

The Cape Courier

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In the Spirit of Community

Four candidates running for two Town Council seats

By Kevin St. Jarre



Stephanie Anderson



Matthew Grymek



Andrew Swayze



Timothy Thompson

There are four candidates running for two seats on the Cape Elizabeth Town Council. These are for three-year terms, to expire December 14, 2026. The candidates are Stephanie Anderson, Matthew Grymek, Andrew Swayze and Timothy Thompson.

All of the candidates were provided with identical questions, the same word limit, and given the same amount of time to respond with answers and a photo. Their responses are printed below, as The Cape Courier received them, up to the word limit.

Cape Elizabeth's polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. at the Cape Elizabeth High School gymnasium on November 7.

Cape Courier: As a member of the Town Council, you'll often be given information from opposing sides that directly conflict. How do you decide which information to believe?

Anderson: "I am very comfortable doing this. I spent 28 years adjudicating difficult cases, tackling substance abuse disorder driven crime, respecting competing interests and objectives, and managing with an overburdened court system. I helped break cultural bias and institutional barriers and succeeded in developing Maine's first Drug Court and several other initiatives to divert offenders away from traditional criminal case processing into programs of treatment, restitution, and restoration."

"Information consists of opinions and facts, and it's easy to differentiate the two. When confronted with conflicting facts, I look toward the source and the reliability. When two credible facts support conflicting policies, as town councilor I will prefer policy decisions which respects the best interests of most of the people who live here. I will do the same with conflicting opinions. It's about balancing interests while relying on credible facts."

Grymek: "As elected officials, the

town council is responsible for making decisions that benefit the entire community, without showing bias towards their own interests or the interests of a specific group of citizens. I am not running for town council with a preconceived agenda and selectively using data to support my existing position. I am running for town council with a genuine commitment to doing the work that prioritizes the long-term prosperity of Cape Elizabeth. Taking this commitment seriously means gathering information from all perspectives, scrutinizing motivations, evaluating information credibility, consulting with experts, rigorously fact-checking, discerning the accuracy of information from misinformation, participating in open discussions with fellow councilors, remaining receptive to new information and differing viewpoints, and ultimately arriving at well-considered decisions that benefit all of Cape Elizabeth."

Swayze: "I consider the source and will make decisions based on what is best for Cape. I will always be on the side of parties presenting their information with complete transparency, sound data and balanced language."

Thompson: "I like to first get educated on the topic as much as possible. I

then like to ask each side of the issues as many probing questions as I think is reasonable. I then try to find a compromise both parties can get behind that helps to solve the problem. I have found keeping people calm and polite in the conversation limiting the extreme edges makes for a successful environment to find solutions."

Cape Courier: When it comes to your vision for the future of Cape Elizabeth, what sort of mix would you like to see? More retirees moving to town, more families with young children moving in, or a 50/50 mix and why?

Anderson: "The vision for the future of Cape Elizabeth is the focus of two recent surveys and my policy positions will be informed by the analysis of those surveys, along with information for how similar towns in Maine are handling their housing crisis, and the impact of new state-driven housing laws and production goals. I am curious for more information and more community feedback before drawing any final conclusions. My current personal priority is that people who live here and want to stay here are able to. My second is that the people who work here, including our teachers, police officers and public works employ-

ees can afford to live in Cape Elizabeth with their families."

Grymek: "My vision for Cape Elizabeth is a diverse and thriving community which values both young families and retirees. As a parent of young children, I have a firsthand appreciation for the energy and vibrancy that young families bring to our town. This vitality is felt at community gatherings, school sporting events, our open spaces and throughout our neighborhoods. Simultaneously, I also recognize the invaluable contributions of our older generations and the wisdom they add to our community. Our town should welcome all generations but also ensure that we can provide the necessary housing diversity and public resources to support them. By offering a range of housing options and resources tailored to both young families and retirees, we guarantee that everyone can experience a high quality of life within our community."

Swayze: "My vision for Cape Elizabeth is one that attracts all kinds of residents, not just retirees and families. However, there are people deeply invested in this community who cannot afford to live here. My daughter's kindergarten teacher spent over two hours each

-see PROFILES page 4



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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: Oct 11
DEADLINE: Noon, Sept 29

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'Clear sign' of 'trying way too hard' Time to wear some pink

The latest issue of the Courier shows very clearly, through several half page ads strewn throughout, that the "most money and least sense" folks in town are trying to buy their way into town government...again. These are all status quo voices in a town that has dug itself into this funding hole for years and is desperately in need of fresh ideas to survive.

I have always looked to the Courier for info about our small town, student accomplishments, what's going on at TML, and (of course) who bought what house at what ridiculous price (or steal). I'm saddened to see this small minority of citizen's voices amplified to an angry shout

on almost every page.

So, if you've seen a half page ad in the Courier already for a Town Council or School Board candidate, its a pretty clear sign they're trying way too hard, for reasons that they don't want you to know just yet. And that's a mistake Cape has been making for far too long. We can do better than that.

Heather Reeves

Cape Elizabeth Girls Soccer needs your help supporting Maine Cancer Foundation.

Cheer on your lady Capers Thursday October 17 as they take on Yarmouth Jr Varsity at 4:15 p.m. and Varsity at 6:00 p.m. at Hanaford Field. Enjoy a home cooked meal from the concession stand! In addition to our 50/50 raffle, CEGS is donating 50% of concession sales to Maine Cancer Foundation.

Thompson 'is the embodiment of community oriented'

We are lucky to have someone such as Tim Thompson running for a seat on the Town Council. There are few that can match his record of service. Tim offers a clear record of supporting education as well as a focus on ongoing community enrichment. Tim has been part of the process for decades and comprehensively recognizes the challenges we face and the opportunities we have to overcome those challenges.

He is the embodiment of "community oriented" and achieves often difficult goals in a collaborative way with passion, care and always with a smile. We need more of that in Cape Elizabeth.

I hope you'll join me in voting for Tim Thompson on November 7.

Zev Myerowitz

THANK YOU!

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

Thank you to these recent generous contributors:

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Kathleen & John Fabish

Daniel Fishbein & Ilene Schuchman

Pamela Greaney

Anonymous

Anderson seeks 'fair and affordable compromises'

I am heartened that Stephanie Anderson is running for a seat on Town Council. Stephanie has spent her career in public service, having served 28 years as the elected Cumberland County District Attorney. During her time as DA, she successfully brought together all parties impacted by complex issues and reached creative and compassionate solutions. I know she will do the same as a councilor.

research the issue, listen intently and openly to her constituents, and seek fair and affordable compromises.

Stephanie cares deeply about our town and has the time needed to devote to the job of councilor. Her experience, knowledge and approach will be of great value as we maneuver through the challenges we face as a community. I will be casting my vote for Stephanie Anderson in November and hope you will do the same.

Elizabeth Goodspeed

Grymek is 'committed to the long-term vibrancy of the town'

I'm writing to voice my support for Matt Grymek for Town Council. I grew up in Cape and my spouse and I have decided this is where we want to raise our family and grow older. I want people on the town council who are committed to the long-term vibrancy of the town in rapidly changing times. We cannot keep going with the status quo; we need to look closely at what's happening around us and strategically grow and invest with the necessary vision. A vision that many towns around us have embraced, yet something with which we seem to be wrestling.

be more of a focus on long-term, strategic planning that really addresses the structural needs/goals, not just short-term cost savings and avoidance of real solutions. I think Matt Grymek shares these goals. I encourage all citizens to get out and vote in our next election and I support Matt Grymek for Town Council.

Eliza Matheson

-see more LETTERS TO THE EDITOR on page 16

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

Checks made out to The Cape Courier may be mailed to P.O. Box 2248, South Portland, Maine, 04116. Please include a message on your correspondence if you prefer to remain anonymous.

Let us hear from you!

We love feedback!

editor@capecourier.com

Stephanie Anderson for Town Council



Dear Cape Elizabeth Residents,

I am running for Town Council. I have lived in Cape Elizabeth for 23 years and I love it here. I care, and I do my homework. I am independent and objective and am asking for your vote.

As the former Cumberland County District Attorney, I have 28 years of honed skills and experience addressing and solving difficult problems while responsibly managing limited resources and competing needs. My work ethic and experience, which are a matter of public record, would be put to work for you.

Public service has been the call of my life, and I know that we can come together to address the challenging issues we face. I approach decisions with a fact-based, creative process. I research carefully, speak to people in the field, listen to those impacted, and then try to find a solution that is fair to everyone.

I care about all the issues facing Cape Elizabeth, and we have big ones: managing property tax increases, creating more housing options, developing a school facilities solution that will carry us into the future and be approved by a majority of voters, supporting small businesses, fostering a vibrant town center, and continued protection of Fort Williams and our open spaces and town resources.

I feel strongly that an elected official's role is to listen to their constituents and set priorities accordingly. I am an open-minded listener and eager to hear from you. What are your top priorities for Cape? What do you see as some of our challenges? What suggestions do you have for how the council can represent your views?

