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In the Spirit of Community

Ray Shevenell slated for induction into Maine Running Hall of Fame

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Cape Elizabeth's Ray Shevenell has been selected for induction into the Maine Running Hall of Fame.

Cape Elizabeth resident Ray Shevenell has been selected for induction into the Maine Running Hall of Fame.

According to the announcement, "These eight individuals have made significant contributions to the sport of running in Maine." The statement by MRHOF on Shevenell reads:

Ray Shevenell, of Cape Elizabeth, was a star runner for Cheverus High School where he set a state record in the 1000-yard run (2:29.9 in 1959) and subsequently earned a full scholarship to Georgetown University. His passion for running led him to become a lifetime ambassador for the sport. Through his volunteering, coaching and encouraging words, Ray helped instill his passion for fitness in countless others. In 2007 he needed emergency surgery for a previously undiagnosed congenital heart problem that doctors said he would not have survived had it not been for his level of fitness. After recovering from surgery, Ray went on to reinvent himself as a sprinter and represented Maine at National Corporate Track events where he brought home 14 age-group medals over the

Shevenell has served as an ambassador for running over the decades, inspiring and training hundreds of Mainers in the pursuit of running at every level - for competition,

fitness, or simple enjoyment - and always for the camaraderie the sport offers participants of any age.

As the MRHOF statement reveals, Ray's running career began at Cheverus, where in addition to earning a scholarship, he helped lead the Stags to the Class B New England Catholic Schoolboy Track Championships.

His collegiate competitive running career was cut short by a serious ankle injury, but not before he posted impressive times as a freshman, including a 19:31 third-place finish on a hilly 3.9-mile course at the University of Richmond. Though sidelined by the injury, he helped the team and the university in every way he could, traveling with and cheering his teammates on, writing race results and track features for the university newspaper, and assisting the coach at practices

Despite the injury, he remained physically active at Georgetown, completing President Kennedy's 50-Mile Hike Challenge in a time of 9 hours, 47 minutes, among the fastest in the nation. And when Kennedy launched the Peace Corps, Ray trained the inaugural class of volunteers in physical fitness before they headed abroad.

After starting a family and a business ca-

-see RUNNING page 13

Ray Shevenell slated for induction News from October 15 PB 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 additional updates on their major subdivision review application. The application had been deemed complete at the August 20, 2024 Planning Board meeting and a site walk was performed on September 4, attended by the Board and members of the public.

Paul Driscoll, attorney for the applicant, said that he had since met with the acting Town Manager to discuss financial and technical capacity, and that Mr. McGovern had "100% confidence" in the applicant's capacity for the project. Driscoll added that the applicant has increased their available funds amount to \$12.5 million dollars and that it's located in the Robert Napier Irrevocable Trust.

Bob Metcalf addressed updates to the vegetative buffering and the proposed relocation of buildings 6 and 7 further away from the property line. Vegetative buffering would include planting trees that are six or seven feet in height with additional understory vegetation to provide additional screening. Relocating buildings 6 and 7 would address some concerns from the abutters at Canterbury on the Cape. Metcalf added that the applicant also met with the Conservation Commission to review any impacts to wetlands. The wetlands on the applicant's property have been deemed "low value wetland" that drains poorly

Chair Sahrbeck thanked the applicant and applicant's representatives for "providing a lot more information" than they had previously, adding that they had done their "due diligence." He added that he appreciated that the applicant worked with abutters from the Canterbury on the Cape association to come up with compromises that benefit both parties.

Sahrbeck reminded those in attendance that the Board was voting on preliminary site plan review for major subdivision, which does not equate to "shovels in the ground" and that the project application still will need final approval. The Board voted unanimously

-see PLANNING BOARD page 6

Capetoons: Your vote is

By Jeff Mandell



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

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NEXT ISSUE: Nov 13 DEADLINE: Noon, Nov 1

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Sahrbeck listens 'to all points of view'

I am 88 years old and have resided in Cape Elizabeth for 84 of those years during which I have spent two terms on the school board, engaged in many town debates, and have had many friends who served on the town council, including my sister Penny Carson who served on the Cape Town council a total of 16 years, a total second only to my late friend William H. Jordan Sr., who was Cape's model for "good citizen." The town's population has tripled since I grew up here, so there have been many changes which were the consequence of public debate. Municipal policy debates in Cape Elizabeth; however, always had a defining characteristic: civility. I believe we can, and should, return to those

days, and that is why I am urging people to elect Jonathan Sahrbeck to the town council.

Jon, the former Cumberland County District Attorney, is a lifelong Cape resident . He has devoted himself to public service. I have never known a person with more Maine community participation and connections than Jon, and for nearly ten years Jon has served on the Cape Planning Board and is its current chairman. He is also on the board of the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation.

Jon's public service is characterized by his sense of fairness, willingness to respectfully listen to all points of view, and build consensus. He is the right person at the right time.

Harold Pachios

Scifres will 'bring consensus building'

Elizabeth Scifres has my enthusiastic support for Town Council. Cape Elizabeth will be well served by a dedicated hardworking no nonsense public servant like Elizabeth. I have watched with admiration as she has navigated with humility, grace and selflessness nearly 20 years of issues, challenges, and opportunities as a member of our school board.

As a former school board member, I understand the delicate balance of fulfilling her role as demanded by state statute and remaining responsive to our communities' aspirations and concerns. I am both grateful and impressed by her steadfast commitment to serving our whole town, all of us, and resisting the growing currents of "us-them" frameworks and divisiveness.

Please join me in voting for Elizabeth Scifres to bring consensus building and collaboration to our town council.

Rep. Rebecca Millett

All fields replaced with middle ground project

I was alarmed when I read a letter to the editor in the last issue of the Courier. The letter stated that the plans for a new middle school would eliminate the outdoor basketball court and fail to fully replace essential athletic fields on campus.

I was greatly relieved to hear at the Public Forum on October 8 both during the presentation and during the Q&A that the architect confirmed the new middle school plans include TWO new outdoor basketball courts and will fully replace all athletic fields on campus. It will also add a second skinned softball field to campus to match the number of baseball fields on campus. This is particularly good news for middle school softball players, who have had to walk half a mile to a field with no facilities for more than 30 years.

Voting yes on question 1 will resolve this issue and address many safety concerns present in the current facility. The safety and security of our students should be a top priority, and any alternative to a new school will not be able to address these concerns.

Eric Tennyson

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Chris Cary
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Majority SBAC supports school project

I joined the SBAC to share my experience as an architect who has worked on 50+ school design projects.

The design process, led by our industry-leading Architect and Owner's Project Manager, was meticulous and transparent.

The Middle Ground synthesizes the best work of the SBAC. It prioritizes student safety, sustainability, and the very best design strategies that shape modern education to prepare our youngest community members for their bright future.

Re-starting the clock on one of our three aging school buildings is the best strategic step we can make as a town - and a very common strategy I have seen employed at aging campuses across the country. School buildings become exponentially more expensive to maintain starting around 40 years. Cape

Elizabeth is in a precarious position, with the average age of each school building between 54 and 64 years old.

The SBAC explored many renovation options - none were able to fulfill the school's educational program at a price point the community would support. Education and safety needs have changed too much, and the existing layout is too tangled, inefficient and rigid. No architect would design the middle school as it is laid out today.

Although the SBAC did not vote on the Middle Ground, I have spoken to my fellow SBAC members and know for a fact that the Middle Ground would pass if a vote were taken today. Let's make a community investment that will shape our community for the next 60 years - please vote YES!

Corinne Bell

'Is now the time' for this project?

In a recent issue of the Portland Press Herald there was an article regarding the need to restructure the way Maine gives out funding to communities looking to renovate and/ or build new schools. This need has arisen due to the many communities that have voted down multimillion dollar projects that would have huge impacts on local property taxes. Governor Mills is putting together a task force to see what can be done in order to relieve some of the tax burden for communities.

Is NOW the time to green light a project that will add another 12.5% tax increase? Could Cape be the recipient of SOME federal dollars in a year or two? Can our state representatives help secure funding down the road? As an outgoing member of the Town Council, I voted with the majority who does not support the School Board's latest proposal for a new middle school.

Susan Gillis

POLITICAL ADVERTISING POLICY

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

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

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

The Cape Courier Board of Directors

Seven hard-to-argue-against reasons to VOTE "NO" on Question #1 ...and reason #7 is fresh off the press

find more reasons at capevoters.com $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$

1. Overreach by the School Board is what put Question #1 on the ballot

- **a.** The Town Council recommends **voting NO**
- b. The School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) did NOT recommend this project
- c. Two official town-wide surveys show that most voters cannot accept its associated cost

2. The true cost is much higher than advertised

- a. at least \$104 million, not including \$60 million in interest
- **b.** raises taxes by 12.5% to start off, on top of any existing re-evaluation increases
- c. \$9.3 million will have to be added to future school budgets to cover deferred critical and essential repairs

3. The proposed Middle School is greatly oversized and unnecessary

- a. middle school enrollment has declined 27% since 2004
- b. proposed school: 248 sq ft per student
- c. Maine DOE guideline: 160 sq ft per student
- d. recently built Maine schools average: 196 sq ft per student, according Harriman Architects

4. There's a far better alternative: the SBAC's "Option B"

- a. saves at least \$27 million and likely much more
- **b.** balances new construction, renovation, and critical repairs
- c. takes care of every single critical need across all three schools
- **d.** prioritizes smart growth within the existing campus footprint, **preserving vital green spaces** for outdoor recreation and hands-on learning
- e. offers a responsible master plan for long-term fiscal management
 - i. limits initial tax increase to under 10%
 - ii. addresses decades of underinvestment
 - iii. mirrors responsible homeowner approach to property investment

5. The School Board's proposal on the ballot is unbalanced and short-sighted

- a. disproportionate focus on a new middle school construction at the expense of overall district needs
- **b.** neglects the **undersized elementary school**
- c. ignores a number of critical needs at the high school
- **d.** shortchanging the two other schools means millions of dollars of additional work will need to be done much sooner rather than later at those schools, **foreshadowing more tax increases**

6. It entails wasteful demolition and inefficient use of resources

- a. demolishes ~70,000 sq ft of sound structures, including nearly 25,000 sq ft built only 30 years ago
- **b.** wastes this 30 year-old taxpayer investment before half of its expected lifespan has lapsed
- **c.** duplicates resources unnecessarily (e.g., two kitchens and two auditoriums instead of one)
- **d.** increases operational costs due to sprawling design
- e. demolishes regulation-sized athletic field, not adequately replaced in the proposal on the ballot

7. Governor Mills' Executive Order opens state funding to more school districts like ours

- **a.** Gov. Mills signed an Executive Order on October 4, 2024, to review school construction funding criteria
- **b.** CESD just applied to **Maine's Major Capital School Construction Program**, a first since before 2010
- **c.** The commission's report, due April 2025, could **significantly increase state support for our project**
- **d. Voting NO** allows us to explore this funding mechanism, potentially saving taxpayers millions.

Vote NO on Question #1 is not a vote against our schools, or even against new construction. Given the cost of this project, the long-term consequences for our town, and the potential for state funding, the voters deserve much better.

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.

Investment for the future

I had the privilege of co-chairing the School Building Advisory Committee. I wanted to be involved because I believe in the strength of public education, and wanted to roll up my sleeves and help address our school's needs.

We are facing a financial decision regarding our schools. How do we invest in education while minimizing the impact on households? I think about this every day (seriously I do) as I drive by yes and no signs, and as I talk with people during my workday. There is no easy answer.

I am a product of Cape Elizabeth's school system, I graduated from the "new" high school, a building that was controversial at the time. I have never had children in the schools, but I have always felt it's my responsibility to ensure young people in our

town have the same opportunities I had – an education that opens doors, that creates opportunities that one's parents might not have had. I'm one of those kids.

Do I think that \$94.7 million is an easy ask? No, yet it is a necessary ask. We need to address the issues with our school's infrastructure. I know there is concern for people in our town on fixed income or living paycheck to paycheck. My commitment between now and 2027 when the first bond is issued is to expand tax relief beyond seniors and address one element of financial affordability in Cape Elizabeth.

Yes, I am voting to support the school

Penelope (Penny) Jordan

'100% committed' to great schools

In 1973, we were blessed to move to Cape Elizabeth and find our first home on Cherry Circle. We raised our four children in Cape both as working parents (Bruce setting up a successful dental practice and Kathy working as an Occupational Therapist in the Cape Elizabeth School District for 17 years). Cape Elizabeth will always be a special place for our family and one of the things we've always loved is the strong community support for our schools.

Over the last 40 years, the property taxes we have paid have been worth every penny for our family, because of the education our children received. This is why we are 100% committed to having great schools in Cape Elizabeth and voting YES on the school

bond. Granted, with the re-evaluation, our property taxes have gone up like many others. Despite that, it's time that we start thinking about the future of this town and stop acting in a way that will only benefit those in our age group. Both of us are 80 years old and we know that we may not see the long-term investment of the school bond come to fruition. We are excited that our grandson who attends Pond Cove, his friends and classmates, and all those who come after him will have educational opportunities not currently available. We know that our investment will benefit their future. We urge you to join us and vote YES on the school bond.

Kathy and Bruce Sahrbeck

Stop the fear-mongering

When I opened the last issue of the Courier, I was dismayed when I saw the fear-mongering ad the Cape Elizabeth Republican Town Committee ran. Photos of needles, homeless encampments, and frightened/overwhelmed women (I guess men don't need any help?) with a laundry list of problems in our state. While our town, state and nation certainly all have their fair share of problems that need to be handled through smart policy choices by our elected officials, this type of fear-mongering is not helpful.

Unfortunately, the fear-mongering in Cape doesn't stop there. Two candidates for Town Council specifically say they will protect Cape from housing being built at Fort Williams and athletic fields. No one is trying to build housing at Fort Williams or on our

athletic fields, and frankly I don't think ANY Cape resident would favor it. Running on this as an issue is simply drumming up fear in our town over something that is 100% made up. It's not exactly immigrants eating dogs, but it certainly draws from the same playbook.

Even the big green signs all over town shouting at us to "VOTE NO" on the school bond cause it's a "12% TAX HIKE" have a bit of fear-mongering. While the bond will result in a 12% tax increase, it is spread out over 3 years, not the 12% tax bomb these signs purport.

Whatever side you're on, I think we can all agree that the fear-mongering – at all levels – needs to stop.

Rob Krauser



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Andrews 'genuinely cares' for Cape

I am over eighty years old and my home I truly believe many had to leave basically has always been on Ocean House road. In fact, three of the four places I lived were built by my family.

