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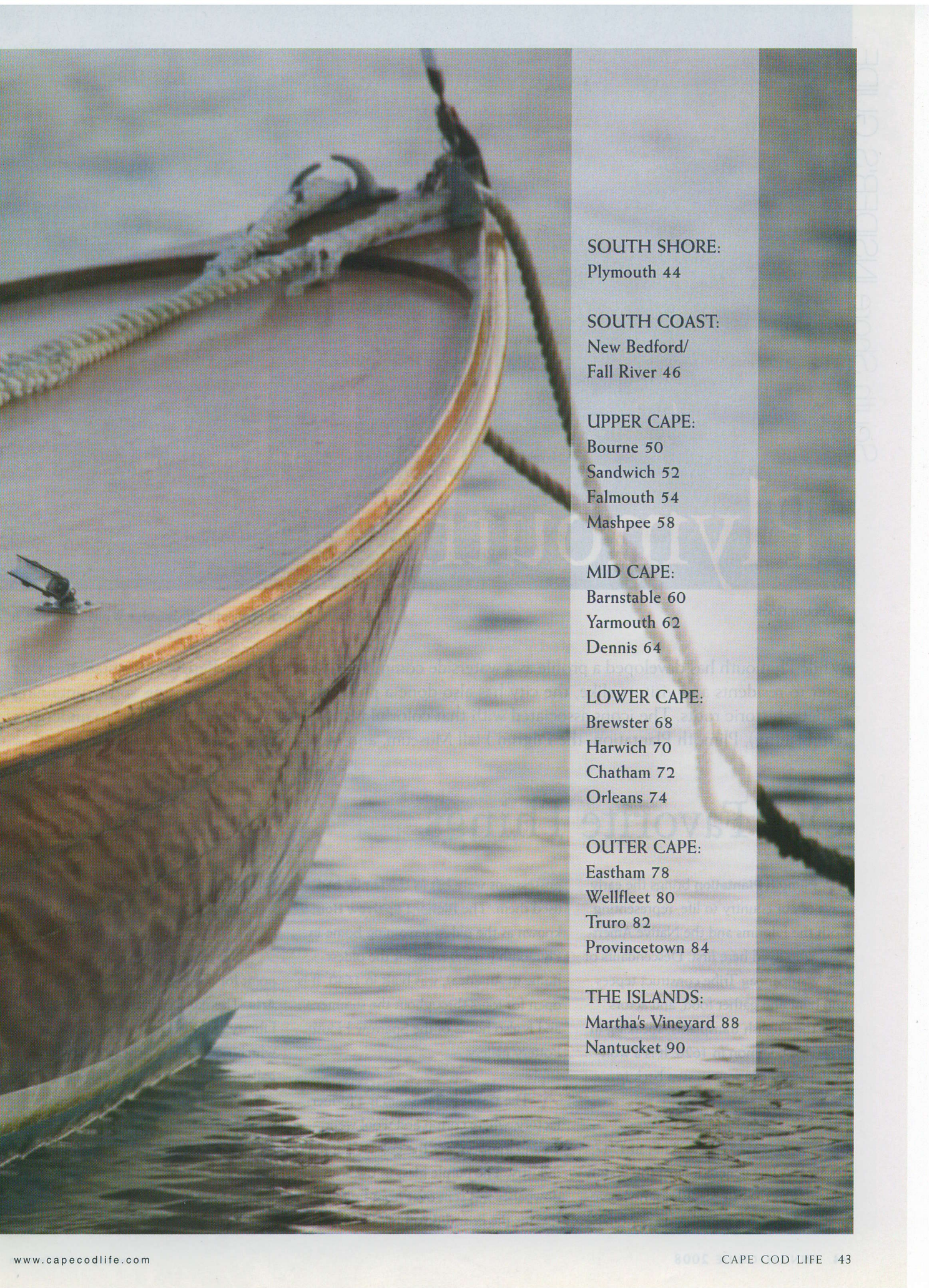


Our Towns: The Inside Angle

BY TOM KEER

Spectacular beaches, idyllic green space, and lively downtowns draw millions of visitors each year to our region. Whether you're visiting or make the area your home, count on our Insider's Guide—a full 40 pages—for fresh new ideas on things to see and do. So get comfortable, start reading, and get moving!

Cape Cod Life editors contributed additional research to this project.



SOUTH SHORE:
Plymouth 44

SOUTH COAST:
New Bedford/
Fall River 46

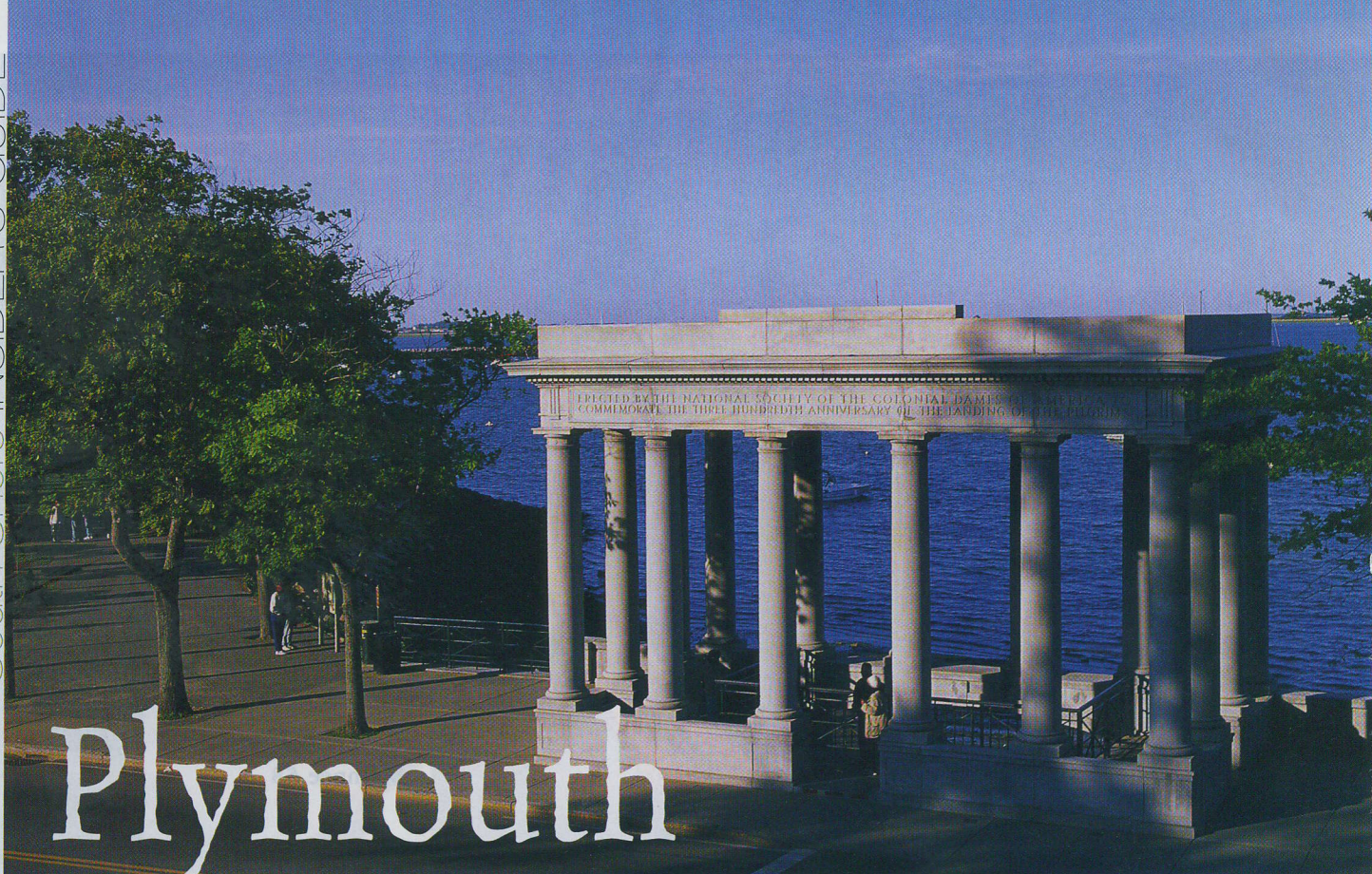
UPPER CAPE:
Bourne 50
Sandwich 52
Falmouth 54
Mashpee 58

MID CAPE:
Barnstable 60
Yarmouth 62
Dennis 64

LOWER CAPE:
Brewster 68
Harwich 70
Chatham 72
Orleans 74

OUTER CAPE:
Eastham 78
Wellfleet 80
Truro 82
Provincetown 84

THE ISLANDS:
Martha's Vineyard 88
Nantucket 90



Plymouth

Plymouth Rock

Manomet • North Plymouth • Plymouth • White Horse Beach

While Plymouth has developed a profile as a waterside community, with shops, galleries, and restaurants that cater to residents and visitors alike, the city has also done a phenomenal job of cultivating and maintaining its deep historic roots. The icons associated with that colorful history—Plymouth Rock (about to undergo a refurbishing), Plimoth Plantation, the Pilgrim Hall Museum, and more—draw many of its visitors.

Our Favorite Things

✧ **Plimoth Plantation** brings the early days of our country to life, representing both the Pilgrims and the Native Americans who lived here first. Descendants of the Wampanoag Tribe construct tepees and hunt and gather food, and actors play the English transplants, speaking in language common in 1620. It is a wonderfully realistic way to step back in time.

✧ The **Spooner House**, built in 1747, showcases five generations of the Spooner family as they lived. When the home was turned into a museum, all personal

possessions were left as the family had used them. The **Richard Sparrow House**, known as the oldest remaining home in Plymouth (which makes it the oldest home in America), was built in 1640. It is open for tours throughout the summer and is also home of the Sparrow House Pottery gallery.

✧ The **Cordage Museum** is a former factory, where cotton and wool were wound into rope for the coastal shipping industry. The purple glass in the windowpanes was sent over from England. (Seems the Brits didn't think the Ameri-

can colony would take, so they sent it instead of a higher-quality clear glass.)

✧ The year 2005-06 marked a turning point for the **Plymouth Guild for the Arts**. The guild purchased the Russell Library and the Lindens on North Street, which now houses a theater, classrooms, galleries, and studios. It will soon be called home by the **Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra**. Residents and visitors can take classes in drawing, painting, and more, and attend year-round art exhibits and performances.

JOANNE PEARSON

DID YOU KNOW?

You can tour Plymouth's historic districts by land and by sea, in one day. **Splash-down Duck Boat Tours** cruise around historic Plymouth and Plymouth Harbor, all on a World War II amphibious craft. You'll learn about history through educational tours of the *Mayflower II*, Plymouth Rock, and the Forefathers Monument, and then splash into the harbor and trade wheels for a propeller. These boats were the same ones used to land at Normandy Beach in World War II, now restored for these unique trips.

A LOOK BACK

After an unsuccessful landing in Jamestown, Virginia, the British decided that the mouth of the Hudson River would be an ideal location for a new colony. The "Separatists," later renamed Pilgrims by William Bradford, were blown off course by violent storms that brought the Pilgrims to Provincetown. After a three-week exploration of Cape Cod, the Pilgrims sailed on to Plymouth.

DON'T MISS

Plymouth knows how to have a good time! August's **Waterfront Festival** is a weekend-long event featuring duck races, an America's Hometown Idol competition (structured after the television show "American Idol"), a Row-to-the-Rock boat race, and live music.

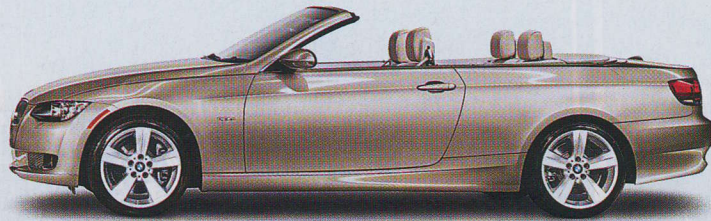
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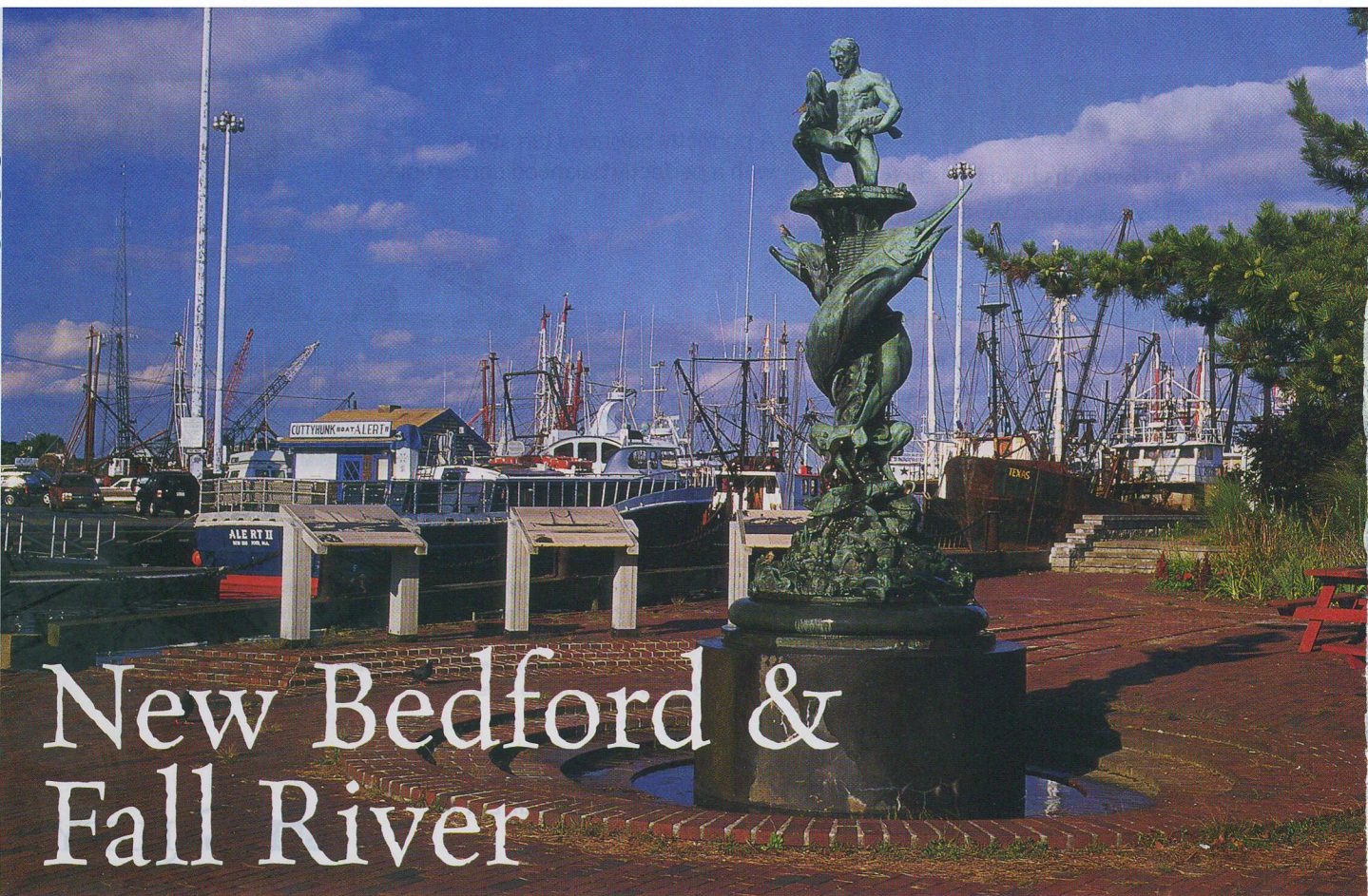


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New Bedford & Fall River

New Bedford waterfront

New Bedford and Fall River are proud of their heritage as 18th-century centers of whaling (New Bedford) and milling (Fall River). Together, their downtown waterfronts hold an impressive and entertaining chapter in our country's history. The region today is undergoing a revitalization, adding museums, arts events, and other attractions to heighten its appeal.

