

The Cape Courier

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In the Spirit of Community

Public hearing held on approved proposal and more

By Kevin St. Jarre

In a packed Town Hall conference room, the Cape Elizabeth Town Council held a public hearing concerning a proposed referendum question to be on the ballot in November, which would ask voters if they supported the only school building repair and replacement plan approved by the Cape Elizabeth School Board. The plan, known as the "Middle Ground" proposal, represents a compromise at \$89.9 million for school repair and the construction of a new middle school.

There was also an opportunity for the council to hear public feedback on an amount put forward initially by Town Council Chair Timothy Reiniger, in the amount of \$42 million, which was sent to public hearing by a 4 to 3 vote of the Town Council, but which was subsequently rejected prior to the hearing by the Cape Elizabeth School Board.

As the hearing opened, Reiniger said the Town Council wanted to thank the School Board, and the School Building Advisory Committee for its "diligent work over the past few years in getting us to this point." He thanked the public for the feedback they had received in the form of letters and emails, and said that they had received another letter, signed by hundreds of residents that day.

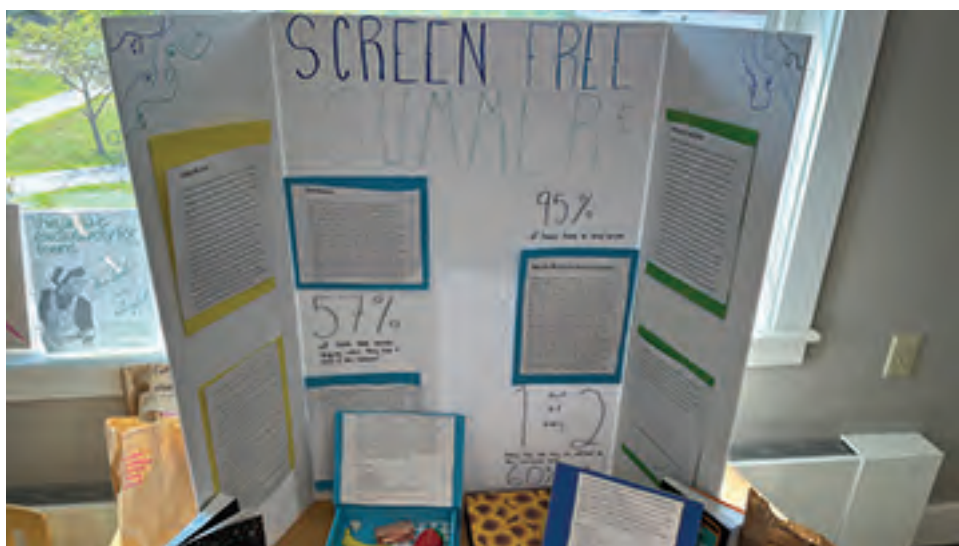
In fact, the letter received by the Town Council the day of the hearing was signed by 465 Cape Elizabeth residents in support of the Middle Ground option, and against the \$42 million "Reiniger Bond," or any inclusion of the 1934 building beyond the scope already covered by the Middle Ground bond proposal.

Reiniger then explained what was on the

-see SCHOOLS page 7

Cape teens create a screen free summer display at TML

By Reilly McGovern-Pizzi and Lilly Northup



Contributed photo

To earn their Girl Scout Silver Award, Reilly McGovern-Pizzi and Lilly Northup came up with the idea to create a screen free summer display at Thomas Memorial Library.

Ninety-five percent of teens have a smartphone. They are a part of the first generation to be born into a life closely linked to technology and screens. Easily, any of them could tell you about the positive and negative aspects of their phones – social media, tex-

ting, tools, etc. Phones can help them socialize, communicate, and stay safe, all things every parent wants for their child. However, many parents are instead concerned with

-see SCREEN FREE page 13

TRI for a Cure founder Julie Marchese runs her last leg

By Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)



Photo by Blake Hayes

Julie Marchese celebrates with athletes and volunteers at the start of 2024 Tri for a Cure.

Some people spend their entire lives wondering if they've made a difference. Not Julie Marchese. As co-founder and race director for Tri for a Cure, Maine's largest one day fundraiser, she has touched countless lives. First held sixteen years ago, the race benefits the Maine Cancer Foundation, and

by extension the communities of Cape Elizabeth, South Portland and Scarborough by raising essential funds, visibility and hope.

Having directed her seventeenth success-

-see TRI page 13

News from July 16 PB meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Chair Sahrbeck introduced the first order of business to approve the meeting minutes for the June 18 Planning Board meeting. Derek LaVallee made the motion to adopt the minutes, seconded by Dan Bodenski, and approved unanimously by the Board with Al Palmer recusing himself from the vote.

Cape Elizabeth Land Trust 2024 Trail improvements RP permit

The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT) requested a resource protection permit for improvements to two separate locations, Chapel Woods and Robinson Woods 1, located off Shore Road. Ardath Dickson, stewardship manager of CELT, described the two proposed projects to the board.

Chapel Woods, located behind the Methodist Church, has a "huge section in the middle" that gets very wet during the spring months. Dickson and the CELT is proposing constructing a boardwalk over this section. A boardwalk will allow for waterflow underneath, improve trail user experience, and

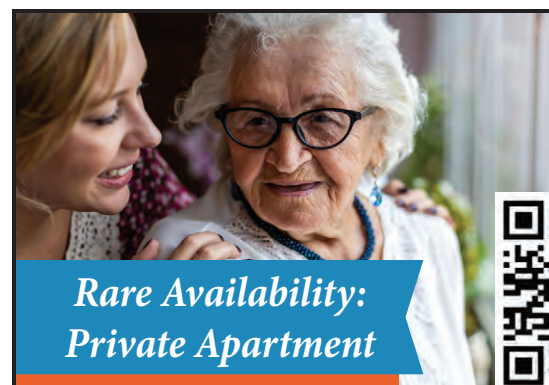
help to lessen wetland impact by reducing foot traffic through and around the trail.

Robinson Woods 1, on the outer loop by the culvert, has wet spots that the CELT would like to fill in with ¾" gravel. This culvert was recently repaired in the fall of 2023 with both DEP and Cape Elizabeth Code Enforcement offices stating that the repairs were considered "maintenance" and therefore further requirements or permits were unnecessary. The proposed fill will help raise the trail so it does not impact wetland health and waterflow.

Chair Sahrbeck addressed the issues of completeness for the application saying that the Town Engineer had attached notes to the application for consideration. This included a recommendation for a waiver regarding obtaining a stormwater management plan written by a professional engineer.

Maureen O'Meara also recommended

-see PLANNING BOARD page 4



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

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

NEXT ISSUE: Aug 21th
DEADLINE: Noon, Aug 9

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'Sick of' unsigned propaganda

I am sick of it – sick of receiving unsigned propaganda that confuses and divides our town!

I write letters – I advocate, locally, statewide, nationally. Each time I sign my name and give my email and physical address.

On July 3, I wrote the Town Council, cc'd the School Board and sent my letter to about 40 fellow Capers about Middle Ground.

Here is the crux of my letter: "They voted unanimously and called it "Middle Ground." This is exactly what we need to be doing: reaching middle ground, or perhaps, common ground! It's what healthy communities do. They bring concerned stakeholders together for the common good, in this case, the students, the parents, the taxpayers, the employees and the officials elected to represent them all – the School Board and the Town Council. They go back, and back again, and

eventually come to common ground.

The Middle Ground proposal the School Board voted on is nearly \$30 million dollars less than the amount that was put out to a referendum in 2022, which is quite remarkable! For the median valued home in Cape Elizabeth (\$720,000), it amounts to \$81.00 per month.

No one likes paying more, but it is a necessary expense. Please remember that the choice is not between zero dollars and \$81.00. Any proposal would cost taxpayers money, but our schools, buildings and all, are critical to our town, our people and our property values."

So, are you sick of it too? Let's discount unsigned arguments, no matter how flashy!

Jessica Linzer Simpson

Shout out to volunteer colleagues

This is not a letter to support a particular political candidate or social justice cause.

This is not a letter to inform others about any potential exorbitant tax increases related to a school bond proposal.

And this is not a letter to complain about Shore Road parking congestion nor about the architecturally-ambiguous monster homes being built in town.

Nope.

At the risk of self aggrandizing, I wanted to provide a SHOUT OUT! of appreciation to my volunteer colleagues at the Portland Headlight Museum and Gift Shop (MGS).

For those in Cape who don't know: With the MGS open from the end of May to the end of October, for six hours a day with six volunteers each day, if we were to use Maine's minimum wage as a gauge, we 15-20 volunteers "contribute" over \$75,000 in labor.

To be sure, because so many of us know that there are 100s in town who have never visited either location, it's important that the citizens realize this sort of "in-kind" savings.

And btw: Come visit us sometime! We're open every day 10-4. It's a few bucks for a self guided museum tour. And the gift shop has some great quality items-- from 80¢ to \$80.

Rich West

THANK YOU!

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

Eleonore Werner

Anonymous

Beverly Altenburg

Let us
hear
from you!



We love feedback!

editor@capecourier.com

'Facilities are woefully inadequate'

I am a retired Maine Public School Counselor who worked in four different school communities throughout Maine for thirty-seven years, including the Falmouth School Department. For a majority of my career, I lived in the community where I was employed and where my two children attended school. This experience gave me a broad view of what makes great schools and vibrant communities.

I believe that the current diminished quality of our school facilities shines a bright light on the short-sightedness and unwillingness of some of our community leaders to support and defend what is one of the best investment a community can make. While Cape Elizabeth schools are exceptional for the quality of teachers, support staff, counselors, nurses, and administrators, the facilities are woefully inadequate, particularly at the middle school level.

A school is the hub of any community, reliant on effective teachers and administrators, appropriate facilities for current safety measures, teaching and learning strategies, and perhaps most importantly a community that supports them. All citizens are positively impacted by the benefits of a well-supported public school in their community. It is the great equalizer for all families in Cape Elizabeth.

As a former Maine Public School Educator and retired senior citizen of Cape Elizabeth, I implore all members of our voting community to urge our Town Council to put forward the Middle Ground School Building Project so we may vote in November to give our children the school facilities they so desperately require and deserve.

Karen Lechner

'Let's do the right thing'

There are many places to get news. For news about schools, I appreciate the measured and transparent communication of the Advancing Cape Schools group. Receiving an unsolicited flyer in my mailbox from the Cape Neighbors Alliance, however, was dismaying. It was provocative, inflammatory-- nothing more than fearmongering.

There was no transparency about this latter group in the flyer, nor on their website. However, online one can find that it was started by a former town council member and at least one current member. Isn't this a conflict of interest? No disclosures? As a physician, I don't accept pharmaceutical gifts as this creates changes in prescribing behaviors. I must disclose any conflicts of interest every time I give an invited lecture.

