

# The Cape Courier

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June 21 - July 4, 2023

An Independent Not-for-Profit Newspaper  
Serving Cape Elizabeth Since 1988

capecourier.com



## Congrats to the Class of 2023!



Congratulations to the Class of 2023 on their graduation on Sunday, June 4. The weather kept them indoors but it didnt stop the celebration. For full graduation news, please see page 4. The rock wall on Rte 77 (pictured center) was created by Josie Caton. Graduation day photos contributed by Joanne Lee Photography.



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**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**  
 The mission of The Cape Courier is to foster a sense of community by presenting news specific and unique to Cape Elizabeth and its residents, and, whenever possible, to promote volunteerism within our community.

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 Letters should not exceed 250 words. We reserve the right to refuse letters and to edit for length, accuracy, clarity and civility. We do not withhold names and writers may be limited to one letter per month. Petition-style letters will be declined. Letters reflect the opinion of the author, not The Cape Courier. Email letters to: editor@capecourier.com or mail to P.O. Box 6242, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107. Please note: Letters will be acknowledged by email.

**NEXT ISSUE: July 5**  
**DEADLINE: Noon, June 23**

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## 'Take a stand for healthy yards'

As I documented in an earlier letter, the World Health Organization of the United Nations states, based on peer-reviewed studies, that Roundup is likely to cause cancer. Numerous local governments have restricted or banned its use. Its manufacturers have paid out \$11 billion to settle 100,000 lawsuits by consumers linking the chemical to cancer.

One Cape resident with serious, incurable Roundup-connected cancer wrote to the Courier detailing his plight and the court findings against Bayer.

Several peer-reviewed studies find that herbicide application is especially dangerous for children.

In spite of this, Ilya Fleishman claims that Roundup is necessary to deal with invasive plants in our backyards.

My husband and I have dug up, smothered and cut black swallow wort in our yard so that it is not a threat to monarch butterflies. A neighbor has defeated

knotweed and barberry with a mattock and shovel. I know of situations where knotweed has been defeated mechanically on a larger scale.

I hope the town council expands the referendum proposal to include non-residential property.

If they do, they could include a waiver in those cases where biological, mechanical, cultural and organic pesticide applications have not worked to allow application of the least-toxic synthetic herbicide at the lowest effective dose to control invasive plants.

I respect the expertise of Cape land managers and urge that they join me and concerned Cape residents to take a stand for healthy yards, healthy neighborhoods, healthy families and healthy Cape ecosystems.

Nancy Ross

## P4P artists painting in Cape Elizabeth June 23-25

The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust's 16th Annual Paint for Preservation wet paint auction is back June 23-25, with 31 award-winning artists painting outdoors all across Cape Elizabeth throughout the weekend. Their painting sites have been chosen to highlight Cape's natural

beauty – stunning scenic locations like Trundy Point, the Spurwink River, Pond Cove and Robinson Woods are just a few places you will find them.

Touring the painting sites is free for the weekend. Everyone is welcome to visit with the artists and watch them

-see P4P page 9

# THANK YOU!

Your donations and other contributions help keep this community newspaper coming to your mailbox.

*Thank you to this recent generous contributor:*

**Chris & Daphne James**

**Anonymous**

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Let us hear from you!

We love feedback!

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## ATTENTION READERS

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## Bathrooms, gender and Cape Elizabeth Schools

By Kevin St. Jarre

During this past school year, the Cape Elizabeth School District began to offer students the option of using gender-neutral bathrooms at Cape Elizabeth High School. While there are bathrooms on all three floors at CEHS, only the second floor bathrooms have been designated with the gender-neutral option.

The issue of gender and bathrooms in Maine schools is not a new one, and since 2014, all Maine schools have been obligated by a ruling by Maine's highest court to allow students to use bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity. This arose when a student who was assigned the gender "male" at birth, but who identified with the female gender was denied the use of the girls' restroom at her school in the Orono area.

In a 2014 decision known as Doe v. Clenchy, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court ruled that denying that student, identified as Susan Doe in the complaint, the use of the girls' restroom at her school even when offering the use of a unisex staff bathroom violated her rights under Maine's Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination against transgender people.

According to that ruling, the student "...began the fifth grade in September 2007. Her use of the girls' bathroom went smoothly, with no complaints from other students' parents, until a male student followed her into the restroom on two separate occasions, claiming that he, too, was entitled to use the girls' bathroom. The student was acting on instructions from his grandfather, who was his guardian and was strongly opposed to the school's decision to allow Susan to use the girls' bathroom. The controversy generated significant media coverage. As a result of the two incidents, the school, over the Does' objections, terminated Susan's use of the girls' bathroom, requiring her instead to use the single-stall, unisex staff bathroom. That year, Susan was the only student instructed to use the staff bathroom."

The student and her family sued, saying that the school had violated the Maine Human Rights Act by not allowing the student to use the girls' bathroom. The lawsuit was not successful at the trial court level, but the student and family appealed the case to Maine's Supreme Court.

-see BATHROOMS page 15

2023 Publication Schedule					
Issue No.	Ads/Copy Due	Issue Published	Issue No.	Ads/Copy Due	Issue Published
01	Jan 6	Jan 18	12	June 23	July 5
02	Jan 27	Feb 8	13	July 14	July 26
03	Feb 10	Feb 22	14	Aug 4	August 16
04	March 3	March 15	15	Aug 18	Aug 30
05	March 17	March 29	16	Sept 1	Sept 13
06	March 31	April 12	17	Sept 15	Sept 27
07	April 14	April 26	18	Sept 29	Oct 11
08	April 28	May 10	19	Oct 13	Oct 25
09	May 12	May 24	20	Oct 27	Nov 8
10	May 26	June 7	21	Nov 10	Nov 22
11	June 9	June 21	22	Dec 1	Dec 13

# Where are they off to? CEHS graduates have plans

Compiled by Debbie Butterworth

**Gwyneth Adrian**, sister of Wavey Adrian and Merry Adrian, will be attending Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut.

**Ben Altenburg**, son of Heather and Garth Altenburg, will be attending Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York.

**Sally Bakke**, daughter of Mark and Trudi Bakke, will be attending Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama.

**Freddy Barraclough**, son of Dominic and Amy Barraclough, will be attending Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington.

**Lydia Branson**, daughter of Donna Lavery and John Branson, will be attending Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

**Finnley Bridge**, son of Elise and Jim Bridge, will be pursuing a future in carpentry.

**William Bryant**, son of Dan and Carla Bryant, will be attending Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

**Eduardo Caldera**, son of Lucia Vilalobos and Tito Caldera, will be attending Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts.

**Jack Carignan**, son of Justin and Ali Carignan, will be attending Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island.

**Christopher Choi**, son of John and Sarah Choi, will be attending American University in Washington, D.C.

**Ben Colello**, son of Chris and Lee Ann Colello, will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

**Caroline Concannon**, daughter of Jen and Tim Concannon, will be attending Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York.

**Dimitri Coupe**, son of Phil Coupe and Alexia Pappas, will be attending Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

**Philip Coupe**, son of Phil Coupe and Alexia Pappas, will be attending Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

**Violet Davis**, daughter of Kevin and Rachel Davis, will be attending Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York.

**Charlotte DeGeorge**, daughter of Mara and Alan DeGeorge, will be attending Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Antonio Dell'Aquila**, son of Stefano and Monica Dell'Aquila, will be attending Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, Maine.

**William Depke**, son of Bowen and Claire Depke, will be attending The University of Rhode Island in South Kingstown, Rhode Island.

**Laurent de Vries**, son of Roxanne Hoekstra-de Vries and Eduard de Vries, will be attending The University of Amsterdam in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

**Thomas Emery**, son of Karen and Peter Emery, will be attending Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Ander Erickson**, son of Mike and Li-ana Erickson, will be attending College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

**Mimi Esch**, daughter of Tom Esch and Valerie Levanos, will be attending Emmanuel College in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Will Fibich**, son of Mary and Don Fibich, will be attending The University

-see GRAD PLANS page 5

# Then and now: There's much to be said for a fast ship

By Jim Rowe

Reading about "The Age of Sail" captivated me during childhood. It didn't matter that my books were usually fiction. Grizzled captains and crews, pirates, global exploration, storms and wrecks, epic sea battles were everything needed to fuel a boy's imagination at bedtime. I might become Ishmael for the night, or Jim Hawkins, or Horatio Hornblower.

My bedside reading has diversified through the years, but I never lost my interest in maritime history. It's why when I recently purchased a subscription to the "newspapers.com" internet website, some of my first keyword searches were "shipwrecks," "Annie C. Maguire," "Bohemian," and "Snow Squall."

The clipper ship Snow Squall was built at Cape Elizabeth's Turner's Island (in what is today's Pleasantdale section of South Portland) in 1851. It was one of the fastest cargo ships of its day. Its voyages typically (but not always) involved Atlantic-to-Pacific and Pacific-to-Atlantic runs around South America.

The ship's demise came when it went aground in the treacherous Straits of Marie near Cape Horn on March 1, 1864. The wreck was moved to Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands, where it was condemned. A piece of its bow was returned to Maine in 1982, and, following meticulous preservation work, is now on display at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath.

In my newspaper search of the Snow Squall, the following article appeared in the "Marine News" section of the September 17, 1863 Portland Daily Press:

"Capt. Dillingham of the clipper ship Snow Squall reports that on the 28th of July last, when about 160 miles from the Cape of Good Hope, he unexpectedly ran alongside a barque rigged vessel, which ran out guns... and made preparations to board him... Capt. Dillingham determined to escape, and succeeded in escaping by superior sailing, although repeatedly fired at by the pirate."

Well played, Capt. Dillingham! Full sail ahead!