Our Favorite Things

★ The **New Bedford Whaling Museum** tells the story of global whaling in the 18th and 19th centuries, when New Bedford was king of the trade. The museum is located in the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, which covers 34 acres over 13 city blocks and includes, in addition to the museum, a visitor center, the Seamens Bethel, the schooner *Ernestina*, and the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum. Downtown New Bedford offers another fascinating glimpse of the whaling

trade—grand Victorian homes of former whaling captains.

★ Battleships have served our country in some of history's biggest naval conflicts, and **Battleship Cove** in Fall River has the largest exhibit of these hulking warships. Opportunities abound for first-hand experiences.

★ For entertaining little ones, nothing beats the **Buttonwood Park and Zoo** in New Bedford. The zoo has undergone a

major renovation and includes a New England farm and an Aquatics Environment Center. While you're there, stroll through the 97-acre park, designed by the master of green-space design, Frederick Law Olmsted.

★ Grab a bike and helmet and hit the **bike path** that loops by Fort Taber in New Bedford. The path overlooks Clarks Cove and Buzzards Bay and runs by the area's east and west beaches. Enjoy the scenery and the exercise!

DID YOU KNOW?

New Bedford was recently named one of the country's Top 10 "Green Cities" for its beautiful parks.

A LOOK BACK

Did Lizzie Borden take an ax to her father and stepmother, as the nursery rhyme maintains? She was acquitted in the 1892 murders, but the public's fascination with the grisly scene still draws visitors to the Fall River Historical Society, which maintains the largest collection of artifacts relating to the murders.

DON'T MISS

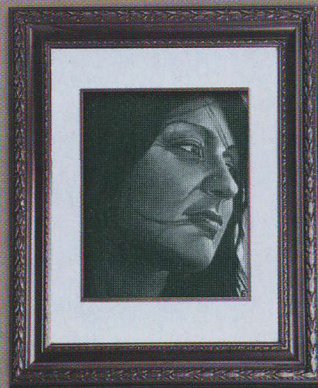
If historic homes of whaling captains intrigue you, don't miss the traditional New Bedford Preservation Society's **Annual House Tours**. The walking tours are scheduled in the summertime and the December holiday season. Among the stops are examples of the grand mansions that once were home to successful whaling captains. Information: 508-997-6425 or visit www.nbpreservationsociety.org. In Fall River, architectural form meets function in a novel way: the **International Institute of Culinary Arts** and the Abbey Grill, its main teaching facility (open to the public for lunch and weekend dinners) is housed in a former church.

IF YOU GO

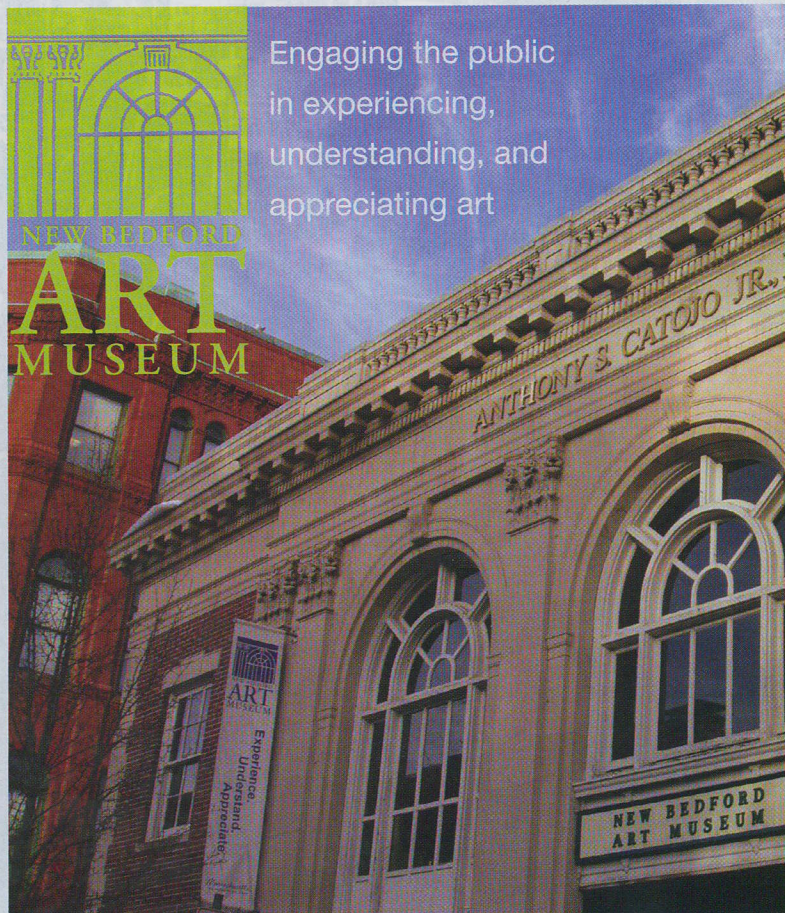
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South Coast

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JOANNE PEARSON



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARISSA SHINE



Bourne

Cape Cod Canal

Bourne Village • Bournedale • Buzzards Bay • Cataumet • Gray Gables
Monument Beach • Pocasset • Sagamore • Sagamore Beach

The only Cape town to straddle the Cape Cod Canal, Bourne is made up of nine villages, each with distinct merits and characteristics. The many visitors that zip through Bourne on their way down-Cape would be wise to head off the highway and meander through the picturesque villages of Bourne that town residents, many year-round, regard as hidden treasures.

Our Favorite Things

✧ Explore the rich history, fascinating features, and operation of the Cape Cod Canal and the US Army Corps of Engineers at the **Cape Cod Canal Visitor Center**, which includes a retired 41-foot US Army Corps of Engineers patrol boat, a 46-seat theater showing continuous DVD presentations on Canal History, Canal Critters, and Canal Wildflowers, real-time radar and camera images of the waterway as well as a variety of interactive exhibits for all ages. It's all free, from May to October.

✧ A stroll or drive down Sandwich Road, Keane Street, and parts of Shore Road gives visitors a sense of just how old Bourne really is. You'll see ship captains' homes, former general stores, and stagecoach stops. History is alive in Bourne, so be sure to visit the **Alonzo Booth Blacksmith Shop**. The working forge is complete with artifacts, tools, and wagons. Blacksmiths continue to work at the forge every day in the summer. President Grover Cleveland, a summer resident of Gray Gables, had his horses shod here.

✧ The **Cape Cod Canal Bike Path** (for walkers and rollerbladers, too) offers a scenic view of boats struggling against the tide and an up-close look at recreational fishermen. Come here at the end of September and follow it up with a visit to the **Bourne Scallop Festival**. Here you can try a variety of bay and sea scallop dishes and tour the arts and crafts show complete with continuous live entertainment ranging from jazz to doo-wop and the horns of big bands. Then spend some time nosing around the antiques shops along Main Street in Buzzards Bay.

SHANNON FOSS

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Massachusetts Maritime Academy** in Buzzards Bay has grown from an entering class of 40 cadets in April 1893, when it was known as the Massachusetts Nautical Training School, to a world-recognized institution, the oldest maritime academy in continuous operation in the United States and the largest State maritime academy. There were 218 graduates in 2007.

A LOOK BACK

Bourne was named after Jonathan Bourne, who at the age of 17 left home for New Bedford, where he prospered and became the town's most successful owner of whaling ships. As a state legislator in 1884, he was helpful when the western half of Sandwich petitioned the Commonwealth for separation as a town, and thus the new town was named in his honor.

DON'T MISS

One of the best ways to get a handle on Bourne geographically and historically is to sign up for a **Trolley Tour of Bourne's Historic Villages** operated by the Bourne Historical Society. Only offered two days each summer, once in July and again in August, these informative outings fill up fast. The trolley winds through each of the town's villages while guides, many lifelong Bourne residents, bring the past alive with their stories.

IF YOU GO

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Chamber of Commerce**
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www.capecodcanalchamber.org



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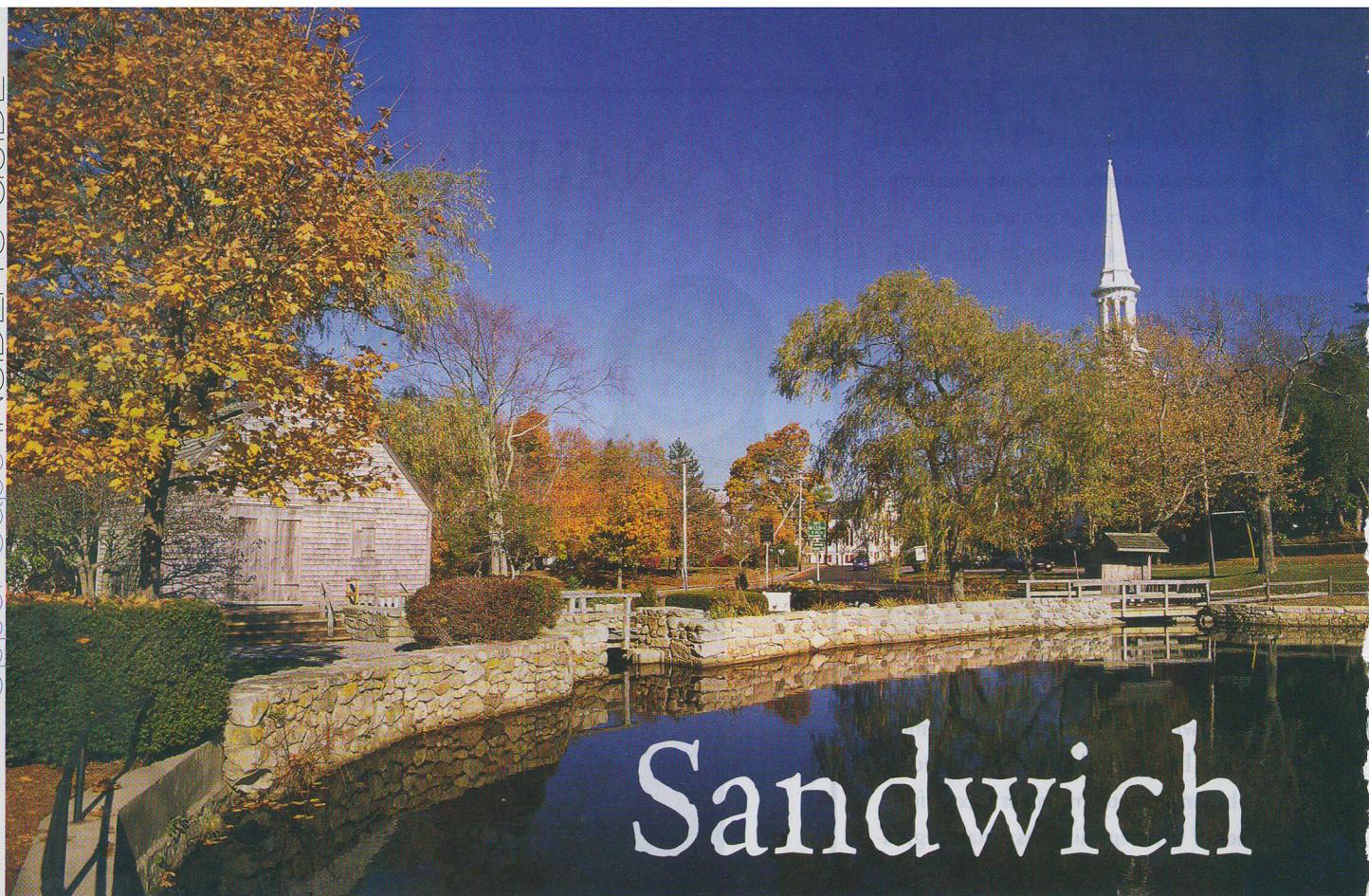


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Sandwich

Shawme Pond

East Sandwich • Forestdale • Sandwich Village

With its picturesque village center, proximity to the mainland, and gracious bow to history (it is the oldest town on the Cape), bustling Sandwich draws day-trippers and vacationers alike. Where else can you see the oldest house on Cape Cod in the morning, shop in the afternoon, and dine on excellent gourmet fare that night?

Our Favorite Things

✧ History comes alive through several working museums. From May through December, a number of seasonal festivities enliven the town. **Heritage Museums & Gardens** offers concerts, family movies, foreign-car shows, and a dazzling Spectacle of Lights, as well as instruction in Feng Shui, croquet, and more. At the **Greenbriar Jam Kitchen and Nature Center**, kids and adults learn about local critters, herbs, and how to make jam during the center's Strawberry Fest. Watch glass products being blown at the **Sandwich Glass Museum**. Be sure to visit **Hoxie House**, the oldest house on

the Cape, and **Dexter Grist Mill** in the heart of town.

✧ Sandwich loves a parade. Join the fun at the **Memorial Day** and **Fourth of July Parades**, which begin at the H.T. Wing Elementary School.

✧ **Town Beach** is a terrific hangout. The beach is at the east end of the Cape Cod Canal, and it's amazing to see the various vessels entering and exiting the waterway. A stone's throw away is Sandwich Creek, an estuary, where you can fish, kayak, and bird watch.

✧ Bid for an item or just enjoy the action at the **Sandwich Auction House**. The auctions here are lively, entertaining, and a great glimpse into modern and old Cape ways of living.

✧ After all this fun, you may want—or need—to break a sweat. Try September's **Annual Capt. Gerald F. DeConto, USN, Memorial Scholarship 5K Run-Walk** or the **Annual RHCI BoardWALK**, which benefits this Upper Cape rehabilitation hospital. To keep fit during the holidays, join the November **We Gather Together 5K Run-Walk**.

DID YOU KNOW?

When Hurricane Bob plowed through the Cape in 1991 and destroyed the landmark boardwalk that crosses Sandwich Creek, the town—residents, business owners, and visitors—took action, purchasing one plank at a time. Today the boards, inscribed with names of donors, form the bridge, creating an intriguing, pleasurable walk.

A LOOK BACK

While Sandwich was settled as a Puritan town, it quickly converted to a Quaker settlement. Facing rejection by nearby communities, many of the Quakers left Sandwich for other towns on the Cape or along Buzzards Bay. The off-Cape town of Dartmouth was established by alienated Sandwich residents.

DON'T MISS

Sandwich offers a picture-postcard town center with history galore. Between two historic inns—the **Dan'l Webster Inn and Spa** and the **Belfry Inne & Bistro**—are many shops and other interesting stops. At **The Weather Store**, for instance, you'll see a "weather stick," an old New England tool that points up and down according to good and bad weather (it really works). The two inns that help anchor downtown have their own unique history. The Belfry is a charming collection of structures built from the early 1800s to 1900. The Dan'l Webster served as headquarters for the patriots during the Revolutionary period. Orator and U.S. Senator Daniel Webster had a room there for many years.


