

On Local News Day,
find out why supporting local news matters **A4**

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Big issues loom, but few seats are contested in town elections

Island anticipates seeing
new select board members in
almost every town this spring.

BY EUNKI SEONWOO

Despite big issues on the horizon such as budget overrides, questions around affordable housing, and a proposed \$333 million new high school project, there is not a whole lot of suspense on the ballot this spring.

Only a handful of races are actually contested among the positions up for re-election in all six towns in this election cycle. Among candidates for select board seats, there will be six new names on the town ballots, but only three of them are in contested races.

Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, and West Tisbury are the first towns to hold town elections, all on April 16. Chilmark is scheduled to vote on April 29. Tisbury will go to the polls on May 12, and Aquinnah on May 14.

Tisbury

Two candidates are vying for the select board seat that has been left vacant for months in Tisbury: Constance Alexander, a retired Tisbury School teacher and former planning board chair, and John Gregory Martino, who co-owns Cottage City Oysters and is a former town representative on the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

The seat was held by former board chair Christina Colarusso, who resigned in January to focus on her health. She had missed numerous meetings since September prior

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First pitch of spring

Vineyard baseball dominated Nantucket in their home opener. Here, senior Cris Cardoza (No. 2) closes on the mound for an 8-4 victory. See A20.

NICHOLAS YUKOTA

Manning confirmed as new district court clerk magistrate

Robert Manning is the first magistrate
in decades without Island ties.

BY EUNKI SEONWOO

A new clerk magistrate is about to lead the Edgartown courthouse, and he will be the first person to hold the position who isn't an Islander.

In Boston, the Massachusetts Governor's Council voted 6-0 on Wednesday, April 1, to approve Robert E. Manning's nomination as the next clerk magistrate of Edgartown District Court. He was nominated by Gov. Healey on March 25.

"He's going to do a great job on Martha's Vineyard for us," said Joseph Ferreira, councilor of the district that includes Martha's Vineyard.

Manning has served as first assistant clerk

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Plastic bottles remain down-Island despite broad ban

Oak Bluffs health agents reiterate that their department is too short-staffed to enforce bottle ban. BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

Plastic bottles still line shelves in a few Oak Bluffs storefronts, despite the fact that five years ago, a bylaw was adopted that banned single-use plastic bottles, 34 ounces or under, of water, soda, and other drinks in the down-Island town. Town officials said the enforcement of the ban is not critical in comparison with their other duties, and their office is too short-staffed to prioritize differently.

A halt to the sale of plastic bottles was proposed by a group of young environmental activists known as Plastic Free MV in 2019. The group — made up of mostly fifth-grade students — set out to ban single-use bottles across the Vineyard, and were successful; all Island towns adopted the bylaw between 2019 and 2022.

But plastic bottles remain in a few hold-outs, including one brand-new food market that opened in place of Linda Jean's this

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SARAH SHAW DAWSON

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Sale of the Governor back on the table

The freight ferry was one of three vessels analyzed for sale.

BY EUNKI SEONWOO

After conducting an analysis of several of its vessels, the Steamship Authority (SSA) returned to port community representatives Tuesday with the same conclusion as weeks ago: Sell the Governor, the oldest vessel in the fleet.

But a vote wasn't made on Tuesday morning. The Port Council, an advisory group to the SSA board, wanted to first hear what the board's members had to say at their next

meeting, which is scheduled for April 21 in New Bedford. The board makes final decisions on major changes at the ferry line.

Some Port Council members expressed a desire to find a buyer that would preserve the Governor in some way, rather than have it scrapped, or even keep it in an emergency capacity.

"For what it could offer us in emergency situations, I think that should be considered

as a part of this as well," Greg Egan, Barnstable Port Council member, said, highlighting the Governor is still able to sail and pass inspections despite its age and old technology.

The potential sale of the Governor was first raised at the Port Council meeting in March. Ferry officials highlighted that the freight ferry is more than 70 years old, and uses antiquated technology, but a decision was delayed. Instead, an evaluation of the Governor and two other aging vessels, the freight ferry Sankaty and the passenger ferry Nantucket, was done.

Alex Kryska, SSA general manager, said he recognized that many people are attached to each vessel, but as the "new guy" who hasn't even ridden on any of them yet, he could be the "cold-hearted killer" to make a decision. But he underscored it ultimately came down to the decisions of the council and board.

"If it were me, I'd keep all three of them," Kryska said. "I'm a sucker for boats, but we have to be cognizant of our finances."

Mark Amundsen, SSA chief operating officer, said this discussion was also taking place now because the Monomoy, a freight ferry being refurbished, would reduce how much the spare vessels, like the Governor and the Sankaty, are used.

A presentation by the ferry line showed that each boat cost hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to keep, even before dry-docking for repairs. Among the three vessels evaluated, only the Nantucket operated with a full schedule, and cost \$690,024. The Sankaty was used for around 219 days in 2025, and cost \$558,744. The Governor, which was used for only around 90 days in 2025, and needs to be docked in a rented slip during the winter, cost \$582,696, including the roughly \$30,000 a month it costs to berth the vessel.

"The Nantucket and the Sankaty are also not long for this world, unfortunately," Kryska said, although further analysis of those two vessels will be a part of the fleet replace-

ment program that's being developed.

While the Nantucket and the Sankaty were deemed to have several more years of sailing remaining, the Governor was determined to be well beyond its useful life, with obsolete systems, like the steering gear, that may even require parts to be manufactured to replace.

It came down to the two freight ferries, and the Sankaty was viewed as a safer bet to keep than the Governor. Unlike the Governor, the Sankaty can sail on both the Vineyard and Nantucket routes, can carry more trucks, and is more resilient in rough weather.

Joe Sollitto, Oak Bluffs Port Council member, said Islanders he spoke with were "very sad" that the Governor is likely going away, highlighting it as a popular, fast boat. "It is a favorite on the Vineyard. [For] sentimental reasons, too," Sollitto said.

But the boat won't be leaving too soon. Even if the SSA board votes to sell the Governor, Kryska said the process of selling and disposing of the ferry likely won't be completed until at least the fall. **MVT**



The freight ferry Governor docked in Woods Hole.

EUNKI SEONWOO

news in brief

The treasures inside the museum

The Island's rich history, as told by Vineyarders themselves, was on full display in a recent Emmy-nominated PBS television series called "Treasures Inside the Museum."

The episode, which was a part of the seventh season of the series, featured the Martha's Vineyard Museum, and was filmed on its campus in Vineyard Haven. It is now available to stream online.

"We are honored to be included in a series that highlights the vital role regional museums play in preserving and sharing local history," said Heather Seger, executive director of the Martha's Vineyard Museum, in a press release. "This episode offers viewers a deeper understanding of the objects, research, and people who help keep these stories alive."

The series as a whole is a deep dive into the historical significance of objects and stories, and the way remnants of the past shape the reality of today. The M.V. Museum episode focused on the significance of maritime heritage on Island life through interviews with local experts.

One of the artifacts highlighted was the first-order Fresnel lens from the Gay Head Lighthouse displayed at the museum, in which more than 1,000 individual colored glass prisms catch the light from the surrounding windows. Chief curator at the M.V. Museum Bonnie Stacy said in the episode that the lens is a rare remainder of the engineering of the 19th century.

Boating and maritime tradition were highlighted by the research librarian at the museum, Bow Van Riper, who discussed a mutiny that occurred on a whale-ship called the Globe. The museum has a wealth of knowledge on the topic, which is now regarded as one of the "most dramatic events in American whaling history," according to the release.

Island boatbuilder Nat Benjamin, one of the founders of Gannon and Benjamin boatyard in Vineyard Haven, discussed



The Martha's Vineyard Museum in Vineyard Haven.

COURTESY M.V. MUSEUM

a catboat that was donated to the museum. Chris Murphy, captain of the vessel, named Vanity, was also interviewed. A PBS narrator called the catboat, which was built in 1929, "a living history" of the deeply ocean-oriented Vineyard life and the sailors and boatbuilders who have made their impact here.

Anna Barber, the curator of exhibitions, carefully flipped through 19th century whaling logbooks, which included artistic renderings of the whalers. A painting of right whales stuck out to Barber as a possible show of empathy, through the strokes of a paintbrush, of the violent hunting activity.

"It feels like in so many ways, to be a good whaler, you have to sort of distance yourself from these creatures," Barber said in the episode. "This drawing has always made me stop to think about really what this person who's creating this art — for no reason other than to create it — what they're really thinking about these whales."

The show's seventh season debuted on March 15, and was produced by Ocean State Video and Weathervane Communications.

Protected marine area officially open to fishing

The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument is now officially open to commercial fishing.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service announced in a press release Friday that the agency rescinded the regulation that protected 4,913 square miles of ocean in the name of conservation. The decision is a result of a proclamation issued Feb. 6 by President Donald Trump that declared a rollback of protections first put in place by former President Barack Obama in

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correction

In the story "Towns seek overrides to meet rising budgets," published on April 2, Jennifer Smyth was misidentified as the Oak Bluffs town accountant. Smyth is the Edgartown town accountant.

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Chappy steering committee meets potential new owner

Residents voiced concerns to Brian Scall about the future of Chappy Ferry operations. **BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA**

The prospective new owner of the Chappy Ferry faced concerns about transparency, financial oversight, and the future of discounts for Chappaquiddick residents from local officials and members of the broader community during a recent virtual meeting, and some questioned whether the buyer truly understands life on the small island.

Brian Scall, an Edgartown resident and captain of the Chappy Ferry, introduced himself as a “ferry geek” to the Chappaquiddick community Wednesday in the virtual meeting, hosted by the Chappy Ferry steering committee. Scall said he fell in love with the operation, which he hopes to purchase from current co-owners Peter Wells and Sally Snipes, after moving to Martha’s Vineyard from Hatteras, N.C., in 2020, with his wife and young son.

“I love being on the water, driving boats, and I love engaging with people,” said Scall.

Scall said he finds purpose in helping Chappaquiddick residents in their daily lives, and emphasized that he understands the demanding side of the job. Referencing his experience as a captain over the past year and a half, he recalled all-night shifts and ice-breaking runs after winter storms, as well as helping in emergency situations, like when a woman went into labor and needed the ferry to run at 3 a.m.

“I rushed across to the other side, was sitting there with the

gate up, the lights on, waiting for them to run down the road. They came right onto the ferry, and a baby boy was born the next day,” said Scall. “It was kind of this exciting, like ‘wow’ moment — I get to be part of something really neat, helping people in their everyday lives.”

The steering committee will give its recommendation to the Edgartown Select Board before a hearing at the town hall on May 11 on the license transfer, a requirement of the sale.

The steering committee raised questions about the finances of the ferry service under Scall’s ownership.

Scall confirmed he could only afford to buy the business with support from financial backers, but he wouldn’t publicly disclose the details of their financial agreement. Committee members were concerned about what those backers expect in terms of return rates.

“We know nothing about your financial backers,” said committee member Peter Getsinger. “Effectively, we could be going into a situation from very close, arm’s-length distance, to more distance in terms of ownership and operation of the ferry.”

Scall said he would still have 100 percent operational and financial control over the business.

“The only person who you’ll ever have to talk to and the only person who’s going to be making these decisions is me, and I wouldn’t have done it if it was any

other way,” said Scall.

He compared his relationship with the investors as “similar to a bank, but with a much better rate,” and said they can provide capital for needs such as equipment repairs, accounting, and legal support. Scall highlighted this was not a short-term scheme to “make a bunch of money.”

“They don’t live on the Island. They don’t have homes



The Chappy Ferry may be transferred to a new owner soon.

on the Island. They don’t know how to run a ferry, nor do they want to run a ferry,” said Scall of his financial backers. “They wanted to find someone who had an idea for a business, and they are in it for the long term, as long as I am.”

Scall added that if any of the financial backers decide to exit the business, he would have the first right of refusal to purchase the ferry service in its entirety.

Getsinger noted that the steering committee has been

“working toward some relatively common-sense goals” for the past six years, including increased financial transparency, and wanted to know these would be met under Scall’s leadership.

“We have an interest in finding out whether some of those goals are going to be accepted in terms of future operation of the ferry, or whether we are going to end up with the status quo,” said Getsinger.

John Dropich, another steering committee member, noted that financial transparency, either annually or during rate increases, is a major area of concern for the Chappaquiddick community.

Most recently, the Edgartown Select Board approved a 12 percent increase to

steering committee, and community members.

Dropich added that the real concern for residents is the Chappy Ferry’s monopoly over the route between Edgartown and Chappaquiddick Island.

“Even though you claim it’s a private business, it really is a monopoly operated as a private utility,” Dropich said. “That’s the real concern that all the folk have here, that you provide a public service, not a private service.”

The Chappy Ferry is a vital service for the Chappaquiddick community, and is the only way for thousands of passengers to travel across the 527-foot stretch of water between the smaller island and Edgartown. While the business is privately owned, it operates under a license awarded by the town, and needs approval from the select board before major changes are made. The business is also one of the oldest on the Island, operating since at least 1807, when a rowboat was used to cross the channel.

Thomas Tilghman, a seasonal resident and steering committee member from Florida, urged Scall to resolve any lingering customer-service issues, such as problems raised about the resident discount program.

“The resident program was set up for people back in the day who were on Chappy for the whole time, and now there are people that come and go,” said Tilghman. “It’s a problem.”

Other committee members have told The Times in the past that they would like more transparency in this program, which offers lower fares to qualifying residents.

Scall responded to Tilghman that he was reviewing the program.

“It’s very high on my list to try to understand the program, and see if there’s a way to make the program more efficient,” said Scall.

Bill Brine, a steering committee member, asked whether Scall had ever spent time living or staying on Chappaquiddick to understand residents’ realities. He even offered Scall a place to stay in August for a week.

Scall acknowledged that he hasn’t lived on Chappaquiddick, but he may take Brine up on the offer, although the move does raise concerns for Scall about emergency response time.

“If I’m the person that’s handling the emergency calls, and I am on Chappaquiddick, we’ve added an entire element of coming across because we can’t always store the boat on the Chappaquiddick side, based on its protection from the weather over on the Edgartown side,” said Scall. “Coming down then having to go across, we’ve added maybe 10 minutes to what is an emergency call.”

Brine emphasized that with Wells, one of the strongest selling points was the fact that he lived on Chappaquiddick, recalling that residents “suffered” when past vendors didn’t live on Chappy.

“I don’t think you really understand this business until you live in our shoes, and even if that’s only for a week in the summer,” said Brine. “The real thing is to be there in the winter and try to get your kid to school, and try to get a dentist appointment, or try to get your hair cut.”

Scall emphasized he is an affable person, and that he felt “incredibly lucky” to be able to drive a boat for a living and positively impact the lives of the people he meets each day. Scall also outlined that he plans to implement a new website with service alerts and standardized safety procedures, with a strong emphasis on community service.

“If you guys support this process and are there for me, I am going to do my best to be there for you,” said Scall. **MVT**

news in brief

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September 2016. This was reversed by Trump once before in 2020, then flipped back again by former President Joe Biden.

It was previously unclear when the restrictions would officially be lifted; even Island fishermen weren’t sure whether or not the rollback was immediate.

“We look forward to fulfilling the president’s vision of making the U.S. the world’s dominant seafood leader, and we are committed to implementing the direction he has provided in the executive actions,” Rachel Hager, public affairs team lead for NOAA Fisheries, said in an email to The Times in February. She didn’t clarify when the area would be reopened. It’s official now, however.

The Friday press release stated NOAA Fisheries is proud to support the Trump administration’s “pledge to restore U.S. seafood competitiveness” and “increase economic opportunities” for U.S. fishermen.

“Restoring fishing in the Northeast Monument sends a signal that our fishermen are valued in the U.S.,” Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick said in the release.

But on the Island, there aren’t many vessels that travel out that far to harvest anymore. The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts are

an area the size of Connecticut, about 130 miles southeast of Cape Cod. It is the only marine national monument, a protected area, in the Atlantic Ocean, and is home to at least 54 species of deep-sea corals and other fauna that live at depths of 3,900 meters and promote a vibrant deep-sea ecosystem for fish and invertebrate species, a webpage by NOAA Fisheries reads. The Northeast Monument provides grounds for migratory species, such as tuna, sharks, and some whale species, to feed. At the end of February, the New England Aquarium spotted an endangered blue whale at the base of Lydonia Canyon.

It is also “home to many desirable fishery resources,” such as Atlantic deep-sea red crab, squid, Atlantic mackerel, and Atlantic tunas and swordfish, the press release from NOAA Fisheries said.

CEO search on pause at M.V. Community Services

The search for a new chief executive officer at Martha’s Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) is on pause as the nonprofit evaluates its direction for the future.

The MVCS board received the resignation of CEO Dean Teague on March 30, just over a year after he joined to lead the organization.

The reason for Teague’s resignation remains unclear, and Scott Turton, MVCS’ chief administrative officer, who is now acting interim CEO, said MVCS does not “comment on internal personnel issues.” Teague was not immediately available for comment.

“I wish nothing but the best for Dean in his next chapter,” Turton said.

Turton said he offered to be the interim CEO for the coming year, and “the board has graciously accepted this offer.”

“We will work together for the good of the organization for the coming year, and evaluate our future direction along the way,” Turton said.

With this transitional evaluation period, Turton said, “Basically, any CEO search is on hold at this time,” but he doesn’t expect any interruption to the nonprofit’s operations.

“This is an incredibly strong and resilient organization, and all of our staff look forward to continuing our programs and services without skipping a beat,” Turton said.

Turton highlighted that as chief administrative officer, he’s been a “driver of MVCS’ strategy, and helped professionalize and expand our operations together with our strong leadership team.” Turton is also no stranger to being interim CEO, a role he took on when former CEO Eliza-

beth Folcarelli retired in 2024.

MVCS is a nonprofit organization that offers a wide range of services for Islanders, including a family support center for those with disabilities, crisis counseling for victims of domestic and sexual violence, and a support group for combat veterans.

The recent CEO turnover isn’t the only leadership change at the organization. The director of operations at Chicken Alley, the thrift store run by MVCS in Vineyard Haven, recently changed from Jessica Tartell to Lisa Belcastro, with Emily Mercier as assistant director of operations. Belcastro was previously the director of the winter shelter at Harbor Homes, a position she resigned from in February.

Turton said the “leadership changes at Chicken Alley are in no way connected” to Teague’s resignation.

As MVCS continues to explore its future, Turton has not ruled out applying to the CEO position in a permanent role.

“I am ready to serve the organization in any capacity that works best for the organization and the board,” Turton said. “As we move through this coming year, the board will develop its strategy, and I will enter into discussions with them on what might work best for the organization.” **MVT**

EDITORIAL

A day to celebrate local news

BY CHARLES M. SENNOTT

Today is Local News Day.

The idea, according to its founders, is to establish a “national day of action connecting communities with their trusted local news organizations.” And at The Martha’s Vineyard Times, we are joining more than 1,200 local news organizations as part of this inaugural Local News Day. On a personal level, as the founder of GroundTruth Media Partners, I am proud to be one of 200 partners who are both promoting and financially supporting this nonprofit initiative, which seeks to create sustainable models for local news for generations to come.

I recently met with John S. Adams, publisher of the Montana Free Press, who is the inspiration for what feels like a movement in support of this day. It is being led by a coalition of journalists, nonprofit leaders,

great newspaper, and the Washington Post, which has also been decimated by its owner, billionaire Jeff Bezos, one of the richest men in the world, who has gutted the newsroom at the legendary paper where enshrined on the masthead, there is a powerful phrase: “Democracy Dies in Darkness.”

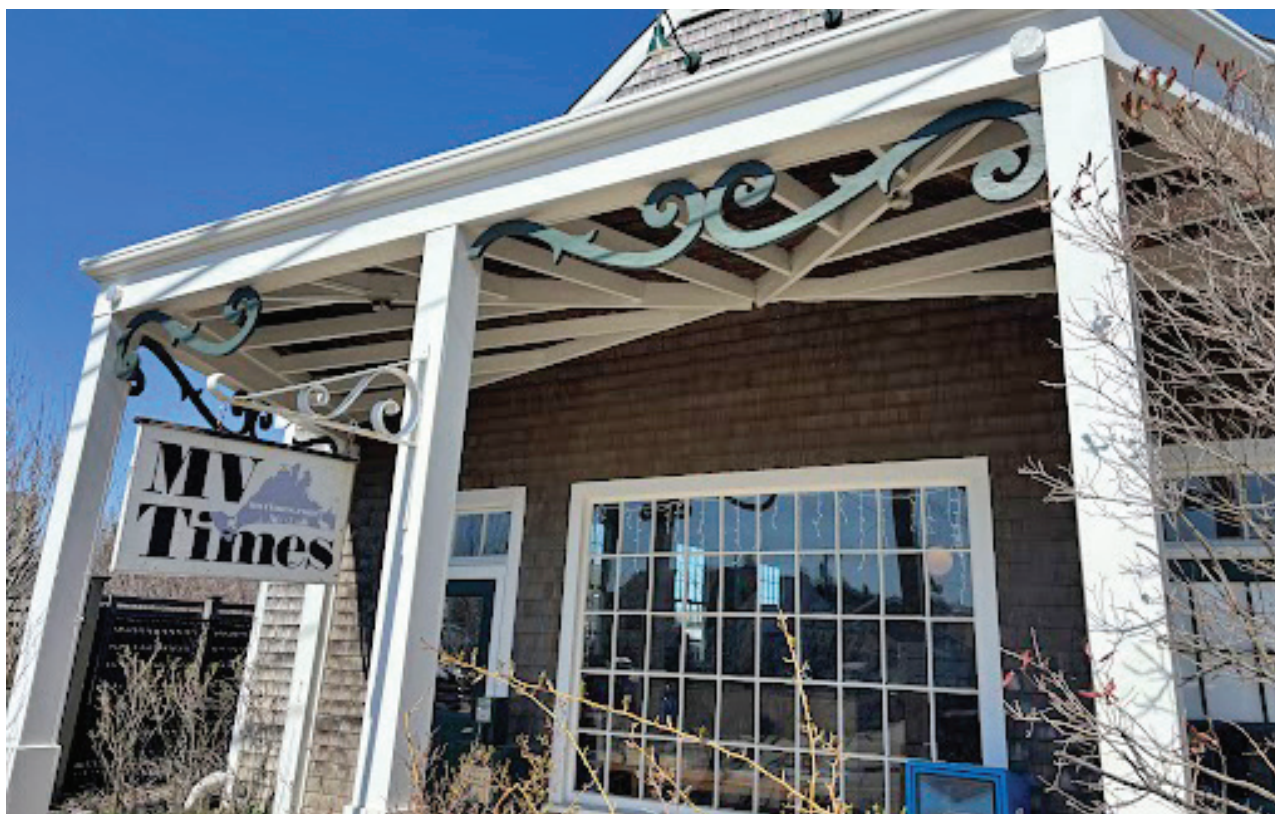
As I have been looking at this issue across the country, there is no question that the landscape is bleak for local news across the country. Nearly 40 percent of all local newspapers have shut down over the past two decades — 130 in the past year alone, according to a study by Northwestern University’s Local News Initiative. Roughly 50 million Americans have limited or no access to reliable local news, and there are 212 counties that have no local news sources. The crisis deepened when the Trump administration cut \$1.1 billion in federal funding for public broadcasting, forcing layoffs at hundreds of stations that served as a vital news lifeline for millions of people.

The consequences are significant: As news deserts grow, communities lose the watchdog journalism that holds local governments and

year-round. We want to be sure these Islanders know about the work of their local school board, and the potholes that need fixing. We also inform them on big national stories like immigration reform and how it is playing out in our community, and how global issues, such as climate change, are impacting us right here along our coastline. As a local news organization, we want to share the stories about our heroes who make us proud, and we want to provide reporting on our elected leaders to be sure they are held accountable. We want to be part of the local celebrations of our culture and our shared heritage through music, dance, film, and food, and we want to let our readers know about our local industries, like fishing and local trades that sustain the Island, and restaurants and hotels that serve tourists every summer when the Island swells to 100,000 souls. We are very lucky as an Island to have news organizations dedicated to that cause — not just The Times, but also our colleagues at the Vineyard Gazette and at WCAI public radio and WMVY community radio. All of these are great examples of local

news organizations that deserve our attention, our appreciation, and our support.

I believe that the crisis in local journalism in the U.S. has everything to do with the crisis in our democracy. I have written those words in this newspaper before, and I have spoken them countless times at events and conferences and media appearances for at least the past 10 years — during which the GroundTruth Project began to give shape to Report for America, a national service program for local journalism that has placed nearly 800 reporters in some 300 newsrooms across all 50 states since it was launched in 2018. I



and media innovators, including the American Journalism Project, Press Forward, and Newstack, an open-source publishing platform that supports smaller news organizations, with which we have recently partnered.

As Adams explained, “This event is about celebrating local news and helping Americans connect with the great newsrooms, from long-standing local institutions to newer digital outlets, that are serving their communities ... As technology changes how people get information, we need new ways to help people stay connected to what’s happening where they live.

“The key is for every community to join in, and for every local news organization to do what it can to highlight the importance of the role local news plays in our communities,” he added.

In the runup to Local News Day, I’ve been writing a series for my newsletter, which is called GroundTruth, on Substack. It is a free newsletter dedicated to celebrating journalism that is focused on on-the-ground reporting both locally and globally, and I hope you’ll subscribe and follow along. We are mapping the crisis in local news on Substack, and I have set out to navigate big-city newsrooms that are seeing their staffs cut and their impact waning, as well as regional news organizations struggling to sustain themselves. I’ve also been checking on exciting new models for local journalism that are reimagining what it means to serve a local community.

In the past few months, I have written about big, old media organizations that have fallen on hard times, like the New York Daily News under the ownership of a venture capital firm that has crippled what was once a

institutions accountable. Even as nonprofit organizations and independent outlets work to fill the gap, the pace of innovation hasn’t matched the scale of the decline. So I definitely don’t want to sugarcoat this crisis.

But on this journey to assess the landscape of local news, I also want to stress the fact that it’s not all bad news out there. There are many powerful examples of new and sustainable models for local journalism, so I am also chronicling beacons of success across the country. Just across the water, there is the impressive and relatively new nonprofit digital news organization the New Bedford Light. And out in Western Massachusetts, I did a post about the Berkshire Eagle, a legendary newspaper with a long, distinguished history that has made itself a model of sustainability. Last week, I was in the “City of Big Shoulders,” and wrote about a new digital news organization called Block Club Chicago, which is doing great work, and soon, I will be writing about the Sahar Journal, an innovative and impactful news organization that covers the immigrant communities of Minneapolis. There are many great success stories out there, and we are determined at The Times to try to be among that number.

It was legendary Massachusetts politician and Speaker of the House, Rep. Thomas P. (“Tip”) O’Neill who coined the phrase, “All politics is local.” Well, I believe all journalism is local. The most important information we need is the information about our own community, the news of where we live, and how that news shapes our lives. The Times has always been dedicated to just that, to serving the 20,000 people who live on the Island

stepped down as the CEO of GroundTruth before coming to the Island to live year-round and take up the invitation from Steve Bernier to serve as publisher of The Times

As publisher, I would like to invite you to join us on Sunday, May 3, which marks World Press Freedom Day, when I will be speaking on the state of local news and why initiatives like this one matter for our community here on the Island, and for small towns and cities across America. I will be using the opportunity to speak with you, our readers, directly about my journey across America looking at local newsrooms, and to focus on what we are doing locally at The Times through our new membership model and through our nonprofit arm, Islanders Write, to find our own path to sustainability. It is not an easy task, and we welcome your feedback on how we are doing.

To do our part to honor World Press Freedom Day at this May 3 event, we will be offering a limited number of free memberships to The Times, which include delivery of the paper both online and in print, a value of \$52, and a T shirt that proudly displays our founding motto: “Real News for Real Islanders. Since 1984.” We plan to give this free membership to the first 10 readers who sign up to join us on May 3 for this event, with further details to be announced. Please sign up by sending an email directly to me at publisher@mvtimes.com, with the subject heading “Local News Matters.” I will get back to you with a personal note about how you can claim your free membership, and what a membership to The Times means, as well as more specifics on the event we will be hosting to mark World Press Freedom Day on the Island.

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Charles M. Sennott • Publisher

Note to Readers

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

VINEYARD GALLERY



KRISTÓFER RABASCA

OP-ED

Vote yes for food-waste solutions at town meeting this spring

BY NOLI TAYLOR AND SOPHIE MAZZA

Picture hundreds of trucks lined up at the ferry terminal, each one loaded with rotting food.