I have connected with many of you through several hosted Friends and Neighbors and Community Gatherings. There are several more planned. Come chat with me and others in the Community Center meeting room, Sunday, October 1st and Sunday October 15th from 4:00 to 6:00. They are drop in gatherings for informal conversations, so come any time and stay for 5 minutes or an hour.

If you can't make any of the gatherings, please feel free to email me at stephanieforcape@gmail.com and I'll be happy to find a time that works for you.

I want to hear from you. I want to work for you.

Please vote for me in November so I can. Vote because it matters and it counts.

Vote at the High School on November 7th from 7am-7pm or by absentee ballot starting October 10th.

Please scan this QR code for more information.

I hope to have the opportunity to represent you,

Stephanie Anderson



Profiles

Continued from page 1

day commuting to/from Pond Cove; the housing market here made it impossible for her to move closer. Many seniors have a fixed income, and many young families and individuals are already saddled with college loan debt. Buying a single-family home, which comprise the overwhelming majority of properties in Cape, is likely not within their reach. Affordable housing could help more people who work here to also live here.”

Thompson: “As a member of the Housing Diversity Committee, I have been studying the challenges of affordable housing in Cape. The problem is there are not enough houses for the demand that exists. The median house prices make it difficult for young families or older couples that want to downsize. It’s also difficult for our workforce to find housing. The market will drive the results, but right now new sales are out of reach and often go to out of state people who see Cape as a good place to retire. We need to find land in Cape to build housing for the people I’ve mentioned and that is proving to be a big challenge. We need a balance that includes young families and older couples that include homes available for our workforce.”

Cape Courier: When it comes to potential housing development, is there a moral/ethical issue when it comes to building low-to-moderate income housing next to where residential waste/garbage goes/has gone?

Anderson: “When it comes to potential housing for any income bracket, including low and moderate, there is a moral/ethical imperative to build homes in environmentally safe places that offer healthy indoor and outdoor spaces for all people and their pets. I am in favor of a diverse housing solution, including the potential use of town-owned land, except for Fort Williams. I do not support housing in Fort Williams - period. Whether or not the proposed location for housing in Gull Crest would be a suitable area for homes, just as nearby Colonial Village is, would be determined by the developer, engineers, planning board and town councilors after multiple site studies and reports. It’s notable that so many people of all ages use this area on a daily basis

for gardening, athletic practice, ice skating, nordic skiing, trail walks and full-time employment. If it’s not clean, safe and beautiful, why would the town have situated so many recreational and school activities there?”

Grymek: “Affordable housing should not be synonymous with where we dispose of our waste. Cape Elizabeth must expand its housing inventory while carefully considering the ethical challenge of placing affordable housing near a former dump/burn pit, the existing transfer station, and an operational water and sewer treatment plant. This location also isolates residents from other neighborhoods and essential resources, inadvertently sending a message that our support for affordable housing is conditional on it being tucked away from our neighborhoods and not integrated into our town. Unlike other proposed sites, like the town center, Gull Crest will probably demand a higher initial investment from taxpayers due to the lack of existing infrastructure and limited chances of obtaining private or federal funding.”

Swayze: “Personally, I would not want to live next to a landfill; everyone I’ve had the opportunity to chat with has echoed this sentiment. Relegating lower income residents to land adjacent to sewage, waste and a floodplain, segregated from the rest of the community, isn’t just ethically wrong, it’s fiscally irresponsible. The cost of such a project will fall almost entirely to the Cape taxpayer; state and federal subsidies will not be offered for such an endeavor. It is also environmentally irresponsible. Oceans are already rising due to climate change and our salt water marshes are one of the best natural defenses the town has. If we’re willing to consider removing Sawyer Road—a major piece of infrastructure—from the marsh because of rising water levels, why are we even thinking about putting housing there? Finding ways to develop where we already have infrastructure saves the town money, maintains our green space and is ethically the right thing to do.”

Thompson: “I am a member of the Housing Diversity Committee. We have been finding it difficult to locate any significant available land for developing affordable housing. Gull Crest has challenges but currently is the only land owned by the town that offers a signifi-

cant possible solution. Gull Crest also is where we have ball fields where our children regularly play games which we have deemed to be safe and without any environmental concern. The town recently completed a study of the Gull Crest property that showed that we could build something similar in layout and design to nearby Colonial Village. More study is needed, but let’s not rule out a possible ‘good option’ in pursuit of a ‘perfect one.’ If Cape is to be serious about finding a workable plan, we need to avoid the negatives and work towards housing opportunities for our young families, older downsizers and town workforce.”

Cape Courier: Cape Elizabeth’s school buildings are inefficient, aging and declining. Where do you stand on improving the situation?

Anderson: “The new School Building Advisory Committee now consists of interested and informed Cape citizens, aided by an objective and professional owner’s representative, the results of the bond proposal vote and a citizen survey. I trust this new committee and the open process it is using. I stand on waiting to hear what it has to say. As town councilor, I will support the process of moving forward with a facilities solution that is acceptable to most Cape residents, considering all interests, from those advocating for 21st century learning to those on low, moderate or fixed incomes.”


Grymek: “As a community that values education, we must invest in the construction of new schools that can effectively meet the needs of our students and the broader community. Our current schools have surpassed their expected lifespans and are in desperate need of replacement. In addition to safety and security concerns, these outdated facilities experience frequent maintenance issues, leading to increasingly high upkeep costs. Parents of school-aged children are all too familiar with reports of flooding, extreme temperatures, mold, vermin, structural problems and other deficiencies. These obsolete buildings are also failing to adequately support modern education, leaving our students underserved. I understand the financial burden building new schools may pose for taxpayers, including my own family. I am committed, however, to exploring alternative ways to supplement our town’s financial resources to ensure the schools can be built while minimizing the financial burden placed on our residents.”

Swayze: “We need new school buildings, without a doubt. Like many schools in our country, Cape’s school buildings have reached the end of their useful life. Residents are understandably wary of the tax implications of new buildings, so it’s time to consider diversifying and broadening the tax base. This means encouraging small businesses and new residents to move in. It also means thinking creatively about the different functions that school buildings and grounds serve: investing in a new auditorium that could be rented out, solar panels integrated into the design to green the town’s energy grid, more community space and gardens—there’s potential to serve the students, faculty and administration while also providing tangible benefits to the rest of the community.”

Thompson: “I am feeling very positive about our current school building committee. It now is the right size with 5 community members and an owner’s representative to provide professional balanced guidance. Renovation of the space that makes sense and “building new” where it is needed is probably the best, most affordable approach that can get approved in a referendum. Results from the recent school building survey seem to support this approach. I served on the Cape Elizabeth School Building Committee for 5 years. If we had gone forward with the 2018 building plan, which included significant renovations and a new cafeteria and new administrative office space, many of the likely recommendations coming forward from the current committee would already be in place. That plan was approximately \$27.5 million dollars. It had strong support in the town, and I feel would have succeeded in the referendum process. Today that same plan would cost \$50-60 million dollars. Most importantly our students and staff would already be enjoying the improved safer building environment. I am confident the committee will recommend a plan that will work, and the town will support.”

Cape Courier: What do you think about attracting and supporting new small businesses to Cape Elizabeth? Do you have any thoughts on the process potential small businesses have to go through in order to open, and stay open, in town?

-see CANDIDATES page 5




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Candidates

Continued from page 4

Anderson: “Over the past 30 years, and most recently with the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, there have been multiple Town Center Planning Committees and Comprehensive Planning Committees, each engaging widespread and robust citizen involvement, and each coming to the same conclusion about the town center - that is, an identifiable, vibrant town center that includes mixed retail uses, a safe and inviting pedestrian and bicycle environment, visual vitality, and linkages to the town’s open space and residential neighborhoods. One recommendation for achieving this is avoiding excessive regulations and permitting and working with the business owners to achieve mutual goals. The current situation with the Lumbery suggests that the planning board requirements and process is too slow, cumbersome and expensive. We need to have processes in place that are robust enough to provide adequate notice and flexible enough to facilitate day to day reasonable business activities.”

Grymek: “I believe that Cape residents overwhelmingly appreciate the value that small businesses bring to our community. These businesses both bolster our tax base and provide essential services that enhance our overall quality of life. Furthermore, there is a shared priority among many citizens to create a more vibrant town center. Starting a business is already a challenging endeavor and should not be made more difficult by the town it aims to serve. Ideally, small businesses should see the town as a valuable resource and ally, rather than an adversary. I would like to see the town exhibit more agility and flexibility when collaborating with businesses. This means reevaluating land use and zoning regulations, reforming administrative processes, streamlining permitting procedures, and addressing emerging issues swiftly and efficiently. Establishing an Economic Growth and Business Development position within the town can also play a key role in fostering this supportive environment. This position can serve as a dedicated resource, not only to assist existing small businesses, but also to actively work toward attracting new ones.”

