

The Cape Courier

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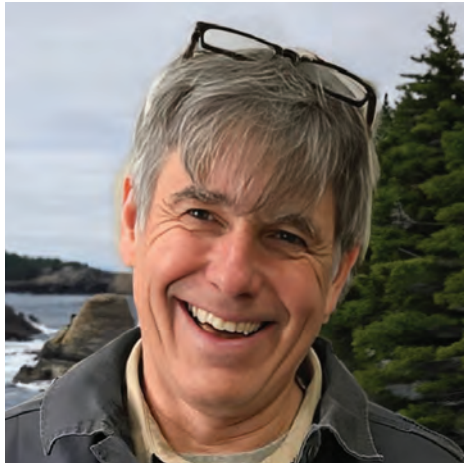
In the Spirit of Community

Six candidates vie for Cape Elizabeth Town Council seats

By Kevin St. Jarre



David Andrews



David Hughes



Timothy Reiniger



Jonathan Sahrbeck

All of the candidates were provided with identical questions, the same word limit, and given the same amount of time to respond with answers and a photo. Their responses are printed below, as *The Cape Courier* received them, up to the word limit. The candidates are David Andrews, David Hughes, Timothy Reiniger, Jonathan Sahrbeck, Elizabeth Scifres and Andrew Swayze.

Q- A stated goal in Cape Elizabeth's comprehensive planning is to attract young families with children to town. How can that goal be best achieved?

ANDREWS: First, we must consider the dramatic scale of the issue. Since 2004, many new homes have been built in Cape, but Cape's school enrollment has fallen 20%. Cape's cost of living clearly represents a barrier to young families, so conversations routinely turn to low-impact affordable housing solutions. Instead, we should consider the larger, high-impact root cause.

For example, when examining the financial impact of the proposed \$95M new middle school bond, we rightfully worry about its impact on Cape's seniors. But we must also consider the impact on Cape's many cost-burdened young families.

As a member of Cape's School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC), I voted with the majority for a more modest renovation option. Given my extensive construction background, I know we can do incredible things with our existing buildings, while being fiscally responsible. Absent fiscal restraint, Cape will become even less accessible to young families than it is today.

HUGHES: Attracting young families to Cape Elizabeth is fundamentally about addressing the cost of living. Families want to move here because of our excellent schools; which consistently rank among the very best

in Maine, our rural character, our green belt, our coastline and geographic location. Cape Elizabeth invests over \$20,000 per student per year, one of the highest rates in the state for a school of our size and location. The real challenge is affordability. The Town Council must be mindful of the impact of large property tax hikes on families and commit to fiscal prudence at every step. We also need to support smart development that offers diverse housing options while preserving the town's character through zoning and incentives. By balancing affordability with responsible growth, we can ensure Cape Elizabeth remains a desirable and viable place for young families to build their futures.

REINIGER: Young families are best attracted by three factors: 1) annual property tax increases of less than 3%; 2) restoring the previously high school rankings within Cumberland County and Maine overall; and 3) robust community offerings for families, such as the ice rink. First, new homebuyers, who are paying historically high house prices and mortgage interest, especially need minimal property tax increases. Similarly, the town needs fiscal/tax restraint on behalf of individuals on fixed incomes and who are otherwise income challenged (reportedly 30% of Cape households). Second, the town needs to take concrete steps to restore Cape's educational rankings within Maine and the nation. I believe that the town should focus on funding teacher staffing and curriculum needs, and



Elizabeth Scifres

not a new school with an excessive property tax increase. Three, families desire strong community offerings, such as those afforded through the library, Community Services, Fort Williams and the outdoor ice rink.

SAHRBECK: Cape Elizabeth is a beautiful town with many amenities that attract young families – multiple beaches, Fort Williams, close access to Portland, lower property taxes compared to other towns in Cumberland County and, most importantly, great schools. This however does not happen by accident – it happens because we have a strong community who believe in volunteering and focusing on programs that will help kids in and out of school. In order to continue to attract young families to town, we need to continue to support the schools by supporting the school bond, which I am doing along with my retired parents who moved to town in 1973. We also need to foster a supportive community for all residents including older citizens as well as younger families with kids. Finally,

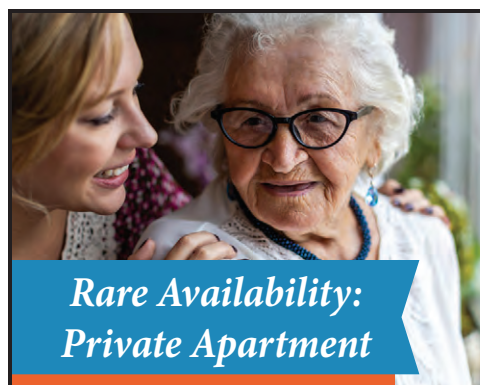


Andrew Swayze

we need to create more housing opportunities that will hopefully drive down the oftentimes prohibitive cost of buying a home.

SCIFRES: Our outstanding schools are the number one most often-cited reason families give for moving to Cape Elizabeth. Continued support for high quality education is imperative, which entails: attracting and retaining excellent faculty and staff, extensive, high quality learning opportunities, healthy and safe buildings constructed and equipped for 21st century learning. We must also continue to support the excellent programs through Community Services and Thomas Memorial Library for children and families. Cape is fortunate to have many outdoor spaces to walk, bike, run, and play – Fort Williams, CELT trails, Gull Crest, beaches, play grounds, sports fields, etc. Continued cooperation and support for these town gems is also essential. However, none of that matters

-see TOWN COUNCIL page 13



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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.

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Hughes is an ‘unwavering leader’

I am writing to share my full support of David Hughes' candidacy for Town Council. David is a kind, level-headed, unwavering leader with the rare ability to see the forest through the trees. He is fiscally responsible, and a good steward both professionally and environmentally.

Professionally, David serves as the superintendent at the Scarborough Sanitary District. He is a civil engineer and a project engineer, managing a \$5 million annual budget. His focus includes community development, community planning and infrastructure design. Each of these highly desirable and desperately needed skills would represent a tremendous addition to the Council.

In his personal life, David is a husband and father, and an active leader in Boy Scouts Troop 30. An Eagle Scout himself, he knows

what it means to serve, and understands that giving back to our community is one of life's greatest gifts. David has modeled those values for many of Cape's children, including recently stepping in to help the middle school baseball team when they were in need.

Beyond his ideas, perspectives and analytical abilities, he has another invaluable quality to bring to the Council. When it comes to asking the critical question that no one else wants to ask, he is kind, but courageous.

Many have encouraged David to run for office over the years, and I am proud to support him. David Hughes is a wonderful person, and would make a tremendous Councilor. I hope you will join me in voting for him this election season.

Nancy Thompson

Support for middle ground proposal

I voted AGAINST the last school building proposal.

I will vote FOR the middle ground proposal.

I have been impressed with the process and communication throughout the latest planning work.

Based on many visits to the middle school, I can say unequivocally: it's a mess.

The Thirties building is lovely outside and

an educational nightmare inside. The classrooms are crammed, and the building needs constant repair. It's old!

We have an A+ middle school music program in an F- music facility.

Like all Cape schools, the middle school's design is sprawling and inefficient. But the middle school is the worst.

The middle ground proposal will address security concerns in the schools and by providing Pond Cove students their own cafeteria, it solves the main problems created by the cobbled-together union of two schools. Children will eat at a less frenetic pace, at a time that makes sense educationally and developmentally.

I am puzzled by the Town Council's plan-free proposal to add nearly \$5 million to the school bond for undefined Thirties Building work.

Nevertheless, I will still vote for the total proposal, even with this add-on, because the town's bond counsel says this money cannot be borrowed, even if approved, until and unless there is a plan for how it will be spent.

Instead of asking taxpayers to foot the bill for undefined work on that building, why not explore whether a developer would convert it, at private expense, into apartments—possibly for our hard-working teachers, police or other town employees?

Jeffrey Shedd

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Scifres ‘skilled at creating consensus’

We are thrilled to support the candidacy of Elizabeth Scifres for Town Council. We've had the privilege of getting to know Elizabeth in several walks of life--as an engaged, empathetic parent; as the leader of a search committee for school superintendent, who guided the group process with aplomb; and, as the thoughtful, collaborative Chair of the School Board where Kathleen has served. Elizabeth is whip-smart, deft in her people skills and highly skilled at creating consensus. Her ability to respectfully work with competing constituencies, along with her mastery of policy details, will be of tremendous value in moving Cape Elizabeth forward. We are incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to vote in a leader of this caliber to our Town Council.

Jim Sparks & Kathleen Curry-Sparks

Swayze ‘values diverse perspectives’

After running for the first time as a relative newcomer in last year's election for Town Council, I was happy to see Andrew Swayze throw his hat in the ring again and encourage everyone to give him another look.

As a former councilor, I am well-versed in the challenges our town faces, from managing growth and development to maintaining our excellent schools and public services. I believe Andrew's commitment to transparency, genuine passion for our community, and ability to make balanced decisions that benefit all residents will serve us well in navigating these challenges effectively and fairly.

Andrew is a thoughtful listener who values diverse perspectives and is committed to ensuring that all voices in our community are heard. He is driven by a vision for a sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant Cape Elizabeth – one that preserves the unique character of our town while also embracing and planning for a prosperous future. I am confident that, if elected, Andrew will bring a collaborative and solutions-oriented approach to the Town Council, focusing on what truly matters to Cape Elizabeth residents and not personal agendas and petty grievances.

Please consider joining me in voting for Andrew Swayze for Town Council.

Jamie Garvin

Kudos to the Courier

As a dedicated reader since moving to Cape Elizabeth over five years ago, I've always enjoyed the Cape Courier. However, I've never been more impressed than with your fact-checking of Town Council Chair Reiniger's recent letter.

A good newspaper, regardless of size, has a duty to print community views. It also has a responsibility to highlight when statements presented as fact don't align with re-

ality, especially when they come from government officials.

I trust that the Cape Courier will continue to welcome critical feedback from readers while maintaining its commitment to fact-checking important issues. This balance of open dialogue and journalistic integrity is crucial for our community.

Chris A. Gorski

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

So Much Is at Stake in November on Question 1 Get the Facts Before You Vote!

Myth: This will cost \$94.7 million, it says so right on the ballot.

Fact: The true cost of the project is at least \$104 million, plus estimated interest costs of nearly \$60 million: \$94.7 million bonded, and an additional \$9.3 million that the school board says will be added to future school budgets for additional, necessary work. The carve-out of \$9.3 million was done to obscure the true tax impact of the project and dampen the sticker shock of nine figures. The \$104 million cost is a mere \$12 million lower than the \$116 million bond rejected by 62% of the voters in 2022.

Myth: The project's tax impact is ~12.5%.

Fact: That's only the impact from the bonded portion of the cost. All the additional hidden costs touched on above will still need to be borne by the taxpayer, leading to additional tax increases. And let's not forget the reevaluation, thanks to which a great number of Cape households will see increases of 10-30% or even more this year. That's before taking into account the tax burden of this bond and its additional unbonded costs.

Myth: This "middle ground" proposal builds on the work of the School Building Advisory Committee.

