

Our 'Vineyarders' deserve a mascot **A4**

A valentine art show for everyone **B14**

# MVTimes

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Jacoby Light (No. 1) makes a layup against Dennis-Yarmouth.

NICHOLAS VUKOTA

## Basketball team eyes league title

The high school boys' team is on a hot streak of back-to-back wins. **BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA**

The boys' varsity basketball team is on a tear this season, racking up a nine-game win streak over league rivals as they quest into the postseason. Now, they're dialing their sights onto the Cape

and Islands League championship and intend to take the title. The Vineyarders defeated both the Dennis-Yarmouth Dolphins on Friday, 57-47, and the Dover-Sherborn Raiders on Satur-

day, 58-36, at home over the weekend. With a record of 14-2, the boys' basketball team is currently ranked 12th out of 79 Division 3 teams in the Massachusetts *Continued on A15*

## Unhoused Chilmark man dies in car

He was found amid snow and frigid temperatures, despite offers of help. **BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON**

An unhoused Chilmark man was found dead under piles of blankets inside a car where he had been living through some of the coldest days of the winter when frigid temperatures plunged to near zero. The cause of the death of William P. Steranka, 78, is "unknown," according to Chilmark Police, who pronounced him dead after his body was discovered in a commercial lot on Tabor House Road by an Island resident on the morning of Jan. 27. Steranka, who often recited poetry and frequented church dinners and art openings, is presumed by those who knew him to have died from hypothermia. Police



William P. Steranka does a poetry reading at Pathways Arts. See video at mvtimes.com.

COURTESY PATHWAYS ARTS

said they're still waiting on autopsy results, however, and cannot confirm the precise cause of death. In the aftermath, some community members expressed anguish as to how Steranka fell through the cracks on an Island with a stark disparity of wealth and privilege. Local housing advocates have made concerted efforts to help year-rounders navigate a crisis in affordability that has left many struggling to get by, particularly amid the kind of frigid cold that has gripped New England for the last month. A shelter for the unhoused was first *Continued on A8*

## Trump reopens protected area for fishing

The president rolled back protections for the Atlantic's only marine national monument. **BY HAYLEY DUFFY**

The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, an area the size of Connecticut and 130 miles southeast of Cape Cod, was celebrated by conservationists as the only marine national monument, a protected area, in the Atlantic Ocean. That changed late Friday afternoon when the federal government rolled back protections for the underwater landscape.

President Donald Trump issued a proclamation Feb. 6 that removed the prohibition on commercial fishing in the 4,913 square miles that consist of two separate areas, which together have three canyons rivaling the depth of the Grand Canyon, and four seamounts, or underwater mountains, larger than any on land east of the Rockies.

The monument was originally designated by former president Barack Obama in a presidential proclamation in September 2016, under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to protect "unique ecological resources" from overfishing. Commercial fishing was then removed from the list of prohibited activities within the monument by Trump in 2020. Former president Joe Biden reversed that in October 2021, and now, Trump's flipped back the rules again.

"The whole episode is more posturing than substance on both sides," said Fred Khedouri, owner of Martha Rose Fisheries, which operates the Martha Rose and Menemsha Rose out of Menemsha.

Island fishermen are constantly forced to balance profit and conservation as they harvest from the sea, because they rely on the resources for their livelihood. The monument is located right off of Georges Bank, which was once one of the most lucrative grounds for commercial fishermen. Schooners out of Edgartown fished Georges Bank from the early years of the 20th century to the late 1930s, and there were sword boats out there post-World War II, said Bowdoin Van Riper, research librarian for the Martha's Vineyard Museum. Vineyard lobstermen used to set traps in the canyons and pulled huge numbers, he added. That changed, however, as regulations tightened, fish values dropped and fuel costs rose, and the Island's commercial fishing fleet shrank.

On a webpage by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, which manages activities and species in the monument through federal law, the federal agency said that the canyons and seamounts are home to at least 54 species of deep-sea corals and other fauna that live at depths of 3,900 meters and promote a vibrant deep-sea ecosystem for fish and invertebrate species. It is also a crucial area for phytoplankton and zooplankton that form the basis of the food chain. The underwater canyons — Oceanographer, Gilbert, and Lydonia — start at the edge of the outer continental shelf and provide habitat for squid, octopus, skate, flounder, and crabs. They also provide grounds for *Continued on A9*



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## news in brief

## Icy harbor disrupts Chappy Ferry

Icy water from weeks of cold temperatures forced the Chappy Ferry to remain extra cautious when deciding whether or not to sail between the slips on the Chappaquiddick and Edgartown sides of the harbor.

Early Tuesday morning, the tide brought in an “ice pack,” suspending regular ferry service. The ferry was reserved for “life/death emergencies” for about two hours. According to Edgartown Police, while the ferry restarted service again late Tuesday morning, there was a possibility of more service disruptions after 5 pm depending on how the current moves ice in the harbor.

Edgartown Police Lt. Michael Snowden said the department is in communication with the Chappy Ferry company. In the meantime, a police officer was sent over to Chappaquiddick with a cruiser in case an emergency occurs.

“We’ll just continue to work the problem,” Snowden said.

Peter Wells, owner and operator of Chappy Ferry, was not immediately available for comment.

Gary Kovack, Edgartown harbormaster, said there haven’t been any “major issues with the ice” other than the ferry service disruption.

While the U.S. Coast Guard does have three vessels capable of breaking ice for southeastern New England, Kovack said the ice in Edgartown Harbor has so far not been problematic enough for them to need to deploy the vessels. Still, town officials are keeping an eye on when the tides bunch the ice together, which is when issues can start to arise for boats.

## Aerial deer survey starts next week

In a fight against tick-borne illnesses on the Island, the nonprofit Tick Free Martha’s Vineyard (Tick Free MV) plans to launch an Island-wide aerial deer survey next week.

The survey, running between Feb. 15 and March 7, will use thermal drone technology to collect baseline data for the Island’s deer population size and distribution.

A main goal of Tick Free MV is to target the abundant deer population, a frequent host for ticks, and eventually reduce the prevalence of tick-borne conditions on the Island. A press release from the recently established nonprofit said that accurate data on Island deer is “foundational input for informed public health and land-management decision-making” when the Island boasts some of the highest rates of tick-borne conditions, both diseases and allergies, in the country.

“This survey is about collecting reliable data,” Virginia Barbatti, executive director of Tick Free MV, said in the release. “Understanding how large our deer population has become and where they cluster is an essential step in having informed community conversations. The last local deer survey was conducted in 2013 using traditional aircraft. This survey will use the latest drone technology to provide an updated, more comprehensive view.”

The nonprofit contracted White Buffalo, an independent conservation nonprofit from Connecticut that specializes in deer management, to conduct the survey and analyze the data. Drone flights are scheduled to take place between dusk and dawn, when there are cooler ground temperatures and the small aircraft, flying below 400 feet, can detect deer through infrared thermal cameras. The drones are operated by FAA-certified pilots and “follow a systematic grid pattern to ensure consistent, Island-wide coverage,” the press release said.

The public may notice nighttime drone activity over the next month, but the nonprofit said that the survey won’t capture identifiable images of people, faces, or homes. Launch and landing spots are only at preapproved locations where the nonprofit secured permission from public and private landholders.

The nonprofit also went to Island towns to discuss the survey and requested permission to launch and land drones on town properties.



Icy water caused service disruptions to the Chappy Ferry on Tuesday morning.

APRIL MANTE

## Navigator Homes welcomes first residents

In a milestone for a project seven years in the making, Navigator Homes welcomed its first residents into its facility last week.

Navigator Homes in Edgartown was designed to provide a more “personalized, homelike model of care” for residents, a press release from Martha’s Vineyard Hospital reads. Residents of Windemere Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, assisted by staff from the new nursing home and the hospital, made the successful transition into the new facility on Feb. 4.

According to the release, the move “marks the culmination of more than seven years of planning to address long-standing infrastructure and workforce challenges at the Windemere facility.” Many of the Windemere staff also transitioned with residents, “ensuring continuity of care and preserving the trusted relationships that have defined Windemere for more than three decades.”

Claire Seguin, Martha’s Vineyard Hospital president and chief operating officer, thanked Windemere staff members’ decades of care for seniors on the Island and congratulated the leadership of Navigator Homes for the continuation of care.

“This transition to Navigator Homes represents a renewed commitment on the part of the Island to care for seniors, providing homes and facilities for the residents,” Seguin said in the release.

Navigator Homes was designed to replace the aging Windemere facility, which the release stated had been a “cornerstone of the Island community” since 1994. Seniors received skilled nursing, rehabilitation, and long-term care for decades, but Windemere faced “significant operational and financial pressures, including annual losses driven largely by inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates,” according to the release. The Windemere facility will be incorporated into the restructuring of the hospital campus, including expansion of outpatient

services and “reimagining campus infrastructure to meet community needs.”

“This is a momentous occasion for our Island community,” Denise Schepici, retired president of Martha’s Vineyard Hospital, said in the release. “Navigator will continue to provide the kind of dignified, loving care for seniors who live on the Island that was a hallmark of Windemere. I’m grateful to everyone who played a role in helping to bring this vision to reality. I’m especially thankful to the Norton family, who listened to that vision and sold the Edgartown property to the hospital. We spent a lot of time and effort on this project, but every moment was worth it.”

The new facility is located on Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road and consists of 48 units of housing for residents as well as 76 bedrooms for hospital staff. The project cost \$68 million to complete.

The release said Navigator Homes was built based on the “small-house model,” which allows people who need skilled nursing care to “stay on the Island while receiving support from compassionate and engaged nursing teams in a comfortable setting where they can live with dignity, community connection, and purpose.”

Onsite staff housing on the campus also helps address longtime challenges to offering senior care on the Vineyard. According to the release, the Navigator Homes nonprofit is governed by an Island-based board, and the property will be managed by Alliance Health Management Services, which has over 25 years of experience operating skilled nursing facilities across the state.

“We are simply thrilled to see the dream of building a small-house nursing home to take care of the people of Martha’s Vineyard come to fruition,” Polly Brown, Navigator Homes board treasurer, said in the release. “We know Alliance Health Management services will manage care with great skill and compassion.”

## Steamship summer reservations still hold strong

Although the Steamship Authority (SSA) saw a small overall drop in summer reservations on the first day they were available, the number of vehicle bookings shows that travelers still have a strong interest in coming to the islands.

General summer reservations opened for the Vineyard route on Feb. 3, and according to a press release from the SSA, they remained “virtually the same” from last year, with 23,014 transactions defined by the SSA as “either a one-way or a round-trip automobile reservation.” These brought in nearly \$7.3 million in revenue. Last year, the ferry line saw 23,069 transactions on the general opening day.

The Nantucket route saw a seven percent drop from last year’s sales. The general summer reservations for Nantucket opened

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# Three finalists chosen for SSA rep seat

Interviews will be conducted in open sessions. **BY EUNKI SEONWOO**

Dukes County officials have chosen three finalists, one of which will become the Vineyard's next representative on the Steamship Authority board.

On Friday afternoon, the Dukes County Commissioners' nominating committee unanimously approved three candidates to advance to the next round of interviews with the full commission: former Oak Bluffs Select Board chair Gail Barmakian, Oak Bluffs resident Cameron Naron, and Ted Gavin, treasurer of the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center.

Each candidate brings a different set of experiences. Barmakian, a lawyer, currently chairs the Oak Bluffs Wastewater Commission and previously served five

terms on the town's select board. Naron is the director of the federal Office of Maritime Security and previously served in the U.S. Coast Guard, retiring with the rank of captain. Gavin is a certified turnaround professional, a role that helps stabilize troubled companies, and serves on the boards of several nonprofit boards, including the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association.

Screenings of the candidates were completed in executive sessions before the finalists were chosen. They will be interviewed in open sessions. Don Leopold, chair of the nomination committee, previously told *The Times* that at least one candidate wanted to be left anonymous unless they were

a finalist, so applicants' names were kept secret until the final rounds since other candidates may have felt the same way and the committee didn't want to discourage applications.

But some Islanders took issue with this approach and believe the process should have been more transparent.

At the Feb. 4 commissioners meeting, Ebba Hierta, an Edgartown resident, said she found the secrecy "appalling," especially given recent revelations from the state about the mismanagement of the ferry line's top leadership and the Steamship board.

"This isn't like a job application where you need to protect the identity of the initial applicants because it could impact their job,"



Three finalists were chosen to potentially become the next Martha's Vineyard Steamship representative.

MV TIMES

Hierta said. "This is a public representation, and to do this in secrecy under these conditions, again, I find them appalling."

Christine Todd, chair of the commissioners, said they had an agreement to protect the candidates' privacy but that the finalist candidates would all be reviewed publicly, and added that the appointment won't be immediate, giving Islanders time to provide input.

"It's been a very laborious process, as you can imagine, trying to find the best qualified candidate for this crucial role," Todd said.

Additionally, Leopold told *The Times* that not releasing

the candidates' names did not violate the state Open Meeting Law (OML).

"State OML requires only that the names of finalists be made public, with which we agree and will absolutely do; and all meetings with those finalists will be public," Leopold wrote in an email. "The issue has never been one of secrecy; one or more of the candidates specifically requested for his/her name to remain private unless and until he/she became a finalist, which we have respected for all."

The commissioners extended the application period in January for the position after Jim Malkin, the current

representative on the Steamship board, announced he would not be seeking another three-year term.

Since then, 14 candidates applied for the position, and these were whittled down to eight people, invited for Zoom interviews on Feb. 2.

Malkin was chosen out of 10 candidates in 2020, so there is slightly stiffer competition this time. The new representative will join just weeks after new Steamship Authority General Manager Alex Kryaska began his position last month.

The Vineyard's new Steamship representative's three-year term will begin on March 1. **MVT**

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## news in brief

on Jan. 27, and the ferry line processed 6,747 transactions, which brought in over \$4.1 million in revenue. The SSA processed 7,247 transactions for the Nantucket route on opening day last year.

"The recent reservation openings show a continued strong demand for summer travel to both Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard," said SSA General Manager Alex Kryaska in the release. "My thanks to the Authority's IT group, system developers, and partner vendors for their months of preparation for these events, including load testing and adjusting system configurations. Following these successful opening days, we look forward to a similarly successful season of serving the travel needs of residents and visitors alike."

Technological issues hindered the opening days of general reservations for the SSA in 2023 and 2024.

The ferry line stated that while many of the summer weekends with the most demand are at or near capacity, it encourages customers to utilize its waitlist feature to try to book times that aren't currently available. Additionally, Island residents who are in the SSA preferred or excursion programs can book spaces that are reserved each day for last-minute travel needs.

Customers can still make summer reservations by phone by contacting the SSA reservation office and in person at the terminals starting at 7:30 am on Feb. 10.

### Pulse project donates two AEDs to Island orgs

The MV Pulse Project, an initiative by Lou Quattrucci to make a medical device more commonly available across the Island, announced Monday that they donated two automated external defibrillators (AED) to the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society and the United Methodist Church of Martha's Vineyard.

Quattrucci began the project following his own heart issue. Quattrucci is a 63-year-old Island resident who was healthy and had no signs of heart disease when he suffered a severe heart attack, called a "widowmaker," in July. He survived because he was luckily near both medical personnel and an AED, which delivers an electric shock to the body to restore normal rhythm.

To pay his "luck" forward, Quattrucci started

the MV Pulse Project last year to raise money to donate AEDs to places on the Island as well as train people to use them. He's also gone door-to-door to Island businesses to hand out flyers explaining what to do if someone suffers cardiac arrest. The flyers also have a list of known AEDs in each town.

Quattrucci has additionally worked to register AEDs that are currently available on-Island to a national registry, called Pulse Point AED, which tracks where the devices are located on a public online map. There are around 120 AEDs on the map of the Island now, while only 29 were listed back in October.

The goal, back in October, was to raise enough money to buy 10 new AEDs to donate to areas that didn't already have the equipment. Quattrucci told *The Times* Monday that they had raised enough for 10 and had bought or were in the process of purchasing the other eight.

Press around the initiative, Quattrucci said, pushed a lot of community organizations to inquire about an AED donation, and the Agricultural Society and United Methodist Church were the first to raise their hands.

Those interested have to fill out a basic application, order the defibrillator, and schedule CPR training. Quattrucci also shouted-out retired Island paramedic Chuck Cummins, who has donated his time and experience to provide CPR training.

This wasn't intended to be a career for Quattrucci but "a pay-it-forward exercise." But now that the initiative reached the original goal, he'll continue to do more if possible.

Regardless, he said, the whole project has been a victory.

For more information, email [mvpulseproject@gmail.com](mailto:mvpulseproject@gmail.com).

### Tisbury residents call for bigger select board

Some Tisbury residents are proposing an expansion to one of the central governing bodies of the town.

A petition was filed with the Tisbury town clerk's office on Jan. 27 by Mary Bernadette Budinger-Cormie, a Tisbury planning board member and town representative on the Martha's Vineyard Commission, to expand the Tisbury Select Board from three to five members. The number of signatures indicates it will be heard at the annual town meeting.

The select board is the executive office of Tisbury and oversees town interests like projects, prepares town meeting warrants, and sets many municipal policies.

The petition was filed only a day before Christina Colarusso resigned as select board chair following legal trouble and months of absences from public meetings. In her absence, select board members Roy Cutrer and John Cahill continued to run the daily operations of the board.

If voters approve the proposal in town meeting, scheduled to be held on April 22, it would make Tisbury the second town in Dukes County to have a select board with five members. Currently, all of the select boards on the Vineyard besides Oak Bluffs, which has five members, consist of three members.

Although rare in Dukes County, the rest of the towns in the Cape and Islands region have five members on their select boards except for Barnstable, which has a town council with 13 seats.

Lynne Fraker, a Tisbury resident who helped collect signatures, said the petition wasn't aimed at any of the current members but stemmed from the recognition that if either of the two existing members is absent, the board cannot form a quorum. Fraker said adding more members would lessen the workload for the board members and bring a more "diverse expertise" and "robust discussion" at meetings. She said this has been an ongoing discussion among Tisbury residents, and she became involved herself in 2018.

"People are recognizing this is something that can benefit our town," Fraker said. She added that a bigger board could also represent more parts of Tisbury's population.

While the signatures are still being certified, Tisbury Town Clerk Hilary Conklin said she expects there to be 80 certified signatures on the petition. A home rule petition like this only requires 10 certified signatures to be taken up during the annual town meeting. The proposal would also need to be reviewed by the state legislature.

The proposal would mean two select board seats would be on the 2027 ballot, one for a three-year term and another for a two-year term. The new offices on the ballot would appear alongside the board terms expiring in 2030.

"The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes at the election shall serve for terms of three years, and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve a term of two years," the proposed warrant article reads.

Cahill and Cutrer declined to comment when reached by *The Times*, but they shared at the Feb. 10 select board meeting that they were unsure on whether they were in favor of the idea but would fall in line with what voters want.

The board also unanimously voted to have the third select board seat go on the May 12 ballot for the annual town election rather than hold a special election in April, which would give the new member filling in for Colarusso only a one-month term before new elections are scheduled to be held. **MVT**



COURTESY MV AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AND MV PULSE PROJECT

Staff at the Agricultural Society completed CPR/AED training and installed an AED in their front hall.

# EDITORIAL

## Go Vineyarders?

What is a Vineyarder? What else comes to mind, aside from rows upon rows of grapevines ready to be made into wine across the landscape? What

does the Vineyard represent, and what represents the Vineyard? That same question now faces two high school sophomores who are determined to give the Vineyard's high school a unifying symbol through a new mascot.

It has often caused an uncomfortable quiet up in the bleacher seats that this great Island has no signature nickname for its high school sports team, and that it has no identifiable mascot. The team name now is Vineyarders, as we know, but have you ever been to a game and heard the chant, "Let's go, Vineyarders"? It often sounds, well, flat. So we want to applaud the efforts of the students to restart a dialogue about that, and to push all to find the right way to express the pride we all share in our high school sports teams. And, so, we've decided to add in our two cents.

The best part about calling Martha's Vineyard home is the community. Since the start of the new year, year-round residents have already come together to shoulder heartaches, snowstorms, and the quiet isolation of the winter season. Community is the lifeline that keeps them afloat. And perhaps more important and at the heart of that is the youth, who in the midst of a huge construction project for the regional high school want to take a bold step that we see is a means to strengthen those bonds, deepen community connection, and choose a figure that the high school and broader Island community can rally behind.

There's an inexplicable feeling of pride in being a Vineyarder. High school students Charlotte Cramer and Madison Curelli told the school committee earlier this month that they don't intend to remove the "Vineyarder" branding or ethos from the school. Their hope is to increase school-wide spirit and attendance for games, pep rallies, fundraisers, and assemblies, and based on a school-wide survey that drew 268 responses, a large percentage (97 percent) want a mascot. (See

B13 for full story.) It would be akin to how the Boston Red Sox's mascot isn't a pair of socks but Wally the Green Monster.

The survey ranked some potential suggestions for nonhuman mascots. Osprey topped the list, followed by seahawk, tide, buck, waves, hurricane, grapes, nor'easter, and thunder. Open responses highlighted ideas like marlin, vultures, and Vikings, though Cramer and Curelli noted that those figures either don't have any strong ties to the Island or are already used by other high schools nearby.

This isn't the first time the idea of a true mascot has surfaced. Former Martha's Vineyard Regional High School football coach Donald Herman, who led MVRHS to five state championships over 28 seasons, and was inducted into the Massachusetts High School Coaches Hall of Fame, said he's seen similar efforts come and go in the past. He said the "Vineyarders" name originated

when the high school first opened in 1959, aiming to unify students from various Island schools under one banner.

Herman said past attempts always fizzled out. In the late '80s and early '90s, ideas like bulldogs, inspired by a team dog named Morris who appeared on a program cover, drew protests from residents. Vikings were also once a thought. In one memorable home game against Nantucket in 1991, Herman recalled when a resident, who was dressed as a Viking, rode onto the field on horseback, jumping hurdles, and threw a sword down to declare the field the home of the Vineyarders. Other stunts included a mid-'90s parachute entry and even a sideline character dressed as a Fruit of the Loom grape, he said.

Herman also recalled a formal contest to adopt a nickname such as "the Ferries." It was eventually shot down by alumni who threatened to withhold support and insisted a name change would erase tradition.

"Nobody seems to be able to tell anyone what a Vineyarder actually looks like," said Herman. He'd like to see a mascot that unifies and intimidates, and we can't help but agree. He's in favor of the osprey, a hearty Island hunter with nests visible on campus light poles. Though some don't like that option because an osprey is a scavenger.

The truth is, there's pros and cons to every mascot. Ospreys may be scavengers, but they also are beautiful, large birds that made a home on this Island scraping just to get by, something year-round residents may well relate to. Ospreys are also guardians and parents, and the species' coming back from near-extinction due to pesticide use in the '50s and '60s is a testament to their resilience.

At the end of the day, pride won't come just from a mascot but from our actions — the spirit we bring to games, the support we show for one another, and the enduring values that the community finds in shared victories, hard-fought losses, and the everyday perseverance that defines life on Martha's Vineyard. Whatever mascot is chosen, let's applaud the students getting behind this effort, and let's encourage them to find that badge, that word, that mascot that unites us rather than divides and acts as a symbol of what we aspire to be together.

### What percentage of people agreed that the high school should add a mascot?

48.5% strongly agreed  
48.5% agreed  
In total 97% agreed

1.5% disagreed  
1.5% strongly disagreed  
In total 3% disagreed

### List of mascot suggestions:

- Osprey
- Seahawk
- Tide
- Buck
- Waves
- Hurricane
- Grapes
- Nor'easter
- Thunder
- Vikings
- Marlins
- Vultures
- Sharks or Makos

Data from a school-wide survey of high school students that received 268 responses.



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

## LETTERS

### A message from the SSA general manager

#### To the Editor:

As many of you know, the Steamship Authority is implementing a new reservation system as part of its True North Initiative and in partnership with E-Dea, a leading global ferry reservation provider. We appreciate the thoughtful feedback shared through town halls, emails, and conversations, all of which continues to inform this work.

In response to common questions, we would like to clarify the following:

- Medical travel remains a top priority. Supporting medically necessary travel is central to the Authority's mission, and the new system will help us better identify and prioritize these needs.

- Waitlists and standby will continue. Customers will be able to use E-Dea's functionality to get a standby ticket on a full trip and try to find space on other trips near that sailing time. We're working hard with E-Dea

to customize that functionality to suit the needs of our customers.

- Same-day flexibility remains. Customers with a reservation (or a standby ticket) may waitlist for earlier or later sailings the same day and continue to seek improved times if matched.

- Preferred space is preserved. The seven-day and one-day preferred booking windows, plus the 30-day preferred window offered in the summer, will remain in place.

- Resident standby programs will continue. The Blue Line on the Vineyard route and drive-on/drive-off and standby services on the Nantucket route will be updated to function within the new system, with similar functionality to today's programs.

We recognize that change to an essential service can be challenging. Our goal is to preserve the services residents rely on while delivering a more reliable, secure, and user-friendly system for the future.

If you weren't able to join our information sessions this week, please visit [www.steamshipauthority.com/TrueNorth](http://www.steamshipauthority.com/TrueNorth) to view recordings and to get more information on the project as a whole.

Alex Kryska, general manager  
Steamship Authority

### Primary care available at Martha's Vineyard Medical

#### To the Editor:

Sarah Shaw Dawson's article on rising health insurance costs captured an important challenge facing many Islanders. However, I want to address a statement in the piece that deserves clarification.

The article states that "long waitlists for primary care physicians on the Island remain staggering." While this may have been true historically, it no longer reflects the current reality at Martha's Vineyard Medical.

