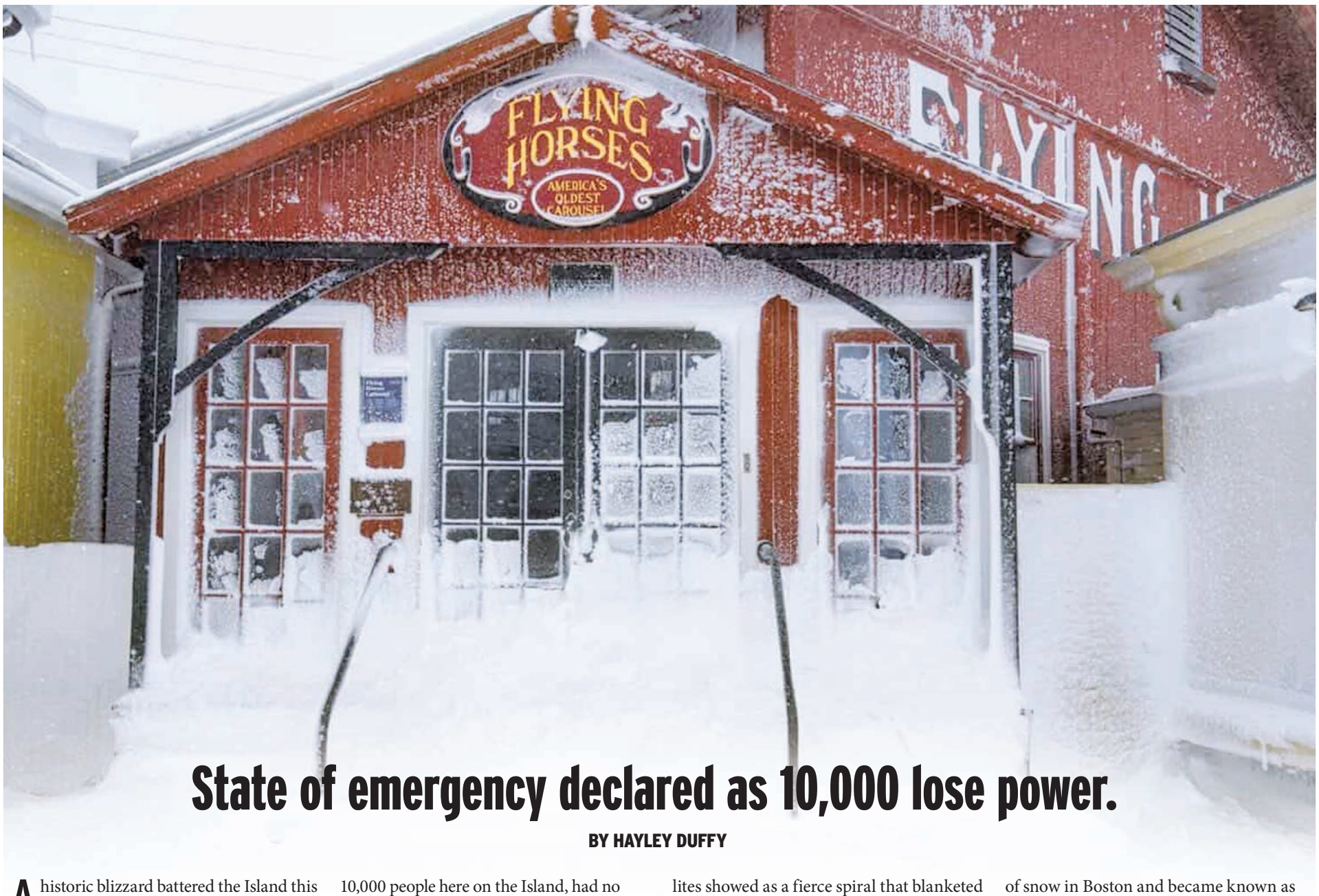
Community & Calendar:
Stillpoint brings Islanders together **A11**

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MV Times

Thursday, February 26, 2026 THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD TIMES Volume 43, Issue No. 8 1 Section Price $1.00

BLIZZARD BURIES ISLAND



State of emergency declared as 10,000 lose power.

BY HAYLEY DUFFY

A historic blizzard battered the Island this week. Trees toppled from the weight of the snow, power lines were downed, roads were impassable, and hundreds of thousands across the state, and as many as 10,000 people here on the Island, had no power or heat, and some wouldn't see reprieve for days. By Wednesday, thousands of Islanders still had not seen power restored.

This storm was a nor'easter, which satellites showed as a fierce spiral that blanketed all of the Northeast at once, and produced a blizzard that many won't forget. Some have likened this weather system to the blizzard of '78, which dumped 27 inches of snow in Boston and became known as the storm of the century. Meteorologists in Providence and the South Coast reported record snowfall that surpassed the blizzard *Continued on A23*

State attorney general reprimands AmeriGas

Several Islanders made complaints about propane delivery delays.

BY HAYLEY DUFFY

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell called out two propane gas companies that serve the state, and demanded that they remedy the problems that delayed deliveries to households and left hundreds without heat or hot water this winter.

Campbell's office *Continued on A22*

Digging out of the aftermath

Crews work nonstop to clean up and restore power. **BY EUNKI SEONWOO**

After getting walloped by a blizzard that brought howling winds and heavy snowfall across Martha's Vineyard, the long, grinding process of digging out and cleaning up is underway.

But as power restoration and snow removal continue, Vineyarders are wary of the rain that started Wednesday afternoon, and forecasts of another dusting of snow this week on top of the nearly two feet of white stuff already dumped on the Island.

The Vineyard will see a "wintry mix" of rain and snow, but a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Norton said the rain would not likely pose issues for the Island, and the hope is that the small amount of precipitation can be absorbed into the snow already on the ground. As of late Wednesday morning, the precipitation in the next few days was expected to bring little to no snow accumulation. Still, the Island is prone to flooding at Five Corners, and there were work crews working Wednesday to try to get ahead of the threat by clearing large piles of blackened snow with front-end loaders.

Islanders are using shovels and *Continued on A22*



SARAH SHAW DAWSON

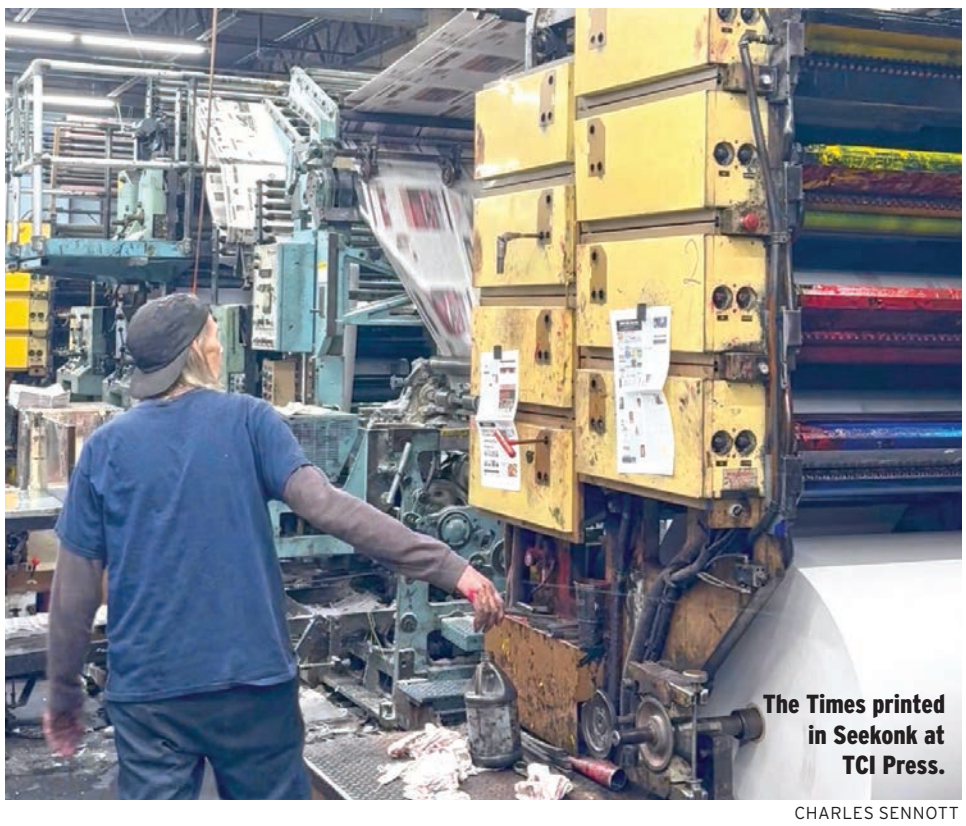
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Publisher's note

Braving Monday's blizzard and foraging for power and internet, our team at The Times worked around the clock to keep you updated on this historic snowstorm through our online coverage. On Wednesday, we were working against all odds to get this Thursday's print edition delivered to TCI Press in Seekonk. We regret to say this issue may arrive at your mailbox on the Island on Friday due to disruptions at the Rhode Island trucking terminal that brings the paper to the Island. You will notice that this edition is arriving in one section rather than our usual two for news and Community/Calendar. All of the elements of both coverage areas are still in your paper, just combined into one 24-page section to make it easier on our printers. It turns out, we like the way one section feels, and we would like to hear your feedback, as this may be a process we return to.

We realized most of you do not know our production process, which involves an all-week news-gathering that ends at exactly 3 pm on Wednesdays before we ship electronic files to TCI Press, where an experienced team runs the paper through a four-color printer. In the TCI parking lot, they were reporting 39 inches of snow, which had to be plowed. From TCI, two pallets stacked with approximately 3,500 copies of The MV Times are brought to a trucking depot in Warwick, R.I. Delays in trucking ran up and down the East Coast from New York to the tip of Cape Cod, which was paralyzed by the blizzard. But the papers were expected to arrive Friday, and we will be getting them out to the post offices across the Island and into the stores where they are sold. But please remember, you can always read all of the coverage online. Thanks for your patience, and a hats-off to the whole team at The MV Times for getting the paper to you. It is worth noting that the venerable Boston Globe failed to print on Monday. We, however, are proud to be getting this paper to you this week as best we can. Thank you for your patience, and thank you for your support.

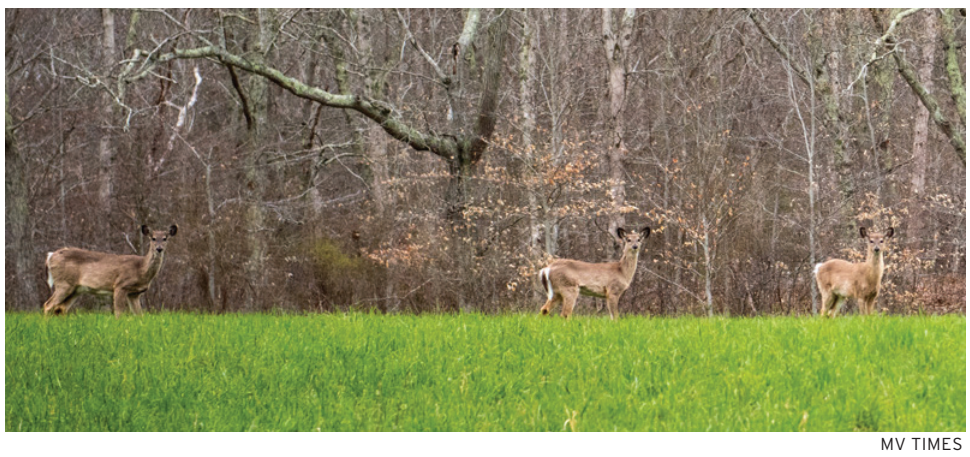
Charles M. Sennott, Publisher



The Times printed in Seekonk at TCI Press.

CHARLES SENNOTT

news in brief



MV TIMES

An aerial drone survey to determine the Island's deer population size and distribution.

MassWildlife collects feedback on hunting regulations

The state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, better known as MassWildlife, held virtual public hearings Monday on two proposal packages to permanently formalize emergency deer-hunting regulations and make changes to other hunting regulations.

Eve Schlüter, acting director of MassWildlife, led the hearings over Zoom after the brunt of the recent blizzard passed through Massachusetts. Martin Feehan, a deer biologist for the state department who recently came to the Island to discuss off-season opportunities for Island hunters, provided a brief summary of all of the regulations under discussion.

The initial hearing covered regulations that were passed through an emergency order and are currently active. Now the department wants to consider whether to make the rules, which include an extension of the winter deer season into February, as well as a 10-day early season in September, permanent.

The emergency regulations pertain to Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and the Elizabeth Islands, also known as Wildlife Management Zones (WMZs) 13 and 14, all of which experience deer overabundance that contributes to habitat damage, beach erosion, spread of tick-borne diseases, and increased vehicle collisions. MassWildlife's goal is to maintain deer density at 12 to 18 deer per mile across the state, whereas WMZs 13 and 14 see 50 to 70 deer per square mile in areas where hunting is allowed. That number is closer to 100 in areas closed to hunting.

The emergency regulations, which also remove the visibility requirement for harvested deer in transport as well as the on-Island deer-check requirement, were enacted late last year. Deer harvested on Martha's Vineyard may instead be checked in at stations off-Island.

Feehan said not only is there significant impact through tick-borne diseases and the allergy to mammalian products, alpha-gal syndrome, but there are "impacts directly on agriculture, particularly on Martha's Vineyard, where there are more farms that have not yet been fenced." It directly impacts the local food system, he said.

He added that this year's extended winter deer season, which began on Jan. 1 and ended Feb. 14 through the emergency regulations, was very successful. There were 763 deer taken in the fall harvest on Martha's Vineyard, which is the ninth highest on record. And on top of 171 taken in the winter season, there were a total of 934 harvested this season on the Island, the second highest on record.

The second hearing focused on five proposed regulation changes, which, pertaining to the Island, would expand the youth deer hunt to two more days, allow only synthetic and non-deer-based lures to prevent the spread of a fatal deer illness called chronic wasting disease, and allow Massachusetts Environmental Police to substitute confirmation numbers on harvested deer for physical metal seals, to enable more remote reporting.

The hearings were a means to collect feedback, but those not able to attend can submit comments by email or mail until Monday, March 9, at 5 pm. There is an online form on the public hearings page, or comments can be sent to MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

These hearings didn't cover several bills in the state legislature, such as universal access to more efficient and accessible crossbows (currently limited to people who suffer from a disability) and the reduction of setback limits, to try to encourage an increase in hunters. Those are statutory limitations, all of which would need legislative action to change.

Wasque to temporarily close for work against invasive beetles

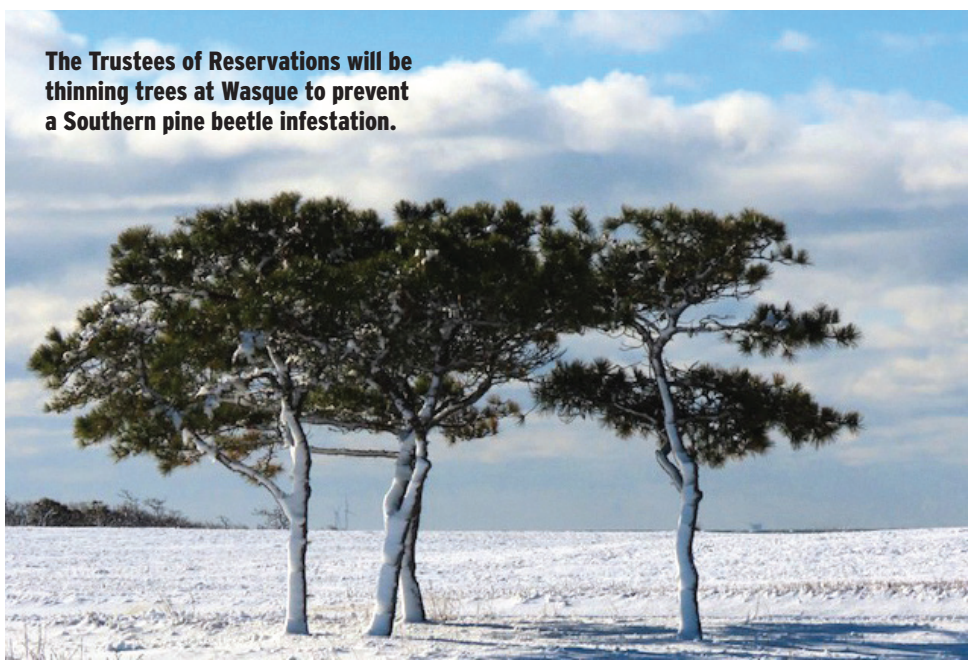
The Wasque reservation on Chappaquiddick will soon be closed for at least a month so the Trustees of Reservations can conduct mitigation efforts against Southern pine beetles.

The Trustees, which owns the nature preserve, announced in a press release it will begin thinning Wasque's mature pitch pine forests on Feb. 28 in a project funded by a $75,000 grant from the MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program.

"Without this work, we run a greater risk of an infestation," Darci Schofield, Islands director for the Trustees, said in the release. "Wasque's pitch pine forests are currently very dense, creating ideal conditions for the Southern pine beetle to spread and kill many mature trees."

Southern pine beetles are insects that have become a scourge on Vineyard woodlands. The females of the species chew into pine trees and carve tunnels inside to lay eggs and release pheromones to attract males, a process that ultimately overwhelms the

Continued on A3



The Trustees of Reservations will be thinning trees at Wasque to prevent a Southern pine beetle infestation.