## College graduation announcements


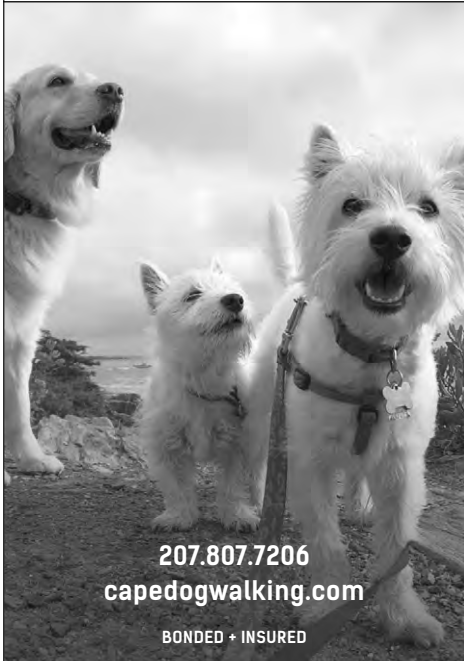
The following students graduated from St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York:

**Peter DiNinno** with a major in conservation biology.

**Ari Zeitlin** with a major in psychology.

**Sean O'Sullivan**, of Cape Elizabeth received a bachelor of arts degree Cum Laude from College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

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# CEHS 2023 graduation: Speeches are inspiring

By Kevin St. Jarre

High school and university commencement celebrations across the country feature a huge variety of speakers, and for many of those present, they are welcome part of the ceremony, but how closely do audiences really listen? The events are charged with excitement, and so sometimes there isn't the time to really let the words soak in. Here are some excerpts from speeches given at the Cape Elizabeth High School 2023 graduation ceremony.

Principal John Springer began his speech with a congratulatory opening paragraph that one might hear at any graduation, and then he revealed that it was written by Chat GPT, the artificial intelligence software.

In his speech, he relayed that while he was visiting Ms. Erin Hill's English class, she challenged students to think about how often they are their authentic selves. Springer said that the question prompted much discussion, and that he has thought about it many times throughout the remainder of the year. Springer went on to urge the graduates, and the audience, to find and be their authentic selves. Here is a bit of his speech:

"How will you help others be their authentic selves, without scrutiny, even if you may see things differently?"

How will you try to take time to see the goodness and positive qualities that each person can bring to your life and support them...while they hopefully do

the same for you?

How will you take that chance and create relationships that cannot be referenced by artificial intelligence...that are authentic...that are only yours?

And back to luck for a second...

How will you be the person that someone says, 'If I hadn't met that person or had that experience with...or support from that individual, I wouldn't be who I am today?' How will you be the person they...luck into?

How will your chance encounter at school or work make you the person that changes someone's life...because you saw and listened to who they are?

You all have the chance to be that person...to show others who you really are...be vulnerable...be authentic...and allow others to be so too.

So, as you get ready to graduate and move on to great opportunities, I will leave you with a quote from Walt Whitman:

'Happiness, not in another place, but this place...not for another hour, but this hour.'

Yes, we wish success for all of you assuredly...but ultimately, we most want you to find happiness."

Lydia Branson is the valedictorian of the CEHS's Class of 2023, and she began her speech in a remarkable way:

"I am up here right now because of numbers on paper, those little symbols they gave us whenever we answered however many questions or wrote whatever essay. Don't get me wrong, I am honored to be where I am. I am so grateful for the support of my peers, teachers, administrators, family and this community, but the numbers will never mean nearly as much as the experiences we've had along the way.

It's no secret Cape Elizabeth is an academically focused community. We offer countless AP and Honors classes, have excellent educators and many incredible resources. We are so fortunate. Nonetheless, I know we've all felt the weight of this, the pressure to succeed and excel and be the best. It's hard not to."

Later in her speech, however, Branson went on to say, that she "...recognized I and all of [CEHS's] other students are more than numbers and statistics, that we are real people with real love and real

passion. Regardless of where you're going next, whether it be college or trade school or a job or traveling or something else, I encourage you all to seek out places and people that value not only your brilliance and success, but your humanity and the things you love. Because those are what make life worth living.

As the valedictorian, I don't know if I have more or less of a right to say this, but please: forget the numbers, and instead hold close the things you'll remember for the rest of your life. This place. These people. As we head into the next chapter of our lives, I urge you all to remember who and what you love – what makes you human. Because that is what will make your world and this world a brighter place. I wish you all the best in finding more things to love wherever this life takes you."

Ben Raymond also spoke. He is not only an educator and multi-sport coach at CEHS, Raymond is also an alumnus of CEHS, and he spoke in acceptance of the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation's Alumni Award. In his usual way, with a hefty dose of humor, Raymond spoke of the many alumni who remain and work in the schools.

"I am here to graciously accept the CEEF Alumni Award on behalf of the many alumni who have chosen to make their careers teaching and working in the place where they grew up, but who decided not to volunteer to come up here and speak with me."

He spoke about Jim and Susan Ray, Jeff Thoreck, David Croft, Christine Marshall, Jen Williams, Steve Young, Alina Perez and Charlie Carroll, and went on to say, "On behalf of my less than bold, yet probably smarter, colleagues I would like to thank CEEF, not for recognizing all of the CEHS graduates that are currently working in this district but to thank you for all you do for this district. The support CEEF gives to our school system has a direct positive impact on many of our students and goes a long way towards making our schools a better place for students and staff. CEEF grants have led to many outstanding programs that have had a significant impact on many of our students, my favorite is Freshman Academy. Without CEEF's support, Freshman Academy may not have come to be, leaving hundreds of young men without the skills to successfully navigate adulthood... So, thank you so much CEEF for all you have done and hopefully will continue to do for the Cape Elizabeth School system. Your support has provided innumerable positive experiences for the young people of our community."

Raymond went on to thank influential teachers and coaches he had while he was a student at CEHS, including a teacher who still teaches at the school, French Teacher David Peary.

Raymond also said, "The town of

Cape Elizabeth is a special place to live, as you all know, but our school system is even more special. I am extremely grateful to work and live in such a supportive district that values education, athletics and most importantly the growth of the whole student. I am fully aware of how lucky I am and what a positive impact Cape Elizabeth High School and the town of Cape Elizabeth has had on my and my children's lives" and he closed by saying, "To the class of 2023 I hope you are lucky enough to find something you love to do, dive in and do it to the best of your abilities, find a community and do what you can to not just be part of it but make it even stronger. It might not be here in Cape Elizabeth, but wherever it is I am sure that each of you will leave your mark as you have done here at CEHS."

Ted Jordan, a History and Government teacher, also employed humor, pointing out some of those things graduates will miss, such as his economic policy lessons.

Taking a bit more serious tone, Jordan said, "We will rely on you to do your part in your role as citizens. You may remember the quote, in History class, of Ben Franklin's. On the last day of the Constitutional convention, September 18, 1787, a woman asked Dr. Franklin, 'Well, Doctor, what have we got? A republic or a monarchy?' Franklin famously replied, 'A republic, Madame, if you can keep it.' We have all learned in the past few years that we cannot take some things for granted, including our democracy. Like so many here today, I believe that we live in the greatest country in the world. This is true in part because of our form of government, the oldest democracy in the world. Get involved in your community. Attend meetings. Read the newspapers, vote, protest. Our country is also great because of our resources-our bountiful natural resources, yes, but also our human resources, our people. That includes all of you. We, your teachers and coaches, have given you the knowledge and skills to succeed. You will succeed. You will."

## Judy's Pantry- a community feeding itself

Please note that our hours of operation have changed.

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## Grad plans

Continued from page 3

of Maine in Augusta, Maine.

**Ainsley Freemont**, daughter of Oliver and Kerriann Freemont, will be attending Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont.

**Charlie Garvin**, son of Emily and Jamie Garvin, will be attending Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut.

**Thijs Gilda**, son of Margreet and Brian Gilda, will be attending Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Brody Glidden**, son of Deb and James Glidden, will be attending Southern Maine Community College in South Portland, Maine.

**Grace Gray**, daughter of Ann and Shawn Gray, will be attending Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.

**Tommy Gray**, son of Jen and Terry Gray, will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts.

**Emma Halter**, daughter of Jeff and Julie Halter, recently graduated from The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory in Torrington, Connecticut. She will be completing a post graduate year at The Nutmeg Conservatory.

**Eben Harrison**, son of James Harrison and Monty Hagen, will be attending American University in Washington D.C.

**Max Hemeon**, son of Kelly and Daryl Hemeon, will be attending The University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont.

**Abigail Homicz**, daughter of Lucas and Kristen Homicz, will be attending Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania.

**Jackson Hooper**, son of Chris and Melissa Hooper, will be attending Northeastern's Khoury School of Computer Sciences in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Owen King**, son of Helen Ryan and Anthony King, will be attending Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Heiki Kuhrt**, son of Kate and Mattew Kuhrt, will be attending Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York.

**Cora Johnson**, daughter of Greg Johnson and Ginger Browne Johnson, will be attending the University of Miami School of Engineering in Miami, Florida.

**Max Johnson**, son of Jessica and Dave Johnson, will be attending Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio.

**Nora Lane**, daughter of Cameron

Lane, will be attending Carnegie Mellon School of Engineering in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Grant Lapierre**, son of Thomas and Antonia Lapierre, will be attending Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

**Andrew Libby**, son of Matthew and Laura Libby, will be attending The University of Maine Business School in Orono, Maine.

**Sam Lombardo**, son of Jeremy and Amy Lombardo, will be attending Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island.

**Josh Lench**, son of Mihaela and Mitch Lench, will be attending The Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

**Olivia Manning**, daughter of Stephanie and Tom Manning, will be attending Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut.

**Zoe Matzkin**, daughter of Kristen and Zach Matzkin, will be attending Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

**Sage Maxwell**, daughter of Sarah and Trevor Maxwell, will be attending The University of New Hampshire in Durham, New Hampshire.