Fact: This is no middle ground. After 18 months of work with a budget of \$1 million, the School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) voted to endorse "Option B," which would have cost less than a 10% increase in property taxes. It would have covered all essential repairs at the three schools. The School Board rejected this recommendation without engaging in any discussion with the SBAC and immediately terminated the committee's work, shutting down its members' emails abruptly and without notice. Twenty days later, the School Board approved this new unvetted project, put together with no input from the SBAC and at a cost of \$27 million more than the alternative recommended by the committee.

Myth: The SBAC's preferred "Option B" was only a renovation and we need new construction.

Fact: "Option B" entailed 36,000 sq ft of new construction as well as 36,000 sq ft of renovation. It included a new secure entrance, space for a new cafeteria, and new modern STEM and special ed classrooms. It also laid the foundations for future construction by consolidating the campus and making it possible to build additions vertically. Instead, the proposal on the ballot destroys green space and creates campus sprawl.

Myth: Renovation only lasts 25 years so it costs more in the long run & is not worth it.

Fact: When buildings are properly maintained, they can last for many decades. The existing buildings, including the middle school, were deemed well-maintained, structurally sound, and functionally satisfactory by Colby Engineering and Harriman Architects. In fact the engineer involved in the last major construction project at our schools has testified that at the time we invested in such high quality raw materials that we could not possibly afford them today.

Myth: With rising enrollment, we need to right-size the middle school.

Fact: The proposed building is grossly oversized. School enrollment is down by about 400 students since 2006, from 1847 then to an estimated 1480 this fall. At the middle school enrollment peaked at approximately 619 students in the 2003-2004 school year and declined to 447 in 2024. The proposed new middle school is 110,690 sq ft—that's 248 sq ft per student based on the current enrollment figure of 447 students. This greatly exceeds both Maine Department of Education space allocation guidelines of 160 sq ft per student, and the average square footage of 196 sq ft per middle school student for Maine middle schools constructed in the last 10 years. In fact even the current middle school building has ample space for students. Pond Cove is the overcrowded school, which "Option B" would have right-sized.

Myth: A new school building will be more environmentally responsible.

Fact: Experts agree that the greenest building is the one that is already built. Reusing an existing building is more environmentally responsible as it can take up to 80 years for a new building to offset the cost of its construction carbon footprint.

VOTE "NO" ON "QUESTION 1"

learn more & stay in the know: <https://capevoters.com>

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LEARN MORE

Reiniger has ‘character and experience’

I will be voting to re-elect Tim Reiniger to the Cape Elizabeth Town Council.

Since 1984, I have witnessed the turn over of many Town Council members. They come, they go, some are effective and some not so much. I believe Tim is outstanding because of his municipal finance experience, zoning ordinance expertise, and proven unflinching temperament under pressure. In fact, Tim has nine years of experience in municipal government, including his three years on the Cape Elizabeth Town Council.

It is a rarity for people of Tim’s caliber to step up and volunteer for local public office in today’s contentious political environment. As former U.S. House Speaker Tip O’Neill once said, “all politics is local.” And this is

especially true in Cape, given the serious challenge of conserving our farms and open spaces, including Fort Williams, against outside development pressures from regional planners and developers.

In my meetings with Tim, I have found him to be naturally disposed to deliberate issues with openness, insightfulness, and candor. Tim has the depth of character and experience to make thoughtful and cautious choices. He has demonstrated this for the past three years - especially in his year as Chair. We need to keep him on the Town Council. I am confident that Tim will continue to help steer the Town Council through our difficult complex issues.

Joseph Guglielmetti Sr.

Engel shares the mission of the CESD

Working with Joy Engel (Yes, that’s P. Joy Engel on the ballot) the past several years has shown me the type of public school advocate she is. As a four year board member of the Pond Cove Parents Association, I was frequently making calls for volunteers. Joy’s hand went up consistently. When we needed a coordinator, Joy signed up. When ideas were needed, Joy was brainstorming. When processes required analyzing and changing, Joy was ready to dive in. She coordinated events, got feedback, improved lines of communication and ensured all stakeholders were heard. In the end, she reviewed what worked, what didn’t and implemented changes.

When I got to know Joy on a more personal level, I learned that our values are similar. She believes every student deserves

an education in which they thrive. She understands that school should be a place where individual needs are met, collective educational goals are achievable, and students and staff alike feel valued for who they are and what they bring to the table. She understands that students are often spending more hours in school than they are awake at home - and that the decision makers need to remember that. She knows students are not just test scores or numbers in a spreadsheet. CESD’s mission is rooted in creating citizens of an increasingly global world, celebrating diverse learning styles and outcomes, and maintaining community connection. I believe Joy shares that mission. Join me in voting for P.Joy Engel for School Board!

Eliza Matheson

Boyer will ‘find effective solutions’

Electing Michelle Boyer to represent Cape Elizabeth in the Maine House of Representatives will serve our community well. From the moment Michelle approached me with her idea for legislation to improve postpartum healthcare, her eye for important public policy, her thoughtfulness and her work ethic impressed me.

As a woman and a mom, she saw that insurance coverage for one checkup six weeks after childbirth was simply not enough to get moms and their newborns off to a healthy start. In her legislative testimony, Michelle said: “Extending postpartum coverage from 60 days to 12 months will help women fully recover from birth, positively impact the well-being of herself and her family ... and is a necessary component of improved post-

partum care.”

Michelle identified a solution and advocated for her bill, as well as related coverage under MaineCare, until both bills became law. She will enter the Legislature with a dedication to improving access to health care and the experience of working a bill from policy idea to law.

We can count on Michelle Boyer to find effective solutions to the serious problems our community and state face. We can count on her to deliver results in Augusta. We can also count on her thoughtful and engaging approach to find middle ground and move beyond partisanship to do what’s best for Mainers. Please join me in voting for Michelle Boyer for State Representative.

Anne Carney

Sahrbeck is a dedicated public servant

Jonathan Sahrbeck will make a GREAT member of the Cape Elizabeth Town Council. Nowhere will you find a public servant as dedicated to the public good and knowledgeable about the issues of Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland County and the state as a whole.

I first met Mr. Sahrbeck while living in Cape when he ran for Cumberland County District Attorney. He won the election and served admirably. He showed empathy and compassion for those afflicted with substance use disorder while at the same time providing for public safety and protecting the public interest. He prosecuted sex traffickers and supported

their victims.

Jonathan has been a strong voice in Maine affairs and serves on several non-profit boards. He was appointed to the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine, which oversees licensed physicians. He provides leadership and legal perspective to the numerous organizations he serves.

He will surely do the same for the Cape Elizabeth Town Council. Cape would be very lucky to have him! Support Jonathan Sahrbeck for Town Council.

Ron Springel

Support for school bond

I want to loudly voice my support for the \$94.7 million school bond that will be on the November ballot. It is a comprehensive compromise proposal that meets many of the identified needs of our students while being responsible stewards of our tax dollars. My support for the bond comes from my professional perspective, as someone who has spent 20 years in the commercial real estate industry, the last 16 spent as a developer in Portland. I thought I would share some of my insights here, because, as both a taxpayer and real estate developer, I’m impressed with the process and the resulting compromise proposal.

As a developer, I am primarily focused on developing new buildings or renovating older structures for commercial tenants who need modern and efficient facilities to better serve

their business and attract workers. There are certainly times when a renovation is a wise course of action, but for tenants interested in long-term price stability and meeting modern building system efficiency targets, a new facility is always the better option.

Construction pricing is high, but unfortunately my experience tells me that it is unlikely to go down. Modern technologies and building methods that yield healthier spaces and reduce energy consumption come with significantly higher upfront costs.

My real estate development projects are long-term investments. The new middle school is a long-term investment in our critical infrastructure, our students, our teachers and community. I will be voting “yes” on November 5th and urge you to do the same

Josh Benthien

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Andrews ‘respects diverse viewpoints’

In a time when local politics often divides more than it unites, Cape Elizabeth needs a leader who puts our community first. David Andrews, a lifelong resident with deep roots in our town, is that leader. I am proud to support his candidacy for Town Council.

I served with David on the School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) and saw his exceptional qualities firsthand. David brought an independent mindset to every challenge, consistently asking the important questions that the rest of us overlooked. He pushed us to think more broadly and consider diverse perspectives, always focused on what’s best for Cape Elizabeth’s future.

David’s approach transcends political la-

bels and partisan loyalties. He evaluated issues on their merits, not ideology. With David, you always knew where he stood. Even in disagreement, his clarity and conviction earned respect. This is the kind of straightforward communication we need more of in local government.

Cape Elizabeth deserves a councilor who tackles complex issues with independence and thoughtfulness. David Andrews embodies these qualities. He asks the right questions, respects diverse viewpoints, and makes decisions based on what is best for all of us.

This November, I encourage my fellow residents to join me in voting for David Andrews.

Michael Hussey

Funding and performance are prudent

In the recent Cape Courier article, “Chairman Reiniger’s letter to the editor to Cape Courier story, plus fact-checking,” the reporter asserts that my reference to School Department underfunding of CIP repair budgets of \$12.7m “appears to not be based on fact.” Actually, this number was developed by the District Leadership Team and discussed at the School Board Budget Workshop held on January 23, 2024. The presentation is available on the School Department website as part of the meeting materials. The \$12.7m underfunding figure appears on slide 77 and represents the accumulated figure over the recent 15 year period (with annual

underfunding of \$850,000). Subsequently, at the March 5, 2024 School Board Budget Workshop, the District Leadership Team reported for the recent 5 years (2018-2023) an annual underfunding of \$1.45m and an accumulated 5 year underfunding of \$7.2m. This is also available on the School Department website (slide 82). Here is the key point -- whether or not the community chooses to build a new middle school, it would be prudent to ensure both adequate annual funding and actual performance of necessary CIP-related maintenance on all school buildings going forward.

Timothy Reiniger

Vote yes for safer schools

I am voting YES on the school bond and asking you to join me. Why? Because our schools must be safer. The threat of gun violence in schools is real. A year ago, most of our state was on lockdown following the Lewiston shooting, and on just the second day of school in Cape Elizabeth, there was a school shooting in Georgia. We must do better for our kids. Building schools designed for 21st-century learning and safety is part of that.

What we heard from the experts, after months of public meetings and presentations, was that building a new middle school, and making critical updates to the elementary and high school, are the only ways to fully meet our current safety requirements. I en-

courage everyone to compare the sprawling, unplanned layout of the middle school with the proposed design for the new building. It’s easy to see how much safer the new design would be for our students.

The plan on the ballot, approved by the school board, is fiscally responsible, based on the needs of our students and educators, and will create a safe environment for learning. Every day when I put my son on the bus, I hug him, pause for a moment, and hope that today a tragedy won’t occur in our schools. I tell my kids one of my most important jobs is to keep them safe. Please help me keep all kids in Cape Elizabeth safe by voting YES on the school bond.

Hannah White

‘Vote yes on the school bond’

Vote yes on the school bond. The ad by the so-called “CapeVoters” in the last Cape Courier urging you to vote no is highly deceptive. They talk at length about the cost, but the cost of a new middle school will increase property taxes by no more than 4% over their proposed solution. For the median house, that’s an increase of no more than \$390/year, approximately \$1/day for a solution that actually addresses Cape’s aging and somewhat decrepit school buildings, rather than paying for expensive renovations that won’t solve the fundamental problems.

