

Voices:
Written into the land **B2**

Signing up
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MVTimes

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Jaime Curley chosen as next superintendent

First woman to lead Martha's Vineyard public schools will face big challenges.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

Jaime L. Curley, who was chosen as the Island's next school superintendent after careful consideration and hours of deliberation by the All-Island School Committee, will face a host of daunting challenges on day one, from a proposed \$300 million building project to fears of deportation by federal agents among the more than one-third of students who hail from immigrant families.

Coming to the Island from her role as assistant superintendent in the Old Rochester Regional School District in Plymouth County, Curley was selected last Thursday after the school committee completed an extensive process to replace former superintendent Richard ("Richie") Smith since he announced his plans to retire this coming June.

Pending final contract negotiations, the start of which may start as soon as this week according to an upcoming school committee agenda, Curley is poised to become the first woman ever to fill the role.

Throughout a careful and long process, the school committee was, in the end, torn between two final candidates. It held an initial straw vote, which is an unofficial poll to gauge opinion, and it proved to be extremely close. In the final decision, four members abstained, and Curley was voted in by the other nine.

As the current assistant superintendent of student services in the Old Rochester Regional School District in Plymouth County, Curley has served in the leadership team that manages over 1,000 students across the towns of Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester.

She has a bachelor's *Continued on A8*



Students put on a stunning show over the weekend at the Performing Arts Center.

JAMESON WHITMARSH

An encore from the underworld

High School production of 'Hadestown' closes with rave reviews.

The students of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School put on a dazzling rendition of "Hadestown." The musical is a mashup of two Greek myths — Orpheus and Eurydice, and Hades and Persephone — and production this year was the culmination of

six months of work. Students who performed reflected to their peers about what the musical meant to them, and the message it sends to people. One student performer, Hydee Turner, said, "There are a lot of parts of the show where we look out to the audience,

because it's moments that kind of reflect the times now, and also because [Eurydice] goes through a lot of struggle, which I think a lot of people are going through right now." Check out the High School View's full coverage of the musical. *See B13*

A battle against ticks takes to the air

Drones deployed in effort to track and reduce deer population. BY HAYLEY DUFFY

From dusk to dawn, drone launches are scheduled to take place over the next two weeks from more than 100 sites across the Island to track the abundant deer population, as part of a stepped-up effort to cull the herd and address a rise in tick-borne conditions.

The drones will be launched from preapproved lands owned by the Island's towns and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) as well as from private property. Through infrared thermal cameras and flown at below 400 feet in a systematic grid pattern, the drones are used to track and collect baseline data for the Island's deer population size and distribution, in an ambitious effort to curb the scourge of ticks.

Ticks can be as small as a sesame seed, and some nymphs are even translucent, but this effort seeks to take to the sky to get a needed overview on how ticks spread across the Island through attachment to a roaming deer population. This, experts say, is essential to understanding the vector of eight tick-borne infectious diseases and allergies that are seen at significantly higher rates here on the Island compared to the rest of the state.



A drone used by independent nonprofit White Buffalo for deer-based drone surveys.

COURTESY WHITE BUFFALO

The use of drones for a broad survey of the deer population is only the initial step. There are many partners in what is expected to be a protracted battle — from Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-certified pilots to public health officials to state representatives to hunters who spend

hours in trees in the months of September to February. The work of all of these people could not only stop the spread of tick-borne diseases and allergies, but have ancillary benefits as well. They include helping with food equity through donations of venison and promoting coastal resilience and forest

regeneration by reducing the voracious foraging of deer. There are even bounties from donated deer for Islanders.

It was over a decade ago that the last survey was conducted through traditional aircraft by the Martha's Vineyard boards of health and found that there were roughly 50 deer per square mile, compared to 19 deer per square mile on the mainland. That is estimated by the state to be even higher now. This survey would use the latest drone technology to show a more comprehensive view of the Island's deer population.

The new survey is commissioned by Tick Free MV, a new nonprofit created in December that hopes to reduce tick-borne diseases and allergies through a reduction of the number of ticks in the environment. But to do that, they have to target deer, or primary hosts of ticks. The Island boasts one of the highest deer densities in the state, and on Martha's Vineyard, *Continued on A9*



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CORPORATION

Island Theater threatened by eminent domain

The proposed seizure still needs approval in a town meeting.

BY EUNKI SEONWOO

Oak Bluffs officials are eyeing the possibility of seizing a dilapidated theater at the heart of their town.

The Oak Bluffs Select Board discussed the possibility of taking the Island Theater, at 1 Circuit Ave., through eminent domain, a process that allows a government to take private property for the greater good if it provides fair market value compensation, at a meeting last Tuesday.

The Island Theater, once a gem owned by the Hall family and now an eyesore, has sat empty at the bottom of Circuit Avenue since 2012. And it's been a source of frustration for the town, being previously labeled as unsafe in 2016, leading to court-ordered work to make the theater structurally sound in 2017.

Meanwhile, the Halls, a controversial family with deep roots in Edgartown going back to the 19th century, and with an array of properties that have long frustrated town officials, have said that various factors, including wastewater limitations deterring potential investors, have left the property in limbo.

Benjamin Hall Jr., co-owner of the family property, said the theater was operated by various family members from the late 1920s to 1977, and then again from 1997 to 2010, with a shift to the "ownership organizational structure" in 2011. It is currently owned by brothers Brian Hall and Benjamin Hall Jr.

Benjamin Hall Jr. objected to the town's consideration of an eminent domain seizure. He said nobody from the town had reached out to him before the meeting. Hall also said if the town wants to buy the

property, the asking price for years has been \$2.8 million, although he'd prefer a private group to take it over.

"We want to work with the town, I just don't know if they want to work with us," Hall said, adding he hopes to meet with town officials.

Hall said while there have been various inquiries about the property over the years, with some prospective investors even considering replacing the theater into a mixed-use, grand hotel similar to those echoing Oak Bluffs' historic architecture, potential investors have continued to be deterred by wastewater limitations.



The Island Theater on Circuit Avenue.

SARAH SHAW DAWSON

The possibility of taking the property from the Halls, a Vineyard family that owns multiple properties across the Island, is something that has been raised before. To some Oak Bluffs Select Board members, raising the issue again was a long time coming.

"It's been a catastrophe," Sean Betten-court, a board member, said.

Deborah Potter, Oak Bluffs town administrator, said a commercial appraisal, which takes into account legal fees and other costs associated with an eminent domain process, estimated that seizing the property would cost around \$5 million.

But Potter said there would still be tasks for the town to undertake, including setting up a small group to address various steps in the process, such as specifying how to use the property as a public good. Additionally, the town would not be allowed to give the property to a third party after making improvements with public funds, per the state Anti-Aid Amendment.

"If you ... were successful, you'd have to remediate the building and do some other

stuff," Potter said. "You can't just take stuff by eminent domain for giggles."

This town action would have to be approved by voters at a town meeting scheduled on April 14. And even if eminent domain is approved, Potter said it could take years to take effect, including requests for proposals and funding.

The Halls are no strangers to the process of eminent domain. In 2017, Edgartown approved taking the Yellow House by eminent domain, which the Halls unsuccessfully tried to block in court. The Yellow House, on 66 Main St., has since become a Lululemon store.

Emma Green-Beach, board member, questioned how the Yellow House example showed that eminent domain was for a "clear public good" besides improving the site.

"It also took an eyesore and a safety hazard and removed it, and then they turned it into revenue," Potter said.

The board will need to approve a final draft of the eminent domain warrant article before it goes to town meeting. **mvr**

news in brief

State Forest project bids pushed to fall

The first phase of a plan to cut white pine plantations in the State Forest was pushed back months after the bid process, which began mid-January, proved unsuccessful.

The state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which owns and manages the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest, said that the project received one bid for the first phase of the project, which includes removal of 52 acres of plantations. The goal by 2035 is to cut almost 200 acres, as required under a permit by the state Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP).

The sole bid exceeded DCR's available budget for the work, and the agency decided to close the request for quotes (RFQ). The RFQ was posted on the state's procurement website, COMMBUYS, and indicated that the estimated duration of the project is two months and estimated cost for labor is \$50,000. A DCR spokesperson said the agency expects to rebid the project in the fall. The anticipated completion

date was originally April 30, 2026.

"DCR remains committed to improving the health of the forest, reducing wildfire risk, and restoring native-barrens woodland communities in accordance with the NHESP permit," a DCR spokesperson said.

There's been pushback from some residents about the plan. Most recently, a group of Islanders fought for a required environmental-impact report on the project, but officials found that earlier processes and other documents were sufficient to stand in the place of a report.

Dukes County sets SSA rep interviews

Islanders are close to finding out who will be representing them on the Steamship Authority board for at least the next three years after Jim Malkin, longtime representative, decided to not pursue another term.

The Dukes County Commissioners, who appoint the board representative, announced on Tuesday afternoon that the public interviews of the three final-



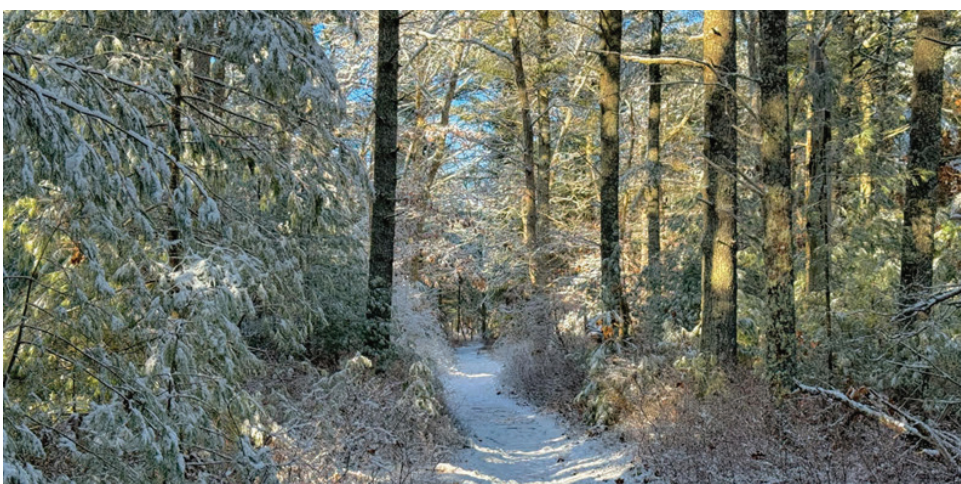
MV TIMES

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

ists will be conducted in a special hybrid meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 4 pm at the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center in Vineyard Haven.

Following a review of 14 applications by a nomination committee, three candidates have been selected to be interviewed by the full commission: Gail Barmakian, Cameron Naron, and Ted Gavin.

Each candidate brings a different set of experiences to the table. 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. He also serves on the boards of several nonprofits, including the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, and as treasurer of the Hebrew Center.



MICHAEL BLANCHARD

Pine trees this winter in the Manuel Correllus State Forest that are to be cut as part of a state plan.

Continued on A3

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Tisbury considers eliminating a cap on short-term rentals

The select board's suggestion comes with a newly proposed tax.

BY EUNKI SEONWOO

Strapped for funds, Tisbury is considering eliminating a cap on how many nights a unit can be used as a short-term rental throughout the year, in order to increase the returns with a new tax structure.

On Feb. 10, the Tisbury Select Board raised the possibility of implementing a 3 percent community-impact fee on short-term rentals as a way to generate revenue for the town, 30 percent of which would be reserved for the use of the town's affordable housing committee to address in part the Island's housing crisis.

The impact fee is an optional, additional tax that a municipality can impose on up to 3 percent of professionally managed short-term rentals on top of state and local taxes. Although no towns on the Vineyard have implemented the fee so far, it is utilized in some communities in the region, such as Falmouth and Nantucket. Tisbury Town Administrator Joseph LaCivita said the

remaining 70 percent of funds collected can be used for other municipal needs, like the maintenance of infrastructure or parks.

Roy Cutrer, board member, said this could generate hundreds of thousands of dollars for Tisbury. But to maximize the flow of money to the town, Cutrer also wants to eliminate the total number of nights allowed for a short-term rental in the town. Under Tisbury zoning bylaws, short-term rental properties are only allowed to be rented for up to 75 nights in a year, which Cutrer said is the only such limit on Martha's Vineyard.

"We would be limiting ourselves," Cutrer said, highlighting the summer tourism and the wedding season in May and in the fall.

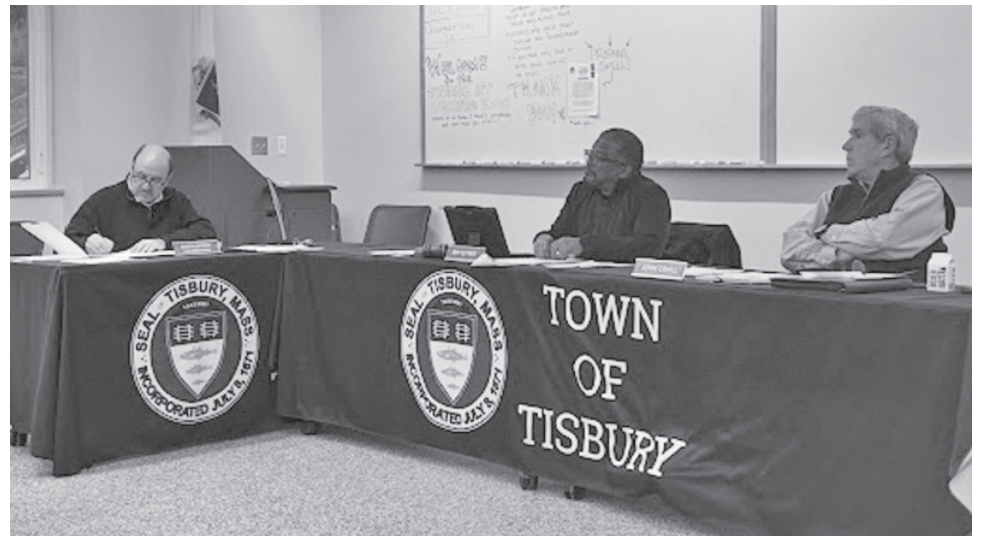
Additionally, Cutrer said he wanted to eliminate the cap to ease the restrictions placed on seasonal taxpayers, some of whom use a second home as a short-term rental during parts of the year. He

highlighted the town's 22 percent residential tax exemption, which shifts a part of the tax burden to second-homeowners and those who own residential properties they don't occupy, including apartments and vacant lands. He said that the town was "asking the seasonal taxpayers to shoulder our taxes" while controlling how their properties can be used.

"This is an industry," Cutrer said. "It keeps cleaners working, landscapers working, caretakers working. There are a lot of people in our community who make their living from the seasonal rental market."

Cuter, who is a "semiretired" real estate broker, also said buyers will purchase a similar property in another town rather than in Tisbury because of the 75-night cap, so he also viewed the elimination of the restriction as a way to protect property values and limit a potential rise in tax rates in Tisbury.

The town's need for money is raised amid a tide of large



EUNKI SEONWOO

Left to right, Tisbury town administrator Joseph LaCivita and Tisbury Select Board members Roy Cutrer and John Cahill at the Tuesday select board meeting.

projects that are expected in the future. Tisbury plans to build a new town hall, and its voters are supposed to decide in June, as a part of an Island-wide vote, whether to fund the rebuild of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, which is expected to cost, in total, over \$300 million.

Although the new tax was met positively, other Tisbury officials were wary of eliminating the cap because of the impact it may have on year-round residents.

Hilary Conklin, Tisbury town clerk, said eliminating the limits could commercialize neighborhoods, and that the partying seen at some of the short-term rentals would disturb neighbors. Victor Capoccia, Tisbury's afford-

able housing committee chair, also argued in favor of keeping some kind of cap. He said outright elimination could further decrease rental housing units for Islanders.

Ben Robinson, Tisbury planning board member and town representative on the Martha's Vineyard Commission, highlighted a lack of enforcement. He said a report conducted with Oak Bluffs showed that only 22 percent of Tisbury short-term rentals meet the 75-night maximum. Robinson said most units are giving rentals for significantly longer: 300 nights or more. He said the limit was placed as a way to incentivize property owners to rent long-term rather than on a

short-term basis.

"We won't know how that plays out unless we do the enforcement side of our zoning," Robinson said.

Capoccia also highlighted safety concerns over the limits. He said there have been "multiple hundreds" of public safety calls for short-term rental units in 2024.

Meanwhile, Tisbury finance committee chair Nancy Gilfoy highlighted that short-term rentals require inspections from various town departments, which costs money and could increase without the caps.

A draft warrant article would go before a public hearing process before being deliberated at the annual town meeting in April. **MVT**

news in brief

Continued from A2

This is also the first time that candidates will be interviewed in public. Screenings of the candidates were completed in executive sessions before the finalists were chosen. 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 as the committee didn't want to discourage applications.

The public is invited to attend, and the interviews can also be watched from Zoom, the link for which can be found on the Dukes County website.

According to the press release from the commissioners, the meeting will be for "interviews by commissioners and possible deliberations only." A public comment period is not planned to be held.

The commissioners are also accepting suggestions for questions until Feb. 24 at noon. Suggestions can be sent to questions@dukescounty.org.

MVRHS to host inaugural college fair

The first ever on-Island college fair will be held at the Martha's Vineyard High School (MVRHS) on March 7 as many of this year's juniors gear up for the college search.

On the mainland, students can simply travel to large college fairs to get information about multiple schools at once, but for Vineyarders, off-Island trips or virtual online tours have been commonplace for years. That will change next month.

The college fair at MVRHS will be held from 11 am to 1 pm in the gym and will feature representatives from over a dozen schools. Some of the colleges include Keene State College in New Hampshire, Miami University in Florida, the University of Connecticut, and Ithaca College in New York. There will also be several schools from



EUNKI SEONWOO

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School.

Massachusetts, including Wheaton College, Cape Cod Community College and its aviation program, and the University of Massachusetts in Lowell and Dartmouth.

The event is open to all students and families, and a press release from MVRHS stated the fair would be an "excellent resource" to those navigating the college search process.

"The college fair provides students and their families with a unique opportunity to explore higher education options, ask questions directly to admissions representatives, and begin building connections that will guide their post-secondary plans," the release stated.

New leadership coming to Cape Light Compact

Cape Light Compact announced a new leader will lead the organization starting in late March.

Margaret Song will be the next chief administrative officer of the South Yarmouth-based organization, which provides various energy services for Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard communities, including implementing energy-efficiency programs, reducing energy costs of residents and businesses, and advocating on behalf of consumers on

energy-related issues statewide, according to a press release from the group.

Song will be taking over from Maggie Downey, who is retiring after 29 years of being the company's first and only administrator.

"I have worked with Margaret since she started at the Compact over 20 years ago. I can step away knowing that the organization is in good hands," Downey said in the release.

Song has worked at the company since 2003, and currently serves as its evaluation, strategy, and policy manager. She held several management positions during her time at Cape Light Compact, including as residential program manager and commercial and industrial program manager.

She was selected after a nationwide search conducted by the company's governing board. According to the release, the screening committee reviewed 25 applications and conducted six first-round interviews before Song and two other finalists were brought to the full board.

"The board considered Margaret the best match to Cape Light Compact's needs, as evidenced by her unanimous selection by the board," Colin Odell, who chaired the screening committee, said in the release.

Cape Light Compact was formed in 1997

in response to the Massachusetts Restructuring Act, which the release states "enabled towns and cities to establish municipal aggregators." It was the country's first municipal aggregator, a status that allows a municipality to purchase electricity in bulk from a competitive supplier, according to the state Electric Power Division. Downey led it through several major developments, including the incorporation of energy-efficiency programs into the state's Mass Save program, and the transition from Barnstable County to become an independent joint powers entity in 2017.

David Anthony, chair of Cape Light Compact's governing board, expressed confidence in Song's 20-plus years of work with the organization:

"She is well-suited to lead the Compact into its next decades of advocacy and energy efficiency for our residents and businesses, and to help adapt to future changes in the energy landscape for our region." **MVT**



COURTESY CAPE LIGHT COMPACT

Margaret Song will become the next chief administrative officer of Cape Light Compact.

EDITORIAL

We need to get behind our new superintendent

Welcome to the Island, Jaime Curley!

We congratulate you on your selection as the first woman to serve as the superintendent of the Island school system, and we congratulate the All-Island School Committee for running a thoughtful, if sometimes divided, selection process.

As you will no doubt learn, the Island is a place that comes together and that carries an intense pride for its schools and the diverse and talented students who attend them. Last Friday night, you could feel that pride as Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) was packed for a sold-out performance of the school musical, and just down the hall the gym was rocking as the boys' varsity basketball team clinched a league championship.

But the Island is also a place of resilience, and we don't sugarcoat big challenges when they are looming on the horizon — and there are indeed some extraordinary challenges that our school administration, our teachers, and our students are all facing.

The good news is your background as an educator in the Old Rochester Regional School District in Mattapoisett will suit you well to serve the Island. Our understanding is that you rose through the ranks there by placing value on diversity and developing an expertise in and a gift for understanding the psychological pressures and challenges of young people in a time of deep division and uncertainty.

This age of anxiety can, of course, be found in just about every corner of the country. But the challenges it brings can feel acute here on the Island. There is a rising tide of anxiety over affordable housing among many year-round families, which often causes disruption in students' lives. There are waves of educational challenges around equity on an island with a high level of economic disparity, made more stark when wealthy, elite summer residents arrive. And there is a current of cultural division in which more than one-third of the students do not speak English at home and fill up English language learning classes, a reflection of the vibrant and hard-working Brazilian immigrant population that has surged over the last two decades.

Many in our community share a pervasive fear of deportation by masked U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) agents, who have carried out raids on various parts of the Island. Some of those detained had their documentation and applications for citizenship in order, but were nevertheless rounded up. The uncertainty has caused some to self-deport. And it has caused many families to ask friends and neighbors with citizenship to pick up their children at school, or avoid public gatherings and church services out of fear that ICE may be targeting schools.

But in the face of all these challenges, you are surely already getting your head around the fact that front and center is the reconstruction of the high school. If the proposal passes, it will be the largest civic project the Island has ever seen, at a whopping \$333 million total estimated cost. The project, which is partly hinging on Massachusetts School Building Administration (MSBA) reimbursement funding, will head to towns this summer for an Island-wide vote on the rest of the financial burden. Clinching that state funding and convincing the towns to get behind the sprawling construction project will not be easy.

Already the community has been discussing the potential impacts of funding on municipal budgets and worries over a rise in taxes. Others fear missing out on a crucial opportunity to replace the aging school building, and a unique chance to get matching funds from the state. Some of that discourse has been town-specific, which bears its own challenges.

Fortunately, you won't be navigating this landscape alone. On top of the Island's multiple school committees, there is a high school building committee consisting of representatives from the Vineyard towns and schools that you can tap about the ongoing process. So you have some good advisors to help you navigate the way forward.

It is very clear to all of us that the All-Island School Committee is placing an immense amount of confidence in you, and that they made this decision with a great deal of deliberation. The decision was between three candidates, but ultimately came down to just you, in what seems to have been a narrow vote.

It's also worth pointing out that you won't be the newest addition to the Island schools for too long, and you have a solid chance to build your

own team. There's an ongoing search for a new principal to lead MVRHS after interim principal Sean Mulvey announced in December he won't take the permanent position. The news came just one week after Pete Steedman, director of the Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School, announced he'll be taking a position in Hyannis after the end of the school year.

And amid these times of change, we want to encourage you to be mindful that you will be serving an Island with five school districts that are demographically quite different from Old Rochester. According to the state Department of Education, the student population of Old Rochester Regional High School is nearly 90 percent white. The Vineyard is proud of its diversity, which begins with the very first Islanders, the Wampanoag, a Native American tribe historically centered in Aquinnah. There is a long and distinguished history of Black families who call the Island home, both year-round and in the summer, and there are vibrant celebrations of this heritage.

Another stark difference is that your former job in Old Rochester was in a place where only one percent of students don't speak English as a first language. As we have already shared, that percentage is much higher here, where Brazilian Portuguese is heard everywhere, and where Brazilian families — a quarter of the Island population — have made the Vineyard their home.

And they are feeling unsettled as never before. They express genuine and debilitating fear about the possibility of being detained in ICE operations, after agents arrested 20 people last May. Most of those apprehended were community members who were caught up in the flurry, and only a few had actual criminal records outside of the civil charge of overstaying their visa. But the whole group was taken away aboard U.S. Coast Guard vessels. Even before ICE's arrival, false rumors led workers to stay home, and some students to miss school.

We don't want to scare you. Every one of these challenges comes with an opportunity for you to succeed, and for all of us to come together to celebrate our diversity and to keep the community spirit that defines the history of the Island.

Cooperation and holding each other accountable will be crucial. And there is a lot at stake for the Island. Our shared future and our most valued resource — our children — are in your hands.

LETTERS

Concern for public safety over dead pines

To the Editor:

Recently I have become more aware of the immense amount of pine-tree death that is occurring around the Vineyard. My awareness is limited mostly to West Chop and Vineyard Haven, which have been hard-hit with tons of standing dead trees. I witnessed some that had fallen recently including on other people's property, and began to have concerns about how the Vineyard is dealing with this issue. It seems like a growing widespread problem with potential dire consequences, as pine trees are highly flammable, and when they break and fall, may do damage, block driveways, and cause confusion about who and how this is dealt with. I've seen pine trees burn very hot and fast, incendiary-like, and thinking about Lahaina, Hawaii, wonder if the Island conservation commissions are taking a group stand on this, and whether the major conservation landholders are in alignment with each other to be proactive in dealing with this potential catastrophe. I would hate to think we are just going to wait till they fall, or worse, and deal with the consequences as the remedy to a problem that could

have been better handled. I know the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is taking a stand to provide a solution, and I think a collective approach to this issue with some public education would really be good.

Jim Feiner
Chilmark

A message to the SSA general manager

To the Editor:

(This is a letter to Alex Kryska, new general manager of the Steamship Authority.)

