, plants must be able accept the shifts and adapt to them.

Mulches perform the function of insulation that mitigates shifts, as does snow cover. Nonetheless, the expansion and thawing of frozen soil can be brutal, heaving plants and hardscape alike, even tumbling stone walls.

Recent bedwork may exhibit frost heaving; clumps of perennials that have not firmly rooted are most likely to be hoisted loose. Small stones and pebbles will be seen littering the soil surface, where there were none previously. This is frost action, slow and powerful.

ing shading may cause frost cracks to occur. Although they may not kill, frost cracks weaken the plant and create entry points for insects and disease organisms. Wrapping trunks with tree wrap can help prevent potential frost cracking in vulnerable locations.

Prune now

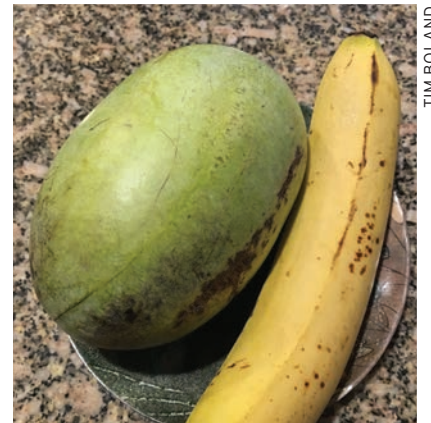
And speaking of pruning — if Island winter 2026 and shifting weather patterns devolve into one of those mild nonwinters, it is smart to take care of necessary pruning without waiting.

Pruning is best done while trees and shrubs are fully dormant. Many ornamen-

browsing, but also the humid climate and widespread presence of red cedar trees, a co-host of cedar-apple rust organisms, create hurdles to fruit production of apple, pear, and plum.

Would you be interested to learn more about a deer-resistant fruit tree that produces delicious, abundant fruit of high nutrition content, in shaded locations?

The tree is the pawpaw, *Asimina triloba*, an improbable North American native with tropical connotations and appearance. Pawpaw likes moist soil, and thrives in shade. Foliage and bark contain compounds that animals such as deer dislike.



Pawpaw 'Shenadoah' fruit with banana.

TIM BOLAND

paw) describes more of the fruit's taste and nutritional qualities, but also its one Achilles' heel: The fruit does not keep nor ship well! This makes pawpaw a casualty of modern life and transcontinental food distribution systems.

However, this drawback creates its own silver lining. Available only locally, pawpaws could well be the poster child for a "buy local" product. Polly Hill Arboretum is growing 'Shenadoah' and a couple of Neal Peterson clones to add to its own collection, but will buy more for spring plant sales. In the past, Jardin Mahoney also stocked seed-grown pawpaw.

In the garden

Fungus organisms proliferate in underventilated indoor air. After watering, remove excess from houseplants' saucers.

Please be mindful of deicing products. No one wants a fall: Use sawdust, shavings, and wood ash instead, wherever possible, on slippery steps and walkways. Use even those sparingly; it does not take much! Avoid chemical products that contribute who-knows-what to gardens, wells, ponds, and harbors. **MVT**

"January starts the year / 2026 is here / The trees are bare / The air is cold / In with the new / Out with the old." -CALENDAR RHYME

Tree trunks' bark may show what is called frost cracking. These fissures are vertical splits, most often on south or southwest sides, caused by sunlight striking the wood. The heated wood begins to expand, sap begins to flow, but then freezes and expands when nighttime temperatures fall below freezing.

Pruning that has removed material previously provid-

tal species, such as maples, dogwoods, stewartias, and birches, bleed sap from pruning cuts when they have left full dormancy.

Pawpaw possibilities

The Vineyard presents landscaping problems that exist due to the presence of white-tailed deer from one end of the Island to the other. Not only widespread deer

Trees are clonal, and over time may sucker to create groves. They are self-infertile, and cannot pollinate themselves, requiring two differing trees for fruit production. Pawpaw would make good subjects for swale plantings in shaded locations.

How is it we are in almost total ignorance of the amazing pawpaw? The video linked here (bit.ly/YT_Pawpaw)

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