IF YOU GO

Sandwich Chamber of Commerce

508-759-6000

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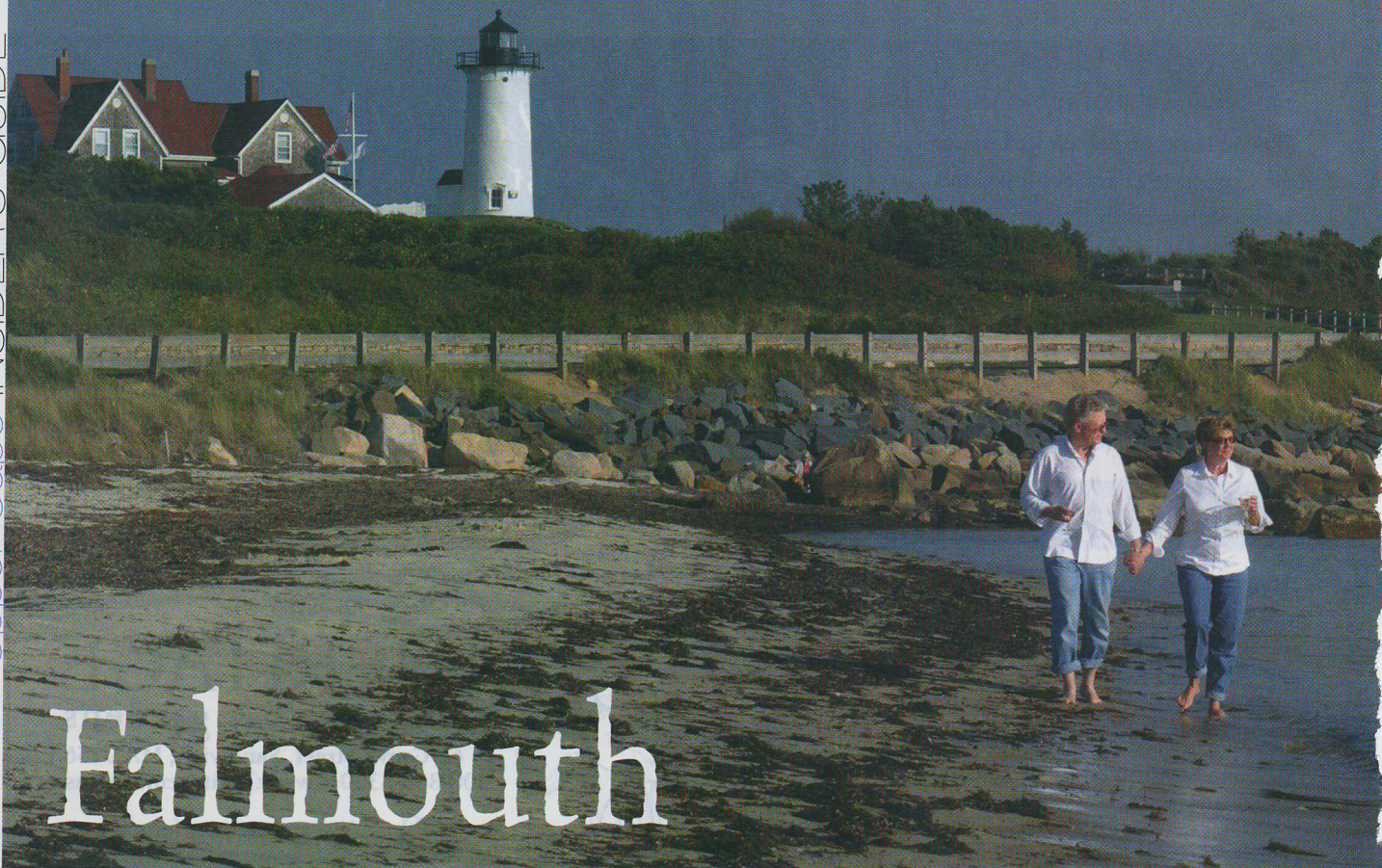
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Nobska Lighthouse

East Falmouth • Falmouth Village • North Falmouth • Teaticket
Waquoit • West Falmouth • Woods Hole

Visitors flock to Falmouth for the gorgeous waterfront (12 miles of public beaches—more than any other Cape town—plus the area's warmest water temperatures) and its historic town center. Falmouth's six villages include Woods Hole, a world-known scientific community anchored by several distinguished institutions. The town is also a center for ferry service to Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and smaller islands.

Our Favorite Things

★ Spend a day on the water. The three-masted schooner **Liberté** cruises by Falmouth's historic waterfront homes and lighthouses. A paddle trip with **Cape Cod Kayak** is a perfect way to view a sunset in West Falmouth Harbor. Fishermen will find a catch on Falmouth Harbor, where charter boats line up, awaiting passengers. The 45-acre **Ashumet Holly and Wildlife Sanctuary** (worth a visit in itself) offers summer and fall cruises to Cuttyhunk Island.

★ When you tire of playing golf at one (or all) of the town's five courses,

check out the art scene. The **Falmouth Artists Guild** and historic **Highfield Hall** are wonderful sources. The **Falmouth Art Market**, at Odd Fellows Hall in Town Hall Square, is open every Thursday in July and August. In summer, follow it up with free **band concerts** starting at 8:00 p.m. at the Harbor Band Shell at Marina Park. Summer concerts also are held Friday nights at Margaret Noonan Park at 6:00 p.m.

★ The **Falmouth Road Race**, one of the world's biggest competitive races, is a great spectator sport. World-class run-

ners are drawn to the beautiful seaside race route and hefty winner's purse. Cheer them on this year starting at 10 a.m. on Sunday, August 10.

★ Visitors can spend days in **Woods Hole** and not be bored. An intriguing mix of scientists, artists, and free-thinkers populates the village; even a walk on Water Street or a stop in a village eatery for a bite to eat can be fascinating. This summer, the **Woods Hole Science Aquarium** will be a special place to visit, with the return of the beloved seals in an outdoor pool.

DID YOU KNOW?

Falmouth became the Cape's second "Unwired Village" last June (after Orleans), in a nonprofit partnership with local businesses to provide free community-based wireless broadband access in public places. Several locations are marked with the Unwired Village logo, including the Falmouth Enterprise newspaper, the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce, and the Inn at Siders Lane.

A LOOK BACK

Falmouth's early days closely resembled its namesake, Falmouth, Cornwall, England. Sheep husbandry for Merino wool was a big industry, and the vast number of watermills processed the wool for export. In 1837 there were 50 sheep per square mile.

DON'T MISS

The **Shining Sea Bike Path**, recently extended to a four-mile trail, is a beautiful way to see Falmouth's natural beauty. The path, winding through woods and near long stretches of shoreline, runs between Sippewissett, an area of Falmouth, and Woods Hole (The bike path is expected to continue to expand.) It is perfect for biking, walking, rollerblading, or sitting on a bench and gazing at Mother Nature. Parking in Woods Hole is difficult; consider instead parking in the new town-owned lot, on Depot Avenue near downtown.

IF YOU GO

Falmouth Chamber of Commerce

508-548-8500

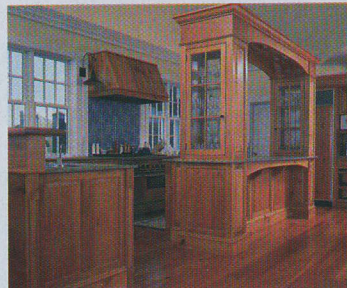
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TOM SOBOLIK





Annual Mashpee Night at the Pops

In Mashpee, visitors can experience a unique blend of antiquity and the contemporary. The town is home to the Wampanoag tribe of American Indians, and Native American culture and history draw many visitors. The town also has one of Cape Cod's major shopping districts, Mashpee Commons, and the area's only museum specifically for tykes, the Cape Cod Children's Museum.

Our Favorite Things

✧ Immerse yourself in the history of the Mashpee Wampanoags and get some exercise too. A bike ride along the **Route 130 Mashpee Bikeway** will take you by the **Mashpee Wampanoag Museum** and the **Mashpee River Herring Run**. Together with the 1684 **Old Indian Meetinghouse**, these sites are an excellent glimpse into the tribe's past.

✧ The **Mashpee Wampanoag Pow Wow**, held in early July at the tribal grounds on Great Neck Road South,

gathers Native American tribes and includes drumming, dancing, chanting, and rites-of-passage for young men and women.

✧ Want to get close to nature? Try swimming or body-surfing at **South Cape Beach State Park**. There are also several conservation areas in Mashpee that offer more outdoor activities, including the **Mashpee River Woodlands**, **South Mashpee Pine Barrens**, and the **Lowell Holly Reservation**, with more

than 1,300 acres and 22 miles of trails for exploring, bird watching, and canoeing. Enjoy a free nature tour given by the **Mashpee Conservation Commission**.

✧ If designer clothing and other delectables are more your thing, shop 'til you drop at **Mashpee Commons**. Upscale storefronts, including small boutiques and larger retail chains such as Banana Republic, are interspersed with restaurants, a movie theater, and outdoor spots for sitting and visiting.

DID YOU KNOW?

Football fans take note: Robert Kraft, owner of the three-time Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots, owns a home in New Seabury, and former Mashpee resident Jamaal Branch is a backup running back for the New Orleans Saints.

A LOOK BACK

The Mashpee Wampanoags comprise the largest native population in Massachusetts. The name Mashpee derived from the aboriginal name Massippie, which means "Land of the Great Cove." With approximately 1,500 members, the Wampanoags have lived on their native homeland since at least the time of European contact in the early 16th century.

DON'T MISS

The Wampanoags taught the Pilgrims about the local natural resources, including the best spots for fishing. Find out what the Wampanoags knew (and still know today)—that Mashpee is an ideal location for both saltwater and fresh water fishing. Start by obtaining a license from the town clerk in Mashpee Town Hall. For perch, bass, and trout, explore one of Mashpee's beautiful ponds, such as Ashmet Pond or John's Pond. For a wilder fishing trip, South Cape Beach State Park offers fantastic surfcasting.

IF YOU GO

Mashpee Chamber of Commerce

508-477-0792

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Explore over 90 distinctive Cape Cod shops, restaurants and national stores including Ann Taylor • Banana Republic Coldwater Creek • In The Pink Origins • Williams Sonoma Talbot's • Events & more at www.mashpeecommons.com



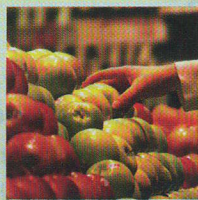
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MASHPEE COMMONS

Barnstable



The Optimist Regatta

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The hub of Cape Cod, Barnstable is packed with things to see and do—vibrant villages, beautiful architecture, beaches, recreational opportunities, and plentiful museums, galleries, and shops.

Our Favorite Things

✧ Find your inner artist in any or all of Barnstable's seven villages. In summertime, take the **Walkway to the Sea** to Hyannis Harbor and Aselton Park. There you'll find **Harbor Your Arts**, a cluster of sea shanties featuring works by local artists and artisans. The general area is a lively place to stroll, with recreational and fishing boats, restaurants, shops, and lots of people willing to chat. The **Cahoon Museum of American Art** in Cotuit carries the work of Cape icons Ralph and Martha Cahoon. Barnstable hits the right note for live entertainment, too, including the **Cotuit Center for the Arts** and the **Cape Cod Melody Tent**.

Shoppers will love Barnstable. In Hyannis, options abound, from the **Cape Cod Mall** to the boutiques of **Main Street by the Sea**. Tony **Osterville** has a delightfully easy-to-walk downtown filled with small shops and eateries.

✧ Nighttime rocks in Barnstable's villages, with live music most every night of the week, including jazz, progressive folk, rock, and big band. **Harry's** and the **Roadhouse Café**, both in the Hyannis West End, have some of the best blues and jazz in the region.

✧ Barnstable excels in outdoor activi-

ties. Kayakers and shallow-water anglers will love **Barnstable Harbor**. Sailors flock to the south side to harness the winds in Vineyard Sound. Catching a **Cotuit Kettleers** baseball game is a classic summer highlight. Want something a little wilder? Rent a Harley from **Highway Pegs** in Hyannis.

✧ The old art form of gravestone rubbings attracts many visitors to **Lothrop Hill Cemetery** on Route 6A, the resting place of John Lothrop and other founders of Barnstable. The graves here, marked by slate headstones, date to 1653.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2007, Barnstable was given the most prestigious award for civic recognition in the United States: the "All American City" title. The award is given to towns for their ability to handle issues such as healthcare, environmental protection, promotion of the arts, cultural diversity, and education.

A LOOK BACK

New Englanders credit West Barnstable Patriot James Otis with planting the seeds of the American Revolution. Otis was one of four representatives of Boston who nurtured an expanded meeting, which included representatives from all 13 colonies. The new group's first initiative was defiance of the Stamp Act, a law passed by the British Parliament in 1765 that called for a tax on legal documents, playing cards, and contracts in the North American colonies. Otis made the bold statement, "Let Great Britain rescind her measures, or the colonies are lost to her forever."

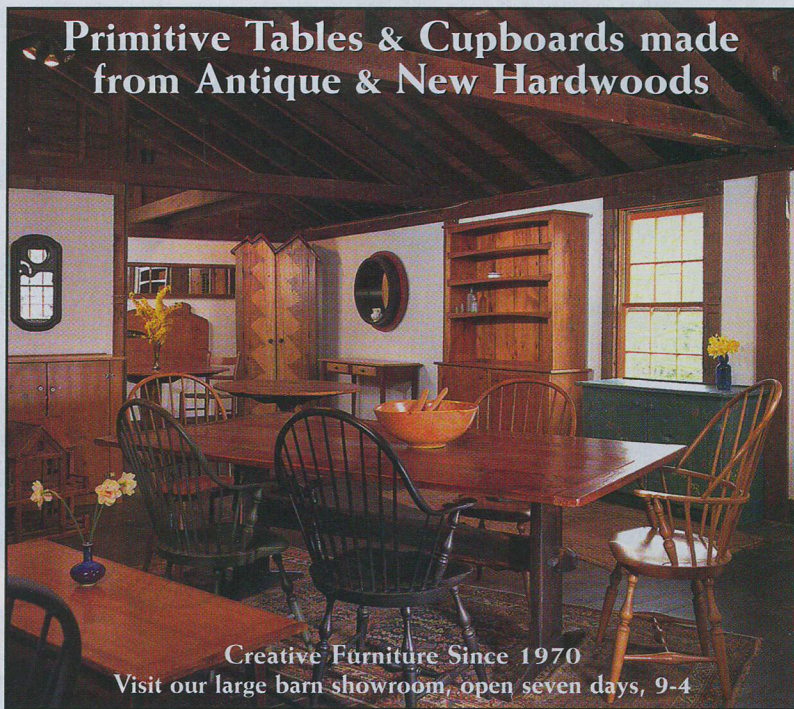
DON'T MISS

Do you still nurse a childhood fantasy of flying with the birds? At the **Marstons Mills Airport** on Route 149, Cape Cod's only grass-strip airport, you can explore the beautiful Cape scenery from a glider or a biplane. Cape Cod Soaring Adventures offers glider tours, which thrust you into the sky, surrounded by just the quiet and the magnificent scenery, from a bubble canopy. Mills Air Service offers biplane rides.