Dear Alex,

Thank you for taking the time to engage with the community, and welcome to your new position with the Steamship Authority. It's encouraging to see you stepping into the role with openness and a willingness to listen.

I wanted to share a few concerns that many of us with preferred profiles continue to experience. Even when trips appear "wide open" to the general public, those same times often show as unavailable to preferred customers. This happened to me just this past Monday, when I was trying to get to a medical appointment. One of the managers was able to help me secure the times I needed, but she

was surprised I hadn't simply booked online, because the schedule looked wide open on her end. I explained that while that may be true from the public view, those same trips were blocked out for preferred users — very similar to how airlines hold certain seats back from passengers using miles.

This disconnect creates real challenges for Islanders who rely on the boat for essential travel, and I hope it's something that can be reviewed.

I also want to offer a suggestion that could help improve efficiency: adding a barcode or scan feature that reflects the actual time a passenger boards. If someone boards earlier than their reserved time, the system could automatically release their original reservation back into inventory. That would free up spots in real time for others who are trying to travel.

Lastly, I'd like to address the "elephant in the room" — the large unfinished building in the middle of the parking lot. With the structure blocking the view of the water, people can no longer see their boat approaching. A simple, practical solution might be to install a wall-mounted screen with a live camera feed facing the harbor. It would help passengers know when their boat is arriving and reduce confusion during busy times.

Thank you again for your time, your engagement, and your willingness to hear from the community. I wish you the very best as you settle into your new role.

Dana Mylott
Oak Bluffs

Islanders will pay for overdevelopment

To the Editor:

(This letter was also submitted to the Martha's Vineyard Commission.)

Dear Commission members, fellow Islanders, and friends:

"Nice island you have there. We would like to exploit its amenities for our own profit." That is a bald way of describing what real estate development schemes are.

We who are submitting comments opposing Katama Meadows are requesting that you as MVC members do the upstream thinking, and visualize the downstream effects of development.

Please, reflect on the strains that previous developments have imposed on us Islanders. Combined, Katama Meadows and Green Villa are equivalent to two whole new Island villages.

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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 (click on Submissions link). **MVT**

VINEYARD GALLERY



NICOLE JACKSON

ESSAY

BY JACK FRUCHTMAN

The rights of the undocumented, undone

The Trump administration has rolled back the right of undocumented immigrants to challenge their detentions. For years, the right to go to court and ask why you are being detained was viewed as fundamental. The right goes by the Latin phrase “habeas corpus,” which literally means “bring the body forward,” but is regarded as a basic part of the due process of law.

As Justice John Paul Stevens wrote 50 years ago, “There are literally millions of aliens within the jurisdiction of the United States. The Fifth Amendment, as well as the Fourteenth Amendment, protects every one of these persons from deprivation of life, liberty, or property without due process of law” (Mathews v. Diaz, citing a case from 1896). His meaning was clear: All persons, not only citizens, must be afforded all constitutional protections once they step on U.S. soil. Habeas corpus applies to everyone on U.S. soil whether a citizen or not. Every administration and the vast majority of federal district court judges have accepted this principle, which allows a defendant to have a bond hearing to determine the limits of

their release into the community. But not the Trump administration. Trump’s approach is that every noncitizen who entered the U.S. without legal documents is subject to arrest and mandatory detention. They effectively have no right or opportunity to challenge their detention for the whole time they remain in detention. Unbelievably, these rules apply to anyone who now lives legally in the U.S. or has papers pending for citizenship or asylum. Even if they have not committed a crime, are a flight risk, or a threat to public safety! This position flies in the face of a federal law that Congress passed 30 years ago, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act.

As Politico reports, “At least 360 judges rejected the expanded detention strategy — in more than 3,000 cases — while just 27 backed it in about 130 cases.” And now, incredibly, on Feb. 6, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has joined those 27 judges. In a panel consisting of three judges, the two most conservative judges approved the plan. Judge Edith Jones, a Reagan appointee, and Judge Kyle Duncan, a Trump nominee, joined together to endorse the change. This is the highest court to deal with the loss of due process rights of the detained.

In dissent, Judge Dana Douglas, a Biden appointee, noted that this may mean the unlawful deten-

tion of some two million people, “some of them the spouses, mothers, fathers, and grandparents of American citizens ... The government’s proposed reading of the statute would mean that, for purposes of immigration detention, the border is now everywhere. That is not the law Congress passed, and if it had, it would have spoken much more clearly.”

So, here are some things that everyone on the Island should know about the change in immigration plaguing the U.S.

Let’s start with the basics: An immigrant or refugee living in the U.S. without official documents is not a criminal. Such a person may be subject to civil penalties such as a fine or even deportation. As the U.S. Immigration Law Counsel notes, “To be considered a criminal, an undocumented immigrant must first have committed a criminal act unrelated to their immigration status.” It is a misdemeanor for people to get caught illegally entering the U.S. It is not a felony.

Second, no one knows for certain how many people living on Martha’s Vineyard have an undocumented status. We know that of the 20,000 year-round Islanders, some 4,000 are Brazilian or Latin American. Nor does anyone know who among the 4,000 are documented immigrants, U.S. citizens, or without documents.

Third, while these are unknown figures, we do know that agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have arrested and detained over 170 U.S. citizens, and not only foreigners. ProPublica tracked these numbers last fall, and today the total can only be higher still. And we are all familiar with the nonjudicial killing of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, two U.S. citizens whom ICE claims were “interfering” with their tasks. And now, the New York Times reports that several people in a wide range of cities have been shot by Border Control or ICE agents, including the deaths of two Americans, and thousands arrested.

Most importantly, more people should know their rights, especially their due process rights. Anyone residing in the U.S. possesses the rights encompassed in due process: They have the right to challenge their arrest, detention, and deportation in a court of law.

The Fifth Circuit decision will certainly be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. But given that Court’s record in mostly upholding whatever the Trump administration wants to do, the outcome now seems pretty dreary. It would be an eye-opening surprise if the justices started to challenge the president’s actions.

Jack Fruchtman, who lives in Aquinnah, taught constitutional law and politics for over 40 years.

LETTERS

Continued from A4

These developments are intended to pull more people here, not to provide any solutions to preexisting issues of affordability or housing shortages.

Please, can you imagine the strains the combined scale of these proposed Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs) would impose on our finite Island’s finite infrastructure and institutions — such as M.V. Hospital, Navigator Homes (ex-Windemere), EMTs?

In stoking the real estate boom, it becomes more and more necessary to lure and house the low-wage workers required to service the luxury McMansions. It creates a two-tier social fabric and leads to the egregious housing, zoning, and septic abuses that have become so common.

In stoking the real estate boom, it becomes less and less possible for Islanders to inherit family real estate that is skyrocketing in value. (And yet we must listen to the emotional stories about Islanders priced out, or forced to the mainland.)

Due to exponential growth, Island towns and institutions continually need more professional staff, all expensive to hire. Due to growth and development, Island costs of living continually climb. Nowadays, many skilled applicants cannot afford to locate here.

Everywhere more: more infrastructures proposed and required. Everywhere more: more irritations — serious ones and minor ones — as daily Island life becomes more unworkable. Everywhere more: more losses of what is valuable and irreplaceable about our Island home.

Meanwhile, the finite Island’s assets and amenities, our way of life, upon which projects such as Katama Meadows are based — and which were not created by those wanting to exploit them — are actually diminished and lessened by over-growth.

Over-growth: The costs it imposes are not paid for by it; the costs always outpace it, while stakeholders (you and I) cover the tab. The profits land in tax havens and pockets elsewhere.

Real estate speculation could be described as predatory: Take profits from real estate ventures, and then

move on to the next desirable, often undefended, target.

However, here we are not undefended. The MVC’s mission is to protect the Island’s assets, amenities, quality of life, and yes, a sound economy.

In my opinion, respectfully submitted, your job as commissioners is to see that those dollars and profits remain and circulate here, along with the Island’s assets and amenities.

Abigail Higgins
West Tisbury

obituaries

James Marshall



James Marshall ("Jimmy"), 83, passed away peacefully on Feb. 11, 2026, in Fitchburg, surrounded by his two loving daughters.

Born on Sept. 9, 1942, in Tisbury, Jimmy spent his early years on the Vineyard, where he began his career with the state highway department. Known for his strong work ethic and quiet dedication, he later transitioned into a second career as a manager at Ace Hardware in Vineyard Haven, following his retirement. His calm presence and reliability made him a valued member of both workplaces and of the community.

Jimmy was a devoted family man whose greatest joy came from spending time with those he loved. His deep love for family extended across generations — he cherished every moment spent with his family, especially his grandchildren, who knew him affectionately as "Papa."

In addition to being a dedicated family man, Jimmy found peace working in his yard. Whether he was tending to plants or simply enjoying the outdoors, these quiet moments reflected the gentle nature that endeared him to so many. He was well-liked by everyone who knew him — especially the staff at Highlands Life Care Center of Fitchburg, where he spent his later years surrounded by care and kindness.

Jimmy's quiet strength and fierce love for his family left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be missed dearly by those whose lives he touched.

He was a loving husband to his late wife, Julienne Marshall; and a proud father to his children, Nancy Kilhart and her husband Richard Kilhart, Janet Lee and her husband Nelson Lee, and the late James Marshall Jr. His legacy continues through his grandchildren, Tyler Kendrick and his wife Christina Kendrick, Ryan Lee, Benjamin Marshall, and Justin Lee; as well as his great-grandson, Easton James Kendrick. He also leaves behind his brother, Dickie Marshall; and sister-in-law, Cindy Marshall.

May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him. A funeral service will be held on Feb. 21, from 3 to 3:30 pm at Chapman Funeral Home, 56 Edgartown Road, followed by a reception at the Portuguese-American Club in Oak Bluffs, from 4 to 6 pm. The burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Jimmy's memory to the Alzheimer's Association at alzfdn.org/donate.

Dorothy Drozdyk

Dorothy Sayre (Delvac) Drozdyk died peacefully at home in Vineyard Haven on Jan. 26, 2026. She was supported by her daughters and Hospice of Martha's Vineyard.

Dorothy was born in New York City in 1936. She worked as an X-ray technician at Mary Immaculate Hospital in Jamaica, Queens. She was later married and raised a family on Long Island, N.Y., and in Connecticut. At 48, she attended St. Vincent Hospital's School of Nursing in New York City and received her nursing degree. She specialized in psychiatric nursing and had a fulfilling career working around the country on traveling assignments. Once she settled down on Martha's Vineyard, she worked as a visiting nurse, and briefly as a hospice volunteer.

Dorothy was drawn to a life on the Vineyard by her love of swimming and the diversity of people on the Island. Her favorite place to swim was always Inkwell, where she swore the water was the warmest. Besides swimming, her greatest pleasures were talking to her children and friends, and reading.

Dorothy was predeceased by her loving partner, Ian Aitchison, and her cherished son, John Drozdyk. She is survived by her daughters, Lynn and Cameron, and her sons, Nick and Charlie. She leaves behind several beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Dorothy was an accomplished cook; her kids will make a few of her best recipes in a family celebration of life this summer.

Linda Rose Tilton



Linda Rose (Litchfield) Tilton was born on April 23, 1946, in York, Maine. When she was a young child, she and her family moved to Martha's Vineyard, building a life deeply rooted in community, family, and independence. From an early age, Linda was free-spirited and fierce, and walked the line between innocence and mischief, never afraid to push boundaries or follow her own path.

After high school, that same free spirit carried her to California, where she embraced new experiences and lived life on her own terms. She later returned to Martha's Vineyard, where she married Albert Rose and had one daughter.

Years later, Linda fell in love with Jerome Tilton ("Jerry"), who would become the love of her life. Together, they had seven children and raised a blended family of 10, until

Jerry's passing in 2002.

Linda was also a second mother to many, opening her heart and home to those in need.

Above all, Linda remained devoted to her children, grandchildren, friends, and the community she loved dearly. Her grandchildren affectionately called her "Noonie," a nickname playfully drawn from the old Native name Nunnepeg, for Edgartown, where she grew up. With each grandchild, Linda shared a bond uniquely their own, treasuring who they were as individuals. She was always her children's and grandchildren's biggest fan, usually the loudest on the sidelines. When she wasn't supporting her family, you could find her cheering for her favorite teams and athletes, rooting passionately for the Celtics, the Patriots, and Tiger Woods.

While raising her children, Linda worked waiting tables at Lawry's Seafood, the Beefender, and Anthony's Restaurant, where she made lifelong friends. She then worked in the Edgartown School cafeteria, prior to managing the Tisbury School cafeteria as head cook for more than 20 years, a role she took great pride in before retiring.

Those who knew Linda understood that her cancer diagnosis never defined her. She continued to live life on her own terms, enjoying time with family and friends. In her younger years, she was full of fire and personality; as she grew older, she carried that same strength with clarity and confidence, always knowing what she wanted and speaking her mind without hesitation.

She will be remembered for her fierce love of family and friends, her quick-witted humor, independent spirit, and love of birds.

Linda was preceded in death by Jerome A. Tilton, Jerome A. Tilton Jr., Isabelle Gentle Litchfield, Robert Litchfield, and Norman Litchfield.

Linda is survived by her children and their partners: Tabitha Rose of Falmouth; Jocelin Tilton and David Ervin of Santa Fe, N.M.; Zeb and Erin Tilton of Vineyard Haven; Courtney Tilton and Greg Lebreck of Lakeville; Zachary Tilton of Vineyard Haven; Jeremy and Leslye Tilton of Acushnet; Jayma Tilton and Emmanuel Desir of Bourne; Ashley Tilton and Gene Bergeron ("Bubba") of Edgartown; and stepson Daniel Tilton and his wife Tabitha Foote Tilton of Edgartown. She also leaves behind nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one nephew, one niece, and one sister-in-law.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hope Lodge, where Linda made great friendships and was grateful to stay when receiving treatment.

Donations can be mailed to the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, 125 South Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130.

A celebration of love will be held at a later date.

Kathleen Mary Schreck



Kathleen Mary (Smith) Schreck, 89, of Pocasset passed away peacefully on Feb. 11, 2026, after a brief illness.

Born in Newark, N.J., on Jan. 26, 1937, Kathleen was the eldest of three children born to Marie and Joseph Smith. She married her high school sweetheart, Joseph Schreck, and they settled in East Orange, N.J., where they began their family, eventually having five children: Karen, Lisa, Peter, Jennifer, and Timothy.

In the early 1970s, the family relocated to Perry, Maine, for a new adventure. They purchased 28 acres on Gin Cove Road in Washington (Sunrise) County so, as Kathleen said, they could "be the first to see the sunrise each morning."

They accumulated a variety of farm animals and maintained a large vegetable garden. Kathleen became an invaluable community member, working with the Calais Center's Meals on Wheels program and serving as an activities director. She also volunteered at Clark Elementary School in Perry, coordinating drama, sports, and crafts activities, and working as a substitute teacher.

In 1986, Kathleen and Joe moved to Martha's Vineyard, where they operated a bed and breakfast, High Haven House. As an innkeeper, Kathleen was known for her excellent breakfasts and warm hospitality.

In the early 2000s, Kathleen and Joe sold High Haven House, retired, and moved back to Maine, settling in Belgrade Lakes. They enjoyed frequent visits from children and grandchildren and went on many trips; they particularly enjoyed cruises and long road trips, especially trips to Colorado to visit their daughter Jennifer and her family.

During the final chapter of her life, Kathleen and Joe moved to Cape Cod Senior Residences in Bourne. Kathleen continued her lifelong passion for community involvement by starting a drama club for the residents, becoming known for her kindness, creativity, and sharp wit.

She was predeceased by her sons Timothy Joseph Schreck (1970) and Peter Joseph Schreck (2006), as well as her grandson Eric Robert Schreck (2007).

Kathleen is survived by her husband of 68 years, Joseph G. Schreck, and her children, Karen (Seth) Dutton of West Tisbury; Lisa Bolton of Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Jen-

nifer Cuntz of Indian Hills, Colo. She is also survived by her daughter-in-law, Susan Schreck of Edgartown; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and her siblings Jeanne Ferrucci of Nazareth, Penn., and Michael Smith of Massapequa, N.Y.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28, at 10 am at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 481 Quaker Road, North Falmouth.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Kathleen's name are suggested to Cape Cod Elder Services, 68 Route 134, South Dennis, MA 02660 or <https://escsi.org>.

Rosemarie Haigazian



Rosemarie Haigazian, 74, of Edgartown passed away on Feb. 4, 2026, at Newton Wellesley Hospital, after a brief illness. She fought a long and valiant battle with multiple sclerosis.

Rosemarie was born in Philadelphia, Penn., on Sept. 19, 1951, to Alishan Haigazian and Mary Haigazian, and spent her childhood living in the family funeral home.

Moving to Martha's Vineyard in 1969, Rosemarie put herself through college and law school, working at the Mansion House, selling real estate, and running the Boston House.

She graduated from Suffolk University in 1974, received her MBA at Suffolk University in 1977, and earned her law degree at Suffolk Law School in 1977. She opened her office in her under-construction home and was fond of telling people that when she started, the office telephone was in a wooden box on a tree in the yard.

Rosemarie was the first woman attorney to open an office on the Vineyard, and braved the waters of an all-male bar with stubbornness and courage. She was always ready with a story, joke, or advice to new Island attorneys. She had the gift of gab and loved conversation with everyone.

A lawyer for 49 years, Rosemarie primarily practiced family law, and was a very strong advocate for her clients. She was a member of the Massachusetts Bar, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, and Duke's County Bar Association and a past member of the Edgartown Finance Committee and past president of Martha's Vineyard Youth Hockey.

Rosemarie had a great love of dogs, and at one time bred Boston Terriers. She, with her office staff, ran the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Fair

Dog Show for almost 40 years.

She is survived by her son Joseph B. Robichau and his partner, Ashley, and their three children; son John B. Robichau and his wife, Jenna, and their two children; sister Berjoohy Haigazian Murray of Mount Laurel, N.J.; brother Alishan Haigazian Jr. of Edgartown; and sister Alise Haigazian of Edgartown.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Priscilla Mae Estrella



Priscilla Mae (Pachico) Estrella, born August 28, 1931, passed away peacefully on Jan. 28, 2026, in Florida, at the remarkable age of 94.

Formerly of Martha's Vineyard, Priscilla worked alongside her father at John's Fish Market, where she learned the value of hard work, family, and community. A devoted beach lover and lifelong sun worshiper, she was happiest near the ocean she loved so deeply.

She leaves behind a lifetime of memories and a family forever grateful for her love. Her legacy of love, strength, and devotion to family will live on through the generations she cherished.

Priscilla was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 69 years, Frank Estrella Sr.; her parents, Marjorie and John Pachico Sr.; her siblings Ruth Pachico, Mary Agnes Pachico, Laura Welty, Ernest Pachico Sr., Robert Pachico, and John Pachico Jr.; and her cherished grandson, Neil Estrella, who was born on her 25th wedding anniversary.

She is survived by her daughter, Brenda Sutton (Scott); her son, Frank Estrella Jr. ("M.J."); her former son-in-law, Joseph Sutton; her grandchildren Dylan Estrella, Marisa Estrella, and Preston Sutton (Erica); and her sibling Grace Oliver ("Bunny"); and many beloved great-grandchildren.

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).



Ellie Oliver and Polly Clive knit red hats.



Kathleen Lingren and Phyllis Segal sit on the couch while they knit.



Ellie Oliver and Polly Clive knit red hats.

Red is for resistance

In protest of ICE actions nationwide, a small group of Islanders is knitting red hats. **BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON**

Red yarn sloped over the laps of five women as they sat darning it, chatting with each other in a sunlit living room over the weekend and creating what they said are tools of resistance.

"I love that this is claiming back the color red," Phyllis Segal, a Hospice of Martha's Vineyard trustee and senior advisor for Adult and Community Education (ACE MV), said. She was the organizer of the small cohort of Islanders who recently met to knit hats in Segal's West Tisbury home.

The five women, who span multiple generations and various careers, discussed many topics on Sunday afternoon while their knitting needles clinked. A playlist of indie-rock and folk music played in the background. Segal's dog, Stella, lounged next to her.

The group talked about the violence they've seen plastered on the news in recent months from Minneapolis, the athleticism on display at the Olympics, their jobs, the wave of "fake news" and how to discern truth, and what they did that day. Conversation wove as effortlessly as their hands, which were rarely still. Their movements were habitual, and their attention

was on each other.

As one of them pointed out, the yarn, a bright red, resembled the color of the "Make America Great Again" caps that have been synonymous with support for sitting president Donald J. Trump since he first ran a campaign for the seat in 2015. The hats the Island women were making, however, are part of an effort against his administration's actions.

"I came of age in the anti-war movement, and the [American] flag did not represent us," Segal, now

and grief following clashes between federal agents and community members this winter, including the killing of civilians, a knitting shop in St. Louis, Minn. released a pattern to reclaim the hats, using that storied history as a guide.

The pattern was publicized on a social media site for knitters and crocheters called Ravelry, along with a fundraiser for those affected by federal raids in Minneapolis. The pattern is \$5 to purchase. So far, thousands of red hats have been com-

"Walking down the street and seeing somebody else with one of these hats, it uplifts my spirit. It doesn't change anything in the White House, but it helps me feel not as alone ... It's little things like this that give me hope."

—Kathleen Lingren

80, said. Renewed meaning in common symbols during times of division, she added, is nothing new.

And as it turns out, the roots of red hats go much deeper.

A knitted, close-fitting red cap was once a quiet yet fashionable symbol of defiance to Nazi occupation by Norwegians during World War II. In a swell of outrage

pleted. And according to the Needle and Skein social media page in early February, \$650,000 has been raised in support so far for the St. Louis Park Emergency Program, which helps those affected by federal raids pay their rent and bills, as well as for the Immigrant Rapid Response Fund.

The effort crossed state lines soon after it began this



Dawn Combra wears a red hat she almost finished making.

PHOTOS: SARAH SHAW DAWSON

January, and became symbolic nationwide of anti-ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) protests.

Segal had seen a New York Times article about the rise of knitters and headwear with the message "Melt the ICE" and reached out to her friends to start an Island version.

been a rise of patriotism, but through the lens of resistance," Oliver, 25, said. "We are not our government."

The group said it was specifically the quiet nature of this act of protest that stuck out to them. They spoke about the intensity of the violence this year, and the escalation of divided rhetoric.

Polly Clive, a volunteer coordinator for the food pantry with Island Grown Initiative and one of the knitters, recalled ICE's presence on the Island last spring, the echoes of which are still being felt by communities of immigrants on the Vineyard.

"When ICE was on the Island, nobody would come to the pantry," Clive, 54, remembered. The pantry staff and volunteers had to get creative in response. They brought food to peoples' doors, knocking quietly then leaving, so as not to incite fear.

"It really made me proud to be a part of Island Grown, and this commu-

nity in general," Clive said of their adjustment.

The group discussed the small yet important acts of kindness that are rooted in the community. From a quiet knock on the door with a bag of groceries to a red hat in the crowd, compounded action makes a difference, they said.

"A while ago, I committed to myself to do at least one thing every day," said Segal.

Their hands gracefully dipped and rose as laughter reverberated through the space. The dog slept. One hat was completed at a time, with some taking their projects home with them as the sunlight faded.

"Walking down the street and seeing somebody else with one of these hats, it uplifts my spirit," retired clinical social worker Kathleen Lingren, 66, said. "It doesn't change anything in the White House, but it helps me feel not as alone ... It's little things like this that give me hope." **MVT**





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Jaime Curley chosen as next superintendent

Continued from A1

degree in psychology and master's and doctorate degrees in education. Much of her experience is in student services, special education, and school psychology.

As superintendent of Martha's Vineyard Public Schools, Curley will oversee seven schools, teachers and school leadership, and a student population that is twice that of Old Rochester with over 2,100 students Islandwide.

"I like to be in the trenches with people," she told the committee in the warmly lit library at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) on Thursday night. "I'm a hard worker, and I'm going to work really hard to make the Martha's Vineyard school district the best school district."

In her interview, Curley highlighted her intention to elevate people into leadership positions and focus on student needs. In Old Rochester, she oversees six different schools and four budgets.

"Aligning as many curriculums across the elementary schools, as much as possible, would be fantastic," Curley said as she spoke to some regionalization efforts that are already being discussed on the Island.

The new superintendent will be jumping right into the Island educational landscape at a time of great change with profound challenges and extraordinary opportunities.

The process is underway for the most costly capital project the Vineyard community has ever seen through the renovation of MVRHS; federal legislation has impacted health insurance rates, state food stipends, and Massachusetts educational budgets; and consistent housing is a struggle for many locals,

with families reportedly often moving between lower schools before attending the regional high school due to the seasonality of many rentals.

The Vineyard schools also have a high percentage of English language learners (ELL), mainly Brazilian students. Over one in three students in Martha's Vineyard Public Schools speak a different first language than English. With U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity ramping up across the country and 20 arrests by agents on the Island last spring, students and their families who don't have full citizenship status are vulnerable.

Almost a year ago to the day, seniors at the high school wrote about the daily anxiety and fears that ELL students were navigating due to federal legislation and the threat of ICE raids. And in other U.S. states this winter, schoolgoers as young as 5 years old were arrested by ICE agents, and federal forces frequently attempted to enter schools.

Talks of regionalizing curriculums for kindergarten through eighth grade have revved up this year, with a study recommending a more cohesive approach to learning across all seven schools. The new superintendent, as head of the Island's public school system, will be at the forefront of those conversations going forward.

Each superintendent candidate — Curley, Elizabeth Legault, and Erik Cioffi — was interviewed for an hour. School committee members

toggled between asking questions, tilting their heads as they listened in, and scribbling notes after each answer.

The All-Island School Committee was largely split between Curley and Legault. While the committee appreciated Cioffi and his interview, they honed in on the two others and ruled out Cioffi early on. They cited Cioffi's easygoing nature as a positive, but didn't feel it was well-suited to a complex school system like the Vineyard's.

