

Construction phase finishes on a decade-long saga

Questions over lower energy costs could be answered as the project heads toward commercial operation.

BY HAYLEY DUFFY

An offshore wind farm that seems to evoke either pride or ire in the hearts of Islanders announced that construction was completed on Friday, more than a decade after the area was leased to the project's developers. The fully installed 62-turbine Vineyard Wind 1 project, despite various impediments from forces as high up as the federal government, is officially a complete fixture on the Island's horizon.

The decade-long saga has had setbacks, from a blade that broke off one turbine located at the southernmost tip of the lease area and littered debris on the Cape and Islands to a stop-work order by the current federal administration that paused work for a month, but the project, 15 miles south of the Vineyard, announced that the final blades were installed late last week. There are a total of 186 blades on 62 turbines driven into the seabed, each a nautical mile apart.

"On Friday evening, with the installation of the final blades, Vineyard Wind completed its offshore construction program. Vineyard Wind continues to deliver power to the New England grid," Craig Gilvarg, spokesperson for the project, said. The offshore wind farm started to incrementally deliver power from completed turbines more than two years ago, in January 2024.

The completion of construction was welcomed by Massachusetts politicians, who tout the renewable energy project as an environmentally sustainable means to contain energy costs.

"We are thrilled

Continued on A9



Aiden Galligan won this year's bee when he spelled the word "immortality."

DENA PORTER

The word is ... 'immortality'

Students compete for Island glory after outspelling more than 700 students. BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

"Oppression," "winsome," "prestigious," "Frankenstein," and "bronchitis" were words spelled correctly by six Island students to earn them a spot onstage to compete in the 33rd annual Martha's Vineyard All-School Spelling

Bee Friday. But only one word had the potential to push one of those six to the next round in the country's capital, and that word was "immortality."

Eighth-grader Aiden Galligan of the West Tisbury School took home the

crown Friday morning after correctly spelling "immortality" in the final round. Now he'll be heading to Washington, D.C., to spell at the national level.

At the competition, hosted at the

Continued on A8

MV Times grows effort to support Island reporters

At the Islanders Write midwinter session, where authors, essayists, and journalists gathered around the proud legacy of writers on the Island, The Martha's Vineyard Times announced an expansion of our initiative to support a new generation of Island journalists at our news organization.

The news of several significant pledges totaling more than \$300,000 over the next three years was made Saturday at the second annual midwinter gathering at Featherstone Center for the Arts in Oak Bluffs. These generous donations help establish a growing pool of funding that allows The Times to sustain annual salaries and paid internships for emerging writers from the Island who will serve their community as local reporters by focusing on critical beats such as housing, education, health, and other important social issues that can bring us all together.

"We are humbled by the generosity, and so grateful for this opportunity to deepen the public service of journalism here on the Island, said Charles Sennott, publisher and editor of The Times, who launched the effort last year.



The MV Times' Sarah Shaw Dawson, left, the first Island Writer, talking with Publisher Charles Sennott about growing the initiative. Read full coverage of Islanders Write on B1.

DENA PORTER

"We believe there is both power and poetry in having journalists who work at the Times who hail from the Island, and we are working hard to do outreach and create more opportunities for the next generation of Islanders to join us and be part of telling the story of their own Island," Sennott added.

Two new \$150,000 commitments will be made over the next three years by two prominent families who are longtime summer residents on the Island: Jim and Susan Swartz of Egartown, and David and Nina Fialkow of West Tisbury.

A separate \$10,000 gift was made to fund a paid summer internship for rising seniors at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School as part of The Times' long-standing partnership with the school paper, "The High School View" (page B13). This gift was made by the journalist and novelist Geraldine Brooks,

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The MV Times recognized with NENPA honors

In an evening celebrating journalistic excellence in New England, The Times took home 11 awards from the New England Newspaper & Press Association (NENPA).

NENPA's Better Newspaper competition was held at a crowded banquet hall in the Venue at Portwalk Place in Portsmouth, N.H., on Saturday, after a day of workshops at the venue.

"The recognition this team has received from NENPA is well-deserved. This is a team that has performed at the highest levels at a very difficult time, especially in the past few months," Charles Sennott, publisher of The Times, said. "It's really important for the community to know it has an Island newspaper that is going above and beyond to deliver the news."

The Minute, The Times' daily newsletter, won first place in the "outstanding newsletter" category, and The Times' front page of its June 5 edition also won first place. Recognition of the daily newsletter, Sennott said, especially gives Times staff the energy to keep serving the Island.

The Times won top honors in multiple editorial categories for weekly newspapers. Contributing reporter Paula Moura's coverage of the Brazilian community won several first-place awards, including "From inside detention facility, Vineyard Brazilian immigrant shares story of his arrest" for "general news," "A wave of immigration" for immigration coverage, and a joint win with photographer Robyn Twomey for "In the shadows," which was published in the summer 2025 edition of Arts & Ideas magazine, for the "photo story" category. News

editor and reporter Hayley Duffy won second place for "energy news and reporting" for her story "A journey to see the spin," and Sarah Shaw Dawson, Island Writer and staff reporter, won second place in the housing news category for her coverage of the housing crisis on Martha's Vineyard. Dawson also won second place with former WCAI reporter Eve Zuckoff in the "excellence in newsroom collaboration and partnerships" for a story titled "Opening up uncertainty."

The Times' collaborative project with the Nantucket Current won third place in the "special sports section" category. This section was made by The Times' managing designer Dave Plath and staff reporter and sports editor Nicholas Vukota, and the Current's sports editor and senior reporter David Creed.

In the "general excellence" section among weekly newspapers with a circulation of up to 5,000, The Times won second place, tied with the Vermont Standard.

Numerous newsrooms attended the banquet, and The Times wasn't the only newsroom from the Island that won awards. Bluedot Living magazine and



COURTESY NENPA
From left, Eunki Seonwoo, Paula Moura, and Hayley Duffy from the MV Times at the NENPA event.



the Vineyard Gazette also won awards, a highlight being the selection of Ray Ewing of the Gazette as the 2025 photojournalist of the year.

NENPA represents and serves some 450 daily, weekly, and specialty newspapers across New England. **mvt**

news in brief

Passenger's mental health episode turns ferry around

A Vineyard Haven man's mental health episode forced a Steamship Authority ferry to turn around and head back to Woods Hole shortly after departing last week.

On M, Falmouth Police responded to the ferry terminal in Woods Hole for what was described as a "disruptive passenger" aboard the passenger ferry MV Woods Hole shortly after its 8:15 am departure.

Falmouth Police Lt. Ryan Hergt said the incident involved a "mental health crisis." Nobody was injured in the incident, and no criminal charges were filed. The man's identity has not been released.

According to Hergt, SSA staff reported that a male passenger "had been acting in a disorderly manner and making statements that caused concern among crew members and passengers."

"Due to the passenger's behavior, the vessel returned to the terminal so the individual could be removed," Hergt said in a statement. "Upon arrival, officers encountered the individual from Vineyard Haven as he exited the ferry and continued to display erratic behavior. Officers spoke with the individual and determined he appeared to be experiencing a mental health crisis. Falmouth Fire Rescue was requested to assist with a medical evaluation."

The Vineyard Haven man was transported by ambulance to Falmouth Hospital for a psychiatric evaluation. He was left in the custody of hospital staff.

This isn't the first time a Vineyarder experienced a mental health crisis on the ferry line. In October, the U.S. Coast Guard launched a rescue operation in waters off Woods Hole after the crew of the ferry Island Home reported an individual was overboard in rough seas with waves seven feet high and 30-knot winds. A woman

who identified herself as the sister of the man who jumped into the water said he suffered from delusions.

For those looking for help, call the national 24/7 crisis hotline by dialing 988. The Behavioral Health Help Line is available 24/7 for all residents of Massachusetts, and can be reached by call or text at 833-773-2445. On the Island, Martha's Vineyard Community Services is open 8 am to 8 pm Monday through Friday at 508-693-7900, ext. 4. MVCS provides assessment, treatment, support, case management, and referral for Islanders with urgent needs related to mental health and/or substance misuse.

Oak Bluffs Democrats to elect delegates for state convention

The Oak Bluffs Democrats are planning a caucus to elect five delegates and four alternate delegates to represent the town at the 2026 Massachusetts State Democratic Convention in May.

The Massachusetts Democratic Convention will take place on Friday, May 29, and Saturday, May 30, at the DCU Center in Worcester. The event brings together delegates, activists, and community leaders from across the state to formally consider new Democratic candidates as well as plan strategies for future elections.

Registered and preregistered Democrats in Oak Bluffs who are at least 16 years old by Saturday, March 29, qualify to be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus.

The election event will begin at 11 am on Saturday, March 21, in the Oak Bluffs library, located on 56 School St., in the second-floor conference room, where delegates will be chosen.

Edgartown Democrats also selected their delegates earlier this month.

According to a press release shared with The Times by Monica Burke, a representative

of the Oak Bluffs Democrats, youth (individuals between the ages of 16 and 35), or those who have disabilities, are people of color, veterans, or members of the LGBTQ community, and have not been elected as delegates or alternates, are encouraged to apply as add-on delegates to the caucus.

More information is available on the MassDems website, massdems.org, and anyone interested should send an RSVP to monica.burke.8@gmail.com. **mvt**

correction

In a reporting error in the story "A spate of cocaine arrests amid an 'alarming' rise in use," published on March 12, The Times incorrectly reported that Travis Viera made calls to Jessica Donahue. The police report does not state that they spoke personally on the phone, rather that Donahue was discussed on calls between Viera and others. The Times regrets the error.

clarification

In the story "How much will you pay for the high school?" published on March 11, The Times updated the article online to more accurately reflect what the average year-round resident in the up-Island town will pay (\$558) based on the average assessed value of current homes for the much-anticipated Martha's Vineyard Regional High School building project. In the print edition, The Times reported an estimate that a taxpayer in Aquinnah with a property value of \$2.75 million will pay \$990 annually for the level debt over 30 years. The \$2.75 million value is the median home price for Aquinnah used by the Warren Group, which collects real estate data. This number is correct for a home valued at that price, but suggests a higher amount than will be paid by most year-round residents.

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Special designation introduces state funding for housing

The seasonal communities designation is starting to affect Island residents directly.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

Vineyard towns got a small taste of what a legislative tool called the “seasonal communities designation” can bring to the table. The tool was intended to address the Island’s housing crunch, but the lack of a stable funding stream has humbled the extent of its reach so far.

That is, until late February, when Gov. Maura Healey’s administration awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars to Vineyard municipalities to jump-start the potential of the program to work for Island residents. It’s one part of a comprehensive package called the Affordable Homes Act, signed into law in 2024, and one of the most ambitious state housing bills in the country.

The seasonal communities designation was designed to provide new ways for municipalities and housing officials in areas uniquely affected by seasonality, like the Vineyard, to directly help year-round residents. There are 44 municipalities in the state, including the Island’s six towns, that are

now considered seasonal communities, and have been afforded new zoning and regulation allowances as a result. But Healey’s recent grants are the first substantial funding initiative since Island towns began adopting the designation.

Ranging from just over \$60,000 for Carl Widdis Way, an affordable housing project by members of the Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah (Gay Head) and Island Housing Trust, to almost \$175,000 to Oak Bluffs for veterans’ housing called Bellevue Veterans Community, these new grants — totaling three-quarters of a million dollars — are a push forward for the existing and planned housing projects at play.

“We’re making significant headway responding to a housing crisis that we’ve had for over 20 years, and that was significantly exacerbated in the COVID pandemic and its aftermath,” state Sen. Julian Cyr, who represents the Cape and Islands, said. “Already, through this new program, we’re bringing home the bacon.”

Year-round Islanders are faced with a housing landscape that’s rife with challenges, including higher costs than many other places in the state. With more than 60 percent of Vineyard homes considered seasonally vacant and a booming influx of Airbnbs and short-term rentals, a hurdle for housing officials has been finding ways to increase the number of units and lower rental rates on an Island that has limited land.

The designation has some creative workarounds to pursue that goal. One feature is an extension of the residential tax exemption, which redistributes the tax burden from year-round residents to seasonal ones, to a limit of 50 percent exemptions for year-rounders, which some towns have already looked into. West Tisbury added a bump to its residential tax exemption last year. Now West Tisbury property owners are seeing a 30 percent decrease in their tax bills, and that amount is spread out among the seasonal residents of the town instead. The towns of

Tisbury and Oak Bluffs have also increased their exemptions for year-rounders.

Other facets of the seasonal communities designation include the ability to acquire year-round occupancy restrictions on new and existing housing projects. There’s also specific language that opens up workplace housing for municipal workers. But initiatives like those need financial backing.

Cyr described the seasonal communities designation as a “consequential” toolkit for Islanders, in an interview with The Times. But, until now, it has operated below its intended capacity due to a lack of a consistent funding source.

Besides the state’s recent grants, Laura Silber, housing planner at the Martha’s Vineyard Commission, said a housing bank could fund facets of the designation in the future. A housing bank would be created by a legislative act that would introduce a fee on real estate purchases, and function much like the Land Bank.

Silber said the designation gives legislators “a platform to advocate for more robust funding streams,” like the proposed 2 percent transfer fee on luxury properties that a housing bank could introduce.

Many of these new policies “were not previously available to Massachusetts municipalities,” said Silber.

“We expect to see this particular component incorporated into town projects currently in the pipeline, and are at work with EOHLIC [the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities] vetting implementation scenarios,” Silber told The Times.

Cyr said there is another bill he introduced at the State House in Boston that could further streamline the seasonal communities designation. The bill, “S.967: An Act relative to housing in seasonal communities,” seeks to expand the outreach to more than municipal employees. It also clarifies year-round occupancy restrictions, such as an allowance for year-round deed restrictions held by seasonal communities to last in perpetuity.

In the meantime, the grants have provided a peek into the potential of the seasonal communities designation.

“On the Island, this is making possible some very real, tangible projects,” Cyr said. **MVT**

Individual grants for housing projects in each Island town

Edgartown: \$169,456 for utilities, including water, septic, and power, in the development of two homes

Oak Bluffs: \$173,455 for the Bellevue Veterans Community, a town-led project with Island Housing Trust, a nonprofit that builds affordable housing projects Island-wide

Aquinnah: \$60,147 for Carl Widdis Way, and infrastructure updates at the existing Wampanoag Tribe-owned property designated for affordable housing

Chilmark: \$78,015 for infrastructure and site-planning on town-owned land that’s intended for 14 units of affordable and community housing

Tisbury: \$161,296 toward the construction of an affordable, year-round-restricted duplex

West Tisbury: \$132,172 to help construct four year-round, affordable duplexes

Total amount awarded to the Vineyard: \$774,541

Steamship Authority approves new waitlist model

Changes are possible down the line, according to the consultant. BY EUNKI SEONWOO

Changes are on the horizon for Steamship Authority (SSA) passengers as the ferry line looks to implement changes to how its waitlist system operates.

In an ongoing effort to revamp the ferry line’s reservation system, the SSA board unanimously approved several policies to be incorporated into its new model on Tuesday. There are plans to roll out the first phase of the reservation system this coming fall.

Among the changes, modifications to the waitlist and standby lines were most anticipated by Islanders. The new policy modified the waitlist so that after customers make a reservation, they can select up to five trips to add to the waitlist. Meanwhile, the new standby line will require the purchase of a separate ticket for a specific trip, and the Blue Line, a standby line designated for Islanders, will remain as is for now, but will be reviewed by ferry staff to determine

the best way to incorporate it into the new system.

The changes are being made because the ferry line’s older system is being built into an existing, off-the-shelf program offered by E-Dea, an Italian software company specializing in vessel and port operations that is tasked with rebuilding the SSA’s reservation system.

“We have to take all of our legacy policies and procedures and make them fit within that system, and the challenge is that many of them don’t,” Mark Amundsen, SSA chief operating officer, said, although he highlighted that the new system will be “very streamlined, and simpler to use” than the current program. Amundsen said more is expected to be revealed during the beta testing phase, which is expected to start in the next month.

Alex Kryska, SSA general manager, said the ferry line is trying to keep the new system as consistent with the current one as possible so as

not to “overwhelm everybody coming out of the gate.

“The proof is going to be in the pudding when we’re actually testing it out,” Kryska said. He highlighted that the changes were decided upon following discussions with the public,

and that they won’t take any discounts away, like medical discounts built into the excursion program.

Ted Gavin, who attended a SSA board meeting for the first time as the Martha’s Vineyard representative on Tuesday, highlighted that the



A file photo of people and vehicles getting off of the ferry in Vineyard Haven.

ferry line should reach out to customers on how the changes will impact them “day one, week one, and month one,” underscoring the potential for misalignment between what is being proposed and how the waitlist system has been used by Islanders.

“Some of this is going to require people to change their behaviors that they’ve had for a really long time,” Gavin said.

Thomas Innis, consultant from Gibbous, the technology firm tapped to oversee the reservation system revamp, said the changes are an attempt to balance flexibility in the trips people can take and trip certainty.

“We’re trying to navigate the tradeoffs and figure out what’s the right way to go with this system,” Innis said. He also noted that there’s room to make further changes depending on feedback and how well the system works.

Another shift includes changing how vehicle space is measured aboard vessels. Instead of using preset blocks of space to measure availability, space will be measured by the linear feet of a vehicle. This is expected to allow more vehicles aboard vessels than before. In the example provided by the SSA, if only 14-foot vehicles were to be lined up in a 180-foot lane, the new model could fit 12

vehicles in one lane rather than 10. In the current block model, the reservation allocation gives a 14-foot vehicle 17 feet of space.

And for those enrolled in the Head Start program, which allows year-round and seasonal Vineyard and Nantucket residents the opportunity to make summer reservations before the general openings begin, new policies allow them to make five transferable reservations per customer. However, they must now be “booked directly at time of purchase,” according to a staff presentation. Before, only three of the five reservations could be transferred, though the transfer could be done at a later date.

Other changes included simplifying special discount programs, replacing a deposit with a cancellation fee for commercial customers, having a single deadline and lottery for commercial shippers, and making it so only passengers who book multiple medical reservations can delay payment.

Now the SSA is moving on to its next phase of policy amendments, including ways to address customers who don’t show up for reservations, definitions of medical travel, and managing deck space. **MVT**

EDITORIAL

Blowing the wind into promised savings

After a harsh winter that blanketed the Vineyard in record snowfall amid spikes in energy rates, a major development has occurred in the seas just south of the Island as we enter spring: Construction was completed on Vineyard Wind 1, a 62-turbine offshore wind farm.

With the project's completion, however, another question arises for many Islanders who see the turbines from the Island's southern coast: When will savings be felt in our wallets?

The project's completion comes amid volatility in the energy industry and attempts in the state to help residents with their rates. Gov. Maura Healey announced efforts in January to spend \$180 million toward reducing energy rates for residents in February and March, and on Monday, she signed an executive order that established a goal of boosting the energy supply by 10 gigawatts over the next decade, which her administration projects will save Massachusetts residents and businesses \$10 billion. The most recent decision comes as the Trump administration's war with Iran rages, and the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important chokepoints for oil, has largely been blocked as a commercial shipping route by Iranian forces.

While it's still uncertain to what extent the blockage of the strait will affect electricity prices, a rise in prices can be seen at the pumps on the Vineyard, and according to the ISO New England, more than half of the region's electricity is generated by gas. So far, just over 4 percent of electricity is generated by wind farms.

Especially in January, Massachusetts residents felt the bite of electricity bills after a bitterly cold winter. That was especially felt after the recent bout of winter storms.

Renewable energy has long been projected to be a crucial piece of providing power and weaning off of fossil fuels. Although the environmental concerns are important, many consumers are leery of when they'll see financial benefits from offshore wind farms. On the Island, there's also been debate about the costs to the Vineyard's natural view of the sea becoming industrialized.

To be clear, we're in favor of the pursuit

wind farm will "offer \$3.7 billion in energy-related cost savings over the life of the project." Despite President Donald Trump's attacks against the industry, the U.S. Department of Energy highlights the benefits of wind projects as providers of various economic benefits, including employment.

To its credit, Vineyard Wind does have a community benefit agreement with the local nonprofit cooperative, Vineyard Power, to provide various incentives, and released its details in August. And there have been benefits doled out, like rate-saving programs for low-

income Islanders and promises of having its operations and maintenance facility in Vineyard Haven staffed completely by those from the Island community within five years of the commercial operational date of the project.

But with the construction phase now wrapping up, the Island must take additional steps to communicate its desires and needs to Vineyard Wind. While other projects are also under development south of the Island, Vineyard Wind 1 is the only constructed offshore wind farm contracted to deliver power to Massachusetts ratepayers through the regional grid. South Fork Wind, completed in 2024, is delivering power to New York, while Revolution Wind is contracted to deliver power to residents in R.I. and Conn., so developments of Vineyard Wind are the most

consequential for the Island. The Island has one of the highest costs of living in the entire state, and economic benefits to Islanders will be critical for residents' feelings about the wind farm as a good neighbor. So the question is: Will the end of construction mean the beginning of savings? The answer is blowing in the wind.



The Vineyard Wind facility on Beach Road in Vineyard Haven.

EUNKI SEONWOOD

of renewable energy sources. They're a vital part of making our energy sources diverse and stable when volatility hits a source, as has been seen with the recent spikes in oil prices. Specifically regarding offshore wind, it's been touted as a tool to keep energy costs stable, and even provide savings for customers. On its own website, Vineyard Wind estimates that the

OP-ED

Child exploitation isn't a political talking point — it's a community responsibility

BY STACY GALLAGHER

Every January, National Human Trafficking Prevention Month reminds us of the importance of learning how to identify, prevent, and respond to exploitation. It's a lesson we need to carry with us throughout the year. Awareness matters. Education matters. But in recent months, as headlines increasingly focus on the sexual abuse of children, the conversation has also become deeply politicized.

When an issue becomes a political talking point, it can begin to feel distant — something that happens somewhere else, to someone else. That perception is dangerous. Exploitation is not a faraway problem. It exists in communities across Massachusetts, including right here on Cape Cod and the Islands. Over the past five

years, we have received more than 250 referrals for children in our community who were victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Behind every headline and statistic are real children — each with a story of fear, loss, and survival that demands our attention.

For many people, their understanding of child sexual exploitation comes primarily from dramatic media portrayals, or high-profile cases dominating social media and news cycles. While these stories can raise awareness, they often oversimplify a deeply complex issue. Trafficking rarely resembles the kidnapping scenarios depicted onscreen. In reality, exploitation often occurs through manipulation, grooming, coercion, or abuse within relationships where trust already exists.

Closer to home, exploitation can take many forms. A child may be offered something of value in exchange for sexual acts or explicit images. Children can also be exploited through the creation and distribution of child sexual abuse material.

Some children experience "sex-tortion," where someone threatens to release intimate images unless the child sends more photos, pays money, or agrees to meet in

person. In other cases, a child's housing or basic needs are used as leverage for exploitation.

Too often, our culture's fascination with shocking details and sensational stories can unintentionally harm survivors. When private trauma is repeatedly exposed or discussed as media spectacle, it can discourage victims from coming forward. Survivors who have not yet disclosed their abuse may see these stories and fear their own experiences will also be scrutinized or sensationalized.

Equally concerning is when public attention focuses only on the most extreme and graphic cases. This can make some victims feel their pain doesn't matter, or that they don't deserve help. Abuse is not a competition. Trauma is deeply personal, and no one but the victim can fully understand its impact.

Child Advocacy Centers exist to change these unfortunate dynamics. As the Child Advocacy Center serving Cape Cod and the Islands, Children's Cove works alongside law enforcement, child protection agencies, medical providers, and mental health professionals to ensure children who have experienced abuse receive trauma-informed care. Our

goal is not only to respond to cases, but also to provide accurate information that cuts through fear and misinformation.

Education is the antidote to fear. Communities can play an important role by asking local schools, youth programs, and recreational organizations to partner with Child Advocacy Centers to provide training on recognizing and responding to abuse. If you suspect a child is being exploited, report it immediately to law enforcement or the Department of Children and Families.

When we replace sensational headlines with informed understanding, we move from alarm to preparedness. By choosing clarity over fear, we strengthen our ability to protect children and ensure every child in our community has the safe childhood they deserve.

Stacy Gallagher is the director of Children's Cove, a department of Barnstable County. Children's Cove has a partnership with Martha's Vineyard Community Services' Connect to End Violence program to help children who were victims of crimes on the Island. To learn more about Children's Cove, visit child-rencove.org.