That's essentially what happens every year on Martha's Vineyard: Approximately 16 million pounds of food waste is sent off-Island to be burned in a mainland incinerator as trash, at a cost to our towns of around \$1 million annually. Meanwhile, we import thousands of yards of compost to enrich the soils on our farms, gardens, and playing fields. We are paying to dispose of a resource that we then turn around and pay to replace. We can do better, and solutions are in reach.

This spring, voters in Oak Bluffs,

West Tisbury, Chilmark, and Aquinnah will see articles on their town meeting warrants to fund the purchase and installation of rapid food-waste recyclers at their local dumps. Compact, easy to use, rodent-proof, and reliable, they are already working in schools and communities across the country. Combined, the proposed municipal units will be able to process more than 450,000 pounds of food waste each year, creating a nutrient-rich soil amendment that townspeople could then bring home.

Our four towns would be joining 160 cities and towns across Massachusetts that already offer local food-waste processing, making it easy and convenient for residents to separate their food waste and lower their trash bills.

They would also be joining our Island schools in committing to food-waste reduction and onsite processing. Three Island schools — the Charter School, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and

the Chilmark School — are having food-waste recyclers installed this spring. The Charter School's unit is already up and running, converting the school's food scraps into nutrients that will be applied directly to their school garden and food forest, and giving students hands-on experiences in the full cycle of food, from seed to plate to soil. Fundraising is underway for the remaining four public schools, all of which are excited to host their own food-waste recyclers.

The warrant articles this spring represent the first time our municipalities would take direct responsibility for food-waste processing, which is the appropriate thing to do. Solid waste is a municipal responsibility, and food waste is solid waste. The time is right for our towns to step up and transform what is now a waste problem into an environmental and economic solution.

Food waste is one of the most significant, and most solvable, challenges of our time. Nationally,

30 to 40 percent of all food grown is never eaten. The average American family spends roughly \$3,000 a year on food they buy but never eat. Globally, wasted food uses 25 percent of the world's fresh water, 19 percent of its fertilizers, and 18 percent of its agricultural land, and accounts for eight to 10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Voting yes on these articles is one of the most concrete, practical votes Island residents can cast for climate and environmental health, while lowering household trash costs, reducing municipal expenses, and building the soil that grows our food. Let's stop shipping our food waste to the mainland. Instead, let's turn it into something that feeds the Island.

For more information, please contact sophie@igimv.org.

Noli Taylor is co-executive director at Island Grown Initiative, and Sophie Mazza is a Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellow, and food-waste director at Island Grown Initiative.

LETTERS

When temporary becomes permanent in Edgartown

To the Editor:

How many "exceptions" does it take before a residential neighborhood is no longer truly residential?

The recent decision to allow amplified events at the Winnetu, even on a one-year trial basis, highlights a growing pattern in Edgartown: commercial activities expanding into residential zones through special permits and grandfathered uses.

Each approval is framed as limited or temporary. But residents have seen how often "temporary" becomes

permanent. Meanwhile, the impacts — noise, traffic, and late-night disruption — are anything but temporary for those who live nearby.

This is not about opposing business. It is about balance and fairness. Businesses have designated districts where such activities are expected and appropriate. Residential neighborhoods should not be asked to absorb those impacts piece by piece.

If the town continues to allow incremental expansions, it risks setting a precedent that others will follow. Over time, that erodes the very zoning protections residents rely on.

Edgartown should take a step back

and ask, Are we enforcing our zoning bylaws, or slowly rewriting them through exceptions?

Angelo Guadagno
Edgartown

Green Villa is overdevelopment

To the Editor:

This letter was also sent to the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

Thank you for serving our Island; your time and energy are appreciated. I am writing to add my voice to the discussion regarding the Green Villa project.

I don't think I have anything new

to say about the water issues, the wastewater needs, and traffic congestion. I hold those along with sadness of watching important trees — the lungs of the Earth — being laid to waste. The tar and concrete that will be put down will add summer heat to our already hot planet. One of the last unspoiled woodlands will shrink, and be forever compromised to serve the greed of one man. His greed stands out by his court actions after being denied the permits to do as he pleases to make money. His continued lack of respect for the Island's governing boards, which he tries to bully, is the height of arrogance.

As a mental health counselor, I am of-

ten reminded of the wise words a mentor shared with me: The best predictor of future behavior is the past. William Cumming has presented half-truths, and hasn't honored his word. This has been evident in more than one proposed project.

With no regard or respect for the Island environment, our quality of life, or limited resources, he shouldn't be allowed to develop here on Martha's Vineyard. Please vote no. Please use your approvals for an entity who creates truly affordable housing similar to Scott's Grove or Kuehn's Way.

Susan Desmarais
Oak Bluffs

PFAS proliferate in Island talks

At a recent event, experts discussed PFAS and the harmful health effects the chemicals can cause.

BY HAYLEY DUFFY

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, colloquially called PFAS, are everywhere.

These chemicals can be very dangerous, even carcinogenic. Not only are many everyday household products chock-full of them, but they're also present in the water that U.S. residents, even Islanders here — out in the Atlantic — drink. In fact, 97 to 99 percent of people in the U.S. have PFAS in their blood.

There are thousands of the human-made chemicals federally recognized under the family of PFAS, and while some say there may be more like a million types, only six specific compounds were previously federally regulated. And now, those defenses are under discussion. Meanwhile, in places like Martha's Vineyard, where some private wells tested too high for standards in recent years, and at least one town must ask voters to approve the funds to remove PFAS at municipal sites, Island groups want to encourage more knowledge around the threat of the chemicals.

An event hosted by the Vineyard Conservation Society (VCS), a group dedicated to the protection of land and water through education, advocacy, and legal defense, and funded by the Farm Neck Foundation, gathered three well-known voices on the issue at the end of March to discuss PFAS.

The goal of the discussion was to understand "this big family of chemicals that seem to be almost everywhere in our world at this point, and how we as the community can protect ourselves and mitigate the issue," Samantha Look, executive director of VCS, said.

PFAS chemicals are persistent, and don't readily break down in the environment, Kyla Bennet, director of science policy at Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility who previously worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), said.

The common trend between all the chemicals is a carbon fluorine bond, which is one of the strongest bonds in organic chemistry. That's why they're also called

"forever chemicals," jargon coined by journalists to describe this phenomenon. The chemicals bioaccumulate, which means they can build up in a person's body, and biomagnify, which refers to the way they increase

"Today, in 2026, PFAS are ubiquitous in a number of consumer products."

- Kyla Bennet

in magnitude as they go through the food chain, such as from soil to hay to livestock to humans.

And these aren't natural substances. In 1938, the chemical company DuPont, which still exists today, accidentally created PTFE, also known as Teflon. Teflon was used in the Manhattan Project, a research and development program to create nuclear weapons in World War II, to purify uranium. Essentially, DuPont's accident enabled the use of atomic bombs.

Teflon was seen as a "really handy chemical," Bennet said at the event. In 1961,

DuPont created the Happy Pan, a Teflon nonstick skillet. In 1969, it created Gore-Tex, which is waterproof fabric.

Then, the use of Teflon dominoed. "Today, in 2026, PFAS are ubiquitous in a number of consumer prod-

ucts," Bennet said. They can be found in a range of items, like pizza boxes, shampoos and conditioners, carpets and upholstered furniture, contact lenses, dental floss, and menstrual products.

And while these chemicals became prevalent over the past century, they weren't talked about or spoken about as a concern on the Island until 2018, when water wells at the airport tested positive for the "forever chemicals," Look said. Private wells at houses south and east of the airport also showed high levels of PFAS.

Then came concerns about proposed artificial turf and the link to the chemicals. Private wells close to the former landfill in West Tisbury were also tested, and concentrations were recorded above the state limit; a second site of PFAS was also identified at the fire station in West Tisbury. They've been found in the water at the Chilmark School, and more recently, private wells in Chilmark tested positive. A Chilmark resident, Jessica Roddy, shared her story about a cancer diagnosis and her private well, which tested positive for PFAS. She said her blood tests showed a high amount of the "forever chemicals," and that her doctors confirmed PFAS in her well could be linked to her eventual diagnosis.

"Is this scary? Hell yes, it's scary. It's scary because these are very, very dangerous chemicals," Bennet said. Chilmark spearheaded efforts to test wells last year after Roddy came forward. The town's board of health and select board initiated a program for tests, which was open for a few months but is now closed.

There are three routes of exposure for PFAS: ingestion, absorption through the skin, and inhalation. And exposure

can cause testicular cancer, kidney cancer, liver damage, inflammatory bowel disease, increased cholesterol, thyroid problems, developmental effects in unborn children, obesity, and vaccine response.

Despite their long existence, PFAS weren't officially regulated by the EPA until April 2024; and still, only six specific compounds, which includes the better-known PFOA and PFOS, were regulated. Now, under the Trump administration, however, that's changed. Last May, the EPA said they'd delay enforcement on chemical limits for PFOA and PFOS, and rescind and reconsider limits on the other four. Meanwhile, as the EPA was slow to initially move on the federal regulations, Bennet said, states tried to "fill the regulatory void."

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) regulates six PFAS in water, four of which are the ones that were regulated by the EPA. The regulations were adopted in 2020, and were among the strictest in the country; the maximum standard in the state is 20 nanograms per liter, or parts per trillion, of all those PFAS compounds in water.

In Massachusetts, samples from 1,400 public water systems, mostly municipal systems or systems for condominiums or town halls, schools, or restaurants, came back 12 percent above the state standard, which means more than 10 percent of water supplies in the state had to take steps to address PFAS in their water.

Private wells, on the other hand, serve half a million people in Massachusetts; around 5,000 people on the Island rely on a private well. Private well owners, who are typically located in more rural areas not close to businesses and industries, are more on their own to test and treat their water.

Laurel Schaidler, a senior scientist at the Newton-based independent nonprofit Silent Spring Institute, spoke at the event about what consumers and voters can do, because a lot of the burden is on the individual. The institute was originally created more than 30 years ago for research on the environmental causes of breast cancer.

Schaidler referenced a private well study conducted by MassDEP and UMass Amherst in 2021 and 2022 that tested private wells in 80 towns throughout the state where at least 60 percent of residents used private wells.

Three towns and 71 wells on Martha's Vineyard were part of the study. Eighty percent of those wells didn't have detectable levels of PFAS. (The detectable level for the study was two parts per trillion.) But several wells, one in Chilmark and four in West Tisbury, were over the state standard.

Separately, the institute, through a study done on the Cape in 2011 that saw PFAS in almost all of the 150 private wells, found that areas that had more development tended to have higher levels of PFAS and other contaminants. They also found that higher levels of nitrate (from septic systems), higher levels of boron, higher levels of acesulfame (artificial sweetener), and shallower wells are predictors of higher levels of PFAS.

Unfortunately, and it's not always widely known, private wells need to be tested every year through a certified lab. Filtration systems can also be helpful, but Bennet and Schaidler both said that these should be certified by the National Sanitation Foundation. They should be maintained regularly, because filter cartridges can get filled up, and then contaminants end up in the water anyway. For household products, Schaidler recommended that people don't use nonessential PFAS-riddled items, and find alternatives.

There are several PFAS filtration services on the Island, such as Island Water Systems Services, Clear Water MV, Island Water Source, and MV Filtration, some of which offer tests for PFAS as well.

The talk was also joined by Ayesha Khan from Nantucket, who started the Nantucket PFAS Action Group in 2020 after her husband, Nate Barner, father of two and captain of the Nantucket Fire Department, received a testicular cancer diagnosis linked to PFAS exposure in fire service. Her husband is in remission, but Khan came to share how her story is relevant to this Island.

"Nantucket, like Martha's Vineyard, is an island out to sea. There's no industrial facilities, there's no manufacturing plants. We don't really have fast-food chains, but even with all those precautions, we haven't been able to escape PFAS," she added.

Part of their efforts was to support a resolution that asked the International Association of Fire Fighters union to remove PFAS industry and influence. The resolution received a 99 percent approval, and three weeks later, Khan said, a manufacturer designed a PFAS-free outer shell, used to protect the firefighters from direct flame.

Khan emphasized the importance of advocacy, and said that the real goal is to shift the burden back to "industrial polluters and chemical companies who profited greatly for decades over these chemicals." She also emphasized the need for private well owners to test their water.

"This isn't the beginning nor the end of what our community needs to do around this issue," Look said. "The towns have been working on it, but we hope that there's much more to come." **MVT**

obituaries

Stuart Cope Walpole



Stuart Cope Walpole passed away after a brief illness on March 23, 2026.

Born on Nov. 9, 1950, to Charlotte and James Walpole, Stuart was a lifelong Edgartown resident who carried his love for his hometown with him. Growing up in a close-knit neighborhood alongside the O'Neils, McLanes, and Labells, his childhood was filled with simple joys — pickup baseball games, building forts in the woods, and football in the front yard. Those early days shaped the kind of man he would become: loyal, easygoing, and happiest surrounded by others.

Growing up, Stuart was active as a boy at the Boys Club, and played French horn in the Drum and Bugle Corps. Baseball was part of his early life, first as a Little League first baseman, and later playing with the Question Marks team.

Stuart graduated from MVRHS in 1969, and soon after began what would be-

come a lifelong career at the A&P, which then became Stop & Shop. Starting there as a teenager, he dedicated more than 40 years to his work, eventually becoming dairy manager. He took pride in showing up every day, doing his job well, and being a familiar, friendly face to so many at the store.

Stuart had a gift for making people laugh. He was a natural jokester, always ready with a quick comment or story that could lighten any moment. He lived simply and fully, finding his greatest happiness out on his boat or at the beach, surrounded by family and friends. And if you were there looking for him, chances are you didn't have to look far — you could set your watch and find him at the P.A. Club, enjoying a beer, sharing stories, and making all those around him laugh.

More than anything, Stuart will be remembered for his steady presence, his sense of humor, and the way he made everyday moments feel special just by being there.

Stuart is survived by his wife, Donna; his stepchildren, Couri Davidson and her children Jayden, Jordan, and Olivia, and Paul Davidson, and his son Colten; his brother, Randy Walpole, and wife Jill, and niece, Kate. He was predeceased by his parents, Charlotte and James Walpole.

Stuart will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew and loved him.

Theodore Jochsberger



Theodore Jochsberger ("Ted"), 86, of West Tisbury, died on Friday, April 3, 2026, at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. He was the husband of Deborah V.B. Wells, and father of Amy.

A graveside service was held on April 8 in the West Tisbury Cemetery, officiated by the Rev. Pamela Danz.

A complete obituary will follow in another edition of this paper. Visit chapmanfuneral.com for online guestbook and information. **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: community@mvtimes.com
by hand: The Times office



{ ISLANDERS WRITE }

Join the growing effort to support Island reporters



DENA PORTER

The MV Times' Sarah Shaw Dawson, left, the first Island Writer, talking with Publisher Charles Sennott at Islanders Write in March.



KATE FEIFFER

John and Michelle Battelle, who are among three donors to offer a total of \$450,000 over three years to support local journalism at The Times through the Island Writer program.

We will soon be announcing the opening of applications for the "Island Writer" program, a new MV Times initiative to support the next generation of Islanders who want to serve their community as local journalists. We would love to hear what you think about this effort and what issues we should be focusing on. Some of the issues we're considering covering include the environment, immigration, education, and sports.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts, and you can share them with the publisher here: publisher@mvtimes.com.



SCAN HERE to learn more about this initiative



No clear answers from candidates on override

West Tisbury voters met with select board potentials ahead of elections.

BY EUNKI SEONWOO

A sky-high budget pushing West Tisbury to request it be allowed to collect more in property taxes and fill a \$3.49 million gap was top of mind for voters when they gathered to meet candidates at the local library last week.

The League of Women Voters of Martha's Vineyard opened its first candidate forum this year at the West Tisbury library on Tuesday, April 7, and voters heard from candidates running for office in West Tisbury, like longtime Town Clerk Tara J. Whiting-Wells.

The sole contested seat on the town's ballot this year is a select board position up for re-election, which is being pursued by incumbent Jessica Miller and political newcomer Garrison Vieira, who cemented a friendly rivalry in the race with a handshake.

Miller and Vieira have extensive personal histories in West Tisbury, and both grew up in the town.

Miller returned to the Island after earning a bachelor's degree in geology at Amherst College. She was also a member of the West Tisbury board of health. She was first elected to the board in 2022 for a one-year term after Kent Healey died in 2021. Miller highlighted several changes in the town she's had a hand in, like the creation of a new information technology manager position, and a push for the town

to adopt a residential tax exemption, which reduces the property tax burden for year-round residents. She's also been involved with the affordable housing committee for the 401 State Road housing project.

Miller said there were still some tasks she wanted to wrap up, such as helping in the search for a new town administrator after Jennifer Rand retires. She also called for an Island-

been involved with the society's board for the past eight years. A part of his involvement with the Island's agricultural community comes from his time as a beekeeper. He highlighted other ways he's been involved in the West Tisbury community, including serving on the town's climate advisory committee, and being an EMT with Tri-Town Ambulance for around a decade.

Miller and Vieira have extensive personal histories in West Tisbury, and both grew up in the town.

wide moratorium on developments, to figure out what direction the Vineyard community wanted to go. Miller said this will be her third and final time running for the select board.

"This is a lot of work, and I really care about what I'm doing," Miller said. "It's not just my time. It's also my heart and soul that feel the toll of this service."

Vieira currently serves as a Chilmark Police sergeant, but he served in the West Tisbury Police Department for more than 20 years. Vieira said he's also had a longtime relationship with the Agricultural Society, where he started as a "security kid" in 1994 at the Grange Hall; he's

Vieira said he wants to improve transparency in West Tisbury government, and work to help fill the gap in workforce housing.

He noted that the town has significant projects ahead, like the HVAC system replacement at West Tisbury Police Station and the replacement of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and wanted to be careful with budgetary increases. "I know that a lot of people in town are on set incomes," Vieira said.

Miller and Vieira shared similar views on some topics raised during the forum, such as that the select board should be proactive in dealing with problems,



Jessica Miller, left, and Garrison Vieira at the candidates forum in West Tisbury.

EUNKI SEONWOO

and meet residents where they usually are to hear feedback, like at Cronig's Up-Island Market or Conroy Apothecary. An issue that they agreed needed to be addressed but didn't have clear answers for was the town budget.

West Tisbury is proposing to override a state limit on how much it can collect on property taxes to fill a \$3.49 million gap in a \$31.6 million budget. Other towns across the state are facing similar situations. An informational board at the library highlighted how difficult it would be to reduce the budget. While there is \$2.72 million that the town "can control," according to the town, that represents only 7 percent of the budget. Meanwhile, 30 percent of the budget was categorized as "hard to change," such as legal services and the town's payroll. But more than half of the budget, 63 percent, is outside of the town's control, including \$19.5 million in school costs and

regional expenses at the commission and county.

Miller said the town was facing "crazy" numbers, and added that she wants to pursue consolidation of certain positions and services with other towns to save costs. She noted the town's population growth over the years, and said that the costs of services have grown to meet demand. It's also one of the reasons she pushed for a residential tax exemption.

"It can't keep growing like this. It's crushing us," Miller said.

Vieira said the tax bill was a concern for the entire town, and ways to cut costs needed to be found. He suggested going back to department heads to see where money could be saved, a point Miller disagreed with; she cautioned against micromanagement. But he underscored that certifications have also changed over time, particularly for personnel in police and fire departments, and incur a cost for towns.

"Unfortunately we're going to have to take money

out of our wallets to meet those minimum standards," Vieira said.

In closing remarks, both candidates underscored that they deeply care for West Tisbury, and each would be a good choice for the town.

Vieira highlighted that his police experience gives him the tools to deal with tasks that come before the select board. "As a police officer, we deal with constant challenges, and have to navigate some solutions," he said.

Miller called attention to her experience serving the town on the select board and health board. "I'm not interested in being a lifer, like some people in this room, but we've been in tricky waters these past three years, and we've got some big transitions coming," she said.

West Tisbury will hold its town election on April 16 at the West Tisbury Public Safety Building, from 7 am to 8 pm. **MVT**

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OAK BLUFFS WATER DISTRICT HYDRANT FLUSHING PROGRAM

The Oak Bluffs Water District will be flushing the system April 21-April 30, 2026

This is a biannual procedure to remove accumulated sediment in the water mains, ensure all hydrants are operating properly and improve water quality. Flushing will be conducted Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-4:00 pm.

Customers are advised that some discoloration of the water may occur if you draw water while we are flushing near your home. If this occurs, you should wait until we are out of your area and then run cold water for several minutes until the discoloration abates.

Customers are advised to check their water for discoloration prior to washing laundry. The OBWD bears no responsibility for discolored or ruined clothes.

You may experience a partial drop in pressure while the hydrants are flowing. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Water District office: 508-693-5527.

Thank you for your patience during the ongoing maintenance of the water system.

Oak Bluffs Water District Board of Water Commissioners

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Manning confirmed as new district court clerk magistrate

Continued from A1



Robert Manning, left, joined by supporter Susan Moran, was approved by the Massachusetts Governor's Council as the next clerk magistrate of the Edgartown District Court.

less-than-serious crimes," Manning said.

Manning also said it was important to be able to speak to people in terms they understood and to put visitors at ease during a hectic time: "That is what a clerk magistrate position is. It is a job focused on helping everyone who comes into the court regardless of their circumstances."

Manning will be taking over the position once held by Liza Williamson, who served as clerk magistrate for more than 20 years, and was appointed to be a judge in June. Ann Marie Lyons has since served as the acting clerk magistrate.

This will be the first time the clerk magistrate's office won't be led by someone with direct Island ties. Williamson served as clerk magistrate for 21 years before being appointed as a judge, spent time growing up in both Duxbury and the Vineyard, and graduated from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. Thomas Teller, who served as clerk magistrate for 39 years before retiring in 2003, grew up in Edgartown.

Joe Sollitto, former clerk of the Dukes County Superior Court, told The Times that the clerk of court position was established in Edgartown District Court around 1927, and was first held by Philip J. Norton. Sollitto said the clerk of court in the district court served the role of a court magistrate, which wouldn't be officially changed until around 1980. Norton was succeeded by John Nichols.

And Manning's appointment comes as the Edgartown courthouse experiences staffing issues with the absence of a permanent clerk magistrate. While Eunice Ziegler, a councilor from Methuen on the Mas-

sachusetts Governor's Council, highlighted that the council's practice of voting the same day as a hearing didn't allow for any opposing voices to be heard, which she says usually arrive after a vote, Ferreira noted that the council wouldn't meet again for another two weeks, and the Edgartown courthouse needed the help.

"In this particular instance, it is an Island. They are sending people out there every day. They're really short-handed," Ferreira said, highlighting Plymouth as one of the areas extra help had come from.

The council received numerous pieces of praise about Manning from attorneys and judges before and during the hearing on his appointment. Susan Moran, Barnstable County Superior Court clerk and a former state senator, called Manning "the greatest of all time of what the public service example of a lawyer is."

Manning told the councilors that he learned to be a hard worker from his parents, a mother who kept home in "perfect working order" and a father who taught high school mathematics and was a coach. He also credited them for his desire to care for his community.

That was a quandary for Manning after he graduated from Lewis & Clark College in Oregon, and needed to determine a life path. Manning said he knew he wanted to "give something back to the community, but I was unsure what form that would take." He eventually found his answer in the legal field.

"I will be committed to the fair, respectful, and dignified treatment of every person who enters the Edgartown District Court seeking justice or guidance or where to turn for help," he said. **MVT**

"That is what a clerk magistrate position is. It is a job focused on helping everyone who comes into the court regardless of their circumstances."

-Robert Manning, new clerk magistrate of Edgartown District Court

magistrate in the Barnstable Superior Court since 2019. Between 2013 and 2019, Manning was a public defender through the Committee for Public Counsel Services. He maintained a private legal practice before joining the committee. Manning holds a bachelor of arts from Lewis & Clark College, and a juris doctorate from Southern New England School of Law, where he studied at night while working a full-time job. After passing the bar exam, he spent three years in the Cape & Islands District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney, and covered cases from Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

The local district attorney's office is where Manning learned the importance of the district court, which he said is where most people first encounter the court system.

"Often people come to the district court when they [are] in crisis, whether it is a mental health crisis, a housing crisis, or a criminal crisis," Manning said. "Everyone who steps through ... the doors of the district court should be treated with dignity and respect."

Manning underscored his desire to help indigent populations, and said he was able to better connect with these individuals due to the mental health training he received and experience from covering court-appointed juvenile cases on the Vineyard.

While Manning never visited the Vineyard before becoming an assistant district attorney, he highlighted how

many year-round residents face struggles in seasonal communities, and plans to "identify community resources that will best serve everyone who comes into the district court" in Edgartown. Manning is personally aware of issues faced in towns that rely on summer economies; he grew up in Hyannis, and currently lives in North Falmouth.

The clerk magistrate's department acts like a front desk of Edgartown District Court, and is one of the first spots a person visits when they enter the courthouse. According to the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries site, a clerk magistrate maintains the records of the court, and holds

"limited judicial authority to hear and decide certain kinds of civil cases." State laws provide clerk magistrates the power to screen some cases before an accused individual is charged and a criminal record is established, a process called clerk magistrate hearings or show-cause hearings. Through this closed-doors process, a clerk magistrate can determine whether a case can be resolved without a charge being made, or dismiss it entirely.

Manning said he plans

to bring to Edgartown the "compassion, empathy, work ethic, and knowledge" he's attained throughout his life. He also said he wants to find "creative" resolutions for less severe incidents, like someone vandalizing property, rather than immediately issue a criminal complaint or force the accused individual to face a judge.

"I don't think young people or people who haven't been involved in the court system should be thrown into the fire on smaller or

"He's going to do a great job on Martha's Vineyard for us."

-Joseph Ferreira, a member of the Massachusetts Governor's Council

Island news daily

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Edgartown will hold its election at Town Hall.

MV TIMES

Big issues loom, but few seats are contested in town elections

Continued from A1

to her resignation, and the board conducted business for months without her before she stepped down.

Meanwhile, Tisbury could have even more new select board members next year. A petition was filed with the town clerk by residents who want a bigger board. If approved by voters, the board would expand from three to five members, and the two newly created seats would appear on the 2027 ballot.

The select board isn't the only contested race in Tisbury. Incumbent town clerk Hilary Conklin faces Joanna H. Jernegan, who has worked in the same department and is currently the administrative secretary in the clerk office. Meanwhile, Betsy Carnie and Emma Kaitlin Kristal are running for a seat on the health board. Bruce J. Campbell and Richard Wayne Homans Jr. are competing for a two-year term on the finance and

advisory committee.

Among uncontested races, those who are not incumbents include Patrick B. Rolston for water commissioner and Thomas George Goulet for the finance and advisory committee. Candidates running to retain their seats uncontested include John F. Schilling for moderator, Kenneth A. Barwick for constable, James Bartholomew Norton for the board of assessors, Jennifer Marie Cutrer for the Tisbury School committee, David J. Schwab for water commissioner, Mary Bernadette Budinger-Cormie for the planning board, Ruth Davis Konigsberg and John Alexander Meleney for the finance and advisory committee, Nancy Lee Weaver as the town's representative on the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission, and Robert Peyton Gilpin, Jean B. Lewellyn, and Norah Van Riper for library trustees.

Tisbury will hold its election on May 12 at the Tisbury Emergency Services Facility at 215 Spring St., from noon to 8 pm.

West Tisbury

The only contested race in West Tisbury is for the select board seat, in a race that is pitting two longtime residents who've known each other for many years against each other.

Jessica Miller, the incumbent West Tisbury Select Board member, is being challenged by Garrison Vieira, a first-time candidate who serves as a sergeant in the Chilmark Police Department.

Both have extensive personal histories with the town, and stated concerns in a candidates' forum over the \$3.49 million override West Tisbury is requesting voters approve at town meeting. The forum was hosted on April 7 by the League of Women

Voters of Martha's Vineyard.

Other new candidates who are running for seats, though uncontested, are Katharine Joy Leaird for library trustee and James A. Graham as the town's representative on the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission.

Incumbent candidates in uncontested races include Caroline R. Flanders for moderator, Maria G. McFarland for the board of assessors, Tara J. Whiting-Wells for town clerk, Jeremiah Brown for tree warden, Emily Fern Fischer for library trustee, Kimberly J. Angell and John R. Christensen for finance committee, John J. Powers for constable, and Matthew D. Gebo and David L. Small for park and recreation committee.

West Tisbury will hold its town election on April 16 at the West Tisbury Public Safety Building at 454 State Road, from 7 am to 8 pm.