On September 13, I enjoyed attending my sixty-third class of 1961 reunion from Cape Elizabeth High School. There were about 75 members of the graduating class. I am the only one still in town.

They have left for many reasons. However,

and recently because of the cost and bidding wars. The town has changed dramatically numbers, traffic, politically, etc.

I hope you seriously consider voting for David Andrews who lives on Grover Road in the house where he grew up. David genuinely cares for Cape Elizabeth and the direction this town is headed.

Nancy Woodward

Reiniger 'is integrity personified'

We are living in times with hateful political vitriol everywhere. In Cape Elizabeth we've had a welcome respite at the town leadership level with council chair Tim Reiniger. Tim is unfailingly polite and respectful to all citizens, fellow councilors and staff. He is integrity personified. His steady and thoughtful demeanor along with his outstanding scholarship on all issues has elevated both council deliberations and the chairmanship

These needed improvements in councilor conduct, hard work, and true empathy for the concerns of others have encouraged members of the public to seek out his help. Always working for Cape, Tim has spent time visiting residents with public safety concerns about such areas as: Cliff Beach, Stonybrook, Casino Beach, the cell tower and more. We need to re- elect councilors like Tim who

work hard to represent the town's interests as a whole, not candidates who are running to promote expensive new school buildings. Tim's accomplishments and solid record of fiscal restraint demonstrate concern for ALL Cape residents and taxpayers.

Having served on the council for nine years and twice as chair, I understand the unique skill sets required to be both an effective town councilor and an effective chair while maintaining civil discourse. Working for all of Cape's residents, Tim has calmly provided decisive leadership on difficult issues. He never resorts to rudeness or personal attacks as others do. His honesty, fairness, civility and incredible work ethic are needed more than ever. Please re-elect Tim Reiniger to the town council.

Jessica Sullivan

Swayze has earned my vote

I'm thrilled to see so many of our fellow citizens step forward and volunteer to provide leadership here in Cape. As an immediate former Councilor, I know what a commitment it is and I have gratitude for everyone who is on our November ballot. But this year, my vote will only go to those candidates who show a commitment to moving this town forward in a thoughtful and collaborative way. No political games, no agendas, and no unnecessary and divisive fear-mongering. Just a genuine concern for the wellbeing of Capers young and old, our town employees, and our beautiful environment – a true public servant.

I've had the opportunity to meet and hear from Andrew Swayze as he's been out doing

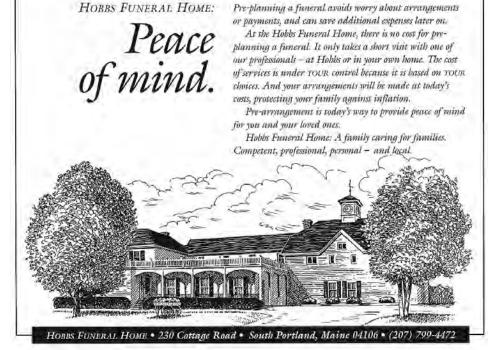
the hard work of talking with residents and working to earn their votes for Town Council and he has earned mine. I've learned that he is pragmatic, caring, and committed to truly listening to the community and making unbiased decisions based on thoughtful, thorough analysis. And let's be honest - his Courier ads are a hoot. And I promise, a good sense of humor will go a long way four hours into an evening meeting or when he's up to his neck in zoning documents. I think Andrew represents a return to kindness and common sense in our local leadership. I hope you'll consider giving him your vote as well on November 5.

Gretchen Noonan

Boyer 'understands the climate crisis'

I first met Michelle Boyer, a member of the Cape Elizabeth Conservation Committee, when I addressed the committee on the need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Michelle understands the climate crisis we are all facing and the need to protect our children's future. This coming year the Maine legislature will be considering updates to Maine's climate action plan. Michelle is the right person for this critical time in Maine's climate future.

Tom Mikulka, Sr.



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Town should 'expand tax relief'

What if we could approve the school bond and help our most vulnerable with the resulting tax increase? Wouldn't that break the toxic debate and bring us together, rather than dividing us and shortchanging schools?

There is such a solution. Chapter 907-A of Maine's tax law allows towns to create property tax relief programs that are not limited to seniors.

According to the 2022 U.S. Census, about 1,000 Cape households have annual incomes below \$75,000, and 1,375 have annual incomes below \$100,000. These households are likely vulnerable to a tax increase and to own homes assessed below \$750,000.

Analyzing the census data, revaluation data, and the bond tax increase yields this conclusion: For about \$500,000 per year, the town could limit the bond tax increase

to 6.5% for all Cape homestead properties assessed below \$750,000 and with incomes below \$90,000, regardless of age; less than 1% of the town's annual budget. This would increase the average tax of properties assessed above \$750,000 by only \$240 per year.

We say that we want to protect our seniors, have first class schools, attract young families, and limit the bond tax increase for those who cannot afford it. Expanding tax relief would do that. Town Council and Town Council candidates should commit to expand tax relief so voters can support the bond. This is a fair solution.

What does no vote say to our teachers and families? Were I an educator or a young family, I would look to live or work elsewhere.

Tom Murley

Hughes is a 'high character candidate'

I write to share my support for a high character candidate for Town Council, David Hughes. I have known David for many years and can't think of a better person for the job.

Through his volunteer leadership service with the Boy Scouts, skippering in Sail Maine's adaptive sailing program, and more, he's been an exemplary role model for Cape children and adults alike.

Beyond his exceptional character, David's experience in town government, civil engineering and project management will be an invaluable addition to the Council.

David also has extensive municipal budgetary experience and will make sure our money is spent wisely for any infrastructure projects. Wherever we land in regard to the school building project, his skills will shine.

David's stated commitment to keep Cape Elizabeth property tax manageable will allow many seniors and young families to remain in their homes. Cape's reputation is one of wealth but we have many cost burdened residents. We also have teachers , fireman, and policemen that live and work here. David will spend our tax dollars like his own.

Finally, David's commitment to maintaining Cape's rural character and protecting the town from overdevelopment is crucial. So is his promise to advocate for a friendlier atmosphere for small business. I was among the many turned off by the towns lawsuit against the Lumbery and its owner, and am confident that David will work well with local business owners to help them succeed.

Please join me in voting for David Hughes for Town Council.

Tom McAteer

Engel focused on impact

Peter Joy Engel is exactly the kind of leader and education advocate we need on our town's School Board. After six years of volunteering together at our children's preschool and now at Pond Cove, I've seen Joy continually step into leadership roles – coordinating complex events, recruiting other volunteers, and generously giving her time and talents to strengthen educational experiences in our community schools.

Key to Joy's leadership is an unmistakable focus on impact. Through creativity, empathy, and clear communication, Joy's direct contributions have lifted our teachers and staff, connected families, and knit our community togeth-

er. She would bring this same focus on impact to our School Board as an effective advocate for all of our students and CESD school personnel.

Also, Joy is a common-sense, common-ground coalition builder. She is skilled in finding shared values, communicating good ideas, and motivating others to join in. In a group with diverse viewpoints, I've seen Joy carefully seek to hear all voices and build solutions that everyone can get behind.

On Nov. 5, I will be casting a vote for Peter Joy Engel for School Board, and I encourage you to do so too.

Sarah Robbins

'Please do the math'

Funded by our property tax dollars, an expensive "Middle-Ground" school bond campaign persists. Claims of "compromise" abound, but who were the parties to that compromise? And what exactly was compromised?

To be clear, the citizen School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) was not invited to that table. In fact, a majority of its citizen members have publicly spoken against the so-called "Middle-Ground" bond.

The "Middle Ground" left the 1934 high school building abandoned with no heat, electricity, water, and sewer – and it slashed \$9.3 million of critical and essential repairs for Pond Cove and CEHS.

The Town Council responsibly restored \$4.8 million (an amount determined by the owner's rep) to stabilize the 1934 building. But consider the \$9.3 million for critical work that's still not included in the \$94.7

million "Middle Ground" bond. That brings the project's total cost to \$104 million

The unaccounted for \$9.3 million in critical repairs must be completed within a few years, and we've been told that those costs will be "budget neutral."

However, Councilor Anderson (at the July 8 council meeting) showed that when grants are excluded, CESD has spent only \$200,000 annually on capital improvements over the past five years.

Where will the money come from?

For every \$1 million added to the annual budget, property taxes must increase another 2.4% – on top of the 12+% increase from the bond.

Cutting \$9.3 million made the bond look cheaper, but please do the math.

Please vote no.

Sharalyn Morrison-Andrews

Cat Friendly

Carney 'stands out as a leader'

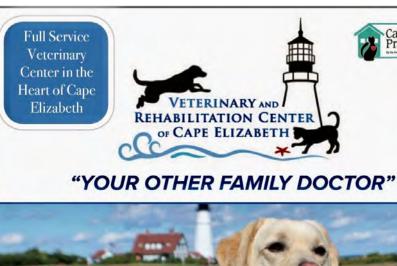
I write to endorse Anne Carney for re-election to the state senate. As a retired medical and public health scientist, I deeply appreciate her commitment to addressing critical issues such as climate change, gun safety and women's reproductive freedoms.

Anne has consistently advocated for robust climate regulations that prioritize public health and environmental sustainability. Her efforts to combat climate change are essential for safeguarding our families and improving the well-being of our communities well into the future.

Moreover, as a gun owner, I support her work for common-sense gun safety measures. That work reflects a commitment to ensuring safety for all citizens while protecting the rights of Mainers. In a time when our society grapples with the impacts of gun violence, Anne stands out as a leader dedicated to finding solutions such as waiting periods and background checks.

I urge our community to support Anne in the upcoming election. Her vision and dedication and the strong role she has played as Senate Judiciary Chair can help build a safer, healthier future for all of us.

EJ Lovett III





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John Voltz announces write-in candidacy for Portland Water District Board of Trustees



Contributed photo

John Voltz has announced his write-in candidacy for the Portland Water District Board of Trustees.

John Voltz, an experienced leader in clean energy and community development, is running as a write-in candidate for the Portland Water District Board of Trustees. With over 20 years of experience in energy finance and policy, four years of service on Cape Elizabeth's Energy Committee, and three years on the Cape Elizabeth School Board, Voltz aims to bring a focus on sustainability, efficiency and transparency to the board.

"Our water system is a critical resource, and I am committed to ensuring it is managed responsibly and sustainably," said Voltz.

Voltz has led several environmental and community initiatives, including the development of a 1.4 MW solar project and the expansion of local climate action efforts as chair and vice chair of the Energy Committee. His background in clean energy and finance, combined with his public service experience, will help guide the Portland Water District in meeting its future challenges.

As a write-in candidate, Voltz encourages voters to write his name, John Voltz, on the ballot in the upcoming election.

Planning Board

Continued from page 1_

to approve preliminary site plan review.

Cookie Jar Site Plan Amendment

Tom and Donna Piscopo are requesting amendments to the previously approved site plan for the Cookie Jar, located at 554 Shore Road to make parking and access improvements.

Derek LaVallee recused himself after disclosing that he had conversations with only one party involved, the Cape Elizabeth Service Station. Matt Caton joined the meeting by phone call to allow the Board to have a quorum on the matter.

John Mitchell, of Mitchell Associates, represented the applicants and provided updates to the Cookie Jar site plan to address vehicle and pedestrian safety concerns. Mitchell is proposing that the applicant keep the four parking spaces in the front of the building, three additional parallel parking spots alongside the building, and six additional spots in back of the building. The backlot will not be paved, will include an LED light fixture, and a proposed new curb cut onto Preble Street for one-way exiting traffic. Mitchell also detailed proposed changes to stormwater runoff with an open stone trench with perforated drain, and a rain garden, and the installation of signage on the property including "watch for pedestrians" at the front of the business, a 'do not enter, one-way" to direct traffic to the back of the building, and a handicap parking sign in front of the building.

Currently patrons leaving the Cookie Jar can exit from the back of the building onto Preble Street or onto Shore Road by passing through the parking area of the Cape Elizabeth Service Station. The service station has since blocked off vehicle access at this site to discourage drivers from exiting the Cookie Jar onto their parking lot and onto Shore

Road. The Cookie Jar currently has four parking spaces at the front of the business which seem to be cause for most safety concerns. These include that one parking space intrudes into a crosswalk, vehicles parked in front of the Cookie Jar back out into traffic onto Shore Road, the parking spots extend onto the public right of way by approximately two feet, and along with additional traffic in the area are causing more "close calls" with cyclists, pedestrians, and other patrons trying to walk into the business without adequate safe space to do so.

The Planning Board voted unanimously to approve the application on the issue of completeness. The Board scheduled a site walk for Friday, October 18 at 7:00 a.m. Sahrbeck noted that it can be difficult for property owners to have to make such changes to their site plan because of "changes of circumstances" and not necessarily because the property owner planned or requested changes. He said that these changes of circumstances include the safety of parking, pedestrians and cyclists.

John Mitchell added that after leaving the workshop meeting he was under the impression that the four parking spaces located in the front of the Cookie Jar were "grandfathered in" and recognized that they don't conform to current standards. Applicant Donna Piscopo shared that "we feel like if we lose the front parking, we're going to lose the bakery." She shared that she has obtained 300 signatures of people saying they didn't want the Cookie Jar to lose the front parking and that customers have said they "won't come back" if they have to park in the back of the building.

Sahrbeck noted that this situation is a "challenge" but encouraged the applicants and parties involved to have "faith in the process." The Board unanimously voted to approve tabling the issue for the November

-see MEETING page 16

ote 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 esentially 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 Lumbery
- 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

paid for and authorized by the candidate

CEEF grant gives students license to explore

By Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation



Contributed photo

NEWS

In 2023, CEEF awarded CEMS PE Teacher Lance Belanger a grant for 39 mountain bikes and the program has taken off.

You've likely seen Cape Elizabeth students biking to school the past month. But have you noticed the 7th and 8th grade students biking during the school day? In 2023, CEEF awarded CEMS PE Teacher Lance Belanger with a grant for 39 mountain bikes and the program has really hit the ground running!

"Students are taught how to select and use gears matched to terrain, climbing hills, braking techniques, signaling turns, basic bicycle safety/inspection, group riding and being a predictable rider when on the roads" Mr. Belanger explained. "Students get practice time in the courtyard between PCES and CEMS, then gradually increase the distance of the group rides to include a combination of campus and nearby off-campus road options."

