



March, 2021

What's Happening

vipmv.org

P. O. Box 1204
West Tisbury, MA 02575

VIP Beach Clean-Up

Saturday, March 20 at 3:30 pm

Meet on State Beach near the Camp Jabberwocky designated parking. Please bring garden gloves and small bags to gather trash. Wear a mask and keep a safe distance from each other. For information please contact Erin at (860) 575-4019. Thanks to Samantha Look of the Vineyard Conservation Society for providing assistance and supplies. Check your email in case of bad weather. The VTA bus #13 leaves Edgartown, Oak Bluffs and Vineyard Haven every half hour, passing by State Beach.



April Showers Bring May Flowers....and Vaccinations! by Sundy Smith

The Center for Disease Control guidelines say that people who have been vaccinated for Covid—and waited the proper two weeks for effect—can now socialize in small groups with other vaccinated people INDOORS WITHOUT MASKS. Hurray! What a long and difficult—and sometimes lonely—year it has been. I'm vaccinated and I can't wait to hug my grandchildren and get back to socializing, including with VIP friends.

If you aren't lucky enough to be over 75 like me, opportunities are still coming your way. Phase 2—which is going on now—is for people 65 and over and people with two specific conditions that put them at high risk, such as cancer, diabetes, Down syndrome and obesity. The list of eligible conditions has been growing. Check in with your doctor or the Massachusetts website (below) to see if there are conditions that would make you eligible.

VIP members are jumping on the vaccination bandwagon. Tony, Mark, Laura J., Martha and Dale have stepped up and report that all went well and they had no real side effects.

If you aren't qualified yet, Phase 3, which will eventually include everyone 17 years or older, is scheduled to begin sometime in April. The appointment process changes so check the hospital website, mvhospital.org. There is a banner at the top with information on scheduling appointments. The appointment process can be a little frustrating. Jonathan Thomas at Vineyard Supports is experienced at making appointments for VS clients and says he is willing to help other VIP members if needed. You can reach him on his cell phone at 1-954-439-0712.

So: 1) Check the hospital website to see if you're eligible, 2) make an appointment if you are and 3) ask for help if you need it. See you with other vaccinated people soon! For updates: www.mass.gov.

Cats, Dogs and Horses at the VIP General Meeting

On March 10, twenty-four VIP members met via Zoom along with some special guests. We began the meeting by learning of new guidelines for Zoom meetings so we all feel comfortable. These include that we will listen to and respect each other, and that we will be considerate of each others feeling's. We were reminded to mute our device if there is background noise.

Emily Armstrong from the Island Grown Initiative (IGI) was a guest speaker and she described the activities at IGI including growing lettuce (just in water), tomatoes and winter squash. Some produce is prepared for soups, community lunch programs and the mobile market. McCaull and Beth have volunteered cutting up the squash; now they are onto onions! Alexander inquired about corn. Yes, they grow corn and last year had a huge tent covering the corn to keep the moths away. Moths lay eggs on the corn which turn into hungry caterpillars. IGI also has an orchard with fruit trees. Erin bemoaned the problem of deer enjoying the peaches on the trees in her yard. When it is safe to gather again, VIP will be invited to tour IGI and see how we would like to be involved. Erin will co-lead the tour and show us the many jobs she does at IGI. In response to Brendan's inquiry, Emily said that unfortunately, IGI has no paid positions open now.

Tessa then invited folks to contact her if they would like to be a technical host of a Zoom meeting, or lead a Zoom.

Then nineteen cats and seven dogs joined the meeting, along with a couple of horses, some via photographs. We enjoyed appearances of David and Nathan's large cat, Beth's dog, Mark's dog Tank, Patty's dog Lucy and Tessa's cat. Beloved pets from the past that were remembered with photos included Walter's German Shepherd and JP's beloved cat. Colin had a cat for many

years and Debbi shared that she and Stanley adopted a cat that found them by coming through the bathroom window. Diamond, Ally and Erin consider horses their pets.



Alexander's rendition of his old neighborhood of La Mesa, near San Diego, California. Noteworthy are the green lawns and the Mexican and Italian restaurants.