Edgartown

Voters in Edgartown and the remaining towns will have election days lacking in suspense, because there are no contested races on their ballots.

Julia Tarka, owner of Rosewater in Edgartown, is running uncontested for the select board in Edgartown, where longtime board member Margaret Serpa announced in March she won't be seeking re-election after more than three decades in the position.

Other newcomers include Juliet Mulinare for planning board, Marisa Boniface for library trustee, and David Burke for wastewater treatment commission.

Other uncontested races include incumbents Alan Gowell for board of assessors, Gretchen Regan for board of health, Christopher Greene for Edgartown School committee, David Alan Faber and Denise Searle for library trustee, Jane Varkonda for parks commissioner, Scott Ellis and Gordon Brown for wastewater treatment commission, and Donna Lowell-Bettencourt and Leslie Baynes for financial advisory committee.

Edgartown will hold its town election on April 16 at its town hall at 70 Main St., from 10 am to 7 pm.

Oak Bluffs

In Oak Bluffs, William F. Cleary, who has served the town in other capacities such as in the capital improvement committee and formerly in the planning board, is running for the select board seat that is held by Thomas Hallowan, who decided in January he won't seek re-election. Cleary also ran for the select board in 2024.

Besides Cleary, the only candidate who isn't an incumbent is Melvin Joroy Story, who is running to be constable.

Other uncontested races include Dion Alley for the select board, Thomas Carmine Zinno Jr. for the board of health, Amy Lee Del Torto for town clerk, John Victor Tiernan for cemetery commissioner, Amy Kathryn Billings for park commissioner, Erik Riis Albert

and Scott Alan Slarsky for the planning board, Robert Edward Malecki for the finance committee, Gail M. Barmakian for wastewater commissioner, Raymond Joseph Moreis Jr. for water district commissioner, and Kathryn Ann Oaks Shertzer for the Oak Bluffs School committee.

Oak Bluffs will hold its town election on April 16 at Oak Bluffs Public Library at 56R School St., from 10 am to 7 pm.

Chilmark

Rebecca Lynn Haag, former executive director of Island Grown Initiative, is running for the select board in Chilmark, and is slated to take the seat currently held by Marie Larsen, who decided in January she wouldn't seek re-election.

Other candidates who are expected to join their desired boards for the first time include Norman Daniel Birnbach for library trustee and Mary E. Grady for the cemetery commission.

Incumbents running uncontested for re-election include Elizabeth Barrett Oliver for the board of assessors, Mitchell Posin for the planning board, Drew M. Belsky for the board of health, Deborah Hancock for the finance committee, Aaron Monteith Brown for tree warden, Hugh Stix Weisman and Peter Bigelow Cook for the planning board, Marshall Emmett Carroll III for the finance committee, and Kaila Allen-Poisin for library trustee.

Chilmark will hold its election on April 29 at the Chilmark Community Center on 520 South Road, from noon to 8 pm.

Aquinnah

Only three residents pulled papers for seats that were up for re-election. Juli Vanderhoop, owner of Orange Peel Bakery and longtime Aquinnah Select Board member, is running uncontested in her seat, as are incumbents Kayla Darcy for town clerk and James Benoit for board of health.

Aquinnah will hold its election on May 14 at Town Hall on 955 State Road from noon to 8 pm. **MVT**

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Plastic bottles remain down-Island despite broad ban

Continued from A1

spring, called Highlands General. Reliable Market has continued selling plastic bottles for years.

At the time, the students had hoped for efforts such as refill stations to make the ban easier to abide by for businesses and townspeople. But Oak Bluffs officials spent funds on other infrastructure projects, with only a few refill stations installed so far in the central area of downtown, such as in Post Office Square.

The Oak Bluffs health department, made up of four board members with an additional two health agents, was tasked with enforcement of the ban after its adoption. Oak Bluffs health agents, Alexa Arieta and her assistant Lorna Welch, have since pointed to more critical to-dos for their department. Monitoring cyanobacteria in local ponds and bacteria in ocean waters, crowded housing, and restaurant inspections top their list.

Arieta reiterated this perspective at a recent board of health meeting on March 10, when board of health



A new market in Oak Bluffs, Highlands General, sells plastic bottles.

SARAH SHAW DAWSON

“If the goal is for limiting microplastics that you’re ingesting, we’re so far off base, it’s not even worth a drop in the bucket. But if the goal is that we want to keep the plastic out of the landfill, then we need to come up with a long-term goal on how to recycle these products. Otherwise, the regulation makes no sense at all.”

- Alexa Arieta, Oak Bluffs health agent

member Tom Zinno brought up microplastics and forever chemicals found in plastic bottles, and recommended the health agents enforce the ban more effectively.

Zinno recommended a regulatory act that would require Oak Bluffs stores to immediately stop selling plastic bottles.

“If we all got our blood tested, we’d have a serious percentage of microplastics from all the plastics that we have in our bodies, or we use in our lives these days. And, you know, whatever we can do to help along that way, I think we should just get on board with it,” Zinno said in the meeting in March.

But Arieta, the Oak Bluffs health agent, said the department is spread too thin to regulate single-use plastic bottles. She also pointed out that there’s no recycling receptacles in the down-Island town, so even if all beverage bottles were aluminum, they would still end up in the trash, another problem.

“There’s nowhere else to put it. So no matter what you’re drinking out of, if you’re disposing of it in the town of Oak Bluffs, it’s going into the landfill,” Arieta said. “In my opinion, I think that the regulation — that was brought up by some very

well-intentioned children — was shortsighted.”

It’s not the first time the health agents in Oak Bluffs have said implementing the ban is not doable for them. They’ve said as much at a few public meetings, citing short-staffed operations each time. But no other department or town official has been tasked with the initiative as a result, and no recycling bins have been installed.

Oak Bluffs Select Board member Emma Green-Beach is among those who are supportive of the bottle ban, and want more action. She told The Times that from a consumer standpoint, she understands the difficult nature of enforcement. But she also said she believes the ban is “a necessary and obtainable step toward reducing plastic use.” Green-Beach added that this is just one possible solution to a long unwinding of the corporate plastic use that has been normalized over the decades. “It will be inconvenient for us, but we are a smart and resilient species,” Green-Beach said of the ban. “We can figure it out.”

The bottle ban is still a priority to many on the Island, including the Vineyard Conservation Society (VCS), a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization, who published a letter in The

Times a year ago asking for more efforts to be made.

“VCS is disappointed that there is no system for enforcement of this bylaw, or even education available for businesses about it,” Samantha Look, executive director of VCS, and Zada Clarke, director of advocacy for VCS, wrote in the letter last March.

Look and Clarke said they spoke to other Massachusetts municipalities who enforce a bottle ban. They found that the board of health is the responsible party in those towns, sometimes in partnership with the select board or a sustainability coordinator, and that they go to great lengths to ensure stores don’t sell plastic.

“They were transparent that the bylaw isn’t enforced perfectly: No one checks every day, but it is being enforced consistently, and in response to complaints. That is all that we are asking for here,” Clarke and Look wrote.

Many Massachusetts municipalities, however, such as towns in Barnstable County, have more staff members in health departments. Some have housing-specific officials, or members tasked specifically with restaurant inspections, in addition to the health agents themselves.

Look and Clarke wrote in

their letter that they completed an audit of plastic-bottle usage in the towns and found that up-Island stores had almost no violations, and Oak Bluffs stores were

mostly compliant. The solution for the issue, they wrote, wouldn’t take as much manpower as implied. They urged health agents to start a fining protocol for the shops that kept plastic on their shelves.

Look and Clarke also wrote that VCS donated nearly 40 water bottle refill stations across the Island for the towns to install themselves. Four stations were donated to Oak Bluffs in 2019, but only one of those was installed by the time their letter was published in 2025.

“More than five years later, the remaining three are likely sitting in a storage closet, collecting dust,” they stated in the letter at the time.

In March’s meeting, Zinno recommended contacting other departments to get recycling bins in the town. He said that would be a good first step to an eventual ban enforcement. “It needs to be not just a board of health issue ... it needs to be multiple groups in town,” Zinno said.

Arieta agreed. She added, “No other board of health is responsible for complying with this regulation, and quite frankly, Vineyard Conservation Society has not approached any other board of health requesting them to create a regulation, so why they’re coming for Oak Bluffs, I don’t know.

“Everything costs mon-

ey,” Arieta continued. She referenced the \$1.9 million override on the town meeting warrant.

“There’s no money,” she said. As the health agent, she said she had to request \$15,000 at town meeting this year to cover the salary of Betsy VanLandingham, the Island’s only infectious disease caseworker, in order to comply with the state’s Department of Health requirements.

Arieta urged the board of health to get more clear about their intentions. If the ultimate end to a plastic ban would be to stop people from consuming microplastics, she said people could already make that choice on their own. But if the goal is to push people toward purchasing recyclable bottles other than plastic, the infrastructure in the town would need to be updated to make that possible.

“What is the goal here?” Arieta asked the Oak Bluffs health department in March. “If the goal is for limiting microplastics that you’re ingesting, we’re so far off base, it’s not even worth a drop in the bucket. But if the goal is that we want to keep the plastic out of the landfill, then we need to come up with a long-term goal on how to recycle these products. Otherwise, the regulation makes no sense at all.” **MVT**



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 The Town of West Tisbury is seeking to hire a 35 hour/week Payroll and Human Resources Administrator. The

HELP WANTED
 position reports to the Finance Director. The Payroll and Human Resources Administrator performs a wide range of administrative, technical, and confidential duties supporting the Town's personnel, payroll, and employee benefits functions. Responsibilities include coordinating employee onboarding and offboarding, administering employee benefits programs, and processing payroll in compliance with federal and state regulations. This role also maintains accurate and confidential personnel and payroll records, provides administrative support to the Personnel Board, and assists with the development and implementation of personnel policies. The position ensures compliance with applicable employment laws, collective bargaining agreements, and Town policies, and performs related duties as required.
 Minimum Qualifications:
 Bachelor's degree in accounting, business administration, human resources, or a related field; and at least three years of progressively responsible experience in payroll processing, benefits administration, or municipal personnel work; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Experience working with third-party payroll providers such as Harpers Payroll Services or similar outsourced payroll systems is strongly preferred. This is a benefited position. Full job description and required application form can be found on the Town's website at www.westtisbury-ma.gov, or by calling 508-696-0102. The Personnel By-Law anticipates hiring at Step 1 (\$49.05/ hr.). The Town may offer a higher starting step, up to Step 3 (\$54.07/hour), depending on qualifications and experience. Resume & applications must be returned by April 22, 2026 12:00 pm. EOE.

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.tisbury-ma.gov. Or email to pbennett@tisbury-ma.gov. EOE

HELP WANTED
TRIPP BARNES NEEDS ASSISTANT
 Drivers License required, phone skills, speaks english. 508-400-6171. 300 State Rd. Trippbarnes@comcast.net.

HELP WANTED: CAR DETAILER
 Drivers License required. 508-400-6171. 300 State Rd. Trippbarnes@comcast.net.

JOHN KEENE EXCAVATION MARTHA'S VINEYARD



WE ARE LOOKING TO ADD TO OUR TEAM!
 The following three positions available are:
 * Site Supervisor / Experienced Machine Operator - CDL license a plus *
 * Laborer *
 * CDL Class A or B Truck Driver *
 These positions are year-round and include excellent benefits! Please call our office at (508)693-5975 or email us at office@johnkeene.com



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.



Classifieds

SUMMER RENTALS

LOVELY SUMMER NEW RENTAL LISTING! WEST TISBURY SECOND FLOOR SLEEPS UP TO 5/6.
 Beautiful, non toxic, hypoallergenic huge 2 bedrooms one bath, with hardwoods floors, laundry, electric stove, parking, porch, privacy, barbecue, across from up island Cronigs. Weekly, June thru October 2300/week or monthly 8000 (negotiable). Also currently April and May June daily as well for less- sorry not year round. Text first please 310 213 5472

CUSTOM ARTISAN CRAFTSMAN CARRIAGE HOUSE IN WEST TISBURY FOR MONTHLY RENTAL WITH UPPER LEVEL LIVING SPACE
 One bedroom with king size bed and large loft area with full size bed. Beautiful woodworking throughout home. Conveniently located and close to shopping and beaches. July and August \$11,000 per month. June and September \$6,000 per month. 508-221-2796

APARTMENTS/ROOMS
1 BEDROOM APARTMENT AVAILABLE NOW.
 Weekly, monthly rates. Possible year round. Near OB school, short walk to town. Inquire at 9GoodeSt@gmail.com

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

COMMERCIAL RENTALS
AVAILABLE TO RENT: FOUR PUSHCARTS 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

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

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

COMMERCIAL CONDO FOR RENT/SALE AT TISBURY MARKET PLACE
 600 sq ft. First floor unit. Call Leslie for details 508-333-1000.
FURNISHED OFFICE SPACE VH
 600 SQ FT. Suitable for office use only. Includes conference room, 2 offices & reception area. Utilities not included. Includes 2 parking spaces. 508-221-0858.

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.



PREMIUM LOCATED COMMERCIAL SPACE 725 SQ FT AVAIL FOR RENT
 5-1-26, 39 Main St Edgartown MA. \$4300. Has one bath, heat/AC. Call 973-214-0865.

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 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.

AUTO SALES
1980 INTERNATIONAL SCOUT - RESTORED TO ORIGINAL.
 Soft top, hard top and lots more. Used summers only. \$35,000.00. 207-239-7532.



ISUZU NPR CABOVER TRUCK FOR SALE.
 2006 diesel. 140,000 miles. \$12,000. Call Chris at 508-627-2895

BOAT SALES



2005 28' GRADY WHITE CENTER CONSOLE 283.
 Twin Yamaha 225s(1430 hours) Garmin electronics, deep-V hull, trailer, head, collapsable spreaders, live well. Great fishing boat and comfortable day cruiser. \$72,000
 Text or email: matt.nerney@gmail.com, 617-416-6029



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

BOAT SALES

LASER STANDARD SAILBOAT FOR SALE - EXCELLENT CONDITION
 Includes sails in great shape, fully watertight hull, and very fast on the water. \$4600. Ready to sail. Drascombe Luggor for sale - good condition. Solid, seaworthy boat. Includes trailer. \$5000. Text 718-360-3062.

ESTATE SALE
ANTIQUES, VINTAGE, COLLECTIBLES, FURNITURE, ART, ANTIQUE BOOKS, CHILDREN'S BOOKS, TOYS, CHINA, CRYSTAL, KITCHENWARES, TOOLS, CURIOSITIES, SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.
 Sat/Sun 4/18 & 4/19 10a-2p
 24 Beetleswamp Rd Edgartown 850-293-4345
 Please park carefully & no early birds

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

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MV Times
 To advertise email
adsales@mvtimes.com

BARGAIN BOX

ASHLAND WOVEN WICKER WHITE DISTRESSED BASKETS
 18x13x6. Like new condition. \$15. each. Denise 508-496-5986. drhone51@yahoo.com

BROTHER XR950PRW SEWING MACHINE
 Gently used, have manual and accessories, \$100 price negotiable. Call or text 207-350-5974.

EPSON STYLUS PHOTO R2400 PRINTER: FREE
 Good condition. With some cartridges. Call 508-713-8659

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

NEW ROMAN SHADES, EMBROIDERED LINEN.
 Top-down with cords. 33x54. \$100. Call (774)-563-5329.

PLASTIC OUTDOOR BADMINTON NET
 Free. Allan call or text 617-676-8160.

Bargain Box ads are free; call and renew after 2 weeks
24 words maximum
Maximum sale price is \$100
Prices must be listed with each item.

Real Estate

LAND-CHILMARK

CHILMARK GRANDFATHERED LOT .37 ACS FOR SALE

Comes with plot plan, surveyed, and septic designed. \$495K call bob 772-584-9481.

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.



Real Estate Transactions March 30 - April 3, 2026

Edgartown

March 30, Double B. Capital Group LLC sold 6 Janes Cove Road to Warrior Creek Realty II LLC for \$7,500,000.

March 30, S&K Macleod Realty LLC sold 68 20th St. South to Omari Edwards and Kerry-Ann Edwards for \$1,500,000.

March 31, Sharon A. Miller and Thomas J. Ross Jr., trustee of Miller Edgartown Nominee Trust, sold 30 Oyster Watcha Road to 30 Oyster Watcha Road LLC for \$15,000,000.

March 31, Gene M. Sullivan sold 5 Louis Field Road to James T. Curtis, trustee of L.F.R. Five Realty Trust for \$1,715,000.

March 31, Marion Realty Inc. sold 3 Second St. North to Nickolas Peters for \$24,300.

April 2, Robert Kipp Deveer III and Colleen C. Deveer, trustees of Robert Kipp Deveer III Revocable Trust, sold 38 Cow Bay Road to 38 Cow Bay Road LLC for \$15,000,000.

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



\$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.



\$895,000 22 MONTGOMERY SQUARE OAK BLUFFS 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.



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

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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!



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.



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.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



PRICE ADJUSTMENT, NOW \$2,600,000

COMMERCIAL B-2 OR RESIDENTIAL

OFFERED BY RENE' BEN DAVID/ REALTOR @, OCEAN PARK REALTY INC.

23 Circuit Ave Extension Cell 508-847-4864

3 bedrooms/1 bathroom, Rare Opportunity with Endless Possibilities – Unmatched Harbor & Vineyard Sound Views. Location, Location, Location! A truly rare offering in the heart of Oak Bluffs, where properties like this seldom become available. Positioned directly across from the iconic Oak Bluffs Harbor, this property boasts unobstructed harbor views and sweeping vistas of Vineyard Sound—a setting that captures the very best of island living. From your front yard, watch ferries come and go, boats drift through the harbor, and enjoy the stunning backdrop of open water stretching toward Vineyard Sound. This is a property that puts you right in the middle of everything, while still offering the charm and character of a classic island home. Zoned B-2 Commercial, the opportunities are truly endless.

Continue the legacy of a successful tourist-oriented business like the longtime Anderson Bike Rentals, create a new commercial venture, or reimagine the property as your personal dream home. Whether you renovate the existing structure or build from the ground up, you'll benefit from one of the most visible and vibrant locations in Oak Bluffs. Walk to everything—ferries, beaches, the marina, restaurants, movies, shopping, Ocean Park concert, 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.



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.

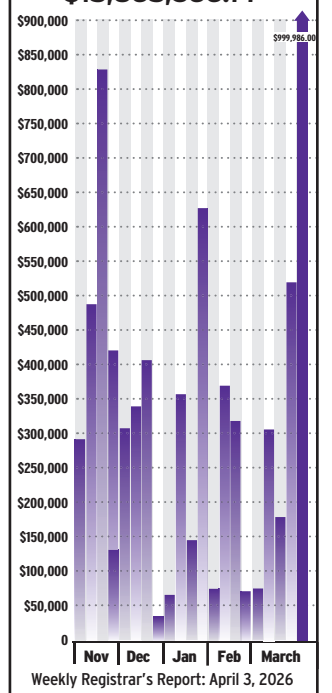


SOLD \$500,000 by Rene Ben David/ Ocean Park Realty Inc CELL 508-847-4864.

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.

LAND BANK WEEKLY INCOME

FY 2026, Year to Date: \$15,865,366.77



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 wraparound farmer's porch with classic gingerbread trim invites you to relax and soak in the community's unique atmosphere. Inside, painted wood-beam ceilings, arched windows, and timeless built-in details enhance the welcoming living spaces. A versatile bump-out area offers flexible use as a guest sleeping nook or office, with direct access to the porch for summer breezes. The dining room provides an inviting space for dinner parties and entertaining, while the kitchen with adjoining laundry and pantry adds convenience and charm. The cottage comfortably sleeps seven, including two bedrooms, a single bed in the bump-out, and a sleep sofa in the living room. The property is partially insulated and features propane forced hot-air heat in the kitchen, bathroom, dining room, and one bedroom, with a new furnace installed in 2019. Additional features include an electric stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, garbage disposal, 50-gallon propane hot water heater, and approximately 200 sq. ft. of storage. Mature gardens and lawn with irrigation further enhance this special offering. Best of all, the cottage is offered **TURNKEY and FULLY FURNISHED**, ready for you to enjoy from day one.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD
\$899,000 NEW SPRING LISTING CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381
 Experience the charm of this exquisitely renovated Victorian Gingerbread Cottage, nestled within the historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association. Just moments away from Oak Bluffs Harbor, ferry terminals, art galleries, restaurants, public beaches, and vibrant shopping areas, this cottage offers an unparalleled location next to all of Oak Bluffs' picturesque parks. This rare gem features two side yards adorned with vibrant landscaping, enhancing its curb appeal. Step inside to discover a breathtaking chef's kitchen, designed with chic shiplap walls and custom cabinetry. Recent updates include a brand-new roof, modern electrical and plumbing systems, a state-of-the-art HVAC system, and energy-efficient, high-quality Blomberg appliances. The cottage showcases gleaming hardwood floors throughout, complemented by a fresh coat of paint and designer finishes that add a touch of elegance. This three-season home is move-in ready, making it the perfect place to enjoy a fantastic location where everything is within walking distance.



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

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD
BEING OFFERED BY RENE BEN DAVID/OCEAN PARK REALTY INC. CELL 508-847-4864
\$1,250,000
11 ONONDAGA AVE, OAK BLUFFS OPEN HOUSE

Comfortable Island Home on a Quiet Dead-End Road in Oak Bluffs: Welcome to 11 Onondaga Avenue, the second home on the left on a short, quiet dead-end road in a well-established Oak Bluffs neighborhood enjoyed by both year-round and seasonal residents. This well-cared-for 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home offers space, comfort, and a truly inviting island lifestyle—just a short walk to the Oak Bluffs Sailing Camp Park and beach, where beautiful sunsets over the water await. Inside, the open-concept layout connects the kitchen and dining area to the living room, creating a bright and functional space perfect for both entertaining and relaxed daily living. An inviting deck off the dining room extends your living space outdoors into a serene landscaped setting ideal for enjoying meals in the fresh Vineyard air. The home is set on a peaceful lot with both front and back yards offering a sense of seclusion and 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
SENKONTACKET WATERFRONT COMMUNITY | MARTHA'S VINEYARD

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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

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



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MV Times

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!

SCAN

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

Become a sponsor of

The High School View

Email adsales@mvtimes.com to learn more. MV Times

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF MGL CHAPTER 105A, SECTION 4, MASSACHUSETTS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PERSON HEREIN AFTER NAMED AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The contents of leased units are subject to our lien for non-payment of rent and other charges. You are denied access to that unit. You can redeem such goods on or before 11:00am. on Friday April 17, 2026 at **Airport Ministorage of Martha's Vineyard, 14 North Line Rd, Edgartown, MA 02539, 508-693-4084.** The goods you have stored after this time will be sold at auction to the highest bidder. The auction will run several days before and up to the date of the auction and will be held ONLINE at www.selfstorageauction.com. The name of the lessee(s): UNIT # 413, **Martha Sullivan**, tables, wood pieces, tools, door, juke box. The facility/auctioneer reserves the right to cancel a sale at any time for any reason. The lien holder reserves the right to reschedule the auction.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The public is invited to a public hearing concerning whether the proposed amendments to the regulations governing the Island Road District in the Town of Tisbury conform to the guidelines for the development of the District specified in the Commission's designation of the District. Amendments to Articles 09/03 Designated Special Ways are proposed. Additions to designated Special Ways and their management are also proposed. Annotated changes are available on the MVC website: mvcommission.org. Date & Time: Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 6:35 p.m. Place: Hybrid Meeting **MVC Office - 1st Floor**, 33 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA and Zoom **Meeting ID: 811 9696 9377; Password: 229692** Written testimony may be submitted prior to or during the hearing. Check for updates on the online calendar.

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The West Tisbury Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on **Monday, May 4, 2026 at 5:00 pm, on an application from the Town of West Tisbury to update Section 5.2-4 of the Rules and Regulation Governing the Subdivision of Land under the revised Building Code regulations.** For more information and/or to review the application please contact or visit the Planning Board office on the second floor of the Town Hall. Please address any comments to: Leah Smith Planning Board P.O. Box 278 West Tisbury, MA 02575

Topic: Planning Board Time: May 4, 2026 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87670499956?pwd=bx-AaUie4A8a2E3yhudVdFVDAaRn4e2.1> Meeting ID: 876 7049 9956 Passcode: 564978 +1 309 205 3325 US +1 312 626 6799 US

PUBLIC HEARING STORAGE OF PROPANE TOWN OF WEST TISBURY

The Select Board will hold a public hearing under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 148 Section 13 on the Petition of Donald Hendricks to license the storage of 2,990 gallons of Propane on Map 8 Lot 22 at 140 Merry Farm Road. The hearing will be held in the Select Board Meeting Room at 4:40 PM on April 22, 2026 and on zoom at Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83834311909> Meeting ID: 838 3431 1909 Dial by your location • +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) 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, April 17, 2026 2:00 pm at the Select Board Office 1059 State Road, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575.

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

PUBLIC HEARING STORAGE OF PROPANE TOWN OF WEST TISBURY

The Select Board will hold a public hearing under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 148 Section 13 on the Petition of Robert Rattner – Song-wind Nominee Trust to license the storage of 8,490 gallons of Propane on Map 6 Lot 2 at 145 Obed Daggett Road. The hearing will be held in the Select Board Meeting Room at 4:30 PM on April 22, 2026 and on zoom at Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83834311909> Meeting ID: 838 3431 1909 Dial by your location • +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) 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, April 17, 2026 2:00 pm at the Select Board Office 1059 State Road, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575.

TOWN OF WEST TISBURY - HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR QUOTES STREET SWEEPING/SAND CLEAN-UP & DISPOSAL

The Town of West Tisbury is requesting quotes for street sweeping and sand clean-up and disposal in town parking lots. Interested parties must provide proof of insurance. Work is to be undertaken and completed between April 22, 2026 – April 30, 2026. Quotes are to be submitted to the Town no later than April 16, 2026 at Noon. Contact Jennifer Rand, Town Administrator, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. (508) 696-0102. townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov. FAX (508) 696-0103

Specifications: There are 14 miles of roads and three parking lots. This year not all roads may be included. The final decision on which roads to be done and mileage will be determined by the Highway Superintendent. Please provide a price per mile for the roads and a price per parking lot. Please direct all questions to the Highway Superintendent at highway1@westtisbury-ma.gov.

Roads: \$ _____/mile
Parking lots: 1059 State Rd. \$ _____

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

551 Edgartown-West Tisbury Rd. \$ _____
454 State Rd. \$ _____
Company Name: _____
Contact: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
FAX: _____

The Town reserves the right to waive any informality in the proposal procedure, to cancel this Request for Quotes or to reject any and all proposals received deemed not in the best interest of the Town. The Board of Selectmen shall award contracts under this procurement.

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On **Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 5:15pm** the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2nd floor meeting room on an application for a Special Permit from **Matthew Merry** to allow the construction of a 16' x 18' accessory structure (a 3-sided stone "shed" using four locust posts) for storage of lawn and garden equipment requiring 42 feet of side yard setback relief and 17 feet of rear yard setback relief on a pre-existing, non-conforming lot, under Sections 4.2-2D4 and 11.2-2 of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw at **11 Dolphine Merry Rd., Map 11 Lot 25.1**, in the RU district. **Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov or mail comments to: Zoning Board of Appeals, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. Please call 508-696-0107 for information on the application.**

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RE: Vineyardville LLC Appeal Vineyardville, LLC 11 Peter M. Williamson Blvd. Map 48 Parcel 20-3

The Oak Bluffs Zoning Board of Appeals will hold an In-Person Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:00PM in the Oak Bluffs Town Hall Downstairs Meeting Room, 56 School Street, on the application of the referenced petitioner seeking: **A Special Permit within Oak Bluffs Zoning By-Law Section 4.4.4, or any action related thereto, to: construct**

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

a 400 s.f. detached bedroom on a 60,021+/- s.f. lot located in the R3 zoning district.

