

The Cape Courier

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Happy Thanksgiving

We asked Capers, "What are you thankful for this year?"



Penny Jordan: "Every day I'm thankful I live here in Maine and especially in this town. I tell people I meet that I live "in the center of the universe;" that is how Cape Elizabeth feels to me. And I am thankful I get to do what I love everyday - growing food and ensuring everybody has access to healthy food. I'm thankful my family can keep our father's dream alive that Jordan's Farm will remain a working farm in the town he loved."



Elizabeth Scifres: "I am so thankful for my family. I'd hang out with them even if I didn't have to! I am thankful for friends -- friends are the family you choose for yourself! I am grateful to live in this beautiful state, this gorgeous town and for the opportunity to serve my community."



Drew Stevens: "I'm very thankful for the supportive, beautiful and safe community we call home. With all the problems in the world right now, I couldn't be more grateful for our small town life for me and my family. Summer fireworks at Fort Williams is just one example of how fortunate we are."



Rep. Rebecca Millett: "I have gratitude for all of the helpers in our world who reject fear, lies and hatred, and instead live with open hearts, empathy, kindness and generosity. I am grateful to be surrounded by so many of these helpers in our wonderful community of Cape Elizabeth."

Three CEHS athletes sign NLI's, will compete at the next level

By Kevin St. Jarre

At Cape Elizabeth High School, three amazing young athletes signed National Letters of Intent committing to compete for their school next year.

Keegan Lathrop, one of a string of talented Lathrop siblings to come through competing for Cape, will attend and play lacrosse at the University of Delaware.

Speaking of siblings, sisters Cookie Ma-

honey and Hadley Mahoney also signed NLI's. Cookie, who can out-swim most fish, will compete in swimming and attend Davidson College in North Carolina. Hadley, a distance runner in track and cross country, who has frustrated competitors for years, will compete and attend at George Washington University in Washington D.C.

Lathrop said, "It's one of my most sig-

-see **ATHLETES** page 3



Photo contributed by the Lathrops

Three CEHS athletes signed NLI's to compete at the university level. Cookie Mahoney on the left will swim at Davidson College, Keegan Lathrop in the middle will play lacrosse for the University of Delaware and Hadley Mahoney will run distance for George Washington University.

News from November 13 Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Public Discussion of Items not on Agenda

Many members of the public shared concerns regarding Councilor Reiniger's previous comments during the November 1 Town Council workshop meeting which included the worry about having to hire more police presence and general assistance programs such as language services regarding the new housing ordinance, LD2003. Some members of the public spoke on the alleged racist and insensitive nature of the comments. Others also spoke in support of Councilor Reiniger and that he was doing his duty and "asking questions."

Eliza Matheson shared that it would be a privilege if Cape Elizabeth had more diversity. Jim Sparks said he was "stunned and appalled" at the suggestion that modest changes in affordable housing would result in more policing and general assistance. Others called Reiniger's comments "aggressive," and asked for the council to reject Reiniger's comments.

Citizens including Katrina Owen spoke solely on LD2003 and their support to pass the ordinance at its most base level as Councilor Reiniger proposed and as the council previously

"promised," citing their general concerns of "governmental overreach." Others including Kate Kerkam urged the council to pass the ordinance to begin to ease the housing crisis saying that "we're in desperate need of more housing in our community for many different types of owners and renters."

Many people spoke about their concerns of passing LD2003 saying that it would "change the landscape of the town forever" particularly where the size of allowable ADUs comes into place.

Maureen O'Meara shared that most people who apply to have an ADU built on their property will be "inside" such as in a basement or as an addition, and not a standalone structure. This is because most lots in Cape Elizabeth aren't big enough to allow for an additional structure to be built.

Public Hearing - Proposed Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance Relating to LD 2003

During the public hearing on the LD2003 zoning ordinance there was discussion and concern from the public regarding ADU structure size, the removal

-see **TOWN COUNCIL** page 5



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'We must expect more from our elected officials'

I would like to request a public apology from Councilor Reiniger for his comments on November 1 at the LD 2003 workshop where he insinuated that adding more housing units to Cape Elizabeth would mean we would be spending more on "foreign language teachers, more school space, police, street lights, general assistance and welfare programs."

These comments imply that more units=more new Mainers/multi-language learners, more crime and more residents that require food assistance/housing assistance. This kind of intolerant belief system and unexamined bias should not be acceptable from our town leaders.

We have amazing residents of Cape Elizabeth who are multi-language learners, who use SNAP/WIC/general assistance programs (including families and

the elderly), and they are NOT the enemy or a nuisance. They are an integral part of our community, as much as anyone who owns their home, has lived here for generations, has a house in town center or on five acres on the waterfront.

Come spend some time in our schools with our youngest learners and learn what our children learn - everyone belongs here. Everyone brings something meaningful to the table in our community. Intolerance and discrimination should not be condoned at any level, but especially not at the town leadership level. We must expect more from our town leaders.

Eliza Matheson

Thank you

I want to thank the very kind gentleman that stopped to assist me when he witnessed me falling in the crosswalk on Shore Road on Sunday, November 5.

I was unable to get up and he unhesitatingly helped me up. Then he drove me home. I want him to know how much I appreciate his kindness. Also, a bicyclist stopped to make sure I was all right.

It is comforting to know that Cape Elizabeth is such a caring community.

Harlene Leland

'I will do my best for you'

On November 7, I was elected to the Town Council. I want to thank the voters as well as the other candidates, all of whom campaigned honorably and love this town.

During my campaign, I met with every department head, the Town Manager, and most of the current and former town councilors. I did this to learn about the duties and challenges town employees face, and to be better prepared in the event I was elected. I also held 8 community gatherings, knocked on countless doors, communicated with you through the Cape Courier, met you at the Swap Shop and the Public Works building, and responded to emails. I did this to hear from as many of you as I could.

In my campaign, I said that I wanted to connect with you, listen to you, to know your concerns and where you want to see this town go. That does not stop with the election - it will continue throughout my tenure.

Thank you again, for placing your trust in me. No matter who you voted for, you are all my constituents, and I will work hard to serve all of you. It is an honor and a privilege and a responsibility that I do not take lightly. I will do my best for you.

Stephanie Anderson

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Let us hear from you! 

We love feedback!

editor@capecourier.com

'Saddened by recent events'

I am saddened by recent events that have happened in our town. As a mom to two children, I moved to Cape Elizabeth 10 years ago for the great schools and beautiful landscape with access to the outdoors.

The continuous ads in this newspaper from the Cape Neighbors Alliance have seemed so out of character for our town. I have found the ads to be often dishonest, generally unfair and extremely critical of certain members of the town council. And the anonymity of the ads has been confusing, why weren't individual people signing their names to these ads?

I was incredibly saddened when it

became public information recently that our newly elected town councilor, Stephanie Anderson, was a founding member of the Cape Neighbors Alliance.

As a mom, my biggest worry is that the Cape Neighbors Alliance along with some of the members of the town council are hoping to strip the schools completely. Starting with the school budget negotiations that will begin this winter. I hope that I am wrong and I am hopeful that other residents who care deeply about the schools will speak up to the town council.

Michelle Boyer



Juveniles drinking at middle school flee from officer on patrol

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 10-19 Two officers responded to a residence in the Ocean House Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 10-20 An officer met with a resident of the Old Ocean House Road area regarding the theft of a bicycle, described as a blue and black 3 speed model.
- 10-21 Two officers responded to a residence in the Scott Dyer Road area for an assault complaint.
- 10-24 An officer met with a resident of the Shore Road area who stated she had received a bill from PayPal, but explained that she did not have a PayPal account. She called the number listed and was told to send a picture of her driver's license and debit card along with her PIN. At this time, she suspected she was being scammed and discovered that money had been withdrawn from her account, contacted her bank and account was frozen.
- 10-24 An officer met with a resident regarding a well-being check for a subject due to health concerns.
- 10-27 An officer met with a resident of the Shore Road area regarding suspicious activity on two accounts. She contacted her bank regarding the fraud.
- 10-28 An officer met with a resident of the Mitchell Road area regarding the theft of a white Cannondale bicycle.
- 10-28 An officer on patrol near midnight observed three vehicles parked at the middle school near the tennis courts. As he approached the cars, approximately a dozen kids fled from the area. There were several empty alcohol beverage containers discarded around the vehicles, as well as numerous unopened cans in the vehicles. The registered owners of the vehicles were contacted and officers will follow up on the case.
- 10-30 An officer responded to a residence in the Sawyer Road area for a well-being check.
- 10-30 An officer met with a subject regarding a landlord/tenant issue.
- 11-3 An officer met with a resident regarding a harassment complaint.
- 11-4 An officer conducted a traffic

stop on Bowery Beach Road, and discovered the operator was an unlicensed juvenile. The vehicle was secured the juvenile was transported home and the officer spoke with a parent.