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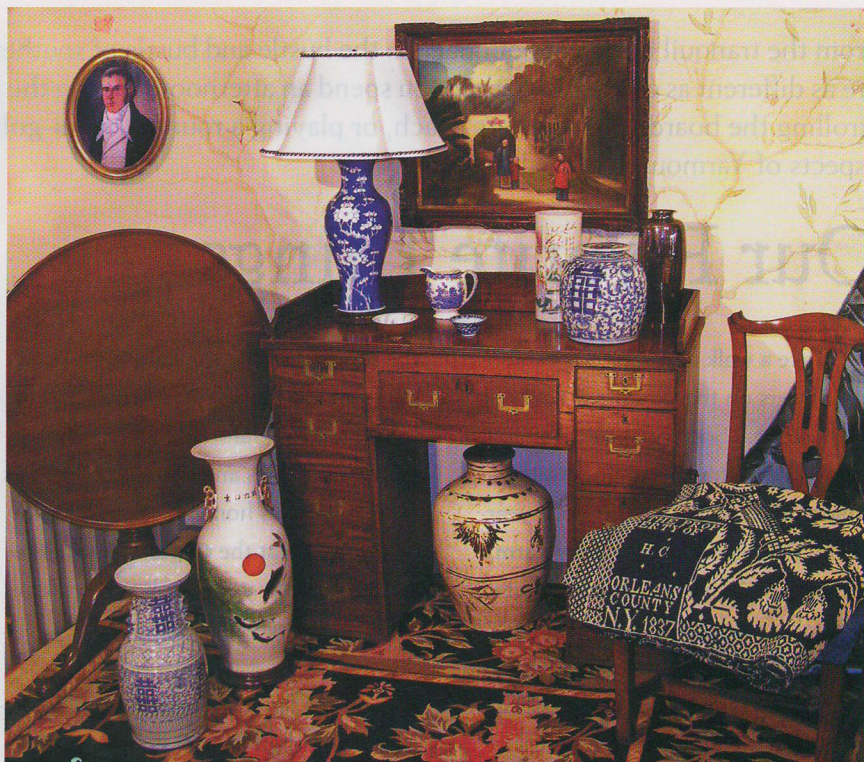
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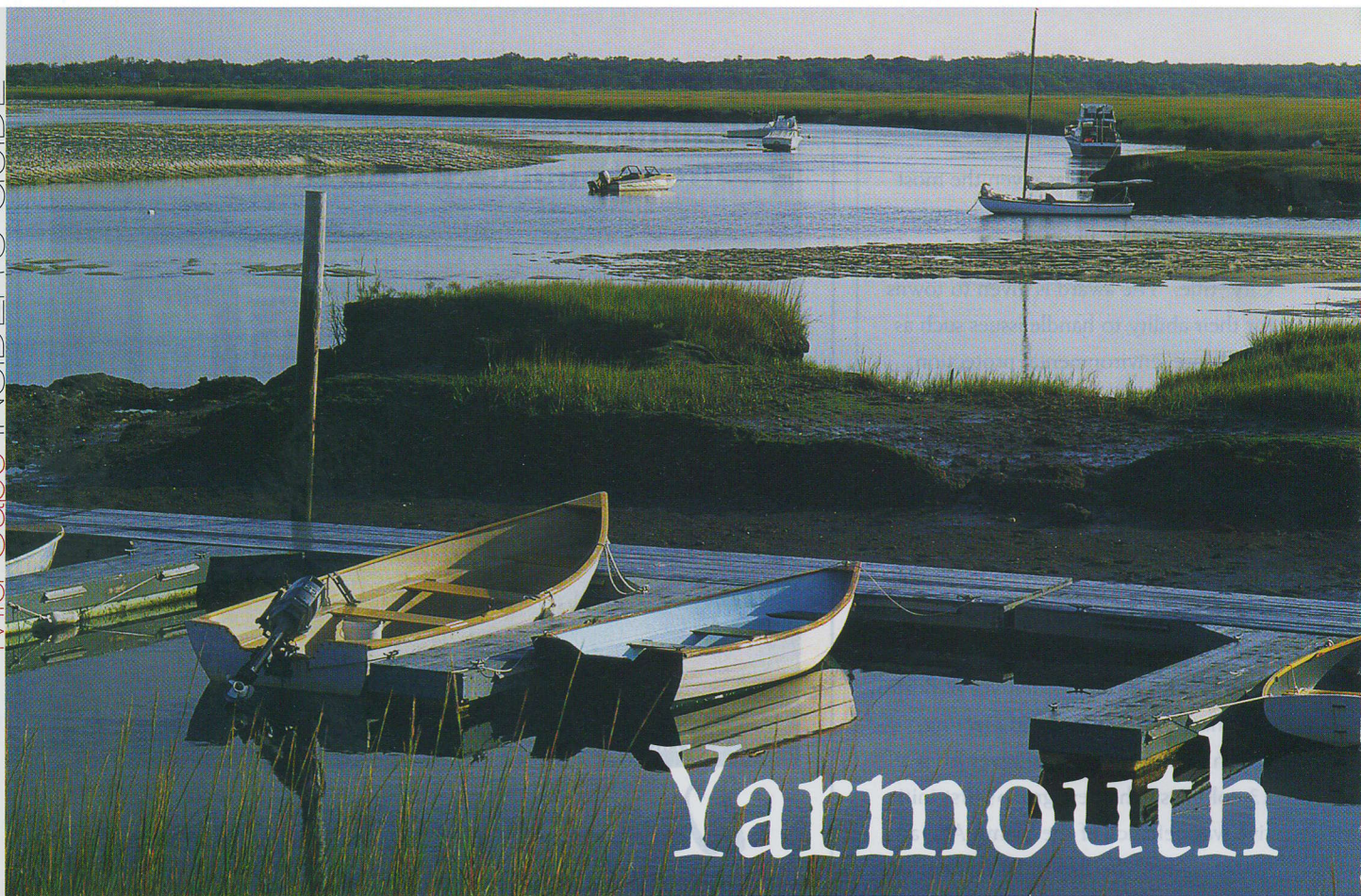
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Yarmouth

Boats at Bass Hole

Bass River • South Yarmouth • West Yarmouth
Yarmouth • Yarmouthport

From the tranquil northern boundary to the hustle and bustle of southern Route 28, the villages of Yarmouth are as different as can be. Whether you spend an afternoon touring the historic Captain Bangs Hallet House, strolling the boardwalk at Gray's Beach, or playing a round of mini-golf with the kids, you'll enjoy the many aspects of Yarmouth's appeal.

Our Favorite Things

✧ Take a walk among woods and wildflowers on the **Botanical Trails** of the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth. Follow the path to charming **Kelley Chapel**, built in 1873. Also open year-round, the historic **Taylor Bray Farm**, settled in 1639, spans 22 scenic acres. (Kids also enjoy this working farm, where they can visit with Scottish Highland cows, chickens, and goats.) Nature lovers will want to watch the sunset from the 310-foot **Bass Hole Boardwalk** at Gray's Beach.

✧ Just off Route 6A in Yarmouthport,

the **Edward Gorey House** gives a glimpse into the one-of-a-kind mind of the famed illustrator and author. See original sketches and curious collections on a tour of his home. Nearby, let one of the guides at the **Captain Bangs Hallet House** offer you a look at the life of a 19th-century sea captain.

✧ Sports fans can head to the Dennis-Yarmouth High School field to catch a **Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox** game on a summer evening. Or root for the **Cape Cod Crusaders** professional soccer team as they take on Atlantic-coast teams

from May through August.

✧ Kids love West Yarmouth's **ZooQuarium**, a combination zoo and aquarium. Events are organized with children in mind, and the Petting Zoo, Native Wildlife, and Tidal Touch Pool are three favorites. After learning about Cape creatures, take a walk along the beach to spot the animals in their natural habitat. October's annual **Seaside Festival** is a weekend of family fun. Festivities include a canoe and kayak race, arts and crafts, fireworks, and a parade.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Christmas Tree Shops got their start delivering a wide variety of products, from household goods to furniture to Christmas appointments in Yarmouthport in 1970. Through the 1980s and then into the 1990s, the chain expanded regionally and eventually nationally to become a must-stop-shop for bargain-hunters.

A LOOK BACK

Yarmouth's Native American heritage includes several tribes of the Wampanoag nation. Pawkunnawkuts were fishermen who lived on both sides of the southern stretch of the Bass River. Hokanums lived in the northern reaches, and Cummaquids lived towards the west. The area bordering Nantucket Sound was referred to as Mattacheese, meaning "old lands by the borders of water."

DON'T MISS

Housed in the magnificently renovated former headquarters of the Bass River Savings bank, a historic brick structure built in the 1930s, the **Cultural Center of Cape Cod** in South Yarmouth is constantly abuzz with classes, exhibits, events, camps, workshops—you name it, if it has to do with the arts, you'll find it here. This is the place to learn French, enjoy a themed dance party, admire local artists' work, study Shakespeare, or enter a poetry competition. Imagine, all this activity in a building that recently won an award for the best adaptive re-use of a historical building.

IF YOU GO

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Dennis

Chapin Beach

Dennis Village • Dennisport • East Dennis
South Dennis • West Dennis

In keeping with its central location, Dennis caters to just about everyone. Family-friendly beaches and restaurants along Nantucket Sound make for a relaxed, fun vibe, while villages on the bay side boast a thriving arts community, historic sites, and plenty of natural beauty.

Our Favorite Things

★ Start your visit to Dennis with a stop at **Scargo Tower** atop 160-foot Scargo Hill. The views, sunsets, and stargazing can't be beat. Pick up the western-most tip of the **Cape Cod Rail Trail**, a bike path that stretches all the way to Wellfleet. For a scenic ride on the water, rent a canoe or kayak and glide along **Swan River**. Anglers can't resist **Bass River Bridge** and **Scargo Lake** for bass and trout. The **Indian Lands and Conservation Trail** around Bass River is just one of the town's picturesque spots for walking.

★ Route 6A brims with art galleries, antiques shops, and historic inns. **Cape Cod Center for the Arts** is home to the Cape Playhouse, Cape Cinema, and Cape Cod Museum of Art—three venues as likely to enchant history buffs as arts lovers. You'll find a number of art strolls and outdoor concerts on the Village Green during the summer months.

★ Head to the farmer's market at the 1681 **Tobey Farm**, one of the oldest farms in Massachusetts. The Dennis Historical Society can direct you to a number of other interesting sites, including

the **Josiah Dennis Manse Museum**, **Old West Schoolhouse**, and **Jericho House and Barn Museum**. Take a drive past the Gothic-style **South Dennis Free Public Library** to admire its lacy gingerbread trim.

★ Late August marks a variety of fun competitions. **The Annual Beer Races** at West Dennis Beach are a friendly obstacle-course competition. For kids, there's the wildly popular **Annual Sandcastle Contest** at Mayflower Beach. No heavy equipment allowed—just creativity, pails, and shovels.

ASHLEY KEENE

DID YOU KNOW?

While other children of his era whittled wood, Dennis native Luther Childs Crowell folded paper. As an adult, Crowell's first patent was for a square-bottom paper bag. Later on, he designed a machine to manufacture these paper bags. Regarded as the industry standard, his design is still used today.

A LOOK BACK

Cranberries were first grown as a cash crop in Dennis after Captain Henry Hall discovered in 1816 that the sand blowing over his bogs actually boosted production.

DON'T MISS

Sink into an armchair at the **Cape Cinema** to catch an art-house flick beneath the galaxies and comets of artist Rockwell Kent, who painted the incredible 6,400 square-foot mural on the theater's vaulted ceiling. Movies are shown on a stage covered by a velvet curtain until show time—a detail that will take you back to the 1930s, when "Wicked Witch" Margaret Hamilton, starring next door at the Playhouse, was in the audience to see the *Wizard of Oz* here.

This winter, the Cape Cinema is joining with the **Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater** to present classic movies at WHAT's new Julie Harris Stage on Route 6 in Wellfleet. For a schedule, visit the WHAT Web site, www.what.org.

IF YOU GO

Dennis Chamber of Commerce

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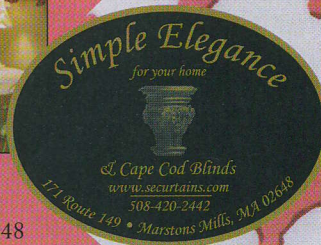


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Mid Cape

Boardwalk at Gray's Beach, Yarmouthport



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Chickens were first grown as a cash
crop in Dennis after Captain Henry Hall
discovered in 1810 that the sand dunes
over the bog actually provided protection

need more space?



JOHN MICHAEL DILUDDO





Brewster

Paine's Creek

Brewster • East Brewster • West Brewster

Brewster is a former sea captains' town, rich in history and natural beauty. With thousands of acres of open space, lovers of the outdoors will find plenty to do, whether it's an autumn horseback ride along the shore or a guided walk through the salt marsh. Or hunt for art and antiques along the town's picturesque stretch of Route 6A.

Our Favorite Things

✧ **Nickerson State Park** has 1,900 acres of open space, with campsites and trails for biking and hiking. You can also explore miles of trails in the 800 acres of **Punkhorn Parklands**. Higgins Farm Windmill and Harris-Black House are two historic treasures in **Drummer Boy Park**. All of this natural beauty is celebrated during April's **Brewster in Bloom** festival.

✧ The **Brewster Historical Society Museum** houses a collection of curiosities, from gowns to a complete antique barbershop. **Crosby Mansion** is a magnif-

icent 35-room structure that contains Albert Crosby's childhood Brewster home within its walls—literally a house within a house.

✧ Route 6A in Brewster abounds with shops for art, crafts, and antiques. The 1852 **Brewster Store** is the place to go for your morning coffee, newspaper, and old-time candy from a jar. Located in an antique horse barn, the **Strawberry Patch** gift shop has a unique garden maze. The **Underground Art Gallery** features the work of landscape artist Karen Wells in an earth-sheltered studio built by her

husband, Malcolm Wells, a pioneer of underground architecture.

✧ Golfers can choose between **Ocean Edge Golf Club** and **Captain's Golf Course**. For families, **Cape Cod Repertory Theatre** stages everything from children's plays to avant-garde works. Perhaps it's the bayside beaches that account for the town's numerous summer camps. You can send the kids to **Woodsong Farm** for horsemanship, **Cape Cod Sea Camps** for sailing, or the Cape Cod Baseball League's **Brewster Whitecaps** clinic, to name a few.

DID YOU KNOW?

The phrase "Cape Cod turkey," a tongue-in-cheek name for dried salt cod, is said to have originated in Brewster. The phrase was coined to liven up the otherwise bland dish. It is still sometimes served in New England restaurants, usually garnished with hard-boiled eggs.

A LOOK BACK

The hub of Brewster once lay around Stony Brook. There, waterpower allowed for the installation of the first gristmill and later the first woolen mill, both established in the late 1600s. The fresh-water river attracted spawning alewives, or herring, from mid-April through May, and striped bass followed the herring. The **Stony Brook Grist Mill and Museum** is open for tours from June through August.

