

Vineyard connections:  
Visiting Vet returns **B2**

MVRHS students return to  
the Island to teach **B14**

# MV Times

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THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD TIMES

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## Overrides, the Fourth Amendment, and Little Lady

Chilmark and Tisbury voters cast  
their votes at town meetings.

BY THE MV TIMES

**A**t annual town meetings in opposite ends of the Island — Tisbury and Chilmark — two cash-strapped town governments passed amendments that would allow for an override, and they expressed shared values in supporting local initiatives that uphold constitutional protections against illegal search by federal agents and a willingness to provide municipal funding to restore a beloved wooden lobster boat named the Little Lady.

With an economy that is leaving towns in America and across Martha's Vineyard in a tough financial position, each of the Island's town governments are seeking Proposition 2½ overrides to cover rising school costs, insurance, employee salaries, inflation, and expenses that have outpaced the state's 2.5 percent tax levy cap. That includes the two towns from opposite ends of the Island — the up-Island, rural town Chilmark and the down-Island bustling port town of Tisbury — both gathered this week to address a number of these issues at town meetings, and both sought overrides.

In Chilmark, residents also overwhelmingly passed a citizen's petition designating the town a "Fourth Amendment Workplace." In Tisbury, after a heated debate, a 75-night limit lift on short-term rentals was denied. Tisbury still has 36 warrant articles remaining, including the Fourth Amendment article (article 33), and both of its overrides, one to cover a budgetary funding gap and another for a sewer project. The meeting continued on Wednesday night at the Tisbury School. And while the results were issued past our print deadline, Chilmark voters went to the polls Wednesday to vote on ballot questions, including whether cell towers should be allowed, budgetary overrides, and the next select board member. Follow continuing coverage online this week. **MVT**

Read full coverage of town meetings starting on **A8**. An editorial on the Fourth Amendment appears on **A4**.



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

## The first 100 days

GM Kryska guides the Steamship Authority through choppy water into summer. **BY EUNKI SEONWOO**

**S**ummer is fast approaching the Vineyard. The lead-up to the tourism season is well underway as summer residents return to open their homes and visitors are steadily increasing. The Island, which will see its population surge from 20,000 year-round to more than 100,000 during July and August, is bracing for the onslaught of summer.

At the helm of this always-fraught journey into summer is Alex Kryska, the new head of the Steamship Authority, who has been steering for a little more than 100 days. He is plunging into his first summer season as the head of the ferry service, the Island's lifeline, which has been plagued with technology glitches as well as staff shortages and ferry repairs that leave passengers

intensely frustrated. It is now in Kryska's wheelhouse to solve these problems and steer the ship into a successful summer for a tourism economy that collectively relies on the hum of summer for the vast majority of its gross annual income.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Martha's Vineyard Times, Kryska said *Continued on A6*

## Ruling throws MVC housing role in flux

Puts future of affordable housing on shaky ground.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON  
AND EUNKI SEONWOO

**A** recent ruling by the Massachusetts Housing Appeals Committee (HAC) has thrown the Island's governing guardrails for large affordable housing developments into uncharted territory.

The ruling, issued on Tuesday, April 21, deemed that the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC), the regional regulatory authority that has reviewed large housing developments for decades, is a "local board." This categorization essentially pushes out the commission from making major decisions on projects proposed under a state housing statute called Chapter 40B. *Continued on A7*

## A line in the sand

State digging into fierce debate over how Chappy beaches can be accessed by vehicles. **BY EUNKI SEONWOO**

**I**t's almost time to deflate the tires and get out on the coastline of Chappaquiddick.

Some look forward all winter to this time of year when they can get out on the beach with family and fishing poles packed into their four-wheel-drive vehicles. Others dread the way the vehicles and the coolers of beer and noise that come with them degrade the sanctuary of the breathtaking and pristine stretch of beach.

The state has dug in on the hotly debated issue of how Chappaquiddick beaches are accessed by over-sand vehicles, or OSVs to use the official parlance, in a decision that seems to be welcomed by stakeholders on all sides of the criss-crossing lines made by tire tracks on Chappaquiddick's beaches.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issued a superseding order of conditions on April 13 that established parameters for OSV access to Leland Beach, which is just south *Continued on A6*



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Norton Point Beach.



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## news in brief



ROBYN TWOMEY

John Forté died in January at age 50.

## Flu complications led to John Forté's death

The death of John Forté, the Grammy-nominated recording artist who died in January at the age of 50, stemmed from a fatal combination of influenza and a seizure condition, according to state officials.

Brenna Galvin, deputy director of communications at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, said in a statement that the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined that Forté died from complications of Influenza A. She added that a recent history of seizures was a "contributory factor."

Forté died suddenly in his Chilmark home just over four months ago, and was discovered by a neighbor. His death was a shock to the Island community, especially among friends and musicians.

Forté, who first visited Martha's Vineyard in 1998 at the invitation of fellow musician Ben Taylor, fell in love with the Island and its sense of community. He moved to the Vineyard around 10 years later, and met Lara Fuller, a freelance photographer who would become his wife and the mother of their children, Wren and Haile. He is remembered for his kindness and devotion to his children, and developed a close connection with Island artist Carly Simon, whom he considered a mentor and "spiritual godmother."

Born in Brooklyn, where he learned the violin, Forté first came to New England when he was invited to attend Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. He later entered New York University as a music business major, but dropped out to work at Rawkus Records.

He had multiple albums under his name, and his celebrated career kicked off through his work with the Fugees, a musical group he was introduced to in the early 1990s. He co-wrote and produced several songs on the Fugees' multi-platinum and Grammy-winning 1996 album "The Score." Forté was nominated for a Grammy for his work on the album at the age of 21.

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

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

A memorial service celebrating Forté's life, which featured recording artists Lauryn Hill, Wycliff Jean of the Fugees, and Carly Simon, among other performers and dear friends from every corner of his life, was held at the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Hall in West Tisbury in March.

## Travel providers increase service to meet summer demand

Two aviation companies plan to expand their service to Martha's Vineyard this summer.

Tradewind Aviation, which already operates private chartered flights to the Island, announced in late March that a new scheduled route to and from Boston launches June 18. Travelers can depart from a private terminal at Hanscom Field in Bedford, 14 miles outside Boston, to Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket on three daily departures.

A press release from the company said that this route eliminates challenges of commercial departures from Boston Logan International Airport. Flights can be booked now, and fares start at \$295 (plus taxes and fees) for a one-way ticket to the Island.

"With our new scheduled service out of Hanscom Field, travelers from the Boston area and beyond can enjoy a more seamless and convenient travel experience, from easy check-in to quick boarding, while we continue to expand and enhance access to popular destinations throughout the region," David Zipkin, co-founder and chief commercial officer of Tradewind Aviation, said.

Flyte, a regional aviation platform, also announced a jet fleet expansion Monday to meet peak summer demand and provide "short-haul" private charters from New York City to the Island, among other coastal destinations, like Nantucket, Newport, and Cape Cod.

"Demand across our core Northeast markets is accelerating as we head into peak season," Marc Sellouk, CEO of Flyte, said in a press release. "Concentrated demand, repeat travel patterns, and limited efficient alternatives create a strong opportunity, and we are scaling the fleet to meet it."

## Hunter education course wraps up

The Martha's Vineyard Rod and Gun Club hosted three sessions on basic hunter education this month, and gathered potential new hunters to learn about hunter safety, tribal hunting techniques, and tick prevention.

The class brought together 18 people interested in the sport, four of whom were under the age of 18, and concluded on the precipice of a lot of potential changes to the hunting landscape on the Island.

The class is offered by MassWildlife and taught by Jeffrey Day, hunter safety program lead instructor for the state at the Rod and Gun Club, for anyone as young as 12 years old. The course is free of charge and open to the public; those who complete the course receive a hunter safety certificate, which is a requirement to get a license, and is recognized in all U.S. states, Canada, and Mexico.

There were three required sessions, on April 20, 25, and 26, and Day said he plans to do another class in November after he got 25 sign-ups for last year's first fall course. Day wants to increase participation in the course, and said the club can hold up to 45 people.

Students were met by several other experts on the ever-increasing sphere of hunting. Patrick Roden-Reynolds discussed tick-borne

disease prevention for hunters, and Brad Lopes, education department manager for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), taught students about traditional hunting methods and how to use all parts of game animals. David Wilkins, owners of crossbow manufacturer Wyvern Creations in New Hampshire, demonstrated crossbow use. Joseph Capece was also there to represent the M.V. Hunt Club, which coordinates land access between homeowners and hunters.

There is currently a bill in the state filed by Gov. Maura Healey not only to increase access for hunters through lessened setback limits and hunting on Sundays but also to expand crossbow use to anyone. (Crossbow use is currently limited to those who suffer from a permanent disability.)

Day said the learning curve for crossbows is much shorter than for archery, and that, in the session, some students hit the bull's-eye immediately, which can take months for a bow-and-arrow hunter.

Bret Stearns, who was director of the natural resources department for the tribe and is now a full-time Chilmark Police officer and on the board of directors for Tick Free M.V., was also in attendance to educate hunters on how they can "fit into the system helping the Island recover from the tick problem," Day said. Day added his students were made aware of how they can give back to the larger community and reduce the number of deer.

## Governor candidate to host meet and greet on Island

A candidate for Massachusetts governor with Island ties is hosting a meet and greet on Tuesday, May 5, to connect with voters about key issues.

Andrea James, who is running as an independent, will discuss the rising cost of living, housing, and the unique challenges that Islanders face at the Oak Bluffs library on Tuesday from 4:30 to 6 pm.

James is a seventh-generation Massachusetts resident and owns a home in Oak Bluffs, where her family seasonally visits. She is a former criminal defense and real estate conveyance lawyer.

The 2026 Massachusetts gubernatorial election is scheduled for Nov. 3, and James is running against current Gov. Maura Healey and seven other candidates.

"Too many people who live and work on Island are being priced out," James stated in a press release. "We can't keep asking people to hold this place together without giving them a real path to stay. I'm showing up to listen first, and to talk honestly about what it will take to make Massachusetts work for the people who call it home."

Other topics to be discussed are listed as universal healthcare, protections from Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, and childcare, all issues that Vineyarders have directly faced recently.

Islanders spoke out about their rising healthcare premiums to The Times this year after federal policies affected the Massachu-

setts health insurance marketplace. It's also almost a year to the day since federal agents arrested 20 people for allegedly not holding U.S. citizenship. Childcare costs have continued to be of concern for young families, especially after some incidents with care providers ended in arrests and the death of one child.

After what she described as a mistake in judgement, according to an essay she wrote for Time, James ended up in a Connecticut prison. James was sentenced to two years for fraud in 2010, just a few months after the birth of her second child. She wrote in the essay about the ways her incarceration gave her a new outlook on life, responsibility, and freedom.

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required, but space is limited, according to the release. Prospective attendees are encouraged to confirm a space at [ajforma.com/oak-bluffs-meet-and-greet](http://ajforma.com/oak-bluffs-meet-and-greet).

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KRISTY COLEMAN

Andrea James, who is running for governor as an independent, at a campaign event in Roxbury.

# Christian camp housing proposal pushed to MVC

FOCUS asked to withdraw its special permit, but the ZBA sent it to the regional planning group instead. **BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON**

A special permit request for a residential home to become workplace housing for a Christian summer camp has been moved to the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) for further evaluation.

The permit was submitted to the West Tisbury zoning board of appeals in March by the Fellowship of Christian Universities and Schools (FOCUS), an organization that operates a summer camp on 30 acres of land in West Tisbury. Up to this point, the property at 420 Lambert's Cove Road has been a residential, single-family home. The permit request would change its use to dormitory-style workplace housing.

Legal representation for FOCUS submitted a letter on April 23, prior to a public meeting later that day in West Tisbury, requesting that the permit be with-

drawn from consideration by the board.

"FOCUS filed the application after the building inspector [Joseph Tierney], during an inspection related solely to proposed bathroom renovations, advised that a special permit was required. That advice was in error," Marilyn Vukota, the camp's counsel, stated in the letter.

But the board said since it was submitted, whether in error or not, a decision of which direction to go was in their hands.

"Sometimes this board does not agree with applicants and the representation of their legal counsel," Larry Schubert, chair of the zoning board, said. "We've heard from your counsel, but we haven't heard from our counsel."

Schubert also pointed to the existing development of regional impact (DRI) that

FOCUS has on file with the MVC. The DRI is from 1995, and encompasses much of their campus, but not the property at 420 Lambert's Cove Road that was under the request.

For 50 years, FOCUS has hosted up to 700 young people annually on the Island. Its camp website states the goal of the camp is to deepen the attendees' relationships with God and with themselves. The special permit application, submitted by co-facilities managers of FOCUS Linda and Stoddard Lane-Reticker, stated that they hoped to use one of their existing properties to host college-age students who were hired to run the programs.

Abutters of the camp came forward at the first zoning board meeting, held on April 9, with concerns about noise, environmen-



SARAH SHAW DAWSON

The property at 420 Lambert's Cove Road, owned by a Christian summer camp called FOCUS.

tal implications for Seth's Pond, which 420 Lambert's Cove Road is next to, and any expansion of the camp's reach. Many of the same abutters were present at the April 23 meeting. An additional abutter letter was also submitted between the April 9 and 23 meetings, expressing similar concerns with the FOCUS permit request.

"A residential neighborhood loses its integrity and tranquility one special permit at a time," the letter, submitted by Nicholas Puner, stated.

But Vukota and the Lane-Retickers maintained their request to withdraw, and asked that the board honor it, especially since they only submitted the permit on the recommendation of a West Tisbury town official.

FOCUS, through its faith-based standing, is tax-exempt. Vukota said this standing means they are also exempt from needing a special permit for the property. She cited the Dover Amendment, a state statute that limits municipalities from restricting agricultural, educational,

and religious organizations through zoning ordinances.

"We're not required to ask for permission," Stoddard Lane-Reticker said to the board.

But the board disagreed. They said the MVC should have the final say, and the chance to look over the proposed change in use themselves.

"I'd like to do our job, which is, I think, interpreting the DRI checkpoint," Casey Decker, zoning board member, said. "I don't lightly send applicants to the MVC." **MVT**

# New SSA terminal to open in June

The newest freight ferry, the Monomoy, experienced "hiccups" on its first day of sailing. **BY EUNKI SEONWOO**

As the Steamship Authority (SSA) prepares for what should be another busy summer season, the ferry line will be in a rush to train its staff for the new terminal in Woods Hole.

During the Steamship Authority meeting on Tuesday, April 21, SSA COO Mark Amundsen said construction of the terminal is expected to be completed on June 16, about a month later

than initially planned.

While work continues, Amundsen said the ferry line's staff will be able to access the main portion of the building as soon as May 23.

"This is really important, because with the summer season coming fast, we need to get in there," Amundsen said. "We need to get our people trained. It's going to be a major change."

Some changes include

the flow of people in the terminal and traffic outside of the building. Markings will need to be painted on the pavement, and signs installed for vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Peter Jeffrey, board chair and Falmouth representative, suggested inviting people outside the SSA, like Vineyarders who regularly ride the ferries and members of the Falmouth

Bike and Pedestrian Committee, to gather feedback on whether the signs and markings are "user-friendly and intuitive."

According to numbers provided by the SSA during the meeting, construction of the utility and terminal buildings is estimated to cost \$36.98 million, lower than the budgeted \$39.16 million. This \$36.98 million estimation was calculated before \$304,543.60 in change orders from Colantonio Inc., the contractor building the project. The change orders stemmed from several factors, such as a delay of the construction completion by a month and the spate of winter storms impacting costs and schedule, and had to be approved at the meeting.

Lian Davis of BIA.studio, the architectural firm

that designed the new terminal, said additional time was needed due to unforeseen circumstances underground, such as the presence of boulders, and noted a construction start date was delayed because of geothermal wells that needed to be completed first, and a request by the SSA to wait before construction started, as it would have otherwise begun during the Thanksgiving holiday.

The board approved the change orders 4-0. New Bedford representative Moira Tierney was absent.

Despite more preparations needed for visitors to the new terminal, Amundsen expressed optimism for the "beautiful building" that provides a view of all of the SSA's slips.

"I think it's really going to be well received by the traveling public," he said.

The new terminal's utility building, which holds room for ferry staff, like lockers and storage space, has been completed, and is expected to get a certificate of occupancy from the state.

Meanwhile, summer visitors will also see another addition: the newly activated freight ferry, the Monomoy. The Monomoy sailed its first trip to Nantucket on April 17, though SSA General Manager Alex Kryska said the vessel had experienced a "slight hiccup" because of a fuel injector that had to be replaced the same evening. The last trip on April 17 was canceled.

"She's been running since then pretty reliably," Kryska said. **MVT**

## news in brief

Continued from A2

### Charter School to hold Tick Bite Prevention Week

In response to a surge of deer ticks, dog ticks, and the increasingly aggressive lone star tick, the Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School (MVPCS) will be hosting Tick Bite Prevention Week from May 4 to 8.

Throughout the week, students will participate in hands-on, project-based learning designed to turn prevention strategies into everyday habits. Activities will include community poster contests, student-created advertising campaigns, and social media initiatives aimed at raising awareness and encouraging simple behavior changes to reduce tick exposure. Students will also have interactive lessons led by

local scientists and tick prevention experts Lea Hamner and Patrick Roden-Reynolds. The school is inviting families and community members to participate in two special events:

- The Parent Q and A Session on Thursday, May 7, at 2 pm at the MVPCS campus at 424 State Road in West Tisbury. Parents are encouraged to attend.
- A Student Entrepreneurship and Public Health Talk to be held virtually on Friday, May 8, at 9:40 am. Jason Griffin, president of Insect Shield, will speak with students about the intersection of science, public health, and business innovation.

According to the press release, combining science, creativity, and real-world application allows students to not just learn about

prevention but lead it. For more information, contact Vicki Richardson at vrichardson@mvpcs.org.

### Public briefing on aerial deer survey

Tick Free Martha's Vineyard (Tick Free M.V.) is hosting a public briefing and panel discussion on the aerial deer survey results today.

Panelists include Martin Feehan, deer and moose biologist at the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and Patrick Roden-Reynolds, public health biologist and director for the M.V. Tick Program. The panel will be moderated by Virginia Barbat, executive director of Tick Free MV, and more panelists will be announced.

Tick Free M.V. commissioned the study

and released the report in mid-April. The survey was conducted by independent conservation nonprofit White Buffalo, which flew drones from more than 100 spots across the Island from mid-February to mid-March, and confirmed that the density of deer on the Island is approximately 53 per square mile. Certain hot spots, however, such as in Chilmark and Aquinnah, have two to three times higher densities of deer compared with other parts of the Vineyard.

The briefing and discussion is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, from 2 to 3 pm at the Agricultural Hall in West Tisbury.

The public can submit questions in advance at info@tickfreemv.org. The event will also be recorded and available for viewing at a later date. **MVT**

# EDITORIAL

## Standing with the Constitution

One year ago, black unmarked SUVs started pulling over landscaping trucks and white panel vans on main Island roads. Masked agents wearing padded camo-green vests detained 20 drivers and passengers, most of whom were Brazilian immigrants, inside the vehicles. These immigrants were all detained by federal agents who told them that they did not provide proof of citizenship status.

Seven months ago, a popular Vineyard restaurant owner from Jamaica named Newton Waite was stopped in his vehicle on Cape Cod near another restaurant he owns and arrested by federal agents, for the civil crime of overstaying his visa. His family reportedly claims the federal agents violated his Fourth Amendment rights, and that following his arrest they were left to search for answers as he was held in detention centers in Louisiana and in New York.

To most immigration law experts and constitutional lawyers, this process of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) stopping vehicles without any warrant constitutes illegal search under the protections affirmed in the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which protects all on this shared land, not just citizens.

Yesterday, the people of Chilmark and their local government representatives were reminded of those ICE raids on the Island last year.

They upheld the Constitution and took actions to protect residents against the aggressive immigration policies of the Trump administration.

The small, quiet town of Chilmark wanted to act in a way that recognized the searing fear the incidents left in the months that followed, especially for immigrants, people of color, and neighbors of Brazilian and Jamaican descent. It is a wave of fear that ripples out far from the Island, to cities like Boston, Minneapolis, Chicago, and Los Angeles, and small towns from coast to coast that

experienced ICE raids. At their annual town meeting, Chilmark voters were asked to take action by voting on a designation proposed by the town's residents themselves.

In a scene Monday night that was straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting, Chilmark became the first Massachusetts town to adopt a designation called "Fourth Amendment Workplace." The designation encourages local businesses and homeowners to ask for a warrant if federal officials come knocking. More than that, it sends a strong statement to the federal government that the people of Chilmark know their rights and the rights of all people in the U.S., regardless of their immigration status, and recognize when those rights are violated.

In a related petition, Chilmark residents also voted to publicly oppose the use of federal license surveillance to identify cars owned by immigrants, protesters, or anyone whom the government considers a threat. That proposal is related to both the First Amendment right to freedom of expression and the Fourth Amendment, which protects against warrantless searches.

At its core, the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution is a protective right and a defensive tool against the tyranny of a king rather than a weapon to be wielded like a smoke grenade by ICE agents. It was designed by America's founders to ensure that the land here, far from Britain's rule, would offer freedom from tyranny. The designation that Chilmark adopted (which Aquinnah and Tisbury will soon consider at their own town meetings) echoes the cause.

"It's the Island way. We take care of ourselves, and we take care of each other," Jane Katch said to the crowded room on Monday, as one of the Chilmark residents who proposed and explained the warrant articles.

A resounding "Aye!" reverberated through the Community Center, when residents unanimously agreed to the proposal. The Times, from the non-voting section of the town meeting and the office next to Vineyard Haven marinas, emphatically agrees.

The Fourth Amendment Workplace designation was introduced by a national grassroots organization that formed in the wake of federal immigration enforcement across the country. This year, a local branch of this wider effort formed, called M.V. 4A. It has since amassed over 80 volunteers. The local group's mission is to educate Islanders, and provide signs for businesses with the slogan "All are welcome here; we know our Fourth Amendment rights," which are now hanging on the windows of over 20 Vineyard businesses. The signs signal to the local immigrant community that they are seen and protected.

"When we come together, we're stronger," Alexis Ladd, co-founder of M.V. 4A, told The Times. "Our work is turning fear into courage."

What was perfectly clear under the muted yellow lights in the Chilmark Community Center on Monday night was that Chilmark residents refuse to leave their neighbors to fight alone.

As the Vineyard and the country near the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence from British rule, and the later drafting of the U.S. Constitution, these critical protections must be honored. It's hard to see all of the actionable impacts that this designation could have just yet, but it does open the door for Islanders to stand up for themselves and their immigrant neighbors. The Fourth Amendment should protect everyone, regardless of immigration status, and we support those who are holding true to that.

In the very back of the Chilmark Community Center, there was a small triptic that depicted the role of Martha's Vineyard in the American Revolutionary War effort against the crown. It seemed the perfect reminder that the battle against tyranny and the effort to defend the goals of the Founding Fathers' writing of the Constitution is still a struggle.

We support the residents of Chilmark and all of the other towns across the Island and across America that are permitting local businesses, public establishments, and town offices to embrace the idea of a Fourth Amendment Workplace.

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### Note to Readers

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## LETTERS

### An open letter to Julian Cyr

#### To the Editor:

As we on Martha's Vineyard prepare for another summer of tourists and the consequent distress they bring to the Steamship Authority and thus to the Island's permanent residents, I would like to know why Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, alone among the several inhabited islands served by ferry systems in their states, continues unsubsidized. Obviously, dependence on a farebox system, as SSA does, has resulted in fares that are in some cases 20 times higher than rates in subsidized systems.

I understand that the legislation establishing the current Steamship Authority in 1960 deliberately ruled out any subsidization. Perhaps that approach made sense for a system that supplied a total of 8,000 to 9,000 people on both islands. Certainly, given the wording of the legislation, it was a good deal for the commonwealth. If costs became excessive, taxpayers in the host communities would be assessed.

Now, of course, the Islands' year-round population approaches 40,000. From the reservation system to the condition of the vessels that serve the Islands, the SSA is in constant distress —

and that is its winter condition. Meanwhile, our thousands of year-rounders struggle to leave and return when necessity calls us off-Island, and we pay exorbitantly for the privilege. While we hope that oversight and new management may correct the myriad structural issues within the SSA, the issue of annually rising fares is really the commonwealth's problem. We are voting citizens of this state; we deserve its protection from the predations of a monopoly.

Robert Gilpin  
Vineyard Haven

### Thank you to the SSA crew

#### To the Editor:

Last Sunday evening, my family and I arrived just in time to catch the 6:30 pm ferry, three people with seven heavy packages. To our dismay, it was the Woods Hole, so no baggage cart. We needn't have worried. The purser and several crew members saw our problem, and in no time swooped over and loaded all our baggage. On the other end, they carried it all to our car. Our thanks to the wonderful SSA crew.

Ellen and Kate Guiney  
Chilmark



## Join us for a publisher's forum marking World Press Freedom Day on Sunday, May 3 from 4 to 6 pm

Meet members of our staff, ask questions, and hear from Charles Sennott, the publisher of The Times, about the state of local news at our office at 30 Beach Road. Weather permitting, we'll head over to Boch Park next door.

**Enjoy refreshments and a free T shirt.**

Please RSVP by sending an email directly to [publisher@mvtimes.com](mailto:publisher@mvtimes.com), with the subject heading "Local News Matters."