CEEF believes this grant represents an exciting opportunity for Cape Elizabeth to enrich students' educational experience while

promoting a healthier, more active lifestyle. Our town is lucky to have such a vast network of local trails and the biking curriculum provides a unique hands-on learning experience that goes beyond the traditional classroom setting.

Starting this fall, the bikes are now utilized beyond gym classes. 7th Grade Teacher Morgan Kerr says, "The middle school has been able to take advantage of having this incredible resource, to offer our students opportunities to grow and expand their experience with biking during our Explore Wednesdays." Middle schooler Elliott Venter jumped at the opportunity for some outdoor exploration. "The mountain bikes give me a chance to get outside with my friends, after a long day in the classroom." To learn more about CEEF grants and how they're impacting your student, visit ceef.us.

CAPE Arts & Music holds open house, welcomes board members

By Laura Warren and Candice Bellinger

"We want to thank all of the incredible individuals who attended CAPE Arts & Music's open house on Sunday, October 13," said Laura Warren and Candice Bellinger. Parents, teachers and friends gathered for this lively discussion. There was one unifying theme as everyone shared their connection with the arts and music. There is a need to expand our programs for children, adults and teachers alike in the fine arts.

Over the last month, Candice and Laura have been hard at work meeting with locals, parents and community organizations in the hope of finding a home. St. Alban's Episcopal Church has been an integral part of these first stages and we would like to thank Josh Hill. We also announce our Board of Directors: Kira Hug, Lauren Perrault and Lauren Todaro. We are thrilled to welcome you aboard.

We encourage community members to contact us via email with ideas, past experience and future interest. We will be active in the community and transparent in our needs while we grow Cape Arts & Music. Candice Bellinger at musicwam@yahoo.com or Laura Warren at ljwarren88@yahoo.com.



Contributed photo

Laura Warren and Candice Bellinger, founders of CAPE Arts & Music.

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE. YOU DESERVE A LEGISLATOR THAT PUTS YOU FIRST!



Annie Christy

Moderate Republican-Independent Thinker www.anniechristy4house.com
AnnieChristy4House@icloud.com

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

PROTECT 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.

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. Ensure students receive healthy nutrition

REDUCE RISING COSTS AND TAXES

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.

EXPAND MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTHCARE

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.

News from the School Board

By Elizabeth Scifres

On October 8 the School Board hosted a final public forum for the Middle Ground Building Project before the November referendum. Harriman architect Lisa Sawin, joined by our Owner's Rep, Chuck Adam of Turner & Townsend Heery, led a presentation driven by frequently asked questions and then answered questions from the audience.

Why is the project needed? All three schools are aging and present various barriers to education, security, and safety. The schools were evaluated by multiple architect/engineering firms and the middle school was deemed most deficient. All experts have recommended its replacement, along with necessary improvements for Pond Cove School and the high school.

How was the Middle Ground design arrived at? After 18 months of work,

the School Building Advisory Committee was split 5-4 on the best path forward. Because of this division, the School Board invited both sides to present their recommendations at a public meeting on May 21.

The Board heard two presentations and asked questions on both options, hearing responses from Harriman Architects. One proposal met most of the established educational objectives and community goals with no disruption to students, but at a price point deemed too high.

The other proposal met very few of the established educational objectives and community goals with a great deal of disruption to students and significant additional cost for portable classrooms, but at a price point deemed acceptable. The School Board directed Harriman to work on a compromise solution that meets established educational objectives and community goals with little to no student disruption in and around a price point the community had signaled it will support.

What is included in the Middle Ground? At Pond Cove, there will be additions, renovations, and repairs that include a new secure entry and administrative addition, a new mechanical addition for HVAC and other systems, a STEAM program addition near the library, new location and renovation of nurse's office/treatment room, improved conference space, new floors and ceilings in classrooms and hallways, paint and wayfinding improvements.

At the high school, there will be renovation to include roof replacement, HVAC and mechanical replacement, and

improved acoustical/sound transfer between classrooms, ADA compliance in restrooms.

The middle school, which is actually a patchwork of buildings and different mechanicals systems spanning decades starting in the 1930s, would be completely replaced. It would have a comprehensive approach to full-building safety and security, flexible 21st century classrooms, appropriate space to serve Special Education students and programs, classroom and performance spaces to support our robust performing arts programs (band, chorus, theater), and a high school sized gym. The new building would be energy efficient, healthy, include full building cooling, and be solar ready.

The site would have two new outdoor basketball courts and move the multipurpose field.

There would be 0% student disruption, which is a savings of roughly \$3M, and is an educational priority.

How does the Middle Ground address safety and security? There will be visibility in all directions from both CEMS and PCES main entries/admin. There will be separation of parent and bus drop off areas, improved pedestrian and bicycle access, emergency vehicle access, separate delivery entrances for vendors, moves CEMS further away from Scott Dyer Road, includes multiple layers of secure access, and areas of demarcation (floor tiles) for use during intruder emergencies.

What is the tax impact of this project?

Year/Middle Ground (\$89.9M)/ Municipal Bond (\$4.8M)/Full Amount

2025/2026:0.0%, 0.0%, 0.0%

2026/2027:1.9%, 0.1%, 2.0%

 $2027/2028{:}5.8\%\,,\,0.3\%\,,\,6.1\%$

 $2028/2029{:}3.9\%\,,\,0.2\%\,,\,4.1\%$

2029/2030 and after, 0.0%

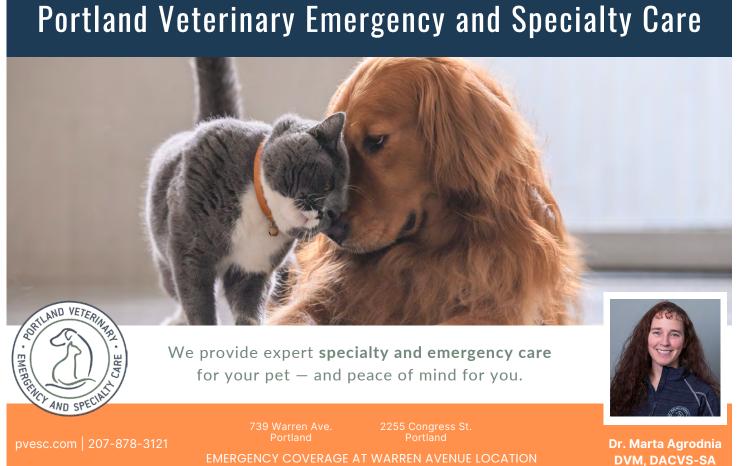
We were told by Chuck Adam of Turner & Townsend Heery that this project will never be more affordable than today. Each year of delay will escalate the cost by \$7M.

How will CIP/maintenance/repair budgets be utilized? Budget lines for Capital Improvement Projects, maintenance, and repairs are always part of the yearly school budget. FY25-33 capital improvements, repairs, and maintenance plans have been made to address all necessary improvements that are not in the Middle Ground, focusing on Pond Cove and the high school, and will be budget neutral with a 2% inflationary factor. These projects were identified by our owner's rep and architect, in cooperation with our Director of Facilities, as more efficiently and cost-effectively done through this process.

What happens next? The referendum vote for the bond is on November 5. After a successful outcome of the referendum, Harriman will move into the next phase of design development which will take about six months. Then, construction documents will be developed over the next six months. Upon completion of construction documents, construction (including renovations and additions) will happen over 24-30 months.

For more information, go to https://www.cape.k12.me.us/page/buildingproject.





Resident awoken in early morning hours by bat

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 9-15 An officer met with a resident of the Ocean House area regarding a dog bite complaint.
- 9-21 An officer met with a resident of the Old Ocean House Road area regarding a landlord/tenant dispute.
- 9-26 Two officers responded to a residence in the Scott Dyer Road area for a well-being check.
- 9-27 Two officers responded to a residence in the Ocean House Road area for a well-being check.
- 9-30 An officer met with a resident of the Eastman Road area regarding some missing jewelry.
- 10-5 Two officers responded to a residence in the Fowler Road area for a wellbeing check.
- 10-7 An officer met with a resident of the Broad Cove area who was awoken in the early morning hours by what turned out to be a bat. The bat was captured and transported to the state lab for testing.
- 10-7 Two officers responded to a residence in the Fowler Road area for an unwanted visitor.

SUMMONSES

- 9-17 Cape Elizabeth resident, speed (62/45 zone) Bowery Beach Road, \$175
- 9-17 Cape Elizabeth resident, Dog at large, Shore Road
- 9-19 Biddeford resident, operating vehicle after license suspension, Mitchell Road
- 9-11 Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Kettle Cove Road, \$148

- 9-24 Cape Elizabeth resident, speed (46/30 zone), Mitchell Road, \$170
- O-24 Cape Elizabeth resident, speed (39/30 zone), Mitchell Road, \$114
- 9-28 Cape Elizabeth resident, uninspected vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$148
- 10-2 South Portland resident, speed (58/35 zone), Two Lights Road, \$230
- 10-4 Scarborough resident, unregistered vehicle, Wells Road
- 10-4 South Portland resident, speed (45/35 zone), Spurwink Road, \$129
- 10-6 Lancaster Pennsylvania resident, speed (64/35 zone), Route 77, \$170

ADULT ARRESTS

- 9-25 Portland resident, violating protection order
- 10-1 Windham resident, outstanding warrant, Cottage Lane

ACCIDENTS

- 9-16 Damian Landry, Kevin Sullivan, accident on Shore Road
- 9-19 Jack Mckay, accident on Mitchell
- 9-28 Lila Hayes, Anna Maschino, accident on Ocean House Road
- 10-5 Theodore Brennan, Hanna O'Meara, accident on Shore Road

FIRE CALLS

Fire: 16

EMS: 48

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

Cyber Security Awareness Month

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month – a great time to remind ourselves just how much of our lives take place online and the potential threats that exist in the digital world. Any device that stores information or connects to the internet could become a target for cybercriminals seeking to steal your data.

Here are four important ways to help stay safe online:

- 1) Strong passwords Have a unique and strong password for each online account.
- 2) Multi-factor authentication Turn on this extra security step when available. Multi-factor authentication is a second way beyond your username and password to verify it's you accessing your account or device.
- 3) Software updates Consider turning on automatic software updates to keep your devices up-to-date and secure.
- 4) Don't click on links Avoid clicking on links from emails, texts and online ads. Type web addresses into your browser to ensure you aren't sent to a fraudulent copycat site, and only visit sites you know and trust.

Medicare Open Enrollment Scams

It's open enrollment season, which also means it is Medicare fraud season. Eligible beneficiaries have from October 15–December 7 to shop around and make changes to their Medicare health and Part D prescription drug plans. Unfortunately, some of the deals offered won't be deals at all.

Just like in other years, Medicare

scams spike during open enrollment season with criminals posing as insurance providers calling and emailing about free gifts or limited-time offers. These scams are all designed to steal your money, Medicare information, or your identity. Be suspicious and don't share sensitive personal information with anyone who calls, emails, or visits you out of the blue promoting a Medicare plan. Legitimate Medicare plans can only contact you if you've requested information or if you have an existing relationship with them. Beneficiaries can safely compare legitimate plans and change enrollment by going to medicare.gov or by calling 800-633-4227.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. Need a scam prevention speaker for your group? Go to aarp.org/me or call 1-866-554-5380. AARP Fraud Watch NetworkTM 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.

Judy's Pantrya 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: bethowensl@gmail.com.

RENGER TOWN COUNCIL Progress Not Politics

PROMISES MADE AND KEPT

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



"As a life-long Cape resident and fellow Councilor, I trust Tim Reiniger to continue to protect our neighborhoods,

rural areas, and Town Center from special interests and overdevelopment. I enthusiastically endorse his re-election."

- Susan Gillis

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 oppose overbuilding of large apartment buildings throughout Town Center
- 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

For More Info: timreiniger.com tsreiniger@gmail.com

Paid for and authorized by Tim Reiniger.

Local artists at CEUMC

By Kevin St. Jarre

Creative locals, including Cape artists, will be offering their work at the United Methodist Church in Cape Elizabeth. Among them are Jen Gray, Mary Jane Ham and Betsy St.

Cape Gold LLC was born out of a beekeeping hobby right here in town. Broad Cove's Jen Gray often uses honey, wax and even propolis to make beautiful hand-crafted soaps, lotions, salves, beeswax wraps, shave soaps, shampoo bars and more. Her wonderfully smelling table has something for everyone. She'll even have baskets for those who like to put together a thoughtful presentation of locally made treasures. Whenever possible, Jen re-uses and repurposes, avoiding plastics and packaging.

Mary Jane Ham's latest endeavor is handpainting cotton dish towels. Each towel is



Contributed photo

Jen Gray's Cape Gold LLC products include beautiful hand-crafted soaps, lotions, salves, beeswax wraps, shave soaps, shampoo bars and more.

unique, with rich colors and fun patterns. Nautical, garden and food are just a few of the themes she incorporates when designing. Along with tea towels, Mary Jane enjoys creating home decor items for all seasons. From rustic pumpkins for fall to funky yarn trees for winter/holiday displays, she carefully selects colors and styles that make a room look festive. Mary Jane participates in various shows, and this is the 5th year she has collaborated with Jen and Betsy to organize this community event.

-see ARTISTS page 30



Contributed photo

Betsy St. Germain's Bebo Hats offers adult, child and baby hats in various patterns and yarns, including cashmere neck warmers and wool "shrugs," all hand knit in Maine.

Harvest time

By Beth Owens/ Judy's Pantry Coordinator



Contributed photo

Pictured are Pond Cove students Ivan and Leo and the food they helped gather for Judy's Pantry from the Pond Cove Elementary School garden.

Once again, we are giving thanks to the many people whose work allows us to provide fresh produce to our recipients at Judy's Pantry throughout the year. These are our Cape farmers and gardeners.

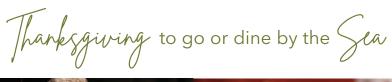
For many years, Jordan's Farm has been supplying us with wonderful fresh vegetables. Penny Jordan and her network of farmers have formed an alliance called "Farmers for Food Equity." Judy's Pantry is one of the beneficiaries of her passion to ensure that all Mainers have access to healthy food.

We are incredibly fortunate to have organic, seasonal vegetables from Green Spark Farm. For several years, Mary Ellen and Austin Chadd have established an account for us that is funded by people who are patrons of their farm or by acquaintance with them at the Farmer's Market. Judy's Pantry recipients were in awe of their beautiful and unusual donations!

Our Community Gardens - Maxwell's and Gull Crest provide a lot of quality vegetables and herbs. These gardens are planted and tended by people who have set aside room in their garden plots for us. This is a huge dedication that was accomplished by many people.

