

“Tell me how this ends.”

Major General David H. Petraeus (in 2003.)

THE BROADSIDE

Serving the Town of West Tisbury, Massachusetts

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One Thin Dime

WEST TISBURY GETS POT PRIZE

This time State Police Sergeant Jeff Stone was at his desk in Oak Bluffs and not guarding a visiting High Official and he was able to take a few questions.

He told us that two West Tisbury residents will get a court hearing on September 23rd about charges stemming from the sighting and destruction of marijuana plants on land these residents are associated with.

So it's a prize by default; no one else was tagged in any other town.

Sergeant Stone told us that only Chilmark, West Tisbury and Vineyard Haven were scanned by persons in a National Guard Helicopter on August 6th. These persons were presumably Drug Enforcement Administration agents engaged in a “Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program,” which will be advertised on the DEA web site, but without locations or names, just the total numbers of people arrested, plants eradicated and destroyed, and the cash lifted from the producers wherever they might be.

THE FUTURE, MVC STYLE

Here it is, a Plan to chart “...the future of the Vineyard.” 155 pages. Still open for comments, criticisms and questions from you. The more people contribute to it, the solidier it becomes. Because it has no force except what you grant it. To put it another way, the transportation section mentions paths and roadsides as used by cyclists and walkers, but instead of prescribing town actions, the Plan merely says that each town

ought to form a committee to deal with these matters.

So, Planners, here from our cycling desk are some comments and some possible additions to the plan:

1. Planners, you seem to be tolerant of misbehavior by cyclists. So are our police departments, but read what the Massachusetts General Laws say about cyclists:

“Every person operating a bicycle on a way...shall be subject to the traffic laws and regulations of the Commonwealth...”

And yet our police routinely ignore cyclists riding against traffic, blocking traffic, ignoring stop signs

What about helmets on kids? Here's the law:

“Any person 16 years old or younger operating a bicycle on a public way...shall wear a helmet.”

Now look at kids on the paths and roads, not to mention their elders.

Do they have to have lights at night?

“During the period from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, the operator shall display to the front of his bicycle a lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet, and to the rear of said bicycle either a lamp emitting a red light, or a red reflector visible for not less than six hundred feet...”

You have all seen these state laws violated. Police Departments are obviously not interested in enforcing them, but when they see a need, they can lean on two wheelers as in the case of Oak Bluffs where police allow no bikes to go down Circuit Avenue during busy hours.

[To check Massachusetts General Laws, see Chapter 85, section 11B.]

The Plan calls for better maintained bike paths and trails and for extended

pavement along roads so as to make a wider shoulder, which the planners suggest should be kept free of debris.

Success in getting more cyclists on the road, even with slightly wider shoulders, would bring a new set of problems. Evidence for this come with the annual charity ride in May when hundreds of cyclists, some competing, some just drifting, occupy Island roads for the better part of a day. They begin as a huge herd, but then the herd stretches out and starts to break up. The result for a motorist is bewildering; suddenly there are long strings of cyclists, all of which must be passed at once. Either that or take last place in the string and cruise along in the Suburban at 15 m.p.h.

Our cycling experts have no solution for that one other than widened shoulders *everywhere*, plus training for cyclists. How about a cycling license?

MVC, press on! Navigate straight!

JUST THE FACTS, PLEASE

Our Police Chief, Beth Toomey Moscow and her new husband, Bencion Moscow, recently acquired the property at 123 Beach Road in Vineyard Haven now occupied by Vineyard Alternative Heating. These are the people who will get you off oil and onto wooden pellets. For this news we have to thank the MV Times, which included the transaction in its regular listing of real estate transactions.

We called Mr. Moscow to ask what he and the Chief planned to do with 123 Beach Road and he said they hadn't decided yet, which means exactly that and nothing more.

Just by the way, the Chief mentioned in a casual conversation with one of our staff that the WTPD now fields seven officers

(although, she commented wryly, everyone seems to think the force is 50).

She was responding to a suggestion that an officer might oversee a local intersection for speeders--we don't have the people, she said.

