

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
THE NANTUCKET
INDEPENDENT, LLC
15 N. BEACH ST.
NANTUCKET, MA
02554
POSTAL PATRON

THE NANTUCKET Independent

THE ISLAND'S LOCALLY OWNED WEEKLY SOURCE FOR NEWS, BUSINESS AND THE ARTS

Volume 5, Number 4 • Nantucket, MA 02554

July 25, 2007 • Free • www.acknews.com

Special Town Meeting begins tomorrow

By MARY LANCASTER
INDEPENDENT WRITER

This is the time of year when people want to spend as many hours as possible outside after work, but officials are hoping residents will set aside their grille mitts and fishing poles for one evening to attend tomorrow

night's Special Town Meeting with a three-article warrant.

Because two of the articles deal with appropriations, and appropriations may not be made at Special Town Meeting without a quorum of five percent of registered voters, the session requires 405 voters to succeed. If that occurs — if being the key word —

it is possible the meeting will be over in a single night.

"I have no idea if we have a good chance to get [a summer] quorum," said Moderator Sarah Alger, recalling the July 22, 2002 Special Town Meeting when, even though Town Clerk Catherine

♦
STM Coverage
continues on page 18
Vote YES. Vote NO
page 8
♦



Town Moderator Sarah Alger will preside over Thursday evening's Special Town Meeting in the Nantucket High School Auditorium. It begins at 7 p.m.

Stover hosted a pre-meeting cook-out, people still had to be rounded

See STM, page 19



CIRCUS FLORA

This weekend's performers stress craftsmanship and artistry over spectacle.

PAGE 33



COOF CAFE

Marli gets reel with Andrew, and lands one for herself.

PAGE 10

INSIDE three sections

- 2 Environment
- 3 Conservation
- 4 Court Report
- 5 Environment
- 6 Opinion
- 9 My View
- 16 Business
- 24 I on Selectmen
- 25 Etcetera
- 26 Field Notes
- 28 Lighthouse Keeper
- 29 Yack On
- 30 Amelia Drive
- 33 The Arts
- 38 Your Wine
- 39 Old South Wharf
- 40 Just For Kids
- 43 Pet Tracks
- 44 Identify This
- 48 Calendar
- 50 Gallery Guide
- 52 Arts Record
- 53 Kids Picks
- 55 Crossword
- 56 Sports
- 61 Marketplace
- 62 Classifieds
- 64 Weather Report

QUOTABLE

"Scientists announced today that they have discovered a cure for apathy. However, they claim no one has shown the slightest interest in it"

~ George Carlin

ARTICLE 1

Voters at tomorrow night's special Town Meeting will be asked to vote pro or con on making the Dreamland their own.

The question before voters is: Should the town try to take the Dreamland Theater from present owner Haim Zahavi so Nantucket can get its largest movie theater back (along with space for a community performing arts center) or should that task be trusted to a private entity?

See ARTICLE 1, page 19

ARTICLE 2

The replacement of the intersection of Hooper Farm Road, Pleasant Street and Sparks Avenue with a roundabout did not happen overnight. It required an intricate dance of town protocols and voter approvals that gave Nantucket, many believe, a smoother-flowing traffic junction.

Setting the stage were the easements the town secured from property owners for the rights of way needed to build the round-

See ARTICLE 2, page 20

ARTICLE 3

This proposal would move shuttle buses onto the former Island Spirits property across from Force Five and open up about 10 citizen parking spots on Washington Street where the buses park now. The selling price is \$3.5 million, compared to the assessed value of \$3.8 million, and most of the purchase sum would be covered through the sale of town-owned Surfside property to the Land Bank. The Finance Committee recently voted

See ARTICLE 3, page 18

Ulmer ends quest to buy the Dreamland

By PETER B. BRACE
INDEPENDENT WRITER

Last Friday afternoon, Rose & Crown and Food for Here and There owner Rick Ulmer announced that he is no longer trying to buy the Dreamland.

Citing the prohibitively high purchase and renovation costs for securing and rebuilding the 177-year-old theater at 17 South Water

St., Ulmer said he could not get more than two committed investors to help him buy the property.