What is happening in our town is echoing what is happening in national politics. It's

terribly disappointing in this gem of a community. Bias and conflict of interest matter. Whatever the intentions of the recent \$42M bond proposal, the optics and the outcome matter. Stop the smoke and mirrors and obscuring the facts.

The ongoing mudslinging by some of my fellow citizens in online spaces is also disappointing. What is being modeled for our children? It's not the honesty, kindness, generosity and open-mindedness that children should see from adults.

We have a 'Middle Ground' proposal for creating safe and sustainable schools. Let's listen to the experts who have dedicated countless hours to this proposal. Let's do the right thing for our community and invest in the 'Middle Ground' proposal.

Erin Belfort

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

License plate and EZ Pass possibly stolen, multiple scams reported

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 7-4 An officer met with a subject in the Old Ocean House Road area regarding a possible motor vehicle hit and run with property damage.
- 7-8 An officer met with a resident in the Ocean House Road area regarding possible criminal mischief to a motor vehicle.
- 7-8 An officer met with a resident who reported that a flashing "Emergency Computer Compromised" message popped up on his laptop, and he called the number provided. The person he spoke with convinced him to purchase \$300 in Xbox gift cards and to provide him with the numbers on the cards, claiming the money would be refunded after the computer was fixed. At this point, he realized he had been scammed and terminated the call.
- 7-10 An officer met with a resident in the Scott Dyer Road area regarding a possible fraud complaint.
- 7-10 An officer met with a resident of the Old Ocean House Road area regarding a trespass complaint.
- 7-11 An officer met with a resident of the Scott Dyer Road area who reported that he had received an email from Norton Lifelock thanking him for his recent purchase. He contacted the number provided and spoke with a man with an Indian accent who started asking for personal information. At this time the resident became suspicious and hung up. He contacted Norton and found out he was not speaking to one of their representatives. He had his computer checked by Apple and learned that the security he had in place on his computer prevented any unauthorized access.
- 7-11 An officer met with a resident of the Ocean House Road area regarding a possible violation of an active protection order.
- 7-13 An officer met with a resident in the Bowery Beach area regarding a criminal mischief complaint.
- 7-13 An officer met with a subject in the Spurwink Avenue area regarding a

- criminal threatening complaint.
- 7-15 An officer spoke with a subject regarding a possible violation of an active protection order.
- 7-16 An officer met with a resident of the Ocean House Road area who reported that someone had used her personal information to open an American Express Credit card.
- 7-17 An officer responded to a residence in the Shore Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 7-17 An officer met with a resident of the Ocean House Road area who reported the possible theft of his front license plate and EZ Pass transponder.
- 7-17 Two officers responded to a residence in the Mitchell Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 7-21 Two officers responded to a residence in the Scott Dyer Road for a domestic disturbance.

SUMMONSES

- 7-12 Boothbay Harbor resident, failure to produce insurance, Mitchell Road, \$186
- 7-15 California resident, failure to produce insurance, Mitchell Road, \$186
- 7-19 South Portland resident, unregistered vehicle, Shore Road, \$85

JUVENILE SUMMONSES

- 7-15 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (68/50 zone), Route 77, \$170

ACCIDENTS

- 7-12 Jonne Chykaliuck, accident on Fowler Road
- 7-15 Darleen Griffin, Piyathida Macdonnell, accident on Russet Lane
- 7-16 Violette Cassidy, Nicholas Marino, accident on Ocean Road

FIRE CALLS

- Fire: 13
- Rescue: 23

CEHPS seeking volunteer docents

The Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society is seeking volunteer docents for the newly opened Fort Williams Museum and Cape Elizabeth History Center, both located in the Bachelor Officers' Quarters at Fort Williams.

Docents welcome visitors, orient them to the various displays, and answer questions. Training and training materials are provided; the material is easy to learn and interesting, too! This is a great, and fun, way to be involved in the local community.

Docents are asked to commit to working one to two shifts each month. Shifts are two to four hours, depending on the day. The Museum and History Center are open on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Anyone who is interested can stop by for more information during open hours or send an email indicating their interest along with contact information to cehps@capeelizabeth.org.

Richmond Island closed August 1-14

Richmond Island will be closed to the public August 1-14. No camping or day use of beaches or island interior is permitted. Thank you for cooperating with

us and respecting our privacy.
- Richmond Island Caretakers and Black Point Corporation.

Reported by Jessica D. Simpson

Consumer Fraud Fight Goes to the White House

Last year the Federal Trade Commission recorded \$10 Billion in reported fraud from U.S. consumers. Because fraud is underreported, we know that actual losses are much higher. While education empowers older Americans to protect themselves, more is needed to eliminate this large-scale problem. That's why AARP advocates for bipartisan laws and regulations to strengthen consumer protections against scams on everything from illegal robocalls, to gift card regulations to cryptocurrency scams and more. This work is done in state legislatures across the country, in Congress and even at the White House.

Earlier this year AARP joined White House officials and industry leaders in a meeting aimed at helping the federal government fight back against the use of artificial intelligence-enabled voice cloning to commit fraud. A virtual White House conference followed in June, with AARP again at the table. With fraud already at an epidemic level, the addition of AI powered scams is alarming, which is why AARP is focused on advocating for a strong legislative response to this threat.

Already this year the Federal Communications Commission has moved to make it illegal to use AI voice cloning in robocalls targeting consumers. As a result, a scammer who cloned President Biden's voice to deceive voters in New

Hampshire was recently fined \$6 million.

Homebuyers and Owners Beware

With today's tight real estate market there is often pressure to act quickly when you find that perfect place. Scammers know this and are waiting to pounce.

Here are three things to be aware of when shopping for a home. Wire fraud can happen when a criminal impersonates a real estate or title company and asks you to send the closing costs to them. Before wiring any funds contact your real estate company and confirm the account information, routing instructions and total amount needed. Criminals are also in the market to take advantage of those at risk of foreclosure. Beware of anyone promising to make your mortgage payment issues go away -- especially if they ask for an upfront fee. Lastly, if you are looking to rent a home, make sure and visit in person before paying a deposit. Rental scams happen often with criminals creating legitimate looking websites offering great deals on homes that aren't really up for rent.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360. Need a scam prevention speaker for your group? Click the link to fill out our online form or send an email to me@aarp.org.

Garden Club selling flower bulbs

The Cape Elizabeth Garden Club is again this year holding a sale of fall-planted flower bulbs to help finance the club's annual scholarship to a graduating Cape Elizabeth High School senior.

The proceeds also help finance programs that are open to the public at Thomas memorial Librart

Twelve bulb varieties are offered for sale this year, including daffodils, tulips, allium, crocus, irises and muscari. The bulbs are purchased from Van Engelen/John Scheepers, a longtime New England-based bulb wholesaler.

This year for the second time buyers will be able to order their bulbs online at <https://bit.ly/CE-bulbs>, but people who

prefer can place their orders with Garden Club members.


The deadline for placing orders is Sept. 22, but quantities are limited. Ordering early will ensure people get the bulbs they want.

Delivery of the bulbs is scheduled for mid-October.

Got a story to share? Email us!



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The music corner

By Candice Bellinger

Born in New Orleans, Louisiana on September 11, 1967, this American icon can sing, yes; tap dance, he's an incredibly accomplished actor and most of all, a jazz pianist and composer our country can be truly proud of. He sings with a warmth that is intoxicating, with class and such finesse he could melt your heart. There is no doubt he is a hopeless romantic when you hear him sing the 1939 hit by Eric Maschwitz and Manning Sherwin; "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square."

Harry Connick Jr.'s swing is tasteful and his love for New Orleans, jazz, funk and big band shines through in every album he has written, every cover he has sung. I will share some of my favorites with you, but believe me, there is way too much for me to research for this one article, with over 30 million records sold worldwide.

His 1990 album features some of my favorites; "Recipe for Love," "We Are in Love" and "Buried in Blue." The Godfather III 1991 soundtrack features "Promise Me You'll Remember" and was nominated for both an Academy Award and Golden Globe Award.

I strongly recommend his 1994 album "She," featuring, "(I Could Only) Whisper Your Name" featured in the movie "The Mask," starring Jim Carey. This album has a fabulously contemporary funky feel, very reminiscent of Herbie Hancock, as opposed to his typical crooner style of singing he is known for. "One Fine Thing" published in 2013 is one of my new favorites, so silky smooth and also such a beautiful progression

from his earlier crooner days. His 2015 album, "That Would Be Me" featuring the tune; "(I Do) Like We Do" is so funky and sweet. His love pours from his heart straight to his lyrics.

He married Jill Goodacre in 1994 and they have three beautiful daughters. He was a beloved judge on American Idol and currently resides on Australian Idol. His down to earth guidance to the contestants encourages them to be true to themselves, and to sing their songs without the use of melismas, to bring out the beauty and story without using unnecessary notes to express the emotion of their music, which Harry is known for. This triple Grammy Award winner has also won two Emmy Awards. We thank you for your talent and dedication to your art!

If you are "tech challenged" and would like my assistance with finding this listening, please message me at musicwam@yahoo.com. You can also find me on Facebook @ Candice Bellinger.



Photo Courtesy of Music Theater International

Harry Connick Jr.

You can make an outsized difference

By Anna Crowley Redding

The back-to-school season is here. And either you are just printing the kids' supply lists, buying backpacks, or starting to get your summer brain geared up for new schedules and rhythms. But friends, there is an absolute gem of a back-to-school "to do" that might not be on your list. And I'm going to lay out why it's just as important as markers, backpacks and calculators.

There is a beloved engine of inspiration, innovation, creativity, honor, and enrichment in our special seaside town—the kind of engine that helps a child direct and put on her first play, or a teen find their way into robotics only to water that passion into a robotics career. It's the kind of engine that can recognize staff members who are heroic in their love and investment in our children, in our community. It's the kind of engine that when a teacher asks for the funds to bring in an author or illustrator to inspire their students...the funds are secured. When extra supplies, art tables, books, and even a space for mindfulness are what's needed, what's on the wish list, there are funds for that. This engine is called CEEF – the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation. And the mountain-moving-mission of this education centered foundation is to get money to staff, teachers, and students who have big dreams, big ideas, questions that need to be explored, lives to enrich, or could just use support in making sure a classroom has what it needs.

This engine is you. As so many of you know and so many of you get to discover, CEEF is a kind of magic that happens

around Cape Elizabeth. But let me pull back the curtain. The magic is you. When the board listens to incredible grant requests, these are some of the questions that students, staff, and educators are asking... how do I start a bee-keeping club? Where can I find the money to bring in an artist to work with our students? How can we create an artistic space to inspire our students? I want to direct my first play, is there money for that? I'd love to add foreign language books to our library, are there funds for that?

The creativity of our educators and students is boundless. Saying 'Yes' is some of the most rewarding volunteer work you can come by. But, friends, that 'yes' is from you.

Because whether you've given ten dollars or ten thousand, this engine, this magic, this yes---it's from you. And your donation has enriched the education and curiosity of every single child who goes through our schools.

