

The Cape Courier

Volume 38 Number 1
Jan 15 - Feb 4, 2025

An Independent Not-for-Profit Newspaper
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In the Spirit of Community

Debra Lane to retire after four decades of service

By Kevin St. Jarre

Assistant Town Manager Debra Lane has informed the town of Cape Elizabeth of her intent to retire. In a letter to Town Manager Patrick Fox, Lane indicated that her retirement would be effective July 2.

After receiving Lane's retirement announcement, Town Manager Fox said, "Deb cares so deeply about this community and has helped me beyond words in my transition into Cape Elizabeth. We all rely heavily on Deb in so many ways, which is why I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say how fortunate we are to have six more months to learn what we can before she gets to enjoy her much-earned retirement."

In her letter to Town Manager Patrick Fox, Lane wrote, "While I have contemplated staying longer, I believe it's the time to go, both professionally and personally. Angela deserves the opportunity to fully grow

-see RETIREMENT page 15



Photo by Susan Colleton

Debra Lane, Assistant Town Manager, is retiring after nearly four decades of service to Cape Elizabeth. Pictured here with her brother Rick Lane, a 1984 CEHS graduate.

Cape Elizabeth Education Association files grievance, issue could head to arbitration

By Kevin St. Jarre

In what has been an ongoing series of meetings and an exchange of letters between the Cape Elizabeth Education Association on one side, and the Cape Elizabeth School Board and Superintendent of Schools on the other, both have communicated their positions on the creation of a new position, the roles of that position, compensation, and the process of filling the position.

In October 2024, following the next of the prescribed steps to escalate an issue until resolution can be achieved, the CEEA filed a Level IV Grievance with the School Board, which laid out why the CEEA believes the School Board has violated the contract between the educators' association and the school department.

At the heart of the matter is a new position, created this school year, titled "Dean of Students." The disagreement centers on what the nature of the position truly is.

On the one hand, since the Dean of Students is teaching several classes, one might consider it a teaching position, with additional administrative responsibilities. On the other hand, one might consider the position to be that of an administrator, who also

teaches.

In a formal response letter to Michael Young, Cape Elizabeth High School teacher and the president of the CEEA, dated December 6, 2024, the School Board rejected the latest grievance filing. A possible next step would be for the issue to go to arbitration.

The letter, signed by then-School Board Chair Elizabeth Scifres, in one of her last acts in that position, reads in part, "After deliberation, the School Board determined that the grievance was not a viable grievance." Scifres has since left the School Board, and is now a member of the Cape Elizabeth Town Council.

The letter from the School Board goes on to read, in part, "This is because the issues involved – the creation of an administrator position and the Board's pedagogical judgment regarding how to expand and structure the leadership program to best meet the needs of the students – constitute matters of education policy. By statute, such matters are beyond the scope of collective bargaining.

-see GRIEVANCE page 5

News from December Planning Board meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Public Works Salt Storage Shed Site Plan Amendment

The town of Cape Elizabeth is requesting a site plan amendment to install a new salt storage shed at the public works garage located at 10 Cooper Drive. Jay Reynolds, Cape Elizabeth Public Works Director, presented the application to the Planning Board. Reynolds reminded those present that there was a workshop in November discussing the issue and had indicated at that time that the existing salt storage building is in severe disrepair and becoming a safety issue for town staff. Reynolds also said that the proposed site for the new salt storage shed will be closer to the Public Works building, helping with site plan review criteria such as noise and traffic circulation.

Reynolds shared that the site plan

amendment application includes the title, deed, and assessing information for the site, as well as the Gull Crest survey plan from 2000, and the existing conditions plan. He said there will be no soil disturbance and the proposed storage shed will be placed on existing pavement and therefore an erosion control plan is not necessary.

The proposed salt storage shed has the dimensions of 49 feet wide and 40 feet in depth. Included in the proposed design is a concrete wall to the backside of the shed and a berm to prevent any drainage from entering the storage building which will prevent stormwater runoff from mixing with the road salt.