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P.O. Box 518 • Vineyard Haven • MA • 02568
E-mail: mvt@mvtimes.com

Office hours: Mon-Thurs • 10am - 2PM
Published weekly on Thursday, year-round.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to MV Times, PO Box 518, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

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New developments unfolding at the high school

High school building gets crucial funding approval, and finalists for principal were named.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

The long-awaited, final costs were nailed down for the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) building project after a state funding source unanimously approved it on Wednesday morning. The milestone for the project comes just one week after two finalists were named as the next potential principal of the school.

Both were huge steps amid the changing educational landscape that Islanders have witnessed this year, and build on other recent leadership turnover. Earlier this month, a new superintendent, Jaime Curley, was chosen to lead all local public schools by the All-Island School Committee, pending successful contract negotiations.

At $333.5 million, the planned renovation and addition of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) is a record-breaker. The reimbursement of about $71 million, while lower than the $78 million estimated by MVRHS building committee members, is still a significant win for the school committee.

Years of planning and the sanctity of the building project itself were hinged on the approval by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) at a board of governors meeting on Wednesday morning, with the next binding decision to be made by Islanders themselves.

On June 2, locals will vote on funding the project, a portion of which will be paid by Vineyard taxpayers over a 30-year period, based on a funding formula decided years ago. If approved, the school, which is in significant disrepair, will start renovations as soon as the summer of 2027.

The approval for reimbursement by the MSBA was an essential piece of the larger puzzle. "It's definitely a big milestone," Superintendent of Island Schools Richard ("Richie") Smith said.

"Now the work is to get the message out, and hopefully we get our approval from the Island, which is just as, or more, important," Smith added in an interview with The Times.

Another heavy-hitting decision came last week when the search for a permanent high school principal was narrowed down to two candidates. Islanders can meet them next Wednesday and Thursday, when they each tour the school that one of them may soon oversee.

Dennis Mahony, the former principal of Winchester High School, and Bryan Lombardi, the principal of Stoneham High School, have been named as the final picks, down from 13 candidates, for principal of MVRHS.

"Our two finalists are seen as possessing the skills, values, and vision to lead MVRHS as its next principal," Smith, the current superintendent, stated in a letter he sent to students and parents last week when he announced the final candidates.

Mahony became a principal in 2016 when he was hired to head up Winchester High School in Massachusetts. He held the position for nearly a decade. In his district, he provided stability and a long tenure at a time of high turnover for principals. He was previously the assistant principal at Wilmington High School.

The other candidate, Lombardi, is the current principal of Stoneham High School, outside Boston, where he's served since 2019. Before that, he was principal of Northampton High School, a position he held for nearly 12 years. In both jobs, he was described in regional news outlets as a steady force for students and teachers, with an arts-driven focus.

Both candidates were known for their long terms at their respective schools, and both also had a hand in bolstering arts and performance programs in their schools.

Mahony will tour the Vineyard school on Wednesday, March 4, and Lombardi on Thursday, March 5, with a public community meeting following from 3:30 to 5 pm each day.

Neither of the potential principals are Island residents, but if one of them gets the position, that person will be a Vineyarder — donning in the school colors of purple and white, and navigating the ebbs and flows of student and teacher needs in a new community, along with a new high school, if all upcoming votes are approved.

"I'm so happy with the quality of the candidates who applied. It was tough getting them down to two, but they're both very exciting finalists," Smith noted. He said what stuck out most about both was "their enthusiasm for the position."

Considerations like housing, their relocation to the Island, and familiarizing themselves with the community would all come in time, Smith said. He noted that other recent principal hires moved to the Island to work and secured housing along the way, or are in the process of doing so, namely Kate Campbell, principal at the Edgartown School, and Kate Squire, the Chilmark School principal.

The final pick will also be tasked with the uniqueness of overseeing one of the only educational hubs for Island teenagers. The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School also hosts high school students, but usually fewer than 10 in each graduating class, making MVRHS the central meeting point for ninth through 12th grade students.

Those students are a diverse group: More than one-third speak another language besides English at home. Many of them will also be enrolled in classes while the building itself undergoes extensive planned renovations that will span multiple years.

The new hire will take over from Sean Mulvey, who has been serving in the role on an interim basis, and will go back to his job as a counselor at the end of this school year. His insight, Smith said, will be crucial for whoever next fills the principal position.

While the high school was once marred by frequent leadership changes, it had a constant in Sara Dingeldy, who was the principal for nine years before Mulvey, and now works in the central office, assisting students Island-wide. When the search began in December, school committee members expressed their intention to find another long-term leader.

The committee put together the MVRHS Principal Search Committee, made up of members of various towns, teachers, and student representatives, and tasked them with finding a new leader — one who would stand the test of time and provide stability to the Island's most populated school.

"We'll definitely make it work," Smith said. "There's a cocoon of support around them." MVT



MV TIMES

High school building receives state funding approval.

Continued from A2

plants. The beetles have encroached on various parts of the Island, and in December, forced the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation to close trails in West Chop Woods in Vineyard Haven because of a large number of trees killed by the beetles. They have also been found in some residential areas. More than 2,000 pitch pine and white pine trees were infected or deemed at risk, and were cut down, at the 69-acre Phillips Preserve, near Lake Tashmoo in Tisbury, in 2024. And there have been infestations found in Manuel F. Correllus State Forest.

While the Trustees of Reservations has not detected the beetles on Wasque, the conservation group is removing pitch pines on about 28 acres as a proactive measure to protect the habitat. Sheriff's Meadow also thinned the woods at the Caroline Tuthill Preserve in Edgartown to enable the mature pine forest to survive a potential outbreak.

While the reserve is closed, foresters will reduce tree density on the property to "healthy recommended levels" on 28 acres of land. The release stated that smaller branches and crowns will be masticated onsite, while larger logs will be "stacked in designated areas at least 50 feet from boundaries and roads to decompose naturally."

Signs will be posted at the reservation and trail entrances to let people know about the temporary closure.

news in brief

Bret Stearns becomes full-time Chilmark Police officer

A recognizable face has fully joined the Chilmark Police Department.

The Chilmark Select Board unanimously voted on Tuesday to approve Bret Stearns as a full-time police officer in the town.

Stearns has actually worked for the department on a part-time basis since 1996, but he said the "timing was never right" to take the leap. The right time came, however, after Officer Bill Fielder was hired by the West Tisbury Police Department in December, and a position opened up; Stearns submitted an application.

"I'm excited to do it. It was the right move at the right time," Stearns said.

The shift means Stearns will no longer be director of natural resources for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), a position he's held for more than 30 years. But he said the tribe is in "great hands," and he'll still be involved with the department as a contractor for environmental grants. Stearns will also be leaving his volunteer positions in Aquinnah as deputy shellfish constable and deputy harbormaster by July 1, although he can still help the departments.

Stearns said Chilmark Police has great people with varying expertise, despite being a small department. He's often been called upon for issues regarding the environment and wildlife.

"I'm still going to do those things, just doing it with a Chilmark uniform," he said.

Chilmark Police Chief Sean Slavin was not immediately available for comment.

SSA rep interviews reset

The finalists' interviews for the Island's next Steamship Authority board representative have been delayed following the powerful blizzard that hit the Island.

The Dukes County Commissioners announced in a press release that the public interviews, which were scheduled for Feb. 25 at the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center in Vineyard Haven, have been "postponed to allow sufficient time for conditions to normalize." It will now be held on Tuesday, March 3, at 4 pm. People can also view the interview remotely on Zoom, which is available on the county's calendar, dukescounty.gov.

The finalists are Gail Barmakian, Cameron Naron, and Ted Gavin. Each candidate brings a different set of experiences to the table. Barmakian, a lawyer, currently chairs the Oak Bluffs wastewater commission, and previously served five terms on the town's select board. Naron is the director of the federal Office of Maritime Security, and previously served in the U.S. Coast Guard, retiring with the rank of captain. Gavin is a certified turnaround professional, a role that helps stabilize troubled companies. He also serves on the boards of several nonprofits, including the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, and as treasurer of the Hebrew Center.

Suggestions for interview questions are being accepted at questions@dukescounty.org until 12 pm on March 2. There will not be a public comment period following the interview.

Edgartown Democrats to pick delegates for state convention

The Edgartown Democratic Committee announced that it will elect four delegates and four alternate members to represent the town at the 2026 Massachusetts State Democratic Convention.

Registered and preregistered Democrats in Edgartown who are at least 16 years old by Saturday, March 29, can vote, and can also be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus, a press release from the committee said. The committee scheduled a Zoom meeting Saturday, March 7, at 1:30 pm to choose the representatives.

The convention is in-person on Friday, May 29, and Saturday, May 30, at the DCU Center in Worcester.

"Youth (age 16 to 35), individuals with disabilities, people of color, veterans, and members of the LGBTQ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus," the press release said. MVT

EDITORIAL

Bleak midwinter depression

Publisher's Note: *This has been one of the hardest winters on the Island in memory. What's made it uniquely difficult is a string of local tragedies that descended upon the Island at the start of the winter and that were followed by unusually frigid temperatures and a harsh set of winter storms. And now it can feel like this week's blizzard, well, just buried us all.*

Faced with digging out from under two feet of heavy snow for many days and spring nowhere in sight, we wanted to highlight what can be serious psychological conditions and physical challenges that can accompany bleak midwinters like this one. One condition is known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD.

We are fortunate on this Island to have access to mental health counseling for this malady, and at The Times we are fortunate to have the regular contributions of Dr. Charles Silberstein, medical director at the Island Counseling Center within Martha's Vineyard Community Services, to help us understand it. We would like to offer excerpts from an essay by Silberstein from 10 years ago that feels as relevant as ever. Now as then, Silberstein wants our readers to remember that Islanders are almost twice as likely as residents in the rest of Massachusetts (or the U.S.) to suffer from depression — about 14 percent of the residents of Martha's Vineyard struggle with it. And, he added, SAD is still very prevalent, though there are successful treatments for it that seem to be improving in recent years.

This week, Silberstein said, "I have been having great success with light visors. Some people just can't sit still long enough for the light box. I recommend the Luminette 3. For full SAD, I usually recommend one hour per day of light therapy … I hope my previous writing will help people understand what they are going through and know treatment is always evolving, and that help is available."

BY CHARLES SILBERSTEIN

Why do I always feel blue in the winter? I don't want to go on an antidepressant. Do light boxes really work? How do I choose one? Is there anything else that I can do?

During the first hour of every evaluation, I ask whether seasonal mood changes occur. Often the answer is "No," or even, "I like the dark days of winter." And often, I hear this: "Doesn't everyone feel lower in the winter?" Well, the answer is that about 20 percent of people will experience some seasonal blues. About 6 percent of us will experience more severe mood changes, or seasonal affective disorder (SAD). The American Psychiatric Association regards SAD as a variant of major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder. SAD occurs in about 1.4 percent of people in Florida, and about 9.9 percent in Alaska. Though there is some controversy about this, there appears to be a direct relationship between latitude and incidence of SAD; women are about four times as likely to get it. Being younger, having a mood disorder, and having a family history are all factors that increase the risk.

What causes it?

The exact mechanism is unknown, but it appears to be triggered by the decreased seasonal light. While cold weather, winter isolation, and underemployment no doubt contribute to the winter blues, they are not the cause of SAD. It appears that the excessive production of melatonin that occurs in dim light or darkness, as well as a different pattern of serotonin regulation, may be factors. People with SAD need much more light than others to inhibit the brain's production of melatonin. And some people with SAD may have trouble making enough vitamin D.

What to do?

I appreciate your preference not to go on medication. Medications all have side effects and unknown long-term consequences. While ultimately that may be necessary in more severe cases, starting with more natural treatments probably makes more sense. Here are my suggestions:

• Get a light box. Light is a powerful antidepressant. In a recent research study, light therapy was found to be as effective as Prozac at treating nonseasonal depression. If you search for "seasonal light box" at Amazon, a bunch pop up. The most important thing is that the box is 10,000 lux. Full-spectrum bulbs provide a nice light, but the important ingredient is light intensity. You will see blue and white lights. It is unclear if one is superior. Some people find the blue lights tend to be more stimulating. Beyond that, the choice is mostly stylistic. Some people want a small portable light, others might want a desk lamp. There is even a light visor that can work while people move around.

• Sit close to the light — 16 to 24 inches. There is an exponential dropoff in light intensity with distance from the light. Just think about how light fans out from its source. The closer you sit, the more intense and therefore effective the light is. Most people use it in the morning. Others use it twice a day. Some people find that it really helps evening energy when used late in the day. One word of caution: Bright light interferes with the production of melatonin — the sleep hormone. If you use it late in the day, it may interfere with sleep.

• Get your vitamin D level checked, and if it is low, take vitamin D supplements.

• Get psychotherapy. Cognitive therapy has been studied for SAD, and it works. Other therapies have been studied for depression, and they are quite effective as well.

• Consider a negative air ionizer in your bedroom. Negatively charged particles in the sleep environment can help mood and SAD.

• Consider medication. Serotonin reuptake inhibitors like Zoloft, Celexa, Lexapro, Prozac, and a bunch of others are probably the most effective medication for SAD. Others, such as Wellbutrin and Provigil, may help as well. Medication can be safe, easy, and effective.

Dr. Charles Silberstein is a psychiatrist on staff at Martha's Vineyard Hospital and at Island Counseling Center, where he is the medical director. He is board-certified in general, addiction, and geriatric psychiatry. He writes regularly about issues Islanders have with mental health. This essay was first published in The Times on Dec. 28, 2016, and excerpts are being reprinted with permission. You can read the full essay online here: https://www.mvtimes.com/2016/12/28/mind-deal-seasonal-depression/.

Mental health services

Mental health services on Martha's Vineyard are primarily provided through Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS), offering counseling, psychiatric services, and specialized support for children, adults, and seniors. For immediate crises, the MVCS Island Intervention Center provides urgent, walk-in care and 24/7 support.

Emergency Mental Health Crisis Services (24/7):

• Martha's Vineyard Community Services Crisis Line: 508-693-7900.

• Massachusetts Behavioral Health Hotline: Call or text 877-382-1609.

• Crisis Intervention (MVCS): Provides triage, brief interventions, and assessments for urgent needs.

• Martha's Vineyard Hospital Emergency Room: For severe, immediate, or acute mental health emergencies.

LETTERS

Release contract details of SSA senior advisor

To the Editor:

The scathing report from the Office of the Inspector General [OIG] on the Steamship Authority operations did not spare any words when evaluating the performance of Mr. Robert Davis, the general manager at the time of the report, and the prospects of keeping him on staff after he was no longer GM. The OIG expressed "concern over the board's retention of the outgoing general manager for 18 months as a senior advisor. The board agreed to give the outgoing manager significant responsibilities, ensuring his continued influence at a time when the new general manager is trying to chart a new course for the agency. Further, the broad responsibilities enumerated in the senior advisor's employment include areas in which the outgoing general manager has not demonstrated strength. The board's agreement with the outgoing general manager appears to be far more generous to the outgoing general manager than to the Steamship Authority."

In addition to collecting the same salary that he did as GM (with raises), Mr. Davis is getting paid vacation time, health benefits for him and his wife, an SUV with all expenses paid, and other perks. While his agreement is through April 2027, it extends indefinitely unless a six-month notice is provided. Therefore, we, the ticketholders, are paying for two GMs for the foreseeable future.

There is a clause, however, in the senior advisor employment agreement, which allows the Steamship Authority and Mr. Davis to part ways before April 2027. If this is exercised, Mr. Davis gets a full year of pay plus unused vacation. The Steamship Authority, however, can terminate the agreement due to "willful misconduct in the performance of the employee's assigned duties" and not have to pay for the year. There is plenty of evidence in the OIG report to at least warrant the discussion.

Our attempts to obtain a status of Mr. Davis' employment have been stonewalled by the Steamship Authority board as "personnel matters." We believe the public has a right to know, and hope to see it addressed at the next board meeting.

Amy Cody, Margaret Hannemann, Alysha Norbury, Beth O'Connor, Nat Trumbull
Steering committee of the Steamship Authority Citizens' Action Group

Islanders under emergencies

To the Editor:

What a coincidence, both Martha's Vineyard and Puerto Vallarta fell under an emergency order to shelter on the same day.

On vacation in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, I was oblivious to future events. I dressed for a run on the soccer fields near my Airbnb, but upon arrival, I noticed a car burning in the middle of the road of a major highway into downtown Puerto Vallarta. No traffic or people were around to watch it — weird? On my run, I heard explosions, and the sky began to darken. Then I heard loud explosions coming from the direction of my return. A group of locals were watching a car burning, and I asked, "Que pasa?" I was told that a cartel chief had been killed and the cartel was "making a statement."

Around 11 am, it started for real. The sky was turning black, and explosions of the gas tanks of cars everywhere had started. After about an hour, the cartel started bombing the more than 150 convenience stores in P.V., using masked young men on very fast motorcycles.

At 3 pm, the stores were still burning, but no police or fire officials were visible. I was told they were the only people the cartel wanted to kill. And it became eerily quiet for the rest of the day. No cars, no people — the silence was unreal, and the shops were burning out quietly and alone.

On Monday morning, the world was informed that "El Mencho," the drug lord kingpin, had been killed by the Mexican military. The quiet prevailed as cleanup of cars and buses started; the stores kept smoldering. All flights had been canceled, no local buses or taxis. Hotels were in lockdown, and stores and restaurants were closed: an international ghost town.

It's Tuesday, life has begun; people, cars, and flights have resumed. But it's not the same.

The snow on the Vineyard will melt, spring will arrive, and this will all be a memory. A quite unforgettable one.

