

Rich + Lucy,
All enclosed are letters to Editors
voicing my concerns.
Thank you.

D. Kai

1/30/24

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2024

an asset to this community than it already is. The working class on this Island is struggling and the Montessori school has taken it upon themselves to help tangibly ease that.

They are taking the future generation of Islanders and providing a safe and nurturing environment where these kids are learning to be amazing humans.

The Montessori school has shown time and time again that they are committed to helping the Vineyard community prosper, this is just yet another example.

Valci Carvalho
Oak Bluffs

Deep concern for Montessori expansion

To the Editor:

There is deep concern in our formerly peaceful area of Vineyard Haven, that the expansion plans for the Vineyard Montessori School will have an even more harmful impact on the neighborhood in our section of Vineyard Haven.

The anticipated doubling of traffic on Tashmoo Ave. — a two-way street

remains downpours. They are reputed to flood septic systems with potential to overrun onto the downward projection from the school's Main Street location and onto both the Tisbury town beach and that of the VHYC, both located at the end of Owen Little Way a mere street block from the proposed enlarged campus. This proved to be the obstacle in the 1980's to the condo project initially destined for that site.

Septic systems, especially one to accommodate such a large group of staff and students of approximately 150 persons year round, on a site so close to town and VHYC fragile beaches, should bear serious investigation and concern. The anticipated degradation of our residential neighborhood and greatly increased noise on our town's charming Main Street leading to the historical West Chop Victorian summer tourist enclave, all present grave causes for consideration.

In the mid 1980s, we concerned neighbors rallied successfully against condos proposed in that location. Then a nursery school was suggested as an alternative. We taxpaying residents objected strenuously but were assured back then by a Tisbury

and is occurring, thus necessitating this inquiry. The Vineyard Montessori School site compares negatively with the Charter School's location in West Tisbury, which happily provides ample room for growth and isolation from residential areas.

My own 1880 Victorian home directly abuts alongside the school playground where storm windows must be kept on year-round to blunt the sound of children located at a mere 15 feet away. What has been particularly egregious but apparently legal, has been the sudden construction on that site already of a three-story additional building with no consideration or approval of the taxpaying neighbors; owing to the pre-existing Dover Amendment.

Capt. Ralph Packer Sr. was reputedly the original owner of the lovely Victorian Tashmoo Inn, prior to its deliberate destruction by fire in the mid-1950s. My historic 1880 home adjacent to it was his own family residence. To assail this area holding such a significant background of local history further might be considered a tragedy.

Doreen Kinsman
Vineyard Haven

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Vineyard Montessori School expanding childcare

State dignitaries visited the campus this week to highlight the demand for early education on the Island. **BY MIA VITTIMBERGA**

On Tuesday, the Vineyard Montessori School (VMS) welcomed top state education officials for a tour of the school during a visit that highlighted the need for expanded early childhood education.

While the school helps fill only a portion of the need for early education, school officials say they are increasing their capacity by about 50 percent within the next couple of years.

Early Education and Care (EEC) Commissioner Amy Kershaw, EEC Legislative Director Addison Koelle, and EEC Director of Childcare Financial Assistance Bethanie Glass were among the digni-

taries during Tuesday's visit. Head of School Debbie Jernegan led the state delegates on a tour of the campus, which serves toddlers through eighth graders.

Jernegan reported that before COVID, a study found that 87 percent of families with toddlers on the Island lacked access to toddler care. Prior to 2021, the Montessori school had 40 spaces for preschoolers. In 2021, the school added 19 preschool spaces and 18 toddler spaces, expanding to a total of 79 early-childhood spaces.

But still, the current wait list for the Montessori school's early-childhood care is more

than 130 children. Additionally, the school hosts over 80 children at its summer camp.

"We open to current families in December, and by March are full for the sum-

mer, having to turn away a huge wait pool of children," Jernegan said. "As you know, we are a seasonal community, and our largest need for care is the summer."

