

The Cape Courier

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Dec 13 - Jan 16, 2024

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Happy Holidays

News from November 21 Planning Board meeting

By Hanna Gilley

October 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes Approval

The Planning Board asked for approval of the October 16, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was introduced and passed unanimously with minimal typographical corrections from the board.

Also, Chair Sahrbeck expressed his appreciation to the town staff and read aloud a letter addressed to Town Manager Sturgis and signed by all Planning Board members. Sahrbeck commented that the board "relies on, depends on and appreciates the work that the town staff does to keep everything rolling." He went ahead to also commend Maureen O'Meara directly by saying, "...you're intelligent, a master at your craft, and I really think we're better off, and we serve the town better, because of the work you put in."

3 Robinhood Road Subdivision Amendment

Maris and Matthew Pauk, and Anita Cook and Hugh Sharp, are requesting an amendment to the Sherwood Forest Subdivision

lot U6-116, located at 3 Robinhood Road, to adjust the mutual lot line with lot U6-47, located at 12 Littlejohn Road, Sec. 16-2-5, Amendments to Previously approved subdivision plans. This amendment addressed a mutual land exchange with two adjoining abutters. Jim Huebener motioned to approve and it was passed unanimously.

40 Broad Cove Subdivision Amendment

Jason Williams is requesting an amendment to the previously approved Broad Cove Subdivision to merge land into lots U36-12 and U36-13, located at 40 Broad Cove Road and Ledgewood Lane, Sec. 16- 2-5, Amendments to Previously approved subdivision plans. This amendment was discussed in a workshop back in March and is similar to the 3 Robinhood Road amendment and includes changing lot lines to an already existing subdivision. A motion was introduced by Matt Eaton and passed unanimously among the board.

-see PLANNING BOARD page 6

Packed house for Climate Action Workshop held on November 30

By Niko Dietsch and Sam Milton



Contributed photo

Cape residents filled the room at Thomas Memorial Library on November 30 for a Climate Action Workshop.

Cape Elizabeth residents crowded into the Thomas Memorial Library on Thursday, November 30 for a Climate Action Workshop that went beyond raising awareness, delving into the practical steps needed to combat climate change. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., participants heard about and gave input on the town's plan for addressing the local impacts of climate change, taking actionable strategies to reduce emissions and establishing a roadmap for developing a town-wide climate action plan.

Understanding Local Impacts and Taking Action:

The meeting kicked off with welcome remarks and a statement of support from Jeremy A. Gabrielson, Chair of the Town Council. Sara Knapp-Mills and colleagues from the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) then led workshop participants through a presentation describing how climate change is increasingly impacting the community and local ecosystems, including our cherished coastline. Ms. Knapp-Mills, a climate scientist and policy expert, presented preliminary data specific to Cape Elizabeth, outlining expected changes in temperature, sea level, fishing harvests and frequency of extreme weather events. The presentation underscored the urgency of addressing climate change on a local level, drawing upon local knowledge on topics ranging from coastal erosion to changes in precipitation patterns.

The workshop then transitioned into

practical solutions, with a focus on potential actions that both the town and private citizens can take to limit emissions. Ms. Knapp-Mills covered cost-effective steps such as energy efficiency, waste reduction and sustainable transportation. She noted the importance of providing tools and resources to help the community reduce the amount of fossil-based power that Cape municipal operations, businesses and residents use, thereby saving people money while reducing Cape's carbon footprint.

Developing the Town's Emissions Inventory and Climate Change Action Plan:

GPCOG presenters stressed that developing a comprehensive plan requires input from community members, including farmers, businesses and citizens of all ages. During the workshop, attendees were encouraged to share their priorities, concerns and ideas. Community members are encouraged to fill out the online survey, reach out to members of the Town Council, attend an Energy Committee meeting, or connect with GPCOG to get involved and contribute to the upcoming action planning process.

The town will publish updates about the climate action planning process at www.CapeClimateAction.com, including information about how climate change is and will affect Cape Elizabeth, news about upcoming events and a link to the Climate Awareness and Concerns Survey. Members of the community are encouraged to visit the website and complete the online survey.

We are becalmed at 3/4 of the way to our 2023 fundraising goal

Help us reach our goal before 2023 ends. Please donate today!

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By Nancy and Jeff Mandell



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 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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NEXT ISSUE: Jan 17
DEADLINE: Noon, Jan 5

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Neighbors helping neighbors

Hundreds of Cape Elizabeth community members have been contributing to our annual Thanksgiving Basket Drive for nearly twenty years. Through the years, the efforts have provided many families a Thanksgiving meal when they might have had to go without.

In recent years, the donations have almost entirely stayed here in Cape Elizabeth. With the help of the very dedicated, organized volunteers at Judy's Produce Pantry, we have provided "baskets" to an average of forty Cape Elizabeth families each year. Not only do we receive baskets, but also an abundance of gift cards to help purchase extra baskets or to pass along as we learn of additional com-

munity needs.

Donations come from families, co-workers, Girl Scout Troops, sports teams and neighborhoods. Some troops have been involved since elementary school, and they are graduating from high school this year! A special thank you to Cape Elizabeth High School students Luke Lombardo and Henry Trowbridge for their help with carrying the well stocked Thanksgiving bins in to the church.

We live in a very special, extremely generous community and are so grateful for the continued support of this project!

With Grateful Hearts,
Jen Tinsman & Amy Lombardo

'Keep Cape sane'

I foolishly gave the school our contact information for the school phone book.

I remembered growing up when that phone book was the only way to get in touch with friends out of the neighborhood. I have now received political ads, invitations to charity events etc. We give the information so our kids can play together, not for anything else.

I find it unethical to use it for whatever somebody I've never met seems appropriate. Please stop this nonsense. If I'm not a personal friend of yours, and you're not contacting me for a play-date or birthday party, just don't. Keep Cape sane.

Robert Berman

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*Let us
hear
from you!*



We love feedback!

editor@capecourier.com

Thoughts on LD2003

Low-income housing is designed to provide for those primarily receiving Social Security Disability. Our low-income housing system does many amazing things but providing housing for the working/middle class is not one of them. A starting single teacher may qualify to live in local low-income housing for a short while, until they are over income due to raises, summer jobs or marriage.

Nothing about LD2003 provides "low-income housing." There are no housing subsidies or income qualifications.

LD2003 allows a modest increase in privately owned duplex, triplex and fourplex's rented at market rates. These economically and functionally target working and middle class (not low income). It's housing a teacher, trades person, young family, farm worker, police officer, or a fixed income retired resident could live long term. It's exactly the type

of housing resident surveys and council members of every stripe have expressed consensus about developing in our town.

ADU's up to 1,100 square feet fulfill a similar demographic purpose. In-law apartments provide housing for loved ones. Smaller ADU's cut out the young families and aged we want to keep in our community in favor of offices.

Modest increase of multifamily and 1,100sf ADU's allow market capitalism to drive increased working/middle class housing. If these policies are scrapped by the new town council, we are left with heavily tax subsidized low-income housing that can't meet the working-class needs nearly as effectively or affordably. Please ask the town council to not discard these vital policies by keeping LD2003 as is.

Jennifer Bodenrader

Help us help local kids

Kids in our community need warm outdoor clothes to get through our cold Maine winter. Advisors Living Real Estate in Cape Elizabeth is gathering essentials and delivering them directly to local schools for distribution to the kids who need it most.