They state that the SBAC did not approve option E, but the town overwhelmingly did. The new Middle School option, which is the one on the ballot, was the preferred option by nearly half of the survey respondents, compared to 14% who opted for the SBAC’s

preferred Option B, which just kicks the can down the road.

They claim that a new middle school will do nothing to right-size Pond Cove, but neither does their preferred option. The Harri-man report states that Option B will not increase the size of undersized classrooms and “a deficit of program space and restrooms remains.”

Lastly, they fail to mention that their option B is highly disruptive and not very effective. There will be substantial disruption to learning in the 2 years the construction will take place, requiring millions of dollars spent on temporary classrooms and some of the renovations will need to be replaced in 7-10 years.

Sigrid Olson

Young and Thibeault receive CEEF awards



Contributed photo

At the school district’s back-to-school luncheon on August 27, Michael Young was awarded with CEEF’s Brownell Award while Kate Thibeault was presented with the CEEF Thompson Award.

The Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation was honored to present the 2024 CEEF Brownell Award and CEEF Thompson Award at the school district’s back-to-school luncheon on August 27. Honoring two outstanding members of the Cape school district, The Thompson Award, named in honor of Timmy Thompson, celebrates a member of the Cape Elizabeth school community who has gone above and beyond for students. CEEF’s annual Brownell Award, in honor of retired CEHS teacher Elaine Brownell, celebrates an outstanding grant from a previous year.

This year’s CEEF Brownell Award was presented to CEHS History teacher Michael Young for his impactful grant “Hometown Heroes – Honoring our Veterans.” Engaging students to become historians themselves, Mr. Young’s students interviewed, transcribed and edited the stories of 15 local veterans. Their work culminated in the publication of “Hometown Heroes,” a book dedicated to and celebrating the lives of

those who served. Mr. Young hopes to continue the work with this year’s students and reach out to even more veterans to preserve their history.

The second award presented was the CEEF Thompson Award, and this year Kate Thibeault was recognized for her commitment to always going above and beyond for Cape students and educators. Nominated by her peers, Thibeault was recognized for the warm welcome and assistance she gave to students for over 20 years at CEMS. Moving last year to the high school, she continues to be the “first one there, and often last to leave” trying to make each day better for students and her colleagues. Each of these recipients plays a special part in Cape Elizabeth schools, and CEEF welcomes the opportunity each year to recognize outstanding members of the Cape school community. Join us in congratulating this year’s recipients, and read about past honorees at ceef.us/awards.



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Elizabeth Scifres announces candidacy for Town Council



Contributed photo

Elizabeth Scifres has announced her candidacy for Town Council.

(Press release) - Elizabeth Scifres, long-term resident of Cape Elizabeth and current Chair of the Cape Elizabeth School Board, has announced her candidacy for the Cape Elizabeth Town Council.

A Maine native, Scifres graduated from Bowdoin College and completed her post-graduate Teacher Certification Program at the University of New England and has called Cape Elizabeth home for the past twenty years with her husband and two children. Scifres is a private tutor and has

a long history of volunteer leadership, including roles with the Pond Cove Parents Association, Cape Elizabeth Middle School Parents Association, and as President of CEHS Softball Boosters, Co-president of Cape Elizabeth Music Boosters and Chair of their annual Jazz Cabaret. She is the current President of the CEHS Theatre Boosters and has been the Varsity Girls Tennis

-see SCIFRES page 14

David Hughes announces candidacy for Town Council



Contributed photo

David Hughes has announced his candidacy for Town Council.

(Press release) - As Cape Elizabeth faces complex challenges, a candidate with a track record of practical problem-solving is stepping forward. David Hughes, a civil engineer with nearly three decades of experience in municipal infrastructure and fiscal management, is stepping forward with a commitment to practical solutions that meet the community's real needs.

"Cape Elizabeth deserves solutions that are innovative and sensible," Hughes stated. "I've spent my career finding cost-effective

answers to complex municipal challenges. I believe it is time to bring that problem-solving approach to our Town Council."

Hughes combines technical expertise with fiscal responsibility. With 27 years of experience in engineering services for municipalities and 13 years managing the Scarborough Sanitary District's \$5 million budget and \$200 million in assets, he offers a unique

-see HUGHES page 14



Vote David Andrews for Town Council



Dear Cape Elizabeth Residents,

I am running for Town Council because I share your love for our community and for our town. Like many of you, I am concerned for its future. I am worried about the rapidly escalating cost of living in Cape and the reality that, for way too many, it's becoming too expensive to live in their own homes.

As a volunteer member of the School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC), I had a front row seat into how our local government works. A lot of hard work was done, but too many voices were left out of the process. Candidly, when it came to setting a budget for the project, those voices were essentially ignored.

I've had the honor of speaking with so many of you in the community over the past year. I've been both moved and motivated by hearing your concerns and struggles. If elected, I assure you that your voices will not only be heard - your voices will be represented. I believe we can do great things for our schools and for our entire town, while honoring the financial constraints that our community has made clear through both election and survey results.

David's Key Priorities:

- Collaborate with the community and fellow Council members in support of fiscally responsible renovations to our schools and other town buildings
- Encourage a positive relationship between the town and Cape's small business community - no more questionable lawsuits against businesses like the Lumberly
- Protect Cape from excessive housing ordinance changes that threaten Cape's neighborhoods, Town Center, ball parks, and Fort Williams
- Protect Cape's farms, coastline, and natural resources

About David:

- Sixty-two year resident of Cape Elizabeth; Retired to Cape with wife, Sharalyn
- Cape Elizabeth High School Class of 1977
- Forty-five year career in engineering, construction, and contracts; Director of numerous multi-billion dollar int'l projects
- Lifelong outdoor enthusiast



**IT'S TIME FOR
A CHANGE.**

**YOU DESERVE A
LEGISLATOR
THAT PUTS
YOU FIRST!**

**ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN & OUR
TEACHERS**

I'll strive to ensure that our children and teachers are in a clean and safe school environment that contributes to the growth and progress of both teachers and students.

It's time to reverse the trend of rising educational costs with declining results by directing more money to teachers and ed techs and less to administrators and bureaucrats.

**REDUCE RISING COSTS &
INFLATION**

When people can't meet their basic needs, everybody suffers. Onerous taxes and policies are also making it difficult for businesses to thrive. I'll work to reduce excessive regulations and pursue sensible energy policies.

**SUPPORT HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY**

With costs continually rising and availability decreasing, I'll work to remove onerous and unnecessary regulations that drive costs up. I'll also create incentives for builders to expand the housing supply. This will unleash the ingenuity of developers and builders.

REDIRECT HEALTH CARE

Medical bureaucracy has increased costs and decreased the availability of providers. This has to change. I'll work to return health care decisions to providers and their patients and decrease the stranglehold that insurance regulations have on health professionals. I'll also work to increase access to preventative and holistic care.

CHAMPION WOMEN'S RIGHTS

I'll fight for and protect the rights of women.

**DEFEND OUR FARMERS &
FISHERMEN/WOMEN**

Without farmers and our fisheries, we'd starve. We've already seen a decline in the food supply along with skyrocketing food costs. I'll protect our environmental heritage, and support policies that ensure the survival and extension of our farms and sustainable fisheries.



www.anniechristy4house.com

David Andrews announces candidacy for Town Council



Contributed photo

David Andrews has announced his candidacy for Town Council.

(Press release) - David Andrews has formally announced his candidacy for Cape Elizabeth Town Council. The election will be held on Tuesday, November 5.

Son of Howard and Marie Andrews, David landed in Cape as a young child in 1962 when, in search of better schools, his parents made the move from South Portland. Coming from modest means, his father worked three jobs to provide a better life for the family. "From a young age, my parents taught my sister and me to be honest, caring, hard working and to have faith in God. Those values have guided me throughout life."

David graduated from Cape Elizabeth High School in 1977. He began his professional career digging ditches as a laborer for a small construction company for five years before returning to school to earn a degree in drafting technology. Upon graduation, he worked as a draftsman and then a designer. His career took off from there, taking jobs as an engineer,

contracts manager and project manager.

Through years of hard work and dedication, David eventually became the director of numerous multi-billion dollar engineering and construction projects throughout the world. He was responsible for over 10,000 professional and trade employees in Peru, Chile, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and other countries in Asia and Africa.

With his wife Sharalyn, David returned to their home in Cape upon retirement. Two days a week you'll find him at Fort Williams mowing lawns part-time for the town, having truly come full circle. He is passionate about our community and is fully committed to maintaining its open spaces and quality of life.

David is also deeply concerned about Maine's escalating costs of living, and more specifically, the cost of living here in Cape. "A large segment of our town, particularly seniors and young families, are cost-burdened," he states. "Their financial struggles are real, and their poignant stories play a huge factor in my decision to run for a seat on our Town Council. As great as Cape's needs are, those needs must be approached in a thoughtful, fiscally responsible manner."

That core belief drives David's pragmatic approach, evidenced by his service on Cape's School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC). A member of the majority who voted for a more affordable renovation-based approach, he believes that November's school bond referendum is simply too expensive and therefore likely to be defeated. "One of the SBAC's primary goals was to deliver a proposal that the voters could afford so it could pass. While an affordable option won't be on November's ballot, I do believe we'll get there soon."

To that end, David recognizes the importance of the Council's role as an independent check on the School Board - and vice versa. "While some see differences of opinion between the two bodies as problematic, it's actually a healthy part of the process," he explains. "Rubber stamps are of course harmonious, but they produce horrible results for the

-see ANDREWS page 14

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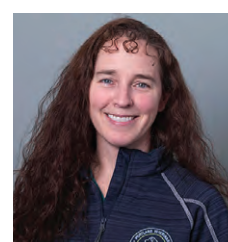
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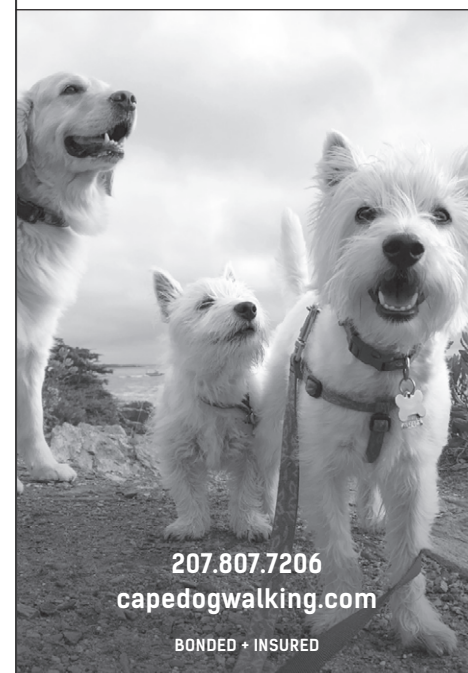
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Tim Reiniger announces re-election campaign for Town Council

Andrew Swayze announces candidacy for Town Council



Contributed photo



Contributed photo

Tim Reiniger has announced his re-election campaign for Town Council.

Andrew Swayze has announced his candidacy for Town Council.

(Press release) Town Council Chair Tim Reiniger has announced his re-election campaign to help preserve Cape.

