

Editorial

Good news

July 14, 2005

Who says newspapers never report good news?

The menu this morning is in bloom with it.

Aquinnah selectmen re-engage

Aquinnah will rejoin the lawsuit that will help to clarify the relationship between the town and the Wampanoag tribe, with regard to development rules, permitting, and enforcement. The state Supreme Judicial Court found that the tribe had waived its sovereign immunity from lawsuits to enforce such building and zoning rules. The SJC sent the dispute over the construction of a shed on tribe property without a town permit back to Superior Court. Following the tribe's decision not to ask the nation's Supreme Court to take up the SJC ruling, the selectmen, who had declined to participate in the appeal to the SJC, have reconsidered their unfortunate position, in consultation with town counsel Ron Rapport. They will now pursue their constituents' interests in the state court, as they should do.

Hope in Edgartown

Now assured of nearly \$4 million in state funding for the Edgartown Library's broadly supported plan to modernize and expand the library, there is fresh momentum behind the project. Talks among the library trustees, members of a selectmen-appointed ad hoc committee, and the town zoning board of appeals, which shockingly rejected the library plan despite several town meeting votes in favor, appear to be focused on finding the way to a happy ending. The size of the planned expansion and the parking issues the plan presents are the chief concerns of zoning board members, but determination by the library trustees and reasonableness by the zoning board ought to combine to defeat these obstacles.

Making health care work

The hospital and other health-care providers have received a substantial grant to consider how the virtual network of health services offered to Islanders might really become an actual, functional, coordinated, and accessible network. This page has argued for a decade now that health-care providers, no matter how skilled, compassionate, well-equipped or handsomely housed they may be, are not the network of care that Islanders need. Such an integrated system will certainly require a team spirit that continues stubbornly to be in desperately short supply, but the inquiry that this grant will finance promises to point the way to approaches that will reorganize the delivery of health care so that its consumers – namely, us and our neighbors, relatives, and friends – will end up being winners.



Harvest



Photo by Ralph Stewart

Donald Spargo lost his wedding ring 30 years ago while gardening. His neighbor Kenneth DeBettencourt has often looked for the ring, and recently Ken's daughter Roberta found it, while working in her father's garden on Wing Road in Oak Bluffs. The gold band memorialized the wedding of Mr. Spargo, now 82, and his wife Millicent, on Oct. 4, 1958. In gardening terms, the ring was a volunteer, a hardy perennial, and a delicious reward at harvest time.

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