SUMMONSES

- 10-27 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (69/50 zone), Route 77, \$170
- 10-28 Essex, NY resident, speeding (63/45 zone), Route 77, \$170
- 11-5 Cape Elizabeth resident, failure to obey traffic control device, CE High School
- 11-6 Portland resident, expired license, Route 77, \$152
- 11-6 Cumberland resident, unregistered vehicle, Route 77, \$85

ARRESTS

- 10-30 Falmouth resident, warrant, Two lights Road

ACCIDENTS

- 11-3 Nichols Wellman, accident on Long Point Lane
- 11-4 Jeremy Perkins, accident on Spurwink Road
- 11-6 Michael Allie, accident on Scott Dyer Road
- 11-6 Marci Spier, accident on Ocean House Road

FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 14; EMS calls: 31

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 - 4:30 p.m.

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

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

2023 Scam Trends

Scammers are like viruses: they continually evolve in response to the latest news and trends. Here are two scam variations that experts have seen trending so far in 2023.

"Wrong number" texts seem harmless, but they are a means of establishing a conversation that turns into a relationship that can last for weeks or months. Eventually, the new friend explains how they've made a lot of money investing in crypto, or gold futures, and they can show you how, too. Be on guard for these 'errant' texts - don't respond and block the number.

The new twist on package delivery scams comes with a text from a "driver" who can't find your house. They may ask you to click on a link which could install credential-stealing malware onto your device. Don't trust links, period. If you're awaiting a delivery and get a text, contact the carrier through a means you know to be legitimate to see if there's a problem. Tip: there won't be.

Online Shopping Scams

Social media has become a dangerous marketplace. Scammers are great at creating slick ads and professional looking websites and for minimal cost they can force

them into your feed. According to the Federal Trade Commission, \$2.7 billion in reported fraud losses have been tied to social media since 2021 and 44% of those came from fake sales. Look out for any online sales that are too good to be true; experts say to be suspicious of anything marked down 55% or more. Also be wary of any product or websites that offer popular or hard-to find products at a steeply discounted price. Purchasing products on these sites can lead to shoddy products being delivered or receiving nothing at all. Worse, the site could steal your payment information or upload credential-stealing malware onto your device. Links cannot be trusted - whether from a social media post, an ad, an email or a text. Shop on sites you trust, and always go directly to the online store by typing the web address into your browser.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360. Need a scam prevention speaker for your group? Go to aarp.org/me or call 1-866-554-5380.

Athletes

Continued from page 1

nificant accomplishments. It's definitely special sharing this day with two long-time friends. Super excited to play at the next level!"

Cookie said, "Signing the NLI is truly a dream come true. I watched my older sister sign hers in 2019, and ever since then I knew going DI for swimming was my goal. Yesterday was truly amazing getting to sign with my twin, Hadley, and my friend Keegan while surrounded by family and friends. I wouldn't be where I am today without my whole support system of coaches, friends and family. I am beyond

grateful and I'm so excited to continue swimming for the next four years!"

Hadley summed it up like this, "It truly means everything to me have the opportunity to sign yesterday with my sister by my side. The difficulties with injury this past year has only made me more grateful to be able to continue running for another 4 years at such an amazing program! I am beyond grateful to my coaches and teammates for carrying me through all these years and will miss them greatly next year."

All three are brilliant multi-sport athletes in fact, and the community has seen them as difference-makers for every team they've been on.

We are only half way to our fundraising goal for the year, with only 2 months to go!



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News from the School Board

By Elizabeth Scifres

Last month the School Board took time to reflect on its goals for last year and form goals for this year. The draft goals are as follows:

1. Create a fiscally responsible budget, through the established budget process, that provides a high-quality education and meets the need of all students.
 - i. Utilize established procedures to ensure a comprehensive, transparent budget process that is based upon meeting educational needs advocated for by the District Leadership Team.
 - ii. Educate the board and community through the year on important budget drivers such as state and local funding, expenditures (salaries, medical insurance, maintenance, capital improvements, supplies, etc.), and fund balance in clear, easy to understand language.
2. Monitor our instructional programs, through the use of data and DEI lenses, to ensure a high-quality education for all of our students.
 - i. Review the implementation of the Math Review Process: Implementation of Phase 2 & 3.
 - ii. Support the initiation of the English Language Arts (reading & writing) Review Process: Initiate Phase 1.
 - iii. Review the newly developed strategic plan for our Multiple Pathways programming and Extended Learning Opportunities.
 - iv. Review the implementation of the CESD PreK program at Cape Care.
 - v. Review social emotional programming and student supports.
3. Attract, retain, and support our CESD staff.
 - i. Engage in good faith collaborative contract bargaining with the association.
 - ii. Support on-going staff professional development.
 - iii. Support a budget that meets the instructional needs of staff and learning needs of students.
4. Communicate district news, happen-

ings, and relevant information with all of Cape Elizabeth's community members.

- i. Expand methods of communication: reaching community members who do not have children in school.
5. Create a long-term plan for updating our school buildings that advances modern teaching approaches, increases learning opportunities, and enhances the climate/culture/safety of our schools.
 - i. Continue to collaborate with the Town Council in support of the School Building Advisory Committee.
 6. Advance the efficacy of the board.
 - i. Enhance systems and resources to mentor new board members.
 - ii. Engage in activities that promote board members' ongoing learning and development around such topics as policy, school budget, educational programming, and facilities.

The School Building Advisory Committee has begun a series of public forums to provide the community with an opportunity to learn more about the facilities review process and share their thoughts to help shape the future school solution.

A community forum was held on November 16 to introduce the Harriman team to the community, and to provide the community with information about the design process.

The next public forum with Harriman is planned for Thursday, November 30, 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. In this forum, Harriman will share a presentation and information about the existing condition of district schools, identified facilities needs and best-practices in future-focused school facilities.

In addition to the community forums, a group of Cape Elizabeth administrators, teachers, parents, students and community partners participated in educational visioning workshops to inform the design of renovated or new school facilities.

All forums and workshops are recorded and can be viewed online at CETV.

Educational Visioning Group explores learning goals aligned with facilities needs

During several sessions throughout November, a group of Cape Elizabeth administrators, teachers, parents, students and community partners went through a step-by-step visioning process to inform the design of renovated or new school facilities.

The Cape Elizabeth Educational Visioning Group (EVG) participated in three workshops run by Harriman Architects and New Vista Design. Participants were led through a step-by-step visioning process aimed at building off of the community's previous visioning work, capturing the best thinking about CESD's current and future educational goals and priorities, and connecting them to best practices and possibilities in innovative school facility design.

The first two sessions were held on November 7 and 20, with the final session scheduled for November 27, 6:00-8:15 p.m. These workshops are available to watch online (check the town website) for interested

community members.

Topics covered as part of the workshops included:

- Priority Goals for Cape Elizabeth programs and facilities
- Future-Ready Teaching and Learning Practices that the district is considering
- Discussion of the district's Portrait of a Graduate and its implications for the design of facilities
- Strengths, challenges, opportunities, and goals associated with the district's current academic programming as well as the district's vision for its future
- 21st Century design patterns and approaches that innovative schools throughout the U.S. have put into practice
- Guiding Principles for the design of new or renovated facilities
- Bubble diagramming of conceptual design ideas for CESD facilities

Cape residents encouraged to attend November 30 school facilities forum

All Cape Elizabeth residents are invited to attend a Community Forum to learn more and share input on the district's school facilities review by Harriman Architects. The forum is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 6:30 p.m., at the town hall.