"This Island has one of the most complicated district setups in the state," Alex Salop, chair of the search committee for the superintendent, said.

They pointed to the almost opposite qualities Curley and Legault brought to the table. Committee members said Curley is less experienced but has a willingness to learn, while Legault has over a decade of relevant experience but in more urban districts.

Legault also worked directly with the Massachusetts Building Authority and navigated a school building project in her own district, while Curley hasn't had experience with one.

Through pros-and-cons lists and discussions, committee members narrowed their choices down, taking personality and experience into account. Their common ground was a desire for inspired action from the incoming superintendent, and the ability of a new leader to embrace the intricacies of the Island.

"What success looks

"I'm a hard worker, and I'm going to work really hard to make the Martha's Vineyard school district the best school district." —Jaime Curley



Jaime Curley, the superintendent pick.

SARAH SHAW DAWSON

like in this job is someone who can move us forward. And to me, forward means change," committee member Rizwan Malik said in discussion about Legault. "With the complexity of our district ... I want somebody who comes in here with their eyes open."

When it came to Curley, they considered her lack

of experience in a superintendent position as a possible strength. Skipper Manter, another committee member, spoke of Curley's "adaptability" and her willingness to learn.

The committee said her strength in managing diverse groups, work she's done with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and her

student-focused approach made her the standout.

"She's definitely worked in a system that is the closest to what we do," committee member Chris Greene said of her experience in Old Rochester.

Eventually, their discourse led to a decision, and for the Island, a step toward a new chapter. **MVT**

The MV Times is seeking summer **INTERNS**



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Please email hayley@mvtimes.com with a resume and cover letter.

A battle against ticks takes to the air

Continued from A1

which is effectively devoid of predators, one female can produce two fawns a year; these can reproduce as young as 6 months old, and essentially replicate themselves by age 1, Martin Feehan, deer biologist for the state department MassWildlife, told a group of hunters last Thursday.

The work of this survey is dependent on weather but is expected to conclude on March 7, and results are anticipated at the end of next month. Tick Free MV contracted White Buffalo, an independent conservation nonprofit from Connecticut established in 1966 that specializes in deer management, to conduct the survey and analyze the results. Jason Boulanger, head of research for the group, said “tick-borne disease is a common concern for communities” where they conduct drone-based deer surveys.

The survey won’t be able to capture identifiable images of people, faces, or homes, and though there have been some concerns from Islanders and a desire to know launch sites and dates, the nonprofit said it would not disclose those details for practical reasons.

“This helps protect the launch sites, equipment, and operators. Well-meaning members of the public could decide to visit these locations, which could unintentionally disrupt this work,” Virginia Barbatti, executive director of Tick Free MV, said.

Still, there’s a consensus from those involved in the effort that the survey is necessary.

“We need to know how many deer we’re dealing with,” Joseph Capece, president of the MV Hunt Club, said to *The Times* at the club’s headquarters Tuesday.

Tick Free MV wants to be the backbone of an Island-wide tick strategy, reported to be worse than ever on the Island last year, and the group is the grease on an already well-oiled machine that’s propelled the Island forward to face the problem. Capece is another part, though one more unseen, of the engine, as are all the other hunters on the Island.

The MV Hunt Club, which Brian Athearn, property acquisitions and stand manager, called a “mini Ag Hall,” started as an apple tree and a rope in 2019, and grew to include 50 members and a decked-out headquarters that has the capability to process and refrigerate the venison gleaned from harvested deer. The club started in part to increase land access for hunters as the Island became more and more developed.

And all volunteer-run, that’s not necessarily easy. Athearn as well as Capece and Brent Nanatovich, an-

other member of the hunt club, work to dispel some of the worries that Islanders hold about the sport. One, most of those involved in the club only do archery, and for archery, precision is key. It would be really hard for them to hit a human. Athearn said he looks through a scope on a crossbow so detailed that he picks what piece of hair on a deer to

eyes when they spoke about the sport. Many of these hunters, even Athearn, suffer from alpha-gal and can’t actually eat the venison they procure; but through a network of partners across the Island, they’re incentivized to donate the meat to food-insecure Islanders. And not only that, but as of about the middle of the season, Tick Free MV

10 percent of the harvest on MV is donated, Roden-Reynolds said.

Hunters can either drop off their deer at the Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Society’s Community Deer Cooler in order to store the carcass for a fee, or donate to the Island’s Venison Donation Program, which is part of MassWildlife’s Hunters Share the Harvest Program. Roden-Reynolds acts as an intermediary between the hunters and the nonprofit Island Grown Initiative

the needs for food support in the community, and she started making this connection between the deer that were being hunted on the Island and the potential to get high-quality proteins to people facing food insecurity,” Noli Taylor, co-executive director of IGI, said. IGI, one partner in the Island’s food equity network, serves about one in five members of the year-round community through its pantry.

Astrid Tilton, now glean-

food drops in Aquinnah.

And though they’ve processed venison for the last seven years, Taylor said IGI wants to focus more on distribution in the future, and added that there’s interest from Tick Free MV to create a centralized facility that could possibly process 50 deer a day.

“We are at the very early stages of envisioning what an increased capacity processing facility could look like. So that’s where we’re at right now,” Barbatti said.

But the ability to process 50 deer a day only matters if Islanders can hunt 50 deer a day, and on top of a decrease in hunters over the past half-century, there have been strict regulations in Massachusetts for years that hamper that.

However, the state seems to want to change course in recent months. After an information and coordination meeting regarding ticks and deer with state representatives in December, a press release announced that Massachusetts expanded the winter primitive firearm and bow-hunting season on the Island by an additional two weeks into February. In fact, the season officially ended on Saturday.

The state also tacked on an additional hunting season next fall, from Sept. 21 through Oct. 1 in 2026, for primitive firearms and archery. There are also regulatory hearings Monday, Feb. 23, on new regulations and making the emergency regulation changes, like the extended winter deer season, permanent. MassWildlife Martin Feehan also came to the Island last week to discuss deer damage permits, which allow farmers to permit designated agents to hunt on their land outside of the regular season.

Meanwhile, there are several bills in the state legislature to try to encourage an increase in hunters. One calls for universal access to more efficient and easier-to-use crossbows (currently limited to people who suffer from a disabil-



Joseph Capece, Brian Athearn, and Brent Nanatovich of the MV Hunt Club at headquarters Tuesday.

HAYLEY DUFFY

target. Also, all of the hunters in the club are vetted and restricted to certain properties based on skill level, and information is all organized on a virtual portal accessible by hunters and landowners.

And even though in Massachusetts there are no non-hunters deaths or injuries from archery, the state doesn’t hold landowners liable for accidents on their land. But, fears around the sport have started to change, the three hunters agreed. And a lot of that is because everyone knows someone that has the tick-borne allergy alpha-gal syndrome.

The hunt club has also seen an increase in interest from landowners because people want the deer gone. It saves people thousands of dollars of landscape damage. Athearn even called themselves an extra property manager or “another set of eyes,” — once Capece was able to alert homeowners that their bulkhead was left open and would allowed their pipes freeze.

But there’s a motivation behind Island hunters that reaches higher than just antlers mounted to a wall, though Athearn, Capece, and Nanatovich couldn’t hold back a jovial, almost juvenile gleam from their

paid hunters between \$100 (buck) and \$150 (doe) to donate deer; the group also plans to retroactively repay hunters for the start of the season. For the MV Hunt Club, that’s extra cash on top of the reimbursement that the state gives to processors per each deer cut and packaged.

The financial incentives are especially welcomed by Islanders who make most of their money in the sum-

(IGI), which processes and distributes the venison to food-insecure Islanders and tribal communities.

Deer also go to the MV Hunt Club to be processed, and Bret Stearns, who wears many hats but is the administrator of the tribe’s natural resource department, distributes some of the venison to the tribe, mostly from Athearn and the hunt club. Stearns said tribal citizens often request

ing manager for IGI, learned how to butcher by example. She watched Ambrose, then Jefferson Monroe, who was the farmer of the GOOD Farm in Vineyard Haven, and Charlie Granquist, now chef at Slough Farm, process the meat. Now, she runs operations out of the nonprofit’s commercial kitchen space at the airport business park. It was Roden-Reynolds who connected IGI to MassWildlife’s state-

“We need to know how many deer we’re dealing with.” —Joseph Capece

mer months. “We have one guy down here that couldn’t make his mortgage,” Athearn said. “And he came down, and he’s been butchering deer just to make his mortgage this month.”

There were 17 deer donated last season on the Island, and this year, there were 90 deer donated, a number which Patrick Roden-Reynolds, a tick biologist for the MV Tick Program and also a senior advisor for Tick Free MV, said rose because the MV Hunt Club became an official processor this past year. Roden-Reynolds is confident that they’ve broken 100 from this past weekend, at the end of the extended season. Essentially,

parts, like pelts or bones for ceremonial regalia, and he said Athearn’s always saved parts upon request.

Roden-Reynolds said he’s blown away by how many deer were donated. He thought maybe they’d get 50 this year.

IGI, which runs the Island’s only food pantry, has harvested venison from donated deer over the past seven years. In 2019, Marie Ambrose, a hunter and then program coordinator for the nonprofit, saw the potential to glean Island-caught deer, and since then, they’ve processed 3,035 pounds of venison.

“She was seeing, through our gleaning program, all

wide donation distribution process, which started only four years ago.

Tilton said that she jokes to her coworkers about the process: “It’s like Michelangelo making a sculpture. It’s like it’s already there. You just have to find it.”

And the number of deer they’ve processed continues to increase each year. In 2024, 10 hunters donated deer. In 2025, 14 hunters donated, and they were able to process 23 deer and produce 736 pounds of venison.

Most of the venison goes out through the food pantry, including to Kinship Heals, a program by Wampanoag women, which picks up from IGI weekly to do

ity) rather than compound bows or longbows. Another proposal is for less-stringent rules on access to land. Several Islanders attended a listening session held by MassWildlife in Bourne on Feb. 2 to speak in favor of those changes.

Feehan from MassWildlife even plans to speak to local tourism boards to promote off-Island deer hunters to come to a place that he said “is balmy” in the winter months compared to northern Maine and New Hampshire.

Though safety is his first priority, Athearn welcomes off-Island hunters to help the effort. “I want those hunters ... I want their eyes.” ■



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Employment

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- Early Education and Care Center Teacher \$23.19 - \$34.49/hour
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We offer a competitive benefits package that includes health, dental and life insurance and retirement programs.



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Help Wanted

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DENTAL ASSISTANT / FRONT OFFICE

Paradise Dental is seeking a dedicated and reliable dental assistant/front office personnel for a year-round position. Portuguese speaking is a plus. Previous dental experience preferred, but willing to train the right individual. 508-696-0222 or send a resume to paradisedental.mv@gmail.com

EDGARTOWN RESTAURANT LOOKING FOR A FULL TIME CHEF.

Call 508-560-3505.

GRADE 1 TEACHER

The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School seeks a Full-Time Grade 1 teacher beginning September 1, 2026. Must hold a BA/BS; teaching experience and licensure preferred. Please email resume, letter of interest, and completed application to Peter Steedman, Director, psteedman@mvpccs.org. Applications can be found on the school website at MVPCS.org.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT- IT DIRECTOR

The Town of Tisbury seeks individual to oversee Information Technology for the town. The position is in charge of all administrative functions of the department in relation to the budget

HELP WANTED

including purchasing, invoicing, and coordinating with consultants. Specific examples of work Researching and overseeing implementation of new technology, provide end user and direct support and maintenance of current network, hardware and software systems Including maintenance of Munis database, maintain equipment inventories, software versions, repairs of equipment, installing and providing training for staff. Serves as the main point of contact to outside entities dealing with computer issues. Maintain and monitor servers, including hardware, updates, file corruption, and operating systems. Develop, maintain, and update the town website. For a full job description please visit the town website www.tisbury.ma.gov, Full-time (40 hrs/weekly) year-round, Grade M3, salary range \$97,801.92-129,852.72 Commensurate with experience and knowledge, generous benefits package including retirement. Application available on website www.tisbury.ma.gov under Human Resources department. Applicants should submit letter of interest and resume by March 5, 2026 either online or directly to pbennett@tisbury.ma.gov The Town of Tisbury is EOE.

HELP WANTED



ISLAND HOUSING TRUST IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME PROJECT & ASSET MANAGER TO SUPPORT THE CREATION AND STEWARDSHIP OF PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD.

View the job description at ihtmv.org job-openings. Interested candidates are invited to send their resume to jincoln@ihtmv.org.

LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

Established Landscape Design and Build company is looking for landscape builder with at least 2 years experience. Candidate must be able to work well with a team in all phases of landscape construction. Bobcat experience helpful. A valid drivers license is required. Must speak fluent English and have legal working papers. Please email office@indigofarm.com

LOCAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY SEEKS RELIABLE, MOTIVATED JOB SITE SUPERVISOR.

Hands-on position, fast-paced, collaborative environment. Excellent attention to detail, coordinate smoothly with office, clients, and trade professionals. Strong communication & organizational skills. Ability to handle multiple projects at once, Dependable. Immediate start available for the right person. Competitive compensation melanie@colonialrepro.com

HELP WANTED

MUNICIPAL FINANCE DEPARTMENT - FINANCIAL ASSISTANT.

The Town of Tisbury seeks individual to perform Finance duties. Administrative support for the activities and operations of the Finance Department under the supervision of the Treasurer/collector. Specific examples of work include customer service, Processing all town departmental receipts and turnovers. Process tax payments, and reconciliation, Full-time (40 hrs/weekly) year-round, Grade 3, step 1 \$33.67 per hour, or commensurate with experience, generous benefits package under union contract including retirement. Application available on website www.tisbury.ma.gov under Human Resources department. Applicants should submit letter of interest and resume by March 5, 2026 either online or directly to pbennett@tisbury.ma.gov The Town of Tisbury is EOE.

SHERIFF'S MEADOW FOUNDATION SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is currently hiring for multiple seasonal positions including Summer Ranger and Land Steward Assistant. For job descriptions please visit sheriff-smeadow.org/jobs

SUMMER OPENINGS:

Summer Supervisor- supervise summer staff, make schedules, payroll. Work closely with the public. Water safety/lifeguard certification, CPR and First Aid training a plus. Starting salary \$31.06
Assistant Supervisor - Assist supervisor when needed. Cover duties when supervisor is not available. Must have 5 plus years' experience. Starting salary \$29.38
Lifeguard - must have water safety/lifeguard certification, CPR and First Aid training. Assist with beach patrons, ensure that proper beach and safety regulations are followed. Starting salary \$23.79
Parking Lot Attendant- ensure cars entering the lot or parking in designated areas have a valid sticker or pass. Assist the public with information, policies and expectations of beach use. Starting salary \$17.68
Beach Sticker Seller- responsible for organization and sale of beach stickers and passes for Lambert's Cove Beach. Responsible for tennis court reservations and sale of tennis keys. Collecting money and keeping accurate records of all sales. Starting salary \$20.97
Recreation Instructors - must have basic knowledge of basketball skills and drills. Responsible for organizing activities for students grades four through nine. Starting salary \$23.79
Limited positions available. Application can be found at Town Hall or www.westtisbury-ma.gov. Application deadline is April 1, 2026. West Tisbury is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THE LAND BANK IS SEEKING A YEAR-ROUND PART-TIME PLANNER, TO FOCUS ON ACQUIRING NEW TRAILS ACROSS THE VINEYARD

Job description and application details are available via mhill@vineyardlandbank.com or 508-627-7141 or at 40 Meetinghouse Way in Edgartown. Deadline is Friday, March 27, 2026 at noon.



E.C. COTTLE, INC.
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E.C. COTTLE, INC. IS HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

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Plus, E.C. Cottle offers full benefits including, Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, matched 401k, paid time off and paid holidays. All benefits earned after completion of probationary period.

Stop by a branch and ask for an application, or email resume to ecottle3@yahoo.com.



The MV Times is seeking summer INTERNS

We have openings in the newsroom, features department (arts and culture, events, profiles), photography, social media, and graphic design.

Ideal candidates will have some college experience, but we will consider enthusiastic, capable high school students. All interns perform real newspaper tasks (research, reporting, writing, photography, design) on our deadlines, participate in editorial and design meetings, and contribute to our print and digital publications.

Please email hayley@mvtimes.com with a resume and cover letter.

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED

THE SELECT BOARD SEEKS TISBURY RESIDENTS TO SERVE ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO FILL A VACANCY.

Please submit letters of interest including experience and knowledge to the Tisbury Human Resource department by emailing pbennett@tisbury.ma.gov by February 27th, 2026.

THE TOWN OF EDGARTOWN IS HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS FOR THE 2026 SEASON:

Head Lifeguard, Assistant Head Lifeguard, Lifeguard, Park Patrol Rangers, and Night Rangers for South Beach and Norton Point. Full and part-time positions available. Not a certified lifeguard? We have options to help get you certified. Applications are available at www.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 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

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN | PARKS COMMISSION

BEACH DIRECTOR | \$32.54-\$36.60

The Town of Edgartown is seeking a Beach Director to provide maintenance and on-site supervision of the Town's public beaches. Under the direction of the Parks Commission, this position is responsible for the safe, clean, and efficient operation of Edgartown beaches, including outdoor maintenance of beach resources, patrol and enforcement of applicable bylaws and regulations, and overall responsibility for beach safety. The Beach Director coordinates and supervises the lifeguard and beach ranger programs, ensures staff readiness and professionalism, responds to public inquiries and concerns, and works closely with other Town departments and agencies to maintain use of beach facilities. The role requires strong supervisory

HELP WANTED

skills, sound judgment, effective communication, and the ability to work independently in both office and outdoor environments. A high school diploma, at least two years of supervisory experience, and a valid U.S. driver's license are required. Applications and full job description are available at www.edgartown-ma.us or in the Human Resource Office at Town Hall. Applications will be accepted until 4PM on February 27th. The Town of Edgartown is an equal opportunity employer. Please submit completed applications to HR@edgartown-ma.us



VINEYARD COURIER IS LOOKING RELIABLE, CONSISTENT, MOTIVATED DELIVERY DRIVER TO FILL ONE YEAR ROUND/ PART TIME POSITION.

Weekends a must, early mornings, Thursday-Sunday, lots of flexible schedule possibilities and other deliveries not time sensitive/specific. Job is a consistent weekly delivery route schedule. Must have a valid drivers license with clean driving record. Must have your own vehicle - suv preferred. Job requires some technical skills- Applicant should also be able to lift minimum of 50 pounds. This is a 1099 position. Aprox. 10-15 hours/week depending on schedule. Pay is approximately \$550. week - depending on availability and combination of deliveries. Looking to train and fill the position by May 2026 - possibility to start earlier. If interested email : vineyardcourier@gmail.com

HELP WANTED



SAFE HARBOR VINEYARD HAVEN

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SEASONAL FORKLIFT OPERATOR TO RUN OUR VALET IN/OUT SERVICE.

Must be proficient operating boats to 40' & familiar with operating machinery. Must be able to work weekends. May - October. Will train and license the right person. Email Chris.cscott@shmarinas.com outlining your experience.

WEST TISBURY SCHOOL

seeks part-time (.4) Custodian for general cleaning and maintenance work 4 hours a day (evening hours during school year, day hours in summer) Starting immediately To submit an application visit our website at www.mvyps.org under "Employment" new jobs corresponding SchoolSpring Job Id: 5533752. A Support Staff Application is also available at: Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 4 Pine Street, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568 508-693-2009 Deadline: Until Position is Filled *No person shall be excluded or discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. EOE.*

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Real Estate

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



\$1,790,000 CALL OR TEXT ALAN SCHWEIKERT 508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112

Oak Bluffs: Waterfront Property at Vineyard Haven Outer Harbor** This is an exceptional opportunity to acquire a stunning white sandy beach property on Vineyard Haven Harbor. This charming Island cottage boasts breathtaking panoramic views of the harbor and sound, showcasing magnificent sunsets each evening over the West Chop Peninsula. You can enjoy the lively boating scene, with yachts from around the globe and ferries arriving at port, all in the company of your favorite guests. This picturesque setting is enhanced by the delightful scent of vibrant rugosa roses that adorn the sandy landscape. Experience the unique convenience of storing your paddleboard, kayak, windsurfer, and other watercraft right in your backyard, allowing you to indulge in refreshing swims at your leisure. There is potential for mooring a motor or sailboat, pending approval from the Harbormaster. This property epitomizes the classic Martha's Vineyard experience—creating timeless memories. Additionally, it has a solid rental history. Please note, our information suggests that the adjacent lot is unbuildable; however, we recommend verifying this with the town.



\$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



\$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!



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

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



\$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!

Classifieds

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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.

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 katgrillo9@gmail.com.

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Wrap around farmers porch and decks great for outdoor living secluded and peaceful gardens and orchard perfect for professional couple no more than

YEAR ROUND RENTALS

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ADDITIONAL BEAUTIFUL TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT \$1500 plus utilities. 1-2 people. Thank you Lisa nagy. Available immediately. Year round. Contact Lisa 310-213-5472.

OAK BLUFFS ROOM FOR RENT

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STUNNING OFFICE 2000 SQ.FT. WEST TISBURY ACROSS FROM CRONIGS.

Two full baths. laundry two secretary offices and doctors with huge basketball court size work space. Kitchenette. Ample parking (15 cars) Coy pond. Outdoor space. \$6,500 per month. Contact Lisa 310-213-5472.

YEAR ROUND APARTMENTS

One person only, full-time, day-worker preferred. West Tisbury. No smokers, no pets. Partially furnished or not. Start April-1st. \$1,600 studio, \$1,675 one-bedroom. Application & references, first/last/security. 508-693-9199.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRIVATE OFFICE SPACE

Quiet second-floor private office within our real estate office at Tisbury Market Place. Features large windows with Lagoon Pond views, built-in desk, bookshelves, and conference table. Includes access to shared bathroom, kitchenette, copier, outdoor space, and parking. Ideal professional workspace. \$1,500/month. Email admin@viewpointsmv.com

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.

SERVICES

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

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

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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

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Real Estate



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.



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 Duffany 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.



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 tourist-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.



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.

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 Sengekontacket 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.



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.



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.

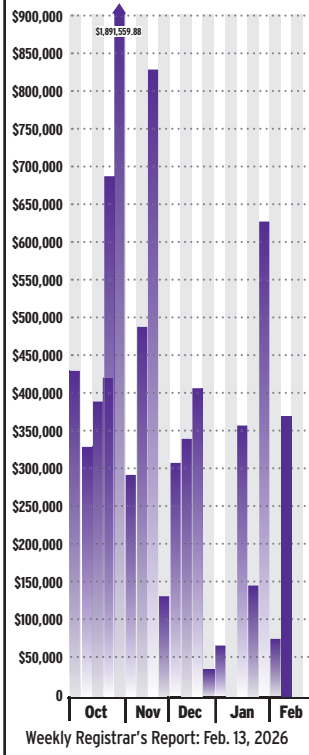


SOLD & CLOSED IN 30 DAYS
\$1,995,000 CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381
HOUSE & STUDIO ABOVE GARAGE~

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 banded details. The expansive entrance leads into the living and kitchen areas, which are bathed in natural light, creating an airy atmosphere. Uncover the charm of the wood-burning stove nestled in the family room, equipped with a circulating fan adds warmth, efficiency and focal point for gatherings. Culinary enthusiasts will appreciate the kitchen, which is outfitted with stainless steel GE Cafe Series appliances, attractive quartz countertops, walk in pantry and ample cabinet space to store all your cooking essentials. The screened porch offers an ideal setting for entertaining guests or enjoying a peaceful morning coffee amidst the lush surroundings. All bathrooms in the home have been meticulously renovated, ensuring modern elegance and functionality, while custom window treatments elevate the aesthetic. Additional updates include, a hot water heater (installed in 2020), pull-down stairs to a fully insulated attic (upgraded in 2021), energy-efficient heat and air conditioning with mini-splits, in ground sprinkler system for easy maintenance and a forced hot water boiler for optimal comfort throughout the year. The beautifully landscaped yard provides ample space for outdoor enjoyment, and deeded access to the Lagoon from Gull Landing opens up opportunities for kayaking, swimming, fishing, boating, clamming or simply savoring the picturesque waterfront scenery. Call now for your private tour!

LAND BANK WEEKLY INCOME

FY 2026, Year to Date: \$13,410,083.59



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.



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.

Real Estate Transactions Feb. 9 - Feb. 13, 2026

Edgartown

Feb. 12, Frederica L. Carpenter and Joseph G. Imbriani, trustees of Frederica L. Carpenter Trust-2002, sold 8 High St. to 8 High Street Exchange LLC for \$3,600,000.

Oak Bluffs

Feb. 9, Lisa Ellen Fitzpatrick, trustee of Lisa Ellen Fitzpatrick Living Trust, sold 8 Hitchings Circle to Cathleen Garcia and Milan Blagojevic for \$860,000.
Feb. 9, Paulo Muniz and Adriana De Oliveira Khouri sold 30 Franklin Ave. to Stephanie Elizabeth Sowell for \$1,900,000.
 Feb. 11, Marvin T. Jones, Julie C.

Jones, and Marquita Pool-Echert, trustees of 34 Massasoit Avenue Family Revocable Trust, sold 34 Massasoit Ave. to Beeman Avenue LLC for \$2,000,000.

Tisbury

Feb. 13, Nicholas M. Anderle and Jodi L. Anderle sold 169 Clover Hill Drive to Samuel Shattuck and Jennifer Shattuck for \$1,300,000.
Feb. 13, WCDH Lot 3 LLC sold 41 Crowell Lane to Richard S. Dubin, trustee of 41 Crowell Lane Realty Trust, for \$4,450,000.
Feb. 13, WCDH Lot 1 LLC sold 64 Crowell Lane to Jacques Gagnon and Shelly Clippard Gagnon for \$4,895,000.



Real Estate

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.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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



HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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 Sengkontacket 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 Sengkontacket. 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 Sengkontacket 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.

