

The Cape Courier

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In the Spirit of Community

Three-way race in Democratic primary for Maine House District 123

By Kevin St. Jarre



Michelle Boyer



Cynthia Dill



Kim Monaghan

Whether voting early, or waiting until Election Day on June 11, voters will see that most candidates are running unopposed in the various races. Not so in the Democratic primary race for Maine House of Representatives for Cape Elizabeth's District 123.

It is a three-way race among Democrats, looking to take on the Republican candidate in the November general election. Since she is running unopposed, Republican Annie Christy is likely to be that candidate.

The three Democrats running are Michelle Nicole Boyer, Cynthia A. Dill and Kimberly J. Monaghan. With Maine's Ranked Choice Voting, voters can select their first, second and third choices, in order of preference. Voters need not rank all three, and may opt to vote for only one or two candidates, or they may add a fourth candidate by write-in.

In profiling these candidates, The Cape Courier reached out to each candidate with the same questions, at the same time and with the same deadline. Here are the questions with each candidate's responses.

Cape Courier: What is your connection to Cape Elizabeth? As in how long have you lived here, family connections, business/employment connections, etc.

Michelle Boyer: From walks with my dog Bear around Great Pond, hours volunteering in the Pond Cove library, to laughs with our daughters playing in Crescent Beach's surf, my connection with our town runs deep. After my husband and I moved here over a decade ago with our oldest daughter, we have planted our roots in Cape Elizabeth, bringing another daughter into the world, starting my own business, Artic

Lynx Maternity and serving on our town's Conservation Committee. I hold dear the many wonderful aspects of our community, including our local farms, open spaces, neighborliness, and amazing schools, and would be honored to represent our values in the Maine State Legislature.

Cynthia Dill: Cape Elizabeth is home and where I make a living. My connection to our beautiful town is strong.

Tom and I first rented an apartment on Cottage Lane before we were married. Barbara from Barbara's Kitchen lived downstairs, so the building always smelled deli-

cious.

We put down roots here in 2003 when we bought our house on Shore Road, where our children Harrison and Isabel Clarke were raised. Both kids thrived in Cape schools, made lifetime friends, and come home often. My law office and media studio are downstairs, so the commute is easy.

Cape Elizabeth is a sacred place - its beauty surpassed only by the richness of its history. I am committed to preserving what's good while forging a bright future.

Kim Monaghan: I've lived in Cape Elizabeth for most of my life. My family moved from South Portland to 40 Surf Road when I was five, and it was our home for 45 years. I come from a large family, with five sisters and a brother. Five of us live in Cape Elizabeth. My sister Liz, who I am often mistaken for, is a mortgage lender and has likely helped a lot of Cape residents make living here a reality. I'm the Operations Director at Common Dreams.org, an online Progressive news service founded by Cape resident Craig Brown.

-see CANDIDATES page 5

News from May 21 PB meeting

By Hanna Gilley

April 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes Approval

The Planning Board asked for approval of the April 16 meeting. The motion was introduced and passed unanimously by the board.

Solar Array Cape Elizabeth Landfill Site Plan Amendment Extension

Ralph Meima of Encore Renewables, and Jeff Read of Sevee & Maher Engineers, presented their request to the board for a one year extension of the site plan amendment establishing a solar array on the landfill cap located at 21 Dennison Drive (R5-10), per Section 19-9 Site Plan Regulations.

Read explained that there has been some rearranging of staging areas and proposed construction that will minimize impact to the landfill operations, ongoing coordination with Central Maine Power (CMP) regarding the off tank, and a couple minor details re-

-see PLANNING BOARD page 14

School Board directs Superintendent to explore compromise design

(Press release) - At a well-attended workshop in the Cape Elizabeth Middle School library on Tuesday, May 21, the Cape Elizabeth School Board heard two presentations from the School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) on solutions to the problems of its three ailing school buildings. The School Board then had an intensive Q&A session with Harriman architect Lisa Sawin, carefully measuring each aspect of proposals against requirements and goals established by the Superintendent's educational program report, as well as community priorities and concerns.

While all three schools have serious needs, the middle school has been identified as most deficient. Built in 1934, with patchwork additions and renovations spanning seven decades, Cape Elizabeth Middle School presents barriers to education and safety with serious structural and layout issues.

The School Board declined to embrace either solution as presented, one having gar-

-see DESIGN page 9



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

NEXT ISSUE: June 19th
DEADLINE: Noon, June 7th

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Stop this 'waste of time and money' 'We'll have a safer summer'

At the May 13 Cape Elizabeth Town Council meeting, a public hearing was held on placing a non-binding referendum on the November 5, 2024 Election Ballot. This referendum is a Yes or No question asking voters if they support affordable housing on town owned land at Gull Crest. The Town Council will discuss this again at their June meeting.

In 2023, the Town Council authorized an \$85,000 engineering study of the site, conducted by Sebago Technics. The findings of that study determined that development of that site would be challenging due to sloping land, ledge, wetlands, expensive storm water controls and potential contamination from the adjacent landfill.

In addition, an exhaustive 360-page report by the town's Housing Diversity Study Committee concluded with the following recommendation:

"Based on the lack of community support, the likely need for considerable town taxpayer subsidy, the locational challenges, the significant environmental concerns and the presence of alternative options for affordable housing development that do not include these issues, the Committee is recommending the town take no further action or utilization of taxpayer resources for the development of housing at Gull Crest."

Voters of Cape Elizabeth should vote NO if this referendum appears on the ballot in November. Stop this senseless waste of time and money on a site with serious environmental and engineering issues.

Attend the June meeting. Insist that Town Council spend time and money on realistic solutions to affordable housing in Cape Elizabeth.

Francis Walsh

Recently, a traffic mirror at the intersection of Shore Road and Stonybrook Road was removed when the tree it was attached to was cut down. Many of the 40-some families on Stonybrook were very concerned about the risk this posed for turning onto Shore due to the blocked line of vision of fast-moving traffic coming from the right.

After numerous messages back and forth among ourselves and with town officials, and a site visit by Timothy Reiniger of the council to assess the risk, low and behold a replacement mirror was installed this week.

To me, this represents the very best of local government. Mr. Reiniger and the Town Council and the Public Works staff listened to us, evaluated the situation and quickly responded to our concerns.

Thanks to them we'll have a safer summer.

Susan Payne

See more **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** on pages 3 and 4

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

Kathryn & Andrew Swayze

Stephanie Austin

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New Neighbor

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

Let us hear from you!



We love feedback!

editor@capecourier.com

Thank you, School Board

Please join me in thanking the School Board for their careful consideration of the recommendation from the School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC). After hearing from representatives of the 5-4 majority and minority about the merits of their preferred concepts, the board performed a detailed analysis of the recommended concept. Revisiting key priorities established by stakeholders, they applied a needs-based lens to the challenge at hand: meeting educational goals, staying within budget, and minimizing the impact on students and educators. There was an extensive Q&A session with our lead architect from Harriman. The board also provided valuable floor time to our educators, allowing school principals to speak about the practical impacts of various design elements.

The SBAC provided the board with a wealth of information: design concepts,

community priorities, voter enthusiasm, and tolerance for tax increases. Striking a conciliatory tone, and recognizing the need for concessions from supporters of both concepts, the board asked Harriman to collaborate with the district on a unified concept, striking a delicate balance between a tax increase of 10% (or less) and the need for a strategic, generational investment. This unified plan will draw on the best elements of both concepts - creating a new middle school and covering essential updates to Pond Cove and CEHS.

If you missed it, or if you have unanswered questions, please visit CETV and review the May 21 School Board Workshop. Consequently, I'm sure you'll join me in thanking the School Board for their critical analysis and consensus building.

Ezra Hug

'Frustrated' with lack of plan

The town is finally working on its long-overdue school infrastructure investment. During this time, I have been incredibly frustrated with the lack of an existing town long-term financial plan to help guide these efforts. Cape needs a budget document that incorporates forecasted capital/infrastructure needs, using municipal finance best practices, and informed by peer community benchmarking.

Without such a plan, the town is making critical infrastructure decisions in an information vacuum. Such a plan would track the remaining useful life of the town's critical assets, and their estimated renovation or replacement costs. It would guide the management and strategic investments necessary to maintain our town.

It should include using the municipal finance market to facilitate long-term investment. According to a recent presentation to the Town by Moors & Cabot, we have remarkably low debt ratios (net debt to total expenses, and net debt to total valuation). These ratios are inconsistent with replacing and maintaining infrastructure at a sustainable rate. Cape does not seem to calculate, monitor or/and report these ratios with our annual budget. With a long-term financial plan, we would know what we need and what we can afford and how to plan for it. I urge the Town Council to start this process as soon as possible.