Chair Reiniger believes Cape Elizabeth is at an inflection point. "Cape's historic rural farm character and small village feel have come under heavy development pressure and expectations from outside special interests and regional planners to build apartment buildings throughout the town's neighborhoods," he said. "We must maintain a working majority of Town Councilors who have the experience, knowledge and vision to resist this pressure. We must

preserve Cape."

Throughout his term, Tim has defended Cape's zoning ordinance as a key to protecting Cape's neighborhoods from overdevelopment. Further, he has been a voice of fiscal/tax restraint on behalf of those on fixed incomes and those who are otherwise cost-burdened (including nearly 30% of our households according to two recent studies). And he has led the effort to improve Cape's small business climate. "To both attract and preserve small businesses,

-see REINIGER page 15

(Press release) — Andrew Swayze, who ran for public office for the first time in 2023 and came within 205 votes of the Town Council, looks forward to building upon the relationships and experience he gained in the process. In his first few days of going door-to-door, he has had a number of enlightening conversations on everything from taxes to schools to paper streets. One household described how their ADU project stalled when the Town Council abruptly changed their decision on LD2003.

"One month their ADU project was compliant. The next it wasn't. They have no idea what to do now. If there was any example

of how much local governance affects our day to day lives, this is it." Swayze reflected, "This is why local elections matter."

Swayze grew up in Paoli, Pennsylvania, raised in a loving but disciplined home, in which personal and fiscal responsibility were core values. His parents were deeply involved with their community, an example Swayze strives to follow—especially since he and his wife, Katie, moved to her hometown of Cape Elizabeth in 2021. They have two daughters who are both enrolled at Pond

-see SWAYZE page 15

REINIGER
TOWN COUNCIL
 Progress Not Politics

PROMISES MADE AND KEPT

- Opposes property tax spikes
As Town Council chair, oversaw a property tax increase of only 2.8%
Favors affordable school renovations (5% tax impact) and opposes the new bond that will result in a 12-15% property tax increase
- Supports protecting the rural character of Cape's neighborhoods and Town Center
Led successful effort to stop the unpopular and excessive housing zoning changes
- Supports incentives for small businesses to thrive in Cape
Led efforts to dismiss Town lawsuit against the Lumberly and require the Town Council to approve any lawsuits against Cape businesses
- Supports protecting our civil liberties against surveillance technologies
Led successful effort to create a citizen watchdog committee

"I am running for re-election to Town Council to preserve Cape from overdevelopment and maintain compassionate, fiscally responsible discipline to keep Cape affordable for our seniors, middle class, and town workforce. I would be honored to earn your vote on November 5th."

- Tim

PROMISES FOR NEXT TERM

- Will support joint town and CELT efforts to conserve farmlands
- Will continue opposing annual property tax increases exceeding 3%
- Will continue advocating to responsibly fund the deferred, critically needed safety repairs/renovations to the schools
- Will support an ordinance amendment to allow conditional zoning in Town Center so as to prevent the overbuilding of large apartment buildings throughout
- Will support streamlining site planning regulation of small businesses
- Will continue to oppose any housing projects proposed for Fort Williams or Cape's athletic fields



About Tim Reiniger

- Cape Elizabeth Town Council Member (Chair, 2024)
- Attorney specializing in data privacy and digital human rights law
- Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, Member
- Graduate of Georgetown School of Foreign Service & University of Michigan Law School
- Husband to Alice Reiniger and father to Charles & Robert

Contact Tim:
207-956-7218
tsreiniger@gmail.com

Paid for and authorized by Tim Reiniger.

Cape Elizabeth hires new Town Manager

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Patrick Fox is Cape Elizabeth's next Town Manager.

The Cape Elizabeth Town Council has announced the hiring of Patrick Fox as the next Town Manager.

After completion of a nationwide search, Fox was the council's unanimous choice, approving an initial three-year agreement at their meeting on September 9. Fox will officially assume the position on October 7.

Fox resides in Saco, where he currently serves as Director of the City of Saco's Public Works Department, a position he has held since 2012. He has a BS in Environmental Engineering from Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Fox also serves the region as the Chair of the Policy Board and Executive Board of Portland Area Comprehensive Transporta-

tion System (PACTS), within Greater Portland Council of Governments.

Town Council Chair Timothy Reiniger said, "I want to thank the Town Councilors for their hard work. This was a difficult decision because of the many outstanding candidates who came forward. Ultimately, Mr. Fox stood out in all ways. We are confident that Cape citizens and staff will highly value and enjoy working with him."

The Town Council was assisted by Don Gerrish of Eaton Peabody Consulting Group in their search. "The Town Council could not have conducted this successful search without Mr. Gerrish's tenacity and expert guidance" said Reiniger.

Underage males caught drinking at Kettle Cove, hit and run accident reported

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 8-17 An officer met with a resident of the Wells Road area regarding a dog bite complaint.
- 8-20 An officer met with a representative of a local business who turned over a wallet left behind by a customer.
- 8-21 An officer met with a resident of the Wells Road area who reported that he had received bills from two different collection agencies. The two accounts had been opened using his personal information.
- 8-22 An officer met with a resident of the Mitchell Road area regarding a barking dog complaint.
- 8-23 An officer met with a resident of the Ocean House Road area regarding a possible violation of a protection order.
- 8-25 An officer responded to a residence in the Broad Cove area for a well-being check.
- 8-25 An officer met with a resident in the Shore Road area regarding a domestic issue.
- 8-26 An officer responded to a residence in the Broad Cove area for a well-being check.
- 8-26 Two officers responded to a residence in the Ocean House area for a domestic disturbance.
- 8-26 An officer met with a contractor in the Spurwink Avenue area regarding a hit and run accident.
- 8-27 An officer met with a resident of the Two Lights Road area regarding a theft complaint.
- 8-29 While on routine patrol in the Kettle Cove area after sunset, an officer encountered several underage males with alcoholic beverages. The beverages were destroyed and parents contacted.
- 8-30 An officer met with a resident of the Spurwink Avenue area to reported that she had attempted to purchase an item online from what appeared to be

a legitimate site, only to learn she had been scammed. She had made the payment via Venmo, contacted them, and was told that Venmo would be investigating the complaint.

- 9-2 An officer met with resident of the Spurwink Avenue area regarding a fraud complaint.

SUMMONSES

- 8-20 Portland resident, speeding (50/30 zone) Shore Road, \$230
- 8-21 Cape Elizabeth resident, uninspected vehicle, Brentwood Road, \$148
- 8-25 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (46/30 zone) Mitchell Road, \$170
- 8-25 Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Mitchell Road, \$148
- 8-26 Lewiston resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 8-26 Maryland resident, speeding (60/35 zone), Ocean Street, \$278
- 8-27 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Mitchell Road, \$85
- 8-27 Portland resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Spurwink Road, \$85
- 8-27 Auburn resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Cottage Road, \$85
- 8-27 Falmouth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 8-27 Falmouth resident, uninspected vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$148
- 8-30 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (54/35 zone), Spurwink Avenue
- 8-30 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Ocean House Road/Jordan Way, \$85
- 8-30 Portland resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Cottage Road, \$85
- 8-30 Lewiston resident, operating after license suspension, failure to pay fine, Ocean House Road
- 8-31 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (59/45 zone) Bowery Beach Road, \$129
- 9-1 Portland resident, speeding (40/25 zone), Scott Dyer Road, \$170
- 9-1 New Hampshire resident, uninspected vehicle, Two Lights Road, \$148
- 9-1 South Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$148
- 9-1 Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$148
- 9-2 Mechanic Falls resident, speeding (64/45 zone) Route 77, \$170
- 9-2 Cape Elizabeth resident, failure to stop for red light, Ocean House Road, \$146
- 9-2 South Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$148
- 9-2 North Yarmouth resident, speeding (50/30 zone), Mitchell Road, \$230

ARRESTS

- 8-28 Cape Elizabeth resident, Mitchell Road, outstanding warrant

ACCIDENTS

- 8-5 Devin Foley, Alden O'Brien, accident on Spurwink Avenue
- 8-9 Robert Charette, accident on Spurwink Avenue
- 8-11 Normand Bussiere, Scott Gesualdi, accident on Two Lights Road
- 8-15 Stephen Knaup, Joseph Kimberly, accident on Shore Road
- 8-27 Elsa Larsen, Ray Austin, accident on Ocean House Road.
- 8-28 Kelly Lamun, Susan Bilotti, accident on Mitchell Road.

FIRE CALLS

- Fire: 13
- Rescue: 30



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News from September 9 Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Town Council Reports and Correspondence

Councilor Penny Jordan reminded the Council and citizens in attendance that school tours are happening and are “worthwhile to get an understanding” on the school referendum that will be on the November ballot for Cape Elizabeth voters. The next tours are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. on September 30 and October 29 and begin at the middle school. Materials on the school referendum ballot initiative can be found at Town Hall and online. Jordan said the materials can help citizens on their “decision on how to vote in November.”

Town Manager’s Monthly Report

Michael McGovern shared sentiments on his position as Cape Elizabeth Interim Town Manager saying that “it has been a joy to be back, to see how things evolve, and see the friends I’ve enjoyed working with.” McGovern said he was “looking forward to living in the community with the leadership of all of you” referencing council members and town staff.

McGovern also shared updates on the status of residents’ tax bills stating that the town has employed a new accounting system and along with the legacy record system and the new valuations, “it’s three systems talking with each other.” He said the town staff does not anticipate any problems, but that it “takes longer than you think.” He expected the tax commitments to be mailed by September 13.

Item #144-2024 Recommended Amendments to Chapter 27 Property Tax Assistance Ordinance

The Council discussed approving the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee to amend Chapter 27 Property Tax Assistance Ordinance for senior tax relief.

Councilor Anderson explained that some changes to the ordinance would include raising the income limit to \$70,000, and utilizing a “tiered benefit.” The tiered benefit would offer \$1,500 to households with income limits at \$35,000 and below; \$1,000 for incomes between \$35,000 and \$50,000; and \$500 for household incomes between \$50,000 and \$70,000. The motion to approve carried unanimously.

The Council also voted on the financial

details of the Chapter 27 property tax assistance ordinance which states the appropriation of “additional funding in FY2025 in the amount of \$192,900 from the Unassigned Fund Balance” with an “estimated cost of the expanded program to be \$300,000 from the original budget of \$107,100.” The motion to approve carried unanimously.

Item #145-2024 Recommendation from Sebago Technics Relating to the Town Center Intersection

Jenny Smith Brock of Tall Pine Road, and co-founder of Bike Walk Roll Cape, shared her preference for the “peanut” option to address the town center intersection. Brock said that this option was the “best and most popular” in the survey that was available to residents.

Paul Drinan, Transportation Director of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, shared that “safe driving is the responsibility of each of us” asking the Council if they wanted to prioritize cars over people in choosing a recommended design for the town center intersection. He also shared his preference for a “roundabout” option for vehicular traffic.

Councilor Jordan reminded the Council that they’ve talked about the town center intersection “for about eight years now” and that the town needs to “take care of some of the safety issues there.” She shared that “Option #1” which is the least expensive option, does not include a roundabout for vehicular traffic but would implement pedestrian crosswalks in particular locations, “is the direction to position us for future enhancements.”

Chair Reiniger said that with proposed projects in town center in the pipeline, including residential and mixed-use projects, “will impact the traffic on these streets” and that the Council will “have to come back and make adjustments.” Reiniger said that discussions would not end with this particular motion but is a “great first step and a practical one.”

