

The Cape Courier

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In the Spirit of Community

Three candidates vie for three Cape Elizabeth School Board seats

By Kevin St. Jarre



Chris Boniakowski



Peter Joy Engel



Lee Schroeder

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, by the deadline. The candidates are Chris Boniakowski, Peter Joy Engel and Lee Schroeder.

Q1- As a member of the Cape Elizabeth School Board, do you feel like you might be able to contribute most with leadership in matters involving instruction, physical infrastructure, taxes or something else?

Boniakowski - While the current bond referendum and its related tax impacts are justifiably top of mind, I would hope any school board member would not narrow their focus to one issue.

My professional experience will help me in guiding infrastructure projects. I also recognize that infrastructure alone does not make our schools. Our kids and school staff deserve leaders that balance these priorities and plan for their futures.

Engel - Professionally and personally, I am a community builder. I want to bring people together to find common ground and work together on a shared vision for the future. Forces outside of the schools have tried to divide our town and community over the last few years. Our town is small; there really is no place for the divisiveness we've seen.

In my role on the board, I'd like to start repairing this divide and work with school leaders and community members

so we can refocus on what's important: uplifting our students and our community. In a town this small, we are all neighbors. Our successes are shared. It's time to start remembering that.

Schroeder - I feel that my experience as an executive leader and in addressing complex public policy issues will be useful to the work of the School Board.

As a voice of the community, the School Board has an important role in defining the strategic vision for education in Cape Elizabeth, in collaboration with school district leadership. The Superintendent and his team then lead the work to realize that vision. As this work progresses, the School Board provides guidance in addressing any issues and identifying opportunities to evolve the strategic vision in the interest of all Cape students.

My career was focused on developing solutions to complex public policy issues. Developing successful solutions required listening to all perspectives, crafting solutions based on areas of alignment and defining metrics to measure outcomes. As a member of the School Board, I would apply this experience in the interest of ensure Cape's educational vision continues to benefit all students.

Q2- What do you feel would be the best way to improve our schools, and what would be most important to preserve in CESD?

Boniakowski- I'm a relatively recent transplant to Cape Elizabeth. I have met

so many welcoming people in this town, of every generation, that have made it clear that this is a very special place. We need to preserve that reality. I want our kids to want to raise their families here. That means creating a community that values children and their education and invests in their success.

Engel - I love the warmth, care and thoughtfulness of Cape parents and guardians. It's important to preserve that community spirit, that willingness to come together to support our children and their teachers.

Beyond our aging infrastructure, one of the biggest changes facing our students and our school is the role of devices in school. I've been inspired by the movement of middle school parents to create thoughtful technology policies—policies that acknowledge that our children are coming of age in a digital world and need to be prepared for it, while also carefully considering the impact phones and social media have on children. It's crucial that we don't place the burden of addressing these challenges solely on our teachers.

Instead, we should adopt a collaborative approach involving students, parents and faculty. I would be honored to contribute to this conversation and help create policies that best support both students and teachers.

Schroeder - An important asset of CESD to preserve is the team of exemplary teachers and staff, supported by the Superintendent and his administration. It is also critical that Cape continue

to attract new teachers who share the commitment to young people and educational excellence.

If we do not improve our facilities and the physical environment in which teachers, staff and students must operate, I am concerned that we will imperil our ability to retain and attract excellent teachers, an essential asset. While of course we need to be fiscally responsible in addressing this issue, we must also be willing to invest in our schools, which is an investment in students and their future.

Q3- What do you feel is the most important piece that is missing in educational leadership today, locally and/or generally?

Boniakowski - Our school board is doing a great job. I would seek to continue emphasizing clear communication to the community. The local referendum is a great example of the importance of this need. There has been a glut of misinformation seeking to sway voters. Our school staff deserve leaders that will advocate for them accurately and honestly.

Engel - On a local and national level, we've lost the ability to recognize that multiple truths can coexist. Social media contributes to this issue by forcing us to choose between "like" or "dislike," leaving little room for nuance. These spaces are a breeding ground for misinformation.

As a professional advising organization on social media strategy, I understand its benefits. However, it's essential for students to engage critically with the content they consume. Fostering media literacy and intellectual curiosity is vital as we prepare the next generation for global challenges.

Our students must learn to ask thoughtful questions about the content they encounter—considering creators' intentions and biases. They need skills to identify reputable sources and distinguish fact from misinformation. Critical thinking skills are the most important

-see SCHOOL BOARD page 23



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

NEXT ISSUE: Oct 23
DEADLINE: Noon, Oct 11

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The Cape Courier does not have the resources to fact check all letters to the editor and cannot verify that the information in each letter to the editor is correct.

Andrews 'will be a strong voice'

Dave Andrews will bring a unique and invaluable perspective to the Town Council. A member of the Cape Elizabeth Class of 1977, Dave has a deep awareness and appreciation of the history, traditions and values that define our community.

Dave built a very successful career rising from ditch digger to Project Director for numerous multi-billion dollar construction projects around the world. He learned to appreciate the value of hard work and respect the professionals and tradespersons who labor to build and maintain our industries, businesses and civil infrastructure.

Dave is concerned with the increasing financial burdens shouldered by a growing number of struggling young families and seniors. Whether it's families with special needs children, caring for elderly parents or

dealing serious health issues, there are many families that are stretched beyond their financial resources. Dave will be a strong voice for their concerns and will use his professional expertise to ensure that investments in our public facilities are handled in a fiscally responsible manner and are designed well and are cost-effective solutions.

A lifelong problem-solver, Dave is willing to understand, respect, and work through differing viewpoints. He intends to follow a collaborative, pragmatic approach in order to finally resolve the long-range needs of our schools and address many other challenges facing our community.

Cape citizens can vote with confidence for Dave Andrews for the Town Council.

Larry Benoit

Engel is 'the kind of leader we need'

When I think of what makes a great neighbor, Joy Engel is the first person who comes to mind. Joy isn't just present—she's involved. She's the backbone of our neighborhood, stepping up to organize events like our annual Halloween party, bringing families together despite the busyness of our lives.

What sets Joy apart is her empathy. During winter storms, while many of us are focused on our own needs, Joy is checking in on neighbors, making sure we're all safe. And when the power crews are working tirelessly to restore electricity, she's the one walking coffee, pizza, and cookies to them in the ice—because she makes people feel valued. That's the kind of care she brings to everything she does.

She's also not afraid to speak up when it matters. Whether it's advocating for safety improvements to address speeding concerns or ensuring kids have a safe place to play and explore, Joy has consistently used her voice to make our neighborhood a better place.

Joy isn't just a neighbor—she's the glue that holds a community together. Her sense of responsibility, compassion and dedication make her the kind of leader we need on the school board.

On November 5, when you head to the polls, remember to look for PETER JOY ENGEL on the ballot. That's the name you'll want to check off for someone who embodies the very best of what it means to be a neighbor and a community leader.

Kira Hug

Reiniger 'finds compromise'

I was recently heartened to find out that Tim Reiniger will be running for a new term on the council. He and I are not natural allies, I suspect we might be enrolled in different political parties and have different philosophical positions on some issues. I will, though, be voting for him happily and without reservation.

Tim has been a friend, neighbor and an esteemed member of a church we both attended. There his hard work, thoroughness, and creativity turned around a budget disaster that had beset us. On the town council he has been a champion of fiscal responsibility and compromise. His proposals to address school renovations are pragmatic prudent and affordable. I wish there were three "Tims" on the ballot. A town with a limited tax base like Cape needs to walk a fine line to keep expenses in check to ensure that we don't become less affordable and more tax encumbered.

Consider a smart sensible vote for a serious, dedicated gentleman man who does his homework and finds compromise.

Michael B Thorne

Scifres considers all options

Several years ago, I was privileged to serve on the Cape Elizabeth School Board with Elizabeth Scifres. The work is tough and unending, and my three years were dwarfed by her long-standing commitment to the schools and her many outstanding

years of service.

While I was a member, we worked together through extended leadership searches, budget challenges, infrastructure needs, sensitive policy issues, and significant faculty concerns regarding morale. Transparency, respect, and integrity were the cornerstones of her tireless work as real progress was realized on several fronts. She was devoted to learning all she could about issues, asked thoughtful questions, and carefully considered all options before voting. She brought no foregone conclusions to the important work at hand and listened with intent. Her later leadership as Chair of the School Board was welcomed and steady.

It strikes me that these are exactly the qualities we need on our Town Council right now and I was thrilled when I learned she decided to run. Please join me in electing Elizabeth to this significant leadership role in town government. We need her thoughtful approach, willingness to listen, and respectful behavior to address current and future issues facing our town.

Barbara Powers

Correction

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools (ACES) noticed a typo in its advertisement in the previous issue of The Cape Courier. The correct percentage increase for October 2028 is 4.1%, not 2.1%. The estimated monthly amount remains accurate at \$26.96.

These figures were verified via the School Construction Project website cape.k12.me.us. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused and appreciate your understanding.

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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

School Bond Vote & Tax Increase

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the school bond proposal replace the outdoor playing fields and basketball court lost due to the Middle School relocation? No. There is no provision to replace the regulation-sized all-purpose field. A smaller field is proposed where the current middle school stands, but it's not large enough for middle school soccer or lacrosse games. The architect suggested adding a \$1.9M field at Gull Crest, but this is not included in the bond. The result: the loss of a full-sized field, further straining youth soccer programs, and the removal of the campus's only outdoor basketball court, with no plan for replacement.

How does this project compare to other locally funded projects? This project exceeds by \$40mm (City of Portland, \$64mm) the next most expensive locally funded project in Maine history. At 248 sqft/pupil it greatly exceeds every single middle school and elementary school project built in Maine in the last 15 years which received state funding! Oversized means overpriced and taxpayers should not be expected to pay for such a project.

Was a budget ever set for this project? No. Neither the Council nor the School Board ever set a budget before spending almost \$2mm on architects' fees and drawings, despite the fact that two surveys showed that residents wanted the tax increase kept below 10%.

Why has the Town Council recommended a "NO" vote on the bond? The Council did NOT recommend this bond referendum because the School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) recommended a far less costly alternative, "Option B," which addressed the critical needs of all three schools. A majority of the Council thought the bond project proposed by the School Board was too expensive and too focused on the middle school at the expense of the pressing needs at the HS and Pond Cove.

How much will this project cost taxpayers? The full estimated cost, including interest, is \$154,622,800. The town manager has estimated a tax increase of 12.57%, which does not include the tax increase for the additional \$9.3 million in critical work needed for the HS and Pond Cove. This is a hidden tax increase; each million dollars added to the school budget raises taxes by an additional 2.4%.

Does a "NO" vote mean I don't support education? No. Cape residents generously support the schools. Approximately 75 cents of each tax dollar you pay goes to support Cape schools. But we should not be expected to pay for a new building which greatly exceeds the Maine Department of Education size standards, as well as the average sq ft /pupil size of other middle schools constructed in Maine.

Isn't a new building the most economic solution? No. The SBAC's recommended solution, Option B, cost at least \$27mm less, and addressed every critical issue at all three schools, providing for lower operating costs. For example, the SBAC proposed two new cafeterias served by one kitchen. The School Board's proposal requires two separate kitchens in two distant buildings, which likely will require two separate kitchen staffs. The SBAC proposal turned the existing "cafetorium" into a state-of-the-art performing center. The bond project will demolish playing fields and will require the construction of at least one additional field, off campus, at Gull Crest, for an estimated \$1.9mm, which is not included in the bond. The bond project also demolishes 25,000 sq ft of the school building built in 1994, less than half the lifespan of a properly maintained building, as well as a 7,500 sq.ft. gym which is in very good structural and functional condition.

If the bond referendum fails, what will happen next? We all agree, the three schools need a lot of work. The School Board can act quickly to either develop a new proposal or resurrect Option B, the recommendation of the SBAC, which addressed the critical issues at all three schools. We know the Board can act quickly: it took only 20 days for them to come up with a \$104mm project after rejecting the SBAC recommendation.

<https://capevoters.com>

The Town Council Recommends That Voters NOT APPROVE This Bond
The SBAC Did NOT RECOMMEND This Proposal
Vote "NO" on Question 1—We Can Do Much Better!



LEARN MORE

When you vote "NO" on this bond, you send a clear message to the School Board: Start listening to the voters and accept a true compromise that works for all three schools and for all Cape taxpayers.

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Boyer ‘checks all the boxes’

I was lucky enough to meet Michelle Boyer in a yoga studio soon after she moved to Cape Elizabeth a decade ago. She checks all the boxes for me in qualities that I'm looking for in a state representative; she is kind, smart and highly qualified. However, I think her greatest strength is as a listener, she actually listens more than she talks. At a time when we really need it most, she is also incredibly open minded, always looking to find common ground. I was thrilled to learn of her candidacy for state representative in the seat formerly held by Rebecca Millett.

Michelle is passionate in her support for our community, both on a local and state level. She and her husband Mark are raising two daughters in Cape Elizabeth and she's been

generous with her time in countless school committees and town events. You may see her out on the Greenbelt, as she's an active member of the Cape Conservation Committee, helping maintain and provide access to our town's cherished trail system. On a state level, she is committed to passing responsible gun safety legislation as a volunteer with the Gun Safety Caucus of the Maine legislature.