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VINEYARD GALLERY



KRISTÓFER RABASCA

ESSAY

Blizzards, climate change, and a grim future

BY JACK FRUCHTMAN

Anyone living in the Northeast U.S. during the winter of 2026 will long remember the days, weeks even, of bitterly cold temperatures, along with high winds so strong it was difficult to walk anywhere. And the snow: The huge storm that dumped up to 20 inches of snow on the Vineyard on Feb. 22–23, with some Island towns getting more than two feet, was one of the worst in its history. Massachusetts and Rhode Island officials reported that their states in some areas contended with more than three feet of snow.

Gov. Maura Healy announced a travel ban around the commonwealth until the plows could clear the streets. Thousands of people lost power when utility poles fell or falling trees knocked down electrical wires. Half of the Island suffered days without power. The Boston Globe reported that the “blizzard was one of the strongest on record. While the structural characteristics differ from a hurricane, the observed pressure is comparable to that of a Category 2 storm.”

This past winter is emblematic of the world’s future as the Trump administration moves to reverse everything the Environmental Protection Agency has achieved over the past 20 years to combat climate change. We can now expect more winters like the one that has just passed, and we can

expect hotter summers, more severe storms, coastal flooding and erosion, and even a full-scale transformation of the Island’s landscape and habitats. As for one of these, coastal flooding, scientists have recently “underestimated how high water levels are, and hundreds of millions of people are closer to peril than previously thought.” This includes on Martha’s Vineyard.

In mid-February, the administration announced that it was eliminating the Obama-era finding that greenhouse gas emissions cause pollution, deteriorate the environment, and lead to the illness and death of many Americans. Officials proudly proclaimed that the lifting of restrictions on vehicles amounts to the largest deregulation of business ever undertaken by any previous administration.

In 2009, the Obama administration’s EPA released its findings known as the “Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Endangerment Finding.” It concluded that “the current and projected concentrations of the six key well-mixed greenhouse gases ... in the atmosphere threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations.” President Trump asked EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin to overturn these findings and allow cars and trucks to pollute the atmosphere.

Zeldin asserted that the claim that greenhouse gas emissions emit pollution is “the ‘Holy Grail’” of the “climate change religion,” and that his action will advance “the American Dream” by allowing people to purchase cheaper vehicles without pollution controls. This is shortsighted, and dangerous. Although Donald Trump has long asserted that climate change is “a Chinese hoax,” Americans

know it is real. It invariably leads to the deterioration of the environment, as New Englanders witnessed during the winter of 2026.

But there is more. The Guardian reports that one of the world’s most outspoken climate change deniers, Marc Morano, who is the executive director of the website *climatedepot.com*, has said that climate scientists are in the “fear-promoting business,” waging a “war on modern civilization.” But he is correct when he adds that in his 26 years of “being focused on climate, I’ve never seen anything like this. Trump is gutting everything they [climate scientists] ever stood for.”

In other words, climate change deniers are winning, and winning big. As the Guardian reports, “Since taking office in January 2025,” the Trump “administration has significantly curtailed the country’s weather forecasting organizations and climate science research facilities, published reports denying established climate science, and made deep cuts to funding for climate-related energy and community projects.” As for the first of these, the administration has undercut the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research in an effort to eliminate it. According to Columbia University Law School’s Climate School, “The spending cuts primarily affect weather, ocean, and climate research, and represent a ‘down payment’ on the administration’s plan to eliminate OAR entirely.”

But there is pushback, at least a little. The International Court of Justice at the Hague ruled last year that countries failing to meet their climate obligations may face financial reparations in future cases that come before the court. The judges

wrote that “a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment” is a human right, and that climate change is “an existential threat” to human life, specifically citing greenhouse gas emissions as being “unequivocally caused by human activities,” and having cross-border effects.

The tiny country of Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides) is fighting back by sponsoring a U.N. resolution to enforce the International Court’s ruling. Vanuatu especially faces catastrophic effects of climate change as the sea threatens to envelop the island nation in the Pacific. The Trump administration has demanded that Vanuatu withdraw its resolution.

According to that country’s minister for climate change adaptation, “Having the Trump administration actively intervening in the market to stop the phaseout of fossil fuels is frustrating, it’s beyond what you’d expect a government to do.” The U.S. State Department’s response: “President Trump has delivered a very clear message: that the U.N. and many nations of the world have gone wildly off-track, exaggerating climate change into the world’s greatest threat.”

And so, the fight over greenhouse gas emissions continues. As long as it does, we can

expect to have extreme weather during Island winters, perhaps making the blizzard of 2026 seem ordinary. And just wait until we have to contend with the upcoming sweltering summer months.

Jack Fruchtmán, who lives in Aquinnah, serves on the board of directors and executive committee of the Vineyard Conservation Society (VCS). The views expressed here are his own, and not necessarily those of VCS.

obituaries

John McVey



John McVey of Mashpee, formerly of Martha's Vineyard, and originally from Magherafelt and Newbridge, County Derry, Ireland, passed away peacefully on Feb. 1, 2026.

John was the beloved son of Marian McVey and the late Desi McVey. He was the devoted father of his cherished son, Oisin. John was a loving brother to Donna (Gerry), Connie (Eddie), Louise (Stewart), and Maria (Pouya). He was a much-loved uncle to Sarah, Ciaran, Lorcan, and Aodhan, and a proud great-uncle to Tom, Daragh, and Ruby. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

John was deeply loved by his family and many friends. Known for his infectious laughter, generous spirit, and kind heart, he was always willing to lend a helping hand, and brought warmth and friendship to all who knew him. He was lovingly waked, celebrated, and laid to rest in his beloved home of Ireland, surrounded by many family members and friends whose presence was a true tribute to the love and friendship he shared throughout his life. John will be greatly missed; may he rest in peace.

Hilde Combra



Devoted housewife and businesswoman **Hilde Combra** passed away in the early morning of Feb. 21, 2026, with her devoted husband by her side.

Hilde was born on June 11, 1933, in Kirschweiler, Germany. She was the daughter of

Heinrich Peter Schonewolf and Helene Klara Stumm. She immigrated to the U.S. on August 24, 1959, to New York, and worked for the Kyle family in Maplewood, N.J., as a domestic worker. They treated her as the daughter they never had.

Hilde came to Oak Bluffs on vacation in 1964 and stayed with Elsie Klein, who had left Kirschweiler as a young girl due to World War II. Nelson Amaral had a cookout on State Beach, and they both were invited. Herbert ("Bert") A. Combra was walking around and spotted Hilde and asked who she was, and was told she was a friend of Elsie Klein. As Bert was a friend of Elsie's, he went over and introduced himself. Elsie put in a few words for Bert, and he and Hilde had a date the following night. After several dates, Bert asked Hilde to marry him, and she agreed. They were married on Nov. 24, 1964.

Bert owned the Ritz Cafe at the time, and Hilde pitched right in. It became the cleanest business in town. Customers used to say, "Maybe I should take my shoes off." They sold the Ritz and opened Hilde's Dress Shop, and then the Arcade Store, both on Circuit Ave. Hilde did all the cleaning, book-keeping, and selling.

In 1965, Hilde became a U.S. citizen. She wanted to become Catholic, to be more part of the Mass, as she could not take communion. On Dec. 7, 1985, she received her communion certificate. She was asked to be a member of the Guild, and she greatly enjoyed her time with them. Hilde became a Eucharist minister, and loved every minute of it.

Hilde leaves her family in Germany, including sister Margot Brusius (husband Karl Heinrich deceased); nephew Peter Brusius and his wife Christa, and their children Phillip and Adrian; nephew Frank Brusius and his wife Irina, and their children Frederick and Felix; and nephew Arno Brusius' sister Irmgard Gruenwald (deceased) and her husband Horst Peter; niece Steffi Bremm and her husband Erwin, and their children Melanie and Marie Luise; niece Sybille and her husband Rainer. Hilde's family on Martha's Vineyard include Marilyn Combra Rebello (deceased) and her family; Carol Combra Clark (deceased) and her family; Richard Combra Sr. and his family; and Russell Combra (deceased).

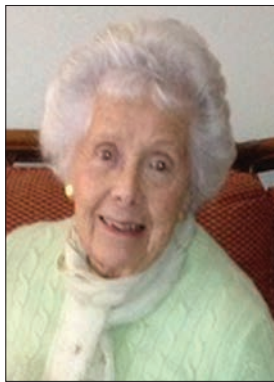
Special thanks go to many people, including Robin Rebello Meader for her constant help during these difficult times, brother Richard and his wife Dawn, nephew Richard Combra

Jr. and his wife Jen for all the meals, visits, and always being there. Thank you to nephew Brian Packish and his daughter Tyler for their visits over the years. Thank you to niece Abby Sage and her husband Chris for all that they have done, including when Hilde was in Braintree Rehab and they gave Bert a home away from home. They have always been there for the couple.

Bert thanks the pallbearers, Richard Combra Jr., Hunter Meader, Ramon Moreis Jr., Christopher Sage, Brendan Sage, and Liam Sage, lector Dawn Combra, lector Richard Combra Sr., presenters Abby and Christopher Sage, and Father Pasala and the choir.

Bert wants to thank all those who helped Hilde and himself these past 10 years: "We could never have made it without you all; my family and friends, Elder Services, Hospice, all the health aides, Eucharistic ministers, Lenny and Lindsay. "God bless you all."

Priscilla Barstow Summers



Priscilla Barstow (West) Summers of Williamsburg, Va., and Edgartown, passed away peacefully on Jan. 14, 2026, in Williamsburg. She was 100.

Born on Dec. 29, 1925, she was the daughter of the late Percy D. West and Mildred B. West of Edgartown, and the sister of the late Robert ("Bob") D. West.

After graduating from the Edgartown schools, Mrs. Summers attended Boston University, and began her career with several Boston publishing companies. While working at a Boston advertising agency, she met her future husband, James I. Summers. Together they raised four children.

During the years the family lived in Nahant, and later Swampscott, Mrs. Summers devoted herself to raising her family while pursuing many lifelong interests. She was a knowledgeable gardener, an avid golfer, a talented painter, and an accomplished floral designer.

Later in life she returned to Martha's Vineyard and lived in her childhood home on Atwood Circle in Edgartown, a house built by her grandfather and father in the 1920s. While modernizing the home, she also transformed the surrounding property with her artistic landscaping. Her house and gardens were frequently featured in charitable home and garden tours.

Another of her great passions was antiquing. She opened and operated an antiques shop in West Tisbury with her cousin-in-law, Claire West, and her daughter-in-law, Julie Summers, and later assisted with the management of All Things Oriental in Vineyard Haven.

Mrs. Summers loved to travel, and explored much of the world with family and close friends, visiting Europe, the Caribbean, Central America, and the Far East, including China and Thailand. Among her most memorable adventures was a close encounter with a charging water buffalo in Bali — an experience she escaped unharmed but enjoyed recounting for years afterward.

She loved the ocean and sailing, and found great pleasure in birdwatching, nature, and long walks along South Beach and Quansoo Beach. She was also known for warmly welcoming friends and family into her home and preparing memorable gourmet meals. Few things made her happier than looking out over the ocean with a plate of littlenecks and oysters, enjoying the sea air and the view she loved so much. She had a deep affection for dogs and, over the course of her life, had many beloved companions. Her home was always happily open to the dogs of friends and family as well.

Mrs. Summers was a parishioner of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Edgartown and Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg. She was an active member of many organizations, including the Edgartown Golf Club, Edgartown Yacht Club, the Martha's Vineyard Garden Club, Martha's Vineyard Preservation Trust, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Eastern Spray Garden Club of the Massachusetts North Shore, the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Hospital Visiting Ladies Association, and the Essex Institute in Salem.

Above all, she will be remembered as a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend whose warmth, generosity, and zest for life enriched all who knew her.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Elizabeth (Beth) Summers. She is survived by her daughter, Susanne C. Summers of Newport News, Va.; her sons, James I. Summers Jr. and his husband, David Lampariello, of Truro, and Daniel E. Summers and his wife, Susan, of Newport News, Va.; her grandchildren, Elizabeth Summers of Covington, Ky., Caleb Summers and his wife, Colleen, of Eastside, Wash., and Christian Summers and her husband, Ivan Martinez, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; and her great-grandchildren, Luna and Coco Martinez, Seamus West Summers, Eolande Summers, Nimue Summers, Odin Summers.

Interment will take place at New Westside Cemetery in Edgartown on May 15.

Susan Morris



Susan Morris of West Barrington, R.I., and frequent summer resident of the Island, died suddenly yet peacefully at age 82 in her home of 57 years, on March 2, 2026.

Susan was born in Providence, R.I., on August 10, 1943, to Margaret and P. Victor Dunbar of Merritt Road, East Providence. Her mother, Margaret, worked as an assistant to the pediatric practice of Dr. Farley. Victor served as a captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during WWII, and survived Omaha Beach on D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, and Okinawa. He retired as a lieutenant colonel after the Korean War.

Susan attended East Providence High School in 1961, and went on to graduate from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing, Columbia University, with her R.N. in 1964, valedictorian of her class. She worked at the Jane Brown Pavillion at Rhode Island Hospital. In 1968, Susan co-founded and served as the president of Childbirth Education Association (CEA), working to introduce and teach Lamaze birthing method statewide, an effort which led to its adoption by the physicians at Women and Infants Hospital and ultimately to Lamaze being taught to all expectant mothers in Rhode Island. She worked at St. Elizabeth's Home in Providence from 1972 to 1987. Susan was Rhode Island's first recipient of a federal grant to earn her master's degree as a nurse practitioner from Boston University in 1985, furthering her specialization in geriatrics. She worked alongside Dr. Brex in his East Providence practice from 1988 to 1992. From 1992 to 1994, Susan worked for VNA of R.I. before launching her own practice, Geriatric Assessment Services, which she ran until 2024 with the administrative help of Sally Sisto. Leading a team of medical professionals, she excelled in keeping elderly patients healthy and at home, surrounded by family and loved ones.

Throughout her life, Susan was dedicated to helping elderly patients and members of the community. With other committed members of the vestry at St. John's Episcopal Church, Barrington, R.I., she was part of creating John's Mobile Meals, whose mis-

sion was and still is to deliver home-cooked meals to the homebound in Barrington and Riverside. With the help of Saints Matthew and Mark Episcopal Church in West Barrington, this mission remains operative to this day.

Susan served as a board member of the Episcopal Conference Center in Pascoag, R.I., where she was a senior counselor in her youth, as well as becoming the camp's and the state's first female certified freshwater lifeguard.

Susan was an avid lifelong cyclist, touring Western Ireland, Holland, the Hebrides in Scotland and Brittany in France. She was also an avid sailor, racing numerous boats with her husband. She was a gifted artist, painting in oils, sewing clothes for herself and others, and enjoying classes in weaving and other creative arts as a longtime member of the Handicraft Club in Providence. Susan was a devoted member of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross, where she served in leadership positions both in the Providence chapter and in the society's headquarters at Adelynrood.

Susan will be greatly missed by her family, and is survived by her husband, David J. Morris, of Kent, England; her two children, Justin and Sarah Morris of Chilmark and New York City; her daughter-in-law, Tina Lutz Morris; and her two grandsons, Orson and Lou Morris.

A memorial service and lunch is planned for Tuesday, April 7, at 11 am at the Episcopal Conference Center, located at 872 Reservoir Road, Pascoag, RI 02859. Kindly RSVP to susanmorrissrsvp@gmail.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Susan's memory may be made to the Episcopal Conference Center (ECC) at eccri.org/donate, or by mail to Episcopal Conference Center, Attn: Memorial Donations, 872 Reservoir Road, Pascoag, RI 02859. Condolences may be left at monahandrabblesherman.com. **MVT**

OBITUARIES

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

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

e-mail: editor@mvtimes.com

mail: PO Box 518
Vineyard Haven, MA
02568

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

THE ISLAND'S ORIGINAL TOURIST GUIDE

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A new director for the Charter School

In the midst of leadership changes across the Island, Christopher Nace steps up at the up-Island school.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

At a time of educational leadership changes Island-wide, the Vineyard's Charter School has just named its new executive director, who will start in the role next school year.

Christopher ("Chris") Nace, an educator from the mainland with more than a dozen years of experience, will begin his tenure as the new executive director of the Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School (MVPCS) on July 1, 2026. He will take over from Peter Steedman, who has been the executive director since 2018. Steedman announced in November that he's leaving to take a job in Hyannis.

Nace is one of several new educational leaders on the Island, such as a new regional high school principal and an incoming superintendent of all public schools, both of whom will also start this summer.

The Charter School hosts about 175 students from kindergarten to 12th grade. The school's board and search committee conducted a national search to find qualified applicants, and received more than 40 applications. Nace was one of three finalists who went through a public interview process

where the community was invited to provide input.

MVPCS board chair Sheila McHugh Hazell said the school "had so much community involvement," and that insight from members of the public, parents, and staff helped them make the final decision.

Nace's career has spanned multiple years in Washington, D.C. He was most recently the principal of the D.C. International School, which is a Tier 1, IB charter school for about 900 students in grades nine through 12. Before that, he was the school's director of student support services, and a special education coordinator. He also has experience at the D.C. Department on Disability Services and the D.C. Public Schools.

Nace has cerebral palsy, a neurological condition that affects body movement and muscle coordination. He said the condition presents differently in everyone, and for him, it primarily affects his arms and hands. Nace said he's used his experience with a physical disability to advocate for inclusionary teaching strategies.

"Cerebral palsy has taught me that leadership is not about perfection or ease, but

about resilience, patience, and the determination to keep moving forward even when the path requires more effort than others may see," Nace said to The Times.

He said when he was growing up with the condition, "disability was misunderstood" or "frowned upon." "I was determined not to let those assumptions define me. That determination ultimately led me to become the first member of my family to graduate from college and pursue a career in education," Nace said.

Currently, Nace is finishing a Ph.D. in education policy and leadership at George Mason University. He holds a M.A. in secondary special education and transition services, with a concentration in autism spectrum disorder, and an M.S. in conflict analysis and resolution. He also has a B.A. in government and international politics, and a B.A. in conflict analysis and resolution.

As for housing, which leadership candidates in the past have cited as a challenging factor for a new position on the Island, Nace said he and his husband, Erik Gallup, have been looking for a way to relocate to New England, as they have family on the Cape.



SARAH SHAW DAWSON

Chris Nace, the new executive director of the Martha's Vineyard Charter School.

"I am thrilled to be relocating to the Vineyard, and to becoming immersed in the unique Island community. It feels like home," Nace stated in a press release.

There will be several new faces, including Nace's, in top positions in the local school system next school year. Jaime Curley was named as the new superintendent of schools in February, after the announcement that Richard

Smith will retire, and the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School committee is currently undergoing a search for a new principal to replace interim Principal Sean Mulvey. Announcement of the new principal is expected soon.

"Our board of directors is delighted to welcome Chris as MVPCS enters an exciting new chapter. Throughout the search process, he demonstrated vision, empa-

thy, and a deep alignment with our school's mission," Hazell stated in the release.

Nace said the perspective garnered from his life and his educational background has directly informed his teaching style, which he told The Times is grounded in "a commitment to ensuring that every student, especially those who feel different or underestimated, knows they belong." **MVT**

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The word is 'immortality'

Continued from A1

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's (MVRHS) Performing Arts Center, the lineup included Chilmark School fifth-grader Orion Persinko, Oak Bluffs School seventh-grader Mary Grace McGroarty Sampaio, Tisbury School sixth-grader Alex Gafencu, seventh-grader from Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School Rose Athearn, seventh-grader from the Edgartown School Jake Stanton, and Galligan. To qualify, they outspelled 700 other students.

Some contestants stumbled in early rounds on "thawed," "residue," and "docket." Eventually, it was just Galligan, Stanton, and Athearn left. All three final contestants seemed unstoppable before Athearn was eliminated by the silent "a" in "extraordinaire." Stanton and Galligan went for three more rounds before Stanton stumbled on "cognizant" (or "cognisant"), and Galligan successfully spelt "subsequent."

Galligan was then given the final word, "immortality," which he spelled correctly. Then he raised his arms into the air in triumph at center stage, and a big smile filled his face.

Jean Holenko, spelling bee coordinator for almost 20 years, and a science and engineering teacher at the Oak Bluffs School, introduced all the contestants to loud cheers from the crowd, but when Stanton was introduced, an extra-loud cheer came from a section of his family and friends, all wearing Boston Bruins jerseys. Stanton, in his second appearance on the MVRHS stage in the past couple of years and donning a Bruins jersey of his own, said wearing the shirts has become a tradition for them when he competes in spelling bees.

Holenko said she always looks forward to the annual bee. "Watching people work towards a goal and reaching that goal is what I enjoy," she said.

"It feels awesome," said Galligan after winning the competition.

Following his victory, he reiterated a quote from American rapper, songwriter, and record producer Kanye West at the 47th Grammy Awards in 2005. "A couple of my friends were asking me what I

would do if I didn't win. I guess we'll never know," said Galligan jokingly.

Galligan's victory not only marks him as the best speller on the Island this year, but it also earned him the right to compete in the 2026 Scripps National Spelling Bee at the DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., a trip sponsored by The Times. Galligan said his goal at the national contest is to win it all.

Galligan said he had been training a bit for the competition, but, as seen by nearly 100 spectators at the spelling bee on Friday, he had an air of confidence and calmness with each approach to the microphone, asking questions about definitions and origins of only a few words that had homonyms.

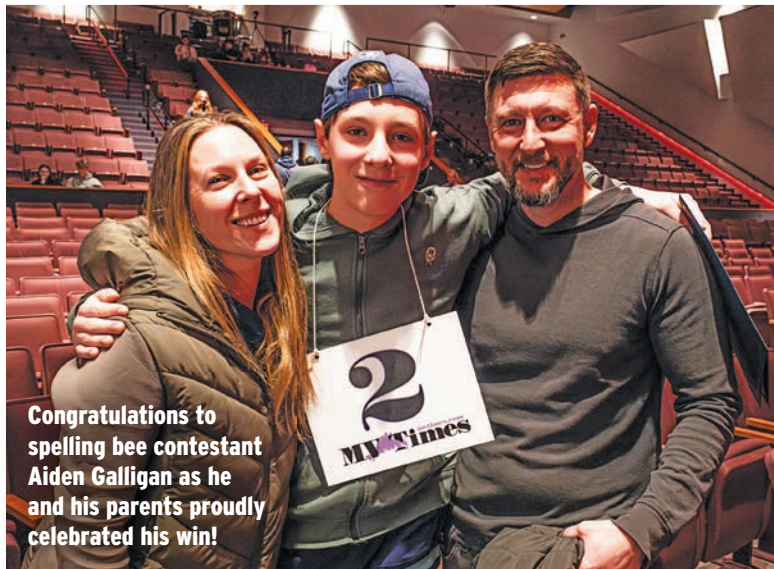
Galligan said this was his first appearance at the All-School Spelling Bee, but only one word almost stumped him. He said when he was given the word "manifests," he struggled to hear the "t," but after some clarifications, he forged forward and spelled it correctly. Other words Galligan successfully spelled included "peony," "gaseous," "pageantry," and "yoo-hoo."

Galligan's parents, Emily and Paul Galligan, said they are very excited to travel to D.C. with their son. "We had no doubt he could win," Emily said. "He's brilliant, and it's amazing. We were honored to get this far, and he's always wanted to go to D.C. anyway, so this is just perfect. We are so happy."

She said his interest in spelling and competing in the bee was born from his love of reading. "He's just a big reader. He's been great with spelling and reading his whole life. This was all him," she said.



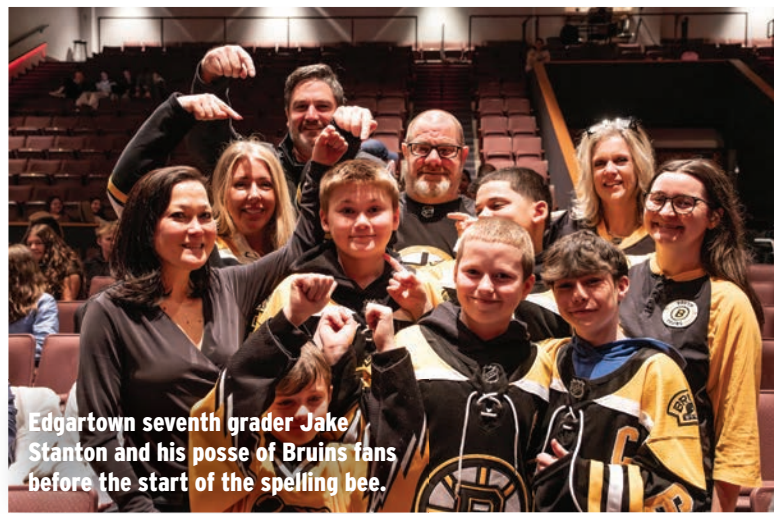
This year's spelling bee contestants Orion Pershinko, Aiden Galligan, Alex Gafencu, Mary Grace McGroarty Sampaio, Rose Athearn, and Jake Stanton.