Last fall, we cleared our waitlist

completely. Since then, we've added over 400 new patients to our practice, and we have room for hundreds more. If you're looking for a primary care physician on Martha's Vineyard, we encourage you to call us today at 508-693-4400 or email us at [info@mvmed.org](mailto:info@mvmed.org).

The frustration expressed by several people interviewed for this article — paying significant insurance premiums while unable to access primary care — is exactly what independent practices like ours are working to solve. We're here, we're accepting new patients, and we're committed to providing accessible care to our Island community.

The healthcare insurance crisis described in the article is very real and deeply concerning. But access to primary care on Martha's Vineyard shouldn't be added to that list of challenges. We're ready to serve.

Jeff Levy, CEO  
Martha's Vineyard Medical

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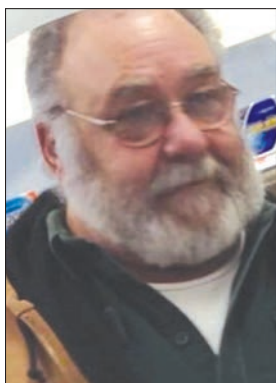
Charles M. Sennott • Publisher

#### 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](http://mvtimes.com) (click on Submissions link). **MVT**

obituaries

Leonard Donaroma



Leonard Donaroma (“Lenny”) passed away peacefully Feb. 4, 2026.

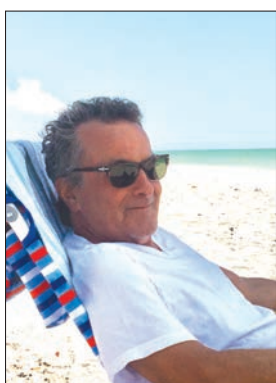
Born August 1, 1946, Lenny was a fourth-generation Vineyarder. A graduate of Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School, together with his teammates, he was a big part of the only undefeated football team at MVRHS. He went on to serve his country in the military.

Lenny enjoyed auto mechanics and was especially fond of classic cars.

He left behind a legacy defined by a spirit that lifted the people around him. He will be remembered most for his unwavering willingness to help anyone who needed it, and for his great sense of humor — whether it was offering a hand, sharing his time, or simply being there. His helpful nature was not something he spoke about — it was something he quietly lived every day.

Lenny is survived by his daughters, Pamela Donaroma Viapiano and Angie Donaroma; his son, Mikey Lyons; his brother, Michael Donaroma; nephew Jeffrey Donaroma; and his grandchildren and grandnieces. His Island spirit, smile, and sense of humor will endure in all whose lives he touched.

Stephen Castanho



Stephen Francis Castanho of Edgartown died at the Cleveland Clinic on Jan. 24, 2026, from complications after a bilateral lung transplant, which he received on April 12. He was 65 years old. His partner of 40 years, Christina Cook, was by his side during his recovery and when he passed.

Steve was born in July 1961 in Providence, R.I., the youngest child of Manuel and Martina Castanho. He grew up in the Mount Pleasant area of the city with his brother and two sisters. During his childhood, he was often in the company

of his extended family at lively gatherings.

In 1979, he graduated from Our Lady of Providence High School. Soon after, Steve moved to Martha’s Vineyard, and worked in construction for his brother-in-law, Harold Chapdelaine. Steve briefly met Christina while building the John Stobart Gallery on North Summer Street in Edgartown. Their paths would cross again a year later, and they began dating.

In 1990, Steve joined Christina in the family business, the Christina Gallery in downtown Edgartown. Steve managed the frame shop and maintained the gallery’s website. They enjoyed working together and the daily interactions with the artists and clients.

Steve and Christina bought a modest home in Edgartown in 1996. When time allowed, they worked at renovating and adding on to their home. They liked working outdoors, enhancing the landscape, and establishing gardens that now feature an abundance of dahlias, much to Steve’s delight.

Steve loved to cook, and was often in the kitchen experimenting with a new recipe or making an old favorite. His talents extended to the backyard grill, too. As a teenager, he had worked at Tommy’s, a neighborhood pizzeria. Later in his life, everyone looked forward to Steve’s homemade pizzas, especially those he made on Christmas Eve. His favorite pizza was pepperoni!

Steve was a devoted New England sports fan, in particular the Boston Celtics and the New England Patriots. He would be thrilled that the Patriots were back in the Super Bowl this year.

Steve and Christina often traveled to Europe. Their last trip was in early February 2020, when they spent two weeks in Florence, Italy. While there, they took a pasta-making class in the hills of Chianti, a memory they spoke of and wanted to do again when Steve felt up to making the trip.

They also looked forward to spending late winter vacations on Sanibel. Steve was happiest relaxing in a beach chair under an umbrella. He liked to say he was busy doing nothing while watching the rolling surf and the dolphins swim by. Somehow, he always found the time for a leisurely beach stroll, too.

Steve is survived by his partner in life and closest friend, Christina, and is remembered by his sisters, Martina Fortunato (Don) of East Lyme, Conn., and Joan Chapdelaine of Vineyard Haven; his brother, David Castanho (Marie) of Westerly, R.I.; and his in-laws, Marshall and Liz Cook of Vineyard Haven. His brothers-in-law, Matthew Cook and Stuart Anmuth of Philadelphia, Pa., and his sister-in-law, Catherine Cook-Holmes of West Palm Beach, Fla., also survive him. He leaves behind nieces, nephews, and many cousins.

Christina would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to Steve’s caregivers at Martha’s Vineyard Hospital while

he was seeking treatment for the rare autoimmune disorder that affected his lungs, and at the Cleveland Clinic for the care they provided when the lung transplant became vital. Christina is grateful to their friends and gallery clients who kept Steve in their thoughts and prayers for the past nine months of his hard-fought transplant recovery. Words cannot express how Steve felt, knowing people were always asking and thinking of him.

Steve was a kind soul, and those close to him will feel his absence deeply. In Steve’s memory, make the time to sit under an umbrella or take a leisurely beach walk.

Shirley B. Howell

Shirley B. Howell of West Tisbury passed away peacefully, with support from her loving family, on Feb. 4, 2026, at the age of 86.

A graveside service will be held for her at Abel’s Hill Cemetery in Chilmark on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 11 am. A reception will be held directly following the graveside service at the Howes House, located at 1042 State Road in West Tisbury, across the street from Alley’s General Store. A full obituary will follow.

Daniel James Devaney



Daniel James Devaney, affectionately known as “Buddy” to his grandchildren, passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 26, 2026, at the age of 83.

Dan was born on June 4, 1942, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Muriel and Daniel Devaney. Raised in Brooklyn, he developed lifelong friendships, a deep sense of loyalty to his loved ones, and a profound connection to his faith, his family, and the traditions that bound them together. Dan was a graduate of Brooklyn Preparatory High School and Georgetown University, and his Jesuit education was an important influence in his life — one he remained proud of and connected to throughout the years.

Dan enjoyed a long and successful career in finance, spending many years working on Wall Street. Dan was a survivor of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks — an experience that shaped his outlook and deepened his appreciation for life and the people he loved.

The true love of his life was Patricia O’Neill. They were married in 1967, beginning a partnership rooted in love, faith, and devotion. Together they raised five children, who, along

with his grandchildren, were the pride and joy of his life.

A man of deep faith, Dan was a devout member of Saint Elizabeth’s Parish for over 50 years. He lived in Plandome, N.Y.; Jupiter, Fla.; and his favorite place of all, Katama on Martha’s Vineyard.

Golf and its green fairways were one of Dan’s great passions. Playing the game with his father and brother forged some of his fondest memories. He considered golf to be a true privilege and loved little more than the camaraderie of playing the game with his friends and family. Although Dan played great courses in New York, Florida, and elsewhere, Farm Neck Golf Course was his favorite.

All of Dan’s grandsons referred to him as Buddy, a name he proudly carried for many years. His love for his family was powerful, and he was happiest when all of his children and grandchildren were together. He’ll be missed for the joy and laughter he was always willing to share with his family and friends, but the many stories of his escapades with his friends throughout the years will have his loved ones smiling and laughing for many years to come. His legacy of family, friendship, and fun will live on in all who were blessed to know him.

Dan was predeceased by his sister Maureen Melley and her husband Peter Melley.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Devaney, and their children: Kristin, married to Freddie Collins; Kate, married to Sean Campbell, and their sons Brendan and Jack; Bridget, married to John Resch, and their sons Johnny and Ryan; Maggie, married to Brian McCarthy, and their sons Declan, Colin, and Liam, and his son Daniel John Devaney. Dan is also survived by his brother Brian Devaney and sister-in-law Maura Devaney. He was dearly loved by his many nieces and nephews.

The Devaney family is eternally grateful to the remarkable doctors, nurses, and staff at Martha’s Vineyard Hospital, whose skill, compassion, and dedication meant so much, as well as to the Martha’s Vineyard Hospice team for their gentle care and support.

James M. Sepanara

James M. Sepanara, 77, of West Tisbury passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 5, 2025.

Jim was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1948 to Penny and Michael E. Sepanara. When he was six, his family moved to White Plains, N.Y. He graduated from White Plains High School in 1966.

As a student at the State University of New York at Brockport in the late 1960s, Jim became a passionate advocate for justice, and attended antiwar protests in Washington, D.C.

At the Newport Folk Festival in 1969, he heard about a “really great party” in upstate New York. He would describe Woodstock as one of the high points

of his life, where each song was better than anything he had heard before ... and the next one was even better.

Jim graduated from college in 1970 with a degree in psychology, and for the rest of his life, his eclectic interests spanned history, science, politics, and current events.

After living in his family’s home on Cape Cod, Jim took a job as a deckhand with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, where he worked from 1974 to 1977, and with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association from 1978 to 1980. His time as a merchant seaman took him to the Azores, the Galapagos, and Egypt; he worked aboard the R/V Lulu and for oceanographer Bob Ballard.

In 1976, Jim purchased land in West Tisbury. His future wife, Carol, joined him in 1983; with the birth of their daughter, Jennifer, in 1984, the family was complete.

In 1977, Jim began work with the Woods Hole, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority, a career that would span nearly five decades until his retirement in 2025. He earned his pilot’s license in 1995, and maintained an impeccable safety record and an easygoing camaraderie with coworkers.

Jim cherished visits to the Idaho Panhandle; followed the news regularly; and was an early electric vehicle enthusiast. For decades, Jim eschewed a car on his commute in favor of a bicycle.

As a father, Jim had a gentle and warmhearted presence, a quiet but unquestionable love, and a hint of mischief. As a husband, he was not merely a spouse, but also a friend. Following the deaths of his parents, he became a patient and compassionate caregiver to his brother Andy for over 19 years.

Whether at the wheel of a ship or charting the course of family life, Jim showed a humble but unwavering dedication that seldom sought recognition.

Jim is survived by his wife of 41 years, Carol Mar-rama, and daughter Jennifer Sepanara of West Tisbury; his brother Andrew Sepanara of South Yarmouth; and brother Michael C. Sepanara of White Plains, N.Y.

Those who wish to honor Jim’s memory may consider a contribution to the Sierra Club, Union of Concerned Scientists, American Civil Liberties Union, or Camp Jabberwocky.

*I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide*

*Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;*

*And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,*

*And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick’s over.*

*Fair winds and following seas, Jim.*

To read the complete obituary, go to [mvtimes.com](http://mvtimes.com).

Helen (Meeks) Leon-Guerrero



Helen (Meeks) Leon-Guerrero, 61, of Martha’s Vineyard passed away peacefully among loved ones in the early morning hours of Feb. 6, 2026.

Helen was a kind, giving, and loving person dedicated to her family and friends. She worked for the Vineyard Transit Authority as the elderly bus coordinator, a job through which she touched many lives with her patience and kindness.

She will be remembered for her warmth, strength, and happiness she brought to family and friends. Helen’s life was a celebration of love, generosity, and quiet devotion; her memory will continue to live on in all who knew and were blessed by her presence.

The woman with a heart of gold. Helen is survived by her husband Tom Leon-Guerrero; children Marc Leon-Guerrero, Gabrielle Brown, and Nolle Diaz; her brothers Rick, James, and Shawn Meeks; her sisters Linda Meeks and Heather Alves; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held in the Funerarias Multi Cultural Funeral Home, 238 Court St., Brockton, Saturday, Feb. 14 from 4 to 7 pm. Cremation to follow. Interment of cremated remains to follow in the spring at Melrose Cemetery, 88 North Pearl St., Brockton.

Linda Jean Rose

Linda Jean Rose of Vineyard Haven died peacefully at home on Feb. 4, 2026, surrounded by her loving family, at the age of 79.

A full obituary will follow. **MVT**

OBITUARIES

The Martha’s Vineyard Times publishes obituary information and photos at no charge for current and former residents of Martha’s Vineyard and for persons with significant ties to the Island community. The submission deadline for full obituaries is 5 pm Tuesday, for publication on the following Thursday. The Times reserves the right to edit as needed.

If you have questions or need assistance writing an obituary, please call (508) 693-6100 and ask to speak to the Community editor. Obituary information may be submitted by

**e-mail:** editor@mvtimes.com  
**mail:** PO Box 518  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

**by hand:** The Times office on Beach Road in Vineyard Haven (opposite the ArtCliff Diner).

# Island residents file complaints with AG against AmeriGas

Homes are freezing, and propane isn't being delivered on time. **BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA**

Homeowners on Martha's Vineyard are voicing frustration over delayed propane deliveries from AmeriGas, the largest retail propane distributor in the U.S., with some residents reporting that they've gone days without heat in their homes amid the prolonged freezing temperatures and snowy weather that struck the Island recently.

Kathryn Leonard, a seasonal Island resident, said she received a delivery at her home in Vineyard Haven only on Feb. 4, weeks after she initially called AmeriGas on Jan. 23 because she was concerned her propane tank was empty. Leonard said she uses AmeriGas' automatic delivery service and should not have had to request propane deliveries at all.

"I was on hold for AmeriGas at the Vineyard for over one hour. Then I was told I was being transferred to a supervisor. No response on that line for over an hour," said Leonard about the initial call to AmeriGas in late January, in an email to The Times.

Leonard said that nine days later, on Jan. 31, with no response from AmeriGas yet, an emergency system notified that her house's temperature was dropping to freezing.

"Again, no response from AmeriGas delivery system," said Leonard in the email. "This house is a historic 1845 Greek Revival that was restored at great expense. I do not want the house destroyed due to AmeriGas' incompetence."

Leonard escalated her concerns by filing a complaint on Feb. 4 with the state attorney general's office on behalf of herself and other Islanders.

"This complaint is not only about Kathryn Leonard. It is a complaint that is affecting many Vineyard families who are not getting delivery of propane and are losing heat and finding probable house damages from frozen pipes," Leonard wrote in her complaint to the attorney general's office.

AmeriGas emailed Leonard on Feb. 4 and said that her propane was coming, and that the inconvenience was because the company was taking increased safety precautions when delivering to tanks at less than five percent capacity. Propane companies often require a leak test and inspection when tanks are almost empty, and someone at least 18 years old must be present at the time of delivery.

"Please be sure to have someone over the age of 18 at the location at the time the delivery is made to ensure no further interruption of service. At AmeriGas, your safety is our utmost concern, therefore, we need to take extra safety measures when delivering to a tank below 5 percent. I do apologize for any inconvenience this has caused," said AmeriGas' customer advocacy office in an email to Leonard.

Kerry Quinlan-Potter, an Island resident, said she also filed a complaint with the state attorney general's office. Quinlan-Potter said she was without heat for days after receiving a note from AmeriGas that said delivery was impos-

sible due to snow covering her tanks on Jan. 31. She said her tanks are above ground and accessible via her driveway.

Quinlan-Potter took to social media to express her frustration, and said she went five days with no heat, no hot water, and no end in sight. In an interview with The Times on Feb. 10, Quinlan-Potter said her propane tanks were at less than one percent, and her house's internal temperature was 50 degrees for days.

Quinlan-Potter said she cleared the snow off her tanks immediately after AmeriGas denied her delivery and spoke with the delivery driver personally, who instructed her to text a number to follow up. But no delivery came over the following weekend, and repeated attempts to reach AmeriGas went unanswered, she said.

On Tuesday, Feb. 3, four days later, Quinlan-Potter said her propane came, but it wasn't without a fuss. AmeriGas initially said that day that it would be another 24 hours for the system to update her approved delivery status, and that the propane would be delivered on Wednesday, but after four days of withstanding freezing temperatures inside her home, Quinlan-Potter refused to take no for an answer.

Quinlan-Potter said she notified her insurance company of service lapses as advised by other residents experiencing similar issues, because any resulting damages could be AmeriGas' responsibility. She also filed complaints with the attorney general's office and consumer protection offices.

"They said it was coming Wednesday, and I said that is absolutely not happening," said Quinlan-Potter in an interview with The Times. "I am a fully able-bodied person. The problem is that there are people who live here who are not as resilient as I am and will take no for an answer."

Quinlan-Potter said since she posted on Facebook on Feb. 3, many homeowners, including a lot of elderly, have reached out echoing her struggles with AmeriGas.

"There's a definite disconnect between necessity and convenience for people. Yes, it wasn't a convenient delivery; however, from Friday to the following Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, is not an acceptable period of time," she said. "This is not something you do to people in the middle of the winter on an isolated island where everybody is already doing everything they can to help each other out."

This isn't the first time residents have had issues with AmeriGas. The state's attorney general office has received 184 complaints since Jan. 1, 2020. Twenty-one of those complaints reported their address as Aquinnah, Chilmark, West Tisbury, Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, or Tisbury. Other propane companies that work on the Island, like Island Propane, Rhymes, and Star Propane, haven't received any complaints in the last five years.

Previously, when similar issues arose on the Island in March 2025 and residents reported propane tanks not being filled, AmeriGas re-



Island residents have filed complaints with the AG's office against AmeriGas.

MV TIMES

sponded to Island residents in a letter stating that limitations with the Steamship Authority factored into delays.

In a statement emailed to The Times, AmeriGas Group Director of ICS and Customer Relations Brilynn Johnson said, regarding AmeriGas' potential delayed deliveries, that Islanders should take into consideration that the weather on Martha's Vineyard has been 6.4 percent colder than what was reported in 2025, and 13 percent colder than previous years, but the company was trying its best.

"Due to the recent extreme winter conditions across a large portion of the country, AmeriGas has undertaken extraordinary efforts to ensure we keep our customers safe and warm. We are servicing more customers this year than last and have performed better in delivery operations during colder than normal weather periods, compared to previous years," said Johnson in the email. "In addition to our normal AmeriGas operations, we are flying in extra drivers from other parts of the country to assist with deliveries and have extended daily service hours to meet the heightened demand."

"Some customers may notice their tank levels running lower than they're accustomed to due to increased usage dur-

ing prolonged cold weather. It is important to note that this is typical during extended cold snaps, and only a very few customers have experienced service interruptions," she added.

In the email, Johnson said AmeriGas encourages all customers to help ensure timely deliveries by maintaining clear delivery paths, removing snow, ice, and low-hanging branches to provide at least 10 feet of clearance for delivery vehicles; clearing snow and ice off equipment and vents, including propane systems, gas lines, regular vents, and chimneys, to prevent equipment malfunctions; using reflective markers to identify underground tank locations when buried in the snow; and ordering proactively, requesting delivery whenever their tank reaches 30 to 40 percent, especially in vacation homes where usage is less predictable.

For customers monitoring their own fuel levels, AmeriGas recommends reviewing accounts online, which displays average daily consumption and estimated days until empty.

"We remain committed to safe, reliable service for all Martha's Vineyard residents and appreciate our customers' partnership during the winter season," said Johnson. **MVT**

## County commissioners consider restructuring

Dukes County officials are looking to update the commission's charter.

**BY EUNKI SEONWOO**

As the Dukes County Commissioners evaluate their best path forward for regional governance, they said in a recent meeting that they're considering abolishing the commission and restructuring a new entity.

As a part of an overdue charter study, commissioners voted 5-0 during a Feb. 4 meeting to create a committee to explore possible new governance structures and gather information from relevant parties, such as the Vineyard towns. Doug Ruskin, commis-

sioner from West Tisbury, was voted in as chair of the committee. Peter Wharton, commissioner from Oak Bluffs, and Juli Vanderhoop, commissioner from Aquinnah, were not present to vote.

Christine Todd, commission chair from Oak Bluffs, said the last charter study was issued in 2009 with an edict that a new one be done every eight years, so the process is already significantly delayed. The newly established committee would help update the regional government

to improve efficiency and accountability, modernize outdated structures, maintain local control, and address the changing community and services it needs.

"I just think we need to be more responsive and effective in our governmental roles and have the voters and towns buy into this," Todd said.

While commissioners agreed that a charter study should happen with input from the community and towns, they worried that it could become a lengthy process.

Additionally, commissioners expressed an openness to abolishing the county commission to usher in an alternative governing structure, like a "council of governments," which is similar to a regional planning body but has more direct involvement in municipal issues and needs. Only two such entities, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, exist in Massachusetts.

A new structure could help streamline the governance process for the county and the towns and free the commissioners from some of the constraints they feel in the current charter. Ruskin highlighted that the county currently needs to "sell" its ideas and policies to municipalities to enact new programs. But he added that it could be beneficial if the dynamic was changed so that Vineyard

towns and Gosnold could charge the county with tasks in a "more cohesive, consensus-driven way."

Ruskin said he has no desire to "go through a two-year process where we have to elect, according to law, 15 at-large members" to form a charter commission, which would review and recommend changes to the governing document of the commission, and then vote again on a decision. However, Ruskin said a charter commission would be necessary to abolish the commission.

"If we want to create a charter that is completely different than what is allowed by law, then that would be the only approach," he said.

If the Dukes County Commission is abolished, only five of 14 counties in the state would have active county commissions. Half of the county commissions in Massachusetts were abol-

ished by the state in the late 1990s under former Gov. Bill Weld, because they were seen as obsolete and self-serving. The first to go was Middlesex County in 1997.

Islanders first voted in the charter for a seven-member Dukes County Commission in 1994, which expanded the commission from three members and made the positions unpaid seats.

Dukes County officials underscored needing a holistic approach to amending its governance, and that would require the involvement of towns and various community members.

"Without the towns, we don't have a region, so they need to be a significant part of that from the beginning," Ruskin said.

While a governance style or deadline has not been set yet, commissioners expressed a desire to follow a strict time frame. **MVT**

# Environmental, affordability concerns raised on Katama Meadows

Community pushback grows as review of the project moves forward.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

Debate over Katama Meadows, a 54-acre development proposed to be built in Edgartown, has surged in recent weeks. While some town officials continue to support the project, other community members and environmental organizations have spoken out against it as the Island gears up for a continued public hearing on the project Thursday night.

The 52-lot, subdivided development — consisting of purchasable parcels for single-family homes and open space — has been bathed in contention from the start, not unlike other large housing projects in the Island’s history. Advocates for affordable housing have warned that one perceived misstep, approval, or denial could set the tone for future developments on the Vineyard for generations to come.

At a recent presentation about the environmental impacts of the project, John Abrams, the former CEO of South Mountain Company, spoke out against it. “This, if it were approved, would take us back 40 years. And we need to go forward, not back,” he said.

For those involved in housing, every case matters. But for some Edgartown officials, the goal is the best result possible while taking into account the reality of these projects. They said the part they grapple with is rather simple: The town doesn’t own the land; the developer does.

And the zoning in the area of Edgartown where the parcel is located, near Meshacket and Division roads, permits a project like Katama Meadows,

which consists of single-family homes, to be built over a large swath of land.

“It’s an obligation for the board to get the best deal from the town,” Edgartown town administrator James Hagerty told The Times. “In an ideal world, nothing’s developed. Everything remains open space. But if individuals have a right, the town has to negotiate the best deal for something that’s likely inevitable.”

That requires compromise, he said. In the case of Katama Meadows, compromise looks like a donation of 14 lots to the town of Edgartown, and 12 lots restricted for “missing middle” Islanders. The other 26 lots, which will be built on over 23 acres of the property, will go at market rate, with a five-bedroom limit on each home constructed.

Amid the concern about the amount of single-family homes that could be built in that area, Robert Moriarty, the attorney for the developers, reiterated that half of the project is geared toward local families.

“I prefer to do my talking in front of the commission, but I look forward to presenting a plan that will provide housing for 26 hard-working Island families who would otherwise not be able to afford it,” Moriarty said in a statement to The Times.

Nearly 50 letters have been submitted from community members to the Martha’s Vineyard Commission (MVC) regarding Katama Meadows, which can be viewed on the commission’s website. Some supported the developer’s mission to engage with the “missing middle,” but most were against the project.

At the same time, the Edgartown select board submitted a letter requesting the MVC not impose income-based deed restrictions on the donated lots. Previous affordable housing projects that the town of Edgartown has been involved with have capped an individual’s annual salary at around \$180,000. They want to cater to slightly higher incomes with this one.

## Environmental concerns

While some of the concerns from the community have been in relation to the developer’s “missing middle” claims, which they say are not in line with the average salary of Island residents, most of the condemnation of the project has been environmentally driven.

Around 40 people attended a recent presentation on Feb. 5 by the Vineyard Conservation Society and the Great Pond Foundation to tune into conservation efforts in the area that Katama Meadows will be developed close to, namely Edgartown Great Pond.

Emily Reddington, the executive director of the Great Pond Foundation, said she’s immensely worried about the nitrogen load a housing project could introduce to the pond through increased wastewater usage. Although the project is in line with the MVC’s nitrogen limits for development in the area, Reddington said there is still potential for damage. She did a variety of calculations; the group she leads has been studying the health of the pond for years.

Through her research, Reddington found that the health of the pond has

greatly improved this year. Eelgrass is slowly growing, the tendrils creeping through the sand, and shellfish are returning. Just a few years prior, images taken of the pond showed murky water and very little life.