Thank you so much for your commitment to our community, Michelle. I could not be more pleased to endorse your candidacy. Please join me in voting for Michelle Boyer in the November election!

Terri Patterson

Sahrbeck ‘has a proven track record’

Far too often, we have proven leaders living right next door to us, and yet our town and neighborhoods never get the opportunity to take advantage of their experience and talents, locally. Cape Elizabeth voters have the rare opportunity to elect just such a leader to your town council this fall. Jonathan Sahrbeck!

Jonathan Sahrbeck has a proven track record of leadership in Cumberland County, the state of Maine and beyond. Taking advantage of his position as Cumberland County's DA, Jonathan immersed himself in the mental health and substance use treatment and recovery communities. Why? Because Jonathan wanted to better understand why he was seeing these folks in his courtroom. So, he listened, and learned. Listening, that's Jonathan's secret to success. A trait that will serve the constituents of Cape Elizabeth well.

Jonathan's influence extends far beyond

Cape Elizabeth and Cumberland County. Jonathan's values and expertise are recognized by state leadership and by countless agencies who are privileged to have Jonathan as a member of their boards of directors.

As the leader of a statewide non-profit, I have seen Jonathan's influence throughout the state of Maine. His kind demeanor, accessibility, and thoughtful approach to any challenge have made him an indispensable source for addressing community and organizational issues, statewide.

Beyond everything else, it's Jonathan's ability to make every individual feel valued that separates Jonathan's leadership style from the rest.

For these reasons, and many more, I hope you and your fine community will vote for Jonathan Sahrbeck! Your Town Councilor!

Bruce Noddin

Swayze has a ‘pragmatic approach’

Local elections matter. The upcoming Town Council election is an opportunity for us, as a town, to decide what we stand for and what our vision is for the future. From housing and infrastructure to replacing outdated schools, the actions of the next Town Council will impact residents for generations. Cape residents deserve town councilors who prioritize the long-term success of the town and its citizens, rather than protecting their own personal agendas. Andrew Swayze is that candidate.

I first met Andrew last year while we were both running for Town Council. From the start, Andrew impressed me with pragmatic approach to town management and his openness to act based on what's best for the town. His approach to town management is not motivated by preserving what Cape Elizabeth once was but by a vision of what

Cape Elizabeth can be. His commitment to serving the long-term, collective good is exactly what Cape Elizabeth needs.

As the father of two young daughters, Andrew will also be a strong advocate for the families of Cape Elizabeth, a vital voice in our community yet underrepresented in town government and whose concerns are repeatedly ignored by the current Town Council.

Andrew will be an effective and thoughtful leader on the Town Council and has earned my vote. I encourage you to give him the opportunity to earn your vote as well. I invite you to reach out to Andrew to hear his positions while sharing with him your own concerns—he will listen.

Matt Grymek

Hughes ‘leads by example’

I write in support of David Hughes' candidacy for Town Council.

David's thoughtful responses to the Courier's questions in the previous edition were impressive, including his response regarding protecting Cape's young families from large property tax hikes, and his commitment to fiscal prudence.

As a former Councilor, I am impressed with David's background and skills. The condition of Cape's schools have been under the microscope, but we have many other infrastructure needs which must be addressed in the near future. David's years of experience in municipal government, and his background as civil engineer, will prove to be invaluable additions to Cape's Town

Council as we move forward.

David's volunteer service caught my eye as well. His leadership in the Boy Scouts, service as a CEMS baseball coach, and Skipper in Sail Maine's sailing program for people with disabilities shows that he leads by example.

And importantly, I appreciate David's willingness to express his opposition to the \$95MM school bond, in favor of setting a budget in line with what our community has said they can afford. There will be six names on the ballot for Town Council this November, and we each get three votes. David Hughes has earned one of my votes.

Mary Ann Lynch

‘104.4M is a patently false number’ ‘How did we get here?’

Signs, signs, everywhere are signs.

Our school referendum vote is just around the corner. We should be paying attention to the details.

Contrary to what the pop-up green signs seem to allege, our middle ground solution is fiscally sound.

Let's break it down.

12+% “tax hike.” While this may be true, this is an infrastructure.

12+improvement that will benefit generations to come. This increase will be implemented over 3 years. Homeowners with a median valued home of \$720,000 will realize a tax increase of about \$80 per month with many seeing far less of an increase.

94.7M School Bond verbiage is mislead-

ing. 4.8M of this figure is set aside to renovate the 1934 building as per the town council's request to preserve rather than demolish this building.

104.4M is a patently false number.

I am hopeful that readers will be able to see that the long term plan seeking a 12% tax increase clearly seeks a “middle ground” approach that is so much more responsible than the 25%+ - increase proposed in 2022.

Well educated, safe and well rounded students in one of the best school systems in the state will realize far greater savings in college grants, scholarships and incentives for these students and their parents!

Kristen Bouterse

How did we get here? Our school buildings need work. The question is; why hasn't the school board directed critical maintenance and security upgrades annually? The school department's first Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was created with town council direction and financial help in 2013.

In 2016 an intruder entered the middle school twice before being arrested; the school board inexplicably declined town councilor offers to immediately bond for new secure entrances.

In 2018 the town received its first “significant deficiencies” government audit report. This was due to the school department's co-mingling of \$4 million in CIP accounts, violating government audit standards and creating problems identifying school CIP account spending.

In 2022 the school board proposed a \$116MM bond for new school buildings

which was soundly defeated by voters. Finally with the new citizen committee “SBAC,” volunteers spent 18 months working and in May 2024 recommended \$77MM Option B. Option B addressed critical security and safety needs at all three schools, 36,000 sq ft of new construction at Pond Cove and all without losing our middle school playing fields.

The school board allowed a 10 minute introduction of Option B, did not ask one single follow-up question, shut down the SBAC abruptly and prematurely, and 20 days later came up with a new \$104 MM project for a huge new middle school.

We don't need new buildings. We need responsible care and renovation of the buildings we already have. Vote NO on the \$94.7MM bond/\$104MM project.

Jessica Sullivan







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Carney works in a ‘collaborative fashion’

I am pleased to write once again in support of Anne Carney’s re-election to the Maine Senate. Anne has served with distinction the last two terms, chairing the Judiciary Committee and Gun Safety Caucus, and is a member of the the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and Children’s Caucus.

The accomplishments of this term are many, but to me, as a practicing Emergency Medicine physician, her effective advocacy for expanding the Children’s Health Insurance Program and leadership on gun safety legislation are especially noteworthy.

Covid thrust Emergency Medicine into the front lines of children’s health care and insuring that no child is denied access is fundamental to the care Mainer’s expect from our communities.

As a hunter and gun owner since my childhood, I value safe access to firearms and their responsible use. Unfortunately, my work has exposed me to the terrible results of irresponsible gun ownership through self harm and harm to others. Anne’s sponsorship of sound firearm policy has and will continue to provide leadership and results for safe and responsible gun ownership.

Finally, Anne is a thoughtful and respectful listener. She brings a genuine commitment to improve the quality of our lives through her work in the Maine Senate. Her ability to work in a collaborative and bipartisan fashion will continue to bring meaningful results. I am grateful for her service. Please join me in voting for Anne November 5.

Tony Owens

‘We deserve much better’

My wife and I have five daughters, three of whom attend Pond Cove Elementary and the Middle School. I joined the School Building Advisory Committee because I care deeply about the future of Cape’s schools. For nearly 18 months, I worked to help find a solution that truly meets our town’s needs.

While I fully support replacing our outdated school infrastructure, the plan on the November ballot is flawed. The SBAC’s recommendation offered a balanced approach: addressing every single critical need at all three schools, while limiting the immediate tax increase to under 10% and future increases to below 3%. Our plan focused on building inwards and upwards on the current campus, reducing sprawl and avoiding the duplication of resources and spaces. This approach mod-

ernized facilities, minimized future disruption, and preserved valuable outdoor areas for learning and recreation.

The School Board’s proposal, however, creates unnecessary campus sprawl and duplication of resources. It eliminates our only outdoor basketball court and downsizes the constantly-used multipurpose field, making it too small for middle school soccer and lacrosse games, with no plan for replacement.

Voting against this proposal doesn’t mean rejecting new schools—it means advocating for a smarter, more thoughtful solution that can gain widespread support from all demographics in town. Given the cost of this project, I believe we deserve much better.

Michael Hussey

Schroeder ‘thinks outside the box’

When we learned that our friend and neighbor Lee Schroeder would be running for a seat on the school board, two strong feelings arose: gratitude and excitement. Lee has a deep and authentic interest in how people within both her personal world, and her local community are fairing, and if they are anything but thriving Lee explores different paths to action, for something better. You can see it when this process begins. Total concentration, undivided attention and most striking to those she is speaking to...an intense CARE that comes with her curiosity and commitment to solve problems.

When we have big concerns, and questions about difficult issues, we gravitate to Lee for her calm, intelligent and dynamic

perspective. Lee thinks outside “the box” with a positive optimism, grounded in a realistic approach to make things happen. Lee is brilliant and also happens to be passionate about education. Lee is a phenomenal mother who recognizes students for the individuals they are, and celebrates their uniqueness. She would be open to learning what might make school “work” better for more students and try new ideas out if they are compelling.

Lee will not claim to have all the answers as a school board member, but her gift is in asking the right questions with an open mind. Our school district would be incredibly lucky to have Lee at the table on its School Board.

Sandy Shapiro Hurt and Eric Hurt

‘There should be some rethinking’ of system

When we received our new property evaluation letter earlier this year, we were shocked that the new value was 340% GREATER than last year’s evaluation. This increase was despite no new construction for at least 10 years. We made an appointment with the Tax Assessor and found there was a lot of misinformation about our house and our evaluation was brought down to a number that was still jaw dropping to us.

We were anxious to hear of our new tax bill and when we saw the delayed results, we were relieved to see the town’s official spreadsheet listed it as a 1.98% increase, until we looked at the actual numbers and realized that the data was shown improperly and our new bill was actually 198%!

So basically our taxes were doubled in

one year.

And now we understand that our taxes will be substantially more with the upcoming school project. This will compound our situation because the school tax will be a percentage of our drastically new evaluation.

Might it make more sense for there to be a cap (10%?) on the amount of increase? Looking at the new tax data, most of the increases were under 10% (and there were even some with a lower bill) so we think, in the case of fairness, there should be some rethinking of the system.

We are open to any help to relieve our predicament rather than just a shrug of the shoulders.

Drew and Susan Dubuque

‘Learn from my mistakes and vote YES’

As a newcomer to Cape Elizabeth, I feel it’s important to share my experience with the last school bond vote. I’m a bit embarrassed to admit that I got duped by all the glossy mailers and posts from groups like Cape Neighbors Alliance. They had me convinced that my property taxes would skyrocket by 25% making my monthly mortgage payments a struggle. So, I ended up voting “No.”

But then I started attending Town Council and School Board meetings, and I quickly realized I had been misled. The facts presented by the professionals showed that the tax increase for the new school bond would be closer to \$70 a month, not the \$300 I had feared. This reasonable investment would give us a much-needed new school to replace the failing one, ensuring our kids have a safe and modern place to learn, instead of being stuck in unsecured trailers.

Even the alternative “quick fix” option,

which would only tackle basic maintenance issues, would still cost an extra \$30-40 a month and would need to be addressed again in just a few years. We have the chance to make a meaningful, long-term investment in our community’s quality of life, at a cost that I think the majority of folks in town can handle.

I encourage my fellow residents to learn from my mistakes and vote “YES” for this crucial investment in our town’s future. It’s the right thing to do for our kids and our community.

Ezra Hug

Cape career coach

Have a question about current work or future dreams for Cape career coach Holly Smevog? Email them to editor@capecourier.com.



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Lee Schroeder announces candidacy for School Board



Contributed photo

Lee Schroeder has announced her candidacy for School Board.

Lee Schroeder, a former executive with 30 years of experience working in and with government, has announced her candidacy for the Cape Elizabeth School Board.

Lee and her wife, Dr. Julia Tortolani, have two sons, Oliver (13) and Tucker (11), and bought their home in Cape Elizabeth in May 2016. They moved to Cape from New York City after searching nationwide for a community that had a healthy work/life balance, offered a strong public school system, provided access to outdoor activity in all seasons, and felt welcoming of all families and people. Lee, Jules and their boys enjoy so much of what Cape Elizabeth has to offer, including the youth soccer, flag football, basketball, and baseball programs as well as the incredible assets of Fort Williams, Robinson Woods, and the Thomas Memorial Library.

“Our experience in Cape Elizabeth has delivered on all of our criteria for our ideal community, and we love living here,” Lee said. “Having been part of the community for eight years, I am excited to pursue new opportunities to give back to the town. Given my belief that a strong education is essential for all

children to reach their potential in life, I would be honored to serve on the School Board and focus my efforts on supporting students, teachers, parents and administrators.”

As the Executive Vice President of Government & Community Affairs for a national broadband company, Lee has extensive experience in building coalitions and developing solutions to complex public policy issues that bridge both public and private sector interests. Lee views the School Board as being an important vehicle through which the views of the community are represented in decisions impacting Cape’s education system.