HOUSES-VINEYARD HAVEN



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.

HOUSES-WEST TISBURY



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

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



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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT DOCKET NUMBER: 26 SM 000490 DATE FILED: 2/11/2026 ORDER OF NOTICE
 TO: Dwight K. Kaeka; and Elizabeth M. Kaeka and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSFIO Master Participation Trust claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in West Tisbury, numbered 42 Kaeka Lane, given by Dwight K Kaeka, Elizabeth M Kaeka, Shirley G Kaeka and Daniel Kaeka to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Capital One Home Loans, LLC, dated July 10, 2007, and recorded or filed in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 1128, Page 757, as affected by a Judgment dated April 8, 2025 and recorded in said Registry in Book 1709, Page 61, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 03/30/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 2/11/2026. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder.

LEGAL NOTICES

MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
 The public is invited to a public hearing concerning the following Development of Regional Impact #781 **Housing Behind the Dairy Queen**
 Applicant: 238 242 LLC; Orange Blossom Special LLC; Geoghan Coogan (Agent)
 Location: 238, 240 & 242 Upper Main Street, Edgartown. Map 20A, Lots 84, 83 & 82, respectively (approximately 0.778 acres combined)
 Proposal: Construction of three apartment buildings with 15 residential units containing 18 bedrooms with 18 parking spaces and a horseshoe-shaped driveway.
 Date & Time: Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 6:35 p.m.
 Place: Hybrid Meeting **MVC Office - 1st Floor**, 33 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA and Zoom **Meeting ID: 874 2988 5327; Password: 961219**
 The application and plans are available on the MVC website. Written testimony may be submitted prior to or during the hearing. Check for updates on the online calendar.
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 sheriffsmeadow.org/jobs, calling 508-693-5207, or emailing geagan@sheriffsmeadow.org

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

TISBURY PLANNING BOARD HEARING NOTICE
 Pursuant to MGL c. 40A, Section 5, the Tisbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Friday March 6, 2026 at 4:30 pm** to receive public comment on the following amendments to the current Tisbury Zoning Bylaws. To determine whether the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw with the proposed amendments as follows:
 Topic: TPB Warrant Article Review -Public Hearing
 Time: Mar 6, 2026 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
 Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83047784269>
Meeting ID: 830 4778 4269
Password: 723890
 One tap mobile
 +16469313860,83047784269# US
 +13017158592,83047784269# US (Washington DC)
ARTICLE XX - Accessory Dwelling Units
 To Existing TZBL 04.02.01 - Update the ADU bylaw to comply with the Attorney General's directive, remove principal dwelling setback requirements for an ADU and "single family", and consider other changes for the W/C district and B1 and B2 districts.
 Replace "Single Family Dwelling" with "Principal Dwelling"
 (a) In addition to the principal **single-family** dwelling, one accessory dwelling unit ("ADU") is permitted, subject to the following restrictions and requirements:
 i. No ADU shall exceed 50% of the gross floor area of the **single-family residence principal dwelling** or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller.

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

ii. The ADU may be created within the principal **single-family residence dwelling** or within a detached accessory structure, provided that any such accessory structure shall comply with **the setback requirements applicable to principal structures and all other requirements of this Bylaw applicable to accessory structures; either with all applicable requirements of this Bylaw for principal dwellings or for accessory structures, whichever are less strict.**
 To Existing TZBL 06.05.00 - Uses permitted in the Commercial Management Area
Change 05. - one (1) detached single-family dwelling On a lot with a principal dwelling structure, one ADU shall be allowed as an accessory to such use, subject to the restrictions and requirements of Section 04.02.01
ARTICLE XX- Municipal Uses
 To Existing TZBL 05.00 - Add Municipal Uses to the B1 and B2 districts w/ Site Plan Review and exempt from parking requirements set forth in the bylaw.
Add - 05.11.03 Municipal Uses are exempt from Parking Requirements in this Bylaw.
ARTICLE XX - Floodplain District
 To Existing TZBL 09.04.02 - Floodplain District Boundaries:
 The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district to all other districts. The District includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Tisbury designated as Zone A, AH, AO, AE or VE on the Dukes County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated July 20, 2016 issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

(FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program.
Remove - The map panels of the Dukes County FIRM that are wholly or partially within the Town of Tisbury are panel numbers 25007C0082J, 25007C0083J, 25007C0084J, 25007C0101J, 25007C0102J, 25007C0103J, 25007C0104J and 25007C0111J dated July 20, 2016.
Change TZBL 09.04.15. - Floodplain Administrator:
 The **Building/Zoning Inspector** Conservation Agent shall be the official Floodplain Administrator for the Town of Tisbury.
ARTICLE XX- Designated Special Ways
Add - Mud Puddle Road: Within twenty feet of either side of the centerline of Mud Puddle Road, from Edgartown Road to the Power line Utility easement.
Sailor's Burying Ground Road/Great Rock Road: Within twenty feet of either side of the centerline of Sailor's Burying Ground Road / Great Rock Road between the Power line Utility Easement and parcel 20-A-21.
Sailor's Burying Ground Road: Within twenty feet of either side of the centerline of Sailor's Burying Ground Road from the intersection with Canterbury Lane on parcel 20-A-22 to the Oak Bluffs Town Line.
 To Existing TZBL 09.03.02.04 - There shall be no removal of existing vegetation within a Special Way Zone other than to keep the Special Way clear of debris and overgrown vegetation, except as permitted as part of a Special Permit or where the width of a Special Way Zone extends beyond a pre-existing fence or beyond where a fence

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

may be allowed.
Add - To keep clear the travel way of vegetation the following method may be used for administrative approval from the Planning Board:
For sections of the Special Way less than 12 feet wide, any tree located within the following dimensions may be removed with on-site approval from a Planning Board representative. Additionally, the Applicant must obtain written permission from the property owners of the land where the trees are located and provide it to the Planning Board before any cutting.
The measurement begins vertically from the outer edge of the level travel way:

- Starting Height: From 3 feet high.
- Outward: Extending up to 1 foot 6 inches horizontally.
- Ending Height: Reaching a maximum vertical height of 13 feet 6 inches from the travel way.

Using the above methodology, the removal of the trees that impede the Special Way's travel ability will leave the root ball and stump intact to avoid destabilizing any embankment. Or take any action relative thereto.
 Sponsor: Planning Board
LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
 The West Tisbury Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on **Monday, March 9, 2026, at 5:15 pm**, on an application from Teaglach Gra LLC, for a special permit to install a second curb cut less than 1000 feet from the existing curb cut under Section 6.2-5 General Regulations, of the zoning bylaws, on Assessor's Map 3, Lot 11.0, 179 Lambert's Cove Road, RU District.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

Interested parties are invited to send comments and/or attend the meeting via **ZOOM**. For more information and/or to review the application please contact or visit the Planning Board office on the second floor of the Town Hall. Please address any comments to: Leah Smith
Planning Board
P.O. Box 278
West Tisbury, MA 02575
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85146903630?pwd=vjds7MLpg5YxhywBexbZvaPAlF14PR.1>
Meeting ID: 851 4690 3630
Passcode: 200306

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
On **Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 5:15pm** the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2nd floor meeting room on an application for a Special Permit from The Fullers Company on behalf of **Crystal and Jonathan Thomas**, to allow the installation of an 11'x23' in-ground fiberglass swimming pool, under Section 8.5-4C of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw at **27 Oak Knoll Rd., Map 16 Lot 45**, in the RU district. **Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov or mail comments to: Zoning Board of Appeals, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. Please call 508-696-0107 for information on the application.**

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

COTTAGE CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday March 11, 2026 at 5:15 PM
RE: 26 Sea View Av Ext 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/84347376807?pwd=kntgVh3bwrsBbBmRsfblMAFCY7aRDW.1>
Meeting ID: 843 4737 6807
Passcode: 016134
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: Cottage City Historic District Commission
Attn: Lee Ann Tavares, PO Box 1327, Oak Bluffs - 02557
email: buildingadmin@oakbluffsma.gov

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
On Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main St, Edgartown on a Request for Determination filed by Mike Zadeh on behalf of Ordway Investments Limited under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking a determination regarding the addition of concrete footings, walls, and slabs inside the existing crawlspace to stabilize the existing footings. The property is located at 97 Chap-paquiddick Road (AP 24-286) For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
On Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 4:35 p.m. the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main St, Edgartown on a Request for Determination filed by Chris Scott on behalf of Safe Harbor Edgartown under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking a determination regarding the installation of a wash water collection pad roughly 1000 sq/ft, southeast of the parking area at North Wharf. The property is located at 1 Morse St (AP 20D-286) For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
On Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 4:40 p.m. the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main St, Edgartown on a Request for Determination filed by Chris Alley (SBH) on behalf of Edward Meyer III under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking a determination regarding the construction and maintenance of a 10' x 14' shed/sauna on a slab. The property is located at 42 Caleb Pond Road (AP 30-50) For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
On Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 4:45 p.m. the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main St, Edgartown on a Notice of Intent filed by Reid Silva (VLSE) on behalf of Katama 2 Nominee Trust under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission for proposed maintenance dredging of ±95 cubic yards adjacent to an existing private pier. Dredging was previously performed under a dredge permit

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

issued on May 25, 2017 (SE20-1467), which has since expired. The dredging will be conducted by mechanical excavator, placed on a barge, and removed from the site. The spoils will be disposed of at an appropriate upland site or approved beach nourishment project if sediment is compatible. The property is located at 9 Green Hollow Road (AP 29-130.1) For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
On Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 4:50 p.m. the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main St, Edgartown on a Notice of Intent filed by Reid Silva (VLSE) on behalf of Robert B. Richards, Jr., Trustee of the Seventy-Four Turkeyland Cove Realty Trust under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission for the proposed construction and maintenance of an addition to an existing dwelling located within the buffer zone to the top of a Coastal Bank, FEMA Flood Zone AE (EL-10), and within NHESP Estimated Habitat. The property is located at 74 Turkeyland Cove Rd (AP 44-1) For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
On Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 4:55 p.m. the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main St, Edgartown on a Notice of Intent filed by George Sourati on behalf of Tower Hill Martha's Vineyard LLC under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission for the renovation and additions to an existing single-family residence with associated utilities and landscaping. The residence is located within 100' of a Coastal Bank. Also proposed is an in ground swimming pool and associated utilities, within 200' of the Coastal Bank. The property is located at 31 Tower Hill Rd (AP29-159) For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

PUBLIC NOTICES
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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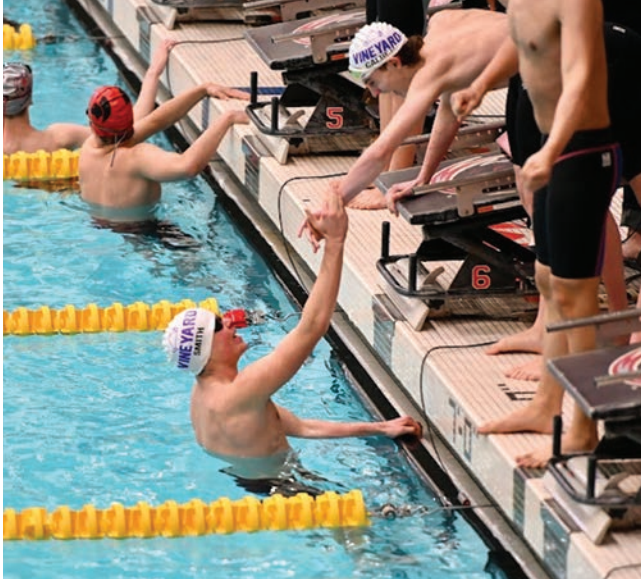
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COURTESY JEN PASSAFIUME

Top left, Claus Smith shakes hands with Michael Calheta after swimming in the state meet. Left, Vineyard swim at the MIAA State Championships held at MIT. Above, Swimmers explode off the start in the backstroke category at state championships.

Vineyard swimmers break more records at states

Alongside its best tournament placement in school history, the swim team also set two new school records.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) varsity swim team set two new school records and earned its highest placement yet at the state championships this past weekend.

On Sunday, the Vineyarders scored 52 points to place 12th out of 70 total teams at the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Division 2 State Championships, held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center in Cambridge.

Forty-one other teams earned points at the state meet, where Wayland High School won the team title with 291 points, followed by Weston High School with 263.5, and Mystic Valley Charter School at 262.

"The Vineyard boys were locked in and ready to rock and roll," said MVRHS Head

Coach Jen Passafiume in an email to The Times. "The whole team worked really hard this whole season and had the race times and post-season qualifications to prove it. This was the first time the Vineyard had ever qualified for all three relays for the state championships."

Sunday was the culmination of an exceptional season, with several school records broken over the last few months. Aside from achieving the highest placement in the team's history at the Division 2 state tournament, the Vineyarders also set two more new school records.

In the 200-yard medley relay, the quartet of Vineyard swimmers posted a new school record of 1:47.20 and placed ninth in the tournament: Grady Stalgren (backstroke, 27.94 second split), Michael Calheta (breaststroke, 31.23 second split

and personal best), Ronan Mullin (butterfly, 24.51 second split), and Claus Smith (freestyle, 23.52 second split and personal best).

Mullin also broke a long-standing school record in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:06.31, surpassing Evan Sauter's previous record of 2:06.79. Mullin placed 12th at the state meet and earned the Vineyarders five points.

Mullin competed in the 100-yard butterfly as well, and finished 10th with a time of 55.68 seconds, just missing his previous record set at sectionals earlier this month.

In the 200-yard freestyle relay, Calheta (25.10 second split), Moses Thomson (24.34 second split), Smith (23.54 second split), and Mullin (23.57 second split) swam a time of 1:36.55, placing 10th for 14 points.

In the final event, the 400-

yard freestyle relay, all four swimmers set personal bests. The relay team, made up of Stalgren (52.16 second split), William Simmons (58.88 second split), Thomson (54.55 second split), and Smith (54.65 second split), finished 13th for another eight points.

The strong state performance by the Vineyarders built on the momentum established a week earlier at the sectional championships on Feb. 8 held at Boston University's FitRec, where the Vineyarders also broke two school records despite travel challenges from ferry cancellations.

At sectionals, Mullin set a new school record in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 54.81 seconds to place seventh overall. The 400-yard freestyle relay, made up of Stalgren (53.27 second split), Thomson (55.82 second split), Smith (52.46 second split),

and Mullin (51.23 second split), placed 12th.

Other notable sectional performances included a personal best in the 50-yard freestyle by Smith, who placed second with 23.80 seconds, as well as a strong time by the 200-yard freestyle relay, coming in at 1:36.57 and earning 14th place, and the 200-yard medley relay, who were timed at 1:01.11 for a 22nd-place finish.

"This team came together to pull off some incredible results this season, and I could not be more impressed and prouder of everyone," said Passafiume in an email to The Times. "The team spent the night in Boston and celebrated with a fantastic dinner in Cambridge, and headed back to the Island on Monday feeling like champions!"

Passafiume called this season "the most exciting swim season the team has had yet" and added that there will be

13 seniors graduating this spring. Some of the seniors, like Mullin, Stalgren, Smith, Nora Motahari, and Leah DeBettencourt, have been swimming with Passafiume since they were kids, while others joined in high school, and some are finishing their first and last high school swim season.

"All the graduating swimmers will be very missed next year. Some are already committed to a college, while others are still making decisions and plans for next year. No matter what they do, we are so excited to follow these kids as they leave the Island and enter the world beyond Martha's Vineyard," said Passafiume.

"Huge thank-you to assistant coaches, parents, and all the other community members who supported this team this season! It takes a village — but we sure have a great one on the Vineyard!" **MVT**

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Vineyard basketball takes the league title

The Vineyarders are now preparing for the state championship.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

The crowd thundered in the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's Pachico Gymnasium on Friday as the Island's boys' varsity basketball team wrapped up a dominant winter season, beating the Falmouth High School Clippers 44-42 to win the Cape and Islands League Championship.

The matchup, which came down to the final buzzer and saw a massive fan turnout, was also the culmination of the Vineyard team's late season, 10-game win streak that is propelling the boys to the state playoffs.

Though the game ended in favor of the Vineyard, the Island team was behind by four points (42-38) with just minutes left in the game — but clean foul shots by juniors Landon Lepine (No. 22) and Jacoby Light (No. 1), and then three-pointers by Light and sophomore Taurus Biskis (No. 12), put the Vineyarders into the lead seconds before

"It's great," said Vineyard Head Coach Mike Joyce of the championship victory. "These kids have played together since third or fourth grade and have really worked hard at it. You can see it in the way they play for each other and with each other."

The Vineyarders, who finished the season with a 16-2 record, are now turning their focus to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Division 2 state playoffs.

Joyce highlighted that there was fierce competition in the Cape and Islands League this year, and praised his team.

"It's a great accomplishment for them, but that's only step one. Hopefully, we got a few more to go," Joyce said.

The Vineyarders entered the court on Friday with high energy, seizing control and taking a 17-9 lead in the first quarter. Falmouth clamped down on the Vineyard's offense in the second to reduce the deficit to one at 20-19,

keeping the game close with strong defensive play, Falmouth slowly closed the slim gap, with the Vineyarders leading by one (32-31) after the end of the quarter.

Falmouth pushed ahead in the fourth quarter, taking the lead 42-38 with just minutes left in the game. The Vineyarders rallied to take back the lead with seconds remaining as fans roared "Let's go Vineyard" chants. After Falmouth missed the game-winning shot in the last seconds and the buzzer sounded, a collective exhale from the crowd was followed by rapturous cheers that shook the gymnasium.

Joyce applauded the Vineyard team's mental and physical toughness on the court.

"I think today they showed their toughness and perseverance mentally," Joyce said afterwards, highlighting the way his players responded to a physically demanding game. "We came out like gangbusters, and then when



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

Taurus Biskis, No. 12, shoots for three against Falmouth in the fourth quarter.

up despite Falmouth's mid-game onslaught.

"They clamped down on us in so many ways. I just didn't think anyone would be able to do that," Joyce said. "That's a game where [the Vineyarders] definitely could have — when Falmouth was caught back up to us — they could have said, 'Okay, they got us,' and we didn't. They fought for more, and I was very proud of that effort."

While Falmouth was playing high intensity, shut-down defense, Joyce echoed a sentiment to his team that he has emphasized all season: They needed to slow down on offense, and make the defense play to them.

"They were playing hard D, so I said, 'Let's make them play hard D for the whole 35,'" Joyce recalled. "You just have to be patient. If you come down and shoot in 10 [seconds], they're gonna play twice as hard the next time. But, if they have to play 30 seconds hard every time we come down, they're gonna get tired, and we're gonna find openings. So they might be able to do that for the quarter. They're not gonna do it for the next three."

Joyce said the Vineyard's defense was also reliable all game, but it takes an overall team effort to win a close game like the one on Friday.

"It's all part of that puzzle, you know, in a game like that. Usually you don't have one guy that just totally stands out, but you have a group effort getting the ball, getting the rebounds, playing defense. We went through pretty much every defense we ran trying to just keep them confused," Joyce said.

As it was one of the last games for the Vineyard seniors to play at the high school, a moment was dedicated to honor them. During the halftime intermission, parents gathered with their sons as Joyce spoke over the loudspeaker, saying goodbye to the seniors and honoring them for their contributions to the program and time spent at the high school. Vineyard basketball team seniors include William Nicholson (No. 5), Milo Sullivan (No. 23), Bobby Joe Cook (No. 13), and Floyd Hershey (No. 11).

Looking ahead, the Vineyarders will play in a tournament at Apponequet Regional High School in Lakeville to prepare for the intensity that comes in the state tournament. The Vineyarders play Bishop Stang High School on Monday at Apponequet at 4 pm. If the Vineyarders win, they will play the winner of Wareham High School and Apponequet High School on Wednesday, away.

"It's great practice for the tournament. You're going in there, you're going to play teams that are tough, that are very good teams, and have lots of talent. You gotta go in there and play well. And so, hopefully, we can keep it going," said Joyce. "We just need to keep playing good basketball. I think we've got to clean up some offensive stuff, but defensively, I've been so impressed and happy with how we've been playing."

As of Monday, the Vineyard's varsity basketball team is ranked ninth in the MIAA Division 3 standings. The state playoff tournament schedule has yet to be released by the MIAA, but if the Vineyard remains in the top 16, the team's first state playoff game is guaranteed to be held at the Island's Pachico Gymnasium.

The Martha's Vineyard boys' junior varsity team also won 54-53 over Falmouth on Friday in a 4:30 pm game that started before varsity. **MVT**



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

A full student section attended the Martha's Vineyard basketball game against Falmouth.

the final buzzer. Those seconds turned into minutes as time-out after time-out was called and game plans were adjusted.

With 3.7 seconds on the clock, Falmouth possessed the ball and looked for an inbound pass from under the hoop. The pass connected, and a Falmouth player took a shot from the three-point corner, but the ball hit the rim and bounced into the hands of Biskis, who guarded it as the buzzer blared. The fans erupted in cheers as the Vineyarders celebrated their victory at center court.

but the Vineyarders tacked a couple more points onto the scoreboard in the final seconds of the quarter to take a 24-20 advantage going into the third.

"The crowd tonight was amazing," Joyce said about the start of the game. "That energy, that's partly why we started the way we did. We were just burning it up. And then I think we kind of had a little exhale."

But the Clippers continued to prove the game was far from over in the third quarter. Taking advantage of numerous Vineyard fouls and

Falmouth started throwing some haymakers, we backed off for a second. I think it hit us a little bit, because we thought we were gonna just keep doing it."

Joyce highlighted Falmouth's strong defense, which was able to shut down the Vineyarders more efficiently than any other school the Island team had faced all season. While the game was close in the second and third quarters, Falmouth allowed almost no clean shots throughout the match. Joyce said he was proud of the Vineyarders for not giving

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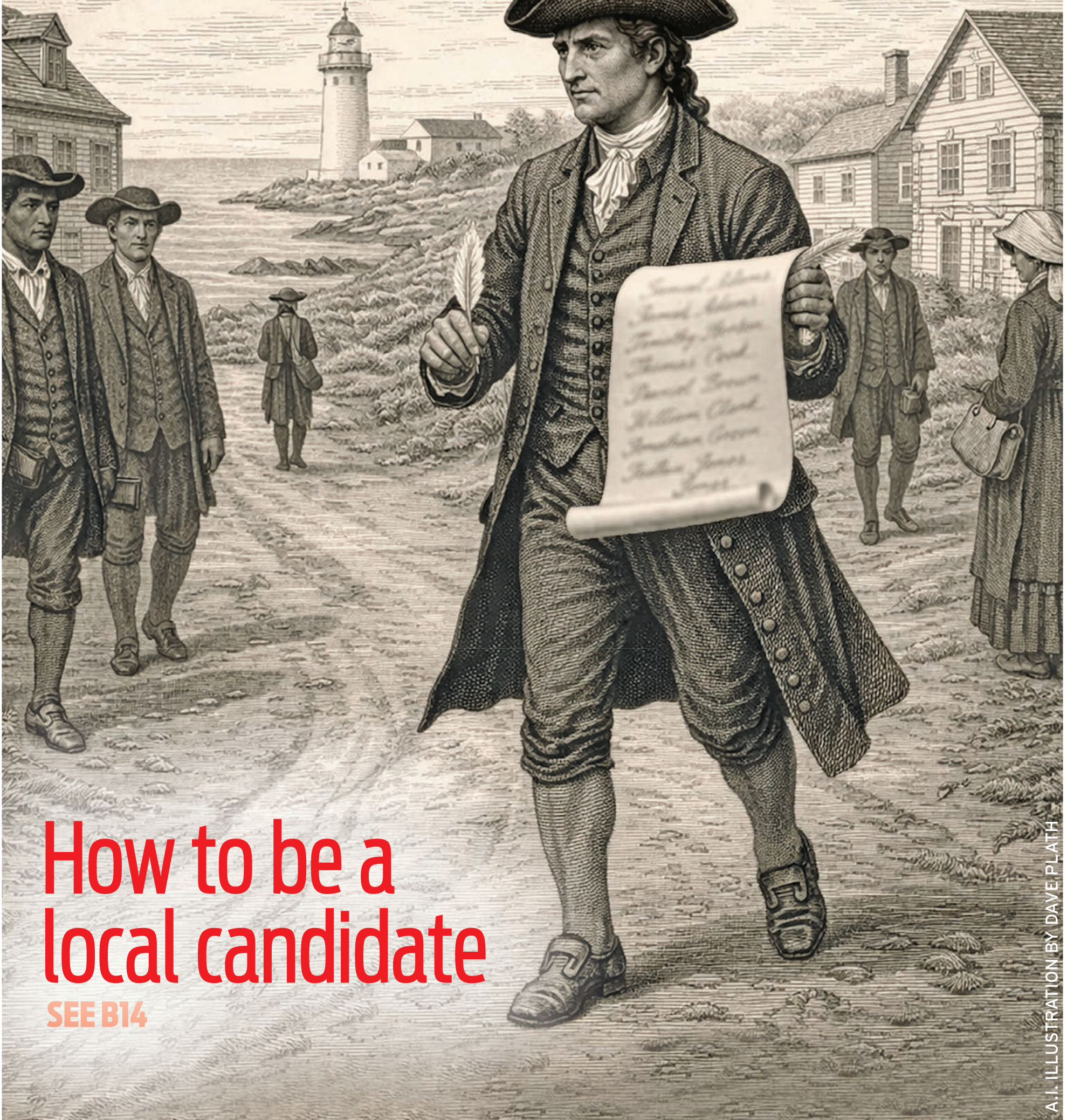
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How to be a local candidate

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A.I. ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE PLATH

SIGNING UP FOR DEMOCRACY

CELEBRATING ISLAND DIVERSITY

Black history on Martha's Vineyard does not begin with a proclamation, nor does it wait for February. It lives in the endurance of families who planted roots in places like Oak Bluffs when permanence was never guaranteed. It exists in the hands that built community long before it was labeled "diverse," in the joy that bloomed even when belonging came with conditions, and in the resilience required to love an Island that has not always loved Black people back in equal measure. To speak of Black history here is to speak of presence — who stayed, who returned, who fought to be seen, and who continues to shape the civic and cultural fabric of this Island year after year.