Items can be new or gently used and clean. Items needed: winter coats, snow pants, gloves, scarves, hats. We are collecting all sizes for kids big and small and

will organize and deliver items accordingly. Kids sizes 5-10 are needed most.

Bring your items to our collection box at Advisors Living Real Estate, 295 Ocean House Road, Cape Elizabeth.

Thank you so much for helping keep our community warm!

For further information contact Kathy Duca at 207-415-4681 or kduca@advisorsliving.com

2024 Publication schedule		
Issue No	Ad/Copy Due	Issue Published
01	Jan 5	Jan 17
02	Jan 26	Feb 7
03	Feb 9	Feb 21
04	March 1	March 13
05	March 15	March 27
06	March 29	April 10
07	April 12	April 24
08	April 26	May 8
09	May 10	May 22
10	May 24	June 5
11	June 7	June 19
12	June 21	July 3
13	July 5	July 17
14	July 26	August 7
15	Aug 9	August 21
16	Aug 23	Sept 4
17	Sept 6	Sept 18
18	Sept 20	Oct 2
19	Oct 11	Oct 23
20	Nov 1	Nov 13
21	Nov 15	Nov 27
22	Dec 6	Dec 18

Thirteen drivers receive a summons for using cell phones

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 11-6 Two officers responded to a residence in the Ocean House Road area for a well-being check.
- 11-8 An officer spoke with a resident regarding a motor vehicle complaint.
- 11-10 An officer responded to a residence in the Mitchell Road area for a well-being check.
- 11-13 An officer met with a resident of the Shore Road area regarding a suspicious person posting on Instagram.
- 11-20 An officer met with a resident of the Two Lights Road area who reported that someone had used his personal information to obtain a loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration.
- 11-23 An officer met with a resident of the Shore Road area. The victim had purchased some tickets on a website unknown to her. When she checked her bank account, the cost was much higher than it should have been. On that same date, she received a phone call from a subject claiming to work for the U.S. Government, who reported that her bank accounts had been suspected of being involved with money laundering, and that he would email her with instructions to stop the money laundering. The email claimed to be from the Federal Trade Commission, and instructed her to withdraw as much cash as possible from her bank accounts and ship the money overnight to an address in New York. She was then instructed to wrap the cash in tinfoil and to not require a signature for delivery. The scammers also requested copies of her driver's license and other personal identification cards. A family member learned of this and knowing it to be a scam, contacted the shipping company and the package was able to be intercepted before being delivered.
- 11-24 An officer met with a subject in the Ocean House Road area regarding a possible burglary. At this time, nothing appears to be missing.
- 11-24 An officer met with a resident of the Mitchell Road area regarding criminal mischief to the holiday decorations on their property.
- 11-27 An officer met with a resident of the Shore Acres area regarding fraudulent activity on one of his accounts. The bank has been contacted.

SUMMONSES

- 11-7 Scarborough resident, speeding (51/30 zone) Sawyer Road, \$230

- 11-7 Standish resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Shore Road, \$85
- 11-7 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Shore Road, \$85
- 11-8 Cape Elizabeth resident, unregistered vehicle, Sawyer Road, \$145
- 11-10 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Shore Road, \$85
- 11-10 San Francisco resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Shore Road, \$85
- 11-10 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Route 77, \$85
- 11-10 Belgrade resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Route 77, \$85
- 11-14 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Route 77, \$85
- 11-14 Milford MA resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Route 77, \$85
- 11-14 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Shore Road, \$85
- 11-14 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Route 77, \$85
- 11-14 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Route 77, \$85
- 11-17 Windham resident, unregistered vehicle, Route 77, \$145
- 11-20 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Route 77, \$85
- 11-20 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Mitchell Road, \$85

ARRESTS

- 11-25 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating under the influence of alcohol, Ocean House Road
- 12-1 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating under the influence of alcohol, Bowery Beach Road

ACCIDENTS

- 11-23 Richard Lammert, accident on Mitchell Road
- 11-25 Alvin Hirwa, accident on Spurwink Avenue
- 11-29 Mary Downing, accident on Sawyer Road

FIRE CALLS

- Fire calls: 20
- EMS calls: 57

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

What to Know Before Your Next Web Search

Most of us do it several times a day. We have a question, need a phone number or are looking for a website, so we open a search engine and type in our request. What happens next is becoming more and more dangerous.

To steer clear of impostor scams, a widely recommended precaution is to avoid clicking on links or dialing numbers provided in emails or texts. Instead, contact the company or agency using a verified website or phone number. Beware however that even web search results can be manipulated. The easiest way that scammers do this is with advertising dollars. By paying to promote their fake websites that mimic legitimate sites, a criminal can jump to the top of your web search results. Complicating matters, some app-based companies lack customer service numbers, so web searches only bring back malicious phone numbers. This doesn't mean you can't trust web searches, just search carefully. Always look closely at the top results to make sure that they are what you are looking for before clicking. You may also want to avoid clicking on links that are advertisement or "sponsored." Not all promoted links are fake, but it's important to understand that promoted web ads are a tactic of scammers.

ing for before clicking. You may also want to avoid clicking on links that are advertisement or "sponsored." Not all promoted links are fake, but it's important to understand that promoted web ads are a tactic of scammers.

Check it Twice Before Donating

It's the season of giving, and for those in the spirit, telling the difference between a real charity and a con can be a challenge. Legitimate charities make a big push at year-end for last-minute annual donations. Scammers know this and make their own end-of-year push to line their pockets. If a charity solicits you for a donation, even if your first instinct is to contribute, be careful. Many fake charities have legitimate-looking websites and names, making them hard to discern as fraudulent. Others are registered nonprofits but devote little of the money they raise to the programs they promote. Research the charity on sites such as give.org, CharityNavigator.org or CharityWatch.org to make sure that it's legitimate and to find out what percentage of their donations are actually used to serve their stated mission versus paying for overhead and fundraising.

The music corner

By Candice Bellinger

Franz Hasenöhr's popular quintet arrangement of themes from Richard Strauss' "Till Eulenspiegel" is five minutes of frivolity you can't help but listen to on repeat! Go to YouTube and enjoy this 2010 performance by the Berliner Philharmoniker Wind Quintet, Live in Japan.

The original, composed from 1894 to 95, Till Eulenspiegel op. 28 is nearly 16 minutes long and just as jovial. Filled with lark and the spirit one would expect to find in Jack Frost this time of year, spreading his frost, slowly freezing small puddles for us to slip on, moving on to the larger bodies of water, making wonderful shapes of frost on our windows for us to gaze upon while the snow softly falls upon the brown and withered grass.

end well. His pranks are not considered just a lark by the authorities. He is sentenced to death, captured and hung. Although Till Eulenspiegel passes away, his spirit lives on forever. The orchestra soars to new heights, reminding us all, that this folk hero's spirit will live on forever. Take some extra time to go to YouTube and listen to the WDR Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Semyon Bychkov in December of 2007.

If you are "tech challenged" and would like my assistance with finding "Till Eulenspiegel, Berliner Philharmoniker Wind Quintet" or "Richard Strauss - Till Eulenspiegel op. 28 Semyon Bychkov WDR Symphony Orchestra," please message me at musicwam@yahoo.com. You can also find me on Facebook @Candice Bellinger.

For the merry prankster, things do not



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SBAC holds community forum

School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) Press Release - State of the Schools & Educational Visioning Sessions

A community forum was held on November 30 to continue discussion about the state of the school facilities and next steps.