“The thing we’re really worried about is toxic algal blooms,” Reddington said. “Any more nitrogen ... and this development is talking about adding more.”

The executive director of the Vineyard Conservation Society, Sam Look, agreed. She also pointed to the 26 market-rate lots that Katama Meadows proposes. To Look, the benefits of some affordable housing do not make up for the amount of development proposed.

Look, and some other attendees who spoke up, worried that the 26 lots would end up as a “luxury development,” and that with no year-round restrictions, they could also be summer homes.

“Most of us are concerned about housing,” Look said to the crowd at Carnegie Hall in Edgartown. “This is not a question of whether our community can have affordable housing or protect the environment. It’s about how we can balance two critical needs for the community.”

## Town asks for income limits increase for donated lots

In a letter to the MVC dated Feb. 9, the select board urged the commission to raise the income limits of the 14 donated lots to reach middle-income municipal employees in the town, who they say have not qualified for recent affordable housing projects.

According to the board, there were no applicants for a home for town staff at Meshacket Commons, an Island Housing Trust development that is located across the street from Katama Meadows and is a combination of apartments and single-family homes. The project had an income restriction of up to \$126,100 for an individual and up to \$208,900 for a family of four.

“This outcome is significant and strongly indicates that even relatively moderate AMI thresholds, when combined with current construction costs, municipal employee salary structures, and financing constraints, are not viable for the very population these units are intended to serve,” the select board stated in the letter. (The AMI is a calculation of median income by district.)

In addition to the donated lots, the Katama Meadows development includes 12 lots that will be sold at \$295,000 each. They will be available for purchase to Islanders who make 250 percent of the area median income or less.

In Dukes County, the median income is \$105,000 for an individual and \$150,100 for a family of four. And so, 250 percent, or 2.5 times the AMI, is \$262,750 for an individual and \$375,250 for a family of four.

For Edgartown municipal employees, the average annual salary was \$43,357 in 2024, and the highest was \$217,329. In the new contract for teachers at Island schools, the lowest salary is \$77,361, and the highest is \$129,988.

There’s one other development — on Jernagen’s Pond Road in Edgartown — that got approved in 2024 for its mission to house “missing middle” Islanders, owned by Jean G. Cohen Trust. Rob McCarron, the trust’s attorney, presented the project to the commission back then. The income restriction is twice the AMI, with the affordable lots priced at \$225,000 each.

## MVC representative replaced, cites opposition of Katama Meadows

While many Edgartown officials have maintained their support of the Katama Meadows project, others have been against it from the start.

Julia Livingston from the Edgartown Planning Board and Kate Putnam, the former Edgartown representative at the MVC, have come under intense scrutiny for their opposition of the development.

Livingston was asked to recuse herself by the legal representative of Katama Meadows, Robert Moriarty, on two separate occasions. In the first meeting that the recusal request was brought up, Livingston answered “yes” to a question of recusal. Later, she told The Times in an interview that she meant she was abstaining from voting on that day.

As of now, Livingston said she’s not planning to recuse herself and has no reason to. Livingston also attended the event by the Vineyard Conservation Society where presenters were against the development.

As for her opposition to Katama Meadows, Livingston is still advocating for other solutions. She has said in meetings that she’s a proponent of affordable housing for the “missing middle” bracket of Islanders, but that this project doesn’t meet that mark. She also cited environmental concerns due to the development’s proximity to Edgartown Great Pond and another housing project, Meshacket Commons.

Meanwhile, Kate Putnam was quietly removed from her seat at the MVC by the Edgartown Select Board in a meeting on Jan. 5, and claims it was because of her opposition to the Katama Meadows development.

Putnam has worked on various committees at the MVC since being appointed in 2022 and said she’s a proponent of affordable housing, conservation, and the local economy.

Then, last month, a short time after Putnam submitted her catalog of work she had done at the MVC in an effort to be reappointed for another term, she saw her name on a select board meeting agenda.

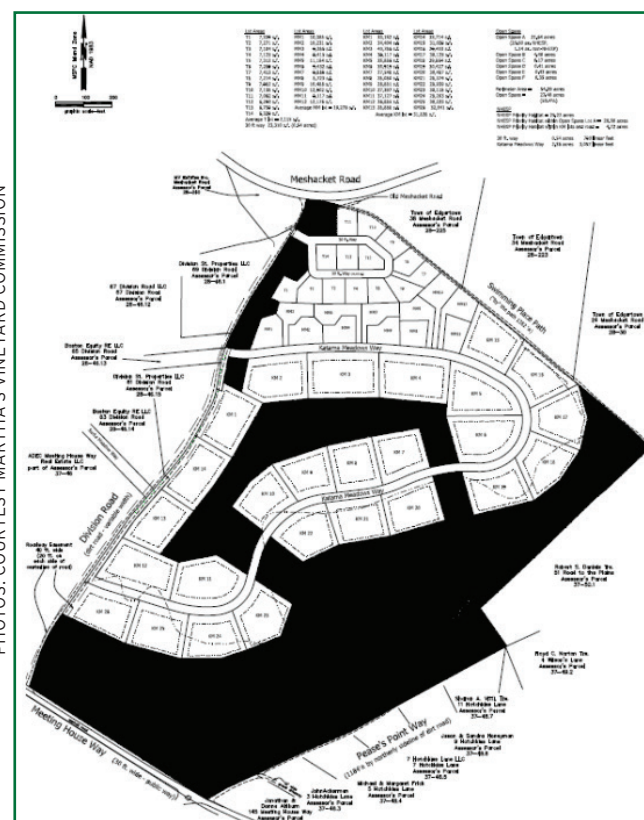
“I didn’t hear anything, and I finally saw that I was on the agenda in January,” Putnam told The Times.

She attended, just to hear she was being replaced by Daniel McGinn, a retired state police major. Putnam said the select board expressed to her that they wanted someone who supported affordable housing to represent the town at the regional level. A member of the board was not immediately available for comment.

“Certainly the cost of housing here is a big issue,” Putnam said. “[But] I think probably the most important thing that’s been said is we haven’t seen a development of [this] scale.”



A map showing the open space guideline of Katama Meadows.



A map showing the parcel layout of Katama Meadows.

# Shelter director of Harbor Homes resigns

The nonprofit will be closing on a new location for its shelter at the end of this week. **BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON**



SARAH SHAW DAWSON

Right before the nonprofit Harbor Homes plans to close on a new permanent location for its efforts, after over two years of scouring the Vineyard for a place and moving between temporary spots, shelter director Lisa Belcastro

resigned her post.

The nonprofit organization, which now serves dozens of unhoused locals through their winter shelter, community outreach, meals, and other resources, started with just a few meetings and the common

goal to provide for those who didn't have stable housing. After someone who was unhoused died of hypothermia in 2013 on the Island, a small group mobilized for that singular cause.

In a stark echo of the incident that Harbor Homes was

inspired by, an unhoused man, William P. Steranka, was found dead in his car late this January, just a day after a winter storm raged across the Island, with temperatures in the teens and over a foot of snow on the ground. Steranka's cause of death is unconfirmed, but the concern from the Chilmark community members

**LEFT:** From left to right: Lisa Belcastro, Joan Merry, Janet Constantino, and Madeline Scott stand outside of Harbor Homes' temporary winter shelter.

**BELOW:** Lisa Belcastro at a zoning hearing when Harbor Homes was looking for a permanent location last year.



EUNKI SEONWOO

who knew him mirrors the compassion expressed by the founders of Harbor Homes many years ago.

Belcastro joined just a few years after Harbor Homes was created, and in 2020, she was named as the director of the winter shelter, the only one on the Island for the unhoused population. She's been synonymous with the shelter, to those unhoused and housed, since.

For the past 11 years, Belcastro has worked to provide services to unhoused Islanders, and on Tuesday, after her last day at the shelter, Belcastro looked back fondly at the people she'd both worked with and served.

"The laughter, the conversations, and the friendships

change of hands.

"We are in a leadership transition for the winter shelter. And we're really quite thrilled that two of the people that have been long-term employees and volunteers of the shelter will be stepping into a management role for the shelter for the remainder of the winter shelter season," de Jesús told The Times.

Belcastro isn't the only person who left the organization recently. At least three other volunteers have resigned from their positions as volunteers in the past month. Harbor Homes has around 30 volunteers, 20 paid staff members, and 11 voting members, according to their 990 form, an IRS report that tax-exempt organizations have to complete annually, for the fiscal year 2024. This was the most recent report publicly available for the nonprofit.

Sarah Sylvia, a volunteer who was reached by The Times, said she left because her schedule was too busy to continue at Harbor Homes. Sylvia is a nurse at Martha's Vineyard Hospital.

"Due to the demands of school and clinical rotations, I had to step back for the remainder of the shelter season," Sylvia said.

As for the future of the nonprofit, the group is planning to close on a permanent location for the new Harbor Homes center next week. The center will include their administrative offices and a year-round shelter for unhoused people.

Their upcoming purchase is many years in the making, with various properties falling through for a variety of reasons. A year ago, almost to the day, Harbor Homes was looking at next steps for its shelter as its temporary residence in a building at the Martha's Vineyard Community Services campus was set to be demolished as part of an ongoing renovation. The group tried to nail down a permanent space before they were left without an option for the following winter, but multiple locations fell through, largely because of zoning restrictions and concerns from possible abutters.

The organization had to undergo a rezoning process on an existing building they owned in order to open the winter shelter this year. Their approval lasts until this April, which is when the shelter doors close for the summer. That building will then revert back to a women's shelter.

De Jesús didn't tell The Times the specifics of the new building, its location or size, but said the space is "terrific."

"We're really quite excited and gratified that people are really going together with us to make this happen, and Lisa has been a part of helping to make this happen in the past," she said. ■■■■

## Unhoused Chilmark man dies in car

Continued from A1

opened in 2013 in direct response to a person dying from hypothermia and the shock it caused in the community. The initiative ultimately became incorporated as a nonprofit known as Harbor Homes.

The standing mission of Harbor Homes runs parallel to a more informal network of Islanders who often offer temporary shelter in their homes to those struggling to survive on the Island in the dead of winter.

According to police, Steranka didn't utilize Harbor Homes services, but members of the more informal network said they were directly in touch with Steranka and could not coax him into a better shelter.

The National Weather Service reported temperatures hovering at 12°F that night, and with the wind-chill factor, they dipped below zero. It was only a day after a winter storm dumped over one foot of snow on Island shores.

Sean Slavin, Chilmark Chief of Police, told The Times that it was believed that Steranka chose to live in his car and relied on transportation from Chilmark residents. It is unknown whether the car was operational.

"There are people that would go and check on him,"

Slavin said. "One of those people went to check on him ... and found him deceased."

The investigation will be taken over by state police, according to Slavin, as is standard operating procedure on cases like this. Massachusetts State Police Trooper Leah M. O'Connell referred The Times to Chilmark Police and the district attorney's office. Danielle Whitney, spokesperson for the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office, said "preliminary investigations don't reveal anything suspicious at this time."

Claire Ganz, The Times'

**"In Chilmark, we have a history of accepting people on their own terms. Harbor Homes is one model, but there are these informal networks that matter, too." —CLAIRE GANZ**

Chilmark town columnist, reported on Steranka's death in last week's edition of the newspaper. Steranka was a friend of hers. He was a Pennsylvania native and often spoke of military service, and had lived on the Island for many years preceding his death, she said.

"He was reserved and had a gentle laugh," Ganz wrote in the town column. "I don't know his story, but

I enjoyed the easy rhythm of friendship that develops around a dinner table when we come as we are."

Ganz said it was common for people to pick Steranka up on their way somewhere, and that he could often be seen around Tabor House and North roads.

Ganz added, "In Chilmark, we have a history of accepting people on their own terms. Harbor Homes is one model, but there are these informal networks that matter, too."

One of Steranka's friends, Chilmark resident and potter William "Bill"

O'Callaghan, said he would often give Steranka rides.

"The last time I saw him was a few weeks ago, and he didn't look well. He was really having a difficult time walking, catching his breath. I advised him to go to the hospital. He said he knew a doctor, and he called her the next day, and the next I heard, he had passed," O'Callaghan said.

O'Callaghan said Steranka

was a bit of a mystery. He knew sparse details about his life, but remembered his kindness and quality of conversation. Steranka had told him he was a veteran.

"He didn't discuss much about his life, except that he was from Pennsylvania originally, and he was in Vietnam and hurt his leg," he said.

Steranka also attended many shows at Pathways Arts, the winter residency that holds concerts and poetry readings at the Chilmark Tavern.

Scott Crawford, the sound engineer and co-director at Pathways, said Steranka "was quiet, loved his coffee, came to many events, and once recited four different authors verbatim by memory."

During one poetry reading, back in 2022, Steranka recited "Grass," a poem by Carl Sandburg about the horrors of war, to a small crowd. He remembered most of it exactly as written, with full confidence in the phrases. As a preamble, he referenced the ongoing war in Ukraine that was sparked by Russia's invasion into the neighboring country that year.

"There's not a lot you can say about war. It's basically about death and destruction, and it's no new thing. And it has a tendency to spiral out of control," Steranka said at Pathways, his voice assured, calm, and projecting throughout the space. ■■■■

# Trump reopens protected area for fishing

Continued from A1

migratory species, such as tuna, sharks, and some whale species, to feed. The seamounts run “like a curved spine from the southern side of Georges Bank to midways across the western Atlantic Ocean,” NOAA Fisheries wrote, and are home to rare species.

The NOAA Fisheries information page on the monument hasn’t been updated yet to include Trump’s rollback of protections, but the agency plans to implement his proclamation.

“This executive proclamation builds on the administration’s pledge to restore U.S. seafood competitiveness,” Rachel Hager, public affairs team lead for NOAA Fisheries, said in an email to The Times. “We look forward to fulfilling the president’s vision of making the United States the world’s dominant seafood leader, and we are committed to implementing the direction he has provided in the executive actions.”

It remains unclear whether the proclamation rolled back the restrictions immediately and fishermen could start to harvest in the monument as early as this past weekend, but Hager didn’t respond to follow-up questions by print deadline.

Ian Andres, co-captain of the nearly 80-foot Martha Rose, which fishes out of Menemsha, said he had received a call in the last few days from a buddy who asked whether or not he was allowed to fish inside the monument.

Andres still isn’t sure.

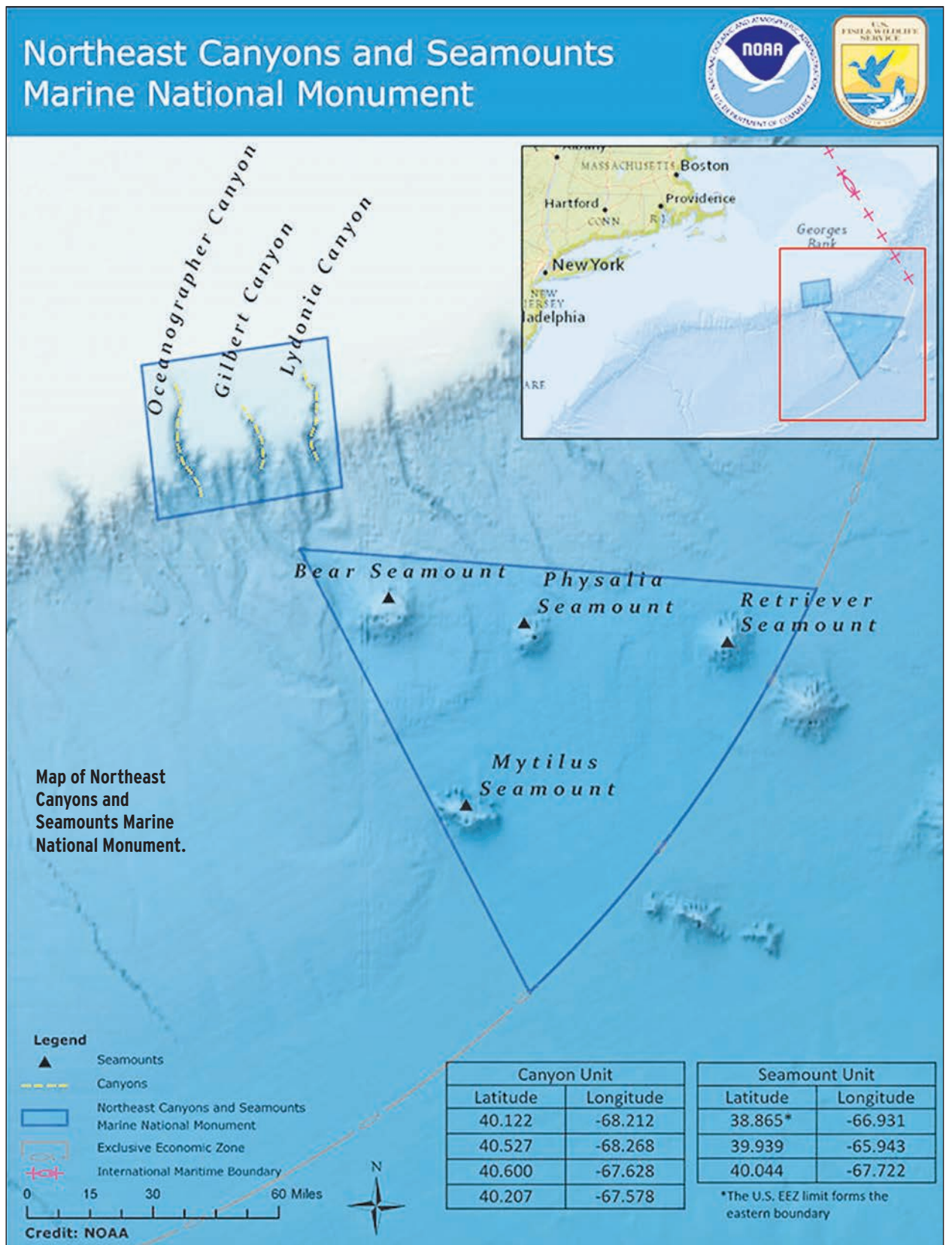
Andres worked on the Martha Rose, which stays busy through the scallop and squid fishery all year, for about a half-decade. He doesn’t like being on land much, and said, “The worst thing for a boat is for it to sit on the dock.” As far as Island vessels go, other than rod-and-reel tuna fishermen, Andres said the Martha Rose is probably the only crew that would go out far enough to fish in the monument.

Andres said he is in favor of regulations and knows that the monument was created to protect deep-water corals, but said he’s never caught any, and added that he never heard that any old-timers came across that problem, either.

The Martha Rose, as one of the last big trawlers, is one of the only vessels from the Island that could make that trip. Andres said that the Martha Rose fishes around that area already on week-long trips and would check the weather closely before a nearly 150-mile attempt, but he said there could be squid out there. Weather has kept the trawler at the dock, and the boat is currently being worked on by Andres — a lot, this season.

He added that the protections did hurt commercial longline fishermen, who use a line of baited hooks to catch fish, even though these really only work near the surface of the water.

Otto Osmers, an Island



COURTESY NOAA FISHERIES



M.V. TIMES



M.V. TIMES

Ian Andres, left, and Otto Osmers, right, on the Martha Rose (above), one of Menemsha’s last trawlers.

**“The whole episode is more posturing than substance on both sides.”**

—FRED KHEDOURI

commercial fisherman who’s scalloped on the Martha Rose, said he thinks there are mostly pelagic species, or those that inhabit waters below the continental shelf, out in the canyons. He added that he doesn’t think that fewer protections is a good idea, but said other fishermen might disagree. Some fishermen are frustrated that the protected area was created outside of the framework of the fisheries management structure and instead has been instituted and taken away multiple times by U.S. presidents.

Conservation groups and scientific institutions have also expressed concern over the decision.

“The region is home to [a] wide range of rare, endangered, and commercially important marine animals that thrive in a healthy ocean,” Suzanne Pelissou,

director of public relations for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, wrote to The Times. “By protecting this critical region, the monument helps sustain fish populations that in turn provide long-term economic benefits for coastal communities.”

Trump previously attempted to strip protections from the Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monument on April 17 and reopen an area that spans almost 500,000 square miles in the central Pacific

Ocean to commercial fishing. Environmentalists challenged Trump’s executive order, and a district court in Honolulu found that commercial fishing could not legally proceed before further discussions in court.

The same could happen on the other side of the country. The Conservation Law Foundation, an environmental advocacy organization out of Boston, called the move by Trump “unlawful” and promised to fight in the courts to protect the monument from exploitation. **MVT**

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Appointed by the Select Board, the Building Commissioner is responsible for the overall leadership, administration, and operation of the Building Department. This role includes planning, organizing, and supervising all inspectional activities related to building, plumbing, gas, and electrical work, and ensuring consistent enforcement of the Massachusetts State Building Code,

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**HELP WANTED**

edgartown-ma.us or in the Human Resource Office at Town Hall. Questions related to current openings and job descriptions may be directed to [parks@edgartown-ma.us](mailto:parks@edgartown-ma.us) or by calling 508-627-6145. All positions are open until filled. The Town of Edgartown is an equal opportunity employer. Please submit completed applications to [HR@edgartown-ma.us](mailto:HR@edgartown-ma.us)

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**\$2,100,000 MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381**

**OCEAN PARK REALTY**  
ESTEEMED BUILDER READY TO BREAK GROUND! Purchase this exceptional lot in Lagoon Ridge and start building your dream home today! Execute a BUILDING CONTRACT or choose your own builder... Call for details and schedule a tour! Welcome to Oak Bluffs' newest and most sought-after neighborhood, where you can construct your 3-bedroom home on a lofty setting, 95 feet above Lagoon Pond. Enjoy sweeping sky views, colorful sunsets, and refreshing salty sea breezes. This outstanding building lot is among the last remaining opportunities in this thriving community. Utilities are already at the site, including town water, electric, and a private Amphidrome wastewater system, saving you the cost and inconvenience of a septic system. Lagoon Ridge borders acres of pristine conservation land, with easy 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 active and vibrant community is experiencing significant construction momentum. Don't miss the chance to be part of this attractive neighborhood! Call for details and to schedule a tour of existing homes in Lagoon Ridge. Price is for the lot only; the home pictured is a sample of what can be built. Contact us today for a private tour of this exceptional offering!

## 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!



**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.



**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!



**\$500,000 SOLD BY MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381 .. WONDERING WHAT YOU COTTAGE IS WORTH? CALL OR TEXT ANYTIME!**

Experience the charm of 21 Rock Avenue, nestled in the Historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association. This year-round cottage features 1 bedroom and 1 bath, and is just moments away from Oak Bluffs Harbor, ferry ports, sandy beaches, art galleries, and delightful restaurants. Recent exterior enhancements include cedar fencing, refreshed house trim, new paint, and an upgraded roof. Please note that the heating system is currently not functioning. Enjoy the convenience of on-site parking. This cottage is also featured in both the Eisenstaedt and Painter Ladies books, adding to its unique appeal.

## HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



**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.



**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.

# 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

## OFFICE SPACE VH

600 SQ FT. Suitable for office use only. Includes conference room, 2 offices & reception area. Utilities not included. Includes 2 parking spaces. email kategrillo9@gmail.com.

## YEAR ROUND RENTALS

### WEST TISBURY

#### 2 BEDROOM 1 BATH HOUSE

Wrap around farmers porch and decks great for outdoor living secluded and peaceful gardens and orchard perfect for professional couple no more than 2 people available ion spring 4,000 a month plus utilities call for more details 508 294 7792.

## 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.

## APARTMENTS/ROOMS

### 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.

## APARTMENTS/ROOMS

**ROOMS FOR RENT MONTHLY \$1000 OR STUDIO \$1600.**

Quiet Edgartown development with tennis court. Text 508.2210300 if interested.

## WEST TISBURY

### STUNNING OFFICE 2000 SQ.FT.

Two full baths. Kitchenette. Ample parking. Coy pond. Outdoor space. \$6,500 per month. Additional beautiful two bedroom apartment. \$1500 plus utilities. 1-2 people. Thank you lisa nagy available immediately. Year round. Contact Lisa 310-213-5472.

## SERVICES

### WELCOME TO FIRST CALL

#### APPLIANCE REPAIR

Most calls within 24 hours, competitive pricing and guaranteed parts and labor. 7 days. 508-277-8689.

## HOME REPAIRS

### WELCOME TO

#### HOUSE DOCTORS

All phases of repair from roof to basement, no job to small, very competitive windows and doors. Fully insured. 7 days. 508-277-8689

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PUBLIC NOTICE: ISLAND-WIDE AERIAL DEER SURVEY

Tick Free Martha's Vineyard (Tick Free MV) will launch an Island-wide aerial deer survey from February 15–March 7, 2026, weather permitting, using thermal drones. Flights will occur dusk to dawn to collect deer population data. Operators White Buffalo, Inc. will follow FAA regulations, and takeoff and landing locations are pre-approved by landowners. Thermal imagery will only be used to identify and count deer; it does not capture identifiable images of people, faces, or property. Residents may notice nighttime drone activity. Questions: info@tickfreemv.org.

# BargainBox

## MEN'S WORK BOOTS

All leather waterproof insulated. Org. \$140.00, now \$65.00. Never worn, photos. Rich 508-221-4312.

## GROW LIGHTS

\$95.00. Photos, Rich 508 221 4312.

## PLASTIC LAMINATING MACHINE, FOR UP TO 8X11 SHEETS

Works well. Free. Allan 617-676-8160.

## JIGSAW PUZZLES

### SCRABBLE, PARCHEESI, ETC.

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

## FREE

22 foot hunter sailboat. New roller forling job, bottom painted and ready for the water. Easy to maintain, great to sail. 508-627-2139.