Congratulations to spelling bee contestant Aiden Galligan as he and his parents proudly celebrated his win!



Aiden Galligan's mother Emily.



Edgartown seventh grader Jake Stanton and his posse of Bruins fans before the start of the spelling bee.



Rose Athearn spelled out some challenging words.



Judges Richie Smith of the M.V. public schools and Julie Sennott of The MV Times were joined by Interim News Editor Hayley Duffy on the spelling bee stage.



Tisbury School sixth grader Alex Gafencu spelled out his words slowly.

PHOTOS: DENA PORTER

MV Times grows effort to support Island reporters

Continued from A1

who serves on the The Times' board of editorial advisors, and who won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. It will carry the name of her late husband and journalist, Tony Horwitz, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1995 for his reporting at the Wall Street Journal on working conditions of low-wage jobs in America. Applications for

the Tony Horwitz Internship are open for applications, and we plan to announce the winner next month.

These three generous donations were all made specifically to Islanders Write, which serves as the nonprofit arm of The MV Times News Corp., and which works in partnership with M.V. Commu-

nity Foundation for this mission-driven initiative dedicated to serving the Island through creating opportunities for local Islanders to hone their craft as writers and bring their voice to the news organization. The M.V. Community Foundation serves as the fiscal sponsor of the nonprofit initiative, which is

carried out in accordance with federal requirements for a tax-deductible gift.

A separate inaugural gift, which totaled \$150,000 over three years, was made last year at the midwinter Islanders Write gathering by John and Michelle Battelle of East Chop. They both had illustrious careers in journalism, including prominent roles in the founding of WIRED magazine, before coming to live full-time on the Island six

years ago after raising their three grown children in California and New York, including their daughter Beatrix, who has worked at The Times as an intern.

"We need young reporters to be able to step up," Michelle Battelle said last year when the initiative launched with their \$150,000 gift. "The world is changing rapidly, and we need good reporters to do good, in-depth investigative reporting to shine a

light on what's going on in the world."

Kate Feiffer is a columnist for The Times and the founding director of the legendary Islanders Write summer gathering. She is proud to see that the mission to support Island writers remains the same, even as the vision grows to include a new generation who will learn the craft of reporting and writing for their community as a form of public service. **MVT**

Construction phase finishes on a decade-long saga

Continued from A1

construction on the Vineyard Wind project is complete. The affordable, home-grown power it delivers to Massachusetts residents and businesses will bring costs down as President Trump throws global markets into disarray,” Gov. Maura Healey said in a statement. “This project has been vital this winter, lowering electricity costs and powering our homes through cold weather. My administration is committed to seeing this project over the finish line to save Massachusetts families and businesses \$1.4 billion.”

However, many New Englanders express frustration that no tangible return on the investment has been seen by ratepayers yet. That is in part because the project still hasn’t reached full commercial operation, when a fixed price for the energy will be used; some turbines still need to be commissioned, which is the final step in the installation process, and ensures each turbine works properly. Post-commercial operation is also when Islanders may see the benefits promised in an agreement made between the project and an Island nonprofit 11 years ago.

Still, completion of the “construction program” for this project is a long-awaited achievement. In fact, more than a decade ago, in January 2015, developers were awarded the 166,886-acre lease in a public auction by the Department of the Interior, which is responsible for management of the U.S.’s natural resources and cultural heritage. It wasn’t until 2023 that offshore installations of turbines began, after eight years of state, local, and federal permitting, a bid process in which Massachusetts officials selected the project to deliver energy for ratepayers, and more than one iteration of the project was planned and submitted for review by federal departments; offshore cable installation began the year prior.

But the idea for an offshore wind project south of the Island began to gather force more than a decade ago. In response to the controversial Cape Wind project, a 130-turbine farm proposed off Nantucket that met fierce backlash and never came to fruition, a group of Vineyarders inspired by the promises of renewable energy dreamed of a small-scale — about 17 turbines — offshore wind farm owned by residents. In 2009, the nonprofit cooperative Vineyard Power, which has offices on Beach Road in Vineyard Haven, was created, and spearheaded the idea of a farm constructed to meet only the Island’s energy needs. But that goal, derailed by a lack of a domestic supply chain and federal regulations in the early 2000s, was thwarted, and the nonprofit

instead decided to partner with a larger developer called OffshoreMW (financially backed by the investment management company Blackstone). The dream “evolved from owning and operating a wind farm to partnering with an offshore wind developer to contractually secure the attributes and benefits of ownership through community benefits agreements,” a webpage on the nonprofit’s history reads.

OffshoreMW was acquired by Denmark-based investment firm Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP)

reformed agreement for the island. Vineyard Wind and town officials on Martha’s Vineyard plan to meet to discuss similar actions, but a date hasn’t been set yet.

The end of construction on this project comes at a critical time for developers. A suspension, based on publicly undisclosed national security concerns identified in classified reports, was issued for the project by the Trump administration just before Christmas. It paused work for more than a month, and there were concerns that the project was in jeopardy. De-



Vineyard Wind 1 turbine.



Blade installation on a Vineyard Wind 1 turbine in July.

PHOTOS: JENNETTE BARNES CAI

velopers took the federal government to court, claimed irreparable harm, and said that the project risked foreclosure and the loss of a specialized jack-up vessel, the contract for which ends March 31. A federal judge granted the project temporary relief, and construction resumed, though litigation continues in the background.

And as the project moves closer to an official commercial operation date (COD), which is when a resource generates electricity for sale, some of the promises made by the project’s developer may come through. When Vineyard Power aligned with OffshoreMW, a community benefits agreement was signed, on Jan. 15, 2015. It was the country’s first for the offshore wind industry, and gave the project a 10 percent discount on the lease. The agreement, which wasn’t made publicly available until this summer, lays out benefits for Martha’s Vineyard, such as energy savings for low-income ratepayers,

investments in solar and battery-storage projects on-Island, and modernization of the Tisbury working waterfront, all in exchange for support of the project. Though local jobs were always heralded as an advantage of the project, what the details of agreement clarified was that 100 percent of the operations and maintenance facility’s staff should be sourced from



The project’s offshore substation collects power generated by the farm.

“We are thrilled construction on the Vineyard Wind project is complete. The affordable, homegrown power it delivers to Massachusetts residents and businesses will bring costs down as President Trump throws global markets into disarray.”

—GOV. MAURA HEALEY

the Island within five years of commercial operation.

Installments from a fund created through the agreement that total \$7.5 million and can be used for on-Island solar and battery projects and resiliency redesigns or infrastructure energy projects will also start to come over after commercial operation is reached. Richard Andre, president and director of Vineyard Power, declined to comment for this article.

The power purchase agreement, a contract signed by Massachusetts electricity distribution companies and Vineyard Wind, that provides a stable price for energy also isn’t available until the project reaches COD. That is when Nathaniel Haviland-Markowitz, assistant attorney general for Massachusetts, said, in a hearing about the Trump administration’s stop-work order, ratepayers could see lower prices.

On the heels of Vineyard Wind, officials at Revolution Wind also announced that the 65-turbine project has started to send power to the grid as construction wraps up.

The offshore wind project, jointly owned by Global

Infrastructure Partners’ Skyborn Renewables and Ørsted, said Friday that power began to be delivered to the grid. It is more than 90 percent complete, and “several key construction scopes” are done, Ørsted’s construction updates webpage said.

Progress of the Revolution Wind project also bounced forward and backward in stops and starts for the better part of the last year. Developers were issued a stop-work order two separate times, once in August and, as with Vineyard Wind, once in December, by the federal government. A federal judge in the District Court for D.C. allowed work in both instances to continue as the court cases move forward.

The project, though visible off the coast of the Island, 12 miles southwest of Aquinnah, holds agreements with energy utilities in Rhode Island and Connecticut, not Massachusetts. The power generated travels by way of Narragansett Bay through an offshore cable that comes ashore at Quonset Business Park in North Kingstown, R.I. Onshore, the power travels to a substation connected to the grid. **MVF**

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Help Wanted

HELP WANTED



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
The Dukes County Regional Housing Authority (DCRHA) seeks qualified applicants for an Administrative Assistant to support daily operations. Public interaction, good verbal and written communication skills, and experience in office administration, including accounts payable, bank reconciliation, proficiency with Microsoft Office products, and QuickBooks. Forty hours weekly, a starting pay rate range of \$33.63/hr. to \$36.21/hr. with full-time benefits package. Job description available upon request. Submit cover letter and resume to dcrha@housingauthoritymv.org by 5pm. April 10, 2026.

BASICS CLOTHING

Now hiring temporary sales help for April and May. Come help us before your summer job starts! Apply in store or via email eastaway@comcast.net



HELP WANTED

BEETLEBUNG FARM

BEETLEBUNG FARM IS HIRING!

We are looking to round out our seasoned team with: Farmstand Manager and Staff Farmers
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For more info and to apply visit: beetlebungfarm.org

BIODIVERSITYWORKS SEEKS AN APPLICANT WITH AN INTEREST IN WILDLIFE BIOLOGY TO ASSIST WITH ALL OUR SUMMER WILDLIFE MONITORING AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

To learn more visit our website: <https://biodiversityworksmv.org/work-with-us/employment-opportunities/>

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

HELP WANTED

FLOWER GARDEN MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Excellent opportunity for hard working individual to work with a well established landscape maintenance team. Specilling in planting and maintaining flower gardens, plantbeds. Pots/ Planters/ Window Boxes. Knowledge of plants and arranging pots and design skills a plus. Great pay rates, benefits, paid vacations and holidays. MA Driver's License or Working Papers a plus. We speak Brazilian Portuguese please give us a call today! Call Landscape at (508) 696-8812 ask for John or Marcelo.

LOOKING FOR HELP RUNNING ERRANDS

Eldery lady with mobility issues, year rounder, looking for help running errands. Picking up groceries, food, mail, etc. 2-3 times per week. Janice 508-696-8976.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES Family Support Center Program Manager, MVCS Disability Services (\$63,000 - \$78,000 per year)

We're looking for a compassionate, culturally responsive leader who honors families lived experiences, diversity, and cultural values. In this role, you'll direct programming and support families in navigating complex systems, accessing resources, and exploring self-directed options across the lifespan. Experience preferred but paid on the job training may be provided. Apply at: mvcommunityservices.org/employment

HELP WANTED

Staff Generalist at Daybreak Clubhouse, MVCS Disability Services (\$23.00 - \$27.60 per hour)

Love supporting others as they grow, learn and connect? We're looking for a dynamic team member to provide vocational, educational, and social support to members in our Daybreak Clubhouse. We value lived experience and strongly encourage individuals with personal experience of mental health illness to apply. Experience preferred but paid on the job training may be provided. Apply at: mvcommunityservices.org/employment

Family Support Center Service Navigator, MVCS Disability Services (\$23.07 - \$27.40 per hour)

Do you love helping families thrive? We're seeking a compassionate and resourceful Service Navigator to support families in identifying resources, solving problems, and building strong community connections. Join a team that values family strengths, diversity, and self-direction across the lifespan. Experience preferred but paid on the job training may be provided. Apply at: mvcommunityservices.org/employment

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES Program Coordinator - Island Wide Youth Collaborative (IWYC) (\$53,000-\$68,000/year)

The Program Coordinator will support families and assist with day-to-day operations of the IWYC, a Massachusetts Family Resource Center. Responsibilities include connecting families with community resources, coordinating services, and working with staff and community partners to support impactful, culturally responsive programming. Some evening and weekend hours are required. Qualifications: Experience in social services, family support, or mental health settings preferred. Strong communication, leadership, organizational, and teamwork skills

HELP WANTED

Passionate about helping families thrive? We encourage you to apply at mvcommunityservices.org/employment

Program Director - Island Wide Youth Collaborative (IWYC) (\$73,000 - \$88,000/year)

The Program Director will lead the IWYC, a Massachusetts Family Resource Center. Responsibilities include program oversight, designing and planning the IWYC program, supervising staff, working with Leadership to develop program budgets, managing state and federal contract compliance, and collaborating with community partners. Some evening and weekend hours are required. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree required (relevant field preferred) and 1-3 years of nonprofit program management or leadership experience. Strong communication, leadership, and organizational skills required. Passionate about helping families thrive? We encourage you to apply at mvcommunityservices.org/employment



FRONT DESK

We are looking for a driven and organized individual to join our team managing and running the front desk at Vineyard Decorators - an expanding company with career growth opportunities. If you are interested in interior design this could be a great first step in your career. Email resume to sophia@vineyarddecorators.com



HELP WANTED



DUKES COUNTY SHERIFFS' OFFICE PUBLIC SAFETY TELE-COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS

** \$500 Monthly Housing Stipend for Full Time Island Resident Tele-communicators**
Are you looking to kick-start your career, while helping the Island Community? Duties include, but not limited to receiving, processing, transmitting and/or dispatching emergency and non-emergency calls for police, fire, emergency medical, and other public safety services via telephone and other communication devices. Effective oral and written communications skills, sensitivity to working with confidential material; flexibility and willingness to adapt to changing environment and priorities; positive attitude, integrity and, excellent judgment. Work schedule includes assignments to the day, evening and night, weekend, and holiday shifts. Paid on-site training, as well as off-island Academy training upon completion of probationary period. Full-time position with a generous benefit package, including paid leave, insurance and retirement. Full time Tele-Communicator-In-Training pay range is \$71,140.94-\$78,545.22 annually, plus \$500 monthly stipend. Applications and job description available at dukescountysheriff.com/careers

PART TIME YARD AND SMALL PROJECT WORK HELPING ELDERLY GENTLEMAN AROUND HOME.

Flexible hours to accommodate your schedule. 508-627-5791.

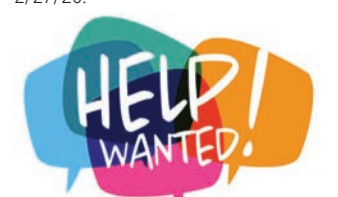
SIMPLE CLEANING HELP/ PERSONAL ASSISTANT

6 or more hours a week. Maybe in exchange for use of a car? \$20-\$25 per hour. 310-213-5472.



GREENHOUSE ASSISTANT

PHA seeks a Greenhouse Assistant to propagate and care for plants, trees and shrubs in our greenhouse and nursery. Part-time, seasonal position March thru November (flexible), \$25/hour. Job description and application instructions found at <https://www.pollyhillarboretum.org/get-involved/employmentopportunities/>. Priority given to those who apply by 2/27/26.



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

Join the Martha's Vineyard Bank Team! Financial Advisor



Martha's Vineyard Bank and Martha's Vineyard Investment Advisors are excited to be adding a Financial Advisor to our investment team. This position is responsible for developing and maintaining client relationships while actively promoting strategic financial solutions for individual and institutional clients. Investment licenses are preferred but willing to support individuals who have the desire to obtain licenses.

Please visit www.mvbank.com for detailed information or to apply. We offer an exceptional benefits package, growth opportunities and a competitive compensation package that includes incentive compensation.



Equal Opportunity Employer: Vets/Disabled



Help Wanted

HELP WANTED



HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD EMPLOYEE HOUSING AND CAR AVAILABLE

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) – FT, PT, Per-Diem, and On-Call
Seeking a caring and skilled Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in MA to join our hospice team. In this role, you will provide direct patient care under the supervision of a Registered Nurse, ensuring comfort, personal care and symptom management, and emotional support in the home, facility, or inpatient setting. This position also involves some administrative responsibilities, including accurate and timely data entry to support patient care documentation and compliance in an electronic database. Must have strong organizational, interpersonal and communication skills. If you are a nurse who leads with compassionate and carrying out patient-centered care, please submit your resume and cover letter to mdevaney@hospiceofmv.org or visit <https://hospiceofmv.org/careers/> for more information and to apply.



JOIN OUR FABULOUS TEACHING TEAM!

Chilmark Preschool is seeking a Lead Teacher and Assistant Teachers for next school year. Please email nora@chilmarkpreschool.com to apply.



NOW HIRING

Bilzerian Tree & Land is looking to hire tree workers to join our team. Work includes tree removal, trimming, and general tree work, with occasional landscaping. Experience preferred but willing to train the right person. Competitive pay. Immediate start.

HELP WANTED



Hospice and Palliative Care of Martha's Vineyard EMPLOYEE HOUSING AND CAR AVAILABLE

On-Call Nights and Weekends Registered Nurse

Triage experience and the ability to assess and prioritize patient needs quickly and accurately. Under physician orders: Plans, directs, implements hospice and palliative nursing emphasizing quality of life and education. Strong organizational, interpersonal & communication skills is required as a member of an interdisciplinary team who can develop and follow a care plan establishing goals to meet both individual and family needs incorporating palliative nursing skills. Current unrestricted driver's license required. Additional work during business hours may be required on occasion and will be required during initial onboarding.

RN Case Manager – FT, PT, Per-Diem, and On-Call

Under physician orders: Plans, directs, implements hospice and palliative nursing emphasizing quality of life and education. Strong organizational, interpersonal & communication skills is required as a member of an interdisciplinary team who can develop and follow a care plan establishing goals to meet both individual and family needs incorporating palliative nursing skills. If you are a nurse who leads with compassionate and carrying out patient-centered care, please submit your resume and cover letter to mdevaney@hospiceofmv.org or visit <https://hospiceofmv.org/careers/> for more information and to apply.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

East Chop Beach Club is seeking a dedicated supervisor, activities director/senior beach staff, and lifeguards for the summer of 2026. Visit our website for more details: EastChopBeachClub.com.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

seeking applicants for a Minute Taker for the All Island School Committee & Regionalization Sub-Committee starting ASAP \$50.00/hour Meetings are scheduled monthly

HELP WANTED

sometimes weekly, times and dates TBD. Interested applicants should send a letter of interest to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 4 Pine Street, Vineyard Haven, 02568 508-693-2009 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.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Open coaching positions
Varsity Head Football
Head Boys Tennis
Application of Support Staff can be found on our website at: www.mvyps.org under "Employment" forms or at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools 4 Pine Street, Vineyard Haven, 02568 508-693-2009
Return completed application to the Superintendent's Office
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.

MASS AUDUBON FELIX NECK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Love nature and want to share it with others? Mass Audubon Felix Neck is hiring: Program Specialist, Seasonal part-time, help with youth and family programming. Camp Staff, Seasonal full-time. Visitor Services Representative, Seasonal part-time. Assist with day-to-day visitor engagement operations. For detailed job descriptions and applications; www.massaudubon.org/jobs

MVPCS ELEMENTARY GRADE TEACHER

The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School seeks a full-time, elementary grade (1 - 4) teacher to start 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, pstedman@mvpcs.org. Applications can be found on the school website at MVPCS.org.



HELP WANTED



SUN ISLAND DELIVERY

Delivery Driver / Truck Driver Non CDL on Martha's Vineyard
We are offering a full-time position for a reliable and motivated delivery driver to join our team. This position involves operating a company vehicle to deliver freight. CDL license is not required but would be a plus.
We offer a competitive pay rate and full benefits package.
Please contact Tony at 508-693-1036 or email mvisis355@gmail.com

THE TOWN OF TISBURY SEEKS TISBURY RESIDENTS TO SERVE ON THE SEWER ADVISORY BOARD AND BOARD OF REGISTRARS.

The Board of Registrars is looking for one Republican, as well as an additional member with any enrollment affiliation. Please submit letter of interest to Select Board office at pbennett@tisburyma.gov by March 26, 2026.

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING PART-TIME OUTREACH WORKER \$34.99/HOUR

The Town of Edgartown seeks to fill the temporary position of Part-Time Outreach Worker. With weekly schedule to be determined, the position requires 12-18 hours/week. Position is non-benefitted and limited-term based grant funding (approximately March '26 through September'26). Responsibilities include maintaining contact with Edgartown older adults and facilitating access to services, transportation coordination, and other support and administrative functions. Minimum of two years' experience in gerontology, social work, a related field required; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Familiarity with Microsoft and Google suites necessary. Bachelor's degree preferred. Application and full job description available at www.edgartown-ma.us or contact lfamarriss@edgartown-ma.us. Please return completed applications to the Human Resource Office in Town Hall, PO Box 5130, Edgartown, MA 02539, or to HR@edgartown-ma.us. Position will be open until filled. Town of Edgartown is EOE.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN PARKS COMMISSION ASSISTANT BEACH DIRECTOR \$28.17-\$37.06

The Town of Edgartown is seeking an Assistant Beach Director to support the daily operation and management of Town beaches. This full-time, 40-hour/week position performs a combination of technical and field-based work, including inspecting beaches for safety and compliance with Town bylaws, coordinating routine maintenance of facilities, signage, boardwalks, and over-sand vehicle (OSV) corridors, and assisting with the installation and removal of seasonal infrastructure. The role requires regular outdoor work in varying weather conditions, strong communication and organizational skills, and the ability to manage multiple priorities in a dynamic environment. A high school diploma or equivalent, and a valid U.S. driver's license is required. Experience with beach operations, OSV access, and coastal resource management is preferred.
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 filled. The Town of Edgartown is an equal opportunity employer. Please submit completed applications to HR@edgartown-ma.us



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MV VISION FELLOWSHIP

The Vision Fellowship empowers Islanders who are committed to the environmental and social sustainability of Martha's Vineyard. If you have excellent nonprofit leadership, management, and budgeting skills, as well as discretion and a commitment to Martha's Vineyard's future, please visit www.vineyardvision.org to apply.



HELP WANTED



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.
Approx. 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

VINEYARD HAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Part-time Substitute Library Aide, \$26.33 per hour. Position provides technology support and customer service to library visitors of all ages. Variable work schedule to include some weekend and evening hours. High school diploma or equivalent required, with 2 or more years of college and library or retail work experience strongly preferred. Ideal candidates will have knowledge of books and literature and strong computer skills. Application available on Tisbury Town website, www.tisburyma.gov. 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

READ ONLINE: MVTIMES.COM

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THE ISLAND'S ORIGINAL TOURIST GUIDE

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Classifieds

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

AVAILABLE TO RENT: FOUR PUSH-CARTS AT PUSHCART ALLEY 38 MAIN ST DOWNTOWN TISBURY

Get a great location for a very reasonable cost. The four pushcarts at iconic "Pushcart Alley" at 38 Main Street in downtown Vineyard Haven have become available to rent after a 25 year run that provided a good income for one family who still live on MV. Very reasonable triple net terms. See MarthasVineyardRentals.net Call 508-627-5900 or email pushcarts@marthasvineyardrentals.net and cc pushcarts@moshup.com

OFFICE/RETAIL 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 immediately. First and last month rent & security deposit required. Contact Chris 508-627-2895 for appointment.

COMMERCIAL CONDO FOR RENT/SALE

at Tisbury Market Place 600 sq ft. First floor unit Call Leslie for details 508-333-1000.

COMMERCIAL RENTAL WANTED

PRIVATE OFFICE SPACE 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. Schedule a viewing today for more information.

APARTMENTS/ROOMS

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.

WEST TISBURY HUGE TWO BEDROOM (YEAR ROUND) RENTAL FOR A COUPLE.

Reduced rent in exchange for possible occasional visiting doctor in training in second bedroom. 20 foot ceilings. New laundry and appliances. No cigarette smokers, pot ok outside. High porch, total privacy/no traffic-backyard barbecue. Walk down the driveway to up Island Cronig's. Utilities cable, trash included. \$3000 month or best offer - value is \$4500+. No carpet, mold or chemicals. Text 310-213-5472 available immediately

YEAR ROUND APARTMENTS

One person only, full-time, day-worker preferred. West Tisbury. No smokers, no pets. Partially furnished or not. Start April-1st. \$1,750 one-bedroom or studio. Some utilities included. Application & references, first/last/security. 508-693-9199.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

HORSE AVAILABLE FOR HALF LEASE

Enzo, a stunning 18-hand chestnut with beautiful floating gaits and excellent movement. Son of the Olympic dressage sire Glock's Johnson. Available May 1 through

PETS & LIVESTOCK

next winter at a beautiful farm in Vineyard Haven, currently training with a well-known trainer off-island with access to an indoor arena. Enzo also jumps beautifully. Also available is Diamond, another large 18-hand chestnut, Enzo's companion, offered for an inexpensive full lease for pleasure riding. Suitable for advanced riders only. Lease is \$1,000/month each (negotiable). Owner pays board, vet, and shoes—an exceptional opportunity to ride truly stunning horses. Text (310) 213-5472 for videos and more information.

BOAT SALES

MARSHALL SANDERLING 18' SAILBOAT – CLASSIC CENTERBOARD CATBOAT WITH TILLER.