Katie Reeves

POLITICAL ADVERTISING POLICY

The Cape Courier accepts advertisements in compliance with applicable laws and the publishing industry's best practices. Maine's campaign finance laws set the basic standards for advertisements for political candidates and ballot issues. In an effort to promote public dialogue, the Courier also accepts advertisements on issues of public policy and social concern, as long as they adhere to standards of fair play and do not target individuals. The Courier requires that opinion or advocacy advertisements display the name and town of at least one member of the sponsoring group. The Courier also requires that any advertisements claiming the support of people, companies or organizations provide certification for these endorsements.

The Courier reserves the right to insist on modifications to draft advertisements prior to publication. It is not the Courier's intention to reject advertisements, but like all publications it reserves the right to do so at its sole discretion.

In addition, here is a link to a section of Maine law dealing with campaign advertisements: <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/21-A/title21-Asec1014.html>

The Cape Courier Board of Directors

Monaghan ‘is in it for the long term’ ‘Disingenuous’ platform

I encourage every Democrat in House District 123 to vote for Kim Monaghan for State Representative in the June 11 Primary. And if Unenrolled and Independents want to join us, great! We would greatly appreciate your support.

Kim is a lifelong Mainer and a lifelong Progressive Democrat, which, right there, sets herself apart from the other two candidates. Her background and experience require no orientation. Having served eight years under Gov. Paul LePage and many of his MAGA legislators, she will be ready to fight the extreme right’s attacks on reproductive rights, make climate change a prior-

ity, push for more affordable housing everywhere, and take on the gun lobby to secure common-sense gun reforms.

In all four of her successful elections to the House, Kim was endorsed by Planned Parenthood, Maine Conservation voters, and many other important advocacy organizations and unions throughout the state. She was also endorsed in 2020 by Moms Against Gun Violence.

Please vote for Kim in the June 11 Primary. She is in it for the long term!

Jessie Timberlake

Boyer ‘will work hard for Cape’

I strongly urge my fellow Capers to make Michelle Boyer your choice #1 in the 3 person primary for State Representative. I searched for the candidate that I believe to be open-minded, collaborative, patient, curious, energetic, hard-working and kind. Michelle has all of those qualities.

I have spent a lot of time with Michelle during this campaign, knocking on many doors and talking with Cape residents. I have observed her genuine focused interest in what people have to say and taking contemporaneous notes of their concerns, whether it be gun safety, education or the challenges of fixed income elderly. Michelle does not pretend to know all the answers. Instead, she makes daily inquiries of our local residents about what is on their minds and what their concerns are. I know that she has sent follow up notes to many of you to keep the conversa-

tion going.

In addition to door to door discussions, Michelle and I have had robust conversations regarding specific policy issues, including affordable housing, tax relief, educational priorities, gun safety and flavored tobacco products. We do not always come from the same starting point, but after a lengthy discussion, we have made progress towards consensus. She is curious and investigative regarding the issues that you care about and she will take your thoughts seriously. I hope you will join me in getting her to Augusta, where she will work hard for Cape and all Mainers. Vote now or on June 11.

Jamie Wagner*

**This letter only reflects the opinion of the author and does not represent the opinion of the Cape Courier Board of Directors.*

‘Who are we as a community?’

I am a 79 year old retiree, living in Cape Elizabeth 43 years; I wholeheartedly endorse Option E.

Chief among reasons we chose to relocate to Cape Elizabeth was the quality of the school system. I believe public schools create the backbone of our society. It was important to my husband and me that we live among people who support public schools and were willing to pay property taxes commensurate with high quality education.

Attending School Building Advisory Committee meetings these past months is disappointing. Rather than evaluating the options on educational needs expressed by the faculty and staff, the overwhelming consideration of the 5 member majority is to keep taxes as low as possible, cobbling together a plan of PARTIAL renovation and addition to an already outdated, cumbersome, poorly maintained hodgepodge of buildings.

Of 17 towns in Cumberland County, Cape has the LOWEST tax rate; this in a town with a median housing price of \$700+ thousand dollars. We also have the highest percentage of senior citizens, hence an expenditure of \$875,00 for Pickleball Courts. As a senior citizen, I applaud the School Board for rejecting Option B and moving forward with a plan based on educational requirements.

I also urge the Town Council, which meetings also disappoint, to be more responsible; to undertake long term planning for maintenance and replacement of aging facilities, community wide, with an accent on “green” construction.

Who are we as a community, if we abandon our children’s needs?

Maria Glaser

This coming June 11 the citizens of Cape Elizabeth will vote in the primary to fill the vacancy of Rebecca Millet. I only know Representative Millet through reputation and her accomplishments, and she has done a superior job. Some contenders looking to replace her sadly have anchored their campaign in grievances and are being disingenuous about their platform.

Cynthia Dill is running on a platform of building new affordable housing. I would remind voters that it was largely due to the referendum campaign of Ms. Dill, the Dunham Court affordable housing project was killed. A campaign that was grounded in falsehoods and misdirection.

Dunham Court was a collaborative effort with a Cape Elizabeth dentist and a highly reputable developer of affordable housing in Maine, the Szanton Group. Her campaign

successfully spooked them and maybe other investors. Her campaign will drive costs for all future investors. What was a clear and pragmatic path to affordable housing in Cape was railroaded by a negative campaign and threat of a referendum to block it. A town that cannot attract young people will experience gentrification and become a place only to house the affluent. It creates no leg up for new families and increases costs for everyone.

All voters must ask themselves if they are a community willing to open the door for new members. Housing stock is an interconnected issue. The solutions to improving it are the responsibility of all. These solutions will NOT be advanced by voting Dill on June 11.

Tracy Floyd

Cape Elizabeth in the future

So, in the midst of an election year where we are all being asked to take political positions, Cape Elizabeth is being asked to choose our future without having the choice explicitly explained.

In my mind and I think in most Capers’ minds, our town along with the Scarborough beaches to the marsh are a regional, state and national ecological treasure. Our open lands and our limited development are sacred and irreplaceable!

We are being asked politically to sacrifice open town lands that drain into the Rachel Carson sanctuary for a huge affordable hous-

ing project which is sized for politics not for town needs. We should in my mind preserve our open lands and perhaps consider a limited affordable housing project (20 units?) in town center again that is architecturally designed to be an addition to the town, not a Scarborough Downs eyesore - which destroys open lands forever.

This is our choice and we should make it clear which future we want for our town! Demand that these issues come to vote or be tabled indefinitely!

Henry Barksdale

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Option B is ‘an imperfect vessel’

I live in Cape Elizabeth, currently have two kids at CEHS, and both my wife and I work in the schools. This is actually quite rare. It's hard for educators to afford Cape. With these school building proposals, it will be even more difficult to do so. Therefore, I agree with the supporters of option B in that I don't want my taxes to increase significantly.

However, our schools are in dire need of investing. It is fiscally and morally irresponsible to ignore this fact. So, those that support building a new school are also correct. Option E offers not only necessary repairs, but meets nearly all of the educational goals the SBAC was supposed to consider, which are largely ignored by option B. The renovations and new construction in this option

will have a negligible impact on the actual education of our students, for the price of \$77-85 million. This short-sighted thinking will not only leave our school buildings in even more dire straits, but will leave me and future generations paying more in the end.

So, while I don't want a more expensive option, I would NOT support option B, or any other educationally irresponsible and short-sighted use of my tax dollars. Option B is merely an imperfect vessel for those that want to say they support schools, but don't want to pay for them. Let's reduce the scope of option E, bring its tax impact under 10%, and at least get something for our hard-earned money.

Michael Young

‘Physical environment matters’

As a “boomer” and senior living in Cape Elizabeth for nearly 20 years, I need to express my deep concern about our commitment to educational excellence in Cape that puts the future condition of the buildings in jeopardy. This seems to be a lightning rod for community decision making. I fully support Option E, to bring the school buildings up to the standards essential for quality education to take place. The next steps need to be sustainable over decades without facing one maintenance crisis after another because of flawed choices.

Preoccupation with taxes is distressing. We moved here from New Jersey (check out taxes there) from an excellent school district and chose Cape for quality of life with a clear commitment to its schools. Now is the time to fund excellent quality buildings with up to date de-

sign, long lasting structures with energy efficient and safe facilities along with top notch faculty and staff. This will assure your/our property values will remain a solid investment.

Even more important, whether young parents or elders and grandparents, we want all of the children in our community to benefit from a shared commitment by investing in our schools. The physical environment matters and directly impacts the educational experience. I am honestly shocked and angry that folks who could afford to move into Cape based on our schools reputation now want to argue about taxes. Your/our future property values and the future of all OUR children depends on doing this well.

Karen M Hessel

Cape has ‘huge infrastructure needs’

It's clear that Cape has some really huge infrastructure needs – it goes beyond our failing school buildings. And yet I'm continuously surprised that our town's elected officials councilors seem focused on short-term projects rather than holistic planning for the financial well being of our town.

As the town council looks for a new town manager, their job description is focused on what that person's 5-year-plan vision is for the town. As recent town history has clearly shown us, this is incredibly short sighted. We need to be thinking much longer term than that.

