

# The Grapevine

News and information from  
Vineyard Village at Home (VVAH)

## Our Mission:

Our mission is to help older Vineyarders continue to live in their own homes by providing them access to a wide range of volunteer, household, health, social, and professional services that will ensure their safety and comfort. We work cooperatively with other health and social services on the Island and supplement their services as needed.

## Our members enjoy these benefits and more!

- ❖ FREE escorted transportation
- ❖ One number to call for services
- ❖ Prompt service from screened service providers
- ❖ Discounts on many services
- ❖ Personal assistance
- ❖ Home & Health Services
- ❖ Social events/companionship
- ❖ In-home safety survey
- ❖ Medication review by pharmacist
- ❖ Custom household information notebook



## Vineyard Village at Home is off to a great start

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter. We hope this is another way in which we can keep in touch with our members and let others know about Vineyard Village at Home.

In just a few short months we have enrolled over twenty members—four in just the past week! We are working hard to get the word out to Islanders who may need our services. We also want to hear from you about how we may better serve you.



Vineyard Village President Polly Brown hopes to help her older Island friends and neighbors.

## VVAH receives grant from Island Permanent Endowment Fund

Last April the Permanent Endowment Fund for Martha's Vineyard awarded Vineyard Village, Inc. \$2000 towards a scholarship fund.

"We want to be as inclusive as possible so that anyone on the Island can become a member of Vineyard Village at Home," said Program Coordinator Jane Hawkes. A scholarship fund has been established to help those who may not be able to manage the membership fees. "We intend to seek out other grants to add to this fund and also to establish ways to cover transportation and other costs."

Anyone interested in learning more about a scholarship can contact Jane Hawkes at 508-693-3038. All inquiries and application information are kept strictly confidential.

## Charter Membership promotion is in force until October 1st

In an effort to encourage membership and reward those early joiners, the Board of Vineyard Village at Home decided at their annual meeting to offer permanent discounted memberships to all who join VVAH before October 1, 2008.

Regular annual fees are: \$900 for a single membership; \$1200 for a household membership. **Charter Membership rates: \$450 single; \$600 household.**

To apply or to find out more, please call Jane at 508-693-3038 or visit us online: [www.vineyardvillage.org](http://www.vineyardvillage.org).



Clara Kennedy is one of the first people to join Vineyard Village at Home

## Vineyard Village member appears in local access show

Vineyard Village member Clara Kennedy joined Polly Brown (President) and Jane Hawkes (Program Coordinator) for an appearance on MVTV local cable access. Denys Wortman interviewed the three about Vineyard Village at Home.

Polly Brown provided interesting background information on how VVAH was modeled after Beacon Hill Village in Boston. Along with heading VVAH, she continues on her original quest of securing land for a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC). Jane Hawkes described the various services and bene-

fits of membership in Vineyard Village.

But without a doubt the most compelling words came from Clara Kennedy: "I think of this as an insurance policy. You never know when you are going to need help."

Mrs. Kennedy said that she had sent all four of her sons material on VVAH, and it gave each of them peace of mind to know that their mother is a member and can call us as the need arises

So far, Mrs. Kennedy has had a safety survey done and enjoyed free rides to the ferry, the airport, and a restaurant.

*"This is a perfect example of how non-profits can help each other."*

Jane Hawkes  
VVAH Program  
Coordinator



## Polly Hill Arboretum enters into partnership with VVAH

Vineyard Village at Home members can now enjoy a free new membership to the Polly Hill Arboretum (new members only). In return, all Polly Hill members are eligible for a 5% discount on their annual membership fees should they choose to join Vineyard Village at Home.

Last June, Karin Stanley of the PHA and Jane Hawkes of VVAH met and agreed to a mutually beneficial partnership of the two organizations.

Enjoy the amazing flora of the Arboretum while walking on lovely level paths. Call ahead if you would like to reserve a golf cart tour 508-693-9426.

Please visit our website [www.vineyardvillage.org](http://www.vineyardvillage.org) for future events and activities we hope to sponsor at the Arboretum.