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**



**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.



**SALE PENDING**  
**\$699,000 EXCLUSIVE CALL OR**  
**TEXT MARILYN MOSES**  
**617-462-0381**

Presenting a unique opportunity to acquire a wooded level lot located on Holmes Hole Road in Oak Bluffs, encompassing a .49-acre parcel situated within a Residential Urban (RU) zoning district. This property offers a serene environment ideal for constructing a home while remaining conveniently close to the town's amenities. There is potential for developing a 3-bedroom residence utilizing either an Enhanced Septic System or Advanced Treatment System, or alternatively, a 2-bedroom home equipped with a Title 5 septic system. Prospective buyers are encouraged to confirm building options and requirements with the Town of Oak Bluffs. Preliminary engineering assessments have been carried out by Schofield Barbini and Hoehn.

**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**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 \$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 \$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**  
**\$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 wraparound 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**  
**\$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.

**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 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 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 space to enjoy. Upstairs, the primary bedroom features an en suite with a shower, providing a comfortable 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.



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**@MARTHAS VINEYARDTIMES**

**Real Estate Transactions**  
**Feb. 2 - Feb. 6, 2026**

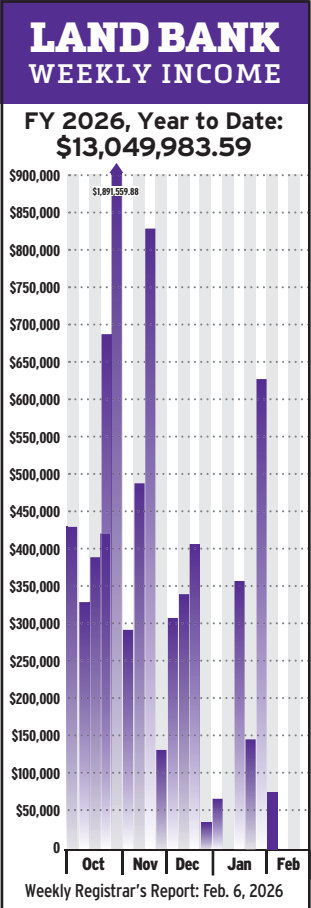
**Edgartown**  
**Feb. 5,** Hazem H. Mahmoud and Pamela J. Mahmoud sold O Harbor-side Inn Condo Unit 515 Week 38 to Diane L. Dongarra and Daniel L. Bailey for \$6,000.

**Tisbury**  
**Feb. 5,** Idalyn L. Macchia-Gilstad and Charles R. Gilstad sold O Red Buoy Lane to Philip Smallwood and Teresa A. Oakley for \$585,000.  
**Feb. 6,** Ryan Shea and Rachel C. Shea sold 136 Spring St. to Jason Michael Davey for \$835,000.

**West Tisbury**  
**Feb. 3,** Vineyard Stoney Hill Home LLC sold 105 Stoney Hill Road to Elizabeth T. Shick, trustee of Elizabeth T. Shick Trust, for \$1,525,000.

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# Real Estate



**SOLD**  
**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.



**SOLD**  
**COASTAL CHIC CONDO**  
**PRICE IMPROVEMENT \$1,149,000**  
**SENKONTACKET 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



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

This delightful home is on a scenic lot nestled within the Senkontacket 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 Senkontacket. 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 Senkontacket 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 mileages.



**SOLD \$2,400,000 Marilyn Moses**  
**617-462-0381, Michael Schweikert 774-563-9112, Alan Schweikert 508-221-1708**  
**15 Main Street Vineyard Haven**  
**\$2,900,000**

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.



**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 West Tisbury, 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.

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**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

# Legal Notices

## LEGAL NOTICES

**SHERIFF'S MEADOW FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
 Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is accepting proposals for a 6-acre agricultural lease at Nat's Farm located off Old County Rd in West Tisbury. Proposals must be submitted by March 2nd. The RFP is available by visiting sheriff-smeadow.org/jobs, calling 508-693-5207, or emailing geagan@sheriffsmeadow.org

**LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS**  
**Copeland Plan District Review Board**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Monday February 23, 2026**  
**at 5:00 PM**  
**RE: 1 Rowland Av**  
**Map 8 Parcel 224.1**

This is a **HYBRID** meeting with both in person & Zoom participation available. The meeting will be held in the downstairs meeting room at the Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs MA or Join Zoom Meeting <https://oakbluffs.zoom.us/j/81545175334?pwd=xwupzyPaeEY4fZijSAKxKbrZCY5B82.1>  
 Meeting ID: 815 4517 5334  
 Passcode: 178353  
 Construct a new foundation beneath the older/historic section of the house, reconstruction of the porch, add back historic details, remove the non-historic porch addition to the south. Replace and reconfigure all windows and doors. The design of the windows and doors, exterior trim, brackets, roof trim/rafter tails and dormers will match or add back the original details. The south facing gable of the historic portion of the house will be extended 6'8" south. An 8' kitchen bumpout will be added on the south side. The historic bay window will be restored. New mechanical, electric & plumbing systems will be added. Proposed plans are on file in the Building Department at Town Hall. Written correspondence can be addressed to: Copeland Plan District Review Board

Attn: Lee Ann Tavares, PO Box 1327, Oak Bluffs - 02557  
 email: buildingadmin@oakbluffsma.gov

**COPELAND PLAN DISTRICT REVIEW BOARD**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**MONDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2026**  
**AT 5:00 PM**  
**RE: 26 SEA VIEW AV MAP 9**  
**PARCEL 56**

This is a **HYBRID** meeting with both in person & Zoom participation available. The meeting will be held in the downstairs meeting room at the Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs MA or Join Zoom Meeting <https://oakbluffs.zoom.us/j/81545175334?pwd=xwupzyPaeEY4fZijSAKxKbrZCY5B82.1>  
 Meeting ID: 815 4517 5334  
 Passcode: 178353  
 Installation of a 33 panel roof mounted solar array  
 Proposed plans are on file in the Building Department at Town Hall. Written correspondence can be addressed to: Copeland Plan District Review Board  
 Attn: Lee Ann Tavares, PO Box 1327, Oak Bluffs 02557  
 email: buildingadmin@oakbluffsma.gov

## LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**

The public is invited to a public hearing concerning whether the proposed amendments to the regulations governing the Coastal District in the Town of Edgartown conform to the guidelines for the development of the District specified in the Commission's designation of the District.  
 Amendments to Articles 5.1.C.1. Permitted Uses in the Shore Zone, 5.1.D.1. Conditionally Permitted Uses in the Shore Zone, and a change in title of Article 5.1.E are proposed. Annotated changes are available on the MVC website: mvcommission.org  
 Date & Time: Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6:35 p.m.  
 Place: Hybrid Meeting **MVC Office - 1st Floor**, 33 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA and Zoom **Meeting ID: 893 8861 4995; Password: 648697**  
 Written testimony may be submitted prior to or during the hearing. Check for updates on the online calendar.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 AT 2:30 PM AT THE UP-ISLAND COUNCIL ON AGING, 1042 STATE ROAD, WEST TISBURY.**

Agenda includes year-in-review, board elections, and Volunteer of the Year award. Open to the public. Virtual option. Email hello@hospiceofmv.org for Zoom link.

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST THE RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOIRROF)

2/13/26  
 Town of Edgartown  
 70 Main Street, P.O. Box 5158 Edgartown, MA. 02539  
 TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:  
 On or about the 2nd day of March, 2026 the Town of Edgartown 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 Edgartown Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program for the purpose of completing moderate rehabilitation of homes in the town of Edgartown, West Tisbury, and Aquinnah totaling up to \$788,000. 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 Edgartown 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 Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman of the Select Board at Edgartown Town Hall on or before March 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 Edgartown certifies to EOHLC that James Hagerty, in his official capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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 Edgartown to use Program funds.  
**OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**  
 Massachusetts EOHLC will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Edgartown 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:  
 a) The certification was not in fact executed by the Town's Certifying Officer; b) The Town has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; c) 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 d) 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. James Hagerty, Environmental Certifying Officer  
 Edgartown Town Hall  
 70 Main Street, PO Box 5158 Edgartown, MA. 02539

## THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND BANK COMMISSION IS CONDUCTING A SEALED-BID AUCTION OF A LIVESTOCK HERD.

Bids must be received by noon on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. Details are contained in a bid package available at the land bank office at 40 Meetinghouse Way in Edgartown, Massachusetts; or via 508-627-7141; or via mhill@vineyardlandbank.com.



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# Superintendent seat down to three finalists

All candidates have over 25 years of experience in education, and have some Island ties. **BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON**

As the date for current Martha's Vineyard superintendent Richie Smith's retirement nears, the replacement for the top educational leadership position has been narrowed to three candidates.

The All-Island School Committee announced last Friday that Jaime L. Curley, Elizabeth Legault, and Erik Cioffi are the three finalists for the superintendent seat. Alex Salop, the chair of the search committee tasked with refining the applicants down to these finalists, told The Times there were several qualified candidates, but these three stood out as "the best fits for the job."

All of the finalists are Massachusetts residents, each with over 25 years of education experience. Salop said they all have some Island ties.

Superintendent candidate Curley is the current assistant superintendent of student

services in Old Rochester. She was born and raised in Sandwich, and still lives there with her husband and three daughters. After receiving a bachelor's degree in psychology, Curley went on to get master's and doctorate degrees in education. Her experience is mainly in school psychology, special education, and work in the superintendency office in her district.

Sippican Week news reported that Curley was hired as the assistant superintendent in Old Rochester in July 2024.

The second candidate, Legault, is an educational leader with over 12 years of experience as a superintendent of schools in East Bridgewater and over 30 years as an educator. She has experience, from her tenure as an educator, with Massachusetts School Building Authority projects and financial planning,

both of which were high on the list for qualifications for the Vineyard position.

After announcing her resignation with a letter to the East Bridgewater school district last spring in what the Enterprise reported was a sudden departure, Legault is now a superintendent finalist in several districts, including the Vineyard. Legault was also reported by the Berkshire Eagle on Friday to be a finalist in the Southern Berkshire regional school district. However, according to the Eagle, her interview with that district was postponed. Also on Friday, Newburyport News published an interview with Legault regarding her being a finalist for the superintendent post in the Amesbury Public Schools District.

Salop said they're aware of all of Legault's pending interviews and the other reported information. "We



Martha's Vineyard Regional High School.

NICHOLAS VUKOTA

do know that she's a finalist elsewhere," Salop said. "We're aware that she left her past superintendency."

The final candidate, Cioffi, has been the assistant superintendent of human resources in Plymouth since 2020. He has over 30 years of cumulative experience as a teacher, coach, principal, and district administrator. Cioffi has family on the Vineyard, and said in a press release that he's "proud to come from a family that has called the Island home for four generations."

Cioffi, much like Smith when he was hired as the assistant superintendent, was head-to-head for the superintendent position with another educator, Christopher Campbell, who

got the job in Plymouth six years ago. Cioffi was hired by Campbell to a top position in the superintendent's office after they competed for the role, as Wicked Local News reported.

Last November, Cioffi was a finalist for the superintendent of schools in Wareham, according to Wareham Week Today. He did not receive the position.

The vetting process for the next Vineyard superintendent has been a mix of community input through informational sessions and preliminary interviews.

"We put together a 20-person screening committee that included school committee members, school representatives, and community stakeholders from

across the Island. We interviewed several candidates from the pool over a three-day period and then agreed to move forward with the finalists," Salop said.

All three candidates were scheduled to be brought to the Vineyard on Feb. 12 and taken on tours of the Island schools, attend meetings with building leaders, staff, and stakeholders, and then sit with the All-Island School Committee for formal interviews. The interviews will be open to the public, starting at 4:30 pm on Thursday at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. The committee plans to discuss and make its decision on that day as well.

"We're currently finalizing plans for the visits on Thursday," Salop added. **MVT**



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# sports

sports@mvtimes.com

## Basketball team eyes league title

Continued from A1

Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) power rankings, and is prepping for a postseason run with only one more league game on the regular season schedule. They need to win it in order to safely secure the league title.

The Vineyarders played away against Sandwich Tuesday night and won 64-54, drawing them one step closer to the title. But they still have to battle it out with Falmouth on Friday to close the gap. The game is at 6 pm in the Pachico Gymnasium.

"If we win them both, we win the league," said Head Coach Mike Joyce after the

lead early. Families, fans, and a student section adorned in their best ski costumes, as per the theme, filled the gymnasium's stands.

The Vineyarders held onto a 34-29 point lead at halftime. After some missed layups and untimely fouls, Dennis-Yarmouth clawed back in the third. The score deficit was reduced to just one point at 43-42 going into the fourth quarter. In the fourth, the Vineyard's defense stayed disciplined, and the offense came back to life, putting Dennis-Yarmouth away with a final score of 57-47.

Joyce said despite Dennis-



Leo Napoir (No. 3) passes the ball to Tauras Biskis against DY.



Vineyard fans performed a wave during the basketball game against DY.

PHOTOS: NICHOLAS VUKOTA



Jacoby Light (No. 1) pulls up inside the free throw line for a jump shot against DY.

game last Friday.

We have two league losses, Falmouth has one, but we've beat them. They haven't lost any others [games], so regardless of what they do, we've got to beat them next Friday."

The Vineyarders opened the game this past Friday against Dennis-Yarmouth with high energy, taking the

Yarmouth playing a hard and physically tough game — a play style the Vineyard team has struggled with this season — the Vineyarders rose to the challenge.

"Sometimes that's a problem because we don't like to meet the physicality.

I thought today we did a better job of that," said Joyce. "Overall, I was pret-

ty happy. They executed what we wanted to do in the game plan."

On Friday after beating Dennis-Yarmouth, Joyce said if the Vineyarders want to make a strong postseason push, they need to be more consistent on offense.

"Defensively, we play so hard, we do what we want to do, we're talking," said

Joyce. "But the problem is, we play offense at that same energy, with almost too much speed. We need to slow down on offense and kind of make the defense play us. Too many times we're trying to go fast and get something, and we

make silly turnovers."

Joyce is hoping to have a large turnout at the game on Friday against Falmouth at the Island's high school, where the fate of the league title will be decided.

And the team has already beat Falmouth this season.

In January, they took down the league rival 55-36.

Regardless of the postseason outcome, Joyce is proud of the team's development.

"I'm really happy with the progress we've made, from the beginning until now, it's pretty exciting," he said. **MVT**

## Martha's Vineyard tide table



Edgartown			Gay Head			Cedar Tree Neck			Oak Bluffs			Squibnocket			Chappaquiddick (Wasque Point)			Vineyard Haven Harbor					
2/12/2026	Thu	12:48 AM	L	2/12/2026	Thu	3:45 AM	H	2/12/2026	Thu	4:01 AM	H	2/12/2026	Thu	3:06 AM	H	2/12/2026	Thu	5:53 AM	H	2/12/2026	Thu	12:06 AM	L
2/12/2026	Thu	8:06 AM	L	2/12/2026	Thu	10:58 AM	L	2/12/2026	Thu	11:45 AM	L	2/12/2026	Thu	10:11 AM	L	2/12/2026	Thu	1:33 PM	L	2/12/2026	Thu	7:35 AM	H
2/12/2026	Thu	1:36 PM	L	2/12/2026	Thu	4:04 PM	H	2/12/2026	Thu	4:20 PM	H	2/12/2026	Thu	3:25 PM	H	2/12/2026	Thu	6:12 PM	H	2/12/2026	Thu	1:09 PM	L
2/12/2026	Thu	8:42 PM	H	2/12/2026	Thu	10:27 PM	L	2/12/2026	Thu	11:14 PM	L	2/12/2026	Thu	9:40 PM	L	2/13/2026	Fri	1:02 AM	L	2/13/2026	Fri	12:55 AM	L
2/13/2026	Fri	1:36 AM	L	2/13/2026	Fri	4:45 AM	H	2/13/2026	Fri	5:01 AM	H	2/13/2026	Fri	4:06 AM	H	2/13/2026	Fri	6:53 AM	H	2/13/2026	Fri	8:17 AM	H
2/13/2026	Fri	8:48 AM	H	2/13/2026	Fri	11:44 AM	L	2/13/2026	Fri	12:31 PM	L	2/13/2026	Fri	8:50 AM	H	2/13/2026	Fri	2:19 PM	L	2/13/2026	Fri	1:54 PM	L
2/13/2026	Fri	2:30 PM	L	2/13/2026	Fri	4:59 PM	H	2/13/2026	Fri	5:15 PM	H	2/13/2026	Fri	4:20 PM	H	2/13/2026	Fri	7:07 PM	H	2/13/2026	Fri	8:59 PM	H
2/13/2026	Fri	9:24 PM	H	2/13/2026	Fri	11:21 PM	L	2/14/2026	Sat	12:08 AM	L	2/13/2026	Fri	9:04 PM	H	2/13/2026	Fri	10:34 PM	L	2/14/2026	Sat	1:56 AM	L
2/14/2026	Sat	2:24 AM	L	2/14/2026	Sat	5:30 AM	H	2/14/2026	Sat	5:46 AM	H	2/14/2026	Sat	2:23 AM	L	2/14/2026	Sat	4:51 AM	H	2/14/2026	Sat	7:38 AM	H
2/14/2026	Sat	9:30 AM	H	2/14/2026	Sat	12:24 PM	L	2/14/2026	Sat	1:11 PM	L	2/14/2026	Sat	9:35 AM	H	2/14/2026	Sat	11:37 AM	L	2/14/2026	Sat	2:59 PM	L
2/14/2026	Sat	3:12 PM	L	2/14/2026	Sat	5:43 PM	H	2/14/2026	Sat	5:59 PM	H	2/14/2026	Sat	3:26 PM	L	2/14/2026	Sat	5:04 PM	H	2/14/2026	Sat	7:51 PM	H
2/15/2026	Sun	10:06 PM	H	2/15/2026	Sun	12:08 AM	L	2/15/2026	Sun	12:55 AM	L	2/14/2026	Sat	11:21 PM	L	2/14/2026	Sat	11:21 PM	L	2/15/2026	Sun	2:43 AM	L
2/15/2026	Sun	3:12 AM	L	2/15/2026	Sun	6:08 AM	H	2/15/2026	Sun	6:24 AM	H	2/15/2026	Sun	3:10 AM	L	2/15/2026	Sun	5:29 AM	H	2/15/2026	Sun	8:16 AM	H
2/15/2026	Sun	10:12 AM	H	2/15/2026	Sun	1:01 PM	L	2/15/2026	Sun	1:48 PM	L	2/15/2026	Sun	10:13 AM	H	2/15/2026	Sun	12:14 PM	L	2/15/2026	Sun	3:36 PM	L
2/15/2026	Sun	4:00 PM	L	2/15/2026	Sun	6:23 PM	H	2/15/2026	Sun	6:39 PM	H	2/15/2026	Sun	4:03 PM	H	2/15/2026	Sun	5:44 PM	H	2/15/2026	Sun	8:31 PM	H
2/15/2026	Sun	10:54 PM	H	2/16/2026	Mon	12:51 AM	L	2/16/2026	Mon	1:38 AM	L	2/15/2026	Sun	10:28 PM	H	2/16/2026	Mon	12:04 AM	L	2/16/2026	Mon	3:26 AM	L
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2/16/2026	Mon	4:42 PM	L	2/16/2026	Mon	7:02 PM	H	2/16/2026	Mon	7:18 PM	H	2/16/2026	Mon	4:38 PM	L	2/16/2026	Mon	6:23 PM	H	2/16/2026	Mon	9:10 PM	H
2/16/2026	Mon	11:36 PM	H	2/17/2026	Tue	1:34 AM	L	2/17/2026	Tue	2:21 AM	L	2/16/2026	Mon	11:07 PM	H	2/17/2026	Tue	12:47 AM	L	2/17/2026	Tue	4:09 AM	L
2/17/2026	Tue	4:48 AM	L	2/17/2026	Tue	7:21 AM	H	2/17/2026	Tue	7:37 AM	H	2/17/2026	Tue	4:36 AM	L	2/17/2026	Tue	6:42 AM	H	2/17/2026	Tue	9:29 AM	H
2/17/2026	Tue	11:42 AM	H	2/17/2026	Tue	2:09 PM	L	2/17/2026	Tue	2:56 PM	L	2/17/2026	Tue	11:26 AM	H	2/17/2026	Tue	1:22 PM	L	2/17/2026	Tue	4:44 PM	L
2/17/2026	Tue	5:24 PM	L	2/17/2026	Tue	7:41 PM	H	2/17/2026	Tue	7:57 PM	H	2/17/2026	Tue	5:11 PM	L	2/17/2026	Tue	7:02 PM	H	2/17/2026	Tue	9:49 PM	H
2/18/2026	Wed	12:18 AM	L	2/18/2026	Wed	2:16 AM	L	2/18/2026	Wed	3:03 AM	L	2/17/2026	Tue	11:46 PM	H	2/18/2026	Wed	1:29 AM	L	2/18/2026	Wed	4:51 AM	L
2/18/2026	Wed	5:36 AM	L	2/18/2026	Wed	8:00 AM	H	2/18/2026	Wed	8:16 AM	H	2/18/2026	Wed	5:18 AM	L	2/18/2026	Wed	7:21 AM	H	2/18/2026	Wed	10:08 AM	H
2/18/2026	Wed	12:24 PM	H	2/18/2026	Wed	2:40 PM	L	2/18/2026	Wed	3:27 PM	L	2/18/2026	Wed	12:05 PM	H	2/18/2026	Wed	1:53 PM	L	2/18/2026	Wed	5:15 PM	L
2/18/2026	Wed	6:06 PM	L	2/18/2026	Wed	8:21 PM	H	2/18/2026	Wed	8:37 PM	H	2/18/2026	Wed	5:42 PM	L	2/18/2026	Wed	7:42 PM	H	2/18/2026	Wed	9:33 PM	H

Data sourced from tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov and compiled by The MVTimes.

Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey announced last week that she had signed an agreement between the state and Nova Scotia to advance offshore wind development in the Atlantic, a move that shows continued support of the industry under attack by the federal government.

Offshore wind is not a lost cause, Healey told reporters at a press conference Feb. 4. It may be through the Canadian province, however, that the state procures further energy supply from the offshore wind industry.

Nova Scotia, almost 500 miles from the commonwealth, is behind the U.S., and especially Massachusetts, in terms of deployment of offshore wind. Premier of Nova Scotia Tim Houston said that the province uses only two gigawatts of energy at peak demand but has the potential to produce between 40 and 60 gigawatts from future offshore wind projects. Just one gigawatt is more than what Vineyard Wind 1 should produce at full capacity (806 megawatts).

The idea is that the Canadian gigawatts could eventually be purchased and sent to the commonwealth as well as other New England states and parts of the U.S. The memorandum of understanding (MOU), signed last Wednesday by Healey and Houston, simply recognizes the shared goals and pursuit of affordability, economic growth, energy independence, and environmental protection to someday get there.

Massachusetts plans to share best practices, such as port infrastructure, workforce development, and supply chain coordination, for offshore wind development, and both entities intend to explore transmission integration and possible ways to deliver power as well as grid implementation as Nova Scotia develops an offshore wind fleet. The aim is to exchange institutional



Vineyard Wind 1 turbine in July.

JENNETTE BARNES CAI

# State looks north for offshore wind energy

Massachusetts and Nova Scotia agree to advance development in the Atlantic.

BY HAYLEY DUFFY

knowledge for potential surplus energy supply as demand increases everywhere.

The province is currently in the bid process for offshore wind projects, Houston said. But getting from the bid process to actual construction of a project can take years. Vineyard Wind 1, for example, started the process around a decade ago and hopes it will be completed by the end of March.

Healey said she continues to push for an all-of-the-

above approach to energy supply — whether that's more wind, solar, gas, hydro, nuclear, or battery storage — in spite of recent decisions by the federal government, such as a Dec. 22 suspension of all offshore wind projects under construction (all of which were recently allowed to resume by federal judges).

"Whatever actions may or may not be coming out of Washington, rest assured that here in Massachusetts,

we're moving forward in any which way to bring more energy into this region. And we're continuing with an international collaboration that helps us increase supply, lower costs, and bring economic development to our port communities."

Healey emphasized a deep-seated alliance between the state she governs and the Canadian province, a relationship that goes back generations. In 1917, after two ships collided in

the harbor of Nova Scotia's capital and killed almost 2,000 people, Boston sent a train that carried supplies to Halifax in a matter of hours. Houston said the legend goes that Massachusetts fishermen heard the explosion and alerted the masses.

"We're here to affirm and announce our commitment to the strong ties we have with Nova Scotia," Healey said at the press conference about the Atlantic state and province.

How to actually deliver the power is a hurdle that Massachusetts and Nova Scotia will have to face. But there are already efforts to modernize the grid and upgrade the transmission system in the region that could be an example for this cross-border effort.

Though not a part of this MOU, ISO New England, a nonprofit corporation that manages the grid for the six New England states, plans to upgrade and further connect the regional transmission system between less populous northern Maine, where there is more open space and new onshore wind generation is expected to reach 1,200 megawatts, to the more populous parts of southern New England, where there is higher energy demand. The nonprofit received six proposals for interconnection of the transmission system, and a plan may be chosen by September.

Rebecca Tepper, secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental affairs for Massachusetts, also said in the press conference that the state, New York, and other Northeast states have launched a "collaborative" to advance interregional transmission.

Healey has looked north for clean energy before as the federal government has clamped down on domestic projects. Since mid-January, a new transmission line, known as the New England Clean Energy Connect, has been carrying Canadian hydropower from Québec to New England — though concerns were raised after power was halted amid high demand in last month's winter storm.