Swayze: “What we’re seeing with the Lumbery lawsuit is a great example of how Cape needs to revisit its ordinances to better support denser housing and

small businesses. There are aspects of the code that are straight up debilitating to beneficial development. The Lumbery is also an example of how small businesses give back to our town; they support community fundraisers, donate time and materials to the schools, and reduce our residential tax burden. We could do a better job in reciprocating this support.”

“Have you ever noticed that most town centers have a speed limit of 25 mph? There’s a reason for this! Our town center is currently so empty, the state of Maine has seen no reason to lower the limit from the current 35 mph, because that is the mean speed of traffic in the area. The Town Center plan of 2014 specifically calls out “recasting” Route 77 as Cape’s “Main Street,” but our zoning ordinances have not drawn in the businesses needed to accomplish this. A bustling town center, with a true village feel (as our current zoning ordinances say we should have) wouldn’t just inspire visitors to slow down and notice the businesses the town has to offer, it would be safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Cape Elizabeth is a magnet for tourists; it’s a shame that we haven’t done more to take advantage of the financial benefits they can bring.”

Thompson: “This is a very important issue that needs to be addressed by the town council. The environment is not currently supportive or even fair for small businesses. I worked on and was the chair of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan for Cape Elizabeth. That plan recommended in numerous sections the encouragement and support for our small business owners. The issue has Cape Elizabeth currently in the local papers reporting on how The Lumbery has negatively been affected. Several small business owners in Cape have suggested improvements for streamlining and improving the process of working with the town planner and the planning board. A set of new ordinances and processes need to be developed. We need to build a reputation as a town that encourages and supports our local small businesses to succeed. I think it is time for the town to consider funding a new position for economic development. In the meantime,... let’s drop the lawsuit against Mike Friedland and The Lumbery.”

Police officers confiscate alcohol from minors

Reported by Marta Girouard

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 8-23 An officer met with a subject in the Spurwink Avenue area regarding a hit and run accident.
- 8-26 An officer met with a subject in the Spurwink Avenue area regarding a harassment complaint.
- 9-2 Two officers responded to a residence in the Fowler Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 9-2 Two officers responded to a residence in the Mitchell Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 9-2 An officer responded to a vacant house in the Shore Road area for report of suspicious activity.
- 9-3 Two officers were dispatched to the area of Mitchell Road and Lydon Lane for report of a road-rage incident.
- 9-3 An officer was dispatched to Cliff House Beach for a report of a group of young people drinking on the beach.
- 9-3 An officer met with a resident of the Sawyer Road area who advised that someone had used her personal information to try to open several accounts. She was able to prevent those accounts from being opened and has frozen her credit.
- 9-5 An officer met with a resident of the Ocean House Road area regarding a potential trespass complaint.
- 9-5 An officer met with a subject in the Spurwink Avenue area regarding a theft of services complaint.
- 9-6 An officer met with a school bus driver who reported damage to a mirror on her bus after striking a basketball hoop/backboard that upon investigation appears to have been hanging in the roadway.
- 9-7 An officer met with a resident of the Ocean House Road area regarding an ID theft complaint.
- 9-8 An officer checked Gull Crest Field and found a group of teenagers consuming alcohol. Parents were contacted, alcohol was confiscated and destroyed, and SRO Galvan was contacted for follow-up.

SUMMONSES

- 9-1 Cape Elizabeth resident, failure to yield, Ocean House Road, \$154
- 9-2 Portland resident, uninspected motor

- vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 9-3 Scarborough resident, operating without a license, Spurwink Avenue
- 9-3 Scarborough resident, operating after suspension, Spurwink Avenue, \$325
- 9-3 Cape Elizabeth resident, permitting unlawful use, Spurwink Avenue, \$180
- 9-7 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using a handheld device, Route 77, \$85
- 9-7 Portland resident, speed (50/35 zone), Spurwink Avenue, \$170
- 9-11 Wells resident, uninspected motor vehicle, Shore Road, \$148

ARRESTS

- 9-1 Cape Elizabeth resident, warrant, Windward Way
- 9-5 Warrant, Vernon Road

JUVENILE SUMMONSES

- 9-2 Cape Elizabeth resident, violation of interim license, Ocean House Road, \$385

ACCIDENTS

- 8-30 Lauren Perrault, Courtney Smith Parks, Ocean House Road
- 9-1 Sara Isfeld, Peter Landrigan, Ocean House Road

FIRE/RESCUE CALLS

Fire calls: 15
EMS calls: 30

Judy’s Pantry- a community feeding itself

Judy’s Pantry operates at the Cape Elizabeth Methodist Church on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 3-5 p.m.

Prior registration is necessary. Please contact Beth Owens: bethowens1@gmail.com.



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Andrew Swayze running for Cape Elizabeth Town Council



Contributed photo

Andrew Swayze has announced his candidacy for Town Council.

(Press release) - Andrew Swayze has formally announced his candidacy for Town Council in the election on November 7. He is committed to addressing the need for new school buildings, affordable housing and better support for small businesses.

"We've been treating these issues separately when the truth is they're interconnected," Swayze said. "The schools need to be replaced, but residents justifiably worry about the tax burden. A diversified tax base would reduce this burden, so I would support revisions to our zoning laws to encourage new residents and small businesses to come to Cape and feel supported enough to stay."

Swayze moved to Cape Elizabeth in 2021. His wife Katie grew up in Cape, graduating from CEHS in 2000. They moved here to

be closer to family and because Katie could vouch for the quality of Cape's schools. Their daughters are now both enrolled at Pond Cove.

As a DevOps Engineer for MIT, Swayze works remotely on server operations and maintenance. His success at work comes from his ability to cut to the heart of a problem while listening to the concerns of both MIT's diverse community and external partners. He excels in parsing data and figuring out ways to make complicated ideas work.

Swayze welcomes opportunities to meet with residents to discuss ways we can work together as a community. So far, these discussions have been the best part of running for office. For more information, please visit swayzefortowncouncil.com or reach him by email at swayze04107@outlook.com.



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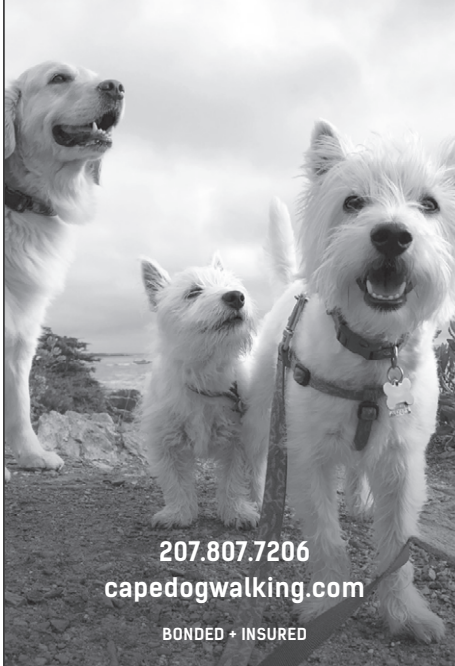
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News from September 11 Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Note: The recording of this meeting was edited due to disturbances and interruptions on Zoom. Town Manager Matt Sturgis worked with the town's IT Department after the meeting on controls and improved security functionality. He will be advising staff and committees that currently use the hybrid meeting option on proper steps to take in providing a higher level of security and control.

Citizen Comment for Items Not on Agenda

Dave Lawser of 19 Orchard Road called them "strict." He wants to build a new front porch on his home to replace an old rotted one but is frustrated that he would have to provide a boundary survey. Such a survey, he says, would cost around \$4,000 and the inconvenience of surveyors taking appointments 14-weeks out.

Kevin Jordan has concerns on the re-valuation of the town, commenting that the letter from the Town Assessor that was mailed to Cape residents does not match with the reality of what they're seeing on their valuation and property cards. He said that if this holds true and continues that Cape will become the "least affordable and most gentrified community in Maine."

Town Manager's Monthly Report

Town Manager Matt Sturgis commented on the recent valuation process. During a September 6 Town Council workshop, Sturgis told the council that the "project is incomplete" and "needs more time" citing that many "constraints

to land value, such as easements" weren't thoroughly examined. He said that the project will be paused and along with the Town Assessor, they will spend the next three months finishing the work.

Clinton Swett, Town Assessor, added there is "a lot of stuff that needs to be corrected" and that data will be reviewed throughout this fall and winter seasons. He added, the "letters we will send in January 2024 are going to be more comprehensive."

Councilor Noonan asked if citizens' questions and concerns would also be put on hold during this time, to which Sturgis said that that was the plan. Councilor Gillis noted that this valuation has been three years in the making and four years behind schedule once implemented. She asked if the next valuation would be 2031 (ten years after the most recent valuation of 2011) or will it be pushed out further? Swett said that the "long-term plan is not to wait ten years, but to have small reviews every few years."

Many citizens shared their comments and concerns over the revelation project. Tom Dunham urged his community members to "get more involved" in these such processes. Penny Pollard and John Voltz both shared individual comments on needing better communication surrounding the valuation process. Voltz said "it's our job as a town to communicate how this works" and that not doing so "causes tremendous uncertainty in the community."