If my wife and I started planning for our retirement just 5 years in advance, we'd never be able to retire. Why can't our town's leadership understand that their short-term views are causing long-term harm to residents?

We need budget cycles that are thoroughly reviewed, looking for ROI cycle to cycle, to ensure prudence in council spending. We need the town council to start saving for larger town-wide projects and a town manager with the gumption to push them to do so. Otherwise we'll keep doing what Cape always does: place the financial burden of town upkeep on its residents.

We need a long-term vision from our town council and our city manager. We need them to look beyond the next 5 years and into the next few decades. If our current town council won't step up to the responsibilities of long-term fiscal stewardship, we must pressure them to do so or find a way to elect folks who will.

Ben Hagopian

Parents ‘are breathing easier’

During the School Board meeting on May 21 the architects showed, for the first time, a picture of rows of trailers lining Scott Dyer Road and explained the full impact of what remodeling the schools would mean, and my heart sank. After years of COVID interruption, I couldn't fathom compounding kids' disruption by putting them in a trailer for years when other options are available. I also worried about the teachers and principals who spoke at the meeting about the hardships they would face in trailers. Would they burnout and leave our district?

However, when I walked out of the meeting later that night, I felt more hopeful than I have in a long time. It was clear in the School Board's discussion that

they are putting the education, health and safety of students first. The school board decided not to continue with an option put forward by the SBAC that would cause 100% disruption to learning. They know kids and teachers in trailers is not the way forward.

Instead, they will carry out their elected duty to find a solution that puts students' needs first, while also keeping the tax burden low. Parents, like me, are breathing easier knowing our children, many still recovering from the pandemic, won't needlessly spend their next years in trailers piled up along Scott Dyer Road.

Evelyn Gurr

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

Family Fun Day parade is June 8

Summer is just around the corner and what better way to kick it off than with a parade.

The parade will form up by 9:30 a.m. on Cottage Farms Road and at 10:00 a.m. will proceed down Shore Road and enter Fort Williams at the old entrance.**

For more than 40 years, this parade has been making memories. This year will be no exception! We'll have the Boy Scouts leading it off as our color guard.

We'll have police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, farm tractors, town officials and representatives, the Little League and other local organizations.

It's not too late to sign up to be in the parade. If you'd like to join in, just email us at: Curtis.Kelly@me.com.

There is no rain date for the parade. ** Shore Road will be closed to through traffic from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. on June 8.

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Candidates

Continued from page 1

Cape Courier: What, if any, public offices have you been elected to? Briefly share some of your accomplishments while holding that office(s). How many complete terms did you hold that office(s)?

Michelle Boyer: Though I haven't served in public office in an official capacity, I am well versed in the legislative process after successfully working with Senator Carney to enact a bill that I believe is important to Maine families and women. After I co-founded a community organization, Restore the Floor, to advocate and provide resources for women, I approached Senator Carney with the idea of improving postpartum care and health insurance coverage for Maine women. I am pleased to say the Governor signed the bill.

I also assisted the Gun Safety Caucus of the Maine legislature where I participated in robust debates around gun safety and potential legislative bills. Having had these enriching experiences, I'm enthusiastic about creating additional meaningful legislation as your elected State Representative.

Cynthia Dill: I was elected to serve on the town council from 2006 to 2008, and during that time was also recruited to run for the Maine House and won.

My overlapping service was hard, but proved to be a good thing. It was the session of Governor Baldacci's mandatory school consolidation. I sponsored an amendment to the state budget to exempt high-performing and efficient schools including Cape Elizabeth, and we were spared.

After being re-elected to the Maine House in 2008 and 2010, in 2011 I won a special election for state senator, garnering 68% of the vote. Highlights include casting a vote for marriage equality and sponsoring the bill that created the "Three Ring Binder," an acclaimed highway of highspeed Internet in rural Maine.

Kim Monaghan: State Representative from 2011 to 2018 (3 1/2 terms). As a Legislator, I was appointed to the Maine Wabanaki Truth and Reconciliation Search Committee. While serving on the Judiciary Committee, I consistently voted against making access to reproductive rights harder, or "consolidating" (shutting down) health clinics. I sponsored and led the passage of a significant court reform, "An Act Ensure a Continuing Home Court for Cases Involving Children." This bill provided a one-court location to address a range of family matters, such as divorce,

parental rights and guardianship. Getting this bill enacted during the LePage administration with a divided House and Senate was quite an accomplishment.

School Committee Member from 2009 to 2011 (1 1/2 terms). Member, Superintendent Search Committee.

Cape Courier: What are your professional experiences and your education level?

Michelle Boyer: Over five years ago, I started my own successful business, Arctic Lynx Maternity, and have grown it into a successful purveyor of high-performance technical garments that empower women to stay active and comfortable during pregnancy. Prior to starting my own company, I worked for over a dozen years in the banking industry as a senior leader in state and federal laws and regulations. I founded and co-chaired a community organization to advocate for and support women. I am a member of the Cape Elizabeth Conservation Committee and a substitute for the Cape Elizabeth School Department.

I graduated from Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and I also attended the Institute for American Universities in Aix-en-Provence, France as part of my degree.

Cynthia Dill: I have worked as a lawyer in good standing since 1990 and am admitted to practice in courts around New England and Washington, D.C. I represent civil rights plaintiffs, whistleblowers and veterans - mostly in federal court. Lately I have also been doing lots of housing and probate work.

Cyndicate Media is a small business I started that produces content across various mediums, and I have a lot of fun hosting a podcast called "Keep Up with Cynthia Dill" on Spotify and iTunes. Check it out!

In addition, I've worked as a newspaper columnist and political analyst for radio and television, and graduated from UVM and Northeastern University School of Law.

For more information, please go to www.dillesquire.com or call me 207-747-4172.

Kim Monaghan: My career consists of both the public and private sectors. I have over 25 years in public service, serving the people of Maine and working in Washington D.C. I have a wide range of professional experience in online media, tourism, global trade exhibitions, and as an adjunct professor at the University of Southern Maine.

I currently sit on two Maine Commissions: Maine Public Defense Services and Maine Liquor and Lottery.

I have an MA in Public Policy and Management from the Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine, and a

BA in Journalism/Communications from the University of Maine.

Cape Courier: What are your top priorities if elected? What are the most pressing issues you would like to work on, and what end result would you like to see for each?

Michelle Boyer: By knocking on over 1,500 doors, I understand from many that they would like more impactful property tax relief, state support of school construction, meaningful gun safety measures and affordable housing. I would work to enact additional gun safety measures such as banning semi-automatic weapons and a true extreme risk protection order law. Boosting the home-stead exemption is essential. I would help the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank to begin its work to address the complex housing crisis. High quality public schools are essential to our society and require our support. I would work to ensure the state continues its funding of education at 55% and look to change the way the state funds public school building construction to allow more projects to qualify.

Cynthia Dill: My top priority is to give a strong voice to the citizens of Cape Elizabeth in Augusta. I will fiercely defend our rights under the constitution, among which are enjoying and defending life, liberty, and property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

In the end I would like to see justice for all.

If elected, I also pledge to protect our children, the elderly and the environment and to be a responsible steward of the public purse. I will work to solve problems in a bipartisan way, lower the tax burden, improve education and if possible, use a machete to cut through bureaucratic red tape currently strangling enterprising businesses.

My specific policy areas are housing, especially affordable housing for families and our workforce.

Kim Monaghan: Reproductive rights will be a driving force in the 2024 election. The next Legislature will include several bills aimed at reducing access to women's health clinics and birth control. I'd like to be re-appointed to the Judiciary Committee that will take up these bills. I'll fight attacks on reproductive rights and protect healthcare access for all Mainers.

Climate change. Cape Elizabeth and South Portland are thruways to Casco Bay for commercial marine, cruise ships and recreational boating. I'd like to serve on the Environment and Natural Resources or Marine Resources Committee to address shoreland and environmental policy issues.

Take on the gun lobby to secure common

sense gun reforms, keeping Mainers safe from gun violence.

Continue pushing for affordable housing in Cape Elizabeth and throughout Maine.

Cape Courier: How important is civility within politics? Is there a certain level of professionalism, good manners and decorum voters should expect from elected officials?

Michelle Boyer: Most of us reject the divisiveness that some seek to inject into our elected bodies and civil discourse. In order for us to make meaningful and lasting change to improve our lives, we must have an open and free exchange of ideas. I am known for actively listening to all who engage in conversations to learn, grow and find common ground. Civility is a core component of our society which is why I reached out to both of my opponents in this race early on to wish them well in their campaigns. Voters can expect that I will always act in a civil manner and be respectful. It's important that we all help create an atmosphere where people are willing to step up and serve.

Cynthia Dill: Civility in all things is important. Decorum shows appreciation for higher order and is the antidote to chaos. Good manners make people feel comfortable, the job of leaders I believe.