Ken Rusczyk
Oak Bluffs

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e-mail: mvt@mvtimes.com

Charles M. Sennott • Publisher

Note to Readers

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

ESSAY

The Vineyard in the Epstein files

BY KATE FEIFFER

The Department of Justice posted a website in December that allows anyone to search the millions of pages of partially redacted documents of what is now widely referred to as the Epstein files. Like many news organizations across the country, The Times decided to take a look. We wanted to find out about the depth of Jeffrey Epstein's connection to the Vineyard, and I offered to dig around in the files.

Of course, the island that Epstein is mostly associated with was his private island in the Caribbean. An island where the powerful men who visited him are currently claiming that they didn't know he was involved in the sex-trafficking of young women and children. Epstein was first convicted in 2008 of procuring a child under the age of 18 for prostitution. In 2019, he was arrested for sex-trafficking, and he died in prison, reportedly by suicide, that August.

My first surprise, when I went on the Department of Justice site to do this search, was that I was asked to confirm that I was over the age of 18. This is obviously not something that the young women, some so young they may more appropriately be described as girls, who were brought to Epstein's island needed proof of.

Rather than looking into Epstein's friends and associates with ties to Martha's Vineyard who are being deposed by the House Oversight Committee — think Les Wexner, who last year acquired the Blue Heron Farm for a record estate price of $37 million, and Bill and Hillary Clinton — I focused my search on matters specifically Vineyard-related. I searched the files for "Martha's Vineyard," "Vineyard," and "MV." And then, because I was curious to see how another high-profile island, where presidential candidates and power players tend to convene, fared, I did a search for "the Hamptons."

It's clear that Epstein visited the Vineyard, as did Epstein's longtime partner Ghislaine Maxwell, but it doesn't seem like he spent a lot of time here. There are emails from people mentioning they were on the Vineyard; there are emails from people wondering if he wanted to stop by the Island. Some of these were clearly from short-term visitors, and others from seasonal residents. The only person I could find who spent time with Epstein on the Vineyard who has also been arrested (brought into police custody and later released) for a crime related to Epstein is Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, the former Prince Andrew. Mountbatten-Windsor came to the Vineyard at least twice in the 1990s, and during one of those visits, he was a guest at a birthday party that Epstein attended.

The search for "Martha's Vineyard" — apostrophe included — turned up nothing. Once I dropped the apostrophe, nine documents appear, including a flight manifest and a copy of a 2005 American Express bill with a $354 charge for "Vineyard Coach and Limousines," and a much lesser charge at a place not often associated with the Island's high rollers, Trader Fred's.

There are also four copies of the same email exchange between Epstein and a New York–based restaurateur, who emailed Epstein to say he had just landed "in marthas vineyard *[sic]*." In this email exchange, the restaurateur said he wanted to get to his hotel to use a landline to call Epstein. He also wanted to know whether Epstein preferred to have their conversation on a landline.

Many entries appear using the search for "Vineyard." The majority of what comes up from this search references other vineyards, not what we think of as "the Vineyard." However, there are a number of exchanges with or about seasonal Chilmark resident and legal and local provocateur Alan Dershowitz, Epstein's former lawyer, who has also represented Donald Trump — many of them just noting, "Alan is on the Vineyard" and "He asked if you might want to stop by the Vineyard … ?"

Included in the Vineyard search of the files is an email from an entrepreneur and venture capitalist, with the subject heading "Poor peoples problems" (ironic of course), that reads, "Which reminds me… if you want to pick us up at Martha's Vineyard on Saturday *[sic]* on your way to Boston you could meet my dogs. ;-)."

A 2013 email was sent to Epstein with the subject line: "Caroline Kennedy Selling 93 Acres of Martha's Vineyard," to which Epstein replied in all caps, "BORING."

Epstein's "BORING" turned into a historic land conservation deal with Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank. Alas, it's not at all boring to have more than 300 acres of pristine land forever in conservation for the public to enjoy.

Is it upsetting that it's not surprising that Epstein visited the Vineyard? Of course.

What may also be surprising is that he wasn't more of a presence on the Island. And yes, it appears he was more inclined toward the Hamptons, which is why it is the New York Post, and not The MV Times, that recently ran the headline, "Jeffrey Epstein masterminded 'girls weekends' in ritzy Hamptons with weird overnight stays: emails."

While it would have been nice not to find any entries linking him to the Vineyard, I guess we'll have to settle for "BORING."

Kate Feiffer is an author, illustrator and MV Times director of Islanders Write.

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EDGARTOWN RESTAURANT LOOKING FOR A FULL TIME CHEF.

Call 508-560-3505.

GRADE 1 TEACHER

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

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT- IT DIRECTOR

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

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

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

MUNICIPAL FINANCE DEPARTMENT – FINANCIAL ASSISTANT.

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

SHERIFF'S MEADOW FOUNDATION SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

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

SUMMER OPENINGS:

Summer Supervisor- supervise summer staff, make schedules, payroll. Work closely with the public. Water safety/lifeguard certification, CPR and First Aid training a plus.
Starting salary $31.06
Assistant Supervisor – Assist supervisor when needed. Cover duties when supervisor is not available. Must have 5 plus years' experience.
Starting salary $29.38
Lifeguard - must have water safety/ lifeguard certification, CPR and First Aid training. Assist with beach patrons, ensure that proper beach and safety regulations are followed.
Starting salary $23.79
Parking Lot Attendant- ensure cars entering the lot or parking in designated areas have a valid sticker or pass. Assist the public with information, policies and expectations of beach use.
Starting salary $17.68
Beach Sticker Seller- responsible for organization and sale of beach stickers and passes for Lambert's Cove Beach. Responsible for tennis court reservations and sale of tennis keys. Collecting money and keeping accurate records of all sales. Starting salary $20.97
Recreation Instructors - must have basic knowledge of basketball skills and drills. Responsible for organizing activities for students grades four through nine. Starting salary $23.79
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THE LAND BANK IS SEEKING A YEAR-ROUND PART-TIME PLANNER, TO FOCUS ON ACQUIRING NEW TRAILS ACROSS THE VINEYARD.

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

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

Head Lifeguard, Assistant Head Lifeguard, Lifeguard, Park Patrol Rangers, and Night Rangers for South Beach and Norton Point. Full and part-time positions available. Not a certified lifeguard? We have options to help get you certified. Applications are available at www.edgartown-ma.us or in the Human Resource Office at Town Hall. Questions related to current openings and job descriptions may be directed to parks@edgartown-ma.us or by calling 508-627-6145.
All positions are open until filled.
The Town of Edgartown is an equal opportunity employer. Please submit completed applications to HR@edgartown-ma.us

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Must have a valid drivers license with clean driving record. Must have your own vehicle - suv preferred.
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This is a 1099 position.
Aprox. 10-15 hours/week depending on schedule.
Pay is approximately $550. week - depending on availability and combination of deliveries.
Looking to train and fill the position by May 2026 - possibility to start earlier.
If interested email : vineyardcourier@gmail.com

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

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

JOIN OUR TEAM!

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

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

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Application and full job description available at www.edgartown-ma.us or contact lfamariss@edgartown-ma.us. Please return completed applications to the Human Resource Office in Town Hall, PO Box 5130, Edgartown, MA 02539, or to HR@

HELP WANTED

edgartown-ma.us.
Applications will be received until 4PM on Wednesday, March 4, 2026. Town of Edgartown is EOE.

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508-693-2009
Deadline: Until Position is Filled
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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.



$2,100,000 MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381 OCEAN PARK REALTY

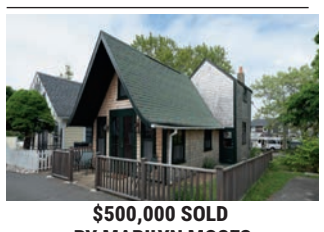
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HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



$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!



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HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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



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

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



Real Estate

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



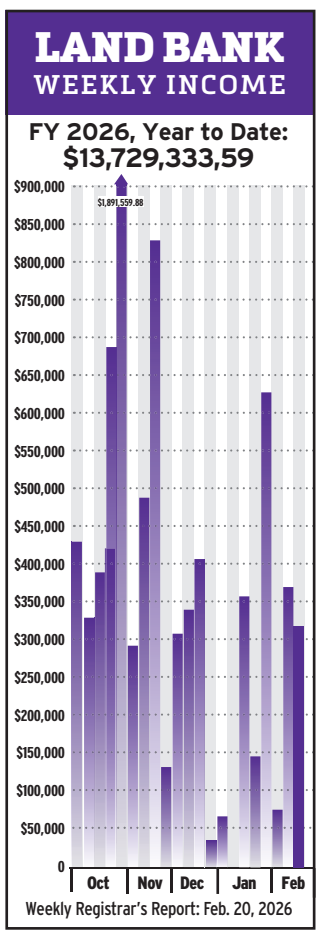
IMPROVED PRICE: $1,795,000
CONTACT MARILYN MOSES AT 617-462-0381 FOR MORE DETAILS!
OCEAN PARK REALTY

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



NEW LISTING IN OAK BLUFFS
$999,000
ALAN SCHWEIKERT
OCEAN PARK REALTY
508-221-1708

Oak Bluffs: Home Sweet Home Situated on over a quarter acre of beautifully landscaped, level grounds with colorful perennial plantings and mature trees, this sun-filled ranch offers a perfect blend of comfort and charm. The open kitchen, dining, and living areas feature cathedral ceilings, classic vertical knotty pine walls, and a cozy brick fireplace. Enjoy a convenient first-floor bedroom and a spacious second-floor primary bedroom with a private deck. The finished basement provides additional living or hobby space. Updates include a 2017 oil burner and Roth oil tank. An inviting outdoor shower completes this well-maintained home, offered furnished and ready for your personal touches.
Located in a quiet residential neighborhood close to all that Oak Bluffs has to offer.



HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



OFFERED BY RENE' BEN DAVID/ REALTOR ®, OCEAN PARK REALTY INC.
23 Circuit Ave Extension
Cell 508-847-4864

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



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

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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

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

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

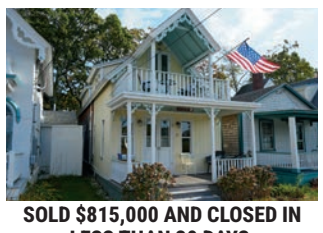
Spectacular waterfront home with stunning water views from every room. Situated in a private location in the Sengekontacket Association, this is an exceptional property in a rare setting. In addition to the breathtaking water view of Major's Cove and of Felix Neck throughout the home, the front of the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



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

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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

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



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

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD & 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!

See What You Can Build for 33% less!
Schedule Your Free In-Person or Video Walk Through Today!
SCAN

YOU CAN AFFORD TO BUILD ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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

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

Island news daily

MV Times THE minute

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This week's Real Estate Transactions will be included in next week's issue.

Real Estate

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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

Comfortable Island Home on a Quiet Dead-End Road in Oak Bluffs: Welcome to 11 Onondaga Avenue, the second home on the left on a short, quiet dead-end road in a well-established Oak Bluffs neighborhood enjoyed by both year-round and seasonal residents. This well-cared-for 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home offers space, comfort, and a truly inviting island lifestyle—just a short walk to the Oak Bluffs Sailing Camp Park and beach, where beautiful sunsets over the water await. Inside, the open-concept layout connects the kitchen and dining area to the living room, creating a bright and functional space perfect for both entertaining and relaxed daily living. An inviting deck off the dining room extends your living space outdoors into a serene landscaped setting ideal for enjoying meals in the fresh Vineyard air. The home is set on a peaceful lot with both front and back yards offering a sense of seclusion and space to enjoy. Upstairs, the primary bedroom features an en suite with a shower, providing a comfortable and quiet retreat. Two additional bedrooms and a full bath complete the upper level, and a half bath with washer /dryer is conveniently located on the main floor. The full basement includes both indoor and outdoor access, offering flexibility and additional potential. A finished room in the basement is ready for your creative touch—whether as a media room, home office, playroom, or guest overflow. The property also includes a spacious storage shed and a driveway that easily fits three to four cars. A new roof installed in 2023 adds peace of mind and value. Located minutes from downtown Oak Bluffs, local beaches, ferries, and all the charm the Vineyard has to offer, this home is ready to be your island getaway, year-round residence, or next investment.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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

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



HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD
BEING OFFERED BY RENE' BEN DAVID,REALTOR ® AT OCEAN PARK REALTY INC.
CALL OR TEXT 508-847-4864.
$999,999.00

Location, Location, Location! This unique property on the beautiful island of Martha's Vineyard presents an incredible opportunity for the buyer with vision to complete and personalize a home full of potential. The original residence, built in 1920, offers 2 bedrooms and 1 bath and has been expanded with a substantial newer addition, creating increased living space and a finished garage area suitable for storage or future use. Above the garage, another 2 bedrooms and a full bath await final town approvals — providing the perfect framework for an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) or additional living quarters. With creativity and planning, this property could be transformed into a spacious single-family home or a multifamily residence. Set on a large corner lot within walking distance to town, the ferries, and the harbor, the location alone makes this a must-see. The property also features a newer 4-bedroom septic system installed in 2006, which has already been inspected and passed. After being lovingly cared for by the same family, the three siblings who inherited the home are now ready to pass it along to new owners who can bring their own vision to life. This year-round residence is truly a property you need to visit in person to fully appreciate its possibilities. Seller is offering buyer's broker compensation.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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

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

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

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

HOUSES-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.

55Plus
from your local Councils on Aging and the Martha's Vineyard Center for Living
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To advertise, email adsales@mvtimes.com or call 508-693-6100

HOUSES-WEST TISBURY



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

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

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

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES

MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

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

SHERIFF'S MEADOW FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

TISBURY PLANNING BOARD
HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to MGL c. 40A, Section 5, the Tisbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Friday March 6, 2026 at 4:30** pm to receive public comment on the following amendments to the current Tisbury Zoning Bylaws.
To determine whether the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw with the proposed amendments as follows:
Topic: TPB Warrant Article Review -Public Hearing
Time: Mar 6, 2026 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83047784269
Meeting ID: 830 4778 4269
Passcode: 723890
One tap mobile
+16469313860,,83047784269# US
+13017158592,,83047784269# US (Washington DC)

ARTICLE XX -
Accessory Dwelling Units
To Existing TZBL 04.02.01 - Update the ADU bylaw to comply with the Attorney General's directive, remove principal dwelling setback requirements for an ADU and "single family", and consider other changes for the W/C district and B1 and B2 districts.
Replace -"Single Family Dwelling" with "Principal Dwelling"
(a) In addition to the principal ~~**single-family**~~ dwelling, one accessory dwelling unit ("ADU") is permitted, subject to the following restrictions and requirements:
i. No ADU shall exceed 50% of the gross floor area of the ~~**single-family residence**~~ **principal dwelling** or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller.

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

ii. The ADU may be created within the principal ~~**single-family residence**~~ **dwelling** or within a detached accessory structure, provided that any such accessory structure shall comply ~~**with the setback requirements applicable to principal structures and all other requirements of this Bylaw applicable to accessory structures,**~~ **either with all applicable requirements of this Bylaw for principal dwellings or for accessory structures, whichever are less strict.**
To Existing TZBL 06.05.00 - Uses permitted in the Commercial Management Area
Change 05. - ~~**one (1) detached single-family dwelling**~~ **On a lot with a principal dwelling structure, one ADU shall be allowed as an accessory to such use, subject to the restrictions and requirements of Section 04.02.01**

ARTICLE XX- Municipal Uses
To Existing TZBL 05.00 - Add Municipal Uses to the B1 and B2 districts w/ Site Plan Review and exempt from parking requirements set forth in the bylaw.
Add - **05.11.03 Municipal Uses with Site Plan Review. Municipal Uses are exempt from Parking requirements in this Bylaw.**

ARTICLE XX – Floodplain District
To Existing TZBL 09.04.02 – Floodplain District Boundaries:
The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district to all other districts. The District includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Tisbury designated as Zone A, AH, AO, AE or VE on the Dukes County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated July 20, 2016 issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program.
Remove - ~~**The map panels of the Dukes County FIRM that are wholly or partially within the Town of Tisbury are panel numbers 25007C0082J, 25007C0083J, 25007C0084J, 25007C0101J, 25007C0102J, 25007C0103J, 25007C0104J and 25007C0111J dated July 20,2016.**~~
Change TZBL 09.04.15 - Floodplain Administrator:
The ~~**Building/Zoning Inspector**~~ Conservation Agent shall be the official Floodplain Administrator for the Town of Tisbury.