DON'T MISS

For more than 50 years, the **Cape Cod Museum of Natural History** has delighted visitors of all ages with exhibits that include an observation honeybee hive and an aquarium filled with Cape creatures like spider crabs and moon jellies. Three nature trails meander through woodland, salt marsh, or on the shore of Cape Cod Bay, and guided field walks are offered year round, as are lectures and workshops on natural history topics.

IF YOU GO

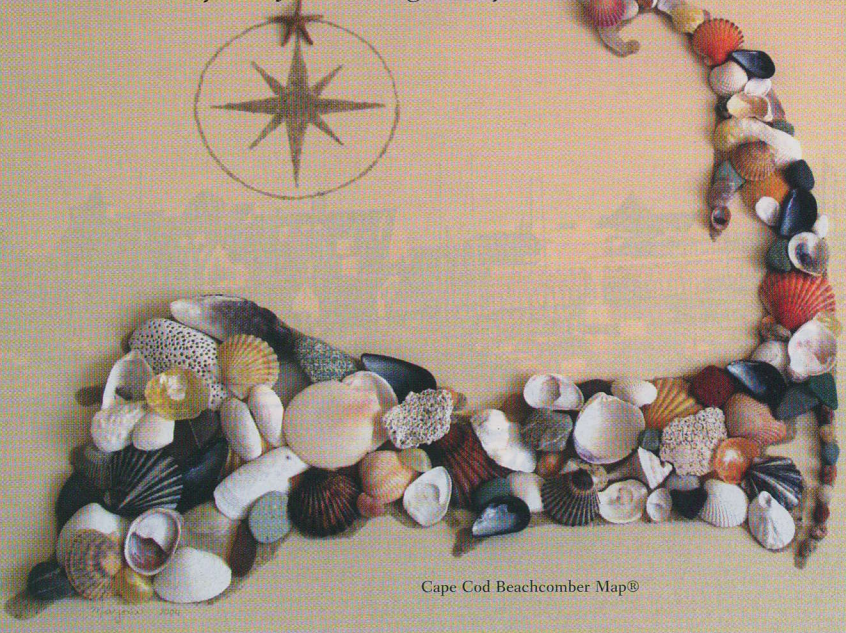
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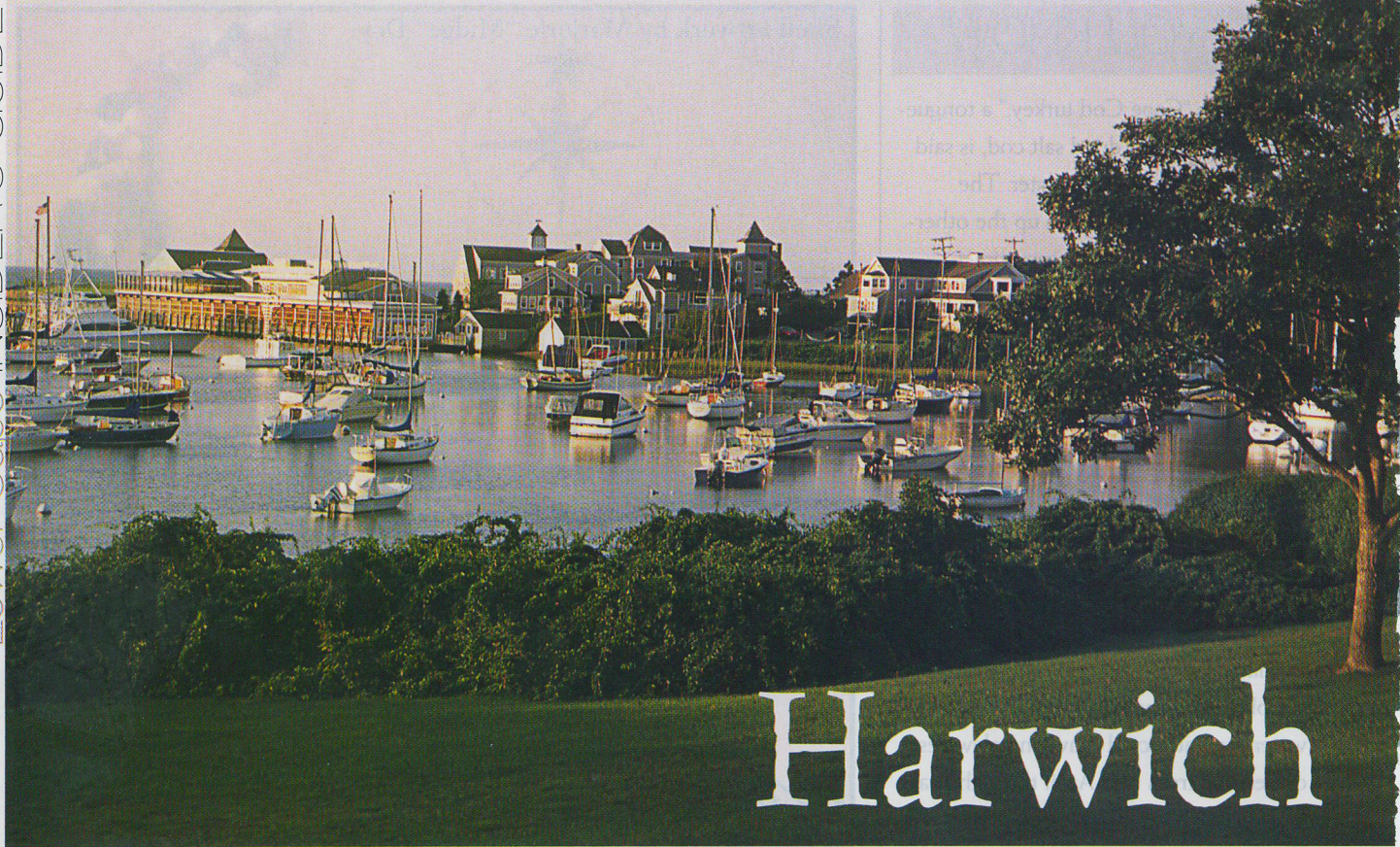
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Harwich

Wychmere Harbor

East Harwich • Harwich • Harwichport
South Harwich • West Harwich

With three picturesque harbors, the classic seaside town of Harwich is a prime spot for fishing and boating. Commercial cranberry farming got its start in Harwich, which celebrates the bright-red crop every autumn with a 10-day festival.

Our Favorite Things

★ Charter a fishing trip or a scenic cruise or sail from Wychmere, Allen, or Saquatucket Harbors—at the latter, you'll also find a ferry to Nantucket. **Pleasant Bay Community Boating** offers rowing lessons to kids and adults on Long Pond on summer weekday mornings.

★ Harwich is the proud home of September's **Cranberry Harvest Festival**, an old-fashioned carnival that has been a town tradition for more than 30 years. The juried arts and crafts show attracts award-winning talent from around the country. To see what makes the cranber-

ry worthy of such celebration, **Cape Farm and Cranberry Company** offers guided tours of a working bog and farm.

★ On the serene grounds of **Cape Cod Lavender Farm**, you'll find the farm's original "Harwich blue" plant and a fairy garden. **Cedar Spring Herb Farm** offers walking trails, classes, and hand-made herbal products. Hundreds of acres of conservation land in town boast scenic trails year round. Head to **Coy's Brook Woodlands** to stroll along the marsh, or wander among the wildflowers at **Thompson's Field**.

★ On Route 28, the sight of kids jumping at the **Trampoline Center** or making the rounds at **Bud's Go-Karts** have long been signs that summer has arrived in Harwich. Duck into **Dr. Gravity's Kite Shop** in Harwichport to find all you need for a day at the beach. Families love the **Harwich Junior Theatre**, which offers year-round productions for adults and kids. Set aside one clear day to pick out a good read at **Brooks Free Library** and spend a lazy afternoon stretched out on the grass at **Brooks Park**.

DID YOU KNOW?

While there is a Long Pond in many Cape towns, Harwich boasts the largest of them all. In fact, it is so big that private floatplanes can drop down to land on the pond.

A LOOK BACK

The 1844 Greek Revival schoolhouse that is now **Brooks Academy Museum** was once the private Pine Grove Seminary for boys and girls. Students paid up to \$4 per course to study mathematics, languages, piano, and navigation. The museum now features exhibits on cranberry farming and the railroad, as well as a collection of Elmer Crowell-carved birds and historic photographs. The museum is located in the Harwich Historic District, the first historic district on Cape Cod to be accepted into the National Register of Historic Places.

DON'T MISS

You're bound to find artists painting *en plein air* on the banks of the **Herring River**, also a favorite spot for kayakers who paddle these serene waters. In the springtime, follow the trail at **Bells Neck Conservation Lands** to catch sight of migrating alewives leaping along the fish ladder to the West Reservoir. Or wind through the woods on the **Janet DeFulvio Wildlife Sanctuary Boardwalk** to reach a spectacular view of the salt marsh along the river.

IF YOU GO

Harwich Chamber of Commerce

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Chatham

Oyster Pond

Chatham • North Chatham • South Chatham • West Chatham

Perched at the elbow of the Cape, Chatham is rich in bucolic charm. Hilly, wooded uplands roll down to ocean beaches, busy harbors, and estuaries, while salt and sweet water ponds offer quiet spots for paddling or swimming. A variety of boutiques, galleries, and restaurants populate the town's quaint Main Street.

Our Favorite Things

★ Chatham has an active year-round arts community. The **Creative Arts Center** draws a prestigious list of visiting artists for ongoing classes and workshops, and their August **Festival of the Arts** at Chase Park is a favorite summer event. On the performing arts side, **Monomoy Theatre** and **Chatham Drama Guild** stage topnotch productions, while **Chatham Chorale** and **Cape Cod Opera** showcase great local talents.

★ For outdoor activities, kayaking and digging for clams are old-but-good standbys. Take a charter fishing trip to

Monomoy Island, where spotting striped bass and bluefish in the crystal-clear waters makes for an exciting trip. The **Morris Island Trail** at Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge offers an interesting walk at any time of year. Kiteboarders head to Chatham to cruise the beach break and catch big air—if you're inspired to give it a try, lessons are available from **Monomoy Sail & Cycle**.

★ With so much fun to be had at sea, don't forget those who make a living on the water. See the commercial fleet unload their catch from the observation

deck at the **Fish Pier**. You're bound to spot harbor and gray seals nearby, keeping a watchful eye on the incoming boats.

★ There's always cause for celebration in Chatham! The **Fourth of July** parade is pure small-town charm, while **Chatham First Night** festivities commence with a costumed road race starting at the **Chatham Squire** and end with a town photo at **Chatham Lighthouse**. Summer Friday evenings are for free band concerts in **Kate Gould Park**. Bring homemade fudge from the **Chatham Candy Manor**.

DID YOU KNOW?

In May, 2007, the National Trust for Historic Preservation recognized Chatham as one of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations. Established in 1949, the Trust focuses on preserving historic buildings, neighborhoods, and surroundings.

A LOOK BACK

In 1808, President Thomas Jefferson built the Chatham Lighthouse to protect ships that circled the Cape. Jefferson thought the lighthouse was so important for American trade that he equipped it with two beacons. Frugal Cape Codders disagreed, and ultimately sent one of the lighthouses, Nauset Light, to Eastham.

DON'T MISS

The gambrel-roofed 1752 **Atwood House** was once the home of sea captain Joseph Atwood. Today it is an escape to 18th- and 19th-century Chatham life, with period furnishings and eight Chatham Historical Society museum galleries featuring everything from gowns to tools. Take a guided tour of the impeccably preserved home, then head outside to explore treasures such as a mid-20th-century Nickerson North Beach camp.

The Atwood House will hold a fascinating special exhibit, "American Antique Wicker," from Saturday, June 14 through Sunday, October 12. The exhibit will feature four dozen pieces of furniture and accessories, reflecting wicker's four distinguished styles.

IF YOU GO

Chatham Chamber of Commerce

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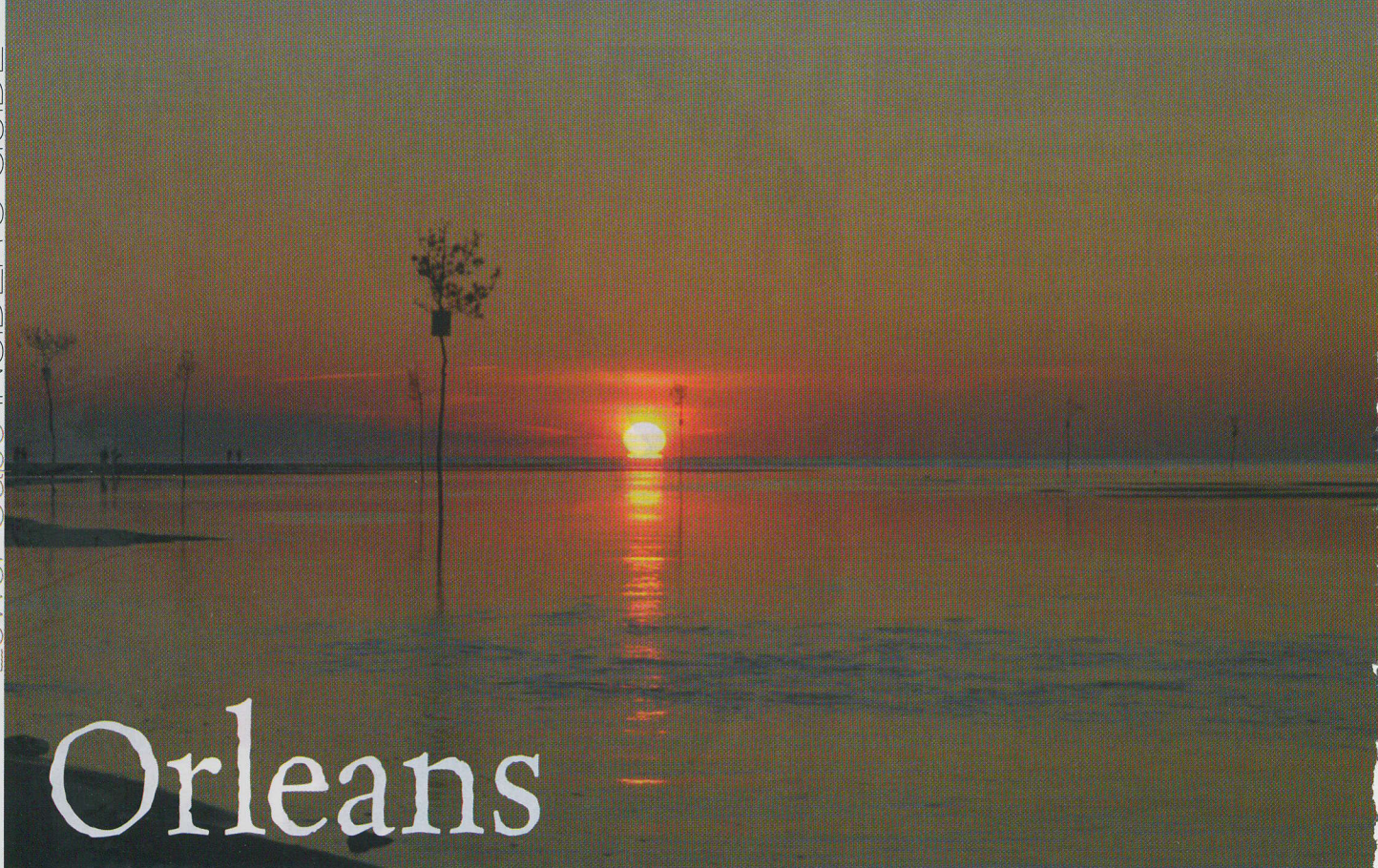
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Orleans

Rock Harbor

Orleans • East Orleans • South Orleans

Visitors to Orleans will fall in love with Nauset Beach. The offshore bars offer consistent beach break, which appeals to the burgeoning surfing community. Kayakers will enjoy the solitude of Nauset Marsh, especially in Town Cove. Rainy days are just as pleasant in Orleans, which bustles with shops, galleries, and restaurants.