Reynolds concluded his presentation of amendments by sharing that the Town Manager has included a letter of financial capability showing that the town has

-see PLANNING BOARD page 3

Polar Plungers brave wind, rain and high tide

By the 2025 CEHS Project Graduation Committee



Contributed photo

Despite inclement weather, the Annual Kettle Cove Polar Plunge went off as planned.

The Annual Kettle Cove Polar Plunge went off as planned despite the forecasted inclement weather on Wednesday, January 1.

For some, it was their first time jumping into the ice cold winter waters of

Maine, to commemorate a new year, but for others, plunging in the water is an old tradition offering an opportunity to wipe

-see POLAR PLUNGE page 5



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NEXT ISSUE: Feb 5
DEADLINE: Noon, Jan 24

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Maine Audubon celebrates 50 years At Gilsland Farm

There is a remarkable organization in our midst that celebrated 50 years at Gilsland Farm in Falmouth in 2024.

From its headquarters in Falmouth, Maine Audubon has served as a premier educator, conservator, guardian and champion of Maine's birds, coastal migratory shorebirds and wildlife management.

In addition, Maine Audubon's Coastal Birds Project received the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society's 2024 Award of Recognition. The award states: "The award recognizes individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, or industries in Maine who have made noteworthy contributions to wildlife management or conservation, or to education of the public about wildlife. The Coastal Birds Project is being recognized for its longstanding activities to coordinate and implement Piping Plover and Least Tern conservation efforts in Maine."

Maine Audubon has roots stretching back to the early 19th century in Portland. In 1974, 60 acres of land on the Presumpscot Estuary in Falmouth was donated to the organization. In 1975, Maine Audubon opened the doors to its new headquarters in Falmouth.

As Maine Audubon prepares for 2025, the organization continues to evolve and adapt to meet the needs of a changing environment,

public needs and to support the mission of the organization.

If you are interested in anything nature, a visit to Maine Audubon should be on your calendar for the New Year. Maine Audubon is so much more than bird watching. You will be pleasantly surprised at what you will learn about an organization dedicated to the guardianship of our natural world.

Francis Walsh

Community Services to begin U.S. passport processing

From Town Hall website

Applying for a new U.S. passport will soon become an easier process for Cape Elizabeth residents. Starting the first week of February, Community Services will begin processing new passport applications. Residents will be able to register online for an appointment to complete necessary paperwork at Community Services.

Plastic Film Recycling Program: Next Steps Ahead

By Jess Proctor

After eight successful months and over 1,000 pounds of plastic film collected, the Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee and Thomas Memorial Library announce the conclusion of their plastic film recycling program at the library. This milestone is a testament to the commitment of the community and the hard work of volunteers who embraced the NexTrex Recycling Challenge to reduce plastic waste and earn a Trex bench made from recycled materials. Please visit the bench in the Children's Garden at the library.

The program, which began on Earth Day 2024, not only met but exceeded its goals, reaching the 1,000-pound mark in record time. Residents were encouraged to drop off clean, dry plastic film at the library, including items like plastic bags and other film packaging. Volunteers dedicated countless hours to collecting, weighing, and delivering the plastic to NexTrex-approved sites, ensuring its responsible recycling.

As the library collection site closes on January 18, the Recycling Committee is pleased to share alternative locations where residents can continue their plastic film recycling efforts. Both Shaw's and Hannaford grocery stores in the area accept clean plastic film at their dedicated recycling bins. Or, find another location by visiting NexTrex drop off directory: <https://nextrex.com/view/finda-dropoff>. Residents are encouraged to utilize these drop-off points to continue reducing

plastic waste.

"The success of this program is something we can all celebrate," said Stephanie Austin, a Cape resident who championed the NexTrex Challenge locally. "Reaching 1,000 pounds in just six months shows how dedicated our community is to sustainability. This program has helped us all see how small actions, when combined, can make a big impact."

Looking ahead, the Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee is working with local leaders to explore the next steps for sustainability initiatives in town. This includes considering additional opportunities for reducing plastic waste and expanding community recycling programs.

The committee extends its gratitude to everyone who participated in this program and encourages ongoing involvement in sustainability efforts. As the library's plastic collection bins are removed, the focus shifts to building on this momentum and exploring how the town can continue to lead by example in environmental stewardship.