At the forum, Harriman Architects will share a presentation and information about the existing condition of district schools, identified facilities needs and best-practices in future-focused school facilities.

Following the presentation, forum attend-

ees will participate in an interactive visioning exercise to work together to create a "design statement" that captures the essence of Cape Elizabeth schools. The design statement will be used to help guide the design options for district schools in the future.

The forum is another opportunity for community members to learn more about the facilities review process and to share their thoughts to help shape the future school solution.

Friends of Fort Williams Park welcomes your support

By Ryan Cole & Barbara Powers
Friends of Fort Williams Park board of directors

When was the last time you admired the views from Fort Williams Park's Cliff Walk, or wandered through the Children's Garden and its world class perennial beds and biofilter pond? Maybe you gathered with a weekly group to identify the many birds stopping by the park? The Friends take great pride in supporting and maintaining the ecology of this tremendous town resource for the enjoyment of so many residents and visitors, creating a welcoming habitat for birds and pollinators and offering educational opportunities for all ages. We have taken a leadership role in the creation of four sites in the park, conduct important maintenance on park-wide features and look forward to further partnerships with the town going forward.

To that end, we are grateful for all the support we receive. Our goals are significant and vital; the park is always evolving! If you wish to assist in our work, we welcome community involvement. From crafting our next marketing campaign,

writing park education content, working with grade-school programs or just sharing your thoughts on financing our next capital projects, our work is a partnership. You can also support us through financial contributions by visiting fortwilliams.org.

Whether through volunteer time or donations, we rely on our generous community to keep the park beautiful and healthy. Please contact our Executive Director Jennifer Scarpitti-Nelson at jscarpitti@fortwilliams.org to find out ways in which you can become involved. Thank you for partnering with the Friends of Fort Williams Park.

Troop 30 Bottle Drive to support Judy's Pantry and scouting activities

Troop 30 is holding a bottle drive on Sunday November 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the IGA parking lot. Half of all proceeds will be donated to Judy's Pantry and the remainder will support Troop

30's outdoor scouting activities.

Please lend your support. Any boys interested in joining Scouting can reach Assistant Scoutmaster A. J. DiNinno at 207-272-9092."



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Town Council

Continued from page 1

of site plan review from the ordinance, and the potential of residents tearing down their homes to rebuild multiunit housing.

Maureen O'Meara clarified on two of those points saying that the "site plan review will continue to apply to multifamily buildings and do not fall under LD2003 requirements" which is for ADUs specifically. She continued that "site plan review will not apply to small multifamily buildings of up to four units because those small multifamily buildings are subject to review equivalent to a single-family home" and "you can't require more from the small multifamily than you can for a single-family."

O'Meara and Town Attorney Mary Costigan then spoke on the issue of "tear downs" stating that the public has the right to tear down their property and rebuild, and in fact, it happens quite often. People tear down a small or medium-sized home to then build a new home that completely takes up the property's size. They then both clarified that there's a small percentage of lots in Cape Elizabeth that have the land space to allow for a 3- or 4-unit building and only in certain zones such as the rural districts. O'Meara added that "50% of the town can only add up to two units" and in the growth area which is 17% of the town, only a small amount of lots are big enough for 3-4 units.

Council Penny Jordan spoke on the concerns of ADU size, saying that the housing diversity committee has done extensive research on the topic and that the average size in other municipalities across the country that allow ADUs, have an average size of 800 to 1,800 square feet.

Councilor Gretchen Noonan shared that the feedback she has heard from most people are that they want to build an ADU for a loved one and they're holding off because the current allowable size of 600 square feet isn't large enough.

Maureen O'Meara clarified that the LD2003 ordinance allows only one ADU and "under the provision, if you want to build more, you need more land" adding that very few lots in town have enough acreage to comply with the zoning requirement of adding multiple ADUs.

Item #133-2023 Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the

Zoning Ordinance Relating to LD 2003

Councilor Boucher shared with the Council and those present that she had "yet to hear anything new tonight that hasn't been discussed in the last eighteen months" and asked the Chamber if there was anything new to discuss. She moved that the council approves the proposed amendments relating to LD2003.

Councilor Reiniger offered a substitution to the motion that would retain the ADU sections but "takes out small multifamily sections." That motion to amend failed and the council returned to its original motion.

Reiniger then suggested that since there are still outstanding issues to discuss that the motion should be tabled until the December meeting. Councilors Noonan and Boucher did not agree with Reiniger's decision as it would put the town in a state of noncompliance since LD2003 is in effect on a state level starting January 1, 2024. Noonan continued further by saying to Reiniger that "you were just ready to vote on your own amendments three minutes ago without further review" and that this "feels like an intentional delay tactic."

Chair Gabrielson added that historically speaking, ordinances have come before the council for amendment and that there wouldn't be a reason why LD2003 couldn't come before the council again for further amendments with new information if passed as presented.

The Council moved to approve the amendments as presented which passed with a vote 6 to 1.

Item #134-2023 Request from Councilor Reiniger to Dismiss the Lawsuit Against The Lumbery

Mike Friedland spoke on his request to drop the lawsuit saying he was "shocked" it came to this and that it's been over a year living with the lawsuit.

He said he's been speaking with town staff and in front of the planning board for over four years because the ordinances are "hurting his business" and he wants to find solutions to come into compliance. He was frustrated that his concerns weren't addressed in those years until a 1,400-person petition was signed and the issue was brought to attention. Friedland also asked for "introspection into the process to make it better for everyone in the town and everyone involved."

Councilor Reiniger addressed a mo-

tion to proceed with the dismissal of the lawsuit against the Lumbery which was seconded by Councilor Gillis.

With assistance from the Town Attorney, Mary Costigan, the council decided to move to dismiss the lawsuit "without prejudice" which will allow them to take up the issue again in the future in a court of law, if necessary. The motion passed unanimously among the council.

Item #135-2023 Proposed Home Business Amendments

Chair Gabrielson shared that the intent of the Home Business Amendments discussion is to bring the current ordinance in line with how people are currently using it, such as working from home.

Councilor Penny Jordan moved to set the proposed home business amendments to a public hearing at the December 11 Town Council meeting. That motion was seconded by Councilor Kaitlyn Jordan and passed unanimously. The council will also hold a vote to adopt or reject the updated ordinances at the December Town Council meeting following the public hearing.

Item #136-2023 Proposed Project Submission Amendments to the Planning Board

Chair Gabrielson shared the "gist" of

the proposed project submission amendments, which was discussed in council back in June, is to "increase the transparency and ease of submission" to the Planning Board and to make dates when materials are due to be in line with the Town's current 4-day work week. This motion was passed unanimously by the council which will effectively refer to the ordinance committee for review before being sent back to council for a public hearing.

Item #137-2023 Consider Acknowledging Enactment by Voters to Adopt a Cape Elizabeth Residential Pesticide Use Ordinance and Adoption of the Ordinance

The pesticide use ordinance that was on the November election ballot passed by vote of the public.

Chair Gabrielson said that in order to comply with state law, more time of notice is needed for state staff to review the ordinance. Councilor Reiniger motioned to approve and Councilor Boucher seconded. It passed unanimously among the council.



TOWN OF CAPE ELIZABETH

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Tess the dog visits CEHS students

By Kevin St. Jarre



Photo by Kevin St. Jarre

A therapy dog recently visited CEHS and dozens of students got to spend time with Tess. Pictured here are Moriah Doody, Sophie Pidhajecky, Hannah Lowenstein and Olivia Walsh.

Cape Elizabeth High School Principal John Springer announced in advance, in an email to students and parents, that a therapy dog would be visiting the school. When that visit happened, there was great interest, with students and staff kneeling on the floor around the small dog named Tess, and others standing behind those kneeling, the group extending out into the hallway.