Our Favorite Things

★ **Nauset Beach** is a must for surfers. For lessons or rentals, check out **Pump House Surf Shop**. If the peaceful waters of Orleans' many inlets are more your style, **Goose Hummock** sells and rents kayaks from a convenient waterside location. Afterward, enjoy dinner at **The Orleans Inn**, built in 1875 by the seafaring Snow family and the only waterfront restaurant in town. You'll overlook the water you just paddled.

★ Downtown Orleans has plenty of shopping, from handcrafted pottery sinks and onion lanterns to the 120-year-old

Snow's Home and Garden. There are many unique eateries, like the **Old Jail-house Tavern**, a former pokey. **Coast** is located in what was once the first Howard Johnson franchise, built in 1932, and **The Barley Neck Inn** is a former sea captain's home dating back to 1848. Or, simply order chowder and lobster rolls to go from **Sir Cricket's**, a local favorite and dine by **Rock Harbor** to catch the sunset.

★ With so many water views to enjoy, Orleans is a great spot for a walk or picnic. You can head to **Sea Call Farm** or

Kent's Point for picturesque trails and lookouts. Follow the self-guided trail at **Paw Wah Point** to a small beach on Pleasant Bay. In the summer, step inside the 1720s **Jonathan Young Windmill** for a guided tour.

★ Orleans Historical Society's **Meeting House Museum** features a collection of local artifacts, including ship's logs, photographs, and diaries. From 1890 to 1940, an underwater transatlantic cable connected France to a nondescript house in Orleans that is now the **French Cable Station Museum**.

JOHN MICHAEL DILIPPO

DID YOU KNOW?

Fish have always been a primary export on the Cape. But before refrigeration, how did fish stay preserved en route to faraway markets? It was preserved in salt. There were salt works located in Town Cove and Rock Harbor. Wooden labyrinths were built in the shallows. Seawater was channeled in and exposed to the hot sun. The water evaporated, leaving the salt behind.

A LOOK BACK

Thousands of shipwrecks occurred off the shoals of Orleans during the 18th and 19th centuries. Many were caused by Mooncussers. On foggy nights, Mooncussers would walk a donkey with a lantern tied to its tail along the shore to lure ships aground. Upon succeeding, they rushed out to salvage the destroyed vessels. How did the Mooncussers get their name? The full moons were so bright that no ships ran aground. Hence, they "cussed the moon."

DON'T MISS

The hot ticket in town is always for a show at the **Academy of Performing Arts Playhouse**. Located in the 1873 Old Town Hall, the theater draws a devoted following to topnotch comedies, dramas, and musicals performed with great gusto by local talents. Fledgling artists and seasoned performers come together for year-round classes in drama, dance, and music offered upstairs in the Academy of Performing Arts School.

IF YOU GO

Orleans Chamber of Commerce

508-255-1386

www.capecod-orleans.com

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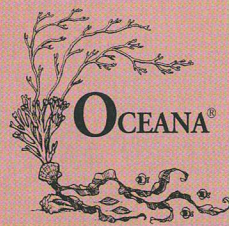
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JOANNE PEARSON





Eastham

National Seashore Salt Pond

The "Gateway to the National Seashore," Eastham inspired naturalist Henry Beston to write *The Outermost House* in 1928 after he spent a year on its coast. History buffs will enjoy exploring a number of sites of interest throughout town, but many visitors find it hard to venture far from Eastham's spectacular beaches.

Our Favorite Things

✧ On Route 6, the **Salt Pond Visitor Center** is your guide to the 45,000-acre Cape Cod National Seashore. Eastham's stretch of the National Seashore includes some of the Cape's most photographed wetlands and beaches, including **Nauset Light Beach** and **Coast Guard Beach**. In 1620, Myles Standish met the Nauset Indians on the shores of **First Encounter Beach**.

✧ **Nauset Marsh** is a popular spot for gunkholing in a skiff, day-sailer, or kayak. Tours of **Nauset Light** are offered from May through October. Nearby, you

can view the **Three Sisters Lighthouses**, a trio of wooden lighthouses moved from their original locations and set in the woods. By Fort Hill, step through the whale jawbone gate of the 1868 **Captain Penniman House**, which is often open for guided tours.

✧ The Eastham Historical Society oversees many interesting sights, including the **Old Cove Burying Ground**, which contains the remains of three Mayflower Pilgrims. You can also tour the furnished 1741 **Swift-Daley House** and tool museum, or get a comprehen-

sive lesson in Eastham history at the **Old Schoolhouse Museum**. The town fills the green of the **Eastham Windmill** every September for **Windmill Weekend**—annual festivities include a fish fry and talent show.

✧ If your favorite pastime is hunting for antiques and curios, head to **Collector's World** on Route 6, or spend an afternoon admiring the **Eastham Painters Guild** outdoor gallery. For kids, a round of mini golf at **Poit's Lighthouse** (followed by ice cream of course) has made for a fun evening since the 1950s.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can find the original fish-shaped "Bassachusetts" bumper sticker at Black-beard's Bait and Tackle in Eastham. Black-beard's copyrighted the slogan in tribute to the Bay State's lure—more anglers come here to catch striped bass than any other state on the Eastern seaboard.

A LOOK BACK

Eastham was originally inhabited by Nauset Indians. In 1644, a group of Pilgrims sent a seven-man group to search for a new center for their emerging government. Despite the group's glowing review, the Colony's Elders decided to remain in Plymouth. The seven, however, promptly packed up their families and belongings and moved to Eastham, founding the town in 1651.

DON'T MISS

The sweet, delicate taste of the Eastham turnip is worthy of celebration, but the annual November **Eastham Turnip Festival** is not just any celebration. This down-home afternoon at the Eastham Elks Club is pure, wacky fun. A turnip recipe contest inspires some unusual entries, while other festivities include a Mr. Turnip Head decorating contest, sing-along of turnip songs, and exuberant talent show acts such as Betty Latham's Turnip Tappers. Before the Turnip Queen is crowned, you're sure to be a devotee of this humble vegetable.

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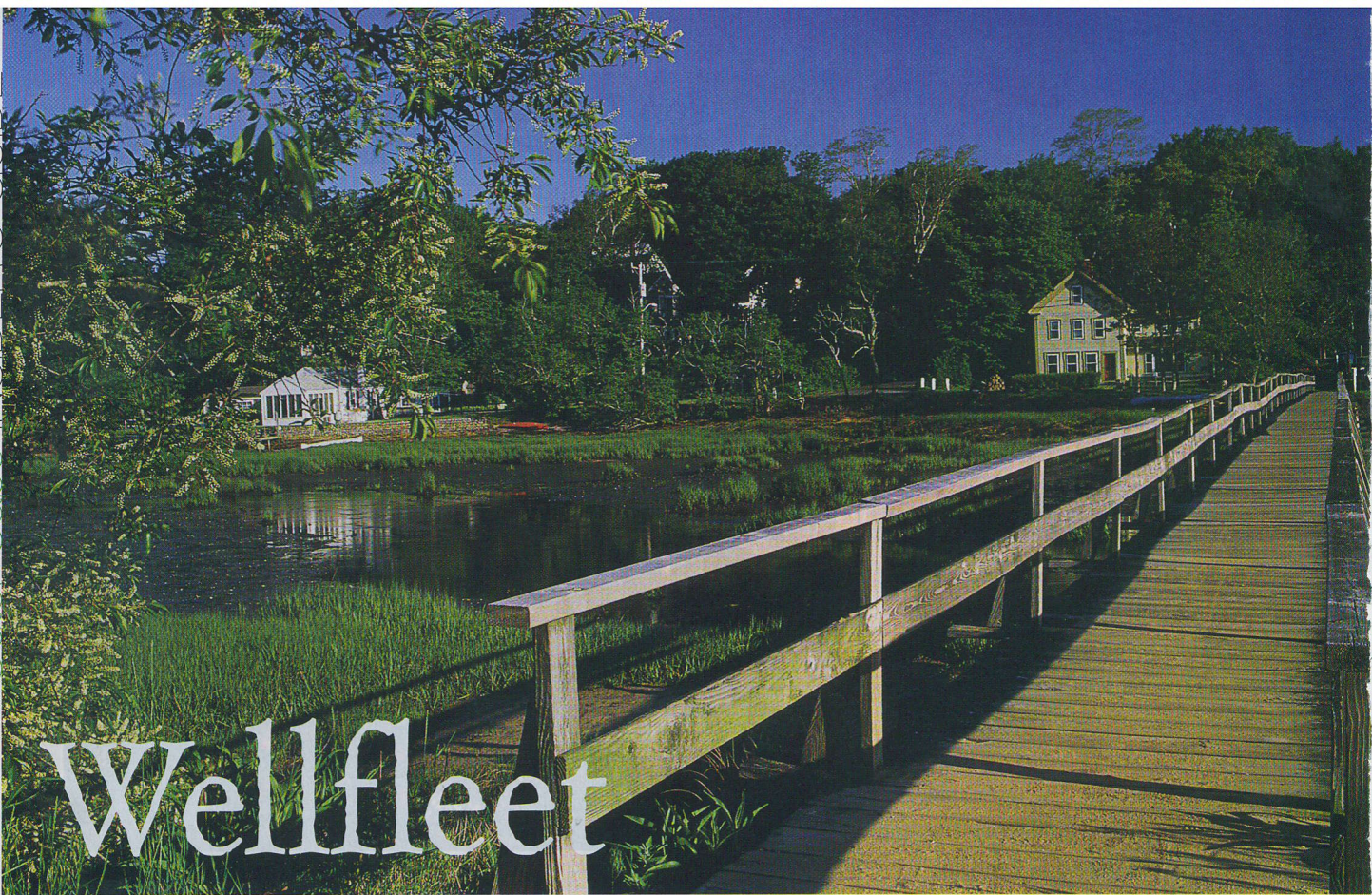


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Uncle Tim's Bridge

The town clock chimes ship's time in this water town, where oysters reign supreme and surfers flock to the ocean beaches. Wellfleet abounds with art galleries, a testament to the community's independent spirit. From summer square dances on the pier to the Cape's only drive-in movie theater, a cheeky sense of fun (and undeniable beauty) makes Wellfleet hard to beat.

Our Favorite Things

★ Where can you find teak steamer chairs, hand-thrown pottery bowls, homemade Rose Hip jam, and tickets for a harborside theater production? In downtown Wellfleet, of course. Unique boutiques, galleries, and eateries line Main Street and are also tucked away on residential side streets. The **Wellfleet Public Library**, housed in a former candle factory, hosts an impressive roster of guest speakers in the summer.

★ Join the surf fishermen at **Newcomb**

Hollow, revelers at **Cahoon Hollow** (home of the famous waterfront **Beachcomber** restaurant), surfers and paragliders at **Whitecrest**, or families at **Lecounts Hollow**—each beach has its own charm. If you've had enough of the surf, head over to the bay and walk along the **Great Island** beach to Jeremy Point. On your way you'll see kayakers paddling around the Gut and day sailors shipping out of the **Chequessett Yacht and Country Club**. Don't forget to catch a sunset at **Duck Harbor**, **Great Beach Hill** or **Little**

Beach Hill. For views of another kind, take in the panorama of the town as you cross **Uncle Tim's Bridge** spanning Duck Creek.

★ **Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater**, known as WHAT, offers topnotch productions on its new Julie Harris Stage (shows also continue to play in the original theater by the harbor). Square dances on the Town Pier are a sign of summer in Wellfleet, as are the movies lighting up the night sky at the **Wellfleet Drive-In**.

DID YOU KNOW?

All those buoys along Mayo Beach are original King George III shellfish grants. Different shaped and colored buoys identify the owners' slice of turf and have mostly been passed down from generation to generation. And Mayo Beach was selected recently by online travel service Trip Advisor as one of the top 10 Family-Friendly Beaches in the country.

A LOOK BACK

Wellfleet features a real-live version of "Pirates of the Carribean". In April 1717, Cap'n Sam Bellamy's *Whydah* sank with 143 pirates on board. Not to worry, Barry Clifford discovered the wreck off of Marconi Beach and found pirate gold, cutlasses, and cannons on board.

DON'T MISS

The **8th Annual Wellfleet OysterFest**, October 18-19, 2008, is a two-day celebration of the town's famous oysters and its deep-rooted shellfishing traditions. Wellfleet's town center comes alive for this street party that brings together locals and visitors alike for a weekend full of food, art, music, fun, and games. Be there for the OysterFest Shuck-Off and you might get a glimpse of Wellfleet's own William "Chopper" Young, who won last year's national oyster-shucking competition in Maryland by opening 24 oysters in 2:02 minutes.