Relevant documents and/or proposed plans will be available on the Town of Oak Bluffs' web site: <https://www.oakbluffsma.gov/443/ZBA-Regular-Meetings> Written correspondence can be addressed to the Board of Appeals via email: zbaadmin@oakbluffsma.gov or mailed to: PO Box 1327, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

OAK BLUFFS WATER DISTRICT WARRANT FOR ANNUAL FY 26 DISTRICT MEETING

Oak Bluffs Water District FY 27 Warrant

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby notified, as inhabitants of the Town of Oak Bluffs, who are qualified to vote in the District affairs and elections, to assemble at the Oak Bluffs Water District, 96 Vineyard Ave. in Oak Bluffs on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 4:30 pm in the evening, to act upon the following articles:

Salaries & Wages:	984,500.00
Expenses:	2,968,755.00
Total Operating Budget:	3,953,255.00
Summary of estimated expenses:	
Salaries and wages:	984,500.00
Fixed:	550,500.00
Administration:	451,000.00
Personnel:	45,000.00
Utilities:	300,000.00
Operations:	518,500.00
Maintenance:	250,000.00
Capital:	280,000.00
Debt/Int:	413,755.00
Unanticipated:	150,000.00
SLA Contribution	10,000.00

Article #2 - To see if the District will vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$45,000 into the Well and Tank Maintenance Account (#840-04) and expend as the Commissioners deem necessary or take any other action relative thereto.
Article #3 - To see if the District will

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Water Commissioners, to borrow from time to time in anticipation of revenue under MGL Chapter 44, section 4, a sum or take any other action relative thereto. Article #4 - To see if the District will vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$100,000 into the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Account to further fund the District's liability or take any other action relative thereto. Article #5 - To see if the District will vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund \$1,388,911.00 to the Debt Reserve Fund to cover the remaining Principal Balance of the outstanding debt of the District, to be expended as necessary to payoff existing debt or take any action relative thereto. Article #6 - To see if the District will vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund in Fiscal Year 2026 the sum of \$90,000 to purchase a New 2025 Chevrolet Full Size K2500 Silverado Pick-Up Truck and all peripheral equipment or take any other action relative thereto. Article #7 - To see if the District will vote to transfer from the Eminent Domain Fund to the Future Well Field Stabilization fund the amount of \$1,110,450.00 which represents the portion of the property (67.3) deeded to the M.V. Land Bank or take any other action relative thereto. Article #8 - To see if the District will vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund in Fiscal Year 2026 to the New Tank Stabilization fund the amount of \$1,000,000.00 or take any other action relative thereto.

Article #9 - To see if the District will vote to close out the prior year article for the Mini Excavator and transfer the remaining balance of \$54,507.54 to the District's Stabilization Fund or take any other action relative thereto. Article #10 - To see if the District will vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund in Fiscal Year 2026 the sum of \$150,000.00 to cover the design cost of upgrading wells 1 and 2 to accommodate the new tank to be expended as the Superintendent deems necessary or take any other action relative thereto. SUBMITTED BY THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Raymond J. Moreis Jr., Chairman
Nelson S. Oliver
Michael S deBettencourt



Town Warrant

WEST TISBURY: WARRANT

WEST TISBURY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

County of Dukes County, SS To Either of the Constables of the Town of West Tisbury,

GREETINGS: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of West Tisbury qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs to meet in the **West Tisbury School**, Old County Road, in said Town on **Tuesday the Fourteenth day of April, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, at Six O'Clock** in the evening; then and there to act on the articles of this Warrant.

And to meet again in the West Tisbury Public Safety Building (North Tisbury Fire Station) in said West Tisbury on **Thursday, the Sixteenth Day of April, at Seven O'Clock** in the Morning at the Polling Place, then and there to act on Article 1 of the Warrant by the election of Officers on the Official Ballot.

The polls for voting on the Official Ballot will be **opened at Seven O'Clock in the Morning and shall be closed at Eight O'Clock in the Evening.**

QUESTION 1: Shall the Town of West Tisbury be allowed to assess an additional Three Million, Four Hundred Ninety-One Thousand and Ninety Dollars (\$3,491,090) in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Town's Annual Operating Budget for the

WEST TISBURY: WARRANT

Fiscal Year beginning July First, Two Thousand Twenty-Six (2026).

QUESTION 2: Shall the Town of West Tisbury be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition Two and One-Half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay additional costs of repairing and/or replacing the HVAC system in the West Tisbury Police Department, including removal of failed system components, installation of new components, and related repairs to the building and grounds (i.e., interior walls and ceilings, utilities, paving and landscaping, or any site improvements) incidental or directly related thereto, and all related borrowing costs?

ARTICLE 1: To elect the following Officers on the Official Ballot:

- Assessors (vote for 1) (Three year term)
- Board of Health (vote for 1) (Three year term)
- Constable (vote for 1) (Three year Term)
- Finance Committee (vote for 2) (Three year term)
- Library Trustee (vote for 2) (Three year term)
- Martha's Vineyard Land Bank (vote for 1) (Three year term)
- Moderator (vote for 1) (One year term)
- Parks and Recreation (vote for 2) (Three year term)
- Select Board (vote for 1) (Three year term)
- Town Clerk (vote for 1) (One year term)
- Tree Warden (vote for 1) (One year term)

ARTICLE 2: To hear reports of the Town Officers and Committees and act thereon.

WEST TISBURY: WARRANT

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray Town Charges and Expenses for Fiscal Year 2027, provided, however, that the amount to be Raised and Appropriated is contingent upon a majority of voters casting a Ballot on Question 1 at the Annual Town Election, to be held April 16, 2026 voting in the affirmative to allow the Town to exceed its Proposition 2 ½, so called, spending cap by Three Million, Four Hundred Ninety-One Thousand and Ninety Dollars (\$3,491,090) (*See the Budget published in the Town Report*) **(RECOMMENDED 5-0)**

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Personnel By-law at Section 27.3 (Year-Round Pay Schedule) and Section 27.4 (Seasonal Pay Schedule) to reflect a wage adjustment of 3.5% effective July 1, 2026. **(RECOMMENDED 5-0)**

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 27-1 of the Personnel Bylaw to add the following positions and grade changes to the Year- Round Classification Plan

- New positions:
- Library Collections Specialist at Grade 4
- Library Assistant Director, stipended Shellfish Constable at Grade 6
- Payroll & Human Resources Admin at Grade 8

- Grade changes:
- Finance Director from Grade 9 to Grade 11
- Assistant Treasurer from Grade 7 to Grade 6

(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

WEST TISBURY: WARRANT

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to adopt M.G.L. c. 175M, Section 10, pertaining to the Massachusetts Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program, and authorize the West Tisbury Select Board to take all necessary steps to implement PFML coverage, including the submission of required notices to the Department of Family and Medical Leave (DFML) and registration on Mass Tax Connect for contributions. By adopting M.G.L. c. 175M, Section 10, the Town is extending PFML benefits to town of West Tisbury employees. PFML is funded through employee and employer payroll tax contributions and benefits are paid from the state fund. Further, Section 17 of the Personnel Bylaw will be amended to add the following: The following is a summary of the Massachusetts Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) law. It is provided for informational purposes and may not reflect any changes from time to time.

17.8 The PFML provides eligible workers up to 26 weeks of job-protected, paid time off for specific health or family reasons, with a maximum weekly benefit of \$1,230.39 in 2026. The amount may change annually. It covers medical leave for the employee's own serious health condition and family leave to care for family members or bond with a new child.

Key Aspects of the MA PFML Law:
• **Maximum Benefit & Duration:** Up to 26 weeks total per benefit year (20 weeks for medical, 12 weeks for family, with 26 weeks max for family member military service).
• **Weekly Payout:** The maximum weekly benefit for 2026 is \$1,230.39.

WEST TISBURY: WARRANT

- **Job Protection:** Employers cannot fire, demote, or discriminate against employees for taking approved leave.
- **Funding:** Primarily funded through payroll contributions from employees and, in some cases, employers.
- **Usage: Can be used for:**
 - An employee's own serious health condition.
 - Bonding with a new child (birth, adoption, or foster).
 - Caring for a family member with a serious health condition.
 - Managing family affairs while a family member is on active duty.

Twenty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$27,000) will be put into the town budget under employee benefits to cover the town's required contributions in FY 2027) **(RECOMMENDED 5-0)**

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of M.G.L. c. 43C, Section 11, which authorizes the Town to provide, by bylaw, for a consolidated Department of Municipal Finance which may include the offices of accountant, treasurer collector and human resources/payroll, and further, vote to add the following bylaw shall be added to the General Bylaws, "Department of Municipal Finance" as follows. In summary, this authorizes the Town to add a Director of Municipal Finance who shall be appointed by and shall report to the Select Board :

Department of Municipal Finance

X.1 Department of Municipal Finance. There shall be a Department of Municipal Finance that shall be responsible for the (i) coordination of all financial services and activities of the Town; (ii) maintenance of all accounting records and other

WEST TISBURY: WARRANT

financial statements; (iii) payment of all obligations; (iv) receipt of all funds due; (v) monitoring of and reporting on all fiscal and financial activities of the town; and (vi) supervision of all purchases of goods, materials and supplies and maintenance of inventory controls. The department shall include the offices and functions of the Town Accountant, Treasurer/Collector, and Human Resources/ Payroll;

X.2 Director of Municipal Finance, Appointment. The Department of Municipal Finance shall be under the direct control and supervision of a Director of Municipal Finance, also known as the Finance Director, who shall be appointed by the Select Board for a term of three (3) years, and whose salary shall be fixed annually within the amount appropriated by the Town. The Director of Municipal Finance may be removed by the Select Board for cause.

X.3 Director of Municipal Finance, Duties and Responsibilities. The Director of Municipal Finance shall be responsible for the supervision and coordination of all financial personnel, tasks and activities of the department under the General Laws, the Town Bylaws and any applicable rules and regulations. The Finance Director shall hire all other personnel necessary to staff the Department of Municipal Finance, subject to approval by the Select Board. The Director of Municipal Finance may serve, ex-officio, as the accountant, auditor, comptroller, treasurer, collector or treasurer-collector of the Town; provided, however, that no Director of Municipal Finance shall serve, ex-officio, as both accountant, auditor or comptroller and treasurer, collector or treasurer-collector. The Director of Municipal Finance shall be

Town Warrant

WEST TISBURY: WARRANT

responsible for coordinating the fiscal management procedures of the offices of the Treasurer/Collector, and Human Resources/Payroll and shall be the administrator of budgeting, including financial reporting, accountability and control, as well as an advisor to the Select Board, Finance Committee and all other Town departments, concerning financial and programmatic implications of current and future financial policies. The Director of Municipal Finance shall provide such assistance to the Select Board as shall request with regard to the preparation of the Town budget and capital plan.

(RECOMMENDED 4-0)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate from Free Cash the sum of Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$23,500) to hire a Payroll & Human Resources Administrator. This position will be funded by budget line 145-5120 in Fiscal Year 2027.

(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of Seventy-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$78,000) to be used toward the purchase and equipping of one (1) four-wheel drive police TRUCK/SUV in FY 2027.

(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for the purchase and replacement of duty firearms for the West Tisbury Police Department, including service pistols, patrol rifles, and less lethal, along with any necessary accessories, ammunition, training, and equipment, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will Appropriate from Free Cash Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for the purchase, installation and maintenance of Mobi-mats for the path at Lambert's Cove Beach.

(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate from Free Cash the sum of One Hundred Four Thousand Dollars (\$104,000) to contract with a Licensed Site Professional to address the State mandated PFAS tracking and removal project in Town.

(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to redirect the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) from Article 19 of the April 2022 Town Meeting, which remains unspent, which was to pay for the Howes House renovation that is not proceeding at this time. These funds will be used to pay for several small renovations to improve accessibility to the Howes House.

(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate from Free Cash the sum of Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Forty Five Dollars and Thirty Three Cents (\$18,245.33) to add to budget line 135-5120 Town Accountant Personal Services for the purpose of funding accumulated overtime.

(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 15: To see if the town will vote to Appropriate from Free Cash the sum of Eighty Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000) for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a truck for the Animal Control Officer.

(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to amend the zoning bylaws by adding "Section 8.5-2 (H) Temporary Moratorium on Service Businesses in RU District" to provide for a moratorium of six (6) months on the issuance of special permits for Service Businesses in RU District, as follows: Section 8.5-2 (H) Temporary Moratorium on Service Businesses in RU District

1 Purpose: There is a community need to establish a working group to comprehensively review Service Businesses in the RU district, and redraft Section 8.5-2 Non-Residential Uses in the RU and VR Districts, and related provisions, as they relate to Service Businesses. The Town has experienced an increase in the number

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of Service Businesses in the RU district, which has adversely affected the residential character of the RU district, and a result, the Town is conducting an analysis and/or comprehensive study to determine the impact of said activity on the general safety and welfare of the public, roadway infrastructure, water supplies, sewage disposals, and police, fire and emergency public safety.

2. Moratorium: No new special permits for Service Businesses shall be issued in the RU district for a period of six (6) months, except for applications already deemed complete, and renewals or modifications of existing special permits.

3. Working Group: The Working Group shall consist of five (5) to seven (7) West Tisbury residents appointed by the Select Board, with consideration given to including representation from the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and residents who operate Service Businesses. The Working Group is charged with reviewing existing zoning bylaws and drafting comprehensive Service Business regulations that balance the preservation of residential character in the RU district with support for appropriate low-impact home-based Service Businesses. The Working Group shall submit recommended zoning bylaw amendments to the Select Board within six (6) months for inclusion in the warrant for the next Town Meeting.

(NO ACTION, 2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)

ARTICLE 17: To see if the town will vote to amend Section 3.1, Section 14.2, and Section 8.5-2D by adding the following language in **bold italic** print:

• Section 3.1 Use Table:

	RU	VR	MB	LI
Pool House	S	S	PR	--

• **Section 8.5-4D: POOL HOUSE:** (a) Location. A pool house shall be sited within seventy-five (75) feet of the swimming pool it serves and shall comply with all setback requirements applicable to accessory structures in the zoning district.

(b) Prohibited Features. A pool house shall not contain:

- Cooking facilities, including but not limited to stoves, ovens, cooktops, or permanently installed cooking appliances (exterior grills and refrigeration are permitted);
- Sleeping quarters or bedrooms.
- Interior dimensions or configurations suitable for use as an independent dwelling unit.

(c) Permitted Fixtures. A pool house may include not more than one (1) water closet, one (1) hand sink or lavatory, and one (1) outdoor shower, provided all plumbing is connected to an approved septic disposal system.

(d) Distinction from Other Structures. A pool house is distinguished from a cabana, pergola, pavilion, or similar open-air structure by the presence of permanent walls enclosing at least fifty percent (50%) of the structure's perimeter.

• Section 14.2 Definitions In The Bylaw:

POOL HOUSE – A permanent, roofed accessory structure with enclosed or partially enclosed walls, located on the same lot as and designed to serve a swimming pool. A pool house provides ancillary functions such as changing areas, storage of pool equipment and supplies, shelter, and sanitary facilities for swimmers, but shall not constitute a dwelling unit or habitable living space.

(NO ACTION, 2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)

ARTICLE 18: To see if the town will vote to amend Section 10.1-2 of the zoning bylaws by adding the text in **bold, italic** and deleting the strikethrough text.

10.1-2 Demolition Delay for Residential Buildings

A. Purpose
The purpose of Section 10.1-2 is to conserve existing residential buildings and provide opportunities for their reuse. The purpose of this Section is to establish a predictable process for reviewing requests to demolish residential structures in order to:

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1. Establish an appropriate waiting period during which the Town and the applicant can propose and consider alternatives to the demolition of a building of residential value;
2. Minimize the quantity of demolition debris ending up in the landfill;
3. Create an incentive for reuse of residential structures;
4. Give interested parties an opportunity to acquire reusable residential structures.

B. Buildings Residential Structures Subject To Demolition Delay

All buildings proposed for demolition which contain residential uses residential structures proposed for demolition shall be reviewed by the Zoning Inspector to determine whether they can be reused at another location. No demolition permit shall be issued for such buildings residential structures, unless:

1. The Zoning Inspector or Building Inspector determines that demolition is necessary to protect public health and safety or that the building residential structure cannot be reused due either to its condition or to physical barriers to movement, such as trees or narrow bridges or roadways; or

2. The applicant complies with the demolition delay procedure in Sub-section 10.1-2(C) C.

C. Demolition Delay Procedure

1. An application for a demolition permit shall be made to the Zoning Inspector and signed by the owner of record of the building residential structure. The demolition delay periods required by this Section shall run concurrently with any other required reviews.

2. Upon receipt of an application for a demolition permit, the Zoning Inspector shall determine whether the building residential structure can be moved and reused and shall notify the applicant within fourteen (14) twenty (20) days after the application filing date. The Zoning Inspector's determination shall also identify any potential physical barriers along likely routes of travel from the site, including but not limited to narrow roadways, low-clearance bridges, bridges with weight restrictions, overhead utility lines, or significant trees. Such identification shall be included in the written notification to the applicant and shall be made available to any person requesting information about the property.

3. If the Zoning Inspector determines that the building residential structure can be reused, the applicant shall place a public notice in a local newspaper, as follows: Public notice shall take place only after the Zoning Inspector determines whether the residential structure can be moved and reused in accordance with Subsection C.2 above. The notice shall read substantially as follows:

INVITATION FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF HOUSE WHICH MUST BE MOVED FROM CURRENT LOCATION: A house at [street address], intended for demolition, is being made available to any interested parties subject to the owner's conditions. The Zoning Inspector is accepting Letters of Interest for 20 30 days from the date of this publication. All interested parties should submit a letter of interest to the Zoning Inspector. The house must be moved within 50 150 days of this publication.

4. Notification to Martha's Vineyard Affordable Housing Organizations

- (a) By certified mail and email, the applicant shall send a copy of the published notice to the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority (DCRHA) and the Affordable Housing Committee in each town on Martha's Vineyard, and notify the Zoning Inspector of having done so.
- (b) The DCRHA and the Town Affordable Housing Committees shall have thirty (30) days from

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the date the applicant's notification was e-mailed or postmarked, whichever is earlier, to determine whether it or its assigns want the residential structure, and to so notify the Zoning Inspector. Such arrangements shall include a commitment to remove the residential structure within one hundred and fifty (150) days or such other time as is mutually agreeable.

4-5. Public Response Period

A published copy of this notice shall be presented to the Zoning Inspector. Interested parties shall have 20-30 days from the date of publication of the notice to respond in writing to the Zoning Inspector. If any bona fide letters of interest, as determined by the Zoning Inspector in accordance with the criteria set forth in Subsection C.6, are received within the first 20-30-day period, no demolition permit shall be issued for another 30 150 days, subject to earlier termination as provided in Subsection C.7. If no bona fide letters of interest are received within the first 20 30-day period, a demolition permit may be issued.

6. Criteria for Bona Fide Letters of Interest

A letter of interest shall be deemed bona fide by the Zoning Inspector only if it contains all of the following:

(a) The respondent's name, address, telephone number, and email address;

(b) Identification of a proposed relocation site for the building, including the street address or assessor's parcel number, and a statement as to whether the respondent holds legal title to the site, holds an option to purchase or is a party to an offer to purchase or purchase and sale agreement for the site, or has received written permission from the site owner to relocate the building thereto;

(c) A preliminary timeline for removal of the building from the applicant's property, which timeline shall not exceed the period specified in Subsection C.3;

(d) If the Zoning Inspector's determination under Subsection C.2 identifies potential physical barriers along routes of travel from the site, evidence demonstrating that the residential structure can feasibly be moved along the proposed transit path notwithstanding such barriers. Such evidence may include a written assessment from a licensed house mover confirming feasibility and describing how identified barriers will be addressed, documentation of required permits or approvals for temporary road closures, utility line adjustments, or tree removal, or other evidence satisfactory to the Zoning Inspector demonstrating that identified barriers can be overcome.

The Zoning Inspector shall evaluate letters of interest based solely on the completeness of the submission and the facial plausibility of the respondent's capacity to complete the relocation. The Zoning Inspector shall not evaluate the architectural merit of the respondent's plans or the desirability of the proposed relocation site. If the Zoning Inspector receives more than one letter of interest which meets the criteria of this Subsection C.6, the Zoning Inspector shall award the opportunity to the respondent who submits the bona fide letter of interest first.

7. Termination of Demolition Delay; Release of Applicant

(a) Milestone Requirements. Any respondent who has submitted a bona fide letter of interest shall, within ninety (90) days of the date of publication of the notice required by Subsection C.3:

- (i) Provide the Zoning Inspector with a copy of an executed contract with a licensed house mover; and
- (ii) Demonstrate that all permits required for the receiving site, including but not limited to a building permit, septic system permit, and any required zoning relief, have been applied for or obtained.

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(b) Failure to Meet Milestones. If the respondent fails to satisfy the requirements of Subsection C.7(a) within ninety (90) days, the Zoning Inspector shall issue written notice to the respondent and the applicant that the respondent's rights are terminated. The Zoning Inspector may thereafter award the opportunity to the next respondent who submitted a qualifying bona fide letter of interest, however in no event shall the relocation period extend beyond one hundred fifty (150) days from the date of the publication, unless otherwise agreed upon by the applicant and respondent. If there are no other bona fide letters of interest, a demolition permit may thereafter be issued to the applicant, provided all other requirements of this Section have been satisfied.

(c) Voluntary Withdrawal. A respondent may withdraw a letter of interest at any time by providing written notice to the Zoning Inspector. Upon receipt of such notice, and upon the Zoning Inspector's determination that no other bona fide letters of interest remain pending, the demolition delay period shall terminate and a demolition permit may be issued to the applicant.

(d) Extension by Agreement. The applicant and a respondent may, by written agreement filed with the Zoning Inspector, extend the relocation period beyond one hundred fifty (150) days. Such extension shall not require further public notice but shall be recorded by the Zoning Inspector and made available for public inspection.

(e) Liability and Maintenance During Delay Period. The applicant or owner of record shall remain responsible for securing, maintaining, and insuring the building throughout the demolition delay period. No respondent shall acquire any property interest in the building by virtue of submitting a letter of interest. The respondent shall indemnify and hold harmless the applicant, the owner of record, and the Town from any claims arising out of the respondent's inspection of, entry upon, removal, or subsequent use of the building.

(f) If the Zoning Inspector's determination under Subsection C.2 identifies potential physical barriers along routes of travel from the site, respondent must provide evidence demonstrating that the residential structure can feasibly be moved along the proposed transit path notwithstanding such barriers. Such evidence may include a written assessment from a licensed house mover confirming feasibility and describing how identified barriers will be addressed, documentation of required permits or approvals for temporary road closures, utility line adjustments, or tree removal, or other evidence satisfactory to the Zoning Inspector demonstrating that identified barriers can be overcome.

D. Issuance of Building, Use, or Occupancy Permit

1. If a building is subject to the demolition delay procedures of Subsection 10.1-2(C) C, no building permit shall be issued for the erection of a new building on the same site unless a demolition permit has been granted in compliance with this Section 10.1-2.

2. If a building subject to demolition delay requirements is voluntarily demolished in violation of this Section, no building permit shall be issued for new construction, and no use or occupancy permit shall be issued for any use other than as a park or recreational open space for a period of two years after the date of the demolition. This Subsection (b) D.2 applies to the entire parcel of land upon which the demolished building was located and all abutting parcels under common ownership or control. Owner could also be subject fines. The owner may also be subject to fines as provided by law.

3. The applicant (or the owner of record, if different from the applicant) shall be responsible for properly securing the building during the time that it is subject to review under this Section. If a building is subject to demolition

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delay and the applicant fails to secure the building, the loss of the building to fire or other causes shall be considered voluntary demolition for the purposes of this Section if the loss was caused at least in part by the applicant's failure to secure the building.

E. Required Demolition or Repair

Nothing in this Section shall restrict any authority in the general laws for the Zoning Inspector or Building Inspector to:

1. Order the building owner or Town to demolish a building at any time if it is determined that the condition of a building presents an imminent and substantial danger to the public health or safety; or

2. Require the building owner to take reasonable action to repair or protect a building to maintain its structural integrity. Such action may include securing the building and making it safe so that it does not present an imminent and substantial danger to the public.

F. Severability

The provisions of this Section 10.1-2 are severable. If any provision of this Section, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstance, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Section, and the application of its provisions to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby. The invalidity of any portion of this Section shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other portion.

(NO ACTION, 2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)

ARTICLE 19: To see if the town will vote to amend the following sections of the zoning bylaws by adding the language in **bold italic**, and deleting the strikethrough language:

• Section 14.2 Definitions In The Bylaw
SPORT COURT – A paved, synthetic, or otherwise improved outdoor surface of defined dimensions, designed or used for recreational or competitive play of racket sports, paddle sports, ball-and-goal sports, or other athletic activities requiring a delineated playing area, boundary markings, or fixed equipment such as nets, hoops, goals, walls, or backboards. This definition encompasses courts for tennis, pickleball, basketball, badminton, volleyball, handball, paddleball, padel, bocce, shuffleboard, and functionally similar activities, whether configured for single-sport or multi-sport use.

Section 3.1 Use Table:
Sport Court RU VR MB LI

	S	S	S	S	--
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– No sport court can be located within 50 feet of a property line abutting a residential use or residential zoning district. Any sport court located between 50 and 100 feet but not less than 50 feet of a property line abutting a residential use or residential zoning district shall incorporate sound attenuation measures approved by the Planning Board. Such measures may include solid perimeter fencing of not less than eight (8) feet in height constructed of acoustically absorptive or sound-deflecting materials, dense vegetative screening consisting of evergreen plantings capable of achieving a continuous visual and acoustic buffer within three (3) growing seasons, earthen berms, or a combination thereof sufficient to reduce sound transmission to abutting properties. The Board may require a noise impact assessment prepared by a qualified acoustical consultant for any sport court involving paddle sports or other uses the Board determines to generate elevated sound levels. All sport court lighting shall comply with section 8.6 of the Zoning Bylaw. Sections 4.4-2D1, 4.4-2D3, 8.6-3A and 14.2

(NO ACTION, 2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)

ARTICLE 20: To see if the town will vote to amend Section 8.5-4 Swimming Pools

A. Pools, General

4. In order to minimize noise impacts on neighbors, associated noise-producing pool equipment shall be located as far as possible from abutting properties, and at least the minimum required setback and shall be installed in a sound insulated enclosure.