There isn't a specific amount of energy that Massachusetts hopes to eventually gain from this agreement, Tepper said in the press conference. "That's the point of this MOU — to start really thinking about what will be available, what would we need over a period of time, how long would it take. There's a lot of questions that need to be answered." **MVT**

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# community

FEBRUARY 2, 2011



Featherstone's Community Art Show brims with love. **SEE B14**

# A VALENTINE FOR ALL

W. Leck

PHOTOS: DENA PORTER

## ISLANDERS WRITE



Islanders Write is returning to Featherstone Center for the Arts over the weekend of March 14 and 15 for a day of writing workshops, a day of discussions about publishing, and an Island authors book fair.

On Saturday, March 14, at 9 am, Judith Hannan will get our creative juices flowing with a “Wake Up and Write!” workshop. Throughout the rest of the day there will be workshops offered on playwriting (with Nicole Galland), memoir writing (with Moira Convey Silva), journaling (with James Jennings), punching up scenes (with Sherry Sidoti), research, and writing with research (with Duncan Caldwell), and poetry writing (with Justen Ahren and Fan Ogilvie). See below for workshop descriptions.

Then the party begins! From 5 to 7 pm, Edgartown Books and Islanders Write invite readers and writers to come to Featherstone and celebrate with Vineyard authors at an Island Authors Book Fair. (For those of you who have published books, please reach out to me at [kate@mvtimes.com](mailto:kate@mvtimes.com), or Mathew Tombers at Edgartown Books at [mtomers@edgartownbooks.com](mailto:mtomers@edgartownbooks.com).)

On Sunday, March 15, starting at 10 am, we will turn our focus to the path to publication with a series of conversations with authors and publishing professionals. John Abrams, Nancy Slonim Aronie, Tom Dresser, Marc Favreau, Carole Hopson, Charles Sennott, Rosemary Stimola, and Jennifer Smith Turner will talk about getting books onto bedside tables.

The path to publication is a fraught and complicated process, which I suspect often takes writers from learning about ISBNs to struggling with IBS. Along the way, one must navigate a landscape filled with agents, editors, publishers, copyeditors, distributors, bookstores, social media, rejections and offers, contracts, an increasing number of scams, confusing industry lingo — and then hopefully, at the end of the day, a book party celebrating the publication of your fabulous book.

In order to help illuminate the process and explore the growing number of ways to create a book, whether it be a biography, a novel, a

memoir, or a family history, we will share personal stories from the trenches and answer questions.

These events are all free to attend — yay! — but we will be asking people to register in advance for Saturday’s workshops. We will not be selling food during the workshops this year, so please supply your own sustenance. But fear not, we will have coffee and tea to keep you alert, and water to keep you hydrated.

For times and registration, go to [islanderswrite.com](http://islanderswrite.com).

### Writing workshops for Saturday, March 14

#### “Wake Up and Write!” with Judith Hannan

A series of quick writing prompts to encourage free association and the revelation of scenes and stories. A great way to get your creative juices flowing for the day ahead.

*Judith Hannan is an author and essayist who has facilitated writing workshops at Islanders Write, and for those coping with physical and/or mental illness, for medical*

*professionals, for homeless mothers, and for those within the criminal justice system.*

#### “Playwriting,” with Nicole Galland

In an era of talking heads, it can be challenging to write characters who talk as if they’re talking rather than expounding, exhorting, or expostulating. Come explore the art of naturalistic dialogue with playwright Nicole Galland. In this 90-minute session, we’ll do some hands-on demonstrations of how to tweak language to make your characters sound authentically human. Give your actors the best of all possible words. You don’t have to be working on a play to enjoy this workshop; all are welcome.

*Nicole Galland’s most recent plays are “The Retreat” and “Last Call.” Galland is the co-founder, with Chelsea McCarthy, of Shakespeare for the Masses. She is the author of nine novels, and is the managing editor of features at The MV Times.*

#### “Foundations of Memoir,” with Moira Convey Silva

Where do I start? What do I do when the story runs out? What kind of structure is

right? During this session, we’ll work through questions memoirists face, respond to prompts, and begin mapping your memoirs. Participants will strengthen their understanding of the genre, hear examples, and gain valuable insights. Writers of all experience levels are welcome.

*Moira Convey Silva is a writer who runs writing workshops and facilitates writing groups. She is also the co-founder of Covid Monologues MV.*

#### “The Embodied Storyteller: Writing Scenes that Pull the Reader In Close,” with Sherry Sidoti

The age-old advice for great scene writing is, “Show, don’t tell.” The task of the storyteller is to write with visceral and vivid sensory details so that readers feel they are inside the experience themselves. As memoirists, we have the advantage that we are writing our lived experience, thus these details are imprinted in our cellular memory, ripe to write. With a simple embodiment practice, we can bend time to return to a memory, allow details that we may have forgotten to arise, and write vibrant scenes from that full-bodied, felt place. Our stories

unfold into sensual scenes of exteriority and interiority, rich and alive with emotion and meaning for our reader. All are welcome.

*Sherry Sidoti is an embodied memoir-writing midwife, a sacred space weaver, and a yoga teacher. She is the award-winning author of the memoir “A Smoke and a Song.”*

#### “Unlocking the Power of Journaling,” with James W. Jennings

This workshop will help you uncover the power of journaling through a series of guided prompts and exercises. Learn to view journaling not just as a tool for self-expression and personal growth, but also as a means of connecting with higher truths. Workshopppers will learn to tap, transform, and delve into a world of creative expression. This is an interactive journaling experience designed specifically to accommodate your needs. The workshop is a safe space first and foremost. No prior writing experience necessary. All are welcome. There will be stickers.

*James W. Jennings produced his critically acclaimed novel, “Wings of Red,” using these journaling practices. Jennings is also a*

*painter and educator, coach, mentor, and former dean in the NYC Dept. of Education.*

#### “Poetry Writing – The Urgency of First Lines,” with Justen Ahren and Fan Ogilvie

What makes a good first line of a poem work? We will look at some first lines in well-known poems that grab your attention, “beginnings” which make you want to go further in the poem. We will use these first lines of great poems to answer with our own poems, and to create an opening line with a sense of urgency embedded in it that will propel the poem forward. This course is open to writers who are new to poetry, as well as published poets.

*Justen Ahren is a writer, poet, photographer, musician, and teacher of Devotion to Writing, an organization he founded to help others.*

*Fan Ogilvie has published five books of poetry since 2008, and has taught English and poetry on and off the Vineyard. Ogilvie was poet laureate of Martha’s Vineyard from 2009 to 2012.*

#### “Research and Writing with Research,” with Duncan Caldwell

Whether you’re trying to reconstruct the past, or determine whether an anomaly might lead to a revelation, you will receive tips in researching, finding, and making the most of evidence, how building your case, and even persuading critics that you’ve described something thoroughly or made a discovery. Tell us about a hypothesis you’d like to prove or a subject you’d like to flesh out, and we’ll explore how you might achieve your goals.

*Duncan Caldwell has published peer-reviewed research in numerous disciplines, including sub-contemporary African history and practices, Thoreau’s writings, Magritte’s paintings, evolutionary theory, archeomusicology, and rock art studies.*

*You can help support Islanders Write events with a tax-deductible donation. For more information on Islanders Write events and how to make a donation, visit us at [islanderswrite.com](http://islanderswrite.com). **MVT***

# Islanders Write March 14-15 event

Writing Workshops, an Island Authors Book Fair, and More.

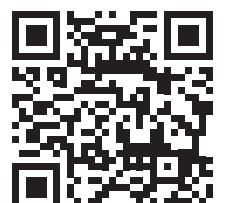
BY KATE FEIFFER

## ISLANDERS WRITE

A monthly newsletter for people interested in writing and the writing life on Martha’s Vineyard.

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## COMMUNITY NOTES



DENA PORTER

### Sarah Shaw Dawson Concert

On Saturday, Feb. 21, at 3 pm, catch Sarah Shaw Dawson at the West Tisbury library for a concert. Sarah Shaw Dawson is a born-and-raised Islander, musician, and reporter at The Martha's Vineyard Times. Her original music is indie singer-songwriter, and her lyrics are deeply influenced by nature, her home, and the community she knows and loves. For more information about this event, please email [wt\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org).

### Recordings of ticks and tick-borne-disease programs available

Since September 2024, the Vineyard Haven library and the Martha's Vineyard Tick Program have presented a series of virtual information programs on tick ecology and tick-borne diseases. Thanks to support from the Inter-Island Public Health

Excellence Collaborative, six of the seven recordings are now available with audio in English and Portuguese. The videos were translated and dubbed by the Community Ambassadors program.

#### Topics include:

- **"Virtual Tick Talk: Prevent the Bite"** with public health epidemiologists Lea Hamner and Stephanie Barth, August 2025 (English only)
- **"Navigating Medicines and Alpha-Gal Syndrome"** with Dr. Sachin A. Shah of Pill Clarity (formerly Vegan Med), May 2025
- **"Tick Ecology, Behavior, and Protection Measures for 2025"** with Biologist Patrick Roden-Reynolds of the Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative, March 2025
- **"How to Talk to Your Doctor about Alpha-Gal Syndrome"** with Candice Matthis and Debbie Nichols of Two Alpha Gals, Sharon Forsyth of the Alpha-Gal Syndrome Awareness Campaign, and moderator Lea Hamner of the Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative, February 2025
- **"Alpha-Gal Syndrome: The Tick-Bite-Induced Epidemic of Severe Allergic Reactions"** with alpha-gal expert Dr. Scott Commins of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, October 2024
- **"Tick-borne Diseases"** with epidemiologist Lea Hamner and experts from

the Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative, October 2024

• **"Tick Ecology"** with biologist Patrick Roden-Reynolds of the Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative, September 2024

English recordings can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11413322>.

Portuguese recordings can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/12018124>.

Handouts from some programs are also available by emailing the library at [vhpl\\_programs@clamsnet.org](mailto:vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org).

### Live at the Katharine Cornell Theatre: The Tristan Israel Band!

The Vineyard Haven Public Library welcomes the Tristan Israel Band for an evening of mainly original tunes written by Tristan Israel in true "Americana" style, with roots in folk, rock, blues, and jazz.

The Tristan Israel Band is: Tristan Israel, on vocals, acoustic guitar, and harmonica; Paul Thurlow on bass, piano, keys, electric guitar, percussion, and backing vocals; and Nancy Jephcote on fiddle.

At 6 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the Katharine Cornell Theatre at 51 Spring St. in Vineyard Haven (above Tisbury Town Hall). Free and open to the public. No registration required. For more information, please contact [vhpl\\_programs@clamsnet.org](mailto:vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org) or 508-696-4211. **MVT**

## Writing from the Heart

BY NANCY SLONIM ARONIE



Embracing what really matters.

## Valentine's Day

There were 26 kids in my fifth-grade class at Rawson Elementary, and the valentine protocol was that everyone was supposed to get a valentine for everyone else.

That way no one would feel left out. Everyone would feel equally liked. That was how it was supposed to be, anyway. But of course it didn't always work out that way. I guess some parents apparently didn't get the memo, or maybe some kids just didn't want to sign a bunch of cards.

There was a big red-and-white crepe-paper-decorated box on the teacher's desk, and on Feb. 14 (if, God willing, Valentine's Day landed on a weekday, and mostly it seemed it did), when you walked through the classroom door, you dropped your cards in the slot and sat down.

You waited for the teacher to announce who would be the lucky kid who would get to distribute the valentines to the rest of us sitting and waiting and hoping that we would get a huge pile. The size of the mound would prove your popularity.

Everyone looked at everyone's desk as the stacks of cards grew.

It's time for an embarrassing confession. I was so

afraid (at 10) that I wouldn't get any valentines, I sent a few to myself. As it turned out, I didn't have to have done that. It was probably a year where the parents remembered, and the kids all willingly signed.

Full disclosure: I just wanted to look more popular than Emily Schuman.

Looking back at those insecure years, I blush realizing I was probably the only one looking and comparing amounts that indicated

**"I'm not going to be manipulated by Hallmark or any other corporation who wants me to do something that has nothing to do with love or generosity."**

**-JOEL ARONIE**

proof. I forgive my innocent little (well actually, I was never little) self and actually think about how clever I was. (Sad, but clever.)

I loved Valentine's Day then, and I still love it now.

There were a few in-between years where I had to, let us say, "educate" my husband on the value of romance vs. practicality. He was a pragmatic guy, and when we first got married, our biggest fight was

over my utter shock and disappointment that he hadn't bought the requisite heart-shaped chocolate box with the phony ribbon and/or the dozen red roses. He was baffled. The argument went something like this:

Me (maybe with gritted teeth): "It's Valentine's Day again."

Him: "Nance, once more, it's a made-up holiday. I'm not going to be manipulated by Hallmark or any other corporation who wants me to do something that has nothing to do with love or generosity. If you want chocolates or roses, go buy them."

I'm not sure why he's still alive today, but apparently I have the patience of a saint, because each year — and I'm talking quite a few years — I had to gently explain that it wasn't chocolates or roses I wanted. That what I wanted was for him to allow himself to be manipulated and to go buy the f\_\_\_\_\_ roses and the stupid candy. That my needy little 10-year-old inner child was still counting her valentines. And that until she got her validation and attention (translation: love), she would probably continue to be needy, and the condition might even get worse.

We came to a perfect

compromise. Since I really didn't need the flowers or the sweets, but I still wanted the acknowledgement, how about writing something?

And I have to say, it was a brilliant compromise. I found out he's a fabulous writer, and I finally filled that empty space in my soul.

These days, I have a huge pile of beautiful, funny, homemade original cards.

How big is the pile, you ask? Who's counting? **MVT**

## POET'S CORNER

### Poem for the Islanders We've Prematurely Lost This Year

By Jordan Wallace

I keep hearing, "there aren't words," and that's true.

But the interior life is real, and there we'll keep having conversations with you.

Conversations like:

There was a night in July, and it was like the first and last night of the world, before atmosphere. Just a walk in the moonlight down paths of glowing mercury, over the crest of the dune and into the basin of light from on high. Do you remember? Our best friends were there, lit up in the pockets of the beach fires, next to Great Rock, covered in rivulets of phosphorescence. Staring at one another and smiling.

Yes. There aren't words. That's true.

But there's an island. There we'll meet.

In memories, basking in the glow of everyone we ever knew.

Jordan Wallace is an Island poet.

Poets with a connection to Martha's Vineyard are encouraged to submit poems to [allison@mvtimes.com](mailto:allison@mvtimes.com). Please include a two-to three-sentence bio.

MVTimes [mvtimes.com](http://mvtimes.com)

## { ISLANDERS WRITE }

The Mid-Winter Islanders Write is back! at Featherstone Center for the Arts

March 14: Writing Workshops March 15: The Path to Publication

In-person and free to attend.

Details and registration visit: [www.islanderswrite.com](http://www.islanderswrite.com)

T O W N C O M M U N I T I E S

## Tisbury



By Kay Mayhew  
tashmoorock@gmail.com

Heard on Main Street: You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.

Yes, the light new layer of snow is pretty, but it is way too cold, and for too long.

Then on Saturday, just as I get a message that my next heating gas is due to be delivered, I also get a message from AmeriGas that they cannot deliver it because my lower driveway has not been plowed. In case

you are interested, I am more than ready to go back to clear roads and sidewalks.

It has been so long since I needed this that I had no clue who to call. I called 911. They said they would leave

a message with Tisbury Police. Not very reassuring. But it worked.

The police officer who called told me about the Sisco Family Services, who do plowing as well as many different things, including moving stuff inside. Marcus Sisco said, "Call if you need anything done." I am so very pleased and relieved. Do not hesitate to call them. The phone number is 508-560-3346. I could not believe when he said they would take

care of this today — and they did. Now to hope for prompt delivery when the snow clearing is done.

Usually my computer decides to give me problems when I need time to finish this column. My relief has made me giddy.

I need walking exercise, not easy in my cozy house. Fortunately, I've found the long corridors at the hospital give me plenty of room to walk.

I've been wearing a red

hat, though not knitted, which I now discover is the new symbol for those not happy with the behavior of ICE agents in Minnesota.

My Island friends in Florida have not been pleased with the bitter cold they have had to endure, claiming many outside plants are not enjoying it either. This is also true with cousins in England who enjoy the sun in Florida at times. But another Island friend has shared her pleasure with the weather in Seattle, with the warmth of 50° and up, and even sunshine. She expects her daffodils to begin blooming in another week.

I remember years ago receiving a gift of tightly furled daffodils in late February, bursting into bloom

within only a few days. Now if I could only remember where they came from. At least my Christmas cactus is showing hopeful signs.

Big bunches of birthday balloon wishes go out today to Simone Davis and Ann Davis, and Eli Hanschka as well as Abe Lincoln and Nat Benjamin. Tomorrow, wish the best to my granddaughter, Fiona Mayhew. Happy birthday on Saturday to Chris Morse and Gayle Stiller. Grace Burton-Sundman parties on Sunday. Izzy Wajda blows out her candles on Monday. Celebrate with Carrie Tankard on Wednesday.

Heard on Main Street: The advantage of exercising every day is that you die healthier. **MVT**

*In case you are interested, I am more than ready to go back to clear roads and sidewalks.*

## Edgartown



By Marnely Murray  
marnely@gmail.com

Reporting live from a little Texan town called Comfort as we drive to Marfa, Texas, with the plan to keep driving to Las Cruces, N.M., to watch our New England Patriots in the big game in some New Mexican sports bar. Wondering how that will work out, but in the meantime I hear that Edgartown is covered in more snow, with temperatures in the low 10s once again. My heart goes out to you all as we drive through Texas, where it's currently

80°— sending you warmth. Here's what's happening in chilly Edgartown this upcoming week:

On Thursday, Feb. 12, from 3 to 8 pm, head over to Dairy Queen for a Valentine's Day fundraiser, where 100 percent of the proceeds support the Vineyard Breakers, the 14U AAU basketball team. The funny thing about New Englanders is that no matter the weather, they will always be in the mood for an ice cream treat, even in the winter!

The Great Annual Edgartown Sidewalk Sale on Feb. 14 and 15, 10 am to 4 pm, is at the Edgartown School gym. It's presented by the Edgartown Board of Trade, and shoppers can score discounts up to 75 percent off on clothing, accessories, beauty products, and more from local stores including Nell, Sea Legs, Botanical Beauty, Sole, Island Outfitters, Rainy Day, Erica Wilson, and Sea Spa Salon. The event also serves as a fundraiser for the Edgartown

eight grade class trip, with students onsite selling coffee and homemade baked goods to keep you fueled while you browse. This is a great sale I annually shop at, but since I'm away on this road trip, I hope you shop on my behalf!

Also on the 14th, there's "Chocolate Candy Making" with Jan Campbell at the Farm Institute. Join Campbell, founder of Chilmark Chocolates, in this hands-on class where participants will learn the basics of chocolate tempering and create their own box of chocolates to take home with them. There will also be an opportunity to make your own chocolate-covered strawberries to celebrate the holiday! The Art of Chocolates class was my absolute favorite class in culinary school — such a great skill to learn if you love pastry arts! Preregistration required for all Farm Institute cooking classes;

sign up at [thetrustees.org/event/443286](http://thetrustees.org/event/443286). If you're looking for a delicious night out, join the team at Bettini Restaurant at the Harbor View Hotel every Thursday for their House-Made Pasta Experience! Indulge in their delicious pasta dishes and fresh salads from the Bettini menu for \$39 per person, and you can elevate your experience with their wine pairing for an extra \$29 per person. A fun winter culinary delight in the midst of this weather, and a great way to get out and see friends this winter! Putting this on my list for when I get back.

Birthday wishes go out to Sam Brooks on Feb. 15, Margarita Kelly on Feb. 17, and George Brennan on Feb. 18 — may your days be filled with warmth, joy, and good health; cheers to you! **MVT**

*I hear that Edgartown is covered in more snow, with temperatures in the low 10s once again. My heart goes out to you all as we drive through Texas, where it's currently 80° — sending you warmth.*

## Oak Bluffs



By Joanne Lambert  
joannelamber@gmail.com

Joanne's column will return next week.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### Spread Love: A community art project giving back to Hospice

Local artist M-C Lamarre has launched Spread Love, a participatory community art project benefiting Hospice & Palliative Care of Martha's Vineyard (HPCMV). Inspired by Valentine's Day and collective grief, Lamarre invited Island community members to decorate baseball-card-sized blanks with drawings and messages of love. The completed cards are sold through art-vending machines placed around the Island, with all proceeds donated to HPCMV.

The Spread Love initiative grew out of Lamarre's recent project, MV Potluck Prints, which began as a way to honor her father and brother, who both passed away in 2024. MV Potluck Prints are pocket-sized prints carved, stamped,

and colored by hand. The prints were sold out of vending machines at rotating locations for four quarters apiece. Spread Love expands on this concept by inviting others to participate in the creative process, fostering community connection, healing, and joy.

Lamarre has spoken openly about her experience receiving grief counseling through HPCMV, which supported her through her losses and inspired her to channel grief into art.

"Those 13 months of grief counseling were a really great resource for me," Lamarre said. "I wanted to do something to give back in the way that I could and include the community — prints by them and for them. Everybody can use a little love."

Participants in the project range from kindergarteners to hospice

staff. Launching around Valentine's Day, Lamarre's art-vending machines will appear at four Island locations, including Reliable Market and Mo's Lunch, with additional locations announced via social media. Blank cards are available throughout February for community members who wish to contribute.

To learn more or participate, contact [mc@mclamarre.com](mailto:mc@mclamarre.com), and follow MV Potluck Prints by M-C Lamarre on Facebook, or @mclamarre on Instagram.

### MV Bank Charitable Foundation and Martha's Vineyard Community Foundation scholarships

Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation Scholarship applications are now open and will be accepted through March 19, 2026.

College Scholarships: four annual \$12,000 awards for Island high school seniors, based on academic merit, leadership, and community service. Philip J. Norton Jr. Scholarship: up to two scholarships for post-secondary students pursuing careers in public or social service. Ronald H. Rappaport Scholar Fund: This scholarship supports students with connections to Martha's Vineyard who are pursuing education beyond their sophomore year and are committed to public service. Application details and eligibility requirements can be found at [community.mvbank.com](http://community.mvbank.com).

The Martha's Vineyard Community Foundation is also accepting scholarship opportunities for eligible students through March 13. Visit the MV Community Foundation website for details: [marthasvineyardcf.org](http://marthasvineyardcf.org). **MVT**

## ACADEMIC HONOR

### DEAN'S LIST

Sydney S. Emerson of West Tisbury, at Clark University.

THE ISLAND'S ORIGINAL TOURIST GUIDE

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O W N C O M M U N I T Y

## Aquinnah



By Kathie Olsen

aquinnahcolumn@gmail.com

Beautiful shadows from the bare trees on the smooth, freshly fallen snow. Icy pathways and driveways requiring conscious, careful movement. Air that makes noses tender. Birds hovering, waiting for someone to come and fill the feeder. Oh my, this is a beautiful time.

We live in a lucky community, for sure. Vineyard residents 18 years or older who don't have access to dental care otherwise can get their teeth cleaned for free. Appointments are available on different dates at various locations on the Island

throughout February; the closest to us is on both Feb. 20 and 27 at the Up-Island Council on Aging in West Tisbury. To register, you can text Polished Dental at 508-394-0068, or email polishedvhca@gmail.com. Your teeth are important to your health, not just your beauty, and here's your chance to take care of them. Thanks to Dukes County Health Care Access/Vineyard Smiles and the Martha's Vineyard Community Foundation and Island boards of health for making this possible.

Pam Glavin called to remind us that the Wishing Tree on

Carl Widdis' grave at our cemetery is there, as always. She urges you, if you can safely get over the ice and snow, to hang a heart ornament on the tree together with a pledge to do some good for someone in Carl's spirit and in tribute to Valentine's Day.

Let's give a cheer to Joan LeLacheur, who has weathered a major surgery and is now safely back home in Aquinnah. Joanie is a bright spirit, a creator of

beautiful things, a soul who delights in good books and great music, and greets all she meets with warmth. She surely deserves only the best. Heal up, dear Joanie.

Don't forget to bring the kids to the library on Saturday, Feb. 14, from 12 to 3 to celebrate Valentine's Day with crafts, cookie decorating, and an indoor scavenger hunt. While you're thinking Valentine's Day, don't forget to say "I love you" to your beloveds.

Rumor has it that the Aquinnah Variety Show is going to happen on Mother's Day weekend in May. I'll let you know the date for the casting call as soon as I hear. Meanwhile, practice up and get ready.

I learned two new words this last week. The first, "thistlebottomed," was from Barbara Davis, proofreader extraordinaire at The MV Times. She used it to describe cranky, prickly people. The

other, "fissiparous," from a rather wordy article in the NY Times that addressed the political world we are currently living in. It means "inclined to cause or undergo division into separate parts or groups." I, personally, am tired of thistlebottomed, fissiparous people, preferring instead the cheerful optimists who look to find peaceful solutions to real problems in an inclusive, positive fashion. Monday, Feb. 16 is Presidents' Day. I'm wishing for a president who is neither thistlebottomed nor fissiparous.

My birthday list shows that H. Nicole Vanderhoop celebrates her birthday on Valentine's Day. I wonder if her birthday cake is heart-shaped. Please send me your known list of Aquinnah folks' birthdays; I'd like to give them a shout-out here.

Stay safe. **MVT**

***Pam Glavin called to remind us that the Wishing Tree on Carl Widdis' grave at our cemetery is there, as always. She urges you, if you can safely get over the ice and snow, to hang a heart ornament on the tree together with a pledge to do some good for someone in Carl's spirit.***

## Chilmark



By Claire Ganz

cganz@live.com

The week brought more snow, slushy waves, and glistening bowls made of ice. Storm waves and high tides ripped icecaps from rocks within the tide line, leaving the beach littered with glistening bowls. And an icy dory from Falmouth grounded on the beach. No life jackets, filled with ice, the bottom is missing large chunks taken out, name on the stern, and a prominent MS sticker with a number and letters my brain could remember.