“As a School Board member, I would be committed to listening to all views on issues and to being transparent about my position and reasoning. I would encourage openness to new approaches and would rely on metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of processes, new and old. I respect the professionalism and dedication of the current School Board members and would look forward to collaborating to develop solutions that serve the best interest of all students.”

Time to wear some pink

Cape Elizabeth Girls Soccer needs your help supporting Maine Cancer Foundation.

Cheer on your lady Capers Thursday October 15 as they take on Wells Jr Varsity at 4:00 p.m. and Varsity at 6:00 p.m.

at Hannaford Field. Enjoy a home cooked meal from the concession stand!

In addition to our 50/50 raffle, CEGS is donating 50% of concession sales to Maine Cancer Foundation.



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

News from September 17 Planning Board meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Blue Meadow Subdivision and Resource Protection Permit

Bob Metcalf of Mitchell and Associates, and Paul Driscoll of Norman Hanson and DeTroy, representatives for applicant BRKR, LLC, provided updates on their major subdivision review application. The application was deemed complete at the August 20, 2024 Planning Board meeting, and a site walk was performed on September 4, 2024, attended by the board and members of the public.

Driscoll spoke on the financial capability of the applicant. BRKR, LLC, is acquiring funds from a private lender. Unlike an established bank or lending institution, a private lender does not provide a financial commitment statement. In the case of BRKR, their private lender is instead providing a “clarifying letter” that certifies funds are available and intended for the purpose of the subdivision development. The lender has two financial trusts holding the funds, and an “additional in excess of \$6 million dollars committed to pay for the project if necessary.” This brings available funds to \$11.5 million for the Blue Meadow project.

Metcalf provided updates on the application materials including that easement drafts had been submitted, high intensity soil request waiver issued, and a revision to density locations to accommodate removal of exposed ledge previously undetected. Metcalf also noted some mislabels were corrected, clarifi-

fication on wetlands distinctions, and location of the walking trail and open space were updated.

During the public hearing on the Blue Meadow subdivision application Tom Federle of Archipelago law firm in Portland, and former Chair of the Planning Board in Yarmouth, shared his concerns on both the technical and financial capacity of BRKR, LLC. Federle cited that the unsigned letters and various trust funds for the project were not sufficient in demonstrating financial capability. Additionally, Federle said that Barrett Made, the architecture and construction company associated with applicant BRKR, Rob Barrett, failed to finish one of their projects on Main Street, Yarmouth, allowing the project’s permitting application to expire four years after issue, and failing to remove a derelict building on site forcing the town to pay for its removal. Federle also referenced the Saddleback project as evidence that Barrett Made, and by extension, Rob Barrett, “proves their inability” to finish a project as he said Barrett was removed from the Saddleback project before completion.

Nela Alvarez-Sotomoyar said that Barret Made’s Yarmouth project was “an unsightly situation for three years” before the property was sold, and doesn’t demonstrate BRKR and Rob Barrett’s ability to “effectively manage and complete a project of this scale.” Alvarez-Sotomoyar urged the Planning Board to consider the impact on the ecosystem and environment, biodiversity loss, increase in pollution and other potential

negative impacts. She also noted that the proposed vegetative buffer between Blue Meadow and Canterbury on the Cape are “slow growing trees” and that the stresses from construction can affect the health and viability of trees on the site. Alvarez-Sotomoyar urged the Board that until they do their due diligence, this project should not move forward and “become another example of his (Barrett) untested initiatives.”

Doug Babbirk, President of the Canterbury on the Cape Condo Association, said that he and other members of the Association had met with Barrett and suggested that units 6 and 7 of the Blue Meadow project be moved further away from the property line of Canterbury. Babbirk said he “hoped plans submitted in July would have shown this.”

Metcalf spoke to the public comments saying that Barrett does not want to do a “land swap,” proposed by Canterbury on the Cape, because it would cause too much of a delay and wouldn’t be financially feasible to the Blue Meadow project, as well as its uneven topography.

Maureen O’Meara, Town Planner, urged the Board to “do your due diligence, you don’t have to guarantee the funds are there” adding that “it’s not completely on your shoulders” if the Planning Board decided to vote in the affirmative without specific details on the applicant’s financial capability. O’Meara added that the town’s administration staff is responsible for making sure the town is protected against financial liabilities and not the Planning Board.

Chair Sahrbeck referred to the letter and comments provided by Tom Federle during the public hearing portion of the meeting, and the concerns that Rob Barrett was removed from the Saddleback project.

Matt Olberg, architect at Barrett Made, clarified that Barrett Made was contracted to complete Phase 1 of the Saddleback project of which they “fulfilled their obligation,” adding that the client was unhappy with the “financial reality of the project and ability to make a profit.”

Olberg also cited labor issues through COVID that Barrett Made “had to re-adjust on the fly.” Olberg also spoke to the Main Street Yarmouth project, citing labor and market conditions during the height of COVID that “slowed down meeting cadences” and additional scrutiny as the “first project under form-based code.” Olberg said that because of these unforeseen reasons the project and its logistics changed from its start in 2020.

Andrew Gilbert brought up issues of housing diversity in Cape, suggesting that the applicant consider consolidating two one-level duplexes into a one building, 4-unit apartment building, saying that the “units are still there, just building up.” Metcalf responded with “you’re asking an awful lot for a developer to consider.”

-see PLANNING BOARD page 13

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Annie Christy

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Authorized by Annie Christy and Paid for by the Annie Christy for State House Committee

ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN & OUR TEACHERS

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

REDUCE RISING COSTS & INFLATION

When people can't meet their basic needs, everybody suffers. Current 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 unnecessary regulations that drive costs up. I'll create incentives for builders to expand the housing supply. This will unleash the ingenuity for developers and builders.

MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH CARE

Medical bureaucracy has increased costs and decreased availability. This must 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 mental health, preventive, 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.

SUPPORT OUR SENIORS

You've already paid taxes your entire work career. I'll introduce legislation to reduce your taxes. It's insulting we're not supporting our seniors more to enable them to live out their years in their own homes.

Bicyclist uninjured after accident

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 9-11 Two officers responded to a residence in the Mitchell Road area for a loud noise complaint.
- 9-11 Two officers responded to a residence in the Mitchell Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 9-11 An officer met with a resident in the Two Lights area regarding unauthorized withdrawals from an account.
- 9-13 An officer responded to a car/bicycle accident near the Spurwink Church. The bicyclist was uninjured.
- 9-15 Two officers responded to a residence in the Ocean House Road area for a well-being check.
- 9-16 An officer met with a resident of the Two Lights area who reported that he had received a bill from a credit card account that he did not open. He contacted the credit card company and reported the fraud.

- 9-10 Saco resident, seatbelt violation, Shore Road, \$85
- 9-10 Portland resident, seatbelt violation, Cottage Road, \$85
- 9-10 South Portland resident, speed (72/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$278
- 9-10 South Portland resident, seatbelt violation, Two Lights Road, \$85
- 9-10 South Portland resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 9-10 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Scott Dyer Road, \$85
- 9-11 Portland resident, operating without a license, Fowler Road
- 9-13 Cape Elizabeth resident, passing stopped school bus, operating after license suspension, Pond Cove School
- 9-16 Lincoln resident, speed (45/30 zone), Mitchell Road, \$170

FIRE CALLS

- Fire: 13
- Rescue: 21

SUMMONSES

- 9-10 Hiram resident, seatbelt violation, Fowler Road, \$85

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

Work-From-Home Job Scams

Many Americans are on the hunt for the perfect remote job or side hustle, and criminal scammers are ready to exploit these ambitions.

With work-from-home jobs increasing in popularity and employment scams on the rise, now is a great time to review the warning signs of a shady job posting.

Beware of any job that offers a large income with little to no training or experience. Likewise, avoid any position that requires you to pay in advance for certification, training, or equipment. Business offers guaranteed to “pay off quickly” or “double your investment” are also highly suspicious. Make sure to check that job sites specializing in remote work screen the openings and companies listed, and don’t assume a position is genuine just because it was posted on a legitimate job board. It could still be a scam.

Furthermore, it’s important to be

cautious of online testimonials; work-at-home sites are full of fake personal stories of people claiming to make thousands of dollars a month because they took advantage of this “amazing opportunity.”

Toll Road Scams

Planning to take a road trip soon? Gas prices and traffic jams aren’t your only concern. Cybercriminals are now deceiving drivers into paying fake highway tolls.

Here’s what you need to know: Beware of text messages appearing to be from a highway authority or transponder company like E-Z Pass, notifying you of unpaid highway tolls. These messages include a link to a fake version of the sender’s website and may threaten significant fees if you don’t pay your balance immediately. Providing payment not only charges you for tolls you don’t owe, but could provide these criminals with your credit card details. Clicking on the link may also expose your device to malware.

If you receive a text message notifying you of unpaid highway tolls, don’t respond. If you are concerned that an unpaid toll message could be legitimate, contact the toll road authority or your transponder provider if you have one.

Listen to a podcast on this topic on AARP’s “A Perfect Scam” dated August 16, 2024 titled “Toll Road Scams Are Trending” to learn more.

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

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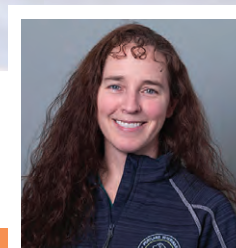
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VOTE YES ✓ SCHOOL BOND

“Public schools are the foundation of a solid community. Do better — Vote YES in November!”

Paid for by **Jenna Pfueller**

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.

A look into Cape Elizabeth voting

By Kevin St. Jarre

Voters who cast ballots skip certain races, and in fairly high numbers. The number of people who leave their choice blank often far outnumbers the difference between winning a seat and not winning in Cape Elizabeth municipal races.

For example, in the November 2020 election, for President of the United States, Cape voters cast 5,349 votes for Joseph Biden, 1,462 for Donald Trump. Other candidates garnered less than 100 votes each. Of note, only 70 Capers who voted that day skipped the presidential race.

In the Collins-Gideon race for U.S. Senate, 4,462 voted for Sara Gideon, the Democrat, and 2,155 voted to reelect Republican Sen. Susan Collins. Only 39 of those who voted that day left their choice for that race blank.

For Cape Elizabeth Town Council, however, it was a completely different story. That year four candidates stood for two seats, and it was a close race. Nicole Boucher received 2,815 votes, and Gretchen Noonan received 2,742 votes. This was enough for each to win a seat on the council. Right behind those two were Kevin Jordan with 2,609, and Christopher Kleeman with 2,473. But, remarkably, 3,145 Cape Elizabeth voters skipped the race for Town Council altogether.

With the difference between first place and fourth place being a mere 342 votes, and the difference between making it onto the Council and not making it being only 133 votes, there were 3,145 Capers who chose not to vote in that race. They turned in a ballot, but left the Town Council race blank.

Two out of the three candidates for Cape Elizabeth School Board that same day were successful, with Jennifer McVeigh winning 4,084 votes, Cynthia Voltz drawing 3,042

votes, and Audra Gore very close with 2,554 votes. While the difference between winning a seat and not was only 488 votes, there were 4,104 Cape Elizabeth voters who skipped that race.

This is a recurring phenomenon. In the 2021 Town Council race, on November 2, Jeremy Gabrielson received 2,281 votes, Susan Gillis won 2,247 votes, and Timothy Reiniger earned 2,214 votes, and these were enough to win the three seats they've held since. Victoria Volent missed a seat by 5 votes (this margin grew to 6 votes in a recount), but the number of ballots left blank in that race was 3,775.

A race decided by 5 or 6 votes saw 3,775 Cape Elizabeth voters leave their ballot blank. It isn't as though they didn't have time to vote, or chose to skip Election Day. Nearly 4,000 voters, who were taking pencil to ballot, intentionally skipped a race that was that close.

Oddly, in 2020, Joseph Siviski ran unopposed for a seat on the Portland Water District Board of Trustees, and picked up 4,996 votes, and although he had no opponent, only 1,896 voters in Cape Elizabeth left that race blank.

Checking a few results in surrounding municipalities, the same effect seems to occur frequently in Scarborough, with large numbers skipping municipal races, but in Westbrook, a much smaller percentage of voters skip races.

Some of the reasons for skipping a race include voters saying they simply didn't know enough about the candidates or the issues. Others have said that skipping the race was a way of voicing a "none of the above" option. Whatever the reason, it is certainly a noteworthy and repetitive occurrence.

Lobster dinner a sellout, Lions Club to host a second one

The Cape Elizabeth Lions Club recently held a Lobster Dinner and it was a sellout. As a result, the Lions will host a second Lobster Dinner.

The next Lobster Dinner will be held Saturday October 12 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Lions Club Bowery Beach Schoolhouse, 1 Wheeler Road. The cost is \$25.00 for a single lobster meal or \$32.00 for a double lobster. Eat in or takeout meals include baked potato, corn and dessert. Beverages are provided for those eating in the Club House.

Reserved orders are required. Walk-ins

are welcome pending availability and are encouraged to call prior to arrival. Cash, checks, Venmo and credit cards accepted. To place your order or check on availability please call Mark at (207) 321-9393 or email Lionsclubceme@gmail.com no later than noon, Friday, October 11.

