



VIP is a 501-c3 and our
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What's Happening

April, 2021

vipmv.org

P. O. Box 1204
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My Appendix Experience by Tony

Having my appendix burst was awful! It started when I had pain in my abdomen for several days. I went to the Vineyard emergency room. They sent me to Boston by ambulance to have a drain bag put in. I had that in for a few weeks at home until it was all drained out. A visiting nurse checked on me twice a week. Then Andy and Onnie drove me back to Boston to have the drain taken out. A couple weeks later my appendix had to be taken out. Andy drove me up on March 3rd to have surgery. It only took an hour. I was done by 2:00 p.m. that day. I had to take a couple of weeks off from work to heal. It was no fun having it rupture inside me. It really hurt when it burst. Luckily, I feel better now and am even back to running on the beach.



Adventures of Virginia's Drama Club

by Prof. Septawicky, Holly the mule and Dexter the scientist aka the Palmers.

At drama club, we have been working on four plays, written by the actors. One play takes place in Hawaii with Chris, Alex and Martha.

Hiking in New Hampshire stars Ida, Erin and Ally. Another presents a whistling competition featuring Brendon, JP and Gene. Lastly, The Strange Discovery in the Grand Canyon features Beth, Tony, Onnie, Andy, Amanda and Jillian.

MJ has given us pointers to help us strengthen our acting to express where we are in our exciting, interesting, complex adventures: to imagine that we are there in a magical, imaginative place. Who are our characters? What are we doing? How do we express what is happening while in the Zoom box?

We all have had to memorize our lines and fantasize our ideas.

A local art display



Pond, Meadow & Sea by Erin



Felix Neck Fun for All by Martha as told to Marney

The warm, sunny weather makes me think about outdoor activities. I went out to Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary to see what was happening. The first person I met was Phil Brown the new groundskeeper. He is working on putting in a **new accessible path** from the parking area to the barn. The first part is packed stone dust. The second part is a slate walkway. It looks like hard work!

Liz Cosgrove, the friendly office manager, came out to greet us. She had lots of information about membership. I found out admission is free because of my health insurance!

Then I sat down with Josey Kirkland, Education Coordinator/Camp Director, who said Felix Neck is looking at all their spaces and programs to make them accessible to all. One thing they offer are **Golf Cart Tours** which last an hour and give a good view of all the habitats at Felix Neck. I am seated in a golf cart in the photo. Up to three people can go at one time for the price of admission. Interested? Call the office to schedule a tour!

Kayaking starts Monday, May 3rd weather permitting and runs through October.

Groups of up to 15 people may set up a **guided walk**. Your group picks the topic ahead of time – reptiles, birds, seashore, butterflies—or just walk the trails on your own. Everyone is welcome to use the **picnic area**.

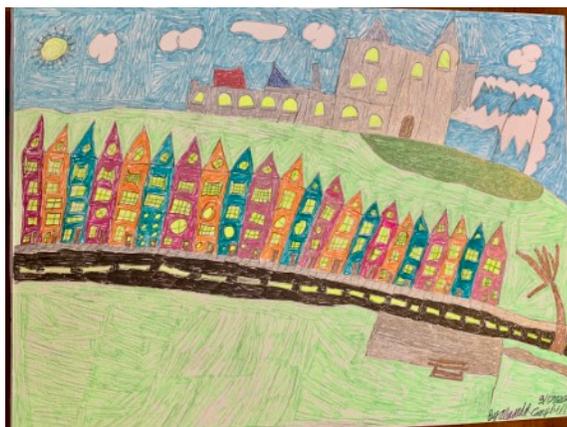
Volunteer Day is a new activity every Thursday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. You can just show up or call ahead. The Vineyard Supports Program goes every week from 10:00 to 12:00. Right now they are doing mostly property work including filling bird feeders.

I walked down to the beach. The first part of the path was fine with a new boardwalk by the pond. After that there were more roots, but it was okay. I saw Canada geese, swans and osprey on their nests. There were little kids wading too. It was a beautiful day!

News and Art from Alexander

This Irish castle and family compound was inspired by my trip to Ireland when I turned 30, over five years ago. My imagination filled in the details.

I am excited to be headed to Hilton Head, South Carolina for a week on April 20. My Uncle Hans and his wife own a condo there and my mom and I will be traveling with them. We will fly from Boston. I am looking forward to swimming in the ocean and walking the beach.