VMS is currently working toward an expanded preschool program. In the fall, VMS plans to break ground on four preschool classrooms, completing construc-

tion by summer 2024.

The school anticipates that by 2025, early childhood capacity will be increased by 52 percent.

Amy Kershaw said that she wants to ensure that the relationship between the Department of Early Education and Care and VMS "becomes a partnership."

"One of the wonderful things about early childhood is there are a lot of differences in the pedagogy," Kershaw said. "We want to support that sort of diversity of approaches."

In addition to the expanded preschool program, VMS plans to renovate the 100-year-old former preschool building into staff housing, in an effort to attract teachers to the Island. This renovation is slated for fall 2024. **MVR**



From left: John Talanina, Christina Simmons, Erin Ready, Debbie Jernegan, Amy Kershaw, Addison Koelle, Christina Collaruso, Bethanie Glass, Kaylea Moore, Chris Ramussen, and Lisa Agustave.

Response to Steamship bond increase

To the Editor:

The Massachusetts legislature has given the SSA another \$50 million in bonding authorization. SSA bonds are "gold-plated," and my impression is that they have always been sold by well-connected brokers to well-connected fat cats. More bonds for the fat cats?

How about the SSA issue "savings bonds" in smaller denominations, of say, \$100 to \$1,000?

They would be first offered only to residents of the SSA towns, and only if they were undersubscribed would bonds be more generally available.

In pure theory, the SSA towns are first on the hook for any deficits.

Why shouldn't the residents of those towns be first in line for those gold-plated bonds?

Thomas Hodgson
West Tisbury

Worry over Montessori School expansion

To the Editor:

The time appears right for this 92-year-old damsel to provide background history for the intended expansion of the very successful Vineyard Montessori School next door to my family home for half a century, on Vineyard Haven's Main Street.

Decades ago it was the Tashmoo Inn, until a young pyromaniac set it on fire, consuming the upper floor. It then morphed into a lackluster Sandpiper restaurant, whose owner also retained the tennis courts, which long ago the VHYC was eager to purchase, but never did.

A wealthy Greenwich, Conn., gentleman, along with local partners, decided to buy the property and build condominiums. It was at this crucial juncture that concerned neighbors and I, horrified at the prospect, became engaged in rallying the neighborhood to veto such a proposal.

The Greenwich entrepreneur and lawyer withdrew his offer, citing his

concern of distressing his friends at the VHYC, who feared pollution of their and the abutting small town beach on Owen Little Way from greatly enlarged, probable/possible sewage runoff from the condo structures. Environmental Impact was, indeed, way back then, a major concern to us all.

I now suddenly find myself and hapless neighbors, public beach aficionados, including perhaps the VHYC membership, to be concerned anew. A 50 percent increase in student population from kindergarten through eighth grade, plus two more buildings to be constructed, including much-needed housing for its staff, in the original building, seems indeed ominous, and

a repetitive scenario from our distant past, to be avoided yet again.

Much later, when we the neighbors met with the then planning board representative to voice our concerns re vehicle traffic, noise, etc., with the impending purchase of the same site for a Montessori school, he soothed our troubled minds by assuring us we had nothing to fear from a small, innocuous nursery school.

Years have elapsed, and I give kudos to Mrs. Jernegan, the school's director, for creating a much-needed Montessori Childcare Centre. However, similar to the condo plan, a larger septic system and leaching field will obviously be required from the Main Street school lo-

cation, with potential drain-off downhill into our town's bathing beach area and VHYC, at the end of Owen Little Way.

I have survived long enough to witness how promises, and regulations, often or usually are supplanted by inevitable unwelcome changes in towns and residential neighborhoods. I foresee how this 50 percent increase in the school's population, coupled with two more buildings, with daily usage year-round of an expanded septic system, might appear excessive. In addition, we currently are confronted by the ever-increasing vehicle traffic up and down Tashmoo, along with growing parking problems

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LETTERS

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on Tashmoo Avenue, the school's entrance and exit.