**Maddie McCarley**, daughter of Kimberly Carr and Rob McCarley, will be attending The University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado.

**Ella Membrino**, daughter of Bobbie Manson and Mark Membrino, will be attending Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island.

**Sebastian Moon**, son of Kenny and Irene Moon, will be attending Westminister College in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Juliet Moore**, daughter of Michael and Gwen Moore, will be attending The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**Stella Morrison**, daughter of Holly Martin and Isaac Morrison, will be attending The University of New Hampshire in Durham, New Hampshire.

**Maya Nelson**, daughter of DJ Nelson and Jennifer Scarpitti-Nelson, will be attending Chapman University in Orange, California.

**Emily Novak**, daughter of Thom and Kerry Novak, will be attending Elon University in Elon, North Carolina.

**Anya Offit**, daughter of Thomas and Oriel Offit, will be attending The University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

**Nate Patterson**, son of Terri and Ty-

ler Patterson, will be attending Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

**Dara Perez**, daughter of Alina Perez and the late Sheldon Smith, will be attending Occidental College in Los Angeles, California.

**Mary Pillsbury**, daughter of Marshall and Suzanne Martin-Pillsbury, will be attending American University in Washington, D.C.

**Jack Quinn**, son of Liza and Christopher Quinn, will be attending Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.

**Amy Rasco**, daughter of Carey Rasco, Chris Johnston and Kristen Harris, will be attending The University of Maine in Orono, Maine.

**Lucy Rayback**, daughter of Alysa Cohen and Brian Rayback, will be attending Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

**James Rickman**, child of J. Scott and Jenyse Rickman, will be attending Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida.

**Cayden Royall**, daughter of Shirley and Bill Royall, will be attending Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.

**Katherine Roy-Becker**, daughter of Sean Becker and Danielle Roy, will be attending University of Maine Orono, School of Engineering in Orono, Maine.

**Alexander Scanlon**, son of Rebecca Fish and Jonathan Scanlon, will be attending Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

**Katherine Scanlon**, daughter of Rebecca Fish and Jonathan Scanlon, will be attending George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

**Madalyn Simopoulos**, daughter of Tara and Rob Simopoulos, will be attending the Savannah College of Art & Design in Savannah, Georgia.

**Coco Spier**, daughter of Marci and Kevin Spier, will be attending Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado, following a gap year.

**Nina Stevens**, daughter of Drew Stevens and Robin Stevens, will be attending The University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont.

**Curtis Sullivan**, son of Joanne and Dan Sullivan, will be attending Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina.

**Erin Taylor**, daughter of Eric and Erin Taylor, will be attending Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Amelia Tennyson**, daughter of Melanie and Eric Tennyson, will be attending Wentworth University of Technology in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Owen Tighe**, son of Diana and Francis Tighe, will be attending University of Tampa in Tampa, Florida.

**Andrew "Track" Trachimowicz**, son of Dr. Gina Trachimowicz and Timothy Trachimowicz will be attending College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

**Robbie Trowbridge**, son of Nina and Bob Trowbridge, graduated from Groton School in Groton, Massachusetts and will be attending Colby College in Waterville, Maine, following a gap year.

**Hannah Wellman**, daughter of Vanessa Marston and Christopher Wellman will be attending Southern Maine Community College in South Portland, Maine.

**Kate Wilbur**, daughter of Susan Faraday and Doug Wilbur, will be attending Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts.

**Roan Young**, son of Chantal and Aaron Young, will be attending Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.







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# Meet the incoming principal for Pond Cove Elementary School

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

During a special Cape Elizabeth School Board meeting, the board voted 6 to 0 to appoint Tiffany Karnes as the new principal at Pond Cove School Elementary School. She is coming to PCES from MSAD 17 in Oxford where she has been a principal at Oxford Elementary School for nine years. She has over 24 years of experience in education, with 17 of those years as an administrator.

During a special Cape Elizabeth School Board meeting, the board voted 6 to 0 to appoint Tiffany Karnes as the new principal at Pond Cove School Elementary. In an announcement, Superintendent Christopher Record wrote, "Ms. Karnes comes to us from MSAD 17 in Oxford where she has been a principal at Oxford Elementary School for nine years. She has over 24 years of experience in education, with 17 of those years as an administrator. She is a firm believer in allowing students to feel safe to take calculated risks, think creatively and become passionate members of their community in positive ways. She believes that it is imperative to bring students, staff and community stakeholders together to provide a safe learning-centered environment for students to thrive in."

Of those 17 years of administrative experience, Karnes said, "I worked as an assistant principal for two years at the Lisbon Community School and as a building principal for the past 15 years in two different school districts. For the last nine years, I

have been the principal of Oxford Elementary School...a Pre-K to grade 6 building of 350 students. For my first four years in MSAD 17, I served as the principal of two schools, Oxford Elementary School and Otisfield Community School. For the past five years, I have been solely at OES."

Karnes said she graduated from the University of Maine at Presque Isle with an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education, with a concentration in History in 1996. In 2006, she graduated from the University of Maine, in Orono, with a master's degree in Educational Leadership."

Karnes said that after nine years as a principal in MSAD 17, she felt ready for new challenges. "Taking on a new professional challenge is invigorating and provides an opportunity for growth. It offers the chance to expand my skills, take on different responsibilities, and contribute to the development of the school and its students in a fresh context. The opportunity to work in Cape Elizabeth is an exciting opportunity to be a part of a high-performing school district with a supportive community and a respected staff. I am confident that in working at Pond Cove I will have a network of colleagues, parents and community members who are invested in the success of the school and its students. Such support will foster a positive work environment and provide opportunities for collaboration and professional development. I have had the opportunity to work with members of the current administration in previous positions, and I know that I am joining a strong and collaborative group of administrators and look forward to working with all of them. It is such a privilege to help to lead the district's youngest learners and to create a learning environment where they are able to develop a love of learning and an excitement for being a part of our school community," she said.

When asked what she considers to be her greatest strengths as an administrator, Karnes said creating a school culture and climate where everyone feels valued and respected. She said, "An environment where families feel welcomed and well-informed. A place where staff is supported and appreciated for the very important work that they do to meet the needs of all learners. Most importantly, a climate where students feel like they belong, where they have a voice, and where they find success as a learner. I pride myself on being a good communicator, an excellent role model and a principal who is always willing to roll up my sleeves and do whatever it takes to make sure the school runs smoothly. That might mean subbing in a classroom, helping with duties or vacuuming a classroom if we are short on custodial staff."

She said she looks forward to getting to know the community of Cape Elizabeth and being as involved as possible. "I believe that it is very important for a principal to be visible, not only at school, but at community events, sporting events and other activities that include our students and their families," Karnes said.

As for her interests outside of school, she said, "I am the proud aunt of three nieces and three nephews who are all talented athletes and musicians, so I watch a lot of sports: baseball, ice hockey, soccer, basketball and softball, and listen to many concerts. I also love to read, travel, spend time with friends and family and play in the backyard with my three dogs."

Karnes said, "I feel like the key to good

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## Principal

Continued from page 6

relationships with all stakeholders is being visible. Being visible allows you to begin to build relationships with students, staff, families and the community, which in turn helps to build trust. Both of these things will be important as I begin my new position. Another important aspect to a good relationship with your stakeholders is timely and consistent communication and an open-door policy. Keeping families well-informed and making them feel welcome at school is critical. Families are our partners in their students' education and we want them to be able to count on us to keep them up to date on important information and to feel comfortable to come and share their concerns, questions and praise as often as they need to."

Karnes said she has three goals that she shared with groups during the interview process. They are:

1-Foster collaborative professional relationships with all members of the Pond Cove community to minimize potential disruption caused by a change in administrative leadership and to maximize the focus on learning for all students.

2-To gain a thorough understanding of the systems, practices and policies established in the Cape Elizabeth School District and the Pond Cove School.

3-Build a foundation for continuous improvement through the identification of strengths and targeted areas for growth.

"These would be my goals for the first 60 - 90 days as the new principal of Pond Cove. Once I have had the opportunity to meet with staff, students and parents, then I would be able, with the help of building teacher leadership, to begin to craft goals for our school year," she said

Karnes said her advice to a 1st-year teacher or a 20-year veteran teacher is always the same. "Take the time at the beginning of the year to create a strong classroom community. Make sure your ex-

pectations are clear and you have routines and procedures that you teach students to help ensure that your classroom runs smoothly. Creating a classroom where all students feel like they belong and that others care about them is such an important part of the work with do with students. Above all else, I tell them to reach out for help when they need it. We want them to be successful and to have a fantastic year with their students. It is my job as the building principal to support them in any way that I can. I would never want a teacher to struggle because they didn't feel comfortable asking for help," she said.

She went on to say, "I think the most important thing that a principal can do in a new position is to listen. Ask questions and then just listen. Get to know what staff, students and parents are most proud of in terms of their school, what would they most like to see change, and what they want to see stay the same. These questions give you a feel for what the present reality of a school is. It is also important to look at all the data that a school has, attendance, academic performance and behavior data would be a few of the things I would want to look at to better understand Pond Cove. Lastly, it is important to begin to get to know people and to build relationships. Getting to know staff, students, families, other district administrators and central office staff will be an important step in learning more about Pond Cove and the district as a whole."

Karnes said she is honored to have been selected to be the next principal of Pond Cove School. She said, "I am excited to get to work and begin to learn more about the school, the community of Cape Elizabeth and the district. I look forward to the opportunity to lead Pond Cove Elementary School and to work with the amazing staff and students in the coming school year. Please feel free to stop in and introduce yourself this summer. I look forward to meeting all of you very soon."

## Spring fun and community service on the Pond Cove playground



Contributed photo

Second graders decorated sunflower seed packets as a welcome gift for families attending kindergarten screening. They collected the sunflower seeds from the school garden last fall.