So that you can plan for future Lions dinners, an event calendar for the remainder of the club year is listed below. Thank you, Cape Elizabeth, for your ongoing support.

Event	Date	Time	Location
Lobster Dinner	October 12	5:00 to 7:30 p.m.	Lions Club House
Chicken Dinner	November 9	5:00 to 7:30 p.m.	Lions Club House
Spaghetti Dinner	January 25, 2025	5:00 to 7:30 p.m.	Lions Club House
Spaghetti Dinner	February 22, 2025	5:00 to 7:30 p.m.	Lions Club House
Spaghetti Dinner	March 22, 2025	5:00 to 7:30 p.m.	Lions Club House
Chicken Dinner	April 12, 2025	5:00 to 7:30 p.m.	Lions Club House
Family Fun Day	June 7, 2025	10 a.m. to dusk	Fort Williams

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"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."



About Tim Reiniger

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

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

- 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.

News from the Superintendent

By Dr. Chris Record

Hello Cape community! I hope your family had an enjoyable end to your summer. At our house we are officially “empty nesters” or “free birds” as we like to call it. Ashton returned to Gettysburg College for his senior year (time flies) and Kyleigh headed off to Union College for her freshman year. We are adjusting to a more quiet household, but we sure do miss them.

As I enter my 4th year as Superintendent, I am very excited about the year ahead. We have so much to look forward to as each and every student leans in to do their very best in and out of the classroom. Our very talented and dedicated staff will be there every step of the way to offer support and celebration as our students navigate both tribulations and triumphs. I look forward to seeing community members around at the various events and activities this school year. Thanks again for all of your support of our schools.

Please note in your calendars, there is a “Middle Ground” school design Public Forum on 10/8 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall prior to the regular School Board meeting. Also, CEMS and Pond Cove School Tours will be open to all Cape residents on 10/29 at 6 p.m. The school admin teams and facilities director will provide guided tours around CEMS and PC to explain why we have concluded that CEMS should be completely replaced and Pond Cove should be expanded with a new security-focused main office and STEAM lab and be partially renovated. Please meet at the main entrance of CEMS. For more information on the “Middle Ground” School Building Project go to www.cape.k12.me.us/o/cesd/page/buildingproject

The staff worked very hard all summer to ensure we were ready for this school year to begin. Please join me in extending our heartfelt thanks to everyone who dedicated their summer to ensuring our schools are ready for the exciting year ahead. To our custodians and maintenance, bus drivers, technology, administrative assistants, summer school staff and tutors, District Leadership Team members, and the business and superintendent’s office staff, your hard work has not gone unnoticed. We appreciate your dedication and commitment throughout the hot summer months.

Additionally, I want to highlight the 52 summer curriculum/instruction/assessment/social and emotional learning (SEL) opportunities that our teachers completed this summer. Nearly 200 educators collaborated to complete a combined 1000+ hours of work together all for the benefit of our students!

On Tuesday, August 27, school staff returned for professional development and to celebrate.

We were thrilled to welcome back staff for professional development, a welcome back message by Board Chair Elizabeth Scifres, recognition of longevity milestones (including 40 years for Mr. Brown!), CEHS teacher Michael Young receiving the CEEF Brownell Award, and CEHS admin assistant Kate Thibeault receiving CEEF’s Thompson Award from Nancy and Tim Thompson. An excellent breakfast and lunch was provided by our outstanding nutrition service department as well.

Trevor Ragan, the founder of The Learner Lab, kicked off the morning session for educational staff. Trevor is dedicated to and passionate about exploring and sharing the science behind learning and human development. Through his

interactive workshop, Trevor guided us through innovative strategies to enhance our own understanding of our resilience as learners. Throughout the session, we developed insights and tools to better support and foster resiliency in our students.

Staff longevity milestones were also celebrated...just imagine their collective impact!

40 Years

Mr. David Brown ~ Legendary Bus Driver

30 Years

Steve Price ~ MS Teacher

25 Years

Charlie Carroll ~ MS Teacher
Kim Huchel ~ HS Teacher
Jason Lund ~ Technology
Cam Rosenblum ~ PC Library
Joel Shroder ~ HS Teacher

20 Years

Mark Ashe ~ HS Teacher
Elaine Brassard ~ HS Teacher
Matt Clements ~ HS Teacher
Sara Hollowell ~ PC Teacher
Brandy LaPointe ~ HS Guidance
Evan Thayer ~ HS Teacher

15 Years

Liz Berry-DiMauro ~ HS Ed Tech
David Croft ~ MS Teacher
Heather Jones-Kennedy ~ PC Teacher

10 Years

Susan Bahadori ~ PC Speech & Language
Nate Carpenter ~ Dean of 7-12 Students
Nicole Carrera Sirois ~ HS Teacher
Leanne Collins ~ Food Service
Jonathan Flitts ~ Custodian
Danielle Hessert ~ PC Teacher
Cory Manchester ~ Custodian
Wanda McLaughlin ~ Custodian
Kevin St. Jarre ~ HS Teacher
Kristen Tevanian ~ HS Speech & Language
Carolyn Young ~ HS Library/Media
Dean Zaharis ~ Technology

5 Years

Alex Anesko ~ HS Teacher
Valerie Butterfield ~ PC Ed Tech
Emilee Conroe ~ Teacher Multilingual Learners
Jay Madden ~ Transportation
Christine Marshall ~ HS Teacher
Jo-Ellen Rand ~ PC Ed Tech
Carrie Tasker ~ PC Ed Tech
Marcia Weeks ~ Business Manager

In closing, I once again would like to thank the Cape community for your support of our students, staff, and schools. Cape is a special community that prioritizes education. I recognize this investment in our Cape kids comes with a financial commitment from each of you and I want to thank you earnestly for your contribution to opening up opportunities and bright futures for our students.

CEUMC to sponsor environmental event on October 18

The Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church is sponsoring a special environmental event on Friday, Oct. 18. There will be a pot luck supper featuring dishes prepared by the church using corn, beans and squash, a practice developed by generations of indigenous tribes called the Three Sisters.

Following the supper there will be a showing of the award-winning documentary film, “Common Ground.” The supper will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the film will begin at approximately 6:15. A short discussion will follow the 90-minute film. The event is free and the public is invited to attend the supper and/or the film.

“Common Ground” explores how regenerative agriculture can help heal the soil, our health and the planet. The film exposes the interconnectedness of American farming policy, politics and health.

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



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— Paid for by Mike and Gayle Schmidt

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Food waste: Not just garbage anymore

By The Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee

We've all been there: you open your vegetable drawer and find an entire head of cauliflower or bag of carrots has gone brown and mushy. Disgusted, you fling the item into the trash. But wait...is there something better you could do with it?

In Cape Elizabeth, eco-minded residents are diverting food waste from the trash in a number of ways, including placing it in the green food waste bins at the transfer station, composting it at home, and even feeding it to domestic animals like chickens.

The EPA estimates that one-third of all food in the U.S. goes uneaten, and that nearly all of that waste ends up in landfills, combustion facilities, or down the drain to the sewer system. It's a waste of resources and a major source of greenhouse gas emissions when sent to a landfill.

"Nationwide, about 40% of the waste stream is food, and this is consistent with what we see at ecomaine," said Jamie Garvin, Director of Communications and Public Affairs at ecomaine, which handles all of Cape Elizabeth's trash and recycling. Garvin said they would like to get food out of the waste stream because it burns inefficiently in their waste combustor. "It's like throwing a wet log in your fireplace," he said. Garvin, who is also a Cape resident, adds his household's food waste to two backyard composters.

In 2019, Cape Elizabeth added green bins to the town transfer station where residents can place any kind of food waste, including meat scraps, bones, seafood shells and fats. The material goes to AgriCycle in Exeter where anaerobic digesters turn it into biogas fuel and natural fertilizer. Although the town pays for this service, it costs less per pound than trash removal, so every pound of food diverted from the trash saves the town money. In 2023, Cape residents placed 95 tons of food waste into these bins – about 20 pounds for every resident!

In addition to dropping it in the bins, many residents are adding food waste to backyard composting bins or tumblers that create compost over a period of weeks or months. "We compost everything but meat products," said Marianne Schuman. "We've been doing this for 40 years and my parents did this too. It creates the best garden soil ever."

"I bring some scraps to the chickens at Turkey Hill Farm," said Colleen Hough. "The

rest goes in to a small compost bin that we have on the kitchen counter. When it's full we empty that into a large black compost bin in the backyard. I will use the material in my garden when it's time."

Nearly 350 Cape households use the Garbage to Garden service that offers curbside pickup of food waste. Jenna Pfueller, who has been using the service for six years, said she appreciates the convenience of a weekly pickup as well as the compost she gets back from them. "When we're planting our vegetable garden in the spring, we request a bag of compost every week to add to the bed," she said.

An even faster way to compost at home is vermicomposting – adding special worms called red wigglers to food waste to create a rich organic material called worm castings. Patt Bothel became interested in vermicomposting after seeing it at the Common Ground Fair in 2007. "Every time you throw food away, you're losing nutrients," she said. "All the energy you put in to growing this food is wasted if you throw it away. This is a way of returning those nutrients to the earth." Bothel said she has processed about 50 large storage bins of food waste since she started, spreading the compost in her garden to enrich the soil.

Sarah Morrisseau also maintains a worm composter in her basement that creates fertilizer for her house plants. What the worms don't eat goes in outdoor compost bins or in a bucket for the green food waste bins at the transfer station. "At this point I couldn't imagine putting food waste in the trash," she said.

Others in Cape Elizabeth use food scraps to feed a variety of animals, including pigs, chickens, ducks, rabbits and guinea pigs. Crystal Villalta said, "Whenever I'm chopping in the kitchen and I have veggie or fruit scraps, they go straight to the guinea pig, who

lives right next to the kitchen. Any extra vegetables can go to our outside bunny." Villalta said anything the rabbit and guinea pig don't eat, including meat scraps, grain leftovers, chips, or cereals, can go to her chickens. The animal droppings go into a compost pile that later fertilizes her vegetable garden, in a neat circle of reuse.

"Diverting food waste from the trash is one of the easiest things people can do to make a big difference," said Garvin. "Whether it's backyard composting, drop-off at the transfer station, subscription curbside service – there are options that are accessible and easy to work in to everyone's routine and budget."



Contributed photo

Crystal Villalta's guinea pig Eric enjoys some red romaine lettuce scraps.

VOTE YES ✓ SCHOOL BOND

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Paid for by "Auntie K." Bouterse

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.

VOTE YES ✓ SCHOOL BOND

"Vote for our students, for our teachers, for our community...YES on the school bond!"

Paid for by Jon Dienstag

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Library seeks donations of old sweaters, offers fall clothing swap, programs on astronomy, Gardens Aglow

“Pieces of Maine,” Mixed Media Art work by Margaret A. Gill on Display in October

Margaret A. Gill’s exhibit will be showing still life paintings, as well as collage pieces that feature the islands of Maine broken down into their literal components— beach stones, pebbles, sand, shell, seaweeds—which have been reassembled using multiple images. The artwork weaves together painted, reproduced, and actual objects creating a sense of immediacy for the viewer. The show can be viewed in the library’s Stier Family Gallery throughout the month of October.

Fall Clothing Swap Scheduled for October 19

The library is once again partnering with the town’s Recycling Committee to organize the annual fall clothing swap. The event will take place in the library’s Community Room on Saturday, October 19 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (the library will open one hour early for the clothing swap only).

Donations of washed, gently used clothing, shoes, boots, and other apparel items will be accepted from October 7 - 19. When you drop off a bag of clothing, you will receive a ticket for entry into the event which is good for a whole family. If you would like to volunteer to help organize and sort donations, you will be able to “shop” early—please visit the library’s website to sign up.

If you would like to “shop” at the event and haven’t donated, please stop by the library’s front desk for a ticket which will allow you entry starting at 11:00 a.m. For complete details, please visit the library’s website.

Murder in the Mansion: A Mystery

Game, with Sully McCarthy

Saturday, October 19 from 3 - 5 p.m. and Friday, October 25 from 5-7 p.m.

You are invited to attend a grand soiree for the celebration of All Hallows Eve. In honor of this spectacular event, there will be an evening of snacks, shenanigans, and slaying.

Upon arrival at the estate, you will be transported to 1923 and enter a battle of wits. The premise: Eleanor Sinclair is hosting a dinner party at Goddard Mansion to make a formal announcement and has invited undisclosed guests to her estate. Upon the guests’ arrival, Eleanor is discovered dead. Your goal as an attendee is to find the real murderer, clear your name from suspicion, and protect your secrets.

There will be two sessions of this macabre mystery event: one for adults on Saturday, October 19 at 3 p.m., and one very special after-hours event for teens on Friday, October 25 at 5 p.m. Costumes encouraged. Register on our website.

Library Seeks Donations of Old Sweaters

Participants in the library’s monthly Sewing Adventures program for ages 8 - 12 will be making hats out of old sweaters on October 19. If you have old sweaters you would like to donate for this project, please leave them in the drop box in the library’s lobby.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Please visit the library’s website for information about recurring weekly story times and other programs.

Saturday Matinee with Scooby Doo

Saturday, October 5, 3-5 p.m.