As part of the ongoing work to address the school facilities needs of Cape Elizabeth, a community forum was held on November 30 which featured an overview of the condition and needs of school facilities.

Forum participants also participated in a group process to create a design statement that will guide the facilities process. Over 50 community members participated in the forum with about half attending in person and half through a virtual platform.

After opening comments, Harriman Architect Lisa Sawin presented information about the process being used to identify facilities needs and develop a recommendation to be presented to the community.

Harriman's process included their architecture and engineering team reviewing the previous reports and existing documentation, then walking the school sites, verifying the status of the recommendations in each discipline. They noted which items had been addressed, and determined the priority level of all remaining items, given the conditions of the system.

The Harriman team also identified any recommendations that did not appear in the previous report and assigned a priority level to them as well. Harriman's independent cost estimator is reviewing the recommendations in order to prepare cost estimates moving forward. The pre-

sentation included how community input has been and will continue to be used.

Information was also shared about the deficiencies of the district's facilities. The presentation included infrastructure issues identified in the following areas:

- Safety and security
- Exterior issues
- ADA accessibility
- Fire suppression
- Mechanical equipment
- Heating, lighting and ventilation

Superintendent Chris Record then shared information about the school facilities needs and why facility modifications are needed to most effectively support student learning.

The presentation highlighted the facilities changes that have been completed since the buildings were constructed and noted that existing facilities have not been updated to align with current educational standards. Record also emphasized how education has evolved and that current facilities are not adequate to meet the educational and operational needs.

Community forum attendees also participated in a process to assist in creating a design statement that will guide the future steps of the facilities process. Working in small groups, participants were asked to identify words or phrases that capture the essence of Cape Elizabeth Schools.

A final design statement will be finalized in the coming weeks and shared with the community.

More detailed information on the facilities review process and the community forum are posted on the district's website.

Early morning walks

By Bruce Lockwood

Hello Folks! You probably don't know my name, but you may recognize me as the tall guy who walks all over Cape Elizabeth wearing a bright orange ball cap. This is especially true if you live in the Broad Cove area.

Unfortunately, for a few years that ended about a year ago, I would yell at cars that were speeding past me as I walked or worked out in my yard in Broad Cove.

This was not a very constructive solution and my wife in particular did not like me yelling at cars. I thought about it and she was absolutely right! I stopped yelling and now I just smile and give a friendly wave. It feels a lot better to me and I am sure it feels a lot better to those passing by. I do hope people will slow down because they don't want to injure their friends, relatives and neighbors. And, I apologize to everyone I yelled at. It certainly wasn't necessary and wasn't a constructive reaction and solution.

Sure, you can shave a few minutes off the time to get out of the neighborhood if you drive faster, but you don't get as much time to enjoy our beautiful neighborhood. And just think, you might save the life of a friend, neighbor, child or pet by slowing down. People walk in our neighborhood all the time.

Just last week I was enjoying my usual early morning walk and was only about

five minutes away from my home when a car driving towards me came so close to me, I had jump to the side off of the road. As is my usual practice now, I waved to the person driving the car and continued on my walk.

Just as I was entering my garage about five minutes later, a car pulled into my driveway and a man jumped out and started walking towards my garage. This startled me because it was 6 a.m. and still very dark.

When the man reached my garage I realized he was my neighbor. He was so upset and kept apologizing profusely for driving so close to me. He said he always honored the three foot rule.

I immediately put my hand on his shoulder and consoled him saying don't worry about it. We shook hands several times and he eventually calmed down. When he seemed okay, we parted ways and wished each other a wonderful day. He is such a great neighbor. I still can't believe that he turned around and came back to my house to make sure I was okay and to apologize. I am so thankful that he is part of the community in which I live. Isn't that what the holidays are all about?

I look forward to seeing you on my next walk and to being a part of a close community we all call home. Thank you for slowing down and thank you for being a friend and neighbor.

Winter 2024 Cape Explorer out for delivery

By Cape Elizabeth Community Services

Looking for something new to do in the New Year? Here are some exciting activities that you might be interested in:

- If you enjoy dancing, Anne Cass is choreographing a line dancing class that's sure to be a hit.
- Aspiring to be an artist? Steve Adario will help unlock your inner creativity.
- Delilah Blake is teaching a class on improv and theatre, which can help you express yourself and develop your creative skills.

Other classes include:

- Tortellini making and four ways of Wok cooking with Chris Toy, an experienced instructor and author.
- Mindfulness and mind/body medicine courses to help you improve your health

and well-being.

- A professional organizing course with Amy Smith to help you declutter your space and take control of your life.

- Sunday night water polo at the Donald L. Richards Community Pool.

- Adult skating classes at the Cape Community Arena, as well as youth introductory skating and hockey skills classes.

- Ten community trips to share experiences with others, including a tour of the Goodwill Warehouse, holiday-themed luncheons, four theater performances, a visit to the Oxford Casino, and a trip to Settlers Green Shopping Outlet Village.

Kids can also participate in after school and weekend winter youth programs, including swimming, dancing, cooking, knitting, building with bricks, chess, and learning about earth and space.

Resident registration opens at 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 17, and in-person/phone at 8 am on Monday, December 18. Non-resident registration begins at 8 am on December 22.

We are always interested in ideas you may have to enhance or improve our commitment to our community. Please shoot us an email at cservices@capeelizabethschools.org or give us a ring at 207-799-2868.

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Volunteers Needed at the Cape Rink

Last season, 100+ volunteers helped the community enjoy 430+ hours of ice time.

We need your help again this year:

- Rink Supervisors
- Event Planning
- Snow removal
- Tournament
- Youth skating & hockey instructors

It's easy to get involved: help when you can with what interests you

capearena.org/contact/

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News from the superintendent

By Dr. Chris Record

Happy December to all of you. I hope you have a chance to celebrate with friends and family over the holidays and into the New Year. It seems 2023 was a blur with so many wonderful accomplishments by our students with the caring support from our staff, their parents and this vibrant community.

The academic achievement, championships, recognitions, concerts and plays are all wonderful, but I also think it is important to reflect on the little things that made a difference for our students. From the bus driver who cheered up a sad student on the way to school, to the ed tech who patiently helped a student gain a skill, to a teacher who stayed up late at night to prepare a fantastic lesson, to the admin assistant who made that caring call to home, to the coach who guided their team through a tough loss, to the School Resource Officer that helped us feel safe, to the club advisor who gave countless hours to the activity, to the custodian who took extra pride in making a classroom shine, to the food service worker who prepared a nutritious meal, to the school counselor who provided thoughtful advice, and to so many others that have done all the little things that make such a big difference for our schools this year.

As you learn more about the school building project (<https://www.cape.k12.me.us/page/sbac>), you may be wondering why does this matter? As the educational leader of this district, I am very concerned about the detrimental impact our school design is having on student growth and skill preparation for their future endeavors in an ever-evolving world and workplace. We need our students to be ready to tackle challenges that we cannot even fathom by helping them build the necessary skills to analyze, collaborate, problem solve, create and communicate. Since CEMS was first constructed in 1933 and Pond Cove Elementary School in 1948, our world has changed, our society has changed, federal and state requirements for schools have changed, and most importantly student needs have changed. Therefore, school design needs to adapt. There are hidden consequences for carrying on with our current classroom and school design.