During the past few years, the Pond Cove gardens have donated part of their bounty to us. The 2024 school gardens, under the leadership of Lindsay Barrett, have brought their donations to us over the summer months. Four hundred students and their families were involved with this endeavor: planting, tending and watering their plots all summer. Being good stewards of their schoolyard, they grew milkweed plants for our pollinators and they also enriched the soil, and maintained erosion control.

Please consider grocery donations at the drop box at the IGA. Thank you.





Chef David Brown's Thanksgiving Dinner To Go

Sample Holiday Features: Kale Salad 14 LB Ready to Roast Whole Turkey Shallot & Thyme Infused Potato Purée Maple Glazed Sweet Potatoes Classic Green Bean Casserole Apple & Sausage Stuffing House-Made Cranberry Sauce Traditional Giblet Gravy Parker House Rolls Apple or Pumpkin Pie

Reserve on or before November 22nd §275 + tax & 18% gratuity | Feeds 6-8 Additional Sides \$12 Additional Pies \$20

The Inn's Annual Thanksgiving Pre-Fixe Dinner

Three-Course Prix Fixe Sample Items: Small Bites For The Table & Rolls N.E. Clam Chowder Butternut Squash Bisque (V) Mixed Baby Lettuce Kale Salad Slow Roasted Turkey Pan-Seared Cod Smoked Sweet Potato (V) Pumpkin Pie Apple Pie

> Seatings available from Noon-7pm §88 Adult \$35 Children (4-12)

Complete details & menus at InnbytheSea.com 207.799.3134 | 40 Bowery Beach Road | Cape Elizabeth



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Referendum and bond questions on the 2024 ballot

By Kevin St. Jarre

Voters in Cape Elizabeth will be given three ballots when they vote this year, and two of them are double-sided. In addition to the races for elected offices, there are referendum and bond questions for voters to weigh in on, both state and municipal.

On the State of Maine ballot, there are two referendum questions:

Question 1: Citizen's Initiative

Do you want to set a \$5,000 limit for giving to political action committees that spend money independently to support or defeat candidates for office?

If passed, this would limit the amount of contributions that may be made by individuals and by political action committees and business entities to political action committees that make independent expenditures. In both cases, the aggregate limit would \$5,000 in any calendar year. A "business entity" would include a firm, partnership, corporation, incorporated association, labor organization or other organization, whether organized as a for-profit or a nonprofit entity. The \$5000 limit may be adjusted for inflation every 2 years.

Question 5: State Referendum

Do you favor making the former state flag, replaced as the official flag of the State in 1909 and commonly known as the Pine Tree Flag, the official flag of the State?

The Maine Legislature has asked voters to decide whether to change Maine's official state flag. Current law describes Maine's official flag as blue, with Maine's coat of arms embroidered in the center. The proposed law would repeal this description and replace it with a description of the state flag almost identical to the description in effect between 1901 and 1909.

Under the proposed law, the coat of arms would be replaced with a pine tree and a five-pointed blue mullet (a star with straight sides). The pine tree must be in the center of the flag and the star must be in the corner nearest to the top of the staff. The background of the flag must be buff (a yellowish-beige color).

Under the proposed law, the Secretary of State is responsible for approving a specific design for the new flag that follows the proposed law's requirements. The Secretary of State held a design contest in the summer of 2024 and has indicated that the winning de-

sign will become the new state flag if the proposed law is approved. The current state flag and the winning design that would become the new state flag if the law is approved are reproduced below:



The current flag of the state of Maine.



The winning design that would become the new state flag if approved by voters.

In addition, on the State of Maine ballot, there are three bond questions:

Question 2: Bond Question

Do you favor a bond issue of \$25,000,000 to provide funds, to be awarded through a competitive process and to leverage matching private and federal funds on at least a one-to-one basis, for research and development and commercialization for Maine-based public and private institutions in support of technological innovation in the targeted sectors of life sciences and biomedical technology, environmental and renewable energy technology, information technology, advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture, aquaculture and marine technology, composites and advanced materials and precision manufacturing?

If passed, this would authorize the State to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$25 million, to raise funds to promote technological innovation in certain targeted sectors of the economy, namely the Maine Technology Institute for research and development and

commercialization. Priorities for use of the funds are set forth in an innovation economy action plan by the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board and a science and technology action plan by the Office of Innovation.

Question 3: Bond Question

Do you favor a \$10,000,000 bond issue to restore historic buildings owned by governmental and nonprofit organizations, with funds being issued contingent on a 25% local match requirement from either private or nonprofit sources?

If passed, this would authorize the State of Maine to issue bonds in an amount not exceeding \$10,000,000 for funds to restore historic buildings owned by governmental and nonprofit organizations, with funds only being issued contingent on a 25 percent local match requirement from either private or nonprofit sources, and the process to be administered by the Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

Question 4: Bond Question

Do you favor a \$30,000,000 bond issue to invest in the design, development and maintenance for nonmotorized, motorized and multi-use trails statewide, to be matched by at least \$3,000,000 in private and public contributions?

If passed, this would authorize the State of Maine to issue bonds in an amount not exceeding \$30,000,000 for the purpose of funding a program, to be known as the Maine Trails Program, in order to leverage at least \$3,000,000 in matching contributions from public and private sources to be used for the design, development and maintenance of nonmotorized, motorized and multi-use trails statewide. No more than \$7,500,000 may be expended in the first year by the Bureau of Parks and Lands and no more than \$7,500,000

may be expended by the Bureau of Parks and Lands in each of the 3 subsequent years, except that any unused balance may be added to the specified amount in subsequent years.

As for the municipal ballot, Cape Elizabeth voters may be aware that there are two questions to consider:

Ouestion 1:

School Projects

Shall the Town Council Vote Authorizing Expenditures of up to \$94,700,00 (Plus Bond Premium and Investment Earnings) for a New Middle School and for Other Building Repairs and Renovations and Safety Upgrades to Pond Cove Elementary School and Cape Elizabeth High School, and the 1934 Building on the Cape Elizabeth Middle School Campus, and Authorizing Issuance of the Town's General Obligation Bonds Therefor be Approved?

*The Town Council recommends that Question 1 not be approved. (4-3 vote)

*The School Board recommends that Question 1 be approved. (Unanimous vote)

Question 2:

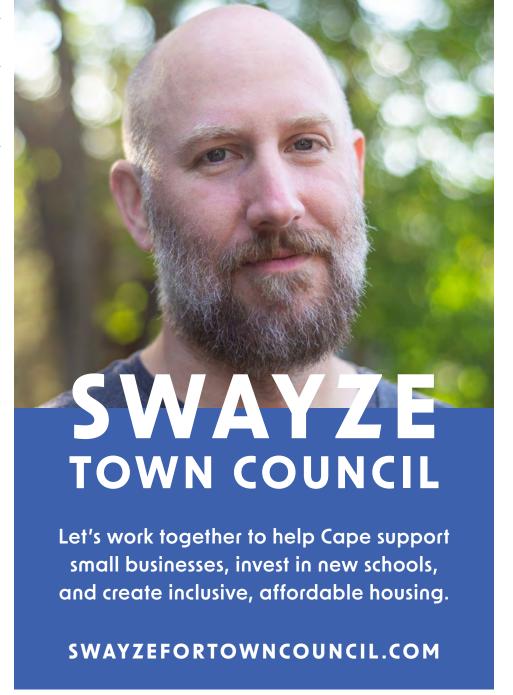
Shall the Town Council Vote Authorizing Expenditures of up to \$1,650,000 in the for of Gifts and Grants to pay for Solar Panels to Enhance the New Cape Elizabeth Middle School be Approved?

*The Town Council recommends that Question 2 be approved. (Unanimous vote)

*The School Board recommends that Question 2 be approved. (Unanimous vote)

Absentee voting is ongoing until October 31. Election Day voting will be Tuesday, November 5 Cape Elizabeth High School Gymnasium. Polls will be open from open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.





TML celebrates National Novel Writing Month, offers Halloween Carnival

Celebrate National Novel Writing Month at Thomas Memorial Library

All through November, we will be hosting programs for writers of all genres and styles. Whether you are a poet or a novelist, an aspiring picture book writer or nonfiction storyteller, there will be something for everyone. Join local Maine authors Linda Buckmaster, Kalee Gwarjanski, Rebekah Lowell, Cynthia Reeves and Sharon Kitchens as they share their secrets to the process of writing great stories that get published. You can find more details about each workshop and register for the ones that pique your interest on the TML website. See the descriptions of each event in the adult program listings below.

Halloween Carnival-not just for kids!

Thursday, October 31, 3:00 -7:00 p.m.

This Halloween, join us at TML for an all-ages afternoon of festive fun! From 3:00 - 4:30 pm, we'll be playing a kids' movie and have crafts and snacks to celebrate Halloween and Día de los Muertos before your trick-ortreating starts. Try to guess what's inside our Halloween mystery boxes, make a calavera/ skull mask, or craft a tissue paper marigold. From 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., we'll play a classic horror film while adults can explore tarot readings, more crafts and mocktails. All ages are welcome to bring a small photo of a deceased loved one for you to add to your own mini nicho (framed image) and there will be pan de muertos from Tres Leches Cakes Flor, and apple cider for all! Costumes welcome.

Second Annual "2 Sentence Horror Story" Contest

Open to all ages: Submit your two sentence story online by the stroke of midnight on October 31 for your chance to win a bundle of fun prizes. See the library's website for details.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

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

Lego Cub (ages 5 - 12)

Tuesday, November 5, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Come create with Legos at TML's Lego Club. The library will provide the Legos, you provide the imagination. Come free build or pick up a challenge card to try something new. Masterpieces will be put on display until the next Lego Club meet. There is no registration for this program; children 10 and under must have an adult present.

FOR TWEENS & TEENS Murder in the Mansion: A Mystery Game, with Sully McCarthy

Friday, October 25 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. (ages 13+)

You are invited to attend a special after hours 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. Costumes encouraged. Register on our website.

Venture Club

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

Venture Club is a teen-led board/card game and D&D club, with an emphasis on board games. We'll try to play new games every week. No 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+)

If you are a writer, are 10 - 17 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, November 7.

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

For information on our regular recurring programs, please visit the library's website.

Author Visit with Lewis Robinson

Thursday, October 24, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Lewis Robinson is the winner of the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Award, a Whiting Award, and a Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. His writing has appeared in Sports Illustrated, The New York Times Book Review, and on the National Public Radio program "Selected Shorts." Robinson's new novel "The Islanders" explores a mysterious program on an island in

Maine, class conflict, secrets and danger. Join us for an evening with the author as he shares the inspirations for the book and how it came to be, reads an excerpt, and answers audience questions about the writing process. No registration required.

Film School, "Rear Window" Screening and Discussion

Tuesday, October 29, 5-8 p.m.

Do you love watching movies? Have you ever secretly wished you had gone to film school? Here's your chance! Join Community Engagement Librarian and former film student Sasha Kohan each month as we watch a movie followed by a wide-ranging discussion, covering everything from costume design to lighting to star power (maybe with just a touch of film theory, as a treat). For our first screening, we will be showing Alfred Hitchcock's thrilling classic "Rear Window." No registration required, by you can sign up to receive updates on our website.

Senior Social Hour

Wednesdays, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Join us each week for coffee, cookies, conversation, and learning opportunities. See our website for details for each week.

Death Café with Davinica Nemtzow

Thursday, November 7, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Join us for this monthly discussion group facilitated by Davinica Nemtzow 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 takes place on the first Thursday of every month.

Writing Place: Landscape, People, and Story, with author Linda Buckmaster Saturday, November 2, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30

p.m.

Writing about a special place involves working with the elements that make it unique while also honoring the things it has in common with other places and times. This may include layers of history, the natural world, culture, and personal story to bring us to the present. Writers might be advocates, critics, or lovers of a place. It may be a place from the past, the future, or this moment. Registration required.

The Art of the Interview: A Nonfiction Writing Workshop with Sharon Kitchens

Saturday, November 2, 2:00 -3:30 p.m.

Whether you're writing a travel article or a nonfiction book, interviews are a vital part of the process adding context and authenticity. They are a means to tell stories. In this workshop we'll talk about how to engage strangers in meaningful ways, how to orchestrate a compelling Q&A, and what to prioritize as part of your preparation. Registration required.

Tuesday, November 5, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Stressed out about the Election? Before you dive into endless Election Night coverage, come relax and destress with tea, relaxing

Election Night Chill Zone: Quiet Coloring
Tracker Newarther 5, 500, 700 p.m.

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.

-see LIBRARY page 13

Library

Continued from page 12_

music, colored pencils, gel pens and coloring pages—no politics allowed. Drop in any time from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. and stay as long as you like (you're welcome to stay until 8:00 pm after the library closes.)

Songwriting Workshop with Jud Caswell

Tuesday, November 6, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Join Jud for our monthly songwriting workshop. Registration required—see our website for details.

Twisting a Classic: A Picture Book Writing Workshop with Kalee Gwarjanski

Wednesday, November 6, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Have you ever thought about adapting a classic story into something entirely your own? Join Kalee Gwarjanski, author of "Miss MacDonald Had a Farm," as she walks you through this exciting process! Registration required.

Goodbye, Osteoporosis

Wednesday, November 13, 1:00 -2:00 p.m. An educator from Northern Light Health will be our special guest at this week's Senior Social Hour. Learn how osteoporosis is diagnosed and screened for as well as what we can do to manage osteoporosis through medications/supplements, diet, and lifestyle. No registration necessary.

Restorative Justice Circle, with DA Sartoris

Thursday, November 14, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Join DA Sartoris in a restorative justice circle - an opportunity to engage in a facilitated conversation guided by a restorative justice consultant. Our facilitator will provide questions that will prompt each participant to reflect and share about their own experience with community and justice. These circles are small groups of approximately 5-15 participants to allow each person the space and time to answer the provided questions while being heard by the rest of the group. Space is limited—registration is required.

Writing a Novel In Verse with Rebekah Lowell

Friday, November 15, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Novels in verse are stories told through free verse poetry. Instead of chapters, the narrative is shared though many poems that string together as a whole, but stand alone as their own poems. In this workshop, we will explore the craft of writing a novel in verse as Rebekah Lowell breaks down what worked for her while drafting and revising her novel in verse, "The Road to After" (Nancy Paulsen/Penguin). Registration required.