This is true if you if you leave Chief Toomey and Sergeants Daniel Rossi and Jeffrey Manter off the list. Adding those three to seven gives us ten. Add to those ten two summer officers, who are about to leave, one guy at the airport (paid for by the Feds) and none other than Administrative Assistant Hadden Blair, and you now have a list of 14 people serving the Town in our Police Department. Okay so two summer cops are leaving, that will mean 12 people on duty and on the payroll, which is five more than seven.

YOU STILL GET A CAKE

Kate Darcy Hohenthal is a dangerous revolutionary. She seeks to remove presents from children's birthdays. It began at home. Her daughter, then four, got no birthday presents, just nonperishable food which was donated to a food pantry for distribution to poor people.

Therein lies the solution to the questions and arguments and even tears: the birthday child gets to go to a food pantry to see their food handed out to people who might be hungry or ill-nourished without it.

Ms. Hohenthal decided to spread the word. About 50 people turned out at the WT Library last week to hear her message and learn how kids can still have the pleasure of their party, while helping the Island Food Pantry (or food pantries everywhere as she goes national).

How to help your child learn about giving and sharing can be found on the website (still in progress):

www.thebirthdayclub.net

or email Kate at:

info@thebirthdayclub.net

HOW MUCH?

This is for you and for Jonathan Abbott, President of WGBH (also for WCAI when they do their many requests). The questions are:

How much do you need?

Since we are being asked to share, what

do we share in?

How much is your budget? What expenses have been reduced dramatically?

By how much?

The only numbers in your letter are amounts that one might contribute. It begins to look like a hustle. Although of course we know it's not, don't we?

Why can you not do as the community chest does in small towns: set up a thermometer with dollar gradations, leading to the grand total at the top. As the contributions pour in, fill in the column with red paint. Do this accurately please! That will show us how much difference we made in solving your cash problem.

CULTURAL NOTES

Summer is more or less over and for all those people who wonder what "we" do when "they" leave, here is a taste of the Vineyard off-season. And only a small taste, at that....

The MV International Film Festival begins Thursday night, Sept 10 at 8, at the Capawock, with a US -Indian themed animated film: "Sita Sings the Blues"....and continues through Sunday, Sept 13th with an extraordinary mix of films from Israel and Palestine, Egypt and Liberia, France, Spain, Russia and the rest of the world.

Thanks to Richard Paradise, our Eminent Island Film Buff who doesn't just offer us a one shot grand cinema weekend, but continues to liven our weekends with his own Cinema Paradiso - Saturday nights at the Katherine Cornell when the MV Film Society, Richard's creation, brings us a bounty of films we'd never get to see in this alleged backwater.

Info on film festival:

www.mvfilmfest.com

From Mr. Hall's press release:

Opera returns to the Capawock:

Puccini's La Boheme.

Sunday, September 27th

at 2 and 4 p.m.

Starring opera's dream team,

Anna Netrebko and

Rolando Villazon

On the other hand we probably should

explain what goes on in the Capawock Opera Season. Maestro Hall acquires television productions of the greatest operas from the greatest opera houses. These shows are shot on stage and in the pit such that you are in the midst of the opera. You are much better placed than even the \$320 seats at La Scala, Milano. (Yes! We did look them up!)

If you have never tried opera, come to the Capawock and try not to be overwhelmed by what you see and hear.

BACK TO SCHOOL FOR BIG PEOPLE

Cooking, dancing, poetry, computers, banking, Italian, serious, fun, courses for university credit...the list goes on and on and on in the catalog of Adult and Community Education of MV, organized by Lynn Ditchfield. Classes start October 5th. To register or get info go to

acemv.org

(Editor's Pick: Susan Strane's "The Making of Modern Turkey. She's an ace on this topic.)

THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Former Poet Laureate Dan Waters informs us of a new cycle of cultural council grants; free money for good works. Check it out at massculturalcouncil.org

or go to Howes House on Monday, Sept. 21st to learn how to apply.

Or call Dan W. at 693 1551

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Summer People!

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5 buckaroos (cheap)

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