As the buses make their rounds and kids start to think about their first day of school, help us get ready for back-to-school with a gift that will fan flames of curiosity and deepen the bonds of community. And on behalf of all those who bravely ask for help in funding their ideas, their questions, their dreams, let me say thank you to YOU—the engine behind our special CEEF magic.

Anna Crowley Redding is an Emmy-award winning journalist, author of seven critically acclaimed books for young readers, small business owner, Cape mom and CEEF board member.

Planning Board

Continued from page 1

amendments to the draft motion to include estimates of 150 square feet at Chapel Woods and up to 350 square feet at Robinson Woods 1 to be utilized for the proposed trail maintenance and improvements.

Included in the draft motion are the Town Engineer's recommendations to waive a stormwater runoff report and to include a cross section, or a sketch, of where the fill will be located and how much fill will be allowed into the area.

Derek LaVallee made the motion, Jim Huebener seconded and the Planning Board approved the application unanimously.

Lot 5 Waterhouse Court Subdivision Amendment

Applicant Rachael Brown is requesting an amendment to a previously approved subdivision boundary line at Waterhouse Court. Bill Gerrish of Northeast Civil Solutions was present to represent Brown. Maureen O'Meara made a note that the Planning Board discussed Brown's application during a Planning Board workshop meeting on April 2, 2024.

Gerrish explained that since April, survey work has been completed. He explained that Brown acquired 30 Waterhouse Court

(tax map 26, lot 5) in 2019 and acquired the abutting parcel (lot tax map 29, lot 26A) located at 63 Spurwink Avenue in 2023. Brown wishes to adjust boundary lines to include a garden already onsite at 30 Waterhouse Court that she utilizes, and a "buffer area" between the two properties.

The lot size at 63 Spurwink Avenue would drop slightly to 25,655 square feet, but will still be over the Resident-C zone minimum requirement of 20,000 square feet. The rear setback would be 25.4 feet from the garage, surpassing the minimum setback requirement of 20 feet. The 100-foot road frontage requirement at 63 Spurwink Avenue, as well as utilities, would not be impacted, and both properties are "not burdened by any easements." Additionally, the property at 63 Spurwink Avenue is deemed "nonconforming" and "shall not become more nonconforming" according to Gerrish.

Chair Sahrbeck made the motion to deem the application complete without the need for a site walk. Sahrbeck suggests the application is requesting "moving an imaginary line" and seems practical considering Brown owns both properties. The application was approved unanimously.

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

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Letters to the editor

Continued from page 2

‘Vote for transparency in November’ Engel meets challenges ‘head on’

I encourage community members to watch the CETV recording of July 29 public hearing. A summary for those who don't have the time to sit through the three hours: the meeting immediately diverged from the published agenda to allow the councilors to pose questions to our town's bond council, who confirmed projects not approved by the school board would not be bondable, in effect making any such project dead on arrival should it pass a referendum.

Our school board chair then confirmed recent school board action to reject the \$42m proposal. We heard from over 40 community members, including one representing nearly 500 neighbors who had signed a petition letter, in support of the Middle Ground Project and in opposition to any other half-baked projects. A practicing attorney and long time Cape resident informed the council that adding a bond referendum that was

not School Board approved could amount to ballot tampering.

Near the end of public comment we heard from five neighbors suggesting the council add an alternative previously rejected proposal to referendum. The Chair was so swayed by these particular voices, including one for which he reopened the closed public comment period, that he attempted to immediately take up this action and had to be reminded that would require a motion to suspend council rules, which thankfully failed.

This isn't normal. This isn't transparent. This is behind-the-scenes maneuvering to create confusion and ignore the overwhelming support for the Middle Ground. Vote for transparency in November.

Chris Boniakowski

If you have young kids at Pond Cove as I do, you already know Joy Engel as the powerhouse-mom behind many fun (and important!) school activities, including First Grade Fun Day and the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. If you have been lucky enough to have her child in class with you - either as a teacher or a fellow parent - you know her as the classroom connector who doesn't let a need go unfilled, even when it means covering the gaps herself. In short, she embodies the spirit of community here in Cape Elizabeth, and always seems to know the best ways to truly put teachers and kids first.

Acknowledgment of her service to the schools, and to demonstrate the gratitude so many of us feel towards her, would already be enough reason to write a letter to the edi-

tor. However, she is also running for school board this year, and it is my honor to endorse her. Her actions speak for themselves, as she continually demonstrates her keen ability to identify challenges and meet them head on. She is an excellent communicator with a passionate and inspiring voice; one who will provide the type of teacher-and-student advocacy we so desperately need right now.

One thing you may not know is that her legal name is PETER JOY ENGEL, so make sure you're on the lookout for *that* name on the ballot this November 5 (right next to the circle you're going to fill in) as you join me in supporting her on Election Day!

Rebecca Sahlin

CELT fall programs

ADULT

CELT Mushroom Program

Join mushroom expert Dan Agro of AgroMyco on this CELT sponsored event about edible and medicinal mushrooms.

Topics for discussion are the best times of year to find local medicinal and culinary mushrooms, ideal growing environments and what to look for in the forest. Safe and thorough species identification and how to preserve and/or cook your mushrooms will also be discussed.

There will not be any foraging during the program, rather it is an educational program to learn about these fascinating organisms. Participants registering at least 48 hours in advance of the program will ensure they will receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Saturday, September 14

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Robinson Woods Kiosk, Shore Road

Cost: \$10 per person

Min/Max: 3/15

CELT New England Cottontails program: In the Thick of It

Join Sarah Dudek from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for a 1.5 hour walk at Runaway Farm. Participants of this Cape Elizabeth Land Trust sponsored event will enjoy learning about the state-endangered New England Cottontail, the conservation effort taking place to recover the species here in southern Maine, and what you can do to help.

Cape Elizabeth is home to the largest known population of New England cottontails in Maine. The cottontails' range has declined by 86% over the past 50 years due to loss of large thicket and young forest habitats.

Come learn about where they live, why other animals also need these thickets, and what we are doing to help the cottontails rebound in Maine. All proceeds go to CELT.

Participants registering at least 48 hours in advance of the program will ensure they will receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Sunday, October 20

Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Runaway Farm. Meet at the parking lot by the fields at Gull Crest (1 Gull Crest Drive)

CELT's Cross Town Walk

Join Cape Elizabeth Land Trust staff and volunteers for the annual Fall Cross Town Walk. Beginning at the Portland Head Light at Fort Williams Park, this CELT sponsored walk will traverse 8.6 miles of the town of Cape Elizabeth and CELT trails, highlighting some of Cape's great places.

This walk offers a unique overview of Cape Elizabeth's diverse ecosystems including Spurwink Marsh, Robinson Woods and Great Pond. The program takes approximately five and a half hours. Hikers will meet at the Portland Head Light and will carpool (arranged prior to walk) back to Fort Williams after a picnic at Kettle Cove. Snacks, drinks and lunch should be brought by each participant.

Participants should be 12 years or older; please call about younger ages. All participants must register at least 48 hours in advance of the program and will receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Saturday October 5

-see CELT page 10

Thank you, Penny Jordan

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Penny Jordan for continuing to push for updates to the town's Senior Property Tax Relief Program. I, along with other community members at the podium, have been advocating to do more to identify and support Capers in need, and we are happy to see this item finally added to the Ordinance Committee's agenda since the discussion started at a Town Council Workshop in September 2022.

There is significant potential to further enhance the program beyond simply increasing funding. Specifically, expanding it to incorporate need-based tiers so those with the most demonstrated need receive the most benefit, finding ways to support renters, and extending the program to individuals on permanent disability.

The state also allows for programs such as

volunteer rebates — where seniors who volunteer their time and expertise to the town receive property tax rebates in acknowledgment of their valuable contributions to our community.

Lastly, Cape should consider creating a tax deferral program that would allow property-rich but cash-poor seniors access to low-interest (or, possibly, no-interest) lifelong loans to cover property taxes until the property is sold or becomes a part of an estate. The state currently offers such a program, but the interest rates have varied between 3% and 6%.

I am hopeful that ongoing discussions and community input will further refine and expand our town's relief options to better support those who need it most.

Nicole Boucher

Music at the Fort to combat child abuse

I was shocked and appalled to learn that Maine has twice the national average of child maltreatment. In the past 2 years, 51 children in our childcare system have died. This is an atrocity that must be stopped. It is a dirty little secret that just isn't talked about. If more people knew about it, something could be done to stop it.

Walk a Mile in Their Shoes is fighting the battle to raise awareness and accountability. On Friday, August 16, The Ocean House Road Band is playing a

fundraiser to benefit this amazing organization. This event will be held at the Ft. Williams picnic shelter from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. (Rain date is August 23).

Bring a lawn chair, some food and as many of your friends as you can, for an evening of music and a serious discussion about what we all can do to be the voice of the countless abused children in Maine. We need your support. This must end. We can end it.

Curt Kelly



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P Joy Engel announces candidacy for Cape Elizabeth School Board



Contributed photo

P Joy Engel, a communications and development professional, has announced her candidacy for the Cape Elizabeth School Board.

(Press release) - P Joy Engel, a communications and development professional with nearly two decades of experience working with non-profits and fostering meaningful coalitions, is excited to announce her candidacy for the Cape Elizabeth School Board. Engel has one child currently in the Cape school system and another that will be starting in 2025.

An active volunteer in Cape Elizabeth schools, Engel wants to be an advocate for Cape's teachers and students. "Our schools are full of passionate educators who care deeply about their students," Engel said. "I want to support their professional development and ensure they have access to the resources they need. Good teachers make good schools, and

good teachers deserve support."

Engel expressed a desire to support the short-term needs of schools while planning for the future. "My parents live in town and my children will attend the schools for the next 14 years. I have a deep connection to this community and want to ensure that Cape Elizabeth's reputation of excellent schools continues for decades to come."

Engel believes the town needs transparent, compassionate leadership. "I am running for the Cape Elizabeth School Board because I understand the need to listen to all voices and concerns and help find solutions that ensure all our kids have the chance to be successful," she said.

The faces of Fort Williams Park

By Cape Elizabeth Community Services



Contributed photo

Dominic Walker is the new Visitor Services Supervisor at Fort Williams Park.

Meet Dominic Walker. Dom started in June as the new Visitor Services Supervisor at Fort Williams Park. From May through October, he will work in the park to ensure residents and visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience. During the busy season, Dom supervises the park rangers and greeters, manages all aspects of the site and ceremony rentals, and processes incoming motorcoach reservations. The rangers' duties include making rounds throughout the park to engage with residents and visitors while inspecting the trails, historic sites, fields, courts and the off-leash dog area. The greeters occupy the shed in Central Parking where they confirm commercial vehicle reservations, collect parking fees, and assist with parking directions. Within the park, there are eight reservable sites including four ceremony sites for vow exchanges and four rental sites for group gatherings. After reservations are received, Dom collects any

outstanding fees, approves and issues the permits, communicates park rules and regulations to the renters, and posts the schedule for rangers on duty. After processing the on-line motorcoach reservations, Dom issues parking permits and posts the schedule for the greeters. Residents can begin making reservations for 2025 on December 1 and non-residents on January 1.