CEHS students slowly worked their way in to take turns getting close, some even petting the dog, and there was a noticeable positive impact on mood and energy.

Springer explain that this opportunity was in coordination with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs organization, saying, "...who have graciously provided this service for our school community."

Tess and her handler, Sharon McIntyre, were located in the achievement center. The dog did not enter classrooms, and did not approach students. It was completely a student choice to engage with the therapy dog, keeping in mind that some may be allergic, or not prefer the company of dogs.

Fort Williams Park at sunset



Photo by Jonathan Baldwin

A huge community thank you

The return of Harvest Fest could not have been more amazing. Our community showed up in droves to celebrate fall, all things spooky and scary and revelled in what it means to be a small town with lots of connection.

The Pond Cove Parents Association and Middle School Parents Association were able to raise large amounts of funds that will go towards doing more community events, funding teacher grants, visiting artists and authors, and so much more. We couldn't have done ANY of it without these incredible corporate and foundation sponsors below:

- P.W. Sprague Memorial Foundation
- Advisors Living Real Estate
- Amato's

- Anything Goes
- Cape Ledge Farm
- Cape Farm Alliance
- CEEF
- ChappyWrap
- Jacki Farrell, Edward Jones
- Portside Real Estate Group/McFarlane Field
- South Portland's BEST Summer Camp + Afterschool Program/RMA
- Taco Escobarr
- Terradyn Consultants, LLC
- Tamaro Landscaping Maintenance & Construction
- Two Lights Dental
- Veterinary and Rehabilitation Center of Cape Elizabeth



Contributed photo

A rainy day did not stop the community from supporting the return of the Harvest Festival. Above, a crowd in the cafeteria watches Portland Seadogs mascot Slugger in a dance contest against the Pond Cove and middle school principals.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church 2023 Advent Organ Recital Series

St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Cape Elizabeth is pleased to announce its 2023 Advent Organ Recital Series. This series of six 30-minute recitals will take place every Tuesday evening during Advent at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Four accomplished organists from Maine and Massachusetts will each present an organ recital on St. Alban's recently installed Orloff Organ Company Opus 3 organ. Each recital will also include a hymn for audience participation. All are

invited to attend; admission is free but free-will donations, benefiting the Music Ministry of the church, are encouraged. A reception will follow each event.

For more information, please contact the Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Hentus van Rooyen at hentus@stalbanmaine.org.

- November 28 - Cathy Meyer
- December 5 - Frederick MacArthur
- December 12 - Ray Cornils
- December 19 - Hentus van Rooyen

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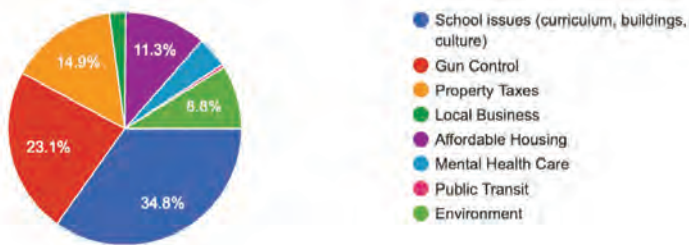
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BONDED + INSURED

Election and voting results, exit polling, for Cape Elizabeth

By Kevin St. Jarre

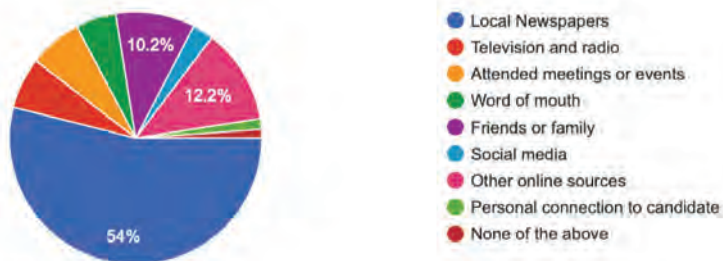
Which of the following *local* issues is *most* important to you
442 responses



Graph provided by Carolyn Young

In exit polling, voters identified what was most important to them.

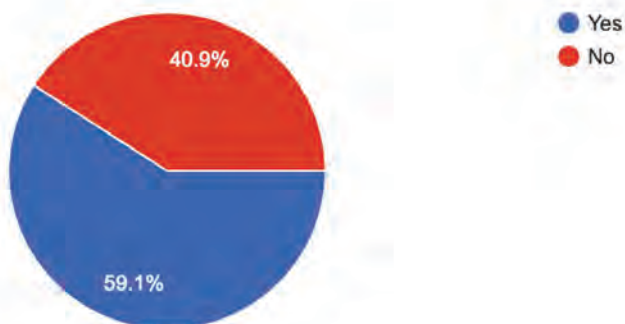
What was your *primary* source of information for the local ballot?
443 responses



Graph provided by Carolyn Young

Cape voters reported that their primary source of information for the local ballot was local newspapers, followed by "other online sources."

Do you think party affiliation matters for local elections?
440 responses



Graph provided by Carolyn Young

The exit polls showed candidate party affiliation is clearly important to Cape voters even in local elections.

Ted Jordan has long-taught AP Government at Cape Elizabeth High School. Each Election Day, he and his students conduct exit polling for The Cape Courier, with huge technical support from Carolyn Young, CEHS's Librarian & Research Coordinator.

There are many different issues, with data collected across many demographics, and the numbers of provided by the exit polling are compelling.

This time, even when a certain result of the exit polls did not line up with the actual results, it was still fascinating and potentially informative. For years, the exit polling has correctly predicted the results on virtually every issue and race, but in the 2023 race for seats on the Cape Elizabeth Town Council, there was a difference.

There were two open seats on the Town Council, for which four candidates competed. The exit polling, obviously, takes data from those who volunteer to participate, and only on Election Day. In 2023, approximately 1,736 votes were cast by absentee ballot, and so were not captured by exit polling.

The general consensus around Cape Elizabeth leading up to the election was that the Town Council race was going to be close. The exit polling showed that 62.1% of voters had voted for Andrew Swayze, and 61.6% had gone for Matthew Grymek. The exit poll results put candidates Timothy Thompson and Stephanie Anderson at 29.9% and 38.4%, respectively.

The actual results, when early votes and the votes who chose not to participate in the exit polls were counted as well, provided a very different result. Not only did Thompson win a seat on the council by defeating his nearest competitor by 175 votes, Anderson won by a wide margin. Here are the results:

- Anderson, Stephanie P. – 2299
- Grymek, Matthew A. – 1807
- Swayze, Andrew B. – 1777
- Thompson, Timothy L. – 1982

Blanks – 927

It is still remarkable that of nearly 4,400 ballots cast in Cape Elizabeth, 927 voters chose not to vote in the Town Council race. In the race for Cape Elizabeth School Board, the phenomenon was even more pronounced with 1,343 voters leaving the ballot blank rather than selecting candidates for School Board.

The results for Cape Elizabeth School Board were:

- Hews, Charity L. – 1415
- Hurder, Arienne D. – 1676
- McVeigh, Jennifer – 2278
- Voltz, Cynthia – 2080

Voters returning incumbents Voltz and McVeigh for additional three-year terms. Interestingly, while the exit polls were off on the town council race, those same polls correctly reflected the actual results for the school board race.

Still, the blank ballots for these races occur in other local towns as well, with substantial numbers of voters skipping voting for municipal offices such as in Scarborough, Gorham and elsewhere. In fact, in Gorham, in the school committee 3-year seats, in Ward 1-1, Ward 1-2, Ward 2 and Central, it was "BLANK" which garnered the most votes each time.

When it comes to issues, however, Cape Elizabeth voters were far less likely to leave the vote blank. While 927 Capers opted to not make a selection when it came to the Town Council seats, only 74 chose not to voice an opinion on referendum Question 3, which read, "Do you want to create a new power company governed by an elected board to acquire and operate existing for-profit electricity transmission and distribution facilities in Maine?"

