

# sports & outdoors



## PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

So yet another Annual Town Meeting is behind us as I write this, and as you, gentle reader, peruse this bit of limited wisdom, another election here on Nantucket is behind us, as well. Such is the nature of deadlines in the journalistic world. Mind you, I rarely actually pay attention to those pesky red circles on the calendar, but that's an entirely other topic of discussion altogether. Suffice it to say that I had to have this one in prior to finding out who won the elections. So we're going to talk about Town Meeting instead.

And before we go any further, I have to confess something that's been weighing on me like you wouldn't even believe. This year was my first Town Meeting. It's not that I didn't want to go in the past. It was that I wasn't actually a registered Nantucket voter. Technically, I wasn't actually a licensed Nantucket driver. And no, it's not what you're thinking. I was actually a registered voter and driver in the state of Texas. Yep. Second-half of my thirties, and I still had my parents' address in Dallas as my home. Who says you can't ever go home again?

But after a couple of nice chats with my good friend State Trooper Ellis coupled with the expiration of my Texas driver's license, I finally put together the requisite 86 different items necessary to acquire a Massachusetts driver's license and made my way down to the Town Building to talk to the nice ladies at the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Six times.

I kid you not. It took me six trips – count 'em – to get all the different forms of proof of residency and signature and genus and species and what-not. But being the go-getter and get-er-done-er that I am, not to mention being terrified of the "Wrath of Ellis," I managed to survive the experience and came through with a Massachusetts driver's license and voter registration card. So I felt it was my civic duty to attend Town Meeting for the first time. There I sat, right hand aisle, pen in hand, ready to take notes in my warrant.

And then it started.

Nothing against Sarah Alger – she did an admirable job as Moderator – but nobody told me this thing was like watching paint dry for half the time you're there. From all the accounts I'd heard, it was rough-and-tumble, people yelling at each other,



Relax, kick back and take it easy (just like Andrew). They'll be here soon enough.

PHOTO BY JILL SANDOLE

fights breaking out, all that good stuff. But this was just Sarah reading off a list of numbers and, periodically, somebody piping up that they wanted to talk about a particular article. I kept quiet, though, waiting for the good stuff. I periodically drew pictures in my warrant, so that people would think I was being a good citizen and taking notes. My rendering of Jim Kelly as he contemplated the crowd from his seat in front with the rest of the FinCom was, I think, my best work in some time.

There was no slapping, no storming out of the auditorium, not even any yelling. Just calm, cool and collected. And just when I thought it was about to drive me nuts, we got to talk about stuff. People stood up and argued about why they thought the Public Safety Complex was a bad idea or why the Harbor Plan was a good idea. Noticeably absent from the discussion was the article on the 'Sconset Beach Preservation Fund, but I digress. This was democracy in action. This was a precursor to slapping. My patience, it seemed, had been rewarded.

In a lot of ways, it reminded me of fishing on Nantucket.

*All those in favor of the segue, please raise your hands and slap anyone near you who hasn't raised his or her hand in support of it.*

Friends and neighbors, things are looking up around here, meteorologically speaking. The sun is actually making an appearance every so often now, temperatures are getting out of the 40s and the daf-

fodils are starting to bloom along Milestone Road. All of those things mean that spring is here, such as it is, and that our patience with the winter months is finally being rewarded. I'm getting a lot of reports of folks catching lots of fish in the ponds, which is yet another good sign in terms of the impending season.

And just in case you want things like actual proof of the fishing season getting closer, there are reports from Maryland that include the word "bluefish" in them. That's right, kids. The warm-water summer residents of Nantucket are on the way up, and they're showing up earlier than in past years. There are also plenty of stripers being taken as far north as New Jersey. So it won't be too much longer before we're getting the first reports of schoolie bass from the surf around here.

So the moral of the story is just wait it out. I'm not a big fan of sitting around doing nothing, but like my elders always tell me, "Time takes time, son." It's deep stuff, when you sit and think about it. And when you're sitting at Town Meeting and nobody's getting mad at anybody else, you've got yourself a whole lot of time to sit and think about stuff.

Patience, kids. It's good for you.

And one last thing. On a personal note, Shep has left us here at *The Nantucket Independent*, and I just wanted to extend a note of sincere thanks for all that he's done for me during his all-too-short tenure on the staff. You'll be missed, Head Cat. But we'll catch you on stage. Happy trails and best of luck. ■

*Tight lines.*

*Continued from previous page*

with back and forth play. The U9 Team #2 boys traveled into the hot bed of soccer in Taunton and lost in their first off-island match of the season and first off-island competitive game of any kind for several boys.

The U15 boys took a tough Taunton team to the Delta Field mat earning the 1-0 squeaker. Though Nantucket had controlled a majority of play, the teams went into the break stuck at 0-0. It looked like the game would end in a draw until Jose Ramirez broke away with 15 minutes left on a through ball at

mid field. He fired a low skimmer from the top of the 18 after the goalie had committed. In goal for Nantucket, Alex Perkins made at least 10 saves with the game ending save coming with about 10 to go as a Taunton player had managed to slip by the defense to send a laser shot towards a poaching striker poised to send the header in for the tie. Perkins handled the ball cleanly out of the air to end Taunton's last real scoring chance.

In the last home game on Sunday, the U10 boys racked up their second win this season by downing usually

strong Freetown-Lakeville before the large home crowd 8-1. In goal for Nantucket were Timmy Earle, who had the first half shut out, and Jack Sylvia, who preserved the win in the second half. Their outstanding play made the difference. The first 15 minutes the game looked like it could have gone either way, with Freetown-Lakeville having the early momentum. Once Nantucket got clicking, Nantucket scored at will with Sylvia (1), Gus Day (2), Xander Raith (1), Ethan Wing (1) and Raheem Spence (2) tallying by using their passing, foot

skill and speed advantage. Unfortunately Freetown-Lakeville could not catch a break and also scored on its own keeper. Adam Smart and Dominic Costanzo had strong games on defense for Nantucket. Coach Jess Mulson was enthusiastic about the win. "It was a true team win; everyone played equal minutes and all over the field. We had offense playing defense, defense playing offense, It was great!" Nantucket's bench will probably be too deep and strong for teams to get the upper hand on too often this season. ■