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

obituaries

Carl Joseph Lawrence



Carl Joseph Lawrence died on Tuesday, April 14, at his home in Oak Bluffs. Carl was 85. Carl was born in Bristol, R.I., the son of Wilfred and Harriet (Peters) Lawrence. The family moved to the Vineyard, and Carl attended the Oak Bluffs School, where he was a legend in baseball and basketball. He went off to college and returned with the love of his life, Molly Mattoon, and Dickens, their dog. He was the broker and owner of Lawrence Realty in Oak Bluffs, with John Newsom, and was best known for keeping all real estate matters within two miles of his red leather office chair (no exceptions!). He loved to be on the water in his sailboat, with Molly responsible for the lines. Carl was a member for 45 years at Farm Neck Golf Club, and was a charter member. He served as chairman of the members' golf committee. Carl had his own personal "handicap system" for his competitors; he was a former club champion, and was the only known person to accomplish a hole in one on the 13th hole. He was also a well-respected tennis player at the Sandpiper, the Island Inn, and the Farm Neck courts. Carl is survived by his wife, Madalyn ("Molly") Mattoon; his brother, William ("Bill") Lawrence; and his sister, Patricia Lawrence.

Zelda Finkelstein Gamson



Zelda Finkelstein Gamson ("Zee") died of pancreatic cancer on Monday, April 27, at the age of 90, surrounded by family, in Lincoln. A lifelong scholar, activist, musician, and lover of nature, she met the world with a keen eye for both beauty and injustice. Zelda was born on March 12, 1936, in Philadelphia to Ukrainian immigrants Reba and Samuel Finkelstein. The oldest of four, she revealed her boldness and independence from an early age: mastering the piano, schmoozing with street vendors, and secretly taking Hebrew lessons. When World War II broke out, she fantasized about traveling to Europe to kill Hitler. The first in her family to attend college, she completed one semester at the University of Pennsylvania before transferring to Antioch. At Antioch, she ditched her skirt for dungarees, and earned the nickname "Zelda the Fire Eater." There she also asked out a boy named Bill, who, despite his graceless dancing, charmed her with his easy humor and singing of Rodgers and Hart songs. By 1956, the two were married. Together, Zelda and Bill pursued careers in academia, built a life together, and raised their two children.

Zelda earned her doctorate in sociology from Harvard, and went on to teach at the University of Michigan for 17 years, with a focus on student organizations and inequality in higher education. Through this time, she never wavered in her commitment to social justice, activating University of Michigan's antiwar movement through the organization of the first Vietnam War teach-in in 1965. In 1988, Zelda moved to the University of Massachusetts in Boston, where she was later named professor emerita. There she founded the Higher Education Doctoral Program and the New England Resource Center for Higher Education. In her commitment to women's empowerment, she led by example, charting the way for future female leaders in academia. Retirement for Zelda was a vibrant mixture of work and play. After leaving UMass Boston, she and Bill moved to Chilmark. She quickly immersed herself in the Island community, joining the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center, serving on local boards, and enjoying the presence of the creators, artists, and writers of her social sphere. In the early 2000s she formed the Secure Housing Action Committee, a group aimed at expanding affordable housing on the Vineyard. She remained fiercely committed to social activism through the final years of her life, frequently marching in political protests and organizing for voting rights, climate change awareness, and the protection of democracy. Zelda was a lover of birds, good conversation, dancing, and the natural world. She was a truly dynamic force; strong-willed and intensely organized, she was a connector of people to her core. Zee

will be missed by all whose lives she touched, but her infectious spirit will live on through her family, friends, and students. Zelda was predeceased by her husband, Bill. She is survived by her two children, Jennifer and Joshua; and by her five grandchildren, Gilad, Ari, Max, Reba, and Madeleine. For those wishing to celebrate Zelda's life, a burial and short ceremony will be held at Abel's Hill Cemetery on Martha's Vineyard on Friday, May 1, at 2 pm. All are welcome at an informal gathering with family and friends directly following the burial at the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center in Vineyard Haven School, where he was a legend in baseball and basketball. He went off to college and returned with the love of his life, Molly Mattoon, and Dickens, their dog. He was the broker and owner of Lawrence Realty in Oak Bluffs, with John Newsom, and was best known for keeping all real estate matters within two miles of his red leather office chair (no exceptions!). He loved to be on the water in his sailboat, with Molly responsible for the lines. Carl was a member for 45 years at Farm Neck Golf Club, and was a charter member. He served as chairman of the members' golf committee. Carl had his own personal "handicap system" for his competitors; he was a former club champion, and was the only known person to accomplish a hole in one on the 13th hole. He was also a well-respected tennis player at the Sandpiper, the Island Inn, and the Farm Neck courts. Carl is survived by his wife, Madalyn ("Molly") Mattoon; his brother, William ("Bill") Lawrence; and his sister, Patricia Lawrence.

Carole Pauline Fonseca



Carole Pauline Fonseca, formerly of Natick, retired to Edgartown in 2004, and died on Jan. 11 at the age of 83. Carole Fonseca was born on Oct. 7, 1942, in Brookline to David and Celia (Merlis) Fonseca. After raising and educating her children, Carole retired from her very successful court reporting agency, Carole Fonseca and Associates, which she started in 1976. In 2004, she moved to Martha's Vineyard where she found peace and contentment in her home and on the beach. After settling in, Carole became a volunteer at the Martha's Vineyard Museum, where she enjoyed learning the history of Martha's Vineyard. Being the only court reporter on Martha's Vineyard, her services were welcomed, and it kept her love for the profession active even during retirement. She also enjoyed playing golf and selling real estate, but her favorite place to be was on the beach. Her home was frequently busy, with friends and family visiting throughout the year. Carole was very involved in refurbishing the Fonseca Americal Division Museum in Worcester. It was named after her father because he named the Americal Division in the Pacific Theater. Carole was deeply devoted to her three children, three grandchildren, and mom, who

were always the most important people in her life. Carole loved to travel the world. She especially loved to visit Texas to see her children and grandchildren. She loved life. It was a hard but good life, and she lived it to the fullest. She will always be remembered for her warm and outgoing personality as well as her infectious smile and sense of humor. A positive thinker, she was eagerly optimistic, independent, ready to laugh, and always ready to help those who were in need. One of her greatest joys was sharing everything she had with everyone, especially her children. She is survived by her son, Bruce Polikoff and daughter-in-law Bettina of Killeen, Texas; and grandson Tayler Polikoff and fiance Linda of Hutto, Texas; daughter Diane (Polikoff) Moore and son-in-law Paul, granddaughter Tatiana, grandson Tristan, and grandson Alexander, who predeceased her, of Coppell, Texas; son Eric Budwizer; and many cousins she dearly loved. Carole chose to be cremated and have her ashes scattered on Martha's Vineyard. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Carole Fonseca to the Boston Children's Hospital Trust, 401 Park Drive, Suite 602, Boston, MA 02215, or online at [bostonchildrens.org/giveinmemory](http://bostonchildrens.org/giveinmemory). **MVT**

OBITUARIES

The Martha's Vineyard Times publishes obituary information and photos at no charge for current and former residents of Martha's Vineyard and for persons with significant ties to the Island community. The submission deadline for full obituaries is 5 pm Tuesday, for publication on the following Thursday. The Times reserves the right to edit as needed. If you have questions or need assistance writing an obituary, please call (508) 693-6100 and ask to speak to the Community editor. Obituary information may be submitted by:  
**e-mail:** editor@mvtimes.com  
**mail:** PO Box 518, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568  
**by hand:** The Times office on Beach Road in Vineyard Haven (opposite the ArtCliff Diner).

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**Habitat for Humanity of Martha's Vineyard**  
**Affordable Homebuyer Opportunity**  
 2-Bedroom Home to be built in Oak Bluffs  
 Qualifications include but are not limited to: housing need; sweat equity; ability to pay monthly mortgage; willingness to partner; household income must be 60%-80% below Dukes County Median Income limit.  
**Applications are available at:**  
 • Dukes County Regional Housing Authority: 21 Mechanic St., Vineyard Haven  
 • [habitatforhumanitymv.org](http://habitatforhumanitymv.org)  
**Application Deadline: June 30, 2026**  
 Only completed applications will be accepted!  
 508-939-4573  
 Funded in part by the citizens of Oak Bluffs through the Community Preservation Act. Habitat for Humanity of Martha's Vineyard does not discriminate. Brasileiros(as) sao bem-vindos

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## The first 100 days

Continued from A1

he is presiding over bustling preparations for what looks to be another busy season. In Woods Hole, construction for a new terminal is underway, targeting a mid-June opening, and the SSA announced at its board meeting earlier this month that it broke its record for pre-season sales of its electronic ticket books for the high-speed ferry between Hyannis and Nantucket; 5,218 tickets generated \$1.427 million in sales, with one customer buying 155 ticket books.

At his office on the second floor of the Steamship Authority's office in Falmouth, Kryska told *The Times* on April 23 about his plans for the upcoming summer: "I go on vacation Memorial Day, and I come back on Labor Day, so you guys are on your own," he said jokingly.

In reality, there's a scramble

to prepare for the impending onslaught of travelers. Particularly, the new terminal in Woods Hole, the facility people sailing to and from the Vineyard will use to buy tickets in person, needs to be ready by June 15, right at the start of the busy season. Signage needs to be installed, traffic markings repainted, and personnel need to undergo training to satisfy customers' needs and ensure safe and efficient traffic at the terminals. And on the Vineyard, ferry staff are "greasing the wheels" to ready the Oak Bluffs terminal for a May 14 opening.

"There's a lot," Kryska said. Kryska was hired to be the next SSA head in November by the ferry line's board, launching into his official duties in January after finalizing contract negotiations. He

currently lives in Falmouth. Even beyond getting ready for the summer, Kryska entered the job with a full plate: He inherited an ongoing redevelopment of the reservation system, as well as the fallout after the state inspector general released a scathing report in December that said the SSA's failed website project wasted between \$2 million and \$4 million in public funds.

To become better acclimated to the SSA and his duties, Kryska has taken an on-the-ground approach by visiting the terminals as frequently as he can.

He said that there are more than 700 employees at the ferry line, so it's "hard to get to know everybody," but he said employees now recognize him and come up to talk.

"So many people [at the SSA] are dedicated and hard-working. It's great," Kryska said. "People are very welcoming, very open with their thoughts and suggestions."

Kryska has had previous managerial experience in the maritime industry; his most recent position before the SSA was as chief operations officer of a San Francisco-based ferry line called PROP. But Kryska highlighted the heightened challenges running the SSA compared with PROP. Here the ferries are a necessity. That's why the Steamship is often referred to as the lifeline of the Island. Many people need to travel off-Island constantly for urgent needs, like medical appointments on the mainland. The only other modes of transportation between the Vineyard and the mainland are private ferry companies, some of which run only seasonally, or offer fewer trips than the SSA, and airplane. In California, PROP was just an option travelers could utilize.

"There's a different kind of urgency," Kryska said.

Kryska highlighted that logistics of the ferry line — from various policies of the SSA to the number of cars that can be loaded onto a vessel — were more complex than he imagined.

"I kind of had an understanding that it's gonna be pretty complex and a lot of puzzles to it, but it's more complex," he said.

Unlike in San Francisco, Kryska and his team at the SSA also have to weigh the expectations and needs of five port communities, the Vineyard, Nantucket, Falmouth, Hyannis, and New Bedford, all of which have differing wants and agendas regarding the ferry line. An example that Vineyard representatives to the SSA have used to illustrate

this dilemma is that whereas Nantucket, 30 miles out at sea, utilizes the SSA like a boat service, residents of Martha's Vineyard, seven miles from Cape Cod's coast, use it more like a highway or a bridge.

That difference in attitude between the Vineyard and Nantucket was visible when Jeffrey Shapiro, the state inspector general, came to each community earlier this month to share and discuss the findings of the December report in an event hosted by State Sen. Julian Cyr, a Provincetown Democrat, and State Rep. Thomas Moakley, a Falmouth Democrat. While community members from both Islands questioned why former SSA General Manager Bob Davis, who oversaw the shelved website and whom Shapiro blamed for "critical missteps" to the project, had been retained as a senior advisor to the board, Vineyarders gathered in greater number, and asked more questions about the future of the SSA. Islanders especially called for improved oversight of the ferry line's spending and board. Ted Gavin, the Vineyard's new representative on the SSA board, said he would join a committee that would act as an internal "watchdog" of the ferry line.

Kryska said he was surprised to see the report when it was first issued so soon after he was hired. But he credited the SSA for halting the website project in September 2024, and pursued efforts to correct itself before the report came out. The report acted as a guide in how to move forward with managing the projects.

And despite the differences,

during his interview with *The Times*, Kryska said he doesn't think the two Islands are too different.

"I think they have the same concerns," he said, although acknowledging the Vineyard was the more vocal between the two communities in calling for change at the ferry line, such as a term limit on ferry board members pushed by the SSA Citizens' Action Group and under consideration by state legislators, like Cyr. For now, Kryska said, that decision lay with each board member's appointing body, which would be the Dukes County Commissioners for the Vineyard.

Kryska also shared ways that the SSA is looking forward and plans to improve itself. He said plans are underway to review the purchasing process of the newest freight vessels — the Aquinnah, the Barnstable, and the Monomoy — through a capital planning committee and explore how to phase out older vessels, like the Nantucket, which is 53 years old, with an eye toward potential hybrid-electric vessels, although actually achieving the greener technology is less clear, especially charging infrastructure for the Island.

Once again looking ahead to the Vineyard, Kryska said there are additional challenges in managing certain aspects. Only a "handful" of SSA staff live on the Island, and many have to commute. But he expressed that the summer preparations were going well, and he was becoming more accustomed to the SSA.

"It's like peeling an onion," Kryska said. "There's a lot of layers in there." **MVT**



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

Steamship Authority General Manager Alex Kryska.

## A line in the sand

Continued from A1

of Dike Bridge and borders East Beach, and Cape Poge. The orders eased the controversy on vehicle access, and included more detailed boundaries on both sides.

Access to beaches on Chappaquiddick via OSVs has been a contentious topic, particularly for areas around the Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge operated by the Trustees of Reservations, a statewide conservation organization. Homeowners on Cape Poge want more restrictions to protect the environment and privacy, while beach-access advocates argue for the preservation of historically accessible routes.

The state's orders stemmed from a set of appeals by the Trustees and Chappaquiddick residents who were dissatisfied with an Edgartown conservation commission decision last May. In its vote, the commission decided that 200 OSVs could drive each day onto Leland Beach, on the southeastern portion of Chappaquiddick, and another 30 vehicles could use Cape Poge, which is at the smaller island's northern tip.

The Trustees argued that some of the commission's conditions exceeded its authority, including a code-controlled gate the organization would have had to pay for, as well as regulation of the use of trails. The Trustees also argued that a collective 300 vehicles should be allowed on the beaches, which the organization had proposed earlier. Meanwhile, Chappaquiddick residents argued that it was unclear how the commission conducted its calculations of the number of vehicles allowed on Leland and Cape Poge, and worried about a lack of guardrails. In October, the conservation commission bumped up the 230-vehicle limit to 275 in a new access plan.

Now, under the state's framework, management of trails on Chappaquiddick is authorized through the Trustees' beach management plan, which outlines how the nonprofit manages conservation areas under its care, and two sets of state guidelines on the management of barrier beaches and protecting piping plovers and terns. The orders do not label a cap on the number of cars allowed on the properties, but Mary

Dettloff, director of public relations for the Trustees, said the conservation nonprofit "agreed to limit the number of vehicles allowed beyond the Dike Bridge to a maximum of 275."

"It is our understanding that this limit applies only to Cape Poge and Leland," Dettloff said. "We have emphasized that 275 is the maximum number. The actual number of OSVs is subject to our adaptive beach management approach approved in the superseding orders, and will be driven by actual conditions of the beaches as well as shorebird protection requirements."

The state also requires more clear delineation of where the vehicles can access using posts and strings. Through the new order of conditions, the Trustees have been tasked with maintaining barrier beaches and protections for piping plovers, a bird species that is endangered in the state. Dettloff said the Trustees "intend to continue to work with Edgartown under the Edgartown Wetland Protection bylaw."

State officials and the Edgartown conservation agent are allowed to enter the properties to conduct inspec-



Aerial image of Cape Poge.

MICHAEL CUMMO

tions, the conditions stated.

"The commissioners and staff have reviewed them and are happy with the outcome," said Kara Shemeth, Edgartown conservation agent.

In a rare spirit of consensus, the state's orders seem to have pleased not only the Trustees but also landowners and beach-access advocates.

Darci Schofield, islands director for the Trustees of Reservations, said the state's order of conditions will allow the conservation organization to provide access to beaches of Cape Poge, Leland, and Wasque, locations that for generations have been "a cherished part of the lives of residents and visitors to Chappaquiddick."

"We appreciate the Department of Environmental Protection's recognition that our adaptive management approach successfully balances conservation and public access while meeting the requirements of the state Wetlands Protection Act," Schofield said.

Rachel Self, a lawyer and homeowner on Cape Poge, called the ruling a "win for oversight, accountability, and the resource itself."

"With its superseding orders, the Department of Environmental Protection has ensured that our Chappy beaches must be managed with greater oversight, accountability, and care," Self said in a statement.

In a public statement, Peter Sliwkowski, president of the M.V. Beachgoers Access Group, called the state decision a "major victory for statewide public and OSV access."

"These superseding orders of conditions represent a milestone victory and a clear validation of what this community has been fighting for all along: the shared belief that responsible public access and environmental stewardship can — and do — go hand in hand," Sliwkowski added. He said the state's decision provided a "clear, structured framework that restores and protects meaningful public access to the beaches of Chappaquiddick." **MVT**

## Ruling throws MVC housing role in flux

Continued from A1

It also granted constructive approval for Edgartown Gardens, one of the developments proposed by William Cumming of Atwood Co. LLC, which was unanimously denied by the MVC in October. “They never had that authority to make that decision,” Jay Talerma, attorney for Cumming, said.

Cumming and Talerma brought their concerns to the HAC, leading to this ruling and other open suits. The approval for the project, HAC stated, was due to the Edgartown zoning board of appeals failing to hold a hearing for Edgartown Gardens, the up-to-60-unit Chapter 40B project proposed to be built near the Edgartown Triangle, within 30 days after a comprehensive permit application was submitted in 2024.

“This is about the law,” Cumming told The Times.

The ruling diminishes the previously established role of the MVC, as the evaluation of 40B developments has been a consequential part of what it does, and MVC’s knowledge of the state law has informed other efforts by the regional planning group, including the drafting of Housing Production Plans for all six towns.

The HAC decision also runs counter to a ruling by Massachusetts Superior Court more than 20 years ago that ruled the MVC had jurisdiction over all 40B projects. In the 2003 case, the MVC was deemed to not be a local board.

“We believe that the case was wrongly decided by the HAC,” the executive director of MVC, Adam Turner, told The Times. “We’re going to file an appeal.”

The 40B housing statute allows developers to curb local zoning regulations to build housing more easily, as long as 25 percent of the project is made up of affordable units that are at or below 80 percent

of the area median income. It’s also regarded by state legislators as a tool to ensure that at least a portion of developments are affordable.

The MVC has acted as a buffer for the Vineyard, where there are a finite amount of land to build on, wetlands and environmental considerations, and wastewater constraints. All of those factors are considered when the MVC weighs the benefits and detriments to large developments, but it’s not clear whether the towns, whose zoning boards would take on these proposals in lieu of the MVC, would weigh them in the same way.

“What the towns could benefit from is the due diligence that the MVC does when reviewing these, because they don’t really have the same capacity with staffing,” Philippe Jordi, executive director of the Island Housing Trust, a nonprofit that has built multiple 40B projects, told The Times.

If the responsibility falls to the town boards for large housing developments, as is the case in other Massachusetts municipalities, developments with a quarter of affordable units could be much more easily approved.

Chapter 40B, also known as the Massachusetts Comprehensive Permit Act, was created in 1969 to ensure that affordable housing would be built amid a national shortage of units and a boom in development.

The statute is also tied into the subsidized housing inventory, a way for the state to track the amount of affordable units in municipalities. Since the 1960s, the issue of affordability has significantly worsened across the nation. The Island has not been immune.

“[The Vineyard has] one of the most expensive housing markets in the country,” Cape and Islands State Sen. Julian Cyr told The Times. “The

reality is that most Islanders can no longer afford to buy market-rate housing.”

“I have been in touch with the MVC regarding the ruling, and will be following litigation closely,” Cyr said.

He added that the challenge on the Vineyard is that market-rate units rarely get purchased by year-rounders. “Almost any new development that isn’t either through an affordable housing program or an attainable housing program is going to be out of reach of Islanders,” Cyr said.

If it stands, the decision by the HAC could lead to increased development on the Island, since it streamlines approval for Chapter 40B proposals past the checks and balances that the MVC has in place.

The MVC is also a unique institution in Massachusetts: Even the Cape Cod Commission, which oversees all 15 towns in Barnstable County, doesn’t approve or deny 40B projects.

But on an island grappling with a crisis of affordability, with only Aquinnah having met the 10 percent threshold of having its housing stock consist of affordable units, or subsidized housing inventory, that’s required by the state, some developers say that having too many checks and balances is an unnecessary deterrent.

“We have a situation that’s a disaster in the commonwealth, and we need to address that,” Cumming said regarding housing affordability. Cumming was born on the Island, and has proposed two large 40B projects thus far.

Developers of the project argued that the MVC was a local board because it did not actually grant permits. Permits are still granted by the zoning board of appeals of whichever town the project is proposed to be built in.



MV TIMES

The Martha's Vineyard Commission office in Oak Bluffs.

So far, developments deemed to have a widespread impact have been deferred by towns’ zoning boards of appeals to the Martha’s Vineyard Commission.

But the HAC noted that the MVC receives municipal funding to operate, and that the materials it reviewed in its hearings, such as site plans and landscaping, were what a zoning board would look over. Additionally, there isn’t a bylaw regarding Chapter 40B projects in the MVC Act, which is an enabling act that outlines the role of the MVC.

“To exempt the MVC from the definition of ‘local board’ would retain a form of local impediment to the development of affordable housing that the comprehensive permit act sought to eliminate, leaving the MVC with ‘effective veto power over proposed affordable housing,’ which is ‘wholly incompatible with the purposes of the comprehensive permit act,’” the committee’s analysis reads in part.

Not long after the Edgartown Gardens rejection, the other development by Cumming, Green Villa, came across its own barrier in January. The Green Villa project

had been undergoing review with the Oak Bluffs zoning board of appeals following a ruling by the state housing appeals committee that the town had not reached its subsidized housing inventory in 2024.

Board members initially expressed support for the iteration of the project they saw after a series of workshops. But a procedural issue occurred, in which the MVC didn’t approve the project, and the applicants were unwilling to extend the amount of time needed for a draft decision. Since the board couldn’t issue a comprehensive permit without MVC approval, the project was effectively denied.

In municipalities without a regional body like the MVC, the developer of a proposed 40B project goes to a state subsidizing agency, like MassHousing, first. This prompts a 30-day commenting period for the town the project is in. At this point, abutter and community members can submit letters. Then the comprehensive proposal is submitted to the local zoning board of appeals (ZBA) for approval, opening up another 30-day commenting period before a hearing is

held. After that, there’s a 180-day window before the ZBA approves, denies, or approves with conditions, the project.

The commission still has an opportunity to appeal the housing appeals committee’s decision, with a conference scheduled 30 days after the ruling’s issuance date, and there is lingering litigation over the project in Dukes County Superior Court and Massachusetts Land Court concerning similar issues. But Talerma said the courts will need to take into consideration the state’s ruling when making a decision. He also expressed confidence that Edgartown Gardens will move forward.

“The train has left the station, and it’s a foregone conclusion, in my opinion, that the Edgartown Gardens has the requisite approvals under 40B,” Talerma said.

Still, Talerma assured The Times that this doesn’t mean the developers want to steamroll through the town. He said despite the “highly charged dispute,” his clients see the town and the commission as important partners in developing a successful project. **MVT**

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# Compost, override passed in Chilmark

Residents in the up-Island town voted on 34 warrant articles for the annual town meeting. **BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON**

Citizens' petitions were the talk of Chilmark residents at their annual town meeting, from compost initiatives to a stand against federal surveillance.

Voters filed into the local community center on Monday evening as the sun was setting behind them. Quite a few of the warrant articles they were to decide on had been proposed by residents themselves.

The fates of public services budgets, food waste recyclers, paid family leave for municipal employees, and additional funding for a historic boat renovation were all decided on, with loud "ayes" and "nays" echoing through the room. There were a few hotly contested warrant articles among the 34 that were proposed to voters, which residents were concerned could skew the town in unintended directions, such as new definitions for wetland setbacks.

A budget override for \$368,000 was initially approved by voters, largely encompassing up-Island school district assessment costs, but the item went before Chilmark townspeople again in ballot form at town elections on April 29, at the Chilmark Community Center from noon to 8 pm.

Every town on the Vineyard requested a budget override to bypass Proposition 2½, a state limit to the amount that can be collected through property taxes, during this town meeting cycle. Chilmark joined the ranks of three other towns by voting the override through on Monday.

A citizens' petition that residents heavily pushed town officials for was a new mode of food waste recycling. The petition proposed to purchase a \$60,000 food-waste recycler for Chilmark's local drop-off.

The Chilmark Select Board had declined to add the warrant article itself because board members were concerned that plans for the use and possible contamination of compost were not fleshed out appropriately by Island Grown Initiative (IGI), which led the request.

"The select board didn't feel the proposal was concise enough," select board member Matt Poole said.

Representatives from IGI approached the select board three times throughout the off-season with plans for the composting machine, but board members said they requested new information that was never provided by the nonprofit. Still, the warrant article ultimately made it before voters, and Chilmark residents were largely in support of it.

"Trash is, in fact, our Island's largest export," Chilmark resident Jessica Mason said. Mason said the amount of methane gas released into the environment by food waste is staggering. "We know that many many people here want access to something that is more environmentally friendly."

Poole clarified that the select board was in support of the food waste recycler, but proposed an amendment as an individual and resident of the town that would include a four-month testing period for its efficacy and also the formation of a town subcommittee that would oversee its use.

The amendment was ultimately voted down, with the two hopefuls for the upcoming open select board seat, Rebecca Haag, the former IGI executive director on the town ballot, and write-in candidate Katie Carroll, who runs Menemsha Texaco, split on the issue. Haag voted against the amendment with the majority of Chilmarkers,

and Carroll voted for it.