ARTICLE XX-
Designated Special Ways
Add – **Mud Puddle Road: Within twenty feet of either side of the centerline of Mud Puddle Road, from Edgartown Road to the Power line Utility easement.**
Sailor's Burying Ground Road/Great Rock Road: Within twenty feet of either side of the centerline of Sailor's Burying Ground Road / Great Rock Road between the Power line Utility Easement and parcel 20-A-21.
Sailor's Burying Ground Road: Within twenty feet of either side of the centerline of Sailor's Burying Ground Road from the intersection with Canterbury Lane on parcel 20-A-22 to the Oak Bluffs Town Line.
To Existing TZBL 09.03.02.04 - There shall be no removal of existing vegetation within a Special Way Zone other than to keep the Special Way clear of debris and overgrown vegetation, except as permitted as part of a Special Permit or where the width of a Special Way Zone extends beyond a pre-existing fence or beyond where a fence may be allowed.
Add – **To keep clear the travel way of vegetation the following method may be used for administrative approval from the Planning Board:**
For sections of the Special Way less than 12 feet wide, any tree located within the following dimensions may be removed with on-site approval from a Planning Board representative. Additionally, the Applicant must obtain written permission from the property owners of the land where the trees are located and provide it to the Planning Board before any cutting.
The measurement begins vertically from the outer edge of the level travel way:
- **Starting Height: From 3 feet high.**
- **Outward: Extending up to 1 foot 6 inches horizontally.**
- **Ending Height: Reaching a maximum vertical height of 13 feet 6 inches from the travel way.**

Using the above methodology, the removal of the trees that impede the Special Way's travel ability will leave the root ball and stump intact to avoid destabilizing any embankment.
Or take any action relative thereto.
Sponsor: Planning Board

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The West Tisbury Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on Monday, March 9, 2026,
at 5:15 pm, on an application from Teaglach Gra LLC,for a special permit to install a second curb cut less than 1000 feet from the existing curb cut under Section 6.2-5 General Regulations, of the zoning bylaws, on Assessor's Map 3, Lot 11.0, 179 Lambert's Cove Road, RU District.
Interested parties are invited to send comments and/or attend the meeting via **ZOOM.**
For more information and/or to review the application please contact or visit the Planning Board office on the second floor of the Town Hall. Please address any comments to:
Leah Smith
Planning Board
P.O. Box 278
West Tisbury, MA 02575
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85146903630?pwd=vjds7MLpg5YxhywBexbZvapAlF14PR.1
Meeting ID: 851 4690 3630
Passcode: 200306

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

Steamship Authority charts path forward

Improvement plans created in response to issues raised in inspector general's report. **BY EUNKI SEONWOO**

In the wake of a state report that pointed out deficiencies at the Steamship Authority, the new general manager has charted a course forward in order to restore confidence in the ferry system.

At the Steamship Authority board meeting on Feb. 17, Alex Kryska, general manager of the ferry line, presented an 18-month draft plan to the five-person board addressing different areas for improvement, including leadership structure, financial planning, and transparency. "This is the initial stepping-off point," Kryska said.

Kryska's draft plan is a development of the improvements he vowed to implement during his first board meeting appearance last month. That declaration was in response to a scathing report released in December by the state inspector general's office on the failure of the Steamship Authority's shelved website project, including the board's lack of oversight on spending, which the state agency estimated wasted between $2 million and $4 million in public funds. Kryska's draft plan announcement also follows recent informational sessions, held on Feb. 11 and Feb. 12, on proposed changes to the new reservation system that is under development.

Kryska said he's "really digging into what the job of general manager is for the Steamship Authority," and has been conducting one-on-one meetings with managers in the ferry line. These are a part of the "immediate actions" Kryska wanted to take in the next 90 days, which also include solidifying who makes certain decisions in the ferry line, standardizing templates for the board to use for reporting, and improving "financial controls, planning, and transparency."

"It takes me back to 'Shrek,'" Kryska said, referencing the 2001 DreamWorks movie. "There's a lot of layers to this onion, and you've got to peel it apart and figure out where everything is, who's in charge of what."

Kryska admitted the plan was "fairly aggressive," and some board members noted it may be beneficial to stretch out the deadline goals more.

"It's pretty compressed, with a lot of stuff," said Jim Malkin, Martha's Vineyard board representative. "Set yourself up for success, and let's do it right."

The board is also addressing other concerns raised in the report, such as a need to review the Enabling Act, the ferry service's governing document, and review its policies, which the board will do over the next months. And while the report recommended the board members be required to "take or retake the Boards and Commission course offered by the OIG [Office of the Inspector General] Academy within 60 days," Peter Jeffrey, board chair and Falmouth representative, deferred that decision to each board member.



EUNKI SEONWOO

The Steamship Authority ferry Martha's Vineyard docked in Vineyard Haven.

Kryska and the board were aligned with creating a "decisionmaking matrix." Determination of roles was especially important, to clarify the "board's expectation of the interplay between [Kryska's] position and the senior advisor role," which is that of Bob Davis, the Steamship general manager before Kryska.

Davis now holds a temporary senior advisor position that is not to exceed 18 months. The decision to retain Davis was a concern highlighted by the state report, since it could "impede the new general manager from setting his course for the SSA," although Malkin assured The Times in December that Davis would hold no authority over ferry line operations and would undertake specific projects as directed by the board.

In the coming months, according to Kryska's plan, there will also be a review of various aspects of the ferry operation, including making a "deep bench" of staff as well as deciding where funds go and how they are approved. But a major part of the plan is the replacement of the aging fleet — particularly vessels that are more than 50 years old, like the Nantucket and the Governor — and making sure the ferry line is on track to meet the state's goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

And that won't be easy. Kryska said, "2050 is not that far away when you're talking about designing and building boats that are hybrid-electric, or all-electric if we can possibly do that." He also highlighted that the Trump administration's recent proposal to boost domestic shipbuilding will likely make shipbuilding more expensive.

In the third phase of his plan, Kryska is looking to hone in on reinstituting the public's trust in the ferry line with shifts to the Steamship culture and accountability, including ways for the board to evaluate itself, offer training sessions, and make a progress tracker based on the inspector general's report. Kryska said while he thinks the ferry line has done "an incredibly great job representing the public," especially Islanders, it needs to communicate better.

Kryska said he also plans to make himself and the ferry line's senior staff more publicly available to the various port communities.

"We're not there just moving boats. We're there to keep the lifeline going," he said. MVT

obituary

Hilde Combra

Hilde Combra, 92, died on Saturday morning, Feb. 21, 2026, at her home in Oak Bluffs. She was the wife of Herbert A. Combra ("Bert"). Visiting hours will be held in the Chapman Funeral Home, 56 Edgartown–Vineyard Haven Road in Oak Bluffs, on Friday, Feb. 27, from 4 to 6 pm. Her funeral Mass will take place in St. Augustine's Church, 56 Franklin St. in Vineyard Haven, on Saturday, Feb 28, at 10 am. Burial will follow in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Oak Bluffs. A complete obituary will appear in another edition of this paper. Visit chapmanfuneral.com for online guestbook and information.

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

email: 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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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On **Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 5:45pm** the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2 nd floor meeting room, on an application from **Jane Hawkes** to Amend Special Permit #2007-14. The applicant seeks, pursuant to Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2024 (the "Affordable Homes Act"), to remove the affordable housing restriction imposed as a condition of approval on the attached accessory apartment authorized by the Board on April 4, 2007, under Section 9.3-3 of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw, **at 188 Vineyard Meadow Farms Road, Assessors' Map 37, Lot 26,** in the RU District.

Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: zba@west-tisbury-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 W. TISBURY

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On **Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 5:30pm** the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2 nd floor meeting room on an application from Adam Braillard of Prince Lobel Tye LLE on behalf of **T-Mobile Northeast LLC and American Tower Company,** to AMEND Special Permit 2012-19 and Special Permit 2021-32 granted Dec. 16, 2021, to extend the height of a monopole tower from 75' to 95' and place panel antennas and remote radio units on the tower as well as appurtenant equipment at the base of the tower, under Sections 8.8-2B4, 8.8-4, and 9.3-3 of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw at **21 New Ln., Map 31 Lot 48,** in the RU district. **Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov or mail comments to: Zoning Board of Appeals, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. Please call 508-696-0107 for information on the application.**

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

WEST TISBURY SELECT BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SUBDIVISION APPEAL

On **Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 4:30 pm** the Select Board, acting as the Subdivision Appeals Board will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2 nd floor meeting room in person and on zoom to act on an appeal to the Subdivision Appeals Board from Philip Murray on behalf of **Robert JC Murphy** seeking to APPEAL the Building Inspector's refusal to grant a building permit for **14 Pine Lane, Map 10 Lot 268** (also known as "Lot 14") in the RU district.

In that determination dated January 29, 2025, the Building Inspector stated he is not satisfied that the Planning Board's "recreational lot" designation has been satisfied or waived. Appellant further requests that the Board grant him something akin to a variance to allow Lot 14 to be improved with a single-family residence. The Appeal is made under M.G.L. c.41 §81Z

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov or mail comments to: Select Board, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. Please call 508-696-0102 for information on the application.
Join Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82197658463
Meeting ID: 821 9765 8463 Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Join instructions https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/82197658463/invitations?signature=wBQbNFI3hQFGPJJqMH_ihYS3YoCOMj8etVb75tPCD-Y

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

COTTAGE CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday March 11, 2026
at 5:15 PM
RE: 26 Sea View Av Ext
Map 9 Parcel 56

This is a HYBRID meeting with both in person & Zoom participation available. The meeting will be held in the downstairs meeting room at the Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs MA or
Join Zoom Meeting
https://oakbluffs.zoom.us/j/84347376807?pwd=kntgVh3bwrsBbBmRsfbLMAFCY7aRDW.1
Meeting ID: 843 4737 6807
Passcode: 016134
Installation of a 33 panel roof mounted solar array
Proposed plans are on file in the Building Department at Town Hall. Written correspondence can be addressed to: Cottage City Historic District Commission
Attn: Lee Ann Tavares, PO Box 1327, Oak Bluffs – 02557
email: buildingadmin@oakbluffsma.gov

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE: ISLAND-WIDE AERIAL DEER SURVEY

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



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

MV Times

community & calendar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026



Stillpoint's *refettorio*, or community suppers.

THE WINTER TABLE

THOMAS BENA

BY NICOLE GALLAND

In the aftermath of the Island's weathering a historic blizzard — that first trapped us in our homes, and then dragged us from them in the labor of digging out — what better way is there to celebrate or seek solace in community than to break bread together?

Every Sunday evening through the end of March, something remarkable is happening in the woods of West Tisbury, regardless of snowdrifts: Stillpoint's community suppers. Attendees of all ages enter the gently lit barn to find two long tables adorned with tablecloths, candles, and scores of table settings. People nibble on hors d'oeuvres as they chat leisurely with fellow diners. The bountiful, locally sourced dinner accommodates alpha-gal syndrome and other food sensitivities, offering vegan, vegetarian, and meat-based entrées; diners eat with live background music; after the meal, as servers clear the plates and deliver desserts to the table, the lighting shifts to highlight the musicians, who perform with guest artists joining in.

The whole evening *Continued on A12*



THE WINTER TABLE

DEB KLEIN

Continued from A11 is free of charge. (Donations are welcome.) Even more impressive, the whole evening is upcycled.

"We use a lot of upcycled food at the Charter School, where I'm running the kitchen," explains Betsy Carnie, the cook, "so we've tapped into networks of food rescue. People bring things to the school and ask: 'Do you want this?' We get produce from the farms that is in excess — more than they'll sell before it rots."

Another common source of food is the "mispick," meaning "mistaken and picked up." Carnie explains, "Things come to Cronig's as mispicks — for example, they have no place on the shelf, they have no way to itemize it, etc. — and they don't want the expense of returning it, so they offer it to us."

The team works with Cronig's because it's right across the road from the Charter School; Carnie takes students with her to collect the food, which gives the students an up-close understanding of the supply chain. The food is prepared at the Charter School, because Stillpoint doesn't have a kitchen: "Using a kitchen that does exist is using what we already have to make something more for more people.

"About a third of the food in this country is wasted, for various reasons, according to the FDA [Food and Drug Administration]," Carnie continues. "At the Charter School, we have morning meetings, and we discuss this. First and foremost, consider the environmental-justice element: avoiding waste when we can think of joyful and creative and exciting and delicious ways to reincarnate foods."

Each week, just before dinner is served, Carnie tells the assembled diners the origin story of that evening's food. Since she doesn't know ahead of time what she'll have to work with, the menu is serendipitous, but she enjoys the creative challenge. The mismatched plates, silverware, napkins, and candlestick holders are sourced from the Dumptique, adding to the whimsical vibe of the event. And the catch-as-catch-can seating encourages strangers to get to know one another.

These community suppers are the shared brainchild of Willy Mason and Ben Robinson, two Islanders who independently had a vision of providing free food in a setting designed to foster community; for Mason, music was an intrinsic part of the vision. Each of them reached out to Thomas Bena at Stillpoint, who connected them. The rest is history. Very recent history, in fact: They began planning this past December, and held their first supper in early February. "We just decided to jump right in and let it develop on its own," says Mason.



DEB KLEIN

"It's a thrown-together thing," agrees Robinson, Carnie's partner. "But we've been throwing together dinners for years, so it's a skill set."

"It's the practice of embracing imperfection," says Carnie. "We invite people to see

"We all need to come out into community in the dark people. There's lots of kinds of needs that I think thi





DEB KLEIN



DEB KLEIN

1. The community table where strangers and friends enjoy one another's company.

2. Musicians Brad Tucker and Josh Campbell look on as Betsy Carnie explains how the food for the evening was sourced and prepared.

3. Carnie's alpha-gal-safe homemade falafel.

4. Salad made from Island-grown greens.

5. The dining tables are prepared.

6. Bananas waiting to be upcycled into banana bread.

7. Carrots about to be prepped.

8. Islanders chatting.



BETSY CARNIE



DEB KLEIN



BETSY CARNIE



BETSY CARNIE

us in our state of figuring it out, to witness imperfection, and embrace it, and enjoy it."

Robinson was initially intrigued by the work of an esteemed Italian chef, Massimo Bottura, who endorsed *refettorio:* the concept of simple, elegant, free meals using upcycled food, served in community. "These have popped up around major cities," Robinson says. "We're doing our version of it. We wouldn't be able to do it without the Stillpoint staff, who have the space, and handle a level of logistics, like the ticketing. And you need a certain number of volunteers. It's a mix. Maybe half our volunteers are Charter School students, but we also had a man in his 70s, which is kind of the idea: getting different people to mix." The diners who stay until the end of the evening are likely to spontaneously help with breaking down the room.

The music is provided by Mason, a beloved and well-established local singer and songwriter, and whichever friends of his are available. "There's not really a plan," says Robinson. "The music is as upcycled as the food. As much as the food is going to be a mystery, the music is too. The whole dinner is so West Tisbury, in a way that makes me love West Tisbury."

Mason notes, "We're still brainstorming wildly about what else we can bring into it, to keep feeding it. It feels like a huge opportunity to have people together under one roof with a sense of comfort and optimism and mutual care, and I'm excited to see where it leads, and what it might inspire elsewhere. We're playing into a tradition that's been going on a long time, and trying to experiment with open minds about how it can be most aptly applied to the present moment. We welcome comments and suggestions and collaborators."

Deb Klein, program coordinator at Stillpoint, says, "Stillpoint's mission is an educational one, so we love that Betsy tells diners about the food, how she sourced it, what she does with it, and how upcycling can really benefit the community. It's a great learning experience, as well as an amazing community vibe."

The team would like to see the project expand in the direction of accessibility, especially for families with food insecurity and older people dealing with isolation. "How do you get people who don't have a vehicle is a hurdle. There's no bus service," says Robinson, "so there are people who don't have access. We've talked about ride shares we can adopt as we get more into it."

Carnie adds, "Or potentially getting the VTA [Vineyard Transit Authority] onboard, or getting a young person to volunteer to drive, or putting it out to the people we know are coming: Would you be willing to carpool, or pick people up along the way, to help bring the food to people who need it, and not just bringing a beautiful dinner to people who already have access to a beautiful dinner?

"We all need to come out into community in the dark months," says Carnie. "Especially older people. There's lots of kinds of needs that I think this is meeting."

The suppers seat about 60, and advance registration is required. Because it's free, you might be tempted to sign up and then not worry about being a no-show; please keep in mind that this prevents others from attending, so if you make a reservation, please show up to enjoy the bounty. MVT

k months. Especially older
s is meeting." –BETSY CARNIE

calendar

Event spotlight for the week of 2•27 – 3•4

FRI 2/27

Paleface & Mo live in Oak Bluffs

Everyone is invited to a warm, upbeat, and feel-good show with Paleface & Mo. Paleface is a prolific American songwriter and recording artist, currently performing as a dynamic acoustic-electric duo with his Puerto Rican drummer and partner, Mo.

The duo tied the knot in the spring and relocated to Martha's Vineyard to care for Paleface's mother, a local visual artist living with advanced Parkinson's disease. Paleface is currently recording a new album slated for release later this year. $10 cover. Friday, Feb. 27, 7 to 9 pm. For more information: https://palefaceonline.com. Portuguese American Club, 137 Vineyard Ave., Oak Bluffs.



SAT 2/28

Memory collages

Artists Emily Davis and Jennifer Langhammer will host a two-hour art-making session based on participants' personal memories. They will guide people through the process of evoking memory and translating it into a three-dimensional collage. These workshops are inspired by Emily's leaf-based collage work, and by Jennifer's "Significant Objects" ceramic sculpture series, which will be on view at Featherstone Center for the Arts in April, and ask participants to share a memory of an object that had meaning to them. All materials and tools will be provided. $15 to $40. (Please email info@stillpointmv.org if cost is a barrier.) 1 to 3 pm. Stillpoint, 20 Stillpoint Rd., West Tisbury.



SUN 3/1

Joyful Eatings, benefiting Harbor Homes

Join Joyful Eatings for a community cook-up. Lend a hand as Joyful Eatings prepares a hearty, homemade meal for the Harbor Homes overnight shelter. This week's guest chef is Robin Forte, former executive chef at Theo's at the Inn at Blueberry Hill. No experience needed — just a willing spirit and a love of community. Space is limited. 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Preregistration required. Sign up at https://tfcmv.ivolunteer.com/joyful_eatings_2425. Federated Church of Martha's Vineyard, 45 S. Summer St., Edgartown.



MV TIMES

MON 3/2

Purim celebration

Purim is shining at the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center. Bring the family for a fun kids' spiel, a lively sing-along, dinner, and lots of hamantaschen. All are welcome. Free. 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Sign up at https://www.mvhebrewcenter.org/events/purim-celebration. 130 Center St., Vineyard Haven.