It was stated that the new values will be completed by the end of 2023, and that by May of 2024, everyone will know what their tax bills will be for that year.

Item #113-2023 Request from Councilor Reiniger Regarding the Zoning Ordinance Violation Against The Lumbery

Michael Friedland, an owner of The Lumbery, asked the Council to drop the 4 million dollar lawsuit against him and asked that there be a way to work together on small [ordinance] problems.

Multiple citizens shared their support and concern over the situation with the Lumbery, and shared how that may translate into future issues with small business in Cape. One resident said of the lawsuit against Michael Friedland that the "optics are terrible," and it "reflects poorly on a business that benefits the town in so many ways, creates anxiety and financial cost for the Lumbery," finalizing their comment that "we have other things to attend to" in the town.

Kevin Berry shared that he thought "we'd see more progress on this issue." Adding that "there's no clarity, people don't understand" regarding what the Lumbery allegedly did or did not do to warrant a lawsuit. Berry added that "we need a communications person for the town" and that since "other business owners have also had their own difficulties [with ordinance compliance], maybe we should have a small business advisory board." He finished his allotted time by asking the council, "has anyone come forward to complain about the Lumbery? Why is this dragging on?"

Mary Ann Lynch said that it's "time for a public discussion on this issue" and that the town didn't approve the lawsuit, and that council members weren't even aware of it, although she then added that

it's rumored a few [members] might have known which she said "is concerning."

John Voltz was the only community member present that spoke on the record and told the council "don't drop the lawsuit" and to "let the process play out." He added that he "wished The Lumbery would have spent more time at the table talking with the town than telling people to drop the lawsuit."

Another citizen said that this lawsuit "caught the public by surprise" adding that "Michael doesn't deserve it, the town doesn't deserve it," and it "should be about doing the right thing by taking the boot off his neck and moving forward."

Dave Andrews said the lawsuit is "kind of embarrassing," and that "other towns are talking about it and that it's gone on too long."

Councilor Reiniger motioned to move that the council directs town staff to voluntarily dismiss the lawsuit against Michael Friedland, a motion seconded by Councilor Penny Jordan. Councilor Caitlin Jordan offered an amendment to Reiniger's motion suggesting that the town hold a workshop and potential "mediation" so that both parties could come to a resolution without the lawsuit. Penny Jordan seconded this motion amendment.

Reiniger said that he "doesn't believe that the council should be serving as a court in this lawsuit." He added that "we can't afford to lose a business such as the Lumbery, and we want to "send a message that we want to be friendly to small business" in Cape.

Councilor Noonan shared concerns that by having the council "just dropping

-see MEETING page 15

Arienne Hurder for School Board

Dear Cape Friends and Neighbors, I am running for a seat on Cape's School Board this fall and would appreciate your vote. My family and I have lived in Cape Elizabeth for 10 years and I have two children in the Cape schools.

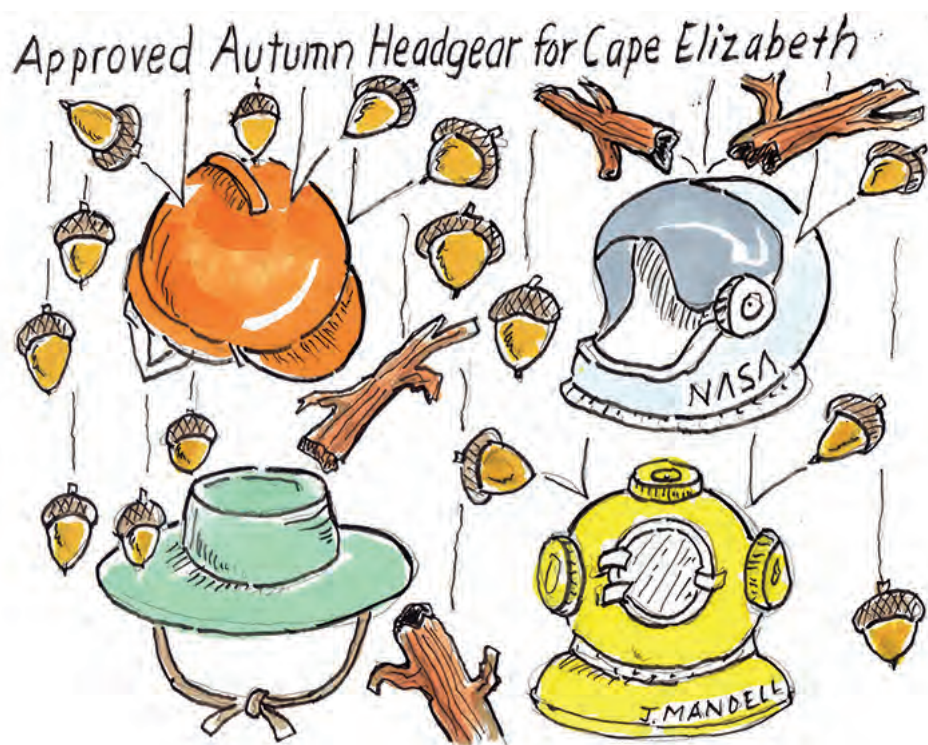


My goals and priorities as a member of the school board include:

- Ensuring that every Cape student is afforded the high quality education Cape's schools are known for.
- Participating in budget discussions for the school building renovation/rebuild project. Ensuring all Cape citizens feel represented in that conversation.
- Making parent/teacher communication a priority. Encouraging transparency and collaboration in support of students' needs.
- Making students and parents aware of all post high school paths. Discussing options beyond 4 year colleges, such as trade schools and military.
- Bringing more awareness to the issue of bullying. Ensuring that every student in the district feels safe when they come to school.
- Encouraging an ongoing dialogue around curriculum and teaching methods to ensure Cape's students benefit from the highest quality education possible.

Capetoon: Hats

By Jeff Mandell



Drop In For A Spell Pumpkin Carving

Tuesday, October 24 ~ 3pm-5:30pm

We look forward to welcoming local families to the Inn for our annual afternoon of pumpkin carving. Bring the creativity while we supply the pumpkins for the kids, carving tools, warm apple cider and treats.

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October 25th.

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Eliza Green studies the language in South Korea

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Eliza Green stands looking out at Gamcheon Culture Village in Busan during her week-long stay studying the language and culture.

After years of study and preparation, Eliza Green, a senior at Cape Elizabeth High School, extended her education through travel and hard work.

Green left for an EF (Education First) language immersion program at an international school in Korea on June 22 and returned on August 6. The trip was the result of three years of studying the language and a year of working and researching to make the trip itself really happen, she said.

“As a little kid, speaking in gibberish and writing my own alphabets was one of my favorite things to do. I have vivid memories of pretending I spoke a rare language with my brothers at the grocery store, and making up symbols to communicate with them so that our parents couldn’t read what we had written. I always knew I loved language through my love of writing as well, and when I began learning Korean, I knew that I really wanted to achieve fluency,” Green said.

As most would agree, and Green certainly does, immersion is the best way to learn a language, so she began planning. “[I]n the spring of 2022, I began throwing out ideas for what a trip to Korea would look like. After a lot of babysitting, budgeting, researching and filling out more paperwork than I would like to think about, here we are,” she said.

Green said the trip was a tremendous experience. “I think life changing is probably the only way to put it. When I first arrived, majorly jetlagged and embarrassed that I had to speak English with a flight attendant because her Korean was so fast, I was scared to leave my apartment. My host family was so kind and incredibly welcoming, but I was right in the thick of Seoul, among millions and millions of people, and definitely not in rural Maine,” Green said.

She said the neighborhood where she stayed was the size of Portland. Green said, “I could barely remember the code to get into my new home, much less how to get anywhere else. But, on my second day, I decided to go for a walk. I walked

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-see LANGUAGE page 9

CEHS student starts chapter of World Computer Exchange

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Pamela Cooney, the president and co-founder of World Computer Exchange, and Sebastian Francis, a CEHS student who has started the first chapter of WCE in Maine, work to refurbish computers so that they can be distributed to students who need them in developing countries.

Sebastian Francis, a student at Cape Elizabeth High School, has started a chapter of the World Computer Exchange at the school. The group is part of the Coding Club and computer teacher Alex Anesko is the advisor.

World Computer Exchange chapters refurbish computers so that they can be distributed to students who need them in developing countries. Many of the computers go to kids in Africa.

Francis said he got involved because it felt like a meaningful activity he could do for the local and global community. He said, "CEHS got us started by generously donating 25 laptops that were no longer needed. Last June, I delivered these computers to Pam Cooney, co-founder of WCE."

Cooney founded it with her husband Timothy Anderson, who sadly passed

away last year.

The organization's headquarters are in the Boston area and there are chapters all over the country, but the CEHS WCE chapter, which Francis started, is the first in Maine.