Yes, I am pleased to say many of our students are doing pretty well by the typical measures of assessment, grades and post-secondary attainment because we have committed and hard working students, tremendous staff, amazing administrators, very supportive parents and a community that supports education. This is all wonderful and should be recognized, celebrated and continued. How-

ever, 'good is the enemy of great' and there are hidden consequences for our students by continuing on with the limitations of our current design. The current classrooms and school restricts growth opportunities, skill development, and unleashing the full potential of our teachers and students. The costs for students and society will not be seen today or tomorrow, but in the years to come. We need our students to be exceptionally prepared. We owe it to them and I daresay we owe it to ourselves to ready them for the future better than our current school design allows.

I recently presented the CEMS and Pond Cove Educational Programming Report to the School Board and SBAC. This report outlines through student, staff and administrator voices how the current building design of CEMS/PC is detrimental to the teaching, learning, climate and culture of the school. Furthermore, this report articulates how a future-focused school design will advance our efforts to better educate our current and future students in order to prepare them for success in an ever-evolving world that none of us can quite imagine or predict. The following were the educational priorities we advocate for being addressed:

1. Safety & Security: Comprehensive approach needed - building and site. Students and staff feeling safe allows them to focus on teaching and learning.
2. Site Plan: Safer and more efficient vehicle and pedestrian movement needed.
3. Teaching and Learning: Many current classrooms do not support modern teaching and learning due to their size, age design. Flexible space is lacking in classrooms and schools for collaborative, project-based, integrated, hands-on learning opportunities.
4. Layout: Both are sprawling and CEMS is confusing. Neither is conducive to student, teacher, staff and admin collaboration within classrooms and within the school building.
5. Main offices are not connected and/or located at the front entrance posing a significant management and safety challenges. Updated offices and main entrances will allow for a "safety-first" design. Sight lines to the parking lot, parent drop-off, and bus loop are imperative. A suite style office would improve privacy and efficiency.
6. Nurse Clinic: modifications are needed to allow for a private connection to main office, have more private exam areas, access to natural light, have closer proximity to an entry/ exit door to allow for ambulance access and closer proximity to all grade levels.
7. Natural Light: The buildings do not

-see SUPERINTENDENT page 15

Giving thanks from all of us at Judy's Pantry

By Beth Owens- Coordinator/Judy's Pantry

On November 14, many volunteers from our community gathered together to hand out 39 Thanksgiving baskets for Cape Elizabeth families.

Once again, Jen Tinsman and Amy Lombardo, with help from many Cape friends and families, made large baskets that were filled with non-perishable treats including cider, pies, stuffing mix, gravy and cranberry sauce to make a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. A gift certificate was included to ensure that each family could add things that their families might enjoy. In addition to the basket, we were fortunate to again fill two large bags of produce including carrots, onions, squash, apples and potatoes that was provided at a discount price by Penny Jordan.

We give thanks to our friends at the Cape

Elizabeth United Methodist Church who provide a space for us to hold this event (as well as our regular pantries throughout the year). We are pleased that The United Women of Faith again baked 74 assorted dessert breads to top off these baskets.

One of our favorite contributions comes from Lisa Stevens and her daughter, Rosie, who have decorated the produce bags for 12 years- always with a different Thanksgiving theme. Our friends at the Lions Club helped us by delivering some of these baskets.

Thanks to all of you who made this happen. It is a joyful time to "bring in the harvest" and to give it away to our Cape families.

We will resume our regular pantry distributions from 3:00- 4:30 on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month (registration is required). For more information, email bethowens1@gmail.com



Contributed photo

Judy's Pantry volunteers gathered together to hand out 39 Thanksgiving baskets for Cape Elizabeth families.

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Planning Board

Continued from page 1

14 Sunnybank Road Private Accessway Permit

Vincent Oliviero is requesting a Private Accessway Permit to create access for a vacant lot located at 14 Sunnybank Road (U41-19), Sec. 19-7-9, Private Accessway Permit.

The Planning Board did a site walk a couple of weeks ago on October 21, along with a public hearing on October 17. John Mitchell, representing the applicant Dr. Vincent Oliviero, presented changes to the application

materials based on the site visit, the public hearing, and comments and concerns from abutters.

Included in the updates is a proposal to extend Sunnybank Road by approximately 185 linear feet from where it currently dead ends to create access and road frontage for lot 19, which the applicant owns, and to include an emergency vehicle turnaround. Also included are updates to the rain garden design to capture runoff from the roadway extension; a drainage maintenance easement; an increase in size of the culvert for the drainage easement to 10 feet by 7 feet; detail added

for the design of the boulder retaining wall, spot grade elevations for the rain garden, and stone size for riprap outlet apron; and the location of a subsurface wastewater system to be moved further from a neighboring lot's property line and that which would preserve some existing trees.

There was some discussion among the board and Mitchell on the CMP easement and installing utilities at the vacant lot 19. Ultimately it was a consensus that the decision of how to install electric utility is held with the private landowner, Mr. Oliviero, and the power company. Oliviero was provided three options directly from CMP and include running overhead lines from an existing utility pole to another pole near lot 19, "splicing" into underground lines beginning from lot 14 which would require digging a trench directly through Sunnybank Road, or utilizing a CMP easement on Mr. Romano's property that will allow for a five foot easement for which CMP and Oliviero could excavate

ground and connect to a transformer via underground lines.

Maureen O'Meara also addressed a citizen concern on lot 19 being impacted by shoreline zoning. She clarified, along with the code enforcement officer, that lot 19 is not associated with any shoreline zoning setback and that the closest setback is 250 feet from the Atlantic Ocean.

Chair Sahrbeck reminded the board that the majority of the road belongs to Dr. Oliviero, the vacant lot has existed since the early 1980s and hasn't been built on, and that this plan, including the extended roadway and emergency vehicle turnaround would improve the safety of all the houses on Sunnybank Road as there currently is no turnaround for such vehicles.

Jim Huebener motioned for approval with Matt Eaton seconded. The motion was passed with unanimous approval and the board quickly motioned to adjourn.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP!

The Cape Elizabeth High School Boys Hockey team will cheerfully pick-up your tree for you!

SIGN UP TODAY!

Pick-up dates will be **Sunday, December 31st & Sunday, January 7th.**



Please fill out the form below and send it, along with your donation to CEHS Boys Hockey, c/o The Hoopers, 40 Cross Hill Rd, Cape Eliz, ME 04107 OR

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FMI: Please contact Melissa Hooper at 937-475-4890 or CEHS Hockey@gmail.com

Your donation supports the Boys High School Hockey Team - THANK YOU!

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make check payable to **CEHS Boys Hockey Boosters**

Mail to: CEHS Boys Hockey, c/o The Hoopers, 40 Cross Hill Rd, Cape Eliz, ME 04107

Jordan competes in National Pickleball League team championship



Photo by Brad Evenson, National Pickleball League

Glenn Jordan, right, prepares to hit a volley while mixed doubles partner Christie Bradley of Florida looks on.

Glenn Jordan helped the Indianapolis Drivers win the inaugural National Pickleball League team championship last month in Glendale, Arizona.

The NPL consists of six franchises, each with a roster of nine men and nine women aged 50 or older. Two teams are based in Florida, three in the Midwest (Austin, Oklahoma City and Indianapolis) and one in Denver.