Kick off the spooky season with a fun movie featuring TV’s most beloved snack-seeking, monster-hunting dog and his friends as they try to solve the mystery of one New England town’s legendary ghost. (Scooby) snacks are welcome, and popcorn is provided. Best suited for ages 7+.

Sewing Adventures - Recycled Sweater Hats

Saturday, October 19, 1-2:30 p.m.

Wishing for a cozy new hat or a handmade gift for a loved one? Join us as we recycle and combine donated sweaters into new hats for fall and winter using simple patterns, machine or hand applique, and embroidery. Make a pom pom or tassel to top off your hat. If you have a certain shrunken sweater you’d like to turn into a hat, bring it along. Beginning sewists welcome. No prior experience necessary but complete beginners must be accompanied by their adult to work one on one in learning basic skills of threading a needle and tying a knot for their first few meetings. All materials provided. Registration required, sign up on our website.

FOR TWEENS & TEENS

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 registration is necessary.

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.

TLC: Teen Leadership Council

Last Friday of each month, 2:45 - 3:45 p.m. (Ages 13+)

Help shape the future of the teen space and earn volunteer hours, advise on library policies, and design new programs. Please register on the library’s website, or stop by the next meeting. Next meeting: Friday, October 25.

FOR ADULTS

Senior Social Hour:

Wednesday, October 2, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.: Better Balance and Fall Prevention with physical therapist Rachael Boutin from Northern Light Healthcare

Wednesday, October 9: Senior Tax Relief Program, with Clinton Swett

Wednesday, October 16: 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s, with Amy Angelo from the Alzheimer’s Association

Wednesday, October 23: Coffee and conversation

Death Café with Davinica Nemptow

Thursday, October 3, 6:30-8:00 p.m

Join us for this monthly discussion group facilitated by Davinica Nemptow of Kaneel. At a Death Café people, often strangers, gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death. The objective is “to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives.”

A Death Café is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session. No registration is required, but if you’d like to be on the library’s mailing list for updates or cancellations, please visit the library’s website. TML’s Death Café will take place on the first Thursday of every month.

Bridging the Divide Book Discussion

Saturday, October 5, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

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.

-see LIBRARY page 13



Discovering fulfilling work—and a second family

When Success moved to Maine seven years ago, thoughts of her aging mother back home in Nigeria weighed heavily on her mind. “I was supposed to be there taking care of her,” Success said.

That’s how Success became interested in working as a Direct Support Professional at a small group home in Auburn. “I felt since I wasn’t able to take care of my mother, I should take care of people here,” Success said.

Success is one of scores of individuals who has found rewarding work in the field of Direct Support, ensuring Mainers with age-related, physical, behavioral, intellectual, and cognitive health needs have the support they require to stay safe, independent, and empowered to achieve their personal goals.

In Maine, there are many flexible full-time, part-time, or per-diem positions available. This work happens outside of a hospital or nursing home setting, and training opportunities are widely available. Most of these positions don’t require advanced degrees.



“I feel fulfilled, and I feel so excited because I know I’ve achieved a lot.”

In her role as a Direct Support Professional, Success works with adults who are living with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. She provides whatever support they need with activities of daily living, so they can live as independently as possible. Her work can vary widely from day to day. She administers medication, gets them ready for bed, and does laundry. She also checks on them throughout the night. In the morning, she makes them breakfast and takes them to their programs.

For Success, seeing her clients’ joy when she supports them in attaining a new milestone brings her joy, too. “After a good day at work, I feel fulfilled,” Success said. “I feel so excited because I know I’ve achieved a lot.”

This work has also given Success a chance to do something positive in her adopted home. “This is an opportunity for you to give back to the community you are coming into,” Success said.

Success says in many ways, this job has given her a second family—through the friendships she has forged with her colleagues and the connections she has made with her clients. “When I walk into work, I see the excitement on the faces of those people I’m taking care of,” Success said. “These are the families I have here in the U.S.”

To learn more about full-time, part-time, and per-diem opportunities in your community, go to MaineCareersWithPurpose.org or Follow @MaineCareersWithPurpose on Facebook & Instagram.



Town of Cape Elizabeth Boards and Committees Annual Appointments Process

The Town Council’s Appointments Committee is accepting applications from residents to fill anticipated vacancies on boards and committees.

To see the full list of openings, please visit our website at:

www.capeelizabeth.com

Residents should apply online.

Questions should be directed to **Debra Lane, Assistant Town Manager at 799-7665 or debra.lane@capeelizabeth.org**.
Applications must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 31, 2024.

New terms begin January 1, 2025.
Terms are 3 years, unless otherwise noted.

Library

Continued from page 12

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). Additional dates for book discussions will be scheduled—please check the library's website for updates.

CEHPS Presents Ralph Gould's Rare Musical Instrument Collection

Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Jim Rowe will discuss one of Cape Elizabeth's most revered citizens, Ralph T. Gould (1900-1994). Special focus will be on the 62-year round-trip voyage – out of Cape Elizabeth and back again - of his remarkable collection of rare and ancient musical instruments and other stories, photographs, and artifacts from this interesting man's life. It is most fitting that in 1986, the town named its Outstanding Citizen Award for Ralph T. Gould, and made him the first recipient. Come find out why!

The Birth and Death of Stars, with Ara Jerahian

Tuesday, October 15, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us for an exciting journey through the life cycle of stars. This presentation by our local amateur astronomer, Ara Jerahian, will explore the awe-inspiring processes behind the birth, evolution, and eventual death of stars.

Discover how these cosmic giants are formed from clouds of gas and dust, shine brightly for millions or billions of years, and finally, how they meet their spectacular end—whether through a peaceful fading or a dramatic supernova. Perfect for anyone curious about the wonders of the universe and our place among the stars. All ages welcome.

Cape Elizabeth Garden Club Presents: Gardens Aglow!

Thursday, October 17, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Brent McHale, Program Manager for Gardens Aglow at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, will speak about the history, planning process, people power, installation, maintenance, sculpture creation, take down and storage, and fun new additions in 2024. All are welcome.

Recovery Maine Short Film Screenings and Discussion

Tuesday, October 22, 6:30-8 p.m.

Join us for an evening of showcasing urgently important local film from Recovery in Maine, a project committed to using documentary film and community discussion to confront the opioid crisis.

This program will present three short films which feature both queer and youth voices from around the state and spark discussions about substance use disorder, the recovery process, and our collective response to the opioid epidemic.

Planning Board

Continued from page 7

Sahrbeck said that since Tom Fedele's letter was only brought forward during the evening's public hearing that the applicant "deserves an opportunity to address what's being said" in it. Jim Huebener suggested to table the motion until the applicant has had a chance to respond. The motion was seconded by Derek LaVallee and passed unanimously by the Board, and added to the next available monthly meeting agenda to afford the applicant sufficient time to respond.

Two Lights State Park Site Plan

The Maine DACF Bureau of Parks & Lands requested a site plan review of improvements to Two Lights State Park, located at 7 Tower Drive, including replacement of the control station entrance building, new 3-space staff parking lot and access road improvements.

Owen Blease, Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands, shared that the funds offered by the American Rescue Plan and Jobs Recovery Act are encumbered by December 2024, creating a sense of urgency to approve the site plan review and improvements recommendations. Blease said that preliminary design work has been done by Pine Tree Engineering in Bath.

Kurt Schoner, Two Lights State Park Manager, said that the current location of the control station booth will be moved further into the park to alleviate traffic issues, improve pedestrian lane safety and ADA compliance.

Jeremy Prue of Pine Tree Engineering added details of the access road, saying that there would be a full depth reconstruction on part of the road. And a shared use, five-foot path would be constructed to help separate cyclists from pedestrians.

Further details of the project include widening the ditches and adding stone dams to improve stormwater runoff, improvements to electrical systems in the control booth, and riprap in culverts to mitigate erosion and filter sedimentation.

Huebener motioned to approve the preliminary application materials. Gilbert seconded the motion and the Planning Board approved unanimously.

Program on Gould's rare musical instrument collection to be held on Oct. 8



Photo courtesy of CEHPS

Ralph T. Gould shown with some of his large collection of rare and antique musical instruments.

Join the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society (CEHPS) at the Community Room in the Thomas Memorial Library on Tuesday, October 8, 6:30-8 p.m., as Jim Rowe leads a program on one of Cape Elizabeth's most revered citizens, Ralph T. Gould (1900-1994).

Special focus will be on the 62-year round-trip voyage – out of Cape Elizabeth and back again - of his remarkable collection of rare and ancient musical instruments and other stories, photographs,

and artifacts from this interesting man's life.

It is most fitting that in 1986, the Town named its Outstanding Citizen Award for Ralph T. Gould and made him the first recipient. Come find out why!

The presentation is free and part of the monthly program provided by the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society in partnership with the library. Light refreshments will be provided.

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C.A.P.E. Arts open house on October 13

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.” — Plato

Laura Warren, owner of Suzuki Stringers, and Candice Bellinger, owner of Cape Adagio Studio of Music, bring to the community of Cape Elizabeth an open house on October 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Laura’s home at 1 Wabun Road in Cape Elizabeth’s Shore Acres to begin the conversation of building C.A.P.E. Arts, a Community Alliance for Performance and Education of the Arts.

“The vitality of a community is enhanced when music is at the heart, and we want to open a discussion to include and utilize community input as we begin to implement the beginning stages of this collaborative effort,” said Candice and Laura, who recently met with the same goal in mind: to support our local families in bringing the arts to our children, to build confidence and creativity in the youth of Cape Elizabeth, by bringing joy to the process of becoming an artist and having the professional support essential for the growth of our community.

With similar teaching philosophies, they are committed to creating a prideful, safe and positive place for the youth of Cape Elizabeth through private instruction, group classes, recitals, performing

in Cape Elizabeth, South Portland, Portland, Scarborough and beyond. Through our curriculum, we are committed to teaching more than just music. The discipline it takes to become a musician includes building confidence, leadership and life skills; therefore, strengthening a student’s aptitude in other subjects, on the playing field, and in their communities as they grow.

Our goal is for C.A.P.E. Arts to become a cultural and artistic resource in the state of Maine. We are dedicated to advancing the arts and molding the next generation of artists, on stage and in life, building their confidence as leaders by setting goals and through constructive action, creating a unified team of young people working together in a positive and inspiring environment.

In the spirit of excellence; Laura and Candice invite the community to join them with their hearts and minds open, with ideas to share. Volunteerism, founding board membership and an opportunity to support this exciting beginning are available for everyone. We welcome your support! Please rsvp to Candice Bellinger at musicwam@yahoo.com or Laura Warren at ljarren88@yahoo.com.



Candice Bellinger

Contributed photo



Laura Warren

Contributed photo

12+ % TAX HIKE!
\$94.7 MM School Bond
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Vote NO

Paid for by CapeVoters.com, Two Olde Colony Lane, Cape Elizabeth, ME. CapeVoters@gmail.com.

SullivanJ-CapeVtrsAd-5x3-0924.indd 1 9/14/24 9:11 AM

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.



VOTE YES
✓ SCHOOL BOND

“Modern facilities are a true reflection of a town’s pride and investment in its schools. **Please join me in voting YES** for a new middle school and keep our reputation for excellence alive.”

— Paid for by **Barbara Powers, former School Board Member and Retired Educator**

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Hughes completes Eagle project at Chapel Woods and Robinson Woods III

By the proud parents of Alden Hughes

Alden Hughes of Cape Elizabeth Boy Scout Troop 30 would like to thank all who assisted him in completing his Eagle project last month. He worked with CELT as his beneficiary to build a 163 foot boardwalk over a very low laying, muddy area in the Chapel Woods section of the Cross Town Trail.

In addition, he led a trail clearing to reroute an existing trail to higher ground as well as make it more scenic for hikers and bikers. Alden, along with CELT had the responsibility to make sure the trail would have the least impact on the environment and improve the trail system for the overall community.

Alden began his work two years ago and has logged over 280 man hours of meeting with CELT, Troop 30 advisors, the Pine Tree Council Eagle Board as well as the time it took to gather supplies find sponsors and organize volunteers. Alden reached out to Hancock Lumber, who graciously donated the non-pressure treated wood and screws for the boardwalk.

Alden oversaw 30 people over the course of two weekends, providing safety briefings twice a day, educating people of varying ages about the mission of his project and making sure he had the right people performing jobs within their comfort zones. This included engineers that offered expert advice about the boardwalk design and new scouts who placed fallen trees to form the boundary for the new trail. The two worksites were over a mile apart and Alden made sure each team had a clear understand-

ing of expectations, proper tools as well as proper safety gear. Everyone worked so efficiently, the project was completed a day ahead of schedule.

Alden started this project two years ago and it required many skills. Skills such as project engineering, delegation, people management, time management, collaboration, attention to detail, leadership, interpersonal skills, planning, budget management, stewardship and the ever so difficult task of how to ask for help. Alden recognizes these skills are vital and stated "These are skills I can always improve upon in life. This project has helped me incorporate them all."

Alden's advice to current scouts and those considering joining the scouting community is, "stick with the program, but don't rush it. Your Eagle project will come in time. The experience will be invaluable."

