

News of the VIP
early winter 2015

what's Happening



Vineyard Independence Partnership Box 2751 Vineyard Haven, MA 02568 vipmv.org

Bowling in Oak Bluffs Saturday Dec. 12 at noon

confirm with Ann Baird
at 508-560-2808
508-693-7009(Work)
annbaird421@comcast.net
Let her know if you plan to go!



VIP Bowling by Laura Jahn

VIP bowling is back, and this year we have an all-new alley to play at! For many of November's bowlers it was their first time visiting The Barn Bowl & Bistro in Oak Bluffs. Some of us even got a little lost on the way there.

I don't think anyone expected a "Barn" to be so cool and modern-looking inside! Our lunch options were sandwiches, pizzas, or (the favorite) burgers. The food was a hit. I had the brisket sandwich with jack cheese on a baguette, which was the last lunch to leave the kitchen but delicious nonetheless.

We were used to candlepin bowling at the alley in Falmouth, while The Barn has tenpins, so a lot of us were out of practice or not used to handling a bigger ball. My group got a lot of gutterballs, but we stayed determined, and you could tell everyone improved over the course of our two games. I couldn't help cheering really loudly whenever someone knocked eight or more pins over!

All in all, it was another great bowling trip, and it was convenient to get lunch and bowl without having to take a boat. The owner and staff were super friendly and helpful, and told us they hope we come back next month. Of course we will after having such a good time!

Movie Night Friday Dec. 4

6:30 pm

Hillside Community Room

Bring your own beverage;
popcorn will be provided!

Featuring Dale and Judi's surprise movie



by Alexander Campbell

My trip to Ireland was great. We saw beautiful countrysides. They have wild sheep like we have wild turkeys. People were really friendly. The bus drivers were very funny. Come to see and hear about my fabulous trip at the general meeting on Feb. 17!

VIP General Meeting News

VIP was well represented on Nov. 18 at the annual meeting. Andy hosted a lively, informative and productive gathering. Julie, the treasurer reported that income has been greater than expenses this year! Thanks to your donations of items at our Flatbread event and money throughout the year.

Celeste reported that a solid group is enjoying swimming at the Y on Wednesdays and Fridays. Swimmers include Diamond, David, Mark, Nathan, Greg, Amanda and Celeste. They are looking forward to a Special Olympics competition in 2016.

The VIP Board elections took place with an enthusiastic campaigning by Mary Beth for new board member Laura Jahn as well as returning board members Steve Soriano and Allison Burger. Steve was not able to attend the meeting. The vote was unanimous to elect these three new members and keep the others who eagerly awaited re-election. We all appreciate the work of outgoing board members Dale, Camden and Stephanie.

During the "Thanks and Giving" part of the meeting, 3 tables of folks counted piles and piles of change--\$243.00 worth! Thanks to all who brought in their piggy banks and bags. The money was given to a young woman who is awaiting a heart transplant. She is a relative of Helen's.

In another area, thank you and get well cards were written and some folks wrote articles for this newsletter.



New board member Laura Jahn said "It is exciting to be on the VIP Board for the first time! The VIP election came at the end of a tough day for me, so it meant a lot to see how much everyone there believed in me. VIP-ers have already

been sharing their ideas with me about what kinds of activities they'd like to see in the future, so if you have anything fun on your mind, feel free to tell me. Last but not least, Mary Beth was the best campaign manager ever!"

Dinner and Dance Nov. 7

The Chilmark Community Center was transformed by Onnie's decorations once again. The Dock Band was lively and an interesting array of characters danced to the fun tunes. Do you recognize these folks?



News from Helen Blasi

On a Monday afternoon we had a guest appearance at Windemere. A turkey from the Farm Institute came for a visit. It had a white and red head with brown on him. Everybody enjoyed seeing it. The visitor who brought the turkey also brought an interesting skull bone and some beautiful fall leaves and acorns in a basket.