The Poetics of Place: A Generative Writing Workshop with Cynthia

Saturday, November 16, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

When you return to a place from your past, it always seems different. Has the place really transformed, or have you changed and can no longer experience the place as you did in the past? Does the way you perceive a place in the present have something to do with that



experience? In this guided, generative writing workshop with author Cynthia Reeves, participants will use a series of prompts to enter the spaces and places of memory and their emotional qualities, and exercise skills that will inevitably help writers of any genre. Registration required.

Genealogy Beyond Ancestry.com (Zoom event)

Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Ancestry.com is an excellent resource for taking the first steps to trace your family history. Join B.J. Jamieson, the genealogy reference specialist at the Maine State Library, to explore what other websites offer and how to find them. This program is offered in partnership with several other Southern Maine libraries. Register to receive the Zoom link on our website.

Color Analysis with Julie Cunningham

Tuesday, November 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Color analysis is one of the big secrets of the universe. It is the fastest way to help a person look their best. It gives you an immediate psychic boost, and this feeling translates into more energy and a more positive attitude about life. Color analysis may seem superficial at first, but this is a very powerful and soul satisfying procedure. Professional color analyst Julie Cunningham will unveil her process for finding everyone a wonderful personal color pattern that one can easily bring out with harmonious colors, while knowing that everyone is perfect exactly the

Running

Continued from page 1_

reer, Ray resumed competitive running in 1977, completing hundreds of road races over the next 30 years and, more often than not, winning his age group. He ran several marathons, including the Boston Marathon, and was named Outstanding 50-59 Runner of the Year by the Maine Track Club in 1994.

Joining UNUM's corporate track team in 1999, Ray reinvented himself as a sprinter, competing in race distances including 100, 200, 400, 800, 1,600 and 3,200 meters, as well as competing in long jump, high jump and javelin. He set records in the 800-meter, high jump, and javelin, and was recognized with several UNUM and Maine Corporate Track Association awards, including MECTA's Tim Smith Award, awarded to the best distance runner. With the UNUM team, he represented Maine at National Corporate Track Championships eight times, winning 14 medals.





His belief in fitness as the cornerstone of well-being has led him throughout his life to encourage others to run. Whether it's helping teammates improve their performance; or encouraging friends, family, or others to walk, jog, or run for the fun of it and to feel healthier, Shevenell has always offered the support, inspiration, and advice someone needs to take the next step.

He was an active member of several formal and informal running clubs, and had recorded over 36,000 miles of training runs and races, when his running career was interrupted abruptly.

The heart condition mentioned in the MRHOF statement for his induction was one he was born with but didn't know about. It caused his thoracic aorta to dissect. He underwent back-to-back emergency open-heart surgeries at Maine Medical Center. Surgeons later told him that the only reason he survived was the shape he was in.

Running saved his life - but his competitive running career was over; his doctors told him that because of the seriousness of his surgeries, including a third open-heart surgery to repair the repair, he should no longer run.

For years, Ray found a new outlet for his love of fitness and activity by walking every day. He continued to see his running friends in and outside of UNUM. He continued to serve the sport of running in capacities such as assistant coach to the UNUM team; as a volunteer at corporate track meets and at non-corporate road races. In 2008, he was recognized with UNUM's Mike Kita Award and the Maine Corporate Track Association's Peter Cooley Award.

In late May 2015, Ray made a nearly 200-mile trek from Compton, Quebec to Biddeford, Maine, retracing the steps of his great-great-grandfather who made the journey to find work in 1845. His trek was the subject of a documentary film, "The Home Road," which aired on Maine Public Television several times and was screened in over 30 locations around Northern New England.

That same year, at the age of 74, he retired from UNUM, and took care of his wife, Di-

ane, until her death in May of 2016, two days after their 51st wedding anniversary.

That summer, a new chapter began in the story of Ray and running. Shevenell's daughter Tonya expanded on her father's accomplishments. She said, "My Dad runs on love. I don't think there's anything truer I could say about him. Love is his fuel. Whether it has presented as fiery competitive passion in a push for the finish, or as hugs, high-fives and words of encouragement to others along the road or around the track…love is his constant, and has been - in every step, meter, and mile, and in every decade of his lifelong committed relationship to running."

She said that she learned from her father that "love is a practice. When Dad had to stop running for several years, it didn't stop his love of running. He practiced it generously, with a whole heart every day, even when his heart was broken - literally and figuratively and he couldn't do what his body and mind still wished and dreamed it could do. Dad created a new relationship with running - one in which he mentored even more people, he walked, and he was patient."

In 2016, after a nearly nine-year hiatus, Ray Shevenell received the medical go-ahead to run again. Now in his 80's, Ray is 8 years into a new relationship with running. He has run thousands more miles, competed and completed the Beach 2 Beacon and other local Maine races, and was the oldest finisher this past January in the United Way's "Space Race" at Cape Canaveral.

His daughter said she had the joy of running it with him. "My Dad has hit his stride, over and over and over again in his lifetime, and I am so lucky to learn from his practice. Ray's running legacy will forever be tied with laces of love." she said.

The MRHOF induction cycle occurs every two years. This year's recognition ceremony will take place on Saturday, November 10 at the Governor Hill Mansion in Augusta from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Event tickets are available at:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maine-running-hall-of-fame-induction-banquet-2024-tickets-1027248075647



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Screenagers, a viewing and discussion on October 23

By Kevin St. Jarre



Photo credit: Screenagers Movie: Elementary Edition, 2024

The latest "Screenagers" viewing and discussion will be held Wednesday, October 23 in the CEMS library, 6 to 7:45 p.m.

Cape Elizabeth Schools Technology and Wellness will be presenting and facilitating a discussion of the newest "Screenagers" documentary. This movie contains the latest research on phone use, gaming and broad use of newer digital devices like smartwatches by children. All Cape Elizabeth residents, including parents and children of all ages, as well as school staff are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Screenagers movies are only viewable through public screenings, such as this viewing.

According to a statement by the staff responsible for "Screenagers," "We made the 'Screenagers' movies specifi-

-see SCREENAGERS page 15



Holiday Craft Show South Portland High School Saturday, November 2 from 9am – 4pm

Fine Art, Soaps, Jewelry, and much more!

Cape Elizabeth's hometown heroes

By Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)



Photo by Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)

Southern Maine Regional SWAT Team.

We are fortunate to either live in or visit Cape Elizabeth. The natural beauty and quantity of life, along with the safety and security, are paramount concern to the men and women of the Cape Elizabeth Police Department. Maintaining this safety and security requires partnerships with everyone.

This past month, Cape Elizabeth Police Sergeant Eric Vanasse teamed up with Crescent Beach State Park (CBSP) Manager Kurt Shoener to use the park's facility. The "Southern Maine Regional (SMR) SWAT Team" members from the Cape Elizabeth, Scarbrough and South Portland Police Department would be training at Crescent Beach State Park. This highly-trained and specially-equipped team is tasked with responding to high risk situations to minimize risk of harm to citizens, police officers, suspects and public safety security details.

Volunteer members of the CBSP thought this would be a great opportunity to show our appreciation to these officers for their service. As a way of showing our gratitude, we arranged for a cookout for the SWAT Team with an ocean view. A barbecue menu of cheeseburgers, chicken and freshly baked banana bread seemed to convey our thanks

After breaking bread with the operators, I watched as they carried out Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC) training. It was clear these operators take their job and training very serious. The commander of the team, Lt. Benjamin Macisso, said the more training the team has, the better chance for a positive outcome during actual callouts.

Team members are not full time, and their SWAT duties are secondary to their everyday police work. Officers on the SWAT team have to work shifts in their normal assignments and then train for the team. Finding enough officers to form a SWAT team can be a challenge for mid-size agencies. For smaller agencies, it's nearly impossible. So the Cape Elizabeth Police Departments teams up with departments in South Portland and Scarbrough to make this happen.

I had the opportunity to interact with some of the SWAT team members, including Cape Elizabeth Police Sergeant Eric Vanasse. Vanasse is an Assistant Team Leader of this elite Southern Maine Regional (SMR) SWAT Team. The team consist of officers and professionals from the Cape Elizabeth, South Portland and Scarbrough Police Departments, Maine Medical Center's Tactical Physician and Medical Director Southern Maine Regional SWAT Team, and South Portland Paramedics/Firefighters, who are on-call 24/7. The team also works in conjunction with a Crisis Negotiation Team to safely resolve critical incidents.

Vanasse said the team is assigned to some of the most dangerous situations in which officer assistance is required. While members are in top physical condition, they are extensively trained in dealing with mental illness, weapons, building clearing, legal issues and first aid. Their rigorous training, which can exceed over 200 hours a year, includes methods of de-escalation and conflict resolution. The teams has also held joint training exercises with the Maine State Police Tactical Team, Cumberland County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Unit (ESU), and the Portland Police Special Reaction Team.

I spoke with the newest member of the team who is still in training, and on probation for a year. It's hard to be a police officer in the 21st century, it's even harder to be a law enforcement tactical operator. Teams leaders ensure they select officers who are willing to do the hard work of training, callouts, and sacrifice of personal time, before they invest in training these new operators.

It takes a special kind of law enforcement officer to be a SWAT team member. The team's success increases with careful selection of team members. Operators must not only be competent and skilled with the tools of their trade; it is essential they work well as a team.

Candidates for the team have to pass a tough selection process, which includes fitness and marksmanship assessments. SWAT leaders want to ensure standards of team members fit the missions of the team. This means members must be not just physically fit, but also mentally and emotionally capable of doing the job. Team members must be of

-see SWAT page 31

Sunday, November 3 from 10am – 3pm Featuring: Photography, Pottery, Needle-craft, Maine Foods,

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- Neurology
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Recycle your cross country skis and winter gear for a good cause

By Claudia Shedd



Contributed photo

Gear Hub staff refurbishing skis.

Do you have old or unused winter gear such as snowshoes, cross country skis, poles or shoes cluttering up your basement or garage?

Consider donating your old, unused and unwanted skis and winter gear to Portland Gear Hub, the non-profit bike and gear store at 155 Washington Avenue in Portland.

Cross country skis will be cleaned and tuned up by the staff at Gear Hub. Skis, whether classic, skate, or back- country, including those with the older 3 pin bindings will be gladly taken in, refurbished and new bindings installed when needed.

If you have old but well loved skis, as I do, that need repairs or a tune up, the staff at GearHub will clean, wax and make any needed repairs to your cross country skis so they are ready for your winter skiing adventures.

Your donations not only keep unwanted winter gear out of landfills, but also repurpose and recycle the gear and most importantly, help support Gear Hub's mission: To provide equitable access to outdoor experiences and gear, promoting well-being, sus-

tainability, and resilient communities.

Since its inception in 2014, Portland Gear Hub has redistributed 4,454 refurbished bikes to the community. They have reached over 1,000 students with their free earn-a-bike program. In 2022, 70% of the students in the earn-a-bike program identified as persons of color and as multilingual. Every summer, Gear Hub hosts 3 Kids Bike Parties to provide children under 12, without the economic means to purchase a new bike, the opportunity to receive a free bike and helmet.

Donations may be dropped off at Portland Gear Hub, 155 Washington Avenue, Portland, open Tuesday - Friday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. or Ketcha Outdoors, 336 Black Point Road, Scarborough, open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

I am one of over 450 volunteers supporting this work. I will happily pick up any skis and winter gear that you would like to donate and bring them to Gear Hub. Please reach out to me, Claudia Shedd, at jcdneshedd@gmail.com, to set up a time for pick up.



RECYCLING CENTER FALL EXTENDED HOURS

The Recycling Center will be open on the following
Sundays for the disposal of leaf/yard waste, wood waste, and
brush only. Fees will be assessed for all items on
Sunday, November 17th. As a reminder, no household refuse
and/or recyclables will be accepted on the Sundays listed below.

Sunday, November 3rd 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM Sunday, November 10th 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM Sunday, November 17th 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Additionally, disposal Fees at the Recycling Center will be waived for residents transporting their own material and/or items from *Saturday, October 26th through November 9th.*

Commercial haulers will still be assessed fees in accordance with current regulations.

Screenagers

Continued from page 14

cally to be shown at community-based screening events. It was our belief, and now our experience, that communities coming together to watch our movies and openly discuss the ideas presented, is the best way to share the learnings within."

This event follows a number of similar events held locally in the past year. These events focused on helping families find common ground for open discussion about phone and game use, developing family technology plans, and, most recently, discussing use of phones in schools.

Lawrence Steinberg, Ph.D. was a contributor to the first "Screenagers" movie. He said, "There's more dopamine activity in the adolescent brain's reward centers than in the brain's reward centers at any other point in development. Good things feel even better when you're a teenager."

According to Tom Farmer, Cape Elizabeth High School Technology Integrator, "As a parent and teacher of older children, it's become abundantly clear to me that I have to become self-aware of and role model my own technology use."

Special thanks to the Cape Elizabeth Educational Foundation for sponsoring the event.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Saturday, November 9, 2024 9AM – 1PM

Public Works Facility at: 10 Cooper Drive (Adjacent to the Recycling Center)

What to Bring:

From the Yard - Pesticides, Insecticides, Fertilizer, Herbicides, Insect Sprays, Pelletized Rodent Killers, Ant Traps, Acids, No-Pest Strips, & Pool Chemicals.

From the Garage/Storage - Antifreeze, Brake Fluid, Degreasers, Carburetor Cleaner, Creosote, Fuel Stabilizer, Gasoline, Kerosene, Lighter Fluid, Lamp/Torch Oil, Paint Thinner, Solvents, Resins, Marine Flares, Ammunition and Fireworks.

From the House - Fluorescent Ballasts, Drain Cleaners, Furniture Polish, Metal Polish, Moth Balls, Upholstery Cleaners, Photo Chemicals, Floor Cleaners, Bleach, Spot Remover, Old Chemistry Sets, Mercury and Mercury Thermometers, Thermostats.

From the Workbench - Aerosols, Wood Preservatives, Wood Strippers, Paint Thinners, Mineral Spirits, Oil-Based and Lead-Based Solvents, Deck Cleaners, Degreasers, Sealants, Epoxies, Glues, Adhesives, and Pressure-Treated Wood.

Provisions:

- Drop-off limited to Cape Elizabeth residents: proof of residency will need to be provided (resident sticker, driver's license, utility bill, vehicle registration).
- Tighten caps and lids and leave materials in their original containers.
- Pack containers in sturdy upright boxes and pad with newspaper. Do not use garbage bags.
- Follow signage to the drop-off area and please stay in your vehicle.
- Only household quantities or numbers of items will be accepted.
- Material will not be accepted from businesses and/or commercial haulers.