While summer is a busy time at the park with group gatherings, vacationers, and motorcoach tours, the busier time of year is fall. The foliage season brings empty nesters, retirees, and greater numbers of independent motorcoach operators and cruise ship passengers.

Many who visit simply come to see the majestic Portland Head Light. They are the ones most likely to visit the museum and the gift shop, which are open during the peak season from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day. There are nearly 40 volunteers who staff these revenue generators for our town. We owe them a great deal of gratitude for their passion for the park and their commitment to this community. Volunteers are needed from Memorial Day through Columbus Day. If interested in picking up a shift, please call Denise at 799-2661.

In the off-season, Dom will split his time between the park and the offices of Community Services. It is the goal of Director Kathy Raftice for Dom to develop and implement park-related programs to present to residents, students, and park stakeholders, and to expand on community events offered within the park in the winter months. Additionally, they will work with the Fort Williams Park Committee, attending meetings and developing and implementing projects based on recommendations included in the 2021 Master Plan Update.

Throughout the year, Parks Foreman Scott Smart and his crew from Public Works maintain the land and the facilities department take care of the buildings. Through the combined efforts of all is the reason the park looks as good as it does.

Next time you are in the park, say hello and thank you to this incredible crew of staff and volunteers.



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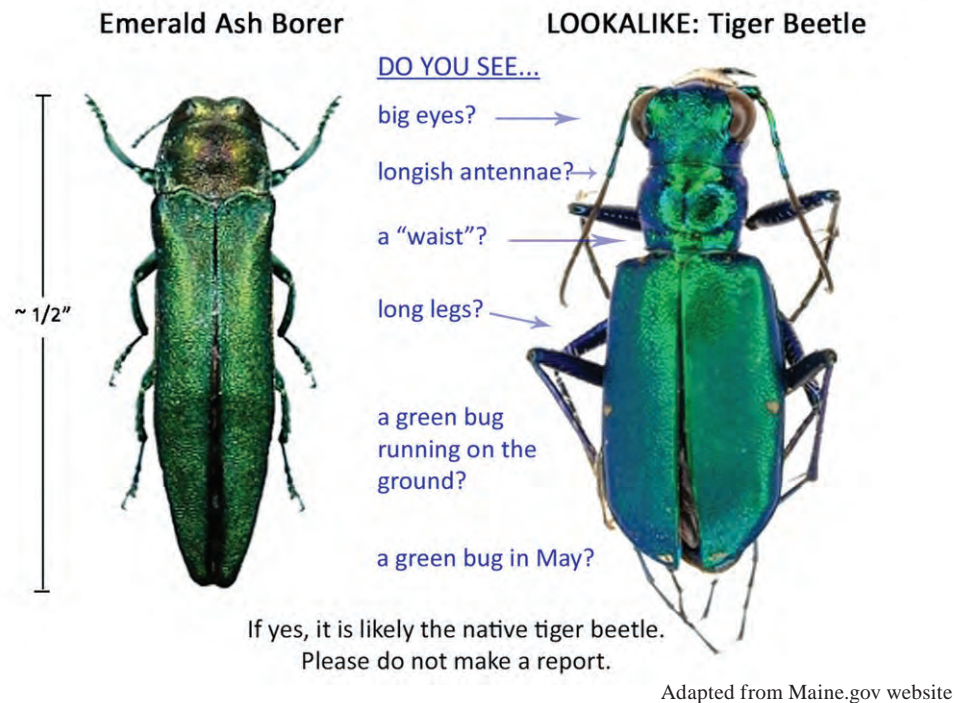

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Emerald Ash Borer in Cape, ash trees at risk

By Kevin St. Jarre



Adapted from Maine.gov website

The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive pest that attacks ash trees. Once infested, an untreated tree has a 99% chance of dying. The Maine.gov website on invasive insects does point out, however, that there is a native, beneficial lookalike. People should be sure that when reporting and combating the EAB, they should not confuse it with the native tiger beetle.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a metallic-looking green beetle, with wings and body tapered towards the rear. In its larval stages, it feeds under the bark girdles and kills ash trees. Since its discovery in the United States in 2002, the Emerald Ash Borer has killed millions of ash trees, according to the Maine Forest Service website. The EAB, as it's known, is here in Cape Elizabeth.

Signs of the EAB's presence include D-shaped adult exit holes, bark splitting, serpentine, frass-filled (sawdust-like waste) feeding galleries, woodpeckers feeding on the trees, crown dieback, and epicormic shoots (whips growing off the trunk and branches). The Maine Forest Service does say, however, that many of these symptoms are similar to other insects and diseases of ash.

The insects first appeared in northernmost and southernmost Maine, in Madawaska and in southern York County. It is native to Asia. The EAB does not travel far in its normal lifespan, so it is transported, often on infested wood. The MFS reports that, "Many new infestations center around campgrounds, implicating camp firewood in this insect's spread."

There is treatment for the EAB. According to Davey, the tree care company, EAB treatments "are soil injections and trunk injections. Both deliver the product right into the tree's tissue, which is then evenly dispersed throughout the canopy. The injections target the larvae tunneling in the tree, which stops the most destructive phase of this insect."

The company also said that canopy sprays are also used occasionally, which help prevent adult borers from feeding and laying eggs. "Systemic applications help

limit environmental exposure. However, EAB treatment plans vary based on how many trees you have and the type of treatment needed," according to Davey's website.

Davey urges community members who find signs of EAB, to contact "the local arborist immediately for a consultation and prevention plan."

Cape Elizabeth's Tree Warden is Jeff Tarling. According to Tarling, "This is a pest we have been monitoring for years, and only recently in the past five years became widespread in southern Maine. Unfortunately, this pest seems to be spreading rapidly, and will cause widespread damage to ash species, particularly green and white ash, in Cape Elizabeth. Brown ash is not found locally, but is also susceptible, causing great concern culturally for Wabanaki basket makers. The University of Maine's

-see BEETLE page 13

Schools

Continued from page 1

agenda to be discussed at the hearing.

The crowd was a demographic mix, with perhaps 40% of those present either of or approaching retirement age, while there was a handful of those who seemed to be younger.

By count, 88% of those who spoke who were in favor of the Middle Ground proposal, the \$89.9 million, approved by the Cape Elizabeth School Board. It was clear that a majority of those present at the hearing, in addition to the 465 residents who signed the letter received that day, were in favor of the only School Board approved proposal being the sole referendum question for voter approval on the November ballot. It was unclear if the four councilors, who brought the late addition of the \$42 million proposal to the public hearing, were moved by the clear public preference to proceed with the \$89.9 million proposal.

It also appeared that the four councilors, who brought the late addition of the \$42 million proposal to the public hearing, were not especially moved by the clear public preference to proceed with the \$89.9 million proposal.

Those four members of the Town Council who seemed to oppose sending only the approved \$89.9 million proposal to referendum, despite the overwhelming support of the public, and in spite of the sole legal authority of the School Board to propose a school building and repair plan, were Chair Reiniger, Stephanie Anderson, Timothy Thompson and Susan Gillis.

The clear majority of those members of the public who spoke at the public hearing, limited to approximately 3 minutes each, were in favor of sending a single question to referendum, which was the question with the \$89.9 million proposal approved by the School Board, and some of those comments might be represented by these examples:

School Board Chair Elizabeth Scifres led the public comments, and said, in part, "The School Board voted unanimously not to support Town Council Chair Reiniger's school bond proposal. The School Board was not consulted on this school bond proposal. The School Board has not seen any presentation. There has been no joint workshop, as was held for the Middle Ground design. There were great concerns about the lack of transparent public process, disregard of SBAC work and data, absence of expert design and advice, nonexistence of vetting and price

verification, and no actual project tethered to that number."

Jeffrey Shedd, a retired Cape Elizabeth High School principal, spoke next and admitted that he was a member of the 62% who voted against the previous proposed plan for school renovation and construction, but that he is in favor of the Middle Ground proposal. "I am puzzled by the \$42 million proposal that the SBAC rejected 6 months ago. I would vote against that proposal." He went on to describe the needs he had observed personally, for example, Shedd said that the music program was crammed into an unacceptable space, adding, "We have an A+ music program in an F- facility. The makeshift middle school has served its time. For 20 years I can recall one maintenance director after another fixing the same roof and window leaks in that building, but the leaks kept leaking. With the Middle Ground proposal, the designers pulled a rabbit out of the hat, they addressed every major concern raised about the prior proposal, and at a lower price. Every member of the SBAC supported one of two plans that cost roughly \$80 million or more, and yet the council is considering an already rejected plan for half that amount. Some councilors are afraid the Middle Ground proposal may be rejected. Well, there's an easy way to find out. Let voters decide. That's democracy... why fear it?"

While some Town Council members have often said retirees cannot afford the tax increase that would come with a new school, many of those who spoke in favor of the Middle Ground plan were, like Shedd, retirees.

Karen Lechner said she is a retired public school counselor who worked in four different communities for decades. She said, "There are many reasons why the middle school fails to meet standards for this century's educational mandates. Interested Cape residents are well-aware of the immense resources that went into finding the compromise that will meet the educational needs of our children, with the least tax impact. Through a highly transparent and collaborative process." She said when she attended a Town Council meeting with a 2nd bond proposal on the agenda, she wondered why. When she left the meeting, she felt public mistrust of our town governance. "I'm mystified about how some councilors can demonstrate a lack of transparency, while accusing the School Board of shirking their responsibilities." She urged the Town Council to send the Middle

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Chairs explain their differing positions on school building referendum options

By Kevin St. Jarre



File photo

Town Council Chair Timothy Reiniger

Cape Elizabeth Town Council Chair Timothy Reiniger and Cape Elizabeth School Board Chair Elizabeth Scifres find themselves at odds over the issue of proposals for school building repair and replacement, and the financing of those projects. There is ongoing tension as to what should be taken to voters as referendum questions, and who has the authority as to make those decisions.

Reiniger recently appeared in a local television news report, where he was shown saying, “We’ll resist and stand up to all the public pressure we’re getting...”

When the Courier asked if he meant whether his intent is to resist pressure from the public at large, or if by “public pressure” he meant that being applied to the town council publicly, Reiniger said, “[M]y comment about resisting ‘public pressure’ absolutely is referencing the lawsuit threat as the public pressure in this context.”

The “lawsuit threat” to which the chair is referring is a July 25 letter sent to the Town Council by attorney Gerald F. Petrucelli, of the firm Petrucelli, Martin & Haddow, which says they have been retained to represent several “Cape Elizabeth citizens with respect to the pending issues concerning the school building process and the associated financing.” See associated story in this issue of The Cape Courier.