Ethics, candor, a sense of humor - all these things are important in life and politics.

But politics is not for sissies. There's a toughness necessary to thrive. You have to be ruthlessly polite to win, sometimes. I'm the second youngest of 9 kids from a mixed family and have older brothers. I love it.

Some people can't hear the opposing side of an argument without feeling offended or somehow cheated. That's not about civility. That's about tolerance. I try to understand opposing views before taking sides and do my best to be an independent thinker.

Kim Monaghan: When you have Marjorie Taylor-Greene asking a black Congresswoman if her "fake eyelashes" were getting in the way of her reading and understanding the purpose of a hearing, igniting a viral vitriol between both women, what does that say about the state of our civility today? Here in Cape, I've observed back-and-forth swipes on a few Facebook groups. They are unprofessional and unproductive, and eventually, the posts are taken down. Voters should expect elected officials to convey common sense and a level of self-control. As a candidate (and former elected official), I keep my posts directed towards an issue. Unless I am asked a specific question and response, I avoid distractive interactions on social media.




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Cape Elizabeth High School announces Top Ten Percent of Class of 2024

Evelyn Agrodnia



Parents: Dr. Marta Agrodnia and Aaron Agrodnia

Future Plans: Bates College

Accomplishments and Recognition:

Honors World History II award for excellence, Word Processing award for excellence, AP Scholar with Honor, Cape Elizabeth girls' soccer Captain 2023-2024, WMC - all-star, first team fall of 2022 & 2023, MSCA all-state team fall of 2022 & 2023, WMC all-academic team, Cape female fall athlete of the year 2023-2024, Kevin Brady Memorial Spirit Scholarship Award winner

Eli Beber



Parents: Grace and Greg Beber

Future Plans: Northeastern University

Accomplishments and Recognition:

National Merit Finalist, Outstanding Junior in Math, Maine State Esports Champion

Ava Corbin



Parents: Sheilah Lloyd and Jeff Corbin

Future Plans: Vanderbilt University

Accomplishments and Recognition:

Yale University Book Award; First Chair Flute in the Portland Youth Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra; Second Chair Flute for MMEA Allstate Festival; District 1 Music Festival Gold Medal; AP Scholar; Maroon Medal Society; Awards for Excellence in AP Statistics, Ceramics, and Music; National Honors Society Chief Philanthropist; Debate Team Captain; Class Treasurer; JV Volleyball Captain; All-Academic Team for Varsity Volleyball

Zoe Dinnerstein



Parents: Pamela Bokot and Eric Dinnerstein

Future Plans: Brown University

Accomplishments and Recognition:

Featured in all of the HS musicals, participated in various cabarets and variety shows. Sang the National Anthem at multiple sports events. Active in the Improv and Acapella clubs. Served as co-president of the chess club and founded an inter-generational chess club sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. Participated in Mock Trial and played on the soccer team. Member of the National Honor Society

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Neil Gabrielson - Valedictorian



Parents: Sarah and Jeremy Gabrielson

Future Plans: Northeastern University

Accomplishments and Recognition: Valedictorian

Kierith Gentilini



-see TOP TEN page 7

CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2024

“Kid, you’ll move mountains.”
 - Dr. Seuss

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Top ten

Continued from page 6

Parents: Caitlin and Paul Gentilini

Future Plans: Bowdoin College

Accomplishments and Recognition:

World Affairs Council Leadership Team (Co-President), Best Delegate and 2x Verbal Commendation Award at Dartmouth College's Model UN Conference, Best Delegate at Brown University's Model UN Conference, 2nd place in Biomedical and Health Sciences Category and 3rd Place in Plant Sciences-Agriculture category at Maine State Science Fair, National Geographic Cultivating Empathy for the Earth Award, Maine Space Grant Consortium Merit STEM Research Intern, MERITS Scholar EPSCoR Award, CEHS Excellence in Science Award and Excellence in Photography Award, Saint Michael's College Book Award, AP Scholar, National Honor Society (President), Maroon Medal Society, All-Conference Team Girls Lacrosse, All-Academic Team Girls Ice Hockey, Assistant Captain of Girls Ice Hockey, High School Hobey Baker Character Award recipient

Henry Hesser



Parents: Jenny G. Hesser and Timothy M. Hesser

Future Plans: Northwestern University

Accomplishments and Recognition: Varsity XC and track 4 years, Sophomore year Cape award for respect, Junior year Bausch + Lomb URochester book award, Junior year academic award for Stats, Language, and Band, EF global citizenship award

Hadley Johnson



Parents: Greg Johnson and Ginger Browne Johnson

Future Plans: Berklee College of Music

Accomplishments and Recognition:

Writer, composer, and arranger of, and lead actor in Afterthought's premiere at CEHS in September 2023; Recipient

of World History and Band Academic Awards; Trumpet player in District 1 Honors Band and Honors Jazz Festivals 3 years in a row; Recipient of Columbia University Book Award; Actor in numerous CEHS theater productions and One Act Festivals; composer for and director of pit band for the annual CE Tonight Show; Semifinalist in Blank Theatre's Young Playwrights Competition (Los Angeles), National Honors Society Member; 2nd place in 2024 Maine State Science Fair Animal Sciences, Behavior category; Singer/songwriter performing at various venues around Maine, including Colby's new Gordon Performing Arts Center

Benjamin Le



Parents: Phu Le and Tu Anh Nguyen

Future Plans: Bowdoin College

Accomplishments and Recognition:

2023 National Science Bowl Maine Regional Winner, NMSQT Commended Scholar

John McCormick



Parents: Cara and Peter McCormick

Future Plans: Columbia University

Accomplishments and Recognition:

A Senator to the 76th session of American Legion Boys Nation of Maine. AP Scholar with Distinction. Finalist in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Member of the Cape Elizabeth Chapter of the National Honor Society. Saint Michael's College Book Award for Academic Achievement. Head Delegate, Cape Elizabeth World Affairs Council and Model United Nations; Best Delegate BOSMUN 2024, Best Delegate DARTMUN 2024, Outstanding

-see GRADS page 8

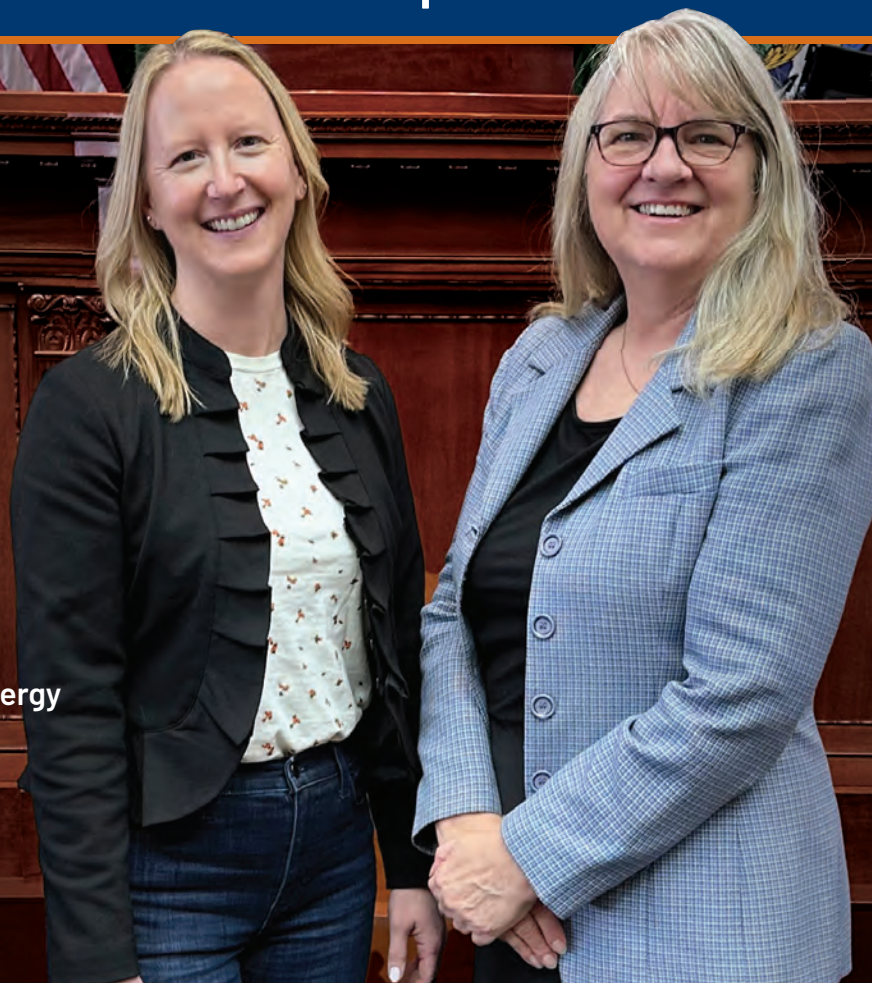
Vote on June 11th

Michelle Boyer

Democrat for Maine House of Representatives

As your Democratic State Representative, I will work in a civil manner to pass bills that reflect our community values and provide our town with solutions that work at the local level to promote safety, economic security, planet friendly policies, healthy families, and fairness.