Thank you, Katie Carroll, for being my go-to person for questions. The Menemsha Coast Guard Station, 508-645-2661, quickly identified the vessel. Today I will see if there is anything I can do to secure it so it doesn't float away and become a hazard.

Life often includes the unexpected, and Sunday morning the wind-chilled temperature was -10°, and long, 36-inch-deep snowdrifts stood between my car and the road.

Rebecca Gilbert and I have decided to shift our Slow Stitching Circle at Pathways in the Chilmark Tavern from Thursdays to Fridays, from 1 to 3 pm. Rebecca is knitting. I'm investigating mending options and bringing boxes of old linens and clothing to sort and brainstorm. Looking for embroi-

dery floss, and in the meantime will bring permanent markers to play with the designs on pieces of matelassé bedspreads and lace.

The Chilmark Library Book Club's February meeting will be March 6, 11:30 am to 1 pm. The next book is by local author Philip Weinstein, who lives in Aquinnah. "Times Bounty: Rethinking Aging." He will be our guest speaker and do a reading from the book. The Up-Island Council on Aging is providing soup.

I encourage you to stop

by the Chilmark library to see Julie Jaffe and Heather Sommers' thought-provoking work.

I wish the cold killed ticks. Thank you, Virginia Barbatti of Tick Free Martha's Vineyard, for alerting me to the event at the Ag Hall discussing deer damage permits (DDPs), Thursday, Feb. 12, 11 am to 1 pm. Learn how DDPs can help address agricultural damage caused by deer, particularly when other management options are not feasible or effective. A DDP may be issued to qualified landowners to allow approved sub-permittees onto their property to address agricultural damage from deer outside the regulated hunting season.

From 11 to 11:30 am, Martin Feehan of MassWildlife will give a presentation on

deer damage permits, including how DDPs work and who qualifies. From 11:30 am to 1 pm, Martin will offer one-on-one consultations with interested farmers or landowners. All interested landowners and farmers are encouraged to attend.

This workshop is co-hosted by Tick Free Martha's Vineyard and the MV Agricultural Society. Questions? Please contact Martin Feehan from MassWildlife at 508-389-6320.

There is no cost. It is open to everyone. Registration is helpful. A light lunch will be provided. Sign up at <https://marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org/upcoming-events/deer-damage-permits-ddps-information-session-and-consultations>. **MVT**

***Storm waves and high tides ripped icecaps from rocks within the tide line, leaving the beach littered with glistening bowls.***

## West Tisbury



By Hermine Hull

hermine.hull@gmail.com

I awoke on Saturday morning to softly falling snow that had covered our yard and the woods beyond. It continued on and off all day, although it didn't accumulate more than a couple of inches, just enough to freshen up the foot or so of snow already there. I can't remember the last winter we had snow on the ground for any appreciable time; it usually falls, looks beautiful for a few hours, a day at most, then disappears as soon as the sun comes out.

Mike and I went out in the morning to do errands during a lull in the snowfall. First stop was the library. I hadn't been since my knee trouble began. The staff has been wonderful, assembling a

selection of books to leave on the reserve shelf for Mike to pick up for me, but it felt pretty good to look through the new mysteries, and to choose some for myself.

And I wanted to see the hooked rugs. What a show. The rugs are a varied collection of styles and sizes, running the gamut from the most traditional landscapes and bouquets to images that display the limitless creative possibilities of the medium and of the artist. I loved them all.

My very favorite was a long runner called "Glimmerglass Neighborhood" by Lynn Marquedant. It is so essentially West Tisbury, an area of town filled with images and people who are so

special to me. I remember John Alley's many references to "the Glimmerglass Girls," and was delighted to find out who they were: Nancy Cabot, Judy Bryant, Ann Howes, and Susie Boass, cousins who were summer girls, and remained close neighbors after they married and settled on family land. Lynn Marquedant captured the personalities of each woman, the paths between their homes and gardens.

I called Mike in to look at it, to see what I was so excited about. Since Valentine's Day is approaching, I will comment on how differently we see things. My literal-minded husband saw roads and landmarks not quite

in the right places; I saw a work of art. Do opposites attract? I am grateful we can maintain a sense of humor. It has gotten us through 41 years together. Happy Valentine's Day, Mike.

Do make a point of seeing this show, on display through February.

It is important for all of us to learn about the proposed MVRHS building project. There will be an information session at our library on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 4:30.

Pam Glavin is asking everyone to consider turning Carl's tree in the Aquinnah cemetery into a valentine tree now that Christmas is behind us. The tree will be up until April, so time for new promises

to perform a kindness for a neighbor. It is a tribute to Carl Widdiss, Pam's husband, who cared for his community.

It is the time of year when Island organizations are accepting scholarship applications. Tisbury Waterways Inc. Environmental Scholarship was designed to recognize students pursuing a career in marine, coastal, environmental, or related science disciplines. The Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation has two scholarships for students who want to work in public service careers, named for notable Vineyarders who embodied those values, Ronald H. Rappaport and Philip J. Norton Jr. There are lots of others. Check with guid-

ance counselors or websites of organizations. Do it soon; deadlines are coming up in the next couple of months.

Condolences to the family and friends of Nancy Evoy, who died on Jan. 3. Nancy was a librarian off-Island, and a beloved patron and supporter of our library during her years here in West Tisbury.

Our dear friend Shirley Howell died last week, another loss to our longtime Alley's coffee group. I learned so much about West Tisbury and Island history from listening to Shirley. She was undaunted when Alley's wouldn't let us inside during COVID, coming up with the idea to keep meeting in the parking lot on even the coldest days of that winter. She taught me a lot about keeping my mouth shut with her quiet, laconic good humor. My condolences to Kathy and Patty, her beloved daughters, and their families; her brother Dick; nieces and nephews, and the friends she has left behind. We miss you. **MVT**

***It is important for all of us to learn about the proposed MVRHS building project. There will be an information session at our library on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 4:30.***



COURTESY OF STILLPOINT

Monk Berry's meditation class at Stillpoint.

ALL PHOTOS BY ELLA MUNNELLY, UNLESS NOTED

# Mindfulness and meditation on Martha's Vineyard

How ancient Buddhist practices continue to travel, adapt, and quietly shape modern life. **BY ELLA MUNNELLY**

In early September, Tibetan monks carefully poured grains of colored sand onto a wooden table inside Slough Farm's barn, transforming the space into a place of ritual, stillness, and attention. The monks had traveled from the Gaden Shartse Monastic University in southern India to the Island for a week, during which time they engaged with Islanders and offered blessings centered on compassion, healing, and presence. Initiated by local resident Rachel Elion Baird, the visit emphasized the importance of kindness, mindfulness, and service to others. More than a month later, on Oct. 26, another group of monks, this time from the Huong Dao Vipassana Bhavana Center in Fort Worth, Texas, set out on a 2,300-mile pilgrimage on foot from Fort Worth to Washington, D.C., with the aim of promoting compassion and mindfulness across communities nationwide. They have walked through freezing temperatures, attracting crowds of thousands along the route, many of whom join in for a few miles. Following ancient traditions, the monks eat only one meal per day, and sleep outdoors. Political tensions in the country continue to rise as they near the capitol, where they will deliver a message of peace and renewal. While these acts may sound extreme, the principles that inspire them are not too far removed from Vinyasa yoga classes at Stillpoint or the YMCA, sound baths at Yoga on the Vine, Peaked Hill Studio, or

the Edgartown library, and meditation sessions at the Aquinnah Town Hall or other gathering spaces across the Island. Buddhism's core teachings of awareness, compassion, and intentional living are embedded in many aspects of Island life. You don't have to don orange robes to practice Buddhism. In different ways, many already do, often without realizing it. Founded in India, Buddhism spread rapidly throughout the East, where it remains woven into the fabric of culture and society. At its core, the practice emphasizes kindness, humanity, and equality — values that continue to resonate far beyond formal religious practice. Unlike most, it is a religion without a god, instead focusing on enlightenment and ethical living. In the forest far north of Thailand, more than 50 miles from the nearest village, Wat Pa Tam Wua, a Buddhist monastery, welcomes travelers from across the world who are curious about the practice of Buddhism. Wat Pa Tam Wua practices Theravada Buddhism, the religion's oldest existing school, with a focus on Vipassana and mindfulness. Each day begins at 5 am and consists of meditation, dharma talk, rice offering to the monks, and chanting. Every day follows the same rhythm, and for many visitors, it is spent almost entirely in silence. The vow of silence is not required, but many observe it. Meditation instruction and teachings on natural laws are provided

by English-speaking Thai monks. Luang Ta, a monk at the Thai forest monastery, has traveled throughout America spreading the teachings of the Buddha. "I go many times to America," Ta said, "Alaska, Atlanta, Chicago, California, New York. Always walking, always happy." Before arriving at the forest monastery, Ta spent 20 years walking through Thailand. He passed through cities, jungles, caves, and islands entirely on foot until he found comfort in the nature surrounding Wat Pa Tam Wua. "Meditation is like a superpower," Ta said. "Practice meditation to take care of the mind. You can take care of the mind to be happy. Concentrate to understand the mind, and the mind will feel well." Ta stated that anyone can practice meditation and mindfulness to feel well, not just Buddhists. Another monk who teaches alongside Ta, and insisted his name was not important, emphasized this sentiment. "Being mindful is the key," he said. "The body does not belong to you; you are the mind." This teacher monk also highlighted the importance of yoga to train your muscles to be more flexible, allowing you to meditate comfortably. "When you practice and meditate, you will know the truth about 'Who am I?'" he said. Meditation is more than just sitting still; it's an effort to completely clear the mind, to think of nothing at all. The monastery leads guests in six hours of meditation through-

out the day, including walking meditation, seated meditation, and lying meditation. Your mind may wander during practice, but you are told to recognize your thoughts as passing, and make a conscious effort to step back from yourself. "You have to meditate until you see," said the teacher monk. "I do not want to waste my time to explain what is at the top of the mountain — you have to train and go climb the mountain and see for yourself," he concluded. Though often associated with Buddhism, meditation is not inherently religious. The monks at Wat Pa Tam Wua emphasized that its benefits — clarity, calm, and self-awareness — are accessible to anyone. On Martha's Vineyard, these practices have manifested in a variety of spaces.

- **Bodhi Path** in West Tisbury offers Buddhist meditation and philosophy instruction through weekly meditation sessions and dharma discussions.
- **Slough Farm** in Edgartown offers fitness and mindfulness sessions including Yoga Nidra and a sound bath, becoming a space of warmth, nourishment, and community.
- **Island Insight Meditation Community** in Vineyard Haven offers regular meditation, study, and discussion rooted in the teachings of the Buddha and open to all.
- **Kohenet Batya Diamond**, a Hebrew priestess, leads a virtual Jewish meditation circle in contemplative Jewish prayers, chants, and spiritual teachings.
- **Wholesome MV: Wellness** in Edgartown offers meditation and other wellness-focused activities both on and off the mat.
- **Stillpoint** in West Tisbury offers a variety of yoga, Pilates, and meditation classes. They also regularly host Thai monk Boonyod Nonthong (a.k.a. Monk Benny), who leads participants of all levels in a blend of loving-kindness meditation and mindfulness practice. Monk Benny will return on March 14 at 10:30 am.
- **The Yoga Barn** in West Tisbury offers guided meditation that includes a brief dharma talk, as well as various vinyasa and yoga classes and occasional meditation retreats.
- **Mytoi Japanese Garden** on Chappaquiddick, while not a formal meditation center, is a peaceful spot to practice, and the Trustees have offered mindful workshops there, including bonsai pruning.
- **Yoga on the Vine** in Vineyard Haven offers monthly meditation classes as well as weekly yin classes, which are grounded in Buddhist insight (Vipassana) meditation, with three to four restorative poses to help the body settle and support stillness and inquiry. In addition to public offerings, Yoga on the Vine offers a meditation teacher-training program.



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1. The Wat Pa Tam Wua forest monastery is located in the mountains north of Thailand.
2. Statues honoring the Buddha at Wat Pha Lat, a Buddhist Temple in Chaing Mai, Thailand.
3. Luang Ta, a monk at the Thai forest monastery, says goodbye to two travelers.
4. A monk walks down the road in Bangkok, Thailand, in the morning to perform a daily ritual known as Tak Bat, during which he collects food for his daily meals.
5. Guests of the monastery gather for afternoon meditation and dharma talk led by the monks.

On the Island, monks have poured sand into careful patterns, walked silently to the sea, and continued on their way. Others cross the country on foot, or spend decades moving slowly through forests. In yoga studios, libraries, town halls, and quiet corners of the Island, the principles that lead them have taken root, and the message remains consistent: Be present, cause no harm, and move through the world with intention and care for the mind. **MVT**

Happy  
Valentine's Day

# calendar



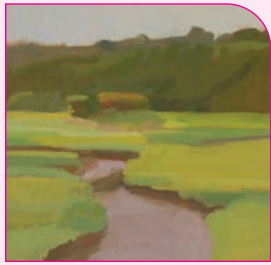
Event spotlight for the week of 2-13 - 2-18

## FRI 2/13

### Painting still life with Liz Taft

Participants will spend time observing a single natural element — a flower, a vegetable, a piece of fruit — and will sketch simple shapes and create an

interesting composition. From there, participants will move on to color study and application. The instructor will focus on individual instruction and provide some demonstrations. Open to anyone who has done a little bit of painting. All mediums are welcome, although the instructor is an oil painter. \$60. 10 am to 1 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 30 Featherstone Lane (off Barnes Road), Oak Bluffs.



MV TIMES

## SAT 2/14

### Chocolate candy-making



If you have a sweet tooth, you're in luck. Jan Campbell, founder of Chilmark Chocolates, is hosting a hands-on chocolate candy-making class at the Farm Institute. Participants will learn the basics of chocolate tempering and create their own box of chocolates

to take home. There will also be an opportunity to make chocolate-covered strawberries to celebrate the holiday. Pre-registration required: <https://thetrustees.org/event/443286/>. \$40 members, \$50 non-members. 10 am to 12 pm, the Farm Institute, 14 Aero Ave., Edgartown.

## SUN 2/15

### 'The Winter Table' community suppers

"The Winter Table" idea was brought to Stillpoint by Willy Mason, Betsy Carnie, and Ben Robinson, and provides free community suppers on Sundays through February. Each Sunday, Betsy will use upcycled ingredients, donated by local farms and grocers, to create a beautiful and healthy meal. Willy will provide music, or introduce other local

musicians who will perform live. The Winter Table is free and open to all, but registration is required: [www.stillpointmv.org](http://www.stillpointmv.org). 5:30 to 8 pm, Stillpoint, 20 Stillpoint Meadows Road, West Tisbury. This series is supported by volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer, please email [deb@stillpointmv.org](mailto:deb@stillpointmv.org).

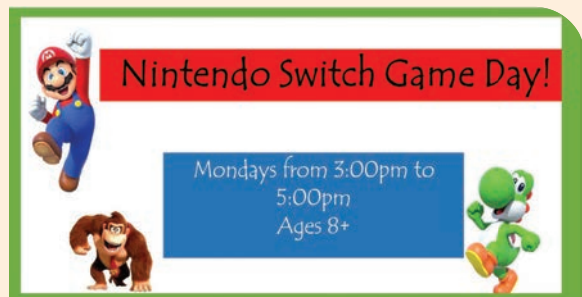


## MON 2/16

### Switch games for kids and teens

Kids 8+ can join in for Switch club Mondays in the Community Room of the West Tisbury library. The library has equipment available, or kids are welcome to

bring their own Switch. Gaming computers are also available. Free. 3 to 5 pm, West Tisbury library, 1042 State Road, West Tisbury, [westtisburylibrary.org/publiclibrary](http://westtisburylibrary.org/publiclibrary).



## TUES 2/17

### 'Rails across the Vineyard'

A summer-only steam train that rolled down State Beach, linking Oak Bluffs to Katama. Trolleys that rumbled through Oak Bluffs and down the sides of the Lagoon. A never-built "electric railway" that would have connected Vineyard Haven to Gay Head. Discover the surprising forgotten piece of Vineyard history in this revised and expanded version of last spring's



MV MUSEUM

program "Salt Spray on the Rails," presented by Martha's Vineyard Museum Research Librarian Bow Van Riper. Virtual; register at [mvmuseum.org/event/rails-across-the-vineyard-online](http://mvmuseum.org/event/rails-across-the-vineyard-online). \$10. 5 to 6 pm, M.V. Museum, 151 Lagoon Pond Road, Vineyard Haven.

## WED 2/18

### 'Growing Small Fruits'

Mary Sage Napolitan will hold a talk on the diversity of small fruiting shrubs and vines that can be incorporated into home gardens, farms, and orchards. She will cover methods and timing for establishment, soil amendments, pruning, and long-term care to support healthy plants, and discuss popular fruits including blueberries, raspberries, and grapes, and lesser-known varieties such as bush cherries, honeyberry,

and more. Registration preferred: [marthasvineyardagriculturalociety.org/upcoming-events/growing-small-fruits-with-mary-sage-napolitan](http://marthasvineyardagriculturalociety.org/upcoming-events/growing-small-fruits-with-mary-sage-napolitan). Free and open to all. 5:30 to 7 pm, Agricultural Hall, 35 Panhandle Road, West Tisbury.



MV TIMES

## Events

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

#### Dance Fitness and Strength Training with Kris Martin

7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, [info@airportfitnessmv.com](mailto:info@airportfitnessmv.com)

#### Virtual Kripalu Flow Yoga

7:30 am, West Tisbury Library. On Zoom with Yogijay. Sign up at <https://www.wholesomemv.com/classschedule> 508-693-3366, [wt\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto: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](mailto:valerie@peakedhillstudio.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](mailto:coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov), 508-693-2896. 508-693-2896, [coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov](mailto:coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov)

#### 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](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org), 508-627-4221. 508-627-4221, [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org)

#### Deer Damage Permits (DDPs): Information Session and Consultations

11 am-1 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Deer Damage Permits (DDPs): Information Session and Consultations with Martin Feehan of MassWildlife 508-693-9549, [programs@mvaqsoc.org](mailto:programs@mvaqsoc.org)

#### HEART COHERENCE MEDITATION HOUR

12-1 pm, Pathways Arts at the Chilmark Tavern. Join in a guided meditation to open and amplify light through the heart, for self and global healing. 802-989-9992, [rachelbaird9@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbaird9@gmail.com)

#### HeartMath Global Coherence Meditation Group

12-1 pm, Pathways Arts at the Chilmark Tavern. Guided meditation to open the heart for self and global healing. 508-645-9098, [tanya4pathways@gmail.com](mailto:tanya4pathways@gmail.com)

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:chil.programs@gmail.com)

#### Chef Look Cooks - Patron Favorites: Ramen

2-3:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Registration required. Sign up at [edgartownlibrary.org](http://edgartownlibrary.org). 508-627-4221, [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org)

#### Slow Stitching Circle: Rebecca Gilbert & Claire Ganz

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](mailto: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, [mlync@clamsnet.org](mailto:mlync@clamsnet.org)

#### Book Buddies

3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. High Schoolers reading to elementary-aged children Thursdays 3:30-4:30 at the West Tisbury Library 508-693-3366, [hburbridge@clamsnet.org](mailto:hburbridge@clamsnet.org)

#### 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](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org), 508-693-3366. 508-693-3366, [wt\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org)

#### Prime Rib Night

4-8 pm, The Black Dog Tavern, Vineyard Haven. Thursday nights are Prime Rib Night at the Black Dog Tavern from 4-8 pm.

#### 'THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB' at the MV Film Center

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB - Academy Award nominee for Best International Picture - at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, [mvmfilmsociety.com](http://mvmfilmsociety.com)

#### Artist Reception - Rocco Vitelle

4-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Artist Reception - Rocco Vitelle 508-693-9433, [cphelan@clamsnet.org](mailto: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](mailto:lhearn@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 to record your request 860-992-7012, [burkewg@comcast.net](mailto:burkewg@comcast.net)

#### Table Tennis

5 pm, Tisbury Senior Center, Vineyard Haven. Table tennis for all ages and skill levels. 508-728-5898, [raeobmv@gmail.com](mailto:raeobmv@gmail.com)

#### Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile

5:30-6:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat one-hour Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement [info@stillpointmv.org](mailto:info@stillpointmv.org)

#### Another Way: Storytelling + Creative Writing Project

5:30 pm, Bunch of Grapes Bookstore, Vineyard Haven. Join us for an evening of inspiration as writers share their visions for a vibrant, care-centered future. Light refreshments provided. 508-221-2131, [projectanotherway@gmail.com](mailto:projectanotherway@gmail.com)

#### Weekly Adult Improv Course

5:30-7:15 pm, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Vineyard Haven. Weekly Adult Improv Course 508-560-2134, [boxoffice@circuitararts.org](mailto:boxoffice@circuitararts.org)

#### Sisterhood & Seafood: A Galentine's Pasta Night

5:30-7 pm, Farm Institute, The Trustees, Edgartown. Join the MV Shellfish Group and Katie from MV Pasta for a delicious Galentine's event at the Farm Institute! Pre-registration required. 508-627-7007, [lbrown@thetrustees.org](mailto:lbrown@thetrustees.org)

#### Brazilian Portuguese: Conversation & Culture

6-8 pm, Haven, Vineyard Haven. Deepen your speaking skills through real dialogue, cultural exploration, and community engagement 508-693-9222, [sonja@acemv.org](mailto:sonja@acemv.org)

Continued on B8

# 'Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round'

## at the M.V. Film Center

BY ABBY REMER

Director Ilana Trachtman's sophisticated documentary "Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round" is an intimate look at an early, historically significant civil rights event. The film, playing at the Martha's Vineyard Film Center the week of Feb. 14 through 20, uses incisive interviews, never-before-seen archival footage, and stop-motion animation to reveal the biracial 1960 protest to integrate Glen Echo Amusement Park, the premier recreation destination of Washington, D.C., since the turn of the century.

The film's title poignantly refers to a 1942 poem, "Merry-Go-Round," by Langston Hughes:

*Where is the Jim Crow section  
On this merry-go-round,  
Mister, cause I want to ride?  
Down South where I come from  
White and colored  
Can't sit side by side.  
Down South on the train*

*There's a Jim Crow car.  
On the bus we're put in  
the back —  
But there ain't no back  
To a merry-go-round!  
Where's the horse  
For a kid that's black?*

The merry-go-round features prominently in footage of many happy white children and adults enjoying the Glen Echo Amusement Park. But a mere 38 seconds into the film, even before the credits roll, we witness a white security guard stopping a Black man, saying, "You're trespassing. Can I ask your race?" "My race?" he responds, "I belong to the human race." We later learn the man is Laurence Henry, a leader in the protest.

Trachtman will return to the scene later, but first backtracks, laying the groundwork for how the eventual protest would unfold, starting with the student civil rights protests in the South. The first was the Feb. 1, 1960, sit-in at Woolworth's lunch counter by students from A&T College, which, in turn, inspired a group of students

at Howard University in Washington, D.C., to take action. They formed the Nonviolent Action Group, aware of the poignancy of their acronym — NAG.

One member, Courtland Cox, recalls, "When I think about NAG, we were some bold people. We wanted you to get out of the way of blocking us because if we are going to advance, we need to knock the barriers down." NAG's first action was a lunch counter sit-in in Arlington, Va., where angry white protesters dropped lit cigarettes into their pockets and burned the seat of their pants. But once successful, NAG turned its sights on integrating Glen Echo.

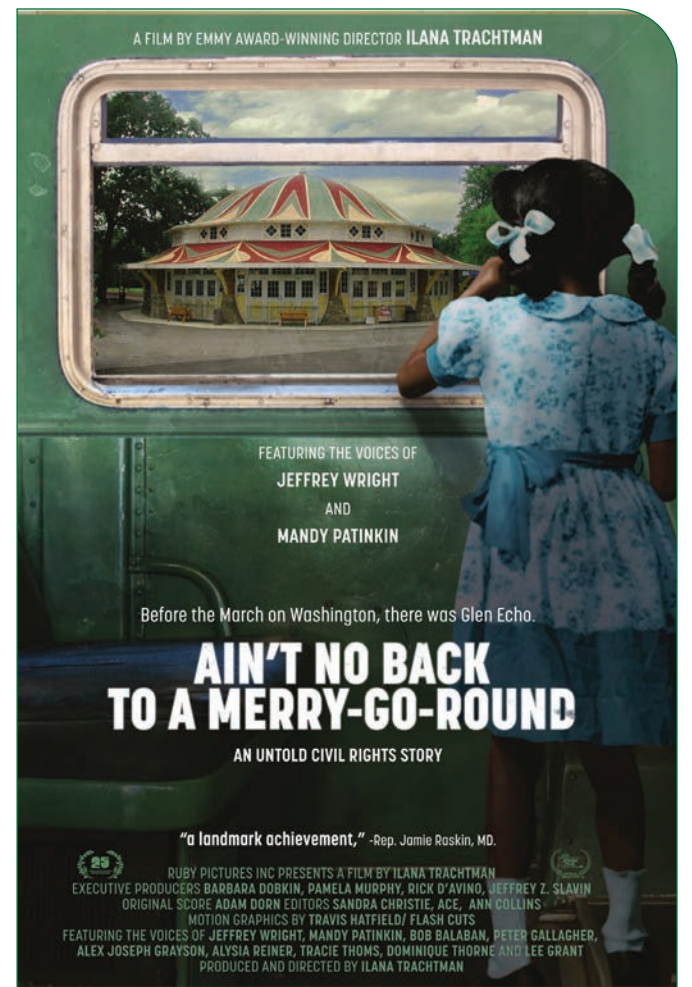
We learn that white liberal residents of the Bannockburn community in Bethesda, Md., would soon get involved as well. The community was founded in the 1940s on utopian principles, and was primarily composed of Jews dedicated to activism. Bannockburn residents joined the Nonviolent Action Group in daily picketing that started on June 30, 1960, after five Black students were arrested

for riding the carousel.