Alden would like to thank all the volunteers who helped him with his project over the past two years as well as helped carry out the project in August. He would like to thank Troop 30, Troop 30 parents, CELT, his friends, The Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church as well as Hancock Lumber for their generous donation.

Alden is currently a senior at the Maine School of Science and Math in Limestone. He has been a member of the Cape Elizabeth Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts since 2015. He is both happy and proud that through this project he is able to give back to his community.

-see EAGLE PROJECT page 18



Contributed photo

Volunteers building a 163 foot boardwalk, an Eagle Project Alden Hughes of Cape Elizabeth Boy Scout Troop 30 started working on two years ago.

VOTE YES ✓ SCHOOL BOND

"I've seen our community come together and achieve amazing things. I wouldn't be in Cape Elizabeth today without thanks to a great public education. Investing in our schools is an investment in our future—it will pay off for years to come." — Paid for by Nicole Boucher

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.



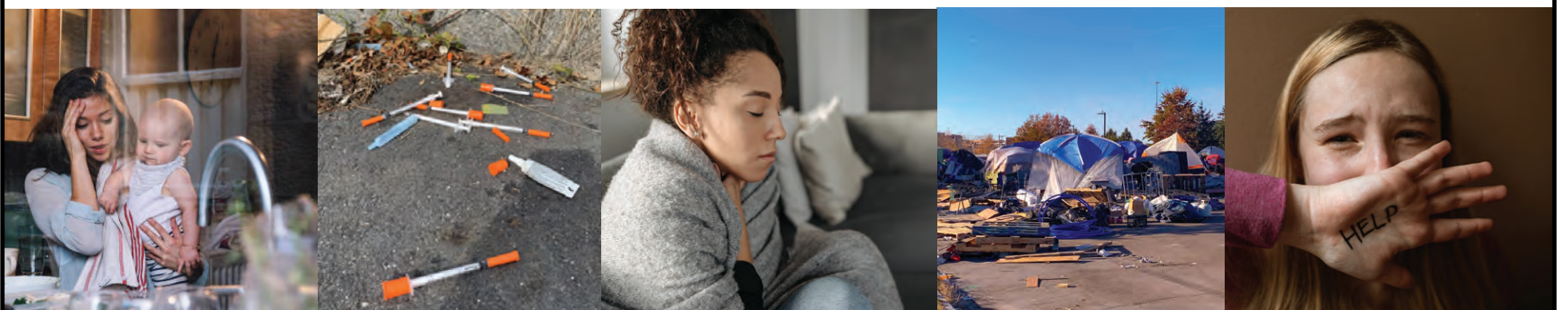
2024 in Maine: The Way Life Should Be?

For far too long, Maine has felt the weight of unbalanced leadership in Augusta. The results of this single-party dominance have been devastating, touching every corner of our beautiful state, and every one of our lives.

What are the results of this single-party rule?

- Mainers are now struggling under the **4th highest tax burden in the nation**. Instead of enjoying the fruits of their hard work, too many families are forced to make tough choices about which bills to pay. We need leaders who will fight to ease this burden, so every family can thrive.
- Mainers now face the **2nd highest energy costs in the country**. Maine's cold winters and rising costs leave too many in our state choosing between heating their homes and buying groceries. We need affordable energy solutions to ensure no one is left in the cold.
- Maine's children are being left behind, with Maine now **ranking last in education nationwide**. Our children deserve the chance to succeed, to dream big, and to have a future full of promise. It's time to invest properly in our schools and give our kids the education they deserve.
- Maine has the **highest rate of child abuse and neglect in the nation**. A record number of children are dying under the supervision of Maine's DHHS. We must act now to protect them and ensure they grow up in safe, nurturing environments.
- **Fentanyl is now the leading killer of our young adults in Maine**. Fentanyl and other drugs have killed a record number of Mainers over the past three years. We need a strong commitment to public safety and to supporting those on the front lines of this battle.

This election cycle, consider **policy over rhetoric** and end the status quo. Choose leadership that goes beyond empty promises and delivers real, impactful solutions. Choose a brighter path forward for our great state. **Vote REPUBLICAN on November 5th** for a stronger, safer, and more prosperous Maine. Because in the end, **policy matters**.



Paid for and authorized by the Cape Elizabeth Republican Town Committee - John Lewis, Chair - capeelizabethrepublicans@gmail.com

Capers compete in Pumpkinman Triathlon



Contributed photo

The Pumpkinman Triathlon was sanctioned this year as the state championship, and more than 600 people competed.

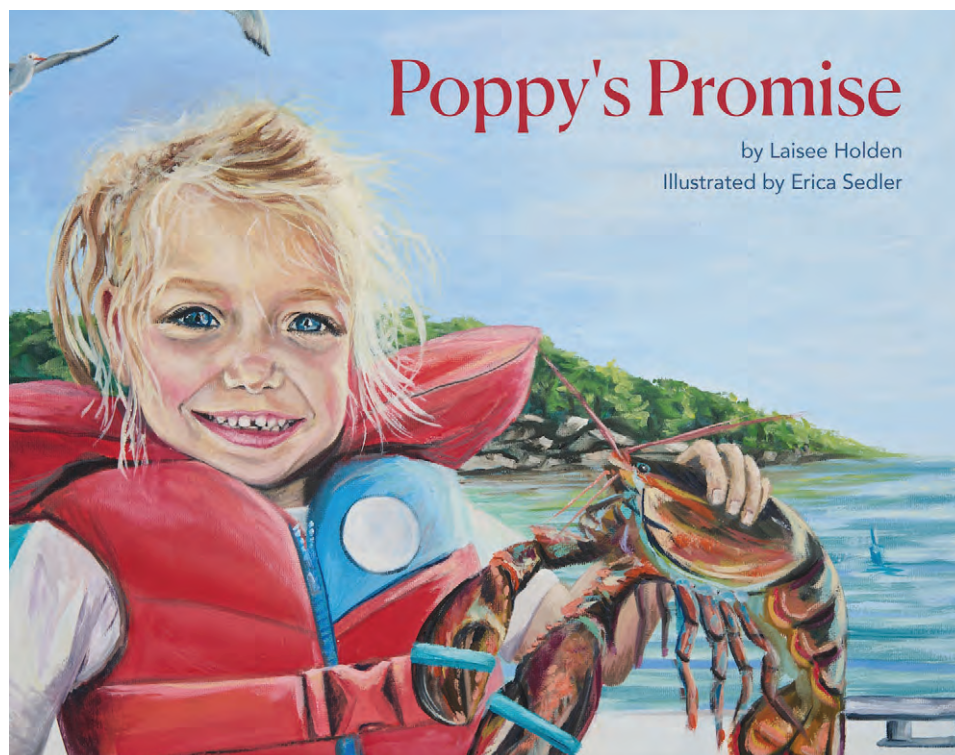
Racers from Cape Elizabeth included twin brothers Thomas (above middle) and Leland O'Reilly (above left), who competed in the Sprint Triathlon, and came in first and second, respectively. Thomas said, "It was truly an amazing experience I loved very much."

Cape residents Mark Boyer and Lang Hoyt also competed in the individual Sprint Triathlon.

The twins' father, Norman O'Reilly, won the Men's 50 to 54-year-olds Olympic Distance race.

Laisee Holden pens 'Poppy's Promise'

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

A portion of sales of "Poppy's Promise" will be donated to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, which develops and delivers collaborative solutions to global ocean challenges.

Laisee (Rintel) Holden, who coaches and grew up in Cape Elizabeth, has penned a children's book titled "Poppy's Promise."

Of the book, Holden said, "I was inspired by watching my young children learn about ocean life and Maine fishing traditions. Seeing the magic of Maine through their eyes prompted me to share the wonder. No matter how early my family wakes up, lobstermen are already out on the water hauling traps. Spotting those boats at the break of dawn has taught my kids that Maine fishermen work hard. My book highlights the honorable tradition of lobstering and the importance of protecting the ocean environment."

Holden said she wrote the book for young children, but she hopes all ages enjoy it.

She said writing her first book was a learning experience. "It took a lot of time and guidance from others. My favorite part of the process was witnessing the illustrator, Erica Sedler, bring the story to life through her incredible paintings. I loved how Erica captured the beauty of Maine and Poppy's fun-loving personality in her illustrations," Holden said.

She strives to use a fun, simple storytell-

ing style while creating vivid imagery and a meaningful plotline. Holden said, "I edited my original text to eliminate vocabulary unfamiliar to children, and to avoid long, detailed sentences."

Holden said she grew up reading Maine-themed books like "Blueberries for Sal" and "One Morning In Maine." "My children and I love 'The Circus Ship.' We enjoy interactive books, which prompted me to add to my book a fun search for sea creatures in Poppy's lobster trap," she said.

Holden said, "I love looking out at the sea as I write because every day looks different. However, as a mother of three, I write wherever I can find a pencil. My book notes are often scribbled on dirty napkins."

When asked if she can imagine a sequel, she said, "My two younger daughters, Banks and Hadley, want to be characters in a book so it may happen."

Of the writing process, Holden said, "Support from others with knowledge is magical. Writing a book 'takes a village.' I was lucky to collaborate with a talented illustrator, Erica Sedler, a knowledgeable publisher, McSea Books, and a wonderful team."

Holden also said she is excited that five percent of her book sales will be donated to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, which develops and delivers collaborative solutions to global ocean challenges.

Those interested in learning more can go to:

<https://mcseabooks.com/product/poppys-promise/>



Contributed photo

Laisee Holden grew up in Cape Elizabeth, and she's written a children's book featuring working on the sea and caring for it.

VOTE YES ✓ SCHOOL BOND

"Current facilities fail today's needs, short changing teaching, safety, and our community's commitment to education. **We support the bond to create facilities that enhance learning for current and future generations.**" — Paid for by The Castoldi Family

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.

The Cape community is invited to ~

Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society's

Grand Opening Open House

Sunday, October 6, 10 am to 2 pm

at Fort Williams, Bachelor Officers Quarters

(just follow the signs)

CEHPS is proud to show off their newly completed

Cape History Center

and

Fort Williams Museum



Event Highlights:

- Visit: Walk through our fascinating exhibits, and hear the stories and insights our staff can share.
- Exhibits: Be among the first to see the Ralph Gould Collection of Historic Musical Instruments.
- 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!

Pokemon inspired lemonade stand

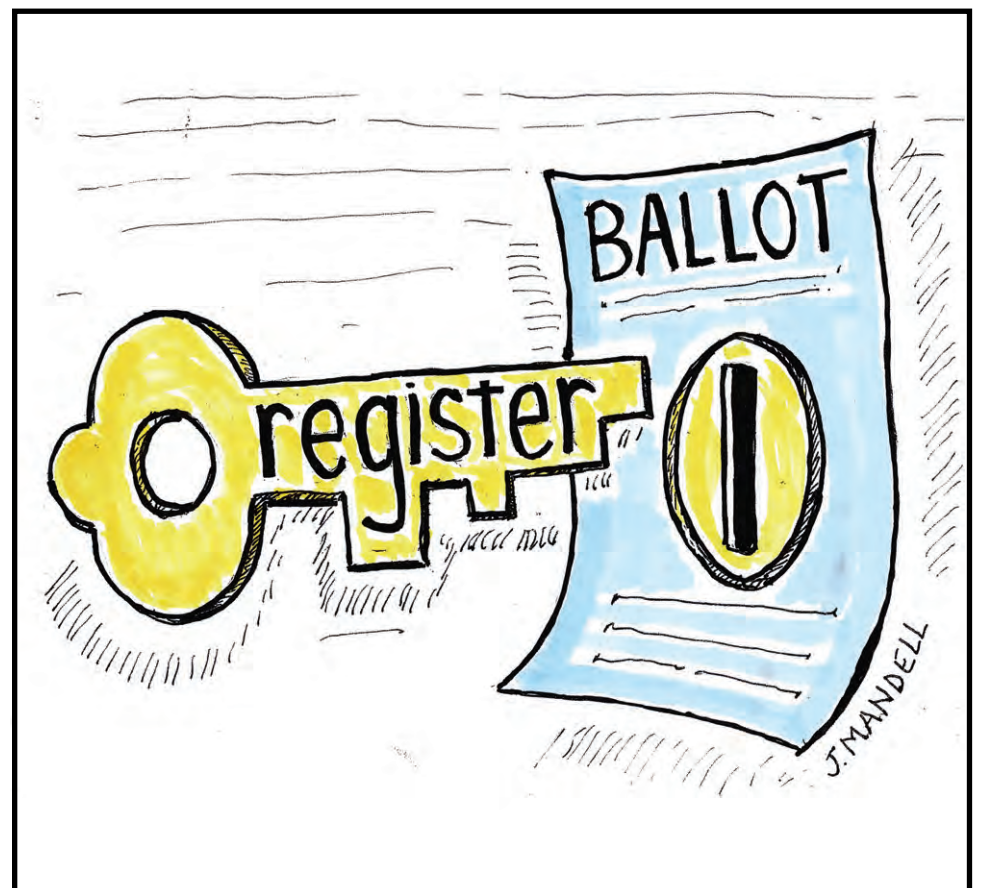


Contributed photo

Cape Elizabeth resident Everett Koneman, 8, recently ran a neighborhood lemonade stand, with three flavor variations based upon the colors of his three favorite Pokemon characters: Caterpie, Metapod and Butterfree. Each had a touch of various berry-flavored syrups. Everett had the support of his mother, Brhea Koneman. He's pictured with his stand, which featured his wares and a menu.