MV HEBREW CENTER

TUES 3/3

Dine to Donate for Vineyard Independence Partnership

Enjoy dinner while supporting Vineyard Independence Partnership, a group that supports Islanders with disabilities, and their families and friends, to create a fulfilling Island life. 4 to 9 pm. Offshore Ale Company, 30 Kennebec Ave., Oak Bluffs. For more information visit: https://www.vipmv.org.



JEREMY DRIESEN

WED 3/4

Science & Nature Book Club reads

Are you into science and nature? If so, you'll love the Vineyard Haven library's Science & Nature book group. This month, they are reading "Intraterrestrials: Discovering the Strangest Life on Earth" by Karen G. Lloyd. The Science & Nature Book Club meets at 3 pm on the first Wednesday of each month to discuss nonfiction books about science and nature. For more information and to be added to the email list, contact Liz at lshick@clamsnet.org or 508-696-4211. Grace Church, 36 Woodlawn Ave., Vineyard Haven.



MV TIMES

Events

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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

Virtual Kripalu Flow Yoga
7:30 am, West Tisbury Library. On Zoom with Yogijay. Sign up at https://www.wholesomemv.com/classschedule 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

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

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

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

Pancakes & Cartoons
9:30-10:30 am, West Tisbury Library. Eat free pancakes and watch old school cartoons at the WT Library 2/26 9:30-10:30am. Fun for all, wear your pajamas if you want! 508-693-366, hburbidge@clamsnet.org.

Wiggle with the Words Storytime
10:30-11 am, Edgartown Library. Fun props and interactive stories. Geared for ages 1-5, but all are welcome. No sign-up. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

Fun with Toy Trains
10:30 am-5 pm, Chilmark Library. Toy Train Exploration 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

Alcohol Ink on Tiles Workshop
1-2:15 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Supplies provided and space is limited. Please email us at tisburycoa@tisburyma.gov or call at 508 696 4205 to save your spot. amcdonough@tisburyma.gov.

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

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

'Arco' at the Edgartown Cinema
1:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. In 2075, a girl witnesses a mysterious boy in a rainbow suit fall from the sky. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

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

Scrapbooking for teens/tweens (10+)
2-4 pm, West Tisbury Library. Scrapbooking for teens (10+) 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org

Lego and Magna-tile Club
3-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in anytime between 3 to 5pm. For kids ages 5-11. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

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

[Virtual] Mind Matters: Stress Less, Live More
4-5 pm, Aquinnah Library. Tips to manage stress and mental health this winter, with experts from Island Health Care. Virtual. To register, email gwilbur@clamsnet.org 508-645-2314, gwilbur@clamsnet.org.

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

'MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN' at the MV Film Center
4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN (Academy Award Nominee for Best Documentary)– at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com

Book Discussion - History Matters by David McCullough
4:30-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join a small group discussing David McCullough's book "History Matters". Of all times in our history, it surely does matter! 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Stitch Society Crafting Group
5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Drop-in and work on your project. Needle felting, embroidery, needlework, and more. 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

Common Thread Social Needlework Meetup (formerly Stitch Society)
5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Thursdays from 5:00pm to 6:00pm, for the Common Thread: Social Needlework Meetup 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

Enduring Roots with Laurence Holland
5-6 pm, Zoom, Vineyard Haven. Laurence Holland shares family stories and rare photos tracing Black history and heritage in Oak Bluffs. 508-627-4441, frontdesk@mvmuseum.org

Continued on A15

Creating work that matters

Oscar-nominated documentary short films at the M.V. Film Center.

BY ABBY REMER



Each of the five Oscar-nominated documentary short films carries a punch. They are an important tribute to filmmakers' desire to create work that matters. The films screen at the Martha's Vineyard Film Center through March 15, along with the Oscar-nominated animated and live-action shorts programs.

Joshua Seftel's documentary "All the Empty Rooms" explores the impact of school shootings through a powerful project by veteran CBS news correspondent Steve Hartman and photographer Lou Bopp. As the number of shootings grew, Hartman decided to shift from heartfelt human-interest stories to a seven-year project focused on the impact of gun violence. He and Bopp highlight these tragedies by documenting the bedrooms of children who were killed. There is a silent, reverential air to the intimate photographs of stuffed animals, clothes left out, and hairbands around a doorknob. Parents explain that they leave everything untouched to preserve their children's scent and presence. Hartman notes that since starting the project in 1997, school shootings have increased from 17 to 132 annually. He says, "Before the project, I was growing more and more numb after each school shooting. All of America is going through the same process. Now when I hear about a school shooting, I can place myself in that room, and it hurts a lot more than it did before. I want the project to remind people that these could be your child."

Putting faces to the deaths of the unseen is also central in Hilla Medalia's "Children No More: Were and Are Gone." The film follows a group of women in Tel Aviv who began organizing a silent vigil in a public square in March 2025. A banner explains to those passing by that each protester is holding a candle and a poster with the picture of one of the 18,592 children killed in the war in Gaza. Every image has the child's name, age, date of death, and the words "WAS AND IS NO MORE." One of the organizers explains the group's dedication to a silent vigil and avoiding conflict: "The only way to make change is for people to look inward and understand something very, very dark is going on. And it goes against all the principles of humanity, of Judaism. Our goal is to awaken something inside." The organizers also speak about the importance of not giving in to the police effort to create tension between them and those demanding the return of the hostages and Israeli soldiers. Week after week, more people join the group, standing silently as some people pass by and look away, while others respond with denial, sorrow, or rage.

Christalyn Hampton and Geeta Gandbhir's "The Devil Is Busy" takes us into the heart of a women's health clinic in Atlanta, Ga. We meet Tracii, the determined head of security, at 6 am as she arrives to prepare the clinic, including checking behind closed doors for hidden intruders. We follow her throughout the day to ensure the safety of women seeking abortions, amid new restrictions and virulent protesters shouting outside. The pressure is immense, Tracii says: "This is a very high-stress situation. Any day you're not scheduled to go home from here, because you never know once people get in the building, what they may do." But Tracii's dedication to the cause and her deep religious beliefs sustain her: "I rely very heavily on my faith while I'm in here, because the devil is busy out there."

The film "Armed with Only a Camera: The Life and Death of Brent Renaud" is credited to Craig Renaud, along with his brother Brent. But as the title indicates, we know that Brent is no longer with us. The documentary highlights his lifelong commitment as a photojournalist to capturing the devastating human toll of conflicts worldwide, including in Somalia, Iraq, and Ukraine — where he was killed by Russian soldiers in 2022. As we follow Brent's body home, we see his final recordings from Ukraine and from other wars, as well as footage from the brothers' childhood in Arkansas, revealing their close relationship. The film is dedicated to Brent and all the devoted journalists who use their cameras to work for truth and understanding, including the more than 100 killed every year.

"Perfectly a Strangeness" by Alison McAlpine has a mystical quality. We follow three donkeys trekking through an anonymous desert. As the sun rises and the day unfolds, we hear the clip-clop of their hooves on the dirt and see the journey from their perspective. They soon come upon an enormous, abandoned astronomical observatory, which they, and thus we, explore with nary a human in sight. Although a documentary, "Perfectly a Strangeness" is a sensory, cinematic exploration in which we create our own narrative. MVT

All three Oscar shorts programs will screen intermittently through March 15 at the M.V. Film Center. Some of the documentary short films contain graphic war imagery, adult themes, and strong language. Recommended for viewers 17 and up.

Continued from A14

Events

Good Shepherd Parish Community Suppers [Dine-in or Take-out]
5-6 pm, St. Augustine's Church Hall [handicap accessible], Vineyard Haven. GSP Community Supper, Thurs Jan thru Mar, 5-6pm. St. Augustine's Church 56 Franklin St. VH call 508-684-6270 by 6pm on Monday to record your request 860-992-7012, burkewg@comcast.net.

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

Real Romance Novel Titles Bingo
5-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Real Romance Novel Titles Bingo 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

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

The Great Jazz Singers: Presentation with Allen Morrison
5:30-7 pm, Edgartown Library. Presentation on the great jazz singers from 1920-1950. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Trivia Night at The Black Dog Bakery Café
6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly trivia night hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Thursdays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café.bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

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.

MVRHS Building Project - Information Session
Edgartown Town Hall, Edgartown. Join us to learn about the MVRHS Building Project, hear design updates, review next steps, and ask questions about the future of our high school. sam.hart@mvyps.org.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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

Pumped Up Intervals with Maria McFarland
8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A class alternating cardio intervals and weight work intervals using heavier weights, body bars, loops bands, and weighted balls. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Turtle Time
10 am-4 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Turtle Time! Biofacts, a story and a craft all about turtles. There will be turtles to touch! Program led by Josey from Felix Neck. Ages 4-8. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Children's Book Characters Scavenger Hunt
10 am-4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Have fun while celebrating well known children's book characters. Find all the characters and get a small prize. For kids of all ages. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Painting Still Life with Liz Taft
10 am-1 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. This class is about learning to see things simply and translating that into a painting. Open to anyone who has done a little bit of painting. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

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

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

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

Fun with Toy Trains
10:30 am-1:30 pm, Chilmark Library. Toy Train Exploration 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

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

Movies for teens/tweens in the YA room
11 am-1 pm, West Tisbury Library. movie for kids 10+ in the Young Adult room at 11am 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

Toddler Time
11-11:30 am, Chilmark Library. We'll read classic and current children's literature, and sing, move, and play together. Ideal for preschool ages. chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

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

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

Tai Chi with Shaka Fridays
1-2 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Tiz COA Tai Chi Mondays at 8:15AM and Fridays at 1PM 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyma.gov.

Turtle Time
1-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Turtle Time! Biofacts, a story and a craft all about turtles. There will be turtles to touch! Program led by Josey from Felix Neck. Ages 4-8. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Book Bedazzling for teens/tweens (10+)
2-4 pm, West Tisbury Library. Join Laura in the YA room for book bedazzling! 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

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

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

Sound Bath
5-6 pm, The Red House PRSC, Oak Bluffs. An opportunity to slow down, reset, and restore. 508-693-2900, jtau@mvcommunityservices.org.

Music Bingo at The Black Dog Bakery Café
6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly music bingo hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Fridays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

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

'A PRIVATE LIFE ' at the MV Film Center
7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. A PRIVATE LIFE– at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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

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

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

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

Children's Book Characters Scavenger Hunt
10 am-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Have fun while celebrating well known children's book characters. Find all the characters and get a small prize. For kids of all ages. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Baby and Toddler Storytime
10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us for a fun-filled storytime with stories, songs, and shakers! Play-based! Tummy time for our smallest pals! 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

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

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

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

February Break Reading Challenge at the Aquinnah Library
11 am-4 pm, Aquinnah Library. Pick up a reading log and borrow books on Saturday 2/21, then celebrate your progress on Saturday 2/28 with a special prize! Free & all ages welcome. 508-645-2314, gwilbur@clamsnet.org.

Family Skate
11 am-12 pm, MV Arena, Oak Bluffs. Free Family Skate Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026. 11am-12pm MV Arena. Open to the public. Bring a snack to share. Sponsored by W.T. Parks and Recreation. 508-696-0147, parkrec@westtisbury-ma.gov.

Continued on A16

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

Thurs 2/26	MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: DOCUMENTARY	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Fri 2/27	OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: LIVE ACTION A PRIVATE LIFE	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Sat 2/28	ARCO OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: LIVE ACTION A PRIVATE LIFE	1:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Sun 3/1	GREAT FOR FAMILIES: ARCO A PRIVATE LIFE	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
	MON & TUES, MARCH, 2 & 3 - FILM CENTER IS CLOSED -	
Wed 3/4	MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN	7:30 PM
Thurs 3/5	A PRIVATE LIFE OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: LIVE ACTION	4:00 PM 7:30 PM

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

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

scan code for complete schedule

Information & Schedules mvfilmsociety.com 508.696.9369

Continued from A15

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.

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

Chain Reaction
1-3 pm, West Tisbury Library. Build a convoluted machine! 508-693-3366, hburbidge@clamsnet.org.

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

'ARCO ' at the MV Film Center
1 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. ARCO (Academy Award Nominee for Best Animated Feature)– at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Pokemon Club
1-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. This is a club to talk about Pokémon, look at cards, and draw! To keep things positive for everyone, there is no trading allowed. Ages 5-11. 508-693-9438, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Painting the Portraits of the People We Love
1-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Painting the Portraits of the People We Love 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

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

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

Sound Bath with Anna Marden
4-5 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Breathe, relax, drop in, meditate, create, set an intention info@stillpointmv.org.

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

Live Music, Roman Pinsa Pizza, & $3 PBR Night
4-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. An evening featuring Roman pinsa pizza and $3 PBRs from 4-8 pm, with live music scheduled from 6-8 pm.bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

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

'A PRIVATE LIFE ' at the MV Film Center
7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. A PRIVATE LIFE– at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Adult Crafts -Collage Magnets
11 am-1 pm, EMS Building, Vineyard Haven. Get artistic with these mini collages you can stick to your fridge! 508-696-4211, jrapuano@clamsnet.org.

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

Pruning Fruit Trees and Shrubs with Mary Sage Napolitan and Ian Jochems
1-2:30 pm, Island Grown Initiative, Vineyard Haven. Pruning Fruit Trees and Shrubs with Mary Sage Napolitan and Ian Jochems 508-693-9549, programs@mvagsoc.org.

Joyful Eatings Benefitting Harbor Homes
2:30-4:30 pm, Federated Church of Martha's Vineyard, Edgartown. Join Joyful Eatings to cook for Harbor Homes with guest chef Robin Forte–no experience needed! Limited spots, sign up now. 508-274-1104, jeannestaples@gmail.com.

On Writing Workshop
4-5:30 pm, Zoom, Vineyard Haven. Online writing workshop on The Joy of Learning to Write Sex Scenes in Fiction & Memoir with Elizabeth Benedict, author of "The Joy of Writing Sex" 508-693-6100, kate@mvtimes.com

Local Off-Season Dancing & Music with live music by Ellen Biskus & Friends
4 pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Join the MV Ballroom Dancers for an afternoon of music and dancing at UUSMV's Steven's Chapel. Come to dance or just to listen. Everyone is welcome! 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

'ARCO ' at the MV Film Center
4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. ARCO (Academy Award Nominee for Best Animated Feature)– at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Offerings of Light and Music
5-6 pm, Chilmark Community Church. Music and other offerings by local performers 508-645-3100, pclarkgoff@comcast.net.

Radio show: Eclectic #3
7:30-9:15 pm, WVVY - MV Community Radio, Vineyard Haven. Radio show "It's a Big World, Open Yer Ears". This week: Eclectic #3, a mix of interesting music from all over. 96.7 lpfm ow www.wvvy.org 617-676-8160, egik_egak_egoogimak@yahoo.com.

'A PRIVATE LIFE ' at the MV Film Center
7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. A PRIVATE LIFE– at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

MONDAY, MARCH 2

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

Virtual Chair Yoga with YogiJay
7:30-8:30 am, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. Accessible to all levels and ages. Sign up for free at wholesomemv.com/classschedule. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

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

Virtual: The Martha's Vineyard Poetry Reading Group
10 am, Vineyard Haven Library. No qualifications, except a love of poetry. Send an email to vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org to be added to the list. A Zoom link will be provided. 508-696-4211, vhpl_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.

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

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

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

Life You Imagined: Healing After Loss
5-6 pm, Zoom, Vineyard Haven. Healing after loss: Dr. Vernessa Blackwell shares tools, reflection, and hope for navigating grief. 508-627-4441, frontdesk@mvmuseum.org.

Purim Celebration
5:30-7:30 pm, Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center, Vineyard Haven. Purim is shining at MVHC! Bring the family for a fun kids' spiel, a lively sing-along, dinner, and lots of Hamantaschen. All are welcome! Join the joy 508-693-0745, info@mvhebrewcenter.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

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.

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.

Children's Book Characters Scavenger Hunt
10 am-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Have fun while celebrating well known children's book characters. Find all the characters and get a small prize. For kids of all ages. 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, hburbidge@clamsnet.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dine to Donate for Vineyard Independence Partnership
4-9 pm, Offshore Ale Company, Oak Bluffs. Dinner to support Vineyard Independence Partnership, a group which supports islanders with disabilities, families and friends throughout island life. 508-693-2626, info@vipmv.org.

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

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

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

Mending Night with Dalila Bennett
5:30-7:30 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Visible Mending Night with Dalila Bennett at the Ag Hall 508-693-9549, programs@mvagsoc.org.

Full Moon Owl Prowl
5:30-6:30 pm, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown. Hoo's out there? Come to Felix Neck for a bright moon stroll, to look. listen, and learn about these nocturnal birds. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

Sophie Scarf Workshop
5:30-7:30 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. During this one day workshop, you will use the Sophie Scarf pattern by Petite Knit to learn how to read a pattern - materials included! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Open Mic Night
6 pm, Katharine Cornell Theater, Vineyard Haven. Open mic for musicians. Come to play, or just to listen. Sign up on arrival free and open to all. 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Advanced ESL Class
6:30-8:30 pm, MVRHS, Oak Bluffs. Improve your English language skills with this free class. info@acemv.org.

Poetry & Prose Tuesday: Novelist Rebecca Kauffman
7:30-9 pm, Pathways Arts at The Chilmark Tavern. Novelist Rebecca Kauffman reads from her 6th novel, The Reservation. Open Mic for all writing forms. PathwaysMV.org for more info. Free 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

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

Play Reading at Tisbury Senior Center
9 am-12 pm, Tisbury Council on Aging, Vineyard Haven. Play Reading for Artistic, Literary and Dramatic Pleasure 201-207-7568, monahennessy1@gmail.com.