What Not to Bring to the HHW Day Event:

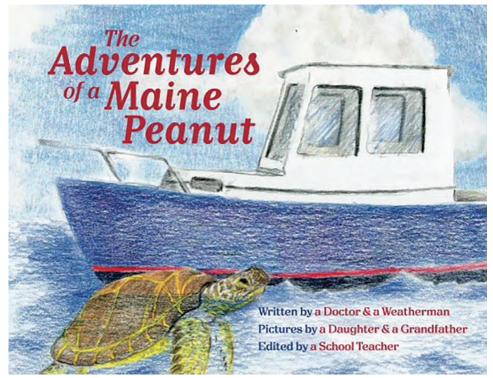
Including, but not limited to: Asbestos and/or Asbestos Products/Material, Medical Waste, Items Containing Freon, Radioactive Waste, Commercial Waste, Explosives.

Recyclable at the Recycling Center year-round (free disposal for all items between October 26th and November 9th): Electronics,
 TV's, Computer Monitors/CPU's/peripherals, Compact/
U-shaped/ tubular Light bulbs, Latex/Oil/Lead Paints, Rust Inhibitors, Shellacs/Lacquers/Varnishes/Urethanes, Wood Stains,
 Smoke Detectors, Propane Cylinders, Button/Lithium/Alkaline/Lead Acid/Ni-Cad Rechargeable Batteries, Car Batteries,
 Tires,Motor/Hydraulic Oil.

Still have some questions? Call us at Public Works at 799-4151

Cape Elizabeth authors release 'The Adventures of A Maine Peanut'

By Rob Simopoulos



Contributed photo

"The Adventures of a Maine Peanut," written by Cape Elizabeth residents Samir Haydar and Todd Gutner, is about the journey of a small lobster boat lost at sea.

A new children's book, "The Adventures of A Maine Peanut," chronicles the extraordinary journey of a small lobster boat lost at sea during a storm off the coast of Cape Elizabeth. Written by two Cape Elizabeth residents, Samir Haydar and Todd Gutner, the story unfolds from the unique perspective of seagulls who witnessed Peanut's adventure and recount the boat's journey and encounters with various sea creatures that offer guidance. The story transforms a near-

tragic event into an inspiring tale of courage, friendship and trust.

The inspiration for the book stems from a real incident in June 2023, when Peanut, a 24-foot Eastern lobster boat, was pulled from its mooring in Kettle Cove during a fierce coastal storm. For four long days, teams searched the seas and land including by plane for signs of the boat. The search for Peanut became a topic of daily discussion on the morning radio show "Blake, Kelly &

Todd" on Coast 93.1, where the community rallied behind the search.

Remarkably, Peanut was discovered 50 miles south in Ogunquit, unharmed and floating peacefully. The search and rescue inspired the authors to write the book, encouraging young readers to explore themes of adventure, identity, and trust. They sought to share the heartwarming story of Peanut, emphasizing the importance of resilience in the face of uncertainty.

"We wanted to turn a potentially very unfortunate experience into a story that children could learn from and enjoy," Haydar said. "Peanut has always been our family and friends' oasis, and we hope this book inspires kids to appreciate the adventures that await them, even when things don't go as planned."

"The Adventures of A Maine Peanut" is available through INGRAM and is expected to be on the shelves of local bookstores soon.

Meeting

Continued from page 6

19 meeting.

Town Center Zoning Amendments 2024

The Cape Elizabeth Town Council has referred to the Planning Board a request for amendments to the Town Center Zone. Proposed amendments are to accommodate a multifamily development in the Town Center zone that would be setback 125 feet from a public right of way, and other potential projects in the same zone. Proposed changes include an increase in building height, reduced roof pitch for a flatter roof, and the ability to have residential space on the first floor. Currently, the first floor must be for commercial use.

Jim Huebener made a motion to table the issue for the November 19 meeting at which time a public hearing will be held. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Paulie Wilcox shared sentiments that The Cookie Jar is a "community space, a congre-

gating place" and an "inexpensive place to have a little fun." Wilcox said that the business is more accessible because of the parking spaces in the front of the building especially for patrons with mobility concerns.

Debbie Peck shared that she finds The Cookie Jar to be a "wonderful business" but also addressed safety concerns. Peck said it's "dangerous to walk in front of the building" because there's no space to walk behind or in front of parked vehicles to access the front door. She recommended looking back to a solution that included having two parallel parking spots in the front of the building.

The current owner of the Cape Elizabeth Service Station reiterated Peck's comment on increased traffic in the area adding that Shore Road "is not the same as it was even 20 years ago." He added that he had approached Donna Piscopo approximately six months ago to start a "discussion on safety and potential liability" and that the "conversation didn't go well." He stated many times that he is open and available to discussions in addressing safety concerns and solutions.

Policy Over Rhetoric: Uniting Americans Through Shared Values

For many years, **politicians and activists have been using identity politics to divide America**, pushing the dangerous thought that our beliefs are determined by characteristics like race or gender. Whether on traditional or social media, at a sporting event, or even in our children's classrooms, their identity propaganda has been relentless. Worse, **anyone who thinks differently has been made to think twice about speaking up, for fear of being labeled, bullied, or "canceled."**

The intent behind this divisive strategy became very clear just a few years ago when a prominent politician, speaking to a popular black podcast host, proclaimed that if "you" don't vote a certain way, "you ain't black." This was more than a gaffe by the leader of the Democrat Party—it exposed the effort to define, control, and exploit people based on the color of their skin.

But today, minority voters are rejecting this propaganda in record numbers. They fully understand why an entire party would want to shift the debate away from their failed policies. Disproportionately, they've felt the devastation in their communities, their schools, and their families. They've begun to ask themselves: which party supports school choice for their children? Which party opposes oppressive levels of taxation and regulation? Which party fights for safer communities? Which party is concerned about crippling dependency on government?

The answers are clear: **Republicans stand for policies that empower all Americans**, regardless of race or background. It's time to **reject the politics of division** and choose policies that create real opportunities – for everyone.

This election, let's **end the divide**. Choose **Policy Over Rhetoric**. **Vote Republican** on **November 5th** for solutions that lead to a united and prosperous future for Maine and America.

"Racism is not dead. But it is on life-support, kept alive mainly by the people who use it for an excuse or to keep minority communities fearful or resentful enough to turn out as a voting bloc on Election Day."

- Thomas Sowell, Renowned American Economist



YES to accountability \cdot YES to responsible fiscal policy \cdot YES to transparency \cdot YES to respect \cdot

YES to empathy \cdot YES to smart investments \cdot YES to expert input \cdot YES to thoughtful progress \cdot

YES to Robert's Rules \cdot YES to predictable processes \cdot YES to public feedback \cdot YES to active listening \cdot

YES to open communication \cdot YES to supporting infrastructure \cdot YES to collaboration \cdot

Say Yes to "S"

Jonathan Sahrbeck



Andrew Swayze











Elizabeth Scifres



Schools Question 1 & 2



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Heather Payson

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Michael Ferguson

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Michelle Boyer

Democrat for Maine House of Representatives

Please join us in voting for Michelle Boyer!

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Gina Tapp

Emily Day

Kathy Tarpo

Mary Chapman

Bradley Russell

Hannah Plummer

James Beasley

Kate Kerkam

Alison Tumas

Dana T. Wigton

Maria Glaser

Megan McConagha

Rob Krauser

Emily Garvin

Cynthia Voltz

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Claire Joyce

David Biermann

Kathryn Swayze

Marcus Wagner

Scott Mazuzan

Jessica and Kevin

Davis-Knowlton

David Briman

Katie Reeves

Melanie Tennyson

Kathleen Curry-

Sparks

Aglae Shaw

Dana Schauf

Erin Plummer

Jenna Isaacson Pfueller

Ethan Reeves

Anne Cranshaw Dheerai Khare

Kelly Gordon P Joy Engel

Gina Mitgang

Elly Pepper

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Strawberry fields forever?

By Kevin Jordan President, Cape Farm Alliance

With thanks to members of the Cape Farm Alliance for their contributions

From "Strawberry Fields Forever" by the Beatles:

Let me take you down, 'cause I'm going to Strawberry Fields

Nothing is real and nothing to get hung

Strawberry Fields forever

It's autumn now, the harvest season for most traditional fruits and vegetables in our part of the world. However, early summer remains fresh in memory, and perhaps that is partly because local strawberries, a favorite fruit, are harvested then. Strawberries have been grown commercially on farms in Cape Elizabeth for more than a hundred years.

As late as the 1960s, ten large farms still operated in Cape Elizabeth, and most included strawberries among the crops they produced. Farms in Cape Elizabeth have offered "Pick-Your-Own" strawberries for a long time too. Carol Anne Jordan of the William H. Jordan Farm on Wells Road said, "I remember my grandmother and mother tending the u-pick field in the early 60s, and it was part of my summer job during high school and college too."

One of the largest farms that continued to operate into the 1970's was Maxwell's Farm, operated by Ken Maxwell. Around 1973, Ken decided to invest much more significantly in strawberry production, and it evolved to become mainly pickyour-own. He envisioned that a pick-yourown model could be commercially successful.

Over the past fifty years, Maxwell's Farm built an iconic business from Ken's original vision. The farm specialized in strawberry production and expanded it to regionally large scale. Maxwell's Farm strawberries became famous throughout New England for their quality and the friendliness, efficiency, and professionalism of the farm's pick-your-own operation.

For decades, every June, thousands of people watched for signs announcing the day on which the strawberry fields would be open to the public for picking. Cars full of giddy families queued at the strawberry fields hours before opening on each opening day. Maxwell's Farm created a tradition, or perhaps even a local holiday, from strawberry production.

In 2007, Ken's daughter, Lois, and sonin-law, Bill Bamford, assumed the reins of the farm's operation. Bill often says, "I love growing strawberries." Both he and Lois also frequently express heart-felt gratitude for the past fifty years of support they've received from the community, especially "our strawberry friends who would come to pick every day or every other day during berry season, and people in the neighborhood who would wave to us as they drove by and saw us working in the fields."

Over the years, hundreds of seasonal employees have been hired to support the Maxwell's Farm strawberry operation. Large numbers of these have been local youth experiencing their first real job. Some enjoyed it so much that they returned each year for ten or more consecutive years. Multiple generations of the Rodriguez family also came to Cape

Elizabeth from Puerto Rico year after year for more than fifty years to work on Maxwell's Farm. The Bamfords consider them to be part of their extended family.

Sadly, the strawberry season ended early this year due to a fruit fly infestation. While the flies did not present a health threat, they would have damaged the quality of the fruit and, therefore, diminished the reputation of the farm. Bill and Lois said, "It was a very tough decision to end the season early, but we didn't make it alone. We assembled the whole family and all of our employees, and we made the decision together." What made it sadder still, though, was that the Bamford family had previously made another decision, and they were planning to announce it at the end of the 2024 strawberry season.

They had decided that Maxwell's Farm would cease growing berries altogether. This announcement shook the community, and the whole region mourns the potential loss of the tradition Maxwell's Farm created. It also raised obvious questions about why the Bamford family made their decision and what will become of the 30+ scenic acres on which the farm has grown crops for more than a century.

Farming is a low margin enterprise. The difference between revenue and expense tends to be very small, and both revenue and expense are notoriously unpredictable. For example, weather has an out-sized influence upon both variables. It can easily reduce production, and expense then increases to mitigate the reduction.

Because margins are slim, operating profitably and making a living at farming requires growing in large volume. Growing sufficient volume requires large-scale

acreage. In turn, managing acreage at scale requires long-term investment in machinery and hiring people to help with planting, cultivating, and harvesting.

Plainly, farms are sensitive to increases in expenses such as the prices of fuel, seed, fertilizer and labor. Perhaps what's not so plain is how sensitive farms are to increases in property values, changes in local ordinances, or introduction of new government regulations. Unintended consequences of ordinances and regulations that don't take farming into account can lead to reduction in agricultural production, increases in expense, or both.

It's been said that farmers are land-rich and cash-poor. Because large-scale growers tend to own many acres of land, even small increases in property values and property taxes can have a multiplicative affect. As a community becomes more affluent, property values and property taxes tend to increase, and thus farming profitably within the community tends to become ever more challenging.

Any family farm that succeeds for generations in the face of these relentless tests deserves great admiration. Successful farmers tend to succeed because they love what they do, they're eternally optimistic, they're creative problem-solvers, the whole family pitches in, and other farmers provide mutual support. Ultimately, though, continued operation requires a succession plan; the next generation needs to be able to see a clear enough path forward before they can be expected to commit to taking the reins and facing the ongo-

-see STRAWBERRIES page 21

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Gill's art is on display at Thomas Memorial Library

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo





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The artwork of local artist Margaret Gill, above, is on display until October 31 in The Stier Family Gallery in the lower level of Cape Elizabeth's Thomas Memorial Library.

On left, a painting by Margaret Gill, a piece from her exhibition at Thomas Memorial Library.

Margaret Gill is an artist whose work is on display until October 31 in The Stier Family Gallery in the lower level of Cape Elizabeth's Thomas Memorial Library.

The show features her mixed media collage and still life paintings.

According to a statement from the artist, "With the advent of global warming and its obvious threat to our coastline, I concluded that while the traditional contemplative mode of recording and depicting natural phenomena is still very much a valid approach, there had to be other means that could convey my concerns to the viewer. What has appeared for literally centuries as immemorial monuments of granite are, in fact, as vulnerable as any human structure."

Gill's statement continued, "In the col-

lage format, I have broken down the islands in to their literal components: beach stones, pebbles, sand, shells, seaweeds, and reassembled them using multiple images. Starting with marbleized papers, I let their patterns suggest the basic underlying compositional rhythms. Weaving together painted, reproduced and actual objects results in a sense of immediacy to the viewer. In my still life paintings, I have ostensibly, employed the representational device, but although the objects are rendered in 3 dimensions, they do not cast shadows. As a result, the do not adhere to the picture plane but appear capable of imminent movement up and out of the confines of the frame. The results of these two modes of expression I hope fulfill my intensions."

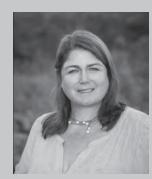
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Dear Community,

The Cape Elizabeth Democrats are proud to endorse six local candidates running for Town Council and School Board. The six candidates receiving our endorsement have shown their commitment to the values of the Democratic Party and to preserving these principles within our community.

To ensure a fair process, we reached out to all candidates, *regardless of party affiliation*, inviting them to share their positions with us and engage with our members. Three Town Council candidates declined to participate.