He is putting a call out. "[W]e need more computers to refurbish! Anyone with a computer that they no longer need [and wish to] donate can contact me at cehswce@gmail.com and I can collect the computer, or make arrangements so that they can drop it off, whichever is most convenient for them," he said.

Francis says any computer- laptop or desktop would be great- as long as they are newer than about 2008. He added, "Although if anyone isn't sure, I would say err on the side of donating the laptop."

WCE's website is <https://worldcomputerexchange.org>.

Language

Continued from page 8

about one block, pretending like I totally knew where I was going, and then realized if I kept walking I would get lost and so I turned around and went home and took a very long nap. It was exhausting."

By the end of the first week, though, she was taking the subway alone...and got off at the wrong stop. "My first class of the day didn't start until 3:00 p.m. or so, which meant I had a few hours to kill, so I rolled with it and explored a new part of the city. I spent about an hour under an overpass at Cheonggyecheon Stream, watching a heron catch fish and enjoying the striking contrast between the modern, glassy Jongno Tower and ancient Joseon architecture that sit side by side," Green said.

Later on, two weeks before she would leave South Korea to be exact, she missed a 7-hour bus ride with EF students that was headed to Busan, a city on the opposite side of Korea. The resourceful and brave young woman took charge of her situation. Green said, "I was devastated since I had been looking forward to the trip, so I got ready anyway, headed to Seoul Station and bought a one-way ticket on the bullet train."

She said it really hit her after she returned to Seoul how much she had learned and how much experience she had gained in such a short time. Green said, "My language, communication and navigation skills grew so much during my time there, and I feel very lucky to have met such amazing and intelligent teachers, classmates and friends I will have forever, who have shared experiences that I will never be able to recreate. I made sure to keep a journal so that I

wouldn't forget the little moments which were the most important to me, like eating buldak ramen by the Han River with friends, watching a random soccer match at Seoul World Cup Stadium, and listening to the endless stream of music from the wide and unique variety of street performers in Seoul."

Her confidence in her future plans has grown. "I know for sure that I want to continue with the language and return to Seoul. I've been interested in education, and seeing my teachers work with kids all over the world inspires me to work toward a goal where I can go internationally and pursue a career. Of course, things will change throughout my life, no doubt, but I know that I love being in the city and meeting new people, so I hope that I can achieve that one day," she said.

When asked if she had anything to add, Green replied, "Please bring a neck pillow if you're flying over 6,000 miles, because 19+ hours of flying over the course of a day is a great recipe for never being able to look up or down again..."

But she added, "In all seriousness, I did, in fact, have 19+ hours to dwell on the fact that I was about to be more than 6,000 miles away from my parents, who had been anchors in helping me make this all happen, speaking a language that I was definitely NOT fluent in, and sharing a house with strangers. I had a lot of moments of 'why did I do this' especially during the first week or so when I got sick a lot, and ended up booking myself a doctor's appointment that happened almost entirely using Google Translate. In the end though, my host family was like a second home, my friends are definitely for life and I have tons of memories that I wouldn't trade for anything."

CHARITY HEWS FOR SCHOOL BOARD



Dear Cape Residents,

My name is Charity Hews. I am running for school board and would appreciate your support in the upcoming election!

As member of the board, I pledge to:

- **Be responsible with your tax dollars, while committing to maintain academic excellence**
- **Listen to ALL community members, and value your feedback**
- **Advocate for ALL students and their families**
- **Promote ALL pathways beyond high school equally**
- **Foster greater collaboration with the community**

I would appreciate your vote on November 7th!

Paid for and Authorized by Charity Hews for School Board

Mark your calendars for the Harvest Festival on October 21

By PCPA Harvestfest team

Mark your calendars for October 21 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. to celebrate the first Harvest Festival since 2019. The event will be held at Pond Cove Elementary School and will feature a Haunted Hallway conjured up by the Cape Elizabeth Middle School.

A dedicated team of volunteers is hard at work to deliver a fun, engaging event for families and friends of Pond Cove Elementary School and Cape Elizabeth Middle School. We could sure use your help!

How can you help make this a success? Take our handy questionnaire!

Can you bake?

• Yes: Donate baked goods to our Harvest Table or to the high stakes game of Cake or No Cake. Store bought, homemade, don't get fancy- it is all good.

Are you handy?

• Yes: Help with some of the assembly and set up of the games and activities.

Do you have old, good condition Halloween costumes for kids ages 5-10?

• Yes: Michelle Boyer (michelleboyer@yahoo.com) is ready to accept your gently used Halloween costumes for other children to enjoy.

Do you like to play chess?

• Yes: Sign up to play chess against some of Cape Elizabeth's rising chess stars.

Do you have Pond Cove Pride? Fond memories of Harvest Festivals past?

• We've got you covered. Harvest Festival 2023 T-Shirts will be for sale- stay tuned.

I love running errands- the bliss of a podcast and the open road.

• Yes: We need help getting materials together and if you've got time, we'll need your help.

As you can see, it takes a village to make a community event successful.

Please email Aglae Shaw at aglaev@gmail.com for a link to the signup forms.

Harvest Festival is organized by the Pond Cove Parents Association (PCPA). The PCPA is a volunteer-led 501(c)(3) organization composed of parents and guardians of all students enrolled in Pond Cove School, in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Our mission is to enrich, support and enhance the social and learning environment of Pond Cove students. Proceeds from the Harvest Festival fund teacher grants, visiting author/artist programs, field days and other student enriching activities.

Cape Field Hockey takes down York for first time in 20 years

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

The Cape Elizabeth High School Field Hockey team defeated their hosts York High School by a score of 3 to 2. According to CEHS Coach Maura Bisogni, this was the first time that CEHS Field Hockey has beaten York in twenty years.

At York, the Cape Elizabeth High School Field Hockey team defeated their hosts by a score of 3 to 2. With such a history of athletic success like CEHS has, this may not seem out of the ordinary, but York High School has fielded a team for decades that some have thought unbeatable.

CEHS Coach Maura Bisogni said, "To my knowledge, Cape Field Hockey has not beaten York in twenty years. That kind of statistic gets in your head. York, ability-wise, is always a strong opponent, and combined with the huge win-loss advantage, it historically has always been a hard game for us physically and mentally."

While York is having a numbers dip similar to other programs in the state, Bisogni said, they are always incredibly well-coached. "Barb Marois was a great player, and has been involved with USA Field Hockey for a long time, and her teams are always skilled and disciplined. York also plays on grass, and for us to win as the away team felt very special." The Capers play on artificial turf at home.

Bisogni said, "I think Jenna Tuttle scoring first for us, with and assist from Lulu Stoecklein, gave us huge momentum to start. While we have scored, we have never scored first against them since I've been coaching. The back and forth was extremely exciting. Typically when they've scored they keep scoring. Our defense never gave up, and then Lucy Fourgere came in and scored."

York scored a goal off a corner, and then "Sophia Chung put a beautiful one in off of our corners," Bisogni said.

Coach Bisogni said that Cape Elizabeth goalie Zoe Burgard did a great job of not only stopping goals, but clearing the ball to begin the Capers' transition to offense. Burgard made 11 saves to safeguard the win.

Of her coach, Burgard said, "Coach was awesome, she had been focusing on each player's role to keep our focus and energy high, and that really helped us keep pushing the way we did. Her talk at half-time was great, and she led us to be hungry. Earlier in the week she asked us what our two-week goal was, and mine was simple- beat York."

"York is very focused team and they were making a last-minute surge and we were playing defense right until the very end," Bisogni said.

Burgard said, "Both teams played really well, and we were fighting it out until the last second, so when the buzzer sounded, there was a wave of relief that we kept York from tying it up."

"We had 14 girls dressed to play and it really was a fourteen-person effort," Bisogni said.

The CEHS Field Hockey team will play at home on September 27 against Poland High School, and on September 28 they will host Greely High School.

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CEHS with most National Merit semifinalists in state

By Kevin St. Jarre

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation released the names of more than 16,000 semifinalists in the 69th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program recently.

Unlike the majority of scholarships available today, the NMSC scholarships are awarded purely according to academic merit alone. There are 56 NMSC semifinalists, from all over Maine, but Cape Elizabeth High School sits alone at the top, with 7 seniors being so honored. They are:

- Eli Beber
- Neil Gabrielson
- Hayden Marquardt-Grainer
- John McCormick
- Trevor Oakley
- Simon Shyka-Brown
- Theresa Straw

Tied for second place behind CEHS were the Maine School of Science and Mathematics and Camden Hills Regional High School, with 5 semifinalists each. Falmouth had 4, Kennebunk had 1, Scarborough had 1 and Yarmouth had 3.

Fewer than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors are named semifinalists. These students are eligible to compete for more than 7,100 scholarships, totaling almost \$28 million.

Founded in 1955, the NMSC is a non-profit entity that operates autonomously from government aid. Its mission is to champion academic prowess and stimulate the pursuit of scholarly excellence.