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School freshman Emmy Treitman and West Tisbury School eighth grader Violet Simon supported the article. While the pair were too young to vote in favor of the proposed item, they highlighted its importance to the next generation of Islanders.

"The environment and the way we treat it is very important to me," Treitman said. "You have the power to

Weidner and other speakers outlined a comprehensive history of town moderators in the mid-1770s during the American Revolution. Town meetings, with local democratic action, were guiding forces for residents through turbulent times.

"Town meeting was important then, and it's important now," Weidner said.

Individuals from Chilmark families that have been on the Island for generations, like the Mayhews and Tiltons, were town officials back then, leading the Island's politics forward. On Monday night, their descendants sat in metal-backed chairs to vote on warrant articles that would influence the fabric of the town they lived in 250 years later.

Two additional citizens' petitions were proposed on Monday. One was to make Chilmark a Fourth Amend-

ment town, and the other was to protect citizens against surveillance.

The proposals were from a new local organization called M.V. 4A, which is made up of about 80 volunteers who have campaigned this winter for immigrant protections on the Vineyard against unlawful searches and seizures by federal immigration enforcers.

The categorization as a Fourth Amendment Workplace is a municipal designation aimed to protect employees from unlawful searches and require federal agents to have warrants to enter businesses. It was passed overwhelmingly by voters on Monday night, as was the proposal to protect

citizens from being surveilled through the deployment of license recognition using automated license plate readers.

"I want Chilmark businesses to understand their Fourth Amendment rights," Jane Katch, a volunteer for M.V. 4A, said to voters about the designation. Katch said Aquinnah also adopted the designation this year: "It's the Island way. We take care of ourselves, and we take care of each other."

Paid family leave for municipal workers was passed by voters, along with an official name change of Columbus Day, which voters replaced with Indigenous Peoples' Day. They also added Juneteenth to the list of town-recognized holidays.

Meanwhile, \$100,000 was approved for the restoration of Little Lady, a historic fishing vessel that had been transported from Menemsha

waters to Island boatbuilders Gannon and Benjamin in Vineyard Haven last spring. The same amount was approved at the Chilmark town meeting last year. While a community campaign to fundraise for the project is underway, the Fishermen's Preservation Trust said the \$1.4 million goal for the project has not been reached.

Chilmark planning board member Rich Osness requested that a bylaw to further regulate short-term rentals be tabled indefinitely after hearing from townspeople. The board feared the amended bylaw could negatively impact year-round homeowners who rely on income from renting out their homes in the summer.

"We understood from input that many people in town rent their homes for additional income, and we wanted to maintain that tradition," Osness said.

Funds to go toward town-supported housing initiatives, such as units for veterans on Bellevue Avenue in Oak Bluffs, affordable units for individuals with autism through Island Autism Group in West Tisbury, and the adoption of the Housing Production Plan in Chilmark, were passed unanimously, with resounding "ayes" from the rows of residents in the community center.

But a proposal to change the setback limits in relation to great ponds was met with scrutiny, with some Chilmarkers wary of extending buffer zones near wetlands. A warrant article to add 100 feet to the buffers between homes and ponds and update an existing related bylaw was passionately debated.

"We are greatly concerned about the health of the ponds," Steve Cass, a Chilmark conservation commissioner, said in support of the warrant article. He cited worsening cyanobacteria blooms and increasing nitrogen loads. Cass said that the proposal "is not a silver bullet ... but it is a first step."

Some residents disagreed, and pointed out that the framing of the bylaw was potentially open to interpretation by the conservation commission, and could affect year-round homeowners financially, such as by being denied building permits.

"This creates unpredictable costs for the residents," Marc Natichioni, a Chilmark resident, said. "It's just another hoop that you have to jump through."

The warrant article was eventually passed, with setbacks for newly built homes and projects extended to 200 feet from Chilmark ponds.

An awaited proposal for new cell towers through Verizon will be decided in a few days; the warrant article was postponed by town officials. The items were on ballots at town elections, where Chilmark residents cast their votes regarding budget overrides, cell service upgrades, and a new select board member. **MVT**



SARAH SHAW DAWSON

Students Emmy Treitman, Violet Simon, and Sophie Mazza spoke before the town in support of food waste recyclers.

vote yes tonight. We don't, and we are counting on you to vote for us."

While much of the town meeting was a chance for the nearly 150 voters to look to the future, they also acknowledged the past.

Longtime select board member Warren Doty, who died in March, was honored with a moment of silence to start the meeting. Marie Larsen, the chair of the select board, who is not seeking re-election, was also thanked for her service to the town by her colleagues.

Larsen said her time on the select board gave her a "deeper appreciation for this town and the people who make it what it is."

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# Tisbury denies short-term rental cap removal

Residents needed to vote on 36 more articles on Wednesday night.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

After heated debate, voters in Tisbury decided to keep a 75-night cap on short-term rentals after failing to meet a two-thirds majority vote on town meeting floor.

The town of Tisbury held its annual and special town meetings on Tuesday at the gymnasium at the elementary school. While more than 150 voters were able to get through the 26 special town meeting warrant articles, the contentious proposal to remove the cap on short-term rentals took up much of the night. The town was only able to get through six of the annual town meeting warrant articles, and voters will need to gather once again on Wednesday.

Special warrant article 24, which sought to remove the cap on short-term rentals that was adopted at town meeting in 2024, was rejected after a spirited discussion.

Tisbury Select Board Chair Roy Cutrer, who proposed the removal of the cap, said the restriction costs the town substantial potential income in short-term rental fees, noting that 64 percent of rentals in Tisbury exceed 75 nights, which puts the town at a disadvantage compared with other Island towns that do not have a cap on short-term rentals.

“Short term rentals produce \$44 million for our rental economy ... what the 75 nights does, it limits our rental tax,” said Cutrer. “Capping it at 75 nights is causing us to give up more than 50 percent of that short-term rental tax income.”

And short-term rental tax

income could help the town fill out an ever-increasing budget that made an override a necessary ask in this town meeting cycle. Cutrer said that according to the Tisbury College Report, Tisbury has no way of raising income and revenue unless more property taxes are raised or short-term rental income is discussed.

But there was pushback from voters. Former select board member Tristan Israel argued that the cap helps protect the character of neighborhoods and encourages year-round residential housing.

“Short-term rentals have eroded the neighborhood fabric of many of our communities,” said Tristan Israel, former select board member.

Residents also said the issue isn't a limit on the rentals, it's the lack of enforcement and regulation regarding the current short-term rentals. Victor Capoccia, chair of the affordable housing committee, said that 31 properties in Tisbury are unregulated.

“We do not need to change this. What we need to put in place is some enforcement and monitoring mechanisms to see and make this work, not further erode the housing stock that is already committed to short-term rentals,” said Capoccia.

Cutrer responded that the money they lose from the 75-night limit is much greater than that from the 31 unregulated properties.

“The 31 properties that they are saying aren't enforced is a drop in the bucket compared with what we are going to lose,” said Cutrer.

But residents ultimately decided on a more methodical approach, which was proposed by Ben Robinson. Robinson highlighted that they voted on the current 75-night bylaw a year ago and have not been enforcing it, so there is

renters,” he added.

Additionally, a standing vote was called for special warrant article 6, which sought to create a 3 percent “community impact fee” on short-term rentals with two or more units under the same



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

Affordable housing committee chair Victor Capoccia speaks at Tisbury town meeting.

no way of knowing the effect it could have on revenue.

“I think we need to be a lot more methodical. I think we need to enforce that [75-night cap]; if that's too much for people, then we can come back with real numbers and real understanding and adjust that number,” said Robinson. “We voted this a year ago, and it hasn't been enforced. I think we should see how it plays out.”

“We are a year-round town on the Island. We have the highest percentage of year-round residents in our homes, and limiting short-term rentals opens up rental opportunities for year-round

operator in Tisbury. It failed 115-46.

In the special, the first four articles, including obtaining bonds for the town and to elect a fish committee, passed without discussion. But article 5, which sought to adopt new revolving fund bylaws, to place the Tashmoo Spring Building's revolving fund in the select board's authority rather than the Tashmoo Springs building committee, was amended after some discussion. The property houses Tisbury Town Administrator Joe LaCivita. Tashmoo Springs Building committee chair Lorraine Wells opposed this specific change, and

proposed an amendment that preserved the committee's oversight of the building. The amended article 5 passed.

Article 20 in the special was also discussed heavily by residents. It sought to amend zoning bylaws to allow plumbing facilities in a third accessory structure, such as a garage or shed. Residents were opposed because they feared it opened opportunities for additional secret and unregulated living units. Although many residents were wary, and multiple amendments were ultimately denied, Tisbury resident Nevin Sayre's proposed amendment

Several zoning articles proposed by the planning board were approved, including new land clearing and grading regulations (Article 15) and protections for designated Special Ways (Article 14). A proposal to increase setbacks for detached accessory structures (Article 19) failed.

Articles 22 and 23, which sought to clarify limitations on the town administrator's authority over independent boards and committees, were postponed indefinitely.

The annual town meeting also saw voters reject \$100,000 for renovation of the Martha's Vineyard Sharks' baseball field, citing Title IX concerns over equity for girls' sports, which prohibits sex-based discrimination in education programs that receive federal funding.

Russ Curran, Martha's Vineyard Sharks general manager, said the project, which will renovate the degrading field, already received \$100,000 from Edgartown, \$100,000 from Oak Bluffs, \$95,000 from West Tisbury, and \$50,000 from Chilmark, leaving them with \$345,000 of their more than \$500,000 goal. But voters were not moved to approve funding.

Big items left for Wednesday night include two Proposition 2½ override requests that residents will also vote on at town election on May 12 at the Tisbury Emergency Services Facility. If approved, it would allow the town to bypass the state limit on how much it can collect through property taxes. Article 41 seeks to approve a \$43.8 million budget for fiscal year 2027, where the town is also looking to fill a \$1 million funding gap with an override. Article 28 seeks \$3 million for expansion of a sewer collection system in the State Road Sewer District, which the town hopes to fund through an override as well. **MVT**

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Detail oriented candidate with patience and kindness to work with the general public. No experience necessary. Full-time; M-F hours. Excellent pay, vacation & sick time, health benefits. Email [dr@hseyecare.com](mailto:dr@hseyecare.com)

**SALES ASSOCIATE + JEWELRY WELDER**  
**STEFANIE WOLF DESIGNS, A WOMAN-OWNED JEWELRY BRAND IN OAK BLUFFS, IS HIRING TWO ROLES.**  
Friendly, reliable, love jewelry? Email [coral@stefaniewolf.com](mailto:coral@stefaniewolf.com) or stop by. Details: [stefaniewolf.com/pages/hiring](http://stefaniewolf.com/pages/hiring)

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**SEASONAL BOAT CLEANER**

Experienced preferred but will train the right applicant in boat prep & waxing. Motivated self-starter who can work with minimal supervision & complete assignments on schedule. Please apply via email to [jhale@mvshipyard.com](mailto:jhale@mvshipyard.com).



**SEEKING ELECTRICIAN FOR FULL TIME YEAR ROUND EMPLOYMENT.**

Self-starters with experience in both residential and commercial installations desired. Please call 508-693-7786 or forward resume to [office@warrenelectricmv.com](mailto:office@warrenelectricmv.com) for more information.



**SEEKING EXPERIENCED MANAGER \$65K-\$80K.**

Please send resumes and questions to [hello@fatronniesburgerbar.com](mailto:hello@fatronniesburgerbar.com)

**SUMMER OPENINGS:**

Summer Supervisor- supervise summer staff, make schedules, payroll. Work closely with the public. Water safety/lifeguard certification, CPR and First Aid training a plus. Starting salary \$31.06

Assistant Supervisor - Assist supervisor when needed. Cover duties when supervisor is not available. Must have 5 plus years' experience. Starting salary \$29.38

Lifeguard - must have water safety/lifeguard certification, CPR and First Aid training. Assist with beach patrons, ensure that proper beach and safety regulations are followed. Starting salary \$23.79

Parking Lot Attendant- ensure cars entering the lot or parking in designated areas have a valid sticker or pass. Assist the public with information, policies and expectations of beach use. Starting salary \$17.68

Beach Sticker Seller- responsible for organization and sale of beach stickers and passes for Lambert's Cove Beach. Responsible for tennis court reservations and sale of tennis keys. Collecting money and keeping accurate records of all sales. Starting salary \$20.97

Recreation Instructors - must have basic knowledge of basketball skills and drills. Responsible for organizing activities for students grades four through nine. Starting salary \$23.79 Limited positions available. Application can be found at Town Hall or [www.westtisbury-ma.gov](http://www.westtisbury-ma.gov). Application deadline is April 1, 2026. West Tisbury is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



**SAVATREE IS LOOKING FOR TREE CLIMBERS, LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SPECIALISTS, LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION SPECIALISTS AND GROUND OPERATIONS TREE CREWS FOR OUR WEST TISBURY LOCATION!**

All experience levels needed. We have housing options available to rent on island as well as sign on bonuses!!!! Please reach out to [Lchabot@savatree.com](mailto:Lchabot@savatree.com) or text to 774-218-9355.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**



**SUN ISLAND DELIVERY**

Delivery Driver / Truck Driver Non CDL on Martha's Vineyard We are offering a full-time position for a reliable and motivated delivery driver to join our team. This position involves operating a company vehicle to deliver freight. CDL license is not required but would be a plus.

We offer a competitive pay rate and full benefits package. Please contact Tony at 508-693-1036 or email [mvsis355@gmail.com](mailto:mvsis355@gmail.com)

**THE EDGARTOWN BOARD OF HEALTH WILL AMEND SEPTIC REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS IN A MEETING ON 5/12 AT 2PM VIA ZOOM, AND AT FUTURE MEETINGS AS NEEDED.**

Agendas will posted in accordance with opening meeting law.

**THE GREAT PUT ON IS SEEKING AN ADMINISTRATIVE/OFFICE ASSISTANT TO HELP WITH SHIPMENTS, ONLINE ORDERS, PHONE CALLS, AND ENTERING/RECEIVING ORDERS.**

Must be organized and detail-oriented. If interested, email [thegreatputonmv@gmail.com](mailto:thegreatputonmv@gmail.com) or call 508-560-9821

**TOWN OF EDGARTOWN | HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

The Town of Edgartown Highway Department is looking to fill the following positions:

General Foreman (Full-time/Year-round) - \$37.63-\$49.50/hour (+\$5,000 Sign-on Incentive)  
Mechanic / Heavy Equipment Operator (Full-time/Year-round) - \$34.99-\$46.07/hour (+\$5,000 Sign-on Incentive)

Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) / Laborer (Full-time/Year-round) - \$30.27-\$39.83/hour (+\$5,000 Sign-on Incentive)  
Highway/Cemetery Laborer - \$22.00-\$26.77/hour (Temporary for Summer 2026 Season)

Applications, position requirements, and full job descriptions are available at [edgartown-ma.us](http://edgartown-ma.us) or in the Human Resource Office. Please send completed applications to [HR@edgartown-ma.us](mailto:HR@edgartown-ma.us) or P.O. Box 5130 ATTN: Human Resources, Edgartown, MA 02539. The Town of Edgartown is an equal opportunity employer. Positions are open until filled.

**TOWN OF EDGARTOWN - EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROVIDER/FIREFIGHTER**

(FY 26 EMT/FF OR PARAMEDIC 34.99-46.07/HR;  
PARAMEDIC/FF 37.63-49.50/HR)  
(FY 27 EMT/FF OR PARAMEDIC 37.05-52.72/HR;  
PARAMEDIC/FF 43.66-62.15/HR)

The Edgartown Fire Department is seeking EMS professionals interested in a Firefighter/Emergency Medical Provider position. Applicants should have a current MA EMT-B or Paramedic certification in good standing. Firefighter experience will be considered but not required at time of hire. High school diploma/GED required. 40 hour/week, full-time benefitted position. Application and Job Description available at the Edgartown Fire Department administration offices, 167 Upper Main St, Edgartown, MA or may be sent via email at request to [efd@edgartown-ma.us](mailto:efd@edgartown-ma.us) or 508-627-5167 ext. 101. Applications are due at the Edgartown Fire Department administration office no later than 12:00pm May 15th, 2026. Salary commensurate with certification level at time of hire. Town of

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**Edgartown is an EOE. TOWN OF WEST TISBURY PAYROLL AND HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR**

The Town of West Tisbury is seeking to hire a 35 hour/week Payroll and Human Resources Administrator. The 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 benefitted position. Full job description and required application form can be found on the Town's website at [www.westtisbury-ma.gov](http://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. Position will remain open until filled. EOE.

**TRIP BARNES NEEDS ASSISTANT**  
Drivers License required, phone skills, speaks english. 508-400-6171. 300 State Rd. [Tripbarnes@comcast.net](mailto:Tripbarnes@comcast.net).



**WE HAVE OPEN POSITIONS ON DIFFERENT CREWS:**

Landscape maintenance foreman-Requires the ability to identify and prune plants, talk with clients and coordinate day to day operations. Stone Mason-Minimum 2 years experience working with stone. Mow crew-experience with operation of large mowers. SS# & legal papers required. Email: [nwatlantismv@gmail.com](mailto:nwatlantismv@gmail.com) Text 774-563-0181



**Are you hiring?**

Place a Help Wanted ad in The MV Times classifieds section and reach a new audience.

**MVTimes**  
VALERIE@MVTIMES.COM · 508-693-6100.

# 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.

**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.

**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**



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

**OCEAN PARK REALTY**

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



**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.

**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**



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

**FARM NECK GOLF & TENNIS CLUB :**

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



**OPEN HOUSE SAT MAY 2 (10:30AM TO 12PM) 6 STONE POUND WAY, HIDDEN COVE, OB**

Waterfront boat access on Sengekontacket Pond w/community tennis. Three bedrooms w/large separate family room.-Year round or vacation home! Kayak storage, dinghy dock. Peaceful quiet association. Very reasonably priced at \$1,399,000. Call AUSTIN RE PROPERTIES of MV 508-314-5833



**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.

**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**

**OPEN HOUSE OB SUNDAY 5/3 11AM-1PM**

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



**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.

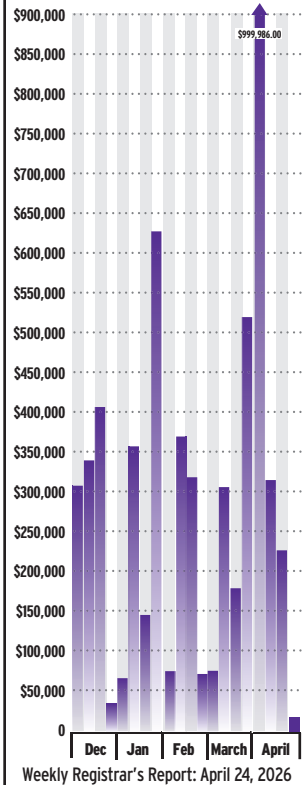


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**LAND BANK WEEKLY INCOME**

**FY 2026, Year to Date: \$16,427,307.81**



**Real Estate Transactions April 20 - 24, 2026**

**Aquinnah**

**April 22,** Dawn Widdis sold property off 0 Moshup Trail to the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission for \$9,648.

**Edgartown**

**April 22,** James R. Hogan and Jennifer Parr sold 112 Third St. North to Pedro Henrique Furriel Dias for \$1,175,000.

**April 23,** Jason Paul Becker, trustee of Becker Family Irrevocable Trust, sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 459 Week 39 to Margaret Mercier for \$1,500.

**April 23,** James O. Howell and April Howell sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 407 Week 40 to Maurice Banville and Linda Banville for \$4,000.

**April 24,** Celeste De La Bruere, formerly known as Celeste Comeau, sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 304 Week 36 and Unit 303 Week 36 to James F. Brady and Colleen A. Brady for \$12,500.

**April 24,** Kevin R. Hughes, trustee of Harborside Inn Condominium Trust, sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 402 Week 18 to Mary J. Morris and James T. Morris for \$1,245.

**April 24,** Kevin R. Hughes, trustee of Harborside Inn Condominium Trust, sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 355 Week 39 and Unit 207 Week 40 to William Cronin for \$3,490.

**April 24,** Kevin R. Hughes, trustee of Harborside Inn Condominium Trust, sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 511 Week 36 to Alex Palfrey and Samantha Spellman for \$9,495.

**April 24,** Kevin R. Hughes, trustee of Harborside Inn Condominium Trust, sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 416 Week 40 to Scott Barton and Cynthia Barton for \$3,495.

**April 24,** Kevin R. Hughes, trustee of Harborside Inn Condominium Trust, sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 359 Week 16 to Judith Call and Frederick Call for \$395.



# Real Estate

**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**



**OPEN HOUSE - SUNDAY, MAY 1ST, 1-3 PM. 217 BARNES ROAD, OAK BLUFFS**  
Waterfront estate with panoramic views, generous acreage, house and guest house, and a private beach on the Lagoon. Exclusively listed with Tea Lane Associates. \$5,695,000 Call or text Elle Lash 508-560-1213 or Kyle Neyer 917-670-7583



**PRIVACY MEETS CONVENIENCE IN OAK BLUFFS**  
**JAYNE ISFORD | 203-962-4317 \$1,795,000**

Nestled at the end of a quiet street, this roomy and spacious Cape-style home offers privacy and convenience just a short distance to the Oak Bluffs School, town center, and within walking distance to the Lagoon. Sun-filled main level with open floor plan, large windows, and a generous kitchen with ample counter space, opening to the dining area. Sliders lead to a back deck, yard, and bluestone patio...perfect for entertaining or relaxing. Radiant heated floors in the primary suite and lower-level playground. Two-car garage with bonus space above. Beautiful stonework driveway. Updated furnace (2020) and water heater (2024).



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

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

**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**



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

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

**SOLD \$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.

**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**



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

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



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**



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

Stylish, sunlit, and superbly located - this architecturally designed end-unit townhouse offers 2 bedrooms, a flexible third-floor loft, and 1.5 baths across 1,323 sq. ft. Enjoy a sleek chef's kitchen with stone countertops, custom built-ins, and a 288 sq. ft. private deck ideal for entertaining. With upgraded flooring, windows, systems, and a successful rental history, this property is perfect for year-round living or as a strong investment.

- Community amenities include:**
- Access to fresh & saltwater ponds
  - Ocean access dock + boat ramp
  - Clubhouse, tennis/pickleball courts
  - Kayak storage + potential mooring
  - Minutes to Farm Neck, bike paths & beaches

**Offered \$1,149,000 Exclusively by: Marilyn Moses | REALTOR® 617-462-0381 | marilyn@oceanparkmv.com**



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

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

**HOUSES-VINEYARD HAVEN**



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

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

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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  
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# Classifieds

## COMMERCIAL RENTALS

**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 SPACE AVAILABLE AT WAKEMAN CENTER, 57 DAVID AVE, VINEYARD HAVEN.**  
3 rooms, 387 sf, \$2400. Must qualify as non-profit or public organization that conserves land, water, preserves scenic views, open spaces, performs land use planning, performs research related to protection, conservation or supports agriculture or recreation. Contact Wakemancenter@gmail.com

**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT.**  
One room 1,200 sq. ft. office space for rent. Unique building on Beach Rd in Vineyard Haven. Office space only use. (508)627-2750.

## SUMMER RENTALS

**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

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

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

## PETS & LIVESTOCK

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

## PETS & LIVESTOCK

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

**COFFEE TABLE 48X24X18"**  
Metal legs, wood body, glass top, with 2 drawers. Photo available. \$75 215-962-0109.

## YARD SALES

**132 SOUTH RD CHILMARK - SUNDAY MAY 3RD & 10TH - 9AM - 3 PM**  
Furniture, Tools, Records, Art/ Craft, China/Kitchen, much more! 508.314.0041 appointment.

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**FOR SALE CHEAP!!!**  
Love seat, matching sofa, end table, wicker chair and stool in good condition. Must go! Oak Bluffs- Call 973-885-2961 leave msg.

**GALE TRAILER FOR INFLATABLE.**  
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## AUTO SALES

2004 PORSCHE BOXSTERS  
No dings or dents. Very clean car. Needs nothing! \$17,500 or best offer. 508-560-0088.

## NISSAN 3.5 L.S. OUTBOARD

Runs great! \$250. 508-560-0888. Gary.

## BOAT SALES



**2005 28' GRADY WHITE CENTER CONSOLE 283.**

Twin Yamaha 225s(1430 hours) Garmin electronics, deep-V hull, trailer, head, collapsible spreaders, live well. Great fishing boat and comfortable day cruiser. \$59,000 (reduced)  
Text or email: matt.nerney@gmail.com, 617-416-6029

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**BEAUTIFUL CLASSIC AMESBURY DORY '14 FIBERGLASS SKIFF WITH NEW 9.9HP YAMAHA MOTOR AND NEW WOODWORK.**  
Trailer, oars, anchor, lifejackets included. \$7,500. 917-750-3217.

**1979 O'DAY 22' SAILBOAT**  
Lots of extra, 3 sails, anchor + line, cushions. Comes with HD dual tandem boat trailer. Ano. \$1,250. 508-560-0888. Gary.



**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

## WALKER BAY DINGHY

\$800 new -sell for \$400. Have trailer for dinghy for \$400 too. 508 560-0088. Gary.

## BOAT SALES

12' Iund skiff.  
9.9 Mercury 2 stroke oars, gas tank, anchor. \$2500 or best offer. Eric 508-939-0529

## 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., RENATO myhandymanimv@gmail.com

### LANDSCAPING & GARDENING

**LANDSCAPE SERVICES**  
Clean ups, Lawn care & more. Great references 508-560-5543.



# Legal Notices

## LEGAL NOTICES

### MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The public is invited to a public hearing concerning whether the proposed amendments to the regulations governing the Coastal District in the Town of Chilmark conform to the guidelines for the development of the District specified in the Commission's designation of the District. Amendments are proposed in Section 3.07(4) Separations in the Coastal District. Annotated changes can be found on the MVC website: www.mvcommission.org/dccp Date & Time: Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6:35 p.m. Place: Hybrid Meeting **MVC Office - 1st Floor**, 33 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA and Zoom Meeting ID: **878 2111 0402; Password: 430182** Written testimony may be submitted prior to or during the hearing. Check for updates on the online calendar.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

#### DRAFT FFY 2027-2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) has released the Draft FFY 2027-2031 TIP for 21-day public review and comment period at its April 15th, 2026, JTC meeting.