File photo

School Board Chair Elizabeth Scifres

When Reiniger was asked how he would respond to those who say the \$42 million proposal “had its shot” and the School Building Advisory Committee and the Cape Elizabeth School Board did not advance it, and that he and the councilors who voted to return it to consideration have short circuited the process, Reiniger responded, “The \$36 million in critically needed repairs- \$10m for [Pond Cover Elementary School], \$10 million for [Cape Elizabeth Middle School], and \$16 million for [Cape Elizabeth High School] as well as the new entrance ways for the PCES and CEMS- although not put forward by the SBAC as a separate option, were recommended by the SBAC as part of the final Options B, C, and E. And, while the School Board has not approved a \$42 million bond amount as a standalone proposal, the School Board has indeed recommended repairs at a lower amount, to be funded by a blend of bonds and annual CIP, as part of the new middle school proposal.”

Reiniger was then asked if he felt that the \$42 million proposal is the best proposal, or if it is simply preferable to the \$89.9 million, with or without the amended amount added, or if \$0 would be better this November, meaning the voters decline all options and approve no amount, until this could be revisited in subsequent years, he replied,

“From a property tax impact perspective, the \$42 million bond represents a 5.6% increase while the \$89.9 million bond represents a 12% increase, and combined with the \$4.8 million for the 1934 building represents a 12.7% increase before the additional 2.65% increase resulting from the projected annual \$1.1 million CIP repair amount. So, this will become an affordability decision for the citizens. That said, the town voters should keep in mind that the critical repairs to the three schools, as determined by our consultants, urgently need to be funded and not deferred. In addition, the town voters should be aware that bonding as a long-term funding mechanism results in a lower tax impact than using short-term financing, i.e. annual CIP funds. From a policy perspective, I believe that the worst situation would be for Cape Elizabeth not to fund critically needed repairs for the three schools, whether as a result of: a) not sending any bond proposal to referendum or b) not securing voter approval of either bond proposal.”

It is worthwhile to note that there has been no vetted tax impact analysis for Reiniger’s \$42 million proposal, and that the estimated tax impact numbers seem simply to be those put forth by Reiniger himself.

Also, there has been no discussion on record of whether bonding a 10-year plan over 30 years is possible, viable, or even a good idea. There also has been no discussion of the marginal 1934 building amount.

In addition, the CIP cost Reiniger says will result in an additional increase is not correct. There would be no impact because it is embedded in the budget already, so the 2.65% increase he says is expected from CIP repairs appears to be incorrect. It is budget neutral. In other words, the school budget, for CIP/maintenance, is not expected to increase any more than it has been increasing under the School Board’s current budget.

The only vetted and approved tax impact is the 12% from the only proposal approved by the School Board. Reiniger’s combining that approved amount with additional unvetted, unexamined amounts such as \$4.8 million for the 1934 building, and an annual \$1.1 million for CIP repair, are not correct.

Asked that if the voters were to approve an amount, such as the \$89.9 million, in Novem-

ber, would Reiniger commit to supporting that project going forward, assuming he is reelected, he said, “Yes, I would be happy to support this, whether or not still in office. Going forward, however, the high school needs would need to be revisited in view of the \$10 million less repair money being allocated to that building in the final new middle school proposal compared with what the SBAC had recommended.”

The very idea that there are competing amounts being discussed is a point of contention, however. There has only been one proposal unanimously approved by the Cape Elizabeth School Board, and that is for the \$89.9 million project, the so-called “Middle Ground” compromise design.

This followed months of study by the SBAC and the School Board, working with consulting and architectural firms, public information produced and available online, and repeated workshops, public surveys and hearings.

The \$42 million proposal was seemingly singlehandedly produced by Reiniger, after the School Board had approved its \$89.9 million amount.

According to School Board Chair Scifres, “The School Board was not consulted on Chair Reiniger’s school bond proposal. The School Board has not seen any presentation. There has been no joint workshop, as was held for the Middle Ground design. There has been no transparent, public process, complete disregard of SBAC work and data, absence of expert design and advice, non-existence of vetting / price verification, and no actual project tethered to the number. This school bond proposal does not represent fiscal responsibility or long-term planning. The School Board had no project to consider, no cost verification, and does not support Chair Reiniger’s bond proposal.”

Scifres also said that, “As of today, Harri-man has not been consulted, nor has Turner Townsend & Heery, for project development or professional cost estimation and verification of Chair Reiniger’s proposal.”

She points out that the Middle Ground design is a compromise arising from over a year of work with the top experts in the field,

-see CHAIRS page 9

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Questions as to limits of Town Council and School Board's authority over issue

By Kevin St. Jarre

In a letter dated July 25, 2024, the Cape Elizabeth Town Council was advised that it has no legal authority to send a school building or renovation proposal to voters in November, other than the one approved by the Cape Elizabeth School Board.

Attorney and Town Council Chair Reiniger said, "That's an incorrect statement of the law," reporting that Reiniger's contention is that because the Town Council has control over funding in Cape Elizabeth, that the council can set an amount to be spent on a project.

The letter, signed by Gerald F. Petruccelli of the law firm Petruccelli, Martin & Hadlow, reads that they have been retained "in association with Terrence D. Garmey, Esq., to represent several Cape Elizabeth citizens with respect to the pending issues concerning the school building process and associated financing."

The letter begins by stating that the Town Council "is categorically and indisputably without any authority" to send any plan to referendum other than the single plan approved by the School Board. That any number other than the \$89.9 million plan developed by the School Board is a "legal nullity."

The letter states that an even stronger point is that any number that doesn't have a well-developed plan supporting that number is without any "basis in law." Furthermore, the letter points out that after Chair Reiniger introduced the proposed plan, the School Board subsequently voted to reject it. The letter reads, "Legally, that is the end of it."

The letter additionally draws on the Town Charter, which lays out the powers and authority of both the Town Council and the School Board, pointing out that while the Town Council has the power to administer the fiscal affairs of the Town of Cape Elizabeth, it specifically states "the general management care, conduct, and control of the schools of said Town...shall be vested in a Board of Education..."

Later in the letter, citing Maine state law, it clarifies that a school board, such as the Cape Elizabeth School Board, is not subordinate to the Town Council. The members were elected by the community, not appointed by the council, and the School

Board derives its authority from the Maine State Legislature.

Further, in a 1993 ruling, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court ruled that school boards "are agents of the state and are legally distinguished from municipalities." The letter also makes clear that the Town Council, when it comes to the Cape Elizabeth School Department, has no authority when it comes to hiring, nor with management, care and repair of the school buildings. The Town Council has only one duty when it comes to the school department, and that is approving the total amount of the school budget to be submitted to voters in a budget validation referendum. Even in that role, the Town Council cannot dictate how the funds within that total budget are allocated, as that authority rests solely with the School Board, according to Maine state law.

The letter states that "The Council Chair [Reiniger] is apparently bent on usurping the School Board's authority and claiming for the Council authority explicitly reserved exclusively to the School Board."

The Cape Elizabeth School Board has put forward a plan, the so-called "Middle Ground" compromise, with an amount of \$89.9 million. The voters have the power to approve this plan through voting in November. The letter states that the Town Council "has no authority to clutter that ballot with competing alternative plans. The Council has no power to alter or amend the School Board's plan. It has no authority to send parts of the Board's plan to referendum because only the [School] Board has power to choose what not to include in the plan."

Still, in a vote of 4 to 3, the Town Council put the alternative options up for Public Hearing. Councilors voting to proceed with what they were told in the letter is illegal are Stephanie Anderson, Timothy Reiniger, Susan Gillis, and Timothy Thompson. Those Town Council members who voted against introducing new options, instead of simply sending the plan approved by the School Board to voters, were Jeremy Gabrielson, Penny Jordan and Caitlyn Jordan Harriman.

Perhaps in some of the strongest language of the letter, it reads that Town Councilors putting alternatives on the ballot which are not approved by the School Board

are attempting to usurp School Board authority, and that amounts to "ballot tampering and election interference" and that "it is difficult to imagine how it can be seen as a good faith" activity. The letter repeats that not only did the School Board not approve the new "scheme" but that it outright and officially rejected it. The letter states that the new proposed numbers "cannot be on the ballot because it is illegal."

The letter closes by pointing out that the town of Cape Elizabeth may not be able to borrow the money to do the work on the schools, to have a bond issued, without a letter of support from a "bond counsel," which is a lawyer expert in these matters. The letter would have to certify that the process has been entirely proper and legal, and that the proposed amounts not approved by the School Board may not meet that standard.

Chairs

Continued from page 8

multiple opportunities for community input, refinement based on feedback, and multiple independent cost estimates. "The Middle Ground design best meets our educational and safety/security/health needs without disruption to the students and all at a cost that the community has signaled it will support. It meets the current and future needs of students, including modern regular educational classrooms as well as private, appropriate spaces for those who need extra help with math, reading/writing, or other services like speech therapy or occupational therapy. It also sets CESD and the town of Cape Elizabeth on a wise, long-term financial path with prudent investment and planning for the future," she said.

Finalists for Town Manager position announced

(Press release) - The Cape Elizabeth Town Council is pleased to announce that it has selected two finalists for the position of Town Manager from a field of 23 applicants.

One finalist is Patrick W. Fox from Saco. Mr. Fox is currently Director of the City of Saco's Public Works Department, a position he has held since 2012 and where he's worked since 2005. The other finalist is Joshua Reny from Scarborough. Mr. Reny is currently the Assistant City Manager of South Portland, Maine, a position he has held since 2015 and former Town Manager of Fairfield.

The public is invited to an informal gathering to meet both candidates on Wednesday night August 21 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Thomas Memorial Library Community Room.

On Thursday afternoon August 22, each candidate will meet with the town's Department Heads and that night will have second interviews with the Town Council.

As the process continues further information will be provided when appropriate.

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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Hunter Douglas Gallery

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CELT

Continued from page 4

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Meet at Portland Headlight in the dirt parking lot closest to the light-house.

CELT's Cross Town Walk (Second Half Option)

Interested in the Cross Town Walk but not ready to commit to all 8.2 miles? Join the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust for a half-distance (roughly 4.5 miles) walk highlighting some of Cape's great places, including Spurwink Marsh and Great Pond. The walk takes approximately three hours. Hikers will meet at the CELT office in town center and will carpool (arranged prior to walk) back to the CELT office after a picnic at Kettle Cove. Snacks, drinks and lunch should be brought by each participant.

All participants must register at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Saturday October 5

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Meet at CELT Office - 330 Ocean House Road

YOUTH

CELT Fall Hike Club (Gr. 3 & 4)

Join Cape Elizabeth Land Trust's education program coordinator Ali Gustavson for fresh air and outdoor exercise. Enjoy the beauty of our hometown while hiking sections of the land trust and Green

Belt Trails. Each hike will be roughly two miles covering different terrain and habitats. Bring a snack, water bottle and good walking shoes (possibly boots).

Hikers will be bused to the chosen trail of the day. Parents must pick up hiker at the specified trail each week. *Emails will be sent each week on location of pick up.