The scholarships are funded by NMSC's own reserves, in collaboration with nearly 320 businesses and higher education institutions that resonate with NMSC's objectives.

Local birding report

By E. Brooks Bornhoff

The second and third weeks of September saw many of our summer resident songbirds depart for their winter homes while other southbound migrants were stopping in briefly to rest and refuel before carrying along on the dangerous journey.

My notes from the yard and field over the last two weeks include, on September 7 a Brown Thrasher made an appearance on our lawn. Fully two inches longer than a Robin and with a speckled breast, bright yellow eyes and a heavy, slightly downcurved bill, the ever secretive foxy-red Thrasher uses its bill to boldly forage in the soil for food. Of note, this bird particularly likes to eat acorns.

Observing the bird for a couple of minutes I could not help but notice that the Thrasher's movements were often similar to the Carolina Wrens in yard. In her 1899 publishing "Bird Neighbors," nature writer Neltje Blanchan described this "undeniable wren-like trait, that of twitching, wagging and thrashing his long tail about to help express his emotions. It swings like a pendulum as he rests on a branch, and thrashes about in the most ludicrous way as he is feeding on the ground upon the worms, insects and fruit that constitute his diet." While I continued to spy on the Thrasher from the corner of my yard a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak's sharp chink call rang out in the distance.

Additionally, on September 10 across the rolling meadows of Maxwell Farm I noted large numbers of Savannah Sparrows. Some were clinging to the tops of pasture shrubs and tall weeds, chattering softly as they gathered ripened seeds. Ornithologist Edward H. Forbush once commented about the Savannah Sparrow that "both bird and song are so inconspicuous that most people seldom notice."

The following day a single female Mag-

nolia Warbler and Common Yellowthroat passed through our yard.

On September 15, the eve of Tropical Storm Lee, Cornell's BirdCast Migration Dashboard forecasted an estimated two and a half million nocturnal birds passing along the Atlantic Flyway and through Cumberland County. An estimated half a million birds were overhead during peak migration traffic around 9:20 p.m. With strong Southwest winds and little rain, these nighttime flyers harnessed tail winds along the storm's western flank to power-boost their journeys.

On the morning of the tropical storm (September 16) I went looking for wind sheltered places deep within Robinson woods where I might be able to see and hear birds. Not long after setting out I came across a little party of southbound American Redstarts and Northern Parulas darting and fluttering. Several times when the wind died down, I would hear the rolling call of Northern Flickers.

While wandering along the fringes of Robinson Woods III and a neighbor's property a boisterous band of Blue Jays alerted me to a stand of old White Pine trees and where, fifty or so feet up was a hunkered down Great Horned Owl. As the wind whistled through the treetops, I could see the owl's ear tufts blowing this way and that, reminding me of tell-tales on a boat's sail. Great Horned Owls' "horns" are tufts of feathers called plumicorns, meaning "feather horns" in Latin. The purpose of these horns includes but are not limited to, courtship, camouflage, aggression – for instance threat posturing, i.e. raising and lowering of tufts and communication. Larger more prominent tufts may indicate overall health and strength - both desirable traits in a mate. From personal observations I can see how

these magnificent, feathered features break up the shape of the bird, thus affording it better chances of blending in with its surroundings, dodging harassers and ambushing prey. On a related note, my mother-in-law heard a Great Horned Owl calling at close range the night of September 17 along Two Lights Road.

Additionally, on the afternoon of September 16 my son and I braved the crowds at Dyer Point. Common Eiders rafted up just offshore while Northern Gannets plunged into the choppy surf offshore. Also reported on this same day off Dyer Point were Caspian Terns, Black-legged Kittiwakes and the first Great Cormorants of the season. Also, a visit to Trundy Point yielded two Common Yellowthroats and a flyover from a Merlin.

Lastly, on September 17 along the Sawyer Road section of the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge I spotted a single Stilt Sandpiper mixed in with four Lesser Yellowlegs. An uncommon but regular fall migrant in southern coastal Maine, this species nests in the subarctic tundra below dwarf birch and willow trees and among bog blueberry and mountain cranberry shrubs. During its southward migration, a majority of Stilt Sandpipers travel through the middle of the continent, west of the Mississippi River. In its fall plumage this sandpiper resembles a young Lesser Yellowlegs, but its body is smaller, and its legs are greenish and not bright yellow. It is an uncommon but regular fall migrant in southern coastal Maine.

Oddly, in a long-term Canadian study of breeding Stilt Sandpipers, scientists uncovered that among mates pairing for the first time, the female Stilt Sandpiper with the longest bill and the male with the shortest bill tended to be the first to pair off.



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Library offers program on death education and discussion, poured marble paintings on display in Stier Family Gallery

On October 14, You Can Read a Human Book

The library is partnering with the town's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee to present a Human Library event (www.humanlibrary.org) on Saturday, October 14. Between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., you can "check out" a Human Book for a 30 minute, one-on-one conversation in the library.

Human Books are volunteers, people from Cape Elizabeth or surrounding communities, who have agreed to open themselves up to strangers for questions and honest conversation. The Human Library Organization, a nonprofit founded in 2000 in Copenhagen, Denmark, provides a safe framework for personal conversations that can help to challenge prejudice, reduce discrimination, prevent conflicts and contribute to greater human cohesion across social, religious and ethnic divisions.

The library's event is financially supported by the Thomas Memorial Library Foundation. No registration is necessary. Please visit the library's website for more information.

Library Begins Offering Death Education and Discussion Events In October

One of the library's goals is to connect people with each other around topics of importance to their lives as individuals and as members of our community.

One of the most vital, and often avoided topics, is death. Beginning in October, the library is launching a year-long Death Education series, as well as a

monthly Death Cafe, both facilitated by Cape resident Leona Oceania.

The Death Education series is a topic-driven discussion that tackles a different aspect of death each month; it will take place on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. beginning on October 3.

The Death Cafe, which is a group-directed conversation about death with no agenda, objectives or themes, will take place on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. beginning Tuesday, October 17. (It should be noted that this is not a grief support or counseling session.) To add a bit of playfulness, the meetings of both groups will include individually wrapped, homemade skull cakelets.

For more information, or to register to receive updates, please visit the library's website.

"Liquid Landscapes" On Display in the Stier Family Gallery in October

John Byrer, an artist from Jackson, will show a selection of his work in the library's Stier Family Gallery.

Byrer's show, entitled "Liquid Landscapes," features Poured Marbled Paintings, which are created without any paint brushes. The canvas lies flat and the paint is poured on from above without touching the canvas. These numerous puddles of paint reveal marbled scenes.

The show features images of Maine from views from the garden gate to sunset seascapes, and can be viewed from October 2 - 31.

Do you dare to enter Thomas Memorial Library's Two Sentence Horror Story Contest?

It was a dark and stormy night at TML when staff challenged Capers to a two sentence horror story contest . . .

Are you a writer? Do you dream of ghosts, demons, monsters, and mysteries? Make us bristle and shudder with your best two-sentence horror stories! Whether you explore the unnatural, the supernatural, or the psychological, there are countless ways to give us goosebumps.

Submit your two most sinister sentences on our website or at any TML circulation desk by midnight, October 31. All ages welcome, winners will be chosen from each category as follows: 13 and under, Highschool and Adult.

Stop by the library or check our website for more details.

Weekly Programs

Please visit the library's website for complete details and registration information for all of our regular youth and family programs.

Messy Minis! Process Art for Curious Kids

Mondays, 10:30 a.m. (Ages 2-5)

Dress Up and Dance

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. (Ages 2-5)

Play Date at the Library

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Ages 0-5)

Ready for Reading Club

Wednesday, 1:30-2:00 p.m. (Ages 4+)

Tiny Tunes

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. (Ages 1-3)

Traditional Story Time

Fridays, 10:30 a.m. (Ages 3+)

School-Age Programs

Lego Club (Ages 5-12)

First Tuesday of each Month, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (Community Room)
October 3

Young Writers at TML (Ages 11-13)

First Thursday of the month at 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
October 5

Kid's Open Chess (Ages 8+)

Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. (Conference Room)

#LibrarySquad (Ages 11-13)

First Friday of each Month, 2:45-3:45 p.m.
October 6

Book Club: Grades 5 & 6

First Monday of each Month, 2:45-3:45 p.m.

-see LIBRARY page 13

Pre-K at CESD: When State Funding Runs Out, What Happens to the Little Ones?

This year, we all witnessed the demise of a new, highly utilized state program to freeze seniors' property taxes. Despite widespread election year promises, the short-lived program is officially finished. Done for. Kaput.

Yes, the cheap promises of an expensive property tax freeze for seniors turned out to be too good to be true. It happens. And it happens way too often. Federal and state governments routinely adjust their budgets to reflect changing priorities – and stubborn realities. It's nothing new.

Recently, our community learned that a different new state program has provided an extremely generous grant – one that covers most of the cost to start a Pre-K program at the Cape Elizabeth School Department (CESD). The school department has partnered with Cape Care to make room for 30 Pre-K students, officially under the CESD umbrella. We are excited for what that means for those 30 children and their fortunate families.

