

August 2024

Time flies by.... this year marks 122 years since the Village Improvement Society of Dennis was established and chartered "for the purpose of improving and ornamenting the streets and grounds of the village of Dennis". With your help we continue this mission.

Dear friends and neighbors,

*...And over one more set of hills,
along the sea,
the last roses have opened their factories of sweetness
and are giving it back to the world.*

*If I had another life
I would want to spend it all on some
unstinting happiness.*

*I would be a fox, or a tree
full of waving branches.
I wouldn't mind being a rose
in a field full of roses.*

*"Roses, Late Summer"
Mary Oliver 1935-2019*



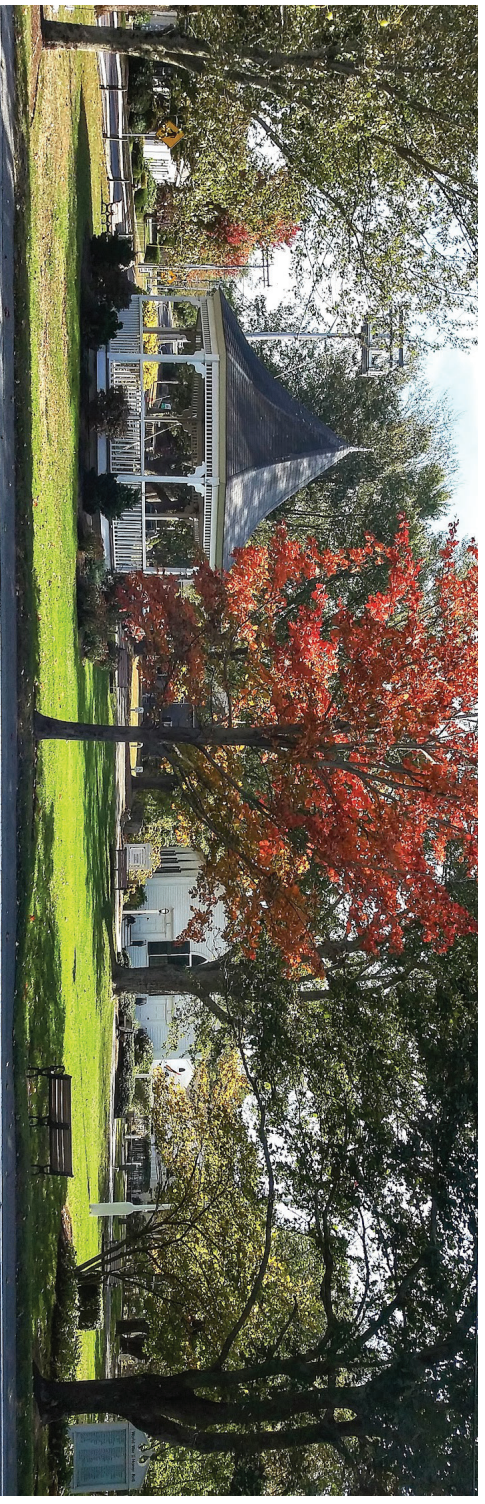
Perhaps you have noticed this letter is arriving in your mailbox a couple of months later than usual. For the past 6 months VIS has partnered with the Dennis Citizens for Responsible Development and the Preserve the Charm Committee to raise \$1.5M for the purchase of a treed lot on 6A in the heart of the village, across from the Village Green, saving it from dense development and preserving the natural habitat. Although we have fallen a bit short of our goal, negotiations with the developers are underway and we hope to announce good news soon!

This mailing is our annual appeal for donations which are needed to care for our properties. If you are wondering which properties we own, they include the Dennis Village Green and Bandstand at the corner of Route 6A and Old Bass River Road, the Military Training Field along 6A in front of the Burying Ground, and the Playground at the corner of New Boston Road and Nobsusset Road. We maintain Nobsusset Park, Nobsusset parking lot, the William O. King Memorial - all owned by the Town; additionally we organize the summer band concert series.

Our landscaping and maintenance bills are high and we accomplish all of it thanks to your donations and to the many dedicated volunteers who plant, water new trees, weed, repair, and volunteer at the summer concerts. Major expenses this past year were the replacement of the bandstand roof, 3 new juniper trees planted at the park, the replacement of the WW II Memorial sign, and the planting of hundreds of ground cover plants in the parking lot.