Sails beautifully in shallow water and can be beached – the quintessential Cape Cod/Martha's Vineyard boat. Includes trailer, sail, cushions, life vests, bronze step – fully equipped and ready to enjoy. Stored under tarp; needs wash and fresh bottom/cockpit paint. \$6,400 OBO. Vineyard sale preferred. Must pick up; seller cannot transport. Text for details (407) 625-1475

SITUATIONS WANTED

LOOKING FOR PRIVATE POOL IN VH OR WEST TISBURY TO SWIM MORNING LAP.

Will pay to do so. Janice 508-696-8976

SERVICES

HANDYMAN HOME SERVICES

Property management/Carpentry/Painting/Decks/Outdoor Showers 508-221-2796

MY HANDYMAN SERVICES/PROPERTY PAINT, DUMP RUN, TILE/STONE WORK, CARPENTRY, WINDOWS/DOORS, SHINGLES, GUTTER CLEANUP, DECK REJUVENATE, POWER WASHER, ROOFS, BASEMENT/GARAGE CLEAN UP, Certified Mold Inspector & Remediator, French Drain Installation. 508-684-0242., RENATO myhandymanmv@gmail.com

YARD SALES

ESTATE SALES/YARD SALE

113 Leonard Circle, Vineyard Haven Saturday March 21, 10-4 Rain Date: Sunday, March 22 Furniture, kitchenware, linens, tools, lawnmower, sizable kitchen table...

55 Plus

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MARILYN MOSES | 617-462-0381
OCEAN PARK REALTY, INC.

Charming year-round renovated Victorian cottage in the historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, located in the heart of Wesleyan Grove in Oak Bluffs. This 3-bedroom, 1-bath home features shiplap walls, knotty pine ceilings, original wood flooring, and sun-filled interiors throughout. The updated kitchen offers quartz countertops, a farmhouse sink, stylish lighting, and newer energy-efficient appliances. Improvements include Marvin wood windows, a newer roof, hot water tank, and energy-efficient heat pumps for AC and heat. Enjoy a welcoming front porch with colorful gardens and a slate patio with fenced garden space for outdoor dining and relaxing. Just steps to Circuit Avenue, Oak Bluffs Harbor, and nearby beaches.



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.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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 to urist-oriented business like the longtime Anderson Bike Rentals, create a new commercial venture, or reimagine the property as your personal dream home. Whether you renovate the existing structure or build from the ground up, you'll benefit from one of the most visible and vibrant locations in Oak Bluffs. Walk to everything—ferries, beaches, the marina, restaurants, movies, shopping, Ocean Park concerts, the OB fishing pier, and the beloved Oak Bluffs Fireworks. This is a must-see, legacy property with rare potential in a location that can't be beat. Very easy to show. Pre-approval or proof of funds required with all offers.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



ONE LOT AVAILABLE 35 DOUBLE
OX \$700,000 CALL OR TEXT
MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381
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 Sengkontacket 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.



PRICE IMPROVEMENT
46 KENNEBEC AVENUE
OAK BLUFFS, MA
\$1,495,000
CALL OR TEXT ALAN SCHWEIKERT
508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL
SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112
OCEAN PARK REALTY

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS

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

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



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

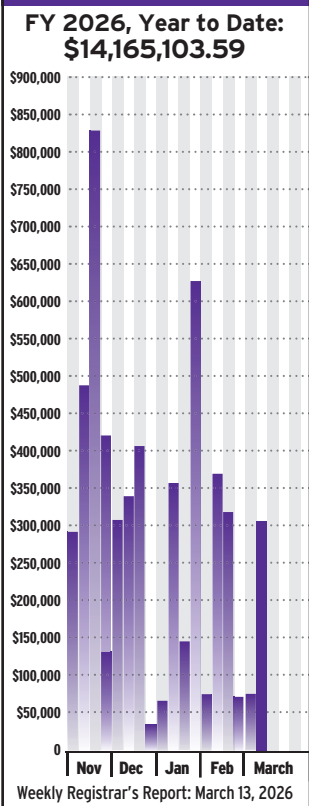
Location, Location, Location. Rare Opportunity to own a 10,000 sq ft South facing level corner lot on a paved road that may accommodate up to 3 bedrooms with Board of Health approval. A sandy beach on Lagoon Pond is just a short stroll (about 1500 ft.)enjoy the beach, walk your pet, watch the stunning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



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!

LAND BANK
WEEKLY INCOME



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.



\$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.



PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE,
SCAN HERE OR VISIT
MVTIMES.COM/CLASSIFIEDS

Real Estate

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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

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



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

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD \$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!

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.



SOLD COASTAL CHIC CONDO PRICE IMPROVEMENT \$1,149,000 SENGEKONTACKET 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 SENGEKONTACKET \$1,995,000 CALL OR TEXT JAYNE ISFORD 203-962-4317

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

HOUSES-VINEYARD HAVEN



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

See What You Can Build for 33% less!

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

YOU CAN AFFORD TO BUILD ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

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

MV Times .com

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MARTHASVINEYARDTIMES

A comprehensive Guide for Vineyarders and Vacationers

VINEYARD VISITOR

MV Times

EMAIL ADSALES@MVTIMES.COM, OR CALL 508-693-6100.

Legal Notices

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 **Thursday April 3, 2026 at 4:30 pm** to receive public comment on the following amendment to the current Tisbury Zoning Bylaw.
PLACE: **Hybrid**- in person at 66 Highpoint Lane Town Hall Annex. Additionally, this meeting will be held remotely via Zoom platform. The Public can attend and participate in the meeting by the following method- MVPSIS Conf3 is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting:
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81415890552>
Meeting ID: 814 1589 0552
Passcode: 1881171
One tap mobile
+13017158592,81415890552# US (Washington DC)
+13052241968,81415890552# US
ARTICLE XX- Short Term Rentals WARRANT ARTICLE FOR ZONING AMENDMENT – SHORT-TERM RENTALS
To see if the Town will vote to amend the Tisbury Zoning By-laws, section 07.18, Short-Term Rentals, by deleting paragraph 4 of subsection 07.18.02, as shown below in strikethrough format, and renumbering existing paragraphs 5 and 6 as 4 and 5, or take any other action relative thereto:
4. No dwelling unit or portion thereof may be rented as a short-term rental for more than 75 nights in a calendar year.

TISBURY PLANNING BOARD HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to MGL c. 40A, Section 5, the Tisbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday March 26, 2026 at 4:30 pm** to receive public comment on the following amendments to the current Tisbury Zoning Bylaws.
PLACE: **Hybrid**- in person at 66 Highpoint Lane Town Hall Annex. Additionally, this meeting will be held remotely via Zoom platform. The Public can attend and participate in the meeting by the following method- MVPSIS Conf3 is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting:
Topic: TPB Public Hearing- warrant article review
Time: Mar 26, 2026 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83101887204>
Meeting ID: 831 0188 7204
Passcode: 747091
One tap mobile
+13017158592,83101887204# US (Washington DC)
+13052241968,83101887204# US

ARTICLE XX- LAND CLEARING AND GRADING

Replace existing Section 07.12 in its entirety with the following: 07.12 LAND ALTERATION

07.12.01 Purpose
To protect the health, safety, and property of Town residents by regulating clearing and grading; preserving trees and vegetation; preventing erosion; controlling stormwater; maintaining contiguous forested areas; and avoiding impacts to native, rare and endangered species.

07.12.02 Definitions
For the purposes of this section:
Certified Arborist: An arborist holding current International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification.
Clearcutting: Removal of all or substantially all trees and woody vegetation from an area.
DBH (Diameter at Breast Height): Diameter of a tree trunk measured at 4.5 feet above mean natural grade.
Grading: Excavation, filling, leveling, or other alteration of existing land contours.
Soil Disturbance: Any activity that exposes, removes, compacts, or relocates soil, including excavation, trenching, and stripping of topsoil.
Vegetation Clearing: Cutting, removal, or destruction of trees, shrubs, or ground cover, excluding routine mowing of a maintained lawn.

07.12.03 Applicability
This section applies to the R10, R20, R25, R50, and R3A residential zoning

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

districts. It does not apply to the B1, B2, or Waterfront/Commercial districts. A Special Permit from the Planning Board is required before any clearcutting, vegetation clearing, soil disturbance, grading, or alteration of topography exceeding the thresholds in Table 1 is undertaken, unless exempted under 07.12.05.

Table 1

District R10- Max 60%
District R20-Max 50%
District R25-Max 40%
Districts R50 / R3A Max 30%

Clearing includes all such activity for building footprints, construction access, utility trenching, paving, and topographic alteration and landscaping. The minimum front, side, and rear setback areas designated in Section 13.01 Schedule A shall be preserved from clearing, disturbance, paving, and grading, except for purposes of access and exemptions under 07.12.05.

07.12.04 Relationship to Other Permits
Where a project requires a Special Permit under this section and another Special Permit under this bylaw, the Planning Board may consolidate review. A separate Special Permit under this section is not required where the Board determines the standards of 07.12.08 have been addressed in another Special Permit review for the same project. This section does not alter any Conservation Commission approval requirement under MGL c. 131.

07.12.05 Exemptions
1. Removal of hazardous trees as determined by the Tree Warden or a Certified Arborist.
2. Routine maintenance of native vegetation, including containment of species prohibited by state law or regulation.
3. Maintenance of a 30-foot fire protection zone around any structure, which may encroach into setback areas.
4. Maintenance of public streets and utilities within Town-approved layouts and easements.
5. Work reviewed under another Special Permit where the Planning Board has applied the standards of 07.12.08.
6. In the R10 district, on lots of 11,000 square feet or less, clearing may encroach into setback areas.
07.12.06 Review Procedure
The Planning Board shall transmit a copy of each completed Special Permit application to the Conservation Commission, who shall submit comments within 35 days of receipt. The Planning Board shall give due consideration to the Conservation Commission's comments, particularly regarding wetlands, buffer zones, and habitat. If no comments are received within the 35-day period, it shall be deemed a lack of opposition by the Conservation Commission.

07.12.07 Submission Requirements
Applications shall include the following, unless the Board determines specific items are inapplicable:
1. Stamped site plan showing: vegetational communities (referencing the then current Martha's Vineyard Commission Vegetation Communities Map or successor map); soil conditions; trees greater than 6" DBH (size, height, species); rare/endangered species habitat within the property per the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program; proximity to conservation land, wetlands, waterbodies and wetland buffer zones; applicable overlay zoning districts; and existing and proposed topography.
2. Narrative: explaining the purpose of proposed clearing, disturbance, or grading, and identifying any departures from the standards in 07.12.08.
3. Development and landscaping plans; including all impervious surfaces.
4. Erosion and sedimentation control plan; describing Best Management Practices to be employed.

07.12.08 Review Standards
The Applicant shall demonstrate compliance with the following:
1. Minimize alteration; Preserve natural topography and drainage by

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

siting buildings and parking to blend with the landscape. Limit utility clearing to the minimum necessary; utilize tunnels where feasible.
2. Minimize impervious surfaces; Control runoff through natural storm-water systems.
3. Protect scenic views; Site structures so as not to detract from the property's scenic qualities.
4. Protect wildlife habitat; Where the site is within Priority Habitat as mapped by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, the applicant shall provide evidence of compliance with M.G.L. c. 131A. Further, the site activity/project shall be designed to maintain contiguous forested areas.
5. Preserve trees; Protect retained vegetation with temporary fencing encompassing the root zone, maintained through construction. Retain native trees contiguous with those on adjacent sites to the greatest extent practicable.
6. Minimize cut and fill; Limit grading for structures, driveways, and utilities. Stage construction equipment/facilities in areas planned for permanent improvements. No topsoil stockpiling near protected trees or wetlands.
7. Work with natural contours/elevations; Minimize retaining walls.
8. Erosion control; Per the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook published by the Department of Environmental Protection.
9. Revegetation: Revegetate disturbed areas promptly, using native species.

07.12.09 Monitoring
The Planning Board or its agent shall inspect the site before clearing or grading begins to confirm erosion controls and tree protection are in place per the approved plan.
07.12.10 Enforcement
Erosion controls shall remain until disturbed areas are stabilized. The Board may require inspection before removal of temporary controls. Violations of this section are subject to enforcement under Section 10.01.
Or take any other action relative thereto
Sponsor: Planning Board

ARTICLE XX – PLUMBING IN ACCESSORY STRUCTURES
To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, section 04.02, RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, Uses Permitted, by revising subsection 04.02.05 as shown below (additions in **bold** and deletions in strikethrough)
Accessory uses normally incidental to a permitted use, including **no more than one (1) only garage accessory structure unless more than one is otherwise specifically allowed under another provision of this Bylaw, but otherwise not including additional structures unless specifically stated in this Bylaw. Plumbing facilities may be installed in the accessory structure, subject to the following conditions: a) the structure will not be used for habitation, and the owner shall certify that restriction in writing to the Inspector of Buildings before issuance of any permit for installation; b) the Board of Health makes a written determination that the use of the proposed plumbing facilities will not have a detrimental impact on the wastewater disposal system serving the property (including the Tisbury Wastewater Collection and Treatment System, as applicable) and will comply with all applicable Board of Health regulations. Or take any other action relative thereto**
Sponsor: Planning Board

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". **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.**

ARTICLE XX- WATERFRONT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT 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- SCHEDULE A In 13.01 Schedule A - change for the R10 District Detached Accessory structure Side & Rear Setbacks to 10' from 5'

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 with Site Plan Review. 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 (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, 25007C0093J, 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 may be allowed.
Add – To 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. The Applicant must obtain written permission from the

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

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
LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The West Tisbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing via Zoom, on **Monday, March 30, 2026 at 5:45 pm, on an application from Randy Simon on behalf of Gary Rome, to install a temporary curb cut on Old County Road, for the removal of an existing guest house and the delivery of a modular guest house on April 30, 2026, on Assessor's Map 10, Lot 17, 7A Yellow Brick Road, RU District.**
A copy of the proposed bylaw amendments is available on the 2 nd floor of the Town Hall Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Interested parties are invited to send comments and/or attend the meeting. Please address any comments to:
Leah Smith, Chairman
Planning Board
P.O. Box 278
West Tisbury, MA 02575
Fax: 508-696-0103
planningboard@westtisbury-ma.gov
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87823359030?pwd=UhfCdbW7nJLzTAfj53MC7Mh3csf42.1>
Time: Mar 30, 2026 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Meeting ID: 878 2335 9030
Passcode: 937298
+1 305 224 1968 US
+1 309 205 3325 US

WEST TISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Vineyard Take Out Inc DBA Vineyard Plane View

The Select Board will hold a public hearing in the Select Board Meeting Room (2nd floor Town Hall 1059 State Rd) and on zoom on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 4:30 pm to act on the application of Vineyard Take Out Inc 71 Airport Rd, West Tisbury for Tisbury for an alcoholic beverage license for retail sale of wine and malt. Contact the Select Board at 508-696-0102 or townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov. Written comments will be accepted into the record upon receipt by Friday, March 20, 2026 2:00 pm at the Select Board Office 1059 State Road, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575.

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 5:15pm the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2 nd floor meeting room on an application for a Special Permit from **Abigail Leighton**, to allow the operation of a service business (dog walking/sitting), under Sections 3.1-1, 8.5-2, and 14.2 of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw at **24 Flint Hill Rd., Map 15 Lot 31.2**, 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 April 8, 2026 at 5:30 PM RE: 25 Circuit Ave Ext Map 8 Parcel 292

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

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

<https://oakbluffs.zoom.us/j/86947740615?pwd=Jel5uhBaXPCSSXOIEJLVcNc1Ibc6.1>
Meeting ID: 869 4774 0615
Passcode: 796609
Modification of previously approved plan. Squaring off of existing home, reconfiguring existing decks and stairway, addition of 1 door, 1 sliding glass door and 1 picture window.
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](mailto:buildingadmin@oakbluffsma.gov)

OAK BLUFFS ' CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, and the Oak Bluffs Wetlands Bylaw, the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing for a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Eugene D Brice for the rebuilding of existing second floor decks. This is located within the 100 year Flood Zone at 25 Circuit Avenue Extension, Oak Bluffs, Map 8 Parcel 292. The hearing will take place at 3:30PM on Thursday April 2, 2026. The hearing will take place at Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs.

OAK BLUFFS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, and the Oak Bluffs Wetlands Bylaw, the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing for a Notice of Intent filed by Leslie Fields of the Woods Hole Group on behalf of James Hagerty, Edgartown Town Administrator for the re-permitting the Comprehensive Permits for the Town of Edgartown's dredging and beach nourishment projects including two dredging sites and one beach nourishment site entirely located in the Town of Oak Bluffs (Sengekontacket Pond Inner Channel, Sengekontacket Pond Little Bridge Channel, and Sylvia State Beach). This is located within Land Under the Ocean, a Barrier Beach, Coastal Beaches, Land Under Salt Ponds, Land Containing Shellfish, and Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage at 338 Sea View Avenue, Oak Bluffs, Map 32 Parcel 2.1 and O Sea View Avenue, Map 2 Parcel 2. The hearing will take place at 3:30PM on Thursday April 2, 2026. The hearing will take place at Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs.

TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS, MA PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Nt Lot 1 LLC
Map 24 Parcel 2.1
39 Holmes Hole Road
SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 40A, Section 11, and Oak Bluffs Zoning Bylaws **10.3 (Special Permits); 3.1.3 (Table of Use Regulations – Appendix A); and 8.2.6 (Water Resource Protection Overlay District – Uses By Special Permit)**, the Planning Board will open a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 5pm via Zoom** on the application of Nt Lot 1 LLC for the property located at 39 Holmes Hole Road, Oak Bluffs; Map 24, Parcel 2.1 in the R3 District. Applicants seek to construct 5750 square feet of boat storage within the R3 District. The application, plans, and relevant documents are available online. See: <https://oakbluffsma.gov/567/39-Holmes-Hole-Road>
Please forward comments to Planning Board Administrator, PO Box 1327, Oak Bluffs MA 02557 or via email: planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov.

To join Zoom meeting:
<https://oakbluffs.zoom.us/j/83703125450?pwd=51kJWGDct1He9dYoHrmLsd4lYKIS6.1>
Meeting ID: 837 0312 5450
Passcode: 710683
One tap mobile
+16465588656,83703125450# US (New York)
+16469313860,83703125450# US



A sunny day for disc golf

Hosted by the Lazy Frog in Oak Bluffs, the tournament is a favorite in New England.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA



Jake Gifford, co-owner of Lazy Frog in Oak Bluffs, throws his disc.

NICHOLAS VUKOTA

For many, disc golf is the grownup version of a childhood joy we are all familiar with: the thrill of hurtling a Frisbee across a park on a sunny day, watching it elegantly soar and spin before landing in the hands of a friend.

That joy is what drew hundreds of disc golfers from all over New England to the fairways of Riverhead Field Frisbee Golf Course on Barnes Road in Edgartown to compete in the Vineyard Social Disc Golf Tournament.

On Saturday and Sunday morning, under a long-awaited spring sun after a harsh winter, competitors trekked to their assigned holes for an 8:45 am shotgun start — a tournament for-

mat in which groups of disc golfers start from different holes all at once, rather than sequentially from the first tee.

The tournament has been hosted by the owners of the Lazy Frog — a popular beach, game, and sport store located on Circuit Ave. in Oak Bluffs — Jake Gifford and his wife Sarah Gifford, for the past 20 years, and it has become a popular event in the New England disc golf community.

“This is a big part of our store, the disc golf scene,” said Jake Gifford to The Times. “It has been from the beginning when we started, and people from all over New England come play every year. It’s really cool to see the familiar

faces, and some new faces come every year to enjoy the course.”

The tournament accommodates all skill and age levels. The junior, recreational, amateur, and amateur 2 division competitors took the course on Saturday, March 14, while professionals took on the course on Sunday. Each player competes in one morning round, and one after lunch, for a 36-hole total. Age divisions range from open (all ages) to over 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 65, and 70, although not all divisions received signups. Divisions are mixed-gender, but there is a women’s division option as well.

Gifford said the Vineyard tournament is perfect for first-time disc golf players as well as experienced competitors. “For people who haven’t tried disc golf, and they want to come out and give it a try, I would recommend the amateur section of the tournament. You’re only playing against your similar skill levels, so you wouldn’t be playing against more experienced players,” he said.

At the tournament, the professionals are an exciting watch, with first-place finishers earning a total of \$3,000 in cash prizes, while amateur day is all about fun and community, featuring merchandise prizes for getting closest to the hole, and discs and other apparel for high-placement finishes. There are also lunchtime giveaways totaling around \$2,000 in prizes.

It was the 20th year at the tournament for Mike Saimond of South Windsor, Conn., who competes in the amateur division of the social tournament. “I come because some people I only get to see in this tournament. It’s a social tournament,” he said.

For Saimond, disc golf is about reconnect-

ing with the joy that came from throwing a Frisbee as a boy. “I’ve been throwing a Frisbee since I was a child, and disc golf just continues that,” he said.

At the professional competition on Sunday, Dylan Cappaccioli from Chestnut Hill claimed a \$675 first-place prize in the Mixed Professional Open (MPO) division, shooting a score of 16 under par, and Rose Shertick from Nashua, N.H., took the \$245 first-place prize in the Female Professional Open (FPO) with a +17.

First place in other professional divisions

- Mixed Professional over 40 division (MP40), Justin Chiu, Watertown, -8, \$425
- Mixed Professional over 50 division (MP50), Bob Kulchuck, Littleton, -3, \$340
- Mixed Professional over 60 division (MP60), Ken Gary, Georgetown, +7, \$165

First place in amateur divisions

- Mixed Amateur 1 (MA1), Denver Leadbetter, Cranston, R.I., +2
- Mixed Amateur over 40 (MA40), Nathan Hamlett, Narragansett, R.I., +7
- Female Amateur over 40 (FA40), Melissa Collins, East Wareham, +18
- Mixed Amateur over 50 (MA50), Jim Asam, Milford, +9
- Female Amateur over 55 (FA55), Kelly Killeen, Marlborough, +36
- Mixed Amateur over 60 (MA60), Glen Holmes, Vineyard Haven, -1.
- Mixed Amateur over 65 (MA65), Mike Saimond, South Windsor, Conn., +7
- Mixed Amateur 2 (MA2), Christopher Mangsen, Marlborough, +7
- Mixed Junior under 15 (MJ15), Theodore O’Connell-Koep, Centerville, +27

The tournament’s final scores are posted on the Professional Disc Golf Association website; amateur scores are at pdga.com/tour/event/99366, and professional scores can be seen at pdga.com/tour/event/99367.

MVT

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 4:00 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 on behalf of

30 Crackatuxet Nominee Trust under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking a determination on renovations to the pool/spa/ patio area, an area which is in the flood plain and multiple buffer zones.

The property is located at 30 Crackatuxet Cove (AP 44 Lot 34) 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, March 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 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 Chapquiddick Road (AP 30-65)

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

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, March 25 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 an Amended Order of Conditions (SE20-1705)** filed by Sourati Engineering Group LLC on behalf of **44 Green Hollow Rd, LLC** under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission to amend the existing Order of Conditions to include a 6’x7’ spa, two 7’x8.5’ additions and revision of the septic system layout, all with the buffer zones.

The property is located at 44 Green Hollow Rd (Map 29 Lot 134) For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

PUBLIC NOTICES CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

Commonwealth of Massachusetts DU26P0022GD The Trial Court Docket No. Probate and Family Court To the named Respondent and all

PUBLIC NOTICES

other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Kathleen M. Verner of Edgartown, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Celeste L. Polagruto is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Kathleen M. Verner of Edgartown, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

Of: Vineyard Haven, MA In the matter of: Celeste L. Polagruto The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/14/2026. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this

PUBLIC NOTICES

request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

IMPORTANT NOTICE Register of Probate WITNESS, Hon. Susan L. Jacobs, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 10, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Carroll’s Self-Storage, located at 475B Edgartown Road Vineyard Haven, hereby gives notice of the intent to enforce its lien pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 105A, Self-Storage Facilities, on the personal property stored at the facility by the following tenants:

• **Tara Anderson Self-Storage Building located at 475B Edgartown Road Vineyard Haven Unit #3073. Balance Due \$944.00**

The contents of the storage units may include, but are not limited to, personal items, furniture, and other household or business goods. These items will be sold at public auction to satisfy the outstanding balances unless payment in full is received prior to the auction.

