

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MUSEUM CLOSES GALLERIES FOR WINTER MONTHS IN PREPARATION FOR COLLECTION MOVE

EDGARTOWN, MA – As construction continues on the future Martha’s Vineyard Museum in Vineyard Haven, back in Edgartown, the galleries will remain closed this winter as staff and professionals prepare the collection for the eventual move to the former Marine Hospital. The Gale Huntington Research Library will also be closed to the public.

Beginning January 2nd, the galleries and library will be used as workspace and a staging area for collection items. Professionals from Museum and Collector Resource (MCR) will be preparing and packing the collection. This team of experts is already familiar with the collection, having cataloged it just a few years ago. In April, the library will become the temporary home of the 1854 Fresnel Lens, the original lens from the Gay Head Lighthouse. The lens’ 1,008 prisms will be disassembled by professional lampist Jim Woodward and serviced before being carefully packed, moved, and reassembled in the new museum.

Although closed for walk-in hours, researchers interested in visiting the library in person or who have research inquiries can still contact Research Librarian Bow Van Riper by emailing bvanriper@mvmuseum.org or calling 508-627-4441 x115 to discuss scheduling and the availability of the materials they are interested in consulting. Staff time for responding to inquires may be limited at times, and turnaround times will likely be longer than usual. Museum programming will continue all winter in off-site locations, and Museum teachers will continue to work in the public schools.

The library will remain closed this upcoming summer and serve as the staging grounds for the collection move to the new museum. The galleries will re-open to the public on Saturday, May 26th with new exhibits for one final summer in Edgartown. They are expected to remain open until Columbus Day.

Progress continues on the new museum. A blog has been setup that details construction milestones. Follow it at www.mvmonthemove.com. Staff also posts frequent updates on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Hard hat tours will be offered to the public soon. Currently, staff and board are planning a soft opening of the new museum in late 2018 and larger grand opening in summer 2019. The staff appreciates the public’s understanding and flexibility during the transition, and looks forward to opening the new museum with the Island community next year.

*Visit www.mvmuseum.org for more information about upcoming programming and exhibits.
The Martha's Vineyard Museum inspires all people to discover, explore, and strengthen their connections
to this Island and its diverse heritage.*