During the height of segregation, Oak Bluffs emerged as one of the few coastal communities where Black families could gather, vacation, and eventually purchase property with dignity. What began as refuge became legacy — cottages passed down, porches that became classrooms of memory, land held deliberately in a nation where Black land ownership had long been vulnerable. Access to leisure did not erase discrimination beyond the Island. Oak Bluffs was not simply a postcard destination; it was a site of both reprieve and resistance, where joy and vigilance coexisted.

For many who grew up summering in Oak Bluffs, the town was more than refuge — it was formative. As writer Elizabeth Gates, daughter of scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., reflected, Oak Bluffs was "a hub of relaxation, and a marker for all my rites of passage." Summers became chapters in personal and collective memory, where beach gatherings and family homes shaped identity against a national backdrop that often denied Black leisure elsewhere.

Black history on the Vineyard has never existed apart from the broader currents of American history. In the early 1960s, members of the Williamston Freedom Movement from North Carolina visited Martha's Vineyard, linking Southern protest to Northern refuge and reminding Islanders that sanctuary did not mean separation from struggle. Along the shoreline, Inkwell Beach became a cultural gathering space where Black families assembled, elders mentored, and community identity took visible form. The morning ritual of the Polar Bears — year-round swimmers who brave the Atlantic together — reflects a long-standing Vineyard tradition of fellowship and resilience shared across the community.

In the early 20th century, Oak Bluffs also became a seasonal gathering place for Black

For year-round residents, the Island's history is not only inherited, it is lived in the present tense.

professionals, educators, and artists seeking reprieve. The cottages functioned not only as vacation homes but as spaces of conversation, strategy, and cultural exchange. That legacy is preserved through the archival work of the Martha's Vineyard Museum, whose collections document the generational imprint of Black life on the Island — from photographs and oral histories to land records and community ephemera.

For many African American families with

generational ties to the Vineyard, this history is not abstract, it is inherited.

Amber Henry, daughter of Danroy and Angella Henry of the historic Dragonfly House in Oak Bluffs, reflects on what the Island represents to her family:

This Island has ancestral energy in the most beautiful way. You feel it when you get here. I feel so honored to be a part of something bigger than myself and contribute to my own legacy. This community is simple: come as you are. No frills, no fuss, just you — as you are in this exact moment. That's what makes it so easy to keep coming back.

For others, including my own family, the story carries a similar weight of intention and preservation.

My grandparents didn't just buy a house in Oak Bluffs — they bought a future. They bought a place where our family could gather without code-switching, without fear. Holding onto this land has never been

easy, but it also has never been optional. It is how we stay rooted.

For many of us, this history is not theoretical. It is tied to grandparents who chose this Island deliberately, not because it was easy, but because it was possible.

Black presence on Martha's Vineyard has never been sustained by nostalgia alone; it has been organized. The Martha's Vineyard Branch of the NAACP, established in 1963, created formal mechanisms to address dis-

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Written into the land

Living Black history on Martha's Vineyard. BY SHARISSA SCOTT-RAWLINS

crimination and advocate for equity on the Island. The Cottagers, founded in 1956 by Black women homeowners in Oak Bluffs, built a legacy of civic engagement, scholarship, and cultural preservation that continues today. These institutions ensured that Black presence here would not simply be seasonal, it would be sustained.

As documented in the Martha's Vineyard NAACP Centennial Journal, there were no overt signs reading "You are not welcome," but there were "subtle things happening that would be extremely hard to prove," particularly in housing and employment. Black residents have often navigated quiet exclusions, from real estate steering to limited rental access and the economic barriers that determine who can remain year-round. Today, rising property taxes and housing scarcity threaten the generational permanence that once defined Black Oak Bluffs.

Any conversation about history and belonging on Martha's Vineyard must also recognize that this Island is the ancestral homeland of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). Long before Black families fought for permanence here, Indigenous communities endured displacement, erasure, and the ongoing defense of land and sovereignty. As Aquinnah Wōpanāak youth leader Dejana Gentry reminds us:

It's important to acknowledge the history of those who came before us. Acknowledging the Wampanoag past has always been something that lacks the attention it deserves. It's important to learn the truth, both positive and negative. These lands have been our home since time immemo-

rial, and we are still here, continuing in our culture and inspiring our relatives to be proud of who they are and our ways of life.

For year-round residents, the Island's history is not only inherited, it is lived in the present tense.

Shanika Fennell, a year-round resident, dance instructor, and realtor, shares:

Being Black on Martha's Vineyard feels like freedom layered with history. There's something powerful about experiencing joy in a place where Black excellence and leisure have long coexisted. I carry gratitude for those who made space for us to gather, celebrate, and simply be. For me, the Island represents both legacy and possibility. It's a reminder that we deserve beauty, peace, and opportunity wherever we plant our roots.

Black life on the Vineyard continues to evolve. Many Jamaicans arrived through seasonal hospitality and J-1 visa programs, filling the kitchens, hotels, and service industries that power the Island's summer economy — often while navigating housing instability and separation from family.

Chef Lacey Williams of Nyamnz MV expresses:

Jamaican cultural presence on Martha's Vineyard means resilience, impact, and memory. Many Jamaicans arrived through seasonal work, supporting the Island's tourism industry, but what we really brought was culture. Through food, we created home in unfamiliar spaces. A plate of jerk chicken isn't just dinner — it is comfort, identity, and connection. It's an opportunity to share not just literally but also educationally, gifting our culture to the community here. Through family, it represents sacrifice — parents working summers away

from their children to build something greater. And through community, it's about how we lean on each other — sharing resources, celebrating milestones, grieving losses together. For me personally, it means visibility. It means taking the flavors and traditions I grew up with and giving them a platform — not just as labor, but as legacy.

These histories — Indigenous, African American, Caribbean, Afro-Latina, Afro-Brazilian, African immigrant, and diasporic — are not separate narratives. They are layered truths about who has helped shape this Island and what it has taken to remain. Black life on Martha's Vineyard is not monolithic. It includes descendants of enslaved people, families who have held land for generations, Caribbean migrants who built community through labor and culture, Afro-Latinas and Afro-Brazilians whose identities bridge continents, and African immigrants who arrived more recently and made home nonetheless. It's notable that despite all this, many of us are still fighting to be seen and to belong. This is a topic I intend to look more closely at in the coming months.

Black history here is not symbolic, nor is it seasonal. It is written into property deeds fought to be held, into institutions built for protection, into kitchens that turned labor into legacy, and into voices that refuse erasure.

As I wrote in a previous Voices column, "Belonging on this Island has never been accidental for Black families — it has been intentional, defended, and, at times, quietly contested."

February does not create this history. It asks whether we are willing to acknowledge it fully — and whether we are prepared to protect it. **MVT**

ISLANDERS
WRITE

Rejection and revision. These things might seem to be a straightforward (though probably emotional) binary matter of no to this and yes to that, right? But what if no is really an invitation to innumerable possibilities, and yes is actually a tangle of noes to things our imaginations have been holding onto? And what if this is a good thing?

As a writer, I have found that looking at rejections and revisions this way has been a tool in my belt that I wish I had been able to access much earlier in my creative life — but that’s life, and certainly the creative process. Still, to utilize this perspective requires trust and, maybe, the skills of a good dinner-party host.

Being rejected is difficult. (Maybe there’s a writer out there who has built up the armor the rest of us dream of, and the rejections make no sound when they hit, and leave no trace upon them.) Whether it’s a whole manuscript or poem, or an idea within a work being rejected, there’s a sting. We give a little bit of ourselves to each creative endeavor, so — especially when I was a beginning writer — I heard, “No thanks, not this” as “Nope. Not you.”

The internal (or outward) retort to any rejection was, “Why?!” A fair question, one I do think we can, to use workshop-speak, “get curious” about. But now, I consider the rejection a question in and of itself, an invitation: “Want to come and look again?”

A rejection — especially if it comes with feedback — can be an invitation to revisit, to find something that may be out of place, something living in our mind and not on the page, some error of judgment in or outside of the work. (Maybe this was the wrong publisher/agent/journal for me; maybe I pitched it at the wrong angle and the work didn’t match the expectation.) The only place

we can go back in time is in our writing, and rejections are our chance to do just that. When a poem of mine is rejected, I try to trust that 1) this is an opportunity, and 2) because I am the writer, I know how to use it. What do I do with this invitation? I extend another: I invite my writing to dinner.

At dinner with my writing, I sit down with my sounds, line breaks, subject, choices, and themes — not because someone told me something might be “wrong” with them, but because I made them and I, presumably, love the work. Like a good dinner-party host, I make sure the time we spend is leisurely. I ask questions of everyone, keep the conversation balanced, I listen and watch, I make everyone feel welcome. (Yes, I make snacks, a meal that feels appropriate to the season and the writing, and drinks.) Through this exercise, I trust that I can discover (and write) different things to love, different ways to love, things I didn’t know I loved in my work. Spending this kind of time with my writing has never been a waste of effort — either that poem, improved, has gone on to be published elsewhere (not always!), or I learned more about how to revise myself and refine to an even better place the next time around.

(Side note: We also must remember that every writer, at some point, received more rejections than acceptances. Gertrude Stein, Stephen King, Maya Angelou, George Orwell, Louisa May Alcott, William Faulkner ... all of them. Maybe there’s some writer somewhere for whom this is not true, but, for the purposes of this essay, and using the very slightest of poetic li-

cence, I want to emphatically say, ALL of them!)

Inviting our writing to dinner also applies to noes that come in revisions. This is where I’ll take my writer’s hat off and share a different perspective. As a literary agent, I watch writers engage in this process. One novelist I work with, I’ll call her

asked of her — even though I thought the feedback was astute and could strengthen the book. We saw the character notes and basically said, “Oh, I’ll get to spend time with them again! I was missing [character name] and [character name].” She saw this as check-in time with her characters, gathered around a ta-

the course of the book, and it made a better story that we couldn’t imagine being any other way. I’ve watched how this approach to every no, big and small, has served her time and time again.

On to yes. Yes is a wonderful thing — one of the best words a writer can hear. Yes means we did it, we’re published, we’re an author.

But yes takes on a different meaning when we are writing and in revisions — where yes is also no. This sometimes comes as a confusing shock. Yes arises as we are making decisions or answering to editors (or ourselves) ...

If, yes, her hair is brown, everything else I’ve written about her screams brown hair, then, no, it is not red or blond, and I can never describe it as “May’s first hay-cutting, baled in my bed,” even if I can’t shake that line from my head and don’t want to give it up.

If, yes, the character decides he will leave his hometown for good in Chapter 5 rather than 12, then, no, the author can’t explore that story line in which that character connects with his fourth-grade gym teacher still living there, that could have been so gut-wrenching, and now that gym-teacher character is moot.

With yes, sometimes we have to mourn all the things we may have imagined for our words, our characters, our plots. We might fight choosing a direction or making a decision, for fear of losing all those possibilities.

We have to trust that our writer’s gut — when creating, or when responding to guidance from editors — knows how to problem-solve, that we are following clues that we left for ourselves.

What about everything we leave on the digital or mental

cutting-room floor? That’s where we can decide that the no might be a “not now.” Maybe my woman had to be a brunette in that short story. But someday, some woman I’m writing will have blond hair that is “May’s first hay-cutting, baled in my bed.” One day, that author will stumble upon a character similar to the one she cut in that gym-teacher story line who gets to live out a main character arc that’s even more satisfying than the original. And, sometimes, we learn what we can say no to — and that’s a very good skill to have, too. In all cases, nothing is ever wasted.

None of it — the rejection, nor the revision — is as black-and-white as a yes/no. In each case, we need to get comfortable being discerning with ourselves, things we make and things we care about. We need to see the invitation to open, when we’re shut down. When faced with choosing, we must allow the death of the many possibilities and trust that we’ve chosen the best yes. Is this all the same thing as “Kill your darlings”? I don’t think so. Even with darlings, I think we should invite them to dinner and trust ourselves to see what’s what.

In signing off, I want to say I don’t believe any craft to have a one-size-fits-all process. There may be as many ways to write as there are writers. I think, just as art helps us tap into universals — truths and beauty — there are universal threads woven into each artist’s unique process. Some threads we pick up, some we don’t. It’s nice to know what strands there might be for us to weave with. **MVT**

Adriana Stimola (she/her) is a literary agent and writer who takes a personal and immersive approach to her work. She represents authors across many nonfiction genres, and select novelists. Her poetry has been published in numerous literary journals, and she is the current poet laureate of West Tisbury.



Adriana Stimola

Rejection and revision

A game of trust (and dinner-party hosting skills)

BY ADRIANA STIMOLA

W, has taught me a lot about this kind of engagement in revision, especially when it comes to character arcs, depth, and motivation. During an early edit of her manuscript, I was nervous about how she’d interpret the kind of character revision being

ble, to see where the missing dots were, and let her time with them guide her toward connecting those dots. She trusted herself and the work she’d already done. She made some significant changes to those characters, some unexpected, that changed

scribed as needing a gap year.

Marybeth returned to the Island and was hired at the Edgartown National Bank. She married, but sadly, her husband died 10 years into the marriage. She was heartbroken and wanted to get off the Island, but she had to work, so, when she could, she took driving trips to Ohio, to Washington, D.C., and to Florida — all on her own. She was restless, and decided to work off-Island, joining other Islanders doing the daily commute to and from the Vineyard. As travelers know, this can be exhausting. Luckily, Eric Medeiros asked Marybeth to be his full-time office manager at Medeiros Appli-

ance, where she continues to work and serve our Island.

As I interviewed Marybeth, I remembered her being so very kind to her classmates. I saw that same kindness recently, when I attended an Island funeral and Marybeth was comforting the widow, a role she knows so well. Whether it was to a classmate in her high school years or a neighbor today, Marybeth offers a lending hand or, at the very least, a wonderful smile. **MVT**

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

Celebrating Our MVRHS Grads

Marybeth (Lopes) Baptiste

Persistence pays off. **BY MARGE HARRIS**

Marybeth (Lopes) Baptiste, class of 1984, enjoyed high school until she got an F in algebra and almost croaked. She’d never had a D grade, never mind an F. She realized that she had been scheduled to the wrong class, so she quickly transferred into a more appropriate one. She still remembers how traumatic that F made her feel. However, a highlight of high school was the student Close Up program trip to Washington, D.C. The students, over the course of a week, studied government in a variety of ways. Marybeth

loved the entire trip, not only for its content but for giving her a chance to travel to D.C.

She wasn’t sure what she wanted to do after high school. Marybeth and another girl from Martha’s Vineyard enrolled in Cape Cod Community College and got an apartment off-Island. Oh, not such a good idea, for they experienced unlimited freedom from a sheltered Island life, and therefore not much attention was paid to school work. Marybeth decided to move to Florida, where she enrolled at Miami University. However, bottom line, she was not ready to commit to any college. Today, perhaps, this could be de-

TOWN COLUMN

Tisbury



By Kay Mayhew
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Head on Main Street: A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory. I was delighted that our wonderful library gave me a big bag of books to cope with the first snowfall. I haven't read all I'd like to, but I do think I have had enough snow for a while. I could not remember when we last had this much snow. I do remember one year the snow was so deep, our road

did not get plowed. Unfortunately, the ambulance could not get through to take my husband to the hospital. The fire chief drove his big truck past the house, bringing a special platform with one very large wheel, for rescuing people from the woods. It took four men, one at each corner, to guide my poor husband to the end of our road where the ambulance waited. Then the wonderful guy took me to the hospital,

saying to call the station for a ride when I was ready to come back home. I don't think there is any other place in the world but our Island where such perfect service would ever be available. When I did get home, my car had been dug out and cleaned off for me by my neighbors. The Vineyard Preservation Trust invites you to a free contra dance with the Flying Elbows band and caller John Alden on Sunday, Feb. 22, from 2 to 4

pm at the Grange Hall. Fun for all ages! No partner or experience required. The Martha's Vineyard Poetry Reading Group meets on Zoom at 10 am on the first (or second) Monday each month, from September to June, to share and discuss poetry. No qualifications necessary — email vhp1_programs@clamsnet.org to be added to the list, and a Zoom link and reading selections will be provided. This month's topic, on Monday, March 2, is "Poems of Spring."

The Vineyard Haven library hosts local author Basia Jaworska for a discussion of her new book, "Days of the Owl," tracing her mother's journey from the Polish underground resistance to a World War II POW camp to Martha's Vineyard. Basia will be joined by Barbara Dacey on Tuesday, March 10, at 6 pm, in the Katharine Cornell Theatre (above Tisbury Town Hall). Free. Vineyard Haven's Open Mic Nights, Tuesdays March 17 and 23 at 6 pm, have

moved to the Katharine Cornell Theater, hosted by Vineyard Haven library and the Vineyard Haven Harbor Cultural District. Sign up on arrival to play, or just to listen. Free and open to all. Big bunches of birthday balloon wishes go to Peter Palches today. Tomorrow, wish the best to Benjamin Davey, Tom Robinson, and Laura Artru. Anne Sylvester and Wendy Brophy celebrate on Monday. Some very special people will celebrate birthdays on Wednesday: Connie Berry, Judy Cronig, Robin Mathiesen, Sharon Simonin, and me. Heard on Main Street: Inside every old person is a younger person wondering what happened. **MVT**

Heard on Main Street: Inside every old person is a younger person wondering what happened.

Edgartown



By Marnely Murray
marnely@gmail.com

Hate to be the bearer of warm weather, but hello from sunny California! Still sending you, my dear readers, as much sunshine as New England will allow me to. Do not think I am gloating — I am just soaking up the sunshine to bring home for you all, I promise. Let's start with hoping you

all had a lovely Valentine's Day and President's Day weekend. A capitalism-forward holiday paired with a historically admirable holiday

always make for good conversation, so here I am wondering out loud: I know my love language (words of affirmation, of course), but I wonder what George Washington's was? Any guesses? I'm thinking it was acts of service. If you have a different answer, always feel free to start a conversation with me via email at marnely@gmail.com, and we can discuss further. Now, what's coming this

week to Edgartown is a lot of having kids at home for February school vacation soon, and as someone who is childfree by choice but chooses to be friends with plenty of parents, I offer my three suggestions as the cool aunt: Take them to the Edgartown library and have them explore books and activities; take them to a restaurant and practice indoor voices while eating delicious food; and

last but not least, ask them to clean the house. Oh, kids don't do that? Oh, well. Jokes aside, this is a slow week of events in town, and that's why I'm making silly little jokes to try to hit my word count. When events are slow during a season, it tells me that this might be the best time to remind you that the slowest times are the best times to support locally owned businesses — whether it's shopping for a gift in town at Edgartown Books (rumor has it their new floors are fantastic!), grabbing breakfast at Rosewater Market (I know for a fact that their breakfast burrito with ham is a spec-

tacular way to start the day), buying ingredients for dinner at Morning Glory Farm (their annual winter sale takes place Feb. 20 to 22, don't miss it), browsing for art at North Water Gallery (and say hello to Robin for me!), or tempting yourself with a stop at Soigne (another fact I'm sure about is that those brownies are the best in town!). However you choose to spend your hard-earned money, if it's locally spent, it's fine by me! Happy birthday to Kristin MacLean on Feb. 23, Amy Kurth on Feb. 24, and Cathy Walthers on Feb. 25 — may your days be filled with joy and warmth! **MVT**

This might be the best time to remind you that the slowest times are the best times to support locally owned businesses.

Oak Bluffs



By Joanne Lambert
joannelamber@gmail.com

"I say from time to time that the vote is precious. It's almost sacred. It is the most nonviolent tool or instrument that we have in a democratic society. And we must use it."
—John Lewis, Feb. 21, 1940–July 17, 2020
John Lewis was a hero of the U.S. civil rights movement who championed the right to vote for every American. He was also a very nice man, who let me get a photo with him when I met him at Inkwell Beach!

I hope we can continue his work and protect the vote. Congratulations to Jaime Curley, who has been appointed the new Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Superintendent! She will be following Richie Smith, who is retiring in June, leaving big shoes to fill. Jaime brings enormous skills and strengths to the job, she has strong family ties on the Vineyard — and she will be our first female superintendent! School vacation is next week, Feb. 23 to 27. I wish our amazing teachers, administrators, building staff,

and students a fun and restful break! Parents of young children, if you are looking for things to do next week, check out the Martha's Vineyard Family Center calendar. Monday mornings, it's "Move with Me" at Rock Solid Fitness from 10 to 11 am. On Wednesday mornings, they go to the Martha's Vineyard Museum to explore. There are play groups and story times throughout the week at the center, on Greenwood

Avenue in Vineyard Haven. These are free programs for all Island families. Email mvfamilycenter@gmail.com for more information, or check out the Martha's Vineyard Family Center on Facebook and Instagram. Friday, Feb. 20, is Clean Out Your Bookcase Day! I only know this because Alison Cohen let me know that the Oak Bluffs library is holding a book drive on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 11 am to 3 pm. This is a great opportunity for book lovers to

share your favorite reads, and make room for more books! They are seeking books in good to excellent condition, of all types EXCEPT textbooks, encyclopedias, etc. Books must be brought into the library — please do not leave them outside OR in the return box. On Saturday, Feb. 21, our own Sarah Shaw Dawson is performing at the West Tisbury library at 3 pm. Sarah is a singer-songwriter with her own distinct style. Her songs are rooted in nature,

her home, and the Island community that she loves. See you there! Happy birthday on Feb. 19 to Brian Packish and Griffin Kuhn! Maynard Silva was born on Feb. 20, 1951 — happy heavenly birthday, Maynard; you are so missed. Feb. 21 is the birthday of two heroes of the civil rights movement: John Lewis and Nina Simone. Caitlyn Clark celebrates on the 21st also! On Feb. 22, we remember Deidre Diodati. Happy birthday to the wonderful Sarah Omer on Feb. 23! She shares the day with Jeannie Wright, and we also honor and remember Gloria Wong. Judy Cronig celebrates her day on Feb. 24. Shout-out to my daughter-in-law Natalie Feliciano on the 25th! Send me your news! **MVT**

Parents of young children, if you are looking for things to do next week, check out the Martha's Vineyard Family Center calendar ... These are free programs for all Island families.

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Helena Medeiros De Sa
Jessica Medeiros and Neemias Carlos of Vineyard Haven announce the birth of a daughter, Helena Medeiros De Sa, on Feb. 12, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Helena weighed 6 pounds, 9.5 ounces.

Mallic Francino De Freitas
Caroline Pereira and Magno De Freitas of Vineyard Haven announce the birth of a son, Mallic Francino De Freitas, on Feb. 12, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Mallic weighed 6 pounds, 2.8 ounces.

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

Aquinnah



By Kathie Olsen
aquinnahcolumn@gmail.com

Well, we seem to have moved from ice and snow to slippery mud and snow. I'm not so sure that it's a transition that I appreciate. Our backyard, where no human has walked since our first big snow dump, remains pristinely smooth and white. Meanwhile, going down our driveway is an exercise in mud-skating, and our front yard looks like muddy buffalo have been romping on what was a smooth white winter wonderland. That's OK — I'm glad to be able to go outside without gasping at the cold

flowing to my lungs, and the birds out there are pleased with the patches of bare grassland that give them a chance at finding food. I'll stop whining now.

Spring will come, of course. Get ready and join the Community Seed Swap on Feb. 21 from noon to 2 pm at the West Tisbury library. All are welcome to join in sorting and preparing seeds

for the next season. You can bring your own plants to save seeds from, or you can process what they have available. Materials are provided, along with professional guidance, and a cup of tea to keep you warm as you work.

Ruth Folchman wants you to know that her Thursday mindfulness and meditation practice group has moved to an 8 am start time. She encourages you to come and take part, experienced at this practice or not, as these are great tools to help you "take good care of [your] tender heart" in today's challenging world. Questions can be directed to ruthfolchman@me.com.

Another good way to chase away those heebie-jeebies for a while might be for you to go to the contra dance at the Grange Hall on Sunday, Feb. 22, at 2 pm. It's free and fun for all ages. You don't need a partner, or any experience, just go and get those feet moving. The Flying Elbows band and caller John Alden will be there for your pleasure. Much thanks to the Vineyard Preservation Trust for making this possible.

On the same theme, please remember the Winter Wellness series being sponsored by Island Health Care and the Aquinnah library. The second session of the series is on stress-management strate-

gies. This free virtual session, featuring local experts, will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26. For more information or to register, go to ihimv.org/winterwellness, or contact the Aquinnah library.

Tick Free Martha's Vineyard has launched an Island-wide aerial deer survey that will run through March 7, using thermal drones from dusk to dawn to collect deer population data. They assure us that the thermal imagery does not capture identifiable images of people, faces, or property. Deer are a major carrier of ticks, and the Vineyard experiences some of the highest rates of tick-borne diseases and allergies in the country. Accurate deer population data will help with informed public health- and land-management decision-making. The group doesn't want people to notice the drones and

become frightened; this is a good thing. Questions: info@tickfreemv.org.

Laura Jordan-Decker is offering a new set of singing and performing classes beginning in March. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at our town hall from 3:15 to 4:45 pm, with one class for children aged 6 to 9, the other for those ages 10 and up. For eight weeks, the young performers will each work on a song of their choice, with an accompanist and a choreographer, and Laura coaching. Reach out to laurajordan-decker@gmail.com for sign-ups and questions.

There are birthdays to be celebrated this week: Feb. 21 is the day to celebrate Anne Fleming Vanderhoop. And on Feb. 23, we get to honor Brian Vanderhoop White and that wonderful lady, Jeanne Taylor. **MVF**

Our front yard looks like muddy buffalo have been romping on what was a smooth white winter wonderland.

