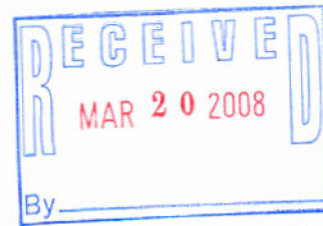


March 20, 2008
Martha's Vineyard Commission



It's true our neighborhood has a wonderful history of being a small, busy business community that was also full of large families in small houses that kept those businesses going. As the families left, so did the businesses. Things changed during the eighties and by the nineties, there were many abandoned houses and store fronts. Some places were more than derelict; they were occupied by serious, problematic tenants who harassed neighbors and pedestrians. Drug deals were obvious in front of the firehouse. Break-ins and police visits to residents were frequent, and saddest of all, a murder that was drug related occurred just one block from my house. This was the neighborhood I lived in.

I fixed up my buildings and believed that my community wanted to repair its image. Art has many healing forces and that became more obvious as the Arts District grew and diversified. As our area developed, the neighborhood began changing. Our pedestrian friendly business district is directly related to the ownership we all have in the spaces we occupy. We have all invested in our businesses and neighborhood.

Bradley Square will give some new, enthusiastic owners a chance to be a part of a creative, positive community. I hope you will want to look to the future while we respect the past. It's a win-win situation!

Sincerely,
Holly Alaimo

Dragonfly Gallery