Time: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Dates: Meets weekly on Thursdays, September 12 - October 3

Max 10 participants

CELT's LITTLE EXPLORERS (ages 3-5 yrs with an Adult)

Join CELT as we explore Robinson Woods in October. Children and caregivers will spend an hour exploring the natural wonders of Maine with Cape Elizabeth Land Trust educator Lisa Gent. During this CELT sponsored event we'll take a gentle hike through Robinson Woods, where we will explore the habitat around us and search for signs of the changing season with age-appropriate games and activities.

Please dress in comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle. Participants registering at least 48 hours in advance of the program will ensure they will receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Thursday, October 10

Time: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Location: Robinson Woods Kiosk (off of Shore Road)

Cost: \$6 per parent & child, each additional child \$3

Min/Max: 2/5

August naturalist's corner

By Erika Carlson Rhile
CELT Education Committee Chair



Contributed photo

Above, a cicada nymph's exoskeleton that Erika Carlson Rhile's children found on the laundry line recently.

August 12 - 13: Peak of the Perseid Meteor Shower. The Perseids peak when Earth passes through the densest and dustiest area of debris left behind by Comet Swift-Tuttle. It'll be possible to see up to 60 shooting stars an hour. Meteors radiate from the direction of the constellation Perseus (get out your StarWalk app to find him), but can be seen all over the sky.

Fun facts about the Perseids include: a typical Perseid meteoroid moves at 133,000 mph as it hits Earth's atmosphere. By the time it burns through the atmosphere at 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit, the meteorite is the size of a grain of sand. Best viewing will be after the moon sets/after midnight.

August 19: Full Sturgeon Moon. August's Full Moon will rise in the southwest at 7:29 p.m. It's also the first Supermoon of 2024. The moon will be at its closest point in its orbit around Earth, so it will look bigger and brighter than it normally does.

You may have heard about the "Cicadapocalypse" of Periodical cicadas, but here in Maine we only have Annual or Dogday cicadas. You'll hear them buzzing on hot days in July and August - the "dog days" of summer. You're more likely to find the cicada nymph's exoskeleton after it's molted than a cicada itself. Keep an eye out - my kids found one on our laundry line!

What exactly are the Dog Days of summer? From July 3 to August 11, Sirius the Dog Star rises and sets with the sun. Because the star is so bright, the ancient Romans believed it actually gave off heat and added to the sun's warmth, accounting for the long stretch of hot and humid weather. They referred to this time as diēs caniculārēs, or "dog days."

Often mistaken for a fungus, Ghost Pipes, also known as Corpse Plants, are sprouting all over the woods. These are actually flowering plants that don't photosynthesize; they are parasitic. Hard to believe they're related to blueberries!

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Meeting

Continued from page 7

Ground proposal, without amendment, to referendum.

Donald Rudalevige spoke, saying that he had retired in 2006, “which means I have been part of the dreaded cohort of ‘on fixed income’ for 18 years. We [he and his wife] voted against the initial plan for schools. Since that time, however, we have been impressed by the School Board and the advisory group, which has worked diligently and collaboratively, bring together different voices and perspectives in an open, fair manner, eventually developing the excellent Middle Ground, inviting public comment and refinement, while relying on expert analysis and outcomes for the various buildings involved. We were therefore appalled to hear the result of the most recent council meeting, which put forward a so-called alternative, which despite its lower price or perhaps because of it, is totally unacceptable. Aside from its murky origins, it is nothing more than a short-term stopgap, which would wind up costing more money than the Middle Ground. We have never had children in the Cape Elizabeth system, though public education has been and is very important to us.” He went on to say they support the Middle Ground proposal, and that he and his wife “strongly object to what could be interpreted as an attempt to sabotage that effort with a last-minute proposal without distinguishable merit.”

John Lewis rose to present another viewpoint, one of the few who spoke against the Middle Ground proposal after dozens had spoken in favor of it. He said, “I wasn’t here from the beginning, but I can tell since I’ve been here it’s been overwhelmingly supportive of the so-called Middle Ground option. I think if anybody here knew me, or knows me, or has heard me speak, or has any dealings

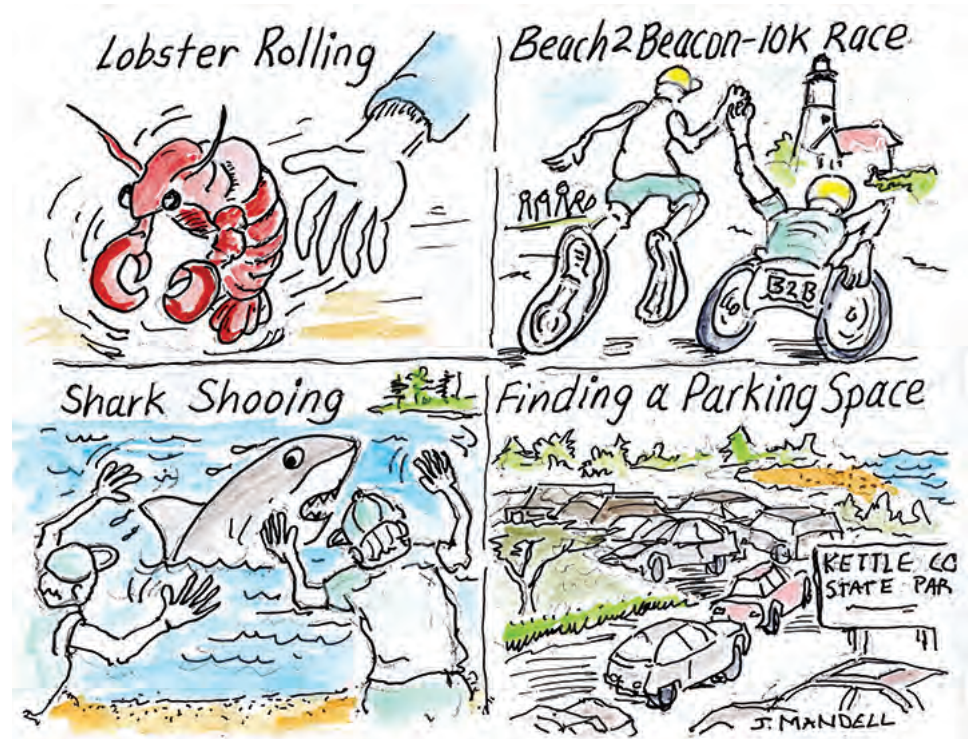
with me, they would know that I’m a huge advocate for students and for education, but that also doesn’t take away from the fact that we have to deal with realities. And I can understand, many of you might feel swayed, or the perception is, that the town overwhelmingly supports the Middle Ground that the School Board proposed, however, I then look back at 2022 when that bond was put out there and I worry that 62% has not been representative throughout this entire process, other than the two surveys. And of course the bond result itself, and so if we truly believe that this isn’t going to pass, and I know there are people that don’t believe it will pass, because that 62% will show up again in November, then we’re not doing any service to our students, to our teachers, and to our administration, and to our community, by putting forth a bond that I believe won’t pass. So, I personally, a big advocate again for education, I believe a \$42 million investment into education is a step in the right direction. I don’t think that it’s all that needs to be done, but I do believe it paves the way, with renovations, with upgrades, and new addition to address the security concerns.”

After three hours of public hearing, and without the five Town Council votes needed to extend the meeting beyond 10 p.m., the meeting did adjourn.

Chair Reiniger let those assembled know that it will be at the August 12 Town Council meeting that the council “will make a decision as to going forward, and that decision could be a) to send nothing to referendum, b) to send one question to referendum, or c) send two or more questions forward to referendum.”

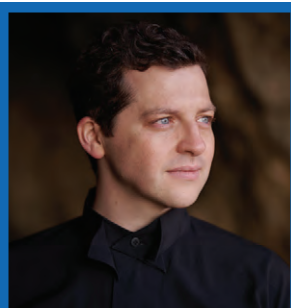
Capetoon: Cape Elympics

By Jeff Mandell



June 2024 Cape Elizabeth real estate transfers

NEW OWNER	LOCATION	SALE PRICE
ROSS SEAN ADAM GEORGE	42 EASTMAN ROAD	\$785,000
DRUCE NANCY S	6 ROCKY KNOLL ROAD	\$715,000
GREW JOHN R	14 OLDE FORT ROAD	\$850,000
BOWEN SHELLEY A	8 BEACH BLUFF TERRACE	\$755,000
BEASLEY JAMES	3 PILOT POINT ROAD	\$800,000
126 SPURWINK AVE LLC	126 SPURWINK AVENUE	\$685,000
BREWER KRISTI L	47 RESOLUTION PLACE	\$560,000
SIGNER SHERI	20 THRASHER ROAD	\$750,000
DAVIS PATRICIA	144 OAKHURST ROAD	\$1,210,000
DUVAL MARTIN K	10 BLUEBERRY ROAD	\$935,000
FELDMAN EMILY M	5 MCAULEY ROAD	\$795,000



PORTLAND CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

August 8–17

Hannaford Hall, USM



**PROGRAM I:
PERFECT FIFTHS***

Thursday, August 8 • 7:30 PM

The luxurious heft of a string quintet by **Boccherini**, followed by **Dvořák**’s celebratory work for piano and strings.

**PROGRAM II:
MUSIQUE FANTASTIQUE***

Saturday, August 10 • 7:30 PM

A jazzy contemporary sextet, **Poulenc**’s elegiac oboe sonata, an atmospheric art song by **Debussy**, and **Fauré**’s glorious piano quartet. C’est magnifique!

**NATE’S WORLD:
SONGS OF LOVE***

Sunday, August 11 • 5:00 PM

Chamber music’s exquisite intimacy is the perfect setting for this **cabaret-style evening** of classic songs, virtuosic instrumental interludes, and famous opera arias.

* Featuring CEHS alum pianist **Henry Kramer**



**PROGRAM III:
UNIVERSAL RESONANCE**

Thursday, August 15 • 7:30 PM

The **East Coast Chamber Orchestra** returns to PCMF with a rollicking set of variations on a Baroque dance theme, an intricate new piano concerto by **Vijay Iyer**, and the youthful vigor of **Mendelssohn**’s delightful Octet.

**PROGRAM IV:
VIRTUOSITY**

Saturday, August 17 • 7:30 PM

Following a heartfelt violin sonata by **Schumann**, **ECCO**’s extraordinary ensemble performs a work inspired by a single epic movement by **Bach**, then the stunning **Chaconne** itself in an original arrangement for the full forces of string orchestra.

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—**New York Times**



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Thomas Memorial Library offers programs on insects, protecting Maine's loons, Cape's new pesticide ordinance

Library Closed on August 15

The library, along with other Town offices, will be closed on Thursday, August 15 so that staff may attend the town's annual Employee Appreciation Day.