We enthusiastically support these six candidates and encourage Cape residents to join us in voting for them in November.

Sincerely,

Chris Gorski, *Chair* Matthew Grymek, *Co-Chair*

OUR GOALS

- Reduce the number of blank votes.
- Help inform voters on local issues and candidates.
- Level the playing field for candidates regardless of budget.

VOTER GUIDE

For more information on our process, candidate statements, and other resources, please visit our website:





Paid for by the Cape Elizabeth Democratic Town Committee Chris Gorski & Matthew Grymek, Chairs

Strawberries

Continued from page 19_

ing challenges with confidence.

The whole, extended Bamford family has always pitched in. For example, the Bamfords' children introduced social media to modernize the farm's marketing. Lois said that during strawberry season, "My daughter Joy posted on social media nearly every morning." Even as adults with their own families and careers, the Bamfords' children have always been available to help on the farm, and sometimes this involved long distance travel for some of them. Bill and Lois said, "We expected our kids to work on the farm while they were growing up, but we never pushed any of them to take over the business." Nevertheless, when the Bamfords' son Joel was still in high school, Bill asked him one day if he might be interested in taking over. Joel's response was, "Dad, I know how early you get up every morning, I know how late you go to bed every night, and I'm pretty sure I know how much money you make. I think I might take a different path." He established a landscaping business while also continuing to help on the farm.

As a family, the Bamfords collectively decided to cease growing strawberries. So, what will become of the strawberry tradition they created and the acreage on which the berries were grown? Maxwell's Farm grew strawberries in two locations: on one side of Two Lights Road; and on both sides of Bowery Beach Road. They own the field on Two Lights Road, and they leased a field from the Black Point Corporation on one side of Bowery Beach Road. The other side has been leased by the William H. Jordan Farm, and the two farms cooperated to effect crop rotation between them.

Maxwell's Farm grew strawberries on a five-year cycle. The berries were planted one year, harvested the next three years, then plowed under and rotated for a crop other than strawberries during the fifth year. Strawberry plants currently along Bowery Beach Road have two more years of production.

After the Bamfords made their decision, they and the William H Jordan Farm discussed how the berries along Bowery Beach Road might continue to be cultivated for at least the remainder of their cycle. Together, the two farms formed a plan where the Jordan Farm would add the fields on Bowery Beach Road to their existing strawberry operation, thereby expanding that operation significantly. The plan was fully enabled when the Black Point Corporation generously agreed to allow the Jordan Farm to assume the Maxwell's Farm's lease for at least one more year. Thus, the strawberry tradition built by Maxwell's Farm will carry on into the 2025 growing season. It's not yet clear what will happen beyond 2025.

Regarding the large field on Two Lights Road, the Bamford family has made no decisions yet about its disposition. The Maxwell/Bamford family has owned the field for more than a century, and they have a very strong and emotional attachment to the land. Ideally, they would like to lease the acreage to another farm. This would enable them to continue owning the property, and the property would continue to be used for agriculture.

An open question is what other farm might be interested in leasing the former strawberry fields on Two Lights Road? Maxwell's Farm was one of the three remaining large-scale vegetable growers in Cape Elizabeth. Do either of the other two growers have the capacity and capital to expand their operations to Two Lights Road? Remember that they're facing the same local pressures that ultimately led the Bamford family to make their decision to cease operation.

The Vision Statement of Cape Elizabeth's Comprehensive Plan contains the following phrase:

We strive to ... preserve our open space, farming, and natural resources

Despite this vision, we have just lost another family farm because it wasn't clear to the next generation that the farm could continue to be economically viable in our affluent community. As recently as the 1960s, at least ten large-scale vegetable growers operated in Cape Elizabeth. Now, the number is two.

From "Big Yellow Taxi" by Joni Mitchell:

Don't it always seem to go. That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone?



Contributed photo

The Bamford Family, who took over the reins at Maxwell's Farm in 2007, announced this summer that the 2024 strawberry season would be their last.





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ANNE CARNEY & DAVID WENNBERG **CAROLINE C. CARROLL RICHARD & ANNE CASS LISA CHANZIT JANICE CHAPMAN & BRUCE MOORE ERIKA & JOSEPH CHARPENTIER DANIEL & PATRICIA CHASE** ROBERT CHATFIELD **RAE CLARK-MCGRATH** TESSY SEWARD & DEREK CONVERSE **JOHN & DORIS CORMIER** MICHAEL COUGHLIN & ZUZKA SLADEK **GEOFF CUMMINGS & DEBBIE MANN** SHIRLEY M. CURLEY MICHAEL CWIKLINSKI MARGARET DESLAURIER JOHN AND DIANE DEVLIN MR & MRS JONATHAN DIETZ **LILLIANN DITTMER** SARAH DORSEY & JOHN H. DORSEY, JR. **ELLIOT F.D. GAYNOR** SANDI DUNHAM REED DYER STEPHEN EDMONDSON & MARGARET RANDALL JOHN & SARAH ELWELL **JILL & MICHAEL EPSTEIN** JUNE & PAUL FARROW **HOWARD FELLER & JODI LERMAN** FISHBEIN-SCHUCHMAN FAMILY FUND JONATHAN FISHER & SUZANNE LA PLANTE DIANE FROST **ANNE & TOM GALE KENNETH GASPAR DAVID & MARIA GLASER BRITTANY GLEIXNER-HAYAT CONNIE GOLDMAN ELIZABETH GOODSPEED & AARON PARNES** PETER & TRACY GREENWOOD JENN & MATT GRYMEK **HACKETT FAMILY MONTY HAGEN & JIM HARRISON VALERIE & JIM HALL GREG & BETSY HANSCOM** MARK & KAREN HARE **JEFF AND SUSAN HOBBS LISA HOUCK & ALAN RINGEL SOL ISRAEL CROSLEY & EMILY JACKSON GLENN & NANCY JORDAN KRISTINA & KEVIN JUSTH IVY KAY** SARA E. KITCHEN JEFFREY KLEIMAN **ASHER KRAMER & PATRICIA CALLAHAN** THE KRUGER FAMILY **ADRIAN KURRE DAVID LAMBERT & LISA DERMAN GARY & DONNA LAMBERTH SANDY LARLEE KARA & JEREMY LAW TOM & KAREN LECHNER CHIP & LISA LEIGHTON** WILLIAM & SUSAN L'HOMMEDIEU **DEBORAH LOCKE BETH & ROY LUBETKIN PETER & JENNIFER MACDONALD** LOREEN W. MACNICHOL **GWYNETH & RICHARD MAGUIRE ANDREW & DENISE MANCALL** FRANK & MARCE MARCOUX SAMARIS MARKOTT **ELIOT MARSHALL ROBIN & EDWARD MCCARTHY DONALD BURKE & BARBARA J. MCKIM** JUDITH M. MCMANAMY THE MILEY FOUNDATION

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MARY JEAN MORK & MICHAEL F. DONAHUE

IN HONOR OF:
TML'S GREAT STAFF & DIRECTOR
BY CAROLINE C. CARROLL
CAROLE HAAS BY BOB DODD
BILL BY DEBORAH HART
ALL THE STAFF: THEIR PROFESSIONAL
ASSISTANCE, KINDNESS, AND CHEERFUL
DEMEANOR BY SARA E. KITCHEN

ASSISTANCE, KINDNESS, AND CHEERFUL DEMEANOR BY SARA E. KITCHEN KRISTEN HOMICZ BY POND FAMILY FOUNDATION ANDY RYER BY JESSICA & HENRY SIMPSON JOSEFINA AUSLENDER BY JUDITH SOBOL

IN MEMORY OF: **BETSEY BERRY BY K. SCOTT BERRY** ANN PRESCOTT GOOGINS BY PATRICIA A. BEVILLE SAMUEL JAY BRACKETT BY EMMA BRACKETT GAIL DRANSFIELD BY DOUGLAS DRANSFIELD **JACKIE HUGHES BY ROBIN LOUGHMAN** ALEXANDER A. MACNICHOL BY LOREEN W. MACNICHOL DR. & MRS. EUGENE P. MCMANAMY BY JUDITH M. MCMANAMY **BELLA TANSEY BY ELLY PEPPER** ANNE POLINER BY BARBARA POLINER KARIN ROOKS BY MIKE MORAN & JENNIFER ROOKS MARGARET T. THIBODEAU BY JOHN THIBODEAU SAMUEL TOWNSEND BY ROSEMARY TOWNSEND DOROTHY WHITE BY KENDALL WHITE

LEARN MORE:

JANIS MOLLEUR

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RICH & KATHY MORAN

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HOW DID WE GET HERE?



4 VOTED "OPTION E"

new build & renovation cost: \$114.5 M lifespan: 60 yrs

5 VOTED "OPTION B"

renovation & addition cost: \$77.3-\$85.5 M lifespan: 10-15 yrs

PRIMARY ADVANTAGE

SHORT-TERM COSTS

Only 40% of the 1,077 surveyed citizens said they'd support the tax increase necessary for the \$114.5M option.

PRIMARY ADVANTAGES

MEETS EDUCATION NEEDS LONG-TERM PLANNING NO STUDENT DISRUPTION

In the April 2024 citizen survey, Design E received 2.4x the support of the next most popular option (43% vs. 17%).

MAY 21, 2024

Given the divided decision, the School Board asked a citizen SBAC member from each side to present their case.

The 3-hour workshop included a detailed Q&A with the architects.

After reviewing SBAC's reports, community surveys, and expert opinions, the School Board asked the architects to create a new option, a compromise that:

Prioritizes educational needs Produces a lasting, long-term solution

Minimizes student disruption amid construction Addresses emergency repairs for all 3 schools Commits to a responsible, supported tax increase

THE "MIDDLE GROUND" IS COMMON GROUND

Harriman worked with the town's Facilities Manager and Owner's Representative to value engineer and optimize the project.

- Engaged school administration to fine-tune needs vs. wants
- Streamlined the scope of work to reduce construction costs
- Developed a <u>10-year roadmap</u> for the maintenance team to carry out projects using <u>already existing CIP funds and state grants</u>, eliminating the need for additional bond funding in the near future.

The "Middle Ground" plan meets <u>100% of educational needs</u>, carefully spreads out improvements to <u>keep costs manageable for taxpayers</u>, and ensures <u>0% student disruption</u> during construction.

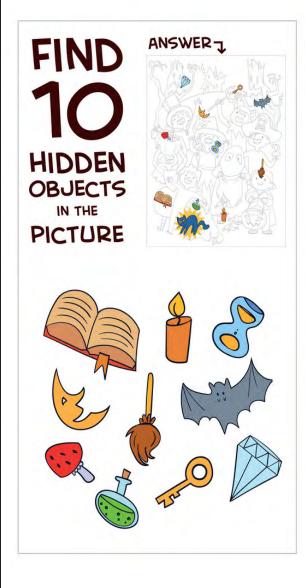






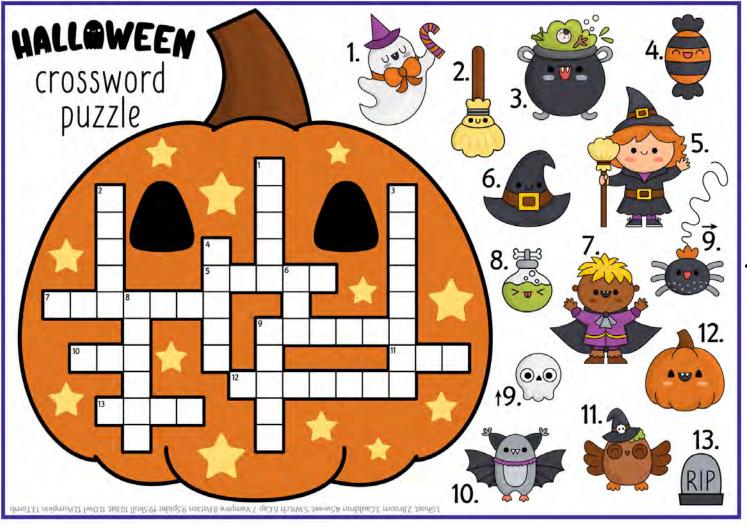
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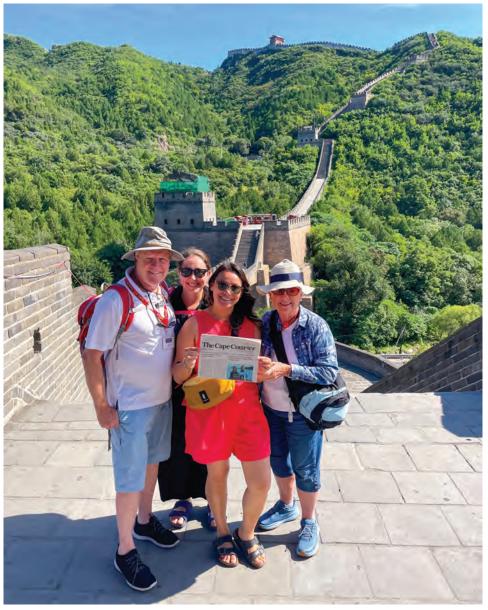








Neighbors



Contributed photo



Photo by Beth Angle

Kathy Walsh, Jim Walsh, Kate Walsh-Boyd and Sylvia Boyd pictured with The Cape Courier at The Great Wall of China in Juyongguan, China on September 2.

Kakai pumpkins at Jordan's Farm. These pumpkins have large, dark green, hull-less seeds that are delicious as a roasted snack.

Reprinted from the Sept. 18, 2024 Portland Press Herald



Serious issues remain with Cape Elizabeth school plan

The school board must coming up with a recommendation that would garfind a path that works for all parties, one that includes better longterm financial planning.

s our communities face important decisions about school building improvements, we must responsive to both critical school building needs and to citizens' concerns. Recent developments in this process in Cape Elizabeth raise serious issues and jeopardize our schools' long-term needs.

Two years ago, 62% of Cape voters rejected a \$116 million school building bond. In response, the school board and town council, together, formed a School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) made up of five citizen representatives, two Cape Elizabeth School Board members and two town councilors. The SBAC was charged with

ner the support necessary for passage of a bond issue.

The SBAC held numerous public meetings over 18 months, spent \$1 million developing several building and repair options, and commissioned two public opinion polls. Those surveys showed the majority of residents supported a tax increase below 10%. After 18 months of work, the SBAC recommended "Option B," which included three major aspects. First, it provided for a 36,000-square-foot addition for the elementary and middle schools: second. through renovation and replacement, it addressed every critical infrastructure need identified by the architects at all three schools; and third, it laid the groundwork to replace nearly all of the middle and elementary schools over the next 10-20 years, while retaining the newest construction that is less than

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Katharine Ray and James Walsh are both former members and chairs of the Cape Elizabeth Town Council. Ray also served as a member and chairwoman of the Cape Elizabeth School Board.