Auction Details: Date: March 25th, 2026 Location: **Online Auction Bid 13** This notice is being published in compliance with the Massachusetts lien law. All tenants are urged to settle their balances immediately to avoid the sale of their property. For further information or to make payment, please contact: Carroll’s Self-Storage (508)338-2976

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC HEARING ON COUNTY BUDGET

The County Advisory Board on Expenditures will hold a public hearing on the County of Dukes County Budget for fiscal year 2027 (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027) on Friday, March 27th at 1:00pm at the Dukes County Administration Building, 9 Airport Rd, Edgartown, MA. It will be a hybrid meeting, also running via ZOOM. A full copy of the proposed budget is available at www.dukescounty.gov

Dukes County		
Summary of proposed budget for FY2027		
GENERAL COUNTY	Revenue	Expense
General County Payroll		\$603,008
General County Operating		\$321,129
Registry of Deeds - MOE		\$419,165
County Tax	\$599,137	
Deeds Excise & Registry Fees	\$385,000	
General County Revenue	\$172,441	
Grant & Program Administration	\$73,124	
Allocation of Overhead Reimbursements	\$146,600	
TOTAL GENERAL COUNTY BUDGET	\$1,376,302	\$1,343,302
COUNTY-OWNED BUILDINGS	Revenue	Expense
BUILDING: Courthouse	\$158,030	\$180,013
BUILDING: County Admin. Building	\$41,400	\$65,164
BUILDING: MV Senior Services	\$93,707	\$80,951
BUILDING: Health Care Access	\$18,952	\$18,952
TOTAL BUILDING BUDGETS	\$312,089	\$345,080
COUNTY GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,688,391	\$1,688,382
SURPLUS	\$9	
VETERANS SERVICES	153,926	153,926
REGISTRY OF DEEDS		
MOE / Budget	419,165	548,333
Deeds Excise	129,168	
	548,333	548,333
AIRPORT	Revenue	Expense
Operating	18,102,800	12,333,511
Debt Service		366,722
Airport TOTAL	18,102,800	12,700,233
Airport Surplus	5,402,567	
COUNTY TOTAL	\$20,493,450	\$15,090,874
SURPLUS	\$5,402,57	

The citizens have the right to provide written and oral comments and suggestions respecting the possible use of funds.

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

Winter classic and relay run after delays

Runners from all over New England raced 20 miles around the Island. **BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA**



The Martha's Vineyard Winter Classic 20-miler and Amity Island Relay started at the Steamship in Vineyard Haven.

PHOTOS: NICHOLAS VUKOTA

Under sunny skies on Saturday morning, hundreds of runners from all over New England gathered at the Steamship Authority Terminal in Vineyard Haven for the 28th annual Martha's Vineyard Winter Classic, a 20-miler, and Amity Island Relay race.

The race, which was delayed for a month after heavy snow in February, was hosted by M.V. Running Co. owner Reaan Steenkamp and Amity Island Running Club President Megan McDonald.

A local favorite runner participated in the race, Sam Fetters, an MVRHS graduate fresh off completing the Tokyo Marathon earlier this month, where he earned his Abbot World Majors Six Star medal, a lifetime achievement given to runners who complete all six of the world's major marathons. Before the race, McDonald introduced Fetters over a loudspeaker as a celebrity runner, noting that his accomplishment also earned him a world record. Fetters is the youngest person to complete each of the marathons (Boston, Berlin, New York, London, Chicago, Tokyo) in under three hours; he is the only person to accomplish the feat before turning 25 years old.

Fetters just started his marathoning journey in 2023,

and his first race was the M.V. Winter Classic. Still recovering from Tokyo on Saturday, he ran the second leg of the Amity Island Relay with a former high school teammate, Calvin Brooks. For Fetters, competing in the local race was a full-circle moment. His love for running was born on-Island, and after getting his sixth major star, he said, he was happy to be home.

"It felt fitting to kind of return home," said Fetters. "I did the full 20-miler in 2023, and that was at the very start of all of this marathoning, so it felt like a really nice way to come full circle and be in a place that truly feels like home to me."

After the horn sounded in Vineyard Haven, runners followed a scenic route along Beach Road before crossing over to Edgartown-West Tisbury Road in Edgartown. The course looped back toward Barnes Road, and continued onto County Road before finishing at the Oak Bluffs School. For relay runners, racers split the distance into two 10-mile legs.

Jared Dybas, 26, from Groton, Conn., won the 20-miler in two hours, 10 minutes, 36.1 seconds. For him, the race was a chance to train for the Boston Marathon, coming up in April.

"It feels really good," said

Dybas of his win after the race. "Dealing with the wind was a challenge, so I tried to ignore my pace, and didn't really look at that all day, just tried to give a constant effort, you know, let the wind and hills decide my pace. My goal was to average about six [minutes] 30 [seconds] per mile, and I came in right at that, so I'm very happy to see that today."

Dybas, who runs with the Mohegan Striders in Groton, has been competing in marathons as well as 100-mile ultramarathons since 2017. He called the rolling hills of the Island tame compared with his home terrain. He noted it was his first trip to Martha's Vineyard.

Cara Schrager, 37, from Natick, took first place in the women's division with a time of two hours, 20 minutes, 16.1 seconds. Schrager said she was training for her eighth Boston Marathon. "I felt strong," she said. "I wasn't expecting the win, so I'm excited."

Schrager has run Boston, New York, Chicago, and other

major races; this was her third time competing in the M.V. Winter Classic.

Steenkamp, owner of M.V. Running Co., expressed relief at finally being able to hold the event.

"We had to cancel, because of the ice and snow on the trails a month ago. The option was not having it at all, or pushing it about a month, and I opted for a month out. So here we are on a beautiful day," said Steenkamp.

McDonald added that all money made by the race is donated back into the Island's youth communities, who helped man the water stations,

including the high school's girls' lacrosse and wrestling teams, players from youth hockey and youth lacrosse, the Martha's Vineyard Figure Skating Club, the Oak Bluffs Parent Teacher Organization, Oak Bluffs eighth graders, and the Edgartown School Parent Teacher Association.

McDonald said that because they had to reschedule, sign-up numbers were down, as expected, but last Saturday ended up being nearly perfect conditions for the race.

"I was really, really happy with how it turned out. It was stressful leading up to, because of the postponement,

and we heard the winds would be bad, so we were worrying about runners getting over that morning," said McDonald.

"Our numbers were down this year because we postponed it, and there were other big races this weekend, but the runners seemed really happy that we had the race, and didn't flat-out cancel. There was a lot of excitement for the people who were there," she added.

The next big race on Island is the MV Spring Classic marathon, which is scheduled to take place on April 25. Race slots are already full. **MVT**



Jared Dybas, finishes the 20-mile race first overall.



Cara Schrager was the first female to cross the finish line.

Hockey rink closes for YMCA construction

The health and wellness center will relocate to the arena. **BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA**

The Martha's Vineyard Ice Arena closed a month earlier than usual to accommodate a major construction project next door, at the YMCA of Martha's Vineyard's main facility.

The arena, owned and operated by the YMCA, typically shuts down from mid-April through July for off-season routine maintenance and ice resurfacing. This year, operations ended Friday night, March 13, after the evening's skating sessions concluded. The ice-melting

process began immediately.

Health and wellness center equipment from the YMCA, including treadmills, weights, and other gym equipment, will be relocated to the ice rink throughout the final days of March, with the move expected to be completed by April 1.

The temporary relocation of YMCA equipment and the early closure of the rink is part of an effort to minimize the overall disruption of services during the YMCA's ongoing expansion project,

which broke ground in October. The ice arena will serve as the interim home for the health and wellness center through June 1. All exercise classes will also move to the rink.

"The idea was to try to keep as much of the operation going on as possible during construction," said Jill Robie, executive director of the YMCA. "We really felt like the timing, while we know it's not perfect for everybody, it was the best for trying to get this construction window for the Y to be



High school hockey program seasons were successfully ended a couple weeks earlier this season.

as abbreviated as possible, because we have a large operation going, and we want to minimize the disruption."

Youth hockey and high school hockey program seasons were successfully ended a couple of weeks earlier this

season, limiting the primary impacts on ice hockey services to free-skate sessions, some men's-league games, and stick-and-puck sessions.

The summer schedule at the ice arena remains unaffected, said Robie, and with camps, clinics, and other programs set to resume as planned on July 13.

She added that all aspects of the YMCA will be facing some disruptions throughout the construction, but they are doing all they can to minimize it.

The YMCA of Martha's Vineyard posted a detailed schedule of operations during the months of construction, from April to June 1. **MVT**

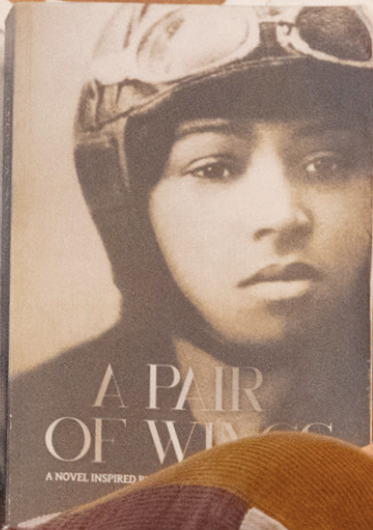
GABRIEL DIAS

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

MY Times

community & calendar

THURSDAY, 1



Author and airline pilot Carole Hopson spoke to the audience about getting her book published.

{ ISLANDERS WRITE }

FROM POETRY TO PUBLISHING

Islanders Write, winter edition 2.0.

CELEBRATING ISLAND DIVERSITY

VOICES
by Sharisse

There is something powerful about women who see what is missing and decide to create it. Not because someone asked them to. Not because the path was already clear. But because they recognize a need and trust their vision enough to create the space themselves.

We are honoring Women's History Month in this edition by spotlighting two women-led initiatives that are creating intentional spaces on Martha's Vineyard: the Vineyard Icon Awards and the Make Good Project. Though they focus on different things — one celebration and the other creative cultivation — both are rooted in the deeper truth that people deserve spaces where their brilliance can be seen, supported, and remembered.

At their core, these initiatives are not simply programs or events. They are acts of intention. And when women build with purpose, the result is rarely just a moment. It becomes a movement.

One such vision belongs to Erin Goldson, founder of the Vineyard Icon Awards. Created to celebrate individuals whose impact reaches far beyond the shores of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Icon recognizes leaders, creators, and changemakers whose work reflects the spirit of excellence the Island has long been known for. What began as an awards ceremony has already expanded to include the Vineyard Icon Foundation, which provides scholarships and opportunities for the next generation of leaders.

For Goldson, the idea was never about recognition alone. It was about something far more personal. With five generations of family memories made on the Island, the Vineyard has long been woven into the fabric of her life. It is, as she describes it, a "happy place," not only for herself but for so many who come here seeking joy, rest, inspiration, and community.

Over time, as the Vineyard has grown more visible and more crowded with high-profile gatherings, Goldson found herself returning to one simple truth: What makes this place special has always been the people. "When I thought about the Vineyard and how I would explain it to people who had never been," she said, "it was always about the people and building community."

That realization inspired the Vineyard Icon Awards, which launched last summer. Goldson saw room for something that centered the individuals whose presence and legacy shape the Island's deeper meaning — the people whose influence extends far beyond a



Founder Erin Goldson.



Make Good retreat group 2025.

When women build the space

Two women-led initiatives build legacies on Martha's Vineyard.

BY SHARISSA SCOTT-RAWLINS

single season's social calendar. "I wanted you to walk in and feel like this place was iconic," she said. "Like this place was special, and uplifted Black excellence." From the atmosphere to the guest experience itself, Goldson envisioned a community gathering that would do more than honor those onstage. "I wanted everyone in the room to be an icon and feel like an icon, and leave thinking about what makes them iconic."

Goldson is also candid about the reality of building something new. As a female founder, she speaks openly about the process of bringing an idea to life while learning along the way: "This is all very new to me; a lot of it is figuring it out as I go." What carried her forward was a clarity she could not ignore. "A lot of people told me to wait," she said. "But I felt like this was bigger than me. This was an assignment that only I could do." Rather than waiting for perfect conditions, Goldson chose to begin now and perfect it later, because a space like the Vineyard Icon Awards could not wait any longer to exist.

That philosophy has already allowed Vineyard Icon to evolve beyond a single event into something more layered and lasting. Through scholarship initiatives and the upcoming Next Gen Summit, the platform is intentionally uplifting younger generations, connecting young professionals with accomplished leaders, and encouraging them to imagine their own paths forward. "This isn't just an event," says Goldson, "Vineyard Icon is a mindset. Vineyard Icon is a brand. Vineyard

Icon is a feeling." And that spirit of stewardship — using one's gifts to uplift others and build community — is exactly what Vineyard Icon embodies and encourages.

While Vineyard Icon celebrates the individuals whose work has already left a mark, another initiative is creating the conditions for future storytellers to find their voices in the first place.

That same spirit of investment in emerging voices is at the heart of the Make Good Project, an initiative dedicated to creating supportive spaces for historically underserved creators, particularly Black women, to explore, practice, and produce their work across artistic disciplines.

The organization describes its work as "amplifying and fortifying the voices of Black women as storytellers, archivists, and visionaries," guided by the pillars of creativity, community, and wellness. What has grown from that vision is not simply a retreat, but a larger creative ecosystem that includes community events, 10-week workshops, early morning writing accountability sessions, and year-round programming designed to help women deepen their craft and bring their work into the world.

The project was founded by creative director Melle Powers, alongside founding executive members and collaborators Sophie Ancival and Erica Jensen. Together they have built an initiative rooted in storytelling, accountability, and the belief that artists deserve spaces where their voices can be cultivated and supported.

Last summer, in collabora-

tion with the Vineyard Arts Project, the Make Good Project hosted a writing retreat on Martha's Vineyard, bringing together 16 writers ranging in age from 14 to 70-plus. Throughout the retreat, participants gathered for intentional, theme-based writing sessions designed to encourage reflection, honesty, and creative exploration.

The experience extended beyond the writing table. Participants immersed themselves in Island traditions, and moments rooted in history and community — from early morning swims with the Polar Bears to porch gatherings at Vineyard cottages. Mornings began with yoga and grounding exercises, setting a tone of care and intention for the work ahead, led by Ancival.

The Island community embraced the initiative from the start, welcoming the group and participating in public gatherings that allowed Islanders to experience the initiative firsthand.

I had the opportunity to attend two of those gatherings myself, and what struck me most was the atmosphere in the room. It was a space where people felt seen and deeply valued — where vulnerability was not only welcomed but honored. In that room, storytelling became an act of witnessing, a way for writers to speak their truths while inviting others to not only listen, but to reflect, and connect through shared experience. I left the circle sharing session feeling inspired and deeply moved.

For the founders, the Vineyard was never simply a scenic location. It was chosen with intention. "Martha's

Vineyard felt like a place where there are all kinds of Black stories that are told and untold," the women explained. Inspired by the Island's layered history — from the African American Heritage Trail to the cultural legacy of Oak Bluffs — participants spent the week with open hearts, writing, reflecting, and creating work shaped by both history and lived experience.

But what emerged from the retreat was more than new writing. It was a community.

"It was really great to be around a diverse group of artists," said participant Jessica Caputo. "The women here have been so welcoming, and we were inspired all week hearing each other's drafts and writing together. The community that was built this week was really beautiful."

That sense of connection was echoed throughout the retreat.

"To be in community with Black women artists specifically is one of those rare things you have to jump on," said Naomi Lorrain, an actor and writer who studied at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. "Being here, writing together, learning from each other — it feels like coming home."

Moments like these reveal the deeper impact of the Make Good Project. While writing may be the reason the women gather, what they are building together reaches far beyond the page. They are strengthening creative confidence, and creating spaces where Black women artists can be fully seen and supported.

Like many of the most meaningful initiatives on the Island, the Make Good Proj-

ect is built with intention. The organization hosts year-round programming, including writing workshops, accountability sessions, and community gatherings that allow participants to deepen their craft and share their work publicly. At its center is a belief that storytelling is not only art — it is archive, affirmation, legacy, and true self-commitment.

However, for the project to continue expanding opportunities for writers, community support will play a critical role. The retreat itself is designed to remain financially accessible, ensuring that writers can participate without financial barriers. That means the organization relies on fundraising, sponsorships, and partnerships to make the experience possible.

For the founder and collaborators, sustaining the work is about more than funding alone. It is about building relationships with the Island that have already begun to take root here. "We feel rich when we build community," the three women shared during the interview.

Taken together, initiatives like the Vineyard Icon Awards and the Make Good Project offer a powerful reminder of what can happen when women create spaces with intention. One celebrates the icons who have already shaped culture and community. The other nurtures the voices that are still unfolding. Yet both share the same deeper purpose: building pathways where people can recognize their gifts and contribute something meaningful to the world around them. Both initiatives are also rooted in a deep respect for Martha's Vineyard itself. Neither takes the Island for granted. Each approaches this land with care, gratitude, and a desire to build something lasting here.

For readers who feel inspired by their missions, you can learn more about Vineyard Icon and the Make Good Project by visiting their respective websites, where you can explore upcoming programs and opportunities to support their work. For the Make Good Project in particular, community support will play an important role in ensuring that this retreat — and the creative ecosystem surrounding it — continues to grow and return to the Island in the years ahead.

When communities invest in storytelling, mentorship, and possibility, they are doing more than supporting individual dreams; they are protecting the future of the stories that will define this Island for generations to come — a future shaped, in part, by women who saw what was missing and chose to build the space themselves. **MVV**

COMMUNITY NOTES



ALISON SHAW

Mass Audubon Felix Neck adventures for kids

If you have a young naturalist, birdwatcher, or nature lover at home, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary offers afterschool outdoor adventures through its Environmental Explorers program. Kids ages 7 to 14 will have opportunities to explore nature, gain science skills, and dig into a variety of naturalist activities. Tuesdays from 3 to 5 pm. Learn more at massaudubon.org.

Jazz film screening with MVY Radio's Dave Kish

On Saturday, March 28, at 3 pm, the West Tisbury library will be screening a documentary and hosting a discussion with MVY Radio's Dave Kish. This month, we will be screening Part 2 of "One Night with Blue Note": "Considered one of the greatest nights in jazz history, this film documents the reunion of 30 jazz greats from the Blue Note label, filmed at Town Hall in New

York City on Feb. 22, 1985." Dave Kish has hosted the MVY show "Sunday Morning and All That Jazz" since the spring of 1997, and has always been a champion of all types of jazz, old and new, from all parts of the globe. Always willing to take chances, Dave has greatly expanded his range to include extensive features on jazz vocalists, bossa nova, African funk, vintage soul, and Latin and European jazz, among many other types of improvised music. A summer resident of the Vineyard since the late '60s, Dave settled here in 1989. He wrote music reviews for The Martha's Vineyard Times for many years, and hosted a weekly Sunday afternoon jazz jam at the Wintertide Coffeehouse in Vineyard Haven, acting as an emcee for many talented musicians, and spinning gems from his collection between sets.

Free at the West Tisbury library, 1042 State Road. For more information about this event, please email wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Waylon Madison Sauer Memorial 3-on-3 Tournament

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) will host the third annual Waylon Madison Sauer Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, celebrating Waylon's legacy through a day of fun-filled competition and community connection. Waylon Madison Sauer of West Tisbury was just 17 when he died in 2023 after a car accident on State Road in West Tisbury.

Teams of teens and adults will compete in a three-game guarantee tournament starting at 10 am. The top four teams will advance to the semifinals at 11:30 am, followed by the championship game at 12:15 pm. Games will be played three-on-three throughout the tournament, although the final might expand to five-on-five if both teams choose that.

Local businesses, families, and community members are invited to support the MVRHS class of 2027 by sponsoring the tournament, helping raise money for the Waylon Madison Sauer Scholarship Fund. A special recognition of sponsors, supporters, and teams will take place at 12 pm, leading into the championship matchup, and the event will end with a closing celebration at 12:30 pm. Team registration is open now: Students and staff pay \$50 per

team; community teams pay \$100. Team sign-ups close on March 24. Payment must be submitted to guarantee a spot. Community members are encouraged to attend. Snacks and beverages will be available, with limited seating. Sunday, March 29.

What's new at Martha's Vineyard Hospital

The Vineyard Haven library will welcome a team of health professionals from Martha's Vineyard Hospital (MVH) to share information about some new procedures and diagnostic services available on the Island, including a sleep studies service, pulmonary rehabilitation, a growing suite of breast-imaging services, an ambulatory pharmacy, and the new Community Health Improvement Plan.

Valci Carvalho, Pharm.D., director of pharmacy at MVH, will discuss the hospital's new ambulatory-care pharmacy service line. The program supports a variety of needs, from medication reconciliation and chronic disease management to helping patients better understand complex regimens or recent medication changes.

Natasha Hartmann (R) (M), B.S., director of diagnostic imaging, will speak about MVH's growing suite of breast-imaging services, including the recent in-

roduction of stereotactic breast biopsy, a minimally invasive, highly precise procedure that helps clinicians evaluate abnormalities detected on mammography.

Dan Friedrich, RRT, manager of respiratory therapy, pulmonary diagnostic lab services, will speak about a recently launched pulmonary rehab service designed to help people with chronic lung conditions breathe better, move more easily, and improve their overall quality of life. He will also speak about a sleep studies service line coming to MVH.

Amy Houghton, director of contracts and community

projects, will discuss the Community Health Improvement Plan that came out of the recent Community Health Needs Assessment, which takes a close look at what affects health on the Island, based on input from residents, community partners, and local data.

Tuesday, March 24, at 6 pm, at the Katharine Cornell Theatre, 51 Spring St. in Vineyard Haven (above Tisbury Town Hall). Free and open to the public. No registration required. For more information, please contact the library at vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org or 508-696-4211. **MVT**

Cribbage Club Report

♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ **BY MARY ALICE RUSSELL**

Twenty members of the **Vineyard Cribbage Club** met on Wednesday night to play our favorite game — lots of laughs over some great food and cribbage! The result of the night are as follows:

- First**, Suzanne Cioffi with an 11/5 +90 card
- Second**, Samantha Cron with an 9/4 +55 card
- Third**, Sammi Burns with a 9/4 +44 card
- Fourth**, Louis Larsen with a 9/4 +5 card
- Fifth**, Byram Devine with an 8/4 +73 card

We had seven 24-point hands, by Ed Montenson, Sammi Burns, Samantha Cron (with two!), Byram Devine, Mary Alice Russell, and Louis Larsen. Eight skunks were suffered.

We meet on Wednesdays at the American Legion in Katama: If you like cribbage, we have a potluck every week at 5:30 pm, and start playing at 6 pm SHARP. **MVT**

If you'd like more info, feel free to email or call for text at maonmv@mac.com or 508-524-1220.

Celebrating Our MVRHS Grads

Kiki Wright

Coming home is healing.
BY MARGE HARRIS

Kathryn Tura (Kiki Wright) graduated in 1984 from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS). She has memories of her teachers "being so engaged." She did experience some bullying as a 12-year-old coming into the school

system. However, she made one good friend, Jean Hefernan, who stuck by her, and remains her friend today. In high school, Kiki worked behind the scenes with the theater department, as well as always having afterschool jobs. Kiki was excited to know what was beyond Martha's Vineyard, so she took the Rus-

sian class as well as the African/Asian cultural studies classes. She knew she wanted to travel, to explore opportunities to meet people.

After high school, Kiki attended Northeastern University's Bouve School, a five-year program, which encouraged her to try a number of its professional programs. It provided her the multicultural diversity that she had missed at MVRHS. Kiki got a B.S. in physical therapy, and also decided to take an EMT class. A fellow classmate was a Vietnam veteran who taught Kiki how to survive in the city and do her best as an EMT, but also taught her what NOT to do. "He taught me to show compassion to everyone while keeping myself safe. He mentored de-escalating body language and verbal modulation," she recalls.

After graduation, Kiki took a position as a physical therapist in Missouri for three years. But she missed

the ocean, as so often happens to us Islanders! She secured a position at Falmouth Hospital as a physical therapist, and eventually moved on to become the director of rehab services. By now, Kiki had three kids and a husband, Philip, who is a career firefighter, so life was very busy. She decided to return to home care, where she would have more direct contact with people, and that is what she is still doing today. Kiki loves working with the residents in a nearby assisted living facility in Bourne — close to her home — where she provides neurological, orthopedic, and geriatric care, along with great listening skills. Kiki has found her niche — and she is close to the ocean! Kudos to you, Kiki, for being an adventurer! **MVT**

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

POET'S CORNER

Be the Penguin
By Fan Ogilvie

I first learned about you in grade school saw you in books and on TV later in zoos but never knew you "in person." Recently I saw you on my iPhone when a film crew watched you turn, leave your fellow penguins as the voice-over says "not to the east with your crowd, not to the east where there is food but to the west to the mountains, where there is no crowd no food" 43 miles of snow then ... we don't know. The film crew tried to bring you back, but you wouldn't stay. You turned around again, headed for the mountain range. I'm not saying I know anything about your behavior, but I can say this — when I've had a belly full of our leader's bullshit repeated again and again as if it were true, it behooves many of us to walk away — turn to our mountains of truth and walk in that direction.