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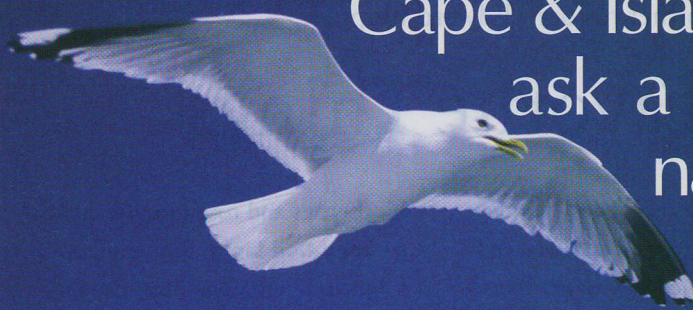
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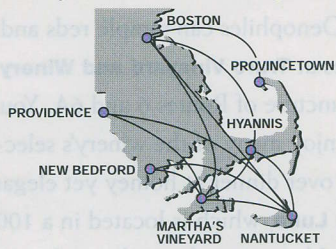
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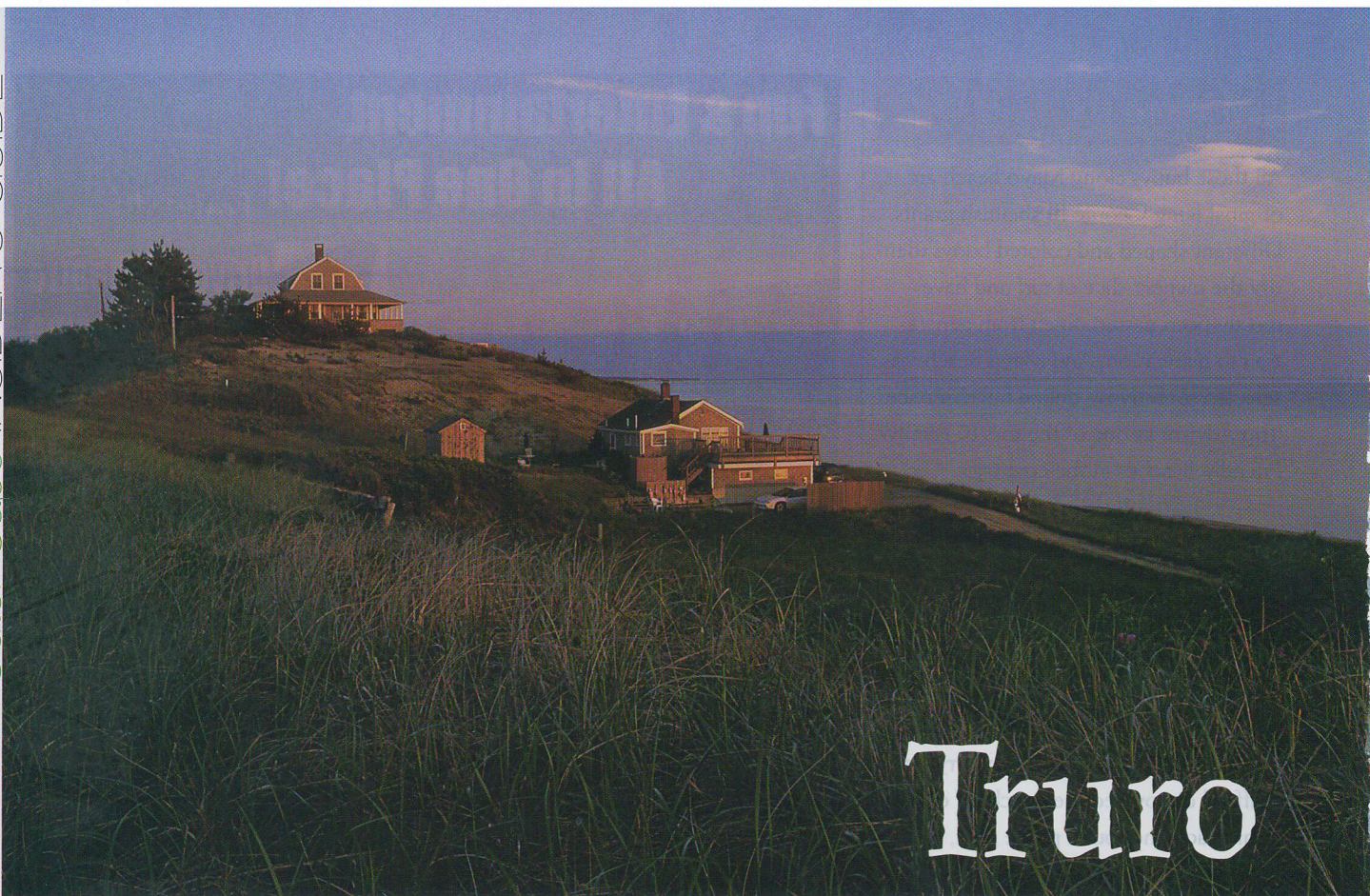


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Truro

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Truro • North Truro • South Truro

A drive around Truro gives one the feeling of being in the Scottish Highlands, surrounded by heathers and moors. One of the Cape's most picturesque towns, Truro is also home to some of the Cape's best beaches. No wonder artists and writers have long been inspired by the town, which is immortalized in the works of painter and former resident Edward Hopper.

Our Favorite Things

★ Truro's diverse beaches include **High Head** (you'll need an Oversand Permit or lots of energy to get there); the sweeping **Head of the Meadow** complete with a wreck of the whale-boat *Frances* at the eastern end; intimate **Coast Guard Beach** (not to be confused with the one in Eastham); scenic **Ballston Beach**, adjacent to the Pamet River; and **Longnook's** stunning off-shore bars and beach break.

★ Take a ride down the bike trail from Head of the Meadow to High Head and enjoy the natural beauty of

blueberries and rose hips. At dusk, stroll to **Cape Cod Light**, formerly known as Highland Light. Kayakers can enjoy a sortie in the bayside's **Pamet River**. Or soak up the scenery during a round of golf at **Highland Links**.

★ Oenophiles can sample reds and whites at **Truro Vineyard and Winery** at the juncture of Routes 6 and 6A. You can enjoy many of the winery's selections over dinner at homey yet elegant **Terra Luna**, which is located in a 100-year-old structure formerly used as a community kitchen.

★ **Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill** is a hub of activity, with arts and crafts workshops, readings, exhibits, and performances. Atop the cliffs at the Highlands Center campus, **Payment Performing Arts Center** stages seasonal productions, as well as offers children's drama classes and educational programs. Hundreds turn out every September for **Truro Treasures Weekend**, a fun annual festival that includes a fishing contest and dog show and concludes with a Dump Dance, held—you guessed it—at the town transfer station.

DID YOU KNOW?

The cottages along Route 6A through Beach Point were filled to capacity from the 1940s-1980s. The small efficiency units sit right on the bayside beach. Many have been converted to condominiums. The **Days' Cottages** are fully booked with many of the same families returning year after year. Each cottage is named after a flower. They are among the most photographed structures on Cape Cod.

A LOOK BACK

Visit **Corn Hill** beach, where the Pilgrims found a cache of corn to help them through their first winter, **Pilgrim Pond**, where they found fresh water, or **Pilgrim Spring**, along the bike trail, where they allegedly took their first drink in the New World.

DON'T MISS

If cooking is your passion, don't miss the mind-boggling assortment of herbs, spices, teas, nuts, seeds, and more—all at wholesale prices—at the **Atlantic Spice Company** (800-316-7965; www.atlantic-spicecompany.com). Plus, on the retail side, you can stock up on books on herbs and spices, dried fruits, and craft items. While you're in the neighborhood, drop by **Retro Truro** (508-349-2303; www.retrotruro.com) for handmade and hand-painted traditional Jobi Pottery. The story behind these one-of-a-kind pieces is fascinating.

IF YOU GO

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www.trurochamberofcommerce.com

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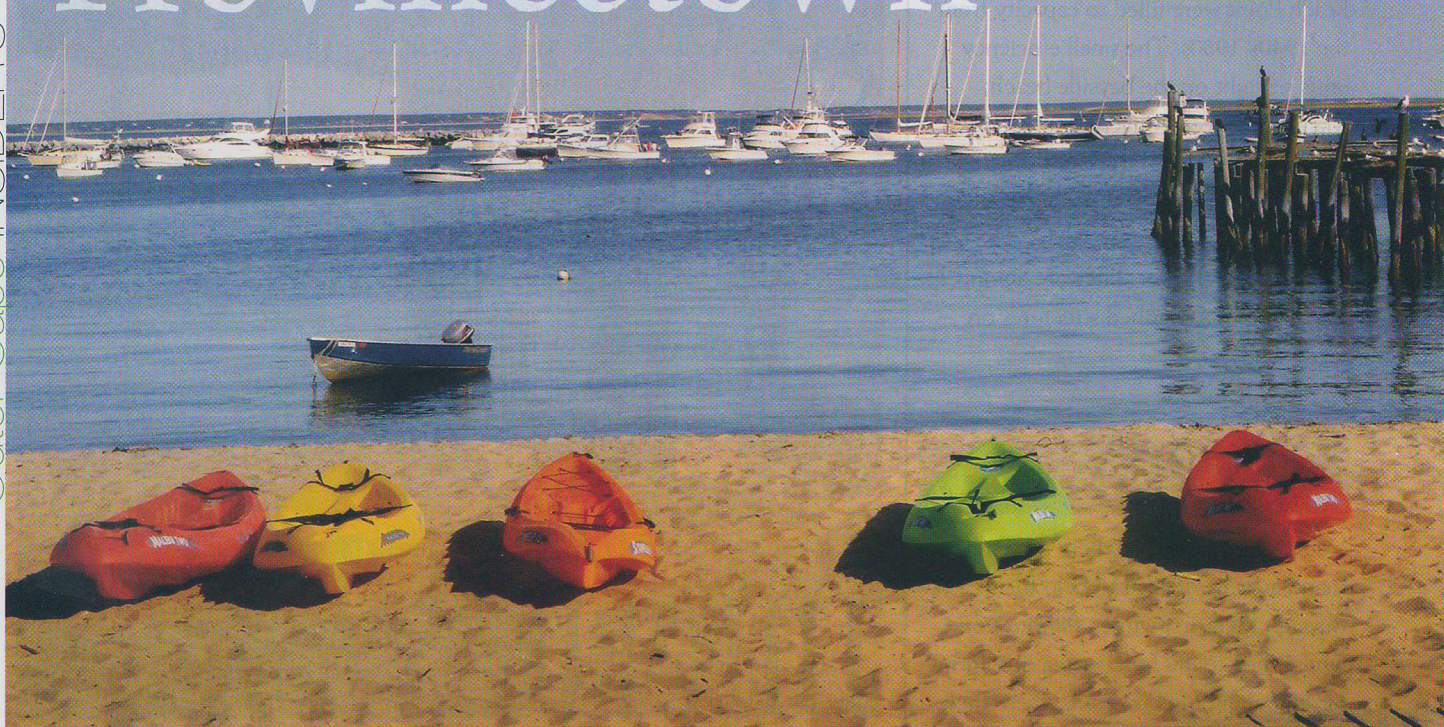
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Provincetown



Provincetown Bay

Provincetown is the Cape's outermost point. All coastal towns sharing that claim to fame (think Key West, Baja, Montauk, Hatteras) have a distinct separate-from-the-world feeling. Like those other places, Provincetown has a history rooted in outlaws and castaways. A little of that renegade spirit lives on today, with an array of lifestyles contributing to the town's distinct character.

Our Favorite Things

★ Provincetown's energy flows, particularly along its main artery, **Commercial Street**. Shop for clothing, knickknacks, art, home décor, and much more at **Whaler's Wharf** and the **Aquarium Mall** next door.

★ The food scene is a wonderland, with everything from light snacks to heavenly baked goods and sophisticated restaurants. A meal at the **Lobster Pot**, in the heart of downtown, is a tradition for many. The **Provincetown Portuguese Bakery** is known for its authentic sweet treats and fried dough.

★ Outdoor activities run the gamut. Try fishing at **Herring Cove** or **Race Point**, ride a bike on National Seashore trails, or learn about the coastal history at the **Province Lands Visitor Center**. For the adventurer, four-wheel drive dune tours still operate through **Art's Dune Tours**. Whales, once harvested for oil, today are natural attractions, through the **Dolphin Fleet** whale-watching cruises.

★ The town's long-standing fishing and whaling heritage, with strong Portuguese ties, still forms much of its identity. Walk down **MacMillan Wharf** and

see fleets of draggers and trawlers, day-charter boats, and flat-bottomed clamming skiffs.

★ Provincetown is the home of America's oldest arts colony, the **Provincetown Art Association**, formed in 1914. The **Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum** and dozens of galleries and shops offer superb art. The **New Art Cinema** and the annual **Provincetown International Film Festival** offer noncommercial movies. Live theatre ranges from the classic **Provincetown Theater** to offbeat comedy at the **Crown & Anchor**.

DID YOU KNOW?

The absolute end of Cape Cod is accessible by foot. Pack a picnic, drive to the rotary at the west end of Commercial Street, and walk across the breakwall. You can spend the day swimming and sunning by the Wood End Lighthouse, then walk the hundred or so yards to the point.

A LOOK BACK

With the advent of the railway and ferry system from the mainland, artists flocked to Provincetown in the 19th century. Charles Hawthorne founded the Cape Cod School of Art in 1899 and ran it until his premature death in 1930.

DON'T MISS

Beautiful gardens take on a special luster when they are planted by the sea. Against a backdrop of the ever-changing ocean, flowers, ferns, and other flora are particularly pleasing. Provincetown offers one of the most special chances on Cape Cod to view lovely gardens, the **Secret Garden Tour**, sponsored by the Provincetown Art Association and Museum. You'll tour a variety of gardens, many of them tucked in out-of-the-way places. The element of surprise makes them all the more enticing. The 11th Annual Secret Garden Tour will be held Sunday, July 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information: 508-487-1750; www.paam.org.

IF YOU GO

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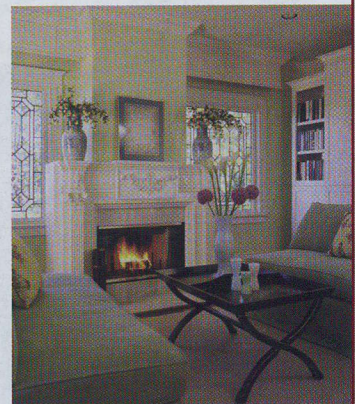
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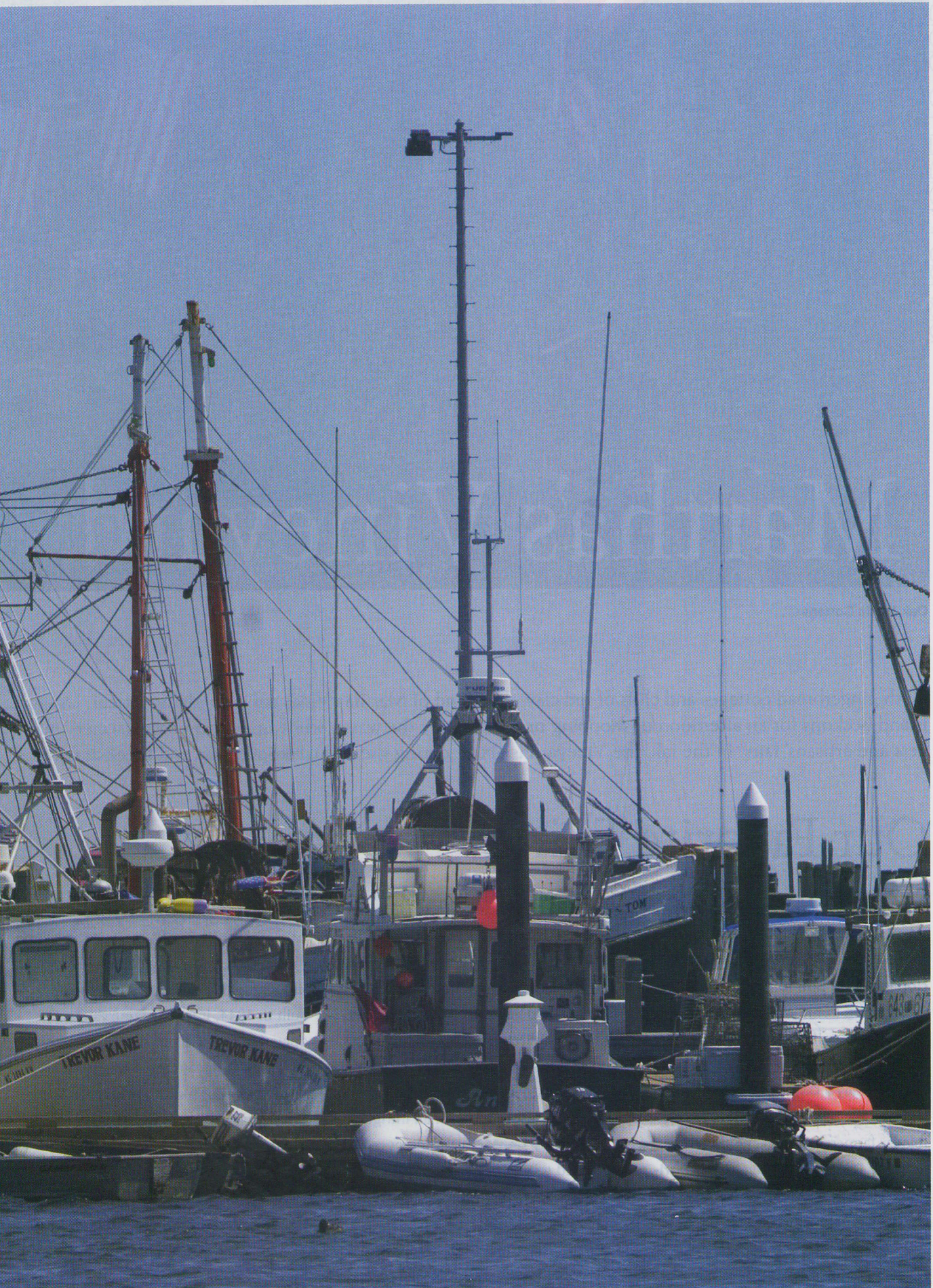