The Council voted unanimously to approve “Option #1” from the recommendations provided by Sebago Technics. This option will “square up” the intersection of Shore Road and Route 77 and shorten the crosswalks. The roadway intersection would be repaved with some reconstruction to allow for 11’ wide travel lanes. There was a

48% consensus in the survey to adopt the “peanut” style roundabout for the town center intersection.

Item #142-2024 Appointment of a New Town Manager

The Council appointed Patrick W. Fox as Town Manager and approved a 3-year contract with a starting annual salary of \$160,000. Fox is also appointed to serve as the Town Treasurer and Tax Collector during this contract period. Fox will start his role as Town Manager on October 7, 2024.

Citizen Tom Dunham said he is “very pleased at the choice” to appoint Fox. Dunham said he has worked with Fox in Saco and that he’s an “outstanding, balanced person and a great asset to this town.”

Patrick Fox said he is “honored to be Cape’s next Town Manager.” He said he “appreciated the process, it was lengthy and thorough to make sure you found the right fit.” Fox said he will be following decades of great leadership and is excited to work with Cape Elizabeth staff.

The Council also unanimously voted to appoint Fox to service on the PACTS Policy Committee and Greater Portland Council of Government (GPCOG)’s General Assembly. Fox is currently the Chair of PACTS.

Item #146-2024 Consider a Recommendation from the Fort Williams Park Committee to Increase Fees at Fort Williams Park

The Council unanimously voted to approve the recommendation of the Fort Williams Park Committee to increase fees and Pay & Display fees to be charged year round at Fort Williams Park. Fee increases will be effective starting January 1, 2025 and will be in effect through FY 2028.

Kathy Raftice of the Fort Williams Park Committee said that they will see approximately \$171,000 in revenue with almost \$10,000 per month in operation costs with the rest remaining as a profit to the town.

Item #147-2024 Consider a Conservation Easement on Two Lights Road from Richard & Louise Sullivan

The Council unanimously approved to refer to the Conservation Committee a conservation easement offered by Richard and Louise Sullivan. The Sullivans wish to donate a conservation easement on a portion of the lot located at 72 Two Lights Road.

Item #148-2024 Consider a Recommendation from the Ordinance Committee Relating to an ADU Status Report

The Town Council voted unanimously to consider a recommendation from the Ordinance Committee for the Town Manager to obtain ADU (Accessory Dwelling Units) status reports from the Code Enforcement office. The reports will include how many ADU permits have been issued in 2024 and how many may not have been issued because of regulatory barriers.

Councilor Anderson noted that permit fees for ADUs have been reduced by 50% and was one of the reasons the Ordinance Committee is asking for the status report.

Item #149-2024 Request from Chair Reiniger to Refer to Workshop Contract Zoning in the Town Center District

The Town Council voted unanimously to refer to a workshop on the topic of contract zoning in the town center district. The work-

-see MEETING page 14



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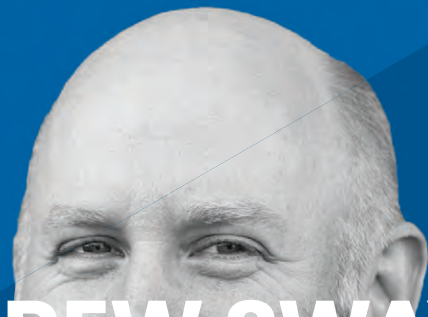
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Library offers sewing adventures for children 8-12, oil paintings by Michelle Leier on display in Stier Family Gallery

Painted Perceptions: Landscapes and Still Lives by Michelle Leier in the Stier Family Gallery

Michelle Leier, one of TML's Access Services Assistants, is an oil painter who finds magic in ordinary, everyday scenes and objects. Her paintings explore scenes she encounters in everyday life, often in walks around town or on nearby trails. Before moving to Maine, she spent many years living in central Europe, and was strongly influenced by the amazing variety of painting she saw there. She finds Baroque art to be especially inspiring, and loves how the whirling, circling, energetic use of light and space in this style of art expresses a celebratory feeling. Michelle aims to capture some of that energy with her own art. This exhibit combines work she has completed while living in Maine: scenes from Cape Elizabeth, Portland and still lifes done in the studio. She grew up in an isolated wilderness near the Superior National Forest in Minnesota, and studied oil painting and art history at Northwestern University, and the Studio Arts College International in Florence, Italy. She received her M.F.A from the Massachusetts College of Art at the Fine Arts Work Center. Her paintings can be viewed until September 30.

Meet TML's New Family Engagement Team

In recent months, TML has welcomed several new staff members to the Family Engagement Department as others have transitioned into new roles. Our new Family Engagement Manager Allyson Frick has two Master's degrees—one in Library Science and the other in Education—School Counseling. Her most recent role was as the Community Engagement Librarian for Roanoke County Public Library in Roanoke, Virginia. She brings a wealth of experience in public libraries, as well as a passion for youth services and deep appreciation of social-emotional learning and child development. She is joined by two new assistants, Sarah Gabrielson and Sara Linhart. Sarah Gabrielson, trained as a pediatric nurse, brings a love of working with families and very young children, and hopes to focus her efforts on new parents, babies and toddlers. Sara Linhart, previously the Program and Education Manager for Portland Gear Hub, sings, plays guitar and ukulele, and brings her passion for music and a newfound interest in musical storytelling to her role at TML. She hopes to develop music-based programs for preschool and elementary-aged children. Sierra Aceto will continue to develop programs for tweens and teens, while working with the team on storytimes for young children. Sasha Kohan, previously a Family Engagement Assistant, has taken on

the role of Community Engagement Librarian, working with the Family Engagement team on programming for young people, as well the rest of the TML staff on programs for adults and intergenerational audiences. In the coming months, you will see some changes to our regular weekly story time offerings as the new Family Engagement team adjusts current programs and develops new ones to meet the needs of diverse age groups and audiences. You will also continue to see a variety of program opportunities for adults and multi-age audiences from the library's team of creative and enthusiastic staff.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Sewing Adventures: Personal Patches + Pockets (Ages 8 - 12)

Saturday, September 28 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Have a hole in your favorite pants or shirt? Need a pocket for your keys or wallet when you go out, but your regular clothes don't have pockets? Want to add your favorite character on a patch to all your clothes? Join us as we use fabric markers and embroidery to decorate personal patches and pockets to take home for mending and adornment. If you want to mend and add pockets while in class, bring in your garment and we can set you up to sew it yourself. Beginning sewists welcome. No prior experience necessary but complete beginners must be accompanied by an adult to work one on one in learning basic skills of threading a needle and tying a knot for their first few meetings. All materials provided. Registration required; sign up on our website.

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 Sierra 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 2-4 and their caregivers.

Dress Up and Dance

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

Join Sara L. 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.

New addition!

Play Date at the Library

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

Drop-in play session for children and their caregivers. The Community Room is open for exploration during this time, with special toys and stations while you visit with friends.

Toddler Story Time

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

This inclusive program is for children who are not quite ready for a traditional story time, but love to have fun with friends. Join Sarah G. for short stories, songs and movement activities. Great for curious, wandering wigglers, ages 1-3, and their caregivers.

Story Times for 3 and up

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

Join Sierra, Sara L. and Sasha on Fridays and Saturdays in the Community Room for songs and stories. Geared toward ages 3-5 or anyone who enjoys listening to a solid two stories.

FOR TWEENS & TEENS

TML Teen Writing Group

Second Friday 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: September 13. Register on our website.

Venture Club

Wednesdays, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. (14+)

Venture Club is a teen-led board/card game and D&D club, with an emphasis on board games. We'll try to play new games every week. No prior gaming experience is needed. Venture Club takes place every Wednesday afternoon in the library's Community Room. No registration is necessary, but if you'd like to sign up to receive reminders or notices or updates, please visit our website.

Dungeons & Dragons Campaign

Thursdays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Set out on a fantastical quest with a magical crew of characters in this all levels D&D Campaign. We'll start out on September 19 with character design, and continue every Thursday afternoon. Beginners welcome. Please visit the library's website to register.

Young Writers Group

First thursday of each month, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. (Ages 10 - 13)

If you are a writer, are 10 - 13 years old, and looking for ideas and support for your writing, please join us. Meets on the first Thursday of every month. Visit the library's Tween/Teen page to register. Next meeting: Thursday, October 3.

FOR ADULTS

Senior Social Hour: Open Conversation

Wednesday, September 18, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. This week's Social Hour will feature

cards, games, and conversation starters, plus the introduction of this month's story sharing topic. Community Engagement Librarian Sasha Kohan will explain how to craft personal stories based on the theme to share the following week. This month's topic is Adventure: When in your life were you most adventurous? What was your most memorable adventure? Stories on this theme will be shared during Senior Social Hour on September 25.

National Voter Registration Day

Thursday, September 19, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Stop by the lobby on National Voter Registration Day to register to vote, confirm your registration and request an absentee ballot. Volunteers from the Town Clerk's office can also answer any questions you may have about the November election and the voting process.

Help Shape the Future of Thomas Memorial Library: Community Conversation

Thursday, September 19, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The library's Strategic Planning Working Group is inviting the public to participate in a conversation about the role of the library in the community. Consultant Will Plumley will facilitate the event, which is intended to gather valuable input from the public prior to the strategic planning process. The library would like to hear from people who don't use the library regularly, as well as those that do. If you are not able to attend this event, you can still provide your input by filling out a brief survey, which can be accessed in the library or on the library's website. You can also fill out comment sheets in the library indicating which services the library provides that would like to continue, improve, stop and start. All are welcome!

Create a Family Archive: Learn How to Preserve Documents and Artifacts to Leave a Personal Legacy, with Rhonda Chadwick

Saturday, September 21, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.


Rhonda Chadwick, the author of "Secrets from the Stacks," will discuss the basics of archival principles, digitization, storytelling and how to create a legacy with pictures, documents and artifacts. The discussion is rooted in the idea that our lives matter and that we are all someone else's ancestor. We will discuss knowing where to begin, learn the best location within your home to store documents, receive a presentation of archival enclosures, and get tips on organizing materials. No registration necessary.

Maine Author Cynthia Reeves on her new book "The Last Whaler"

Tuesday, September 24, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Have you ever dreamed of sailing along Arctic shores, witnessing the unspoiled beauty of the massive glaciers or the spectacle of a glacier calving? Or breaking through ice so thick that only an icebreaker can navigate through it? Or exploring an old whaling station whose ghosts include the bones of hundreds of beluga whales? Or landing on a remote beach hemmed in by mountains that resemble giant's feet? All these sights and more will be featured in a presentation by Cynthia Reeves, a Maine fiction writer who will share highlights of her Arctic travels and inspirations for her latest novel, "The Last Whaler." Cynthia Reeves is the author of three books of fiction. Her fiction, essays,

-see LIBRARY page 19



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Town Council

Continued from page 1

if there aren't homes available at price points that more people can afford. Increased diversity of housing will be key in attracting young families, especially those who hope to live in the community where they work.