VIS is doing our part to help the pollinators by leaving leaf litter until later in the spring (a food source and nursery for many beneficial insects) and mowing high enough to leave clover and other blooms intact. Mowing higher requires less irrigation and clover is natural fertilizer.

We hope you appreciate what we do and will help us with a donation!
We are a 501(c)3 Non-Profit organization.



**Join Us in a Standing Ovation
for Carole Bell!**

For more than 50 years (51 to be exact) Carole has been president of the Village Improvement Society of Dennis! It all began in 1972 with a starting budget of only \$100 and the encouragement of VIS officers, Carole agreed to spearhead the effort to construct a playground on what was known as the Mill Lot, at the corner of Nobscussett and New Boston Roads. The Town of Dennis Recreation Committee chipped in \$300. Then the hard work of raising the money began with bake sales, yard sales and soliciting donations from local businesses. At the Society's next Annual Meeting a secret ballot was conducted and Carole was elected President. Under Carole's leadership there have been many accomplishments which include the replacement of the original Christmas crèche which was destroyed in a fire, securing town grants to restore Carleton Hall, erecting a bandstand on the Green and holding summer concerts, spearheading the effort to establish Nobscussett Park, plus much more... while always keeping the beautification of the Village at the forefront.

Carole, we salute you and shower you with our heartfelt thanks!



Summer Band Concerts

Did you take your lawn chairs to the Green and enjoy our 2024 Summer Concert series?

This year we were happy to welcome some new concert volunteers who "passed the hat" to help pay for the bands. Plan to join us next year too!

One concert was sponsored in part by a grant from the Dennis Cultural Council which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



We invite you to visit our website:

VillageImprovementSocietyofDennisMA.com

to find even more information about our properties.

- In Memorium -

With sadness we acknowledge the passing of Peter McDowell who in the 1980's was Clerk of the Works for the playground renovation, was on our Executive Board, and served as Vice President.

**The
Village Improvement Society
of Dennis**

- OFFICERS -

Carole W. Bell
President

Kate Byron
Vice President

Bill Creighton
Vice President

Kathy Tomasetti
Secretary

Judy November
Treasurer

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -

Cliff Adams
Bandstand and Crèche Chair

Jan Adams
Corresponding Secretary

Bill Collins Bonnie Hempel

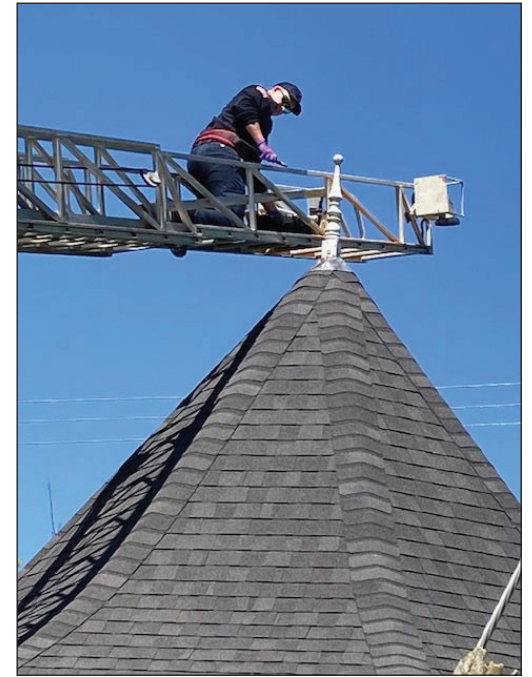
Diane Collins Jeni Landers

David Kaplan Gerry May, Jr.

Beth Keyes Brad Tomasetti

- HONORARY MEMBERS -

Pat Hassett Paul Prue



Dennis Fireman from Station 2 putting final touches on the bandstand finial

*The
Village Improvement Society
of Dennis*

Est. 1902

P.O. Box 779
Dennis, MA 02638



www.VillageImprovementSocietyofDennisMA.com

*The Village Improvement Society
is a 501c(3) non-profit.*



**We acknowledge and appreciate the support
and in-kind donations from:**

Acorn Landscaping · Pessini Landscaping
E. Lambton Landscaping · Johnson Tree Farm
Fairway Tree and Lawn · Hart Farm
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