Monday Zoom Schedule, 5:00 pm

March 29 Erin prepares chicken wings

April 12, 26 To be announced

What's Happening reached out to Vineyard Supports participants and Jonathan graciously supplied this:

News from Vineyard Supports by Jonathan Thomas,
Seven Hills day manager

Many folks enjoy playing basketball and kickball together and are quite good at it. We enjoy taking long walks with hot chocolate as well as going for rides. We made Valentines gifts with candy for the elderly at Hillside Village. We will be making Easter baskets for the elderly as well. We are also going to start doing a newsletter of our own.

Amanda Kram: Amanda loves our dance parties and loves to dance to anything by Shania Twain. Her friends even gave her the nickname "Shania". She loves listening to music and doing word searches.

Celeste Ewing: Celeste loves our dance parties and loves to dance to anything by Taylor Swift. Her friends call her Taylor Swift. She has also enjoyed the art class and making cards and gifts for her friends and family.

Chloe Maley: Chloe enjoys reading magazines. She sometimes dances in our dance parties and loves music. She also enjoys going for rides and loves movie days!

Nathan LeBlanc: He has also enjoyed the art class and loves painting. Nathan enjoys having tea with his friends at the program and sharing laughs together. Nathan has been on hikes at Felix Neck, pictured above.

Mark Baird: Mark is an avid bowler and loves playing the Wii. Mark loves our dance parties and loves to dance to Billy Joel and the Black Eyed Peas!

David Lambert: David is back to work five days a week at the hospital! David comes to the program at 1pm and enjoys bowling on the Wii. He also has enjoyed long walks for hot chocolate, hikes at Felix Neck and loves movie days!

Robb Gale: Robb has been doing great. He's enjoying arts and crafts, music and loves playing name the tune. Robb is visiting his parents frequently which makes him very happy!

Greg Marshall: Over the last month Greg has been busy painting, and he loves dancing and singing "Pretty Woman". Staff does a weekly art class in which they paint a specific scene together which Greg thoroughly enjoys. He is also our "weatherman". If you ever want to know what the weather is going to be like just ask Greg and he'll tell you!



Felix Neck hiking trails await



Greg thinks of his mother Corrine often and likes to take flowers to her grave site. Greg, here with some of his art, reports that his boss from Murdick's Fudge would like Greg to come back to work in April.



Jewelry Making by Shelly Desmarais

One of my hobbies is making woven bracelets. I learned a design similar to the grapevine/flower bracelet at the bead emporium in Hyannis when I was 19-years-old. I changed a few things around about the design. I make sure to have a variety of sizes—usually from 6 1/4 to 6 3/4 inches long. I have a few that could either be an ankle bracelet or a wrist bracelet. I made one for my boyfriend. Next I am going to make some netted design bracelets.



Virginia's Drama Club
via Zoom on Tuesdays,
5:00-6:00 pm
Contact: mj@mvplayhouse.org

VIP is a 501-c3 and our
Fed ID # is: 04-2867826

Beach Clean-ups Are Important! An interview with Alexander Campbell By Martha Keenan

I sat down with Alexander to ask him some questions about the upcoming VIP Beach Brigade Clean-Up on Saturday, March 20th.

Do you like to go to the beach?

I like to go to the beach when it is warm out and put my feet in the water. I like to collect little rocks and look at the designs on them.

Have you ever participated in a beach clean-up before?

Not in a long time, but whenever I am out walking around I am like a beach clean-up. I am always picking up trash. The thing I hate most that people drop is cigarette butts. Nasty!!!

What interested you in this one?

I hate seeing litter and I hate pollution!

Why do you think beach clean-ups are important?

They are important because we make the beaches nice for summer people. You don't want to see a seal with a straw hanging out of its mouth (or a net around it).

What is the weirdest thing you have ever found?

A propane bill. I asked around, found the address and hung it on the door.

Is there anything people should do to prepare for the beach clean-up?

Bring an old pair of gloves you don't mind getting dirty. You also need something to put the trash into.



VIP is very appreciative to the following for their support:



The Joy Fund and
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