Here the exit polling accurately predicted that Cape Elizabeth would vote down the

-see ELECTION page 15

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CELT welcomes five board members

Following a community call for volunteers to join its Board of Directors, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT) is pleased to welcome five remarkable individuals to its board. Each brings a unique blend of expertise, passion and dedication to the organization's mission of conserving the natural beauty of Cape Elizabeth.



Lynn Bailets: NASA Alumnus and Attorney Joins CELT's Conservation in Cape Elizabeth

A NASA retiree with a background in law, contract oversight and policy management, Lynn Bailets joins the CELT Board, infusing his wealth of experience into the organization's commitment to conserving Cape Elizabeth's natural landscapes. His dedication to community involvement and extensive experience in governance further strengthen his role as a vital asset in advancing CELT's mission of conservation and environmental stewardship.

the board. A former middle school science teacher, Jill's expertise in environmental education, coupled with her passion for community engagement, will play a crucial role in advancing CELT's educational initiatives.



Whitney Hess: Infusing Compassion into Conservation

Renowned executive coach Whitney Hess, known for putting humanity back into business, has brought her wealth of experience to the CELT Board. With a background in user experience consulting and a commitment to cultivating compassionate and inclusive organizational cultures, Whitney's addition promises to elevate CELT's impact on both the community and the environment.



Jill Darling: A Decade of Dedication to Environmental Education

Stalwart CELT volunteer Jill Darling, serving for over a decade on the Education Committee, has now assumed a role on



Kevin Jordan: A Local Technologist Turned Farmer

-see BOARD page 9

David Briman to lead CELT



Contributed photo

Cape Elizabeth resident David Briman is the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust's new Executive Director. Prior to taking on this role, Briman was a member of CELT's Board of Directors for six years.

Following an expansive search that brought candidates from all over the U.S., the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust found its new Executive Director right here in Cape Elizabeth. David Briman was tapped to be the interim director last spring. After a few months, it became apparent that he was the best qualified to lead the organization toward its exciting future.

Briman succeeds Cindy Krum, who served in this role for seven years. Krum

led the organization through a major campaign that secured the conservation of four properties, grew its endowment funds to ensure the care of its conservation holdings and expanded its staff.

Before taking on this role, Briman was a member of CELT's Board of Directors for six years. During those years he served on the Executive Committee and the Governance Committee, and co-lead the national accreditation task force, in addition to chairing the Lands Committee. He comes to this new, permanent role with deep experience in what CELT does and how it does it. His long experience as a real estate attorney will also serve him well in this role.

"It is with both excitement and gratitude that I embrace the role of CELT Executive Director. Leading this incredible organization on its mission to conserve Cape's special places, take proper care of its conserved lands and educate all people by fostering a love of the natural world and sense of environmental responsibility is a true privilege," said

-see CELT page 9

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Ali Gustavson is CELT's new Education Program Coordinator



Contributed photo

Ali Gustavson is CELT's new Education Program Coordinator.

The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust is very happy to welcome Ali Gustavson as our new Education Program Coordinator. Ali was born in Portland, grew up exploring the wildlife management area behind her childhood home in Massachusetts, and comes to CELT from a nonprofit nature center in Alaska.

Since the start of the school year, Ali has deftly coordinated CELT's extensive programming with the Cape Elizabeth Schools. From 1st through 12th grade, Ali has offered field trips exploring trails on CELT's conservation properties and partnered with teachers to present a science-based ecological curriculum.

Ali also presents CELT's programming for middle school students who gather in an outdoor classroom at Turkey Hill Farm twice each week. In October, 7th graders transformed Turkey Hill into an arboretum for CELT's annual meeting, where they led

about 100 community members on walks in the woods and made poster presentations about their "adopted" trees.

Ali grew up in southern Massachusetts, attended the University of Maine and obtained a bachelor's degree in wildlife ecology with an education minor. Shortly after graduating, Ali moved to Haines, Alaska and spent four years working for a nonprofit nature center.

Besides learning how to care for and train eagles, hawks, owls and falcons, she also developed place-based curriculum and educational outreach for the facility. Ali is excited to have returned to Maine to continue to expand and share her knowledge as an environmental educator. In her free time,

Ali can be found exploring with her Siberian husky, planning her next camping trip or working her way through her constantly growing pile of "to be read" books.

Board

Continued from page 8

Cape Elizabeth native Kevin Jordan, with a background in computer science and a successful career in technology, has returned to his roots as a farmer. His transition from a software executive to co-operating Jordan Brothers Farm demonstrates a deep commitment to the town's rural character and agricultural heritage. Kevin's unique journey adds a valuable perspective to CELT's conservation efforts.



Rick Rosu-Myles: A Canadian Adventurer Embraces Maine Roots

Originally from Canada, Rick Rosu-Myles has called Maine home since 1994, captivated by its natural beauty. An avid outdoorsman with diverse hobbies, Rick's commitment to conserving Cape Elizabeth's natural landscapes aligns seamlessly with CELT's mission. As an Executive Director for Morgan Stanley, Rick brings valuable leadership experience to the board.

The diversity of backgrounds and shared passion for conserving Cape Elizabeth's natural beauty that these community members bring to CELT's Board will help ensure that CELT's programming and conservation efforts best serve the community for the coming years.

CELT

Continued from page 8

Briman upon his appointment.

Briman hit the ground running during both the interim period and in his new permanent role. Under his leadership, CELT has continued its high level of activity with volunteers and staff working tirelessly to conserve a new property for public recreation, habitat and climate protection, build bridges on trails, preserve specialized habitats for the endangered New England Cottontail, lead nature walks and volunteer work parties, re-launch the extensive education programs in the Cape school system and raise the money needed for the nonprofit to accomplish these important objectives.

"During the past six months, I have seen close up just how vibrant and impactful CELT can be. I have watched the unwavering commitment of our dedicated, professional staff, and I very much look forward to my continued work with them. CELT is driven by a team approach, and we would never achieve the successes we have without our talented staff, amazing volunteer network, dedicated, ambitious and hard-working Board of Directors, partnering organizations, and, of course, our generous members and supportive CELT community.

Briman grew up in New Jersey playing hide and seek in cornfields. He attended Rutgers College and received a law degree from New York Law School. David, his wife, Katie and their three daughters moved to Cape Elizabeth from New York City in the summer of 2015. Prior to trading in city life for the Maine coast, Briman's work life was focused on his real estate law practice.

Briman is thrilled to be a part of the dynamic CELT staff. In addition to walking at Runaway Farm with his family, he enjoys alpine and nordic skiing, hiking, biking, kayaking, and gardening.

David can often be found at the CELT office, 330 Ocean House Road in Cape Elizabeth. Please stop in and meet him anytime between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



From Thanksgiving to New Years our Giving Tree will grace the Inn with handmade ornaments created by local school children. We invite guests and the community to trade a student ornament for new warm clothes such as gloves, hats, mittens and socks that will be distributed to food banks and shelters by Project GRACE. Receive a \$20 property certificate* as thanks for your donation. In addition, for every room booked in December the Inn will purchase books from local schools' wish lists. Purchase a student made bookmark for \$10 and help encourage a lifelong connection to learning. As thanks, receive a \$20 property certificate.*



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United Women in Faith selling wreaths



Contributed photo

The United Women in Faith from the Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church are taking orders for fresh Christmas wreaths through November 25.

The United Women in Faith from the Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church are taking orders for fresh Christmas wreaths. Prices are \$25 for decorated and \$20 for undecorated.

To order a wreath, call the church at 799-8396 and leave a message with how many and what type of wreaths you would like

to purchase, your name and phone number. The deadline for ordering is November 25.

Wreaths may be picked up at the church on Saturday, Dec. 2 between 9:30 a.m. and noon. The annual Christmas Bake Sale will be taking place at the same time.

The church is located at 280 Ocean House Road (Route 77).

SP-CE Rotary Christmas Tree Fundraiser returns to Mill Creek Park



Photo by Jim Britt

The SP-CE Rotary annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser returns to Mill Creek Park on Friday, November 24.

The Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth (SPCE Rotary) proudly continues its six-decade tradition of selling Maine-grown Christmas trees and handcrafted wreaths at Mill Creek Park this holiday season under the inspiring theme “Create Hope in the World.” SPCE Rotary welcomes customers starting Friday, November 24, with the tree lot opening at 10 a.m. Freshly cut trees will be available for in-person purchase, and Casco Bay Island residents can conveniently order online with complimentary delivery by Casco Bay Lines.

“For over six decades, our Christmas tree sale has been the cornerstone of our annual fundraising efforts. All proceeds are reinvested in local community organizations and contributed to life-changing Rotary International initiatives,” emphasized Nancy Irving, SP-CE Rotary’s 2023 tree sale chairperson and president-

elect.

Five Key Highlights for Customers about SP-CE Rotary Christmas Trees:

- 1) Our trees are sustainably grown in Newport, Maine and arrive freshly cut, requiring regular watering.
- 2) Our wreaths are handcrafted using fragrant Maine-grown balsam.
- 3) Island customers can conveniently place orders online through www.sp-ce-rotary.org.
- 4) The tree lot welcomes visitors with the following hours:
 - Monday to Friday: Opening at 3 p.m. (except for opening day, Friday, November 24 at 10 a.m.)
 - Saturday and Sunday: Opening at 10 a.m.
- 5) The true essence of Christmas resides within your heart, and you’ll feel that spirit when you shop at the SP-CE Rotary Christmas tree fundraiser in South Portland’s Mill Creek Park.

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Local birding report

By E. Brooks Bornhofft

On the afternoon of November 4 I came across a very late in the season Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. This was a particularly joyous occasion because the last time I encountered a gnatcatcher was way back in May of 2022. The tiny steely blue-gray bird was in classic foraging form, dashing and skipping through the upper regions of a neighbor's ornamental fruit tree. The gnatcatcher's blackish tail is conspicuously long compared to its kinglet sized body, and it often flicks its white-edged outer tail feathers from side to side as it gleans insects and larvae from branches and leaves. One of my favorite things about Blue-gray Gnatcatchers is their ability to produce a soft, pleasing warbling ditty, often including mimicked bits from repertoires of other birds including wood warblers, vireos, towhees and Blue Jays. Because of the bird's coloring, long tail, fussy manners and ability to mix snips of other birds' songs together it has been called the "Little Mockingbird."

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are widespread but never abundant across Cape during spring migration and their breeding range has expanded northward over the last century. According to Peter Vickery's "Birds of Maine" which was published in 2020 there have been very few sightings of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in November, a total of nine, mostly from south coastal Maine. Interestingly, on November 4 another Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was reported on Bailey Island in Casco Bay.

Earlier in the day I also noted a single, lingering Yellow-rumped Warbler and yet another male Wilson's Warbler in our yard. The Wilson's Warbler is one of the 150 birds that will soon have its name changed by the American Ornithological Society as part of a sweeping overhaul of all bird species currently named after people, along with any other names deemed exclusionary or offensive. This is an opportunity to highlight unique features of the bird, which in the case of the Wilson's Warbler is its black cap.

From what I have read about the ornithologist Alexander Wilson, he always favored descriptive names for birds so I cannot imagine that he would mind if the bird's name was changed as part of a broader effort to diversify birding and make the hobby more welcoming to people of all races and backgrounds. Ornithologist David Sibley stated that "simply because birds are not objects, they should not have to carry the banner for a person, no matter how good that person was." Renaming all birds for their sounds, habitat or appearance seems to be the best way to avoid trying to determine which names were

decent enough to remain.

The following day November 5 I came across a Merlin perched on a streetlamp just outside Pond Cove Elementary School. Other locations where these falcons have been spotted over the last two weeks include Kettle Cove, Two Lights State Park and Dyer Point.

On the night of November 8 the northwest winds had died down from earlier in the day and the sky was partly cloudy with a waning crescent moon. At around 10:30 p.m. I slipped out of the house to listen for owls. After ten minutes had passed I had heard only the chirping of a Northern flying squirrel and the yipping and howling of coyotes nearby. Then, during a lull in activity I heard a short, muffled squawk.

From my years of listening to another small owl, the Eastern Screech Owl, I was optimistic that the squawking noise I had heard was most likely an owl. I did rule out the sound coming from a screech owl primarily because they are very rare in these parts. Thinking that it might be a Northern Saw-whet Owl I immediately gave my best twenty second too-too-too whistle call, the most typical call male Saw-whet's give during the breeding season. I am mindful that mimicking owl calls (either through voice or recording) can peak the interest of bigger owls like the Great-horned who are known to prey on Northern Saw-whets.

As I stood patiently hoping for some sort of response my senses were startled by a flash from something that had silently zipped past me. After another couple minutes of silence, three quick shrieking barks rang out from a small stand of young pine trees nearby. There on a branch I could just make out the faint silhouette of a Northern Saw-whet Owl. Seconds later my senses were put into overdrive when a separate guttural squawk emanated from deeper in the woods - another Northern Saw-whet Owl! These little forest elves are master ventriloquists capable of a vast range of noises from whines to whistles to harsh bat like squeaks. Northern Saw-whet Owls are short distance migrants and every autumn substantial numbers migrate along the Atlantic's coastal lowlands and islands from Maine down to Virginia. While most females and younger Saw-whets migrate south, many males remain in the state throughout the winter months.

-see BIRDING REPORT page 15

Capetoon: NO-vemver

By Jeff Mandell





TOWN OF CAPE ELIZABETH

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
SEASONAL PLOW DRIVER

The Town of Cape Elizabeth has an opening for a Seasonal Plow Driver

Are you looking for a short-term opportunity to earn extra money? The Town of Cape Elizabeth is seeking to fill seasonal plow driver positions. Seasonal plow drivers assist with the Public Works Department's winter operations. These positions work on an on-call basis and are filled between November and April. The ideal candidate will be at least 18 years old and have a valid Class B CDL license with a good driving record. Please contact Public Works at 799-4151 for more information

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Thomas Memorial Library to host a Winter Solstice Lantern Festival

Holiday Closures

The library will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for Thanksgiving.

Winter Solstice Lantern Festival on December 21

The kick-off event to celebrate the installation of the library's grant-funded Community Art Boxes project will take the form of a winter solstice evening parade around town center to visit the five Community Art Box locations.

The project was the result of a national grant the library received from the American Library Association, funded by the Estee Lauder Foundation's "Writing Change" initiative. The grant was intended to support community art projects that inspire civic engagement.

Local artist Marie Ahearn and TML Director Rachel Davis developed the concept through training sessions with the other 11 libraries nationwide that were chosen to receive the grant. Five mini-galleries are being installed at locations around town center, which will feature monthly displays of artwork by community members. The library has offered several lantern-making workshops in recent months, and will offer an opportunity before the event for the public to construct lanterns to carry during the parade around town center. The five Community Art Box locations are at the library, Town Hall, the Village Green, the Police Station, and the Community Center. For more information about the Lantern Festival or the Community Art Box project, please visit the library's website.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Character of the Month

In December we are celebrating a very precocious six-year-old girl who lives in the Plaza Hotel in New York City: Eloise! We'll have fun activities throughout the month like our popular scavenger hunt, and you can try your hand at drawing the star of this popular series by Kay Thompson.

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. Currently, Pumba the Pug is here some Tuesdays, and Lark is here every Wednesday afternoon.

Disguise a Gingerbread Person Contest

Disguise a gingerbread person as your favorite book character and enter it for a chance to win a prize bag. Children can pick up a gingerbread person template at the children's desk. You can decorate the template or use the template to trace onto a piece of cardboard, fun foam, cardstock, etc. Use your imagination to decorate your gingerbread man template with any type of decorations (crayons, paint, fabric, etc). Return it to the children's desk and we'll display them throughout December.

A random winner will be chosen by raffle at the end of the month to take home a delicious prize bag.

Winter Wishes Holiday Card-Making Station

During December we will have many supplies to create a winter-themed card to send to someone special. Don't forget to bring their address and we'll even mail it for you

(limit one per child).