The intended expansion of the Montessori School, with its finest of motives, is so dissimilar to the Charter School's excellent location choice in West Tisbury, where its outstanding growth over the years was far removed from private residential neighborhoods.

The original Tashmoo Inn was open only in the summer, as was the Sandpiper restaurant, which faded into oblivion; the condo scheme disappeared too. But now, confronted with the prospect of a monumental expansion of the Montessori School, I fear the loss of our still-lovely, quiet, residential neighborhood, combined with Tashmoo Avenue's ever-increasing traffic and parking.

In conclusion, dare I mention the obvious negative impact of decreased

home valuations in our area as a result? Candidly, who wants to live cheek by jowl, next to, or near a huge, humming educational complex? Definitely not I, nor likely any potential purchaser upon my inevitable demise.

Doreen Kinsman
Vineyard Haven

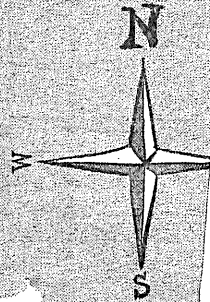
Passengers stranded overnight at Island airport

To the Editor:

The D.C. flight was a disaster from beginning to end. It started with a broken light bulb, choice of a poor route, and the fact that the lavs couldn't be cleared after hours on the tarmac. The restaurant closed at 10 pm, and no food was provided until the next morning.

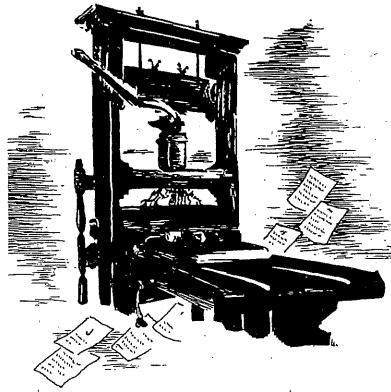
The New York pilot and D.C. crew had to sleep in unauthorized FAA space, and were thus prohibited from flying the next day. There were no beds available on the Island at any reasonable price,

"UP-ISLAND"



Charles Pinck is a seasonal resident of Chilmark.

Pinck & Brown



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Court Time

Editors, Vineyard Gazette;

The Friends and Associates of Chilmark Tennis (FACT) would like to provide additional information in response to last week's Gazette article, Chilmark Tennis Group Seeks Autonomy.

The newly-proposed committee is advocating for the establishment of a town tennis committee to better manage and operate the tennis courts located on the Chilmark Community Center grounds.

The Friends and Associates of Chilmark Tennis has garnered support from 130+ Chilmark voters for a citizens' petition aimed at creating a tennis committee under the town's authority. This committee would manage the town-owned courts year-round at no cost to the taxpayers. In addition, FACT comprises 250-plus of summer playing members.

A town tennis committee is seen as essential to the vibrant year-round tennis community, fostering collaboration and strong input from various stakeholders, including the community center. This committee would use membership fees to keep the funding in tennis programming, and would contribute to free after-school programs, free summer tennis for children under age 18, mentorship initiatives for Island children and fundraisers for community development. There has been a long history of philanthropy associated with tennis on the Island that has led to great success for the

In the mid 1980s concerned neighbors rallied successfully against the condominium proposals for that location. Then a nursery school was suggested as an alternative. We taxpaying residents objected strenuously but were assured back then by a Tisbury planning board representative that "we had nothing to fear from a tiny nursery school."

My own 1880 Victorian home directly abuts the school playground where storm windows must be kept on year-round to blunt the sound of children who are located a mere 15 feet away. What has been particularly egregious, but apparently legal, has been the sudden construction on that site of a three-story additional building with no consideration or approval from taxpaying neighbors, owing to the pre-existing Dover Amendment.

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Doreen Kinsman

Vineyard Haven

No Changes Needed

Editors, Vineyard Gazette;

As a resident of Lagoon Pond with an aquaculture plot right in front of my house, I have to say I am shocked that

we want to continue.