After a four-month regular season, the teams met just outside of Phoenix in mid-October for playoffs, and third-seeded Indianapolis defeated the top-seeded Austin Ignite

10-6 for the title, worth \$45,000 to the winning team.

Jordan, 60, teaches pickleball at the Fort Williams courts through Community Services. Passed over in the initial NPL draft in March, he joined Austin as a substitute for matches in June and July before joining Indy in September. Leading up to the championship, the Drivers beat No. 6 Boca Raton in the quarterfinals and No. 2 Oklahoma City in the semifinals. In each match, Jordan played men's doubles with Martin Clark of Australia and mixed doubles with Christie Bradley of Florida.



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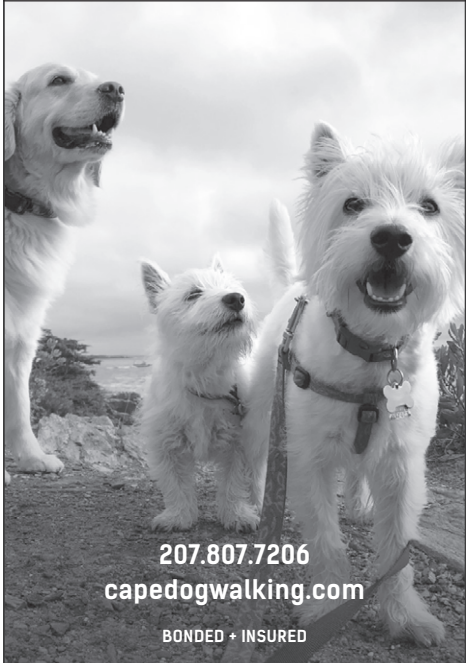
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Cape Elizabeth artist Lisa Houck works in a variety of media

By Kevin St. Jarre

Lisa Houck is a Cape Elizabeth artist who works in a variety of media. She is a printmaker and a painter, who also works in mosaics and ceramics. “Recently I have been working on a series of small mosaics inspired by trees, which are all around me here in Maine.”

“I feel that each of the trees has a personality: some are prickly, some are soft and round, some are solid and strong. I try to capture these individual traits with the colors, lines and textures in each mosaic. Some of these pieces are on exhibit at Cove Street Arts in Portland this month,” she said.

Houck said she likes to walk a line between art and craft and abstraction and representation. “My work is full of vibrant colors and patterns, and most people tell me they can recognize my art no matter what medium I am working in. I tend to like flattened out shapes and saturated colors. I

often draw landscapes as if they were diagrams filled with geological strata and improbable plants and flowers,” she said.

Like many artists, her creative work has evolved over time. Houck said, “Over the years I have experimented with many different materials and approaches and I have had the opportunity to create some large-scale public art pieces. I enjoy the challenges and problem-solving that come with each project.”

When asked how the business of art influences her creative work, she replied, “I try to make the work I love to make, and then I hope it will find an audience. Luckily for me, this has worked out pretty well over the years. I do take commissions and public projects, but I am always making work for my own satisfaction. I have had my art featured on book covers, album covers, puzzles, cards and shower curtains. So, I’m happy to see my imagery out in the world in

a variety of formats.”

As for other artists who have inspired her, Houck said, “I love the art of Paul Klee, Frieda Kahlo and Matisse. During my days as an artist in Boston, I was influenced by a wonderful painter named Todd McKie.”

Since I moved to Maine three years ago, she said she has been enjoying checking out the gardens and trees and wooded areas in Cape Elizabeth. “I always get inspired by looking at the work of other artists in galleries and museums. I will often do a bit of research when starting a new project. Recently, I was commissioned to make three paintings inspired by Central Park in NYC, so I spent a day with a docent exploring the nooks and crannies of the park and taking lots of photos,” Houck said.

When asked if given a magic wand, what’s the one thing that would help her most in her work, she said, “I am happy to say I don’t need a magic wand. I am so

happy in my studio in Cape Elizabeth I can’t imagine having a better situation. I have several talented young artists helping me out in my studio and I’m finding it easy to be productive and focused in my work.”

When it comes to travelling to seek out inspiration, she said, “I might go to Australia to learn from aboriginal artists about their dot paintings, or Ravenna, Italy to learn new mosaic techniques.”

Those wanting to learn more about her and her art can see her work on exhibit at Gallery Twist in Lexington, Massachusetts this month. She also shows at Beth Urdang Gallery in Wellesley, Massachusetts and Cove Street Arts in Portland. Those interested can also go to her website at www.lisahouck.com. Houck said her studio in Cape Elizabeth at 10 Alexander Drive is open by appointment, and she can be reached at lisahouckart@mac.com.



Contributed photo

Lisa Houck is a printmaker and a painter, who also works in mosaics and ceramics. This is her 8” X 8” piece titled, “A Crowded Orchard.”



Contributed photo

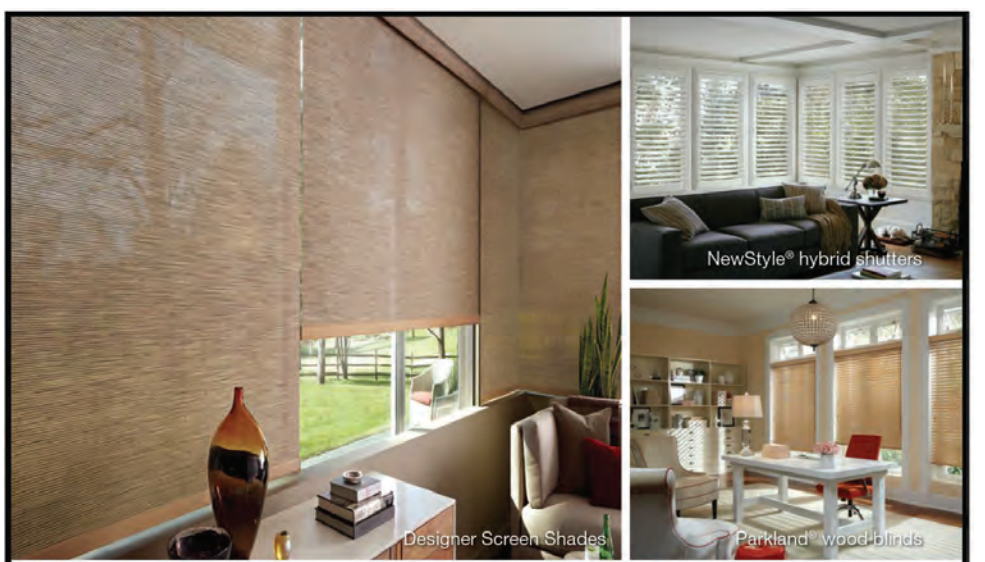
Lisa Houck is a local artist, seen here working on a recent commission.

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HunterDouglas Gallery

Your Cape neighbor

By Ellen Boyle



Contributed photo

Cape Elizabeth resident Asher Kramer has been inspired by music since he was a young boy. During the Covid-19 pandemic he set about starting his own band: Asher Kramer and the Gone Astray Band.

Say hello to Asher Kramer, a man who has long been inspired by music. As a 13-year-old boy he sang in his room along with Bob Dylan, Judy Collins and Phil Ochs. “When I was thirteen it was a dream of mine to one day be the next Bob Dylan,” Kramer said, “but I veered off in a different direction as I didn’t have much faith in my music back then.” Instead, Kramer had a long career as a health care executive traveling around the United States to facilities wherever his expertise was needed. He continued to write songs and play his guitar in his living room.