The public comment period will end at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, May 6th, 2026.

Please send written comments to Michael Mauro via email at: mauro@mvccommission.org or to: **Joint Transportation Committee P.O. Box 1447 Oak Bluffs, MA, 02557**

Copies of the document are available for review on our website at <http://www.mvcommission.org>, and/or upon request. A **HYBRID** public meeting of the MVC and Martha's Vineyard MPO advisory committee, the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC), is scheduled for May 20th, 2026, at 10:00 AM. Please contact Michael Mauro at 508-338-7315 for further information.

## LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

### TOWN OF TISBURY OFFICE OF PLANNING BOARD

#### PO BOX 602 VINEYARD HAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS

#### WWW.TISBURYMA.GOV NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A, s. 9; and section 06.06.03, 06.06.08 of the Tisbury Zoning Bylaw, the Tisbury Planning Board will hold a hybrid (zoom link below) public hearing on **May 20th, 2026** at 5pm at the Town Hall Annex at 66 Highpoint Lane and via zoom at a regularly scheduled meeting to consider a change of operator for the food establishment located at 52 Beach Rd.

Locus: 52 Beach Rd., Tisbury, Ma - Assessor's Parcel 09-C-08 Property Owner: Acme Vineyard Haven MA LLC

## LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

Applicant: Milan Basnet  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86345233438>  
Meeting ID: 863 4523 3438  
Passcode: 137791

A copy of the application and plans are available to review. Please send an email to [tisburyplanningboard@tisburyma.gov](mailto:tisburyplanningboard@tisburyma.gov) with your request. Interested parties are invited to send comments and/or attend the virtual meeting.

## LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

### WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### On Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 5:45pm

the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2nd floor meeting room on an application for a Special Permit from Atlantic Pool, Inc. on behalf of **Deeb N. and Patricia A. Salem** to allow the renovation of an existing 20'x40' swimming pool, the removal of an existing spa and the construction of a new 7'x10' spa under Sections 8.5-4C, 11.1-3A, and 11.1-4A of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw at **201 Pond Rd., Map 30 Lot 2.56**, in the RU district.

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

### WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### On Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 6:00pm

the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2nd floor meeting room on an application for a Special Permit from **Christopher Poli**, to install an 18'x40' inground swimming pool under section 8.5-4C of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw at **16 Red Coat Hill Rd.** (a Special Way), **Map 8 Lot 24**, in the RU district.

**Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: [zba@westtisbury-ma.gov](mailto: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

### AMENDED 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, May 20, 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 a 400 s.f.**

## LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

### 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](mailto:zbaadmin@oakbluffsma.gov) or mailed to: PO Box 1327, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

## OAK BLUFFS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, and the Oak Bluffs Wetlands Bylaw, the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing for a Notice of Intent filed by Reid Silva of Vineyard Land Surveying and Engineering on behalf of Michelle Strong to install a septic system upgradewith enhanced nitrogen removal/treatment. This is located within the buffer to a wetland and in the 100 year flood zone at 13 County Road, Oak Bluffs, Map 7 Parcel 9. The hearing will take place at 3:30PM on Thursday May 7, 2026.

The hearing will take place at Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs.

## OAK BLUFFS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, and the Oak Bluffs Wetlands Bylaw, the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing for a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Douglas Kudravetz to repair and maintain an existing pier. This is located within land under the ocean at 27 Beach Road, Oak Bluffs, Map 6 Parcel 36. The hearing will take place at 3:30PM on Thursday May 7, 2026.

The hearing will take place at Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs.

## LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

#### On Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing via Zoom on a **Notice of Intent** filed by Vineyard Land Surveying & Engineering on behalf of **Pocha Plover LLC** under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission to construct a 4' wide elevated walkway over an existing walking path crossing BVW and salt marsh and within a FEMA Flood Zone (AE-12). The walkway is proposed as a pin footing system with open grating decking.

The property is located at 64 Dike Bridge Road (AP Map 33 Lot 3) For a copy of the application or for questions related to joining the meeting via Zoom, please contact: [conservation@edgartown-m](mailto:conservation@edgartown-m)

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10' 2013 West Marine Inflatable  
Leaks air from tubes. Good deal for someone who can fix leaks!  
508-560-0088.

### FREE 22 FOOT HUNTER SAILBOAT,

New roller furling jib, bottom painted ready for water. 9.9 motor, no trailer. 508 627 2139

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Pull-out sofa bed and window air conditioner 6200 btu/h, energy saver. Both in good condition. Text or call Kate 508-939-1034

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Size M. New in box. \$100. Kevin 508-693-0674

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

### 4 HI FI SPEAKERS 10 X18

\$25 Each 508-627-0602

### 78"; RED CONVERTIBLE SOFA FOR SALE.

Solid construction, comfortable bed. Text or call 203-434-3509.

### LARGE SINK WITH FAUCET \$100

2 large crank out windows \$100 Large dresser with 3 drawers \$75 7 year old fridge \$100. Please call 508-693-7444.

### COFFEE TABLE

48x24x18" Metal legs, wood body, glass top, with 2 drawers. Photo

available. \$75 215-962-0109.

**QUEEN SIZED SLEEPER SOFA— OLDER BUT NO TEARS OR RIPS.**  
\$100. Call for any details. 860.839.0083

### RUBBERMAID ROUGHNECK TRASH CANS (2)

32 Gallons, Blue, \$20 each, 215-962-0109

### FREE

Pull out sofa bed in good condition and window air conditioner, 6200 btu/h works great! Please call Kate 508-939-1034

### FIRST GEAR HIGH VISIBILITY JACKET

Size Large. \$100. New. Kevin 508-693-0674

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

BUSINESSES MAY LIST FREE ITEMS ONLY. NO LISTINGS FOR ANIMALS.  
LISTED FLOWERS, GARDEN PLANTS, FIREWOOD, AND MANURE MUST BE FREE.



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# From the streets to couch cushions

Island resident travels to Dominica to rescue a stray dog.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

After two grueling weeks, Island-raised Laura Macomber helped to deliver a nervous stray dog from the streets of Dominica through a multicountry journey to the couch cushions of her mother's home in Edgartown.

The dog, a female "potcake" mix, roughly 1 year in age and named Birdie, had spent her short life so far scavenging near the Caribbean country's cruise terminals. Now she lives a peaceful life with Lynn Macomber, Laura's mother, who has long dreamed of adopting a Caribbean potcake.

Laura first encountered Birdie months ago during a cruise stop near the Roseau Botanic Gardens in Dominica. Laura said the connection was immediate, and she rescued Birdie right there, bringing her to St. Nicholas Animal Rescue in Dominica before returning at the end of March to begin the long process of getting her back to Martha's Vineyard.

Laura traveled back to Dominica and took pos-

session of Birdie from St. Nicholas on March 30. While paperwork, including health certifications, was being processed for Birdie's safe return, Laura spent two weeks in Dominica acclimating Birdie to collars, leashes, and indoor life.

"She was just really, really dirty, and really scared," Laura said. "I had to acclimate her ... It took a few days of patience for her to realize, 'Oh, you're my person. I'm OK now.'"

Laura, a 1999 MVRHS graduate who has 10 years of experience as a veterinary technician, described a lengthy process to get Birdie to the Vineyard. She coordinated the rescue process with St. Nicholas Animal Rescue at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in Dominica, and the group helped secure vaccines, deworming medicine, and a "mountain" of CDC, agricultural, and international paperwork required to move Birdie from Dominica through

Trinidad and Tobago into the U.S.

"The hardest part was waiting," she said. "The pace in the Caribbean is really slow."

Birdie flew as checked baggage on Caribbean Airlines from Dominica to Trinidad, then flew overnight to John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, N.Y.

Macomber waited anxiously through layovers and inspections before the emotional reunion in New York.

"She just started wagging her tail like crazy," Laura said. "She instantly knew, 'It's you. Thank God you're here.'"



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

Below, Birdie Macomber curls up on a couch. Above, Birdie enjoying the luxury of a car.

Birdie, only the second large dog successfully flown off the island of Dominica by the rescue group, has adapted quickly to her new life, said Laura. Birdie is now a "dedicated couch potato and lap dog."

Laura said leaving Birdie with her mother, Lynn, on April 18, when Birdie's new life officially began, was the hardest part.

"You don't go through an adventure like that ... and not have an attachment," she said with a tear in her eye.

Laura holds a bachelor's degree in veterinary technology from Mount Ida College, and has advanced degrees in other fields. She now works in human medicine, but has fostered and helped numerous animals over the years. This rescue, she said, was unlike any other she's done before.

"I've never done anything like this. This is the first," she said.

Laura said she hopes the rescue operation will shine a light on St. Nicholas Animal Rescue, and the hundreds of dogs still in need on the resource-strapped nation of Dominica.

"I just think it's really important that people that have the availability to go help these dogs in need, do," said Laura. "If anybody has the time or the want to help St. Nicholas Animal Rescue, they should."

The rescue group is planning a larger "freedom flight," a dedicated charter carrying a large quantity of rescue dogs to homes in the U.S. and Canada, in early July. **MVT**



Grand Opening

Summer 2026

8 CIRCUIT AVE EXT  
OAK BLUFFS, MA 02557  
MARTHA'S VINEYARD

\*Formerly the Lobsterville location

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ENVIRONMENT

Massachusetts residents should start to see the effects of a recently fully constructed offshore wind farm in their energy bills. But how that could look is not so simple. The difference might not be obvious to ratepayers, and be very dependent on demand and weather.

Gov. Maura Healey announced Monday that the stabilized price of energy from the Vineyard Wind 1 offshore wind farm, 15 miles south of the Island, is now active. Healey's administration expects that the fixed price, negotiated almost a decade ago, should collectively save ratepayers \$1.4 billion over the two-decade life of the contracts.

Activation of the contract guarantees stable and affordable energy prices, a press release from the governor's office said. Previously, any energy from the offshore wind farm — between January 2024 and last week — was sold on the regional open energy market, and the price was subject to fluctuations in supply and demand, made particularly high this past winter due to bouts of extreme cold and severe weather.

Back in 2019, the state Department of Public Utilities approved the 20-year contracts for 800 megawatts of offshore wind from this project. The price in what are called power purchase agreements was negotiated between state utilities, National Grid USA, Eversource Energy, and Unitil Corp., and Vineyard Wind fixed at \$69.50 per megawatt-hour. (One megawatt can serve about 750 to 1,000 homes in New England; a megawatt-hour can serve 1,000 homes for one hour.) The price is locked in through six power purchase agreements, each for 400 megawatts of the project, for the three companies. The price uses a fixed escalation rate.

This is a largely affordable price when compared with average day-ahead energy costs this past December, January, and February in Southeast Massachusetts, which were \$135.18 per megawatt-hour, \$180.76, and \$127.13, respectively. The release from Healey's

office stated that through power from Vineyard Wind, Massachusetts ratepayers should save an average of 1.4 cents per kilowatt-hour, which is equal to 1,000 megawatt-hours.

But those high prices aren't always the case. In fact, the average wholesale price for energy in 2025 was \$65.88, which is lower than the contract price for Vineyard Wind. And on moderate April days, the wholesale price can be significantly lower.

In the open market, which is administered by the non-profit ISO New England, power generators compete to sell energy through a bid process. The price reflects the cost to produce that power, which can change hour to hour, and depends on weather as people either vigorously heat or cool their homes. Weather especially impacts the output of renewable resources, such as solar and wind. And natural gas, as the main resource in the mix, often sets the wholesale price. The real-time wholesale price for Southeastern Massachusetts at 10 am on Wednesday was \$33.55 per megawatt-hour. The hourly day-ahead energy price for Thursday, April 29, as of 10 am Wednesday, was \$56.97

per megawatt-hour.

The grid is managed by ISO to match supply and demand, and every five minutes of the day, grid operators choose the least expensive resources to do so. More expensive resources are called upon until demand is met. Then, every resource is paid the same hourly price, set by the last, most expensive resource used.

That price is what Islanders see in the "supply" part of their energy bill, and recently, accounts for around 45 percent of the total for Massachusetts customers. The "delivery" part, which is the cost needed to get the power from a resource to homes and is managed by Eversource for the Island, constitutes the rest of the bill.

Utilities, like Eversource, sell the power from contracted resources, like Vineyard Wind, back to the wholesale market. And while the grid sets the supply price of a bill, the delivery charge includes other costs, such as a long-term renewable energy adjustment.

When the wholesale price in the energy market is less than the fixed price, customers experience an added charge in their bills to reconcile the difference. When the

price in the contract is higher, customers get a credit.

That being said, Islanders should see a welcome difference in their bill when the wholesale price, especially when demand is high in the coldest and hottest months, is higher than \$69.50 per megawatt-hour. Should the wholesale price be lower, they'll incur the difference to get up to that nearly \$70

per megawatt-hour.

"The activation of Vineyard Wind 1's power purchase agreements marks an important milestone for Massachusetts electricity customers and the New England grid," Craig Gilvarg, spokesperson for Vineyard Wind, said. "The project is delivering reliable energy at stable, affordable prices, and is projected to

save ratepayers billions in the decades ahead. At a moment when the region needs it most, Vineyard Wind is adding significant new energy and strengthening the long-term security of the New England grid."

It is not confirmed that every turbine is commissioned or that the project reached full "commercial operation," which is when the technology is fully tested and actively generates revenue. As of Thursday, April 16, 55 out of the 62 turbines were able to generate power, an attorney for GE Vernova, a central contractor of the project which installs and commissions the project's turbines, said. That was not all at full capacity, the attorney added.

A commissioning milestone, which activated the contract price, came a day before GE Vernova had planned to walk out on the project over alleged withheld payments by the offshore wind developer worth more than \$300 million. The matter was taken to court, and a judge granted officials at Vineyard Wind a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order. This means GE Vernova can't terminate, at least for now, a contract that guarantees the company provides service and maintenance to the project's 62 turbines over the next five years. **mvt**



JENNETTE BARNES/CAI

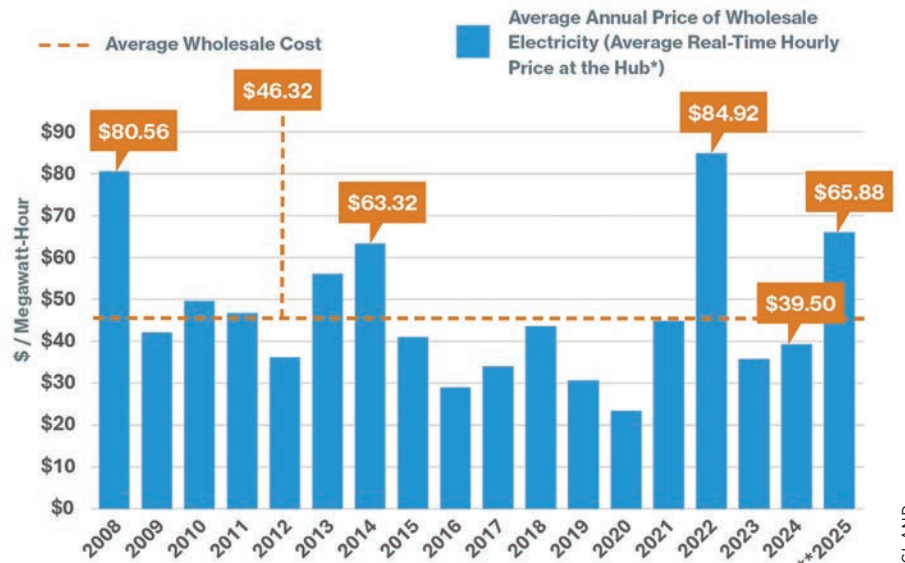
# Stable price for Vineyard Wind energy now in effect

During high demand, Islanders could see a difference in their energy bills.

BY HAYLEY DUFFY

## Wholesale Electricity Prices Vary Year-to-Year

Fuel costs are a key driver of electric prices.



\* The Hub is a collection of 32 locations in New England used to represent an uncongested price for electric energy.

\*\* 2025 data are subject to adjustments.

ISO NEW ENGLAND

### This week at JARDIN MAHONEY



*Fruit trees & bushes are here!*

Apples, pears, peaches, figs, grapes, cherries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries & more!

### SPRING SPECIALS!\*

Green Giant Arborvitae  
3-4' (3 gal.) - \$29.50

Privet - 3 gal. - \$29.50

*\*While supplies last.*

### NEW NURSERY SHIPMENTS are arriving daily

Stay up-to-date on new arrivals and seasonal specials.

Text NEWSHIPS to 855-761-2612 to be added to our text alerts.\*

\*Message & data rates may apply. Text STOP at anytime to discontinue alerts.



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

**MY Times**

# community & calendar

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026



Some of the MVRHS graduates who now work at MVRHS.

The MVRHS graduates who came home to teach. SEE B14

ELSBETH TODD

# ALUMNI TEACHERS

# VisitingVet

BY MICHELLE GERHARD JASNY V.M.D.



The return of Dr. Jasny's column.

## Vineyard connections

**M**y daffodils have finally bloomed. Another Vineyard spring. Like last year. And the year before. Maybe you've noticed my column's absence. We've had a bit of a sabbatical, but will be back now with occasional musings from the veterinary world. So I am musing.

This spring is different for me — the first since my mother passed away. Oddly, what I am noticing is not just her absence, but how life continues, how things circle back, how, especially here in our off-season community, we are connected.

A phone call late one afternoon: A young woman I know has found a robin with an injured leg. I don't have time to do much wildlife rehabilitation any more, but try to help when I can. At least I can assess the damage and whether the bird has a

chance for recovery. "Put it in a box and bring it over," I advise. The phone rings again. A young man. His family's neutered male cat is having trouble urinating. I explain that urinary obstructions in male cats can become rapidly life-threatening. He knows. In fact, his mother is already en route to the ferry to head to Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists. I ask for her phone number and email. Blocked cats can often be treated on-Island by local veterinarians, but extenuating circumstances suggest it might make sense for this one to go off. I will connect with her, discuss options, and, if needed, email a letter to facilitate travel.

We will circle back to robin and blocked cat later, but first, the story of Penelope, an elderly feline, adopted about a year ago. Initially, Penelope was extremely shy, but, with loving patience, her new owners coaxed her out of her shell. She soon showed her affectionate



MICHELLE JASNY

The Visiting Vet, like springtime, has returned.

*We've had a bit of a sabbatical, but will be back now with occasional musings from the veterinary world. So I am musing.*

nature, becoming deeply attached to her humans. And vice versa. Then, this spring, Penny came into my office for lethargy, poor appetite, and significant weight loss. On exam, she was thin and dehydrated, had an elevated heart rate, a heart murmur, and a palpable thyroid nodule — all symptoms consistent with the most common endocrine abnormality in older cats, hyperthyroidism. This disease is caused by a usually benign but hormone-secreting thyroid tumor. The excess hormone raises the metabolic rate, causing a range of signs that can in-

clude excessive or reduced appetite, increased thirst, behavioral changes, rapid heartbeat, arrhythmias, and weight loss. Diagnosis is usually straightforward — a blood test to measure thyroid hormone levels.

The recommended treatment to cure hyperthyroidism is an injection of radioiodine (a.k.a. I-131), which destroys the thyroid tumor without damaging any other organs. This is done at a specialty facility with a required two- to four-day hospitalization, until radiation levels drop to a safe level. Then there are precautions that need to be taken for a

few weeks after the patient returns home, but once it's done, it's done. Cured. Not every owner chooses radioiodine therapy, however. In most cases, we at least begin with a different option — a medication called methimazole, usually given as a pill once or twice daily, which lowers thyroid hormone levels. It is a treatment, not a cure, so pills need to be given every day for the rest of the cat's life.

Penelope's thyroid levels were dangerously high, so we started her immediately on oral methimazole to stabilize her while her owners considered I-131 treatment. I have treated hundreds, probably thousands, of cats this way for 40 years. Serious side effects are rare. The most common is vomiting, which often resolves as the cat acclimates. I have seen a handful break out with bad skin rashes, and one that developed a serious hematological abnormality, but most have no problem taking methimazole pills, often for years on end.

Not Penelope. Although her thyroid hormone levels dropped, so did her appetite, and her whole demeanor worsened. She was barely eating, vomiting frequently, and hiding under the bed, miserable. Her owners were distraught. They reduced, then stopped, the methimazole. We discussed referral to a specialist, but I was confident the main issue was hyperthyroidism. "Cats who can't tolerate oral methimazole can sometimes be treated successfully with transdermal gel," I suggested.

This methimazole gel can be rubbed into the ear and absorbed through the skin. It has to be made at a compounding pharmacy, and

can take a week or more to get shipped here. I was worried about the wait. Penelope was rapidly declining.

But it's the Vineyard. We are connected. I called another client whom I remembered had been using compounded transdermal methimazole for her cat to see if she had any to spare. "I've been meaning to call you," she said. Turns out her sweet 15-year-old cat had recently passed away at home. She would be happy to share the leftover medication with Penelope's owners.

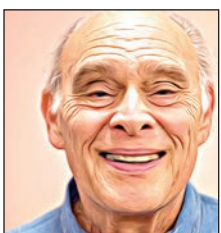
Circling back, I called the woman with the blocked cat. Did she want a letter for the SSA? I got her email address. I won't share it here other than to say it included two words: Gone Fishing. I paused and took a deep breath. These were the last two words my father wrote to me. He left them on a pink index card on his pillow in his hospital room when they came to take him for the procedure from which he never returned. I told this story to the woman on the phone.

Then she told me she remembers hearing me read a poem, 40 years ago, about my father's death. I felt like my dad was sending me a message. I felt connected.

The young woman with the robin arrives. She has a friend with her. It turns out he is the same young man who called about the blocked cat, whose mother I just spoke with. Sadly, the robin has a broken leg and is euthanized, but the blocked cat does well. Penelope is responding beautifully to transdermal methimazole, while we decide if she is a good candidate for radioactive iodine. Another Vineyard spring. The daffodils are blooming. **MVT**

## Ask Tom, The Dogcharmer

BY TOM SHELBY



A real-world skill with real-world applications.

## Find out about 'Go find'

**Dogcharmer Tom,** I would appreciate it if you could tell me how to start teaching a dog to "Go find." Denise A.

**Denise,** I love the question. It's one of the favorite games a dog can play, which makes it easy to teach. Assuming your dog

complies with the command "Stay," have your dog sit and stay while aware of there being a treat in your hand. Then back away while facing the dog, keeping the dog's attention on you as you place the treat behind a shoe or chair leg or whatever. Then say, excitedly, "Go find" the treat. You want success to build on success. The dog runs over and easily finds the treat where you put it, even though he couldn't see it. Do that several times, slowly making it a little harder to find each time.

I tell my dog Paula Jean to lie down and stay in the kitchen, while I go upstairs and hide the treat in one of the three bedrooms or two bathrooms. Then I go back down and tell her "Go find," and she charges upstairs, and has as yet never quit till she found the treat.

This skill set is fun, but also very useful in real-world circumstances. (Trigger warning: the following anecdote might be distressing to some



KRISTOFER RABASCA

readers.) Once, during a real search for a woman who had somehow wandered away from a mental institution in New Jersey during a bad snowstorm, my dog Michelle and a bloodhound kept sniffing around a big tree, at which point Michelle went up with her front legs on the tree. Up until that point, it was hard to see anything because of the blowing snow, but Michelle made it clear to look up. The woman had somehow climbed the tree and killed herself by hanging, a horrible lesson I never forgot.

So, when I play "Go find" with my dogs, I often hide the treat up on a chair or bureau, teaching them it's not always on the ground or floor. Your dog will love the game!

**Dogcharmer Tom**

Have a question for the Dogcharmer? Write him at [dogsrshelby@msn.com](mailto:dogsrshelby@msn.com). Find him on Instagram @Dog-TrainingDiaries.

*When I play "Go find" with my dogs, I often hide the treat up on a chair or bureau, teaching them it's not always on the ground or floor.*

BOOKS

# 'The Brass Ring'

by Nancy Wood

A posthumous novel of Vineyard love.

BY ABBY REMER

Author Nancy Wood (1928–2025) immediately reveals the key catalyst in her story “The Brass Ring: A Novel About Friendship” in the opening lines: “I didn’t set out to capture my oldest friend’s fiancé. It wasn’t like that. It didn’t come all at once like a bee sting, that spellbound longing for him, but I was 18, brimming with love and romance, and I was an easy mark.”

“Blame it on the goings-on during that Vineyard summer that convinced me he rightfully belonged with me ... I was convinced that if he met up with the force of my desire, a happy ending would surely follow.”

This is the adult voice of Joanie, one of the three friends, along with BT and Edie, the friends referred to in the novel’s subtitle.