We mostly know what this means for today, but what does it mean for tomorrow? Due to space limitations, CESD's Pre-K program is currently limited to those 30 students. However, it seems there are hopes and expectations that the program will grow. What will happen if and when the state funding runs dry? Will the town be asked (or even expected) to absorb the cost to keep Pre-K part of CESD? If not, where will all those future Pre-K kiddos go? Will any alternatives even exist?

Indeed, what will be the impact on Cape's many treasured Pre-K programs like Maiden Cove, String Bean Farm, Apple Tree, Children's Enrichment on the Cape, and Roots? Unable to compete with the "free" CESD Pre-K program, will these local small-business providers of high-quality childcare and educational programs be lost forever? Instead of aspiring to one day move CESD's Pre-K program "in house," might it be possible to partner with these beloved providers?

We expect that these and many other questions around the adoption of the Pre-K program at CESD have indeed been discussed by the administration. But given the highly consequential impacts on both Cape's children and our community, this topic begs for a much wider community discussion. We hope this issue will be brought to the much wider community, soon – and we hope you will join that conversation.

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

October 2

Book Club: Grades 7 & 8

Last Monday of each Month, 2:45-3:45 p.m.
October 30

For Teens

TML Teen Writing Group

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

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:

Theaters of Portland's Past Walk, with Greater Portland Landmarks

Saturday, September 30, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

In person: Meet at the intersection of Congress Street and Park Street

A stroll along a few blocks of Congress Street (with some slight diversions) will be a trip back in time to explore the numerous theaters that dotted Portland's main street.

With historic photos showing what used to be, we'll encounter the end of vaudeville and the proliferation of silent film, as well as the rise and fall of the studio system. Fun surprises include (but are not limited to) roller rinks, 3D movies, a proliferation of pornography and the revitalization of iconic structures.

For a city so far removed from Hollywood, there's a surprising amount of film history to be found here!

Botanical Printing: Art from Your Own Backyard—Second Session, with Marie Ahearn and Rachel Davis

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

Due to the tremendous popularity of this workshop in August, we are offering it again for those who were unable to attend.

Learn how to make beautiful prints from real plants and flowers, and color them with watercolor paints. No experience necessary. All materials will be provided, but participants are encouraged to gather leaves and flowers from home to use for prints. We'll also have an opportunity to go outside to gather plants from the library grounds.

Adults and motivated young people are welcome. Please register in advance on our website.

Die Well Death Education Series, with Leona Oceania of Die Well

Death Education

Tuesday, October 3, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

In-person and streamed simultaneously via Zoom

In this first session, participants will discuss why talking about death is important, and the benefits it can and does provide. The process of creating an End-of-Life Plan, and funeral and body disposition options will be discussed as well.

To lighten the mood, individually wrapped, homemade skull cakelets will be provided. Registration is not necessary, but if you register, you can receive reminders and updates about recommended resources or weather cancellations.

Allied Whale and the Marine Mammals of Maine

Saturday, October 7, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.,

In person at the library

On a tiny, remote island in the Gulf of Maine, student researchers make science history watching whales. Since its beginning, Allied Whale has been at the forefront of modern whale research and is recognized as a leader in the development of techniques used by whale biologists world-wide.

Join student interns from Allied Whale, the marine mammal research group out of the College of the Atlantic, for a fascinating presentation about the marine mammals of Maine and the important and innovative work of this organization. Attendees will have a chance to win some Allied Whale merch.

For anyone interested in Maine's marine life--especially students considering marine biology as a career.

Vibraphone Concert and Writer's Group Sound Bath, with Chris Dingman

Saturday, October 7, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

In-person at the library (writing session)

Saturday, October 7, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

In-person at the library (concert)

NYC-based vibraphonist and composer Chris Dingman is known for his distinctive approach to the instrument: sonically rich and conceptually expansive. In his captivating solo performances, he casts an enveloping atmosphere, creating layers of simultaneous sound. It's an immersive listening experience that many have described as transportive and deeply healing.

Dingman will be performing a special after-hours solo vibraphone concert at the library on Saturday evening, October 7. The concert will be a combination of composed songs and music improvised live by Dingman and shaped according to the moment and those who are present

in it with him.

Earlier in the day, Dingman will be playing a fully improvised hour of music and sound-bath-style meditative sounds accompanied by creative writing prompts for anyone wanting to write or journal accompanied by his transportive music.

No prior writing experience is necessary. Both events are made possible by the Thomas Memorial Library Foundation.

Please register to attend on the library's website.

CEHPS Program Night @ TML: Putting the Williams Back in Fort Williams, with CEHPS

Tuesday, October 10, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

In-person at the library

TML is excited to be partnering with the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society for a series of local history events this fall.

This first event will explore the fascinating life of Seth Williams, the namesake of Cape Elizabeth's own Fort Williams, who played a significant role in negotiating General Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

All are welcome.

Cape Elizabeth Garden Club Presents: Gardening For Habitat, with the Wild Seed Project

Thursday, October 12, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

In person at the library

Native plants offer countless benefits beyond their four-season beauty--purifying air, shading and cooling cities, storing atmospheric carbon, minimizing flooding and stormwater runoff and helping to sustain vital pollinators, birds and other wildlife.

Learn how to transform where you live by planting diverse species and adopting thoughtful landscape practices. From planting native trees to shrinking your lawn to leaving your leaves, discover the actions you can take to make your yard more biodiverse and climate resilient.

ONGOING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:

For more information and to register for all library events, please visit the library's website.

Daily Fika (Coffee Break)

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

Pod Complex: A TML Podcast Listening Club

First Thursday of the month, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Via Zoom
Next meeting: October 5

Songwriting Workshop (with Jud Caswell)

First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
In person
Next meeting: October 3

Big Little Lit: Children's Books for Grown-ups

Third Wednesday of the month, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
In person AND via Zoom
Next meeting: October 18

Guerilla Poetry Whoop

Second Thursday of the month, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Via Zoom
Next meeting: October 12

E-ldering Conversation Group

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

Adult Book Group

Third Thursday of the month, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
In person AND via Zoom
Next meeting: October 19



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CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

Please see the town website, www.capeelizabeth.com for meeting locations

Instructions for joining videoconference meetings listed below will be posted on the town website, www.capeelizabeth.com.

Thursday, September 28

School Board Policy Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 4:15 p.m.
Thomas Memorial Library Committee, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 3

Planning Board Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4

Town Council Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 5

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

Recycling Committee, Public Works Department, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 10

School Board Meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Committee, Town Hall, 7 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

Cape Elizabeth Republican Town Committee, 6-8:30 p.m. first Wednesday of the month, Cape Elizabeth Community Center. Contact: ccrcme.com for Cape information.

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.

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

CETV CHANNEL 1302

Subject to change. Please see cetv.capeelizabeth.org for latest program guide and video on demand.

Nothing scheduled for September 27 - October 9

Lions Club to host fall Lobster Dinner

The Cape Elizabeth Lions Club will be hosting their 2nd seasonal fundraising Lobster Dinner for their ongoing support for local charities and our local lobster fishing industry. The Cape Elizabeth community has generously supported these events over the years and we hope that the community will support us again.

The October Lobster Dinner will be held Saturday, October 14, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Lions Club, Bowery Beach Schoolhouse, 1 Wheeler Road. The cost is \$22.00 for a single lobster meal or \$30.00 for a double lobster

meal. Eat-in or Take-out meals also include baked potato, corn and dessert. Non-alcoholic beverages are provided for those eating in the club house.

Reserved meals are strongly recommended as quantities are limited. To reserve, please call Mark at (207) 321-9393 or email lionsclubceme@gmail.com or order from Lions Facebook page www.facebook.com/capeelizabethlionsclub no later than noon, Friday, October 13. Walk-ins are welcome pending availability. Cash, checks, credit cards accepted.

SERVICES

Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene

499 Ocean House Road (Route 77)
747-1113

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

Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church

280 Ocean House Road
799-8396

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

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

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

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

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
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 Bartholomew Catholic Church of Saint John Paul II Parish

8 Two Lights Road, 207-883-0334
Website: www.JP2me.org

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.

Daily Mass: Mon. and Wed. 8 a.m.
Sacrament of Confession: Mon. 8:30-9 a.m.
Additional Mass times in Scarborough & South Portland listed on website

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

301 Cottage Road, South Portland
799-3361

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

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



21 Wells Road, CE
207.671.5341

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Piano lessons for all ages. Beginners through advanced. Sandi Palmquist: 329-8345.

Piano, Voice, Guitar, Ukulele lessons for all ages. Beginner through intermediate. Carey Rasco: 232-7015

Senior Photos



Joanne Lee Photography
207.450.9641

Meeting

Continued from page 7

a lawsuit undermines our ability to enforce our ordinances, and invites inequitable enforcement.”