Winter Book Bundles

Families can check out a holiday book bundle containing three picture books, a family-friendly holiday movie, a bag of popcorn and hot chocolate for four. Available all month long (while supplies last).

Tween and Teen Holiday Swag Bags

The ultra-cool TML librarians want to create a personalized book & swag bag just for you! If you'd like to receive a bundle of 3-5 books we think you will enjoy as well as some fun prizes and activities, please visit the teen page on the library website, or ask for a form at the children's desk, and sign up today (limit one per library card, please).

Tween/Teen Holiday Crafternoon: Gift in Jar Workshop

Tuesday, December 12, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
For ages 11+. Come to our Cookie Mix in a Jar making event. We will fill jars with cookie mix and decorate them in festive ribbon and fabric. Give as a gift or keep for yourself! Register on our website, space is limited.

Winter Wonderland Story Time

Friday, December 22, 10:30 a.m.
Gather with us to kick-off school vacation for 30-minutes of playful stories, rhymes, songs to celebrate winter.

Sewing Adventures: Machine Sewing Pillows + Bean Bags

Saturday, December 9, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Library Conference Room
For ages 8+. Make a decorative pillow for your own room, or make a hand-sized bean bag. In this workshop sewists will learn

sewing construction skills and try out using a sewing machine. We will go over seam allowance, operating a sewing machine and back stitching. Sewists are welcome to practice hand sewing skills, embroidery and applique to make their pillows unique. Beginning sewists welcome. No prior experience necessary but complete beginners must be accompanied by their adult to work one on one in learning basic skills of threading a needle and tying a knot for their first few meetings. All materials provided. Registration required, sign up on our website.

Weekly Programs

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. (Ages 0-5)
Drop-in playtime session for children and

-see LIBRARY page 13

Moving Forward with a New Town Council

As the new Town Council is seated this December, we recognize the change in direction the new councilors represent, but are very aware that many of the issues facing our community have not changed.

A few of those issues include...

Cape's Small Business Climate. How will the new Council address the broad concerns around Cape's negative small business environment? Will the origins of the lawsuit against the Lumberly be investigated? Will the new Council make changes to ensure that, going forward, the initiation of a lawsuit against a local business gets Town Council approval? Will small business owners be engaged to help identify what's been holding Cape's local business environment back? Will local pre-K providers be engaged to hear how they've been affected by CESD's pre-K program?

Housing. Assuming the Town Council passed the Ordinance Committee's controversial and overreaching zoning amendments at their November 13th lame-duck session (an unknown at the time of this submission), will the new Council move to honor the word to our community and roll back all non-mandatory changes that were included?

School Building Project. Will the new Council bring a fresh perspective to the School Building Advisory Committee? Will the 62% of our community who opposed the \$116M bond referendum finally have their voices represented in the process?

Please note, if you would like to make a donation to help continue our ads, please feel free to reach out the the email below

From all of us at Cape Neighbors, have a **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

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

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 us for 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.

Traditional Story Time

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

Join us in the Community Room for songs and stories, bubbles and Belinda the Bear! Geared toward ages 3-5 or anyone who enjoys listening to a solid two stories.

Lego Club (Ages 5-12)

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

December 5

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.

D&D Social (Ages 11-13)

Third Tuesday of each Month, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (Conference Room)

December 19

Looking for an adventure? Travel no further as your next journey awaits within the D&D Enthusiasts Club at the library. A group for Dungeons & Dragons players and enthusiasts ages 11 - 13. Meet other local players interested in this awesome role playing game: share experiences, inspire and encourage each other. Note: this is not a campaign, just a time to socialize and plan your own sessions with new friends. There is no

registration for this program, children 10 and under must have an adult present.

Young Writers at TML (Ages 11-13)

First Thursday of the month at 3:30 - 4:30 pm

December 7

Are you a young writer looking for a way 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. Register on our website.

Kid's Open Chess (Ages 8+)

Wednesdays 3:30 pm - 4:30 p.m.

(Conference Room)

For ages 8+. Find a friend and play a game during this drop-in time designed for elementary-age children who wish to practice their chess skills. Boards are provided but we also encourage you to bring your own. There is no registration for this program, children 10 and under must have an adult present.

#LibrarySquad (Ages 11-13)

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

December 1

Library Squad is a community of library-loving middle schoolers that meets monthly, and whose opinions, ideas, and help form the foundation of our programming. Library Squad meets after school on the first Friday of each month from 2:45 - 3:45 p.m. at the library. Stop by the children's desk for an application to join this advisory group.

TML Teen Writing Group

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

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. Register on our website.

Teen Lounge - Let's Hear Your Voice

Saturday, December 9, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Enjoy board games, play chess, create art, bring your friends, make new friends, grab some snacks or just chill out. We'll also be talking about community engagement and volunteer opportunities, while we have snacks. Register on our website to save your spot, and to make sure we have enough snacks. Did we mention there will be free snacks?

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

The Amazing Wildlife of Ecuador: The Andes, the Amazon, and the Galapagos Islands, with Ed Robinson

Tuesday, November 28, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

In-person and streamed simultaneously via Zoom

Enjoy this photographic tour of the lofty Andes mountains, mid-elevation cloud forests, the Amazon Basin and the storied Galapagos Islands. The talk chronicles a three-week trip to some of the most diverse and unspoiled habitats on Earth, opening the door to the vast array of wild creatures that live there. Writer and photographer Ed Robinson of Orr's Island is a widely traveled naturalist and will share his knowledge of the region and its beautiful creatures. The presentation will entertain and educate using 150 stunning photos, biological facts, and stories with a Q&A session to follow. All are welcome.

Town of Cape Elizabeth Climate Action Workshop

Thursday, November 30, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

In-person

Get involved with climate action in Cape Elizabeth! All those who live, work, go to school, own a business or property in town are encouraged to participate. At this workshop:

- Learn how climate change is impacting the people and places in Cape Elizabeth
- Have your concerns, priorities, experiences, and ideas heard as part of a Climate Action Plan process that's being convened by the town of Cape Elizabeth
- Know what opportunities exist to stay involved in the future

What is a Climate Action Plan? It's a plan

to address impacts from climate change and build a more sustainable Cape Elizabeth. The Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) has been contracted to lead the town of Cape Elizabeth through a Climate Action Planning process, providing support, guidance and technical assistance to create a plan that is aligned with the State of Maine's "Maine Won't Wait" Climate Action Plan. Please join us to learn how you can make a difference in shaping the future of Cape Elizabeth.

Die Well Death Education Session Three: Barbara Karnes's film This is How We Die - Part Two: Labor of Dying, with Leona Oceania of Die Well Death Education

Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

In-person at the library

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. We are pleased to offer a year-long Death Education series facilitated by Cape resident Leona Oceania.

This is a topic-driven discussion that tackles a different aspect of death each month. It takes place on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. In this third session we'll be watching part two of Barbara Karnes's film "This is How We Die." The film addresses the normal dying process, from months before death through the actual moment of death. This presentation provides knowledge and tools for working with the end of life. It includes non-medical terminology, and a practical guide for working with patients & families facing end of life issues.

-see EVENTS page 16



A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

As many of us know, there are actually only two seasons in Maine:

1. Winter, and
2. Preparing for winter!!

Our Public Works Department is preparing for another winter, and in doing so, wanted to note a few areas that are helpful in assisting residents and our crews:

Parking Bans:

•The Town's standard overnight parking ban begins on December 1 and ends on April 1. Overnight parking is prohibited on public roads between 1:00 AM and 5:00 AM.

•Storm-specific parking bans are announced in various media outlets, including: local news stations, the Town's website, and the Town's social media pages. Following the Town and/or Police Department's official Facebook pages is a great way to receive updates.

Items that may be outside of the paved areas, but still within the public right of way, can pose problems to our equipment while sanding, salting and/or plowing. We ask for your cooperation in moving basketball hoops and other temporary items well back of the traveled way to minimize any damage and allow for snow storage and safe plowing operations. Additionally, please refrain from placing large/fixed objects along the edges of the road that could result in equipment damage or personal injury.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to a safe and successful winter season.