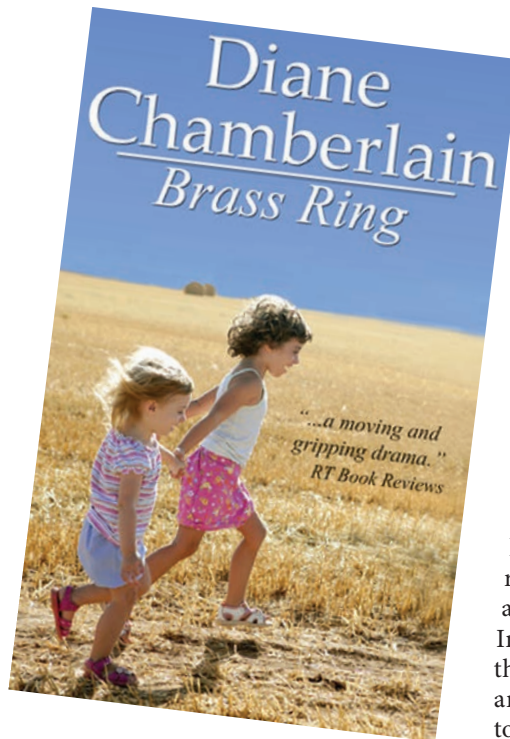
Leo is the boy in question, whom Joanie stole from BT. Now in their late 70s, gathered at Leo’s funeral, Joanie tells us she believes BT is still unaware of the deception that took place in their teenage years. BT assures Joanie, “Honestly, please believe me when I say I’m glad he ended up with someone I care about like you ... I never resented him marrying you. I know he had every reason in the world to break up with me.” In response, Joanie says to us, “Now would be the time to tell her that if Edie and I hadn’t interfered, she would most likely be the one married to Leo all this time.”

Having set the stage, Wood then thrusts us back to that fateful summer in 1946, when, fresh out of high school, the three girls travel to the Vineyard to be waitresses at the Tashmoo Inn. The girls quickly pair off with three boys. The problem

arises when BT, who’d been all but engaged to her sweetheart Leo, now a soldier in Europe, falls head over heels in love with her summer fling. Unable to answer Leo’s continual love letters, BT has Joanie write to him in her name. And Joanie, secretly in love with Leo, is happy to do so, dreaming that his words of love to BT are for her.

To tell more would be to give away the story. But the rest of the novel alternates among the three women, and how that early deception, leading to Leo becoming Joanie’s husband, plays out right up to Leo’s funeral and beyond.

Wood situates some segments of “The Brass Ring” on the Vineyard. For those



down. There’s a lot in the book about the way [the Island] was back then, like hitchhiking everywhere.”

Wood later summ-ered on the Island off and on. She also lived here full-time twice, once starting in 1966 for six years, and again after she retired in 2012, until she passed away in 2025.

Wood wrote a few books over the years, and occasionally penned pieces for the Gazette. “She always had something going,” Bates recalls. “She also always had a picture of the Tashmoo Inn in her bedroom. She got the Vineyard bug in 1946, and never lost it. She wanted to get that down in writing, because that summer really affected her whole life. She met people who became friends for her whole life. From 18 years old until the day she died at 97, the Vineyard was always in her life.”

During her later years, Wood became involved in author Cynthia Riggs’ Wednesday Writers Group. “They vetted ‘The Brass Ring’ and asked her questions,” Bates says. Connie Berry, one of the members, and a close friend of Wood’s, adds, “We all loved listening to Nancy’s progress as she

wrote the book. Her memories of the Island were so vast — she had a connection here since she was a teenager, and then lived here full-time during different phases of her life, and she lived a very long and interesting life.”

“When Mom received a prognosis of heart failure, her greatest desire was to finish the book and hold a copy in her hands,” says Bates, who worked tirelessly to help her accomplish this. “I wanted to get it out there for people who are interested in the old Vineyard stories.”

In fact, the Vineyard references start with the book’s title. It refers to the coveted brass ring riders attempt to grab from the rapid-fire dispenser when passing by on their trusty steeds on the Flying Horses Carousel in Oak Bluffs.

“The Brass Ring” is fiction, although Bates says, “Each of the main characters has pieces of my mother in them at various phases of her life. But only the family knows for sure which things are real or not. But in the end, it’s a story of forgiveness and friendship.”

“The Brass Ring” by Nancy Wood. Available at Edgartown Books, Bunch of Grapes, and Cronig’s Market.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### 'Empty Bowls' fundraiser

On May 9, there will be a supper and silent auction in support of MECA, the Middle East Children’s Alliance. There will be live piano music by Glenway Fripp and David Stanwood, followed by the Dock Dance Band. Soup, salad, bread, and dessert will be served, and at the end of the evening, each attendee will take home a beautiful handmade bowl. Suggested donations are \$35 to \$60 (or higher) for adults. The event is organized and sponsored by Sense of Wonder Creation, Olive Branch Fair Trade, and Expanding the Conversation. Call Pam at 508-693-3142 for more information and to make reservations.

### Mother’s Day at the Lambert’s Cove Inn

Lambert’s Cove Inn will be offering its first annual Mother’s Day tulip brunch from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Enjoy Chef Galen Sampson’s delicious food and explore the beautiful grounds as they explode with spring life. A bouquet of tulips from the inn’s cutting garden is gifted as a part of brunch to all mothers. Book now at [bit.ly/LCI\\_Mothers-DayBrunch](http://bit.ly/LCI_Mothers-DayBrunch).



LAMBERT'S COVE INN

### First Friday fundraiser

There will be a “Dine to Donate” fundraiser on May 1 at the Vineyard Grill at Five Corners in Vineyard Haven, to raise money for the 2026 First Fridays series, which will begin June 1. Think of it as a preseason First Friday. There will be live music, food, raffles, merchandise, and new T shirt art by Althea Designs. A portion of the food and drink sales will be donated to First Friday Vineyard Haven. First Friday is a free, community-inspired, all-day event spanning the Vineyard Haven Harbor Cultural District. Started in 2017, it celebrates the local arts and culture scene.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

### Oliver Hunter Araujo

Marianna Araujo and Tyler Araujo of Vineyard Haven announce the birth of a son, Oliver Hunter Araujo, on April 14, 2026, at Martha’s Vineyard Hospital. Oliver weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces.

## Cribbage Club results



BY SAMANTHA BURNS

The cold returns as the title race heats up, and three players claw their way toward first place. These three contenders made decisions to ensure their presence at this week’s showdown. One brave soul postponed his vacation a day or so, as another just returned from his time off the rock. In another display of dedication, one competitor hustled through the night with his Velomobile just to make it back in time for pegging! Good luck, Collin Evanson, Jack Silvia, and Bill Russell, on your race to the top!

Eighteen people gathered to play our favorite game. The results of the night were as follows:

**First,** Andria Jason with an 11/5 +75 card

**Second,** Ed Montesion with a 10/5 +52 card  
**Third,** Bill Russell with a 9/4 +59 card  
**Fourth,** Jack Silvia with a 9/4 +56 card  
**Fifth,** Sharon Barba with an 8/4 +1 card

There were only TWO 24-point hands dealt, to Ed Roman and Collin Evanson. Seven skunks were suffered!

We regularly meet on Wednesdays at the American Legion in Katama; if you like cribbage, please come join us! 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](mailto:maonmv@mac.com) or 508-524-1220.

## POET'S CORNER

### A Happy Blizzard

By Liz Splittgerber

It doesn't happen every year  
Only once in a very great while  
Here on-Island, a winter storm comes  
Where the snow just piles and piles

A happy blizzard, some would say –  
One definitely for the books  
It swirled about the East Chop Light  
And in each harbor the boats it shook

The streets became unusually empty  
Except for a few brave souls  
And all along the roads and lanes  
Great big snowbanks rose and rose

Staying safe and warm, all snug inside  
Is the collective frame of mind  
But for the adventurers, with skis or sled  
A happy blizzard is what they'll find

*Liz Splittgerber and her family have been year-rounders here on the Vineyard since 2016. Liz loves how the Island brings out her creative side, as she draws inspiration from nature and Island life with her poetry, photography, and book writing. Poets with a connection to Martha's Vineyard are encouraged to submit poems to [m@mvwest.com](mailto:m@mvwest.com). Please also include a two- to three-sentence bio at the end of your poem.*

The passing of longtime Tisbury columnist Kay Mayhew has led to a search for a new columnist. While getting to know potential candidates, we asked our five living town columnists how they had found themselves in the position. Here are their stories. —Ed.

**HERMINE HULL, West Tisbury**

This is the story of how I came to write the West Tisbury column. Mary Jo Joiner had retired as the West Tisbury columnist, and we were without a town column for some while. My beloved father-in-law, Richard Hull, had recently been told that his cancer had returned, and he was facing the end of his life. He had been a writer and newspaperman for part of his career. Bobby, my mother-in-law, suggested that I should take on writing the column, that “it would be a distraction for Richard.” Mary Jo encouraged me to give it a try. Pat Waring was column editor at the time, and she agreed to hire me. Her advice: Tell a story in your own voice.

Every Monday morning, I brought the draft of my column next door. Richard and I drank coffee together while he read and edited my column. My in-laws had a pair of comb-back Windsor writing chairs in their kitchen, which is where we sat and worked.

After they died, and their house was sold, the only thing I wanted was those chairs. One was left to me, the other to my husband Mike’s brother, Jared. It is my most prized possession.

FYI: Richard always crossed out the adjectives in my drafts. I kept them in. They were my voice. Richard was a newsman, so clearly reporting the facts was what he did. I was telling stories in my own voice, a sort of diary of life in West Tisbury. My first column was in December 2004. Richard died in January 2006.

**CLAIRE GANZ, Chilmark**

I recall that it was dear Katie Carroll (current Chilmark town columnist for the Gazette) who suggested I consider the column. When Jane Slater wanted to retire from the Gazette’s Chilmark column, she’d tapped Katie to take over. Katie and her husband Marshall host the town’s front porch at their gas station in Menemsha.

The town columnist at the time, Valerie Sonnenthal, was facing health issues, spending more time in Rhode Island, and having trouble finding a replacement. Holly Nadler, then a new friend, was still writing for The Times, and said it would be good for me, because she liked my writing and was concerned that eldercare was consuming my life.

I was caring for both parents. Much of my time was spent reading to, researching, and helping my blind 90-plus-year-old father write

# On becoming a columnist

Our chroniclers share their origin stories.

his opus on the history of the imagination.

When I was a child, my father, a college professor of the “great books,” was frustrated by my brain; I have almost no short-term memory. He despaired over my trouble writing to his standards. In college, I studied psychology and statistics, and I had a career as director of clinical research operations for biotech companies.

Reviewing drafts of my column gave us a chance to heal what felt like a cavernous rift. He died three years ago on Easter.

**JOANNE LAMBERT, Oak Bluffs**

I was approached by Connie Berry to write the Oak Bluffs column when Megan Alley retired in 2021, after writing the column for more than 20 years.

At the time, my daughter Jenna worked as ad sales director for The Times, so I had met Connie and the staff. I have always loved to write — in fact, both my husband and I had written for a precursor to The MV Times called Island Light in the early ’80s. Having lived in Oak Bluffs for 40 years, I was deeply connected to the town, and involved in many different aspects of Vineyard life — through my work in hospitality, then early childhood education, and through volunteering. Plus I’m naturally a social person!

It seemed like a good fit to Connie, and I was happy to do it. I met with Megan Alley before I started, and she shared her experience — and her list of town birthdays! She was very supportive as I started, which I have always appreciated

**KATHIE OLSEN, Aquinnah**

In 1996, I became executive director of the Arts Council of Southern Oregon. Part of that job was editing a monthly arts newspaper that included a column for the executive director. I was loath to take that on, as my mother was a well-known writer, and I didn’t want to be compared with her ... but, of course, I did it anyway, as it was part of the job. That column caught the interest of the editor of a local weekly paper, and before I knew it, I was writing features for them. I’ve had a column of one sort or another ever since.

When I moved to the Vineyard full-time 10 years ago, I always read the town columns in The Times, including those of Molly Purves, who was writing the Aquinnah column (my adopted hometown). After a few years, Molly left the paper, and for many weeks there was a small display ad asking for someone to take it on; meanwhile, Aquinnah remained unrepresented. Family and friends, including Nancy Aronie, who knew my book and my work from Oregon, kept urging me to do it. Finally, I wrote to Connie, sending her samples from some of the 52 past columns I’d written, and — ta-da — in late March 2022, I was given the privilege of taking it on. And so here I am!

**MARNELY MURRAY, Edgartown**

I’ve penned the Edgartown town column for almost a year now, but the truth is, I wanted it for much longer than that. About a decade ago, I was writing the food column for the Martha’s Vineyard Times, and I loved it, but I always had my eye on the town column. Gail Gardner had it for years, and she was wonderful at it, but every two or three years, like clockwork, I would reach out to her and just ... check in. Planting a seed. Staying on her radar. Being genuinely, persistently interested without being annoying about it (and if you know me, you know how annoying I can get when I want something).

Eventually, when Gail decided to step away from it, she passed it on to someone within The Times — I think maybe two other ladies gave it a shot, until I finally got the call. It’s one of those things that taught me a real lesson about patience and about knowing what you want, and not letting go of it, not in a desperate way, but in a consistent, I’m-still-here kind of way. Sometimes the things worth having are the ones you’re willing to wait years for! To be writing the Edgartown town column now is not only an honor, but one of my favorite jobs to date. **MVT**

*I was writing the food column for the Martha’s Vineyard Times, and I loved it, but I always had my eye on the town column.*  
— MARNELY MURRAY (Edgartown)

*My in-laws had a pair of comb-back Windsor writing chairs in their kitchen, which is where we sat and worked.*  
— HERMINE HULL (West Tisbury)

*Family and friends, including Nancy Aronie, who knew my book and my work from Oregon, kept urging me to do it.*  
— KATHIE OLSEN (Aquinnah)

*I have always loved to write — in fact, both my husband and I had written for a precursor to The MV Times called Island Light in the early ’80s.*  
— JOANNE LAMBERT (Oak Bluffs)

*Holly Nadler, then a new friend, was still writing for The Times, and said it would be good for me, because she liked my writing and was concerned that eldercare was consuming my life.*  
— CLAIRE GANZ (Chilmark)

## T O W N C O L U M N I S T S

### Edgartown

By Marnely Murray  
marnely@gmail.com



This is the last column for the month of April, and as we roll into May, let’s take a moment to recognize that 30 percent of 2026 has already flown by. I’d love to know how your spring was, and what’s new with you! Email me at marnely@gmail.com with any fun family, business, or personal updates you’d like to share with the general public. The more we share, the deeper our communities become, forming bonds that connect us to one another in a way that just waving hello while walking down Main Street can’t do.

On that note, Jim Athearn of Morning Glory Farm in Edgartown emailed me this week, letting me know that Simon Athearn and his 12-year-old son Ignatius from Crow Hollow Farm in West Tisbury are hiking a historic pilgrimage route in the county of Kent, in south-eastern England. Kent was the birthplace of their first Island ancestor, who settled on Martha’s Vineyard in 1662, also named Simon Athearn. The route takes them about 100 miles across Kent from Merstham to Canterbury on the North Down Way, then

to Dover with its famous White Cliffs. The trail passes through a spectacular expanse of diverse farmland, and Jim says that the photos Simon has sent are highly entertaining to their farming family back home here on M.V. I can’t wait to connect with Simon when he’s back and hear more about this adventure! And for the gardeners out there, Morning Glory Farm has its greenhouse plant sale starting on May 1, so make sure to stop by and check out the offerings.

Thanks to my friend Roberta, I’m getting all the Chappy information! Here’s what she’s reporting: a reminder about the spring cleanup at the Chappy Community Center on May 2, starting at 9 am. Join your Chappy neighbors to get the CCC ready for the season! Lunch, snacks, and drinks

provided. Contact chappy-center@gmail.com or call 774-310-1348 with questions. Rain date is May 3. And she also mentioned that the CCC Fine Arts and Artisan Show has put out a call for artisans, open to anyone — not just Chappy residents! The show is on July 25. The event is a fundraiser for the CCC and a celebration of our unique artistic community. If you’re an artist who’s looking to head over to Chappy to showcase your work, reach out to Tina Humber-Floyd at chappy-center@gmail.com or 508-627-8222 for questions or more information.

Back in Edgartown, my friend and talented author Thomas Dresser is speaking at the Edgartown library on May 7 at 6 pm on his new book, “Historic Storms of Martha’s Vineyard.”

He will discuss the Great Colonial Hurricane of 1635, as well as the year without a summer. He shares that he will have tales from the ’38 Hurricane and the Great Atlantic Storm of ’44. Plus, of course, everyone knows Hurricane Bob, so he’ll share some Bob stories as well! I wouldn’t miss this if I were you.

Two fun events at the

Harbor View Hotel this coming week: On May 2 it’ll be hosting a fun Kentucky Derby Party, and on May 5, make sure to celebrate with them with a Cinco de Mayo Island-style! More details on the website: harborviewhotel.com/events.

No birthdays that I know of this week — and people always ask me how do I know what birthdays to share? Easy: Facebook. But if we’re not friends on Facebook, I won’t be alerted to your birthday, so if you’d like to see a shout-out, make sure to send me an email! You know where to find me. **MVT**

**Here’s a reminder about the spring cleanup at the Chappy Community Center on May 2, starting at 9 am. Join your Chappy neighbors to get the CCC ready for the season!**

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

## Aquinnah



By Kathie Olsen

aquinnahcolumn@gmail.com

Last week, the Aquinnah library hosted events in honor of Earth Week. I attended the Climate Resiliency Panel hosted by Sakiko Isomichi, climate resiliency planner for the Martha's Vineyard Commission. As we have experienced already, climate change is bringing wild weather patterns and coastal flooding in new and unpredictable ways. The first section of the presentation was a discussion about emergency response to those changes.

The second part of the program was a presentation by Rich Couse, program

director of BiodiversityWorks, who spoke about planting for climate resilience. He opened by talking about how nature can be our great ally, if only we embrace the Vineyard's natural character and grow plants that were here before European immigration. BioDiversityWorks has lists and publications available to help you do that.

When I asked him what one thing he most wanted me to say this week, it was to warn people to be careful with cleanup: Leave those leaves, and don't cut those old plants to less than 12 inches, as these are places where the tiniest

creatures burrow and nest. We can go ahead with cleanup after the days are 50°. Our ecosystem needs these insects and tiny creatures to thrive.

Author Tom Dresser has a new book out that fits the theme. It is called "Historic Storms of Martha's Vineyard." It is a book that covers storms as far back as 1635, and is a good reminder that we don't want to encourage these events if we can do something to avoid them, or at least prepare for them. Tom will be at the Aquinnah library on Thursday, April 30, at 3 pm to talk about the book. He is an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker. Attend if you can.

On Friday, May 1, there is a call for a national day of economic disruption. It is a time to use our pocketbooks to protest a culture that puts billionaires before

babies, before workers, before science, before peace, before our planet. In other parts of the country there will be demonstrations and marches and boycotts organized by unionists, students, ordinary folks. Here on the Vineyard, it is a quieter protest. People are simply asked to stay away from the marketplace in whatever way is best for them. For some it may be no work. For others, no school. For others, no shopping. The idea is to hurt the billionaires where it matters most to them — their money pile.

I don't usually write about things happening down-Island, but this one includes

our own Molly Purves. She will be appearing as part of the Comedy Variety Show at the Martha's Vineyard Playhouse in Vineyard Haven on Thursday, May 7. The show is part of the "No Bones" comedy festival put on by Circuit Arts, and promises to be a romping good time. The show starts at 7:30 pm. It's a pay-what-you-can event, with a suggested ticket price of \$20. For tickets, go to bit.ly/CA\_VarietyShow.

Ruth Folchman wants you to know that there will not be a Mindfulness and Meditation gathering on Thursday, April 30, as she will be off-Island. She'll be back for

the May 7 session. It meets at 8 am, and all are welcome.

Keep your eye on activities up on the Cliffs. This week we expect the new VTA bus shelter will be moved from Tim Laursen's work barn for final assembly on the already installed brick floor pad. A week or so later, Tim will be starting to add the bent steel roof superstructure and cedar-shingle-finished top.

Lots of great birthdays this week. On May 1, it's Ella Mahoney's day. On May 2, Maysel Vanderhoop White. On May 5th, Isaac Vanderhoop, and on May 6, we celebrate Alex Taylor. **MVT**

**Leave those leaves, and don't cut those old plants to less than 12 inches, as these are places where the tiniest creatures burrow and nest.**

## Chilmark



By Claire Ganz

cganz@live.com

Hillside are blazing with yellows, and the later, sweet-smelling white narcissus are beginning their bloom. Red blossoms from maple trees carpet the driveway. My dog and I refuse to adjust our route, and ignore the fierce complaints of the osprey recently returned to their nest. They seem to be adjusting. One year I felt I needed an umbrella for protection. Because birds are nesting, I keep the dog

leashed on the trails and around the ponds.

Soon the azaleas and rhododendron will start to bloom. Spring cleanup is calling, and we are careful, having learned the hard way that you can easily kill things by mistake. The past can inform us.

Priscilla Warner's art incorporating childhood drawings graces walls in the infusion center at the hospital, and never fails to send a message of encouragement and ignite a feisty sense of

exuberance in a space where hard things happen, and outcomes aren't certain.

Last week Warner's latest book was released, and became an instant bestseller on Amazon: "How to Fall in Love with Yourself: Lessons I Learned from My Younger Self." Nancy Aronie, beloved founder of the Chilmark Writing Workshop, and author of "Writing from the Heart: Tapping the Power of Your Inner Voice," said, "Priscilla Warner's new book is so beautiful that I almost can't find words about her words. It helps to be 72 with a co-au-

thor who is 7! And that's precisely what makes this book so brilliant. We get the innocence of a child with the wisdom of a grown-up."

Thomas Dresser is speaking on his latest book, "Historic Storms of Martha's Vineyard," on Friday, May 1, at the Chilmark library's Lunch and Learn program. It runs from 11:30 to 1 pm.

It is nice to see that the tick-repelling lavender, mint, rosemary, and marigolds are returning.

Tick Free Martha's Vineyard is hosting a public briefing and panel discus-

sion on the aerial deer survey results today, Thursday, April 30, from 2 to 3 pm at the Agricultural Hall in West Tisbury. We are invited to submit questions in advance at info@tickfreemv.org. The event will be recorded and available for viewing at a later date.

The ticks are a difficult problem we all have to contend with. But like many things, we will end up finding out the costs and benefits of proposed solutions after trying. Maybe there will be more flocks of chickens and Guinea fowl.

The winter storms took

down cedar trees, and they say that cedar chips or shredded decaf can help with ticks, so we are sorting branches before chipping.

Bees don't tend to pick anything up off the ground, but what are the effects of the sprays?

We are sending clothes off for treatment, and have bottles of pyrethrum to spray on our shoes and pants. As always, tucking our pants into our socks, and shirts into our pants.

Thank you to Keren Tonneson and Scott Crowford for keeping Pathways open and the light on for artists and writers all winter in the Chilmark Tavern. Thank you to Marianne Goldberg's family for continuing what she founded. We will look for notice of your down-Island summer activities. **MVT**

**The winter storms took down cedar trees, and they say that cedar chips or shredded decaf can help with ticks, so we are sorting branches before chipping.**

## West Tisbury



By Hermine Hull

hermine.hull@gmail.com

The weather has reverted to chilly days and nights that are more typical of our Vineyard springs than the 60-plus-degree days we had the week before. Still, lawns are greening up, leaves are appearing, and daffodils and flowering trees are a welcome sight after our snowy winter.

I hope it will be sunny, and warm up a bit for this weekend. Friday is May 1, May Day. I am so excited to be going to the Chilmark

School for this year's May Day celebration. Iyla is in fourth grade this year, so she is participating for the first time, along with her classmates, and the fifth graders, as is Chilmark School tradition.

On Saturday, May 2, we will have our own celebration here in town. The Friends of the West Tisbury Village invite everyone to gather around the Maypole that will be set up on the Field Gallery's lawn. Festivities begin at 11 am.

Then the party moves to the library's porch for snacks and crafts. I love that the Friends group is making occasions to bring us together in our historic town center.

The Field Gallery is opening on May 1, so we will be able to see its opening exhibition as part of our day.

Besides the May Day celebration, the library is hosting several other programs over the weekend. On Sunday afternoon from 1 to 3 pm, Lynn Christoffers will be in the library's Children's Room to take free early Mother's Day portraits of mothers, grandmothers, families, and special loved ones. Lynn began this lovely tradition years ago, and she continues it this year.

Author Tom Dresser

has a new book out, "Historic Storms of Martha's Vineyard: From the Great Colonial Hurricane of 1635 to the Present." Looking forward to hearing him discuss it at our library, as he usually does.

Simon Athearn and his 12-year-old son, Ignatius, spent the April vacation on a historic hiking pilgrimage through the county of Kent in southeastern England. Kent was the birthplace of their first Island ancestor, also named Simon Athearn,

who settled on the Island in 1662. They hiked about 100 miles across Kent, from Merstham to Canterbury on the North Down Way, then to Dover, with its famous White Cliffs. The trail passes through a spectacular expanse of diverse farmland, documented by the travelers' photographs sent to the family at home. What an amazing way for Ignatius to learn about his family history by walking it with his dad.

The Athearns live at Crow Hollow Farm in West

Tisbury, near the Tisbury Great Pond, long the home of the Look and Athearn families. Previously, it had been farmed by Leonard Athearn, Simon's great-uncle. Now, Simon and Robyn live there with their three children, Rose, Ignatius, and Alden, who are the 12th generation of Athearns on the Island. Simon is still a farmer, part of his parents' Morning Glory Farm in Edgartown, and with assorted Athearn farmland in West Tisbury and Chilmark. **MVT**

**The Friends of the West Tisbury Village invite everyone to gather around the Maypole that will be set up on the Field Gallery's lawn. Festivities begin at 11 am.**

# Beautiful diversity of comedy

Abby Bender partners with Circuit Arts for a comedy festival palooza.

BY ALLISON ROBERTS

From Wednesday, May 6, through Sunday, May 10, Circuit Arts will be presenting the first-ever “No Bones: A Comedy Festival of Humerus Proportions.” Martha’s Vineyard Playhouse in Vineyard Haven and the Strand Theatre in Oak Bluffs will be the venues.

The event is a co-production with Abby Bender Schmantze Theatre, and promises to be “a festival of the weird, the wired, and the wonderful.” The eclectic lineup of talent from Martha’s Vineyard, New York City, and beyond includes headliners the Grand Dame of Comedy, Susan Rice, and NPR personality and true comic’s comic Ophira Eisenberg.