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The enclosure does not require a roof as long as the walls are at least five (5) feet high and are made of solid materials with no spacing (gapless). Additional sound insulation is not required if the walls meet the above requirements. [As an example—vertical 1" x 4" wood boards, gapless, are an acceptable sound insulation barrier.]
(NO ACTION, 2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)

ARTICLE 21: 4.4-5 :EMPLOYEE DORMITORIES: To see if the town will vote to amend Section 4.4-5, EMPLOYEE DORMITORIES, by adding the language in **bold italic and removing the language shown as struck-through:**

Single-family and two-family dwellings and mixed-use buildings may be used as employee dormitories for up to eight ~~seasonal~~ residents **employed by a locally operated business or public sector employer satisfy the requirements of Section 4.4-4(A)-(2)**, provided that such dwellings are either owner-occupied or managed by a resident manager employed by one or more of the businesses or **public sector employers** which employ the residents, that adequate provision is made to monitor and enforce restrictions on noise, parking and other conditions that may be imposed through the Special Permit process and that the Board of Health approves of such use of the premises.
(2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)

ARTICLE 22: 4.4-7 C 1: HOMESITE LOTS: To see if the town will vote to amend Section 4.4-7.C.1 – Initial Conditions for Homesite Lots, Size of a Homesite Lot, by adding the language in **bold italic and removing the language shown as struck-through:**

C. Initial Conditions for Homesite Lots:
1. Size of a Homesite Lot: A newly created Homesite Lot (created under Section 4.4-7A.1. and 2. above) may be less than three (3) acres in size but not less than ~~one (1) acre~~ **one half (1/2) acre** and must have the approval of the Planning Board as a Homesite Lot. A Homesite Lot on an existing lot which does not satisfy minimum lot size requirements of the zoning bylaw and is not protected as a non-conforming lot (Section 4.4-7A.3., above) shall contain at least ~~10,000 square feet of buildable land area per bedroom and satisfy other~~ **all applicable Zoning and Board of Health requirements.**
(NO ACTION, 2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) to pay costs of repairing and/or replacing the HVAC system in the West Tisbury Police Department, including removal of failed system components, installation of new components, and related repairs to the building and grounds (i.e., interior walls and ceilings, utilities, paving and landscaping, or any site improvements) incidental or directly related thereto, and all related borrowing costs. To meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) as permitted by M.G.L. Chapter 44, § 7(1) or any other enabling authority; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation of total taxes imposed by M.G.L. Chapter 59, § 21C (Proposition 2 ½) the amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote, or take any other action relative thereto.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0, 2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate from Free Cash the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) to fund a Lease to Locals pilot program, including all costs incidental and related thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.
This program offers incentive payments to property owners who agree to convert their housing units away from short-term renting or sitting largely vacant, into year-round rentals for Provincetown West Tisbury residents.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

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ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to create a special purpose Housing Stabilization Fund under MGL c.40, §5B, with a purpose of supporting affordable housing in the Town, and vote to dedicate Fifty Percent (50%) of Rooms Excise Tax revenues to the Housing Stabilization Fund effective for fiscal year 2027 beginning on July 1, 2026, or take any other action relative thereto. Said funds in the Housing Stabilization Fund shall be expended by Town Meeting appropriation for housing-related purposes, including Lease to Locals.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0, 2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Eighty One Dollars (\$14,681) to support the CORE program to provide coordinated counseling, outreach, and referral services to our residents who are 55 years and older. Upon execution of the Inter-municipal Agreement with Dukes County, the County will serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of the Town, provided all six towns vote in the affirmative to pay their share.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Twenty Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$20,325) to support the planning, advocacy and education of Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard. Upon execution of the Inter-municipal Agreement with Dukes County, the County will serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of the Town, provided all six towns vote in the affirmative to pay their share.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Three Dollars (\$14,393) to support the Harbor Homes MV Homelessness Prevention Programs on Martha's Vineyard. Upon execution of the Inter-municipal Agreement with Dukes County, the County will serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of the Town, provided all six towns vote in the affirmative to pay their share.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2027 the sum of Ninety Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Seven Dollars (\$98,987) to support the Martha's Vineyard Center for Living Programs. Upon execution of the Inter-municipal Agreement with Dukes County, the County will serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of the Town, provided all six towns vote in the affirmative to pay their share.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Forty Dollars (\$14,240) to fund the Town of West Tisbury's share of the expenses of the All-Island School Committee's contract for continuing and community education in Fiscal Year 2027, provided all six towns vote in the affirmative to pay their share.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 31: To see if the town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) for the acquisition and installation of a rapid food waste recycler for use by town residents at the West Tisbury Local Drop-Off (LDO) which will process organic waste on-site into safe, soil-ready byproduct, including the payment of costs incidental and relevant thereto, or take any other action relative thereto in the interest of environmental sustainability.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) which is a one third share of \$45,000 to purchase one (1) new Life Pak 15 Cardiac Monitor and any other costs relative thereto.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

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ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) which is a one third share of \$45,000 to purchase one new response vehicle for TriTown Ambulance and any other costs relative thereto.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of Eighty Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Dollars and Thirty Three Cents (\$83,333.33) to be placed in the "Ambulance Stabilization Fund" which is to pay for the Town's one third share of the cost of purchasing and equipping a new ambulance.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for repairs and upgrades to town buildings as prioritized by the Facilities Maintenance Committee and the Select Board.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) in FY 2027 for the Unemployment Compensation Fund.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000) to be used by the Board of Assessors for the valuation update of real and personal property to meet the certification of values as required by Massachusetts State Law.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditure in Fiscal Year 2027 from revolving funds previously established by vote of the Town pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, § 53E1/2, and the Town's Revolving Fund Bylaw, for Fiscal Year 2027 to be credited with receipts from the following revenue sources, to be expended under the authority and direction of the following agencies or officials, for the following stated purposes, not to exceed the following spending limits respectively:

- Fund Wetlands Protection Bylaw
 - Revenue Source Filing fees
 - Authority to Spend Funds Conservation Commission
 - Use of Funds to pay for expenses of the Commission related to the administration of the Bylaw
 - Spending Limits \$3,000
- (RECOMMENDED 5-0)**

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to transfer to the Retired/ Separating Employees Compensated Absences Reserve Fund as provided for by M.G.L. c. 40, § 13D.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to act upon the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and set aside for later expenditure from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the Mass. General Laws, FY 2027 revenues, in the following amounts:

- a. Open Space reserve \$75,000 (10% of estimated FY 2027 Community Preservation Fund revenues)
- b. Historical Resources reserve \$75,000 (10% of estimated FY 2027 Community Preservation Fund revenues)
- c. Community Housing reserve \$75,000 (10% of estimated FY 2027 Community Preservation Fund revenues)
- d. Undesignated reserve \$487,500 (65% of estimated FY 2027 Community Preservation Fund revenues)

(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

And to appropriate for administrative expenditures the sum of Thirty-Sev-

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en Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$37,500) from the FY 2027 Community Preservation Fund revenues.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 41: To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) from the Community Preservation Community Housing Reserve Fund to Dukes County Regional Housing Authority to support the rental assistance program for West Tisbury residents.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 42: To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) from the Community Preservation Undesignated Reserve Fund as West Tisbury's share for the Island Autism Center and Neighborhood projects funding of this affordable housing project for construction of two four-bedroom residential units to house eight autistic Island residents. The development of this affordable housing is permanently deed restricted as affordable housing with a preference for Island residents with autism or autism related disorders, located at 515 Lamberts Cove Road in West Tisbury.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 43: To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) from the Community Preservation Undesignated Reserve Fund as West Tisbury's share for the Island Housing Trust's new construction of a neighborhood of 4 one-bedroom and 4 two-bedroom apartments for the purpose of providing housing for public school employees. The development of this affordable housing will be permanently deed restricted as affordable housing to be located at 40 & 48 Old Courthouse Road in West Tisbury.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 44: To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) from the Community Preservation Undesignated Reserve Fund as West Tisbury's share for Harbor Homes of Martha's Vineyard's creation/renovation of congregate housing for unhoused Islanders. The development of this affordable housing will be permanently deed restricted as affordable housing to be located at 111 New York Avenue, Oak Bluffs, 103 Tashmoo Avenue, Vineyard Haven and 515 Edgartown Road, Vineyard Haven.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 45: To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) from the Community Preservation Undesignated Reserve Fund to be transferred to the West Tisbury Affordable Housing Trust for future use toward affordable housing opportunities including search, predevelopment and legal fees associated with various other affordable housing projects that meet CPA guidelines.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 46: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate Ninety-Four Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars (\$94,584) from the Community Preservation Open Space – Recreation Reserve Fund to the MV Sharks Baseball Foundation, Inc. for renovation of the Vineyard Baseball Park field located at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 47: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate Sixty-Six Thousand Forty-One Dollars (\$66,041) from the Community Preservation Housing Reserve Fund to pay down principal and interest on the borrowing for the 401 State Road affordable housing development approved in Article 52 of the April 2025 Annual Town Meeting. Note: This is the second of a maximum of ten installations.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 48: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate Thirty-Three Thousand Twenty-One Dollars (\$33,021) from the Community Preservation Open Space – Recreation Reserve Fund, to pay down principal and interest on the borrowing for the West Tisbury Tennis/Basketball court

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restoration project approved in Article 54 of the April 2025 Annual Town Meeting. Note: This is the second of a maximum of ten installations.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 49: To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 34 of the April 2023 Annual Town Meeting to allow the remaining Fifty-One Thousand and Forty Dollars (\$51,040) appropriated for replacement of the Grange Hall roof to be used for Grange Hall window restoration.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 50: To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 51 of the April 2025 Annual Town Meeting to add the lot located at 40 Old Courthouse Road to the development as noted below: To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$354,750) from the Community Preservation Undesignated Reserve Fund as West Tisbury's share for the Island Housing Trust's new construction of a neighborhood of 4 one-bedroom and 4 two-bedroom apartments for the purpose of providing housing for school employees. The development of this affordable housing will be permanently deed restricted as affordable housing to be located at 40 & 48 Old Courthouse Road in West Tisbury.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 51: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) to be placed in the "Fire Truck Stabilization Fund" which is to pay for the Town's next purchase of a fire truck.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 52: To see if the Town will vote to Transfer the sum of Twenty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$27,000) from Line 145-5120 "Treasurer Personal Services" to Line 132-5799 "Reserve Fund".

ARTICLE 53: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of Sixty Four Thousand Dollars (\$64,000) to be paid to the Up Island Regional School District as the Town's share of the costs of the District's capital project to undertake an Educational Space Needs Study for the West Tisbury School building, including any other costs incidental and relative thereto; provided, however, that this appropriation shall not be effective unless each of the other member Towns of the District approve a corresponding appropriation for their respective share of the total project costs; or to take any other action relative thereto.
Article Information: *The estimated total cost of the UIRSD West Tisbury School Educational Space Needs Study project is \$80,000.*
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 54: To see if the Town will vote to instruct its senator and representative in the General Court to file a Home Rule Petition to the Massachusetts Legislature to read as follows:

AN ACT RELATIVE TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND OF THE TOWN OF WEST TISBURY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: West Tisbury Affordable Housing Trust Warrant Article 55, April 14, 2026. Notwithstanding any general or special law, or by-law, to the contrary, the West Tisbury Affordable Housing Trust, established pursuant to G. L. c. 44, sec. 55 C, may expend funds for community housing for households earning up to 180 percent of the County of Dukes County median household income as reported from time to time by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, except for any Community Preservation Act funds which will be subject to the income limits set forth in the Community Preservation Act.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 55: To see if the Town will vote to amend the West Tisbury Affordable Housing Trust Fund, codified in West Tisbury General Bylaw,

WEST TISBURY: WARRANT

adopted at the West Tisbury Town Meeting on April 11, 2006, to increase the West Tisbury Affordable Housing Trust's maximum allowable expenditure on projects serving households whose income is at or below 180% of the Area Mean Income for Dukes County, as established annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 56: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of Six Hundred Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred Forty Dollars (\$613,340) to reduce the tax levy in Fiscal Year 2027.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof in not less than six (6) public places in West Tisbury at least seven days before the holding of such meeting.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of Meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands 11th Day of March in the Year Two Thousand Twenty Six.

Cynthia E. Mitchell
Chair
J. Skipper Manter
Jessica D. Miller

WEST TISBURY SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

WEST TISBURY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

County of Dukes County, SS
To Either of the Constables of the Town of West Tisbury,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of West Tisbury qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs to meet in the **West Tisbury Elementary School**, Old County Road, in said Town on **Tuesday the Fourteenth day of April, two thousand and twenty-six, at Five Fifty-Five o'clock** in the evening; then and there to act on the articles of this Warrant.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Nine Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$9,570) for a new handicap ramp at the Dukes County Health Care Access Building at 114 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, to support the planning, construction, and other related work as necessary, provided all six towns vote their share.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred Twelve Dollars (\$15,312) for the Dukes County Courthouse, 81 Main Street, Edgartown, to support roof repair, trim paint, and related activities as necessary, provided all six towns vote their share.
(RECOMMENDED 5-0)

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof in not less than six (6) public places in West Tisbury fourteen days (14) at least before the holding of such meeting.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of Meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 25th Day of March in the Year Two Thousand Twenty Six.

Cynthia E. Mitchell
Chair
Jeffrey S. "Skipper" Manter
Jessica D. Miller

Vineyard tennis falls to Cape Cod Academy

Head Coach Jock Cooperrider brings local expertise to the program, with a focus on mental fortitude. **BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA**

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) boys varsity tennis team kicked off their season on Monday with a hard-fought 3-2 loss to the Cape Cod Academy Seahawks at the Island's Ned Fennessey Courts.

This was also the debut game for new Vineyard Head Coach Jock Cooperrider, who said he saw promise in the young squad that battled through windy conditions on Monday.

Wind gusts as high as 40 mph tested the players throughout the March 30 home opener. Cooperrider, a 2010 MVRHS graduate, said the elements were just as formidable as Cape Cod Academy.

"I told the guys beforehand, 'You're not really playing the team or the opponent as much as you're going to be playing the elements,'" Cooperrider told The Times.

Both of the Vineyard's doubles squads claimed dominant victories over Cape Cod. MVRHS juniors Henry Hall and Aeneas Forrester defeated Cape Cod's Rowan Lewison and Austin Newhall, 6-1 and 6-0, and the Island's junior-freshman combo, Jayden Kuller and Carter Masselli, took down the Seahawks's Theo Draper and Nicholas Brown, 6-1 and 6-0.

On the singles side, the boys battled hard, but the results were mixed. Sophomore Nate Walsh, on third singles, won his first set 6-1 before falling 4-6 in the second, and 4-6 in the tiebreaker. Freshman Moses Thomson in second singles was playing in his very first high school career tennis match. He said the nerves and the wind got the better of him, but he learned. Thomson fell 6-1 and 6-1 to Cape Cod's Garrett Wilson.

"[I was] a little nervous, and the wind was a huge factor," said Thomson after his match.

The Vineyarders were tied 2-2 with Cape Cod Academy as everyone gathered at the first singles court to watch Vineyard senior Tommy Flynn battle with the Seahawks' Ben Catalano in a match that lasted more than 2½ hours. Cape Cod's coaches said that Catalano has not lost a match in three years. Flynn lost the first set 3-6, won the second 6-2, and fell in the tiebreaker 2-6.

Cooperrider said he was proud of Flynn's resilience throughout the match. "I was

really proud of Tommy's battling," said Cooperrider. "I thought that kid [he played] was pretty solid."

Just days before the boys' season started, MVRHS Athletic Director Mark McCarthy said they were still looking for a dedicated head coach. When Cooperrider, 33, said he could step into the role, the Island's tennis community collectively exhaled in relief.

Cooperrider was a dominant force in the program from 2007 to 2010, and laid the groundwork for the 2012 and 2013 teams who earned state championships. Cooperrider has taught tennis lessons at Farm Neck Golf Club since he was 14 years old, and continues to work at the club part-time while working full-time selling trips to major tennis tournaments.

Cooperrider said as an Islander who grew up within the close-knit tennis community, he felt compelled to step up when he heard the team was scrambling for a coach after Nicole Macy retired after last season.

"The tennis community here has been a big part of my life for a long time," said Cooperrider.

"I just had to step in. It didn't look like anybody was able to do it," he said. "It was just really important to me that I can give back a little and try to give a little expertise. This is a young team, and there's 15 kids hungry to play, and have been playing all winter, and they deserved a good opportunity, and I just couldn't watch that go the wrong way."

The boys' Vineyard tennis team returned this season with only a few starters from last year's squad, who dominated in league play, taking the Cape and Islands League title with a 16-1 record, and making a strong postseason run before falling in the semifinals to the Weston High School Wildcats, 5-0.

Cooperrider said despite having a young roster, they have depth, and are hungry to compete. His primary focus for the team is going to be incremental improvement and mental resilience.

"My goal with them is just to get a little better, each practice, to teach these guys how to play these matches when — whether it's windy, whether you're off-Island and you're tired — and just mentally prepare for all these different



Freshman Moses Thomson in the Vineyard team's home opener.

PHOTOS: NICHOLAS VUKOTA



Senior Tommy Flynn at the Vineyard tennis home opener.

little knick-knack things," said Cooperrider. "I think that's something I can give them with my experience and playing. I know that you lose on days where you should win, and you win on days when you should lose. If you can just be consistent mentally every day, and even when you lose some points, you should win."

Cooperrider said one thing he noticed the team struggling with on Monday was moving on mentally from a point that doesn't go your way, and looking ahead to the next one. "That's one thing I really was talking to

them at the end about is being able to move on from points that don't go your way," said Cooperrider. "It's easy to get a little down and let that take over the next handful of points, and that can hurt you. If I can just teach them how to have quick memories and just get ready for the next one, that's super-important."

Despite the early loss, the Vineyard team will use it as a learning experience and motivation for the season. "I think we're going to be a force out there," he said. "I'm excited to be a part of it." **MVT**

MVTimes mvtimes.com

Martha's Vineyard

ARTS & IDEAS

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Vineyard baseball beats Nantucket in home opener

Six MVRHS teams went head-to-head with Island rivals on Saturday.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA



MVRHS senior Eli Bryant (No. 5) throws a strike against Nantucket.



Junior Leo Napior (No. 11) crosses home plate against Nantucket.

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) spring sports season launched into full swing on Saturday with a full day of inter-Island rivalry games against the Nantucket Whalers. The varsity baseball team's game was the highlight of the day; the boys defeated the Whalers 8-4 in their home opener.

Head Coach Patrick Moore said he was pleased with the team's opening game, despite some early season kinks they needed to work out.

"It's awesome," said Moore of the rivalry win. "It's fun watching the guys gear up for it, because I know it means a lot to them. It always feels a little bit better to knock those guys down."

Senior captain and right-handed pitcher Eli Bryant (No. 5) started on the mound for the Vineyarders, delivering four straight shutout innings, and striking out five of the Whalers' batters. Bryant's pitching generated grounders that the Vineyarders fielded with discipline to keep Nantucket off the scoreboard early.

The Vineyard's offense came alive early too, stacking eight runs in the first two innings for a strong lead. After the Vineyarders scored only a run in the first inning, junior Peter Williamson (No. 6) opened up the second inning with a ground ball back up the middle. The Vineyarders loaded the bases, and junior Leo Napior (No. 11) drove in a run with a pop fly that the Whalers' infielders lost sight of in the sunlight. A walk brought in another run before senior captain Lathrop Keene (No. 1) ripped a bases-loaded grounder that got through the infield for two more runs. The Vineyarders batted through their lineup, and then when Williamson was up again, he pulled a hit to left field this time, to drive in two more runs before Nantucket switched pitchers and closed out the second inning.

The Vineyarders kept Nantucket's scoring low throughout the next few innings; Williamson relieved Bryant in the fifth. Williamson got the Vineyarders out of the fifth inning, and struck a batter out in the sixth before senior Cris Cardoza took the mound to close. The



PHOTOS: NICHOLAS VUKOTA



Joe Medeiros (No. 15) connects with a Nantucket pitch.

Whalers were able to get four runs in later innings. It was the Vineyarders' Keene who made the final play, catching a high fly in center field and firing it to first base before Nantucket's runner made it back, for a double play, to close out the win 8-4.

Moore said it was a team effort, but the team's pitching gave them the space they needed to win. Williamson, who was playing in his first varsity game ever, was a key player, going three-for-three at bat, and gaining valuable pitching experience on the mound.

"Eli [Bryant] gave us a good start. Peter [Williamson] came in, new to varsity this year. It was good to give him some game experience; he came in and did all right. Then [Cris] Cardoza came in and shut it down for us," said Moore. "Williamson, man, he had a great game for us."

The Vineyarders (1-0) traveled to Falmouth on Wednesday after our deadline for a 4 pm opening pitch at Guv Fuller Field. Keene, one of the Vineyard's top pitchers, is expected to start on the mound. Falmouth defeated the Vineyarders twice in three meetings last season.

"Falmouth is always a good matchup for us. That's a tough team," said Moore. "One of the things that we talk about with the guys when we go out and face a team like that is toughness. You're just gonna have to be ready to compete, and you can't waver in the big moments."

Team captain Bryant, who is committed to Endicott College for baseball, said the team has trained together a lot in the off-season, and it's

showing in their improved performance.

"I think we look pretty good," Bryant said. "Our hitting is way better than it was last year at this time. Our fielding is way better, and pitching looks good. I think overall we could have a really good season if we keep on track."

Keene, a team captain committed to Roger Williams University, said they need to focus on consistency moving forward. "We have to come out strong every game, every single inning," said Keene. "Errors were probably our biggest problem today."

Moore said the goal this season is to qualify for the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association state playoffs and win the league.

"We do have a lot of new faces up here this year, but we're excited about this group for sure. We're kind of going through the early season struggling with just some growing pains, but this team is good," said Moore. "They respond well to adversity, and they respond well to coaching, so we have a lot to look forward to." **MVT**

Elsewhere on Saturday:

- **Boys varsity tennis** defeated Nantucket 3-2 at home
- **Boys varsity lacrosse** lost to Nantucket 4-11 at home
- **Girls varsity tennis** swept Nantucket 5-0 at Nantucket
- **Girls varsity lacrosse** lost to Nantucket 1-15 at Nantucket
- **Varsity softball** lost to Nantucket 6-15 at Nantucket

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

MVTimes

community & calendar

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

Lobsterville Beach
popping with progress.

Guardians of the dunes

Beach grass planting supported by community roots. **SEE B14**

COURTESY NATURAL RESOURCES DEPT., WAMPANOAG TRIBE (AQUINNAH)

ISLANDERS
WRITE

"Write about it." Those are the words my novelist mother would say whenever I was upset about something. Even when I was tearful or furious because of something she had uttered or done. It was always the same advice: "Write about it."

It's advice that I have taken, and I have given to others — although not with the same no-frills three-word directive that my mother used. As the director of the literary festival Islanders Write, which is put on by The MV Times, my approach to encouraging people to write about it has been to bring aspiring writers together with established ones. To ask biographers and novelists, memoirists and cookbook authors, journalists and children's book authors to discuss their craft. And to convene writers working across genres for conversations about what it means to create a well-rounded character, or an unreliable narrator; how to write compelling dialogue, a fascinating essay, or to debate whether it's OK to write about what you don't know.

For the first time since we launched Islanders Write in 2014, this summer's event will take place in mid-July, rather than in August. It will kick off on the evening of Wednesday, July 15, and continue throughout the day on Thursday, July 16.

Thursday's happenings begin with Judith Hannan's early morning "Wake Up and Write!" workshop, which will lead into a day of panel discussions focused



ILLUSTRATION: KATE FEIFFER

Write about it

And pitch it at Islanders Write.

BY KATE FEIFFER

on the art, craft, and business of writing. I am still in the throes of figuring out who will be speaking and what topics we will be covering, but I can confirm that the Pitch Panel will be returning to Islanders Write, and even though July might seem far away, we are now seeking pitches from writers who want to pitch their book project live at the event.

The Pitch Panel is made up of a publisher and editor, literary agent, author, and publishing executive who offer advice live at the event about the pitch they've just heard, and the project. Pitching your book is a necessary skill when traveling down the road to publication; learning the ins and outs of pitching your book will help open doors that like to remain shut.

If you are a writer with a book project and you're interested in pitching it live at Islanders Write, please go to islanderswrite.com or email me a short description of the book and a short bio. My email address is kate@mvtimes.com.

We consider all genres for the Pitch Panel. In fact, we want all genres! The pitches that will ultimately be chosen will reflect a variety of genres. We like to hear pitches for a novel, a nonfiction book, a memoir, a children's book, etc. Why? In part, because the feedback from the Pitch Panel, while specific to the book being pitched, is incredibly useful for any

of us working on a book project — regardless of genre or topic. And in part, because we know the people joining us at the event are working on a wide variety of books.

Writers will have three minutes to make their book pitch, and then they will hear from the members of the Pitch Panel. Please note that you must be on the Vineyard and at the event to make your pitch.

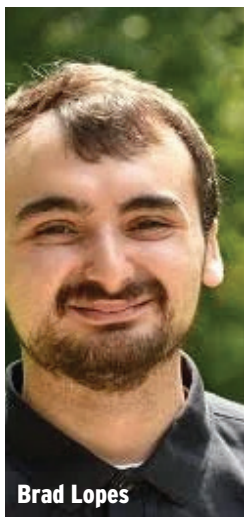
For books that have been successfully pitched, and published, Edgartown Books will have an onsite pop-up bookstore, and will be hosting Islanders Write author signings throughout the event.

From its inception, Islanders Write has been focused on bringing together writers who are connected to the Vineyard. It's where you will meet authors who live, visit, create, and struggle through writer's block on the Island, which is one of the many reasons we love holding the event at Featherstone Center for the Arts — a gallery that promotes and celebrates Vineyard-connected artists. During this summer's Islanders Write, the gallery will be showing a photography exhibit curated by Michael Johnson — who took one of the Vineyard's most iconic photos, "Joy"; the image is of a circle of swimmers on an early morning in Oak Bluffs with arms raised above their heads — and is of work by photographers who have presented at Featherstone's Tuesday Photo Salons over the past 15 years.

Islanders Write programming and mission have expanded over the past 12 years. Early on we partnered with the Island libraries to launch the "Islanders Read the Classics" program. For the past two years, we have held a March event at Featherstone. And in 2025, we launched the Island Writer program, an exciting initiative that mentors and funds a new generation of Island journalists. For more information on Islanders Write and Islanders Write programs, go to islanderswrite.com. **MVT**

I can confirm that the Pitch Panel will be returning to Islanders Write, and even though July might seem far away, we are now seeking pitches from writers who want to pitch their book project live at the event.

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

'Wutahkeemôwun': Best practices for working with indigenous content

Brad Lopes

The Vineyard Haven library welcomes Wôpanâak educator Brad Lopes for a workshop on best practices for approaching indigenous content, working with native communities, and building relationships with sovereign tribal nations.

For many native students and staff, school can

be challenging. With roots in settler colonialism, schools today often fail to reflect the traditional pedagogies and methodologies native people have employed for millennia. Participants will learn about and discuss multiple pedagogies and methodologies grounded in indigenous practices and traditions. Exploring epistemologies thousands

of years old, this workshop aims to prepare participants to best support Wampanoag and other native students, staff, and community members.

Brad Lopes is an Aquinnah Wampanoag citizen and lifelong educator currently working in the traditional homelands of his people. He serves as the education manager for the Aquinnah Wampanoag tribal education department and as the education and public programs manager for the Aquinnah Cultural Center, an Aquinnah Wampanoag museum located on Nôepe (Martha's Vineyard).

This workshop is designed for educators, but noneducators are also welcome to attend. Free and open to the public. No registration required. Tuesday, April 14, 6 pm, at the Tisbury EMS Facility, located at 215 Spring St. in Vineyard Haven. Attendees may park in the rear of the building and enter through the back entrance. For more information, please contact the library at vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Community poetry reading

A community poetry reading will take place at the West Tisbury library on Sunday, April

12, from 12 to 1 pm. Community members are invited to share their own poems and/or the poems of others, and can attend as a reader or a listener or both. This event is hosted by West Tisbury Poet Laureate Adriana Stimola. Numbers will be drawn from a hat to determine the reading order. There is no sign-up required. Free and open to the public. Doors open at 11:45 am. For more information, please email wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

'Life and Death of the Salt Marsh' talk at M.V. Museum

Scientists Neil Ganju, Rachel Jakuba, and Susan Teal will join Buzzards Bay Coalition president Mark Rasmussen to discuss the 57-year-old landmark book "Life and Death of the Salt Marsh." The book was published in 1969, and was recently reprinted by the coalition. The authors, John and Mildred Teal, motivated a generation of coastal citizens and lawmakers to

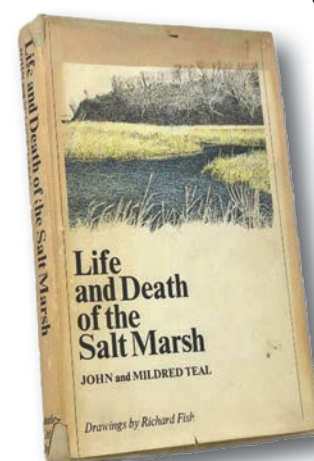
advocate for salt marshes.

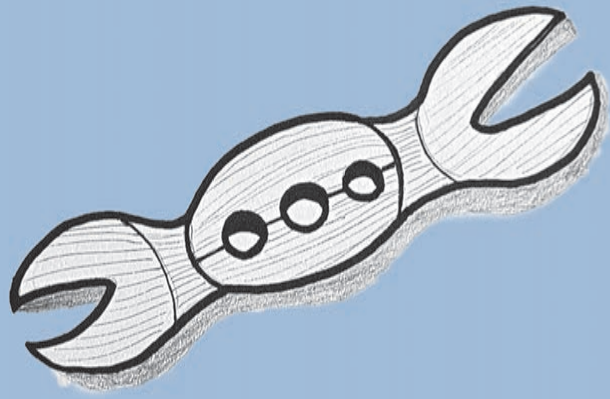
The panel will examine the book's ongoing relevance, as well as the importance of local salt marshes in a time when climate change's rising sea levels are a continuing threat to many marshes.

Copies are available at Bunch of Grapes Bookstore in Vineyard Haven, Eight Cousins Books in Falmouth, the WHOI gift shop in Woods Hole, and directly from the Coalition savebuzzardsbay.org/books.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition is a nonprofit organization supported by its membership, dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and sustainable use and enjoyment of Buzzards Bay and its watershed. With a mission to enhance the health of the bay ecosystem for all, the coalition engages in outdoor exploration, preservation, research, and advocacy efforts, supported by more than 14,000 members.

Wednesday, April 15, from 5 to 6 pm at the Martha's Vineyard Museum, 151 Lagoon Pond Road, Vineyard Haven. **MVT**





A Little Humor: The suspicious tool

One man's trash, another man's treasure.
BY ALLISON ROBERTS

ILLUSTRATION: ALLISON ROBERTS

It's spring! And with spring come flowers, muddy dog paws, and lots of garage sales. Listings of items on "MV Stuff 4 Sale" and other sites are also picking up speed. Recently, I was scrolling through these sites, because I didn't want to organize my taxes, and came upon the following post: "Suspicious tool found."