We also believe that more regular oversight would address structural maintenance issues, ensuring the courts remain in optimal condition, and that improved year-round programming would lead to a better year-round experience on the courts.

We look forward to engaging with the community this winter through outreach sessions to learn more about how the proposed committee can strengthen tennis programming throughout the year.

Jay Grossman

Chilmark

The writer is chair of the Friends and Associates of Chilmark Tennis.

Expansion Plan Concerns

Editors, Vineyard Gazette;

There is a deep concern in our formerly-peaceful area of Vineyard Haven that the expansion plans for Vineyard Montessori School will have a harmful impact on the neighborhood.

Causes for alarm include the anticipated doubling of traffic on Tashmoo avenue, a two-way street with parking issues; the dramatic increase in school population; and the gigantic size of the complex itself and an additional two-story structure requested on that limited-sized site.

Of greatest significance would be the potential drainage, septic and sewage concerns during our ever-increasing torrential downpours. They are reputed to flood septic systems with potential to affect the Tisbury town beach and the Vineyard Haven Yacht Club, both located at the end of Owen Little Way, a mere block from the proposed enlarged campus. This proved to be the obstacle in the 1980s to the condominium project initially destined for that site.

Septic systems, especially one that could accommodate such a large group of staff and students year-round, on a site so close to town and fragile beaches, should bear serious investigation and concern. Another cause for consideration is the anticipated degradation of our residential neighborhood and greatly increased noise in the area.

mittee essentially let the foxes draft the document for henhouse security.

Shellfish constable Danielle Ewart — a reliable voice for science and for our environment — clearly states her objections to most of the proposed changes, and suggests that our current regulations are not in need of change. I heartily agree with her. One example of the proposed changes, eliminating the need for shellfish aquaculture applicants to submit their supporting paperwork to the town, is almost laughably self-serving.

Given the unsightly nature of floating cages, as opposed to floats for submerged cages, I would hope in particular that we would continue the ban on the former. My colleagues at the Lagoon Pond Association have uncovered scientific papers that suggest that we would need to raise one million oysters per year on the pond to get the desired nitrogen reduction that I believe is part of the motivation for aquaculture. I'm imagining what the pond would look like with cages floating on it that were requisite to raise one million oysters.

I know for a fact that the folks at Husselton Head — in front of my house — have had difficulties raising shellfish in their assigned plot because it turns out the environment below the surface is not suitable. Hence their desire to have an approval of floating cages.

In summary, I'm not sure we need to revise the regulations regarding henhouse security to accommodate the needs of the foxes. There is essentially nothing wrong with the regulations as they are currently written.

David Forbes

Vineyard Haven

The Vineyard Gazette welcomes letters to the editor, essays and opinion pieces from its readers on subjects relating to Martha's Vineyard. Letters must be signed and should include a town of residence and contact telephone number, which will not be published. Submissions may be sent to news@mvgazette.com.

VINEYARD GAZETTE

Dear Laura,

8/23/23

As one of the abutters to the Montessori School property bordering Main St., Tashmoo Ave., and Locust St. in Vineyard Haven, I wish to protest the doubling in size of the school's current school population, projected staff housing on the premises and anticipated return of grade students from the Jabberwocky site, once it becomes no longer available.

In the 1980's the former owner of that property, Roger Seasonwein, had plans there for condo construction. . We neighbors protested the size and impact such would have on our community. We cited as our principal reason the inevitable downward run-off from the required enlarged septic system at this location, for such a huge enterprise. It would exist only one block removed from our town beach, at the foot of Owen Little Way next to the VHYC, both at a much lower elevation. Even in that long ago 80's decade, environmental concerns re septic run-off into our beach area of such a huge enterprise was deemed a hazard.

Mr. Seasonwein, abandoned his plan, and sold off two portions of that former Tashmoo Inn, for home sites, thus much reducing in size that former property. We concerned abutters had to appealed to an officer of the then Tisbury Planning Board, upon learning that a proposed school was to possibly locate there. We objected but the town Planning board representative assuaged our concern by stating it was to be only a tiny nursery school. How could we possibly object ?? We abutters quietly acquiesced.