The coming together of the two contingents, along with people from nearby Black neighborhoods, was not seamless. Some Howard University students initially felt uneasy around the Bannockburn contingent. Tina Clarke, from the neighboring Black Poolesville neighborhood, states, "We weren't that interested in integrating with anyone. We just wanted what was equal."

Through engaging interviews, Trachtman reveals the complexity of the biracial picketing that unfolded over the summer, with protesters facing 90° heat, threats of violence, and a nasty counterprotest organized by George Lincoln Rockwell's American Nazi Party.

As time went on, the protest brought union members from the national labor movement, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell and A. Philip Randolph, and other national leaders to the picket line. A surprising twist led to Glen Echo's eventual decision to integrate. Ten



"Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round" screens at the M.V. Film Center during the week of Feb. 14 through 20.

1961 Freedom Riders emerged from the protest efforts, including Stokely Carmichael (later known as Kwame Ture). Hearing some of those riders' recalling the subsequent civil rights movement reveals the sobering price many young activists had to pay.

As the film draws to a close, we hear many involved in the Glen Echo protests reflect on the powerful and hopeful lessons they learned, leaving us to admire how they put their bodies on the line for what they believed in. **MVT**

Continued from B7

## Events

### 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. [bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com](mailto:bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com)

### 'Iron Lung' at the Edgartown Cinema

6 pm, Edgartown Cinema. A convict is sent to search an ocean of blood discovered on a desolate moon, using a small submarine nicknamed the "Iron Lung". 508-627-8008, [yourneighborhoodtheatre.com](http://yourneighborhoodtheatre.com)

### Screening: DIMKA - A Film by Victoria Campbell

6-8 pm, PathwaysArts at The Chilmark Tavern. A film exploring gender issues, embodied by Brooklyn based, Russian immigrant, DIMKA. He wears wigs and makeup, while identifying as a man. With Q&A. 508-645-9098, [tanya4pathways@gmail.com](mailto:tanya4pathways@gmail.com)

### Weekly Adult Improv Course

7:15-9 pm, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Vineyard Haven. Weekly Adult Improv Course. 508-560-2134, [boxoffice@circuitarts.org](mailto:boxoffice@circuitarts.org)

### 'Hamnet' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. HANNET at the MV Film Center starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal. 508-696-9369, [mvfilmsociety.com](http://mvfilmsociety.com)

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

#### 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](mailto:info@airportfitnessmv.com)

#### Pumped Up Intervals with Maria McFarland

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A class alternating cardio intervals and weight work intervals using heavier weights, body bars, loops bands, and weighted balls. 508-696-8000, [info@airportfitnessmv.com](mailto:info@airportfitnessmv.com)

#### Seasonal Kids Crafting

10 am-4 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Imaginative and varied craft projects for ages 3-11. New craft each week. Drop in. 508-693-9433, [mlynch@clamsnet.org](mailto:mlynch@clamsnet.org)

#### Painting Still Life with Liz Taft

10 am-1 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. This class is about learning to see things simply and translating that into a painting. Open to anyone who has done a little bit of painting. 508-693-1850, [featherstone@featherstoneart.org](mailto:featherstone@featherstoneart.org)

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:mlynch@clamsnet.org)

#### Fri-YAY Crafts: Drop-in

Valentines Making. 10:30 am-2 pm, Edgartown Library. Any time during library open hours. All supplies provided. 508-627-4221, [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org)

### Vineyard Haven Library Story Circle with Aria

10:45 am, MV Family Center, Vineyard Haven. Weekly story circle with Children's Librarian Aria on Tuesdays and Fridays — now at the MV Family Center on Greenwood Ave following 9:30am playgroup. 508-696-4211, [vhpl\\_programs@clamsnet.org](mailto:vhpl_programs@clamsnet.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](mailto:chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com) 508-645-3360, [chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org). 508-693-3366, [wt\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org)

#### Drop-in Tech Help at the Anchors

12-1 pm, Edgartown Council on Aging (The Anchors), Edgartown. To help with your laptop, smartphone, iPad, or other devices. Tech help is also available at the library. [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org). 508-627-4221. 508-627-4221, [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org)

#### Tai Chi with Shaka Fridays

1-2 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Tiz COA Tai Chi Mondays at 8:15AM and Fridays at 1PM. 508-696-4205, [amcdonough@tisburyuma.gov](mailto:amcdonough@tisburyuma.gov)

#### Galentine's Day Event at Pal-entine's Day celebration!

3-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Pal-entine's day celebration Friday 2/13/26 from 3-4:30pm - nail salon, hair tinsel, decorate your own cupcake and more! For ages 0-18. 508-693-3366, [lheart@clamsnet.org](mailto:lheart@clamsnet.org)

#### 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-in's welcome. 508-693-3366, [hburbridge@clamsnet.org](mailto:hburbridge@clamsnet.org)

### Pub Night & Live Music

4-8 pm, The Black Dog Tavern, Vineyard Haven. On Friday nights, our special Pub Night menu will be available from 4-8 pm, and live music will be from 6-8 pm.

### 'Song Sung Blue' at the MV Film Center

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. SONG SUNG BLUE — at the MV Film Center. 508-696-9369, [mvfilmsociety.com](http://mvfilmsociety.com)

### Valentine's Eve Soirée

5-7 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. Celebrate connection in all its forms at our Valentine's Eve Soirée, a lively and lighthearted social hour at the Museum. 508-627-4441, [iredington@mvmuseum.org](mailto:iredington@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. [bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com](mailto:bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com)

### 'Is This Thing On' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. 'Is This Thing On' at the MV Film Center. 508-696-9369, [mvfilmsociety.com](http://mvfilmsociety.com)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

#### Dance Fitness with Kris Martin

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, [info@airportfitnessmv.com](mailto:info@airportfitnessmv.com)

#### Vinyasa Power Yoga

9-10 am, Edgartown Library, Edgartown. Therapeutic and creative, with elements of strength building. [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org). 508-627-4221. 508-627-4221, [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org)

#### Acrylic Painting

9 am-12 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Perfect your painting techniques during this weekly intermediate/advanced class! 508-693-1850, [featherstone@featherstoneart.org](mailto:featherstone@featherstoneart.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](mailto:vsonnenthal@gmail.com)

### MV Dems Monthly Meeting

9:30-10:30 am, Democratic Council of MV, West Tisbury. Guest speakers, discussion, outreach for national, state and local Democratic leaders and issues. Email [dems\\_mv@gmail.com](mailto:dems_mv@gmail.com) for Zoom link. 774-563-0467, [dems\\_mv@gmail.com](mailto:dems_mv@gmail.com)

### The Great Annual Edgartown Sidewalk Sale

10 am-4 pm, Edgartown School Gymnasium, Edgartown. Sales up to 75% off! Shop local, support the 8th Grade trip—coffee & baked goods on site! 603-489-9155, [edgartownvillagemarket@gmail.com](mailto:edgartownvillagemarket@gmail.com)

### Chocolate Candy Making with Jan Campbell

10 am-12 pm, Farm Institute, The Trustees, Edgartown. Learn the art of chocolate candy making in this hands-on class with Jan Campbell, founder of Chilmark Chocolates! Pre-registration required. 508-627-7007, [lbrwn@thetrustees.org](mailto:lbrwn@thetrustees.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](mailto: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](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org). 508-693-3366, [wt\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org)

### Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile

10:30-11:30 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat one-hour Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement. [info@stillpointmv.org](mailto:info@stillpointmv.org)

Continued on B9

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

Thurs 2/12	<b>THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB</b> LAST SHOWING	4:00 PM
	<b>HAMNET</b> LAST SHOWING	7:30 PM
Fri 2/13	<b>SONG SUNG BLUE</b>	4:00 PM
	<b>IS THIS THING ON?</b>	7:30 PM
♥♥ VALENTINE'S DAY ♥♥		
Sat 2/14	<b>MET OPERA LIVE: CINDERELLA</b>	1:00 PM
	<b>SONG SUNG BLUE</b>	4:00 PM
	<b>IS THIS THING ON?</b>	7:30 PM
Sun 2/15	<b>AIN'T NO BACK TO A MERRY GO ROUND</b>	4:00 PM
	<b>IS THIS THING ON?</b>	7:30 PM
MON & TUES, FEB., 16 & 17 - FILM CENTER IS CLOSED -		
Wed 2/18	<b>AIN'T NO BACK TO A MERRY GO ROUND</b>	4:00 PM
	<b>NT-LIVE: THE FIFTH STEP</b>	7:30 PM
Oscar Nominated for Best Picture — Double Feature		
Thurs 2/19	<b>ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER</b>	4:00 PM
	<b>SINNERS</b>	7:30 PM
<b>WINNER BEST ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATION 2025</b> 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 <a href="http://mvfilmsociety.com">mvfilmsociety.com</a> 508.696.9369		

Continued from B8

**Beginning Crochet (Drop-In)**

10:30-11:30 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Beginning Crochet (Drop-In) 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org

**Drop-in Fabric Bouquet Craft**

10:30 am-4 pm, Edgartown Library, Edgartown. Fabric bouquet craft in the Children's Room. While supplies last. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

**Love Letters**

10:30 am-5 pm, Chilmark Library. Love Letters at the Library 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com

**Winter Group Show | Open House**

11 am-4 pm, Louisa Gould Gallery, Vineyard Haven. Winter Group Show | Open House at Louisa Gould Gallery. Refreshments and chocolates served. 508-693-7373, louisagould@gmail.com

**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, 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com

**Ballroom/Partner Dance Class**

11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. On the second Saturday of the month, from 11:30am-12:30pm, come to a free Ballroom/Partner Dance Class led by Tom Carberry, from MV Ballroom Dancers 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org

**Sound Bath with Trish Ginter**

11:30 am-12:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Registration required. Sign up at edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

**Valentine's Day Party**

12-3 pm, Aquinnah Library. Family-friendly fun; cookie decorating, crafts, and scavenger hunt. This program is free and all ages are welcome. 508-645-2314, gwilbur@clamsnet.org

**Valentine's Day Trunk Show**

12-2 pm, Louisa Gould Gallery, Vineyard Haven. Valentine's Day Trunk Show 508-693-7373, louisagould@gmail.com

**A Blackout Poetry Valentines Workshop**

12-2 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Edgartown. This Valentine's Day, breathe new life into old text in this hands-on workshop that explores the art of Blackout Poetry. 508-627-4441, lredington@mvmmuseum.org

**'MET OPERA LIVE: CINDERELLA' at the MV Film Center**

1 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. MET OPERA LIVE: CINDERELLA – at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com

**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

**Valentine's Day (Paint Your Partner's Portraits)**

1:30-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Valentine's Day (Paint Your Partner's Portraits) 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org

**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, 508-693-9433, oakb\_mail@clamsnet.org

**Enameling on Copper Workshop**

2-5 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Learn to sift, stencil, stamp and appliqué enamel to create a one-of-a-kind piece - all levels welcome, this class is beginner friendly! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org

**Cookie Decorating for Kids**

2:30-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Celebrate Valentine's Day by decorating sugar cookies with icing, sprinkles, and other toppings. For ages 3-14. Drop-in. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org

**Music Video Series**

3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Music Video Series 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com

**'Song Sung Blue' at the MV Film Center**

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. SONG SUNG BLUE – at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.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

**An Evening with Livingston Taylor: A Fundraiser for Stillpoint**

4:30-6 pm, Stillpoint, Vineyard Haven. Enjoy an intimate performance by Livingston Taylor, the beloved singer-songwriter, master storyteller, and educator. info@stillpointmv.org

**Valentine's Day Murder Mystery Dinner at Honorary Tavern-VFW**

5-9 pm, Honorary Tavern-VFW, Oak Bluffs. Whether you're bringing a date or a group of friends - Join us for an evening of Suspense, Secrets, and Murder! 302-602-6829, Htaveminc@gmail.com

**Community Supper**

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

**Paleface & Mo Live in Oak Bluffs**

7-9 pm, Portuguese American Club, Oak Bluffs. A warm, upbeat, and feel-good show for valentines, singles, and everyone in between (including club-non-members) 508-693-9875, palefaceonline@gmail.com

**Valentines Day LOVE SONGS**

7-9:30 pm, PathwaysARTS at The Chilmark Tavern. Shawn Barber, Missis Biskis, Mark & Molly, Lydia Fischer, Becky & Rich, Honey & Gravel, Adam Howell, Tristan, Alex K, Perry & Allison, Jared, and more 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com

**'Is This Thing On' at the MV Film Center**

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. 'Is This Thing On' at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

**Free English Classes**

8-9 am, 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. 774-563-0460, brentbrown81@gmail.com

**BrunchBQ & Beats with DJ Smooth B @ Black Joy Kitchen**

10 am-2 pm, Black Joy Kitchen, Oak Bluffs. Sunday BrunchBQ & Beats with DJ Smooth B @ Black Joy Kitchen 508-338-7750, hello@blackjoykitchen.com

**The Great Annual Edgartown Sidewalk Sale**

10 am-4 pm, Edgartown School Gymnasium. Sales up to 75% off! Shop local, support the 8th Grade trip—coffee & baked goods on site! 603-489-9155, edgartownvillagemarket@gmail.com

**Meditating With The Body**

11 am-12:15 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. You'll learn to rest your attention in the body, relax habitual tension, and cultivate a grounded resilience that supports you on and off the cushion. awakeningthewildheart@gmail.com

**Sunday B-Side Brunch**

11 am-2 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. 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@mvmmuseum.org

**Movimento Criativo Para o Parto**

12:30-2 pm, West Tisbury Library. Um workshop gratuito e não esportivo para gestantes e seus acompanhantes. 508-693-3366, birthwithjesse@gmail.com

**Heart Health & Cardiac Emergencies**

2:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Presented by the WT Emergency Management Department. Learn practical steps you and your family can take to be prepared when seconds matter. 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org

**Local Off-Season Dancing & Music with live music by Serendipity**

4 pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Join the MV Ballroom Dancers for an afternoon of off-season music and dancing, with live music by Serendipity, at UUSMW's Steven's Chapel. 508-696-4211, vnhpl\_programs@clamsnet.org

**'AIN'T NO BACK TO A MERRY GO ROUND' at the MV Film Center**

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. AINT NO BACK TO A MERRY GO ROUND at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com

**'The Winter Table' Community Suppers**

5:30-8 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. An opportunity for the Island community to get together and share a meal during the coldest months info@stillpointmv.org

**Radio Show - Eclectic #2**

7:30-9:15 pm, WVVY - MV Community Radio, Vineyard Haven. Radio show "It's a Big World, Open Yer Ears". This week: Eclectic#2, an extraordinary mix of interesting stuff from all over. 96.7 fm or www.vvy.org 617-676-8160, egik\_egak\_eogogimak@yahoo.com

**'Is This Thing On' at the MV Film Center**

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. 'Is This Thing On' at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

**Dance Fitness and Strength Training with Kris Martin**

7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com

**Virtual Chair Yoga with YogiJay**

7:30-8:30 am, West Tisbury Library. Accessible to all levels and ages. Sign up for free at wholesomemv.com/classschedule. 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org

**Core Stability, Strength and Balance with Alyson Parker**

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A class featuring core stabilization, strength and balance; we target all major muscle groups and include some intermittent cardio. All levels welcome 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com

**Mah Jong**

1-3 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Friendly Monday Mah Jong game starting at 1PM. Bring your American Mah Jong card! 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyma.gov

**Switch Games for kids and teens**

3-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. Switch club Mondays from 3-5pm in the Community Room 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org

**SketchUp Basics Class**

5:30-7:30 pm, Haven, Vineyard Haven. Learn how to use SketchUp, a 3D modeling tool 508-693-9222, sonja@acemv.org

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

**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

**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

**Pilates Flow with Camille Beaulieu**

9-10 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat one-hour Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement info@stillpointmv.org

**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 am, MV Family Center, Vineyard Haven. Weekly story circle with Children's Librarian Aria on Tuesdays and Fridays – now at the MV Family Center on Greenwood Ave following 9:30am play-group. 508-696-4211, vnhpl\_programs@clamsnet.org

**Work From Home, From The Library**

11 am-12 pm, West Tisbury Library. Get help working remotely with child watch at the library. 11-12pm on 2/3, 2/17, 3/10, 3/24, 4/7, 4/28, 5/12, 5/26 508-693-3366, hburbridge@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

**Mah Jongg**

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

**After-School Club**

3-5 pm, Aquinnah Library. Come to the library on Tuesday afternoons for fun activities, board games, & crafts. This program is free and all ages are welcome. 508-645-2314, gwilbur@clamsnet.org

**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

**Drop in for our Teen and 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, lhearn@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, 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org

**Rails Across the Vineyard**

5-6 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. An online talk with Bow Van Riper on the Vineyard's lost railways and trolleys—and what they reveal about Island transportation today. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmmuseum.org

**Tarot Exploration**

5-7 pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Join CUUPS MV to explore Tarot! Drop in: 2/17, 3/18, 4/17, and 5/16 at Stevens Chapel, 238 Main St., VH, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Free! 508-479-6321, cuups.mv@gmail.com

**Table Tennis**

5 pm, Tisbury Senior Center, Vineyard Haven. Table tennis for all ages and skill levels. 508-728-5898, raeobmv@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, 508-693-9433, anelson@clamsnet.org

**Live at the Katharine Cornell Theatre: The Tristan Israel Band**

6 pm, Katharine Cornell Theatre, Vineyard Haven. Tristan Israel, Paul Thurlow and Nancy Jephcote. True "American" music with roots in folk, rock, blues and even some jazz. 508-696-4211, vnhpl\_programs@clamsnet.org

**Chilmark Church Free Community Suppers**

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

**Barre Fusion with Maria McFarland**

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. Ballet styled flows, barre work, balance and weights using disks, loop bands and Bender balls. Come with sneakers, barre sock, or bare feet 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com

**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

**Oak Bluffs Public Library Storytime**

10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. A fun-filled story time with stories, songs, scarves, and a parachute. Stories are geared toward kids 1.5 to 5 years old; all ages 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

**Createure 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

**Tumble Bugs**

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

**Knitting Studio with Jo**

12-1:30 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Come stitch, chat, and be inspired in a cozy, creative space! 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyma.gov

**Drypoint Printmaking Workshop**

12-3 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Learn drypoint printmaking during this beginner friendly workshop! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org

**Community Meeting**

12:30-1:30 pm, The Red House PRSC, Oak Bluffs. Open to all. A great way to stay informed and involved as we move forward together. 508-693-514, jtau@mvcommunityservices.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. A small but meaningful act of care for our members 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. lhearn@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366, 508-693-3366, lhearn@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, 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

**Kids' Knitting**

3:15-4:15 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Kids' Knitting for Ages 7-11. Bring a project you're working on! Or come and learn! There will be snacks and supplies to share. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org

**Kids Crafts - Lunar New Years Lanterns**

3:30 pm, EMS Building, Vineyard Haven. Celebrate Lunar New Year with a glowing lanternjrapuano@clamsnet.org

**'AIN'T NO BACK TO A MERRY GO ROUND' at the MV Film Center**

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. AINT NO BACK TO A MERRY GO ROUND at the MV Film Center 508-6



Julia Blanter holding the final product fresh out of the oven.



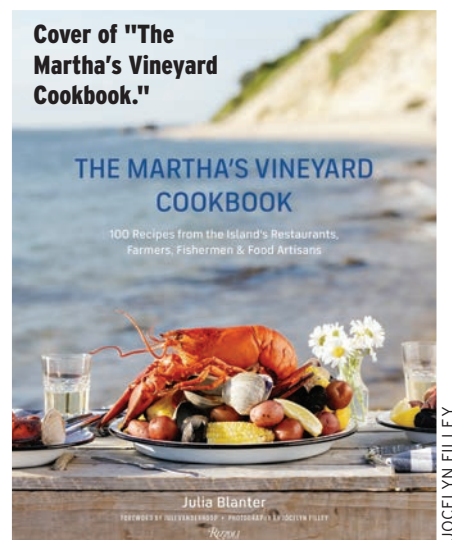
Ingredients ready to go.



Blanter placing spinach on the oysters.



Putting butter, herbs, and garlic on the oysters.



Cover of "The Martha's Vineyard Cookbook."

# IN THE KITCHEN WITH Julia Blanter

BY ALLISON ROBERTS

How to make easy and delicious Fishermen's Oysters.

Marketing guru, author of the popular "Martha's Vineyard Cookbook," and founder of the Great Martha's Vineyard Bake-Off, Julia Blanter originally hails from Australia, and moved to the Island six years ago. "My husband grew up here, and when he brought me here, it was love at first sight," she says. When she and her husband met, they were both living in Brooklyn: "We were looking for a great community, and we found it here."

Growing up, Blanter's mother and sister were both wonderful cooks. "A lot of love went into their food," she notes. "Cooking is about hospitality — making people feel loved, at home, and safe. When we moved here, I went straight to the farmers market. I fell in love with the fishermen, the farmers, and the restaurants here."

Blanter started the Great Martha's Vineyard Bake-Off in 2024. "It was in response to the election results, and how vulnerable many in our community must be feeling, especially our immigrant and queer neighbors, and from seeing family-planning services stripped, and wanting to raise money and awareness of the services and resources we must support," she says. "It is primarily a fundraiser for M.V. Community Services, MV Swell, and Community Action Committee

of Cape and Islands, but it's also become an opportunity for the community to gather at a time of year when Islanders can feel lonely and isolated. Plus it's a reminder of the bakeries and eateries still open, and dedicated to bringing us delicious, freshly baked goods."

Blanter says that "The Martha's Vineyard Cookbook" came about because she wanted to shine a light on local farmers and fishermen. "People come here for the experience of the food, but aren't getting to know the people behind the food," she says. "The book was a great way to do that."

For our "In the Kitchen with" series, Blanter decided to make a recipe found in "The Martha's Vineyard Cookbook" called Fishermen's Oysters. This dish comes from Jeremy Scheffer, son of fisherman Roy

Scheffer, who, along with his longtime partner Patricia Bergeron, tragically passed away while out on their boat recently.

"I'm sharing this recipe as a tribute to our hardworking oyster- and fishermen, including Jeremy and his father Roy," Blanter says. "The Island owes so much to their dedication to local aquaculture, sustainability, and bringing the very best seafood to our plates. It's also a friendly reminder to continue supporting our fish markets during the off-season, and this is a robust recipe perfect for winter nights, including Valentine's Day."

Blanter started by adding butter to a frying pan. Heating the pan on low, she added olive oil, rosemary, garlic, and scallion whites, sautéing them for about eight minutes. She then placed the oysters on a baking sheet covered in salt. I asked her what the salt was for, and she explained that she didn't have an oyster pan, so the salt holds the oysters in place. Next she spooned the buttery herb sauce over each oyster, and then sautéed a bit of spinach.

On top of each oyster, Blanter placed thinly sliced pieces of cod. "If you don't have cod, you can use any fish. I want people to trust themselves when they're cooking. You don't have to follow a recipe exactly."

After topping them with the cod, she added a little spinach, Parmesan cheese, scallions, black pepper, and in they went — broiled to perfection in about seven to eight minutes.

I love fish, but to be honest, I am not a fan of clams, so I have always avoided eating

oysters. I was a little apprehensive at first, but nothing ventured, nothing gained, so I dove in. Lord, they were good. Hot, juicy, flavorful, and hardy — three oysters filled me right up. The combo of each ingredient knocked it out of the park. Oysters are now on my yes list. **MVT**

## FISHERMEN'S OYSTERS

**Serves three to four oysters per person, or up to six for a hungry fisherman**

- 4 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 3 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- Leaves of 1 sprig rosemary, finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 bunch scallions, finely chopped, whites and greens separated
- ¼ cup flat-leaf parsley leaves, finely chopped
- 24 (or 12) shucked Martha's Vineyard Spearpoint oysters
- 2 "fisherman's handfuls" (2 cups) baby spinach
- 8 oz. cod, very thinly sliced into 24 (or 12) pieces
- ½ cup shredded Parmesan
- Finely ground black pepper

Melt the butter in a small saucepan over low heat, and add the olive oil, rosemary, garlic, and scallion whites. Sauté for eight minutes. Add the parsley and sauté until the scallions have completely softened, about two additional minutes.

Place the oysters in an oyster pan, or on a baking sheet. Spoon the buttery herb sauce over each oyster. Sauté the spinach in a small skillet over medium heat with a drop of water until wilted, one minute. Squeeze out excess water from the spinach. Place an oven rack on the third shelf down from the top, and preheat the broiler. Drape a slice of cod over each oyster, then top with a little spinach. Sprinkle with the Parmesan and scallion greens, and season with black pepper. Broil until golden and bubbling, seven to eight minutes. Serve hot.



PHOTOS BY ALLISON ROBERTS, UNLESS NOTED

JOCELYN FILLEY

*From the recently discovered diary of whaling Capt. Jonah Caleb Harkins Smith-Smythe, or Smitty, as he was known to his crew and friends.*

**June the 4th, 1816** – My vessel, All’s Whale That Ends Whale, fitted and seaworthy from the shipyard at Falmouth, delayed by standby list out of Woods Hole, finally arrives at Holmes Hole. I am accompanied by my wife Elisabeth and two children, Jonah Caleb and Caleb Jonah.

Crossing over, the waters were tranquil and azure blue, though as we neared shore, have to navigate around “clammers” hip-deep in water, digging for local delicacy, quahogs (we’re told, steamed and eaten right out of shell or made into a souplike dish, unappetizing to my palate, but who knows? I never thought I’d like jellied eel). We moored, dropped sail, ate supper — salt pork and hardtack biscuits — checked tide charts, and slept aboard ship.