For more information on recycling resources or to share your ideas for future programs, visit the Cape Elizabeth town website or contact the Recycling Committee directly: <https://www.capeelizabeth.com/Recycling-Committee>.

Together, Cape Elizabeth has shown that by working as a community, progress is not only possible but achievable. Let's keep the momentum going.

THANK YOU!

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

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Let us hear from you!



We love feedback!

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2025 Publication schedule		
Issue No	Ad/Copy Due	Issue Published
01	Jan 3	Jan 15
02	Jan 24	Feb 5
03	Feb 7	Feb 19
04	Feb 28	March 12
05	March 14	March 26
06	March 28	April 9
07	April 11	April 23
08	April 25	May 7
09	May 9	May 21
10	May 23	June 4
11	June 6	June 18
12	June 20	July 2
13	July 4	July 16
14	July 25	August 6
15	Aug 8	August 20
16	Aug 22	Sept 3
17	Sept 5	Sept 17
18	Sept 19	Oct 1
19	Oct 10	Oct 22
20	Oct 31	Nov 12
21	Nov 14	Nov 26
22	Dec 5	Dec 17

Road rage incident, suspicious persons removed from a backyard

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 12-2 An officer met with a resident of the Spurwink Avenue area who reported that two of her accounts had been accessed resulting in unauthorized transactions. She contacted the bank and froze her accounts.
- 12-3 An officer met with a resident in the Scott Dyer Road area regarding an assault complaint.
- 12-5 An officer met with a Department of Human Services representative regarding a possible child abuse referral.
- 12-7 Two officers responded to a residence in the Scott Dyer area for a domestic disturbance.
- 12-8 Two officers responded to a location in the Oakhurst area for the well-being check of a pedestrian.
- 12-12 An officer met with a resident of the Oakhurst area regarding a trespass complaint.
- 12-15 An officer met with a resident regarding a possible violation of a protection order
- 12-17 An officer met with a local business representative regarding a shoplifting suspect.
- 12-18 An officer met with a road flagger at a job site on Spurwink Avenue regarding a vehicle that did not stop for his stop sign and drove through the job site while workers were in the street.
- 12-18 Two officers responded to a residence in the Sherwood Forest area for a report of a suspicious person in the backyard. Two subjects were located and removed from the area.
- 12-19 An officer met separately with two drivers involved in a road rage incident.
- 12-20 An officer met with a resident regarding a possible check scam. The resident is affiliated with a non-profit, and had received a donation in the mail for more than the pledged amount. The officer advised that this is a common scam.
- 12-27 An officer met with a resident of the Mountain View Park area regarding a dog bite complaint.
- 112-29 An officer met with a subject at Crescent Beach State Park regarding a suspicious person complaint.

SUMMONSES

- 12-3 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (49/30 zone) Shore Road, \$170
- 12-3 South Portland resident, failure to produce insurance, Ocean House Road
- 12-4 Gorham resident, speeding (70/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$278
- 12-4 South Portland resident, failure to produce insurance, Bowery Beach Road, \$186
- 12-4 South Portland resident, speeding (45/30 zone), Mitchell Road, \$170
- 12-4 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, \$85

- 12-4 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using hand held device, Route 77, \$85
- 12-6 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (44/30 zone), Mitchell Road, \$129
- 12-6 Hollis resident, speeding (65/45 zone) Bowery Beach Road, \$230
- 12-10 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (40/30 zone) Sawyer Road, \$129
- 12-10 New York resident, speeding (39/30 zone), Mitchell Road, \$114
- 12-12 South Portland resident, speeding (68/50 zone), Ocean House Road, \$170
- 12-13 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (40/30 zone), Mitchell Road, \$129
- 12-14 South Portland resident, speeding (66/50 zone), Ocean House Road. \$170
- 12-16 Portland resident, speeding (48/35 zone), Ocean House Road, \$129
- 12-18 Cape Elizabeth resident, passing stopped school bus, Ocean House Road
- 12-20 Scarborough resident, speeding (67/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$230
- 12-21 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (45/30 zone), Fowler Road, \$170
- 12-23 Cape Elizabeth resident, unregistered vehicle, Old Ocean House Road, \$85
- 12-27 Scarborough resident, speeding (45/25 zone), Scott Dyer Road, \$230
- 12-30 South Portland resident, speeding (44/35 zone), Route 77, \$114