SWAYZE: My wife's parents moved to Cape Elizabeth specifically for the strength of its schools. Forty years later, we moved back to Cape with our two daughters because, again, we knew they would get an excellent education here. Families with young children are looking at the schools; it's that simple. A community that invests in its schools is one that invests in its kids. Right now, young families see a school district with incredible teachers and staff. However, they also see a town which has not made a significant investment in infrastructure for decades, and that fact is dissuading them from coming here. I recently asked my mother-in-law, a retired teacher, if she'd move here again. She pointed to Falmouth and Cumberland, two communities that have invested as strongly in their school buildings as they have in their academics, and said, "probably not."

Q- Should a Town Council member be responsive to the majority will in Cape Elizabeth, even between election cycles? Why or why not?

ANDREWS: Yes, Cape's Town Councilors should be responsive to the majority will in between cycles. More importantly, Cape's Town Councilors should know their community.

As we know, recent councils don't have the best record when it comes to referendums, notably being overturned by Cape's voters on both the town center ordinance changes and the prior school bond proposal.

A big challenge is that between election cycles, significant focus turns to groups who are well organized, including groups who represent a known minority opinion.

For example, an independent observer of town meetings over the past year might believe that the new school bond is favored 10 to 1. But take that same observer out into Cape's dining rooms and living rooms, and a different perspective comes to light.

An effective Town Councilor is aware of this reality, and able to stand up to the passion-driven, sometimes aggressive pressure from a vocal minority.

HUGHES: Yes, Town Council members should be responsive to the majority will, even between election cycles. Effective leadership means listening to residents, adapting to changing needs and ensuring decisions reflect the community's evolving priorities. The

Town Council demonstrated this by respecting the will of 62% of voters who rejected the \$115 million school bond in 2022, establishing the citizen-led School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) to find a viable solution, which I support. Unfortunately, the School Board rejected the SBAC's recommendation and hijacked the process this summer, thus wasting millions of dollars while disrespecting the community members that invested their personal time and effort over the 18 months to come to this recommendation. Council members must remain accountable to the community, which may require reevaluating positions as new information arises. Responsiveness strengthens our democracy and ensures all voices in Cape Elizabeth are heard and respected.

REINIGER: Yes, the Town Councilors should strive to discern the majority will. However, experience shows that the majority typically is not as organized and vocal as the advocacy groups. Three examples are: 1) the 2022 new school vote; 2) the 2022 Town Center Zoning Ordinance referendum; and 3) annual budget votes. First, although the 2022 new school vote lost 62-38%, constituent emails sent to the councilors had favored the bond by a 5-1 margin. Second, town voters chose to repeal the Town Center zoning ordinances that had been designed to enable a large taxpayer-subsidized apartment building. The previous Town Council's 6-1 approval of the ordinances did not reflect the majority. Third, proposed annual town budgets generate surprisingly little public feedback in emails and public hearings. The Town Councilors can't interpret this lack of feedback as reflecting majority approval of all or even specific parts of the lengthy budget document.

SAHRBECK: Over 25 years ago, one of the many lessons I learned in Mr. Jordan's AP Government class at CEHS is that we live in a representative democracy. At any level of government, it is the duty of elected officials to represent their constituents when they take their oath. Understanding that no person will be able to please all people, elected officials must listen to all their constituents, not just a select few, and they must be transparent and reasoned in their decision-making. When I served as Cumberland County District Attorney, I made difficult decisions that not everyone agreed with. I did however make myself available to anyone to explain how and why I made that decision. Elected officials need to ask themselves "Am I serving the will of the people or am I serving myself?" If the answer is the latter, then they may not be fit for office.

SCIFRES: The short answer is YES. Town Council members are elected by majority to represent the people of the town. And we are a small town; we are all neighbors. We

don't have districts and we can't be subject to the whims of tiny but loud lobbies. It is appropriate to heed the will of the majority. That doesn't mean ignoring those that disagree. While listening to all constituents, one should look for common themes and remember that there is much more that unites us than divides us. However, hearing from a very large group of your constituents – your neighbors – should be indicative.

SWAYZE: Our town works best when its citizens feel represented by their elected officials and their concerns are both heard and respected. Unfortunately, many citizens are increasingly frustrated with the lack of transparency and openness of our current Town Council. Under the leadership of the chairman, our Town Council has consistently demonstrated that they are only willing to protect their own interests and of citizens like them. As a town councilor, the whole point is to listen to voters and to govern based on the will of the people; and not just the voters who got you into office. As a community, we will never agree on all issues, but we deserve a town council that represents the entire community and does not undermine or ignore the concerns of citizens with different opinions.

Q- Do you believe it is more challenging to open a new business in Cape Elizabeth compared to surrounding towns? Please explain your answer.

ANDREWS: When it comes to opening and maintaining a small business, Cape and our neighboring towns each have their unique benefits and challenges.

Route 1 doesn't run through Cape. But we do get a million annual visitors to Fort Williams, and a tremendous number of visitors to our state parks and beaches.

In Cape, the Lobster Shack thrives at the end of a dead end road with little parking. In South Portland, Scratch Bakery thrives in a tiny business square nestled in a quaint neighborhood. Clearly, local businesses can do well here.

Cape's small business climate has been a concern, though. The lawsuit against the Lumbery was a low point, but might it indicate a bigger issue?

To find out, we don't need costly studies or advice from regional bureaucrats. Instead, we should develop relationships with our local business owners, and ask them how the town can best help them succeed.

HUGHES: Yes, opening a new business in Cape Elizabeth is unquestionably more challenging than in surrounding towns. Not only

are there the logistic issues, there are the perceived inconsistent requirements. The recent \$4.5 million lawsuit against The Lumbery is a stark and alarming example. This legal action over minor zoning issues was not only costly and time-consuming, but also created a climate of fear for other businesses considering Cape Elizabeth. Businesses need to know upfront what is expected of them and confidence that these regulations are enforced equally, regardless of the project. Enforcement actions are a necessary part of Code Enforcement but they need to be applied in an open and fair manner. With that, we need a more constructive approach that prioritizes cooperation over litigation while protecting the town's interests. To foster economic growth, we must streamline regulations, improve communication, and create a welcoming environment where small businesses can thrive.


REINIGER: Yes, it is very challenging. Based on discussions with local business owners, there are three key problems: 1) expensive compliance with regulations, including site plan review; 2) a reputation of municipal lawsuit potential; and 3) the lack of commercial rental availability means that landlords are less incentivized to negotiate rental terms. First, to attract and retain businesses, and small businesses in particular, the town must embrace scaling back overregulation, such as the site planning approval process. Second, the lawsuit against the Lumbery resulted in bad press for the town. To help restore the town's image in the business community, the Town Council did dismiss the Lumbery lawsuit and established a policy that, henceforth, the filing of a regulatory enforcement lawsuit against business will require Town Council approval. Third, there is insufficient availability of commercial rental space in Cape, resulting in landlords being less incentivized to accommodate specific business needs.

SAHRBECK: From speaking with business owners, one of the most challenging as-

-see **PROFILES** page 19

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Scifres

Continued from page 6

Coach at South Portland High School since 2000.

In 2011, Scifres was elected to the Cape Elizabeth School Board, where she has served for twelve years, including five years as Chairperson. Her tenure also included roles as Finance Chair and Policy Chair, where she was instrumental in budget preparation, policy development, and adherence to state and federal regulations. Known for her collaborative leadership style and goal-oriented approach, she has gained extensive experience in public service and governance.

Ready for a new challenge, Scifres aims to bring her extensive experience to the Town Council. She is committed to fostering effective, efficient governance through respectful engagement and adherence to established processes. “To build trust in our community and achieve our goals, we need to engage with each other respectfully and rely on the expertise of our town staff and advisors,” Scifres stated. “Even in what seems like a divisive atmosphere, we agree on much more than we disagree. The best way to find a solution to a problem that feels adversarial is to look for the commonalities and work from there. By focusing on shared goals, we can work towards effective solutions and a stronger community.”

Hughes

Continued from page 6

perspective on local governance.

“Whether we’re discussing school improvements, housing affordability, or supporting local businesses, I’ll advocate for

common-sense solutions that serve our community now and in the future.”

Rooted in Community Service and Commitment

David Hughes is a longtime Maine resident, including seven years in Cape Elizabeth. His commitment to community service is evident through his roles as:

- Active Adult Leader, Troop 30 Boy Scouts
- Coach, 7th-Grade Cape Baseball
- Cub Scout Pack Leader, Pack 30, Cape Elizabeth
- Skipper, Adaptive Sail Program through Sail Maine/Adaptive Outdoor Education Center – Providing access to sailing for people with disabilities.
- Former Board Member, Kaler-Vaill Retirement Home for Women, Scarborough

An Eagle Scout, Hughes believes in leading by example and actively contributing to his community.

Proven Expertise, Real Results

As a Registered Professional Engineer for 29 years, Hughes has delivered cost-effective solutions for municipalities by developing practical alternatives that save communities millions while meeting essential needs.

“It’s easy to say ‘build new,’ but the real work is understanding the needs, budget and finding the right solution,” Hughes said. “I’ve done that across Maine, and I’ll do it here in Cape Elizabeth.”

As Superintendent of the Scarborough Sanitary District, Hughes managed a 2.5-million-gallon-per-day wastewater facility and a complex infrastructure network, honing his skills in long-term planning, budgeting and asset management—skills he’s ready to apply to town governance.

A Vision for Cape Elizabeth’s Future

1. Smart School Investment: Hughes advocates for a fiscally responsible approach to school improvements. “We need to invest in our schools wisely,” he said. “I support a phased strategy that rebuilds our oldest school infrastructure over time, respects past investments and focuses on targeted improvements. This approach will minimize property tax increases, honor Cape’s voters, and ensure our students receive the high-quality education they deserve.”

2. Affordable Housing and Cost of Living: Hughes understands the concerns about affordability in Cape Elizabeth and supports smart growth. “We must maintain our town’s character while keeping it accessible,” he said. “I will champion mixed-use developments that offer affordable housing while protecting our public spaces and farmland. For example, I will never support housing developments in Fort Williams.”

3. Fostering Civil Discourse and Community Unity: Hughes aims to bridge divides. “The best solutions come from collaboration and open dialogue,” he said. “I will create opportunities for constructive conversations that bring people together, even when we don’t agree.”

4. Supporting Small Businesses: Hughes understands the importance of small businesses to Cape Elizabeth. “Our local businesses are the heart of our town,” he said. “I’ll fight for policies that support their growth, streamline processes, and give them a fair voice in town decisions.”

5. Environmental Stewardship and Sustainable Infrastructure: With his engineering background, Hughes will champion sustainable infrastructure. “We must balance growth with environmental preservation,” he said. “I will push for green solutions and long-term planning that protect our natural resources while meeting Cape Elizabeth’s needs.”

Practical Leadership for a Thriving Cape Elizabeth

David Hughes offers a blend of technical know-how, fiscal responsibility, and community commitment. “I’m not a career politician,” Hughes concluded. “I’m a problem-solver, a neighbor, and I want Cape Elizabeth to thrive. If elected, I promise to bring a straightforward, common-sense approach to every challenge we’ll face.”

For more information about David Hughes and his campaign go to <https://www.DavidHughesCE.com>, or to arrange an interview, please contact him via email at: david-hughes_casaba@yahoo.com.

Andrews

Continued from page 8

community. Honest, constructive debate is a good thing, and most often leads to compromise and positive outcomes.”