- Develop more renewable clean/efficient energy
- Address gun safety & mental health
- Defend womens' reproductive freedom
- Sustain high quality public education
- Advance tax relief for seniors/retirees



"I know Michelle will listen to and work hard for all of the citizens of Cape Elizabeth in the State House by developing solutions to the critical issues we are facing in our state. That is why I am enthusiastically voting for her in the Democratic Primary on June 11th."

Rep. Rebecca Millet
Former State Senator and
CE School Board Chair

Michelle Boyer and Rebecca Millet

Fresh perspective. Dedicated leadership

Grads

Continued from page 7

Delegate DARTMUN 2023, Outstanding Delegate BUSUN 2022, Honorable Mentions DARTMUN 2022, BOSMUN 2022, 2023. Captain of the Cape Elizabeth Men's Varsity Swim and Dive Team, Maine state record holder in the 200 Medley Relay, Maine State Champions Class B 2022, 2023, 2024, Southwestern Champions 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024. Senate President of the National Party, Town of Muskie, Dirigo State, 2023 Dirigo State Boys Winner Delegate #1. Varsity Congressional Debate Team, House & Senate, Individual Congressional Debate State Champion 2021, Individual Congressional Debate State Champion Runner-up 2023, NCFL Grand National Tournament Qualifier 2023, 2024, NSDA Debate 2024 National Qualifier. Student Representative to the Cape Elizabeth School Board. US Sailing-certified instructor. Principal Actor, World Premiere Musical, Afterthought.

Trevor Oakley



Parents: Brett and Colleen Oakley

Future Plans: Yale University

Accomplishments and Recognition:

National Merit Scholar Finalist; Presidential Scholar Semifinalist; AP Scholar with Distinction; Captain of state champion Speech team; Academic All-American; Captain of state champion Science Bowl team; State champion Math team; Excellence in Chemistry, Math, History, and Science

Simon Shyka-Brown



Parents: Tom Shyka and Laney Brown

Future Plans: Double Major in Oceanography and Marine Biology at Dalhousie University

Accomplishments and Recognition:

Excellence in AP Computer Science, National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist, Improvement Award in Cross Country, Coaches Award in Cross Country

Theresa Straw - Salutatorian



Parents: Hope and Chris Straw

Future Plans: Harvard University

Accomplishments and Recognition:

Awards: U.S. Presidential Scholar Semifinalist; Nat'l Soc. Daughters of the Am. Rev. Lucinda Beneventi Findley History Scholarship recipient; National Merit Scholar; Girls Nation Senator and Supreme Court Justice, Dirigo State Party Chair & Speaker of the House; NSDA All-State, Academic All-American, Premier Distinction, top ranked student in Maine, represented Maine at NSDA Nationals in Congressional Debate, State Champion Congressional Debate Team; All-State Band (1st Chair Euphonium), All-State Jazz Band (Electric Bass), D1 Honors Band (Euphonium), D1 Honors Jazz Band (Electric Bass), UNH Jazz Festival Outstanding Ensemble (Trombone); Girls State Doublehanded Sailing Champion, 4th at New England Girls Singlehanded Sailing Championship, sailed in Youth Nat'ls, Junior Women's Nat'ls, Team Nat'ls, ISSA Atlantic Coast Championship, and Lawrence White Nat'l In-

-see STUDENTS page 9

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Students

Continued from page 8

vitational; Coke Scholar Semifinalist; GE-Reagan Scholarship Semifinalist; AP Scholar with Distinction (15+ AP courses); Scholastic Art & Writing National Best-in-Grade Awardee, National Gold Medal, Gold Keys, Silver Keys, Honorable Mentions; 2nd Place, 2024 Maine State Science Fair in Biomedical & Health Sciences; 3rd Place, 2023 MSSF in Plant Sciences - Physiology & Pathology; Maine Seal of Biliteracy (French)

Activities: CEHS Sailing Team (Captain); CEHS Debate Team (Assistant Captain); Volunteer CEMS Debate Coach; Bartleby; Cape Improv; Can We? Project; CEHS Theater Pit Band; Wheeler Jazz Combo; St. Pierre Jazz Combo; Girl Scout Troop 284

Sophia Toon



Parents: Courtney and Malcolm Toon

Future Plans: Pomona College

Accomplishments and Recognition: CEEF Grant Recipient: Expanding Access to CPR, Smith College Book Award, AP Scholar with Distinction, National Honor Society, Maine All State Band, Portland Ballet Pre-Professional Program, Student School Board Representative, Excellence in Chemistry

Emma Young



Parents: Michael and Jill Young

Future Plans: Rice University

Accomplishments and Recognition: **Activities:** Student Council (former Class Vice President and current Class President), Race Director of Run for Sal 5k, Varsity Cross Country (Captain 12), Varsity Indoor Track & Field (Captain 11, 12), Varsity Outdoor Track & Field (Captain 11, 12), Science Bowl, Model United

Nations, World Affairs Council, French Club, Junior States of America, CEHS A Cappella Group, National Honor Society, and Upper Links.

Honors: MPA Principal's Award, Williams College Book Award, 2024 National STEM Challenge Champion, 1st place in Biomedical and Health Sciences at the 2023 Maine State Science Fair, 2024 BioME Student Showcase Finalist, AP Scholar, Maine Seal of Biliteracy (French), Honorable Mention at DartMUN XVI, WMC All-Academic Team for Cross Country and Indoor Track & Field, WMC All-Conference Teams for Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field, Maine All-State Team for Cross Country and Indoor Track & Field, District 1 Honors Mixed Choir, and CEHS Excellence Awards in Honors Geometry and Concert Choir.



Design

Continued from page 1

nered a 5-4 vote from the SBAC, the other receiving a 4-5 vote. After thoughtfully considering all information presented, including robust community input, the Board directed Superintendent Chris Record to pursue a compromise solution. Harriman architects will develop a project that includes a new, modern middle school as well as crucial upgrades at Pond Cove Elementary and the high school at a price the community has signaled it will support.

Stay tuned for upcoming meeting dates to be posted on the town and school websites.

~ Design Update Public Forum on June 24, 6 p.m. at Town Hall

For more information, contact: Elizabeth Scifres, School Board Chairperson

Cape Elizabeth School Department, 320 Ocean House Rd, Cape Elizabeth

<https://www.cape.k12.me.us>

<https://reflect-cetv.cablecast.tv/store-5/1322-School-Board-Workshop-May-21-2024-v1/vod.mp4>

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July 3rd Clambake ~ 6pm
 Chef pulls out all the stops with our traditional N.E. Clam Bake
 Sample menu items: Oysters | Scallop Ceviche | Tuna Tartar | Chowder
 Crab Salad | Miso Caesar Salad | Steamed Clams | BBQ Chicken
 Alewives Farm Lobster | NY Striploin | BBQ Chicken | Whoopie Pies
 \$145 per person | \$65 ages 5-12 | One lobster per person
 Without lobster \$100 adults | \$40 ages 5-12

July 4th BBQ ~ Noon-3pm
 Join us on the Seaside Lawn, complete with Atlantic views
 Sample menu items: Tomato & Burrata Salad | Miso BBQ Ribs
 Grilled Burgers & Hot Dogs | Sweet Italian Sausage | Cole Slaw
 Tamarin Glazed Chicken | Potato Salad | Strawberry Shortcake
 \$48 per person | \$24 ages 5-12

Reservations requested. View full menus at InnbytheSea.com
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Cape resident authors ‘The Corpse Bloom’

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Bryan Wiggins is a Cape Elizabeth author who has written a new thriller.

Cape Elizabeth author Bryan Wiggins said that he’s been living “on the edge” for nearly three decades. He thinks his neighbors might find that characterization of life in Cape Elizabeth extreme, saying that “daily dramas in our town rarely exceed such emergencies as a flock of turkeys blocking Route 77, or C Salt selling out of peanut butter cookies.”

But, he said, one need only walk along the cliff at Portland Head Light or the shore of Crescent Beach to be reminded that in this small strip of southern Maine, “we spend our days perched on the thin line between land and sea. And at a time when I have one foot still planted in my vocation, and the other poised to step into my avocation, I now find I’m also living on the edge between security

and possibility.”

For the past ten years, he said he’s been crossing the Casco Bay Bridge to get to his day job as a brand strategist for Pulp+Wire, a creative Portland design agency. “The work I’ve done there to help our team brand the corporate identities of our clients has granted me the power to dive deep into countless companies’ stories to find their core themes. That skill has also been critical to the work I do before I punch in every morning and after I clock out at night. The novels I pen in those off-hours can often reach 100,000 words. As any writer who’s played with that form knows, if you want a reader to stick with you for that long, you damned well better have a point,” Wiggins said.