Children's Book Characters Scavenger Hunt
10 am-4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Have fun while celebrating well known children's book characters. Find all the characters and get a small prize. For kids of all ages. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Orchids with Sue and Mariko
1-3 pm, Donaroma's Garden Store and Nursery, Edgartown. Join Donaroma's professionals Sue Weyl and Mariko Kawaguchi. Learn to care for orchids including watering, light, re-blooming and simple styling tips. 508-627-8366, amy@donaromas.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 "Intraterrestrials" by Karen G. Lloyd
3 pm, Grace Church, Vineyard Haven. Read, think, and share ideas about science and nature. Contact the library to join. Everyone is welcome! 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Drop-in Knitting Group with Cindy Bonnell
3-5 pm, Edgartown Library. All levels are welcome to bring their projects for support and inspiration. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

Kids Crafts - Collage Bookmarks and Magnets
3:30 pm, EMS Building, Vineyard Haven. Make collage bookmarks and magnetsjrapuano@clamsnet.org.

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

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

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

Free English Classes
7-8 pm, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day saints, Vineyard Haven. Free English Classes. Basic conversational classes offered. To register text 774-563-0460. brentbrown81@gmail.com.

Oriental-Martha's Vineyard Lodge
7 pm, Oak Bluffs Masonic Bldg @ 52 Edgartown, Oak Bluffs. dana.a.wildes@gmail.com.

'A PRIVATE LIFE ' at the MV Film Center
7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. A PRIVATE LIFE– at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Great Decisions 2026: America's largest discussion group on world affairs
Tisbury EMS Facility, Vineyard Haven. Organized by the Foreign Policy Association. Register on library event calendar. 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org..

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

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

Virtual Kripalu Flow Yoga
7:30 am, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. On Zoom with Yogijay. Sign up at https://www.wholesomemv.com/classschedule 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

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

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

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

Children's Book Characters Scavenger Hunt
10 am-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Have fun while celebrating well known children's book characters. Find all the characters and get a small prize. For kids of all ages. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Wiggle with the Words Storytime
10:30-11 am, Edgartown Library. Fun props and interactive stories. Geared for ages 1-5, but all are welcome. No sign-up. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

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

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

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

Virtual Writing Series: Writing a Mini-Memoir with Caroline Joy Adams
2 pm, Vineyard Haven Library. Explore various writing topics and creative pathways in a supportive writing community led by creative writing coach Caroline Joy Adams. 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

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

For events for the full week scan code or visit mvtimes.com/things-to-do.

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TOWN COLUMNS

Tisbury



By Kay Mayhew
tashmoorock@gmail.com

Heard on Main Street: Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.

Writing a list of things or people you're grateful for has been shown to benefit your mood and well-being. Research shows that those who experience more gratitude are happier. Try it — it works.

I sit in my warm house watching what seem to be huge snowflakes falling outside. I think I mentioned the snow we have is not melting as fast as it ought to. But I have to admit, I have never seen snowflakes that seemed so big. Seeing the fresh snow is always a delight ... until it is not.

When I had to have my lower drive plowed to give the gas company access, a wonderful team showed up. It was certainly a team effort. The most difficult part was the entryway, where huge piles of solid snow had to be attacked with brute strength. It was my good fortune to have Sisco Family Services (508-560-3346) come to my rescue. And they are available for help in many ways.

All are welcome to dance, or just to listen, at the Unitarian Universalist Society from 4 to 5:30 pm on Sunday, March 1. Local off-season music and dancing, with live music by Ellen Biskis and friends. Events will be held twice monthly, or more, at 238 Main St.

See The MV Times online for the full column.

Edgartown



By Marnely Murray
marnely@gmail.com

Writing from the car as we drive to Las Vegas, Nev. — which means that yes, we are finally eastward-bound after a month on the road, and headed back home — someday. It seems that this has been the snowiest winter the Island has had, and I hope you fared well through it. It's also school vacation week, and I am sending all the parents and caregivers all the good wishes, and extra patience with their young ones this week. Due to the weather and the timing, it's a slow week on things to do in Edgartown, but there's a signature event happening, plus some town notices you should be aware of.

Starting with this: The town of Edgartown seeks to fill the temporary position of part-time outreach worker for the Council on Aging. The position requires 12 to 18 hours a week, and responsibilities include maintaining contact with Edgartown older adults and facilitating access to services, transportation coordination, and other support and administrative functions. Application and full job description available at edgartown-ma.us.

If you're a local Edgartown business, this is also the time to get your hiring posts across the board — whether online or in person — as we all know that the start of the season will arrive in the blink of an eye.

See The MV Times online for the full column.

Oak Bluffs



By Joanne Lambert
joannelamber@gmail.com

"Both tears and sweat are salty, but they render a different result. Tears will get you sympathy; sweat will get you change."
–the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Oct. 8, 1941 – Feb. 17, 2026

February is ending with a bang, as I sit here on Sunday waiting for our first real Nor'easter in a few years. We've almost made it! Daylight saving is around the corner — clocks will spring ahead on March 8. Hang in there! I'll see you after we all dig out.

The full moon rises on March 3; this one is called the Worm Moon. The name is for the earthworms that should be emerging as the ground thaws, and symbolizes awakening in nature, a time of growth and transformation. I don't know about you, but I am ready to transform out of winter clothing! Looking forward to stepping out the door in fewer than four layers.

I wanted to tell you that I visited the island of St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands at the beginning of the month. There are lots of connections between St. John and M.V.; I even ran into a few Islanders there! It is a stunningly beautiful island, with breathtaking beaches, very uncommercialized. The driving is not for the faint of heart — the roads are twisty rollercoasters! I will go back — but maybe use taxis next time!

See The MV Times online for the full column.

Aquinnah



By Kathie Olsen
aquinnahcolumn@gmail.com

"In Winter all the singing is in the tops of the trees where the wind-bird with its white eyes shoves and pushes among the branches."
–Mary Oliver

Wind. Snow. Ice. Oddly warmish days. The hardy folks who work to keep our roads and driveways cleared are seeing their equipment and their bodies getting worn and cranky. During this school vacation time, those who could have left the Island seeking either warmer climates or mountains on which to ski. Those of us who are still here are bundling up, reading, creating, puzzling, making comfort food, clearing fallen tree limbs, getting by. I confess to liking this time. I like looking at the snowfall, and I like being in a world that looks sparkly and clean. I like driving on roads without another vehicle in sight. It is as if our little world is getting a rest, taking a breath before the work of spring begins in earnest.

In addition to feeding our tummies, breaking bread with folks is a great way to meet your neighbors. This week the West Tisbury library is hosting free soup and bread lunch for all folks of any age who wish to partake. Drop by through Friday, Feb. 27, between 11:30 am and 1 pm to enjoy gluten-free, vegan, and alpha-gal-friendly deliciousness. The Up-Island Council on Aging is hosting its usual monthly lunch for seniors on the 25th. This one usually takes place in Aquinnah the last Wednesday of every month, but this month it will take place at the Chilmark Community Center.

See The MV Times online for the full column.

Chilmark



By Claire Ganz
cganz@live.com

The final Sunday in February brought a blizzard.

This week schools are closed, and many are off-Island. May they return safely with stories of their travels and funny adventures.

Our power is out, trees are down, and it is still snowing and blowing and the woodstove is humming and warming a pot of water.

It was a relief to wake up knowing I'd gotten up in the night and shoveled snow away from the storm door so we aren't trapped. The wind has blown drifts of snow halfway up the living room windows. The deep snow is not fun for my pup.

In the hours before the snow started to fall, every seat was filled at the last Winter Table community supper at Stillpoint. Thank you, Willy Mason, Betsy Carnie, and Ben Robinson for conceiving this combination of music and meals created from imperfect-in-some-way ingredients donated by local farms and grocers.

See The MV Times online for the full column.

West Tisbury



By Hermine Hull
hermine.hull@gmail.com

Another weekend preparing for a snowstorm. Soup made. Wood in. Wheelbarrows full outside the dining room door. Snow shovels on the porches. Flashlights. Candles. Matches. Books. Water.

Mike went off to the fire station for the night, one of a group of firemen assigned to be ready if there is an emergency. I hope that it will be a quiet night.

Shirley Howell was buried in the Chilmark cemetery on Saturday morning. Rev. Baker had barely begun the service when someone's dog leaned on the horn in his car. Shirley loved dogs, and she would have laughed along with all of us. It felt like she was there.

There was a gathering afterwards at the Howes House. When we left, I went across the street to see the tribute that Shirley's daughters had set up on the bench on Alley's porch. There was a photograph, a lovely bouquet, and a note naming members of the group who had died over the past few years: Shirley Howell. Jennie Greene. Ellen Weiss. Tony Rezendes. John Alley. Cliff Athearn. Jennie Gadowski is planning a permanent plaque memorializing the group. Meeting on that bench was a big part of their day.

See The MV Times online for the full column.



55Plus

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

March 2026 – Vol. 30, Issue 3

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
- Speaking to community groups
- Providing office support

We'll help you find the role that fits your skills and interests. All you need is integrity, a willingness to learn, and a desire to help others.

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 healthcare costs

Make a meaningful impact. Become a SHINE volunteer today!

Please call the Cape Cod and Islands regional SHINE program manager, Kristina Whiton-O'Brien, at 508-375-6762, and choose option 2 to sign up! Applications will be due in April. Class begins in May.

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, addressing significant physical, behavioral health, social, and case-management needs of seniors age 60-plus, at no cost to the client.

M.V. CENTER FOR LIVING
DEMENTIA AND CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Mary Holmes, Executive Director • 508-939-9440
maryh@mcventer4living.org • mvcenter4living.org

Announcements

The Shopping Shuttle is closed Feb. 25-27.

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 - 11:30 am,
Early Memory Loss Support Group at the Tisbury COA.
Thu: Every third Thursday, 10:30 am to noon (March 19), Music & Memory Cafe. All are welcome!
Fri: 11 am –12 pm, Open House.
Fri: 10 – 11:15 am, Dementia Caregiver Support Group on Zoom. Call for a link.

Services

Fees may apply. 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
- **Support groups,** for both caregivers and those experiencing early memory loss
- **Resources and education,** to remove stigma and learn strategies

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@mvcenter4living.org or 508-939-9440 to arrange a free session today!

VINEYARD NUTRITION

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- Prevent diabetes, heart disease & chronic inflammation

Prudence Athearn Levy, MS, RDN, LDN
Josh Levy, MS, RDN, LDN

To learn more call
508-627-3235
or visit
vineyardnutrition.com

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PUBLISHING MARCH 19

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MVTimes mvtimes.com

Email adsales@mvtimes.com or call 508-693-6100.

NOTEWORTHY

MARCH 2026

MVRHS Senior Luncheon
Monthly Senior Luncheons at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's Culinary Arts Dining Room are back for the school year! Enjoy a three-course gourmet dining experience for $15 (cash/check); 11 am seating, lunch is served at 11:15. Reservations are required; call 508-939-9440. Reservations may not be made for more than four people at a time.
March 12 menu
• Roasted Mushroom Phyllo Tart
• Roasted Salmon on Sardinian Couscous with roasted tomato and lemon-caper butter
• Vanilla Panna Cotta with peach purée and shortbread
Senior Luncheon Calendar
March 12, April 9, and May 14

Emergency Food Program
For emergency food, please contact your local Council on Aging.

Shopping Shuttle
The Shopping Shuttle brings older adults residing 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. The Shopping Shuttle will be closed Feb. 25, 26, and 27.

M.V. 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

55Plus

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

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

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

HEALTHY AGING MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Cindy Trish, Executive director • 508-693-7900, ext. 455

Finding Your Balance this spring

As winter lingers on Martha's Vineyard, many of us are still navigating icy walkways, bulky boots, and the realities that come with colder weather. This season is a good reminder of how important balance, strength, and confidence are as we move through our daily lives, especially for older adults.

Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard is pleased to offer a new session of Matter of Balance, an evidence-based falls prevention program designed to help older adults stay active, independent, and confident. Falls remain a leading cause of injury-related death among older adults, and many of us know someone whose life was significantly impacted by a fall. Just as important, the fear of falling again can limit activity and social connection, even long after an injury has healed.

Matter of Balance addresses both the physical and emotional aspects of fall prevention. Through education, discussion, and gentle exercises, participants learn practical strategies to reduce fall risk, improve balance and stability, and build confidence in everyday movement. The program also offers something equally valuable: the opportunity to connect with peers in a supportive, social setting.

Classes begin Tuesday, May 5, and meet weekly on Tuesdays from 2 to 3:30 pm for eight weeks, running through June. Sessions will be held at the Oak Bluffs Council on Aging. To register, simply contact any Council on Aging on the Island, and staff will assist with enrollment.

Staying active, informed, and connected is key to aging well. Programs like Matter of Balance are one way Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard continues to support older adults in maintaining safety, confidence, and quality of life, no matter the season.

UP-ISLAND COUNCIL ON AGING

Bethany Hammond, Director • 508-693-2896

- Mondays 11:30 - 1:30 pm, Bowling at the Barn, Bowl and Bistro. Bowling and Lunch for $10! Tell the staff you are from Up-Island COA to get discount!!
- Wednesday, March 4 and 18, Aging GREATfully, 10 - 11:30 am
- Friday, March 6 - Lunch & Learn at Chilmark library 11:30 - 1 pm. Author Philip Weinstein speaks.
- Parkinson's Support Group, second and fourth Mondays at 1 pm
- Thursday, March 5, Wellness Clinic at noon
- Thursdays, Lunch at 12:30 pm – Sign up by Monday.
- Thursdays, Meet the Tech Pro: 11 - 1 pm
- Friday, March 13, Outreach hours at Chilmark library, 10:30 am. Meet with Outreach Coordinator Rocy Turner with questions or concerns.
- Wednesday, March 11, Attorney Conni Baker. Call for appointment: 508-477-4502.
- Wednesday, March 11, Soup Social at noon
- Tuesday, March 17, St Patrick's Day Bingo and Bites at 1 pm
- Wednesday, March 25, Luncheon at the Aquinnah Town Hall at noon
- Tuesday, March 31 – Medicare fraud talk at 11 am

TISBURY COUNCIL ON AGING

Catie Blake, Director • 508-696-4205

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES
Mondays
8:15 am, Tai Chi with Shaka
9:30 - 10:30 am, Line Dancing with Catie
11 - noon, Chair Yoga with Kat
Bowling at the Barn in O.B. 11:30 am
1- 3 pm, Mah Jong
1-3 pm, Silver Quilters
Call on Monday to make a lunch reservation for Thursday: 508-693-4393, ext. 466.
Tuesdays
8:30 - 9:30 am, Earlybird Fitness
10 - 11 am, Fitness with Catie
11:05 - noon, Chair Volleyball
11, Drop-In Tech Support
Wednesdays
8:30 am, Town Walkers (meet at the Riverhead Frisbee Park on Barnes Road).
9 am, Play Readers with Discussion
1 pm, Shredding with Cynthia (Living Room)
1 pm, Ukulele Players
1 pm, Pick-up Ping Pong (lower level)
noon, Knitting Studio with Jo
Thursdays
8:30 - 9:30 am, Earlybird Fitness
10 -11 am, 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. There is a $4 suggested donation.
Fridays
9 - 9:50 am, Yoga with Kat
10 - 11 am, Chair Yoga with Kat
11:15 - 12:15 pm, Chair Volleyball
1 pm, Tai Chi with Shaka

Announcements
Visit our website, tisburycoa.com
• Free Legal Advice with Atty. Bergeron, Thursday, March 12. Please call 508-696-4205 for an appointment.
• Blood Pressure Check ,Friday, March 20, at noon (third Friday of each month)
• Food Rescue, every M-F, 9:45 am
• AARP Tax Prep, scheduled appointments on Monday, March 23. Call 508-696-4205.
• M.V. Mediation, Thursday, March 19, 11 am in the Living Room
• Crafty Alcohol Tiles, Thursday March 26, 1 pm; supplies provided.

Please call 508-696-4205 to borrow or donate 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.

Martha's Vineyard Center for Living Supportive Day Program
MV CENTER FOR LIVING
Dementia & Caregiver Support
Mary Holmes, Executive Director
Program hours: Monday through Friday 9 am - 3 pm.
Call 508-939-9440 for information and referrals.

EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING

Lyndsay Famariss, Director • 508-627-4368

Weekly Events
Monday
9:30 am: Seated Yoga, **No Class March 9**
11:30 am: Edgartown Bowling and Lunch at the Barn, Bistro, $10 for Edgartown residents
12:30 pm: Bridge
Tuesday
Edgartown Shopping Shuttle; call the Anchors to register.
9 am: Yoga with Carol Vega
10 am: Knitting
12 pm: Tuesday lunch
1:15 pm: Mah Jongg
Wednesday
9:30 am: Tai Chi with Nan Doty
12:30 pm: Bridge
*Bridge at MVRHS, March 4 and 18
Thursday
9:30 am: Intro to Tai Chi with Nan Doty
11 am: New! Women's Coffee
12 - 1 pm: Souper Thursday. Free!
Friday
Edgartown Shopping Shuttle; call the Anchors to register.
9 - 11 am: Men's Group
12 pm: Friday Cafe
1:15 pm: Mah Jongg

March calendar
Please visit edgartowncoa.com for more information on programs and services. All are welcome! Register for programs in advance by calling 508-627-4368.
Tues. and Fri. lunches: Meals served at noon. Call by noon the day before to register. Visit edgartowncoa.com for our menu.