Now, I have some questions — mostly because I still don't want to organize my taxes. First of all, what exactly makes this tool suspicious? Was it peeking into people's windows? Was it asking for money? Did it pass out on someone's back porch? Does it match the description of a tool that recently committed

a crime? Does it have a cord? If so, is this cord long enough to strangle someone with? Is the tool sharp enough to cut through say, a tree or a femur bone? How big is it? Could it hide out in some-

perfectly sober, sane tool, beloved by a carpenter who is home right now crying because it's missing. Jeez. We need to take it easy on the assumption-making. OK, fine, I'll go organize my taxes.

Look, just because this tool isn't familiar to the person who found it doesn't make it suspicious. Maybe it's a perfectly sober, sane tool, beloved by a carpenter who is home right now crying because it's missing.

one's pocket undetected, and randomly leap out onto an unsuspecting passerby?

Look, just because this tool isn't familiar to the person who found it doesn't make it suspicious. Maybe it's a

If you need a little help with your taxes, there are several local CPA firms and tax services, including Vineyard Tax Matters in Vineyard Haven, H&R Block in Oak Bluffs, and free tax assistance via the Community Action Committee of Cape Cod and Islands (CACCI) VITA program for qualifying individuals, that can assist you. If you're 60 or older, the Up-Island Council on Aging (UICOA) has your back. Call 508-693-2896 for information on local tax assistance and property tax work-off programs. **MVT**

Writing From The Heart

BY NANCY SLONIM ARONIE



The joy
of reversing
course.

Rescind Naples

So we didn't go to Florida. And the first thing I said when we canceled our flight, our car rental, our Steamship reservation was, OMG, now I

have to write another piece. I probably got more than 100 emails from you all, with so much celebration and love; messages like: So happy you're going to Naples. You deserve it. So happy you're going somewhere warm. Thrilled for you that you are better, and Joel gave in.

From the minute I made the JetBlue reservations, I felt guilty. I knew in my heart of hearts that Joel acquiescing to flying, knowing what he knows (let's reiterate, for those who forgot or didn't read my last column) — every gallon of jet fuel puts out 20 pounds of carbon dioxide, and that flight would have been 60,000 pounds of carbon dioxide; to be even more specific, 400 pounds for two people in a Prius and 900 pounds

for two people by jet — went against every fiber of his planet-loving being.

It was an act of pure love that he said yes when I said I need sun. I need heat. I need pink. I need yellow. I need green. I can't look at this brown and gray any more. And because I had just undergone this major health event, he didn't hes-

itate. His yes came faster than the palpitations that got me flown in a helicopter to Mass General four months ago.

So here's what happened. We went to a wedding in Washington, D.C. One of the most meaningful, beautiful weddings we've ever been to.

I had Googled the weather beforehand, and packed accordingly. We drove, that is correct, we drove the Prius (48 miles to the gallon)

from Woods Hole to D.C.

As we were approaching Connecticut, I took off my big down jacket. When we got to the Jersey turnpike, I turned off the heat in the car. When we got to Delaware, I took off my heavy wool sweater. When we got to Maryland, I changed from my fleece pants to my cotton yoga pants. By the time we checked into our magnificent hotel in D.C., I was wearing a T shirt and pedal pushers.

Outside the entrance, there were two pink — in full bloom — Yoshino cherry trees. (I only know the name because I asked.) They were just flowers to me. But not just. Flowers that were making me exhale for the first time since maybe before my surgery.

We checked in in time to change for the dinner and the Friday night party. On our way to the restaurant, the yellow of the Cornelian cherry dogwood felt like spring was springing specifically for me with every step I took. The party was sheer joy. The food was spectacular, and the love in the room was palpable.

My being able to think about my husband and not need to gild the lily with another trip South makes me wonder if, when they opened my heart, something more than the valves got healed.

We had all day Saturday free, so Joel and I walked the charming Dupont Circle neighborhood. Everyone was out. Runners running, parents pushing carriages, dogs walking their owners. It was the best of what cities can be. And here's the kicker: It was 86°. We sat outside (yes, outside) at a café, and I actually sunbathed! I found a spot on my face without a deep crevice. Apparently I'm working to fill that in.

That early evening, walking to the wedding venue, the street was lined with purple saucer magnolias. (Lest you think I have become an arborist in the past few weeks, don't forget I wouldn't have known the names if someone hadn't told me.) The point isn't the names. The point is, Washington was bursting with beauty and heat, and I felt it right into my bones.

On the way back to the Vineyard, I said to my driver, the self-appointed energy czar, Joel Aronie: I don't have to go to Florida.

He looked at me and said, Are you serious? We can cancel? Yup, I said. I got exactly what I needed. That heat, that sun, those trees, being outside and ambling in the warmth, instead of rushing to get out of the cold, was just what the doctor ordered. Probably literally, too, if I had asked her what was the best thing I could do after open-heart surgery.

My being able to think about my husband and not need to gild the lily with another trip South makes me wonder if, when they

opened my heart, something more than the valves got healed.

Meanwhile, thank you, all of you who wrote supporting my trip to Naples. I hope you feel just as happy for me that I was able to cancel, which was my act of pure love.

Before you get too happy, and before you think I'm an unselfish high being, just wait till next winter, when I use the travel refund to rebook. **MVT**

Cribbage Club results



BY SAMANTHA BURNS

The pleasant temperatures may have caused a rare local phenomenon known as Cribbage Migration, in which residents emerge from their winter hiding places and warmer winter residences, blink at the sunshine, and suddenly feel the need to count 15s and complain about missed pegs.

The arrival of new player Michelle Fokos added even more excitement to the night, with club regulars offering a warm welcome, a few gentle rules, and, naturally, several conflicting explanations of how scoring really works. The newcomer handled it all with admirable calm.

Twenty-seven members of the Vineyard Cribbage Club met on Wednesday night to play our favorite game! The results of the night were as follows:

First, with a GRAND SLAM, Ron Ferreira with a 14/ +118 card
Second, Andria Jason with an 11/5 +117 card
Third, Bill Russell

with a 10/5 +52 card
Fourth, Samantha Cron with a 9/4 +80 card
Fifth, Frank Fenner with a 9/4 +36 card
Sixth, David Pothier with a 9/4 +34 card

There were FOUR 24-point hands, dealt to Andria Jason, Sharon Barba, Bill Russell, and Ed Montesion. Third-place winner Bill Russell also got an infamous FLUSH crib, while newcomer Michelle Fokos scored a rare 23-point hand, and will receive a warm, welcoming string of pearls. Welcome to the club, Michelle! Twelve skunks were suffered, and two players were hit with a string of pearls.

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

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



TOWN COLUMNS

Tisbury



Excerpts compiled by Ella Munnely

Last week, Kay Mayhew, the Tisbury town columnist since 1987, broke the news to her readers that her time with the column is ending. “Too many birthdays and now lung cancer have now cut my time short,” she wrote in a sign-off letter to the town.

Her readers love her signature opening and kicker — “Heard on Main Street.” Over the next few weeks, while we await a new columnist to carry the torch, we’re reviewing some of our favorites from over the years. To welcome

the first week of April, here are Mayhew’s signature “Heard on Main Street” quips from this very week, over the past decades.

Heard on Main Street: Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live. –April 1, 2025

Heard on Main Street: It is a fact that the second mouse gets the cheese. –April 1, 2025

Heard on Main Street: The pursuit of happiness is the goal of a lifetime! It is never too late to become what you

might have been. –April 3, 2024

Heard on Main Street: Friends are like balloons; once you let them go, you might not get them back. Sometimes we get so busy with our own lives and problems that we may not even notice that we’ve let them fly away. –April 3, 2024

Heard on Main Street: Borrow money from pessimists — they don’t expect it back. –April 5, 2023

Heard on Main Street: A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory. –April 5, 2023

Heard on Main Street:

Have you noticed? Experience is something you don’t get until just after you need it. –April 5, 2022

Heard on Main Street: The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread. –April 5, 2022

Heard on Main Street: It’s a lot easier to get older than it is to get wiser. –April 7, 2021

Heard on Main Street: When it is dark enough, you can see the stars. –April 1, 2020

Heard on Main Street: Try to find pleasure in the trip as we ride this wave together.

–April 1, 2020

Heard on Main Street: Friends are like seashells we collect along the way. Any day is a good day to collect seashells and friends. –April 3, 2019

Heard on Main Street: Old age is when your classmates are so gray and wrinkled and bald that they don’t recognize you. –April 3, 2019

Heard on Main Street: Spring, glorious spring, has finally come. Except it is still pretty cold. –April 4, 2018

Heard on Main Street: It’s time for spring cleaning. Be sure to keep anything

useful, beautiful, or joyful. –April 5, 2017

Heard on Main Street: Ski the Vineyard! –April 5, 2016

Heard on Main Street: Is it still snowing? –April 1, 2015

Heard on Main Street: We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty, and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box. –April 2, 2014

Heard on Main Street: It must be spring. Never mind the pinkletinks, the snowbirds have returned. –April 3, 2013 **MVT**

Heard on Main Street:
The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.

If you know anyone who might be interested in becoming the new Tisbury town columnist, please reach out to Nicole Galland directly, at nicolegalland@mvtimes.com.

Edgartown



By Marnely Murray
marnely@gmail.com

On April 11, the Edgartown Patrolman’s Association is excited to invite our Edgartown seniors to their annual Senior Dinner, at 2 pm at 19 Raw Oyster Bar. To sign up to attend, please call the Edgartown Council on Aging at 508-627-4368.

That same day, on April 11, maybe I’ll see you at the 26th annual Martha’s Vineyard Hospital Community Health Fair, which is sched-

uled between 8 am and noon at the hospital. There are 36 vendors and 14 hospital departments that have signed on to participate, which is exciting! I attended last year, and left with so

much great information. This year there will be a panel of experts discussing alpha-gal syndrome, a chair yoga session, free lipid panels, oral health screenings, plus lots of free giveaways, and chances to win prizes! Full details can be found on the website at healthfair.mvhevents.org.

Need childcare during the Edgartown Town Meeting on April 14? Please fill out this form, bit.ly/414CARE, to sign up. Children must

be ages 4 and up. Drop-off in the downstairs Baylies Room starting at 6:30 pm. Free childcare generously funded by the Friends of the Edgartown Public Library, in partnership with the Firemen’s Association and the Patrolman’s Association.

Looking for a fun spring-time event to attend? On April 16 from 5 to 7 pm, head to Sea Spa Salon on 17 Winter St. for its “Sip, Stretch, and Polish — Spring Open House

Pop-Up,” in partnership with Vintage M.V. Wine & Spirits, Vineyard Vinyasa, and Kenworthy in Nevin Square, Edgartown. Stop in for a mini wine tasting, relax in a yoga lounge curated by Vineyard Vinyasa, and enjoy a fun nail-art mini experience, plus the chance to book your spring manicure and pedicure appointments and shop Kenworthy deals. A feel-good evening celebrating local businesses in downtown Edgartown.

Looking ahead at June events you need to sign up now for, the Chappy Community Center is delighted to invite you to the third annual Chappy Classic, which will take place on the beautiful Royal and Ancient

Chappaquiddick Links on June 20. Sign up at bit.ly/Z_CCC_Classic. Cost is \$100 for individual players and \$400 for a four-person team. Reach out to Tina Humber-Floyd at chappyccenter@gmail.com or call 508-627-8222 with questions or for more information.

Birthday wishes go out to Hilary Greene on April 11, Camilla Adams and Brian Murray (the latter being my dear husband!) on April 12, Heather Mangione on April 13, James Arsenaault on April 15, and on April 16, a special birthday shout-out goes to Meg Archer, who loves Edgartown and reads us all the way from Ohio! Cheers to you all; may your days be filled with lots of love! **MVT**

Need childcare during the Edgartown Town Meeting on April 14? Children must be ages 4 and up.

Oak Bluffs



By Joanne Lambert
joannelamber@gmail.com

“I think that I shall never see /A poem lovely as a tree.” –Joyce Kilmer

This windy winter has done a number on trees all over the Island. Lots of cleanup is in progress already, and piles of branches along roadsides are a normal visual these days. Pine trees seemed to take the worst beating, especially from the blizzard.

The Oak Bluffs Tree Stewards need you! This group

has been doing a fantastic job planting and maintaining new trees throughout our town. On April 18, volunteers are needed to plant 10 more trees in town parks. Meet at Niantic Park at 9 am to split into teams to do the planting. Dress appropriately — gloves are helpful, and you can bring your own tools, though they will be provided as well. This effort will bring the total number of trees planted to 60! For more info, contact

pmeleney@comcast.com.

The M.V. Hospital annual Health Fair is Saturday, April 11, from 8 am till noon. More than 50 vendors will be sharing their services. There will be free health screenings and informative workshops, including topics like tick-borne illnesses. All town Councils on Aging are offering free shuttles to the hospital for the Health Fair. Contact abhoughton@mgb.org for more information.

After the Health Fair, head over to the library for an

afternoon concert. From 2 to 3 pm, enjoy “The Great American Songbook,” featuring timeless standards by Cole Porter, Gershwin, and others, performed by Darby Patterson and David Mintz. This community offering is funded by the M.V. Cultural Council, with thanks to the O.B. library for hosting!

I talked last week about town meeting and voting coming up on April 14 and 16. The town meeting warrant includes a proposal for the town to take ownership of the Island

Theatre. I do not claim to have the financial expertise to know if eminent domain is the right process, but all I can say is Hallelujah! that something can finally be done. That condemned building has been an eyesore and embarrassment for this town for too long. Can you just imagine that corner of Circuit Ave. with a clean and fitting building — or maybe a small park with benches and shade trees? I know the theatre was iconic, and the memories are strong. But I’m glad

the town is ready to move on from the crumbling, defaced structure there now.

Happy birthday to Donnie Combra on April 9! He shares the day with Beth Kaeka, Richard Giordano, Kelly Metell, and Ann Palches. Sandy Ciciora celebrates on the 10th, Carleen Cordwell on April 11! She shares the day with Diane St. Pierre and Newell Isbell-Shinn. Michael Rebelo celebrates his day on the 12th. Send a happy-birthday cartoon to Kathy Ham on April 13. Happy Birthday hugs go to Miss Skylia Blue Zacharski on April 14! Birthday wishes for Leslie Look on the 14th, and a big Meow birthday to my grandcat, Sheriff Sylvia. Send me your news! **MVT**

The M.V. Hospital annual Health Fair is Saturday, April 11, from 8 am till noon. More than 50 vendors will be sharing their services.



A Monthly Newsletter from your local **Councils on Aging** and the **Martha’s Vineyard Center for Living**

Find helpful information on **Veterans Services, Travel News, Activities, Individual Town Councils on Aging and more!**

To place your ad email, adsales@mvtimes.com or call 508-693-6100.

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

Aquinnah



By Kathie Olsen
aquinnahcolumn@gmail.com

Spring. It's a time of miracles. A time of watching flowers and grasses pop up through the ground after their long winter nap. A time that is celebrated throughout the world, in festivities that celebrate the rising of the sap in the trees, the advent of fresh life sprouting on what had appeared to be dead branches, the birth of tiny creatures, and even the return of the bugs. It's a time of hope. We celebrated here in

Aquinnah with what has become a tradition, the annual Kite Festival. Usually held on Easter, this year it took place on the Saturday before Easter in a bow to the rain forecast for Easter Sunday. Dozens of colorful kites danced and fluttered in the beautiful blue sky over the Aquinnah Circle as the sea sparkled below. Seniors and toddlers and every age in between could be seen heads up, arms raised, pulling or running, or simply admiring as their kites

went up, up, up, or crashed to the ground, waiting to be retrieved and sent into the winds again. It was a glorious greeting to the new season.

A new season may bring the chance to make a new friend. On Friday, April 10 at noon, the Up-Island Council on Aging is hosting a luncheon at the Chilmark Community Center. These lunches always provide good food, good conversation, and a chance to meet up with old and new friends. This is offered free to all seniors, and

is worth a trip to Chilmark.

Every year the month of April is designated National Poetry Month, a time to celebrate poets and their craft. This April, the Aquinnah library is celebrating by hosting an informal reading of our favorite verses on Saturday, April 11, from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. You can join in by reading a favorite poem, sharing your own writing, or by simply sitting back and listening. They are going to serve coffee, tea, and pastries, and the program is free.

While thinking about writing and reading, the Aquinnah Library Book Group invites you to join them in reading the monthly book selection. This month, it is the international bestseller appropriately titled "What You Are Looking For Is in the Library," by Michiko Aoyama. It's a charming collection of stories about people who come to their local library looking for something that is missing in their lives. It's a sweet read in a little book. Go and check it out, curl up, and

give it a read. Then come to the discussion on Saturday, April 18, at 2:30 pm.

Circuit Arts has put out a call to performers who want to share their art at its "Locals" production. The show, set for Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2, at the M.V. Playhouse, is an opportunity for performers to share a story, music, theater, dance, or even improv. Circuit Arts is looking to celebrate the creative process and encourage first steps and new beginnings. Interested in performing? Contact them no later than April 10 with your proposal at info@circuitarts.org, or call 508-560-2134.

Happiest birthday wishes this week go to the marvelous Barbara Wallen on April 12, and to Erick Moore on April 13. **MVT**

The Aquinnah library is hosting an informal reading of our favorite verses on Saturday, April 11, from 2:30 to 3:30 pm.

Chilmark



By Claire Ganz
cganz@live.com

North Road is beautiful, and the Jenkinsons' daffodils on the hillside below their home and around the old gas pump are peaking.

Congratulations to Mike Broderick and Mary McConneloug, members of the U.S. Cycling Team, on their strong performances in Nevados de Chillán, Chile, at the March Masters Mountain Bike World Championships. Mary won first place in Cross-County.

Chilmark was busy on Easter Sunday: Church services were held at sunrise in the Menemsha parking lot, and at 9 in the sanctuary, followed by a hunt for candy-filled eggs.

A little later, the Chilmark Fire Department hosted an Easter egg hunt at the Community Center.

Menemsha Fish Market was busy.

Our annual town meeting is scheduled for April 27 at 7 pm in the Chilmark Community Center. Thank you, Marie Larsen, Jeffrey Maida, and Matt Poole, our select board members, reviewing the details of each of the warrants.

The League of Women Voters of Martha's Vineyard

will be hosting a forum for candidates running for office in Chilmark. The IN-PERSON forum will be held on Monday, April 20, at 6 pm at the Chilmark library. Candidates will have an opportunity to speak, and there will be time for questions from the audience. The program will be filmed and available for viewing on MVT On-Demand from shortly after the forum until Election Day.

Rebecca Haag is running uncontested for the select board seat currently filled by Marie Larsen. Thank you, Marie, for your service. Rebecca directed Island Grown Initiative for eight years before stepping down in 2024. Currently she serves as the chairperson of the M.V. Hospital board of trustees. She is

thoughtful, and has a great deal of experience as a senior manager in corporate and government settings.

Town elections at the Chilmark Community Center are noon to 8 pm, Wednesday, April 29.

Mary Grady is running for the cemetery commission, replacing Judith Flanders. Mary founded Chilmark Chocolates, and has been a counselor and board member of Camp Jabberwocky for many years.

Also on the ballot for re-election are planning board members Peter Cook, Hugh Weisman, and Mitchell Posin, library trustee Kalia Allen-Posin, Elizabeth Oliver for board of assessors, and Drew Belsky for board of health.

Running for re-election to the finance advisory com-

mittee are Marshall Carroll III and Deborah Hancock.

Since there are no candidates for the open fence viewer, tree warden, and surveyor of wood, lumber, and bark positions, they will be decided by the names we write in.

The last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information in order to vote at the annual town meeting and election is Friday, April 17. You may register to vote in person on the last day to register (April 17) from 9 to 11 am and 3 to 5 pm, at the Chilmark Town Hall, 401 Middle Road.

You can confirm your voter registration, register to vote, or change your voter registration online via links on the town website at bit.ly/TOC_ChilmarkVoting.

The deadline for receipt of a voting-by-mail or mailed absentee ballot application to apply to be mailed for an annual town election ballot is April 22 at 5 pm. Your application can only be accept-

ed if it has reached the Town Hall office by the deadline.

Registration is open for the summer programs at The Chilmark Community Center.

Connect to End Violence is holding its annual Sexual Assault Awareness Walk on Saturday, April 11, weather permitting. Registration begins at 9:45 am, and the walk starts at 10 am. The rain date is Sunday, April 12. Email emedeiros@mvcommunityservices.org with any questions.

The hospital has redecorated around the exceptional collection of art lining the walls. On the walls lining the third floor, through the doors marked Patient Rooms/ICU, there is a beautiful collection of black-and-white portraits of Islanders taken by Nina Bramhall in 1984. And there are spiffy new furniture and updates to the cafeteria.

This might be the week that the flowers along South Road peak. **MVT**

Town elections at the Chilmark Community Center are noon to 8 pm on April 29.

West Tisbury



By Hermine Hull
hermine.hull@gmail.com

Despite temperatures being mild one day, then plunging to near-freezing the next, it really is starting to look like spring. The light feels softer and warmer, as do the colors in the landscape, where peach, lavender, and yellow-green have replaced winter grays. Quince and Forsythia are showing colored buds, and the first daffodils are blooming.

Passover began at sundown Wednesday evening. I attended a small Seder with friends. It felt particularly moving this year to repeat the familiar prayers and stories, to sing the familiar chants and songs, a

sense of normality. We need to hold onto the ideals of hope and freedom the Passover story memorializes.

Rain threatened on Easter Sunday morning, but held off long enough for the Fire Department's Easter Egg Hunt. Nothing dampened the enthusiasm of the families gathered at the West Tisbury School field, a much larger venue than the ball field at Station 1. An estimated 200 to 300 kids and adults attended with their baskets to fill. Children ran onto the field when 721's horn sounded.

Skipper Manter was there, as he always is. This year he

brought his usual bucket, and added a rake that took in scads of eggs all at once. Skipper pretends to be picking them up for himself, but he really helps the littlest children, sneaking extras into their baskets, and amuses everyone with his antics in the field.

The Easter Bunny must have gone home exhausted after spreading 6,000 (yes, six thousand) eggs in the field. It was quite a sight.

Mike and I went next to Chilmark for brunch and the egg hunt at Steph DaRosa and James Bohan's. Their house is in the woods, offering lots of possibilities for hiding eggs. Iyla is taller now,

too, so eggs hidden among tree branches or high on fence posts are a little easier for her to find. It still took a while, and there were a few that remained undiscovered.

Noting Iyla's height, we shared the milestone experience of her sitting beside me in the front seat of my car when I picked her up after school last week. She will be 10 this year.

Big local events coming up next week are our annual town meeting at the West Tisbury School, at 6 pm on Tuesday, April 14, and town elections on Thursday, April 16, at the Public Safety Building. Polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm.

A special town meeting is scheduled for 5:55 pm for two articles, to fund West Tisbury's share of expenses for a ramp at Dukes County Health Care Access Building, and repairs to the Dukes County Courthouse.

2025 Town Reports are out, along with copies of the warrants for both town meetings. Pick them up at Town Hall.

The library is providing free childcare at the school from 5:45 to 9 pm during town meeting. Preregistration is required: wt_mail@clamsnet.org, or 508-693-3366.

The library's Second Sunday Jazz concert is this Sunday, April 12, at 2 pm, in the Community Room. You

can enjoy the music and Nancy Cramer's elegant exhibition, "Surface Design."

Vineyard Conservation has planned an Earth Day Beach Cleanup on Saturday, April 18, 10 am to noon, to be followed by a Conservation Festival at the Martha's Vineyard Museum from noon to 3 pm. They are looking for volunteers to help with the following: picking up and hanging posters advertising the events; assembling beach kits April 8 and 9, 9 am to noon, at the Wakeman Center; photographers for the event; beach captains; set-up and cleanup at the museum; donations of sandwiches and baked goods for the party. Please call Signe Benjamin at 508-693-9588, or email signe@vineyardconservation.org.

See you all at town meeting. There are 56 articles on the warrant, so be prepared for a long night. I'm bringing a pillow. **MVT**

The Easter Bunny must have gone home exhausted after spreading 6,000 eggs in the field.

The magic of reading out loud

Writers Read welcomes writers of all genres. **BY ABBY REMER**

Writing is a solitary act, but something magical happens when an author shares it aloud with others. That's exactly what has been occurring for 13 years in Writers Read, Niki Patton's free, public, drop-in group, which welcomes writers of all forms of prose.

Patton moved to live full-time on the Island in 1995. She began as a writer for a commercial production company in New York City, which she co-owned with Charles Close, a well-known former Vineyard summer resident. Since then, she has added a book, articles for local and regional magazines and newspapers, essays, songs, performance pieces, and monologues to her writing portfolio.

She says, "The year I moved here, I took Nancy Aronie's 'Writing from the Heart' course at her Chilmark Writing Workshop. Nancy does a really good job, and I have taken it many times. It is where I started to find my own internal writing voice after writing in other genres. I recommend it to all those who want to connect to that voice."

Patton launched Writers Read under the sponsorship of the West Tisbury library. Participants gather on the second Tuesday

"It's a great exercise to read your own piece aloud. You might have questions about how it might be received. To have a live audience react to places in your narrative where you think it's fun or entertaining, and you get confirmation, that's pretty cool."

—David Lott

of each month at 7 pm, either via Zoom or, quarterly, in person in the library's community room, where I attended on March 9.

The group, which is a drop-in, had about 12 or so people this time, including both readers and those who had just come to listen. Patton reviewed the guidelines for giving feedback after a writer reads for up to 10 minutes: "Make sure to keep it on the 'I,' because for every writer, there are multiple readers. You do not tell the writer what to do. You can share your opinion, perhaps; 'I'd like to hear some more description in this piece.'"

I decided to take the plunge and read the first two chapters of my upcoming memoir, "In My Mother's House, There Will Always Be Dancing." Afterward, I found the responses helpful and affirming — both hearing that the story resonated with people and also fielding questions from the audience about where the narrative was going.

Four other readers shared their work, making for a lively evening. David Lott began attending last year: "The Island has a very active and vibrant writing community, and I wanted to be a part of it." Lott, who had been a tennis journalist with CBS and the New York Times, began taking online courses through the Writer's Studio in New York in 2023: "I hadn't done much personal writing. Memoir seemed like a good way to talk about a subject you know, and to work on your storytelling skills." That evening, he read the opening pages of his memoir, which recounts his adventures at 22 when he built a house on West Chop: "I was surrounded by other young kids, all building houses. I just started, and I had no experience at all. Each person I met led me to another Island character."

Lott says, "It's a great exercise to read your own piece aloud. You might have questions about how it might be received. To have a live audience react to places in your narrative where you think it's fun or entertaining, and you get confirmation, that's pretty cool."

Karen Miller has been part of the group for two years. She read a segment of a flash fiction piece featuring Trace, the protagonist of a novel Miller is also working on. The work was a response to a prompt that Patton and Ron Slate, who runs the Poetry and Prose Tuesdays program at Pathways, provided about how you have changed in your life, and whether it is truly possible to do so.

Talking about what keeps her coming back, Miller says, "The feedback is supportive. Also, it helps me to edit and to clean it up before I share it [such as at Pathways]. I like hearing other writers, and learning how my work fits in that. It's an intimate group. It's a wonderful, safe, and interesting way for people to hear and respond to your work."

Jess Shapiro has been with Writers Read for about four or five years: "I started once I got closer to publishing my book, 'The Theory of the Sofa.' I was having trouble finishing things off. I began bringing in work I had been having trouble with, and they gave me very good advice. I realized I needed some unbiased opinions on some of the things I thought were wonderful."

Shapiro read a new essay he had been working on, "The Animal Kingdom Chart." Building on the idea of a chart of the animal kingdom, with humans at the top, Shapiro's main point was that teaching is a special ability that sets us apart from other creatures. He says what keeps him



1. Jess Shapiro reads his work.



2

2. Andy Berry 3. The group meets at the West Tisbury library. 4. Founder Niki Patton.



returning each month is that "what is read is always such high quality, it's always entertaining."

Julia Kidd began participating in Writers Read around 2015. She shared an excerpt from a story titled "Back to Bellingham," about driving with her 90-year-old mother from Palm Springs to return to her hometown in Washington State. The story touches on aspects of their relationship, chosen careers, behaviors around food and appearance, and a lifetime of nurturing.

Kidd says, "A big part of my work is sharing it with others. Reading aloud has always been something I've done. It lets me hear how the work sounds, and I can edit from there. Reading aloud is a very different experience from just reading on the page. You can hear whether something drags on

or ask if a section makes sense. And you get audience response. Do people laugh, or is there silence?"