Chilmark



By Claire Ganz
cganz@live.com

There is nothing as enriching and satisfying as being a part of a team that shares a vision for something new, values talents and skills, and meets the twists and turns and ups and downs with courage, discernment, and a sense of humor. As Heidi Feldman reminds us, "The how is as whimsical as the weather."

Wishing Jane Slater a Happy birthday week.

Enjoy your retirement, Chilmark Fire Department Chief Jeremy Bradshaw, and welcome, Chief Manny Rose.

Chief Bradshaw, you embodied the spirit of stewardship and left us with the reminder that fire service is a calling and service that shapes our character and provides camaraderie, and a plea to consider joining the ranks. There truly is a place for everyone.

The service for Shirley Burt Howell will be held 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.

The treacherous conditions — snow, ice, along with mud — remind me how important it is to let our friends know we're OK, and to think about what to do when someone we care about doesn't show up and is unreachable.

Do you have trusted friends in your contacts? Who knows the make, model, color, and license plate number of your car so they can find out if you unexpectedly took the ferry

or your car is in the hospital parking lot? Friends who know what food and care your animals need? Do they know the location of your spare keys, and pass codes to unlock your smartphone, tablet, or laptop? Do you have a list of trusted contacts and current phone numbers?

Do your friends know who to call in an emergency? How to reach your family?

Do you have a medical advocate? Someone who can

help you speak to your doctor about medications or help you make appointments?

If you are unconscious, do you have a document stating your wishes, and someone (or two people) you trust to speak for you when you can't? Complete the form that lets providers know your preferences for life-sustaining treatments and comfort care. Here's the link: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/molst-and-comfort-care-dnr-order-verification-protocol/download>.

This week, on Feb. 20, Pathways Arts features local band the Washashores, and the father-and-daughter duo Seth and Sam Cooperrider. The Washashores, formed in 2024, feature Phil Spillane on lead vocals, harp, and guitar; Moe Moriarty on lead and slide guitar; Paul Thurlow on bass and vocals; and Martin Cummings on drums. They perform a mix of blues, classic rock, and originals, with a healthy dose of good ol' Grateful Dead.

Seth and Sam Cooperrider will perform an acoustic set of country-adjacent tunes.

Doors open at 6:30, and the music starts at 7 pm. Come early to find a good seat. Free to attend, and donations are appreciated. Visit www.PathwaysMV.org for more information. **MVF**

The treacherous conditions — snow, ice, along with mud — remind me how important it is to let our friends know we're OK, and to think about what to do when someone we care about doesn't show up and is unreachable.

West Tisbury



By Hermine Hull
hermine.hull@gmail.com

Snow is still on the ground, but milder days have opened areas of grass, gravel, and mud. I wonder if we will have a mud season like we used to have, when winters were routinely cold enough to freeze the ground. Miserable memories of rutted driveways, lawns, fields, and dirt roads, then mud tracked inside everywhere. Yuck.

Next week is school vacation. Expect the Island to feel emptied out. The library will have free soup

and bread lunches Monday to Friday, 11:30 to 1 pm. All soups are made to accommodate alpha-gal, vegan, and gluten-free diets. Thanks to Chef Deon, the

West Tisbury Library Foundation, and Friends of the West Tisbury Free Public Library. Everyone is welcome to share a delicious lunch and some social time.

Other library events include seed-sorting and tea on Saturday, Feb. 21, at noon, followed at 3 pm with a concert by Sarah Shaw Dawson, Island musician, songwriter, and MV Times reporter. The Climate Book Club will meet Sunday afternoon at 4 pm to discuss

"Silent Spring," the classic by Rachel Carson; sign up at wt_mail@clamsnet.org. "Notes of a Crocodile" by Qiu Miaojin will be discussed at the LG-BTQI+ Book Club meeting on Monday afternoon at 5:30; sign up at apratt@clamsnet.org or wt_mail@clamsnet.org. Come to "Potion-Making for Kids" on Wednesday from 3 to 4:30 pm; the program also includes instructions for spell-writing, and making your own wand. Families

are invited to a pancake and cartoon breakfast Thursday morning, 9:30 to 10:30. Pajamas are optional. Ukulele players will meet to jam together at 3:30 Thursday afternoon. Also at 3:30 will be a meeting for Book Buddies, a program that pairs high school and elementary school students to read together.

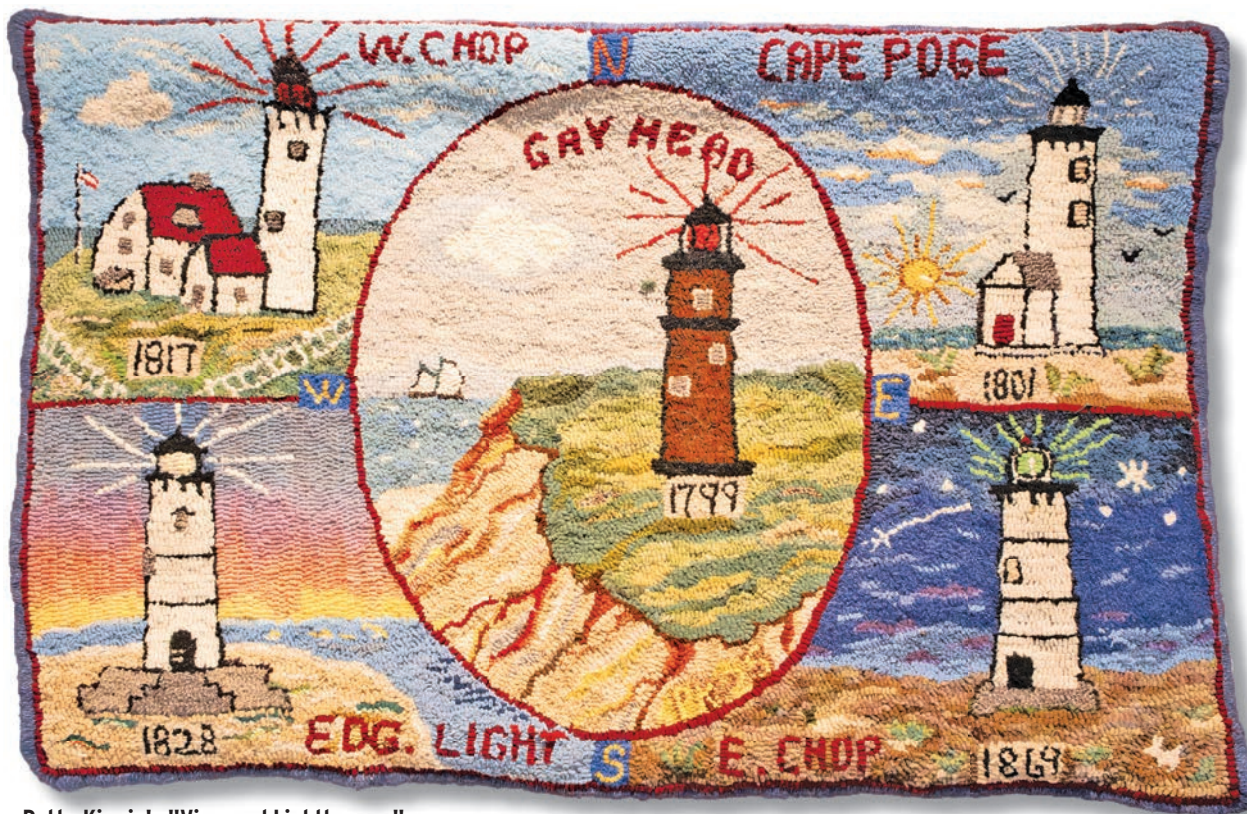
I went to see "Hadestown" at the regional high school. What a performance. Everything about it was professional: the acting, the choreography, the sets, the costumes, the lighting, the stage management. I will admit to a love for mythology, so loved the idea of a modern play based on the story of Orpheus and Eurydice, with Hades and Persephone thrown in for good measure. Bravo. You were fabulous.

Tara Whiting-Wells was

glowing with happiness when she told me about her visit with her "adored big brother," Daniel, who came for a week from Manchester, England. Tara said that Daniel loves to drive around the Island, so they covered it from Aquinnah to Chappy, visiting favorite places, and finding them especially magical in the snow. In between were visits with other family members. Alas, Daniel has had to return home, leaving Tara dreaming of their next time together.

I know that feeling. Although Connecticut isn't as far away as England, I miss my brothers terribly. We wish we had ruby slippers like Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz," that we could click our heels together and magically transport ourselves to each other's firesides. **MVF**

Next week is school vacation. Expect the Island to feel emptied out. The library will have free soup and bread lunches Monday to Friday, 11:30 to 1 pm ... Everyone is welcome to share a delicious lunch and some social time.



Patty Kirwin's "Vineyard Lighthouses" rug.



PHOTOS: DENA PORTER

Lynn Marquedant's "Garden Delight" rug was designed by illustrator and rug-hooking artist Michelle Palmer.

Double-take

Dazzling textiles from the Island Rug-Hookers.
BY ABBY REMER

You might do a double-take looking at one of the first pieces in the West Tisbury library's new textile exhibition. In this rug, the words "Island Hookers" are boldly emblazoned over a purple silhouette of the Vineyard against a bright yellow background. Before your mind leaps to anything racy, the images of two small rug hooks floating above both tips of the Island immediately signal that we are in the midst of a stunning show of bold textiles. The rug, designed by Barbara Silk and hooked by Becky Flanders-Clements, shows the name of an ever-expanding group of Islanders who come together regularly to fashion hooked rugs.

Some of the participants recall learning from Island native Rosalie Powell, a nationally certified master rug-hooking instructor who began teaching the craft in the 1940s. The traditional art has roots that go back centuries, originating in Scandinavia and in 18th-century Britain and Scotland. From Europe, rug-hooking spread to Nova Scotia and New England. During the Colonial period, women made strips for hooking from worn-out clothes, blankets, and other fabrics to create decorative floor rugs and bed coverings. By 1850, the art form had expanded to the Mid-Atlantic States and beyond.

There is a dazzling array of colors and images that adorn the conference room walls. The largest piece, by Lynn Marquedant, is "Glimmerglass Neighborhood." The arresting three-by-six-

foot rug is a detailed iconographic journey, filled with recognizable geographic landmarks, houses, ponds, and lanes through the neighborhood off Middle Road, which has been populated for generations by the artist's extended family.

While Marquedant flattens the sense of depth in her intricate image, Dena Porter uses single-point perspective to create the impression of a long receding road in her snowy "Winter Landscape." She further enhances the illusion of distance by making the three trees in the background smaller than the large one just in front of us.

Patty Kirwin depicts the five iconic structures in "Vineyard Lighthouses" at different times of day, including a gorgeous sunset behind the Edgartown Lighthouse and the red, orange, beige, and yellow clay cliffs beneath the one at Gay Head. The beacons fly out of them all, knitting the disparate scenes together.

Hope O'Brien gives us a magical patch of pumpkins, with subtle shifts of color that evoke different textures, from smooth to rough-skinned. Stars and leaves pattern the background, evoking a twinkly night sky.

Mother Nature's creatures also make an appearance. A lounging lion and cub, set amid trees and plants, dominate Sandy Broyard's impressive rug. The scene evokes a long line of folk images, drawing on a pastoral storytelling tradition in early



Debra Grant's "Perfect Harmony" rug.



Sue Hruby's "Red Blanket" rug.

American hooked rugs.

Cindy Grant offers us an adorable, literally woolly small sheep. Both Carol Arrowsmith and Sue Hruby portray endearing felines. Hruby remarks, "Hooking is easy. I love it. It's very forgiving. If you don't like something, you pull it out and change it."

The rugs are created by meticulously pulling a strand of fine wool through a small opening in the backing, reminiscent of needlepoint. As

with needlepoint, too, the artist can use a kit or create their own design and choose their own color combinations.

Nancy Weaver originated her piece, "Leaves and Color." She worked intuitively, creating slim lines of color that switch hues every few inches or less. They seem to pour down behind an abstract composition of leaves of various shapes and sizes. "I took leaves from my yard and drew all around them. They even have defects like bug holes."



Laurie David's "Posies" rug.

Most of the rugs feature hooked, "framed" edges that accentuate their status as works of art. Laurie David populates her arresting broad rectangular frame in "Posies" with the same colors she uses in her central floral pattern, encouraging our gaze to continually roam over the entire piece. Floral petals burst beyond the rectangular frame in Sue Silk's "Flowers," creating a dynamic composition.

Sophia-Millicent Peirce-Cabral gives us a figurative piece in "Wayne on the Water," in which a man pulls either away from or toward us as he rows a small boat.

Children of all colors hold hands, completely encircling an image of Earth in Debbie Grant's "Perfect Harmony." The rug reflects the sensibility of the group's members, who revel in sharing their passion for the art form with others. "I really love the community," Grant shares. "It's camaraderie. It's exploration. And everybody is helping each other. It's a really positive atmosphere among artists." **MVT**

If you are interested, you can try your hand at workshops and open studio at Featherstone Center for the Arts, whether you are a total beginner or experienced at the craft.

For more information about open studio days and hours, as well as workshops, visit <https://www.featherstoneart.org/fiberarts.html>.

Some of the participants recall learning from Island native Rosalie Powell, a nationally certified master rug-hooking instructor who began teaching the craft in the 1940s.

calendar

Event spotlight for the week of 2-20 - 2-25

FRI 2/20

Tai Chi with Shaka Fridays

Tai Chi Fridays are led by Shaka Georges, an avid practitioner of the martial arts since he was 9 years old. Tai Chi combines the three treasures, mind, energy,

and spirit, in order to move the body as one unit in a relaxed and fluid manner. Free, no registration required. 1 to 2 pm. Tisbury Council on Aging, 34 Pine Tree Road, Vineyard Haven.



SAT 2/21

Winter tree identification



MV TIMES

Polly Hill Arboretum Director of Grounds and Facilities Ian Jochems will teach participants how to use the characteristics of bark, twigs, buds, and more to identify common deciduous and evergreen trees. Participants will meet at

the Polly Hill Arboretum Visitor Center. This is an indoor and outdoor class, so please dress appropriately for the weather. Registration required: <https://pci.jotform.com/form/260084781640053>. 10 am to 12 pm. Polly Hill Arboretum, 809 State Road, West Tisbury.

SUN 2/22

Contra Dance at the Grange Hall

Love to dance? You're in luck. Hit the Grange Hall and enjoy a fun night of contra dancing. Hosted by Vineyard Preservation Trust. Live music by the Flying Elbows

band with caller John Alden. 2 to 4 pm. Free family fun. If you have questions, reach out to Julie Hatt at julie@mvpreservation.org. Grange Hall, 1067 State Road, West Tisbury.



MV TIMES

MON 2/23

Virtual chair yoga with YogiJay

Chair yoga is a style of yoga that is accessible to all levels and ages. Practitioners will be guided through seated and moving meditations utilizing the support and as-

sistance of a chair. While some chair yoga classes are aimed at elderly practitioners or individuals recovering from injury, it can be a fun and relaxing way to practice for all populations. All you need for this class is an armless chair and a place to put it. Weekly virtual sessions offered by Jason Mazar-Kelly (YogiJay) through the West Tisbury library. Free and open to the public. 7:30 to 8:30 am. Sign up at wholesomemv.com/classschedule.



TUES 2/24

Play kitchen and store

Do you have a budding artist at home? Come to the Oak Bluffs library and enjoy watching your kids explore, create, and prob-

lem-solve. Free. For ages 2 to 6. Drop in between 10 am and noon. Oak Bluffs library, 56R School St #R, Oak Bluffs.



MV TIMES

WED 2/25

Play reading at Tisbury Senior Center

Each week, enjoy hearing a different play — from the classic to the modern, from hits to buried treasures — read by seasoned actors, as well as readers new to the

art form. The plays can be funny, sad, thought-provoking, or all three. Free. 9 am to 12 pm. Tisbury Council on Aging, 34 Pine Tree Road, Vineyard Haven.



MV TIMES

Events

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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 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.
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, hyperflexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, 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, 508-693-2896.

Wiggle with the Words Storytime
10:30-11 am, Edgartown Library. Fun props and interactive stories. Geared for ages 1-5, but all are welcome. No sign-up. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.
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.
HeartMath Global Coherence Meditation Group
12-1 pm, PathwaysArts at The Chilmark Tavern. Guided meditation to open the heart for self and global healing. 508-645-9098, 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.
Red Dragon Mah-Jong
1-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join us for a fun weekly Mah-jong meet-up! Bring your board or use one of ours, subject to availability. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Community Knitting Circle
1-3 pm, Chilmark Library. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of knitting in the Martha's Vineyard Room. Our knitters love to share their knowledge and beginners are welcome! 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.
Virtual Art History: Two Centuries of Black American Painters
2 pm, Vineyard Haven Library. Explore three prominent Black American painters over two centuries. Led by art historian Martha Chiar-chiaro. Register on VH Library event calendar. 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.
VHPL Book Club Reads "Broken Country: A Novel" by Clare Leslie Hall
2 pm, Tisbury EMS Facility, Vineyard Haven. Come enjoy a lively discussion in a casual "hybrid" format. Send an email to vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org to be added to the list. Everyone is welcome! 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.
Slow Stitching Circle: Rebecca Gilbert & Claire Ganz
2-4 pm, Pathways Arts at Chilmark Tavern, Chilmark. Hands on with fabrics & trims for small projects. Bring materials or use those provided. 508-645-9098,

tanya4pathways@gmail.com.
Lego and Magna-tile Club
3-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in anytime between 3 to 5pm. For kids ages 5-11. When playing, children develop creativity, problem solving, spatial reasoning and teamwork. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.
Naptime with David Stanwood
3:30-4:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Experience the calming effect of harmonic vibration, with pianist and acclaimed piano technician David Stanwood. info@stillpointmv.org.
String Games Club!
3:30-5 pm, Grace Church, Vineyard Haven. Remember playing Cat's Cradle with friends? Kids & nostalgic adults, learn classic solo figures like Cup and Saucer, Eiffel Tower, and Jacob's Ladder! 508-696-4210, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.
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.
'ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER' at the MV Film Center
4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER (Nominated for 13 Academy Awards) — at the MV Film

Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.
Book Discussion - History Matters by David McCullough
4:30-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join a small group discussing David McCullough's book "History Matters". Of all times in our history, it surely does matter! 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.
Stitch Society Crafting Group
5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Drop-in and work on your project. Needle felting, embroidery, needlework, and more. 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.
Hearing the Movies: The Life of John Williams
5-6 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. An online talk with biographer Tim Greiving exploring the life and iconic film scores of John Williams, from Jaws to Star Wars. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.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.
Table Tennis
5 pm, Tisbury Senior Center, Vineyard Haven. Table tennis for all ages and skill levels. 508-728-5898, raeobmv@gmail.com.
Join the MV Fourth Amendment (4A) Project
5:30-6:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Defend immigrants and uphold the Constitution. Join our volunteer training and learn how to invite Island businesses to be a 4th Amendment workplace. 508-693-3366, mv4aProject@Proton.me.
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.
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.

Continued on B8

Visually stunning short films

Oscar-nominated animated and live-action shorts showing at M.V. Film Center.

BY ABBY REMER

Between Feb. 20 and March 15, the Oscar-nominated live-action and animated shorts programs will be screening at the Martha's Vineyard Film Center. This year's lineup offers a fascinating array, from amusing to touching to unsettling — which is exactly how art should be.

All the animated shorts are visually stunning. Some are spare, like the clean line drawings in "Retirement Plan" by John Kelly. In seven short minutes, Ray regales us with what he will do now that he is not working, which becomes more meaningful as he ages: "I'll reply to every email I've ever flagged ... I will read the 35 years of saved articles on my reading list ... I'll learn to play a single piece on the piano really well ... I will get good at being aggressively present ... I will get good at saying yes. I will get better at saying no." The steady rhythm of his plans is a sweet ode to the wisdom of aging.

There is no dialogue in Konstantin Bronzit's "The

Three Sisters," which, with only sound effects, relates the often amusing story of what happens when a hearty seaman comes ashore, upending the quiet, simpatico lives of three single sisters on a remote small island in the middle of the sea.

The stop-motion animation with handmade puppets in Chris Lavis and Maciek Szczerbowski's "The Girl Who Cried Tears" is evocatively complex, both visually and in its story. A grandfather recounts a tale from his childhood at the turn of the 20th century in Montreal. As a homeless boy, he falls in love with a poor girl whose harsh life causes her to cry tears that miraculously turn into pearls. He must wrestle with the Faustian dilemma of selling them to a ruthless pawnbroker for more money than he can imagine or staying true to the girl he secretly loves.

Next, moments of joy and sorrow bring tears to our eyes in Nathan Engelhardt and Jeremy Spears' tender love story "Forevergreen," which in this case is be-

tween an orphaned bear cub and a fatherly tree. Their sweet relationship is threatened along the cub's journey to adulthood.

Florence Mialhe's "Butterfly" is a visually and emotionally moving retelling of the Olympic swimmer Alfred Nakache's life, from his rise to Olympic fame in the butterfly stroke to his surviving Auschwitz, presented as memories that flash back during his final swim.

The live-action shorts are equally impressive. Lee Knight gives us "A Friend of Dorothy," a double entendre title. It is a tender story about an unlikely but endearing friendship between a lonely, elderly widow, Dorothy (Miriam Margolyes), and her new young friend, 17-year-old JJ (Alistair Nwachukwu), who, through her, learns of the inference to gay culture in the term "a friend of Dorothy."

In Meyer Levinson-Blount's "Butcher's Stain," the life of Palestinian butcher Samir (Omar Sameer Mahamid) comes apart when he is accused of tearing down hostage posters at the break

room of the Israeli supermarket in which he works.

The astounding voices of the worse-for-wear patrons in a rough-and-tumble dark, smoky bar in Sam A. Davis' "The Singers" are a treat. Mike Young, Chris Smither, Will Harrington, Judah Kelly, and Matthew Corcoran participate in an impromptu sing-off over the course of a night in this film adaptation of a 19th-century short story written by Ivan Turgenev.

Natalie Musteata and Alexandre Singh's "Two People Exchange Saliva" is a disturbing, dystopian tale of yearning and love in a society in which people are killed for kissing and pay with slaps on the face for goods and services. The story unfolds in an upscale department store, where a wealthy, detached patron becomes dangerously drawn to a subversive younger salesperson under the ever-watchful eye of a suspicious coworker.

"Jane Austen's Period Drama," by Julia Aks and Steve Pinder, is a hysterical, fast-paced send-up of the romantic moments in



early 19th-century English period dramas. When handsome Mr. Dickley (Lachlan Ta'imua Hannemann) goes down on his knees to propose to Miss Estrogenia (Julia Aks), he comes face-to-face with blood on her long white gown. Mistakenly thinking her period is an injury, he rushes her home, where mayhem ensues as sisters Va-

gianna (Nicole Alyse Nelson) and Labinia (Zoe Boyle) try to persuade her not to tell this expensively educated but naive man the truth. **MVT**

The Oscar shorts programs will play intermittently from Feb. 20 to March 15 at the M.V. Film Center. Note: Not all shorts are suitable for young audiences.

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.

International Film Night

6-8 pm, Edgartown Library. Once a month on Thursdays. Visit website for details. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Jazz at Sweet Life with Jeremy Berlin

6:30-8:30 pm, Sweet Life, Oak Bluffs. Jeremy Berlin plays jazz piano every

Thursday at the Sweet Life starting at 6:30

617-835-3756, emhaggerty@gmail.com.

'SINNERS' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. SINNERS — at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Cardio and Conditioning with Alyson Parker

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

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.

Turtle Time

10 am-4 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Turtle Time! Biofacts, a story and a craft all about turtles. There will be turtles to touch!

Program led by Josey from Felix Neck. Ages 4-8. 508-693-9433, 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.

Kid's Music Class

10:30-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Sing fun songs and play instruments with friends! Ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Friday Crafting

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

Fri-YAY Crafts

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

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. 508-696-4221, 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 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Online Balance with Kanta Lipsky

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

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@tisburyyma.gov.

'Wuthering Heights' at the Edgartown Cinema

3:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. A passionate and tumultuous love story set against the backdrop of the Yorkshire moors. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

Kid's Magic: The Gathering Club

3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Learn to play Magic: The Gathering for ages 8+. Cards provided, drop-ins welcome 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

'Arco' at the Edgartown Cinema

3:30 pm, Edgartown Cinema. In 2075, a girl witnesses a mysterious boy in a rainbow suit fall from the sky. He comes from an idyllic far future where time travel is possible. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

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.

'IS THIS THING ON?' at the MV Film Center

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. IS THIS THING ON? — at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Build It, Build It Better: Online Poetry Workshop with Donald Nitchie

4:30-6 pm, Edgartown Library. Via Zoom. To register, visit the calendar at edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Music Bingo at The Black Dog Bakery Café

6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly music bingo hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Fridays

from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

Magic the Gathering: Gaming Club

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

'Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die' at the Edgartown Cinema

6:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. A "Man From the Future" arrives at a diner in Los Angeles where he must save the world from the terminal threat of a rogue artificial intelligence 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

'Crime 101' at the Edgartown Cinema

6:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. An elusive thief, eyeing his final score, encounters a disillusioned insurance broker at her own crossroads. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

Music Series: The Washshores

7-9 pm, PathwaysARTS at The Chilmark Tavern, Chilmark. The Washshores: Phil Spillane, Moe Moriarty, Paul Thurlow, Martin Cummings. Father & Daughter duo — Seth & Sam Cooperrider. PathwaysMV.org 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

'Oscar-Nominated Short Films: LIVE ACTION.' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. Oscar-Nominated Short Films: LIVE ACTION. — at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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.