30 years old, and that has been found to be functional-

The SBAC proposal cost \$77 million (which would have been the largest locally funded school project ever approved in Maine) and respected the 10% tax increase threshold identified by the public in the polling research. (The two school board members, who favored a new middle school building, dissented, while both town council members supported this \$77 million plan.) The SBAC plan would allow future investments to focus on new construction while

addressing years of underfunded capital improvements immediately.

How did the school board

respond? The school board, in pursuit of a new school building, rejected the SBAC recommendation without engaging the committee for any further discussion. Not one question was asked following a single 10-minute presentation. The school board then disbanded the SBAC prematurely and removed the SBAC's members' email access. Finally, working in private, the school board proposed a new middle school building plan, with drastic cuts to critical investments the SBAC had proposed for the high school and elementary

The tax impact is huge. This new plan proposes demolishing a functionally sound building, replacing it with a larger building (despite a 20% decline in enrollment) and bonding \$94.7 million, resulting in a 12.2% tax increase. The

school board further proposes funding an additional \$9.2 million for critical repairs and upgrades through future operating budgets and speculative grant funding, leading to additional,

hidden tax increases. The prudent financial approach would have been to spread these costs over 20-30 years through bonding, as recommended by the School Building Advisory Committee. However, in an attempt to lower the perceived cost and tax impact of the middle school bond, these expenses were excluded, forcing them to be covered through the annual operating budget within a few years - ultimately placing hidden costs and a heavier burden on taxpayers than necessary

Due to a recent town-wide revaluation, many Cape Elizabeth taxpayers will see their taxes increase in October by 10%, 20%, 30% and even more. The \$94.7 million bond will add an additional 12.2% tax increase

to their tax bill, on top of revaluation.

The Cape Elizabeth School Board gave the SBAC a mere 10 minutes to present its recommendation, which was formed after 18 months of work. It rejected the recommendation without a single follow-up question. The school board missed an opportunity to unify our town and address critical school building needs. It repeated the divisive approach that failed in 2022. This short-sighted plan risks another defeat, leaving students, teachers and staff to bear the consequences of these unaddressed needs in all three schools.

The school board must find a path that works foreveryone. Join us in voting. No on the current proposal. Let's work together for a solution that comprehensively addresses all of our schools' needs while respecting taxpayers' con_" cerns and ensuring longterm fiscal responsibility.



Photo by Kevin St. Jarre

People out picking in the pumpkin patch at Jordan's Farm. A pumpkin-headed fire-fighter scarecrow keeps an eye on things.



Photo by Beth Angle

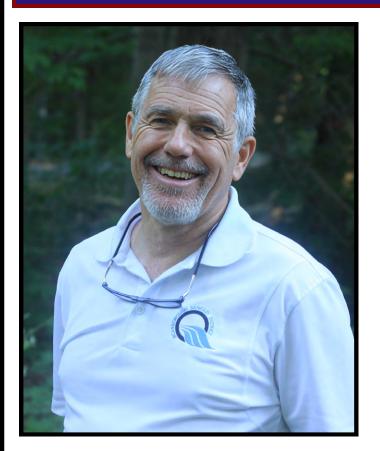
Ruby Stephano picking her pumpkin with her mom at Jordan's Farm.



Photo by Eve Downing

Every year Cape Elizabeth residents Ed and Jenna Pfueller borrow an apple press from the Portland Tool Library and make cider from local apples. Neighborhood kids Gus, 7; Beau, 8; Everett, 7; and Henry, 8, help provide the labor to grind and press the apples, many of which were foraged from local trees. "We usually get about 8 or 9 gallons of cider from a day's work," said Ed. The kids were delighted to sample the product after their hard work.

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."

Neighbors Say Yes to Critical School Investment

Our neighborhood is very much like our town: we are a diverse blend of individuals, families, and retirees - we want the best for our community.

With that community spirit in mind, we fully support the school board's proposed bond. Experts agree we need to replace our aging school buildings. This plan represents a responsible financial investment, gives the town a new middle school with a generational impact, and makes essential upgrades to Pond Cove and the High School. It achieves all of these things without disrupting or displacing current students' learning.

Our town can no longer afford to put off this investment. Each year of delay represents millions in additional costs for taxpayers. This is no longer a question of "if" - it is a question of "when."

That "when" is now.

It is because we support thoughtful, transparent, and financially responsible leadership that we also endorse the candidacies of Sahrbeck, Scifres, and Swayze for town council.

For the benefit of our students and our town's financial future, please join us and say YES to the S: Schools, Sahrbeck, Scifres and Swayze.

Erin and Yona Belfort
Anna and Chris Boniakowski
P. Joy Engel and Ben Hagopian
Ginny Gill and Jason Kriskey
Evelyn and Brian Gurr
Kira and Ezra Hug
Lauren Wendell and Pat Hackett

Local birding report

By E. Brooks Bornhofft

In early October, our woodlands are filled with the chatter of Tufted Titmice, Black-capped Chickadees and nuthatches busying themselves for the coming winter months. Interspersed between the rattling cries of Northern Flickers and the soft chek calls of Yellow-rumped Warblers, the exquisite vocalizations of Ruby-crowned Kinglets ring out with wiry tsip call notes that occasionally melt into a flute-like, helter-skelter melody of soft liquid warblings.

Over the first two weeks of October my observations from the vard and field include. on October 2 I came across a Baltimore Oriole's nest that had fallen from an Oak Tree's branch along the fringes of my yard. Oriole nests can remain in place, high up on the ends of branches for years, so to come across one is always a special occasion. The female Oriole is one of the finest avian architects and her nest is a feat of nature - woven with magnificent craftmanship into a long, flexible gourd like pouch that rain cannot penetrate. On average the nest is placed thirty or more feet above ground, hanging purposely as far out on a limb as possible to dissuade predators from encroaching.

The nest was made up of a complex weave of plant fibers, and fine strips of bark which were held together by milkweed and spider silk. The silk provides support and durability. After allowing the nest to sit under a lamp to fully dry out I carefully opened the pendulum shaped hideaway hoping to find a flame-orange colored feather or piece of bluish white egg with web-like dark-brown markings. I marveled at the way the bird had delicately woven Eastern White Pine needles into the soft, cup-shaped interior. Although neither feather nor egg was present, I did find strands of twine that I could identify as the

same used in our garden!

On October 5 I heard a southbound Eastern Towhee calling from the invasive tangles surrounding my yard. Hearing this bird's unique call brought me back to a warm summer day not long ago where, around dusk I peddled along Charles E Jordan Road and listened to this bird's rich, full and pleasing song. A large sparrow-like ground nesting bird that can be mistaken for a robin, the Towhee is a bird of special concern in Maine, and over the last fifty years the species' population has seen an alarming decline.

Also, on October 10 my first Surf Scoter of the year flew over my son and me at close range along Trundy Point. This variety of Scoter is also referred to as a "Skunk-Headed Coot" because of the male's solid black body with white patches on the forehead. This male's bright, multi-colored beak and rapid wingbeats gave the bird a puffin-like appearance as it whistled by us. Not as common in our waters as the White-winged or Black Scoter, this large sea duck nests near freshwater in remote boreal-forest regions of Canada and is just starting to arrive in our waters for the winter months.

Additionally on the quiet afternoon of October 12 I came across a Great-horned Owl sunning itself undisturbed, high up in an old pine within Robinson Woods. I also noted a pair of both Red-breasted Nuthatches and Ruby-crowned Kinglets travelling together. Later that same day my two sons and I set up camp in the woods on our property. During the night I was awakened by the reverberant hooting of a Barred Owl, and in the early morning hours we listened to male and female Great-horned Owls dueting for 45 minutes as the twitterings of many White-throated Sparrows surrounded our tent.

Also, on October 13 in the yard I noted

a sallying Eastern Phoebe and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker hunting for insects in an old crab apple tree. Other woodpeckers in the yard this day included Pileated, Yellow shafted Northern Flicker, Downy, Hairy and Red-bellied. A five-woodpecker day is never a bad day!

While on the topic, this is the time of year that woodpeckers love to hammer away at our houses. Having tried and failed with many types of woodpecker deterrents, only reflective ornamental spirals (now called scare rods) have proven successful for me. Woodpeckers do not like shiny objects, especially when they move in the wind. I hang these spirals with monofilament line between two nails stretching from the top corner of the house down to the first-floor window. Using longer nails allows the ornament to spin freely and also prevents it from banging on the exterior during windy days and nights.

Lastly, in recent birding news, the American Ornithological Society has determined that the Common Redpoll and Hoary Redpoll are a single species, hence forward referred to as simply Redpoll. Genetic work found that a supergene was responsible for plumage differences between Redpolls. Referred to by Peter Vickery as "a bright, cheery beauty of the far north" these zippy little irruptive finches are occasionally seen during the winter months in Cumberland County. They have nifty red forehead patches, streaked sides, pinkish wash on breast and two wing bars. Despite historic annual sightings in Cumberland County, I have yet to see a Redpoll in Cape and although the 2025 Winter Finch forecast does not indicate any sort of irruption of Redpolls this year into Southern Maine, you never know. Paying extra attention to stands of birch trees and weedy fields may pay off this winter.

October naturalist's corner

By Erika Carlson Rhile CELT Education Committee Chair

October 17, 7:26 a.m.: Full Hunter's Moon. Take a look at sunset the night before when the moon will reach its nearest point to Earth. This year's Full Hunter's Moon is considered the biggest and brightest of the Supermoons of 2024.

October 22-22: Peak of the Orionids Meteor Shower. We've been having great luck with celestial events lately, so take a chance and look for shooting stars from this meteor shower that generally produces up to 20 meteors an hour.

Speaking of opportunities, get outside between now and October 2 to check out the once-in-a-lifetime visitor, Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS. Look due west above the horizon 45 minutes after sunset. The comet will become less visible as it moves away from the sun (look higher in the sky each successive evening). The comet won't visit Earth for another 80,000 years, so take your chance now.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, 1 billion pumpkins end up in land-fills; that's scary. Need ideas to recycle your pumpkins after Halloween? Pumpkins make great direct compost for your garden or trees; they are filled with natural nitrogen fertilizer. You can hang your pumpkin for birds to eat. Cook the seeds or save them to plant in the spring If you didn't carve your pumpkin, they make beautiful Thanksgiving centerpieces. Whatever you do, please don't toss your Halloween pumpkins in the trash; you can always use the compost bins at the transfer station.

10 ELECTED OFFICIALS & 5 SBAC MEMBERS...

- Penelope A. Jordan
 Town Council, SBAC Co-Chair
- Cynthia R. Voltz
 School Board, SBAC Co-Chair
- Caitlin S. Sweet
 School Board
- Corinne Bell
 Citizen, K-12 Architect
- Patrick Cotter
 Citizen, Former Fire Marshall

...publicly support

VOTE YES!

on the "Middle Ground"

AdvancingCape.com

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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.

Wednesday, October 30

School Board Policy Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 4:15 pm

Tuesday, November 5

Planning Board Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 pm

Thursday, November 7

Recycling Committee, Public Works Department, 7 pm Saturday, November 9 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, Public Works Department, 9 am

Tuesday, November 12

School Board Meeting, Town Hall, Conservation Committee, Town Hall, 7 pm

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

Cape Elizabeth Republican Town Committee, 6-8:30 p.m. first Wednesday of the month, Cape Elizabeth Community Center. Contact: ccrcme.com for Cape informa-

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. 23 - Nov. 12

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Artists

Continued from page 10_

Betsy St. Germain loves to knit. In 2016, Bebo Hats started as a loving project of hand knit gifts, and has since sprung into a brand with growing popularity. "Bebo" was a college nickname, and now her trademark logo. Bebo Hats offers adult, child and baby hats in various patterns and yarns, including cash-

mere neck warmers and wool "shrugs", all hand knit in Maine. Adult and child hats are 100% Peruvian merino wool, soft and luxurious, in a variety of colors, and topped with a natural or faux pom. Infant/baby hats are knit in cotton/Yak yarn.

The public can join these Cape artists and other creative vendors on Saturday, December 14 at the United Methodist Church on Ocean House Road from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



BUSINESSES/SERVI

In home dog sitting and boarding in Cape Elizabeth. Large fenced in yard. Insured and Pet CPR and first aid certified. Call or text 207-329-0628

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

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

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SWAT

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the highest integrity, make good decisions, and somebody who can think fast on their

Being in top physical condition and the use of weapons is just a part of being an operator. These officer are trained in the use of modern day technology and equipment. This includes but is not limited to, night vision nods, external and internal drones, robots, cameras, and operation of a new state of the art armored vehicle. More importantly, these operators are trained in skilled methods of communication designed to de-escalate situations for a safe resolution.

In addition to focusing on peaceful and safe resolutions to crises, Vanasse said the SMR SWAT Team also provides security at high profile events, such as the annual Beach to Beacon 10k in Cape Elizabeth. Vanasse shared the training he receives through his work with SMR SWAT with patrol officers, school resource officers, and school employees to ensure a collective and collaborative approach to responding to keeping kids in

So to the Southern Maine Regional SWAT Team, I say "Much obliged" and thank you for all you do in contributing to our high quality of life and safety.

Wedding announcement



Chelsea King Photography

Erin Marie Lyons and Derek Nathan Miller were married on September 28, 2024 at the Sugarloaf Mountain Resort in Carrabassett Valley. They were surrounded by the breathtaking mountains and colorful fall foliage while taking their wedding vows. A cocktail party and reception was held afterward at Sugarloaf Mountain Resort, King's Pine, with sweeping views of the Bigelow Mountains that provided a romantic ambiance for the newlyweds. The wedding day itself couldn't have been more perfect. The fall foliage, beautiful weather, and breath taking mountain views of the Western Maine Mountains provided a memorable day for all.

The bride is the daughter of Stephen and Nancy Lyons of Cape Elizabeth. The groom is the son of Lorri Wunder and Nate Miller. Erin graduated from Cape Elizabeth High School and the University of Maine. Derek graduated from Edward Little High School/Hebron Academy and Tufts University. Erin is Supervisor, Medicare Inside Sales at Martins Point in Portland. Derek is Partner, Broker, with The Boulos Company in Portland. The two will honeymoon in Switzerland and Italy in 2025 and now reside in Portland.

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