Capetoon: The key to voting

By Jeff Mandell



VOTE YES ✓ SCHOOL BOND

"A new school building is an investment in public education and in Cape Elizabeth's future. We look forward to voting in favor of the school bond in November."

— Paid for by Jenn and Matt Grymek

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.



"We all love Cape Elizabeth. It's why we live here. As much as the natural beauty of the town is such a draw, it's the sense of community that I grew up loving and still cherish to this day. I want to serve on the Town Council to bring new leadership for the numerous challenges that we have in our community, including housing availability, improving our schools, being mindful of property taxes by making sound investments and looking for untapped revenue streams. I want to serve everyone in town by listening to all voices and working together as I know this community can."

Contact: jonathansahrbeck@gmail.com

- Jonathan Sahrbeck was born and raised in Cape Elizabeth, graduating from CEHS in 1998
- Cape Elizabeth Planning Board, 2015 to present
- Cape Elizabeth School Volunteer (High School Mock Trial Attorney Coach, 2012-2019, Pond Cove Cafeteria Duty 2022-present)
- Cape Elizabeth Youth Activity Volunteer (Cape Ice Arena and Cape Elizabeth Little League)

- Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF) Board of Directors, 2023 to present
- Cumberland County District Attorney, 2019-2022
- Serving numerous organizations as a member of their Board of Directors including NAMI Maine, Milestone, Maine Reentry Network, Maine Association of Recovery Residences and the United Recovery Fund
- Appointed by Governor Mills to serve on the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine, 2023 to present

Experience • Leadership • Accountability • Service

Paid and Authorized by Jonathan Sahrbeck

Open House at Cape History Center and Fort Williams Museum on October 6



Contributed photo

CEHPS invites community members to an open house of the Cape Elizabeth History Center and Fort Williams Museum, to be held on Sunday, October 6.

The Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society invites community members of all ages to a fun Grand Opening Open House of the Cape Elizabeth History Center and Fort Williams Museum. The event is free.

The Open House will be held Sunday, Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the new CEHPS home in the former Bachelor Officers' Quarters in Fort Williams Park. Look for the building with the red, white and blue bunting on the upper balcony.

The Open House is intended to show off the newly completed Cape History Center and Fort Williams Museum, as well as the archive rooms and other history-filled spaces not always open to the public.

The Cape Elizabeth History Center,

through accounts, documents, photographs, and artifacts, traces "The Cape Elizabeth Story" from a time when Wabanaki natives freely roamed the area. Displays depict Cape's history of farming, fishing, ship wrecks and lifesaving sea rescues. On display are magnificent scale models of Cape Elizabeth's Town Center, (commonly referred to then as Pond Cove) as it looked around 1930, complete with working trolley; and the Cape Cottage Casino, destination for pleasure-seekers in the early 1900s.

The Fort Williams Museum recounts the 90-year history (1872-1962) of the 90 acres of shorefront real estate that became a key element in the defense of Portland Harbor through three wars. A detailed scale model of Fort Williams as it appeared between the two World Wars, is on display as well as the remarkable story of the fort's namesake Seth Williams, historic photos and human stories, vintage post cards, uniforms, and other memorabilia that help tell of Fort Williams's proud past.

A demonstration of how to access the CEHPS digital archives from home and school computers will be offered. Light refreshments will be provided on the porch.

For more information, visit our website at www.cehistory.org

Eagle Project

Continued from page 15

He hopes that folks continue to get outside and enjoy the new boardwalk and trail.

Over the years Troop 30 has successfully completed numerous Eagle projects that have enhanced our community's green space. The scouts have cleared trails, built boardwalks, bridges, picnic tables at Fort Williams, compost bins at

Gull Crest gardens, refurbished church gardens, built fences, sheds, handicap accessible ramps, rebuilt dams, assisted with playground rehabilitation and enhancement and participated in cemetery stone identification, just to name a few. 15 of the past 25 Eagle Projects have been trial work with each project logging anywhere from 200-300 work hours.

For more information about Troop 30 email troop30capeelizabeth@gmail.com or find them on Facebook: Troop 30 Cape Elizabeth/ Cape Elizabeth ME.



Contributed photo

Alden Hughes of Cape Elizabeth Boy Scout Troop 30 would like to thank all who assisted him in completing his Eagle project last month.

No parking, please keep clear



Contributed photo

After people parking themselves in, staff at Fort Williams Park has now had to use paint to designate no parking areas.

VOTE YES ✓ SCHOOL BOND

"For our kids. For our community. For our future. Vote YES on the school bond."

Paid for by Gina & Lee Mitgang

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.

Drop In For A Spell Pumpkin Carving

Tuesday, October 22 ~ 2:30pm-5:00pm

We look forward to welcoming local families to the Inn for our annual afternoon of pumpkin carving. Bring the creativity while we supply the pumpkins for the kids, carving tools, warm apple cider and treats.

Reserve your pumpkin by October 18th. Please call Rauni Kew at 207.799.3134

Rain date Wednesday, October 23rd.

INN by the SEA
CRESCENT BEACH, MAINE
40 Bowery Beach Road | Cape Elizabeth

Family Portrait Paintings

Commission a family heirloom, or give the gift of authentic fine art. Work directly with the artist for size and pricing to suit your needs. Contact soon to be ready for this coming holiday season!

www.suzannepasqualicchio.com

Suzanne Pasqualicchio Fine Arts

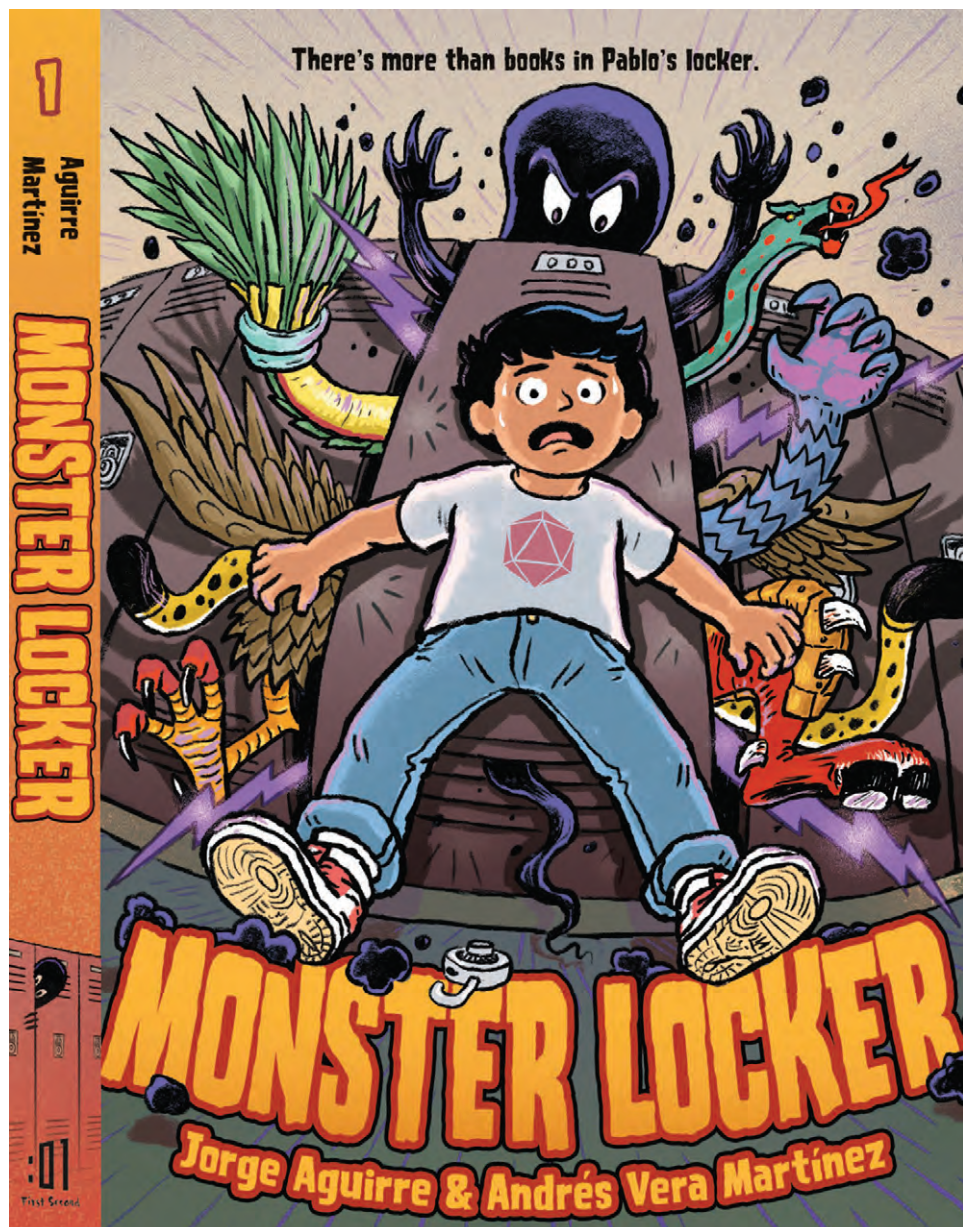
VOTE YES ✓ SCHOOL BOND

"Our physical spaces matter. The School Bond's financially responsible plan provides teachers and students with spaces to be safe and thrive. Investment in education for the next generation of students benefits us all." — Paid for by the Biermann Family

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.

Local illustrator on tour with co-creator and author of new book

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Cape Elizabeth's Andrés Vera Martínez is the co-creator and illustrator of the graphic novel series "Monster Locker," with animation writer Jorge Aguirre. They are on a book tour in support of their project, going to New York and Washington D.C., as well as appearances in Portland and South Portland.

They will be at the Maine Kid Lit Book Fair running at the Portland Public Library on October 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On October 19, they will appear at Back Cove Books in Portland for a book launch party from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and at the Barnes & Noble in South Portland on October 25 at 5:30 p.m.

"Monster Locker Vol 1," the first of a series, is a new middle grade graphic novel, out October 1. It is being published by Macmillan/First Second.

In this first volume of a thrilling middle grade graphic novel series, a sixth-grader named Pablo discovers his locker is a portal to the realm of monsters.

For hundreds of years, something in the basement of Glenfield Middle School has waited for its chance to open a portal into the realm of monsters. Now its

time has come, and the school is going to need a hero. Pablo Ortiz . . . isn't that guy. All he wants to do is lie low and get through middle school in one piece. So when Pablo accidentally opens the portal and summons a vengeful Aztec goddess, he'll need the butt-kicking skills of his new friends and the wisdom passed down by his abuela to take her on.



Contributed photo

Andrés Vera Martínez and Jorge Aguirre, co-creators of Monster Locker, are on a book tour in support of their project, going to New York and Washington D.C., as well as appearances in Portland and South Portland.



VOTE YES ✓ SCHOOL BOND

"Help build our shared future by voting YES to invest in schools for our youngest citizens!"

Paid for by The Rocks

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.

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

Paid for and authorized by the candidate, Jamie Wagner Treasurer



CELT fall programs

CELT New England Cottontails program: In the Thick of It

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

Cape Elizabeth is home to the largest known population of New England cottontails in Maine. The cottontails' range has declined by 86% over the past 50 years due to loss of large thicket and young forest habitats. Come learn about where they live, why other animals also need these thickets, and what we are doing to help the cottontails rebound in Maine. All proceeds go to CELT. Participants registering at least 48 hours in advance of the program will ensure they will receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Sunday, October 20

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

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

CELT's Cross Town Walk

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

diverse ecosystems including Spurwink Marsh, Robinson Woods and Great Pond. The program takes approximately five and a half hours. Hikers will meet at the Portland Head Light and will carpool (arranged prior to walk) back to Fort Williams after a picnic at Kettle Cove. Snacks, drinks and lunch should be brought by each participant. Participants should be 12 years or older; please call about younger ages. All participants must register at least 48 hours in advance of the program and will receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Saturday October 5

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

Location: Meet at Portland Headlight in the dirt parking lot closest to the lighthouse.

CELT's Cross Town Walk (Second Half Option)

Interested in the Cross Town Walk but not ready to commit to all 8.2 miles? Join Cape Elizabeth Land Trust for a half-distance (roughly 4.5 miles) walk highlighting some of Cape's great places, including Spurwink Marsh and Great Pond. The walk takes approximately three hours. Hikers will meet at the CELT office in Town Center and will carpool (arranged prior to walk) back to the CELT office after a picnic at Kettle Cove. Snacks, drinks and lunch should be brought by each participant. All participants must register at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Saturday October 5

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

Location: Meet at CELT Office - 330 Ocean House Road

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

Join CELT as we explore Robinson Woods in October. Children and caregivers will spend an hour exploring the natural wonders of Maine with Cape Elizabeth Land Trust educator Lisa Gent. During this CELT sponsored event we'll take a gentle hike through Robinson Woods, where we will explore the habitat around us and search for signs of the changing season with age-appropriate games and activities. Please dress in comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle. Participants registering at least 48 hours in

-see CELT page 23

Local birding report

By E. Brooks Bornhoff

The dry warm weather during the second and third week of September accompanied many southbound migrants secretly slipping through our landscapes by day and overhead by night.