JUVENILE SUMMONSES

- 12-4 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (39/30 zone), Mitchell Road, \$114
- 12-11 Cape Elizabeth resident, violation of interim license, Mitchell Road, \$385
- 12-13 South Portland resident, failure to produce insurance, Ocean House Road, \$186
- 12-20 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (51/35 zone), Route 77, \$170

ARRESTS

- 12-28 Cape Elizabeth resident, outstanding warrant, Scott Dyer Road

ACCIDENTS

- 12-6 Enrique Ramos, Philip McClure, accident on Ocean House Road
- 12-6 Doni Hallett, accident on Charles E Jordan Road
- 12-7 Tyler Mcpherson, accident location not listed
- 12-8 Brad Bodenski, accident on Mitchell Road
- 12-8 William Bryant, accident on Ocean House Road
- 12-12 Neal Mower, accident on Mitchell Road

FIRE CALLS

- Fire calls: 22
- EMS calls: 96

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

Credit Repair Scams

Overwhelmed by holiday bills? You're not alone — and you don't have to face your debt alone either. The New Year is the perfect time to take control of your finances — but beware of criminal scammers offering quick fixes that are too good to be true.

Scammers often exploit financial stress by promising instant relief or quick results to become debt-free. These schemes typically involve up-front fees, bad advice like avoiding your creditors, or vague claims about what services they actually provide.

Before committing to a debt relief service and providing your sensitive personal information, research reviews and check for complaints with organizations like the Better Business Bureau to ensure their credibility.

If you need help getting out of debt, turn to an organization like the Nonprofit National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

Social Media Advertisement Scams

Over one-third of U.S. adults who have bought something through an ad on their social media feed report being defrauded, according to a new AARP survey. Don't

let scammers "advertise" their way into your wallet this New Year; here are three tips to stay ahead of social media shopping scams.

1) Don't click on the ad. If the ad appears to be from a known retailer, type the address into your browser or use the retailer's app. Scammers can impersonate legitimate retailers, and clicking on the ad could bring you to a copycat site.

2) Read reviews and research. If the ad is from a retailer you're unfamiliar with, verify the site's legitimacy. Research the company and check for complaints with organizations like the Better Business Bureau.

3) Check the product quality. Be wary of bait-and-switch scams where you receive a product inferior to what was advertised (or you receive nothing at all). If this happens, you can contact your credit card company to dispute the charge.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Need a scam prevention speaker for your group? Click the link to fill out our online form or send an email to me@aarp.org.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

Judy's Pantry- a community feeding itself

Judy's Pantry operates at the Cape Elizabeth Methodist Church on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Prior registration is necessary. Please contact Beth Owens: bethowens1@gmail.com. Please consider a non-perishable donation to the IGA drop box.

Planning Board

Continued from page 1

"existing operating expense funds to deliver this project in this current fiscal year."

The existing salt storage shed will be "discontinued" with doors locked and operations ceased. It will be determined at a later date if the existing building will be removed or demolished. The Planning Board voted unanimously to approve the site plan amendments to build a new salt storage shed to be located at 10 Cooper Drive.

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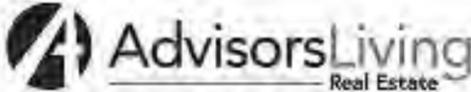
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Historical society launches “A Helping Hand” campaign

By Bob Dodd



Photo courtesy of the Cape Elizabeth Historical Society

Cape residents take part in the dramatic rescue of *The Oakey Alexander* crew.

Cape Elizabeth is a community that has long responded to calls for help. Like when the *Oakey Alexander* ran aground off the Cape shore in 1947. Or the *Annie C. Maguire* in 1886. Or last year, when the *Tara Lynn II* was tossed onto the rocks during a January storm.

In order to preserve the many thousands of artifacts, documents, memorabilia and photos that retell these and other town stories for future generations of Capers, the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society (CEHPS) is asking the community for another kind of helping hand.

CEHPS is asking the community to help in response to its annual fundraising campaign. Gifts now – including the gift of volunteering – makes the ongoing work of the town’s historical preservation possible.