Once again, spring has been full of energy on the Pond Cove playground. From playing soccer, football and many versions of tag, to creating potions and delicacies in the nature kitchens, to noticing a nest of baby birds in one of the large shrubs, students are always busy at recess.

Second graders welcomed future Pond Covers and their families to the school community by preparing hand-decorated packets of sunflower seeds as gifts for those attending kindergarten screening. They col-

lected the seeds from the school garden last fall. As soon as the snow melted, kids helped clean up the raised garden beds and planted spring vegetable seeds under row covers. New gardening tools and gloves, purchased with money from winter fundraising and a matching grant from the nonprofit Seed-Money, were a big hit. Younger students took home samples of greens and radish, and then cleared the garden once again for third graders to plant for summer. New this year, the third grade had a lively worm-spotting competition, with several classes tallying over 100 worms spotted during planting! Family volunteers and Community Services campers will help harvest produce all summer for Judy's Pantry.

CEHS class of 2023 graduate Finn Bridge donated his time and talent to build items for the playground during his Senior Transition Project. He built six new benches for the kindergarten and first grade outdoor seating areas. He also built a sandbox in the older students' play area, an idea sparked by fourth grade students.

This year's fourth grade also continues the tradition of several previous classes by contributing a new playground feature as their parting gift to Pond Cove. A new "reading bench" will be installed under a tree in the breezeway area of the playground this summer.

The Pond Cove playground will be open for community use this summer. Come peek at the garden, meet a friend, or stay and play after a library program. Please be aware that Community Services campers will be using the school playgrounds on weekdays June 21-August 11 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The middle school and Cape Care playgrounds are occupied most of the time and the Pond Cove playground use is occasional. They ask community members to be aware that large groups of children may also be using the playground during this timeframe.

The Pond Cove Playground Committee, a registered 501(c)3, welcomes donations and volunteers to help support outdoor play and learning at Pond Cove. Follow and contact them on Facebook @PondCovePlayground.

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**P4P**

Continued from page 2



Photo by Bob Harrison

Graham Wood painting at the 2022 Paint for Preservation.

work. (All work must be done outside – no studio time is allowed.) Sites open to the public are listed at the end of this article.

Visit the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust’s office (330 Ocean House Road) from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Friday-Saturday, or 8:00-10:00 a.m. Sunday to find out who is out painting at any given time.

Their paintings will be auctioned at a ticketed outdoor reception overlooking Richmond Island on Sunday, June 25 from 4-7:30 p.m., where smaller paintings will also be on sale as “Mystery Boxes.”

Buy tickets to the reception and auction at [www.capelandtrust.org/paint](http://www.capelandtrust.org/paint).

This annual fundraising event benefits the conservation and care of Cape Elizabeth’s most cherished natural places, building trails for public access and providing educational programs for children and adults of all ages. Generous support is received through ticket sales, business sponsorships and the donation of a portion of all art sales by the selected artists.

This year’s sponsors include Ethos, Décor Maine, KeyBank, R.M. Davis, Inn By the Sea, Wright-Ryan Homes, Yokogawa Fluid Imaging Technologies, Casco Bay Frames & Gallery, Eyecare Medical Group, Huffard House, Knickerbocker Group, Maine Limousine Service, RE/MAX Oceanside, Richard Moody & Sons Construction, TAK Advisory LLC, Tammaro Landscaping & Property Services, Inc., Veterinary and Rehabilitation Center of Cape Elizabeth, Foulmouthed Brewery and Oak Hill Beverages.

**P4P Public Painting Locations 2023**

- Olena Babak: Fort Williams
- Todd Bezold: Jordan Farm
- Molly Brown: Great Pond
- Daniel Corey: Kettle Cove
- Cooper Dragonette: Pond Cove

- Margaret Gerding: Spurwink Marsh
- Frank Gregory: Kettle Cove
- Lindsay Hancock: Robinson Woods
- Jill Hoy: Two Lights State Park
- Anne Ireland: Robinson Woods
- Eric Jacobsen: Fort Williams
- Marguerite Lawler: Spurwink River
- Janet Ledoux: Boathouse Cove
- Susan Lynn: Spurwink Church
- Matthew Meyer: Trundy Point
- Nathaniel Meyer: Trundy Point
- Colin Page: Ocean House Farm
- Pamela Lang Redick: Robinson Woods
- Bjorn Runquist: Turkey Hill Farm
- Matthew Russ: Fort Williams
- Pamela Shockey: Maiden Cove
- Janet Sutherland: Danforth Cove
- Michael Vermette: Crescent Beach
- Michael Walek: Jordan Farm
- Russel Whitten: Spurwink Church
- Graham Wood: Two Lights State Park

**News from June 12 Town Council meeting**

By Hanna Gilley

**Town Council Reports and Correspondence**

Councilor Penny Jordan shared that resources for the pesticide use ordinance are now on the Cape Elizabeth town website. The School Building Advisory Committee, along with the Town Manager Matt Sturgis, are in negotiations for the owner’s rep contract. Estimates for the project have been “refined” and are down about 40% from the original estimation due to the reassessment of project managers and any redundancies. Councilor Jordan also shared that an RFP has been posted for a communications consultant to work with the School Board Committee on keeping all parties informed, assisting with public forums, press releases, website updates and more.

**Finance Committee Report**

Councilor Boucher shared that “we’re in the home stretch” of the fiscal year 2022. She noted that “we’re significantly under revenue for building permits” with a slight uptick for the month of June so far. She also shared that the town is under budget for legal, diesel and gas, and police department overtime expenses, and hopes that those under budget expenses will make up for some of the loss of building permit revenue.

**Town Manager’s Monthly Report**

Town Manager Sturgis shared many updates including a reminder about the upcoming operational hour changes starting July 1 at Town Hall, the recycling center, and Public Works. These hours are posted throughout town buildings, on signage and will be communicated via electronic messaging the last two weeks of June. The Transfer Station will not be open on Tuesday, July 4 in recognition of the holiday.

The solar project proposed for installation at the Cape Elizabeth Landfill site was unanimously approved at the May Planning Board Meeting.

Sidewalk construction from the Pond Cove Shopping Center to Fowler Road has started but is currently paused for materials to be delivered. An anticipated restart date is for June 26. Survey and engineering work has started for the Town Center project as well as site testing and review for Gull Crest for potential affordable housing projects.

The new ambulance unit is expected to be finished and delivered by the end of June or early July of this summer. Work will commence on the irrigation project at the Village Green in early July. Planned paving work in coordination with the Portland Water District has begun in the Oakhurst neighborhood. All residents who will have their roads paved have been contacted and informed. Lastly, two surveys will be available over the summer for Cape Elizabeth residents for both the Housing Diversity and School Building advisory committees.

**Presentation from Charlie Kennedy, EMA Director**

The council was presented with a proposed updated Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) by Charlie Kennedy, EMA Director for Cape Elizabeth, and Margaret Cushing of the Cumberland County Emergency Association (CCMA).

Kennedy and Cushing shared that every community nationwide is expected to have these plans updated on a five-year basis and that this plan will update the current plan dated for 2018. Each year Kennedy reviews the plan for technical and minor changes, such as staff and personnel changes. The proposed EOP dated for 2023 includes a change in format that makes the document more concise.

Cushing shared with the Council that “every disaster is local” and “you know

-see TOWN COUNCIL page 13

## Town of Cape Elizabeth

### Change of Hours

### Town Hall, Recycling Center and Public Works Department

**Effective July 1, 2023**

**Hours of Operation:**

**Town Hall:**  
Monday 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,  
Tuesday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Fridays

**Recycling Center:**  
Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Closed Sunday, Monday & Thursday

**Public Works Department**  
Monday – Thursday 6:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Fridays

Operating hours for the Thomas Memorial Library, Community Services, Donald L. Richards Community Pool & Fitness Center will remain unchanged.

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# Vehicle passes bus, missing person located

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

### PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 5-23 An officer met with a resident of the Brentwood area who reported someone had used his personal information to access his account and withdraw money.
- 5-24 An officer met with a school bus driver who reported a vehicle passed his bus while he was picking up passengers on Spurwink Avenue. He provided a license plate for follow up investigation.
- 5-24 An officer met with a resident regarding a tenant landlord dispute.
- 5-26 An officer met with a resident of South Portland regarding an assault complaint.
- 5-25 A subject came to the police station and turned in a travel bag he had found along Route 77. A Falmouth resident later came to claim the bag.
- 5-26 An officer met a resident in the Broad Cove area regarding an incident with a contractor.
- 5-28 Two officers met a person in the Scott Dyer Road area regarding a missing person. The subject was later located.
- 5-28 Two officers responded to a residence in the Broad Cove area for a well-being check.
- 5-30 An officer responded to the Two Lights area for a suspicious person complaint. The person was located and interviewed.