*Stewartia pseudocamellia, 'Mint Frills'*



Jane Hawkes enjoying a great cup of coffee.

## A few words from Jane - a call for volunteers

Well, as you can see by the photo, I am pleased...and with good reason. The response to Vineyard Village at Home has been fantastic!

Seniors are interested in joining; adult children of seniors have bought memberships for their parents; and, without exception, the service providers that I have contacted to be on our referral list have enthusiastically signed up to help.

Now I would like to ask for your help. We have a fine pool of volunteer drivers, but as our membership grows, so does our need for more volunteers. If you or anyone you know has some spare time to volunteer for us, please contact us. We particularly need volunteer drivers.

Call 508-693-3038  
or email [vineyardvillage@gmail.com](mailto:vineyardvillage@gmail.com).

Thanks!

## Reception at Polly Hill Arboretum is fun and informative

On July 10, Vineyard Village at Home held its first social event of the season: a wine & cheese reception for members and potential members to gather and learn more about VVAH.

The Polly Hill Arboretum was kind enough to let us hold the reception at its historic Far Barn and went even further by allowing us use of their golf cart to ferry people between the parking lot and the barn.

It was a truly delightful summer evening, not too warm and just breezy enough to

keep the bugs at bay. The setting was a lovely backdrop to the gathering, where people met old friends and made new ones.

After making introductions, Polly Brown talked briefly about how VVAH came to be. Jane Hawkes then spoke on how Vineyard Village at Home can help Island seniors maintain their independence and enrich their quality of life. Board member David Roush spoke about the idea of communities helping residents

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Rhoda Diamond and her son John strike a handsome pose by the Far Barn.



Stephanie Elliott chats with Gus and Mary Ann Lewis. David Roush and Jill Hansen are in the background.



Marian Irving looks over VVAH brochures with Doris Blackwell and her grandson Nathan von Colditz.



Polly Brown is all set to drive Marian Mohr and her daughter Linda to the parking lot.

## Dovetail Health, Inc. offers Vineyard Village members a discount

Dovetail Health, Inc. has generously offered our members a 10% discount on all Dovetail services. Dovetail is an organization that helps seniors and others who have chronic conditions, have complex medication regimens, or have recently been discharged from a health facility manage their medications and overall health while continuing to live at home.

As the Dovetail brochure states, “Beginning with an in-home medication assessment, we can integrate monitoring and personal services as needed, customized for each client’s situation. With Dovetail, seniors can safely manage their own health while maintaining the independence they want.”

To learn more about Dovetail, please call 1-866-566-3683 or visit their website [www.dovetailhealth.com](http://www.dovetailhealth.com).



Newcomers to the Island, Pat and Peter Hawkes enjoy meeting people and finding out more about VVAH.



Please pass this newsletter on to a friend!

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Vineyard Village at Home

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**Reception at Polly Hill Arboretum**

through medical crises and how he envisions Vineyard Village at Home will grow in ways to serve its members.

Nearly 40 people attended the reception, listened intently and posed thoughtful questions. It was clear that people were excited about and interested in the program offered by VVAH.

Special thanks go to **V. Jaime Hamlin Catering** for donating a fabulous cheese platter, to the **Scottish Bake House** for their donation of sweet treats, to Nan Carter for her endive goodies, and to Jilana Abrams for her shrimp cocktail. The drinks, both soft and not-so-soft, were generously donated by a VVAH board member.

“We intend to have more of these events to get the word out about Vineyard Village,” said Polly Brown. “We also want to do gatherings such as luncheons, cocktail parties, and dinners as purely social events for our members. It’s a great way to stay connected with the community.”

**What’s next? Up-coming events....**

❖ **August 21 - 24** VVAH will be at the Agricultural Fair handing out information. Come by and say hello. Enter our raffles for donated gift baskets!

❖ **September** (date to be arranged) Dovetail Health will host a medication review session for VVAH members. Call 508-693-3038 or check our website [www.vineyardvillage.org](http://www.vineyardvillage.org) for updated information.



Member Clara Kennedy chats with Tom Hiller about the benefits of VVAH membership at the July reception .