During the Covid-19 pandemic he asked himself, “What if instead of just playing to myself and my cats I really tried to make music?” He took that question seriously and set about starting his own band, Asher Kramer and the Gone Astray Band. At a gathering in January 2021 at his sister’s home in Phoenix Kramer met Liv Singh Khalsa, founder of Invincible Recording and Records. As they talked, the two men realized they shared a deep interest in music. Singh Khalsa said, “Let’s get together with your music and see if magic happens.” Singh Khalsa and Kramer gathered a group of musicians and sound engineers in the former’s Phoenix studio to record the songs Kramer had written. The musicians included drummer Ken Mary from the Alice Cooper Band; Kenny Skaggs, electric guitarist from the Glen Campbell Band; Cape Elizabeth’s Nick Falk, drummer for Caamp; and Kramer’s son, the world-renowned pianist Henry Kramer among others. While recording the album Singh Kalsa insisted, “Good is never good enough.” So, they did up to 45 takes of every song on the album.

The result is Kramer’s new album “Love is the Kingdom.” The fourteen songs on the album are “like a novel in four chapters set to music,” he said. The first chapter is about remembrance and letting go of the past; the second is about reliving the past with the fresh eyes of adulthood; the third is about gratitude and celebrating the effort to live dreams in a new way and the last is a fifteen-minute song that’s “a prayer for anyone who has ever been hurt.”

The songs draw from Kramer’s re-

membrance of love with a woman from Texas. He explained, “I wrote nine of the songs in two weeks. They exploded out of me as though the Hoover Dam had burst. There was that ineffable pull from the intensity of that first love experience that I tried to capture in the songs.” He wrote specifically about it in “Texas Girl.” Of the more than 500 songs he’s written Kramer believes “that number is the most well-crafted song I ever wrote.”

The title song “Love is the Kingdom” plays to Kramer’s belief that though life itself is transitory love is everlasting. (A video available on YouTube of that song presents scenes of quotidian life as well as cityscapes and landscapes across the United States from the red soil of Texas to the wild horses of the west to the dynamic oceans of New England.) The album has an easygoing tempo with an interesting mix of styles, instruments and vocalists weaving in and around Kramer’s lead voice. Five of the songs have been released on Spotify and Apple as “Love is the Kingdom” EP. The full album will be released in 2024.

Kramer knows he needs to enlarge his fan base given that “there are 100,000 new songs released in the world every day.” The Blue Avenue Music Group is leading his social media streaming effort; Kramer now has over 4,000 followers worldwide from as far away as Australia. “That’s why you do this,” he says, “to touch strangers you’ll never meet.”

Kramer and his wife Pat have two sons who graduated from CEHS. Henry Kramer, a classical pianist, lives in Montreal. David Kramer, who resides in Amsterdam, is the route manager for the Eurostar train between London and Amsterdam.

Kramer plans to perform in the greater Portland area. When he plays his guitar and sings live as he did recently at a gathering on Trundy Point, he does so with the recorded soundtrack from Liv Singh Kalsa’s recording studio. In October 2023 he played live at the Old Orchard Beach Festival Days. He was delighted to see folks stop, sit on the lawn and listen to his music. Find Kramer and his music at: <https://listen.asherkramer.com>.

Happy Holidays

The Cape Courier

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
2024 Dog Licenses
Now Due!**

**Dogs 6 months
of age are
required by state
law to be
registered**

Registration deadline is December 31, 2023.
**Dogs registered after January 31, 2024 will be charged a
\$25/per dog late fee in addition to the license fee.**

**Current rabies and spaying/neutering certificates are required.
Dogs may be registered at the Tax Office at Town Hall or
online at www.capeelizabeth.com.
(Dogs registered after 1/31/2024 must be registered at the
Tax Office.)**

Adding clarity to LD2003 in Cape Elizabeth

By Kevin St. Jarre

Misconceptions and concerns surrounding the Cape Elizabeth Town Council's LD2003 amendment work and how it applies to properties and neighborhoods in Cape sometimes arise, often simply because of the sheer complexity.

LD2003 was a law passed by the Maine State Legislature and signed by Governor Janet Mills, with the intent to increase the availability and affordability of all types of housing in all parts of the state. This necessitated amending the local land use ordinances in Cape Elizabeth.

An example of some of the misconceptions might be how residents ask questions such as difference between attached units and detached units in different zones.

Kevin Justh is the Chair of the Housing Diversity Study Committee in Cape Elizabeth, and offers clarification, such as with regard to the previous example, he said, "There is no distinction anywhere between attached and detached homes. Nor is there any difference between rental and for-sale, with the exception of ADUs, which can only be rented."

ADUs, or accessory dwelling units, have become a source of much discussion. At a Cape Elizabeth Ordinance Committee public forum held last February, Town Planner Maureen O'Meara listed the highlights of LD 2003, including explaining what ADUs are: "Otherwise known as in-law apartments, LD 2003 allows for ADUs to be added to any single-family home as long as the setback and height requirements are met....The law allows a single-family home to add an ADU by including it within the existing home, attaching it to the home, or as a detached unit from existing dwelling – as long as it meets setbacks...."

Speaking of sizes, Justh said, "There are

different minimum lot sizes by zone...So to get four homes in the RC zone, the town's largest and the one with the most neighborhoods, one would need 1.5 acres. For reference, Brentwood (one of the denser RC neighborhoods) has a current density of four homes per 1 acre. Cottage Farms is closer to six homes per acre. The RA zone one would need 5 acres for three homes. By way of example, Broad Cove (RA zone) has a density of about 2.5 homes per acre. So, the amendments as it relates to density are already much lower density than the current as-built environment."

When it comes to square footage maximums, they are dependent on multiple factors such as lot size, lot coverage and setbacks. "There is no difference between one 10,000 square-foot home and four 2,500 square-foot homes in this determination, nor is there anything prohibiting a single-family home from being a gigantic box. People can already, today, more or less do what they want on their own property, subject of course to the existing limitations. Every single limitation on that single home applies to multiple homes on a property, so no one could build anything larger or different, it's simply a re-allocation of space," Justh said.

He said that because every lot is unique, there is no great way to show a square footage per home by zone, other than the minimums required. Lot sizes are all different- there are physical limitations, such as wetlands or ledge, on each lot, there is the question of sewer vs. septic and more.

When it comes to parking, it is required, at minimum, to have two spaces per home today. Justh said, "ADUs will no longer require extra parking. But additional homes under LD2003, [known as] small multifamily, would require parking. That said, there are very few areas where a current home only

has two parking spaces...and many homes have garages plus multiple surface spaces."

A small multifamily is a structure with up to four units, maximum.

Another source of questions which come up is emergency services. What will it mean to emergency services, such as the Cape Elizabeth Fire Department, if neighborhoods change with increased housing. Again, Chair Justh had an answer, and said, "This one is really dictated more by people than by homes. A single-family home that once housed a multi-generational family of nine probably needs more fire and police than three homes of two people each. And that ebbs and flows over time."

Justh also points out that other factors are different than decades ago. He said, "...newer homes, and especially multi-unit buildings, have modern fire protection...[T]he fire chief actually noted that a building like Dunham Court needed less fire services than a similar

number of older homes, because of its modern design, alarms and sprinklers."