On September 20 Cornell's BirdCast Migration Dashboard reported over seven hundred thousand nocturnal birds leveraging southwest winds along the Atlantic Flyway as they passed into and/or through Cumberland County. The abundance and species diversity that fly over our town on a night of heavy migration rivals what would be a big day's worth of bird sightings. This web-based data visualization tool (dashboard) provides a new dimension for birders to deeply connect with nature. On several nights when forecasted weather conditions were more favorable for travelling at lower altitudes, just as predicted, warblers, vireos, thrushes, sparrows and shorebirds brief nocturnal flight calls sounded as if they were right above the treetops.

One call in particular caught my ear amongst the peeps and chirps in the dark sky. It had a slightly distinct, rising, bell-like "pwee" sound. Reviewing the Migration Dashboard's expected nocturnal migrants section I noticed that Swainson's Thrushes were listed as a species most likely passing overhead. From there I was able to draw some conclusions by matching the flight song I had heard to a pre-recorded version I had found online. In the moment I could picture this secretive little thrush sensing it was time to depart. With one last skulk about in the tangles he then whispered his ethereal tune within the dim forest understory before flying straight up and away into the stary night sky.

The leisurely pace of fall migration provides birders like me with ample time to reflect on missed sightings that seem to mount as the days grow shorter. While wandering along one of CELT's fantastic new trails in Robinson woods my thoughts were of the Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, American Bitterns, Wilson's Snipe and Marsh Wrens that eluded me this time around. I also never got a good look at a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher or an Orchard Oriole.

And then there were the missed warblers like the Mourning, Waterthrushes, Blue-winged, Golden-winged and the Prairie. Oh, how I missed not hearing the Prairie Warbler's buzzy little tune! Alas, there is always something of interest to see or hear and it is just a matter of being out in the yard or field to chance upon it.

My limited observations from the yard and field during the middle of September include, on several occasions during the third week of September in Robinson Woods III the guttural quork quork of Raven's carried high above the old Pine's canopy while the rolling rattle of a Northern Flicker echoed through the woods below. Eastern Wood Pee-wee's distinctive notes could still be heard as well.

Additionally, on September 16 I came across three cheery Blue-headed Vireos along the northern entrance to Runaway Farm and on September 20 in my backyard I noted a twenty-seven American Goldfinches, a continuing Ruby-throated Hummingbird and separately two Gray Catbirds, two Red-eye Vireos and a Philadelphia Vireo.

Far less widespread and less abundant in Maine, the Philadelphia Vireo can usually be distinguished from the Red-eyed Vireo by their yellow washed underparts and distinct line above the eye that typically contrasts with their darkish gray helmet. And while the Red-eyed Vireo does breed in Cape, the Philadelphia only breeds in the more north westerly sections of Maine and beyond. Interestingly, this is the third year in a row I have spotted a Philadelphia Vireo in September and in my yard. The bird gets its name from the city in which the first scientific specimen of this species was collected. Philadelphia was at the center of America's scientific community in the early 1800s and much of the study of birds originated in Pennsylvania.

Lastly, on the morning of September 23 a handsome male Rose-Breasted Grosbeak briefly showed up at our backyard feeder along with a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches. Also, just as we had last fall, a young male Pileated Woodpecker has been dropping into our yard daily for suet, announcing his arrival with a series of loud, escalating shrieks.

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Smart
Investments in
Our Schools**

**VOTE
YES!**

**on the
School Bond**

**— Paid for by
The Tumas Family**

Advancing Cape Elizabeth
Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.

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**"We support this
responsible investment
in our town's
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& Scott Mazuzan**

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.

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Lights
Dental**

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**Health Centered Dentistry.
Now in the Center of Cape.**

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twolightsdental.com

Nature scene around town



Photo by Martha Agan

Asters at Kettle Cove.



Photo by Martha Agan

Greater yellowlegs at Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge on Sawyer Road.




Photo by Martha Agan

A Snowy egret chasing fish along Sawyer Road.



Photo by Martha Agan

Sunflower on Fessenden Road.



A PROVEN LEADER


Elizabeth Scifres
for Town Council

I'd love to hear from you! What are your priorities and concerns?

elizabeth.scifres@gmail.com

- 12 years of dedicated service on the School Board, including 5 years as Chair
- Extensive experience in policy development and budget preparation
- Focus on respectful engagement and collaboration
- Building trust through a shared vision and common goals
- Transparent, process-driven approach to town governance

BUILDING TRUST. LEADING WITH PROCESS, COLLABORATION, AND EXPERIENCE.



MODELING CAPE VALUES

WE BELIEVE... transparency is essential to fostering trust, ensuring accountability, and empowering our community to make informed decisions.


OPEN • HONEST • TRANSPARENT • FACT-BASED

We Pledge:

- ✓ Open Communications
- ✓ Financial Disclosures
- ✓ Accessible Information
- ✓ Feedback Opportunities
- ✓ Sourced Materials
- ✓ Ethical Practices

Our goal is to provide clear, accurate, and factual information to help voters make informed decisions, ensuring honesty and avoiding misleading content.

VIEW OUR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS



AdvancingCape.com

VOTE YES
Our Students, Our Future
✓ **SCHOOL BOND**
AdvancingCape.com

Paid for by Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, Elizabeth Biermann, & Other Grassroots Supporters • 19 Trundy Rd.

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, October 3

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

Monday, October 7

Conservation Committee - SITE VISIT, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, October 8

School Board Meeting & Middle Ground PUBLIC FORUM, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 9

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

Thursday, October 10

Privacy Advisory Committee - Ad Hoc, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, October 15

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 16

Town Council, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 17

Fort Williams Park Committee, 6 p.m.
Energy Committee, Jordan Confer-

ence Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 22

Board of Zoning Appeals, 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.

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

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

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

Nothing scheduled for Oct. 2 - Oct. 22



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southernmaine.invisiblefence.com

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VOTE YES

✓ SCHOOL BOND

"Vote YES on the School Bond. It is our shared responsibility."

Paid for by Angela and Vinnie Faherty

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.

VOTE YES ✓ SCHOOL BOND

"Retired on a fixed income. Let's build for future excellent Cape Elizabeth education."

Paid for by Sue & Don Rudalevige

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.

Tamarro Landscaping

Lawn Renovation

Remove your old lawn and start from scratch
Call to schedule a lawn renovation estimate now!

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Cape Elizabeth, ME

BUSINESSES/SERVICES

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

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

FOR RENT

Sugarloaf condo for rent in Snowbrook, flexible on dates, if interested call Sara at 207-415-1973

CELT

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advance of the program will ensure they will receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Thursday, October 10

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

Location: Robinson Woods Kiosk (off of Shore Rd)

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

Min/Max: 2/5

School Board

Continued from page 1

gifts we can give our children.

Schroeder - Unprecedented challenges face every generation. Today, one of the unprecedented challenges facing parents, teachers, administrators, and students is the boundaries relating to the use of technology.

Students today do not know a world without the Internet and the incredible benefits as well as risks that it presents. As we collectively navigate a course that balances the dangers and rewards of technology for our children, it is important to acknowledge that, sitting here today, we do not know all the right answers. We need to lean into learning...be open to hearing what issues are arising, try new approaches, look honestly at the outcomes of new approaches, admit when something is not working and pivot to a new approach when needed.

Q4- If a family with children was considering moving to Cape Elizabeth, how would you describe the local educational opportunities to them?

Boniakowski - While posed as such, this question is not hypothetical for me. I have this conversation with friends, family and colleagues frequently. I tell them our schools are excellent. I tell them our teachers and administrators truly care for our kids. They create an inclusive and welcoming environment. They allow our kids to thrive.

I also tell them we need to continue to invest in our schools and the people who work in them. Our kids and our teachers deserve safe, modern facilities in which to learn, and it is incumbent on us as a

society to create that environment for them.

Engel - My parents moved to Cape when I was in high school and still live here today. I knew, even when I was living on the West Coast, that eventually I wanted to come back and raise a family in town. We love the schools. From kindergarten through 12th grade, Cape students are supported by dedicated educators who genuinely care about student success. Teachers tailor their methods to student interests, making learning engaging and fostering a lasting love for education. My son is thriving at Pond Cove; my daughter can't wait to join him there next year.

Every community has its challenges; ours is no different. We need critical infrastructure investments—investments that I wish the town had planned for decades ago. However, while it's true that we have challenges, our parent and school community stands out as truly exceptional, creating an environment that's both supportive and inspiring for our children.

Schroeder - Cape Elizabeth offers very strong educational opportunities. This strength comes from the combination of academic, athletic, and extracur-

ricular offerings in the schools as well as in the community generally, such as through the youth sports programs and Cape Community Services. Cape is a community of engaged citizens who volunteer to support this variety of programs. We benefit from having active community members who are committed to the future of Cape.

To maintain this position, we need to remain curious about what we can improve and to invest both time and money to achieve those improvements.

Got a story to share? Email us!



editor@capecourier.com

VOTE YES ✓ SCHOOL BOND

"We want to see our taxes make a real difference in the future of our community."

Paid for by The Davis-Knowlton Family

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.

VOTE YES ✓ SCHOOL BOND

"Our crumbling classrooms threaten Cape's exceptional educational legacy in Maine. Support the bond to renew our facilities, keep top educators, and ensure our children continue to have the tools they need to excel." — Paid for by the Chris A. and Michelle R. Gorski Family

Advancing Cape Elizabeth Schools, 19 Trundy Rd.

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

CE THE "MIDDLE GROUND" 3 REASONS WHY NOW IS THE TIME

1 MEETS OUR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS NOW AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Average Age of Building = 64 Yrs Old - the oldest of all our schools)



Comprehensive Approach to Safety & Security to allow kids to focus on learning, including:

- Addresses sprawling layout
- Implements layers of security
- Public/after-hours separation
- Wayfinding mechanisms
- Site circulation and oversight improvements
- Secure door access
- And more...



Flexible 21st Century Classrooms to support modern teaching & learning practices and flexibility to accommodate future evolution of teaching & learning practices



Classroom & Performance Spaces to Support Robust Performing Arts Programming (over 60% of students participate in Band program)



Appropriate Space to Serve Special Education Programming Special Education programming has changed dramatically since the school was originally built. A new school allows us to construct spaces that can meet the needs of all students.



Healthy Building Features that positively impact student learning, including:

- Modern mechanical systems
- Appropriate nurse office space
- Natural light
- Indoor air quality

HIGH SCHOOL REPAIRS/RENOVATION

(Average Age of Building = 54 Years Old)



Addresses Repairs that are most beneficial to address as part of a large construction project, including:

- Acoustical/sound transfer between classrooms
- ADA compliance in restrooms
- Roof replacement
- Mechanical replacement
- Associated abatement

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPAIRS/RENOVATION

(Average Age of Building = 54 Years Old)



Addresses Security, Repairs, & Renovation, including:

- Secure entry & admin addition, & other safety upgrades
- New mechanical addition & other HVAC replacement
- STEAM program addition
- Renovated Nurse & Conference
- Classrooms/corridor finish replacement



MEETING ALL OUR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS WITH 0% DISRUPTION TO STUDENTS



Construction of a New Middle School means **students will not experience learning disruption due to construction.**

- **Students will not have to be moved to portables or bussed out of Cape** during construction.
- **Saves an estimated \$3M** that would be required as part of a renovation/addition project for temporary learning space.
- **Students remain in existing MS** while new MS is constructed.
- ES and HS work is **achieved over summer and school breaks.**

2 FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE IT WILL NEVER BE MORE AFFORDABLE THAN IT IS TODAY



The master plan for our schools is eventual replacement of all schools. The "Middle Ground" is **the first step in implementing this plan.**



Delaying this plan only becomes more expensive and leads to more piecemeal renovations and repairs that will inevitably have to be replaced.



New construction **avoids the risks associated with renovation** where unforeseen conditions can drain money from the budget.



Patchwork of mechanical systems, building codes, hallways, and load-bearing walls make **renovating CEMS prohibitively expensive. New Construction is a better use of funds.**



The new CEMS and additions to PCES will **bring mechanical systems indoors, extending the life of those systems**, making the best use of taxpayer dollars.



We can continue to address prioritized repairs **within the currently established CIP, Repairs, and Maintenance school budget**, with only a 2% inflation factor for these budget lines.

3 SETS THE COMMUNITY UP FOR THE FUTURE RESETS THE CLOCK ON ONE OF OUR THREE AGING SCHOOL BUILDINGS



The "Middle Ground" is an historic investment for a 50+ year building lifespan that meets ALL our educational needs and serves as a community asset for all citizens.

UPCOMING EVENTS THE "MIDDLE GROUND" SCHOOL DESIGN FORUM
OCTOBER 8, 6:30 PM AT TOWN HALL
FINAL SCHOOL TOUR
OCTOBER 29, 6 PM - MEET IN FRONT OF CEMS

www.cape.k12.me.us/page/buildingproject



LEARN MORE