Vinyasa Power Yoga

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

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

Thurs 2/19	Oscar Nominated for Best Picture — Double Feature ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER SINNERS	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Fri 2/20	IS THIS THING ON? OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: LIVE ACTION	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Sat 2/21	OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: ANIMATION IS THIS THING ON? OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: LIVE ACTION	1:00 PM 7:30 PM
Sun 2/22	OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: DOCUMENTARY IS THIS THING ON?	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
MON & TUES, FEB., 23 & 24 - FILM CENTER IS CLOSED -		
Wed 2/25	MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN	7:30 PM
Thurs 2/26	MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: DOCUMENTARY	4:00 PM 7:30 PM

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

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

scan code for complete schedule

Information & Schedules mvfilmsociety.com 508.696.9369

Continued on B9

Continued from B8

February Break Drop-In Games & Crafts

12-4 pm, Aquinnah Library. Stop by the library to sign up for our February break reading challenge, enter a board game tournament, or get creative at our crafting station. 508-645-2314, gwilbur@clamsnet.org.

Seed Sorting & Tea

12-2 pm, West Tisbury Library. Come chat, sip some tea, and process/sort seeds for the next growing season. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Vision Boards Continued - Drop-in

12-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library Vision Boards Continued - Drop-in 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Significant Objects Memory Collages, with Emily Davis & Jennifer Langhammer

1-3 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Join artists Emily Davis and Jennifer Langhammer for a two-hour session of artmaking based on your personal memories info@stillpointmv.org.

'Oscar-Nominated Short Films: ANIMATION.' at the MV Film Center

1 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. Oscar-Nominated Short Films: ANIMATION-- 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.

'Arco' at the Edgartown Cinema

1:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. In 2075, a girl witnesses a mysterious boy in a rainbow suit fall from the sky. He comes from an idyllic far future where time travel is possible. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

'Goat' at the Edgartown Cinema

1:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. A small goat with big dreams gets a once-in-a-lifetime shot to join the pros and play roarball, a high-intensity, co-ed, full-contact sport. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

All Ages Chess Club

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

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.

Kids Digital Learning Resources

2:30-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Learn about digital learning resources at the library and educational games online. Grandparents, parents, caregivers! Bring your kid or come alone. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Sarah Shaw Dawson Concert

3 pm, West Tisbury Library. Sarah's original music is indie/ singer-songwriter, and her lyrics are deeply influenced by nature, her home, and the community she knows and loves. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

' IS THIS THING ON? ' at the MV Film Center

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. IS THIS THING ON? - 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.

Bart Weisman Jazz Group at Community Supper

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

Oscar-Nominated Short Films: LIVE ACTION.' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. Oscar-Nominated Short Films: LIVE ACTION. - at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

"What Love Looks Like in Public" with Rev. Misha Sanders

10 am, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Please join us in person or online on Sunday at 10 am! 508-693-8982, uu.society.mv@gmail.com.

Mixed Media Collage Workshop

10 am-2 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Join us to create one-of-a-kind mixed media collages from paint, newspaper, pictures, fabrics, and photographs! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

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. awakening.the.wild.heart@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@mvmuseum.org.

'Arco' at the Edgartown Cinema

1:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. In 2075, a girl witnesses a mysterious boy in a rainbow suit fall from the sky. He comes from an idyllic far future where time travel is possible. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

'Goat' at the Edgartown Cinema

1:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. A small goat with big dreams gets a once-in-a-lifetime shot to join the pros and play roarball, a high-intensity, co-ed, full-contact sport. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

Contra Dance at the Grange Hall

2-4 pm, Grange Hall, West Tisbury. Contra Dance at Grange Hall hosted by Vineyard Preservation Trust. Live music from Flying Elbows band with caller Paul Wild. Free family fun! 508-627-4440, julie@mvpreservation.org.

Cup of Karma Cafe

2-3:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. All are welcome to these gatherings, which are stress-free, peaceful, and for those who are interested in celebrating the journey of life. info@stillpointmv.org.

Climate Book Club

4 pm, West Tisbury Library. We will be reading and discussing Silent Spring by Rachel Carson. Email wt_mail@clamsnet.org to sign up. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

'Oscar-Nominated Short Films: ANIMATION.' at the MV Film Center

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. Oscar-Nominated Short Films: DOCUMENTARY-- 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, combat isolation and share a meal during the coldest months info@stillpointmv.org.

' 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 23

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.

Signal 101 Drop In Forum

10-11 am, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. Curious about the Signal app for your smart-phone/device? Join us for drop-in tech help for this app. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org

Highfield Hall Wellness: Chair Yoga with Yves Vandeplas

10:30-11:30 am, Highfield Hall & Gardens, Falmouth. 508-495-1878, info@highfieldhall.org

Pint-Sized Picassos

10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library, Edgartown. Drop-in painting. Children under 8 must have adult present. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

Free Soup & Bread Lunch

11:30 am-1 pm, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. Come to the West Tisbury Library during the February school break for free soup and bread lunch! 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org

Almoço Grátis de Sopa e Pão

11:30 am-1 pm, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. Almoço Grátis de Sopa e Pão. Segunda-feira, 23 de fevereiro - Sexta-feira, 27 de fevereiro 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org

Online Balance with Kanta Lipsky

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

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@tisburyyma.gov

Drop-in Mah Jongg

1-3 pm, Edgartown Library. Mats, tiles, and cards provided. No formal instruction. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

'Arco' at the Edgartown Cinema

1:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. In 2075, a girl witnesses a mysterious boy in a rainbow suit fall from the sky. He comes from an idyllic far future where time travel is possible. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com

'Goat' at the Edgartown Cinema

1:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. A small goat with big dreams gets a once-in-a-lifetime shot to join the pros and play roarball, a high-intensity, co-ed, full-contact sport. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com

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

LGBTQ+ Book Club

5:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. We will be reading Notes of a Crocodile, a novel by Qiu Miaojin. Email Alexandra [apratt@clamsnet.org] to sign up. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Winter Horsemanship Classes

Misty Meadows Equine Learning Center, West Tisbury. Winter Horsemanship Classes at Misty Meadows 508-338-7198, liz@mistymeadowsmv.org.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

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 Beauzile

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.

Jewish Meditation Circle

9-9:45 am, Vineyard Haven. Jewish Meditation Circle Prayers, chants & spiritual teachings w/Batya Diamond, last Tues each month 9-9:45am. Please register; info@batyadiamond. info@batyadiamond.com.

Little Naturalists

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

Play Kitchen and Store

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

Free Range Fun

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

Drop-in Play-Doh Group

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

Vineyard Haven Library Story Circle with Aria

10:45 am, MV Family Center. 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, vhp_l_programs@clamsnet.org.

SQUAD FITNESS with Triva Emery • BeWell-MV

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

Free Soup & Bread Lunch

11:30 am-1 pm, West Tisbury Library. Come to the West Tisbury Library during the February school break for free soup and bread lunch! 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Almoço Grátis de Sopa e Pão

11:30 am-1 pm, West Tisbury Library. Almoço Grátis de Sopa e Pão. Segunda-feira, 23 de fevereiro - Sexta-feira, 27 de fevereiro 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

February Break Reading Challenge at the Aquinnah Library

12-6 pm, Aquinnah Library. Pick up a reading log and borrow books on Saturday 2/21, then celebrate your progress on Saturday 2/28 with a special prize! Free & all ages welcome. 508-645-2314, gwilbur@clamsnet.org.

February Break Drop-In Games & Crafts

12-4 pm, Aquinnah Library. Stop by the library to sign up for our February break reading challenge, enter a board game tournament, or get creative at our crafting station. 508-645-2314, gwilbur@clamsnet.org.

'Arco' at the Edgartown Cinema

1:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. In 2075, a girl witnesses a mysterious boy in a rainbow suit fall from the sky. He comes from an idyllic far future where time travel is possible. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

'Goat' at the Edgartown Cinema

1:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. A small goat with big dreams gets a once-in-a-lifetime shot to join the pros and play roarball, a high-intensity, co-ed, full-contact sport. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

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.

Lego Club

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

Basics of Silversmithing: Earrings or Pendant

3-6 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. In this class you will either create your own pair of silver earrings or a necklace pendant while learning basic metal smithing skills. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.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.

Make Your Own Charm Bracelet

3:30-4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Make your own Lavello Link Charm Bracelet. Each bracelet will be unique with over 90 charms to choose from! For kids 6+ 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Staff Picks Book Club

4-5 pm, Edgartown Library. For more info, visit the calendar at edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

kundilini Yoga

4:30-5:30 pm, The Red House PRSC, Vineyard Haven. Spiritual form of yoga that combines breathwork (pranayama), repetitive movements, chanting (mantras), meditation, and specific hand positions (mudras 508-693-2900, jtau@mvcommunityservices.org

Knitting Group

5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. 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

Table Tennis

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

American Sign Language Practice Group

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

Chilmark Church Free Community Suppers

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

'Wuthering Heights' at the Edgartown Cinema

6:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema , Edgartown. A passionate and tumultuous love story set against the backdrop of the Yorkshire moors. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com

'Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die' at the Edgartown Cinema

6:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema , Edgartown. A "Man From the Future" arrives at a diner in Los Angeles where he must save the world from the terminal threat of a rogue artificial intelligence 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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 sox, or bare feet 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com

Falmouth Art Center Presents Charles Wright's Reflections in Realism: Real & Imagined

9 am-4 pm, Falmouth Art Center, Falmouth. artscapecod.org

Falmouth Art Center Presents Works in Wood: Women in Turning

9 am-4 pm, Falmouth Art Center, Falmouth. artscapecod.org

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, monahennessy1@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.

Tumble Bugs

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

Free Soup & Bread Lunch

11:30 am-1 pm, West Tisbury Library. Come to the West Tisbury Library during the February school break for free soup and bread lunch! 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Almoço Grátis de Sopa e Pão

11:30 am-1 pm, West Tisbury Library. Almoço Grátis de Sopa e Pão. Segunda-feira, 23 de fevereiro - Sexta-feira, 27 de fevereiro 508-693-3366, wt_mail@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@tisburyyma.gov.

Mah Jong

D I N E

A couple weeks ago, I caught the flu, and it was terrible, as you could guess. Overall, it took me a week and then some to get back to almost normal — the first five days were hell. Once I was over the hump and at least not bedridden, I decided to attempt some cooking. After all, it is a favorite hobby of mine, and I was stuck in the house for days. During my bedroom hibernation, I did manage to watch a little YouTube and find some inspiration. “Proper roast potatoes.” Say it with your best English accent. It’s fun, and makes it sound more fancy.

First things first: Get some quality gold potatoes; if you can’t find gold, yellow is fine. Preheat your oven to 360°, then peel your potatoes, and give them a good rinse under cold water. While they dry, pluck about three leaves off your fresh thyme. Fill a pot with water, add some salt, and bring it to a boil.

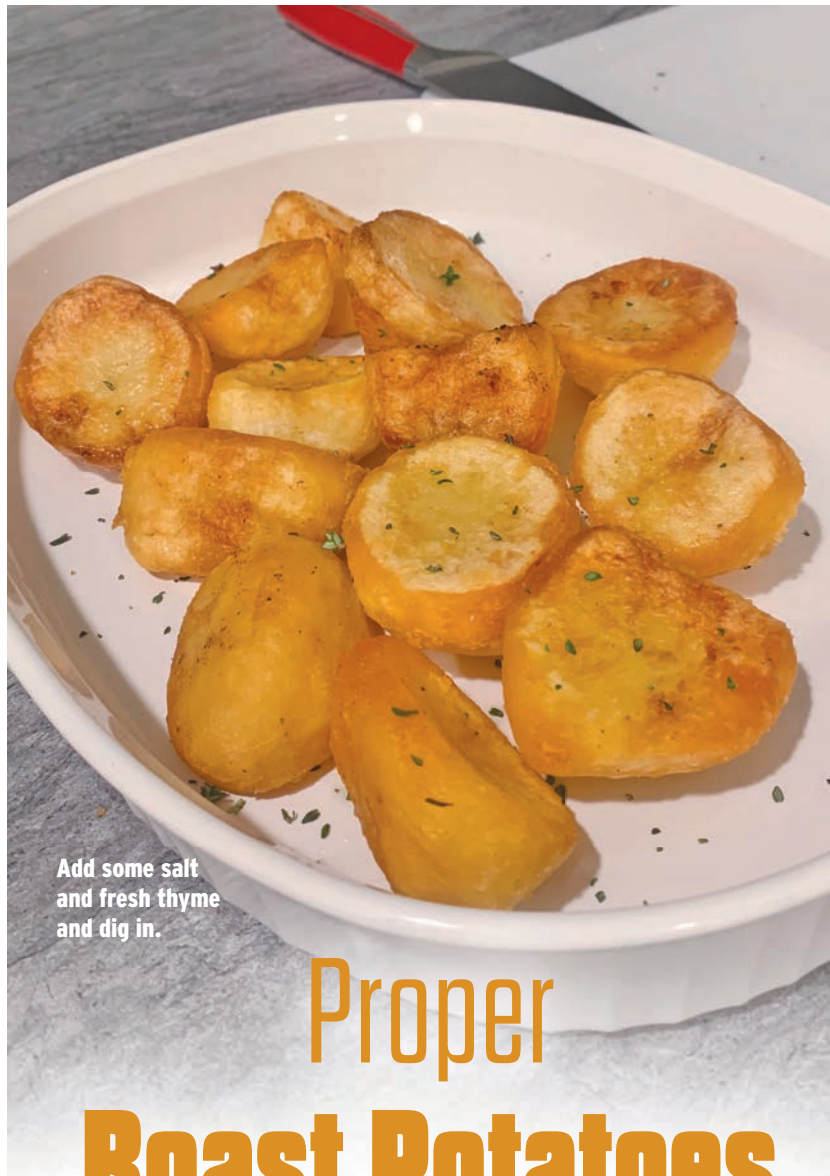
Cut the potatoes into even pieces that have at least two flat sides. I did mine the size of roughly two bites. It is super-important to make sure they’re the same size, as this ensures even cooking for all the potatoes. Once your water is boiling, carefully add in your cut potatoes, and boil for about 8 to 10 minutes. You’re looking for your potatoes to still be somewhat firm. You should be able to stick a knife into a piece without it falling apart or slipping off the knife like butter. Once they are parboiled, pour them into a colander, then cover lightly with a rag and let rest for 8 minutes. This allows them to steam a little, and gets us ready for the next step.

While we wait, get a good oven-safe pan that can be used on the stovetop as well. Put it on the stove, and fill the bottom with a healthy amount of duck fat. If you don’t have duck fat, a good olive oil is great, too. I personally used some quality beef tallow I had in the house, since I did not have duck fat. Your fat should be at least a centimeter or two up the sides of your pan; don’t be shy — fat equals flavor.

Heat the pan over medium heat. Grab the colander, and toss the potatoes almost like you’re flipping wings in sauce. This

roughens the edges and will give you a nice crust. This part is crucial, and the only reason we can toss them without them falling apart is because we parboiled them correctly. If you toss them in the

colander and they fall apart, you’ve boiled them too long. Now take the potatoes, gently pour them into the pan, spread them apart, and sear for one minute. Next, you’ll want to salt the potatoes before put-



Add some salt and fresh thyme and dig in.

Proper Roast Potatoes

Don’t be shy — fat equals flavor.
BY JEFFREY DUARTE

Once they’re done, pull them out, and season with a pinch of salt and the fresh thyme. (Insert British accent:) Well, proper job, mate! You just made some top-notch roast potatoes.

ting them into your preheated oven. Then you’re going to roast them in the oven for about 30 minutes, safely flipping them every 8 to 10 minutes, so each side of the potatoes gets a nice golden-brown crust. Cooking times may vary depending on the oven, so make sure you keep flipping them every 8 to 10 minutes. You’ll know they’re done when all sides are golden brown. Once they’re done, pull them out, and season with a pinch of salt and the fresh thyme. (Insert British accent:) Well, proper job, mate! You just made some top-notch roast potatoes. You can use these as a side for so many meals and impress those eating your cooking. P.S.: My wife fancies these with some sour cream! Cheers. **MVT**

- 360°F oven
- Good-sized OVEN-SAFE pan
- 6 to 8 medium-sized potatoes (gold or yellow)
- 3 to 4 sprigs fresh thyme
- Duck fat (olive oil or beef tallow is great, too)
- Kosher salt

ACADEMIC HONOR

CHANCELLOR’S LIST

Georgia Magden of Vineyard Haven, at University of Mississippi.

Cribbage Club results



BY SAMANTHA BURNS

Twenty-two players gathered to play cribbage this past Wednesday night, welcoming new player Andrew Berry. The results are as follows:

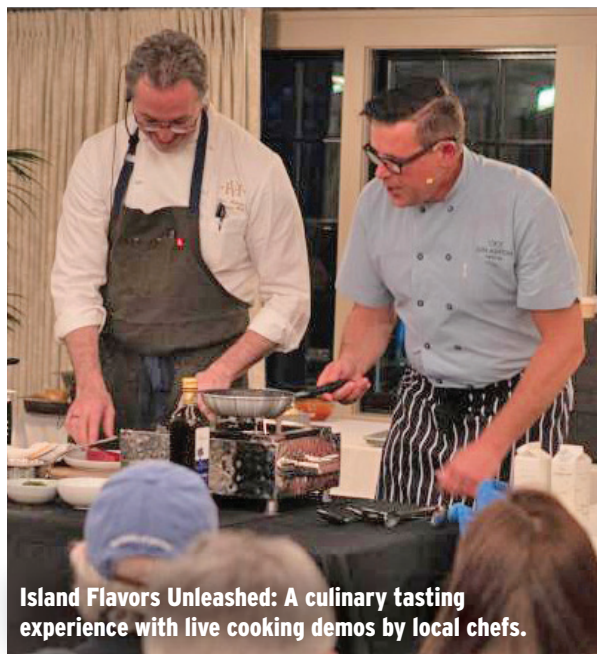
- First,** Doug Werther with an 11/4 +67 card
- Second,** Jack Silvia with a 10/5 +57 card
- Third,** Ray Lincoln with a 10/5 +39 card
- Fourth,** Andria Jason with a 15/4 –14 card
- Fifth,** Collin Evanson with a 9/4 +68 card

We had two 24-point hands, Judy Larusso and Ron Ferreira. Ten people were skunked — they lost the game by over 30 points!

We welcome anyone who plays cribbage to join us on Wednesday nights at the American Legion in Katama. We share a pot-luck at 5:30 & start play at 6 pm sharp! **MVT**

Please contact Mary Alice at 508-524-1220 or maonmv@mac.com. (Text is best!)

COMMUNITY NOTES



Island Flavors Unleashed: A culinary tasting experience with live cooking demos by local chefs.

Harbor View Hotel cooking demonstration and tasting

Get your tickets now for an inviting evening of laughter, community, and exceptional cuisine as Martha’s Vineyard’s finest chefs provide a live cooking demonstration and tasting experience. Hosted by celebrity chef Jon Ashton, this event features Executive Chef Juan Martinez of the

Harbor View Hotel, Chef Carlos Montoya of the Maker, and Dan Martino of Cottage City Oysters. Get to know these talented Island chefs, learn exclusive recipes, and experience the flavors that make Martha’s Vineyard’s culinary scene so amazing. \$128.50. Friday, March 6, 6 to 8:30 pm, Harbor View Hotel, Edgartown. Tickets: www.harborviewhotel.com

Free soup and bread

The West Tisbury library will offer free soup and bread throughout the February school break. All soups will be alpha-gal friendly, vegan, and gluten-free. Lunch for all will be served every open weekday from 11:30 am to 1 pm: Monday, Feb. 23 through Friday, Feb. 27. Soup is provided thanks to the West Tisbury Library Foundation, Friends, and Chef Deon. Free and open to the public!

Voting on food-waste processors

Island Grown Initiative (IGI) announces that this spring, several Island towns will have the opportunity to vote on purchasing food-waste processors for their local dumps to reduce trash costs and support the environment. Warrants are still being finalized, but the hope is that this idea will come before voters in Aquinnah, Chilmark, West Tisbury, and Oak Bluffs at their

spring town meetings.

Community members are encouraged to reach out to their town administrator and let them know they’d like the chance to vote on this important issue:

- **Aquinnah:** Jeffrey Madison, townadministrator@aquinnah-ma.gov
- **Chilmark:** Tim Carroll, townadministrator@chilmarkma.gov
- **West Tisbury:** Jennifer Rand, townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov
- **Oak Bluffs:** Deborah Potter, dpotter@oakbluffs-ma.gov

With support from the Martha’s Vineyard Vision Fellowship and multiple donors, IGI has been able to purchase food-waste processors for three Island schools: the Charter School, the Chilmark School, and Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School. At MVRHS, the new EcoRich system will be installed this spring, and will be able to process up to 300 pounds of food waste per day. **MVT**

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ESSAY

Addiction: A personal essay

The Island was not a cure. **BY DIANNE C. BRALEY**

Growing up in inner-city Revere, Martha's Vineyard was never a real place to me. It existed as an idea, distant, exclusive, and untouched. A place associated with celebrity, wealth, and leisure, far removed from the streets where I was raised and the instability that shaped my early life. It was somewhere other people went, somewhere people like me were meant to admire from afar.

I went for a visit when a friend asked because on that day, I needed somewhere else to be. I hoped they would let us in.

When I stepped off the ferry in Vineyard Haven, I felt immediately out of place. Not because anyone said anything, but because I became acutely aware of myself. My clothes, my posture, and the assumptions I carried about who belonged there and who did not made me feel exposed. I bought a baseball hat at the Black Dog, a small and probably futile attempt to disappear, and sat near the water watching the ferries come and go. I

knew I was an outsider trying to believe I could stay. I didn't then, not yet.

But I wanted to. The Island felt contained and calm in a way my life never had, and I never wanted to leave.

A few years later, life back home became unbearable. Back in Revere, the streets I knew by heart were changing in ways I could feel but not yet name. I had grown up surrounded by addiction, dysfunction, and the quiet endurance that comes with both. My father, sober for seven years, started drinking again. He was found

dead above the bar he had returned to. Around the same time, OxyContin use surged and was declared an epidemic. As prescriptions tightened and the drug became harder to obtain, people in neighborhoods like mine turned to heroin, which flooded back in its place.



everything on the idea that beauty protected us. I was pregnant when it collapsed. Addiction had followed me, stretching easily across seven miles of water.

One night, I drove to East Chop in the off-season and sat in my car above the cliffs, my hand on my stomach, thinking about how easily everything could end and how much I wanted it to.

It did not end there.

I left when I could no longer deny what I was seeing. Familiar landmarks became meeting points for drug exchanges. Someone I trusted turned out to be his dealer. Once I stopped pretending, the Island no longer looked the same.

I got help. I went to therapy and Al-Anon and read everything I could, trying to understand addiction well enough to keep my child from growing up inside it. Most of all, I left him. I left the addict I loved, because I finally understood that love and beauty do not conquer everything and that you can love deeply and still choose to save yourself. That clarity came, in part, from caring for my Island author patient, whose work had inspired me to return to writing and whose character later pushed me to make a difficult choice of my own. Through him, I understood that choosing survival is not betrayal. It is courage.

Years later, I came back.

I stepped off the ferry with an unfinished manuscript and walked to the small beach behind the Black Dog. I sat near the water again. The water was still there. The light and the quiet remained.

The Island had not cured me. It was never meant to.

What had changed was me. I could finally see beauty without denying suffering. People hurt everywhere, even in beautiful places.

And still, the Island remains.. **MVT**

Dianne C. Braley is an award-winning author and nurse whose work often draws on her time on Martha's Vineyard and her upbringing in Massachusetts.

I bought a baseball hat at the Black Dog, a small and probably futile attempt to disappear, and sat near the water watching the ferries come and go. I knew I was an outsider trying to believe I could stay.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD DISTRICT COURT REPORT

Jan. 15

John S. Leaf, 37, Edgartown; violating abuse prevention order, arraigned and released on personal recognizance, condition to not abuse alleged victim and abide by conditions, continued to pretrial hearing.

Jan. 16

Rafael A. Cardoso, 32, Vineyard Haven; uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, arraigned and released on personal recognizance, continued to pretrial hearing.

Paul X. Conroy, 38, Edgartown; operating under influence of liquor, operating under influence of drugs, possessing class C drug, ar-

raigned and held, bail set at \$500 with potential for bail revocation, continued to pretrial hearing.

Jan. 20

Benjamin B. Waldrop, 36, Edgartown; operating under influence of liquor, negligent operation of motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, arraigned and released on personal recognizance, continued to pretrial hearing.

Jan. 23

Rangel A. Nascimento, 33, Edgartown; unlicensed operation of motor vehicle, no inspection/sticker, arraigned and released, continued for payment.

Natan A. Monteiro, 25, Vineyard

Haven; noncompliant aftermarket lighting, unlicensed operation of motor vehicle, arraigned and released, case closed.

Jan. 27

Micah Stone, 22, Oak Bluffs; uninsured motor vehicle, operating motor vehicle with registration suspended, no inspection/sticker, arraigned and released on personal recognizance, continued to discovery compliance and jury election.

Micah Stone, 22, Oak Bluffs; assault and battery on a household member, violate abuse prevention order, arraigned and held, bail set at \$2,000 with potential for bail revocation, condition to stay away and not contact al-

leged victim, continued to discovery compliance and jury election.

Jan. 28

Leonardo L. Tonini, 33, Edgartown, assault and battery on family/household member, assault with dangerous weapon, arraigned and released on personal recognizance, condition to not abuse alleged victim, continued to discovery compliance and jury election.

Jan. 29

Jared W. Koster, 26, Oak Bluffs; marked lanes violation, negligent operation of motor vehicle, operating under the influence of liquor, arraigned and released on personal recognizance, continued to pretrial hearing.

Feb. 2

Walas N. Desales, 40, Edgartown; operating under influence of liquor, operating under influence of drugs, negligent operation of motor vehicle, speeding rate of speed exceeding posted limit, marked lanes violation, arraigned and released on personal recognizance, continued to pretrial hearing.

Santiago E. Delandero, 33,

Oak Bluffs; operating under influence of liquor, negligent operation of motor vehicle, motor vehicle lights violation, arraigned and released on personal recognizance, continued to pretrial hearing.