“This festival is one of a kind with the variety of performances,” says Eisenberg. “Comedy expressed in so many different facets ... and this collection of artists coming together on one of the most beautiful islands in the world is truly magical.”

“I’m so excited to be asked to participate in ‘No Bones,’” says Rice. “At my age, I’m more likely to be asked to perform at ‘The Full Body Scan by Aetna’ Comedy Fest. With ‘No Bones,’ I get to visit a place I probably would never get to go unless I won a bet, and I get to take a ferry.”

Abby Bender, “No Bones” curator and artist and co-founder of the riotously popular annual Built on Stilts, says, “This is something I’ve been scheming and thinking about for a few years. At first I thought, ‘Do I want to produce again?’ There are a lot of moving parts when you produce, and I couldn’t do it without Circuit Arts.”

Bender says that after years of exploring movement and humor through the

Comedy in Dance Festival she ran in New York City, she’s very excited to bring that spirit here. “Comedy comes in countless forms, and this festival feels like a joyful collision of all those worlds. Laughter is the emotional override we all need right now, and I’m thrilled to be in such great company as we bring that to our Island audience.”

The festival performers include Island denizens and old friends of Bender’s from New York City: “When I moved to the Island, I wanted to bring together people from my past and new people from my present. So I approached Circuit Arts to see if they’d like to partner, and they did!”

“We deeply appreciate Abby Bender, and have loved working with her to put this amazing weekend of laughs together,” says Brian Ditchfield, executive director of Circuit Arts.

“We’re really excited to be co-producing this new festival,” agrees Kelly Kaye, Circuit Arts’ managing director. “I think there’s something for everyone over Mother’s Day weekend, but I’m especially looking forward to our headliners, Susan Rice and Ophira Eisenberg ... They’re both just so charming and funny; audiences are really going to love them.”

Locals and visitors alike are excited to be a part of this inaugural event. “I need the ‘No Bones’ comedy festival, because with all the bullshit and violence going on in the world, I’ve been wanting to hide under my covers,” says Elissa Lash, a company member of TBD Improv. “We all need to laugh. And we need to do it as a community ... Being part of ‘No Bones’ means



NOAH EBERHART



DENA PORTER



DENA PORTER

1. Tallie Medel and Chris Manley. 2. Betty Bootleg. 3. Campers Abby Bender, Libby Stackhouse, Katie Federowicz Perez, and Laura Sargeant Hall stand proudly together as they sing and dance. 4. Jeff Seal, Chris Manley, and Tallie Medel. 5. Mischievous scouts at Camp Hippocampus.



JIM R. MOORE



DENA PORTER

connecting with other people in a meaningful way — whether they’re onstage with me, in the audience, or I’m watching somebody and laughing/crying about life.”

Travis Tack of the “Electric Kool-Aid Comedy

Show” agrees: “Abby’s work is always exciting, and she has a talent for bringing eclectic groups of people together, so I’m really looking forward to seeing how this grows. Last year, we put on a sketch revue called ‘When All Is Said and Dumb’ at Circuit Arts. That was really well-received, so when Abby told me about ‘No Bones,’ I jumped at the opportunity.”

Cori Marquis and Deborah Lohse of Lohse x Marquis have a dance-based piece that Lohse describes

as “girls’ camp meets military pomp meets slasher film.” She says, “We are thrilled to bring an excerpt of ‘Jubilee 250’ to ‘No Bones,’ because a huge part of our process is finally getting to play with an audience. We learn so much onstage in front of and alongside strangers. Slightly terrifying? Yes. Absolutely thrilling and necessary? Yes and yes.”

Bender says the show is a little New York weirdness meets Martha’s Vineyard heart. “This festival has a

huge variety of comedy. We have clowning in the show, but not like the clowns you see in the Ringling Brothers Circus. There are plays that are quirky and beautiful and odd. It’s a beautiful diversity of comedy work, and it’s also very poignant.”

The festival also offers a clown workshop, which will take place on Saturday, May 9, at 1 pm. “Jeff and Buttons paired up with Tallie Medel, and they are incredible performers, and the clown class will take place at the playhouse,” Bender continues. “It’s for everyone, whether they are a beginner or have a lot of experience.”

“People ask me which night to come, and I say, ‘Come to them all!’ You can buy a festival pass, which is a total deal — \$150. We’ve already sold a few. Sketch comedy, clowning, stand-up, improv — such a great combo. I just want people to come out and distract ourselves from everything that’s going on.”

All performances are for ages 18-plus. Tickets are pay-what-you-can, unless listed otherwise. Tickets and full details can be found at [circuitarts.com](http://circuitarts.com).

“People don’t want to miss it. People ask me which night to come, and I say, ‘Come to them all!’”

—Abby Bender

# calendar

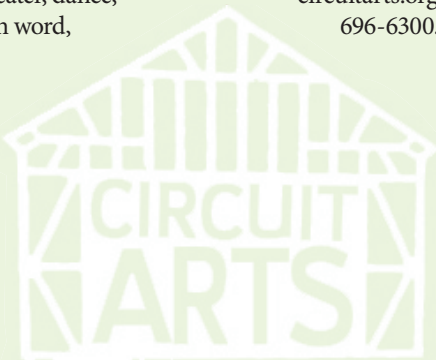
Event spotlight for the week of 5-1 - 5-6

## FRI 5/1

### 'Locals': A two-night festival of Vineyard talent

**L**ocals is a two-night mini-festival featuring live performances by the Vineyard community, including music, theater, dance,

and improv. It begins at 7 pm at the Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, 24 Church St., Vineyard Haven. Event contact: [boxoffice@circuitarts.org](mailto:boxoffice@circuitarts.org), 508-696-6300.



## SAT 5/2

### Maypole celebration



MV TIMES

**J**oin the Friends of the West Tisbury Village for a Maypole celebration on the Field Gallery lawn! Snacks and crafts after on

the library's porch. It's at 11 am on the Field Gallery Lawn, 1042 State Road, West Tisbury. Event contact: [wt\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org), 508-693-3366.

## SUN 5/3

### MV Times Publisher's Forum

**J**oin the MV Times for a publisher's forum marking World Press Freedom Day. Meet members of our staff, ask questions, and hear from Charles Sennott, the

publisher of The Times, about the state of local news. It's at 4 pm at The Martha's Vineyard Times, 30 Beach Road, Vineyard Haven. Event contact: [publisher@mvtimes.com](mailto:publisher@mvtimes.com).



MV TIMES

## MON 5/4

### Reading group: Wallace Stevens

**I**f you love poetry, you'll love the Martha's Vineyard Poetry Reading Group. Meetings take place via Zoom at 10 am on the first Monday of each month, from September to June. No qualifications, except a love of poetry. This month's topic is Wallace Stevens. Send an email to

[vhpL\\_programs@clamsnet.org](mailto:vhpL_programs@clamsnet.org) to be added to the list. A Zoom link and other materials will be provided. Virtual. Vineyard Haven library.



## TUES 5/5

### Meet Andrea James, candidate for governor

**J**oin Andrea James for a conversation on the cost of living, housing, and the Island's financial challenges. James, who is running a grassroots campaign, has visited communities statewide to hear from residents and create a campaign and solutions focused on the needs of the people. The conversation will also focus on the need for universal healthcare, childcare, and protecting our neighbors from ICE. Free. Space is limited. While

registration is not required, participants are encouraged to register: [ajforma.com/oak-bluffs-meet-and-greet](http://ajforma.com/oak-bluffs-meet-and-greet). 4:30 to 6 pm, Oak Bluffs library, 56R School St.



## WED 5/6

### 'Hands Only CPR'

**T**ake a hands-only CPR class, and learn how to correctly use an EpiPen. 1 to 2:30 pm. Space is limited,

so please sign up at [coastaff@westtisbury-ma.gov](mailto:coastaff@westtisbury-ma.gov). 508-693-2896, Up-Island Council on Aging, 1042 State Road, West Tisbury.



## Events

### THURSDAY, APRIL 30

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

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

#### Virtual Kripalu Flow Yoga

7:30 am, West Tisbury Library. On Zoom with Yogijay. Sign up for free by emailing [wt\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org). 508-693-3366, [wt\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto: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](mailto:ruthfolchman@me.com).

#### ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Class & Exam

8 am-2 pm, American Legion, Vineyard Haven. 855-478-7246, [rachel@hrfoodsafec.com](mailto:rachel@hrfoodsafec.com).

#### Kiut Yoga

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

#### Balletics

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

#### Fit for Flow with Maggie Buccì

9-10 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This fitness class, led by Maggie Buccì, is designed to get you fit to flow with the journey of life [info@stillpointmv.org](mailto: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, [mlynch@clamsnet.org](mailto:mlynch@clamsnet.org).

#### Dr. Seuss Scavenger Hunt

10 am-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Have fun searching for Dr. Seuss characters hidden around the Children's Room. Find all the characters and get a small prize. For kids of all ages. 508-693-9433, [mlynch@clamsnet.org](mailto:mlynch@clamsnet.org).

#### Wiggle with the Words Storytime

10:30-11 am, Edgartown Library. Fun props and interactive stories. Geared for ages 1-5, but all are welcome. No sign-up. [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto: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](mailto:coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov).

#### Family Yoga Play

11-11:30 am, West Tisbury Library. Playful, fun yoga for littles & their caregivers. Rec. for ages 0-5! Free and no registration needed. Thursdays 11:00-11:30 WT Library 508-693-3366, [hburidge@clamsnet.org](mailto:hburidge@clamsnet.org).

#### Spring Spectacular Show

11 am-4 pm, Louisa Gould Gallery, Vineyard Haven. Annual Spring Group Show: Sean Roach, Christie Scheele, Teek Eaton-Koch, Julieann Jarreau, and Paul Beebe. 508-693-7373, [louisagould@gmail.com](mailto:louisagould@gmail.com).

#### Tick Talk Thursdays: Community Q&A with the Martha's Vineyard Tick Program

12-1 pm, Vineyard Haven Library. Open office hours: ask questions, share experiences, and learn more about ticks

and tick-borne diseases. Register on VH Library event calendar. 508-696-4211, [vhpL\\_programs@clamsnet.org](mailto:vhpL_programs@clamsnet.org).

#### MVRHS Building Project Community Information Sessions

12:45-1:45 pm, West Tisbury Library. Representatives from MVRHS and the building project team will share the latest design updates, outline next steps, and answer questions from attendees 518-369-6224, [mary.korba@mvvps.org](mailto:mary.korba@mvvps.org).

#### Free CPR Class

1-2:30 pm, West Tisbury Library, w/ instructor Alan Ganapol. Gain valuable, practical skills that can help save a life. Not a certification course. 508-693-3366, [wt\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org).

#### Red Dragon Mah-Jong

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

#### Seed Planting

1-2:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come plant seeds in starter trays. Take them home and watch the plants grow. Fun spring activity! Drop in anytime between 1-2:30pm. 508-693-9433, [mlynch@clamsnet.org](mailto:mlynch@clamsnet.org).

#### Community Knitting Circle

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

#### A Briefing & Panel Discussion - 2026 Aerial Deer Survey Results

2-3 pm, Ag Hall, West Tisbury. Following the release of the 2026 Aerial Deer Survey report, this event will bring together local experts to discuss key findings. [info@tickfreemv.org](mailto:info@tickfreemv.org).

#### The Great Jazz Singers:

Presentation with Allen Morrison 2-3:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Jazz journalist and historian Allen Morrison returns to the library for a fascinating presentation 508-627-4221, [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org).

#### Author Talk: Thomas Dresser's Historic Storms of Martha's Vineyard

3-4 pm, Aquinnah Library. Join author and historian Tom Dresser to discuss Historic Storms of Martha's Vineyard, exploring 10 major Island storms over 400 years. 508-645-2314, [qwilbur@clamsnet.org](mailto:qwilbur@clamsnet.org).

#### Kids Drawing Club

3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Kids drawing club 508-645-3360, [chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com](mailto:chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com).

#### String Games Club!

3:30-5 pm, Grace Church, Vineyard Haven. Remember playing Cat's Cradle with friends? Kids & nostalgic adults, learn classic solo figures like Cup and Saucer, Eiffel Tower, and Jacob's Ladder! 508-696-4210, [vhpL\\_programs@clamsnet.org](mailto:vhpL_programs@clamsnet.org).

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

#### Elisa Brickner High School Poetry Contest Ceremony

4-4:30 pm, Chilmark Library. High school poetry contest ceremony 508-645-3360, [chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com](mailto:chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com).

#### The Important Role of Table Tennis

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

Continued on B8

# Painfully funny

“André Is an Idiot” playing at M.V. Film Center.

BY ABBY REMER

Cancer is no laughing matter ... except for André Ricciardi, it is. “André Is an Idiot,” by Tony Benna, is a painfully funny, poignant film about Ricciardi’s final journey toward death. The title of the documentary, playing at the Martha’s Vineyard Film Center starting on May 1, refers to Ricciardi’s self-proclaimed idiocy for avoiding a routine colonoscopy two years earlier. By the time he finally gets one, he receives an unexpected diagnosis — Stage 4 colon cancer at only 50 years of age.

Ricciardi, a relentlessly wisecracking iconoclast, has an audacious, irreverent sense of humor in his very lifeblood. Although he uses his humor as a defense against the harsh reality of his cancer, his whiplash-fast comments never obscure or skim over his feelings; rather, they express them with an emotional punch. While he may make fun of himself and the reality of his situation, he does not downplay it. Wondering what he will say next keeps us engaged throughout the film, which he has made as an unconventional public service announcement to encourage viewers to get colonoscopies whenever possible after age 45.

The film also serves as a sort of journal for him to deal with his anxiety. Instead of writing about his intimate feelings, Ricciardi speaks about them openly to us, with a strange humor, as he goes through diagnosis, chemo, radiation, and the process of facing his fears and contemplating dying: “Once you get the diagnosis of cancer, it’s fascinating that I’m dying, and I want to document it. I want to learn from it.”

He navigates the absurd reality of his life with dark humor. At one point, he makes a pact with his best friend, Lee, to keep doing

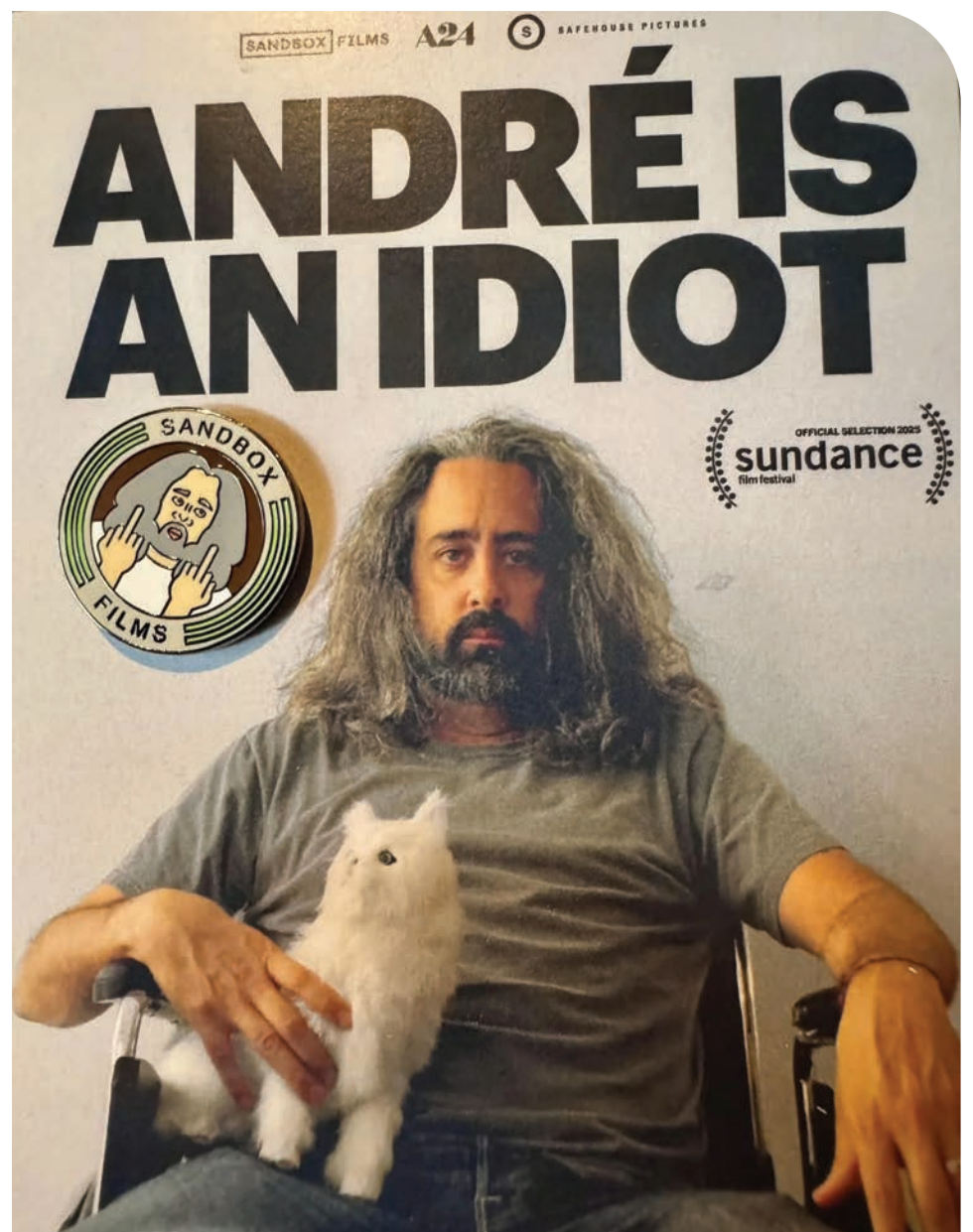
what they’ve always done, making fun of any bad situation. “Let’s keep the irreverence I’ve always applied to my life,” says Ricciardi. The ease with which they talk about the morbid topic could be uncomfortable if they didn’t find their humor genuinely funny. Lee remarks, “We’re having so much fun with André dying. I know that sounds crazy to say, but it’s so very André to do it that way.”

And that way is what he does. We follow Ricciardi as he searches for ways to cope with his cancer, from eating well to smoking a great deal on his bong, which could be to deal with the cancer ... but is certainly part and parcel of his semi-reformed hedonist lifestyle. He explains that his ability to recover from the discomfort of chemo comes from all the practice he’s had from doing so with hangovers.

Ricciardi shares, too, the reality of his day-to-day life, which includes a lot of resting, slow walks, and taking meds: “Dying is surprisingly boring. I’m still unloading the dishwasher. Something fascinating to me is how mundane death is.”

Ricciardi’s wife, Janice, is the emotional lynchpin of the film. The two initially married on a lark. Janice, a Canadian who worked at a local bar, needed a green card and, one night, asked the friend Ricciardi was sitting with whether he would marry her. The friend wouldn’t, but Ricciardi said sure. “I figured it meant free drinks in the bar because I married the bartender,” he reports. The two, however, truly fell in love, and the marriage turned out to be a strong one.

Janice is a self-proclaimed rule follower, in contrast to Ricciardi’s unorthodox attitude toward life. She speaks openly and genuinely of her “we can beat this” attitude and slipping into caretaker mode as



“André Is an Idiot” screens at the M.V. Film Center starting on May 1. For more information, visit mvfilmsociety.com.

a way of avoiding the reality of his dying.

While the couple doesn’t hide Ricciardi’s cancer from their teenage daughters, they choose not to share many details. Talking to his therapist on the phone, he says he uses humor to shield them from the pain. The therapist tells him, “Be generous and let them be sad,” reminding him that he doesn’t have to make them laugh all the

time. And while Ricciardi agrees, he can barely stop himself from joking about it.

Ultimately, this fascinating, moving, sometimes uncomfortable, and often amusing film can’t help but make us contemplate our own death, how we might handle it, and the bravery it took Ricciardi and those closest to him to share it with others. **MVT**

Continued from B7

## Events

### Opening Night & Weekend at The Pawnee House

5-9 pm, The Pawnee House, Oak Bluffs. Opening Night & Weekend at The Pawnee House April 30th-May 2nd 508-338-2770, thepawneemv@gmail.com.

### 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.

### Partner Dancing Class with Maria & Tad Lawcewicz

5:30-6:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Learn partner dancing with Maria and Tad Lawcewicz of the MV Ballroom Dancers 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

### Jazz at Sweet Life with Jeremy Berlin

6:30-8:30 pm, Sweet Life, Oak Bluffs. Jeremy Berlin plays jazz piano every Thursday at the Sweet Life starting at 6:30 617-835-3756, emhaggerty@gmail.com.

### Tisbury Candidate Forum

7 pm, Tisbury Senior Center, Vineyard Haven. Tisbury Candidate Forum presenting candidates for office in Tisbury in both contested and uncontested races.karentewhey@aol.com.

### Silent Disco at Featherstone

7-9 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Our 30th Anniversary celebrations continue on April 30th With a Silent Disco! A fun night out for all - enjoy light refreshments in the gallery! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

### Chilmark Preschool Art Opening

Exhibit open all month. 508-645-3360, casey@chilmarkpreschool.com.

### FRIDAY, MAY 1

#### 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.

### Dr. Seuss Scavenger Hunt

10 am-4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Have fun searching for Dr. Seuss characters hidden around the Children’s Room. Find all the characters and get a small prize. For kids of all ages. 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.

### 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.

### Spring Spectacular Show

11 am-4 pm, Louisa Gould Gallery, Vineyard Haven. Annual Spring Group Show: Sean Roach, Christie Scheele, Teek Eaton-Koch, Julieann Jarreau, and Paul Beebe. 508-693-7373, louisagould@gmail.com.

### 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.

### 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, westtislibraryfriends@gmail.com.

### May Day: Plant, Paint, Play Workshop

3-4:30 pm, Martha’s Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. Decorate a flower pot, plant seeds, and create something new in this relaxed, hands-on spring workshop for all ages. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

### Trio Eris Concert

3-4 pm, Edgartown Library. Trio Eris, featuring violinist K.J. McDonald, cellist Annie SeEun Hyung, and pianist Andrew Jun Chen 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

### Trio Eris Free Concert

3-4:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Free chamber music concert featuring Trio Eris. 508-426-9825, mvcms@vineyard.net.

### Magic the Gathering: Gaming Club

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

### Moonrise Kayak

6:15-8:15 pm, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown. See Sengkontacket in a new light- moonlight- as we celebrate the full moon. With a guide, kayak as the sun sets, stars twinkle, and the moon rises. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

### Locals: A Two-Night Festival of Vineyard Talent

7 pm, Martha’s Vineyard Playhouse, Vineyard Haven. Locals: A Two-Night Festival of Vineyard Talent 508-696-6300, boxoffice@circuitarts.org.

### Paleface & Mo Live in Oak Bluffs

7-9 pm, Portuguese American Club, Oak Bluffs. Heartfelt lyrics fusing rhythm-rich melodies, acoustic warmth, and innovative electronics 508-693-9875, Palefaceonline@gmail.com.

### SATURDAY, MAY 2

#### 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.

#### Raku Alternative Firing Workshop

9 am-4 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. In this workshop, participants will experiment with raku, horsehair, obvara and saggar firing. Students should have 4-6 bisque pieces. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Continued on B9

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

Thurs 4/30	<b>THE GARDENER</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
	<b>THE MOUNTAIN</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
Fri 5/1	<b>THE MOUNTAIN</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
	<b>ANDRE IS AN IDIOT</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
Sat 5/2	<b>METROPOLITAN OPERA LIVE: EUGENE ONEGIN</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
	<b>THE MOUNTAIN</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>
	<b>ANDRE IS AN IDIOT</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
Sun 5/3	<b>ANDRE IS AN IDIOT</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
	<b>THE MOUNTAIN</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
<b>MON &amp; TUES, MAY 4 &amp; 5- FILM CENTER IS CLOSED -</b>		
Wed 5/6	<b>ANDRE IS AN IDIOT</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
Thurs 5/7	<b>ANDRE IS AN IDIOT</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
	<b>THE GARDENER</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>

**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!

Information & Schedules [mvfilmsociety.com](http://mvfilmsociety.com) 508.696.9369

Continued from B8

# Events

## Kaiut Yoga

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

## Tyke Hikes

9:30-10:30 am, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown. Skip, waddle, or walk with your little ones alongside a Naturalist as you explore a new habitat on this one-hour program. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

## Open Casting Call for the Turnaway Play

10 am-1 pm, Private home, Vineyard Haven. Open call auditions for the Turnaway Play to be performed at the Old Whaling Church on July 16th. 508-627-2456, vineyardtenor@gmail.com.

## Dr. Seuss Scavenger Hunt

10 am-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Have fun searching for Dr. Seuss characters hidden around the Children's Room. Find all the characters and get a small prize. For kids of all ages. 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.

## 3-Week Drawing Essentials

10 am-1 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. This is a beginning course in drawing designed to develop and expand one's observational abilities and rendering skills. Classes are May 2, 9, & 16. 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. 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org.

## 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.

## Maypole Celebration

11 am, West Tisbury Library. Join the Friends of the WT Village for a Maypole Celebration on the Field Gallery Lawn! Snacks and crafts after on the library's porch. For all ages! 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org.

## Spring Spectacular Show

11 am-4 pm, Louisa Gould Gallery, Vineyard Haven. Annual Spring Group Show: Sean Roach, Christie Scheele, Teek Eaton-Koch, Julieann Jarreau, and Paul Beebe. 508-693-7373, louisagould@gmail.com.

## Storytime

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

## 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.

## Lego Club at the West Tisbury Library

1-3 pm, West Tisbury Library. Build a Castle! A dragon! A racecar! Lego Club at the West Tisbury Library 5/2 1-3. All legos provided 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

## Pokemon Club

1-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Bring your Pokémon cards to show to others! Look at cards, and draw! There is no trading allowed. Ages 5-11. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

## All Ages Chess Club

2-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. A fun and welcoming environment. oak\_mail@clamsnet.org. 508-693-9433. 508-693-9433, oak\_mail@clamsnet.org

## Model Railroad Group

3-4 pm, West Tisbury Library. Meets the first Saturday of each month! Share ideas, tips, projects, and more. This group is led by long time model railroad enthusiast Rick Fischer. 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org.