### SUMMONSES

- 5-23 Cape Elizabeth resident, Operating after license suspension, Route 77
- 5-23 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Spurwink Road, \$85
- 5-24 Cape Elizabeth resident, seatbelt violation, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 5-27 South Portland resident, Operating after

- license suspension, Failure to Pay Fine, Kettle Cove Road, \$325
- 5-28 Chicago resident, speeding (60/35 zone), Two Lights Road, \$278
- 5-30 Scarborough resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Scott Dyer Road, \$85
- 5-31 South Portland resident, seatbelt violation, Spurwink Avenue, \$85
- 5-31 Portland resident, seatbelt violation, Shore Road, \$85
- 5-31 Lewiston resident, seatbelt violation, Shore Road, \$85
- 5-31 South Portland resident, seatbelt violation, Route 77, \$85
- 5-31 Falmouth resident, seatbelt violation, Route 77, \$85
- 5-31 Portland resident, seatbelt violation, Route 77, \$85
- 5-31 Lewiston resident, seatbelt violation, Route 77, \$85
- 6-1 Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Old Ocean House Road, \$148

### ARRESTS

- 5-29 Old Orchard Beach resident, Operating under the influence of Alcohol, Bowery Beach Road
- 5-30 Cape Elizabeth resident, Operating under the influence of alcohol, Operating without a license, criminal speed, Ocean House Road

### ACCIDENTS

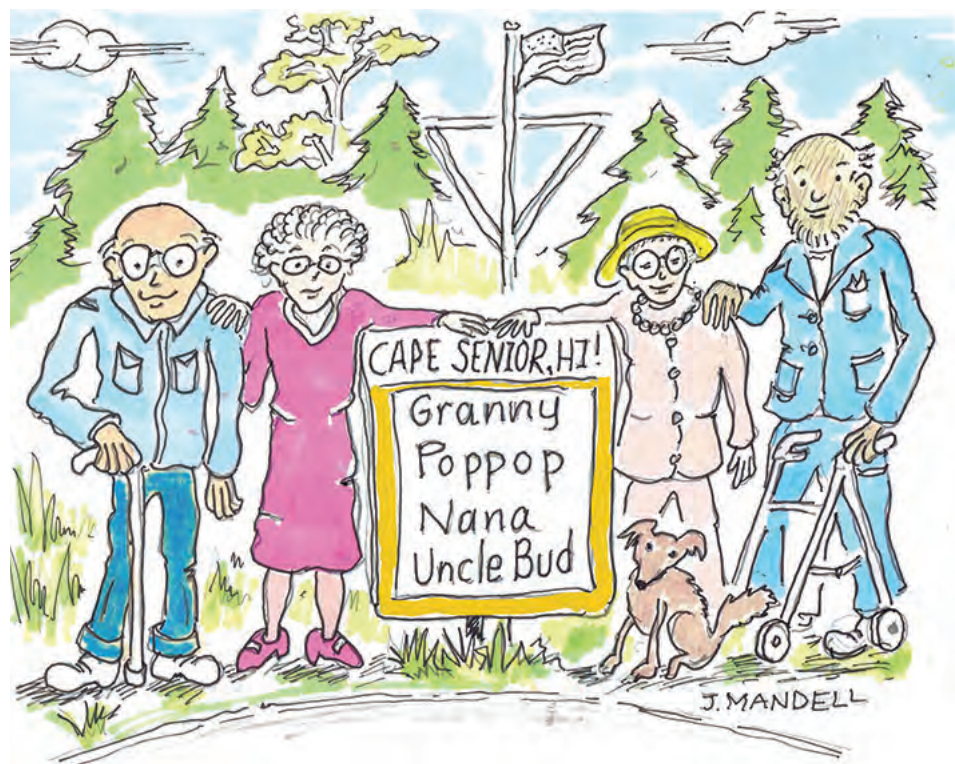
- 5-26 Scarlet Caraza Limas, Tatum Hoffman, accident on Ocean House Road
- 5-26 Chadwick Muse, accident on Ocean House Road

### FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 13; EMS calls: 23

# Capetoon: Congrats to Seniors!

By Jeff Mandell



# Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

### Scams in the Age of AI

Scammers are adept at manipulating the latest technological advances to commit their crimes. These days it's happening in the world of artificial intelligence – commonly known as AI. AI voice cloning is already bringing a new twist to scams that have been around forever. For instance, the grandparent scam calls now can feature the actual voice of the loved one the criminal is impersonating.

These tactics are startling, but the ways we protect ourselves haven't changed. For instance, if the scammer is posing as a grandchild, think right now, of a question only your own grandchild, no matter their age, could answer and the scammers would not know. Examples: "what's the name of my cat (or any pet you have or had). Or "where do your other grandparents live"? "Tell me the names of your aunts and uncles."

Another first sign of any fraud attempt is when an unexpected contact causes an immediate emotional reaction – often fear, panic or excitement. Maybe training our

brains to disengage when we feel that emotional surge could be the best way to disrupt the criminal act. So, if the grandchild is mentioning an unintentional death, being imprisoned, kidnapping, STOP- it's a scam! Slow it down! Hang up – call other family members and check with them.

And know that anytime you are asked to address some urgent financial matter with a gift card, cryptocurrency or peer-to-peer payment app, it's a scam. Also, stay updated on the latest fraud tactics by bookmarking [www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork).

### Help Stop Elder Financial Abuse

More than 369,000 incidents of financial abuse targeting older adults are reported to authorities in the U.S. each year, causing an estimated \$4.8 billion in losses. And those numbers likely understate the problem considerably. However, as we approach World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, it's good to remember that there are things we can do to stop elder financial exploitation.

Encourage your loved one to designate someone they trust to help them with financial decisions. The federal government's Eldercare Locator can help you find free or low-cost legal assistance. Suggest they add a trusted contact for their financial institutions if they are unreachable or if questionable activity is detected. A trusted contact is not able to make transactions, but the financial institution can disclose some account information to them. Also, watch out for someone — even someone you thought you or your loved one could trust — who discourages contact with family and friends, exerts pressure on financial decisions or asks for large sums of money. Most importantly, financial exploitation is a crime and should be reported to your local police or Sheriff or even to 911.

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# Local birding report

By E. Brooks Bornhoff

By mid-to-late June breeding season is well under way across Cape and birds are singing mightily as they establish territories and nests. Resident birds like Carolina Wrens, Tufted Titmice and the Bluebirds are now tending to rambunctious fledglings.

On first day of June within the dark forest interior of Robinson Woods I was treated to a dusk chorus of Veery's, Hermit Thrushes, a Winter Wren, Black-throated Green Warblers, Ovenbirds, Redstarts and Northern Parulas. A single Wood Thrush and Scarlet Tanager also joined the ensemble. The Wood Thrushes scientific name is *Hylotichia mustelina*, meaning "weasel-colored woodland thrush" and refers to the bird's rich, brownish red head, back, wings and tail. I later found this woodland minstrel in a White Ash Tree uttering his lush, flute-like ee-oh-lay hymns.

Male Scarlet Tanagers sing a song that is like that of an American Robin, albeit it sounds more rushed. Recently I familiarized myself with the energetic chick-burr calls from Scarlet Tanagers. Both male and female Scarlet Tanagers make this distinctive call. Catching a glimpse of this striking bird in dense foliage is a test of patience. Henry David Thoreau wrote in his journal "that contrast of a red bird with the green pines and blue sky! Even when I have heard the note and look for him and find the bloody fellow, sitting on a dead twig of a pine, I am always startled. That incredible red, with the green and blue, as if these were the trinity we wanted. Yet with his hoarse note he pays for his color. I am transported: these are not the woods I ordinarily walk in. How he enhances the wildness and wealth of the woods!"

A few additional notes from the field include on June 2 along the Spurwink River I spotted a Short-billed Dowitcher probing the mudflats and I heard the wheezy hissing p-tssssshhuk of a Nelson's Sparrow somewhere out in the marsh. On June 3 I flushed

a Green Heron hunting along the Pond Cove Brook corridor and on June 5 two charming Canada Warblers in the Crab Apple Tree behind our house were singing loud and true, their song a quick chip note followed by a series of hard to describe warbling notes. A male and female Rose-breasted Grosbeak also stopped into my yard. While the female cautiously dined at the seed feeder the watchful male whistled his sweet song from a nearby tree branch. Later in the day along the Spurwink Town Farm section of town where salt marsh meets with rolling uncut pastures I noted three male Bobolinks giving their "display flights." Listening closely could hear their burbling chatter as it carried across the tidal dog-legs.

Additionally, on June 6 within bushy borders of Gull Crest's woodlands I heard a Swainson's Thrush. This thrush has a thin, high-pitched, single note whine. They also make a tink like water dropping onto a hard surface. Interestingly, the Swainson's Thrush may have a one point bred in Cumberland County; however, it is no longer known to. A bit further along in my travels I heard an unfamiliar, vibrant repetitive warble which caused my mind to race with possibilities. After time spent trying to locate the bird I decided to see if I could lure the elusive little feathered biped out with my own "pishing" calls. Minutes later I caught site of the bird perched low in the undergrowth. I could just make out a gray hood and black chest patch, a male Mourning Warbler and my first time seeing and hearing one in Cape. The Mourning Warbler is an uncommon spring migrant and characteristically late, with some birds not arriving in nesting areas (Central Maine and points north) until early June. Across its breeding range in Maine the Mourning Warbler is rare to somewhat common.

And lastly, on June 8 I spotted two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and an Alder Flycatcher in South Portland's Hinkley Park.

# News from the school board

By Elizabeth Scifres

As the school year draws to a close, we recognize our retirees and celebrate their outstanding contributions to education in Cape Elizabeth over the years. We are fortunate to attract and retain highly qualified, highly skilled educators. We thank them for their service and dedication to the students of Cape Elizabeth!

We also recognize our high school All State Musicians at this time of year. Each student musician goes through a rigorous audition process that results in ensembles of the best of the best in the state of Maine. This year we had qualifiers for the All State Mixed Choir, Band and Orchestra. Those students boarded a 6:00 a.m. bus bound for University of Maine, Orono on a Thursday in late May. They spent three days working with their musical counterparts from around the state as well as top notch directors. The resultant experience and concerts were ex-

traordinary. We are grateful that our exemplary music education program prepares our students to take advantage of these next-level opportunities.

The School Building Advisory Committee continues to make significant progress. The committee's recommendations to hire CBRE Heery as Owner's Representative and Portland Research Group to conduct a community survey were unanimously approved by the Town Council and School Board on May 30.

Together with the Owner's Representative, the committee will assess the previously completed building project work and identify a design firm to develop a range of options to address the needs of our aging buildings. A community survey is planned for later this summer and will be used to inform the committee and consultants' work.

# The music corner

By Candice Bellinger



Photo courtesy of "The Advocate"

Members of the Aeolus Quartet, who are based in New York City.