Kidd greatly enjoys that the group is a safe space, and that all levels of prose writers are welcome. "It's drop-in, so that makes it easy, too. The other thing is that it's really a way to get to know people."

And for Patton, why she continues to run Writers Read is easy: "I haven't stopped enjoying it for 13 years." **MVT**

Writers Read occurs year-round at the West Tisbury library on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm (in person quarterly, and on Zoom the other months). For more information, contact Niki Patton at gaia1muse@gmail.com, or the West Tisbury library at 508-693-3366.

PHOTOS: JOSHUA ROBINSON WHITE

calendar

Event spotlight for the week of 4-9 - 4-16

THUR 4/9

Virtual art history: 'Sisterhood of Sculptors'

From 1850 through 1876, a fearless band of Americans defied Victorian conventions of womanhood and traveled to Italy to become professional sculptors. The goal of these women was to fight for their art, and battle for abolition and women's suffrage. They paved the way for the invention of modern womanhood, and served as models for a younger generation of women artists. Although these extraordinary artists may be unfamiliar to us

today, their remarkable works deserve to be seen, and their captivating stories heard. It's led by Janet Mandel, a retired 32-year art history teacher who presents illustrated talks on a variety of art history topics at colleges and universities, libraries, museums, senior centers, and community centers.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Vineyard Haven and Tewksbury libraries. 2 pm. Register via V.H. library event calendar: bit.ly/EP_SisterhoodOfSculptors.

FRI 4/10

Carnegie Heritage Center opening weekend

Carnegie Heritage Center is reopened, and welcomes visitors Fridays and Saturdays. Explore family-friendly exhibits or relax in the reading rooms. This

season will feature immersive experiences celebrating the MA250. 10 am to 4 pm. Admission: \$5 (ages 12-plus). 58 North Water St., Edgartown. vineyardtrust.org/events.



SAT 4/11

Martha's Vineyard Hospital Community Health Fair

The 26th annual Martha's Vineyard Hospital Community Health Fair attracts more than 50 vendors. The hospital will be offering free lipid tests, as well as blood pressure, bone density, and other screenings. There's something for

the whole family, including the chance for kids to explore an ambulance. A panel of experts will also discuss tick-borne illnesses, including alpha-gal Syndrome. Free. 8 am to

noon. Martha's Vineyard Hospital, 1 Hospital Road, Oak Bluffs.



SUN 4/12

Island Community Chorus Spring Concert

The Island Community Chorus, under the direction of William Peek, will present its Spring Concert. The program this year offers a variety of contrasting works, including Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Five Mystical Songs" for baritone and chorus with piano accompaniment. Island baritone David Behnke will be featured. Then, for something completely different, participants will hear the joyful first scene from Bedrich Smetana's

opera, "The Bartered Bride," paired with a duet from Mozart's "The Magic Flute." Soprano Becky Williams and baritone Dorian Lopes will be featured soloists. Other offerings will range from music of Handel to jazz. The chorus will be accompanied by pianist Molly Sturges. All are welcome. A \$20 donation is requested of adults; student admission is free. Tickets are available at the door at 3 pm at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown.

MON 4/13

Mosaic workshop series

Glass artist Courtney McCloskey will be at the West Tisbury library leading an exciting introduction to glass mosaics. In this four-week series, participants will learn the basic techniques, such as cutting glass, adhering, and creating shapes to compose unique designs. Students will create their own small glass mosaics they will be able to take home. Meets Mondays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm: April 13, 27, May 4 and 11 (skipping April 20).

No previous experience required. Free and open to the public. Space is limited, and participants are asked to commit to all four sessions. West Tisbury library. 1042 State Road, West Tisbury. Please register by emailing wt_mail@clamsnet.org.



TUES 4/14

Little Naturalists

Spark your child's curiosity at Felix Neck's Education barn with hands-on free play — water play, sensory bins, experiments, and more. Each session nurtures outdoor exploration and

creates space for caregivers and kids to connect. Free. Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary. 100 Felix Neck Drive, Edgartown. masaudubon.org/places-to-explore/wildlife-sanctuaries/felix-neck.

WED 4/15

'Climate-Resilient Trees for M.V.'

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, and biosphere have occurred since 1750. To move forward, systems and people need to adapt to this changing climate. In this talk, PHA Curator and Assistant Director Emily Ellingson will give an over-

view of how climate change is expected to impact Martha's Vineyard and its flora, as well as provide a guide for tree selection in an uncertain future. Free and open to all. 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Polly Hill Arboretum Visitor Center: 795 State Road, West Tisbury. Preregistration required due to limited capacity. polyhillarboretum.org/event/resilienttrees/.

Events

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Dance Fitness and Strength Training with Kris Martin

7-8 am, Airtport 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. 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.

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, mlynych@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.

Easy Death : Spiritual Wisdom

1-2 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Easy Death: Spiritual Wisdom On The Ultimate Transcending Of Death And Everything Else 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyma.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: A Sisterhood of Sculptors-American Expatriates in Rome

2 pm, Vineyard Haven Library. Learn about the fearless band of 19 century American women who defied Victorian conventions and traveled to Italy to become professional sculptors. 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@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.

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.

'EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT' at the MV Film Center

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT- at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Anime and Manga Club

4-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. For kids and tweens is grades 4th-7th Come talk about your favorite anime and manga! Draw and snack. Take a look at our manga collection. 508-693-9433, mlynych@clamsnet.org.

Continued on B8

'The Hand that Holds the Line'

at the M.V. Film Center

BY ABBY REMER

We live on an Island surrounded by water that has sustained many a seaman for centuries, from the ancestors of the Wampanoag to today, when people from diverse backgrounds fish the Vineyard waters. Director and cinematographer Geoffrey Bassett's documentary, "The Hand that Holds the Line," playing at the M.V. Film Center on April 12, reveals the lives of our neighbors — fishermen on Cape Cod. Producer and photographer Kim Roderiques says, "I have always been fascinated by the relationship between fishermen and the sea. The passion for what they do, how it becomes multigenerational, the uncertainty of success, the physical risks, even though the inherent danger is palpable, is a testament to this being a calling; it is unlike any other profession. I felt the story needed to be told from the voices of these courageous individuals who put the gifts from the sea on our plates."

Shelley Edmundson, executive director and founding member of the M.V. Fishermen's Preservation Trust, says, "Commercial fishing can sometimes be viewed as a mysterious occupation. Bystanders see boats leaving harbors or coming in, but the parts in between are often unknown. Firsthand stories from people who choose to make a living on the water can shed light on this traditional occupation, which remains an important livelihood on the Island. While this film focuses on Cape Cod's commercial fishing stories, we share similar experiences, fisheries, hardships, and solutions."

Throughout the film, we hear from articulate fishermen and fisherwomen of all ages on the Cape, providing a kaleidoscopic perspective on the industry, family histories in the profession, its joys as well as its hardships, and the industry's uncertainty and dangers.

Bassett opens the film with a fictional scenario at a restaurant with a man and a young girl. Sitting across from the man, who has just slurped down an oyster, the girl asks why he would want to eat them. "It's delicious, and it's local. Let me tell you where these come from," he says.

And so we dive into the film, teeming with interviews of men and women who bring their catch onboard, and sort fish, lobster, clams, and scallops. Jesse Rose from Midnight Our guides us through the process on his boat: hauling in the scallops and clams, hand-shucking each one, washing them in barrels, and collecting the final meat of the shellfish to be sold. Inside the Aquacultural Research Corp., Lisa Bourassa, hatching manager, shows us all the fascinating steps from hatching to shipping spat across the country.

We meet Barbara Austin, who has held her shellfish license for 40 years. She talks about what it was like when

she was a young, single working mother trying to watch her kids at the same time. Despite the challenges, Austin proudly shares that she won an oyster fest three times. A young fisherwoman, Margarita Antova, comments on today's competition with men on a shellfish boat. She says, "But once you start working, you're all equal. The sea tests you the same way."

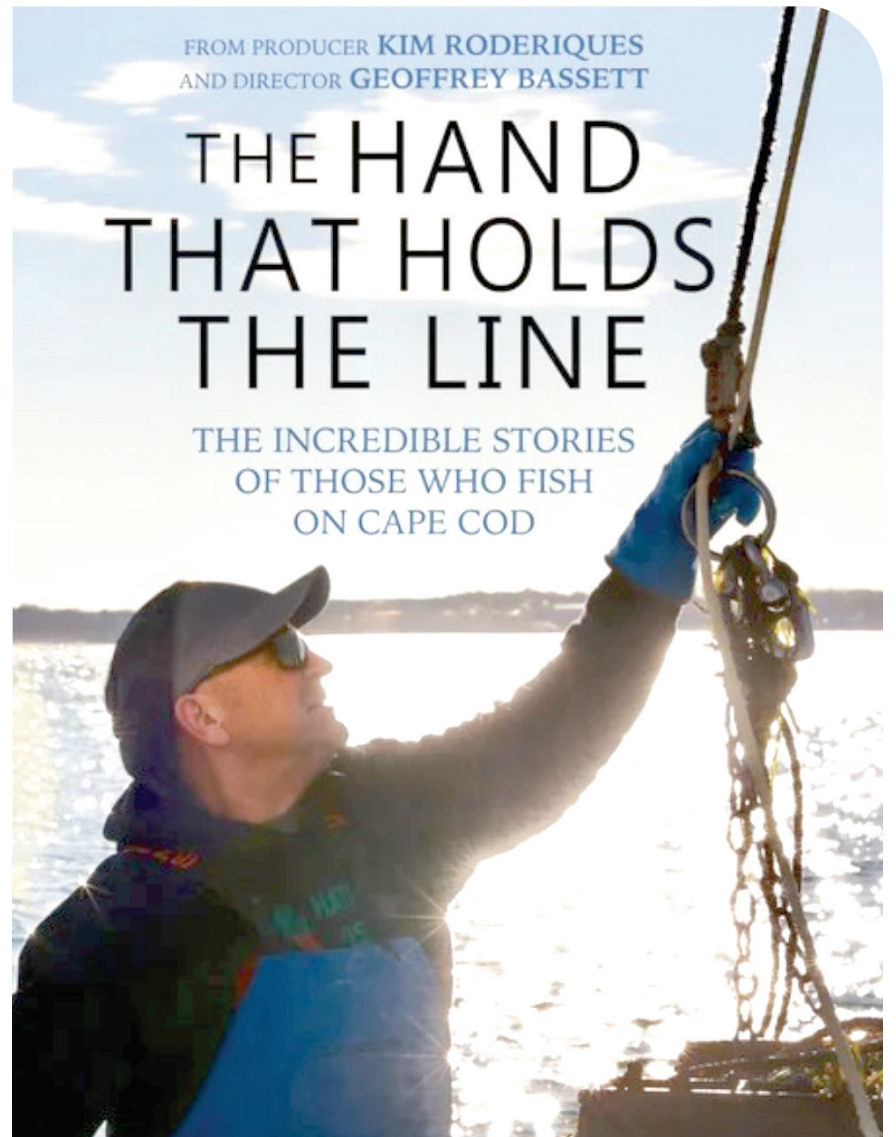
Many fishermen and fisherwomen carry on a family tradition, and we meet some of their children who follow in their footsteps. Christopher Townsend says of working with his daughter on the boat, "It's a dream come true to spend time together on a daily basis."

Bassett's footage reflects how tough the work is for those on the water. The men and women are constantly in motion, hauling, culling, scrubbing, and more. They also talk about the dangers of being onboard. For instance, there is heavy equipment that could crush someone if it comes loose. However, the sense of community is apparent as well. When Chris and Emily Viprino's fishing vessel caught fire, and they lost it along with all its equipment and gear, the community helped them buy a new boat. "It was really tremendous. All the fishermen helped out," Chris Viprino emphasizes.

Time and again, what stands out is everyone's passion for their profession. As fisherman Kurt Martin insists, "I don't think I could have picked a better thing for me to do in my life."

Roderiques says, "I want the audience in Martha's Vineyard to see the commonalities with the Cape. Both communities depend on the same surrounding waters of the Atlantic. The tides, the seasons, and the

migration of fish — especially species like striped bass and bluefish — link fishermen across these regions. What happens in one place often affects the other ... Whether on Martha's Vineyard or Cape Cod, fishermen carry the same quiet resilience while recognizing it in each other instantly." **MVT**



"The Hand that Holds the Line" at the M.V. Film Center screens on Sunday, April 12. There will be a panel discussion with cinematographer and director Geoffrey Bassett, producer and photographer Kim Roderiques, Melissa Sanderson, COO of Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance, and Caitlin Townsend, third-generation Cape Cod fisherman, featured in the film.

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

Thurs 4/9	EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT <small>LAST SHOWING</small>	4:00 PM
	FANTASY LIFE	7:30 PM
Fri 4/10	FANTASY LIFE	4:00 PM
	THE AI DOC: OR HOW I BECAME AN APOCALOPTIMIST	7:30 PM
Sat 4/11	ARTIST RECEPTION — MARTHE ROWEN	1-3:00 PM
	FANTASY LIFE	4:00 PM
	THE AI DOC: OR HOW I BECAME AN APOCALOPTIMIST	7:30 PM
Sun 4/12	Garden Gate Pre-school Fundraiser: SING	1:00 PM
	THE HAND THAT HOLDS THE LINE	4:00 PM
	THE AI DOC: OR HOW I BECAME AN APOCALOPTIMIST	7:30 PM
MON & TUES, APRIL 13 & 14 - FILM CENTER IS CLOSED -		
Wed 4/15	THE AI DOC: OR HOW I BECAME AN APOCALOPTIMIST	4:00 PM
	SUNSET BOULEVARD (1950)	7:30 PM
	FILM NOIR series with Paul Karasik.	
Thurs 4/16	FANTASY LIFE	4:00 PM
	THE AI DOC: OR HOW I BECAME AN APOCALOPTIMIST	7:30 PM

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

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

scan code for complete schedule

Information & Schedules mvfilmsociety.com 508.696.9369

Continued from B7

Events

The Art of Sock Knitting - Intermediate Knitters

4-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Ready to knit your very first pair of socks? This intermediate class is designed for knitters who are comfortable with the basics. 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, ltheam@clamsnet.org.

Table Tennis

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

Parenting with Support

5:15-6:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Parenting with Support 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile

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.

Scallop Season Sendoff with

MV Pasta and MVSG

5:30-7:30 pm, Farm Institute, Edgartown. Join the MV Shellfish Group and Katie from MV Pasta for a delicious sendoff to scallop season! Pre-registration required at thetrustees.org/tfi 508-627-7007, lbrown@thetrustees.org.

Bingo for the Tisbury School PTO

6:30-8:30 pm, The PA Club, Oak Bluffs. Grown-ups' night out for the Tisbury School PTO! Support the faculty, students, and families of the Tisbury School. \$25 508-274-8249, tisburyptoinfo@gmail.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.

Once Upon A Starry Night Play

7-8:30 pm, Katharine Cornell Theater, Vineyard Haven. Join us for our all-school production featuring students from K-12. This lively parody blends humor, magic, and imagination. 508-693-9900, hcapece@mvpcs.org.

'FANTASY LIFE' at the MV Film Center

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

Chilmark Preschool Art Opening

Chilmark Library, Chilmark Preschool Art Opening Reception Friday, 4/3 @ 3PM. Exhibit open all month. 508-645-3360, casey@chilmarkpreschool.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

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.

Carnegie Heritage Center Opening Weekend

10 am-3 pm, the carnegie heritage center, Edgartown. Carnegie Heritage Center reopens Easter weekend, Friday and Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: \$5 (ages 12+). vineyardtrust.org/events/774-549-9107, thecarnegie@mvpreservation.org.

Painting Still Life with Liz Taft

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

Mermaid Tales with a Twist .

10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Enjoy story-time with Luna Tide, the Oak Bluffs Mermaid! For kids ages 3-5. Come for the Mermaid, leave with new evidence-based reading practices. 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.

Continued on B9

Continued from B8

Events

Seasonal Kids Crafting

10:30 am-4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Seasonal 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 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, vnhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Friday Crafting

11 am-4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Fresh craft projects for ages 3-11. New craft each week! Drop in. 508-693-9438, mlynch@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.

Drop-in Tech Help at the Anchors

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

West Tisbury Book Sale Donations

1-2 pm, Friends of West Tisbury Library Shed. Donate your lightly used books for the annual Friends of the West Tisbury Library Book Sale. 617-543-7898, westtislbraryfriends@gmail.com.

NERF BATTLE AT THE LIBRARY!

5-7 pm, West Tisbury Library. NERF BATTLE AT THE LIBRARY! Ages 11-17, registration required. 508-693-3366, lheartn@clamsnet.org.

Nerf Battle at the Library!

5-7 pm, West Tisbury Library. After hours NERF Battle at the West Tisbury Library. Ages 11-17, Friday 4/10 5-7 pm REGISTRATION REQUIRED. 508-693-3366, lheartn@clamsnet.org.

Once Upon A Starry Night Play

7-8:30 pm, Katharine Cornell Theater, Vineyard Haven. Join us for our all-school production featuring students from K-12. This lively parody blends humor, magic, and imagination. 508-693-9900, hcacepe@mvpcs.org.

Chilmark Preschool Art Opening

Chilmark Library, Chilmark Preschool Art Opening Reception Friday, 4/3 @ 3PM. Exhibit open all month. 508-645-3360, casey@chilmarkpreschool.com.

PathwaysArts Musical Matinees

The Big Kids and The Outskirts. Two bands for an evening of lively vocals and a medley of musical styles. The Big Kids is Shelaugh Hackett, Eric Johnson, and Doug Brush. The Outskirts is Jodie Treloar, Jessie Leaman, Andy Herr, Jim Orr, and Chris Seidel.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Martha's Vineyard Hospital Community Health Fair

8 am-12 pm, Martha's Vineyard Hospital, Oak Bluffs. Please join us Saturday, April 11, from 8 am to 12 noon for the 26th Annual Martha's Vineyard Hospital Community Health Fair! 774-454-6251, gbrennan4@mhb.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 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.

MV Dems Monthly Meeting

9:30-10:30 am, Democratic Council of MV, West Tisbury. Guest speakers, discussion, outreach for national, state and local Democratic leaders and issues. Email demsmv@gmail.com for Zoom link. 774-563-0467, demsmv@gmail.com.

Carnegie Heritage Center Opening Weekend

10 am-3 pm, the carnegie heritage center, Edgartown. Carnegie Heritage Center reopens Easter weekend, Friday and Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: \$5 (ages 12+). vineyardtrust.org/events/ 774-549-9107, thecarnegie@mvpreservation.org.

Homemade English Muffins with Vineyard Baker

10 am-12 pm, Farm Institute, Edgartown. Join Teri Culetto, the Vineyard Baker, for this hands-on class to learn how to make your own english muffins from scratch, nooks and crannies approved! 508-627-7007, lbrown@thetrustees.org.

3-Week Intermediate Landscape Drawing

10 am-1 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Take your landscape drawing skills to the next level in this three-class intermediate course designed for artists ready to hone their skills. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Baby and Toddler Storytime

10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs library. Join us for a fun-filled storytime with stories, songs, and shakers! Tummy time for our smallest pals! Great space for post storytime play. 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 Beauzile

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.

Mini-Maker Craft Club

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

Growing Up in OB

11 am-1 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us for a special video presentation exploring what it truly means to grow up in Oak Bluffs. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Storytime

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

Ballroom/Partner Dance Class

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

Sound Bath with Trish Ginter

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

SINGING & PERFORMING CLASS

1-2:30 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.

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.

Felted Kingdom Mushroom Workshop

1-3 pm, Chilmark Library. Start your felting adventure with a simple mushroom sculpture workshop led by Laura Hearn. To register email: chil_programs@gmail.com 508-645-3360.

Once Upon A Starry Night Play

2-3:30 pm, Katharine Cornell Theater, Vineyard Haven. Join us for our all-school production featuring students from K-12. This lively parody blends humor, magic, and imagination. 508-693-9900, hcacepe@mvpcs.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.

The Great American Songbook

2-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. The Great American Songbook 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Weaving Generations Multi-Generational Panel on Conflicts in Social Life

2:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Join multigenerational forum about how generational experiences shape how we live, work, communicate and connect: 2:30 pm on 4/11 at W Tis Library 508-693-2999, consumer@mvmediation.org.

Spring Cookie Decorating

2:30-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Decorate flower, bunny, or chick shaped sugar cookies with icing, sprinkles, and other toppings. For ages 3-14. Drop-in. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

PathwaysARTS Musical Matinees

3-5 pm, Multi-talented collaborators Kemp Harris and Adamn Osgood return to Pathways Stage for another annual dynamic live performance.

MUSIC SERIES (Matinee) KEMP HARRIS & ADAM OSGOOD

3-5 pm, PathwaysArts at the Chilmark Tavern. Longtime collaborators, Kemp Harris on vocals, piano, with storytelling and an enigmatic stage presence. Adam Osgood on harp, with spoken word. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

Chef's Love Letter Dinner Series

5-9 pm, Black Joy Kitchen, Oak Bluffs. Saturday Dinner Series @ Black Joy Kitchen. No two Saturdays are the same, but every plate is crafted with care, heritage, & joy. Reserve Ahead. 508-7-338-7750, hello@blackjoykitchen.com.

Harmony and Heritage Night

6-9 pm, Portuguese American Club, Oak Bluffs. Join us for the 3rd annual Harmony and Heritage night! A celebration of community with dancing with music, great food and a silent auction. 508-693-5815, islandchildren@comcast.net.

Once Upon A Starry Night Play

7-9 pm, Katharine Cornell Theater, Vineyard Haven. Join us for our all-school production featuring students from K-12. This lively parody blends humor, magic, and imagination. 508-693-9900, hcacepe@mvpcs.org.

Island Community Chorus Spring Concert

7:30-8:30 pm, Old Whaling Church, West Tisbury. Works of Vaughan Williams, Smetana, Handel, Mozart, Dawson and Dorsey. 703-424-3968, islandcommunitychorusmv@gmail.com. Chilmark Preschool Art Opening Chilmark Library. Chilmark Preschool Art Opening Reception Friday, 4/3 @ 3PM. Exhibit open all month. 508-645-3360, casey@chilmarkpreschool.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

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.

Adult Crafts - Crepe Paper Flowers

11 am-1 pm, EMS Building, Vineyard Haven. Celebrate Spring with these beautiful paper flowers. 508-696-4211, jrapiano@clamsnet.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, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

Meditating With The Body, Turning Toward The Heart

11:30 am-12:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. An Exploration of Somatic Meditation, breathwork, and visualization practices, that focus on tending and listening to the heart. jenna@awakeningthewildheart.com.

Community Poetry Reading

12-1 pm, West Tisbury Library. Hosted by WT Poet Laureate Adriana Stimola. Attend as a reader or listener. Doors open at 11:45am. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Growing Carrots with Ethan Buchanan-Valenti

1-2:30 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Growing Carrots with Ethan Buchanan-Valenti at Beetlebung Farm 508-693-9549, programs@mvagsoc.org.

Benefit Movie Night

1 pm, MV. Film Center, Vineyard Haven. Garden Gate Child Development Center presents "Sing." \$20 includes movie, snack, drink. Tickets available online or at door. elenicolins@gmail.com.

Second Sunday Jazz Concert

2 pm, West Tisbury Library. The Eric Johnson Quartet, featuring bassist Ehud Ettun. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Island Community Chorus Spring Concert

3-4 pm, Old Whaling Church, West Tisbury. Works of Vaughan Williams, Smetana, Handel, Mozart, Dawson and Dorsey. 703-424-3968, islandcommunitychorusmv@gmail.com.

PathwaysARTS Musical Matinees

3-4:30 pm. Mike Benjamin and Jodie Treloar Chris Knott, and Allison Rose. Curated by Mike Benjamin, this performance features original acoustic music.

Liz Witham & Ken Wentworth of Film Truth Productions

3-4:30 pm, PathwaysARTS at the Chilmark Tavern. A discussion with Ken & Liz, with updates on their current film. Follow the Journey of the North Atlantic Right Whale, a peek at new projects comin 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

Local Off-Season Dancing & Music with music by Nancy Jephcote & friends

4 pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. The MV Ballroom Dancers invite you to an afternoon of off-season music and dancing. Come to dance, or just to listen. Everyone is welcome! 508-696-4211, vnhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Radio show - Eclectic #6

7:30-9:15 pm, WVVV - MV Community Radio, Vineyard Haven. Radio show "It's a Big World, Open Yer Ears", This week Eclectic #6, a mix of music from everywhere. Good stuff. 967 lpfm or www.wvvy.org 617-676-8160, egik, egak, egoojmak@yahoo.com.

Chilmark Preschool Art Opening

Chilmark Library, Chilmark Preschool Art Opening Reception Friday, 4/3 @ 3PM. Exhibit open all month. 508-645-3360, casey@chilmarkpreschool.com.

MONDAY, APRIL 13

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.

Mosaic Workshop Series

10:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. led by Courtney McCloskey. Please commit to all sessions: April 13, 27, May 4 & 11. Sign up by emailing wt_mail@clamsnet.org. 508-693-3366.

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.

West Tisbury Book Sale Donations

1-2 pm, Friends of West Tisbury Library Shed. Donate your lightly used books for the annual Friends of the West Tisbury Library Book Sale. 617-543-7898, westtislbraryfriends@gmail.com.

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, lheartn@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, llittlefield@mvcommunityservices.org.

Breathwork

5-6 pm, The Red House PRSC, Vineyard Haven. Breathwork offers a gentle way to reconnect with your body. 508-693-2900, jtau@mvcommunityservices.org.

Writers Read on Zoom

7 pm, West Tisbury Library. led by Niki Patton on Zoom. Community members reading short original prose pieces. Sign up by emailing gaialmuse@gmail.com. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Chilmark Preschool Art Opening

Chilmark Library, Chilmark Preschool Art Opening Reception Friday, 4/3 @ 3PM. Exhibit open all month. 508-645-3360, casey@chilmarkpreschool.com.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

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, hburidge@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

SQUAD FITNESS with Triva Emery • BeWell-MV

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

Mah Jongg

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

Lego Club

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

Environmental Explorers Afterschool

3-5 pm, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown. Environmental Explorers is a weekly afterschool offering that connects students 7-14 years old to nature at Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

SINGING & PERFORMING CLASS

3:15-4:45 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.

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. lauraj

Angels Helping Animals Worldwide

A dogged determination to save lives.

BY ABBY REMER



Gracie with her new humans enjoying a day at the beach.

ALLISON ROBERTS



HEATHER MANGIONE

Gracie, formerly Princess, enjoying an Easter walk.

“We are happy to say we adopt between 200 and 300 dogs a year on the Vineyard.”
—Leslie Hurd



CAROLINE DEE

Dr. Cheryl DeWitt, Leslie Hurd, and Lynn Shepherdson of AHAWW.

Angels Helping Animals Worldwide (AHAWW) is the brainchild of Leslie Hurd, a longtime Vineyard resident who has been rescuing animals since college — for example, by working with the MSPCA on the Island in the '90s, doing, among other things, humane education with children in the school system, and with the elderly using pets as therapy.

The MSPCA Island branch closed in 2009 due to a complex combination of factors. In 2014, Hurd founded AHAWW with the help of a few dedicated volunteers to more directly rescue dogs herself. In the U.S. alone, about a million animals are put to sleep annually. AHAWW works tirelessly through a coordinated effort to find “forever homes” for dogs, and thus to eliminate the need for euthanasia. The number of dogs that find loving homes is impressive. Hurd says, “We are happy to say we adopt between 200 and 300 dogs a year on the Vineyard.”

The 501(c)(3) organization, which relies 100 percent on donations and grants, brings rescues from areas with an overabundance of stray, homeless, and endangered animals to those with a shortage of adoptable pets, and facilitates their adoption. AHAWW strives to be truly worldwide. It rescues dogs from islands devastated by hurricanes, areas where there are earthquakes, communities in need, puppy mills in Pennsylvania, death-row dogs in New York, and regions with overpopulation due to a lack of spay and neuter pro-

grams. AHAWW also saves dogs from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, Bermuda, and locally.

So how do these far-flung pups eventually come to the Island? Hurd explains, “The rescue dogs travel in many different ways, including private charter flights, private transport companies, Pilots N Paws Rescue, with travelers on commercial airlines, and even traveling on a cargo ship from Bermuda.”

The dogs are fully medically vetted, receive necessary care, and undergo a two-day quarantine before being put up for adoption.