He said that HarperCollins gave him a shot at making such a point with “Autumn Imago,” his novelistic love letter to Baxter State Park. “But, with the exception of an exceptional wingman, I flew solo with my latest book. I had the help of Dr. Lee Thibodeau, the noted Maine neurosurgeon and friend, who talked me into writing it,” Wiggins said.

Wiggins’ new medical thriller, titled “The Corpse Bloom,” is based on the seed of a story Thibodeau gave him, he said, and supported with his expert insight and introduction to a host of professional peers who provided the same.

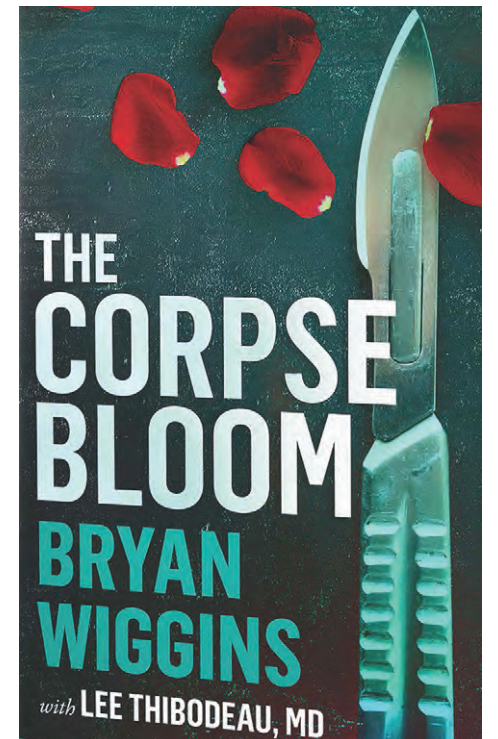
“When ‘The Corpse Bloom’ was named a finalist for The Maine Literary Award for Crime Fiction on May 2, it made me question where the next chapter in my own life might go. And I know of no better place to wander when I wonder about such things than along the local bump into Casco Bay I call home,” said Wiggins.

He said his regular route for his “morning musings” along that curve of the coast takes him just south of Trundy Point. “Every time I walk Surfside Avenue, my eyes drift to the horizon. It’s a place wide enough to see the subtle curve of that line. When I do, it stops the string of words running through my head long enough to reveal that I’m a person living not only in a town—but on a planet—a perspective that reminds me that I’m a character in my own story and that it’s one with an arc yet to be defined,” Wiggins said.

A year or so from now, that tale will take another twist, he said. Wiggins explained, “I’ll be penning more plot lines than taglines, then, and though I’ve had some success with ‘The Corpse Bloom,’ there’s no guarantee the new book I’m wading through will fol-

low that fate. Most novelists know that every book is an act of faith, a long, lonely prayer that what we have to say is something others might want to hear. I’m just happy I can take that leap in a place that reminds me every day of the road we all walk, between what life is and what it might be.”

You can learn more about Wiggins, “The Corpse Bloom,” and his writing at brywig.com.



Contributed photo

A new novel by Bryan Wiggins is a medical thriller wherein a surgeon finds himself questioning the sources of organs for transplantation, and trapped in the midst of incriminating circumstances.



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Local birding report

By E. Brooks Bornhoff

Up until recently I have always associated seeing Pine Siskins with the cold months of the year. On occasion my mind would wander to the cool coniferous forests on high mountains or in northern latitudes far from here where these nomadic little boreal finches chiefly breed. Since late January, a pair of *Pinus Spinus* have stuck around my backyard feeders. On late spring afternoons I have cherished their wheezy z-zing trills intermingled with the Goldfinches twitters and warblers.

One morning in the third week of May my binoculars happened upon three small birds huddled together deep within a mess of invasives. Upon closer inspection I noted subtle yellow edgings on each of the bird's wings and clove-brown streaking on their breasts. What I had discovered were two fledgling Pine Siskins with their mother!

According to Peter Vickery's "Birds of Maine," Pine Siskins are known to breed far south of their normal breeding grounds during irruption years and when there is a dependable food source. Although still fairly common across parts of North America, Pine Siskins' population has decreased by nearly 70% in the last sixty years.

Other brief observations from the last two weeks in the yard and field include:

May 14 - A very pleasing morning in Fort Williams. Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Orioles calling from wooded section. Fish Crow's nasally caw heard overhead. Ten different types of Wood Warblers heard and seen including a Cape May Warbler with its tiger striped breast, bright yellow belly and orange-chestnut ear patches aglow and a plucky female Black-throated Blue in the tangles below.

May 15 - A timid, White-crowned Sparrow made a brief appearance in our yard this morning. Truly an aristocratic looking sparrow.

May 16 - Early morning, two male Scar-

let Tanagers spotted outside the bedroom window and a Tennessee Warbler twittering away from the top of a flowering Serviceberry Tree along Scott Dyer Road. Late in the afternoon Least Terns darting and diving over Spurwink Marsh.

May 17 - This afternoon I came across a female Purple Finch resting in a small Pine Tree on the outskirts of my backyard. I stood silently, a few feet away from this little creature and she did not seem to mind, observed as bird processed the surrounding chatter.

May 18 - Runaway Farm and Town Farm marsh loop. Alder Flycatcher spotted within the wet tangles, call was a distinctive wheezed "ree-BEE-a." Bobolinks, three total frolicking across uncut pasture, their bubbly music bouncing across the marsh.

May 20 - Blackburnian Warblers high up in White Oak Tree in backyard. Eastern Wood-Pewees calling after sunset.

May 21 - Robinson Woods I, II and III - After a big night of migration there were lots of birds. Ovenbirds sounding off across the forest floor, Chestnut-sided, Pine, Myrtle, Black-and-White, American Redstart, Northern Parulas, Black-throated Green and first of season Blackpoll and Bay Breasted Warblers.

May 23 - Canada Warbler and a Tennessee Warbler dueting in neighbors Dogwood tree.

May 24 - At dusk four Common Nighthawks gracefully foraging over the Pond Cove brook corridor section of Robinson Woods.

May 25 - Lightning bugs and small brown bats along Shore Road. Of note, I was quite certain that I heard the harsh chortle of a Black-billed Cuckoo migrating overhead. Cuckoos are also known to sing while flying at night.

May 27 - A Magnolia Warbler and Wilson Warbler softly singing along the fringes of a fog drenched Fort Williams.

Capetoon: Songbirds of Cape

By Jeff Mandell



CELT spring/summer programs

Invasive Plants Nature Walk

Join Mike Hankes, a member of Cape Elizabeth Land Trust's Stewardship Committee, at Runaway Farm to learn about invasive plants found in Cape Elizabeth. During this CELT sponsored event you can expect to learn how to identify specific invasive plant species, eradication strategies, and why invasive species pose a threat to an ecosystem. Participants should meet at the upper parking lot at Gull Crest field off of Spurwink Avenue, and be prepared to go on a gentle hike, rain or shine. All participants must register at least at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Wed June 5 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Runaway Farm: 498 Spurwink Avenue

\$6 per person

Max 10/Min 3

Tidepooling the Rocky Shore

Explore the rocky intertidal zone of Maine and see what kinds of plant and animal critters thrive in this special habitat. Join Cape Elizabeth Land Trust Education Program Coordinator Ali Gustavson on this summer program to search for crabs, snails and other marine life. Each family will receive a visual identification guide to some of Cape's most common organisms. It is recommended that participants wear closed-toed shoes that can get soaking wet. The program will take place on Kettle Cove Beach. Note: This program is oriented towards families, but all ages are welcome. All participants must register at least at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or