## Career Navigation Office Hours with AceMV

3-4 pm, West Tisbury Library. Meet in the downstairs conference room on Saturdays in May from 3-4pm to learn about the career navigation resources of ACE MV 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org.

## High School Building Tours

3-4 pm, MVRHS - Library, Vineyard Haven. The Martha's Vineyard School Building Committee is hosting informational tours of the existing high school 518-369-6224, marykorba@mvyps.org.

## Shattered Assumptions & The Other Side of Change

3:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. A discussion with Susan Desmarais, retired grief counselor and end of life doula. 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org.

## Live Music: Blue Duo at the Pawnee House

6:30-8:30 pm, The Pawnee House, Oak Bluffs. Live Music: Blue Duo at the Pawnee House Saturday May 2nd 6:30-8:30pm 508-338-2770, thepawneemv@gmail.com.

## Locals: A Two-Night Festival of Vineyard Talent

7 pm, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Vineyard Haven. Locals: A Two-Night Festival of Vineyard Talent 508-696-6300, boxoffice@circuitararts.org.

## SUNDAY, MAY 3

### Raku Alternative Firing Workshop

9 am-4 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. In this workshop, participants will experiment with raku, horsehair, obvara and saggar firing. Students should have 4-6 bisque pieces. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

### Land bank guided natural history walk of Tea Lane Farm

9-10:30 am, Tea Lane Farm, Chilmark. MV land bank is offering a guided walk of Tea Lane Farm on May 3 at 9am. Meet at Meeting House Rd. trailhead. 508-294-6653, julierussell@vineyardlandbank.com.

### 4-H Farm Animal Meet and Greet

10 am-12 pm, Agricultural Hall Animal Barn, West Tisbury. 4-H Farm Animal Meet and Greet at the Ag Hall Animal Barn 508-693-9549, programs@mvagsoc.org.

### "Pathways to Transcendence" with Dr. Ursula Goodenough

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

### Spring Spectacular Show

11 am-4 pm, Louisa Gould Gallery, Vineyard Haven. Annual Spring Group Show: Sean Roach, Christie Scheele, Teek Eaton-Koch, Julieann Jarreau, and Paul Beebe. 508-693-7373, louisagould@gmail.com.

### Sunday B-Side Brunch

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

### 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.

### Gardening 101

1-2:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Beginner workshop led by Bryanna Allen-Rickstad. Pre-registration required at marthasvineyardagriculturalandsociety.org/upcoming-events/gardening-101. 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org.

### Mother's Day Portraits

1-3 pm, West Tisbury Library. Photographer Lynn Christoffers will offer free portraits to all grandmothers, mothers, families, and loved ones in honor of Mother's Day. 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org.

## Boulder ENOFF: THE MAN WHO SAVES THE WORLD?

2-3:45 pm, Dairy Arts Center, Vineyard Haven. 774-392-2972, rich@Boulderenoff.org.

## Climate Book Club

4 pm, West Tisbury Library. We will be discussing Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver. Email the library at wt\_mail@clamsnet.org to sign up and get your copy of the book. 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org.

## Local Off-Season Dancing & Music with live music by Delanie & Jeremy

4 pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Join the MV Ballroom Dancers for an afternoon of off-season music and dancing at UUSMV. Come to dance or just to listen. Everyone is welcome! 508-696-4211, vhppl\_programs@clamsnet.org.

## MV Times Publisher's forum

4-6 pm, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven. Join the Times for a publisher's forum marking World Press Freedom Day. Meet staff and hear from Charles Sennott about the state of local news. publisher@mvtimes.com.

## The Art of Flowers: Creativity in Bloom Opening Reception

4-6 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. The Art of Flowers returns this May! Join us for Creativity in Bloom, celebrating vibrant colors and warmer days as the world blossoms into spring. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

## MONDAY, MAY 4

### 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 Yogi Jay

7:30-8:30 am, West Tisbury Library. Accessible to all levels and ages. Sign up for free by emailing wt\_mail@clamsnet.org. 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.

### Martha's Vineyard Poetry Reading Group discusses poems by Wallace Stevens

10 am, Vineyard Haven Library, Vineyard Haven. No qualifications, except a love of poetry. Send an email to vhppl\_programs@clamsnet.org to be added to the list. 508-696-4211, vhppl\_programs@clamsnet.org.

### 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.

### Spring Spectacular Show

11 am-4 pm, Louisa Gould Gallery, Vineyard Haven. Annual Spring Group Show: Sean Roach, Christie Scheele, Teek Eaton-Koch, Julieann Jarreau, and Paul Beebe. 508-693-7373, louisagould@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.

### 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, westtislibraryfriends@gmail.com.

### Drop-in Mah Jongg

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

### Switch Games for kids and teens

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

## TUESDAY, MAY 5

### Cardio and Conditioning with Alyson Parker

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

### Kaiut Yoga

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

### Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile

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

### Little Naturalists

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

### Play Kitchen and Store

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

### Free Range Fun

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

### Drop-in Play-Doh Group

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

### Spring Spectacular Show

11 am-4 pm, Louisa Gould Gallery, Vineyard Haven. Annual Spring Group Show: Sean Roach, Christie Scheele, Teek Eaton-Koch, Julieann Jarreau, and Paul Beebe. 508-693-7373, louisagould@gmail.com.

### SQUAD FITNESS with Triva Emery • BeWell-MV

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

### Balance with Kanta Lipsky

11:30 am-12:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This is a one-hour class based on the gentle, flowing movements of Qigong (Chi Kung) info@stillpointmv.org

### Lego Club

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

### Basics of Silversmithing: Twisted Wire Bracelet or Ring

3-6 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. In this class you will manipulate wire to create either a triple band design for a cuff, or use wire to design a braided or twisted ring design. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

### SINGING & PERFORMING CLASS

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

### Drop in for our Teen and Tween Art & Craft Class

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

### Community Meet and Greet w/ Andrea James Candidate for Governor

4:30-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Join Andrea James for a conversation on the cost of living, housing, and the Island's financial challenges. 508-693-9433, connect@ajforma.com.

### ASL Practice Group

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

## Knitting Group

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

## Ticks on the Vineyard: What We Know

5-6 pm, Vineyard Haven. A five-part online series with local experts exploring tick trends, health risks, and prevention strategies on Martha's Vineyard. 508-627-4441, events@mvmuseum.org.

## Table Tennis

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

## Growing Tomatoes with Lydia Fischer

5:30-7 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Growing Tomatoes with Lydia Fischer at the Ag Hall 508-693-9549, programs@mvagsoc.org.

## Open Mic Night at the Katharine Cornell Theatre!

6 pm, Katharine Cornell Theatre, Vineyard Haven. Come to play, or just to listen. Sign-up on arrival, free and open to all! 508-696-4211, vhppl\_programs@clamsnet.org.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

### Barre Fusion with Maria McFarland

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

### Play Reading at Tisbury Senior Center

9 am-12 pm, Tisbury Council on Aging, Vineyard Haven. Play Reading for Artistic, Literary and Dramatic Pleasure 201-207-7566, monahennessy1@gmail.com.

### Children's Storytime

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

### Spring Spectacular Show

11 am-4 pm, Louisa Gould Gallery, Vineyard Haven. Annual Spring Group Show: Sean Roach, Christie Scheele, Teek Eaton-Koch, Julieann Jarreau, and Paul Beebe. 508-693-7373, louisagould@gmail.com.

### Mah Jong

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

### West Tisbury Book Sale Donations

1-2 pm, Friends of West Tisbury Library Shed, West Tisbury. Donate your lightly used books for the annual Friends of the West Tisbury Library Book Sale. 617-543-7898, westtislibraryfriends@gmail.com.

### Virtual Reality for Tweens & Teens

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

### Science & Nature Book Club Reads "Is a River Alive?" by Robert Macfarlane

3 pm, Grace Church, Vineyard Haven. To be added to the email list, please contact vhppl\_programs@clamsnet.org or 508-696-4211.

## Drop-in Knitting Group with Cindy Bonnell

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

## Flower Pounding on Fabric

3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Create fabric flower crafts. Wed 5/6 3:30-4:30 WT Library. Registration required, email hburbridge@clamsnet.org 508-693-3366.

## Kids Crafts -Flower Luminaries

3:30-5 pm, EMS Building, Vineyard Haven. Make a pretty flower luminary - a wonderful gift for a mother or teacher EMS Building across from the Tisbury School, jrpuano@clamsnet.org.

## Beekeeping Club

5-6 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Discuss disease prevention, hive maintenance, and more. Open to all. Visit marthasvineyardagriculturalandsociety.org. 508-693-9549, programs@mvagsoc.org.

## A Heroic WWII Story We Must Not Forget

5-6 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. Basia Jaworska shares her mother's story of survival, resistance, and resilience during Nazi occupation and its lasting impact. 508-627-4441, events@mvmuseum.org.

## Quilting Circle

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

## Virtual: Shakespearean Explorations with Professor Philip Weinstein

6 pm, Vineyard Haven Library, Vineyard Haven. Join Professor Philip Weinstein for this four-part literary lecture series focused on two of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies, Hamlet and King Lear. 508-696-4211, vhppl\_programs@clamsnet.org.

## High School Building Tours

6:30-8:30 pm, MVRHS - Library, Vineyard Haven. The Martha's Vineyard School Building Committee is hosting informational tours of the existing high school 518-369-6224, marykorba@mvyps.org.

## Free English Classes

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

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**T**he No. 1 rule about Dock Street Fight Club: Talk about Dock Street Fight Club. While you're at it, dance and sing along.

For Dock Street Fight Club, a group of young Islanders who play rock 'n' roll covers and original songs, music is as much about their creative bonds as the community that they found while chasing it. Their band name references both their start in music performance on the Vineyard and the dynamic energy of the crowds, who were known to get into a ruckus or two among themselves. It's also reminiscent of a 1996 novel by Chuck Palahniuk called "Fight Club," which features the iconic catchphrase "The first rule of Fight Club is: You don't talk about Fight Club." Now, the young group is following their musical thread across the country, playing at colleges and venues far past Island shores. On April 25, the group released a new single, "Hazy Love."

The four band members, ages 21 to 24, all have their own Island ties and history. Their story started in 2017, when guitarist Emmett Athearn and then-bassist Sam Benjamin played together at the West Tisbury School as eighth-graders. The pair were big fans of Nirvana, and covered a few of their songs. They knew they needed a vocalist, so they reached out to their friend and classmate, Atlas Zack.

"We thought that Atlas looked like Kurt Cobain, so maybe he'd sound like Kurt Cobain ... and it kind of worked," Athearn said with a laugh.

The group of three honed their sound, and Zack became interested in songwriting. It wasn't until later that Zack started learning the guitar, which he now plays in their band along with singing lead vocals.

When the young group attended Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, they played at a few Chilmark potluck jams. The up-Island open mic event is spearheaded by Alex Karalekas. Karalekas is a member of the

Dock Dance Band, another band of Islanders, who gave Dock Street Fight Club their spot performing at the Chappy Ferry dock in the summers a few years ago.

Zack said the Island community "does a great job with supporting young artists and new artists who want to share their music. And everyone's very, very supportive of everything musical here."

For young locals, the Dock Dance at Memorial Wharf in Edgartown is one of the few places to dance and see live music before they're 21, old enough to attend shows at bars like the Ritz Café in Oak Bluffs and the Port Hunter in Edgartown. The Dock Dance dates back to the 1960s, according to Pope, the band's manager.

"The [event was] started by a group known as the Bodes, who played on the dock to draw tourists toward live music outside of the bar scene. Over the decades, steward-

ship of the event passed to the Dock Dance Band, a group that would later play a key mentorship role for Dock Street," Pope told The Times.

It was kismet for the group that their first residency gig, taking the stage at Dock Dance and incorporating it into their band name as a result of the connection, was in the shoes of the Dock Dance Band, and an homage to the "occasional scuffles" that broke out among the crowd during their shows, Pope said.

Dock Street Fight Club continues to draw huge crowds, especially from younger locals who are able to see them perform at Dock Dance. The shows on their current tour have inspired even larger audiences. Performing is a balancing act for the band, as each member has their own career outside of music.

Zack leads the band. He's also about to graduate as

a premed student at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, and works as an EMT on the Vineyard. Athearn is the lead guitarist, and owns an HVAC company. James Murray plays the drums and works at Mo's Lunch in Oak Bluffs. Jack Holmes is the group's bassist, after Benjamin moved on to other projects. Holmes works in a neuroscience lab in Providence, R.I., researching Alzheimer's when he's not touring or performing with the band.

The band was recently noticed by a management company, Beatline Productions, which propelled their music career forward. The owner of Beatline, Hunter Pope, is now the group's manager, and the tour they're on now is a result of that partnership.

"It's great for the exposure," Zack said of the tour. "We think that the music that we write can be pretty successful, if it's done the

right way. So I think it's starting to get serious within the past year or so."

Their new single, "Hazy Love," was written by Zack. "I tend to write things that I find pretty catchy and repetitive — and hooks that get stuck in my head easily. I have a big influence from bands like the Strokes, Nirvana, and Her's," Zack said of his songwriting process.

The first stop on their tour was New Orleans in February. Last week, they hit Myrtle Beach in North Carolina. Then they'll be back on the Island in May to perform at local venues. Getting off the Island and driving to shows across the country is the first step of a long road ahead.

The group said their chemistry as a band and their evolving sound has improved from the close quarters in their travels. Driving cross-country, sleeping in hotels, getting kicked out of a Waffle House at 5 am,

and performing for strangers have brought the four of them closer together. Having the Island as a home base has helped them, too.

"Having that shared background and spending that time on Martha's Vineyard and in the Martha's Vineyard music scene, the place where we grew up and where our love for music developed, I think that has actually really improved our cohesiveness and just made us a lot more of a unit," Holmes said.

There are two sides to the Vineyard coin for musicians. The Island is a touchpoint for creativity of all types, where artists have lived for generations and uplifted one another along the way. The Dock Street Fight Club band named Mike Benjamin, Jeremy Berlin, Rose Guerin, Phil DaRosa, Brad Tucker, and, of course, the Dock Dance Band as just a few of the musicians who have paved the way and supported them. But the other side of that support is that the Island is separated from a lot of the mainland action.

"Being surrounded by water kind of limits that exposure to the outside world. And although the community here is fantastic and very supportive, you need to break away from the Island if you want to be successful at a bigger stage," Zack said.

But he added that playing on the Vineyard means a lot to the group. The dock where they started instilled some small traditions for the band as well, such as Murray's habit of drumming barefoot.

"Whenever we have a home gig, it's really nice to see 50-plus faces that we've known for years and who are very comfortable with our music. It makes us more comfortable," Zack said. **MVT**

*Dock Street Fight Club will be performing weekly this summer at the Wharf Pub, the Ritz Café, the Port Hunter, and the Town Bar and Grill. Upcoming May shows: Friday, May 22, at the Ritz Café; Saturday, May 23, at the Wharf Pub; Sunday, May 24, at the Port Hunter. Updates at dockstreetfightclub.com.*



PHOTOS: COURTESY DOCK STREET FIGHT CLUB

# Behind the Band: Dock Street Fight Club

The Island band is on tour now, and released a single on April 25.


BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON



**"I tend to write things that I find pretty catchy and repetitive — and hooks that get stuck in my head easily." — ATLAS ZACK**



Dock Street Fight Club is a group of four next-generation Vineyarders.



A monthly newsletter from your local Councils on Aging and the Martha's Vineyard Center for Living

PO Box 1729, Vineyard Haven, MA  
Tel: 508-939-9440. By Mary Holmes

**May 2026 - Vol. 30, Issue 5**

**SHINE NEWS**

**A new volunteer opportunity awaits!**

The Cape Cod & Islands Regional SHINE program is now recruiting volunteers for our 2026 training class. No prior experience with health insurance is required — we provide comprehensive screening, training, and certification so you can become a Medicare expert.

**As a SHINE volunteer, you can make a real difference by**

- Counseling individuals one-on-one
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- Providing office support

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Medicare can be confusing. If you've navigated the enrollment process yourself, you know how challenging it can be. Now, you can guide others through their first enrollment, help them compare plan options, or troubleshoot issues.

Join the SHINE team and become a trusted resource in your community!

You know your community and neighbors best, that's why your involvement matters. SHINE volunteers are highly trained and certified to assist with

- Original Medicare (Parts A and B)
- Medicare Advantage (Part C)
- Prescription drug coverage (Part D)
- Medicare supplement (Medigap)
- Programs that help reduce health-care costs

**Make a meaningful impact. Become a SHINE volunteer today!**


**Please call the Cape Cod & Islands Regional SHINE Program Manager Kristina Whiton-O'Brien at 508-375-6762, and choose option No. 2 to sign up! Class begins in May 2026.**

**CORE**

Ann Baird • 508-693-7900, ext. 210 • mvcommunityservices.org

Counseling, Outreach, and Referral for the Elderly (CORE) at M.V. Community Services works with at-risk and mostly homebound seniors in the community,

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Martha's Vineyard Center for Living Supportive Day Program

**Mary Holmes, Executive Director**

**Program hours: Monday through Friday 9 am - 3 pm.**

**Call 508-939-9440 for information and referrals.**

**READ ONLINE: MVTIMES.COM**

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Mary Holmes, Executive Director • 508-939-9440  
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**Announcements**

• **May 16, 10 am: Walk for Dementia & Caregiver Services.** Nomans to Jaws Bridge, then back to Nomans to celebrate with 20 percent off food for all registered walkers.

Register to walk here or day of the walk. Suggested donation \$30. Kids walk free.



<https://form-renderer-app.donorperfect.io/give/marthas-vineyard-center-for-living/walk-26>

**OR**



Invite friends and family to pledge your walk by making your own page here:

<https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E348124&id=10>

**Closure**

May 25: MVCL will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

**Volunteer opportunities**

Visiting Companion: Training provided. Call Ann Baird at 508-939-9440, ext. 105, Front Desk: M,W,Th, F, from 9 am to 1 pm. Lunch included.

**Regular programs**

**Mon-Fri:** 9 am – 3 pm, Supportive Day Program

**Wed:** 10 am - 11:30 am, Memory Support Group at the Tisbury COA.

**Thu:** May 21, 10:30 am to noon, Music & Memory Cafe. All are welcome!

**Fri:** 11 am – noon, Open House.

**Fri:** 10 am – 11:15 am, Dementia Caregiver Support Group on Zoom. Call for link.

**Services**

*Fees may apply to some services. Call for more information.*

- Supportive Day Program: Activity and social program
- Respite Innovations: Home visits to give caregivers a break
- Dementia coaching: To make home life easier
- Dementia Caregiver Support Group and Memory Support Group: *Free*
- Resources and education: Remove stigma and learn strategies. *Free.*

**The Supportive Day Program (SDP) - Space available, call today!**

SDP is a daily program for older adults who may experience memory challenges or disability. Enriching activities and a family-style lunch create a day of community engagement, purpose, and meaning. Equally important is the respite provided for caregivers. When a caregiver has time for rest and self-care, the quality of life for both the caregiver and care recipient improves. Call Stacey Northrop (ext. 102) to learn about registration.

**Respite Innovations**

Respite Innovations brings person-centered engagement into the home, and affords caregivers time to take care of themselves. Call Ann Baird at MVCL if you are a caregiver who would benefit from a break! This program is also welcoming volunteers at this time. Please call Ann at 508-939-9440, ext. 105, for more information.

**Resources and education**

**The Family Caregiver Support Program** advocates for caregivers, providing memory screenings, family meeting facilitation, ongoing Alzheimer's and dementia education, and referrals to programs that can support your caregiving efforts. Our services at MVCL provide meaningful tools and tips for a better caregiving experience. We support any caregiver living on Martha's Vineyard, or who is caring from afar for someone living here.

**Caregiver counseling**

We can help you navigate the system of public and private care for the best plan to meet your needs. Consultation can be provided in the home, at our office, or over the phone. We can meet with caregivers individually or as a family.

**Dementia Friends**

Dementia Friends USA is part of a global movement that is changing the way people think, act, and talk about dementia. By providing a free, one-hour Dementia Friends Information Session for your staff, you are helping the community better serve our neighbors. Contact Mary Holmes, Dementia Friends champion, at maryh@mcvcenter4living.org or 508-939-9440, to arrange a free session today!

**NOTEWORTHY**

**MAY 2026**

**MVRHS Senior Luncheon**

**Final luncheon of the school year!** Enjoy a three-course, gourmet dining experience for \$15 (cash/check) on May 14; 11 am seating, lunch is served at 11:15 am. **Reservations are required, call 508-939-9440. Reservations may be made for no more than four people at a time.**

**May 14 menu:**

- Ginger-Soy Glazed Chicken Skewers (Yakitori)
- Hand-Crafted Shoyu Ramen
- Matcha Green Tea Panna Cotta

**Emergency Food Program**

For emergency food, please contact your local Council on Aging.

**Shopping Shuttle** brings older adults in Oak Bluffs and Tisbury shopping and to run errands, Wed-Fri. Call M.V. Center for Living at 508-939-9440 for more information.

**MV Mediation**

Serving our community by providing education, outreach, mediation, conflict coaching, facilitation, and related services to help prevent and resolve conflicts. mvmediation.org, 508-693-2999. **“Productive Conversations: Working with Older Adults and Their Families,”** Mondays, through May 18, 1–2:30 pm. Open to families, professionals, an older adults, this interactive course offers tools for navigating challenging conversations about aging and challenging transitions.

**Memorial Day, May 25**

- Volunteers are needed to help set up the Avenue of Flags at 7:30 am in Vineyard Haven, and take them down at 3 pm.
- The Memorial Day March will step off from the American Legion in Vineyard Haven at 10:30 am. Refreshments served afterward.

## HEALTHY AGING MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Cindy Trish, Executive director • 508-693-7900, ext. 455

### Exciting update from Healthy Aging M.V.: MassDOT comes to town!

MassDOT officials will visit Martha's Vineyard in partnership with Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard (HAMV), the Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA), and the Island Councils on Aging to tour the Island, hear directly from agencies and residents, and better understand the unique transportation challenges facing older adults on-Island.

The May 4 visit will include a town hall meeting where agencies and community members can share needs, barriers, and ideas for improving transportation across the Island. The engagement comes as both HAMV and the VTA have been awarded grant funding to expand and enhance transportation options, particularly for older adults and others with limited access to reliable transit. If you'd like to join the town hall meeting at 1 pm at HAMV, please contact Lauren Bagnall at laurenbagnall@hamv.org to register.

### Prevent Falling with 'A Matter of Balance'

Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard and the island's Councils on Aging are excited to bring back this fall prevention program for spring 2026. "A Matter of Balance" is an award-winning program designed to help older adults reduce their fear of falling while building the strength, balance, and confidence needed to maintain an active and independent lifestyle.

You will learn:

- Practical strategies to reduce fall risks
- Setting goals to safely increase activity levels
- Making simple changes to improve safety at home
- Practice exercises, build strength and balance

Tuesdays, May 5 – June 23; 2–3:30 pm at Oak Bluffs Council on Aging. Please call your town Council on Aging to register.

## UP-ISLAND COUNCIL ON AGING

Bethany Hammond, Director • 508-693-2896

### Mondays

- Balletics 9:00
- Strength & Fitness – Virtual 9:00 & 9:35
- Yoga – Virtual 9:15
- Bowling & Lunch at the Barn Bowl and Bistro OB \$10! 11:30-1:30 Tell staff you are from Up Island COA to get discount!!
- \*Parkinsons Support Group- 2nd and 4th Mondays at 1:00

### Tuesdays

- Strength & Fitness – Virtual 9:00 & 9:35
- Keeping the Balance 10:00
- Duplicate Bridge 1:00-4:00

### Wednesday

- Attorney Conni Baker 2nd Wednesday by appointment 508-477-4502
- Yoga – Virtual 9:15
- Fitness with Margarita 10:00
- Aging GREATfully 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 10:00
- Soup Social 2nd Wednesday 12:00
- ProCRAFTinators 3rd Wednesday 1:30

### Thursday

- Strength & Fitness – Virtual 9:00 & 9:35
- Balletics 9:00
- Tech Pro Help 11:00-1:00

- Weekly Luncheon 12:30 (sign up Monday before)
- Wellness Clinic with VNA Nurse 3rd Thursday 12:15-1:15
- NEW PROGRAM: Chair Yoga 2:30

### Friday

- Strength & Fitness – Virtual 9:00 & 9:35
- Yoga – Virtual 9:15
- Keeping the Balance 10:00
- Fitness with Margarita 10:30
- Lunch & Learn @ Chilmark Library 1st Friday 11:30-1:00 May Speaker Tom Dresser
- Watercolor Art Group 1:00

### SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

\*KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY FRIDAY MAY 1ST 3:00 \*Enjoy a Mint Julep Mocktail! Wear a fabulous hat or fascinator! Pick your favorite horse!

### AQUINNAH LUNCHEON

Wednesday May 27th at noon at the Aquinnah Town Hall. Delicious homemade lunch Alpha Gal options available! Call 508-693-2896 to sig up

## TISBURY COUNCIL ON AGING

Catie Blake, Director • 508-696-4205

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

#### Mondays

- 8:15 Tai Chi with Shaka
- 9:30 - 10:30 Line Dancing with Catie
- 11 -12 Chair Yoga with Kat
- Bowling at the Barn in OB 11:30

1- 3 Mah Jong

1-3 Silver Quilters

Call on Monday to make a lunch reservation for Thursday : 508 693 4393 x466

#### Tuesdays

- 8:30 - 9:30 Earlybird Fitness
- 10 - 11 Fitness with Catie
- 11:05 - noon Chair Volleyball
- 11:30 Drop-in Tech Support

#### Wednesdays

- 8:30 Town Walkers (meet at the Riverhead Frisbee Park on Barnes Rd)
- 9 Play Readers with Discussion
- 1 PM Shredding with Cynthia (Living Room)
- 1 Ukulele Players
- 1 Pick-up Ping Pong (lower level)
- 12 Knitting Studio with Jo

#### Thursdays

- 8:30 -9:30 Earlybird Fitness
- 10 -11 Fitness with Catie
- 11:05 - noon Cornhole
- Lunch at Noon. Reservations are to be made on the prior Monday Call Nicole at 508 693 4393 ext 466. \$4 suggested donation.