Councilor Gillis said that we’ve already “lost the case in court of public interest” and that “we look petty and against small business.” She added “it’s gone too far,” and the council “should drop it [the lawsuit] and negotiate.”

Friedland spoke to the council again and asked to “remove my name [from the lawsuit] and replace it with The Lumbery.”

Councilor Noonan said that “we can’t just drop it tonight, that’s not us doing our fiduciary duty to the town,” adding that “we don’t have enough information, we don’t have our attorney present tonight to guide us, but we have a solution that moves us forward that Mike Friedland agrees with.”

The amended motion to move this forward to mediation passes with a 5-2 vote.

Chair Gabrielson spoke on the topic by saying there would be an “uneven implementation of our ordinances, if we [the council] make every decision around lawsuits regarding ordinances already in place. Gabrielson made a motion to conduct a review on current policies in place regarding violation of land use ordinance and how we deal with situations with noncompliance so that “a clear policy framework” is established that states when and how the council will move forward with enforcement action. The motion is passed unanimously and will be put to a future council workshop.

Item 116-2023 Request from the Cape Arena Group Regarding Electricity Expenses

The town has allowed Cape Arena Group to use land at Gull Crest for the community ice arena. Cape Arena Group has asked the town to assume the electricity costs since the town has a better utility rate. It was stated in previous meetings and at this one from Cape Arena Group that the intention was to keep the ice arena a “community asset” and thus not rent out the ice to outside parties too often.

Members of the public displayed concern for the town “picking up the tab” for a business’s electrical bill, including a comment about how this request “stacks up against

other budget items that got dismissed back in spring” during the town’s budget season.

One citizen said that “it’s okay for the arena to leverage the Town’s lower [utility] rate, but the town shouldn’t pay for the bill.”

Another said that the “town has a history of helping to fund town recreation” and “there’s always been a relationship between nonprofits and the town.”

A member of the council shared that if its decided to move forward and pay the electrical bill for the arena for this coming season using appropriation funds as requested by the Town Manager, that the Cape Arena Group should come prepared to the council during the budget season and ask for funds then.

A motion was moved to table the discussion to the October meeting and that in the meantime, the Cape Arena Group works with Town Manager Sturgis to get more financial information to provide to the council before the next meeting.

Item #117-2023 Recommendation from the Ordinance Committee Regarding a Pesticide Ordinance

A draft motion was set for a public meeting to be held in October to obtain additional feedback from the community regarding the pesticide ordinance. A handful of citizens spoke on one significant change made to the draft language by the Ordinance committee regarding an “emergency waiver” saying that it “guts the effectiveness of the ordinance.”

The emergency waiver would in effect allow a homeowner to use a banned chemical or pesticide in a situation where all other remedies did not work.

A motion was passed to take the issue to a Town Council workshop in October. There was also agreement that the Code Enforcement Officer and Public Works Director

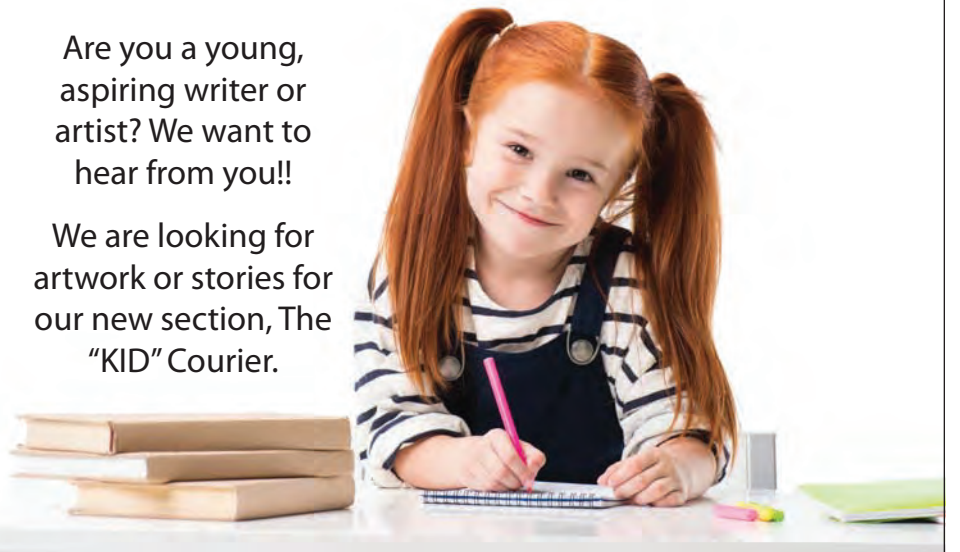
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- ★ Supporting effective, sustainable and environmentally friendly schools

mcveigh4cape@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2

Town faces 'long-standing challenges'

I love our town, but it faces big, long-standing challenges: School Infrastructure and Funding, Housing, Town Center Zoning and Development, and Taxation. We are deep in the woods without a map. How did we get here? And how do we get out? I think we have suffered from two critical issues: our leaders have poor data so it's hard to make good decisions, and we don't have adequate staff.

Organizations need good data to succeed. Our town's core documents fall short. The Comprehensive Plan is many pages, but it is not comprehensive, nor is it much of a plan. The budgets have been disjointed, backward looking and lack critical details.

The Comp Plan should provide clear direction and policies on funding infrastructure, developing a vibrant town center and

developing housing for all. Our budget covers spending, but reveals little about what we do, or how well. The budget lacks sections about: technology, personnel, communication, town goals. The 10-year capital plan does not connect with past plans. Plus, there's no connection between the Comprehensive Plan and the budget.

It's impossible to find our way out of the woods if we keep this up. We need a map. We need to agree on which direction we are going. We must insist on better data and adequate staffing. I hope we update the Comprehensive Plan, expand the budget to show critical functions and goals, and connect it to the updated Comp Plan, and ensure our town has the necessary staff to succeed.

John Voltz

News from the School Board

By Elizabeth Scifres

The September 12 School Board business meeting was largely focused on hearing from principals and directors about summer work and the first few days of school. Much was accomplished with regard to professional practice, curriculum and our physical spaces.

We welcomed this year's student representatives to the board, Sophia Toon and Jack McCormack. The board recognized CEHS students Tess Straw and Trevor Oakley, who were named Academic All-American and All-State members by the National Speech and Debate Association. Congratulations to both!

We are also excited about the world premier of "Afterthought," a full-length musical written, scored and directed by CEHS Senior Hadley Johnson, to be performed in the CEHS theater on September 28 - October 1.

Our September 26 workshop will focus on the results of the School Building Advisory Committee survey, among other topics. Stay informed! Business meetings, workshops and committee meetings are open to the public, recorded and posted online.

The School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) held a Public Forum on September 20 to present the results of the community survey conducted over the summer. More than 1,600 residents completed the survey, representing over 22% of Cape Elizabeth residents over the age of 18. The forum was recorded and can be streamed online or viewed on CETV. The SBAC will use data gathered from

the survey to guide their work.

The committee is currently in the process of identifying a new architect to develop a range of options to address the needs of our aging school facilities. Five firms responded to a request for qualifications (RFQ) issued by the town and school department in August, and four were selected for interviews with the committee.

This process is guided by the Owner's Representative, Turner Townsend Heery (formerly CBRE Heery). The SBAC will make a recommendation for an architecture firm to the Town Council and School Board at a joint workshop on October 4. With the guidance of the Turner Townsend Heery Educational Planner, Dr. Record and school staff have been working to document our Educational Program.

This foundational document will provide the design team, SBAC, and the community with an understanding of the functional requirements for our school buildings. One question educators were asked was, "Are there things you want to do now that the buildings prevent you from doing?"

A second Public Forum will be held later this fall to introduce the new Architects and gather input from the community, and a third forum is planned for early 2024 to review potential solutions for our buildings.

Hurricane Lee draws crowds



Photo by Mark Stodder

The crowd at Two Lights State Park on September 16 to see the waves from Hurricane Lee.

Tim Thompson for Town Council

I believe many problems seem insurmountable, but when calmer heads prevail we all benefit and our problems can be solved. We will find that much more unites than divides us if we work toward solutions that are affordable and widely supported by Cape residents.

Goals:

- Bring our community together to solve problems and find solutions through a process of cooperation, consensus building and compromise.
- Ensure a strong education system, the foundation of our community and source of great pride.
- Strengthen small businesses with both ordinances and attitudes that encourage their success.
- Assist our lobstermen and fishermen by completing the commercial boat launch in Kettle Cove.

Volunteer:

- Chair, 2019 Comprehensive Plan, 2 years
- Vice-Chair, Housing & Diversity Committee, current
- Member of the School Building Committee, 5 years
- Past President & Board Member, Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation, 6 years
- Past Parish Council Chair & Member, St. Bartholomew's Church, 5 years
- Past President & Member, Morrison Center, 34 years

Awards:

- Recipient of the Ralph Gould Award for Citizenship with my wife Nancy for outstanding citizenship and community service in the Cape Elizabeth community.