"Just the price is too high when you look at the purchase cost and all the numbers I got to renovate it, you're going to throw the

See ULMER, page 7

WHO IS MR. ZEE?
PAGE 12

42-acres on Cliff Road to be subdivided, developed

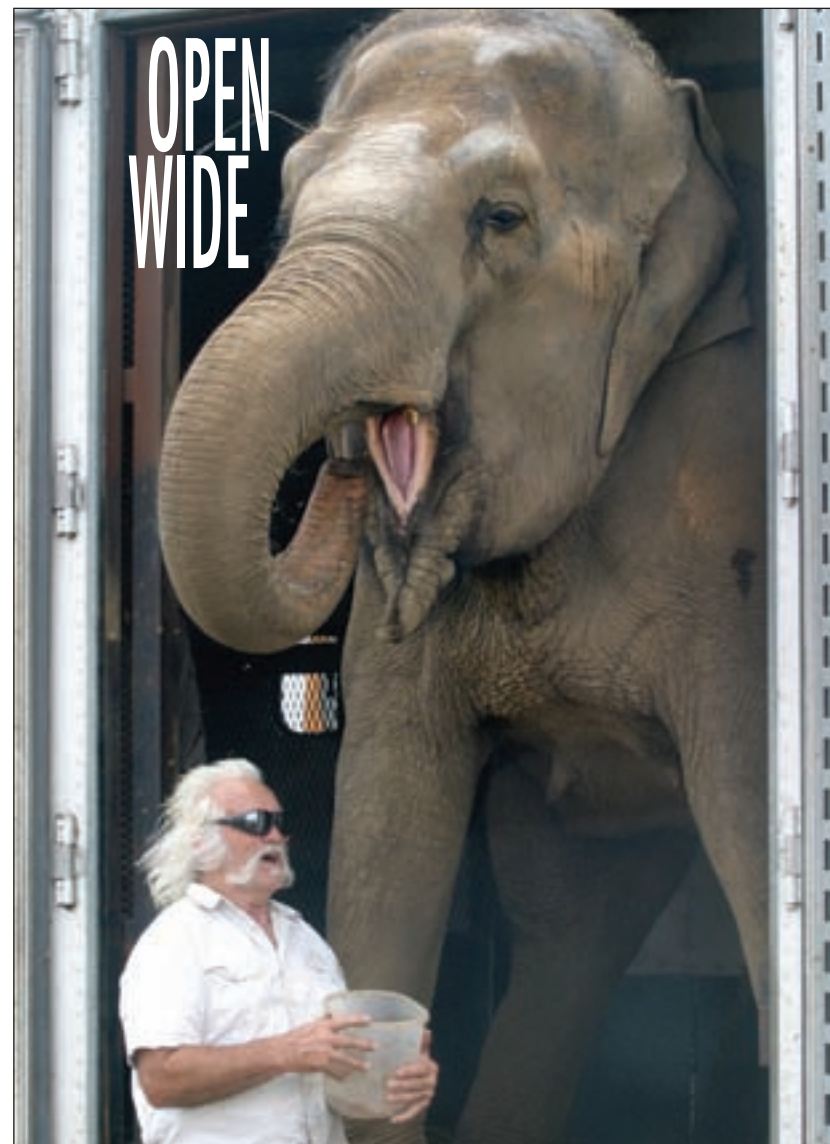
By PETER B. BRACE
INDEPENDENT WRITER

What looks like an ordinary preliminary plan that the Planning Board approved at its meeting on Monday night is actually an early development proposal from a long-time summer family that would rather not sell any of its land.

Faced with staggering inheritance and property taxes, William P. Graves III and his sister, Lydia B. Graves II, are subdividing 42 acres willed to their family by the estate of their late aunt Alice DeJonge.

The Graves family, according to William P. Graves III and his island attorney, Sarah Alger, wanted nothing

See CLIFF ROAD, page 31



ROB BENCHLEY/The Independent

Weighing in at four tons, Dondi the Thai elephant has a bite to eat in her trailer after arriving on Nantucket on Sunday. She's here with her "family" (also pictured is Phil Schacht, holding the food pail) for this coming weekend's Circus Flora performances at Tom Nevers Field. For more about the circus, here for its fourth summer. See Page 33.