#### Fridays

- 9 - 9:50 Yoga with Kat
- 10 - 11 Chair Yoga with Kat
- 11:15 - 12:15 Chair Volleyball
- 1PM Tai Chi with Shaka

#### Announcements

Visit our website [www.tisburycoa.com](http://www.tisburycoa.com)

- Free Legal Advice with Atty Bergeron Thursday, May 14th. Please call 508 696 4205 for an appointment.
- Blood Pressure check Friday, May 15th at noon (3rd Friday of each month)
- Drop In tech support Tuesdays at 11:30
- Food Rescue every M-F 9:45 AM
- Paying too much for cable? 'Cut the Cord' Monday, May 11th 12:30. Bring your cable bill!
- Belly Dance Demo Thursday May 14th at 1PM Come be amazed!
- Heart of Art featuring Fan Ogilvie in the Living Room.
- Please call 508 696 4205 to borrow or donate and medical equipment. We have a large supply. Before you buy, check with us.
- Call for information on legal help, the home modification program, shopping assistance and more

## EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING

Lyndsay Famariss, Director • 508-627-4368

### The Anchors is closed on

Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day

### Weekly Events

#### Monday

- 9:30am: Seated Yoga
- 11:30am: Edgartown Bowling & Lunch at the Barn Bistro \$10 Edgartown residents
- 12:30pm: Bridge
- 2pm: Katama Walk

#### Tuesday

Edgartown Shopping Shuttle, call the Anchors to register.

9am: Yoga with Carol Vega

10am: Knitting

12pm: Tuesday lunch

1:15pm: Mah Jongg

#### Wednesday

9:30am: Tai Chi with Nan Doty

12:30pm: Bridge

#### Thursday

9:30am: Intro to Tai Chi with Nan Doty

11am: Ladies Coffee

12-1pm: Souper Thursday. Free!

#### Friday

Edgartown Shopping Shuttle, call to register.

9-11am: Men's Group

12pm: Friday Cafe

1:15pm: Mah Jongg

### May Calendar

Please visit [edgartowncoa.com](http://edgartowncoa.com) for more information register for programs in advance by calling 508-627-4368.

Tues & Fri lunches: Meals served at 12 noon.

Call by 12 noon the day before to register.

Visit [edgartowncoa.com](http://edgartowncoa.com) for our menu.

VTA/ECO A Shuttle on Tuesdays and Fridays. The bus will pick up residents at their

homes, take them to Stop & Shop, pharmacy, post office, and/or the ECOA, and then take them home. Please sign up by Friday at noon for Tuesday shuttle, and Wednesday by noon for the Friday shuttle.

5/5: Wellness Clinic and blood pressure checks. Drop-in 12-1pm

5/11 & 5/18: Cuts for Seniors by Dee Dee. by appointment only call the Anchors. Cuts for \$20 or Cut and Blow dry \$30.

5/12: 11am Coffee with a Cop

5/13: Hearing checks with Shawn Woodbrey of At Home Hearing. Call for an appointment.

5/14: 1pm. Adele Dreyer performs her "Keys to Spring" program on piano.

5/15: 8:30am ECOA Board meets at the Anchors.

5/15: 12pm Birthday Cafe to celebrate May birthdays.

5/19: 12:15pm. Patti Roads of the Edgartown Surveyors Office will be at lunch to explain the residential exemption process.

5/22: 2pm Join us for a screening of the PBS documentary "Aging in America: Survive or Thrive," followed by a live Zoom discussion.

5/22: 9:30am Meeting of the Friends of Edgartown Council on Aging.

5/22: Drop-in Tech Help with Rizwan Malik.

5/26 11am-1pm Rhonda Garan, ED of Sight Loss Services Cape Cod joins us at the Anchors to share info on the many resources available to community members living with sight loss.

5/29: Special Musical guest and cultural council grant recipient David Mintz joins us during lunch to perform the "Great American Songbook" on the guitar.

## OAK BLUFFS COUNCIL ON AGING

Rose Cogliano, Director • 508-693-4509

### Weekly Activities

Daily: Beverages and Snacks all Day - 9am-3pm

#### Mondays

- Exercise with Patience Campell and Marilyn Miller. In person or on Zoom. 9am.
- Chair Volleyball - 1-2pm
- Blood Pressure Clinic with Nurse Faith Laskaris @ 12-1pm, 5/11 & 5/18.

#### Tuesdays

- **New Program!** Matter of Balance - Tuesdays 2-3:30pm
- Board Games -1-3pm
- Crochet and Knitting - 1-3pm
- Peticare with Darci, biweekly at 10am. Dates: 5/5 & 5/19 Call for a reservation. All pets must be leashed or crated.
- **New Program!** Senior Planet - Computer Essentials 11:30am-1pm, 5/5, 5/12. 5/19, 5/26. This course is designed for people who have never used a computer, or have very little experience and want a solid introduction. Course is being offered by Elder Services of the Cape and Islands in conjunction with OATS- Older Adults Technology Services from AARP.
- Wellness Clinic -5/12 @ 12:30pm. This wonderful program has returned to OBCOA's Biweekly Luncheon in collaboration With the Oak Bluffs Board of Health and the VNA!
- OBCOA and OBPD Biweekly Luncheon, 5/12 & 5/26 at 12pm. Call to make your reservations.

#### Wednesdays

- Coffee with a Cop - 5/6 @ 10:30am. Come join Chief Searle for informative and interesting conversation!
- New Program - Stroke Support Group weekly 9:30am 5/6, 10am 5/13, 5/20, 5/27
- Bingo, 1-3pm - 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27

#### Thursdays

- Exercise with Bill White, 9am in person or on Zoom.
- Senior Planet, Computer Essentials, 11:30am-1pm, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28.

- Board Games, 1-3pm

- Crochet/Knit, 1-3pm

- Pizza Party Call Rose at 508-693-4509, ext. 3 to reserve your spot. 5/7 & 5/28 @ 1pm

#### Fridays

- Tai Chi with Floyd Lifton, 9am in person or on Zoom
- Back to OBCOA! Cell Phone Mastery, at 11am-1pm, 5/8 & 5/22
- Game Day, 12-3pm

#### Monthly Programs

- 5/6 Coffee, Tea, and Conversations with a Cop. Meet Chief Searle and his great team! Refreshments served. 10:30am
- Monthly Board of Directors Meeting, 10:30am in person on Thursday, May 21, 2026 and live on Zoom.
- Social Security Video Display Program., 5/18 @ 9:30am Call for an appointment.
- Open Enrollment/SHINE Please contact us to schedule an appointment Call 508-693-4509, ext. 3
- Outreach with Susan von Steiger, 508-693-4509, ext.4
- Applications and Forms Preparation
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Fuel Assistance, by appointment with Susan
- Insurance Assistance
- Lifeline
- Monthly Social Security Video Display Program
- SNAP
- Reassurance phone calls
- Rose's Wish List - We need adjustable metal canes with rubber bases, metal canes with four prongs. Also bath and shower seats in gently used and new condition. Please consider donating them to us to provide them for our Seniors use!

#### WELCOME MAY!

We will be closed Monday, May 25, 2026 in observation of Memorial Day. Happy Spring to you and your Family!



1.



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3.



4.



7.



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5.

1. Abigail Chandler, music teacher and chair of the Performing Arts Department, with student Brady Vought. 2. Carole Flanders, chair of the Math Department, at her desk. 3. English teacher Rachel Schubert with student Mateus Perini. 4. Neil Coogan, guidance counselor, with student Brady Vought. 5. Haley Hewson, English teacher, with her class. 6. Jack Pachico, CTE business teacher. 7. Chris Baer, photography teacher and chair of the art, design, and technology dept., with student Oscar Flanders.

DANIELLE MEYER

# ALUMNI TEACHERS

The MVRHS graduates who came home to teach. **BY NICOLE GALLAND**

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) opened its doors in September 1959. Since then, the majority of MVRHS graduates who have returned to the hallways of this labyrinthine building have done so to attend basketball games, performances at the PAC, or parent-teacher conferences.

But there are exceptions: those who made their way back to the Vineyard to pay it forward by working at MVRHS. Ranging in age from 24 to 64, there are currently more than 40 of them, a remarkable number for a midsize high school. Their cohort includes guidance counselors, coaches, teachers of science, music, business, nursing, and English. They're not a homogeneous group, but what they do share matters: a commitment to their vocation and a clear appreciation of what the Island community offers them and their students.

In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, The Times met with a dozen of these returnees to hear what inspired each of them to teach in the very building where they themselves had spent so many adolescent hours. Community is intrinsic here: Every person in the room had been somebody else's teacher, or student, or schoolmate (including this reporter). There is a recurrent theme of coming full circle.

For some, the move back was intentional: They knew this was home. Take Justine DeOliveira (class of '01), who returned to teach

Spanish and is now the assistant principal. "I'm a rare case of knowing what I wanted to do: Come back and start a family. But what surprised me is that I came back so soon," she says. "My first position was covering a maternity leave before I'd even finished college."

Sheila McHugh Hazell ('13), guidance counselor, has a similar arc: "I always had it in the back of my mind, 'Maybe one day,' but it never felt real — and then all of a sudden, I'm here. It felt like a lucky accident."

Galen Brown ('04), who'd transferred to boarding school, knew she wanted to work

and teach here. After a long and winding path, she became an English teacher. She doubted she could live here because of the housing shortage, but then a full-time teaching position became available. Biology teacher Mike Joyce ('86) hadn't thought of teaching here. One year when he was home for spring break, he recalls, "I'm laying sod at Farm Neck and run into [English teacher] Doug Herr, who said, 'We're going to have a science opening, just put your name in and see what happens' — and that was 28 years ago."

Rachel Shubert ('08) had just finished grad school at Brandeis and started the job search in Boston, when "I got a call from Shark [Dan Sharkovitz, then English department chair] — I don't know how he even knew I was job searching. I'd graduated in June, and started in August."

Haley Hewson ('12) says, "I knew that I wanted to be a teacher when I was 8. When I graduated, I headed to the big city, and I hated it. No matter where I went, it

Continued on B8

**MVRHS Staff who are also MVRHS Graduates**

**NOT PICTURED**

**Abigail (Southard) Chandler**  
Performing Arts Department Chair, Director of Minnesingers, Class of 1993

**Alyssa Smith**  
Special Education ESP, Class of 2019

**Chayenne (Cimeno) Ward**  
Assistant Transportation Director, Class of 2005

**Dana Munn**  
Science Teacher, Class of 1987

**Erich Luening**  
Permanent Sub / Journalism, Class of 1986

**Galen (Brew) Brown**  
English Teacher, Class of 2004

**Gary Simmons**  
Physical Education Teacher, Class of 1987

**Kim Montanile**  
Navigators ESP, Class of 2007

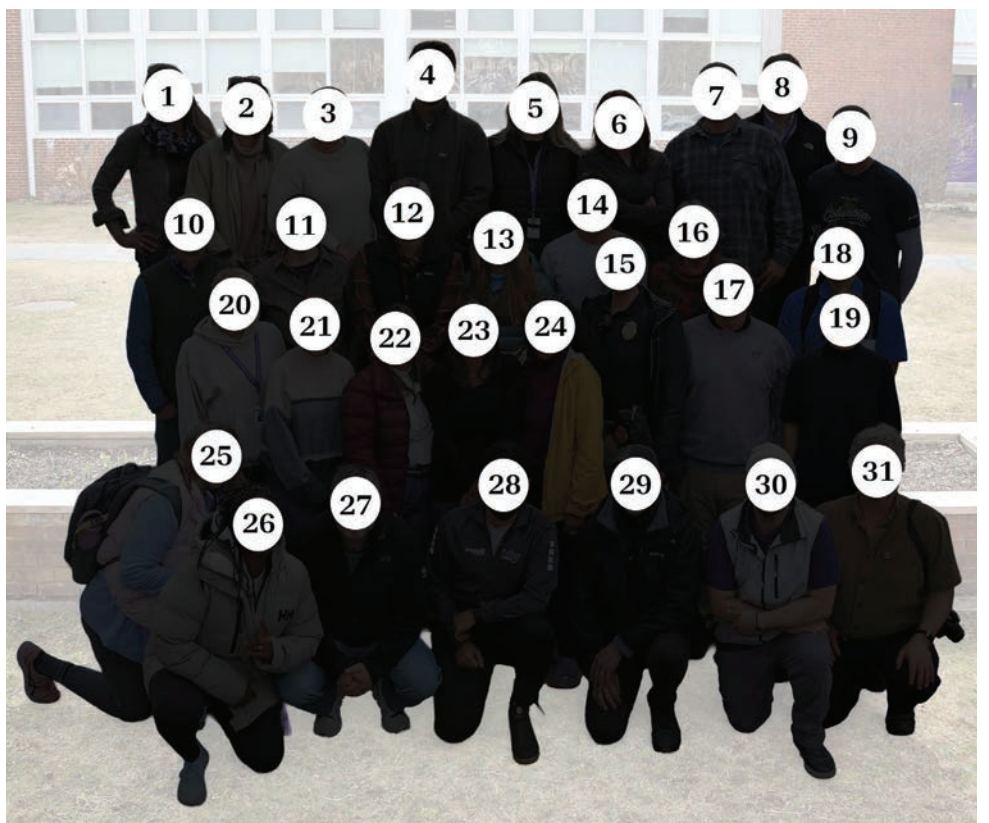
**Lauraye White**  
PAC Assistant, Class of 2004

**Mike Joyce**  
Science Teacher, Basketball Coach, Class of 1986

**Skylar Menton**  
Special Education ESP, Class of 1995

PIC	MVRHS STAFF	TITLE	CLASS OF
1	Justine (Shemeth) DeOliveira	Assistant Principal	2001
2	Sheila McHugh Hazell	Guidance Counselor	2013
3	Jane McGroarty Sampaio	ELL Dept. Chair/Portuguese Teacher	2002
4	Kenny Hatt	Math Teacher	2020
5	Jen Gauley Woods	Special Education Teacher	2004
6	Nell Coogan	Guidance Counselor	1997
7	Ken Ward	Automotive Technology Teacher	2004
8	Sam Hart	Director of Operations	1995
9	Jason O'Donnell	Facilities Director	1993
11	Haley Hewson	Project Vine English teacher	2012
12	Louis Hall	Science Teacher	2000
13	Hallie Britt	Voyager ESP	2002
14	Jack Pachico	Business Teacher & Student Affairs Administrative Support Personnel	2020
15	Jillian Sedlier	Detective School Resource Officer, Oak Bluffs Police Department	2011
16	Cindy Grant	Guidance ASP	1977
17	Mark McCarthy	Athletic Director	1979
18	Jeffrey Duarte	Compass team ESP	2010
19	Rachel Schubert	English Teacher	2008
20	Olivia Knight	Navigator Program Special Education Teacher	2017
21	Melinda Canha McCarron RN BSN	Health Assisting Primary Instructor	1988
22	Emily Santana	ELL Program Assistant	2016
23	Carole Flanders	Math Dept. Chair	1990
24	Troy Harris	Administrative Support, Special Education	1985
25	Susan Johnson	Navigators ESP	1977
26	Liane Dixon	PE & Health Teacher	2001
27	Zeke Vought	ESP/Football Coach	1993
28	Rodrigo Silva Honorato	Administrative Support Personnel (ASP) / Boys Varsity Soccer Head Coach	2012
29	Rick Mello	IT Director	1992
30	Will Reich	Science Teacher	2010
31	Chris Baer	Art, Design, & Technology Chair, Photography & Graphics Teacher	1985

Above, key for graduates pictured.



CHRIS BAER

Continued from B7 didn't feel like home. I crash-landed back here, but had so many people to catch me: I was looking for home, and it ended up being exactly where I left it."

Melinda Canha McCarron ('88), a nurse who teaches health assisting, arrived with a very different story: "I swore I would never come back to this high school," she says. "Then I had a younger child who was always in the principal's office — so I swore a second time I wouldn't set foot in here again. But I was already doing so much teaching in my job [as a nurse] that I thought maybe I could do the same kind of program for the students, and I applied not knowing if I'd like it — and I love it. I'm really proud and happy with the progress the vocational department has made."

"I was sort of hired by accident," says Chris Baer ('85). He had been turned down for a position teaching math, and then accepted a job offer off-Island: "I was packed to go, but another position opened up, and even though I hadn't applied for that one, my earlier application was still on file, and the principal called to offer me the job. I decided to change plans, literally last-minute." He was hired in technology at first, but now leads the photography and graphics department.

Some of the cohort never expected to teach at all. Here again, fellow Vineyarders get credit for coaxing their return. Music teacher Abigail Chandler ('93) moved to New York City after grad school to be an opera singer. "That lasted about six months," she says. "I didn't like it there, and I came home just to regroup. I came to the high school for an event, and Janis Wightman [then the Minnesingers director] said, 'You should think about getting your certification to teach,' ... and I did. And now I can't imagine living anywhere else, even though I backed into it." Coming full circle, Chandler herself now directs the Minnesingers.

Math teacher Carole Flanders ('90) had an entire life off-Island with no plan to return, until she married an on-Island Islander, and after three years of a long-distance marriage, took a position at MVRHS so they could be together. Nell Coogan ('97) enjoyed her life as a lawyer working at the State House in Boston, until she met her on-Island future husband, returned to be with him, and found her calling as a guidance counselor.

Mark McCarthy ('79) is the eldest of those in the room. His is a tale of two spouses: He came back in 1988 to be the athletic director, but left because his wife didn't like it here; after more than 20 years in Connecticut, he was seeking a change in profession, and his new wife was happy to come. Director of Operations Sam Hart ('95) knew the superintendent and the principal when he was hired to work on, among other things, the school building project. He'd never planned on living here as an adult, but while visiting, he met the woman he would later marry.

Jack Pacheco joined the faculty most recently, in January 2025. "I had a wonderful high school experience — thanks to the majority of the people in this room," he says, "but it was cut short on March 13, 2020 [by COVID]." At loose ends after business school, he took a sub position in the math department here, before being hired as a business teacher. "The same principal who shook my hand as I was walking across the stage to accept my diploma shook my hand when I took my first big job," he recalls.

Around the room, people nod and say, with smiles, "Same."

Of course, returning to such familiar terrain is not uncomplicated. Greeting by first name elders you're used to addressing as teachers was an uncomfortable adjustment for some. "It was hard, coming back and seeing my old teachers now as colleagues," says Baer. "You were a high school teenager; it's embarrassing to remember all the stupid stuff you did, and facing all these people you did it in front of." Around the room, people make faces of acknowledgement, sometimes accompanied by sheepish laughter or an exchange of knowing glances.

But from a pedagogical perspective, teaching where you learned gives you an insider's insight of the school population and its needs. "I hope that with the support of the people in this building, everyone here can be helped to find their way through whatever they are going through," says Hazell.

Hewson observes, "We're rural, so a lot of kids know they are not going to college before they even enter."

To which Coogan adds, "One of my favorite things is people find their niche. Not every kid, but so many find it, figure it out, and know that they have people here who care about them. There's just so much support."

Some of the MVRHS graduates who now work at MVRHS.



ELSBETH TODD

"I second that," says DeOliveira. "It's one of the most special things — the students' ability to engage and find their place — and for the staff to have their passion and to share it with students."

So generally, collective history is a positive thing, and everyone is quick to share their appreciation for their role models. Many names are referenced. Certain ones come up a lot. Across the broadest age range, Coach Jay Schofield ("Scho" to many) is beloved. He was not only a long-term gym teacher and coach of several sports, but a role model for positivity; DeOliveira remembers his teaching the girls' varsity soccer team how to change a tire.

The late math teacher Lou Toscano is another icon; he inspired both Baer and Flanders to become math teachers. In yet another touching example of coming full circle, Flanders — chair of the department Toscano chaired when she was his student — now selects which student receives the Louis Toscano Memorial Scholarship.

Music teacher and girls' basketball coach Bob Nute also elicits gratitude, especially from Chandler, who pays it forward: "Bob Nute is the reason I graduated high school, so I now get to spend my life creating that space for my students." Other names spill out as these MVRHS teachers honor the MVRHS teachers who inspired them: Dianne McDonough, Corrine Kurtz, David Wilson, and many others, all remembered with admiring anecdotes.

McCarthy points out, "I think we all remember key teachers who taught us here, and each and every one of us aspires to be that person ... I just hope that in 25 years, there are people sitting in this room who say the same thing about us."

His saying "us" instead of "me" reflects the zeitgeist of the school. The high school has always emphasized widening the welcome, creating opportunities for a huge variety of interests and personalities.

Joyce recalls, "When I was in high school, in the '80s, it was much smaller, but still you got an opportunity to do everything. My day was full — with sports, band, chorus. And that hasn't changed. There are a million people at sports events; people come out for the kids, and support them every way they can."

"I think we all are saying the same things," Chris Baer observes. "The things we remember are not the things you learned in Chapter 7, but the things you learned in community." **MVT**

**"WE ALL REMEMBER KEY TEACHERS WHO TAUGHT US HERE, AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US ASPIRES TO BE THAT PERSON. I JUST HOPE THAT IN 25 YEARS, THERE ARE PEOPLE SITTING IN THIS ROOM WHO SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT US." -MARK MCCARTHY**

Wild Side

BY MATT PELIKAN



The privilege of learning.

Sharing knowledge



MATHEW PELIKAN

One characteristic found almost universally among naturalists is a deep generosity about sharing knowledge. Oh, you do find the occasional person who thinks that the purpose of learning things is to acquire status. But the vast majority of naturalists seem to feel as I do: You're the caretaker, not the owner, of what you've learned, and nature, not the naturalist, is the star of the show.

I've benefited from this my whole life. I think, for example, of the warm welcome I received from local birders like Allan Keith, Soo Whiting, and the late Vern Laux when I arrived on the Island in 1997. I had all the information I could use on where and when to find birds, the history of particular species on the Vineyard, and tricks for identifying what I found.

The naturalist support network was even more important to me when I was a kid. Birdwatching was a decidedly uncool interest in elementary school and junior high (in high school, I finally found a small set of kindred weirdos). So I was enormously grateful to the adults in those days who made the effort to show me a bird through their telescope or help me solve an identification question.

This generosity with knowledge reaches an apex

at events like the Northeast Natural History Conference, which I recently attended in Burlington, Vt. The annual event is organized by the Eagle Hill Institute, a wonderful locus of education and publishing in Downeast Maine. These conferences bring together hundreds of scientists, amateur naturalists, and students from throughout the region.

At the center of these events are brief presentations, nearly 200 of them in this case, generally organized into "sessions" focused on a particular theme. Topics range from reports on simple observational studies, like the bee surveys I presented on, to highly technical reports on genetics or population dynamics. With six talks going simultaneously, you have to pick your priorities; but there was not a presentation on this year's schedule that I wouldn't have attended if there had been time.

Much of my time at this conference was spent learning about new developments in my main fields of interest. An ornithology lab at the College of the Atlantic, for example, presented research on what factors determine nest-site selection in seabirds, while other researchers presented on the long-range movements and foraging patterns of gulls. I also spent a lot of time learning about insect field surveys

throughout New England.

But I also took the opportunity to expand my mind a bit with topics I know nothing about. Strange as it may seem, "Paleobiogeography and Extinction of Spinocyrtid Brachiopods in Central and Eastern North America (Western Laurussia) during the Upper Devonian" was not merely comprehensible but actually interesting! Jed Day, a professor visiting from all the way out in Illinois, extracted an incredibly detailed story of expansion and then collapse from a smallish set of 360 million-year-old fossils.

So-called poster sessions are another major component of these meetings. Presenters, often undergraduate students, line up in a hall explaining poster displays they've prepared summarizing research projects. At this event, nearly 150 posters were shown. These sessions are often the first experience young scientists have to share their original research. Many begin their sessions visibly nervous, and it's a wonderful thing to watch them relax as they begin to realize that they truly do know things that nobody else does, and that other people are interested in learning from them.

While these formally

organized sessions are the backbone of a conference, enormous value also emerges from casual conversations that take place at mealtimes or between presentations. For example, in my own lecture, I mentioned knowing nothing at all about the diet of a particular bee species I was discussing (*Perdita bradleyi*). Afterwards, another bee enthusiast gave me a tip: Word is this tiny bee feeds on the pollen of (and very likely helps pollinate) *Nyssa*

*sylvatica*, the stately wetland tree Vineyarders know as beetlebung. This seemingly implausible association between bee and tree is not yet in the scientific literature; it's just something that someone observed, mentioned to someone else who mentioned it to someone else, until word finally made it to me. Now I know!

What about you? A full weekend wallowing in biological arcana may be more than you're up for. But if you're reading this column,

you surely have an interest in natural history. And if you have an interest, you've surely noticed something at some point. And if you've done that, you now know something that somebody else doesn't.

The next step is finding a way to share what you know. Regardless of your skill level, you have something to offer to your children, your nieces and nephews, your friends, or your coworkers. It's the fee you owe for the privilege of learning. **MVP**

**Regardless of your skill level, you have something to offer to your children, your nieces and nephews, your friends, or your coworkers. It's the fee you owe for the privilege of learning.**



ROBYN GRAYGOR/BIODIVERSITYWORKS

Top, Female *Perdita bradleyi* transporting wads of, probably, beetlebung pollen. Above, Mathew Pelikan presenting on Vineyard bees at the Northeast Natural History Conference.



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