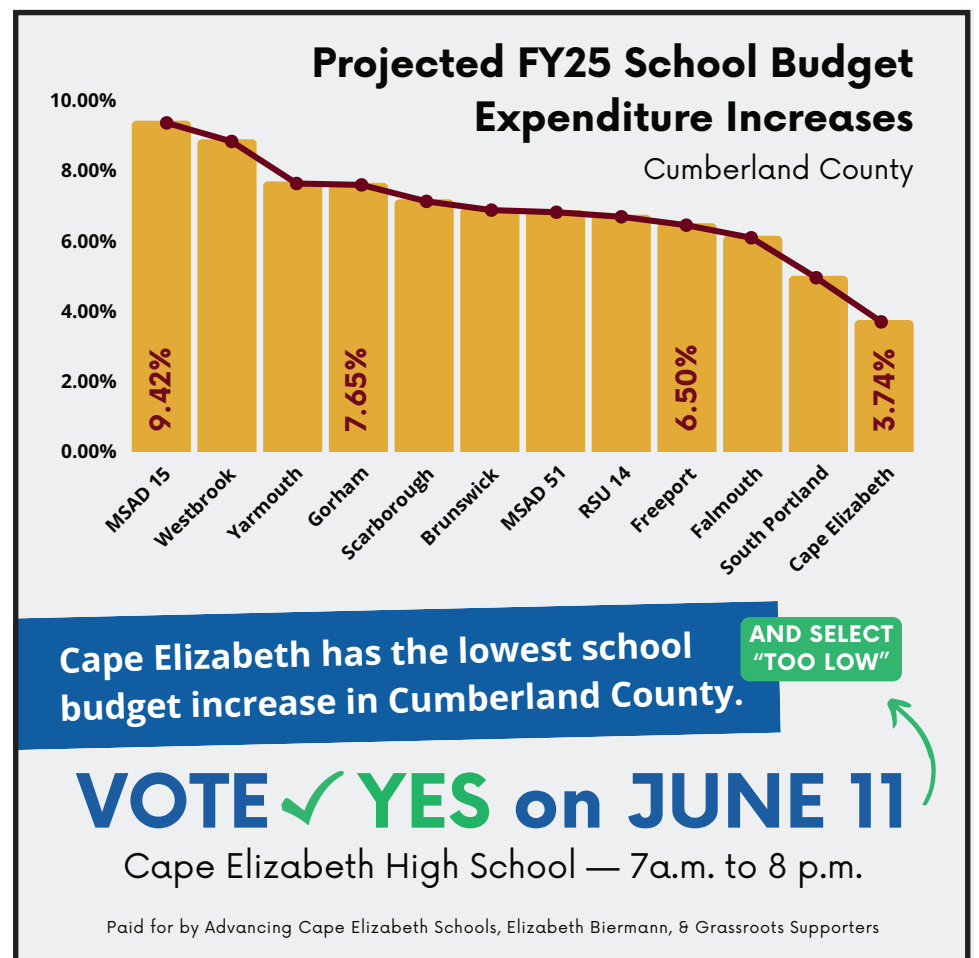
cancellation.

Friday, July 19 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Kettle Cove Beach

\$10/ family

Max 10 families/ Min 2 families



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Expected disruption in interlibrary loan delivery, summer reading programs to begin in June and July

Expected Disruption in Interlibrary Loan Delivery

Many library users may be aware that Thomas Memorial Library is part of a greater network of libraries in Maine, and that we receive daily deliveries of books from those libraries across the state (204 at our last count!) This delivery service is vital to our ability to loan a far greater amount of items to our users than what we can provide on our own.

Unfortunately, the Maine State Library's contract with our current van delivery provider is ending June 30th, and in the transition between contracts we will, for a time, be limited in our ability to procure some items from other libraries for our users. We ask that TML users please be patient with us while the Maine State Library works to get that service up and running again. TML staff are part of the conversation with those who are working tirelessly to make this transition as seamless as possible, however there will be a gap for an, as yet undetermined, amount of time.

At some point in the coming weeks the ability to place interlibrary loan requests will be turned off, but we may still be able to get items owned by other libraries that our users want. Just give us a call at 799-1720 or stop by the main desk with any questions. TML cardholders will still be able to check out TML items and use any of the online resources we have available through the Digital Maine Library, CloudLibrary, Biblio+, Flipster, and ComicsPlus.

We are also in conversation with area li-

braries discussing a way to facilitate some broader local lending during this time and will post updates as we have them. Again, TML staff ask that library users please be patient while we work to regain our full capacity for statewide lending. We will post additional updates on our website and in the next issue of the Cape Courier.

Library Closed for Juneteenth

The library, along with several other Town departments, will be closed for the Juneteenth holiday on Wednesday, June 19.

Summer Reading Programs to Begin in June and July

The library's annual summer reading programs will begin on June 17 for kids and tweens, and July 1 for teens and adults. This year's theme is "Into the Woods: A Reading Adventure." The children's program is once again the very popular Read & Bead Challenge, in which kids keep track of the time they spend reading (or being read to) and earn beads and brag tags as they make their way through a woodland landscape. Adults and teens will receive a reading bingo card and earn tickets to win a number of nature-themed prizes. For complete details, please visit the library's website.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Sewing Adventures Returns! Book & Journal Covers

Saturday, June 8, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Join us as we design covers for our fa-

vorite sketch books, journals and treasured books. Make yours with pockets, button or belt closure, and/or a matching bookmark -- you're the designer! Make it original with your own applique (fabric collage) or embroidery. Work in felt or fabric, by sewing machine or by hand. 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 sewing materials provided- bring your favorite book or journal to cover. Please register in advance on our website.

Weekly Programs

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.

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.

Tiny Tunes

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

This short and sweet program is for young children who are not quite ready for a traditional story time, but love to have fun with friends! Join the circle for 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.

Saturday Family Story Time

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

Join us for a special weekend edition of Story Time! It will feature all our favorites: 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)

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. Upcoming date: July 2

FOR TWEENS & TEENS

LGBTQ+ Parents' Night & Youth Social

Friday, May 31, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Thomas Memorial Library

This social gathering is for parents/guardians to connect with and enjoy the company of others, while providing their LGBTQ+ youth, aged 12 - 18, with a safe

-see LIBRARY page 13

Beginner Sewing Lessons for All Ages



Savannah College of Art & Design, Fashion Design student, Maddy Simopoulos will be offering beginner sewing lessons starting in June.

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Library

Continued from page 12

and affirming place to connect with and support other queer youth. While caregivers attend an OUTMaine-facilitated discussion, youth are invited to attend a movie night with pizza, popcorn, and drinks. Movie night will be co-hosted with Cape Elizabeth High School's GSTA Club. Please register on the library's website.

Dungeons & Dragons

Every other Thursday, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. (Ages 11+)

Calling all wizards, warlocks, rangers and rogues! TML's Dungeons and Dragons campaign is open to teens and tweens who want to explore their character through interactive storytelling. This group meets every other Thursday from 3pm to 5pm; upcoming dates are as follows: May 23, June 6, June 20, and June 27. Register on the TML website!

Young Writers at TML (Ages 11-13)

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

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, this program is full of fun journal prompts and creative group exercises. Upcoming date: June 6. Register on our website.

#LibrarySquad

First Friday of each Month, 2:45-3:45 p.m. (Ages 11-13)

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: upcoming date: June 7. Stop by the children's desk for an application to join this advisory group!

TML Teen Writing Group

Second Saturday of Each Month, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (Ages 14+)

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. Upcoming date: June 8. Register on our website!

TLC: Teen Leadership Council

Last Friday of Each Month, 2:45-3:45 p.m. (Ages 14+)

The Teen Leadership Council (TLC) is a group of young people who want to take a more active role in our library community. TLC makes book and informational displays, provides feedback on the direction of the Teen Space within the library, and even gets the chance to design and lead special programs. Monthly meetings include snacks, social time, and fun. If you're interested in joining, stop by the downstairs desk and ask for an application! The date this month is May 31.

FOR ADULTS

Writing Hive

Thursdays, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Writing Hive (formerly Fireside Writing) gives you the space and opportunity to work alongside fellow writers and reach your writ-

ing goals. Bring your laptop or your favorite notebook and join us for tea and quiet writing time! Meets weekly on Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30pm. All are welcome!

Cape Elizabeth Energy Committee

Presents:

Local Flood Impacts: Coastal Storms and Sea Level Rise, with Dr. Hannah Barnes from GMRI and Gayle Bowness from GPCOG

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

The Town of Cape Elizabeth's Energy Committee, the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) and Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) invite you to join us for a presentation about sea level rise and flood hazard.

Dr. Hannah Baranes is a Coastal Scientist at GMRI and serves on the Maine Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, which informs the Maine Climate Action Plan. She will talk about the latest sea level projections, this winter's coastal storms, and what these mean for future flood risk in Maine. There will also be an opportunity to discuss the impacts you've been seeing locally and your concerns for the future with your neighbors and Hannah. This presentation supports the GPCOG Climate Action Plan process for the Town of Cape Elizabeth. No registration necessary!

The Crater Lake Murders, with Monty Orrick

Tuesday, June 18th, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Do you love true crime? The thrill of solving a previously unsolved mystery? Join us on June 18th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm for a talk by Monty Orrick, author of The Crater Lake Murders, and learn about a decades-old crime that remained a mystery until Orrick came out with his book.

Monty Orrick has worked twenty five years as a TV news photojournalist in Or-

egon and, most recently, Maine. Always happy to be nominated, he received four Emmy nominations. In 2011, he first came across the story of the Crater Lake murders. He could not let it go—or was it the other way around? He effectively solved the case ten years later. For anyone interested in meaningful discussion about it, there is a dedicated Facebook page. Besides fly fishing, the author's other chief talents are watching baseball and listening to records.