Feb. 5

Nilson F. Desouza Jr., 30, Oak Bluffs; operating under influence of liquor, negligent operation of motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, leaving scene of property damage, fail to stop/yield.

Feb. 6

Paulo Santos, 50, Oak Bluffs; negligent operation of motor vehicle, disorderly conduct, window obstructed/non-transparent, arraigned and released on personal recognizance, continued to pretrial hearing.

Wilber G. Dasilva, 39, Edgartown; leaving scene of property damage, marked lanes violation, arraigned and released on personal recognizance, continued to pretrial hearing.

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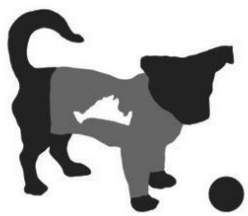
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The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times.

'Hadestown' wows with tale of love and loss

BY PENELOPE HADDAD AND TESSA SCHULZ

As the lights in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) lowered at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), the buzz of excitement and anticipation radiated from the audience. The cast then ran in from behind the audience, and the MVRHS theater department's performance of the Tony award-winning musical "Hadestown" began.

The production this year required an enormous amount of time and effort to put together. Director and theater teacher Brooke Ditchfield said, "We've been working on it for six months, so what audiences are going to see is the culmination of six months of work."

Within this time frame, students participated in after-school rehearsals and enrolled in a class that was exclusively

devoted to either the musical or stage production.

"Hadestown" is a musical mashup of two Greek myths — Orpheus and Eurydice, and Hades and Persephone — against a backdrop of an industrial-era landscape that was evident in the set design and costumes. Throughout the production, effects like fog, moving walls, and lights dropping down from the stage immersed the audience.

Junior Ethan Knight, an audience member, was familiar with both Greek myths that "Hadestown" is based on, but had not heard of the play itself. "It was really interesting to see [the story] be told in a different way and the message come across in a new form," he said.

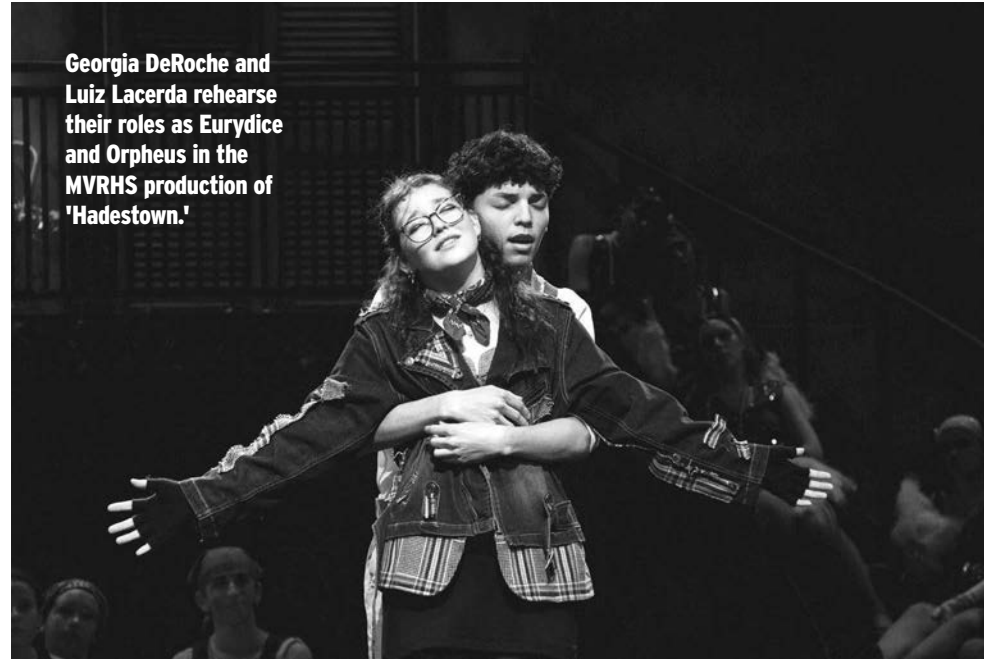
Junior Hydee Turner and senior Georgia DeRoche shared the role of Eurydice in the play, with Hydee performing the first and third

nights and Georgia the second and last.

Hydee said, "I think it's fun, because [we played] the same character, but there were so many sides or ways to interpret her story."

For Hydee, playing Eurydice was especially impactful in its relevance to modern-day troubles. "There are a lot of parts of the show where we look out to the audience, because it's moments that kind of reflect the times now, and also because [Eurydice] goes through a lot of struggle, which I think a lot of people are going through right now," she said.

Many community members contributed to the production as well. "We have incredible mentors who come in from the community," said Ms. Ditchfield. "They are carpenters and costume designers, lighting technicians and choreographers. I mean,



Georgia DeRoche and Luiz Lacerda rehearse their roles as Eurydice and Orpheus in the MVRHS production of 'Hadestown.'

BRODY ROYAL

for some of us it's been a decade or more, and this is our 12th show together."

The show also had a live onstage band composed of community members and two students.

Hydee said that her favorite moment of the show was when she heard the audience gasp. "It made me feel like I did my job," she said, "because from the beginning, [Hermes] says it's a sad story. She says it's not going to end

well, but throughout the show, you get so invested that you're like, wow, and it's just such an abrupt ending. And then I see the audience crying."

"The message of this play means a lot to me and the students," said Ms. Ditchfield. "It's about the world that we live in, but also about imagining what the world could be. I think that it's the young people who are going to show the way, as they say in the show. I hope that our

community can leave this show feeling that hope — and that they can see the beauty and they can see the light even in the darkest of times."

The moral of the play was not lost on the audience. Jessica Cushman, a parent who attended the show with her teenage daughter, said, "Even though we all know the myth, we gasp. We hope against hope that this time love, faith, and trust will win against death." HSV

Coach Joyce approaches 300th win

BY MAPLE MARTONE, ISABELLE ANTHONY, AND PICKLE EVILLE

When the boys' varsity basketball team beat Falmouth 44-42 on Friday night to clinch the Cape and Islands League title, Head Coach Mike Joyce moved to within three wins of his 300th career victory. Known for his friendly personality and dedication to sports and his players, Mr. Joyce is a walking time capsule — he carries the memories of what MVRHS used to be, while shaping future generations.

With the team's impressive record this season and following the close win of the league championship, Mr. Joyce recalled the dif-

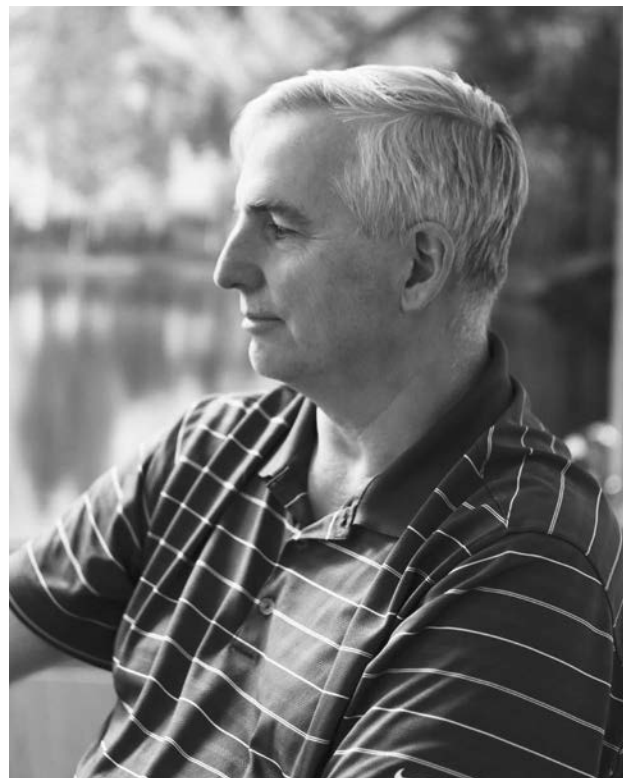
ficulty of last Friday's game and the team's strong performance.

"It was a hard game [against Falmouth]. Both teams played really good defense. It was one of the lowest-scoring games we've had, certainly in this year, and probably in a few years," he said. "I thought the kids showed a lot of resilience, a lot of fortitude in hanging in there and getting it done at the end."

While Mr. Joyce has been coaching the boys' basketball team for 23 years, and coached the junior varsity girls before that, he's had a love for basketball his entire life. "It started when I was 7, playing down at the

courts in Oak Bluffs, all the way up through high school, playing in men's leagues across the state, and eventually coming back here and coaching basketball at MVRHS. Basketball has been a pretty constant theme in my life," he said.

Mr. Joyce is also the girls' varsity golf coach, and finds the two sports to be very different. "Basketball is a much more active coaching process during the game. You're constantly adjusting to what the other team's doing, and trying to see what things are working, and what things aren't," he said. "Golf is all about preparation, because in golf you can't actively coach them on the course, so



ANINA GARVIN

Mr. Joyce watches past game replays ahead of their next game.

I can't recommend anything. I have to get them ready to make those decisions on their own."

Mr. Joyce feels that his own mentors have strongly shaped who he is today. "All along the way, coaches have

given me ways of dealing with adversity, working with people, being on a team, and pushing myself individually. All these things I try to really instill in my players — things that have also helped me throughout my life," he said.

Additionally, he's grateful to have experienced firsthand how deeply the community cares about its student athletes.

"As an athlete it was great. The support on this Island for sports is tremendous, just around town — once [people] know that you're an athlete and what sport you play, they'll check in with you on how it's going, how the season's going, and that's always been the case here," he said. "Ever since I was a little kid, the Island has always supported student athletes. Being part of it now is giving some of that back to what I got from athletics at the high school and passing that forward to the kids." HSV

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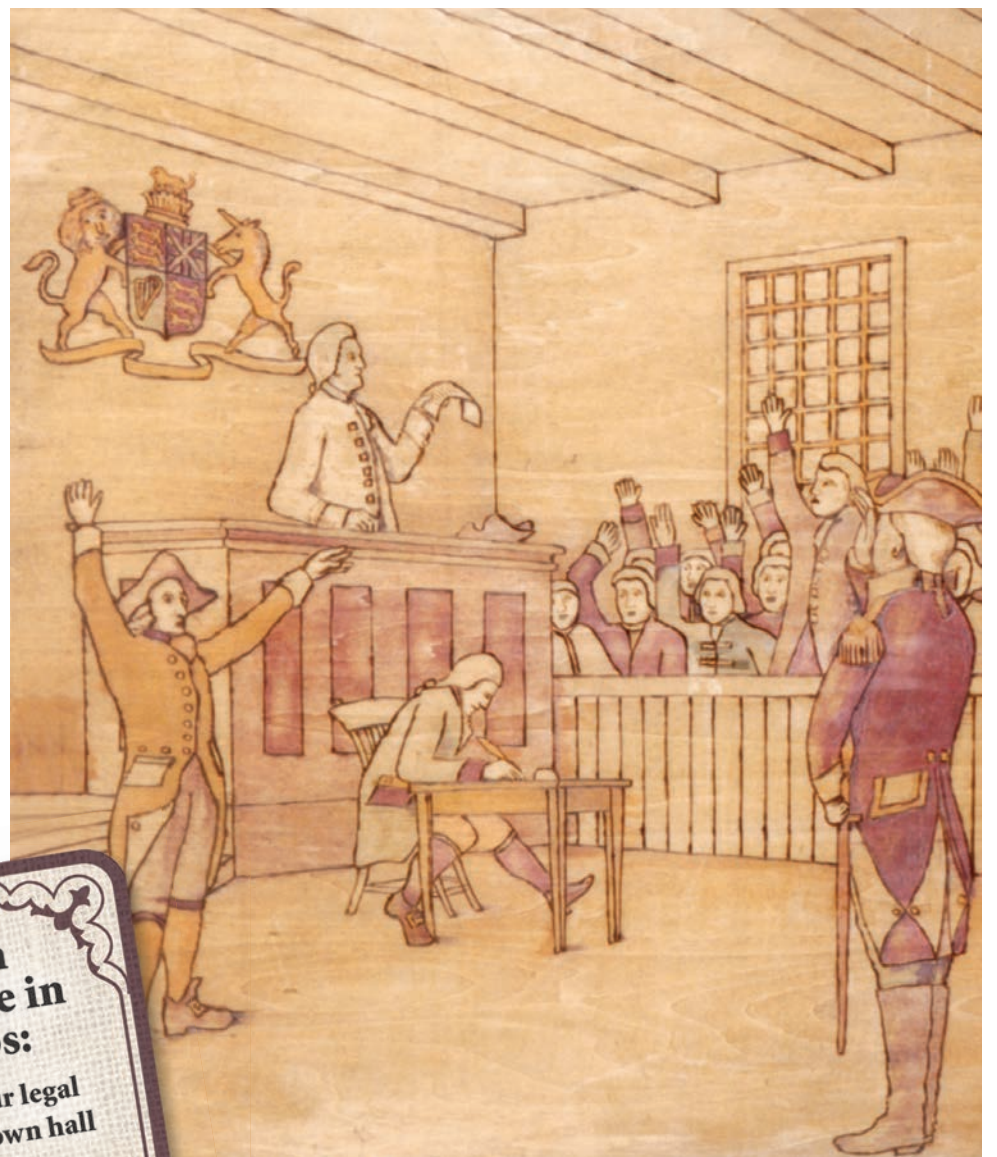
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SIGNING UP FOR DEMOCRACY

How to be a local candidate

BY NICOLE GALLAND, WITH ELLA MUNNELLY

Since 1671, Vineyarders have been self-governed; there are artistic renderings of local government meetings that show what a 1774 community meeting would have looked like. The history of town government on our Island is long and vibrant. And these days, as the world bemoans the increasing fragility of the American democratic process, every resident on Martha's Vineyard has an opportunity to take part in "the great experiment," as George Washington described American democracy. If ever there was a time to be a hands-on part of the democratic process, it is now. The 27,000-member group "Islanders Talk..." on Facebook is full of locals complaining about issues that they could help to fix if they were working from within the system. Well, here's their chance. Deadlines are fast approaching for residents to file their paperwork to become candidates in upcoming town elections, and we want to provide a user-friendly guide on the process.



Despite the need and opportunity, many town elections suffer from a dearth of candidates for the array of boards and committees and other elected posts that will be decided this spring. Most positions up and down the ballot have a single candidate, and often those running unopposed have held their posts for decades.

Tara J. Whiting-Wells had to campaign the first time she ran for West Tisbury town clerk 17 years ago, but has run unopposed ever since. In some cases, literally nobody runs for a position. Jack Law, the Oak Bluffs town moderator, speaks of appointing people to positions when there are no candidates. Generally, select boards make such appointments, but there is no Island-wide consistency in appointment authority; down-Island towns tend to be more structured than the up-Island ones in this regard.

Islanders are generally very civic-minded, so why are there so few people vying to be involved in civics? There are several reasons.

Certain roles are now appointed rather than elected, because of statewide rules, especially for treasurers and tax collectors. Also Law, who's been in local politics for 50 years, observes that it's much harder to make

a living on the Vineyard than it was decades ago; people need to work two jobs to pay their mortgage or their rent, and it's become too expensive to take the time to serve. Many candidates are often retirees — a significant demographic shift since the 1970s and 80s, when they tended to be young homeowners, stakeholders with a sense of agency about how their town would face the future.

There is also the Island's severe housing instability, which has ripple effects out to the community. People may be registered to vote in towns they no longer live in, or only live in during the off-season. It's harder to feel invested when you're not a property owner or year-round renter.

But there's a subtler reason for a lackluster interest in politics. Putting oneself out there as a candidate for the first time can be intimidating. Town websites are not always intuitive to navigate. So for those who want to put their values where their mouth is, here's a more human touch to all that information.

If you're feeling the call to serve, go to your town hall at your earliest convenience, and offer proof of residency to the town clerk so that you may pull papers — in other words, apply to be a candidate. You'll fill out a simple form or two about your plans for raising campaign funds.

The application requires endorsements from verified town voters. The minimum number of signatures required is modest: 20 in West Tisbury and Chilmark, 22 in

Continued on B15



A.I. ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE PLATH



A 19th-century painting by renowned Vineyard historian Charles Banks of a 1774 community meeting.

PAINTING BY DR. CHARLES BANKS

Continued from B14 Edgartown, 24 in Oak Bluffs, 25 in Aquinnah, 21 in Tisbury. If you're running for the water district in Oak Bluffs, you need 50 signatures.

Once you've amassed the needed signatures, file the papers with your town clerk before the deadline. This is different in each town, but fast approaching in each of them: Feb. 24 for West Tisbury, **Feb. 26 for Edgartown and Oak Bluffs, March 11 for Chilmark, March 24 for Tisbury, and March 27 for Aquinnah.**

"The nomination papers are then returned to the clerk's office, and then the registrars will certify the voter signatures," explains Kayla Darcy, Aquinnah's town clerk.

Now you're a candidate.

But whom— if anyone — are you running against?

You can ask the town clerk whether others have also pulled papers. If they have, you can decide at that point whether you want to run opposed. It's a small and friendly Island, and so even when there's competition, it's generally congenial. The late West Tisbury selectman Kent Healey liked to say, "I'm not running against anyone, I'm running for the office."

There's a good chance, however, it will just be you. For example, as of this writing, in the town of Oak Bluffs, nobody has pulled papers for an open select board seat, or for openings in the board of health, finance committee, school committee, and others.

With zero competition, your campaign

can take little effort, and cost you literally nothing. "Most people do not spend money," says Law. Then he amends that to: "Selectmen and town clerks spend some money."

Amy Del Torto ran for town clerk of Oak Bluffs last year, in a special election to finish out the former clerk's position. She was one of three candidates. Although she had to file campaign finance forms, she spent only about \$500 on her successful campaign. "I just purchased my own signs, and postcards that I passed out to people. I went around knocking on doors and outside the post office. I was very uncomfortable with it at first, I didn't think people would be receptive, but some people said, 'I voted for you because you did that.'"

Del Torto will be running for the position again this year. "Getting involved matters," she says, "because the boards and committees are shaping your town's future." **MVT**

"I encourage people: Attend some meetings, see if it's a good fit for you, talk to people. Some boards have associate members, so there is less pressure, but the learning curve is there."

—Tara J. Whiting-Wells, West Tisbury town clerk

Offices up for re-election in the 2026 term (in some cases, there is more than one opening per position):

Aquinnah:

- Board of health
- Constable
- Library trustee
- Planning board
- School committee rep
- Select board
- Town clerk

- Constable
- Finance committee
- Park commissioner
- Planning board
- Select board
- School committee
- Town clerk
- Wastewater commissioner
- Water district commissioner

Chilmark:

- Board of assessors
- Board of health
- Cemetery commissioner
- Fence viewer
- Finance committee
- Library trustee
- Planning board
- Select board
- Surveyor of wood, lumber & bark
- Tree Warden

Tisbury:

- Select board
- Board of assessors
- Board of health
- Constable
- Finance and advisory committee
- Library trustee
- Moderator
- Planning board
- School committee
- Town clerk
- Water commissioner

Edgartown:

- Board of assessors
- Board of health
- Finance committee
- Library trustee
- Parks commissioner
- Planning board
- School committee
- Select board
- Wastewater treatment commission
- Water commissioner

West Tisbury:

- Board of assessors
- Board of health
- Constable
- Finance committee
- Land Bank commissioner
- Library trustee
- Moderator
- Parks and recreation
- Select board
- Town clerk
- Tree warden
- Up-Island regional school committee

Oak Bluffs:

- Board of health
- Cemetery commissioner

Here's a brief description of (most of) the seats that are open for election:

Select board: The select board functions as the chief policymaking and executive officer of the town. It calls town meetings, prepares warrants, makes appointments, and issues licenses. Massachusetts General Laws vest the select board with all municipal authority not delegated to other elected boards or retained by town meeting, and engages town counsel.

Chilmark's mission "is to preserve Chilmark's open areas, natural features of the land, and the rural, agricultural, fishing, and shellfishing community, famed for the excellence of its location, vegetation, its open spaces, vistas, ponds, forests and shoreline on north and south coasts."

Town clerk: The town clerk functions as registrar of vital records, chief election official, and custodian of town records; the clerk issues marriage/death/birth licenses and dog licenses, and handles meeting postings.

Board of health: The board of health is responsible for safeguarding the health of the town's residents. Specific duties are relative to the protection of public health, control of disease, promotion of sanitary living and food-service conditions, permitting of septic systems, monitoring the quality of pond and lake water to safeguard the shellfish supply, and general protection of the environment from damage and pollution. The board of health is the only board that may pass a regulation without a public hearing.

Finance committee: Per statutory requirements of Massachusetts General Law, the finance committee is charged with considering and making reports and recommendations to the town on any or all municipal questions. It also makes recommendations on all warrant articles presented to town meeting for consideration. (The Tisbury committee's mission statement requires the committee to be "frugal, but not foolish.")

Board of assessors: The board of assessors in each city and town in the commonwealth is required by Massachusetts law to list and value all real and personal property on an annual basis. The office is also a data center for maps, ownership and deed information, property descriptions, and property sales.

Constable: While the nuances of the word change regionally, in New England, a constable is generally a local official serving civil processes, such as subpoenas, summons, and eviction notices.

Cemetery commission:

The cemetery commission is charged with ensuring the proper maintenance of the cemetery and making improvements where needed.

Planning board: The planning board guides community development by reviewing land use. In different towns, this can mean very different things. West Tisbury's website refers to "guiding community development" with "balanced growth," while

Tree warden:

This person is responsible for managing all community shade trees on streets and town commons as well as in parks, schoolyards, and town forests.

Wild Side

BY MATT PELIKAN



The tufted titmouse has gone from mainland memory to Island resident.

Dee-dee-dee

It's always fun, if you're a birder, to watch a new species get established in your area. And in the case of the tufted titmouse, I've enjoyed that process twice with the same species: once around my childhood home on the Massachusetts mainland, and then again after I moved to Martha's Vineyard in 1997.

Older field guides and species accounts treat the titmouse, now a common bird in our region, as a Southern species. Arthur Cleveland Bent, in a monograph published in 1946, puts the northern limit of the titmouse's range quite precisely along a line between Mahwah and coastal Englewood, N.J. Prior to the late 1950s, the species occurred in Massachusetts only as a rare vagrant. But following the first nesting record in the late 1958, the species became rapidly and broadly established.

Massachusetts Audubon's breeding bird atlas projects beautifully illustrate the changing status of this bird in the Bay State. The first atlas, based on data collected during the mid-1970s, shows the titmouse established in most of eastern Massachusetts, though absent from Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, and sparse or absent from

higher elevations west of about Worcester.

The second atlas, with fieldwork conducted about three decades later, sees those gaps in western Massachusetts mostly filled in, with the titmouse present essentially statewide except for Nantucket, where as far as I know the species is still absent. Even in the eastern portions of the state where titmice had long been present, the second atlas showed an increasingly dense population of this amiable little bird. Overall, the current range of the titmouse encompasses all of southern New England and extends north into Maine.

While it's possible that the northern expansion of the tufted titmouse's range has been encouraged by climate change, this bird was marching toward higher latitudes before warmer winters and longer growing seasons had become very evident. So while climate change may have played a role, birders have generally assumed that an increase in the popularity of bird-feeding was the main driver. Titmice rely heavily on seeds in the winter, and while the species is notoriously sedentary, local populations do seem to concentrate around feeding stations during the winter.

In the warmer months es-



The tufted titmouse.

PHOTOS: MATTHEW PELIKAN



The tufted titmouse has a tidy little crest on the head.

pecially, titmice (like most songbirds) rely heavily on insect prey. Back in the old-school days of ornithology, it was a common practice to collect bird specimens and then analyze their diets by dissecting them and examining the contents of their stomachs. Such studies generally showed a high reliance on caterpillars and insect eggs. Even in winter, these food sources continue

to help support titmice, which are adept at gleaning twigs and bark crevices for dormant prey.

Colonization of the Vineyard by titmice began in the mid-1990s and was an interesting process to watch. The first inkling that species had arrived here came, oddly, not from an actual titmouse but from the discovery (in the spring of 1997, if I remem-

ber correctly) of what was obviously a hybrid between a titmouse and a chickadee at a feeding station in Seven Gates. Pure titmice were found in the same area shortly after, and gradually the species began increasing in numbers and expanding its distribution on the island. Today, the tufted titmouse has spread to all corners of the Vineyard, though it remains scarce on Chappaquiddick; in many areas, this species now seems at least as common as the black-capped chickadee.

Whether the initial colonizers (at least one of which enjoyed an extracurricular tryst with a chickadee!) in West Tisbury were blown across the sound, mustered the courage to make the flight on their own, or got here by some other means is probably a question that can never be definitively answered. Titmice are easy to identify, paradoxically, because their appearance is so featureless. A bit larger than their close relative, the black-capped chickadee, and similarly long-tailed, these birds are uniform gray above and nearly as uniformly white below. Most individuals show some reddish color on the sides of their bellies, a mark said to average brighter in males than in females, but this coloration is not always conspicuous or even visible.

The large, dark eyes of a

Today, the tufted titmouse has spread to all corners of the Vineyard, though it remains scarce on Chappaquiddick; in many areas, this species now seems at least as common as the black-capped chickadee.

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Why the species was so slow to arrive here and how it finally washed ashore are both good questions. The legend among birders, and perhaps it's true, is that titmice have an aversion to flying across water, and

titmouse, combined with its unmarked face, impart an odd, staring expression that I've always found a bit sinister. About the only truly striking feature of a titmouse is a tidy little crest on the head, most visible when the crown feathers are erect because the bird is agitated or excited. The vocalizations of the species are not much more distinctive. Titmice give a weak, whistled song of one- or two-note phrases. A typical call is like the "dee-dee-dee" call of a chickadee, only harsher.

The tufted titmouse is now a commonly encountered part of the Vineyard avifauna. But when I see one, it still feels a bit jarring: For many of my years on the Island, this bird was mostly just a mainland memory. **MVP**

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