The turkey that visited from the Farm Institute

On Veteran's Day, we were visited by some men from each branch of the Services like Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corp. They gave out pins to the people who had relatives in the Services or people who were in the Services. They played the trumpet songs from each branch. Everyone was happy to see them and thanked them for their service.

On the 18th of November, Windemere had a Harvest dinner. We invite relatives and friends to come and enjoy eating fine food. Everybody seems to enjoy being together.



My great summer

by Dale Ferry



It was a great summer for me on Martha's Vineyard that was filled with joy and excitement. I took a few trips up to Aquinnah and for the first time ever I went to the top of the Aquinnah lighthouse. What an amazing view that was. I also had lunch with Donald at the Aquinnah shop. The lunch and view there were fantastic as always. I also attended the MV Agricultural Fair and that is always a fun time. I also went to my parents' pool a lot, and that is so refreshing after a long day of work. It was a great summer indeed and I look forward to the next one!!!

Donald and Dale get out on winter trips too.



Keen Eyes Keenan Reviews

I went to the Wicked Good Musical Revue at the MV Playhouse called "Cornucopia" on Nov. 14. It featured Ken Romero (my co-worker at Island Insurance), Shelagh Hackett, Molly Conole and Paul Munafo. They did a really good job. Ken was amazing at tap dancing, and sang a heart-wrenching love song. Paul was roaring when he sang "If I Were King of the Forest". I hope to see you at the next Musical Revue ! ****

Teanna and I went to the movie "The Women" at the MV Playhouse as part of the Monday movies during the winter. It is a deal at \$5.00. The movies was about friends and their experiences. It was funny and sad. ***



My new bike by Colin Kennedy

Well, I'm finally getting a new bike soon. This is really my second new bike because my old one was stolen in Falmouth at the plaza near Joblots. I had this second new one for 4 years now. I heard something going wrong with my bike so it is time to get a new one soon. I'll let you know when I get it. The bike mechanics see me from time to time because I ride my bike so much. There was the time my metal pedal broke off and I almost fell off my bike. He put a new one on. Another time, I almost ran into a skunk on the bike path. I yelled at the skunk to go away!



My time with EPIC by Rhiannon Maher

One weekend a month I participate with a group called Empowering People for Inclusive Communities (EPIC). At EPIC I work along side young people age 16 to 24 with disabilities on community service projects. On November 7th we had our biggest event of the year Boston Serve. Boston Serve is a day of service that is led by EPIC Service Warriors like me. The EPIC Service Warriors and staff lead over 150 people in beautifying the Roger Clap Innovation School in Dorchester. Boston Serve is a learning experience for us because we build on our management skills. Jeff, the founder of EPIC reminded us that Boston Serve would also be a learning experience for the volunteers we were leading. I was lucky enough to be matched with a volunteer group of people my age from Northeastern University. So far so good. Even better I couldn't have asked for a more enthusiastic and generous team. Still I was skeptical at first. What could I teach them? Two of my team members Camille and Allie were studying to be neurosurgeons and pharmacists respectively. Before I let my nerves show I remembered I might be the first person with a disability some of these college students have ever met. Right then I decided to make the most of this opportunity by being approachable and interested. When I made an effort to be approachable I learned that Jake has a fantastic sense of humor. When I decided to be interested I learned that Katy had my dream childhood: her parents are veterinarians.

With my attitude and their hard work, my group was so successful that we finished painting the second floor in three hours. We had time to hang out with each other in the schoolyard. I hope the impression I left on my team will help each of them be more inclusive of people with disabilities in the future.



Rhiannon in the turquoise shirt, with her group.

Tony Palmer honored

A surprise party at the Barn Bowling Alley celebrated Tony's 15 years of work at Trip Barnes Moving and Storage. The plaque reads "In grateful appreciation for 15 years of outstanding service." Tony, a strong and dedicated worker, has traveled across the country moving households. Kendra Yale, his original job coach from MVCS, called from NY to congratulate Tony. Bravo Tony!



Save these dates in 2016:

Board Meeting	Feb. 3
General Meeting	Feb. 17
Potluck Dinner and Dance	March 5