ONGOING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:

Songwriting Workshop (with Jud Caswell)

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

In person

Next meeting: July 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: June 19

This month's book: "The Invention of Hugo Cabret," by Brian Selznick

Eldering 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: June 20

This month's book: Uncommon Reader, by Alan Bennett

THANK YOU SO MUCH

#CEHSPG2024

On behalf of the
Cape Elizabeth High School Class of 2024 & the Project Graduation Committee,
we thank all of the businesses and community members who helped make graduation night safe and successful!
We are so grateful!

capeprojectgraduation.com

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Project Graduation Promotions, Graphics & Social Media Services created and donated by Fisher Green Creative.

CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

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

Thursday, June 6

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

Monday, June 10

Town Council, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11

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

Wednesday, June 12

Community Services Committee, Community Center, 5:30 p.m.
 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Thomas Memorial Library, 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 13

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

Tuesday, June 18

Planning Board, 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: cercme.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.

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

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

Nothing scheduled for June 5-18

Planning Board

Continued from page 1

garding the electrical interconnection.

Read said, "We're excited for the project and fully ready to move ahead with the work through the summer and the fall, it's just taken us a little bit longer to get going than we thought originally."

Chair Sahrbeck clarified with Read and Meima that there are no proposed changes to the site plan. He added that this project has been a "complicated matter" with a lot of "i's to dot, and t's to cross."

Al Palmer made a motion to grant the request, and Jim Huebener seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve the request.

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.



YOUR PLACE FOR LOCAL

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IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO KEEP FOOD GROWING

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



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MUSIC LESSONS

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FOR SALE

FIREWOOD, 16" Lengths, Green \$100 per 1/4 Cord, U-Pickup in CE, Call: 617-794-1292

Couch purchase scam reported

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 5-7 An officer spoke with a resident of the Mitchell Road area who tried to purchase a couch on social media. She made partial payment via Venmo to hold the item. The post was then taken down when the seller requested additional payment but the victim refused.
5-13 An officer met with a resident of the Bowery Beach area regarding the theft of a credit card and recent unauthorized purchases on the account.
5-14 An officer, while on routine patrol, conducted a traffic stop for erratic operation. After a brief conversation, it was determined that the operator was not in a position to drive safely and was transported to the hospital for an evaluation.
5-16 An officer met with a subject in the Scott Dyer Road area for a suspicious person complaint.

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

Fighting Back Against Real Estate Scams

From coast-to-coast AARP is working to spread information and knowledge about dangerous scams but sometimes education alone isn't enough. One issue that AARP is taking on in several state legislatures is residential real estate listing scams.

Last year we learned that a Florida-based real estate firm was offering small cash payments to homeowners to serve as their exclusive real estate agent. What they didn't disclose is that unlike most real estate contracts that last months at most, these agreements lasted for 40 years. Worse yet these companies were targeting underprivileged neighborhoods with illegal robocalls and offering hundreds of dollars for a contract that they said would eventually pay thousands.

Thankfully, Attorneys General in Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio, Florida, and Pennsylvania have sued the company alleged to be behind this activity, MV Realty, and seven state legislatures have passed legislation based on a model bill AARP developed

SUMMONSES

- 5-8 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (51/35 zone) Spurwink Road, \$170
5-9 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Ocean House Road, \$85
5-11 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (48/30 zone) Mitchell Road, \$170
5-12 Cape Elizabeth resident, aggravated criminal mischief, operating under the influence of alcohol, driving to endanger, operating without a license, Mitchell Road
5-14 Portland resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device,, Route 77, \$85
5-14 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Route 77, \$85
5-14 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Route 77, \$85
5-14 Framingham, Massachusetts resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Shore Road, \$85
5-14 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Shore Road, \$85
5-14 Cape Elizabeth resident, uninspected vehicle, Mitchell Road, \$148
5-15 Rochester New Hampshire resident, unregistered vehicle, Fowler Road, \$85
5-15 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating after license suspension, speeding (50/30 zone), Fowler Road \$550

JUVENILE SUMMONSES

- 5-7 South Portland resident, speeding (60/40 zone) Sawyer Road, \$230
5-9 South Portland resident, speeding (39/30 zone). Mitchell Road, \$114
5-17 Cape Elizabeth resident, violation of interim license, Fowler Road, \$385

ARRESTS

- 5-10 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating under the influence of alcohol, driving to endanger, Cross Hill Road

ACCIDENTS

- 5-7 David Glazer, Gwynne Rivers, accident on Ocean House Road
5-10 Jacob Livingston, accident on Cross Hill Road
5-12 David Palma, accident on Mitchell Road

FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 15; EMS calls: 38

along with other national stakeholders prohibiting these types of predatory contracts. Several other state legislatures are considering passing legislation based on AARP's model bill.

Spring Fix - Up Scams

Spring has sprung and unfortunately, shady contractors are out there looking homeowners in the market for spring repairs. Contractor fraud and home improvement scams can cost homeowners thousands of dollars and leave them with shoddy workmanship, unfinished projects, or even damage to their homes.

Scammers often target older adults, but anyone can fall victim to these scams. Here are three things to know to stay safe from a home improvement rip off.

First, make sure to shop around. Don't settle for the first contractor you encounter. Get multiple estimates and ask for references before hiring anyone. Next, never pay the full cost upfront. Reputable contractors typically require a deposit, but not the full amount prior to the job starting. Lastly, resist responding to a solicitation at your door, on your phone, or online.

WE CAN DO BETTER: A SMART PATH FORWARD

After a year of extensive study, the School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) has made its final recommendation.

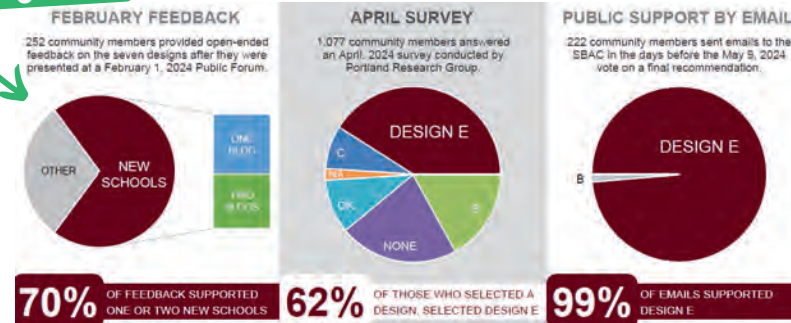
Lower scores meet the ranking criteria better
Individual criteria may score from 9 to 27
Minimum possible score is 54; maximum is 162

Table with 4 columns: Criteria, Option B Total, Option C Total, Option E Total. Rows include: Likely to pass, Meets educational needs/21st century learning, Impact on taxpayers, Safety, Long-term value, Minimizes disruption to students, Total.

SBAC blind-ranked the NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT as the best solution.

May 9, 2024, SBAC Meeting

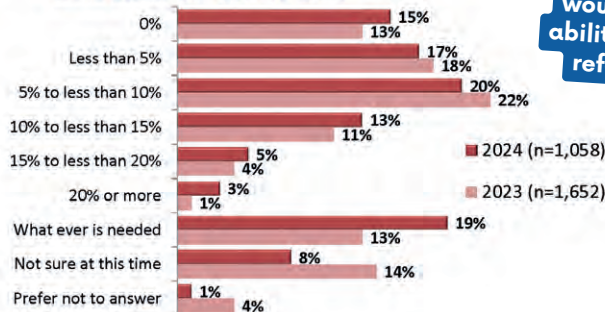
The community agreed...



May 14, 2024, Presentation to School Board

Level of Property Tax Increase Supported for School Buildings

Base: All Respondents who provided a response



...but some SBAC members were concerned the cost would limit its ability to pass a referendum

SBAC members were concerned that only 40% of respondents would support a tax increase of 10% or more.

April 2024, Portland Research Group Conceptual Design Survey

Given the data....

SBAC MADE A DIVIDED 5-4 PROJECT RECOMMENDATION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

During the final vote, members shared the goal of minimizing taxpayer impact, struggled to agree on the best long-term financial value, and failed to dedicate a sufficient amount of time to discuss educational needs and student disruption.

On May 21, the School Board reviewed SBAC's reports, community surveys, and expert presentations. After a Q&A with Harriman architects, they agreed to pursuing a compromise that...

- Commits to a responsible, supported tax increase. Produces a lasting, long-term solution.
Prioritizes educational needs and minimizes disruption. Addresses emergency repairs for all 3 schools.

WATCH THE SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

What's Next? Harriman architects will present a compromise solution to the School Board that includes a new middle school and the necessary, strategic repairs for PC/CEHS.

LEARN MORE AT ADVANCINGCAPE.COM

Paid for by Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, Elizabeth Biermann, & Other Grassroots Supporters





This is how we do summer!

FAMILY FUN DAY June 8th!

**Join us at Fort Williams for some
good old-fashioned fun!**

Daytime events 10am-3pm,
Evening events 5pm to dusk,
Fireworks at dusk

Cape Elizabeth Family Fun Day benefits local non-profits and school groups
while celebrating our community.