Kids and Families: Make a Car for the Library's Summer "Drive-In" Saturday Matinée

Craving one last program full of summer fun? As you wish! Join us for this all-ages movie matinee as we present a thrilling and beloved classic film. We're going to create that old-school drive-in feel in our Community Room by having kids bring their own car to sit in to watch the movie under our starlit ceiling. The library is inviting families to make and decorate a car out of a cardboard box and craft supplies.

Stop by the library to pick up a car construction kit, which includes materials to create the wheels and steering wheel, along with instructions to transform a cardboard box into a spiffy roadster. Register when you pick up your kit, or visit our website to reserve a kit. The movie matinee will take place on Saturday, August 24 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., so be sure to register and pick up your kit soon so you have plenty of time to build your car.

Learn to Bridge the Divide: Library Launches Community Discussion Groups

The library, in partnership with the Town's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee will be hosting a series of facilitated discussion groups focused on the book "I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times," by Mónica Guzmán.

Partisanship is up, trust is down, and our social media feeds make us sure we're right and everyone else is ignorant (or worse). But avoiding one another is hurting our relationships and our society. In this timely, personal guide, Mónica, the chief storyteller for the national cross-partisan depolarization organization Braver Angels, shows you how to overcome the fear and certainty that surround us to finally do

what only seems impossible: understand and even learn from people in your life whose whole worldview is different from or even opposed to yours. Members of the DEI Committee will lead multiple conversations about the book, and about how to put Guzmán's ideas into practice in your own life and community. The conversations will take place during the months of September and October leading up to the election in November.

Free copies of the book to read and pass along to someone else will be made available to anyone who wants one, courtesy of the TML Foundation (while supplies last!) The book is also available as an ebook and downloadable audiobook through the library's CloudLibrary service, and it can be borrowed in print as well. Please visit the library's website to express your preferences for book discussion dates and times and/or to sign up to receive a free copy of the book.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Sewing Adventures, with Mary Ellen Chadd: Pencil Case Roll-Up

Saturday, August 10, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
For ages 8 - 12

Do you need to keep track of your favorite pencil and eraser? Do you love to write, but need a case to stash your pens? Sew a case with pockets for your favorite drawing + writing tools, pens, pencils, markers and more. Add a zipper pocket on the side for bulk extras, roll it up and secure it with ties, an elastic, or a buckle or button. Write and draw in style with all your favorite pens and pencils organized in your personally designed pencil case roll up.

Beginning sewists welcome. No prior experience necessary* but complete beginners must be accompanied by their adult to work one on one in learning basic skills of threading a needle and tying a knot for their first few meetings. All materials provided. Please register on the library's website.

RECURRING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

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.

FOR TWEENS & TEENS

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: August 10. Register on our website.

FOR ADULTS

Understanding Cape's New Pesticide Ordinance, with CE Officer Jake Deslandes

Thursday, August 8, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., (in person and via Zoom)

Do you have questions about what the Town's new pesticide ordinance means for you and your neighbors? Join Cape

Elizabeth's Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Jake Deslandes for an overview of the ordinance and how it is being enforced, followed by a Q&A. This event will be offered both in person and via Zoom. Please register on the library's website.

Insects, Part One: Homage to Critters That Rule the World, with Kate Borduas

Tuesday August 13, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Why do insects matter? Because they rule the world! These marvels of evolution were the first in flight and dominated the skies for millions of years. Insects appear in a staggering array of shapes and sizes and life spans. Insects were first to engage in manufacturing, animal husbandry and farming. Byproducts of insects' lives have been exploited by humans since pre-civilization. Come learn about all these fascinating facts and more with enthusiast Kate Borduas, who will present a two-part series on insects over two weeks.

Kate Borduas is a self-described "Adult-onset" Naturalist. A native of coastal Maine, she spent a number of years in Florida where she trained as a Florida Master Naturalist and as a nationally Certified Interpretive Guide. Following a life-long, long-distance love affair with nature, Kate was delighted to live the life of a naturalist full time while in Florida. She gave frequent walks and talks in Charlotte and Sarasota Counties with a specific focus on Scrub Habitat and the Endangered Florida Scrub Jay.

As a naturalist and guide, Kate is committed to sharing with others the hidden wonders of nature all around us. Kate was the recipient of Sarasota County Parks "Volunteer of the Year" award in 2018. Kate is now happily returned to Maine full time where her interests in native plants, insects and birds keep her very busy.

Insects, Part Two: Insect Armageddon, with Kate Borduas

Tuesday August 20 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Insects are suffering population losses so vast that it has been called "Insect Armageddon" and "The Death of a Thousand Cuts." What is causing the damage to insect populations? Can insects adapt to climate change? And can losses be reversed? What will the loss of insects mean for the health of the planet?

Join us for part two of this special series by Kate Borduas and learn more about the importance of insects in our world and what would happen without them. Perfect for any nature lover and bug enthusiast.

Protecting Maine's Loons, with Maine Audubon's Ethan Daly

Thursday August 22, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Many of us grew up hearing the mystical wail of the Common Loon across lakes and ponds in New England (or maybe as far away as Montana!) But how many of us know about the lifecycle of the common loon, the threats it faces, and how conservation organizations throughout North America have been working to help them?

Come learn about Common Loons, a waterbird that calls Maine's lakes, ponds, rivers and coastline home. Find out why conservation work is so important for these species, and how we can best live in loon territory. No registration necessary.

Cape Elizabeth
School Department

Cape Schools Open Minds
and Open Doors

DESTRUCTION of SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

Notice to all persons who ever attended school at Cape Elizabeth School Department and who were born between January 1, 1996 and December 31, 1997, or to their custodial parents:

The Cape Elizabeth School Department may have educational records in its possession for those students and will destroy such records after October 31, 2024.

If you would like to have these records rather than having them destroyed, please contact the Special Services Office, 14 Scott Dyer Road, (207)799-8812 x7010, or via email at: mnichols@capeelizabethschools.org.

The School Department shall maintain permanently a record of a student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed.

Cape Elizabeth School Department, 320 Ocean House Road,
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107

TRI

Continued from page 1

ful annual event on Sunday, July 14, Marchese announced she is stepping down from her position as race director. Her choice will make space for a new director, Allison Richards, while allowing her to spend more time with her family.

In the days before the race, I was introduced to Julie by my daughter Erin, herself a Tri for a Cure athlete and Cape Elizabeth High School graduate. Erin had asked if I would escort athletes while in my kayak as they trained for the swimming portion of the triathlon with sheJAMs in Crystal Lake and later in Casco Bay.

Modest of her accomplishments, Julie explained that she had co-founded Tri for a Cure in 2008 with Abby Bliss, and that over time the race had become the largest triathlon in the state. All proceeds from the race support cancer-related programs and services here in Maine. During our brief conversation, Julie told me this would be her last year as race director, so I asked for an interview. We met a week hence at Kettle Cove State Park.

It's more than a race, she told me at the park. These triathletes share a bond as cancer survivors and supporters of others who have been touched by cancer. The race unites all Mainers, along with athletes from as many as twenty other states who participate, support, cheer, donate and volunteer.

USATriathlon-sanctioned, the triathlon consists of a 1/3-mile swim, a 15-mile bike ride, and a 3-mile run. The course is second to none, traversing the scenic coastline of Cape Elizabeth, South Portland and Scarborough. Raising over 2.2 million dollars this year, and nearly twenty-five million dollars since its inception, Tri for a Cure is, by far, Maine's largest fundraising event.

It was clear from talking to Julie that she is a leader with a vision who understands that teamwork and shared purpose can make practically anything happen. For many of us, a cancer diagnosis – in ourselves or others – can leave us feeling hopeless and alone. While none of us are immune from such challenges, if we work together – like the volunteers and athletes in Tri for a Cure – we can share hope and purpose while doing important work.

Julie credits her father Joseph "Chet" Jordan as a major influence in her life and her volunteer work. After graduating from South Portland High School, he entered the United States Merchant Marine Academy. His service as a Merchant Marine was cut

short when, at age 22, his father died unexpectedly. Chet ultimately returned home to take over the family business, Jordan's Ready-To-Eat Meats on Commercial Street. At the time, it was one of the largest independent meat processors and distributors in the country.

Julie recalls her father as a regular guy who loved Maine and was always thinking of ways to make it better. He was instrumental in starting the first ferry service between Portland and Nova Scotia, and he started the Deering Oaks Family Festival.

Marchese enjoyed a long career in her family business, and not long after it was sold, she began the hardest work of her life: dealing with a diagnosis of breast cancer in both her mother and herself. In their shared journey, she found her real passion, Tri for a Cure.

Marchese said she was never an athlete in high school, she never ran or rode a bike. The year after Julie was diagnosed with breast cancer she decided to race in a triathlon in Massachusetts.

Never having been an athlete in school, she was so inspired by finishing the triathlon that she proposed an all women triathlon to the Maine Cancer Foundation. The race, she imagined, would be for women of all abilities and it would raise money for cancer prevention efforts and cancer research conducted in Maine. At first, the Foundation's board of directors thought she was crazy. Then 500 women raced in the first year, raising over \$275,000. This year's triathlon had 1,200 women race as individuals and teams, raising almost ten times that. In the race's 17 year history, almost twenty-five million dollars has been raised to prevent and respond to cancer in Maine.

To honor Julie's unwavering commitment to Tri for a Cure, and her own fight against cancer, a bronze plaque with her name and likeness will be placed at the triathlon's finish line in South Portland at Southern Maine Community College. In addition, Julie has also been recognized as Race Director of the Year by USA Triathlon. Julie said the triathlon is not so much about her, but to honor those who have had a cancer diagnosis, and to help with cancer prevention,

While retiring as Race Director, Julie will not be walking away from the event or the cause. She will remain an active advisor and ambassador, perhaps even participating with her granddaughter Maiya sometime in the future. Together, they embrace the triathlon's call to action: WE WILL NOT WAIT. WE WILL NOT QUIT. WE WILL TRI FOR A CURE!

Beetle

Continued from page 7

APCAW program (Ash Protection Collaboration Across Wabanaki) has been researching future trends for Ash trees in Maine."

Tarling said his best advice for homeowners would be to recognize ash trees on their property; their compound leaf should be recognizable among our oak and maple forest trees. He said, "A number of Cape Elizabeth residents have recently contracted with local arboricultur-

Screen free

Continued from page 1

their kids' screen usage. Especially in times like summer, teens have endless amounts of free time to fill with mindless scrolling and online posts that seem to show the unachievable, picture-perfect, coming-of-age summers of their peers.

Seeing this issue all around them and within their own lives, 13-year-olds Reilly McGovern-Pizzi and Lilly Northup identified this problem as the perfect topic for their Silver Award.

The Silver Award is the second highest award a Girl Scout can earn. Girls are able to complete their projects in small groups or as individuals. Their goal is to find an issue they care about in their community, and find the root cause, or root issue. Once the stem of the problem is found, the girls can begin to figure out what the most helpful solution would be. A Silver Award is designed to result in lasting change for your community.