Speaking of beaches, I was happy to see a good turnout for the beach clean-up. One very interesting thing found was a very small petrified bird that Andy discovered.

My cards are now for sale at the Beach House. I have them printed on the Cape. I have four designs—the Island Home ferry, a lighthouse and two ocean scenes with fish. I will make packs of four and they will sell for about \$16.00 each.

Tidbits from Amanda by Martha

Hi Amanda! How are you? How do you like living in your home?

My home is going great. So is Jillian.

With Covid, do you see your sister Kate or brother Teddy much?

My sister not so much. She lives in Hyannis. My brother lives with my parents so I see him a lot.

Do you still have your dog Puck?

No, we don't have him anymore. We have a new dog Max. He is a year old. He likes to play and fetch sticks and eats acorns! He thinks he's a squirrel.

A squirrel?

Yep! He is so excited to see you he runs and jumps up on you. My dad is going to train him. He is just excited. He's a terrier.

Do you still visit your Grandmother at Windemere regularly?

My mom says my Grandma is doing great. She rests up a lot. My mom says I will be volunteering again soon at Windemere. We just don't know when yet.

What else is new?

Did you see our newsletter? It came out today. It is called "Vineyard Supports." It is our first one! And I am playing basketball over there across the way and Wednesday we had milkshakes that were sooooo good! They were made with mint chocolate chip ice cream to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. They were really, really yummy.



**Ally turned 31
on April 9.
Congratulations!**



Monday Zoom Schedule, 5:00 pm
April 26 Special Guests—Nathan
and Michele LeBlanc
May 10 JP takes us traveling

VIP Board Meeting

The board met on Wednesday, April 7 via Zoom. Plans for a beach walk, another beach clean-up and future Monday Zooms were discussed. The possibility of an outdoor dance will be investigated.

JP said that the Vision folks continue their work on Person Centered Planning. If you are interested in being a future participant contact JP, Beth or Julie. They also hope to continue working on the issue of personal care attendants.

Allison gave a treasurer's report, saying that VIP will have money for activities when it is safe to go bowling, attend art classes at Featherstone and more. An outdoor art class may be planned in the meantime.

In honor of April as National Poetry Month, Allison ended her report with this:

Spring flowers are growing

but not much money is flowing.

Newsletters and cooking classes create a trickle,

but leave us with much more than a nickel.

I hope you like this news I bring,

As Dale would say "Cha-Ching, Cha-Ching."



VIP Beach Brigade Cleans State Beach

by Erin

On Saturday, March 20, about 30 people gathered for our first VIP beach clean-up of 2021.

As you can see from the photo, we spread out across the beach, and even to the pond side of Beach Road. I donned a long sleeved shirt, sweatshirt, jacket and hat for the brisk afternoon. The group included Mark, Alexander, Ida, Ally, Beth, Tony, Andy, Diamond, Onnie and my sister Molly. Sam and Signe from the Vineyard Conservation Society provided gloves, bags and enthusiasm. I did not see any other non-VIP people on the beach that afternoon. The beach was actually pretty clean but we came up with about 20 bags of trash.



I picked up a lot of glass and my sister found a mattress! It seemed everyone had fun seeing each other. We hope to do another beach brigade clean-up on May 15 at 3:30. Check your email for updates.

The Vineyard Conservation Society will hold the annual Earth Day beach clean-up on April 17 from 10 am to noon if you want to bring a friend and join others to pick up trash at any of the many Vineyard beaches.



Virginia's Drama Club by Martha

I like going to drama club because it is a fun place to be. We learn different things like stage left and right. We play games that are a lot of fun. I hope they open the building soon because when the pandemic hit they stopped having plays there. The Playhouse is celebrating 40 years! It is such a nice place to be. I hope we get to go back some day.

Drumming with Rick by Celeste as told to Martha

Yes, I did drumming with Rick during the first session for VIP and Camp Jabberwocky. I have known Rick for a long, long time! I used to do drumming with Rick when I was in preschool. I have known him that long. I have been drumming with him many times and with his son Hudson and with Adrienne and Layne (Hudson's sisters). It is really fun. We drummed together on Zoom. I used my hands, nothing else, to drum on the table. It was nice to see so many friends. Thank you Rick and Kathi Hackett!

VIP is very appreciative to the following for their support:



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