Justh explained that one way to think about LD2003 and any change in zoning, is that there are five "pillars," all of which have to come together for development. They are Legal Permissibility, Financial Feasibility, Physical Possibility, Marketability and Landowner Desire.

LD2003, like any ordinance change, only affects the pillar of legal permissibility. Cape Elizabeth could eliminate zoning entirely, and the other four pillars still act as governors on what can be, and is, built. "To see examples of that, look at the four town center lots that are vacant, and have been for sale for years. They are legally zoned, and they are physically able to be built. Clearly there are financial, market or landowner desires keeping them from being built today. LD2003 changes absolutely nothing about any of those factors."

Small Multifamily development – Density Requirements					
District	Minimum lot size*	Additional land for added unit	2-unit lot area total	3-unit total	4-unit total
RA	80,000 sq ft	66,000 sq ft	146,000 sq ft (3.4 acres)	212,000 sq ft (4.9 acres)	N/A
RB (with on-site septic)	80,000 sq ft	66,000 sq ft	140,000 sq ft (3.2 acres)	200,000 sq ft (4.6 acres)	260,000 sq ft (6 acres)
RB (with public sewer)	80,000 sq ft	20,000 sq ft	100,000 sq ft (2.3 acres)	120,000 sq ft (2.8 acres)	140,000 sq ft (3.2 acres)
RC	20,000 sq ft	15,000 sq ft	35,000 sq ft (0.8 acres)	50,000 sq ft (1.15 acres)	65,000 sq ft (1.5 acres)
TC	80,000 sq ft	7,500 sq ft	87,500 sq ft (2 acres)	95,000 sq ft (2.2 acres)	102,500 sq ft (2.4 acres)
BA (RC adjacent)	20,000 sq ft	15,000 sq ft	35,000 sq ft (0.8 acres)	50,000 sq ft (1.15 acres)	65,000 sq ft (1.5 acres)
BA (RA adjacent)	80,000 sq ft	15,000 sq ft	95,000 sq ft (2.2 acres)	110,000 sq ft (2.5 acres)	125,000 sq ft (2.9 acres)

*The smallest buildable legal nonconforming lot is 10,000 sq ft, if served by public sewer. It is 20,000 sq ft if it is served by subsurface sanitary wastewater disposal.

Information provided by the town of Cape Elizabeth. This chart shows different minimum lot sizes and densities as community looks ahead to potentially adding additional housing.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
and a
BIG THANK YOU
to our friends and
neighbors for supporting our
local business.

Stay happy and healthy this
holiday season

 **TAMMARO
LANDSCAPING**

Capetoon: A holiday wish

By Jeff Mandell



December naturalist's corner

By Erika Carlson Rhile

December 14-15 - the "King of Meteor Showers", the Geminids, peaks. It'll be easier to see the show this year since it's during the New Moon.

December 21, 10:27 p.m. - Winter Solstice. This is the first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of summer in the Southern Hemisphere. The sun will rise at 7:10 a.m. and set at 4:06 p.m.. The hours of daylight today will be 6 hours and 30 minutes shorter than the summer solstice.

December 26, 7:33 p.m.- Full Cold Moon. The Abenaki called this the "Winter Maker Moon."

The USDA updated its "Plant Hardiness Zone Map" for the first time in over a decade. Maine spans Plant Hardiness Zones 3-6. Each zone is based on the 30-year average of the single coldest temperature recorded each winter. Cape Elizabeth moved from Zone 5B to Zone 6B. The 2023 map is about 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the 2012 map.

It's always fun to go animal tracking after it snows. Prints aren't the only way to identify winter visitors, also consider an animal's gait. Rabbits and squirrels are "hoppers," skunks and porcupines tend to waddle side-to-side, prints in a single line are often fox, coyote or deer.

Community gardens had a good year despite a cold, wet start

By Rachel Stamieszkin



Contributed photo

Community Garden members at Maxwell's Farm.



Contributed photo

Community Garden members at Gull Crest Fields.

Cape Elizabeth is home to two Community Gardens – one at Maxwell's Farm and the other at The Gull Crest Fields. Community Garden Members are very grateful to the Maxwells and to the town of Cape Elizabeth for each providing a place for these gardens.

In addition to growing organic produce for their own consumption, gardeners grow and donate food for Cape Elizabeth's Food Pantry, Judy's Pantry, named in memory of one of the Gardens' founders, Judy Simonds. Judy was an avid gardener and strong supporter of the Maine Harvest for Hunger, a program sponsored by the University of Maine Extension to help address food insecurity in our State. This past season, the gardens contributed over 560 pounds of produce to Judy's Pantry.

After taking a rest this winter, we are looking forward to next season. If you might be interested in joining the Cape Community Gardens at either location in the future, please send an email to Rachel Stamieszkin at smok77@maine.rr.com with your name, mailing address, phone number and whether you have a preference for the Maxwell Farm or Gull Crest Fields location. You will be added to the waitlist in the order in which your email is received. See you in the Garden!

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.

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Volunteers Needed at the Cape Rink

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- Event Planning
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- Tournament
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More of “What are Capers thankful for this year?”



Chief Paul Fenton: “I am thankful for three things. First and foremost is always my family, as they are everything to me. I am also thankful to have the opportunity to lead such an amazing group of people here at the police department. I believe they are the best group of officers (and human beings) in policing today. Their parents made them who they are, but I was lucky enough to hire and work with them. Finally, I am thankful to serve such an appreciative and supportive community. I think there is something unique and special about the way people who work for the town and live in the town treat and appreciate each other. You see so much negativity in the world, but I rarely feel or see it here in Cape.”



Caitlin Jordan: “First and most importantly I am thankful for my family, recent health issues have taught us that all too often we can take them for granted. I am also thankful to live in a town that day after day and year after year continues supporting our family farm and the way of life that we are doing our best to preserve for generations to come. Our dreams do not continue without you, so thank you.”



Lisa and Jack Melanson: “We’re thankful for our very special neighbor, Henry Swift Adams.”
Henry: “I’m thankful for them every day.”



Chris Record: “As a father and husband I am so very thankful for my wonderful family. As the Cape Superintendent, I am extremely thankful to be leading a district with incredible students, exceptional staff, highly engaged parents and caring community members. Our collective partnership is making a huge difference for kids. Thank you!”



Philip Saucier: “There is certainly a lot to be thankful for - and I admit to sometimes not taking a moment to stop and acknowledge how important our families, friends, school and community are to us. I’m also thankful to live in this great state of Maine. But I’m most thankful for my wife and kids, who mean everything to me.”



Theresa Fox: “I am thankful for my good health, for living in this beautiful town, for enjoying visits to Fort Williams and Kettle Cove, for my wonderful friends and family, for good neighbors, for working at a job I love, and for Jake, Ava and Tiger.”

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Dr. Marta Agrodnia, DVM, DACVS

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season and a joyful
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Thomas Memorial Library to host winter solstice lantern festival

Holiday Closures

The library will be closed on Monday, December 25 for Christmas and Monday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

All Ages Event

Winter Solstice Lantern Festival

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.

Five mini-galleries are being installed at locations around Town Center, which will feature monthly displays of artwork by community members. The five Community Art Box locations are at the library, Town Hall, the Village Green, the Police Station and the Community Services Center. The schedule for the event on Thursday, December 21 is:

5:00 p.m. Make a quick lantern (if you don't already have one—use battery-operated LED illumination only)!