Fan Ogilvie has published four books of poetry and two chapbooks. She facilitates the Cleveland House poetry workshop, now in its 62nd year. Her fifth book of poetry is due for publication in the spring.

Poets with a connection to Martha's Vineyard are encouraged to submit poems to m@mwest.com. Please also include a two- to three-sentence bio at the end of your poem.

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

Tisbury



By Kay Mayhew
tashmoorock@gmail.com

H heard on Main Street: *“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.”* –Dr. Seuss

amusing enough to make a note of. So we did. And they are just as interesting and amusing years later. I am always happy to hear comments on them today. I used to only put them at the end, until one week that

was cut when my column was published. So it was suggested one could be put at the top and one at the end. Now I am only surprised when the whole column is somehow cut without warning from a printing of the paper.

While no one wants higher taxes, I was pleased to see the town is realizing some of our buildings definitely need repairs, and trying to prepare to determine how to handle that financially.

I have to tell you how lucky we are to have Hillary Conk-

lin as our town clerk. She is so easy to work with. I can say that as I have had that experience for some years.

People are really looking forward to spring after our three heavy snow weekends. Sunshine and blue skies have many already welcoming spring. But I also see that many huge snow piles haven't melted yet. On the other hand, there has been some heavy ferry traffic backing up on Water Street lately.

I haven't yet had my taxes done this year, and plan to

have this done next week. Once that is done, I will feel more optimistic about spring. But I am still waiting for some necessary documents to arrive, so I hope it will come together soon.

Although I do have a computer, I find many of my friends feel left out when told they can go online to read something from our MV Times. Why is everyone so eager to simply expect everyone to go online to read the local newspaper or get a doctor's report? Perhaps that makes it easier to understand why schools are finding many kids less able to read at grade level these days. I find that a terrible fact of modern life.

I was delighted to learn to read before I was in school. But it was primarily because my father used to read “Nature Stories” to me from his

daily New York paper, pointing out the words as he did so. Reading is still one of my favorite pleasures.

I'm looking forward to seeing one of my granddaughters this weekend. Her college is already on spring break, so I get to see her and her parents, a fine treat for me.

Someone brought me some tightly budded daffodils this week and put them in water. They began to bloom within a day or two. What a glorious sight in mid-March!

Big bunches of birthday balloon wishes go out today to Lois Kavanagh, Susan Mone, and Susan Weyl. More birthday greetings go to Phoenix Russell on Friday. Barbara Dacey and Skip Bailey will celebrate on Saturday.

Heard on Main Street: Why do you press harder on a remote control when you know the battery is dead? **MVT**

I was delighted to learn to read before I was in school. But it was primarily because my father used to read “Nature Stories” to me from his daily New York paper, pointing out the words as he did so.

Someone asked me where I got the idea for “Heard on Main Street.” That was my clever husband. We had always enjoyed the many signs you see when driving off-Island, especially on gas stations, restaurants, and churches. Many were

Edgartown



By Marnely Murray
marnely@gmail.com

Daylight savings hit, a few days of sunshine graced us, and all of a sudden we're feeling like life is worth living again. Time and time again, the science proves to be right: The biological processes that happen in human beings when exposed to sunlight (in moderation) are unbelievable. Elevating serotonin and regulating our circadian rhythm allows us to slowly come out of whatever winter

hibernation we were in and welcome the spring equinox on March 20.

There are two ways to celebrate the arrival of spring. First up, on Friday, March 20, from 3 to 4 pm, the Edgartown Public Library is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Please come by for cake and conversation as they celebrate the people who made it possible: Library Building Committee members, trustees, Friends, volunteers, donors, staff, and the many residents whose encouragement and support

continue to shape this space every day! As someone who has recently joined the board of trustees and believes in the power of libraries as community members themselves, I hope to share a slice of cake with you on Friday and chat about why we love the Edgartown library!

For those that know me — yes, books truly are one of my favorite things in the world. A close second favorite thing is Taylor Swift's music.

I know it isn't for everyone, but I'll make a case for the way her music brings people together, and what better way to get together than with a Taylor Swift-inspired brunch at Town Bar and Grill on Saturday, March 21, from noon to 3 pm. Not only will there be themed food and drinks, but there will be karaoke, dancing, and cotton candy, and best of all, other Island businesses are showing up too: Talita Beauty Lounge

will be doing hair tinsel and glam; Barrington Bangles will be the master of friendship-bracelet making; Sea Legs will bring an ear piercing and charm bar; and there will be face painting by Ariel Thomas. Everyone is welcome! Link to reserve a spot: bit.ly/EB_SwiftieBrunch.

If Taylor Swift isn't your jam, there's another great event happening at the same time on the 21st: Join “Large Scale Floral Design” with

Jessica and Aubrey at Donaroma's Nursery. Work with abundant seasonal flowers and professional mechanics to create a bold, large-scale arrangement with height, structure, and impact. The price per person is \$200, and you'll take home the arrangement you create! To book, email amy@donaromas.com, or call 508-627-8366.

Birthday congratulations go out to Dan Townes and Amelia Morais on March 20, Carolyn Abel on March 22, Aretha Taylor on March 24, and Kevin Banks on March 25. May your birthdays and upcoming year be filled with endless sunshine!

Have a special birthday or anniversary coming up? Want to share Edgartown news with the community? Always feel free to email me at marnely@gmail.com. **MVT**

Join “Large Scale Floral Design” with Jessica and Aubrey at Donaroma's Nursery. Work with abundant seasonal flowers and professional mechanics to create a bold, large-scale arrangement with height, structure, and impact.

Oak Bluffs



By Joanne Lambert
joannelamber@gmail.com

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.” –Anne Bradstreet

suppose this is true. This winter we have had is most certainly making the approach of spring a welcome thought! You can see the effects of our winter all over the Island, in downed branches and street signs, and yellow grass. But our town beaches look cleansed, with windswept sand and new tide pools. And there are already reports of the pink-tinks peeping by Farm Pond.

The good news: The first day of Spring is March 20.

This vernal equinox means that both the Northern and Southern hemispheres receive equal amounts of sunlight, as the earth's orbit and rotation cause the sun to pass over the equator. We will now experience more daylight than darkness each day until the summer solstice in June. Hang in there!

The M.V. Film Festival kicks off its big weekend on Wednesday, March 25. From

the 25th through the 29th, Circuit Arts will present films, events, and special dinners. This fabulous community event was started in 2001 by a group of friends who loved movies. It has grown to a five-day festival filled with films from around the world.

Opening night features “Paralyzed by Hope: The Maria Bamford Story,” which is about a comic whom Stephen Colbert has called the funniest comedian in the world. That film will be at the Vineyard Playhouse, followed by an opening-night celebration in the lobby. All films throughout the weekend will be shown either at the Vineyard Playhouse or the Grange Hall in W.T.

Stoney Hill Pizza will be serving dinner at the Grange each night from Thursday through Sunday. Their menus AND the film schedule can be found at tmvff.org. Save the date: Thursday, April 2 is the Oak Bluffs School Bingo Night fundraiser at the P.A. Club. From 6:30 to 8:30 pm, join the fierce competition for prizes and have some fun to raise money for the O.B. PTO.

I was very sad to hear of the sudden passing of Mark Grandfield. He had the voice of a blues legend, a unique and talented person. Sending my heartfelt condolences to his family. He will be very missed on M.V.

We also lost the lovely and

kind Margaret Williams, who gave so much in service to our community. Her life will be celebrated at the Union Chapel on June 11 at 11 am.

Happy birthday to Pam Dumont on March 20. It is also the day to celebrate Jeanine Silva, Kelsey La Freniere, and Dan Townes. Kathleen Cowley celebrates on March 21st, along with Candace Jennings

and Heather Rynd. Birthday hugs to Sandra Macias on the 23rd! We also remember Marcelle Ben David on March 23, and send hugs to her family. March 24 is the big day for Jennifer Weiland, Nick Briggs, Sophia Brush, and Ned Casey. Best wishes to Kutter's mom, Joyce Dresser, on the 25th!

Happy spring! Send me your news! **MVT**

Save the date: Thursday, April 2 is the Oak Bluffs School Bingo Night fundraiser at the P.A. Club. From 6:30 to 8:30 pm, join the fierce competition for prizes.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nathan Souza De Freitas

Valquiria Souza Barros De Freitas and David Oliveira De Freitas of West Tisbury announce the birth of a son, Nathan Souza De Freitas, on March 15, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Nathan weighed 8 pounds, 7.2 ounces.

Robert Matthew Rodenbaugh

Julie Rodenbaugh and Matthew Rodenbaugh of West Tisbury announce the birth of a son, Robert Matthew Rodenbaugh, on March 13, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Robert weighed 10 pounds, 4.6 ounces.

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

Aquinnah



By Kathie Olsen

aquinnahcolumn@gmail.com

I am back home after a week in California exchanging love and comfort with beloved family. As the ferry docked in Vineyard Haven, I burst into tears of gratitude — for the welcoming arms of my husband and youngest daughter waiting at the foot of the gangplank, and for the beauty of our Island waiting with the light of home. It has been a few days since that reunion, and I am now rested enough to see the garden awaiting our labors. There are peeks of green among the bushes and grasses that had been squashed by that heavy snow, and they want

to be liberated. There are branches that were torn that have to be pruned, and piles of old leaves that must be raked away to help us keep down the onslaught of ticks. In short, there is work to be done out there. I'm ready.

The Aquinnah library's Community Dinner is

planned for Saturday, March 28, from 5:30 to 8 pm at the Aquinnah Town Hall. It's a potluck-style evening of food, featuring soups and sandwiches donated by Chef Deon and Mo's Lunch, and live music by Rose Guerin, Buck Shank, and Lydia Fischer.

They ask that you bring a dish to share, right along with your great community spirit.

The library is a great collaborator with other community groups. For example, on Saturday, March 21, at 1 pm, join Brad Lopes, education and public program manager for the Aquinnah

Cultural Center, for a special storytime. Brad will read "Keepunumuk" and "Thanks to the Animals," and he is a terrific presenter. Then, on Thursday, March 26 at 4 pm, the Aquinnah library continues its collaboration with Island Health Care in presenting "Staying Active Indoors and Out." This is third in the Winter Wellness Series, providing a free, virtual session with local experts. For more information or to register, contact Gabby Wilbur at the Aquinnah library, 508-645-2314.

One more Aquinnah Li-

brary note. The Aquinnah Library Book Group is meeting on Saturday, March 21, at 2:30 pm, to discuss one of my favorite books of all time. The book is "All the Beauty in the World," written by Patrick Bringley. It's a nonfiction book about working as a museum guard at the Met, about being a loving family, and about really looking and seeing art in all its storytelling glory. This book has helped me to deal with grief, with joy, and with my own art. Read it if you can, and then join the conversation.

The M.V. Agricultural Society announces a few items of note. On March 21, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, it's the Meat Ball, its annual fundraiser and celebration of Island-raised meat. You have to purchase tickets, but it is a reasonably priced, family-oriented affair with great food (including vegan and alpha-gal-friendly dishes) prepared by Charlie Gran-

quist of Slough Farm, and a contradance with live music by the Flying Elbows and Friends. Then, on March 24, at 11 am, it will host a "Shared Use Kitchen Panel Discussion" and interactive workshop to discuss the potential for a shared-use commercial kitchen and other infrastructure that could support local food businesses and strengthen the Island's food system. This is offered in conjunction with IGI and others.

It is time to start thinking about what you want to say and then make your sign for the No Kings/No War/Honor Justice/Follow the Law gathering. People are organizing in every nook and cranny of this great nation for the protest to be held on Saturday, March 28. Join in at Five Corners at 1:30 pm. Don't just stand by. Do something.

Happy birthday wishes go to Nanauwe Vanderhoop on March 23rd. **MVT**

On Saturday, March 21, at 1 pm, join Brad Lopes, education and public program manager for the Aquinnah Cultural Center, for a special storytime. Brad will read "Keepunumuk" and "Thanks to the Animals."

Chilmark



By Claire Ganz

cganz@live.com

We will gather and remember Warren Doty. Nan Doty writes, "Dear Friends, "Please join us in celebrating Warren Doty this Saturday afternoon, March 21, at 2 pm, at the Chilmark Community Center. If you can, please bring a potluck dish to share. "Please forward and spread the word!"

"We look forward to seeing you soon!"

"With gratitude,

"Nan, Laura, Will, Alex and Family

"Roll on, Chilmark, roll on!" -Warren Doty"

Losses rend the blanket that protects and comforts family and community. We know grief takes time and comes in waves at unpredictable moments, and somehow we will learn to ride them. We know that sometimes grief erupts: Stomp your feet, yell at the top of your lungs, and sob so hard your belly contracts all the way to your spine and tears run dry.

Snowdrops are blooming. The latest storm pulled

the garden fence down, and there is evidence spring bulbs were eaten.

A few crocuses are blooming, and green stalks herald daffodils in the fields still littered with tree trunks and huge branches.

Thank you, Pathways, for posting videos of the late Mark Grandfield's recent performances on your website and on your Vimeo channel.

Rebecca Gilbert and I continue to host a Slow Stitching Circle, 1 to 3 pm on Friday

afternoons at Pathways. Bring a project or your imagination. We have a nice variety of materials to work with.

Music at Pathways continues on March 21 with Sparkestra: Nancy Jephcote on electric string viola, Benjamin Robinson on percussion, and Paul Thurlow on piano. The doors open at 6:30 pm and the performance is from 7 to 9.

Rebecca Gilbert notes, "Our land lines are still out. To reach Native Earth

Teaching Farm and Rebecca Gilbert please text 774-563-5666 or email nativeearthteachingfarm@gmail.com."

Last weekend Native Earth Teaching Farm harvested their first crop of basket willow. Their regular Volunteer at the Farm times are 1 to 3 pm Sunday afternoons, unless it's stormy. Other times by appointment.

Come to the Chilmark Community Church for pizza, Tuesday nights at 6 pm.

The 7:30 pm Tuesday

Poetry and Prose gatherings at Pathways have introduced us to new talented voices and showcased favorites. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to experience reading your writing to a kind audience.

Thank you, Kate Feiffer and the Martha's Vineyard Times, for hosting an Islanders Write weekend in March. The opportunity to learn from and connect with other writers without the crowds and pressure of summer is priceless.

It is always thrilling to hear someone in the audience give a testimonial to Nancy Aronie with the story of their first time writing in response to her prompt as the first step that led them to publication.

May we be gentle and kind and keep our sense of humor as we rise to all that comes our way this week. **MVT**

Thank you, Kate Feiffer and the Martha's Vineyard Times, for hosting an Islanders Write weekend in March. The opportunity to learn from and connect with other writers without the crowds and pressure of summer is priceless.

West Tisbury



By Hermine Hull

hermine.hull@gmail.com

My soda bread was in the oven as I sat down to write my column this morning. I will bring it to our early St. Patrick's Day dinner at Diane Wall's, a tradition of many years. We are meeting early, around 4 o'clock, to accommodate the four children who are now part of our celebrations. Skyler and Syrus Wallcox, and Addy and Reed Rebello, are Diane's grandchildren. Their mothers, Hilary Wall-

cox, and Tessa Rebello, were the focus and fun of our dinners together when they were little; now we have their kids to adore.

Dinner will be extravagant, delicious corned beef with heaps of vegetables. We used to have green beer, but that seems not to be as essential to Brian and James

as it was to Howard. Hilary, Tessa, and Howard used to pick up their instruments after dinner to perform memorable concerts for us and assorted dollies.

I am grateful for the traditions that have given me a structure to my years. There are memories of the holidays my parents made special for us. Then came the years after they died, when I was able to make my own traditions, mostly solitary by preference until I met Mike. It wasn't long after that that I met Diane and Howard.

Diane was working at Alley's back then. She and

Howard, and Charlie and Teena Parton, became good friends. They were the faces around our dinner tables, especially shaping the St. Patrick's Day festivities that we continue to this day.

I put the computer on sleep while Mike and I went off to our dinner. I'm back now, to tell the story of this year's dinner. Being at Diane's house is as familiar as being at my own. This year, however, was wonderfully chaotic. Four young children ran and screamed and laughed and told stories of their own.

Skyler met us at the door, an apparition in sparkles,

aglow with a pair of shamrock-shaped spectacles with flashing green lights.

Syrus immediately invited me to the sofa and coffee table he had turned into a broad waterway where rescues ensued as ambulances were called to save the Playmobile characters whose boat had capsized. Addy kept an eye on kitchen preparations, making sure her grandmother was doing everything properly. Baby Reed smiled from his mother's arms.

Finally, we were called to the table, beautifully set, laden with the traditional corned beef and vegetables, with shepherd's pie for those who didn't like corned beef. The children were settled, and the rest of us filled our plates.

As I looked around the table, I reflected on the addition of Hilary's and

Tessa's husbands, Brian and James, and Brian's mother, Susan, all familiar now, and beloved. I look forward to watching the four children as they grow into themselves. And I miss the ones no longer with us. Howard Wall, Fudge and Ben Paul, and Charlie Parton have passed away. Teena Parton lives off-Island now, in Western Massachusetts. Jan, Rich, and Janay Rooney didn't come this year. Still, it was our St. Patrick's Day dinner, with delicious and abundant food, shared with dear friends.

We are luckier than many people, who are hungry, don't know where their next meal will come from, who may live in impoverished countries riven by war, poverty, and fear. I never forget them, and I wish the world was never so. **MVT**

Skyler met us at the door, an apparition in sparkles, aglow with a pair of shamrock-shaped spectacles with flashing green lights.

know a lot of people — in my personal life as well as in my practice — who talk about being “addicted” to their phones. Is phone addiction an actual thing? Does it fall into the same category as addiction to nicotine, alcohol, or heroin? The answer, in a word, is yes.

I have come to think of all addictions as dopamine addictions. In “Dopamine Nation: Finding Balance in the Age of Indulgence,” Stanford psychiatrist Anna Lembke explains that all pleasurable behaviors — from doing a puzzle or spending time with a good friend to eating an entire bag of potato chips or spending hours at the gambling table — release dopamine in the brain. And dopamine feels good.

“What’s tricky is that when there’s been a high level of dopamine release, the end of that release triggers feelings of withdrawal,” she writes. Dopamine withdrawal leaves people with low energy and motivation, feelings of depression and anxiety, and most significantly, craving for increasingly extreme hits of dopamine. Unfortunately, extreme dopamine release desensitizes the brain to dopamine’s pleasures, meaning that people need more and more of it to induce the same level of gratification, and before they know it, they’re on the “dopamine seesaw”: extreme hit, extreme withdrawal, extreme hit, extreme withdrawal.

There is an idea circulating in psychiatry that much of what drives psychiatric illness is a result of “dysfunctional reward processing.” Bipolar disorder, for instance, is basically a seesaw between periods of high and low brain excitation, otherwise known as mania and depression. The excitable state we call mania is often characterized by racing thoughts, grandiosity, intense creativity,



ADOBE STOCK

The dopamine seesaw

There’s a big difference between pleasure and contentment.

BY CHARLES SILBERSTEIN WITH LAURA ROOSEVELT

helplessness. Cycles between highs and lows often become shorter and shorter with time, because the nervous system of the person experiencing them is desperate to get back the relief induced by overuse of the reward system.

People who suffer from extreme

want to do things early if the post-anguish pleasure feels so good?

While medication is often essential to recovery from bipolar disorder and extreme anxiety, I’ve found that people need less of it when they find their way to a gentler up-and-down on the dopamine

for the fireplace to keep his family and houseguests warm. All of the things that had made him anxious for months disappeared. There was no time for anxiety when his focus was grounded in the here and now.

Another strategy for coping with extreme dopamine cravings is based on a biological principle called hormesis, which asserts that a stressor or toxin that causes harm at high doses can actually cause a beneficial adaptive response at lower doses. (Think: “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.”) Hence, when you engage in limited amounts of mildly uncomfortable activities, such as cold plunges, cardiovascular exercise, or anxiety-provoking situations such as public speaking, you briefly stress your system; when the stress ends, you experience a healthy dopamine release, which encourages further engagement in healthy behaviors.

Never before in human history have we had such easy access to extreme reward, be it through

our phones, pornography, junk food, drugs, or shopping. With such readily available opportunities for comfort, it should come as no surprise that so many young people have such high rates of anxiety and depression.

A recent column by the journalist David Brooks made me see the dopamine seesaw through a different lens. In his essay “We’re Living Through the Great Detachment,” Brooks suggests that with decreasing attendance at places of worship and community groups, fewer marriages, and fewer romantic relationships — particularly among youth — there is a loss of love. He goes on to say, “Love is the most powerful energy source known to humans.” Love is so powerful and motivating, Brooks writes, that it makes you “want to care for and serve the thing you love. Your love is propelling you this way or that. You want communion with the thing you love.” In other words, love creates a powerful and stable reward system in the brain. Dramatic highs and lows are seductive stuff, but gentle and enduring love — for people, for work, for hobbies, for a higher power — is a happier and ultimately more sustaining approach.

I am reminded of a limerick that my friend, neurologist and psychiatrist Barry Fogel, wrote about dopamine and oxytocin (a neurotransmitter that modulates attachment, empathy, and the feeling of safety in relationships):

A captain remarked to his bosun,
He’d had ladies all over the ocean.
Now for babies and wife,
He’d reordered his life.
Then dopamine, now oxytocin.

Intense dopamine hits sure do feel good. But perhaps the enduring love and human connection that people experience in healthy relationships, family, the 12-step fellowship, and a supportive community feel even better. **MVR**

Dr. Charles Silberstein is a psychiatrist on staff at Martha’s Vineyard Hospital and at Island Counseling Center, where he is the medical director. He is board-certified in general, addiction, and geriatric psychiatry. He writes regularly about issues Islanders have with mental health.

Laura D. Roosevelt is a poet, journalist, and editor who writes regularly for Bluedot Living and other local publications.

Cycles between highs and lows often become shorter and shorter with time, because the nervous system of the person experiencing them is desperate to get back the relief induced by overuse of the reward system.

euphoria and/or irritability, and impulsivity (buying everything on your social media feed, for example). When manic, people are overusing the dopamine reward system, losing their ability to put their foot on the brakes. Periods of mania are generally followed by extreme withdrawal, characterized by low energy, excessive sleep, depression, and often feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, and

anxiety are on a similar seesaw, experiencing an addicting cycle of worry, distress, and fear, followed by a rewarding sense of relief when situations that trigger anxiety are resolved. In other words, anxiety can become addictive. People who procrastinate (getting more and more anxious as deadlines approach) get huge relief when they complete the things that they’ve been avoiding — so why would they

seesaw. Lembke suggests starting by fasting from the addictive rush for a month, during which a person’s system can reset and learn to function with gentle, ordinary dopamine release.

In the setting of the blizzard of 2026, a friend of mine lost all power for most of the week. His life was consumed with finding and storing food and water, cooking outside with propane, and finding fuel

YOUR ISLAND GROCER
CRONIG'S MARKET
SINCE 1917
& HEALTHY ADDITIONS

YOUR ISLAND GROCER FOR NEARLY 100 YEARS

COMMUNITY NOTES



M.V. TIMES

Easter Methodist services in Oak Bluffs

The United Methodist Church, Trinity Church, Trinity Circle, Oak

Bluffs services are as follows: March 29: Palm/Passion Sunday, 10 am at Worship at UMC-MV/Trinity Church. April 3, Good Friday: Noon to 3 pm, Trinity Church will be open for prayers and quiet reflection. April 5, Easter Sunday: 6:15 am, Sunrise Service at Inkwell Beach in Oak Bluffs. April 5, Easter Sunday: 10 am. umc-mv.org.

‘Growing a Healthy Lawn’

The Vineyard Conservation Society invites the Island community to learn more about growing an organic, bio-

diverse lawn that supports our local environment while looking good.

James Dedekian is a veteran lawn expert specializing in organic lawn care and turf revival. With more than 10 years experience, he’s known as a “lawn guru” who provides expert advice on soil health. He holds an accreditation from the Northeastern Farming Association.

The event includes free seed-sampler gift bags as supplies last. Saturday, March 21, from 2 to 4 pm, at the Wakeman Center in Vineyard Haven. For more information, contact the Vineyard Conservation Society. **MVR**

ADOBE STOCK

calendar

Event spotlight for the week of 3-19 - 3-25

THU 3/19

Social needlework meetup

Bring your own project or learn a new skill. They can teach you everything from basic techniques to troubleshooting. Come for the company and for the support; get tips on reading patterns, needle felting, knitting, crochet, visible mending, or needle-point. How satisfying to complete a project with others who appreciate what you've been

up to! West Tisbury library, 5 to 6 pm. Meet downstairs in the large conference room.