**June the 5th** – Dawn broke; we row dinghy to shore. Greeted by three strapping lads, each anxious to join my crew and make their fortunes, who helped with our steamer trunks. One lad, a Wampanoag native, is quite knowledgeable in whaling, he explains — the result of tribal history of the pursuit which far predates our forays.

Mid-morning, we go in search of temporary family lodging. Sparse choices to let by day or week, as property costs have risen to the heavens since the spate of what they call “summer people,” who come to escape the heat and citified pressures of Fall River, New Bedford, and Boston. Innkeepers refer to me and my like as unwelcome fortune seekers — despite revenues we bring to the Island. We’re hardly the first interlopers. Ask Moshup of the Wampanoags, who, 10,000 years ago, is said to have lamented, “Oh no, not more wash-ashores.”

**June the 6th to 8th** – We secure rooms at a public house priced in wampum (not sure of wampum exchange rate to the dollar) or silver pieces (which I’m trying to conserve). Our accommodations are a converted loft above a barn on Upper

Main Street, Edgartown, shared with livestock equally discontent to share quarters with us. Consumed the last of our packed provisions — hardtack biscuits harder than ever — had a night’s sleep, apart from competition from bovine roommates.

**June the 9th** – Daylight hours, we search for permanent quarters; with help of a “realtor” — a new profession, middlemen who match home seekers and sellers or landlords, and remarkably, are remunerated by both. There is no end to the ways folks find to make a farthing. Our “realtor” led us from one “chop” to the other (I’d love a chop of any kind right now — lamb, pork, or beef), and all the way to the cliffs. But alas, so far, no home for the Smith-Smythes.

Evening — Famished from our housing hunt, our next quarry is a hearty meal (perhaps one of those chops). Dining prices are dear, they say, due to bringing all provisions in by boat. Labor costs are high as well; young folks being wooed off-Island for better employ, or even to attend that fancy college in Cambridge. We find a tavern with passable fare — thick white broth made of those same clams, they call it “chowder,” and meaty fish called “stripers,” followed by tasty, but pricey, cobbler. Bellies full, but poorer for it, we retire to slumber with our barnmates.

**June the 10th to 19th** – We wander like vagabonds, familiarizing ourselves with new environs. Dogs are ubiquitous

— mostly big black dogs, an unofficial emblem of the Island. Horse-and-buggy traffic is congested in commerce areas, and even out in farmlands. Some folks ride bicycles — or velocipedes — on the roadsides, running along, hopping on the seat, balancing, and gliding for a few feet, then repeating the same, wobbly and weaving, while the rushed locals complain these new gadgets impede travel and create hazards, often shouting out, “Ban the bikes.”

At long last, thanks to our realtor, we find our domicile, a commodious attic space in an aging clapboard house — two beds, one for the missus and myself, one for the boys — at, I must say, unconscionable cost. As it is summertime, we’ll be paying more than \$10 per week for room, \$12 for room and board. Where will this end? I vow, if successful in my whaling ventures, to build my own home on the row of stately white domains with widow’s watch atop (though dear wife abhors the term; tells me she fully expects me to return, healthy and wealthy, from the seas).

**June the 20th** – I set out to recruit a full crew, as many as twoscore (including the lads who helped us when we docked), all looking to trade family chores and sequestered Island life for an adventurous voyage to warmer climes of the Southern Hemisphere, where a bounty of blubber awaits. Crew to be paid only if we are successful, but if so, the reward is great for all. Whale oil is gold, or better than gold, because

it heats, lights, and even provides some nourishment. They say nothing will ever be as valuable as this whale oil — the key to modern life.

**June the 30th** – One week from today, I set sail. Despite its initially reserved demeanor, we have come to rather like this Island. Neighbors have warmed up; merchants have extended credit based on my upcoming prospects. I have even put a down payment on a parcel of land on Water Street, and commissioned a builder to draw plans for our home (though when asked for a budget and timeline, he demurs, as labor is at a premium — a skilled carpenter can command a surgeon’s salary — and completion dates are, in his words, “at best, fickle”).

**July the 4th** – Flag-waving, fife-playing, and a lovely parade. Dear wife has befriended another captain’s spouse, a widow (sadly) who has acted as guide to quirky local customs (gathering for potluck meals, where everyone brings a dish of varying quality, yielding to wild turkeys in the roadways, leaving your doors unlocked, engaging in political debate on any issue at the drop of a hat). Wife tells me she has a notion for business while I am at sea — an ice cream shop, the new novelty, she feels is ideal here during the warmer months. I think she’s a bit mad but again, who knows?

**July the 5th** – Crew members and I work until wee hours to ready All’s Whale for voyage. Kiss the missus goodbye, tuck the boys into bed. Set sail before dawn.

**July the 6th and beyond** – At sea. Will record adventures as they occur, and keep a logbook that may act as an historic record. On our salty days, I will miss that place — Noepe, the Rock, Martha’s Vineyard — though I do wish they would make up their minds what it’s called. I hope not too many others discover it, even seasonally, and ruin it for the rest of us, as it now feels like home. **MVT**

*The rest of Captain Smitty’s journal has, so far, not been found. But we shall keep a vigil in case it appears.w*

## Seasonal visitors, circa 1800s

A semiaccurate recounting of actual events.

BY JAMES DALE



"Good Lord, let us land this prize."  
Captain Smitty, day 42 at sea.

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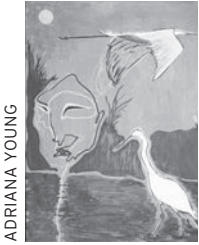
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ADRIANA YOUNG

# 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.

## Spirit Club takes steps to select school mascot

BY DIVYA RANDOLPH

A group of students at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) is taking steps to decide on a school mascot. Currently, the "Vineyarders" are not associated with any particular entity, raising the philosophical question: "What is a Vineyarder?" Is it a bunch of grapes? An osprey? A shark? Following a survey of 268 members of the student body in early January, Spirit Club led a student meeting on Jan. 27 and presented their findings to the school committee on Feb. 2.

In the survey of the student body, respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement: "I think

we should add a school mascot." Of the 268 people who took the survey, 48.5 percent strongly agreed, 48.5 percent agreed, 1.5 percent disagreed, and 1.5 percent strongly disagreed.

Spirit Club was created earlier this school year by sophomores Charlotte Cramer and Madison Curelli, who are also the president and vice president of their class, respectively. "Student government had other projects that needed to be focused on rather than some spirit things. We both felt passionate about getting a mascot and realized that we could start our own club to really focus on that," said Madison.

Sophomore and student

council treasurer Zoe Higgins, who is on both the swim and soccer teams, attended the presentation to the school committee. "I was pretty skeptical of [establishing a mascot] before the meeting, because I didn't know if we were going to be able to afford it, but that meeting really cleared it up," she said.

Zoe explained that Spirit Club plans to fundraise the money needed for a mascot costume. "I think a proper mascot would help. We should have a lot more spirit in our day-to-day life, because it makes the sports games more fun," she said.

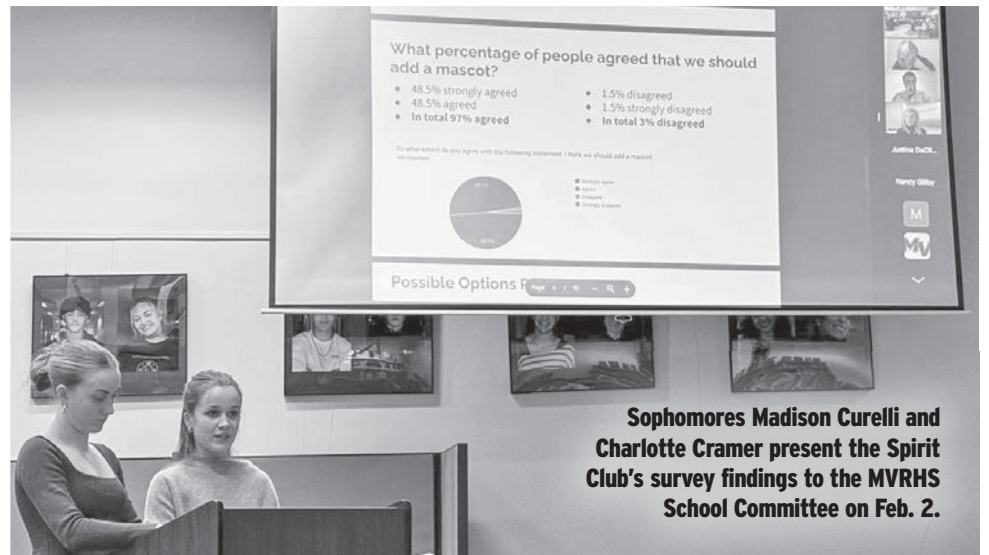
Madison, who also plays basketball for MVRHS, longs

for more momentum from the stands. "Sometimes you have games with a full student section, sometimes you have absolutely no one. I think if we had a mascot we could find more consistency," she said. "I know in middle school we had a mascot, and we would get the mascot for big championship games. It was something fun to see and something to engage the audience."

Some rival schools joke that the current mascot is "the Grapes" and Zoe believes that intentionally choosing a mascot will help combat this misconception. "I could understand why people would think our mascot is the Grapes — but it's embarrassing when you say that phrase and we beat you," said Zoe. "I think they are going to come up with a new nickname no mat-

ter what, but as a sports team and as the Vineyard, I think we should just move on."

Senior and swim team member Joao Nunes said he was unaware of Spirit Club's efforts to establish a new mascot. After hearing more about the topic, he said, "It probably won't have that big of a difference in everyday life, but games would be a lot better with one!" **HSV**



Sophomores Madison Curelli and Charlotte Cramer present the Spirit Club's survey findings to the MVRHS School Committee on Feb. 2.

GUINEVERE CRAMER

## Swim team breaks records at sectionals

BY PICKLE EVILLE

Nine members of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) swim team traveled to Boston University last Sunday to compete at sectionals, a regional event which marks the final time this season for high school swimmers to qualify for states. This year, the team sent six swimmers along with three alternates to compete.

Although this year was particularly successful, the MVRHS swim team has been

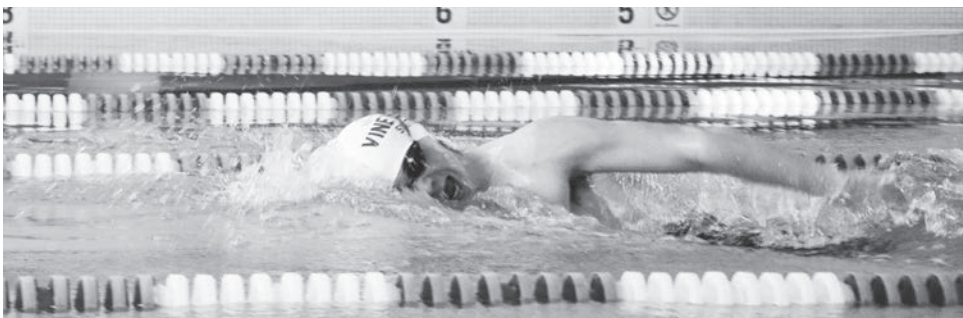
excelling for years. Senior captain Ronan Mullin attributes the team's success to the amount of work they have been putting in. "We practice every day, have been going to the sauna and doing cold plunges, and also some guided meditation," he said.

Senior Will Simmons also feels that his swim mates are continuing to meet the team's high standards. "We come back every year with the same mentality and with everyone raising each other higher," he said.

Ronan, who placed seventh overall at the meet and set a school record in the 100-meter fly, said, "It's our fourth time winning the league championship and our third time in a row. We have been undefeated for two years in a row," he said.

During the 400-meter relay on Sunday, the boys set a new school record and beat their own personal record by five seconds. "It was electric," said senior Claus Smith, who participated in the relay along with senior Grady Stalgren, freshman Moses Thomson, and Ronan Mullin.

"The 400-meter relay was the best thing we've ever done," Ronan said. "It was the last race, we gave it our all, and we left everything in the pool." **HSV**



ANINA GARVIN

Senior Claus Smith warms up his freestyle stroke during practice on Monday.

## Model UN delegation attends annual conference

BY IZZIE ANTHONY

Last weekend, 11 members of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's (MVRHS) Model UN delegation attended the Boston University Model United Nations Conference. At the conference, members acted as delegates in a simulation of the United Nations, discussing world issues and proposing and voting on diverse solutions.

Students have been preparing for the conference since the trip was confirmed in November, meeting weekly on Mondays during flex. Roughly two months ago, they received their country and committee assignments, which allows them to focus their research prior to the conference.

History teacher Leigh Fairchild-Coppoletti, a first-year Model UN advisor, shared a bit about the

scope of work students did to prepare. "The conference requires a considerable amount of preparation," she said. "After students are assigned to different committees, they need to read a significant amount of background information about their committee and the questions that it's grappling with. They need to think about how their assigned country would respond to those questions when in actual committee hearings."

Freshman Murilo Freitas, who represented the UNESCO committee in the conference, joined Model UN with the hopes of sharing his thoughts and opinions with others. "I just wanted to speak my opinions, help out with worldly problems, and try to solve them while participating with other people," he said.

Murilo added, "I think

this trip made me see stuff in a way people overlook. Like, world problems that are going on, the way people can solve them, how we can help, [and] how normal people can help do great things."

Ms. Fairchild-Coppoletti recalled a moment at the conference between two MVRHS seniors that she believes sums up the learning experience. "I watched the two of them dart back and forth between different negotiating groups with so much conviction and energy. They were invested in the process, which speaks so much to the potential of experiential learning," she said. "Basically, it comes down to kids learning when they don't quite realize that they're learning, and learning so much more than they do often in traditional classroom environments." **HSV**

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PHOTOS: DENA PORATER

1 painted tree. Green glass “leaves” dot the branches with an orange-red stone “moon” serving as the orb in Bliss’ title.

There are more birds of a feather in Pamela Carroll Crigler’s colorful acrylic painting “Are You My Mardi Gras Mama?” There is familial love, as well, in Allison Robert’s nattily hatted mama bear, who stands gazing sweetly into our eyes. She holds posies, though whether for us or her little cub — who peeks out just behind her — is up to us to decide. And two adult felines in Sheila Fane’s “Blue Cat Family” silkscreen print look on as what appears to be their offspring contentedly eats from a bowl set between them. Three wire-frame pups frolic adorably along a piece of bark in Marston Clough’s “Hearts Leap” sculpture. Robin Gottesman’s quartet of black-and-white photographs titled “Bickering” visually conveys the story of two birds whose relationship is quite literally on the rocks. The two stand on a large stone surrounded by water, squawking at one another so loudly we can virtually hear their screeches in the territorial dispute.

Deborah Black’s title, “Will You Be Mine?” immediately signals the meaning of her piece. She wraps her remarkable floral-patterned handmade paper into a cone shape that calls for a large imaginary bouquet to be placed inside. Other artists’ titles speak to the kiss, kiss, hug, hug theme. Pamela Carroll Crigler transforms her blood-red bloom into a symbol of love in her title, “Amor-yllis.” Ann DuCharme’s gouache-and-colored-pencil work “I Heart Pomegranates” speaks of culinary adoration. Similarly, Ann Meleney looks down at a collection of luscious tomatoes whose round shapes and linear stems are the letters in the title of her lovely watercolor, “Summer-time X’s and O’s.”

We also need to identify the amorous symbol in Denys Wortman’s enormous drone color photograph, “Heart of the Sea.” Seen from high above, the swirling white forms a pattern that outlines a heart-shaped silhouette in the calm water.

Jewelry also makes an appearance, including Sam Cameron’s striking “Forget Me Not” necklace, crafted from freshwater pearls and a vintage brooch featuring a golden cherub leaning on a red-and-green blossom. Ellie Bates uses a turquoise, white, and silver palette of glass, pearl, and clay beads, with an attached heart-shaped cloisonné pendant.

Employing his signature style, Washington Ledesma paints a bold, colorful Noah’s Flood-like image on a large canvas in “Alegria.” Each creature, including flying fish and stacked domestic animals, exudes the happiness conveyed by the meaning of the title.

Belanger comments, “I hope that folks see all the different ways that love can be expressed. We’ve had a lot of folks come in and say that this is just what they needed.”

Standing in the gallery, “Kiss, Kiss, Hug, Hug” feels like a warm embrace, a beautiful replenishment for our spirits this winter.

“Kiss, Kiss, Hug, Hug” is on view at Featherstone Center for the Arts through Feb. 22. Open daily, noon to 4 pm. **MVT**

# A VALENTINE FOR ALL

Love for people, places, and things that matter most.

BY ABBY REMER

*“In our life, there is a single color, as on an artist’s palette, which provides the meaning of life and art. It is the color of love.”*

– Marc Chagall

**F**eatherstone Center for the Arts’ exhibition, “Kiss, Kiss, Hug, Hug,” provides a welcome refuge from the mountains of frozen snow, bitter cold, and the pressures of the world around us. The 66 Vineyard artists in the show remind us that there is plenty of love to be found on our Island.

The exhibition is the kickoff of Featherstone’s 30th anniversary, and the theme originated with artist and instructor John Holaday 20 years ago. Sarah Beth Belanger, Featherstone’s operations manager, curated “Kiss, Kiss, Hug, Hug” with assistance from their colleague Savannah Berry-

man-Moore. “It was great to see a community response that was strong so early in the year when not all of our regular artists are back [on Island],” says Belanger.

The large acrylic painting by Minka of a bicycle built for two greets us before we even enter the Francine Kelly Gallery. Stretching across the wall over the desk opposite the gallery entrance, the two empty seats invite us to imagine sitting with a loved one on the neon-orange tandem bicycle.

Other pairings are more explicit. In Sandy Pimentel’s mixed-media “Embrace,” a couple, arms wrapped around each other, is caught in a moment of love. Pimentel renders the figures in subdued brown washes, punctuated with touches of gold and silver glitter, making the image sparkle with life.

Nearby is Alejandro Carreño’s Garcia’s “Angels in Love.” The striking pair stand face to face, depicted in startlingly strong colors against a red background,

holding them in place.

A pair of black wire figures dance upon a piece of driftwood that looks like some quirky reptilian creature in Kathy Poehler’s mixed media sculpture, “Frolicking Friends.” Here, as in her seaweed collages, Poehler literally draws from the Island’s waters to create her artwork.

Debbie Milne’s acrylic painting captures another sort of love. Two figures stand with their backs toward us, looking out at a vast landscape in “Georgie and Van: Sibling Love at Grand Canyon.”

The pair’s vivid red and green hats draw our attention to their heads at eye level, so it is we who seem to be gazing out in awe at nature’s vast beauty. Another pair stare at a very different landscape in Lynn McCauley’s “First Date.” Here, the silhouetted figures, also with their backs to us, look up at the luminous hills, drawing our gaze along a winding path into the sun-drenched distance. Then there is Jenn Scherr’s ornately decorated



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“Reflections of Love,” which asks us to fall in love with ourselves.

There are those with a tender heart for animals, who abound in the exhibition. Scott Bliss skillfully uses sea glass and pigment for “Kiss Under the Blood Moon.” Two birds, with bodies made from sea glass, face one another, beaks just touching in a kiss as they stand on a swing hanging from the



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- 1. Washington Ledesma's "Alegria," acrylic on canvas.
- 2. "Heart" by John Holliday.
- 3. Scott Bliss' "Kiss Under the Blood Moon", is made with sea glass and has a custom fir frame.
- 4. Marston Clough's "Heart's Leap" sculpture.
- 5. Sandy Pimentel's "Embrace," mixed media.
- 6. Jenn Scherr's "Reflection of Love" mixed-media artwork integrates a mirror in it.
- 7. Lynn McCauley's "First Date" oil painting.
- 8. Sam Cameron's "Forget Me Not" necklace is made with a vintage brooch, freshwater pearls, and sterling silver.
- 9. Deborah Black's "Will You Be Mine?" was created with handmade paper.

***"I hope that folks see all the different ways that love can be expressed. We've had a lot of folks come in and say that this is just what they needed." - SARAH BETH BELANGER***



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# GardenNotes

BY ABIGAIL HIGGINS



Don't count out the ticks yet.

## Valentines for now and later

**F**ebruary valentine: Forced bulbs require the gardening heart! Flocks of robins are stripping the berries from hollies around the house. Many winters we see them earlier, in January.

It's interesting that they appear to prefer the fruits of the native *Ilex opaca* to the nearby, heavy-bearing hybrid 'Nellie R. Stevens.'

The Snow Moon on Feb. 1 produced scenery that recalled lines from "The Night Before Christmas": "The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow/ Gave a lustre of midday to objects below."

Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, when "half your wood and half your hay" should remain, was sunny and clearing: six more weeks.

February generally contains many sunny days. However, the signs already delivered on the ground, by weather, and by prognosis are that more wintry weather lies ahead.

### Weed of the year: English ivy

English ivy occupies a special spot in many peoples' minds and gardens. There is no question: It is a handsome and versatile evergreen plant, which makes it widely planted. Ivy becomes even more widely planted, however, when

left to its own devices. This leads to problems. Visit this descriptive page to learn why ivy is my weed of the year: [bit.ly/DE\\_EnglishIvy](http://bit.ly/DE_EnglishIvy).

One of the interesting aspects of ivy (*Hedera helix*) is its dimorphism. In the American Heritage Dictionary, ivy is the definition of this botanical trait: "The occurrence of two distinct forms of the same parts in one plant, as in the juvenile and adult leaves of ivy."

As a young plant, ivy sports its classic leaf form and behavior: the star-shaped, mottled foliage, the clinging adventitious rootlets that enable crawling up any convenient surface, the elegant tendrils that captivate in containers and window boxes.

Once ivy achieves its adult form, its leaves transform into spade shapes with

**Since birds are likely to seek the shelter of shrubberies, there in the bushes' crowns is where the baby ivies start their life journey. Readers may guess where this is headed.**

rounded edges, branches begin to grow outward, and clusters of chartreuse, nectar-rich flowers appear. Once pollinated, these in turn become bluish-black berries, much sought after by birds.

Over time, and it does not take long, baby ivies ap-

pear everywhere the birds' droppings land. Since birds are likely to seek the shelter of shrubberies, there in the bushes' crowns is where the baby ivies start their life journey. Readers may guess where this is headed.

Hedges, topiary hollies, prized conifers — all become hosts for the climbing vines seeking support and photosynthesis. In no time at all, a good-looking hedge may turn into something half hedging and half ivy hedgehog.

Trees hosting vigorous ivy growths are being deprived of photosynthesis, not only when in leaf but also in winter, when their bark plays a significant role in the tree's physical system. Ivy catches and holds heavy ice and snow; in storms the addi-

tional windage may succeed in pulling trees down.

An interesting contradiction is that in the British Isles, where ivy is native, it is considered a major benefit to wildlife. Here, ivy is known as a thug, shading out native plants and destroying woodland.

### Cooped poultry

Yay — increasing hours of daylight jump-start hens' egg-laying. Keeping poultry

fed, watered, and healthy is far more challenging in wintry conditions than in moderate ones. Poultry cooped up, days on end, need diversions and ways to groom their plumage. When cooped up, the birds are more prone to pecking-order

disputes, and infestations of various lice and mites.

Many a henhouse has caught fire from efforts to keep waterers and eggs from freezing. First, a reminder that chickens usually finish moulting before winter, and grow their own down and fluff. As long as they remain dry, they can keep themselves warm. A dry henhouse is more critical than a heated one, but good ventilation is still required.

However, the large combs of roosters and some poultry breeds may require smearing with petroleum jelly, black ointment, or Bag Balm when nighttime temperatures drop. Scale mites are usually controllable by the same means. After dark, when birds are roosting, is the best time to do it. A puff of diatomaceous earth under each wing is prophylactic too.

Spraying roosts with proprietary products or undiluted vinegar may help control the spread of parasites, bird to bird. Ordinarily,

chickens dust-bathe all winter in available dry locations without frozen soil or snow. When poultry must be kept cooped, a dusting box or pile in the corner on the floor helps them maintain their plumage.

Dusting box mixtures include wood ashes, ground limestone, diatomaceous earth, or a combination of these; or even fine, dry soil. A head of cabbage, carrots, turnips, or bag of apples tossed onto the henhouse floor provides diversion. Also, good investments are black rubber buckets and watering pans that take freezing without breaking.

### Cold and ticks

Many hope that a more severe winter will reduce the Island tick populations. Maybe, maybe not: These arachnids are very basic organisms, with minimal needs, and are unlikely to disappear due to one cold snap. Read more about ticks and winter at [bit.ly/Cornell\\_tickswinter](http://bit.ly/Cornell_tickswinter). In the meantime, remember to do tick checks, and be aware that drenching yourself or your surroundings in pesticides may produce problems down the road.

### Be realistic

The talk of eradicating white-tailed deer from the Vineyard fails to take into account all the other warm-blooded life here that ticks parasitize: rats, mice, voles, shrews, skunks, rabbits, otters, rabbits, raccoons, birds, coyotes, domestic livestock, squirrels, muskrats, domestic pet animals.

### In the garden

Snow cover provides a protected space for small rodents to gnaw at woody plants for sustenance; check them for girdling after it melts.

Old-time farmers used to fertilize on snow's surface: "As that snow melts, if you do have that fertilizer on, it's the perfect scenario to basically take it into the soil and make the most of it."

Order seeds; start flats of seedlings. Sprinkle seed of annual poppies on snow's surface, and send yourself a valentine deliverable in May. **MV**



February valentine: Forced bulbs require gardening hearts.



May valentine: Sprinkle annual poppy seed on a snow's surface now.

PHOTOS: ABIGAIL HIGGINS



Martha's Vineyard

# ARTS & IDEAS

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