Today the need indeed exists for childcare but the vastness of this in- town expansion, so dissimilar from the West Tisbury Charter School's location far removed from private residences. Our fear of pollution owing to inevitable septic run-off from a doubling of the population , on the much reduced land space from the original site, remains even more concerning today than previously. Articles appear in our local newspapers of recent up-island contaminations from septic run-offs that have fouled our ponds. Do we wish the same for our beaches off Owen Little Way a mere block removed, by such a dramatic explosion in size from the former small nursery school? Mr. Seasonwein in the 1980's wisely recognized the potential problem and avoided it.

In addition, this doubling of the school's expansion already impacts negatively on our in- town's only two-way street, Tashmoo Ave., with it also being the school's only entry and exit, at crucial morning times especially.

Thank you for your anticipated attention to this looming critical environmental impact concern.

D. Kinsman

Doreen Kinsman. 278 Main St. Vineyard Haven, M.A.
Textable phone 508-560-8303
Land phone 508-693-2311.

Rec'd
8/23/23
Janet
Barber

LETTERS

Name suggestion for baby alpaca

To the Editor:

I heard you were looking for names? Of course the alpaca needs to be named "Sweet Baby James," or "SBJ."

Cindy Starbuck
Frequent Island visitor

This letter is in response to the Island Alpaca Farm's first baby alpaca born this season. The farm is turning to the public for suggestions on what to name him. -Ed.

JetBlue needs to do better

To the Editor:

On July 14, I had some friends visiting from Florida. They planned to fly to the M.V. Airport via JFK. They were originally scheduled to depart from JFK at 1:10 pm. They were then advised that the new departure time would be 1:53 pm. A bit later it was moved to 2:46 pm. It was then moved back to 2:15 pm. Finally the flight was canceled altogether. It was rescheduled to land in the Vineyard the next day at 9:48 am.

JetBlue made no effort to provide accommodations for an overnight stay in New York. The claim was that the problem was weather-related, and they could not be responsible. Although the weather in New York may have been

before. They will not be compensated for this or for the accommodations they were forced to find on the 14th.

I realize that JetBlue has a virtual monopoly on the routes to and from Martha's Vineyard. However, the shabby treatment of passengers is unconscionable. Living on the Island, I have often recommended the airline to visitors. After this horrible experience, I will not do so in the future.

I suspect this grievance will fall on deaf ears, but I believe it was something that needed to be said.

Ted Jochsberger
West Tisbury



Neighbors concerned by Montessori School expansion

To the Editor:

Consideration of this most recent prediction, as expressed in last week's MV Times, of the Montessori school's 50 percent anticipated enrollment increase ("Vineyard Montessori School hosts state delegates," July 19) needs to consider also the traffic circulation implications to and from Main Street, onto or off Tashmoo Avenue, here in Vineyard Haven.

As the unfortunate primary abutter in my circa 1880 historic Victorian home, first utilized as the parsonage to the Grace Episcopal Church, originally housed in the current UU chapel on Main Street; then as the residence of Capt. Ralph Packer, in the 1940s, our family next became its owners. Over the past 44 years I have witnessed many changes to the corner location of my beloved home in this formerly tranquil neighborhood.

Tashmoo Avenue is the only two-way street in town, available to drivers, numerous large trucks, boats on trailers in summer, in addition to vehicles of all shapes and sizes which are constantly compelled to use Tashmoo Avenue to exit or descend from Franklin Avenue to Vineyard Haven's Main Street.

With the ever-increasing growth of the very successful original nursery school, now proud to announce its program through to the eighth grade, this expansion negatively will impact even more so on the ability during the week for maneuvering of traffic up and down Tashmoo Avenue.

Montessori staff daily have begun to park their individual cars along Tashmoo, on the side of the street opposite

the school's entrance, and parents pick up and disgorge their children in a convenient U-turn on the Montessori property, but alongside my home, until able to enter the school grounds.