FRI 3/20

Pathways presents Sparkestra

The return of a beloved live music event featuring instrumental world jazz performed by local musicians. Come enjoy the sounds of Nancy Jephcote on electric five-string viola, Benham Robinson on drums, and Paul Thurlow on piano. It's at 7 pm at Pathways, a.k.a. Chilmark Tavern. Doors open at 6:30 pm, so come



early to find a good seat! Free to attend; donations appreciated.

SAT 3/21

All-ages Chess Club

Come join the Chess Club at its new home at the Oak Bluffs library. Chess is more popular now than ever. Are you looking for a partner, a challenge, or a new move?

Come and play with a dedicated group of chess lovers in this fun and welcoming environment. Email oakb_mail@clamsnet.org for more information. Oak Bluffs library, 2 to 3:30 pm.



SUN 3/22

Mixed-media collage workshop

Collage is a visual representation made from an assembly of different forms, materials, and sources. A col-

lage or mixed-media piece may include paint, newspaper clippings or pictures, ribbons, threads or yarns, bits of colored paper or handmade papers, portions of other artwork, or photographs, glued, stitched, or otherwise affixed to a canvas or other solid support surfaces. It's \$110, at Featherstone Center for the Arts, off Barnes Road, 508-693-1850; 10 am to 2 pm.



MV TIMES

MON 3/23

'Intro to Building & Technical Trades'

Funded by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, this career explorations seminar will introduce Vineyard residents to jobs in the technical and

building trades, including HVAC mechanics and installers, sheet-metal workers, construction and building inspectors, offshore wind technicians, solar panel technicians, and solar panel mechanics. The class will include hands-on demos and information on certification. Meet at MVRHS. Sponsored by ACE MV; 508-693-9222.



TUES 3/24

'Tick Talk' with Escher Cattle

Entomologist and Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Educator Escher Cattle reviews the basics of tick-bite prevention, tick species local to the Cape and Islands, what to expect

in the warming weather, and measures to protect yourself, your landscape, and your family and pets from tick-borne disease. Edgartown library, 3 to 4 pm. No registration required.



MV TIMES

Events

THURSDAY, MARCH 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

Mindfulness & Meditation

Open Practice Group 8-9 am, Aquinnah Town Hall, Aquinnah. Mindfulness & meditation practice group, open to anyone interested in being more intentional and practicing with others. 413-575-0110, ruthfolchman@me.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

Balletics

9-10 am, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Total body conditioning, learning body's strengths & weaknesses, how to prevent injury. coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov, 508-693-2896

Fit for Flow with Maggie Bucci

9-10 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This fitness class, led by Maggie Bucci, is designed to get you fit to flow with the journey of life info@stillpointmv.org

Little Island Voices: inclusive music class

10-10:45 am, West Tisbury Library. Sensory-friendly, inclusive music circle for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Thursdays 10-10:45, WT Library 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org

Thursday Play Kitchen and Store

10 am-12 pm, 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

Tech help

11 am-1 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Free tech help 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov

Wellness Clinic

12:15-1:15 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Wellness Clinic - Free 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov

Needlework Group

1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Needlework Group @ Up Island Council on Aging. Thursdays 1-3:00 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov

Red Dragon Mah-Jong

1-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join us for a fun weekly Mah-jong meetup! Bring your board or use one of ours, subject to availability. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org

Community Knitting Circle

1-3 pm, Chilmark Library. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of knitting in the Martha's Vineyard Room. Our knitters love to share their knowledge and beginners are welcome! 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com

Virtual Art History: Sarah Miriam Peale

2 pm, Vineyard Haven Public Library. Explore the work of America's first female professional painter. Led by art historian Martha Chiarichia-ro. Register through VH library event calendar. 509-696-4211, vnhpl.programs@clamsnet.org

VHPL Book Club Reads "The Personal Librarian" by M Benedict and V C Murray

2 pm, Tisbury EMS Facility, Vineyard Haven. Enjoy a lively discussion in a casual "hybrid" format. Send an email to vnhpl_programs@clamsnet.org to be added to the list. Everyone is welcome! 508-696-4211.

Lego and Magnatile Club

3-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in anytime between 3 to 5pm. For kids ages 5-11. Duplos, original size Legos and Magna-tiles will be provided. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org

Poetry Games for Kids

3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Kids poetry games and activities 508-645-3360, adubno@clamsnet.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, vnhpl_programs@clamsnet.org

'Oscar-Nominated Short Films: DOCUMENTARY.' 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

Feather Cuff Bracelet

Metalsmithing Workshop 4-6:30 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Make a feather cuff bracelet out of copper sheet metal. Learn the techniques of transferring an impression from a steel plate, sawing, and shaping 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org

Listening Session: Rapid

Food Waste Recyclers 4:30-5:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Sophie Mazza, Food Waste Director at IGI, will discuss the island's food waste challenge, warrant articles, the recyclers, and answer your questions. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org

Book Discussion - Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln

4:30-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Book Discussion - Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org

Common Thread Social Needlework Meetup (formerly Stitch Society)

5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Thursdays from 5:00pm to 6:00pm, for the Common

Thread: Social Needlework Meetup 508-693-3366, lhearn@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

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

Introduction to Canva

5-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Introduction to Canva 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org

Strange trails, hidden paths

“Train Dreams” playing at the M.V. Film Center.

BY ABBY REMER

Trees have a magisterial presence in Clint Bentley’s quiet film “Train Dreams,” starting at the Martha’s Vineyard Film Center on March 19. In the opening shot, we emerge slowly from an empty train tunnel into a landscape filled with the sounds of birdsong, woodpeckers, and wind whistling through towering trees swaying against a clear azure sky. We hear the words, “There were once passageways to the old world. Strange trails, hidden paths. You’d turn the corner and find yourself face-to-face with the great mystery, the foundation of all things.” Suddenly, the camera comes up close to a pair of old work boots, inexplicably nailed into a great tree trunk. Although we learn of the meaning behind the boots later, at the moment, we simply hear the voice-over continue, “Even though the old world is now gone ... you can still feel the echo of it.”

Seconds later, we watch a massive tree topple, and we meet our protagonist, Robert Grainier (Joel Edgerton), sawing away with a partner across its great trunk. “Train Dreams,” based on a 2011 novella by Denis Johnson, follows Grainier’s life, from his move West as a 6- or 7-year-old orphan to his old age. It focuses, though, on his adult life as a logger on the frontier of the Pacific Northwest, as industrialization takes hold across the U.S. in the early part of the last century.

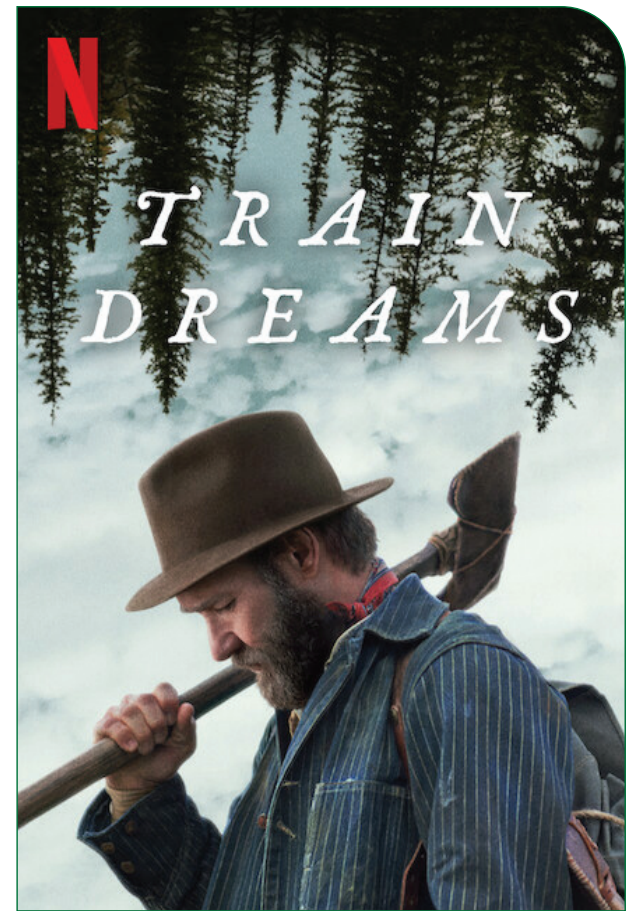
Robert Grainier, a quiet, introspective man of few words, does seasonal work with loggers from far-flung communities, helping to saw down trees in pristine wilderness

and build the railways that are starting to cut across the country. He leads a physically demanding life amid the breathtaking scenery around him, captured with stunning cinematography by Adolpho Veloso.

Life as a logger is tough. The physical demands are relentless, and the men are exposed to extreme weather conditions. While there are moments when they work amid great beauty, there is also cold, wet, heat, and fatigue. The towering trees hold a powerful symbolic presence — representing both strength and danger. They can fall the wrong way and maim or kill members of the crew and their horses. One aging logger, Arn Peoples (William H. Macy), recalls, “It was only when you left it alone that a tree might treat you as a friend. After the blade bit in, you had yourself a war.”

Trees are not the only danger, and Grainier is haunted forever by an act of racial brutality against a Chinese worker that he couldn’t prevent, which occurred while working on the railroad.

The light of his life enters: He meets, falls for, and marries Gladys (Felicity Jones), with whom he has a baby daughter. The two are his everything, and it is with them that his tender and more expressive sides emerge. It is a marriage of equals, as the young couple tries to make a life together in the wilderness. The family settles on an idyllic little tract of land along a creek. His departures, as he must leave seasonally to earn money, are heart-wrenching.



“Train Dreams” opens at the M.V. Film Center on March 19. For tickets and information, visit mvfilmsociety.com.

At one point, Grainier endures a great tragedy, and much of the film becomes a lyrical immersive meditation on the nature of life, heartbreak, and connection, all set against a world that is changing around him in incomprehensible ways. **MVT**

Continued from B7

Events

Pilates Flow with Camille Beaulieu

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

Dance Party & Auction at Pathways Arts

6-9 pm, Pathways Arts at the Chilmark Tavern. Dance the night away with the Chilmark PTO at Pathways Arts at Chilmark Tavern to benefit The Outing Program. DJ, Live auction, Food, Drinks, Raw Bar. events.handbid.com

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

‘SIRAT’ at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. SIRAT (Academy Award Nominee for Best Int'l Picture and Sound)— at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 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

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

Mini-Maker Craft Club

10:30 am-2 pm, Edgartown Library. A different-themed craft will be offered every week, drop in and get creative! 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. 508-696-4211, 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@tisburyma.gov

Memory Training - MV Center for Living

2-4 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Memory Training - MV Center for Living 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org

Needle Felting for Young Adults - ages 10-18 - sign-up is required

3-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Needle Felting for Young Adults - ages 10-18-Friday March 20th 3-4:30 PM - registration required

Edgartown Public Library’s 10th Anniversary Celebration

3-4 pm, Edgartown Library. This month we celebrate ten years in a beautiful, state-of-the-art library building that belongs to all of us. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

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

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.

SPARKESTRA: Original Instrumental World Jazz

7-9 pm, PathwaysARTS at the Chilmark Tavern. SPARKESTRA returns to Pathways with Original instrumental world jazz by Nancy Jephcote, Benham Robinson and Paul Thurlow. Free. Donations appreciated. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

MVYRADIO’s Sixth Annual Night Out For Non-Profits

12 am, Portuguese American Club, Oak Bluffs. “MVYRADIO’s Sixth Annual Night Out for Nonprofits,” on March 21st at the PA Club in Oak Bluffs (with a performance by Johnny Hoy and The Bluefish) 508-693-5000, ray@mvradio.org

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.

Acrylic Painting

9 am-12 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Perfect your painting techniques during this weekly intermediate/advanced class! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org

Kaiut Yoga

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

Baby and Toddler Storytime

10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us for a fun-filled storytime with stories, songs, and shakers! 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org

Adult Community Dance with Jesse Keller Jason

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

Pilates Flow with Camille Beaulieu

10:30-11:45 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement. info@stillpointmv.org

Beginning Crochet (Drop-In)

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

Mini-Maker Craft Club

10:30 am-2 pm, Edgartown Library. A different-themed craft will be offered every week, drop in and get creative! 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

Storytime

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

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

SINGING & PERFORMING CLASS

1-2:30 pm, Aquinnah Town Hall, Aquinnah. Singers choose a song to cover and develop for a stage performance over the course of the 8 week session, with a performance on the last day. laurajordandecker@gmail.com

Pokemon Club

1-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Bring your Pokémon cards to show to others! This is a club to talk about Pokémon, look at cards, and draw! Ages 5-11. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org

Five Weeks in Palestine: A Personal Journey with Edward Zlotkowski

1-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Five Weeks in Palestine: A Personal Journey with Edward Zlotkowski 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org

Large Scale Floral Design with Jessica & Aubrey

1-3 pm, Donaroma’s Garden Store & Nursery, Edgartown. Work with abundant seasonal flowers and professional mechanics to create a bold, large-scale arrangement with height, structure and impact. 508-627-8366, amy@donaromas.com

Growing a Healthy Lawn

2-4 pm, Wakeman Center, Edgartown. The Vineyard Conservation Society invites the community to learn about growing a beautiful, organic, biodiverse lawn that supports our environment. lucas@vineyardconservation.org

All Ages Chess Club

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

Aquinnah Library Book Group

2:30-3:30 pm, Aquinnah Library, Aquinnah. Join us for a discussion of All the Beauty in the World by Patrick Bringley. This program is free and all are welcome. 508-645-2314, gwilbur@clamsnet.org

Guided Somatic Art

Meditation: Blooming into Spring with Sally Smith
3:30-5 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Bloom into Spring with this guided meditation that combines the breath with creativity as a healing modality. info@stillpointmv.org

Music Street Concert: “Songs Without Words”

4 pm, West Tisbury Library. featuring cellist Thomas Barth, violinist Sophia Szokolay and pianist Diane Katzenberg Braun 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org

Kids Glow + DJ Dance Party

5-7 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Kids 10+ DJ Dance Party 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com

10th Annual Meat Ball

5:30-8:30 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. 10th Annual Meat Ball at the Ag Hall 508-693-9549, programs@mvagsoc.org

Community Supper

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

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

Thurs 3/19	OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: DOCUMENTARY SIRAT	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Fri 3/20	TRAIN DREAMS nominated for Oscar's BEST PICTURE, BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY, and BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY. EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Sat 3/21	MET OPERA: TRISTAN UND ISOLDE NO SHOW DUE TO THE LENGTH OF MET OPERA EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT	12:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Sun 3/22	EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT TRAIN DREAMS	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
MON & TUES, MARCH, 23 & 24 - FILM CENTER IS CLOSED -		
Wed 3/25	ART EXHIBITION ON SCREEN: TURNER & CONSTABLE	7:30 PM
Thurs 3/26	EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT TRAIN DREAMS	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

Events

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Lent Together - Reflection On Ash Wednesday

9-10:30 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. MINI ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT OPEN TO ALL. EXPECT MUSIC, REFLECTION, PRAYER AND SHARING. ASHES WILL BE GIVEN. 781-929-2833, newseeds28@gmail.com

Lent Together: Reflection, Reconciliation, and Rebirth

9-10:30 am, Stillpoint, Vineyard Haven. Please join the Reverend Mary Leahy for time together, during Lent, for prayer, ritual, sharing, and music info@stillpointmv.org

BrunchBQ & Beats with DJ Smooth B @ Black Joy Kitchen

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

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

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, tpierce@mvmuseum.org

Oscars at the Library

4-7 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Oscars at the Library 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org

'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

MONDAY, MARCH 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

Pint-Sized Picassos

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

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.

Mah Jong

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

Drop-in Mah Jongg

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

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

Guiding Good Choice (GGC)

3-5:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Guiding Good Choices (GGC) an evidence based program for parents and caregivers. Um programa baseado em evidências para que pais e responsáveis. 774-447-3072, littlefield@mvcommunityservices.org

Intro to Technical & Building Trades

5-7 pm, MVRHS, Oak Bluffs. Learn about jobs in the technical and building trades industry. 508-693-9222, garrett@acemv.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 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

9-10:15 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement info@stillpointmv.org

Little Naturalists

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

Play Kitchen and Store

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

Free Range Fun

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

Drop-in Play-Doh Group

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

Vineyard Haven Library Story Circle with Aria

10:45 am, MV Family Center, Vineyard Haven. Weekly story circle with Children's Librarian Aria on Tuesdays and Fridays - now at the MV Family Center on Greenwood Ave following 9:30am playgroup. 508-696-4211, vhppl_programs@clamsnet.org

Work From Home, From The Library

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

Squad Fitness with Triva Emery • BeWell-MV

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

Learn to play Mah Jong

1-3 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. If you've been meaning to learn Mah Jong, this welcoming four-session series is the perfect place to start. 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyma.gov

Mah Jongg

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

Lego Club

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

Tick Talk with Escher Cattle

3-4 pm, Edgartown Library. Educator Escher Cattle reviews the basics of ticks 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

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

SINGING & PERFORMING CLASS

3:15-4:45 pm, Aquinnah Town Hall, Aquinnah. Singers choose a song to cover and develop for a stage performance over the course of the 8 week session, with a performance on the last day.laurajordandecker@gmail.com

Singing & Performing Class

3:30-5 pm, Aquinnah Town Hall. Singers choose a song to cover and develop for a stage performance over the course of the 8 week session, with a performance on the last day.laurajordandecker@gmail.com

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

Kundalini Yoga

4:30-5:30 pm, The Red House PRSC, Vineyard Haven. Awaken your inner energy through breath, movement, and meditation. 508-693-2900, jtau@mvcommunityservices.org

ASL Practice Group

4:45-5:45 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Want to learn ASL? Come drop in on our conversational practice group! No experience necessary. 508-693-9433, sschofield@clamsnet.org

Knitting Group

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

Table Tennis

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

American Sign Language Practice Group

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

Backyard Compost Workshop with Rosemary Confalone

5:30-7 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Backyard Compost Workshop with Rosemary Confalone at the Ag Hall 508-693-9549, programs@mvasoc.org

What's New at Martha's Vineyard Hospital?

6 pm, Katharine Cornell Theatre, Vineyard Haven. Join a team of health professionals from MVH to learn about new procedures and diagnostic services available on the island. 508-696-4211, vhppl_programs@clamsnet.org

Poetry & Prose Tuesday: Poet Elizabeth Sylvia

7:30-9 pm, PathwaysArts at the Chilmark Tavern. Poet, Elizabeth Sylvia reads from the 2nd collection of poems, Scythe. She is an award winning author. Plus by Open Mic for all writers & poets. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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

Play Reading at Tisbury Senior Center

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

Oak Bluffs Public Library Storytime

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

Children's Storytime

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

Tumble Bugs

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

Luncheon in Aquinnah

12-1:30 pm, Aquinnah Town Hall. Aquinnah Luncheon! 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov

Knitting Studio with Jo

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

Mah Jong

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

Virtual Reality for Tweens & Teens

3-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. For ages 10-18. Each participant's time depends on the turn-out. lhearn@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Drop-in Knitting Group with Cindy Bonnell

3-5 pm, Edgartown Library. All levels are welcome to bring their projects for support and inspiration. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

Lost Wax Casting

3-6 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. In this 6-week course, students will explore working with wax on a small sculptural scale to create wearable art. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org

Kids Drawing Club

3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Kids drawing club 508-645-3360, chil-marklibrarykids@gmail.com

Kids Crafts - Kaleidoscopes

3:30 pm, EMS Building , Vineyard Haven. Make your own kaleidoscope EMS Building across from the Tisbury School. Sponsored by the Vineyard Haven Public Library 508-696-4211, jrapuano@clamsnet.org

Trio Eris Concert

4 pm, West Tisbury Library. featuring violinist KJ McDonald, cellist Annie SeEun Hyung, and pianist Andrew Jun Chen. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org

Trio Eris Free Concert

4-5:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Free chamber music concert featuring Trio Eris performing works by Haydn and Brahms 508-426-9825, mvms@vineyard.net

Restorative Reset with Jelisa Difo

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

Quilting Circle

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

ART NIGHT! Ceramics: Mugs

6-8 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Curious about pottery and if you would enjoy taking one of our multi week courses? Come learn how to make a mug using hand building techniques! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org

MVFF Screening: Paralyzed by Hope: The Maria Bamford Story

6:30 pm, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Vineyard Haven. MVFF Screening: Paralyzed by Hope: The Maria Bamford Story 508-560-2134, boxoffice@circuitarts.org

Free English Classes

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

Adult Board Game Night

7:30-10 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Adults are welcome to join us at the Barn and Bowl Bistro for a variety of board games and socializing. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org

26th Annual Martha's Vineyard Film Festival

The Grange Hall & Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, West Tisbury. 26th Annual Martha's Vineyard Film Festival 508-560-2134, boxoffice@circuitarts.org

Great Decisions 2026: America's largest discussion group on world affairs

Tisbury EMS Facility, Vineyard Haven. Organized by the Foreign Policy Association. Register on library event calendar. 508-696-4211, vhppl_programs@clamsnet.org

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

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

Mindfulness & Meditation Open Practice Group

8-9 am, Aquinnah Town Hall, Aquinnah. Mindfulness & meditation practice group, open to anyone interested in being more intentional and practicing with others. 413-575-0110, ruthfolchman@me.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

Balletics

9-10 am, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Total body conditioning, learning body's strengths & weaknesses, how to prevent injury. coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov, 508-693-2896.

Fit for Flow with Maggie Bucci

9-10 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This fitness class, led by Maggie Bucci, is designed to get you fit to flow with the journey of life info@stillpointmv.org

Little Island Voices: inclusive music class

10-10:45 am, West Tisbury Library. Sensory-friendly, inclusive music circle for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Thursdays 10-10:45, WT Library 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org

Thursday Play Kitchen and Store

10 am-12 pm, 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

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.

Tech help

11 am-1 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Free tech help 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov

Needlework Group

1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Needlework Group @ Up Island Council on Aging . Thursdays 1-3:00 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov

Red Dragon Mah-Jong

1-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join us for a fun weekly Mah-jong meetup! Bring your board or use one of ours, subject to availability. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org

Community Knitting Circle

1-3 pm, Chilmark Library. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of knitting in the Martha's Vineyard Room. Our knitters love to share their knowledge and beginners are welcome! 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com

Chef Look Cooks - Patron Favorites: Chicken Adobo

2-3:30 pm, Edgartown Library. we're turning the tables with a new series inspired by your favorite meals! 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

Lego and Magnatile Club

3-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in anytime between 3 to 5pm. For kids ages 5-11. Duplos, original size Legos and Magna-tiles will be provided. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org

Poetry Games for Kids

3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Kids poetry games and activities 508-645-3360, adubno@clamsnet.org

Ukulele Jam

3:30-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. All ages and abilities. The library has ukuleles to borrow, or bring a guitar or banjo, or come to sing. wt_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Book Buddies

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

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

Winter Wellness Part 3: Wampanoag Wellness



Island authors paused for a group photo outdoors at Featherstone Center for the Arts.

DENA PORTER

FROM POETRY TO PUBLISHING

Islanders Write, winter edition 2.0. BY AMELIA SMITH



Kate Feiffer and Nancy Slonim Aronie.

ANTHONY ESPOSITO

Islanders Write, which is put on by The MV Times, had its second off-season edition on a cool March weekend at Featherstone Center for the Arts in Oak Bluffs. Dozens of local writers and authors converged for a day of writing workshops, a day of conversations about publishing, a Vineyard authors' book fair, and plenty of community.

Saturday began with a "Wake Up and Write!" workshop, facilitated by Judith Hannan, and progressed into memoir writing with Moira Silva; playwriting with Nicole Galland; journaling with James Jennings; and nonfiction research with Duncan Caldwell. There was also a workshop with Sherry Sidoti called "Embodied Storyteller," and the final event of the day was a poetry-writing workshop with Justen Ahren and Fan Ogilvie.

Most of Saturday's attendees signed up for more than one of the fully booked workshops. Holly Rendle was excited to bring lessons on journaling and memoir back to her students at MVRHS. Paul Bagnall, a journalist in Maine with roots on the Vineyard, said that the research workshop got him to think about different approaches. In the

playwriting workshop, Karen Miller enjoyed seeing in real time the ways acting can shape how dialogue plays on stage.