There is nothing quite like listening to a beautiful string quartet on a cold rainy day in June. While Mother Nature has the rain covered, all you need to do is find the time and a comfortable little corner to snuggle in and listen.

Earlier this week, I had the pleasure of listening to Antonin Dvořák's String Quartet #14 being played by the Aeolus Quartet based in New York City. Dedicated to teaching children the beauty in chamber music, they travel the country performing in schools from Texas to Michigan, having reached over 18,000 children in Detroit alone.

It won't take long for this piece to join your list of favorites. The first movement is lovely and lyrical, while at times quite tempestuous...like the wind. One moment, calm with sunshine, the next thing you know the wind is whipping around you, ready to

lift you from the ground. The Greek god Aeolus was keeper of the winds. What a fitting name for this ensemble!

The second movement begins as a lark with the first violinist's solo. Things heat up as the rest of the ensemble joins in. The third movement rolls in ever so gently and soothes like the light lapping of ocean waves upon your feet at low tide. The fourth movement is full of vigor, free spirited and perfectly placed as Dvořák's final string quartet, completed in 1895 and premiered in the fall of 1896.

If you are "tech challenged" and would like my assistance with finding our weekly listening, please email me at musicwam@yahoo.com. With our busy lives we must remember to slow down and enjoy the music. You can also find me on Facebook @ Candice Bellinger.



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# TML offers adult summer reading program, art quilts on display

## Adult Summer Reading Program Begins July 1

Our annual Adult Summer Reading program returns to Thomas Memorial Library July 1 and will run throughout July and August. Challenges, prizes and a whole summer's worth of reading fun are on their way. More information is coming soon about how you can take part and win fabulous weekly prizes. Check out our website, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, and watch this space for details.

## Art Quilts on Display in the Stier Family Gallery

A selection of quilts from Art Quilts Maine are featured in this month's gallery show. Each year members of Art Quilts Maine produce work based on different creative challenges which travels throughout Maine for the year. Selections in the library's gallery are from the themes "Quilts in the Abstract," in which artists used the visual language of shape, form, color and line to express feelings and emotion rather than objects, and "Food Word," in which artists utilized the same food-related words in the panels of their quilts: Bitter, Refreshing, Peppery, Creamy, Sweet, Smoky, Acidic, Crunchy and Sharp. The exhibit will be on display through June 30.

## PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN:

For more information and to register for all library events, visit our online events calendar at the following link: <https://www.thomasmemoriallibrary.org/events>.

## Character of the Month

Stop by the children's room to celebrate a very special Big Red Dog: Clifford. We'll have fun activities throughout the month like our popular scavenger hunt.

## Read To a Dog

Children in grades K – 6, especially struggling or less-than-confident readers, are invited to sign up for 15-minute time slots to read with a certified therapy dog. Check out the sign-up sheet in the children's room for appointment availability and to "meet" our dogs, or call the children's room for more information.

## Weekly Programming

### Messy Minis! Process Art for Curious Kids

Mondays, 10:30 a.m. (Ages 2-5)  
Let your imagination run wild and join us for Messy Minis time in the Community Room. Let's paint, color, cut and paste together to make magic. Each week we'll have different supplies out for you to be creative with. Some supplies may be limited, so be ready with your flexible and creative muscles. We can't wait to see what you make. For budding artists ages 2-5 and their caregivers.

### Dress Up and Dance

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. (Ages 2-5)  
Join us for 30 minutes of moving and grooving to our favorite playlist, special dress-up costumes and everybody's favorite bubble song. For dancing enthusiasts ages 2-5.

### Play Date at the Library

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (All ages)  
Drop-in playtime session for children and their caregivers. This informal program is a fun and engaging way to explore literacy practices along with social and imaginative play. Through play, young children learn about their world. With this knowledge, they can understand books and stories once they begin to read. The Community Room is open

for exploration during this time, with special toys and stations while you visit with friends.

### Ready for Reading Club

Wednesday, 1:30-2:00 p.m. (Ages 4+)  
A special storytime program for children ages 4 and up. Join Miss Martha to enjoy longer stories, fun with music, and a variety of simple early learning games and activities.

### Tiny Tunes

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. (Ages 1-3)  
This inclusive program is for children who are not quite ready for a traditional story time, but love to have fun with friends. Join us for a movement-based program that's a gentle introduction to the routines, songs and props we use for storytimes but without the books! Great for curious, wandering wigglers, ages 1-3 and their caregivers.

### Bébés en Plein Air

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. (Ages 0-1)  
Outside in the Children's Garden, weather permitting  
Bring your baby and a blanket to join us in the children's garden (aka "Bébés en Plein Air"), weather permitting. The sunshade provides a nice cover and it's a perfect time to enjoy a snack, play and let the littles interact while caregivers connect. Librarians will drop in from time to time to teach a fun rhyme or song. Stay for a just a few minutes or for the hour. This event is intended for babies 0-1 and their families.

### School-Age Programs

**Lego Club (Ages 5-12)**  
First Tuesday of each Month, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (Community Room)  
Make up date: \*\*July 11\*\* (Library closed on July 4)  
Come create with Legos at TML's LEGO

Club. The library will provide the Legos, you provide the imagination. Come free build or pick up a challenge card to try something new. Masterpieces will be put on display until the next Lego Club meets. There is no registration for this program, children 10 and under must have an adult present.

### Summer Scoops: Middle School Book Club

Wednesdays, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Bring your own book! We discuss whatever we are currently reading and enjoy pop-sicles with friends. Outdoors as weather permits in the children's garden. No registration required.

### Open Chess Play for Kids

Wednesdays, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
Conference Room  
Learn to play chess or find a friend and play a game during this drop-in time designed for elementary-age children. Boards are provided but we also encourage you to bring your own. Join us for some heated—but very friendly—competition in the very cool Conference Room downstairs in the library this summer.

### T(w)een Crafternoon Club

Thursdays 3:15-4:15 p.m.  
June 22 - Button Making: Create up to 5 of your own customized buttons.  
June 29 - Sculpey tic tac toe game.

### Young Writers at TML

The first Thursday of the month at 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
June 1  
Are you a young writer looking for a way

-see LIBRARY page 13

## Maine's Property Tax Freeze Program Faces Predictable Elimination

### As the Media Alerts Mainers, Local Questions Surface.

On June 1st, the Portland Press Herald reported that lawmakers "advanced a bill to eliminate a new program that freezes property taxes for people over 65." They further reported that the program was described by legislative Democrats as "unsustainable because of its ballooning costs."

**Few are surprised** at the quick unraveling of this program. Even Cape's Public Access CETV provides example after example of Cape officials acknowledging – last year – that the viability of the Property Tax Stabilization Program was indeed questionable.

Who, then, included this "pie-in-the-sky" property tax-freeze program as part of last fall's campaign in favor of a \$116 Million bond to build new schools? And with **no qualifier or explanation of the well-known risk for long-term funding for the program?**

### Is it Fair to Ask Tough Questions of Local Officials? We Think So.

Prior to the school bond vote in November, many in our community felt like our voices were not being heard. When Capers overwhelmingly voted down the school bond, it seemed to validate our feelings. But just a week after the vote, town officials disagreed. Some openly shared their frustration, opining that the project simply wasn't marketed well enough. In other words, you – the voter – just weren't well enough informed. **Really.**

So a few concerned neighbors quickly grew to many, and decided to publicly inform on issues we think deserve an alternate voice. Predictably, some don't like that. They gripe about a group advocating for **government transparency** being "secretive and anonymous." Then, without irony, turn to their keyboards to contribute to a social media mob where open discussion is effectively squelched by their now demonstrable (yet very vocal) minority.

In short, Cape Neighbors is doing what we set out to do: alerting public officials that Capers are in fact paying attention. And given the cancel culture we are all witness to, we are glad to provide anonymity to whistle blowers and those in our community who aren't comfortable speaking out themselves. If you would like to participate, please feel free to submit your ideas and concerns to the email address below. If you'd like to donate to help support our ads, please let us know.

### What is the Cape Neighbors Alliance?

We are a group of Cape citizens who believe that good governance happens when our community is heard, our government's processes are transparent, and personal agendas are set aside. We intend to stand with our neighbors and our community to ensure this vision becomes reality.

## Library

Continued from page 12

to practice your craft? Join us at TML for our own budding writers group. Designed for students between the ages of 10-12, this group will focus on exploring the imagination through fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction. With monthly meetings on the first Thursday afternoons starting on June 1, this program will be full of fun journal prompts and creative group exercises. Email Sasha at skohan@thomas.lib.me.us to sign up.

### TML Teen Writing Group Schedule

Saturdays at 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Starting June 3

Are you a teen who loves writing? Join us at TML for our very own teen writing group. With weekly drop-in sessions and monthly genre workshops, we'll go over basics like voice, plot, style and form, with a multitude of writing prompts and the opportunity to give and receive feedback. Come to the downstairs conference room on Saturdays at 2 p.m. starting June 3 for a rad, rollicking, good writing time. Email Sasha at skohan@thomas.lib.me.us to sign up.

### PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:

For more information and to register for all library events, visit our online events calendar at the following link: <https://www.thomasmemoriallibrary.org/events/>.

### Understanding Gender & Sexuality Today, with Christine Caulfield

Three part series:

Thursday, June 22, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in-person and via Zoom

Thursday, June 29, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in-person and via Zoom

Thursday, July 6, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in-person and via Zoom

In a time of rapid change and controversy concerning gender and sexuality, this workshop series aims to demystify and clarify these timely topics. Over the course of three sessions, we'll learn basic terminology to clarify your understanding of gender and sexual identities and the different perceptions and origins of these identities. We'll explore and discuss sources and impacts of discrimination against gender non-conforming people, especially within the younger population, and we'll also learn how to understand and improve one's role as an ally of those within the LGBTQ+ community.