A lifelong problem-solver, David is prepared to add his voice to a Council that is willing to understand, respect, and work through differing viewpoints. He intends to model a collaborative, pragmatic approach in order to finally resolve the school building issue. “Cape’s voters are justifiably frustrated with the lack of resolution on this matter. They’ve been extremely clear about what they can and cannot afford, and feel ignored by a nearly \$2 million process that so far seems to favor a well-organized and vocal minority.”

David looks forward to representing the broader community on the other prominent local issues as well, including addressing Cape’s small business climate. “Cape hasn’t been known for being friendly to our small businesses as of late. We’re finally moving in the right direction, but there’s plenty of work to be done.”

His views on residential zoning issues are clear, too. “Cape is a warm and welcoming community. We simply oppose the idea of building large apartment complexes and making zoning changes that would threaten Cape’s rural character. And we are passionate about protecting our natural treasures, Fort Williams first and foremost.”

Finally, David is thrilled to see the Town Council race shaping up as one based on the issues. “Most candidates are publicly sharing their positions on the proposed school bond and other important local issues,” he states. “This election is an important one for Cape Elizabeth. I hope each voter will dedicate some time to review our positions and vote for the three Council candidates whose visions most align with their own.

I would be honored to earn the support of our voters, and humbled to again have the opportunity to serve our amazing community.”

Meeting

Continued from page 11

shop will take place on October 9, 2024.

Chair Reiniger wants “express authorization for contract zoning” in the town center district stating it is “basically a policy proposal for consideration going forward... generated by recent (development) proposals.” Reiniger referenced other nearby communities adopting similar zoning such as Scarborough, Biddeford, Kennebunk and Bangor.

Councilor Jordan shared concerns that any owner of a lot in town center would be able to come forward requesting zoning changes and would not have “consistent application of ordinances” and that it would be “piecemeal.”

Councilor Anderson said that if the Council attempted “comprehensive change” it “could take 18 months” or longer. Anderson shared her support for the zoning changes as a means to not lose out on development opportunities that are currently proposed for the district.

Jordan reiterated that adopting contract zoning would also take 12 to 18 months and that “there’s still a process” to follow. Anderson said she thought the adoption of contract zoning “will go a lot faster.” The Councilors appeared to agree to disagree on the timing of the process.

The Cape community is invited to ~

Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society’s



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- Demonstration: Learn how to access our holdings from your own home.
- Refreshments: Enjoy light snacks while mingling with fellow history enthusiasts.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing the stories that have shaped our community!

Reiniger

Continued from page 9

we must scale back overregulation and lawsuits, such as what the Lumberly in Town Center recently experienced,” he explained.

The condition of Cape’s school buildings and rankings also continue to be pivotal issues in his view. Tim believes that a top priority for the Council should be to provide the CESD with the support it needs to take steps to address its slipping state rankings. “To restore our school rankings, instead of spending \$5 million annually on bond payments for a new middle school, it would be more prudent to appropriate funding to cover the needed building renovation and safety needs in addition to teacher pay and staffing.”

Chair Reiniger is aware that the conservation of Cape’s cherished farmlands, open areas and rural village character is difficult. “To achieve this, we can look to support progress while recognizing the danger of ill-considered change,” he said. “Cape’s future must be built on conservation of our open spaces and farms, preservation of our buildings and small businesses, and fiscal restraint. This is what I am committed to doing on your behalf should I have the honor of serving a second term. I would be grateful for your support.”

Reiniger’s previous political experience included service with Sen. Edward Kennedy and Elliot Richardson, both of Massachusetts, and three terms as an Alderman for downtown Manchester, New Hampshire, where he focused on historic preservation efforts involving the millyard and fostering of home ownership opportunities in the Center City neighborhoods.

Tim lives in Cranbrook with his wife Alice, son Charlie (a recent Cheverus graduate), and son Robert (a CEHS senior).

Swayze

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Cove Elementary School.

“Like many younger families, we chose Cape because of the renowned schools, and we arrived at a time when it looked like Cape was going to make some serious strides toward workforce housing and dealing with its aging schools,” Swayze reflects. “When those projects fell apart, we had a lot of long chats with our neighbors to figure out why. It is because of those conversations that I decided to run.”

Swayze may work from home these days as a DevOps Engineer for MIT, but his career is grounded in over two decades of customer support. “Actively listening is crucial to solving problems. I also believe asking questions and consulting experts is vital to providing solutions. As councilor, I will listen, vote thoughtfully, and transparently follow the process established by decades of precedent,” said Swayze. “‘Turning it off and on again’ works great for computers, but not so much for municipal governments.”

To learn more about Swayze’s campaign, visit swayzefortowncouncil.com. You can also reach him at swayze04107@outlook.com or follow @swayzefortc on Instagram and Facebook.

Capetoon: Fall coloring

By Jeff Mandell



Cape Elizabeth Energy Committee to host an EV Fair on Sept. 21

Cape Elizabeth’s Energy Committee is excited to host an Electric Vehicle (EV) Fair on Saturday, September 21, held at the High School parking lot behind Community Services.

This free community event will run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be an ideal opportunity for Cape residents to explore the benefits of EVs and learn about how an EV may fit into our budgets, lifestyles and driving needs. EV enthusiasts are especially encouraged to bring their EV

- car, truck, bike or scooter - and share stories about their experiences driving an EV.

What to Expect:

- **EV Demonstrations:** See a variety of EVs up close, take test drives of new models thanks to Pape Chevrolet, and speak with Cape EV users about their experiences.
- **Charging Information:** Learn about home and public charging stations, the cost savings of driving electric, state and federal incentives, and even the potential to use an EV to provide backup power for

your home.

- **Sustainability Tips:** Find out how EVs contribute to reducing your carbon footprint and improving air quality.

Whether you’re curious about making the switch to an electric vehicle, shopping for your next one, want to show off your EV, or just want to learn more about what the big deal is, Cape’s EV Fair is a perfect place to stop by on September 21 and get charged up.


Vote on Nov. 5th

Michelle Boyer

Democrat for the Maine House

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

- Develop more renewable clean/efficient energy
- Pursue responsible gun safety legislation
- Defend womens’ reproductive freedom
- Sustain high quality public education
- Advance tax relief for seniors/retirees



“I know Michelle will listen to and work hard for all of the citizens of Cape Elizabeth in the State House by developing solutions to the critical issues we are facing in our state. That is why I am enthusiastically voting for her on November 5th.”

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

Fresh perspective. Dedicated leadership

Local birding report

By E. Brooks Bornhoff

Every two to four years the tin hornlike notes of a particular little creature fill our forests. Less common of the two nuthatches that breed in Cape, the exceedingly active, Red-breasted Nuthatch is a scrappy little bird that gleams its way up and down tree trunks and branches searching for arachnids and insects.

Red-breasted Nuthatches have a black cap that fades to a bluish gloss, a white stripe above the eye, a black stripe through the eye and an underbelly that is a brilliant rusty cinnamon. Of note, there is a slight difference in appearance between male and female nuthatches.

One key thing to commit to memory is the variation in pitches between the White and Red-breasted Nuthatches songs. The Red-breasted has a higher pitched, more nasally call than the White-breasted. Interestingly, unlike other birds of the nuthatch clan, the Red-breasted uses its soft musical song to woo females during courtship. While both bird's flight is undulating, the Red-breasted's overall appearance is smaller and despite a

short tail, seems to turn readily while pursuing insects in the air. Such was the case on the afternoon of September 7 when I spied two Red-breasted Nuthatches hawking insects over the Pond Cove Brook Corridor. Earlier that same day I watched a Red-breasted in my backyard wedge a sunflower seed into a tree's crevice then, hack the seed into smaller pieces with its sturdy little bill. This distinctive habit is called "hatching" and gives the birds in this family the name "nuthatch." Red-breasted Nuthatch's population has increased throughout most of its northern range between 1966 and 2019 according to the North American Breeding Bird survey.

Other mentionables from the yard and field during the first week of September include, at dusk on September 4 I was crossing a bridge in Robinson Woods II when a Barred Owl swooped right overhead and disappeared into the shadowy forest ahead. As I made my way along the meandering trail the curious owl followed me, and on several occasions surprised me when I came around a bend. As I stood momentarily enamored by

the experience the 'oo-eeeks' call of a Mother Wood Duck echoed through the old pine forest... quite possibly a warning that danger was about. Also known as 'Squealer Ducks' both male and female Wood Ducks produce a toy-like squeak noise.

Additionally, on the late afternoon of September 6, lingering Tree Swallows twittered high above my head as I plucked ripe tomatoes from our garden. And just before sunset I caught a glimpse of a Common Nighthawk roaming the skies over the treetops above our house. A brief time after that I heard a Great-horned Owl calling from somewhere far away.

On September 7 along Trundy Point's sea misty promontory my sons and I discovered a female Common Yellowthroat skulking away in the dense Rosa Rugosas. Also, while crawling around in the small strand of conifers we came upon a male Magnolia Warbler picking insects from the undersides of pine needles. His summer faded black mask and tasseled necklace sent my mind back to the first time I had laid eyes on a Magnolia War-

bler. The bird was singing in a blooming Dogwood tree on a warm spring morning in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

And on September 8 along the Spurwink Marsh section of Sawyer Road I noted a single Belted Kingfisher, five Snowy Egrets, four Great Egrets and one Great Blue Heron. I also noted a single White-Rumped Sandpiper. This medium sized sandpiper has a slightly drooping bill, long wings that extend beyond its tail and when in flight a distinctive white rump. There were also Semipalmated Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plovers present. The former has yellow legs while the latter has a snazzy blackish brown breast band that is like that of a Piping Plover (only visibly smaller). In general, Semipalmated Plovers look quite similar to Piping Plovers. One way to tell the difference is to closely observe their plumage. I recently relearned that the bird's color differences reflect their habitat preferences. Semipalmated Plovers are more the color of the rocky beaches and mudflats they haunt while Piping Plovers are the color of the sandy beaches they frequent.

Later that afternoon along the fringes of Robinson Woods III I came across two southbound Nashville Warblers. Lastly, on the morning of September 9 a male Blackpoll Warbler briefly appeared at our birdbath. Interestingly, male Blackpoll Warblers change their appearance come autumn while other warblers like Magnolias remain in the same attire. Imagining that this tiny warbler may be taking its last drink of fresh water (from my birdbath) before flying a 90-hour nonstop mission to Northern South America is simply out of this world.

Friends' news and notes

By Friends of Fort Williams Park Staff

We hope that you'll join us for the following workshops, programs and events.

September 18, 25; October 2: Friends' birding group, 7:00 - 8:30 a.m. Our popular birding program has returned for the fall. Whether you are new to birding or a pro, all are welcome. Meet on Wednesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. in front of the lighthouse. Need binoculars? Contact Andrea: asouthworth@fortwilliams.org. No registration required; the program is FREE and open to the public. The program may be cancelled due to inclement weather; check the Friends' social media sites for updates.

September 24: Tuesday plant walks, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Learn about our favorite native landscape plants and why they're important. Each walk will cover growing conditions and gardening tips as well as seasonal, ecological and aesthetic benefits. Meet at 9:00 a.m. by the Children's Garden entrance sign. No registration required; the program is FREE and open to the public. The program may be cancelled due to inclement weather; check the Friends' social media sites for updates.