A celebration is always appropriate after a good day's writing, and as the workshops wrapped up, the book fair and party opened in the gallery. The book fair was open to all authors on the Vineyard this March, and Mathew Tombers, manager of Edgartown Books, along with his team, wrangled them and their books. The "Featherstone Blue" show was on display behind long tables of local authors' books. MV Times reporter and singer/songwriter Sarah Shaw Dawson sang and played guitar, then briefly slipped out of the room to write a song for the occasion. Behind the Bookstore's chef, Juliano Marasca, presided over wine and charcuterie

boards with smooth hummus, shiny olives, bright strawberries, and of course, several kinds of cheese and crackers.

Sunday's focus was a series of conversations about possible paths to publication. Kate Feiffer, the event organizer and director of Islanders Write, began the morning in conversation with Tom Dresser, a prolific author of local histories who has also written and self-published a novel, of which very few copies sold. Some 20 years ago, Dresser connected with the History Press, a publishing company that focuses on local and regional histories, and started writing books about Vineyard history that he said sell quite well.

Sarah Shaw Dawson then interviewed Jennifer Smith Turner, a poet and the author of the novel "Child Bride," which

was published by Spark Press, a reputable hybrid publisher whose books are now distributed by Simon & Schuster. In hybrid publishing, which is different from self-publishing, the author pays some of the costs of publishing, which include editing, book design, cover design, printing, and distribution, and receives royalties when books sell. It was a model that worked well for "Child Bride," which sold some 15,000 copies and won awards.

Back to Feiffer, who spoke with Nancy Slonim Aronie. Aronie told a story about how she received a \$25,000 advance for her first book, "Writing from the Heart," in the late 1990s. Twenty years after its initial publication, Aronie got back the rights to "Writing

Continued on B11



Continued from B10 from the Heart,” and rereleased it herself, using the Amazon platform for ebooks and print-on-demand paperbacks, a decision she regrets. More recently, Aronie was working on a memoir, and was intent on having a book published when she turned 80. After hearing Eckhart Tolle speak, she knew she wanted his publisher to be her publisher. Only she found out that he had no interest in publishing memoirs either. So she shifted gears and wrote a book about how to write a memoir, which indeed was published the year she turned 80.

John Abrams, the founder of South Mountain Co., has published two books focused on employee-owned businesses. He found his publisher through researching books they publish. “What a publisher publishes tells you a lot about what they value,” he says. Abrams also spoke at length about the worth of hiring a publicist who knows how to reach the right audience.

Carole Hopson’s debut novel, “A Pair of Wings,” was inspired by the life of Bessie Coleman, a Black woman who learned to fly at the dawn of aviation. Hopson’s enthusiasm for the story carried her through 12 years of writing and a rocky road to publication. (Hopson herself is a pilot and a captain at United Airlines.) She connected with an excellent agent, who dropped her during COVID; she then hired a woman to help her with marketing and media. Hopson found a tiny publisher who agreed to print and distribute only 100 copies of the book, which sold out immediately. She then launched her own imprint, Jet Black Press, and sold 10,000 copies of the book. She signed with a well-known literary agent, and “A Pair of Wings” was then re-edited and published through a traditional publisher.

During an afternoon session, Rosemary Stimola, who has been a literary agent since 1997, told Shaw Dawson that the last thing she wants to hear from a new author is that

they’ve written the next “Hunger Games.” (Stimola represents “Hunger Games” author Suzanne Collins.) “I’m not interested in following trends,” she says, “I’m more interested in setting them.” In order for her to take on a book, she said, she asks herself two questions: Do I love it? Can I sell it? Stimola advises authors who are seeking an agent to be aware that agents receive hundreds of queries a day, and to move on if they haven’t received a response after a couple of months.

Mark Favreau is both a publisher and an author. He wrote his first book in his late 40s, after many years as an editor at the New Press, a nonprofit public-interest publisher. His own books are nonfiction for the young adult market, and have been published through a large traditional publishing house. As an editor, Favreau says, he’s besieged with submissions. He urges authors to do their research through Publishers Marketplace, and seek out intermediaries to connect with the people who can get their books into editors’ hands.

Charles Sennott closed out the afternoon with the tale of how he organized, transcribed, and self-published his mother’s family stories through the Blurb print-on-demand service. “Through the Lace Curtain” has sold 750 copies in hardback, thanks to a large family. Sennott’s mother had book signings and an event at Boston College, which gave her a sense of accomplishment in the last chapter of her life.

At the end of the day, whatever the size of the publisher or the path to publication, success as an author springs from connections, perseverance, self-promotion — and serendipity. “I am full up to here, as the kids used to say,” said Laurie Peter, a workshop participant, gesturing to six inches above her head. For the writers who attended the weekend’s workshops and conversations, there is much to digest before the next Islanders Write rolls around. **mvw**

SUCCESS AS AN AUTHOR SPRINGS FROM CONNECTIONS, PERSEVERANCE, SELF-PROMOTION — AND SERENDIPITY.

1. Duncan Caldwell – research workshop. 2. John Abrams talked about publishing his award-winning book on entrepreneurship. 3. Nicole Galland and Molly Purves – playwriting workshop. 4. Author and transformational speaker Constance Messmer spoke to the attendees as Kate Feiffer and Marc Favreau looked on. 5. Tom Dresser, Sherry Sidoti, and other authors spoke with attendees. 6. Island Writer Sarah Shaw facilitated a talk with Publisher Charlie Sennott. 7. Moira Silva – memoir workshop. 8. Author Nancy Slonim Aronie with a former student of hers, Jill Orluskie. 9. Constance Messmer and James Jennings talked about their published works.

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IZZIE ANTHONY

The High School View

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

Assembly empowers teens to resist 'porn culture'

BY MARIA BARROS

Despite its widespread presence online, pornography is rarely openly discussed in schools. Last Wednesday, March 11, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) took a step toward changing that, hosting an assembly led by the international initiative Culture Reframed, set to educate students about the various effects of pornography and hypersexualized media.

The presentation was given by the founder of Culture Reframed, Dr. Gail Dines, and director of programming Dr. Mandy Sanchez, who discussed the influence of pornography on teenagers' understanding of relationships and identity.

During the assembly, Dr. Dines asked the stu-

dents, "How is it that you've reached this age and no one has talked about this with you before?" She added, "This is not about taking [access to pornography] away, this is about literacy."

School adjustment counselors Matt Malowski and Amy Lilavois, along with school psychologist Jen Russell, decided to bring the initiative to the school after years of work and conversations in the SWEAR (Stand With Everyone Against Rape) program.

"Pornography culture is a topic we discuss every year at the SWEAR retreat, and every year the juniors ask us why this is the first time anyone is having an in-depth conversation with them about the topic. Our school has always been so supportive of our SWEAR

program that we proposed bringing this conversation to our larger school and Island community," Lilavois said.

Malowski explained that the idea eventually led them to contact Culture Reframed. "Several years ago I came across [the Culture Reframed website] after a conference I attended. Amy and I started pulling resources from it to work with kids at SWEAR. Throughout the years we've been using their material, and this year we reached out to them and asked if they would be interested in coming to the Vineyard," Malowski said.

English teacher and SWEAR advisor Jessica Russell attested to the necessity of addressing the issue. "I attend the SWEAR retreat every spring, and we do talk about online pornography. At those retreats, I am always

sort of blown away by how many of our students, in that safe space, admit to being exposed to porn at much younger ages than most people in my generation, because of the access to the internet," Ms. Russell said.

Today, the average age of first exposure to pornography is 12.

Junior Neve Jackson said the assembly helped her think more critically about the internet. "I think we should have more assemblies like this one, so we can get a perspective on it and be prepared for when we go on social media," she said.

Lilavois explained that because of the sensitive nature of the topic, families were given the choice of whether their students would attend the assembly. "We also anticipated some pushback and negativity, and that is why we sent an opt-out letter to families. If parents or guardians do not want their students to discuss these topics at school, that is their right, and we respect that," she said.

Junior and SWEAR member Griffin Buehler



ANINA GARVIN

Dr. Gail Dines, founder of Culture Reframed, speaks about navigating a digital world that contains hypersexualized media and pornography.

reflected on the importance of the issue. "I think a lot of boys our age struggle with pornography, and they don't really realize the effects it has on them, and how porn leads them to be violent toward women." He added, "I feel it's a very important topic that a lot of people may not be comfortable discussing, but that's why it's so important to discuss it."

Malowski encourages students to reach out for support without fear of judgement. "I would like to say for any kid who is struggling with this issue on a personal level, they can always come to us for help. They are not going to be judged, they're not going to get in trouble. So for anyone out there struggling with these issues, come see us, and we'll help you," he said. **HSV**

Beyond Yondr: Fighting the grip of social media

BY MILO SHAW

When you walk into a homeroom at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) before the morning bell that signals it's time to put phones away, the majority of students will have their eyes locked on their screens, unaware of the world around them, seeking a final few minutes of screen time.

According to a 2019 survey conducted by Common Sense Media, teenagers are viewing screens for an average of 7.5 hours a day beyond the screen time used for schoolwork. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

recommends limiting recreational screen time to one to two hours per day, focusing on high-quality content. This gap in the recommended time versus actual habits raises the question, What makes it so difficult to just put down the device?

Phones are designed for addiction. A large majority of the apps providing constant distractions for teenagers are simultaneously causing an alarming production of dopamine in their brains. Dopamine is critical to the brain's reward center. It's the "happy chemical" that creates a false feedback loop and drives home our desire to engage with that app or device even further. With every



EVEREST ROACH

Freshman Ana Clara Sodre shares her experience with peers in her English class.

notification, every "like" we receive on a post, every funny video we watch, our brain gets a little hit of dopamine.

Jared Andrews, MVRHS' director of student affairs, says that the Yondr pouches have made a positive difference in the school environment because they take away the option of

that automatic reach.

"[Smartphones] were out in the hallways, nobody's really talking, you're not genuinely communicating with each other. In the cafeteria, study halls, it was all cell phones and [laptops]. It was difficult, too, because teachers would try to collect phones at the beginning of class and

then hand them back at the end of class, and that equals anywhere from 10 to 12 minutes of time, just taking away from the curriculum. Our main goal continues to be to make MVRHS more of a phone-free environment," Andrews said.

Freshman Lucy Doyle spoke to the experience the majority of students have when trying to do schoolwork when there's a phone nearby, or when a more enticing Google tab is a click away. "I'll be working on an essay or other schoolwork, and then turn to my phone, and then realize I've been on there for five minutes," Lucy said.

"It becomes repetitive, and what I need to be doing gets worked on in very small increments, because I'm getting distracted very easily."

While many continue to struggle with managing their relationship with screens, some students are starting to take it upon themselves to limit screen time.

Freshman Ana Clara Sodre made the decision to quit social media two months

ago, and is raving about the benefits. She said, "One of the biggest benefits is that my attention span has grown so much. I've been able to focus on one thing for much longer. I've been able to slow down, and I also have been loving reading."

She added that she can more easily recognize her own ideas, as her brain doesn't feel as crowded with everyone else's. "I feel like when I was gaining all this information, my brain just wasn't giving itself time to breathe and make its own ideas," she said. "It's helped my grades, also. I am able to get all the things done and have time to just relax." **HSV**

Correction:

In last week's issue, "Bailen Darack organizes first-ever college fair" was incorrectly credited. The article was written by Maria Barros and Divya Randolph. We apologize for the mistake.

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MVFF MOVIE LINE-UP FROM A-Z



BROKEN ENGLISH
Dirs. Jane Pollard and Iain Forsyth
Documentary | U.K. | 2025 | 1 hr. 39 min.



COOKIE QUEENS
Dir. Alysa Nahmias
Documentary | U.S.A. | 2026 | 1 hr. 31 min.



EVERYBODY TO KENMURE STREET
Dir. Felipe Bustos Sierra
Documentary | U.K. | 2026 | 1 hr. 35 min.



FOLLOWING HARRY
Dir. Susanne Rostock
Documentary | U.S.A. | 2024 | 1 hr. 30 min.



HEARTWORM
Dirs. Miriam Louise Arens and Mitchell Arens
Sci-Fi / Drama | U.S.A. | 2026 | 1 hr. 46 min.



JANE ELLIOTT AGAINST THE WORLD
Dir. Judd Ehrlich
Documentary | U.S.A. | 2026 | 1 hr. 39 min.



MARY OLIVER: SAVED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD
Dir. Sasha Waters
Documentary | U.S.A. | 2026 | 1 hr. 31 min.



NARRATIVE SHORTS
47 min.
This program comprises four short films that explore ambition, memory, resilience, and connection.



NUISANCE BEAR
Dirs. Gabriela Osio Vanden and Jack Weisman
Documentary | U.S.A. / Canada / U.K. | 2026 | 1 hr. 29 min.



PARALYZED BY HOPE: THE MARIA BAMFORD STORY
Dirs. Judd Apatow and Neil Berkeley
Documentary | U.S.A. | 2026 | 1 hr. 56 min.



POETIC LICENSE
Dir. Maude Apatow
Comedy / Romance | U.S.A. | 2025 | 1 hr. 57 min.



SEIZED
Dir. Sharon Liese
Documentary | U.S.A. | 2026 | 1 hr. 34 min.

The 2026 Martha's Vineyard Film Festival. BY ABBY REMER

Minah Oh, director of programming for the Martha's Vineyard Film Festival, is terribly excited about this, the 26th festival, running from March 25 to 29: "I wanted to present the best of the best, and re-inspire the community. All of the films are really strong stories, but shot with just a little bit of a different perspective."

Executive Director Brian Ditchfield adds, "We're at a moment when gaining perspective is really important, and looking at the world from other points of view is great. So many of these films support that."

As always, an array of talent, directors, and producers — several of whom have Vineyard connections — will be on hand after many of the screenings for a lively post-film Q and A.

The documentary "Paralyzed by Hope: The Maria Bamford Story," will open the festival. Bamford interweaves her lifelong mental health experiences into hilarious, uplifting comedy, showing how she channels personal vulnerability into artistic power through raw authenticity. "You really get to understand that everyone is struggling with something — to have an artist so naked and know that it's OK to be a work in progress, ask for help, and have community show up ... and, it's funny," says Oh.

Seasonal resident and director Dawn Porter's "When a Witness Recants" exposes the life-altering havoc caused by one person's lie under police pressure. In 1983,

author Ta-Nehisi Coates learned that a 14-year-old boy was murdered at his Baltimore middle school. Revisiting the case, Coates uncovers the truth: Three innocent teenagers were wrongfully convicted and spent 36 years in prison — leaving a lasting impact on the accused, the witnesses, and their community.

Miriam Louise Arens, a born-and-raised Vineyarder, co-directed "Heartworm," which was filmed on-Island and features local talent. In this sci-fi drama combining reality, virtual reality, and memory, a bereaved mother battles to rescue her grief-stricken husband from NeuraLife, the virtual technology dominating their world. Ditchfield says, "For anybody who saw the film a few years ago, she really took the notes that were given and took them to heart, and has done a tremendous amount of work on it. It will be a real treat for people who haven't seen the film, and [for] those who have, to see all the amazing changes that have been made."

Gabriela Osio Vanden and Jack Weisman's documentary, "Nuisance Bear," follows a polar bear forced to navigate a human world of tourists, wildlife officers, and hunters as its ancient migration collides with modern life, leaving unclear who truly belongs in this shared landscape. Oh emphasizes, "Without giving it away, it's an environmental documentary, but the POV [point of view] is so different about a way to understand nature."

In the narrative comedy "Poetic License," written by Raffi Donatich and directed by Maude Apatow, two inseparable best

“What connects all these really strong films is that you get to watch great stories, but in a seat that you’re not used to. Maybe it’s someone next to you or two rows back, but it’s through a different lens.”

—MINAH OH

friends start to unravel as they compete for the affection of Liz, the middle-aged mom auditing their college poetry workshop.

Grounded in the poet’s own words, “Mary Oliver: Saved by the Beauty of the World” is Sasha Waters’ intimate documentary examining the life and legacy of the best-selling, Pulitzer prizewinning poet, whose deep attention to nature continues to offer comfort to millions, and has reshaped how people connect with poetry.

“Following Harry,” by Susanne Rostock, is about activist, singer, and actor Harry Belafonte’s last 12 years spent pushing humanity forward. Ditchfield says, “It’s really about his activism. In this moment, I think it’s going to be more inspiring than ever. Not only the film and Harry’s life, but also the discussion afterward will inspire more active and involved participation in our communities.” Oh observes, “Artists always help heal humanity and culture, and make it a little better.”

Sharon Liese’s documentary “Seized” focuses on a small-town Kansas newspaper that is suddenly thrust into the international spotlight following a police raid on the Marion County Record and the death

of its 98-year-old co-owner. A heated debate erupts over issues like abuse of power, journalistic ethics, local journalism, and the U.S. Constitution. Oh notes that the documentary made her view of the hero in the story change over time, emphasizing, “It’s a juicy film.”

Alysa Nahmias’ “Cookie Queens” follows four tenacious girls who strive to be top-selling “Cookie Queens,” navigating an \$800 million industry where childhood dreams and ambition collide. Ditchfield shares, “When I saw the film, which was probably not targeted toward me, I was crying by the end. I was so inspired. I think our audience will be, too. You don’t have to be involved with the Girl Scouts or love Girl Scout cookies to want to go to this film. These are inspiring young women. It will uplift everyone.”

Felipe Bustos Sierra’s documentary “Everybody to Kenmure Street” is about a U.K. Home Office dawn raid on a resident in May 2021 that triggers one of the most spontaneous and successful acts of civil resistance in recent memory. In Scotland’s most diverse neighborhood, hundreds of residents rush to the streets to stop the



Keneth Cole speaking at the film festival in 2025.

MV TIMES



Festival brochure cover designed by Danielle Mulcahy.

deportation of their neighbors. Oh says, “I knew it happened in Scotland, but it felt like what the community did here when the Venezuelan migrants came. It’s one of those inspiring, happy, uplifting films that pushes the needle forward.”

Oh says that the twists and turns in Steven Soderbergh’s black comedy “The Christophers” keep you on the edge of your seat. The children of a once-famous artist, played by Ian McKellen, hire a forger to complete some unfinished, long-abandoned canvases so they’ll have an inheritance when he dies.

Judd Ehrlich’s documentary, “Jane Elliott Against the World,” centers on the rural Iowa schoolteacher who became a national voice against racism after leading a controversial 1968 lesson on discrimination with her all-white third-grade class, and reveals the sacrifices she and her children made.

Jane Pollard and Iain Forsyth’s “Broken English” features the actress Tilda Swinton in an experimental documentary portrait of Marianne Faithfull that explores the theme of not forgetting. Oh feels, “It’s fiction inside a documentary, and exciting, which makes you want to pay attention.”

“Tuner,” the romantic thriller by Daniel Roher, follows a piano tuner whose unusually acute ear leads him to discover an unexpected

talent for cracking safes, drawing him into a risky new world that tests his ambition, relationships, and moral limits.

“I’m really excited about our documentary, narrative, and Vineyard-related shorts,” says Ditchfield about the three programs, which round out the full-length offerings.

“What connects all these really strong films,” says Oh, “is that you get to watch great stories, but in a seat that you’re not used to. Maybe it’s someone next to you or two rows back, but it’s through a different lens.”

There will also be appealing food by Chef Nina Levin of Stoney Hill Pizza, along with live music. Creative Director Danielle Mulcahy is hosting “Open Reel” at the Grange Hall, where she is digitizing people’s films for free and featuring an art exhibition by local artists.

“This year, the merger with the Martha’s Vineyard Playhouse creates two hubs. Each will have a comfy, hangout vibe where people can come, have drinks and food, and talk about the films,” comments Ditchfield about the up-Island and down-Island venues. “I think that’s what makes the festival so special. It’s more than movies, and it is for everyone.”

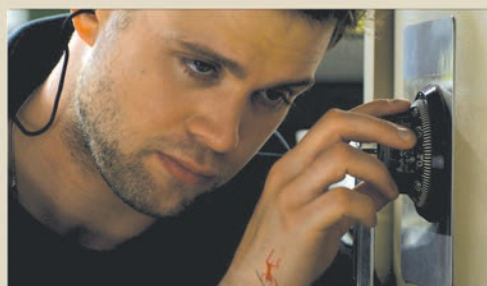
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THE CHRISTOPHERS

Dir. Steven Soderbergh
Comedy / Drama | U.S.A. / U.K. | 2025 | 1 hr. 40 min. | Rated R



TUNER

Dir. Daniel Roher
Crime / Drama | U.S.A. / Canada | 2025 | 1 hr. 49 min.



VINEYARD SHORTS

1 hr. 6 min.
This program comprises short films rooted in Martha’s Vineyard through place, perspective, or the filmmakers themselves.



WHEN A WITNESS RECAPS

Dir. Dawn Porter
Documentary | U.S.A. | 2026 | 1 hr. 52 min.
In: mi

Wild Side

BY MATT PELIKAN



Observable differences in a few short weeks.



Oblique-lined tiger beetle (Cicindela tranquebarica).

PHOTOS: MATHEW PELIKAN

New signs of spring

My last column — of course you remember! — looked at how our late February blizzard likely affected wildlife. One thing I neglected to mention was that, extreme as that storm may have been, the snow it left behind was not long for this world.

As March begins in Southern New England, the sun angle and day length are the same as we experience in early fall, when hot weather is still very possible. Faced with sunlight of that intensity and duration, snow quickly succumbs to rising temperatures, and the rest of that natural world likewise responds. Sure, winter weather is still possible. But spring is inevitable.

This is one of my favorite times of year. (Well, OK, you caught me: They're all favorites.) Conditions change from day to day, and every outing produces new signs of the progressing season. As the weather warmed and the snow dwindled in the second week of March, I launched my 2026 bug-hunting campaign.

On Monday, March 9, on my first real outing of the season, I visited a stretch of powerline in Vineyard Haven that has proven productive in the past. Two days later, I returned to the same area, and the differences I observed were dramatic.

On that first visit, insects were scarce. I tallied a total



Pollenia sp. (a "cluster fly").



Unidentified fly in the family Anthomyiidae.

I never tire of witnessing such rapid change in the natural world. And I take enormous pleasure in greeting, every spring, the first representatives of species I've befriended in past seasons.

of just five individuals. Four of them were flies of the same species (in the genus *Pollenia*), which had overwintered as adults, and the fifth was a moth larva that I found where it had overwintered in the stem of a pitch pine sapling. The habitat was likewise uninspiring, showing obvious signs of the recent blanket of frozen water: soggy, compressed vegetation, and leaf litter, with significant areas still under residual patches of snow. The soil surface, where the sun struck, was warm enough, but just an inch down, the ground was still chilled.

The habitat wasn't the only thing in need of refurbishment. My field skills proved rusty after the long winter. One area in need of improvement was my ability to discriminate between actual insects and false cues such as leaf fragments tumbling in the wind or even the "floaters" in my eyes! Reacting to a non-insect isn't a bad thing in itself, but it does occupy time and attention that would be better spent searching for or approaching the real thing.

My reflexes, likewise, needed polishing. Seconds count, and mistakes are

usually final with insect photography. With the camera, I occasionally found myself making errors like turning a knob in the wrong direction for an adjustment I wanted to make — opening the lens up, for example, when I meant to stop it down. Approaching flies to attempt photographs, I made clumsy, amateurish approaches that flushed the insect long before I was within camera range. These skills, I know based on past seasons, will come back quickly, and indeed by the end of my Wednesday outing, I was already feeling pretty darn slick.

The habitat and the insects had likewise progressed by that second visit, to a striking extent. Formerly sodden soil was warm and dry; the layer of soggy fallen leaves, formerly squashed flat to the ground by the pressure of the snow pack, had dried and lifted into an aerated, fluffy structure; many plants were showing subtle signs of breaking dormancy; and the insect life had burgeoned in both diversity and numbers.

Those *Pollenia* flies had multiplied from a handful of individuals to scores, and they were joined by smaller numbers of at

least two other fly species. Two kinds of parasitic wasps were on the wing, fun to chase but impossible to photograph as they patrolled incessantly in search of suitable targets. Many grasshopper nymphs, undoubtedly present two days before but too inert for me to detect, leapt from underfoot. And tiger beetles, conspicuously absent two days before, were plentiful on the warming soil, emerging from their overwintering burrows to pursue ants and spiders.

I expect it sounds odd to describe outings like these as successes: Investing an hour and a mile or more of walking to photograph three insects probably sounds like a waste of time. Even the more productive second visit might sound boring, with numbers and diversity that, while improved, were still paltry.

It's certainly true that the abundance of summer is fun to observe, and I'll never turn down the thrill of spotting a rarity, or even just a species new to my own experience. But the late winter mindset is different. I never tire of witnessing such rapid change in the natural world. And I take enormous pleasure in greeting, every spring, the first representatives of species I've befriended in past seasons.

On these days on which winter melts into spring, you may not see much. But compared with nothing, a little is a lot. **mvt**

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