These workshops will include presentations and discussions, some exercises, and no quizzes or homework. We'll also provide print and online references and a reading list for those who wish to develop an even broader understanding of what is covered. All are welcome. Please register for this program on

the library's website.

### Playing with Abstract Painting, with Angeli Caldera

Saturday, June 24, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in-person at the library

Spark your inner artist and find the joy of creativity as you play different ways of applying paint to a surface, including balloons, glue guns and more. Artist Angeli Caldera will show you how you can make beautiful, interesting works of art through play and experimentation. All materials will be provided. All are welcome. Please register for this program on the library's website so we can ensure that we have enough materials available for all participants.

### ONGOING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:

#### Daily Fika (Coffee Break)

Wednesdays-Saturdays, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. via Zoom

#### Guerilla Poetry Whoop

Second Thursday of the month, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: July 13 via Zoom

#### E-ldering Conversation Group

Wednesdays

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. in person AND via Zoom

#### Pod Complex: A TML Podcast Listening Club

(Normally) First Thursday of the month, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: July 11 (second Tuesday this month) via Zoom

#### Songwriting Workshop (with Jud Caswell)

(Normally) First Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Next meeting: July 11

in person at the library (second Tuesday this month)

#### Big Little Lit Book Group

Third Wednesday of the month, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Next meeting: September 20 (This program will be on hiatus during July & August)

Next book: TBA

In person at the library and streamed simultaneously via Zoom

#### Adult Book Group

Third Thursday of the month, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Next meeting: July 20

July book: "Their Eyes Were Watching God," by Zora Neale Hurston

In person at the library and streamed simultaneously via Zoom

## Town Council

Continued from page 9

what's best for your town." She went on to explain that decisions are made at the local level in any disaster and that the state and federal governments won't offer help unless a town or municipality asks for it.

The EOP focuses on the essentials to protect Cape Elizabeth specifically and includes warning (of the public), public information, debris management (which needs Maine DEP approval), evacuation and shelter details. However, evacuation and sheltering is a county-wide process and is not yet stated in this current plan as it needs more coordination with other towns, departments and organizations.

Kennedy shared with the council that Cape Elizabeth is lucky to "exercise our plan annually" and he used the extensive coordination efforts for the Beach to Beacon race as an example.

"We work with other towns, nonprofits, there's lots of planning, and a setup of emergency operations. We've gotten so we're pretty good at it."

Councilor Reiniger asked Kennedy and Cushing who declares an emergency, how long does it last and who ends an emergency. Kennedy responded that if an emergency is specific to the town, that the Town Council and Town Manager declare and end an emergency citing the COVID-19 pandemic as an example. Kennedy explained to Councilor Reiniger the reason the definition of an emergency is broad is because "something may happen that we haven't thought of yet. We need to prepare and react."

### Consent Calendar Item #80-2023 - Item #84-2023

The council unanimously approved motion items #80-84 that include the acceptance of an anonymous donation to the Thomas Memorial Library through Impact Asset Donor Advisor Fund, a bequest from Joanne A. (McDonough) Leete to the Thomas Memorial Library, a Grant Award from the MMA Worker's Compensation Fund Ed MacDonald Safety Grant Program, a Cumberland County Heating Assistance Grant and acceptance of an MMA Risk Management for Flagpole Damage at Fort Williams Park.

### Item #85-2023 Affirmation of the Ap-

### pointment of Fire Chief

Town Manager Sturgis proposed the appointment of Stephen Young to be Cape Elizabeth's next Fire Chief. Young has been part of the department for the past 40 years and served as Cape Elizabeth's deputy chief for the past 13 years. Young also served in the Portland Fire Department for 26 years. The council unanimously voted to affirm the Town Manager's appointment effective July 1, 2023.

### Item #86-2023 Consideration of Grant Match Funding Relating to Sawyer Road

A study looking at culverts subject to flooding and risk associated with sea level rise and Spurwink Marsh are a high priority with the town and with the town of Scarborough. A motion to authorize the town to look at grant funding with the Maine Natural Resources Conservation to fund the next phase of work.

Town Planner Maureen O'Meara explained to the Council that this is a "big project" with the intention to "invest money now to avoid a much larger bill in future" and "to respond to climate change and storm surge." She suggested that in order to be competitive and to receive grant funds, the town offer a cash match of up to \$250,000. This project will be a unique, joint effort with the town of Scarborough which has come forward to also offer a cash match of \$250,000 for the application.

O'Meara explained the next step in the application process will be to submit a letter of intent to the MNRC at which time the town may be invited to submit a full proposal. If that proposal is successfully accepted, grant funds will be offered, and the Town Council will have the opportunity to accept or decline those funds. The cash match of \$250,000 will not be spent unless the town is offered and accepts grant funds from the MNRC. The motion to accept was moved by Councilor Reiniger, seconded by Councilor Boucher and voted unanimously in favor by the council.

### Item #87-2023 Conservation Ordinance Amendments Relating to Events Provisions

Ordinance changes are being proposed by the Conservation Committee for town

-see MEETING page 16



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# CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

Please see the town website, [www.capeelizabeth.com](http://www.capeelizabeth.com) for meeting locations

Instructions for joining videoconference meetings listed below will be posted on the town website, [www.capeelizabeth.com](http://www.capeelizabeth.com).

## Monday, June 26

Housing Diversity Study Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, June 27

Board of Zoning Appeals, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

## Thursday, June 29

School Building Advisory Committee, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

## Ongoing each week

Al-Anon, 7 p.m. Fridays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland. Parking in rear.  
Alcoholics Anonymous, 2 p.m. Saturdays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage

Road, South Portland; 7 p.m. Wednesdays, St. Bartholomew Church; 7 p.m. Fridays, St. Alban's Church.

Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society, 9 a.m.-noon Mondays and Thursdays when "Open" sign displayed, Fort Williams, in the brick building closest to Shore Road (ring the doorbell).

Cape Elizabeth Lions Club, 6:39 p.m., first and third Tuesdays at the Bowery Beach Schoolhouse (except July and August), Two Lights Road

South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club, 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays at 107 Preble Hall, Southern Maine Community College, 2 Fort Road, South Portland. [sp-ce-rotary.org](http://sp-ce-rotary.org).

Codependents Anonymous (CODA) group at Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church. Regular meeting weekly on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Call 799-4599 FMI.

## CABLE GUIDE

Subject to change. Please see [cetv.capeelizabeth.org](http://cetv.capeelizabeth.org) for latest program guide and video on demand.

**Board of Zoning Appeals**  
June 27 - 7 p.m.

**Cape Elizabeth Church of the**

## CETV CHANNEL 1302

### Nazarene

July 1, July 2, June 24,  
June 25 - 9 a.m.

### Housing Diversity Study Committee

June 26 - 6:30 p.m.

### School Building Advisory Committee

June 29 - 6:30 p.m.

## CEHPS digital collections now online

Since 2016, Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society volunteers have been working to digitize its collections as part of its effort to preserve and promote Cape Elizabeth's fascinating past. Thanks to a generous gift from the P.W. Sprague Memorial Foundation, CEHPS has updated its software to enable it to share its collection with the larger digital community.

CEHPS currently has over 14,000 images online and will continue to post more images and records from its collections. This year CEHPS has five Cape Elizabeth High School students join its team of volunteers to help in its digitalization project.

To view the CEHPS collections, log onto to its website at [cehistory.org](http://cehistory.org) and follow the link under the picture of the new CEHPS home at Fort Williams. This will take you to the CEHPS Online Collections page where you can search its records by keywords.

CEHPS stresses that its new online collection is a work in progress. You can help with the task of proofreading by sending questions, additions, or corrections to its volunteers at [CEHPS@capeelizabeth.org](mailto:capeelizabeth.org). Please also consider becoming a volunteer - it's fun and it's a great way to leave a legacy for the Cape Elizabeth community. Contact CEHPS at the same address above.

## SERVICES

### Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene

499 Ocean House Road (Route 77)  
747-1113

[www.capenazarene.org](http://www.capenazarene.org)

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:45 a.m.  
Services streamed live or on demand:  
[watch.capenazarene.org](http://watch.capenazarene.org)

### Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church

280 Ocean House Road  
799-8396

[www.ceumc.org](http://www.ceumc.org)

Sanctuary Service: 10 a.m.  
In-person Sunday services 10 a.m. For Zoom services, call 799-8396

### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

29 Ocean House Road  
799-4321

Sacrament Meeting:  
Sunday, 10 - 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School/Primary: 11:10 a.m.-12 p.m.

### The Church of the Second Chance

Greater Portland Christian School  
1338 Broadway, South Portland  
641-3253

Sunday: 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

### Church of the Holy Spirit

1047 Congress Street, Portland  
874-9779

[www.HolySpiritPortland.org](http://www.HolySpiritPortland.org)

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School for children: 10:00 a.m.  
Services streamed live on Facebook  
Potluck dinner every third Sunday

### Congregation Bet Ha'am

81 Westbrook St., South Portland  
879-0028

[www.bethaam.org](http://www.bethaam.org)

Worship: Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 10:30 a.m.  
Family Shabbat Services:  
Second Friday, 6:00 p.m.

### Hope Community Church

879 Sawyer Street South Portland  
799-4565

[www.hopesopo.com](http://www.hopesopo.com)

[www.facebook.com/hopesopo](http://www.facebook.com/hopesopo)  
Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.  
Kid's Church for ages 4 through grade 5

Service videos available on our website

### Promised Land World Reach Center

536 Cottage Road, South Portland  
799-3152

Sunday Prayer & Intercession: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.  
Family Bible Studies: Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
Sermon recordings available to download

### Redeemer Lutheran Church - LCMS

410 Main Street, Gorham  
839-7100

[www.RedeemerMaine.org](http://www.RedeemerMaine.org)

1st Saturday of the month 10:00 a.m. with masks  
Sunday Bible Class 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service: 10:15 a.m.  
Wednesday Vespers: 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday and Wednesday services are in person and streamed on Facebook

### Saint Alban's Episcopal Church

885 Shore Road  
799-4014

[www.stalbansmaine.org](http://www.stalbansmaine.org)  
Sunday Services:

Rite 1 with Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.  
Rite 2 with Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Live Streaming on YouTube (stalbanschannel)  
Children's Programs 9:30 a.m.  
Celtic Eventide 5:30 p.m.  
Room for all

### St John Paul II Parish

### St Bartholomew Roman Catholic Church

8 Two Lights Road  
207-883-0443

[JP2me@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:JP2me@portlanddiocese.org)

Website: [www.JP2me.org](http://www.JP2me.org)

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.