6:00 p.m. Parade begins at the library

6:30 p.m. Return to library for cookies and hot cocoa

All ages are welcome. No registration necessary.

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.

Special Events

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).

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 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.

School-Age Programs

Lego Club (Ages 5-12)

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

January 2

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.

Young Writers at TML (Ages 11-13)

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

January 2

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 nonfiction. 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.

#LibrarySquad (Ages 11-13)

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

January 5

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 chil-

-see LIBRARY page 13

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Library

Continued from page 12

dren's desk for an application to join this advisory group.

For Teens

TML Teen Writing Group

Second Saturday of each month, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Are you a teen who loves writing? Or are you someone who just loves to read, and feels like trying your hand at creative writing that isn't for school? In either case, our teen writing program is for you!

Join us for monthly meetings where we explore different styles of writing and work on the projects you're most passionate about. Register on our website.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:

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

Tuesday, January 16, 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.

Therapeutic Horticulture for the Winter Solstice, with Registered Horticultural Therapists Laura Simonds-Rumpf and Colleen E. Griffin

Thursday, December 21, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

In-person at the library

The solstice is a time to welcome the return of the sun and honor all that we receive from the natural world.

Join us on this darkest of days as we welcome local registered horticultural therapists Laura Simonds-Rumpf and Colleen E. Griffin, who will lead participants through a hands-on therapeutic horticulture activity using materials from the natural landscape.

What is therapeutic horticulture? Therapeutic horticulture is the process through which participants enhance their well-being through active or passive involvement in plant and plant-related activities. Horticultural therapy seeks to utilize the healing power of plants with individuals of all ages, ancestry and abilities in an effort to improve mental health, physical well-being and sense of community.

All are welcome. Please register for this program on the library's website.

Die Well Death Education Session Four: The Importance of Legacy Work, with Leona Oceania of Die Well Death Education

Tuesday, January 2, 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 Elizabeth 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 fourth session we'll be focusing on legacy work. Legacy work is not about dying and death. It is about life and living and creating your own legacy for your family, friends and loved ones. Only YOU can tell your story, expound your personal wisdom, and express your feelings to and about others. It makes sense to start this sooner than later, preferably before you are dying.

We will discuss different methods of documenting your legacy, including several prompt questions. Relying heavily on James R. Hagerty's book, "Yours Truly: An Obituary Writer's Guide to Telling Your Story," we will discuss tips for telling your own story and preserving your personal history in a meaningful and engaging way in your obituary.

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.

Writing a Legacy Letter Workshop: Sharing Your Values with Loved Ones, with Jay Sherwin

Saturday, January 6, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

In-person at the library

A legacy letter (also called an "ethical will") is a written document that allows you to share your life lessons, express your values and transmit these ideas to future generations. A legacy letter is not a formal legal document or a full-length memoir; it's a brief personal statement, typically just a few pages. Writing one is a rewarding experience that creates an enduring gift for your family, friends and loved ones.

This workshop is designed to introduce the concept of legacy letters and to help you craft your own legacy letter. It includes discussion and a few brief writing exercises. Our presenter, Jay Sherwin, will offer advice to help you complete your legacy

letter, share it with loved ones and preserve it for future generations.

All are welcome. Please register for this workshop on the library's website.

Big Conversations in 10 Short Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Throughout Winter 2024, Thomas Memorial Library will be partnering with Prince Memorial Library (Cumberland), Scarborough Public Library (Scarborough), Curtis Memorial Library (Brunswick) and Windham Public Library (Windham) for this new and unique conversation series.

At virtual gatherings throughout the winter, we'll be offering patrons the chance to meet people from other communities across the state for conversations that are as engaging as they are brief.

Each hour-long event will randomly pair participants with partners for 10-minute conversations focused on specific prompts. Attendees will get to have three separate conversations with three other strangers from across Maine. Prompts are simple and intriguing. Conversations are non-political. Given just a little bit of space to connect, what might we learn about our fellow humans? Let's find out...!

All are welcome. Please register for this program on the library's website.

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: January 4

Songwriting Workshop (with Jud Caswell)

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

In person

Next meeting: January 2

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 meetings: December 14, January 11

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



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.

Wednesday, December 13

School Board Policy Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 4:15 p.m.
 Community Services Committee, Community Center, 5:30 p.m.
 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Thomas Memorial Library, 6 p.m.
 Town Council Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 14

SBAC - FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 19

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 21

Fort Williams Park Committee, 6 p.m.
 School Building Advisory Committee, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 Energy Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, January 4

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

Thursday, January 11

School Building Advisory Committee -

PUBLIC FORUM, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Ongoing each week

Al-Anon, 7 p.m. Fridays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland. Parking in rear.
 Alcoholics Anonymous, 2 p.m. Saturdays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland; 7 p.m. Wednesdays, St. Bartholomew Church; 7 p.m. Fridays, St. Alban's Church.
 Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society, 9 a.m.-noon Mondays and Thursdays when "Open" sign displayed, Fort Williams, in the brick building closest to Shore Road (ring the doorbell).
 Cape Elizabeth Lions Club, 6:39 p.m., first and third Tuesdays at the Bowery Beach Schoolhouse (except July and August), Two Lights Road
 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.

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCstalbanschannel))
 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

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

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

Housing Diversity Study Committee

Dec. 18 - 6:15 p.m.

Planning Board

Dec. 19 - 7 p.m.

School Building Advisory Committee

Dec. 21 - 6:30 p.m.



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The Jordan Family and our amazing employees would like to thank you for your ongoing support for our farm and the many Maine farms we partner with throughout the year.

Best wishes for safe and happy holiday season!

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Merry Christmas
To Our
Amazing Grandsons



Love Grandma &
Pop-Pop Schmitz

Superintendent

Continued from page 5

have much natural light, either in the hallways or in some classrooms. Natural lighting is a critical component of effective learning environments and the climate/culture of a school.

FOR RENT

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

8. Cafetorium: Shared by CEMS and Pond Cove. The entire schedule is built around an hour window during which students in all four grade levels must be served and eat lunch. (Food deliveries through the hallway of middle school are a safety concern).

9. Storage Problems: Adequate storage in the vicinity of staff who utilize it is paramount to a smooth and efficient workflow.

10. Technology Upgrades: A future-focused design will ensure classrooms and other learning spaces have the latest technology to promote inquiry, analysis, collaboration, creativity, communication and preparation for future careers.

11. HVAC: The ineffectiveness, age and sound levels of the current HVAC system has direct and negative impacts on students and staff.

This quote by a CEMS teacher says it all: "The current design of CEMS hinders teachers' ability to offer programming and provide a safe environment to students on a daily basis. We are constantly jumping through logistical hurdles for events, collaborations and daily teaching – it is truly draining. We work so hard to make the best of what we have, but we spend so much time, effort trying to fit our programming into a building that is simply not built for it. We've reached the breaking point where our facilities are negatively impacting students' education on a daily basis."

In closing, despite differences of opinion on a number of topics in this community, I am hopeful 2024 will bring thoughtful discourse, mutual respect and kindness. Thank you for your support of our schools.

Have a Classified Ad,
Announcement or Event?



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

St. Alban's Advent Organ Recital Series

St. Alban's Episcopal Church in 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@stalban-maine.org.

December 19 - Hentus van Rooyen



**TAMMARO
LANDSCAPING**



A coloring contest to end the year! When you have finished coloring, please take a picture and send it to advertising@capecourier.com. Deadline is December 21!