September 20, 27: Fridays with the Friends, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Looking for a casual volunteer activity for a couple hours a week? Join us on Friday mornings to help transform and preserve beautiful Fort Williams Park. Work with our team to plant, weed, mulch or clear invasive plants. There's no ongoing commitment; come every week or once a month. Interested volunteers can drop in; meet by the Children's Garden entrance sign. For larger groups or more information, contact Andrea: asouthworth@fortwilliams.org.

-see FRIENDS page 18

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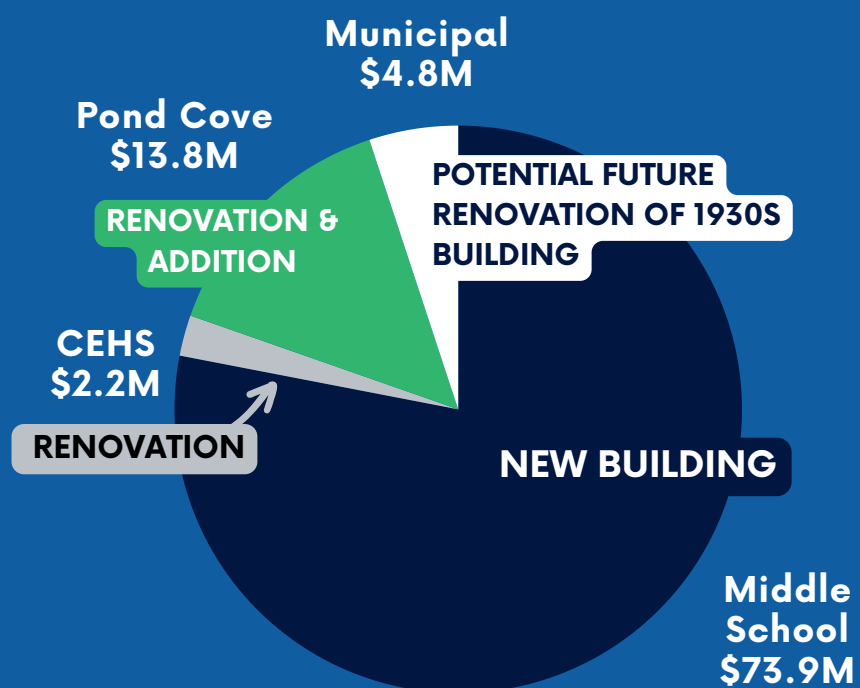
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GET THE FACTS...

and proudly **VOTE YES** for a **✓ SMART** long-term plan for our community!

- ✓ Our school campus is **aging rapidly** with rising maintenance and utility costs. The middle school **averages 64 years old**, with some sections dating back to 1934.
- ✓ Our architects shared that **after 60 years**, most school buildings are **abandoned**. All three of our schools are approaching this milestone, with CEHS as the youngest at 54 years old.
- ✓ By investing in **one new school and strategic upgrades in the other two**, the town sets itself up to tackle the next major project in 15+ years, avoiding a financial cliff where all schools require replacement at once.
- ✓ The project is the culmination of **5+ years** of study and **110+ meetings** since the failed bond in 2022. It's approved by Harriman architects, the town's owner's rep, and ten of our elected officials. **It includes 0% disruption to students.**



Q IS ENROLLMENT DECLINING?

- ✓ Total enrollment has been holding steady at ~1500 students.
- ✓ NESDEC reports that enrollment is expected to grow starting in 2027.
- ✓ Pond Cove and Middle School enrollment is increasing faster than CEHS.
- ✓ The project will serve the current student population and 68,000+ future students over the next 70 years.

Q WHEN WILL PROPERTY TAXES INCREASE?

- ✓ Increases will be phased in over 3 years, beginning October 2026.
 - ✓ The median home assessed at \$720,000 will pay a total of about \$80.22/month.
- October 2026:** \$13.15/month (+2.0%)
October 2027: \$40.11/month (+6.1%)
October 2028: \$26.96/month (+2.1%)
2029 and Beyond: +0%

Q ARE TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS AVAILABLE?

- ✓ You can save ~\$275/year on your primary residence with the Homestead Exemption.
- ✓ Eligible seniors 65 years and older can save up to \$1,500 under the town's Senior Tax Relief program.
- ✓ Seniors 65 years and older may apply for the State Property Tax Deferral Program.

Q HAVE WE APPLIED FOR STATE FUNDING?

- ✓ CESD submitted applications in August for all 3 schools for the state's Major Capital School Construction program.
- ✓ Applications were last open in 2017 — 74 applicants were ranked by the state and only 9 received state funding.
- ✓ CESD has applied and received state SRRF grants for priority projects. These grants provide 0% interest loans, a portion of which is completely forgiven as a grant.

Answers to Your Frequently Asked Questions



CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

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

Thursday, September 19

Fort Williams Park Committee, 6 p.m.
Energy Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, September 24

School Board Workshop, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
Board of Zoning Appeals, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25

School Board Policy Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 4:15 p.m.

Tuesday, October 1

Planning Board Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, 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; and 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: ccrcme.com for Cape information.
South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club, 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays at 107 Preble Hall, Southern Maine Community College, 2 Fort Road, South Portland. sp-ce-rotary.org.

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

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

Nothing scheduled for Sept. 18 - Oct. 1

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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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.

Rise Church

1047 Congress Street, Portland
874-9779
<https://www.riseportland.church>
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

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

Friends

Continued from page 16

September 21: Saturday workshop: Prepping the fall garden for birds and insects, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Join our staff for this hands-on workshop along with informative discussions about native plants and habitats. Meet on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. by the Children's Garden entrance sign. Registration is FREE and open to the public; regis-

ter at www.fortwilliams.org.

September 28: Fall Open House at Fort Williams Park. Join the Friends' board and staff for an Open House from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Children's Garden. All are invited; no registration required. (Rain date: Sept. 29) Tours of Cliffside and the Children's Garden will be held at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact the Friends' at info@fortwilliams.org or visit www.fortwilliams.org.

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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

Piano Lessons. All ages, all levels. Call Ora: 207-899-3014

Profiles

Continued from page 13

pects of having a business in Cape Elizabeth is our geographic location "at the end of the line." We do not see the volume of consumers compared to Scarborough, South Portland and Falmouth, which all have the Route 1 corridor. Many potential business startups have looked at the economic numbers and realize that, due to our location, starting a successful business may be too difficult. That said, there have been many businesses that have

done well since opening in Cape Elizabeth. In my time on the Planning Board since 2015, we have worked with over 20 businesses, including C-Salt, Cape Integrative Health, and String Bean Farm School, to open in town, while also approving changes for existing businesses such as The Good Table, L.P. Murray, and the Inn By the Sea, which have helped them continue to prosper.

SCIFRES: Cape Elizabeth is not on the way to anywhere – I say that meaning we are a destination, out of the way and without direct throughway access unlike many of our neighboring municipalities. That in and of itself presents a challenge. There are multiple ways of encouraging new business including favorable ordinances and tax structures. There are other strategies a town can pursue, such as expanding affordable workforce housing and access to public transportation. The people of Cape Elizabeth will have to decide how high to prioritize the growth of new business and then act accordingly.

SWAYZE: Yes. The most obvious indicator of this is Cape does not have an officer or board dedicated to encouraging businesses to move here or start here. Scarborough has SEDCO. South Portland has an Economic Development Officer. We have nothing like that. Second, our regulations make compliance difficult. For example, businesses in the town center must have their storefront adhere a "village feel" laid out in our laws; not necessarily a bad thing, but we need to consider how it may dissuade potential growth. Finally, businesses need diversity to thrive. The first question asked about young families, but let's not forget other demographics which make a town thrive; our current zoning does not allow new, dense neighborhoods to be built with affordable starter homes, nor do we allow workforce housing. If we want businesses, families, and workers to come to Cape, we must make it easier for them to do so.

Library

Continued from page 12

long interest in the Arctic began in childhood reading tales of doomed Arctic explorers, but it was her participation in the 2017 Arctic Circle Summer Solstice Expedition, which sailed Svalbard's western shores, as well as two subsequent residencies in Longyearbyen, that have inspired her writing since then. All are welcome.

Senior Social Hour: Story Sharing

Wednesday, September 25, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

This week, share stories of adventures you've had in your life—or just listen to others. Plus special guest Town Clerk Angela Frawley will be on hand to assist with absentee ballot applications.

Don't Get Scammed, with officers from CEPD

Thursday, September 26, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Scams are on the rise, and even savvy people can fall for them. Learn about current types of scams, how to spot them and how to avoid falling for them. CEPD Officers Darrin Estes and Ben Davis will let you know how you and your loved ones can stay safe.

Help Shape Justice in Our Communities: A Conversation with District Attorney Jackie Sartoris

Friday, September 27, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

This is an opportunity for the community to engage in conversations about justice with a facilitator who will provide guided questions to give everyone a chance to speak. Space is limited; please register through the link on the library's website.

Bridging the Divide Book Discussions

Monday, September 30, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (in-person)

Monday, September 30, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

(via Zoom)

Saturday, October 5, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. (in-person)

Join one of our facilitated discussions of Mónica Guzmán's book, "I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times." The library is offering these opportunities in partnership with the town's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and with funding from the TML Foundation. You can register on the library's website to receive a free copy of the book to read and pass along to someone you think could benefit from reading it.

In the book, Guzmán charts a path to reconnect with one another, even as partisanship is up, trust is down, and our social media feeds make us sure we're right and everyone else is ignorant (or worse). Avoiding one another is hurting our relationships and our society. In this timely, personal guide, Mónica Guzmán shows us 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. Additional dates for book discussions will be scheduled for later dates, so if none of the above dates and formats work for you, please let us know by filling out the registration form on the library's website.

Senior Social Hour: Better Balance and Fall Prevention

Wednesday, October 2, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Physical therapist Rachael Boutin from Northern Light Healthcare will discuss different body systems that can affect our balance (i.e. vision, strength, etc.) and discuss other factors that can affect balance such as medications or environmental risks. She will also tell you how to fall safely, and how to get up after a fall.

David Hughes for Town Council
Pragmatic Leadership for Cape Elizabeth



David's Priorities for Cape:

• **Practical School Investment**

"I oppose the \$95 million school bond because it exceeds what Cape's residents are willing to spend. I support setting a budget that aligns with community expectations and focuses on improving existing infrastructure without excessive property tax increases."

• **Affordable Housing Solutions**

"I support smart growth that protects Cape Elizabeth's rural character and avoids large-scale apartment developments that threaten our community's unique charm."

• **Fostering Civil Discourse**

"I will encourage open dialogue and collaboration among all community members, valuing transparency and listening to diverse perspectives."

• **Supporting Small Businesses**

"I will advocate for fair policies and genuine partnerships with Cape's small business owners to set them up for success and keep Cape Elizabeth's community vibrant."

• **Environmental Stewardship**

"I will promote sustainable infrastructure and green solutions to protect Cape Elizabeth's natural resources."

"Together we can manage Cape's growth, support our local businesses, preserve our unique and natural beauty, and forge a fiscally responsible path for our school building project. I humbly ask for your vote."

For more information, visit: www.DavidHughesCE.com

Paid for and Authorized by David Hughes