Monday Mass: 8 a.m.

### First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

301 Cottage Road, South Portland  
799-3361

[www.fccucc.org](http://www.fccucc.org)

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. in person and streamed on Facebook & YouTube

### First Congregational Church of Scarborough

167 Black Point Road, Scarborough  
883-2342

[www.fccscarborough.com](http://www.fccscarborough.com)

Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School & Nursery Care



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**Math Tutor** - Summer math refresher for students entering Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, or PreCalculus. Flexible schedule, individual or small group. [jonesgirlcourtney@gmail.com](mailto:jonesgirlcourtney@gmail.com)

**Bathrooms**

Continued from page 2

On appeal, the court overturned the lower court's decision and determined that the school violated the Maine Human Rights Act by failing to let the student choose which bathroom she wished to use. The court ruled that the school erred when it told the family that the student could no longer use the communal girls' bathroom out of a concern for her well-being. This decision, according to Maine's Supreme Judicial Court, had the effect of treating the student differently than her peers due to her transgender status.

So, the issue of transgender students using the bathroom that corresponds with their gender identity has been settled in Maine schools since 2014.

What proponents of gender-neutral bathrooms say is that if a transgender student, say a transgender girl for example, who has not yet declared to everyone how they identify, walks into a girls' bathroom, they are "outing" themselves with that act, and if they go into the other bathroom, they may feel uncomfortable. Nationally, transgender students who feel uncomfortable in one bathroom but who are not yet ready to go into the other have reported going into the "wrong" bathroom for them, outing themselves, or "holding it" all day. A gender-neutral bathroom simply takes that issue away, proponents say.

A student at CEHS, Sagara Hart, reached out, unsolicited, to this paper to share additional information on the transition of a couple of the bathrooms at CEHS.

Hart, who uses she/her pronouns, is the president of the CEHS Gender Sexuality Alliance. The GSA is a club that has existed for decades at the high school as a safe haven for LGBTQ+ students and their allies. She said, "[The club] is a safe place for kids to express themselves, talk about their shared experience of growing up LGBTQ+, have fun together, build community and advocate for themselves. We do things like field trips, for example a visit the LGBTQ+ exhibit at University of Southern Maine. We also have advocated for things such as gender-neutral bathrooms...Most of all, we are a space for queer kids to find each other and build community."

When asked about the process of having bathroom space designated as gender-neutral, Hart said, "[A]fter over a decade of asking and months of planning, [CESD] officially converted the second-floor bathrooms to gender neutral...we simply wanted to take gender out of using the bathroom." She said,

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"It's much more simple than many people think. Now, anyone, regardless of gender identity, is allowed to go in either second floor bathroom."

The process was a fairly long one, according to Hart. "I've only been at the high school for three years, but from what I've heard from past GSA members and alumni, this effort has been ongoing for at least ten years. I run a statewide gender-neutral bathroom campaign with a company called Maine Youth Power, where I have developed a three-step plan that was first enacted at Cape and is now being used in schools in every corner of Maine. However, before all of this, I gathered information. I talked to nearly forty public and private school GSA advisors and students, seeking advice on what has worked for them. Then we started at Cape. First, we came together as a group and brainstormed what an ideal bathroom would look like. It sounds silly, but it really does help. How accessible is it? What do the signs say? Is it single or multi-stall? Things like that. Then, we decided on our achievable goals- these are based on financial boundaries, how accepting a community is, how big a school is, etc. For our school, we wanted something we could put in place immediately, be cost efficient, and be accessible throughout the building. This led us to the plan we came up with, that is in place today. Lastly, once all of our achievable goals were drafted in a single document, we scheduled a meeting with both [administration]. We negotiated a gender-neutral bathroom that we all thought would work best for our school, and moved forward with the plans."

Hart said taking away the stress of choosing a bathroom helps students learn. "I have talked to thousands of LGBTQ+ kids over the past year on why gender-neutral bathrooms are so important to them, and it comes down to helping them feel safe. Kids need to feel safe to learn and to focus in school. Having gender-neutral bathrooms protects them from harassment from other students who perceive them to be 'in the wrong bathroom' or having to 'choose a gender' if they identify as gender non-conforming," she said.

She went on to say that the change "hurts absolutely no one." Any student, Hart said, is allowed to use whatever bathroom they wish. Whether it's a gendered bathroom, with a sign that reads "men" or women" which make up 3/4 of the bathrooms in CEHS, or the gender-neutral bathroom on the second floor. "It takes no more than two minutes to walk to either from any classroom in the school," Hart said, "We would never force anyone to go into a bathroom in the school they feel uncomfortable in- that defeats the point. All we ask is that our fellow students take care of our gender-neutral bathroom and support their peers by showing respect. It's perfectly okay to not understand- all we ask for is respect."

Hart said, "The first step towards bettering our community is giving each other mutual respect, no matter political party, gender,

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race, class, religion, sexuality, etc. Our goal as a GSA is to make students feel happy and welcome in their school environment. And please, if you would like to become an ally, educate yourself. Take to the internet, ask an LGBTQ+ person, learn about why these things are important and how you can support efforts to make everyone feel welcome in the Cape Elizabeth community."

Hart also said that the CEHS GSA will be putting on a Cape Elizabeth Pride Event on June 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. She said any and all are welcome, there will be guest speakers, crafts, local organizations tabling and more. Wear your "rainbow outfit," she said, or "come totally casual." Anyone is welcome. Details are forthcoming, Hart said.

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### Meeting

Continued from page 13

owned properties and conservation land. One change would allow for an increased number of people involved in an event, and another change would give the Conservation Committee a legal framework to ask for financial compensation if an event occurs where admission or fee is charged. Chair Gabrielson noted that this is “not an expectation for revenue generation but gives us the opportunity in the future.” The motion to refer these amendments to the Ordinance Committee was moved by Councilor Penny Jordan, seconded by Councilor Caitlin Jordan, and passed unanimously by the Council.

#### Item #88-2023 Consideration to Refer Project Submission Amendments to the Planning Board

During the May Planning Board meeting, the board voted to request a referral from the Town Council to prepare a package of project submission amendments. These amendments are precipitated by the change in operational hours and that affect project submission deadlines. The council approved this motion unanimously and referred to the Planning Board.

#### Item #89-2023 Consideration of Planning Board Recommendations Relating to LD 2003 Amendments

The council received amendments for consideration from the Planning Board in regard to LD 2003 with options to schedule a public hearing for the July 10 meeting, refer to Council for workshop, or refer amendments to Ordinance Committee.

Members of the community including John Voltz, Tim Thompson and Kevin Justh urged the council to send the motion to public hearing as soon as possible. Justh mentioned these amendments would help with

housing diversity specifically for the 30% of seniors who are currently affected by rising housing and living costs. Tom Dunham said that the LD 2003 criteria “disturbs” him because it doesn’t include parking or stormwater requirements and believes it will “degrade the environment” in certain neighborhoods as well as drastically impact property owners with declining home values.

Council Penny Jordan proposed to move amendments of LD 2003 to public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Boucher and approved by the council.

#### Item #90-2023 Consideration for Request of Funding for Survey Work of the Housing Diversity Study Committee

Town Manager recommends using \$32,100 in unassigned fund balance to provide funding for survey services and online discussion board services for the Housing Diversity Study Committee in their continuing effort to meet the established charge of the committee to gather public feedback. Motion passed unanimously by the council.

#### Item #91-2023 Consideration to Amend the Charge of the Ad-Hoc Housing Diversity Study Committee

The council discussed the Ad-Hoc Housing Diversity Study Committee’s charge to remove Fort Williams Park from consideration for potential affordable housing projects with the suggestion of also removing Lion’s Field and Plaisted Park from future consideration. The motion failed in the council.

#### Item #92-2023 Proposed Bond Order to Fund the Costs of Design & Engineering for the School Project

The Cape Elizabeth Town Council approved the proposed bond order to fund the costs of design and engineering for the school project entitled, vote authorizing expenditures of up to \$950,000 for cost of design and engineering for alternate school

plans for Pond Cove/Middle Schools and the issuance of bonds therefore. Councilor Penny Jordan moved to approve the motion as written and was seconded by Councilor Caitlin Jordan. The Council approved the motion.

#### Item #93-2023 Updates to the Personnel Code

Town Manager Sturgis recommended updates to Chapter 3 Personnel Code. The changes are based on recommendations from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, changes needed for the operational changes of hours effective July 1, 2023, and updating to current legal status.

An amendment proposed by Chair Gabrielson to strike final sentence of section

G “other requirements” in Chapter 3 of the Personnel Code that reads “any applicant who has been convicted of a felony or who has been convicted of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude may not be considered for employment.” Moved by Chair Gabrielson, seconded by Council Penny Jordan and voted in favor unanimously by the Council.

#### Item #94-2023 Enter into Executive Session - Request for Abatement of Property Taxes

The Town Council entered executive session to discuss a request for an abatement of property taxes due to hardship or poverty. Motion to adjourn.

## Local feline turns newshound



Contributed photo

Caper Martha Kane recently found Annie catching up on The Cape Courier.



Project Graduation 2023

# THANK YOU!

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