March 3: Wellness Clinic and blood pressure checks during lunch. Drop-in noon to 1 pm
March 6: SHINE appointments with Bill Glazier. Please call or email the Anchors to schedule.
March 10: 11 am, Coffee with a Cop
March 11: Hearing checks with Shawn Woodbrey of At Home Hearing. Call for an appointment. Shawn is here on the second Wednesday of the month.
March 13: Drop-In Tech Help with Rizwan Malik.
March 17: St. Patrick's Day Lunch with musical entertainment by Andy Herr and Friends.
March 19: 2 pm, "Age Well: The Power of Nature — Boosting Health & Happiness." Join us for this Road Scholar Live Lecture. Most of us know that spending time in nature feels good, but research shows that the benefits are deeper and more far-reaching than you might expect. Join Dr. Catherine Sanderson, author and expert in positive psychology, to explore how green and blue spaces (oceans, rivers, and lakes) can reduce stress, ease anxiety, improve creativity and even aid physical healing. In this Age Well lecture, you'll learn why even a houseplant or a glimpse of the outdoors matters, and walk away with simple ways to bring more nature into your daily life.
March 20: 8:30 am, ECOA Board meets at the Anchors
March 20: noon, Birthday Cafe to celebrate March birthdays.

OAK BLUFFS COUNCIL ON AGING

Rose Cogliano, Director • 508-693-4509

Weekly activities
Daily: Beverages and Snacks all day! 9 am to 3 pm
Mondays
• Exercise with Patience Campell and Marilyn Miller. In person or on Zoom, 9am. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/732230936?pwd=nTIP11DKUuY
Meeting ID: 732 230 Password: 027340
• Chair Volleyball - 1-2 pm
• Blood Pressure Clinic with Nurse Faith Laskaris at noon, March 9 and 23
Tuesdays
• Cornhole, 1-2:30 pm
• Board Games,1-3 pm
• Bowling ,11:30-1:30, sign-up required a week in advance. Call Rose at 508-693-4509, ext. 3, for details.
• Crochet and Knitting, 1-3 pm
• Peticare with Darci, biweekly at 10 am. Dates: March 3 and 17. Call for a reservation. All pets must be leashed or crated.
• OBCOA and OBPD Biweekly Luncheon, March10 and 24 at noon. Call to make your reservations.
• Wellness Clinic, March 10 at 12:30 pm. This wonderful program has returned to OBCOA, working in collaboration with Oak Bluffs Board of Health and VNA!
Wednesdays
• Coffee with a Cop, March 4 at 10:30 am. Come join Chief Searle for informative and interesting conversation!
• New Program! Stroke Support Group, weekly, 9:30 am, March 4; 10 am, March 11, 18, and 25.
• Bingo, 1-3 pm, March 4, 11, 18, 25
Thursdays
• Exercise with Bill White, 9 am, in person or on Zoom, https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052266998?pwd=Mnp2eGdRbFFsUENXYSs3R0IuWW02QT09
Meeting ID:890 5226 6998 Password: 474213
• Board Games, 1-3 pm
• Crochet/Knit, 1-3 pm
• Pizza Party! Please call Rose at 508-693-4509, ext. 3, to reserve your spot. No reservation, no pizza! March 5 and 26 at 1 pm.
Fridays
• Tai Chi with Floyd Lifton, 9 am, in person or on Zoom.
Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89747271394?pwd=V2ZHT2FGQINqUGItM0RKU2NiVkVUQT09
Meeting ID: 897 4727 1394 Password: 18839
• Back at OBCOA!
Cell Phone Mastery, 11 am
• Game Day, noon to 3 pm.

Monthly programs
• March 4, Coffee, Tea, and Conversation with a Cop. Meet Chief Searle and his great team! Refreshments served. 10:30 am
• Monthly Board of Directors Meeting, 10:30 am in person on Thursday, March 19, and live on Zoom. https://oakbluffs.zoom.us/j/85132963928?
Meeting ID: 851 3296 3928 Password: 208683
• Social Security Video Display Program, March 23 at 9:30 am; call for appointment.
• Open Enrollment/SHINE. Please contact us to schedule an appointment if you have any insurance needs, questions, updates. Call 508-693-4509, ext. 3.
• **Outreach with Susan von Steiger, 508-693-4509, ext. 4**
• Applications and forms preparation
• Durable medical equipment
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• 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!

Happy March! ! Happy St. Patrick's Day to you and your family! Happy Spring!

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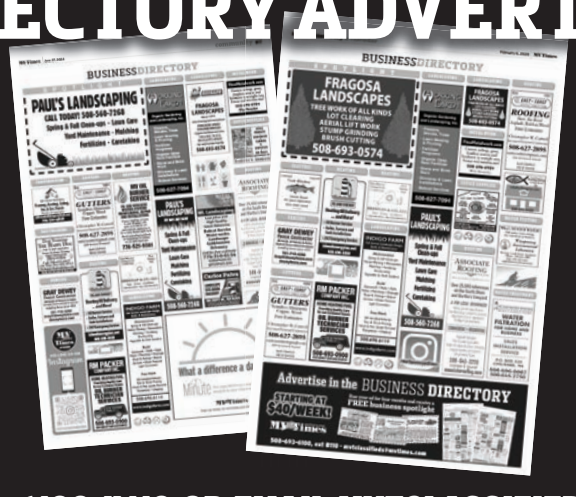
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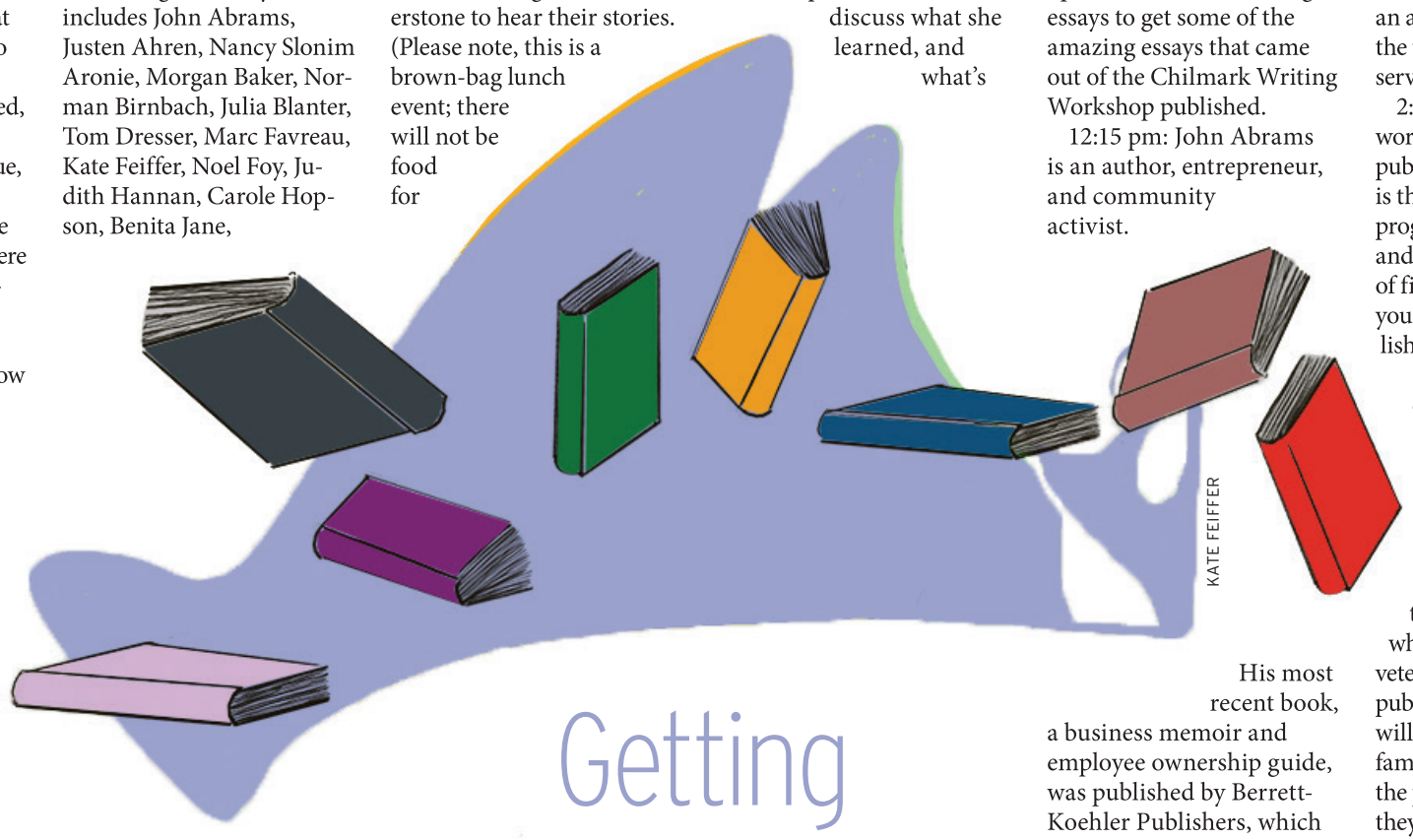
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ISLANDERS WRITE

Getting Published

And celebrating the authors who did.

BY KATE FEIFFER



KATE FEIFFER

Shelf space — would that be called "shelf estate"? — for local authors in both Vineyard bookstores has expanded in the past two decades, in large part due to the fact that there are even more ways to get a book published now. Books that are self-published, published through hybrid presses, or through boutique, independent, niche, academic, or micro presses, are nudging into spaces that were once commanded by traditional publishers, which is why 30 or so years ago, the answer to the question, "How do I get a book published?" was a lot more straightforward than it is today.

More books by local authors means there are more authors on the Island in March with stories about how they got published, and what they learned on the path to publication. Over the weekend of March 14 and 15, Islanders Write and Edgartown Books are joining forces at Featherstone Center for the Arts to both celebrate Island authors and hear some of their stories.

After a day of writing workshops on Saturday, March 14 (see schedule online at islanderswrite.com), we invite everyone to meet and chat with Island authors for a Vineyard Authors Book Fair from 5 to 7 pm. As of now, we know of more than 30 authors (that's right!) who will be on hand signing their books, and ready to engage in conversations about the art, craft, and business of writing.

The list of authors as of this writing — which is a week before you will be reading this story — includes John Abrams, Justen Ahren, Nancy Slonim Aronie, Morgan Baker, Norman Birnbach, Julia Blanter, Tom Dresser, Marc Favreau, Kate Feiffer, Noel Foy, Judith Hannan, Carole Hopson, Benita Jane, James W. Jennings, Kanta Lipsky, Dan Martino, Ginger McKnight-Chavers, Constance Messmer, Mathea Morais, Fan Ogilvie, Charles Sennott, Elizabeth Shick, Sherry Sidoti, Moira Convey Silva, Jennifer Smith Turner, Julia Spiro, Nancy Star, Spencer Steeves, Ellen Story, Susan Wasserman, Michael West, Sian Williams, Warren Woessner, and Gerry Yukevich (Ivan Cox).

Then, on Sunday, March 15, starting at 10 am, we will be speaking with authors and publishing professionals about the path to publication. Join us again at Featherstone to hear their stories. (Please note, this is a brown-bag lunch event; there will not be food for sale at the event this year.)

10 am: Tom Dresser, who has written extensively about the history of the Vineyard, will talk about how he connected with the History Press, and what it's been like working with them.

10:45 am: Jennifer Smith Turner published her 2020 novel with a hybrid publisher at the start of the pandemic. She will discuss what she learned, and what's changed with hybrid publishing since that fraught spring of 2020.

11:30 am: Nancy Slonim Aronie wanted to write a memoir, but couldn't find a publisher for it, so she did a workaround and found a publisher who was interested in a book on how to write a memoir. Having figured out a way in, she followed up with a book on writing essays to get some of the amazing essays that came out of the Chilmark Writing Workshop published.

12:15 pm: John Abrams is an author, entrepreneur, and community activist. His most recent book, a business memoir and employee ownership guide, was published by Berrett-Koehler Publishers, which is an independent, mission-driven publishing company and a B Corp; its books are distributed by Penguin Random House.

12:45 pm: Commercial airline captain Carole Hopson's debut novel, "A Pair of Wings," was originally self-published. Traditional publishers took note of her impressive sales numbers, and Henry Holt bought the book, then republished it. Hopson's story is inspiring, as are her attitude and innovative ideas.

1:30 pm: Rosemary Stimola is a highly regarded literary agent, primarily of children's and young adult books. Stimola will talk about getting an agent, using an agent, and the trends she's currently observing in the industry.

2:15 pm: Marc Favreau works on both sides of the publishing industry. He is the director of editorial programs at the New Press, and is the acclaimed author of five nonfiction books for young adults that were published by Little Brown.

3 pm: Charles Sennott comes from a family of storytellers, and wanted to be sure his mother's life story was preserved for her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and future generations. Sennott, who is a best-selling author, veteran journalist, and the publisher of The MV Times, will discuss how he rallied his family to come together for the project, and explain what they did and how to work with family members to write and publish a book about your loved one's life. MVT

For more information, visit islanderswrite.com, or email Kate Feiffer at kate@mvtimes.com. If you are an author here this March and would like to be part of the Vineyard Authors Book Fair, email Kate, or Mathew Tombers at Edgartown Books at mtombers@edgartownbooks.com.

Writing From
The Heart

BY NANCY SLONIM ARONIE



Making peace with mortality.

The life-or-death decision

The night before I left for Boston to have open-heart surgery, I roasted the best batch of sunflower seeds I had ever roasted. None of them were burnt. All of them were evenly browned. And as I was scooping them into the jar, I had a funny thought: What if I never get to eat these? And they're the best ones I've ever made.

It's really the first thought I had of the actual possibility of my dying.

That's not exactly true. I had forced myself a few times that week to memorize things and places as if I would never see them again. But I couldn't take myself seriously. I knew I was doing it so I could write about it later. I actually (at least as far as my conscious mind goes) had not considered that I might die on the table. It seemed that people around me were acting as if this were a probability (even more than a possibility) and that my impending surgery was way more serious than I was taking it.

A few days before I left for Mass General, I was walking carefully in Aquinnah. Carefully because they had told me that, with this aneurysm on my aorta, I was a ticking time bomb and shouldn't do anything strenuous. A few close friends joked: No problem, she doesn't do anything strenuous in the first place. I love that people know me. Anyway, walking — ambling, really — I made myself think about my death, and it felt very possible and very safe. Emmanuel, Ram Dass' disembodied friend, said death is like taking off a tight shoe.

I know what a tight shoe feels like. When you take it off, it's a huge relief. So I thought, Relief for whom? And then I thought, Maybe I should go deeper with this.

And when I did, it was surprising how easily I made peace with dying. I felt as if I had done absolutely everything I ever wanted to do. And I understood exactly what my sister, Margie, meant when she refused any cancer meds, saying she was ready for the next adventure. But then I thought, Am I really ready? I love living and want to keep on doing it. But if it ended, I'd also be fine. I have no bucket list. I have left nothing undone.

So I made myself think about what it would be like to die on the table. (That's a funny phrase right there, but this is a serious piece, so table that. Ha, ha.) When I made myself consider dying, I also thought how amazing it would be to see my mom and my sister and Dan and my father. I thought about the tunnel and the white light and how all of my ancestors would be beckoning me to come, and how it would feel so incredibly loving, and how hard it would be to choose life. But then my next immediate thought was: What about Joel and Josh, the best husband in the world and the sweetest son on the planet? And my friends who know me so well.

Choosing life was definitely the harder path, because the longer you live, the more aches, the more losses, the more sorrows.

And that was it. Somehow I knew — and I don't know where this comes from — but I knew with total certainty that I would be in charge of whether I lived or died, and that I wouldn't let my loved ones suffer. So right there in Aquinnah I made my decision.

Now I know some religious people, and I am actually one of them, but I'm not one who would take issue with that. Only God decides if you live or die, they would say. But in Judaism, you are God, or at least a divine spark of God, and I knew that that spark could be the deciding factor. And I had just made my decision right on Lighthouse Road (how do you like that for a metaphor?).

Instead of "Happy birthday," Vietnamese monk and peace activist Thich Nhat Han would say, "Happy continuation day." So once I made my choice of having more continuation days, my next thought was wondering what I could do to reward myself for choosing the harder path. And choosing life was definitely the harder path, because the longer you live, the more aches, the more losses, the more sorrows.

And I came up with, maybe I could commit to learning "Für Elise," or maybe I could be a voice on "The Simpsons." Or maybe I could start doing some activities that my friends, who I love for knowing me so well, could call strenuous.

Who knows? Next time you're in aisle three at Cronig's, you might see me doing some upper-body weight training. Lifting the balsamic vinegar with one hand and a big bag of gluten-free pancake mix.

Or maybe selling my special, healing, roasted-with-love sunflower seeds. Then you'll know I'm back. MVT

Digging out of the aftermath

Continued from A1

snowblowers to continue digging themselves out of the blizzard amid fallen trees, with driveways barricaded by mounds of snow, and they do so despite sustained power outages. Nearly 3,000 people were still without power on the Island Wednesday morning, and while a state of emergency is still in effect for Dukes County, the non-emergency travel ban was lifted on Tuesday.

First responders, public works personnel, and power crews have been working tirelessly for days to tackle the barrage of tasks, from clearing debris to responding to emergency calls. On Wednesday on Beach Road, police could be seen rushing past with lights flashing, and ambulances were racing to and from the hospital.