Reilly and Lilly began planning their project in November of 2023. Research became their first mission. The two talked with a variety of people. They interviewed school psychologist Alina Perez, school counselors Libby Hesselton and Stephanie Royal, and worked with Eric Huntington, the tech teacher at Cape Elizabeth Middle School. Eventually, they had compiled plenty of information and their project was approved. They were ready to start their final product.

After having plenty of planning sessions in the teen section of Thomas Memorial Library, Lilly and Reilly came up with an idea for a library display in the very place they had been working for months. They would call it Screen Free Summer. Their plan was to make it interactive, attention-grabbing, and educational. After coming up with a list of supplies they would need, they needed to request a grant for \$100.

al firms to conduct preventative systemic treatments to help save high value ash trees. These might be large heritage ash or those in prime locations. The Maine Forest Service is also deploying biocontrol agents recently similar in concept to those used to control winter moth. More news to follow."

The Maine Forest Service also provides a website link to report the discovery of EAB:

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/eab/EABreportFORM.shtml

The girls presented their idea to the troop and were granted their money. They gathered supplies and began to work on creating the display. The design concept consisted of a large poster board containing information about teens and technology. In front of the poster would be four boxes – each would open to a display of alternative activities to using screens. This part of the project would be a more 3D presentation to help with engagement. Additionally, craft kits were put together as a first step for anyone interested in spending time off of their device.

Although some of the materials were purchased from stores, the girls made an active effort to be resourceful as well. They made use of what they already had, and got many items second-hand from the Swap Shop. This way, they could avoid waste by repurposing old materials.

"Screen Free Summer" is now available in TML's Teen Area until the end of the summer season. Lilly and Reilly would like to thank Sasha Kohan and Rachel Davis at the library for all their help. They would also like to thank Eric Huntington, Alina Perez, Stephanie Royal, and Libby Hesselton for all their insight on this issue.

They hope that others in the communities, especially teens, will be more aware of the impact screens have on their lives, and continue to learn about the topic.

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CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

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

Monday, August 12

Town Council, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 13

Conservation Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 14

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

Thursday, August 15

Energy Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Monday, August 19

Town Council Ordinance Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 6:15 p.m.
 Town Council, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20

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, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays 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: ccrme.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.

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

Sunday Bible Class for all ages: 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.
 Services are in person and streamed on Facebook and YouTube

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church

885 Shore Road
799-4014

www.stalbansmaine.org
 Sunday Services:

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

St Bartholomew Catholic Church of Saint John Paul II Parish

8 Two Lights Road, 207-883-0334

Website: www.JP2me.org

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

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

301 Cottage Road, South Portland
 799-3361

www.fccucc.org

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

First Congregational Church of Scarborough

167 Black Point Road, Scarborough
 883-2342

www.fccscarborough.com

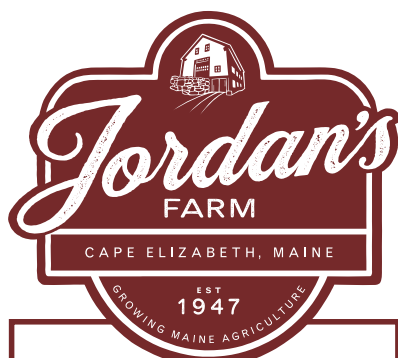
Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School & Nursery Care

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

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

Nothing scheduled for August 7 - 20



21 Wells Road
 Cape Elizabeth
 Maine 04107



f Jordan's Farm
@ [@jordans_farm](https://www.instagram.com/jordans_farm)
www.jordansfarm.com

Check-in for Updates
 Pick Your Own Blueberries
 Updates on FB & Instagram

Check out our new website and tell us what you think - new look, new logo and more to come.
www.jordansfarm.com

FARMSTAND

OPEN DAILY 10-6 767-2740

"Bib's" Corn is Here!!



Also in our Farmstand

Lettuce, Cucumbers, Zucchini, Green Beans, Broccoli, Cabbage, Tomatoes, Onions, Potatoes, Kale, Meats, Chicken, Sausage, Cheeses, Harris Farm Milk, Eggs, Ice Cream, Two Fat Cats' Pies, Yummy wine selection & more!

SOIL PRODUCTS & AGGREGATES

OPEN MON-SAT 8:00 - 5:00
 pick-up or delivery 807-1761

GARDEN & LAWN:

Compost, Screened Topsoil, Straw, Wood Chips



BARK MULCH:

Pine Spruce Mix, Dark Mix, Neutral Cedar

HARDSCAPE PROJECTS:

Gravel, Screened Sand, Crushed Stone, Stone Dust



Invisible Fence Brand

Keeping pets happy, healthy & safe @ home™

Play Safe. Worry-Free.

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800-585-2803

southernmaine.invisiblefence.com

BUSINESSES/SERVICES

In home dog sitting and boarding in Cape Elizabeth. Large fenced in yard. Insured and Pet CPR and first aid certified.

Call or text 207-329-0628

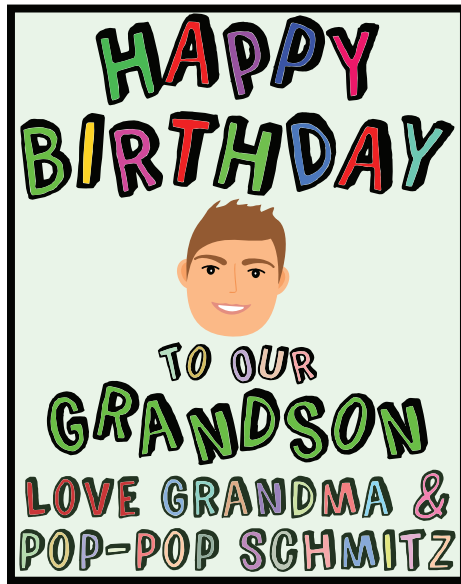
EXTREMELY CLEAN - Deep Cleaning Services. The Way Cleaning Should Be! References/Insured 25+years of experiences Luz Carpenter - 207-329-3757

Interior House Painter, Local resident 35+ years experience, References available, Paul Devine 207-899-9400

MUSIC LESSONS

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

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



The following students were named to the dean's list for the spring 2024 semester at **Fairfield University** in Fairfield, Connecticut:

Ellie A. Gagne
Olivia G. Manning

The following students have been named to the dean's list for the spring 2024 semester at **Washington University** in St. Louis, Missouri:

Drew Butzel is enrolled in the McKelvey School of Engineering
Char DeGeorge is enrolled in the College of Arts & Sciences

Erin A. Volent was named to second honors on the **Clark University** dean's list for the spring 2024 semester at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Dean's list announcements

Matthew Picarillo was named to the dean's list for the psring 2024 semester at the **College of the Holy Cross** in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Will Brenneman was named to the 2023-24 dean's list at **Lawrence University** in Appleton, Wisconsin.

The following students were named to the dean's list for the spring 2024 semester at **Tufts University** in Medford, Massachusetts:

Tucker Livingston, Class of 2026
Georgia Stewart, Class of 2025

Ben Colello was named to the dean's list for the spring 2024 semester at **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute** in Troy, New York. Colello is a Mechanical Engineering major.



Have a Classified Ad, Announcement or Event?

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

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cehswce@gmail.com

Skip The Mall!

Send A Gift Basket
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Locally owned and operated

www.greatamericanbasketcompany.com

The "KID" Courier

Are you a young, aspiring writer or artist? We want to hear from you!!

We are looking for artwork or stories for our new section, The "KID" Courier.

Send submissions to: info@capecourier.com

CE HOW DOES “THE MIDDLE GROUND” CONCEPT ADDRESS THE BARRIERS TO EDUCATION?



SAFETY & SECURITY CONCERNS

- New MS takes a holistic approach to safety & security, providing layers of security including secure entry with sight lines in all directions, the ability to separate public and private spaces, wayfinding practices, and more.
- ES addition provides a secure entry with adjacent administration with sight lines in all directions.
- Barriers outside to prevent vehicles from driving into the entrance and pedestrian areas.



INADEQUATE VEHICULAR & PEDESTRIAN SITE CIRCULATION

- Vehicular and pedestrian concerns on the existing site have been addressed with separate bus and car drop offs, sidewalks, and elimination of cut throughs across pedestrian areas.



OUTDATED CLASSROOMS, LIMITING EDUCATIONAL METHODS

- New MS right-sizes classrooms and integrates flexibility to allow the school to evolve as education evolves.
- The MS integrates team areas which are integral to MS education.
- The elementary school renovations and additions will provide updated educational spaces and a STEM | STEAM space adjacent to the library.



PCES/CEMS SPRAWLING LAYOUT & LONG TRAVEL DISTANCES

- The new MS allows us to address the sprawling layout at one of the three schools, while planning for future investments in our elementary school to address these concerns.



INEFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT FROM MAIN OFFICES

- The new MS and the new ES Admin Addition provide secure entries with adjacent admin offices with clear sight lines for oversight of pedestrians and both car and bus drop off.



NURSE'S OFFICE LIMITATIONS

- The ES nurse office is relocated to have direct outdoor access, natural light, and right sized space.
- The new MS has a nurse office that is adequately size, with direct outdoor access, natural light and is integrated into the administrative offices at the main entry.



DEFICIENCY OF NATURAL LIGHT

- The new MS allows us to integrate the usage of natural light and views throughout the school, which studies show improves educational outcomes.
- New additions at the ES integrate natural light and views to the outside.



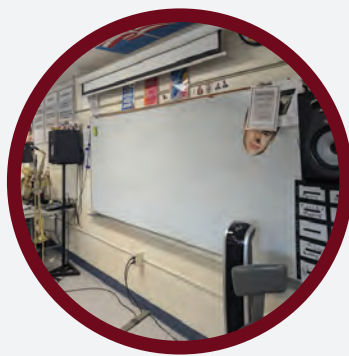
COMPLICATIONS FROM SHARED CAFETERIA

- With the construction of the new MS, the existing cafeteria will be used solely by the ES.



INADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITIES

- New MS provides shared building storage as well as adequate classroom storage.
- New ES Admin addition provides adequate admin and district special education storage.



NEED FOR TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

- Working with the Technology Director for the District, the new MS and ES will be outfitted with the latest technology and infrastructure to support education.



OUTDATED & INEFFICIENT MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

- The new MS will include new efficient mechanical systems.
- By integrating them into the building, we can extend their useful life, rather than having them on the roof, as they are in the existing school.
- Critical mechanical system repairs/ replacements at the elementary and high school are also being addressed as part of this project.



INADEQUATE PERFORMING ARTS SPACES

- The new MS will have a stage and music/band classrooms that meet the specifications requested by the Music/Band staff, including a stage large enough to hold the 100+ person school band.
- The stage, when open to the Gymnasium will be able to have over 510 spectators in chairs, plus an additional 300 bleacher seats—nearly double the number of spectators we could accommodate in the Option B multipurpose space.



LEARN MORE: www.cape.k12.me.us

Email CESB@capeelizabethschools.org with additional questions!