The organization posts eligible dogs on its website, as well as on Facebook, Petfinder, and Rescue Me. Hurd explains, “After an interested adopter fills out an application, we interview them and do extensive reference checks, including with their veterinarian.” The potential adopters then meet the dog to see if they are a match: “Many people foster to adopt, so they might take the dog for two or three weeks and then decide if it’s a good match.”

AHAWW is dear to the heart of Allison Roberts, MV Times features editor and writer. When she and her husband were searching for a dog, they discovered a beautiful young Great Pyrenees on the website. Allison reached out to Hurd. Roberts says, “Leslie put us in touch with the fosters caring for Gracie on the Island so we could meet her. She provided us with as much information as she had, including Gracie’s backstory, a list of shots, bloodwork, and other care Gracie received at her vet visits, so we knew she was up-to-date.”

Roberts, who hadn’t raised a puppy since her 20s, felt overwhelmed with how hard it was. She contacted Hurd, telling her she wasn’t sure she could do it: “I felt like a failure. Leslie was supportive, and reminded me that Gracie was still just a puppy, and her rough start had added to her anxiety. Leslie didn’t get angry or put me down.” Roberts adds, “I’m incredibly glad we stuck with it. Gracie has blossomed into a magnificent, funny, sweet dog, filled with character.”



1



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COURTESY OF AHAWW

Adopters can get caught up in the excitement of having a new family member. But AHAWW ensures adopters understand their responsibilities once they go home: “We educate all of them about the vaccines they need, and that training is very, very important. Our contract requires them to hire a trainer for at least the initial stages, especially for puppies. Often people don’t train right away, and then the dogs can become a little bit wilder as they get older, leading to all sorts of problems.”

Training is critical in addressing common issues like excessive barking

or chewing before these things become deeply ingrained, harder-to-break habits. It also introduces puppies to new experiences in a safe way, helping to reduce fear-based reactions later. Since training is a collaborative effort, it fosters trust and helps dogs understand appropriate behavior at home and in public. Importantly, well-trained dogs are less likely to be surrendered to shelters because of behavioral problems. Fortunately, Hurd says, “We work with some excellent master trainers both on- and off-Island, which has been very helpful.”

Hurd is likewise grateful for Dr. Cheryl DeWitt, a retired consulting veterinarian, who is on the board of directors. “She is incredible, helping with general health-care like ear and heart checks, and works collaboratively with other vets, as well as those at specialist clinics. We also work with Vineyard Veterinary Clinic here.”

Hurd adds, “Sometimes we rescue special-needs dogs. We currently have a French bulldog, Frankie, for whom we just ran a fundraiser, and we have set up a GoFundMe campaign. She was thrown on the highway in South Carolina, and had to have her leg

amputated. Unfortunately, now she must go for more surgery on her other legs, and we’re trying to raise more money. Frankie is just an incredible little spirit. We are rehabilitating her. Frankie’s TikTok page went viral, with more than 271,000 likes. She’s going to be a little star.”

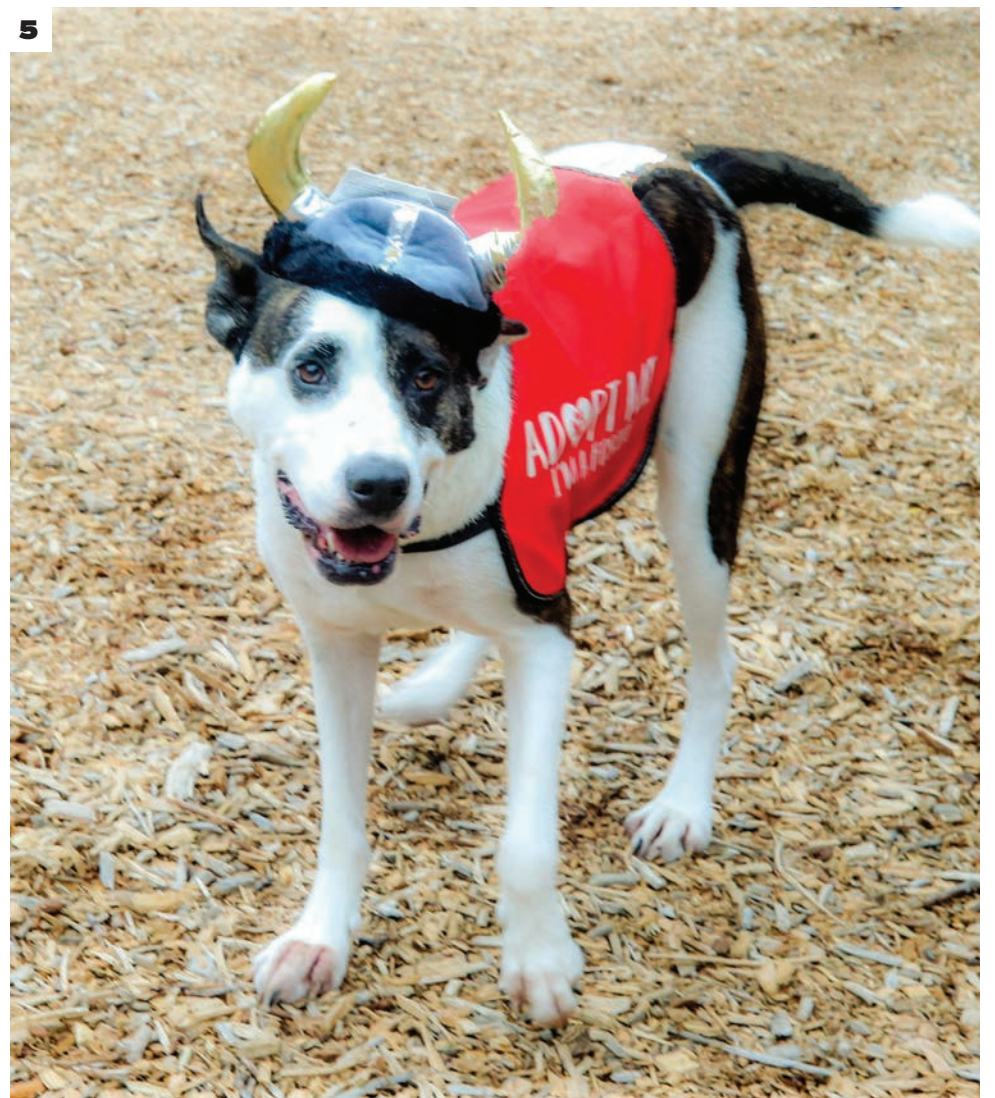
Of course, for adopters, any new canine member of the family will be a star, as well.

MVT

To foster or adopt, visit angelshelpinganimalsmv.org, email angelshelpinganimalsmv@gmail.com, or call 508-274-2604.



4



5



6

1. Frankie the three-legged pug. 2. A rescue pup from St. Thomas. 3. Puppy at play in foster care. 4. Julie, an Amish rescue pug currently up for adoption. 5. Patches, a longtime rescue. 6. Photographer and volunteer Caroline Thornton with rescues. 7. Leslie Hurd and a rescue pup.



7

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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.

Zoe Treitman and Leah Thompson step up against cancer

BY MARIA BARROS

In July, students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), along with family and fellow community members, will swim to make a difference in the fight against cancer. Juniors Leah Thompson and Zoe Treitman are leading the first Island-wide Swim Across America fundraiser to support Martha's Vineyard Hospital's Cancer Center.

Swim Across America (SAA) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to raising money and awareness for cancer centers and research through charity swims across the country.

Event swimmer and freshman Emmy Treitman explained, "There are three options that you can swim: a quarter-mile, half a mile, and a mile."

Junior Matt Macmillan said the money raised will directly benefit the community's families going through

treatment. "I think it will be great for the cancer center at the hospital," he said, and added, "I hope it will make the experience a lot easier for people who are getting care and who live on the Vineyard, because it would eliminate the need to travel off-Island for some things if they had more access to [care] here."

Leah and Zoe took the lead in bringing the initiative to the Island after reading about Nantucket's event last year. "There's an open-water swim in Nantucket, and it's been going on for about 10 years, and they broke their \$1 million mark last year," she said. "So we were reading that in the news, and thought it would be great to have one on the Island because there's just so much fundraising potential here."

So far, 100 people have registered to either swim or volunteer. Zoe and Leah hope to enlist more than 200 people by the time of the event on July 18. Leah said, "I think

we're well on the way there."

Zoe said the group is working toward their goal with momentum. "We're hoping to raise \$200,000, and so far we've raised \$30,000," she said.

The process of bringing the fundraiser to life involved multiple steps, from contacting the nonprofit to securing local approval. "We had to reach out to Swim Across America, and have an initial call with them, and then Zoe and I got select board approval to use the beach in Menemsha. I think we're going to blow them away with how much money we can raise," Leah said.

Both Leah and Zoe have dealt with the experience of cancer in their families, and hope the event will help strengthen treatment on the Vineyard.

"My grandmother passed away from colon cancer when I was in second grade, and also in our community, there are a lot of people with



REBEKAH THOMSON

Junior Leo Napior, center, and freshman Moses Thompson huddle up during a photo shoot to promote the event this summer.

cancer, and I just wanted to make an impact and help them," Zoe said.

Leah shared a similar motivation. "My grandmother passed away when I was in elementary school from breast cancer, and I saw how that affected my mom. Something that people have been saying to us is that instead of being scared about [cancer], we're doing something about it," she said.

Like Zoe and Leah, many participants share similar personal connections to the cause, resulting in the creation

of teams where participants can raise money as a group.

Matt shared his inspiration for starting a team. "Last year my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. She's been undergoing surgeries and treatment these past 12 months, and she just finished up her last surgery actually, and she's survived. And so I started a team for her, along with [MVRHS sophomore] Donnie Gregory, whose mom went through a similar experience," he said.

Leah and Zoe are an ex-

ample of the impact young voices can have in a community. "We're the youngest event directors that [Swim Across America] has ever had, which is very exciting," Zoe said.

For Zoe, the event carries an important promise of support for the Island community. "Swim Across America's main saying is, 'Money raised local stays local.' So the money we raise here, we want everyone to know, that it's going to directly impact the Island," she said. **HSV**

Mr. Houghton aims to keep it interesting

BY THEO MOORE

As history teacher Olsen Houghton rounds out his 34th year of teaching, what keeps him inspired is considering how best to open doors for students and spark new interests, all while helping them to develop skills they can use for the rest of their lives.

He recently sat down with The High School View to reflect on his own journey into teaching — how doors opened for him, and how remaining flexible is at the heart of responding to challenges.

After studying history in college, Mr. Houghton worked as an interpreter for the National Park Service, where he would conduct research for the parks, and write the placards. Eventually he started giving tours. He also worked as a bartender around this time.

"Bartending is fun at 24, 25 [years old], but [I imagined it might be] a train wreck when you're 50," he said with a laugh. So he began to consider what it might be like to teach in a school.

"I had gone to a couple of interviews [for teaching posi-

tions] around the D.C. area, and it always boiled down to, 'But you've got no experience,'" he said.

It took a connection with a family friend to open the door that gave him a chance to try. Mr. Houghton explained how he was able to secure an internship at a school that was in deep financial trouble. The headmaster was hiring 15 interns a year, and hiring four back after the year was finished. After a year of working for not much money, Mr. Houghton was hired back by the school, and finally able to give teaching a shot.

Prior to coming to the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, Mr. Houghton worked at a variety of schools around the country, all of which were for students with learning differences or for students who were struggling in one way or another. He said that in each of these schools, "You had



PICKLE EVILLE AND IZZIE ANTHONY

History teacher Olsen Houghton works with sophomore Nathan Kohler during an "American Studies" class.

to try to present material in multiple ways to have the kids somehow get involved with it, which was pretty fun."

Learning to present material in creative ways helped Mr. Houghton learn to be flexible, which he needed especially

because he would often find himself tasked suddenly with teaching a new subject.

"In a lot of those places, it was late August, and the algebra teacher had gone off on a hike and never came back," he said with a smile.

His teaching experiences have taught him that this ability to remain flexible is one of the most important skills in life. Additionally, he said, "The answer is not as important as figuring out how to get to the answer."

Mr. Houghton also believes that it's important to find a way to make content interesting. "Where I stand philosophically on education is that we are here to open all these windows and doors [for kids]. And you know, we are here to help develop skills along the way, but you are not going to learn how to develop skills if you're not interested in what you're doing," he said.

Mr. Houghton hopes his work as a teacher will reach beyond the few years he is teaching a student. He said, "Hopefully, some curiosity out there will continue to inspire a lifelong quest for answers." **HSV**

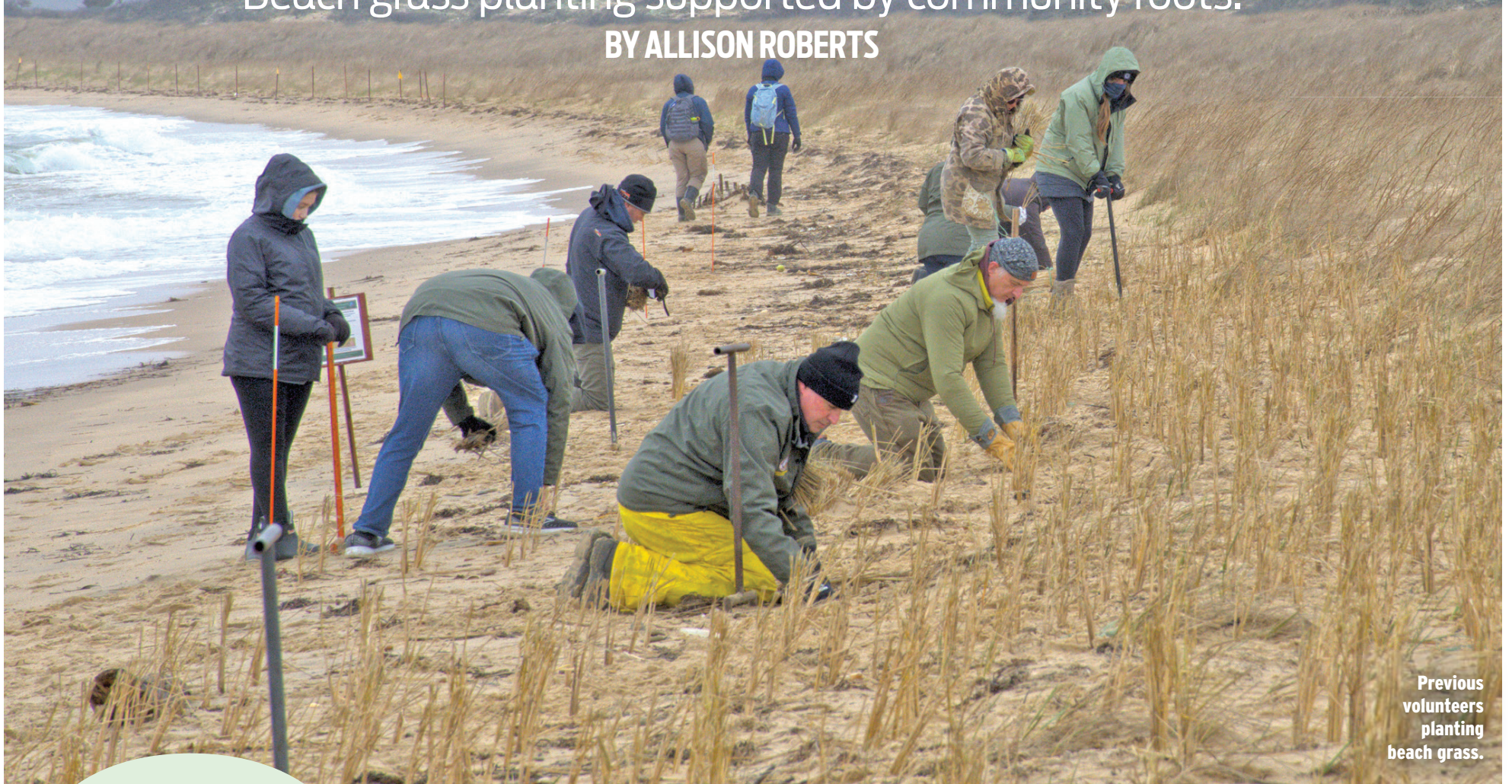
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Guardians of the dunes

Beach grass planting supported by community roots.

BY ALLISON ROBERTS



Previous volunteers planting beach grass.

On Saturday, April 11, from 9 am to noon, the natural resources department of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) invites the public to a beach grass-planting day at Lobsterville Beach. Beach grass is essential for stabilizing coastal beaches and sand dunes, protecting shorelines from erosion, and buffering properties and roads from storms, waves, and flooding. It also provides habitat for local coastal wildlife, including migratory birds.

On Saturday, April 11, from 9 am to noon, the natural resources department of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) invites the public to a beach grass-planting day at Lobsterville Beach. Beach grass is essential for stabilizing coastal beaches and sand dunes, protecting shorelines from erosion, and buffering properties and roads from storms, waves, and flooding. It also provides habitat for local coastal wildlife, including migratory birds.

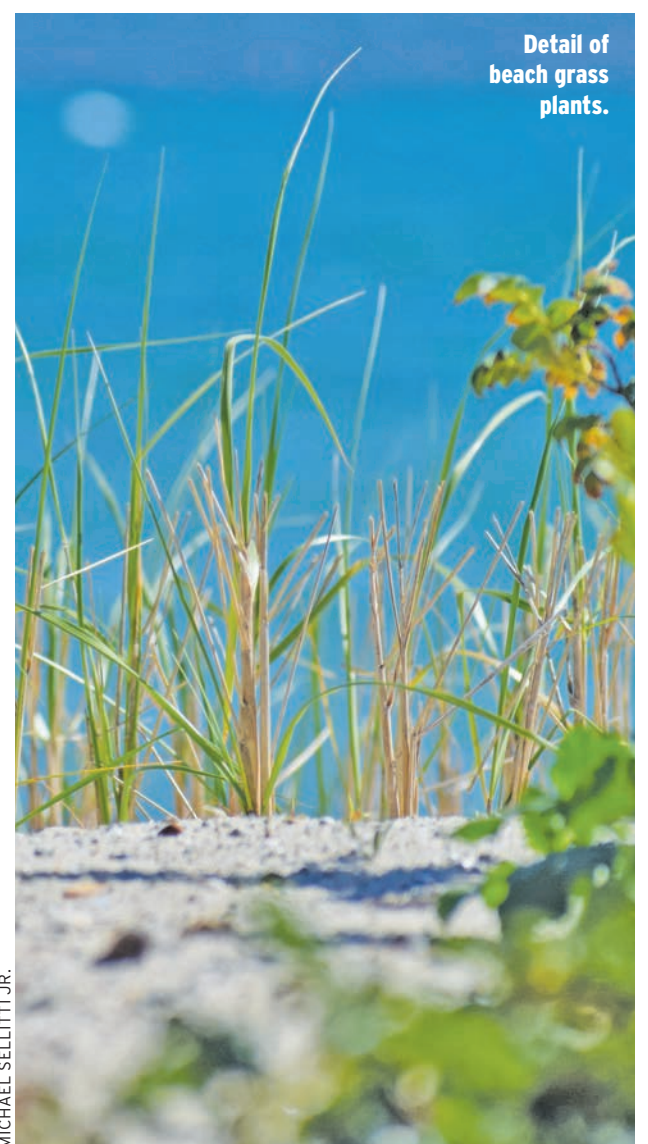
“We’ve been working on restoration in that area for 30 years — invasive species, cranberry bogs, managed by the tribe. All tribal properties have a form of management,” says the director of the Wampanoag Tribe’s natural resources department, Bret Stearns.

Stearns says part of the original restoration included

putting a culvert under the road, and using fencing to slow the drift of sand up and down the beach in the winter. The beach grass planting started more specifically in 2015–16, a few years after Hurricane Sandy blew in. “We worked with the town of Aquinnah and Chilmark, read a lot of articles about sand from dredges, and along with the Army Corps of Engineers, we made sure the beach was restored to what it is today,” he says. “Planting beach grass is important, because it’s a very strong grass. As the wind blows down the beach, it catches the sand and keeps it on the beach. It’s a natural way of keeping the sand in place.”

The environmental programs coordinator for the natural resources department, Beckie Finn, says Island beaches took a real hit: “Hurri-

Continued on B15



Detail of beach grass plants.

MICHAEL SELLITTI JR.



Progress on Lobsterville Beach.

MICHAEL SELLITI JR.



Lobsterville Beach greening up.

MICHAEL SELLITI JR.



Beach grass planted on Lobsterville Beach, September 2016.

CHRIS MANNING

Approximately 60 members of the community helped plant thousands of beach grass plants on Lobsterville Beach.



DENA PORTER

COURTESY NATURAL RESOURCES DEPT., WAMPANOAG TRIBE (AQUINNAH)



Beach grass planted on Lobsterville Beach, September 2016.

COURTESY OF NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

“Planting beach grass is important, because it’s a very strong grass. As the wind blows down the beach, it catches the sand and keeps it on the beach. It’s a natural way of keeping the sand in place.” –BRET STEARNS

Continued from B14 cane Sandy took out a good chunk of Lobsterville. When the Army Corps of Engineers were dredging the pond, Bret saw it as an opportunity to get the dredged sand to nourish and rebuild the beach.” That first beach grass-planting day was a big en-

deavor. “We put out a call for volunteers to help plant, and we were amazed and in awe and grateful that 80 people came out. And that was the beginning. We’ve done it every year since.”

The planting events were very popular with the Island community from the get-go. “Even during COVID, volun-

teers and tribal members would come down on their own, grab a bunch of grass, and plant it,” Finn says. “It got people out and doing something to help. The garden club and the fishermen’s association helped as well, bringing in even more people. Other folks who joined in included ranger and lab staff member Andrew Jacobs, and lab analyst Marcella Andrews. Everyone is involved, and wears a lot of hats.”

Finn says they have also been working with Felix Neck and the Martha’s Vineyard Commission with the Marsh Elevation Program. “They help us learn how the landscape is changing. We’ve also received a lot of support from the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. We are very grateful for everybody’s support. Lobsterville is important to the community. It’s a place where many of us went fishing as kids, and still do, and it’s an area rich with medicinal plant life, beach plums, rosehips, and a lot of protected species that a lot of people don’t know about. This is a fragile, important ecosystem, and it’s worth protecting.”

Stearns emphasizes that the restoration reports over the years have shown that the beach grass-planting efforts are working. “It really was decimated, but our efforts are showing,” he says. “It’s been a great success, but the only way it stays this way is by doing work. These coastal areas, if you don’t do anything, will erode away.”

Both Stearns and Finn hope the community will join in again this year. “The Island community has a great time,” Stearns says. “People come with their families. Some people who have planted in the past want to come back and see how it’s doing. It’s only a few hours, and it’s always a really great crowd. And there is hot coffee.” **MVT**

Quitsa Kitchen will be on site at Lobsterville for beach grass-planting day, and will be providing breakfast and coffee. If you would like to help plant beach grass, please reach out Beckie Finn at envcoord@wampanoagtribe-nsn.gov, or Bret Stearns at isa@wampanoagtribe-nsn.gov.

Garden Notes

BY ABIGAIL HIGGINS



Looking for ideas and inspiration

Start to prune your summer flowerers.

Island spring is around the corner — near, but not yet quite a fact. On Good Friday afternoon, I stepped outside to take down the wreaths. The sun came out, and out of nowhere, pollinators appeared, scrambling over every open umbel of the nearby edgeworthia. What a circus of bees, wasps, and flies!

Now is the time when we are all looking for ideas and inspiration, waiting for warmer, drier days for actual down-and-dirty gardening. It is one of the best times to take a walk at Polly Hill Arboretum.

The North Field daffodil plantings are coming into bloom, and there is much else that excites and inspires further gardening inquiry. Whatever captures your interest is tagged and IDed. The arboretum demonstrates the wide variety of plants, trees, and shrubs that can enrich Island landscapes and gardens, and how to manage them.

The PHA staff and volunteers also demonstrate best practices in the arboretum's plantings. This is a crucial contribution to understanding the kinds of culture needed to sustain successful Island gardens and landscapes.

In the garden: Getting ready

An outdoor condenser unit here is being encroached upon by a nearby Viburnum

carlesii. It will be pruned to clear the unit — after flowering, so we can enjoy its powerful scent.

Plants are primed for growth in spring. It is the season when lots of pruning is performed because good recovery (UV light, rainfall) can be assumed. Walk around to assess how trees and shrubs are growing, and what pruning would be appropriate.

First, though, if the plants in question are flowering ones, take into account bloom times. The pruning rule of thumb: if it blooms in spring before June 21, prune right after flowering. These plants will have formed flower buds the previous season; pruning in spring will cut off the flowers. An example is forsythia.

If the plant blooms in summer, prune anytime in spring before June 21. These plants form their flower buds on new wood. Examples are clethra, rose of Sharon, and panicle hydrangeas.

Prune clematis vines: Sweet autumn clematis (*C. paniculata*) can be entirely cut down to the ground. Prune large-flowered hybrids (class II) to one or two pairs of strong buds, or about 18 inches. Prune *C. montana*, if it needs trimming at all, after bloom later in June.

Do you have comfrey or nettles? We may be better off making compost and liquid feeds at home this year, per Iran war, etc. Cut and pre-



Pair hellebores with early spring bulbs and miniature narcissus.

PHOTOS: ABIGAIL HIGGINS



Pollinators scrambling over Edgeworthia.

When plants die, the organic matter creates food for microbes. Without sequestration, these microbes release carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere.

pare comfrey or nettle liquid feeds. Preparation time is six to eight weeks.

Charles Dowding (charlesdowding.co.uk) of composting and no-dig gardening fame has a method that does not create a stink, and produces a nutrient-rich, odor-free liquid comfrey feed: "Pack wilted comfrey leaves into a container with holes, such as a large terracotta flowerpot, and place onto another container to catch the drips. Place a weight on top to press out the black liquid. Let it drip into the bottom bucket. This concentrate is diluted at roughly 20:1 to 50:1, and is excellent for flowering and fruiting plants like

tomatoes and peppers."

Feed diluted liquid seaweed to seedlings until planted outside.

Trimming back lavenders and santolinas now produces neat mounds of foliage going into summer. Cleaning up stalks and debris from around perennials such as Montauk daisies, phlox, and other perennials provides good airflow. It may have protected the arthropods that overwintered in those habitats, but is no longer needed.

Prune and tidy roses; remove stems thinner than a pencil. Place peony supports, and trim old stalks. Once soils are warm and dry, crowns of perennials

may be side-dressed with low-number, organic soil food, but refrain from working soil if it is wet.

Check and recheck evergreens for splitting from wind and snow damage; trim up. Now is the best time to hard-prune inkberry, a native holly (*Ilex glabra*) with tendencies to legginess. Cut back to one or 1½ feet; then mulch (bit.ly/PMG_Inkberry).

Gardeners can produce some of their own fertilizer needs: "site-generated fertility." Hoard poultry and livestock manure. Composting, leaf mould, and liquid feeds, mentioned above, are methods to investigate.

Compost kitchen and garden waste. Or bury food waste and coffee grounds in the soil. Food waste is nourishment for soil biota, and composting keeps organic materials out of landfills.

Reports indicate that fertilizer manufacture and cost (along with many other aspects of fossil-fuel-based life) may be affected by events in the Middle East. This link is to a long article that reviews the many unintended consequences of the Middle East war: bit.ly/SS_NitrogenTrap.

Regenerative gardening

Carbon sequestration is an important part of regenerative gardening. Plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen into the air. Carbon that is retained in the soil helps to give it its water-retention capacity, its structure, and its fertility.

When plants die, the organic matter creates food for microbes. Without sequestration, these microbes release carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere. Excessive removal of organic matter means tidied gardens, lawns, and land are deprived of this asset. Sequestering the carbon within the soil helps our gardens, our landscapes, and our planet.

Ants indoors?

Island spring may be near (though not quite a fact), but the ants always know. It is "ant spring" when they come into the kitchen looking for sweets, fats or oils, or water, to support colonies as they come out of dormancy. They may be teeny-tiny or large, brown or black "carpenter" ants, or several species all at once.

Ants are amazing, but indoor incursions are unappreciated. Boric acid is the substance that controls unwanted visits. Mix a small amount of boric acid powder, about ¼ teaspoon, to make a paste with about 2 tablespoons of water and honey or sugar. (Or use an oil, if the ants are searching for fats.)

Place the mixture where you find the ants: sink area, counter, etc., in a manner that they can reach. They carry the bait back to the nest, and disappear. **MVT**



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