Tisbury Fire Chief Patrick Rolston said there had been a number of calls related to medical issues or carbon monoxide buildup during the blizzard, which Rolston said are common during snowstorms. He said homeowners should clear vents for heaters and boilers to prevent carbon monoxide buildup. People who use mini-split heat pumps should also clear snow from the outdoor unit for efficient heating of the home.

While the main roads have been looking "pretty solid," Rolston said the biggest hindrance has been the smaller roadways that haven't been cleared of snow yet. He recommended people shovel out enough of their driveway so emergency responders can reach them if needed.

From downed live wires to fallen trees to snapped poles, some roads are impassable across the Island.

Edgartown Police Chief Chris Dolby, who had been up for around 48 hours as of Tuesday evening, asked Islanders not to ignore when certain roads have been blocked off, because that means there's a hazardous condition in the area, such as a live wire.

"We're not clear of it just yet, but a lot of progress was made today," Dolby said.

Additionally, Dolby said that while the Island isn't expected to see a "deep freeze," people should keep water dripping to prevent frozen pipes.

In a weather alert issued to its staff and patients Monday evening, Martha's Vineyard Hospital also stated it would be open on Tuesday, although some capacities would be delayed or limited, such as the outpatient rehab being closed, and surgeries being "handled on a case-by-case basis."

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has also provided post-storm safety tips:

Stay informed and stay away from hazards:

- Continue to monitor media for emergency information.
- Follow instructions from public safety officials.
- Call 911 to report emergencies, including downed power lines and gas leaks.
- Check with your local authorities or call 211 to find locations of warming centers or shelters near you, or for other storm-related questions.
- Report power outages to your utility company. For the Island, this is Eversource.
- Stay away from downed utility wires. Always assume a downed power line is live.
- Stay off streets and roads until they are clear of snow.



Circuit Avenue in Oak Bluffs in the blizzard.

DOUG ALLEN



Electric crews work in Edgartown.

SARAH SHAW DAWSON

Clear snow:

- Use caution and take frequent breaks when shoveling snow to prevent overexertion. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack, a major cause of death in the winter.
- Dig out fire hydrants and storm drains in your neighborhood.
- Clear snow from the sidewalk on your property, including nearby curb cuts, to allow access for wheelchair users. Regulations and requirements for homeowners and businesses to clear sidewalks vary by community, but the agency asks people to "clear sidewalks to make safe travel for all," even if it isn't mandated.
- Property owners and businesses should clear snow from walkways, entrances, and access ramps, and handicapped parking spots, and may be required to do so.
- Check your roof, and clear accumulated snow to avoid roof collapses.

Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Clear exhaust vents from direct-vent gas furnace systems to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, and make sure your carbon monoxide detector is working. The agency described carbon monoxide as a "silent, odorless killer."
- Clear snow from around vehicle exhaust pipes before starting the vehicle to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure emergency generators or secondary heating systems are well-ventilated, because their fumes contain carbon monoxide. Generator safety tips provided by the Department of Fire Services can be found at bit.ly/4tLTL4W.

Take care of each other:

- Don't park too close to corners, so public safety vehicles and plows can maneuver safely.
- Be aware of children playing in the streets, particularly climbing on or running out from behind large snowdrifts. Parents should remind their children to be aware of plowing operations and traffic.
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors, especially the elderly, those who live alone, those with medical conditions, and those who may need additional assistance. MVT

State attorney general calls out AmeriGas

Continued from A1

highlighted in a press release Tuesday that more than 67 complaints had been sent to the attorney general's office over the failure of AmeriGas and Superior Plus Propane to deliver gas, and allowing tanks to "reach dangerously low levels or run empty." While AmeriGas delivers to the Island, Superior Plus does not; the company acquired assets of Rymes Propane and Oil in 2020 in all places but Martha's Vineyard.

"Gas companies have an obligation to deliver the services they promise on time and reliably. Leaving households without heat or hot water during the cold winter months after requiring customers to rely on them exclusively for this service is both dangerous and unacceptable," Campbell said. "AmeriGas and Superior Plus Propane must immediately fix the problems that have left consumers with empty or nearly empty gas tanks this heating season."

Demand letters were sent Tuesday to the gas companies that said customers reported that "the companies locked them into exclusive contracts then failed to deliver propane, leaving households without heat or hot water and unable to turn to another provider in case of an emergency." Customers also reported that there were "unreasonable wait times," and that even when they reached company representatives, issues were often left unresolved. The letters demand that the companies remedy the problems and "ensure timely and adequate delivery of propane … without further disruption," the press release said.

The Times reported about two weeks ago that homeowners on the Island experienced days of cold temperatures due to delivery delays from AmeriGas. Kathryn Leonard, a seasonal resident in Vineyard Haven, was one customer who took her concerns to the attorney general as the Island experienced heavy snowfall and a long cold snap in late January and February.

"Due to the recent extreme winter conditions across a large portion of the country, AmeriGas has undertaken extraordinary efforts to ensure we keep our customers safe and warm," said AmeriGas Group Director of Inside Sales and Customer Relations Brilynn Johnson in an email to The Times in early February. "We are servicing more customers this year than last, and have performed better in delivery operations during colder than normal weather periods, compared to previous years." Johnson added that customers should maintain clear delivery paths and remove snow, ice, and branches for 10 feet of clearance for delivery vehicles.

Many AmeriGas customers are "elderly, live in rural or isolated areas, and have limited financial resources," Campbell's demand letter to AmeriGas reads. "Leaving them without home heat for days or weeks at a time is dangerous, unconscionable, and unacceptable." The letter also said "failure to deliver propane as promised" could be in violation of state laws.



File photo of propane facilities located at the Martha's Vineyard Airport business park.

M.V. TIMES

The letter asks that the company provide "written documentation" of efforts to resolve issues by Tuesday, March 3, and go to the attorney general's office to discuss those efforts.

"We received the attorney general's request and are still reviewing that," a spokesperson for AmeriGas said in an email to The Times Wednesday. The company also shared an email sent to customers on Martha's Vineyard by territory manager Kerry Simmons that said, "Safety is the core of everything we do, and the trust and well-being of the people and communities we serve is not taken lightly. AmeriGas is making sustainable improvements to the service we provide our customers, and we're committed to being transparent with you along the way."

The email to customers said that delays were a result of days the company was unable to deploy trucks due to bad road conditions, and added that even when roads are navigable, they may not be able to access a clear path to tanks that are covered by snow and ice. There have been 246 "zero fill" stops where they couldn't complete delivery from Feb. 1 to Feb. 24, Simmons wrote; however, in the week of Feb. 2, 134,000 gallons were delivered to 650 customers. The next week, 144,000 gallons were delivered to 600 customers. There is also a dedicated number for Martha's Vineyard customers to talk to a local employee: 774-563-6644.

People who experience issues are encouraged to file a complaint with the attorney general's office. The attorney general's office also stated, "Consumers who need immediate assistance because they are suffering from a lack of heat should call their propane company and the AGO's consumer hotline at 617-727-8400." MVT

Blizzard buries Island

Continued from A1

of '78, with 37.9 inches at T.F. Green International Airport in Warwick, R.I., according to the National Weather Service.

Some conservative estimates put the snowfall in West Tisbury at only 20 inches, and dependent on drifts and other factors, some accumulations are significantly higher up-Island at 24 inches. New Bedford, just across the Vineyard Sound and Buzzards Bay, saw the largest snowfall in the city's history with 37 inches, or more than three feet of snow.

"This is a really bad storm. You know, I was 7 years old in the blizzard of '78. I can't compare exactly, because everything was big in my eyes … But I can tell you this is as bad as I've seen it," Gov. Maura Healey said in a press conference Monday.

The blizzard of '78 caught many unaware when forecast technology and information dissemination weren't as good as today.

This blizzard was uniquely brutal because the storm came on the heels of a late January snowstorm, the aftermath of which still covered sidewalks and backroads. Now new, heavy snow covers gray slush that was hardened by a February cold snap.

Across the state, nearly 300,000 lost power, a majority of whom were on the Cape, Islands, and South Coast. Hurricane-force winds reached 80 miles per hour in some areas, and heavy snow downed trees and power lines. The winds and snowfall were so vicious that one Islander described the sensation as pinpricks on her face; conditions were nearly intolerable, and required goggles to withstand. A travel ban was in effect in some counties, where whiteout conditions brought visibility down to zero.

On Monday, more than 4,000 customers didn't have power in Oak Bluffs, and in Edgartown, there were nearly 2,500 outages. Damage was reported by Eversource, the Island's utility company, as early as 3:30 am Monday.

Olessa Stepanova, a spokesperson for Eversource, said that 85 to 90 percent of the outages were on the Cape and Islands, and text blasts Monday from the utility company said that the blizzard conditions caused "monumental damage to the electrical system" on the Cape, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. Some parts of the Cape, such as Provincetown, were out completely.

Power restoration is a multi-day effort. And for a storm of this strength, Eversource estimated a handful of customers wouldn't have power for three to five days. Though some power can be restored remotely, Eversource crews had to wait for winds to die down, because they can't be out in bucket trucks in winds more than 35 miles per hour. Snow also covered power lines and cables, and continued to make work difficult Tuesday.

Though Eversource prepared for this "power nor'easter" and expected high winds, wet snow, and tree-related damage, and so pre-staged crews in coastal towns like those in the Cape and Islands, Stepanova said that this storm was rare.

"We haven't had a storm like this in years," Stepanova said. "The last time we have anything like this on record that had this many outages and these types of conditions was in 2022." The winter storm in late January had snow that was light and fluffy, and didn't cause remotely this much damage to trees or power lines on the Island. Winds in last month's storm were also not nearly as strong.



Gazebo in Oak Bluffs.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL BLANCHARD



Whiteout conditions in Oak Bluffs Monday.

Island businesses and municipal facilities were closed for days, and public transportation services like the Steamship Authority and the Vineyard Transit Authority were forced to suspend trips. No one went anywhere Monday — no one except first responders, highway departments, and other personnel who worked to aid emergency calls and clear the roads.

Transportation to and from the Island was still somewhat thwarted Tuesday after all boats were canceled Monday. The Steamship Authority was forced to cancel early trips Tuesday because crew members were unable to get out from under the snow and to work. The ferry line also canceled some trips in the afternoon due to "weather conditions," as the MV Martha's Vineyard was the only vessel that could run the Woods Hole–Martha's Vineyard route. The bus system partially ran Tuesday, but road conditions forced the Vineyard Transit Authority to cancel multiple routes and delay others.

Steve Bernier, the proprietor of Cronig's for more than 40 years, and current owner and chief executive Andrea Donnelly closed their grocery stores Monday. Bernier doesn't remember another time the stores were forced to close; even when Hurricane Bob hit in 1991, Cronig's managed to open for part of the day. Bernier is also the owner of The Martha's Vineyard Times.

Bernier added, "Just plowing the parking lot is challenging, as there is nowhere to put all the snow, and when cleared, it is drifting back ... We also can't endanger our employees, and so this is an extraordinary circumstance." He added that the supply chain up and down the entire Northeast was paralyzed, and disruptions would probably last for at least several days.

Other food stores, namely Stop & Shop in Edgartown and Vineyard Haven, were open, but didn't have power, so only shelf-stable products could be sold earlier this week. The pharmacy at the Edgartown Triangle was also closed Tuesday because of a power outage.

A travel ban that carried a $500 fine was issued for Dukes County by Gov. Healey's office at around 6 pm Monday. It was lifted by noon the next day, but a state of emergency, initially issued Sunday, was still in effect as of noon Wednesday for the county.

Gov. Healey also deployed 350 members of the Massachusetts National Guard to support storm recovery across the state, and Eversource rerouted crews from Western Massachusetts and New Hampshire to the Cape and Southeastern Massachusetts.

By noon on Tuesday, there were still 220,000 outages in the state; out-of-state resources arrived across the Cape and Islands and the South Coast late Monday and throughout Tuesday. Stepanova said 2,000 crews — line, tree, service, and operational personnel — worked to restore power, and many traveled to the hardest-hit areas, Barnstable, Dukes, Plymouth, and Bristol counties.

"We have Mother Nature cooperating with us today, so we are doing the best that we can. Step one is getting out there and assessing the damage, so that's what we've been doing a lot of today, is getting out there, doing damage assessment, figuring out exactly where our crews need to prioritize," Stepanova said Tuesday.

Part of the problem was that many areas had high snow banks that buried wires and cables that prohibited quicker work. As of Wednesday around noon, around 160,000 people still didn't have power across the state.

"We expect nearly all our customers affected by the storm will have power back by end of day Friday, with the vast majority of our customers restored sooner," a Facebook post from Eversource said Tuesday. "We'll continue working around the clock to get the job done."

Power outages by town, as of Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 12:25 pm:

Edgartown:
75 customers (16 percent)

Oak Bluffs:
785 customers (17 percent)

Tisbury:
260 customers (7 percent)

West Tisbury:
75 customers (2 percent)

Chilmark:
131 customers (7 percent)

Aquinnah:
3 customers (1 percent)

ISO New England, a nonprofit corporation that manages the grid for the six New England states, remained reliable throughout the blizzard, ISO spokesperson Mary Cate Colapietro said. "There were outages on the lower-voltage distribution system managed by local utilities, not the ISO, where equipment can be impacted by heavy snow or downed trees," she added. Peak demand on Sunday and Monday topped off at 17,209 megawatt-hours, which is well below what the grid saw in the late January storm that closed schools, roads and businesses. MVT



Sledders on Tuesday.
GUINEVERE CRAMER

Islanders make the most of record snowfall

While the storm felled power lines and piled snow across doorways, locals kept moving.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON


Islanders dig themselves out of almost two feet of snow.
SARAH SHAW DAWSON


Oak Bluffs after the blizzard.
GUINEVERE CRAMER


Warming center opened in West Tisbury library.
SARAH SHAW DAWSON


Tree damage in Edgartown.
SARAH SHAW DAWSON

The sun glinted off white snow, with bright orange and blue toboggans stark against a steep hill that for generations has been used by Islanders for one primary wintertime purpose: sledding.

Six-year-old Lucca Sornas and 10-year-old Alistair Zieman trudged up a barely made path midday on Tuesday with their sleds in tow. Sornas used a kayak oar to keep himself upright. The snow was almost up to his shoulders in the deepest points.

"Let's do the train!" Sornas yelled out to his new friend as he tried to keep up. The "train" was a sled game they had come up with, where Zieman put the rope for Sornas' sled around his waist and they went down the hill together. Their goal was to land the jump midslide.

This week was not only one of the largest snowstorms the Island has seen in years, it's also winter break for students.

"It's hard to stay home with a 6-year-old," Elaine Sornas, Lucca's mother, said with a laugh as she watched her son slide, then tumble-roll down the hill with his friend. "He was excited to go out after the snow."

While many locals were forced to stay home with no power, snow piled in wavy dunes on their cars and trees blocking their roads, others braved the elements.

And some were out just doing their jobs.

John Donnell, who works for excavation contractor Richard T. Olsen and Son, was tasked with snow removal for municipal and school buildings in West Tisbury.

"Today, we started at 5 am. We started at 10 on Sunday night, and were on all night," Donnell yelled out of his truck window while he worked on Tuesday afternoon. "We've had crews out ever since the storm started."

Donnell drove a large truck with a massive bed as his colleague Justin Smith hauled snow from a dump truck into Donnell's vehicle. The weight of the snow jostled the work truck as it hit the bed.

When asked how this storm compared with the other the Island experienced in late January, Donnell said, "This one is way worse." This was largely due to the many trees that had fallen, blocking roads and downing power lines.

While many restaurants, retail shops, and municipal buildings remained closed due to snow blockages or power outages, sparse storefronts started to slowly open their doors early Tuesday morning. Some essential stores and gas stations swung their doors out onto the snow-smeared sidewalks and welcomed in Islanders.

The West Tisbury library and Martha's Vineyard Museum were opened as warming centers for unhoused Islanders or those who needed a heated place to be due to Island-wide power outages.

"The West Tisbury emergency warming center at the West Tisbury library was open for 15 continuous hours," Jennelle Gadowski, Dukes County Emergency Management Association public information officer, said. "We had residents from all across the Island come to our shelter."

Gadowski said emergency services and Harbor Homes, the Island's only unhoused shelter, "joined forces and helped shelter people who needed it," and that there were a dozen volunteers and more than 50 clients in the warming center.

"It was really amazing to see the community come together and support each other," she added.

Support came through in different ways during the storm, much like how the depth of snow varied from place to place. Some Islanders were on vacation for February school break and had to completely rely on their neighbors to keep their home safe.

Amy Houghton, the chair of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee, is on a family trip, and while she's experiencing sunny skies, she said it was extremely worrisome to watch from afar as snow piled on the Vineyard and trees fell.

"Being away was amazing, but it caused a lot of anxiety and nervousness," Houghton told The Times, "and [I have] such gratitude for the people who were there, because with the power out, you couldn't see what was going on."

She read articles from the local papers, and checked the many local webcams, like the livestreams of Five Corners and the Chappy Ferry, for any indication of what was occurring back home. But when the webcam footage went out, she felt blinded by lack of information.

All Houghton knew at that point, she said, was "we had two trees down in our yard and no power."

So she called on her neighbors. And they showed up. They dripped her faucets, made sure the trees weren't causing any significant damage, and ensured that Houghton and her family could vacation a bit more peacefully.

"I'm thankful for all the hard work that was done there, and for all of the people who helped us to not feel so anxious about the house," Houghton said.

The willingness to help and show up for others is as incredible as it is classic Vineyard, and, she said, is a "reflection of the community." MVT