Jay Reynolds
Public Works Director



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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.

Monday, November 27

CESD Educational Visioning Workshop #3, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, November 28

Town Council Appointments Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 29

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Thomas Memorial Library, 6:30 p.m.
 Town Council Ordinance Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 30

School Building Advisory Committee - PUBLIC FORUM, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Monday, December 4

Housing Diversity Study Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, December 5

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

Wednesday, December 6

Board of Zoning Appeals, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
 Thursday, December 7
 School Building Advisory Committee, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 Thomas Memorial Library Committee, Thomas Memorial Library, 6:30 p.m.
 Recycling Committee, Public Works

Department, 7 p.m.

Monday, December 11

Town Council, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 12

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.

Town Council Ordinance Committee
 Nov. 29 - 7 p.m.

Toys for Tots drive

The Edward Jones office in town, located at 343 Ocean House Road, is supporting the U.S. Marine Reserves Toys for Tots program. Local residents may help make a difference for children in the area by bringing in a new, unwrapped toy to the office during regular business hours now through December 8. Monetary gifts, including gift cards, cannot be 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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

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

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



Jordan's Farm
 Cape Elizabeth, Maine

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OPEN FRIDAY & SATURDAY
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Working with over 15 Maine farms to bring you Maine-raised foods all year long!

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f Jordan's Farm @jordans_farm www.jordansfarm.com



Use QR code or go to farmsforfoodequity.org/ to get your ticket today!



Jordan's Farm and over eight other farms work to bring Maine raised produce to food pantries and food sites all winter long. Please join us on December 6th at the Purpoodock Club in Cape Elizabeth to raise money for Farms for Food Equity's Winter Harvest Fund Raiser.

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BUSINESSES/SERVICES

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MUSIC LESSONS

Flute lessons: For beginners and intermediates of all ages. Call Kris: 767-3712.

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

IN SEARCH OF

ISO studio or 1 br apt. in Cape for long term Cape resident. Mature, quiet & responsible. Please contact me at readyshea@gmail.com or 207-807-1616

Part time home care 2-3 days a week, 2 hours a day, for CE resident. Assistance with serving prepared meals, going for walks and general assistance. Please contact me at readyshea@gmail.com or 207-807-1616

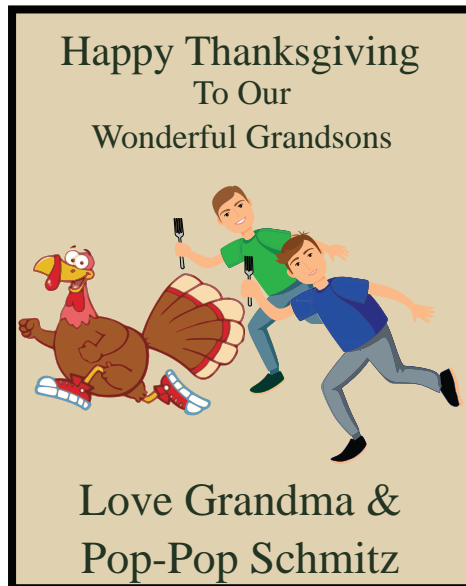
Birding report

Continued from page 11

Weather conditions, wind direction and moon phase are important factors for saw-whet movements. On the night of November 8 prevailing northwest winds and a slim waning crescent moon provided ideal conditions for these "invisible owls" to be on

FOR RENT

Two-bedroom Snowbrook condo for rent on school vacation weeks, if interested call Sara at 207-415-1973



the move. Interestingly, eastern U.S. populations exhibit a population cycle in which Saw-whet numbers generally peak every four years. This peak is closely tied to the small rodent populations which also peak in high mast years such as this year.

Lastly, there have been several reports of Snow Buntings across Cape including Two Lights State Park, Crescent Beach State Park and Dyer Point. Of note, fellow birders Jeanne and Mike Beck came across a small flock of foraging Snow Buntings in Riverside cemetery on November 9. A winter visitor from northern latitudes, aka the Arctic Tundra, these chunky ground-dwelling birds feed mostly in fields and shorelines. Bluebird in size, their snow-white underparts contrast nicely with black wing tips and rufous overtones.

Have a Classified Ad, Announcement or Event?

Go to www.capecourier.com
Or contact Tara Simopoulos at: advertising@capecourier.com

Election

Continued from page 7

measure handily, with 2,930 voting "no," and 1,392 voting "yes." The measure was successful statewide as well.

When it came to "QUESTION 1: Shall an ordinance entitled 'Cape Elizabeth Residential Pesticide Use Ordinance,' which is summarized below, be enacted?" it was a clear win for the ordinance prohibiting the use of virtually all synthetic pesticides on residential property in the town. While 1,493 voters opposed it, 2,291 supported the new ordinance.

Cape voters overwhelming approved the ban on foreign governments and entities that they own, control or influence from making

campaign contributions or financing communications for or against candidates or ballot questions by a vote of 3,709 to 609, with only 78 voters skipping this question. By nearly the same margin, voters in Cape Elizabeth approved the so-called "right-to-repair" issue, requiring vehicle manufacturers to standardize on-board diagnostic systems and provide remote access to those systems and mechanical data to owners and independent repair facilities, with 3,664 approving and 628 voting "no." The approval of these two questions was in line with statewide results also.

Other questions in the exit polling shed light on the make-up of Cape voters, at least those who vote on Election Day, and volunteer to participate in exit polling.

PUZZLE TIME • **THANKSGIVING SEEK & FIND**
find the objects in the picture

Wedding announcement



Contributed photo

Matty Pierce married Maggie Mullins on Saturday, September 9, 2023, at Brick South at Thompson's Point in Portland. The groom is a 2012 graduate of Cape Elizabeth High School and Boston College and is a Senior Restaurant Success Manager with Toast in Boston. The bride is a graduate of Andover High School and Boston College and is a Doctor of Physical Therapy with The Run Rx in Somerville, Massachusetts. The couple live in Boston and visit Cape Elizabeth often.

Events

Continued from page 13

Part two focuses on the labor of dying and includes information every living person should be aware of. An open discussion will follow. All are welcome and 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.

Marine Mammals of Maine, with Allied Whale

Saturday, December 9, 1:30 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. This program is for any-

one interested in Maine's marine life—especially students considering marine biology as a career. Attendees will have a chance to win some Allied Whale merch.

Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society Presents:

Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in-person at the library

The public is invited to join the CEHPS for its monthly local history presentation at the library, which will also double this month as the group's annual holiday meeting. The evening will include a presentation by Matt Taylor, the most senior member of the Venerable Cunner Association and Propeller Club, reportedly the oldest registered social club in America. The club was formed in 1845 by members seeking to escape from the Portland summer heat. They met to fish, cook, smoke and just enjoy each other's company – for 25 cents each. Meetings were often held at Portland Head Light, and by the 1880s the club moved for many years to Long Point in Cape Elizabeth. The Cunnors are owners of a wonderful collection of historical artifacts, photographs, and other documents. Theirs is a fascinating, sometimes humorous, and interesting story to hear. All are welcome to attend and to enjoy light refreshments, hear about the work of CEHPS, and take in this enjoyable presentation about a little known aspect of our town's history.

Pond Cove Death Cafe, with Leona Oceania of Die Well Death Education

Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in-person at the library

A group-directed conversation about death with no agenda, objectives, or themes - with cake (it is not a grief support or counseling session). Registration is not necessary, but if you register, you can receive reminders and updates about recommended resources, or weather cancellations.

ONGOING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:

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: December 7

Songwriting Workshop (with Jud Caswell)
First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
In person
Next meeting: December 5

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: December 20
Next book: "Skellig," by David Almond

Guerilla Poetry Whoop
Second Thursday of the month, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Via Zoom
Next meeting: December 14

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: December 21
Next book: "The Antelope Wife," by Louise Erdrich

SAVE THE DATE!

The Cape Courier presents:
4th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting

Friday, December 8th (6:00 - 7:00) on the Town Green