I foresee ever-increasing traffic problems and potential for accidents with such a confluence of vehicles throughout the weekdays, yearlong, as summer camp replaces their regular school.

There is no doubt the need exists for childcare, and I am most sympathetic, having taught students for decades. However, the current and potential extraordinary usage of Tashmoo Avenue, now confronted with a doubling of young clientele, suggests that future traffic issues, in addition to all-day parking by increased staff, coupled with Tashmoo being the only two-way street in town, will increasingly become untenable. Selectmen, kindly take note.

Doreen Kinsman
Vineyard Haven

Low turnout on turf town meeting votes

To the Editor:

For quite a while, some responses to stories about the high school's athletic field undertaking refer to "overwhelming support" or "we should vote," or "the towns have voted" (quotations are mine, since I'm speaking in general terms). I think it would be of interest

What you're saving online



Eight-year-old Liam Rottman, center left, 6-year-old Kieran Rottman, center right, and their 5-month-old English bulldog puppy Hotch Bettencourt with the Massachusetts State Police Special Ops Motorcycle Unit.

VP hunt turns into lifelong memory

To the Editor:

The Massachusetts State Police Special Ops Motorcycle Unit went above and beyond to make my boys feel so special. We went to Martha's Vineyard Airport in hopes of catching a glimpse of Vice President Kamala

Harris departing the Vineyard. Instead we were delighted to catch the motorcade and, in particular, the Mass. State Police Motorcycle Unit. Sgt. John Carnell greeted the boys and presented each with a challenge coin and a patch. Needless to say — these Island kids were on top of the world.

Meg O'Connor
Oak Bluffs

Island can't sustain the overcrowding

To the Editor:

Our formerly delightful, but relatively little-known summer hideaway Island began to dramatically change after the Kennedy Chappy fatal incident, blockbuster film "Jaws," coupled with Clinton and Obama sojourns here, and led inexorably to the sad state of affairs we year-rounders endure currently.

It is impossible to obtain services without interminable waits, long lines, traffic jams, lack of parking, and disgruntled everyone!

At present, overcrowded, understaffed schools, beloved but now besieged hospital, dental services, accounting firms, car service and repair, etc., etc., which we all formerly enjoyed can no longer be taken for granted, as unlike in the '70s, '80s even '90s purchase or rental of homes was never an issue. Now lack of affordable housing decimates the scene for workers' ability to remain here unless in untenable conditions of unhygienic overcrowding. Just inquire of your service people their living conditions. Appalling! Influxes of wealthy newbies dominate and control our real estate market and out-of-sight rentals, which

have led to disastrous results we ALL now experience.

It is time to say "enough" as the overcrowded, jammed tourist cities of Europe are doing. Venice is even putting a tax on tourists, to eliminate overcrowding. Our open woods are fast disappearing as former visitors opt to build lavish, greatly oversize homes here, with unintended loss forever of the quaintness of the New England 1800s Victorian homes or quaint cottages here, so pleasing to the eye. It is all far too much. I worry about potential water shortages, sewage and garbage disposal, traffic jams, plus polluted ponds already in evidence. Where and when will abuse of our natural resources end? Will ordinary folks, willing workers, continue to be displaced by greed, ostentation, and exploitation of one class over the group most needed in our Island society, but who no longer can afford to continue to live here? No simplistic answer is possible before we sink under our own weight of overbuilding and destruction of our former beautiful pristine fields, ponds, and woods!

Doreen Kinsman
Vineyard Haven

Dreaming of a time when women's rights are protected

To the Editor:

The thought occurred to me recently that not many years from now, there will be no one alive in the U.S. who, like me, lived in the era of rigid Southern segregation.

Segregation seemed to be so rooted, so part of the natural order of society, that in the years I lived in Dallas, before leaving as a young man in 1950, I never once heard the custom even discussed.

Continued on A13