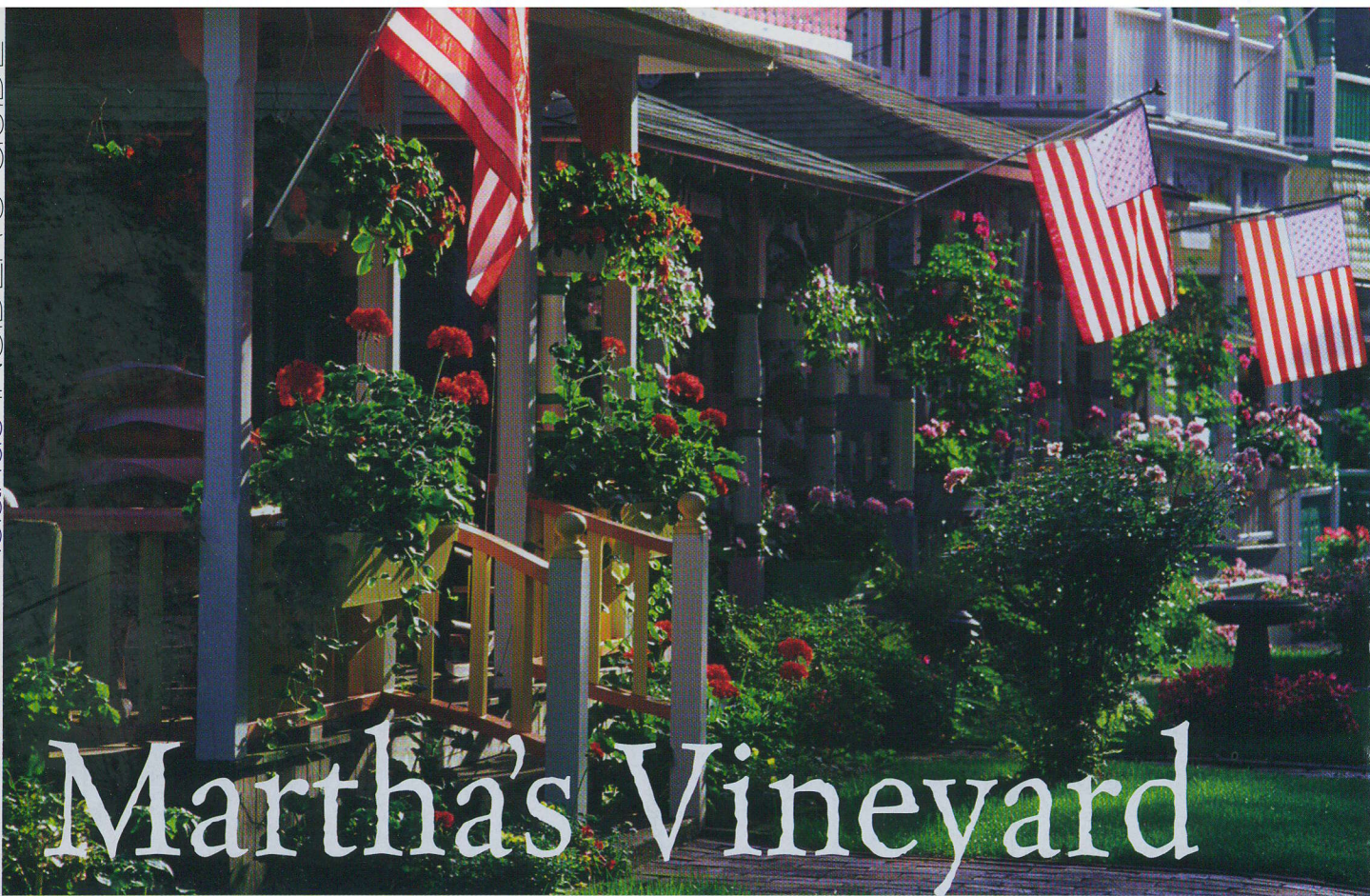
Outer Cape

Provincetown Marina



TERRY POMMETT





Oak Bluffs Cottages

With gingerbread cottages and cliffs of red clay, the island of Martha's Vineyard is an idyllic retreat. Down-island beckons for an afternoon of shopping or cocktails by the water, while up-island boasts farmers' markets and artisans' fairs. In the fall, the Vineyard is abuzz during the annual striped bass and bluefish derby.

Our Favorite Things

✧ From the **Clay Cliffs of Aquinnah**, follow Lighthouse Road to **Menemsha Harbor**, well-known for its sunsets, then stop in at **The Bite** for a plate of fried clams. **Long Point Wildlife Refuge** in West Tisbury offers trails to a quiet strip of **South Beach**. While you're in town, head to **Alley's General Store**, a local favorite since 1858. **Grange Hall** hosts regular farmers' markets and the **Vineyard Artisans Festivals**. In August, the **Agricultural Society Livestock Show & Fair** at Agricultural Hall is a must.

✧ You can explore much of Edgar-

town, Oak Bluffs, and Vineyard Haven via the island's numerous bike paths. In Edgartown, **Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary** will particularly delight birdwatchers. Quaint Main Street is home to the **Old Whaling Church** as well as the popular annual **Fourth of July** parade and **Christmas Stroll**. **Martha's Vineyard Museum** brings the past to life with an intriguing **Oral History Center**, featuring over 250 recorded testimonies from island elders. Families and nature lovers will love **Katama FARM Institute**, which features a corn maze among its offerings. Head over to Chappaquiddick to find **Mytoi**, a

Japanese garden paradise.

✧ In Oak Bluffs, reach for the brass ring on the **Flying Horses Carousel**. Built in 1844, it is the country's oldest operating carousel and a national historic landmark. You can take a summer sunset tour of another historic landmark, **East Chop Lighthouse**, to enjoy views all the way to Chappaquiddick. Vineyard Haven bustles with shops and eateries, including the famous **Black Dog Tavern** by the harbor. Don't miss a night of live theater at the year-round **Vineyard Playhouse**.

DID YOU KNOW?

The incredible **Polly Hill Arboretum** was the vision of the late horticulturist Polly Hill, who cultivated nearly 2,000 rare and native plants on the farmland, over 100 of which she developed herself, including the brilliant North Tisbury Azalea. Her plants are now grown in gardens across the country. The arboretum is open year-round for research, public lectures, and blissful walks.

A LOOK BACK

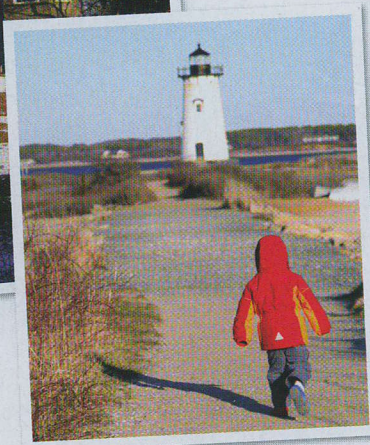
In the mid-19th century, one quarter of Squibnocket village was born hearing impaired, a mystery that has never been explained. Deafness was so common that the entire town of Chilmark, both hearing and hearing-impaired residents, communicated in sign language. Eventually, the island developed its own Martha's Vineyard Sign Language, which even included signs for the names of Vineyarders.

DON'T MISS

A trip to the Vineyard wouldn't be complete without visiting the Trinity Park Tabernacle in Wesleyan Grove, where gingerbread cottages in fanciful colors form a neighborhood straight from a storybook. On the third Wednesday of August (this year it is August 20), hundreds of paper lanterns glow from their porches during **Illumination Night**. The effect is magical.

IF YOU GO

Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce
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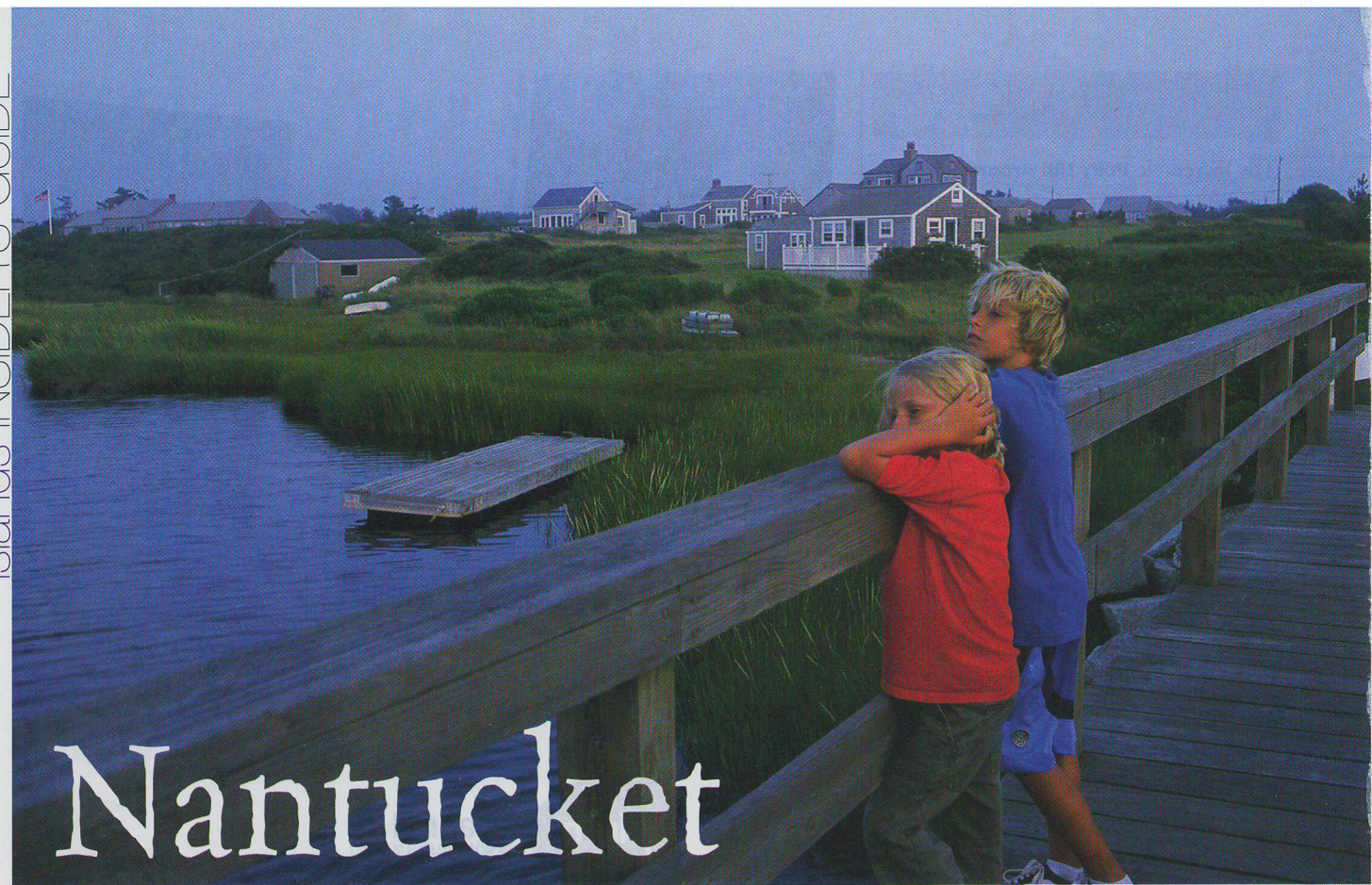
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Nantucket

Bridge over Hither Creek, Madaket

Cobblestone lanes, rose-covered cottages, and old sea captains' homes are as picturesque as the beaches in this former whaling port. Whether you come for a peaceful getaway or to soak up the rich history and culture, Nantucket never disappoints. No wonder so many toss their pennies into the waters by Brant Point Lighthouse—legend has it that doing so guarantees your return.

Our Favorite Things

✧ Start at the **Whaling Museum** on Broad Street, where a 47-foot sperm whale skeleton looms overhead as you explore artifacts and tools from the island's whaling days. Pick up the **Nantucket Historical Association's** self-guided walking tour map, which includes sites such as the **Old Gaol** prison and Greek Revival **Hadwen House**.

✧ The **Maria Mitchell Science Center** pays tribute to 19th-century Nantucket astronomer (and longtime **Atheneum** librarian) Mitchell, who was the first woman to discover a comet. You can

choose from a number of year-round lectures and guided walks—the affiliated **Loines Observatory** and **Aquarium** also offer a variety of programs for families.

✧ Head to **Coskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge** to take in the breathtaking landscape of dunes, woodland, red cedar savanna, and salt marsh leading to **Great Point Lighthouse**. Guided trips of Great Point are also available from the Trustees of Reservations. **Sanford Farm** is another favorite for walking trails. Follow the three-mile Barn Trail for views of the coastline or take the 6.5-mile loop to the

ocean past heathlands and forest.

✧ A number of celebrations make Nantucket an irresistible year-round destination. Over three million daffodils create a springtime paradise during April's **Daffodil Days**, while May brings the **Nantucket Wine Festival** and prestigious fun-filled **Figawi** sailboat race. June's popular **Nantucket Film Festival** draws talent from around the world, and the annual **Fourth of July** and **Christmas Stroll** festivities are a slice of America you won't want to miss.

DID YOU KNOW?

The landmark 157-year-old Sankaty Head Lighthouse was moved last fall from its original perch on a bluff 75 feet from the ocean to a new spot 270 feet away. The bluff loses an average of three feet of land each year due to erosion. It took nine days to move the 450-ton, 70-foot tall structure about 405 feet and cost about \$4 million, funds that were raised by the community.

A LOOK BACK

Broadway's top talents created a summer theatre at Siasconset Casino in the early 1900s. Named after the Italian *casina*, meaning "little house," the club opened in 1900 and hosted dances, tennis, and other social activities along with the theatrical shows. Today, the not-for-profit, private social club boasts 11 courts and remains a favorite island gathering spot.

DON'T MISS

See the work of local artists on display at the **Artists Association of Nantucket** or catch a show at the year-round **Theatre Workshop**. Shoppers will enjoy strolling the boutiques that line Main Street. From the simple to the sublime, there are so many outstanding eateries on Nantucket, you could spend an enchanted vacation just sampling the many offerings.

IF YOU GO

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