See the ad in this issue

CEHPS has placed an ad in this issue asking the community to lend a helping hand to the work of its volunteers. Or simply go online at www.cehistory.org to see how Cape neighbors can help.

Some key projects CEHPS hopes to carry out in 2025 include:

- Acquisition of exciting new materials from town history for public display;
- Continued hosting of tours and creation of more learning materials for school groups to discover about their town history and the history of Fort Williams;
- Ongoing digitization of thousands of town-related documents and images that can be accessed online from anywhere;
- Purchase or upgrading of computers, scanners, and other technical equipment and safe storage capacities needed in the work of historical preservation.

Two years ago, CEHPS moved to the former Bachelor Officers’ Quarters at Fort Williams to make it possible to expand its work – and open its museum and other exhibit areas – with the help of additional financial and volunteer support from the community.

CEHPS continues to rely on the helping hand from the Cape Elizabeth community to keep this rich history alive.

Look for the CEHPS ad in this issue or log onto www.cehistory.org.

News from the School Board

By Phil Saucier

Happy New Year! As we begin 2025 and the second half of the school year we have a lot to be grateful for in our community. Thank you especially to our hardworking teachers, administrators, and staff for their dedication to our schools and our students, and to our parents and community members for all you do to help make this a great place to grow and learn.

I have had the pleasure of serving with Elizabeth Scifres, Heather Altenburg, and Kathleen Curry-Sparks over the last several years, and we will miss their tireless commitment to the Board and our schools. Thank you all for your service.

At our December 10, 2024 meeting we were fortunate to welcome new members Chris Boniakowski, Joy Engel and Lee Schroeder. I look forward to working together with Chris, Joy and Lee as well as continuing members Jenn McVeigh, Caitlin Sweet and Cindy Voltz this year.

Other highlights from our December 10 meeting included hearing from Ella Fick, a CEHS ninth-grader who took first place in the high school division of the Maine Startup Challenge, a terrific presentation from the Women’s Union Club, and a comprehensive review of the new draft Pathways Strategic Plan from Sarah Coombs, our Student Pathways Coordinator. It is always exciting to hear from our students, teachers, coaches, and staff during the presentation portion of our meeting each month and I encourage you to attend or watch online.

The Board is also continuing to work with Harriman architects to “sharpen our pencils” to revise the new middle school project to make refinements that will lead to necessary cost and scope reduc-

tions, while still designing a project that will serve the educational, safety, and security needs of our schools, staff, and students. We were heartened by the extremely close vote on the last project and look forward to working with the community as we move this essential project forward.

We begin work on the school budget right away with a kick-off joint workshop with the Town Council on Wednesday, January 8, and then begin a series of budget workshops on January 28 when we will hear from our building principals and administrative team, and will and continue throughout the next several months. Our work on the budget is guided by the following goals, to be finalized at our January 14 meeting:

1. Meets the academic, social-emotional, and health needs of all students;
2. Supports recruitment and retention of high-quality personnel;
3. Supports appropriate and on-going building maintenance and repair;
4. Supports the advancement of instructional skills of our staff;
5. Reflects a careful consideration of the effectiveness and efficiency of each line item and position; and
6. Strives for clear, transparent, and regular communication with the public throughout the budget process.

Our regular meetings are on the second Tuesday evening of every month in the Council Chambers, our workshops are held on the fourth Tuesday evening in the High School Library, and our committees meet regularly through the month with dates and times posted on our website. Please reach out to us at cesb@capeelizabetschools.org anytime. Here’s to a successful and healthy 2025!

High/low tide chart

Date	High Tide			Low Tide					
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	
15	Wed	11:50	10.4			5:35	0.4	6:15	-0.7
16	Thu	12:28	9.1	12:34	10.1	6:21	0.4	6:56	-0.4
17	Fri	1:10	9.0	1:17	9.7	7:05	0.6	7:37	-0.1
18	Sat	1:52	8.9	2:01	9.2	7:50	0.8	8:17	0.4
19	Sun	2:33	8.8	2:47	8.7	8:37	1.0	8:58	0.8
20	Mon	3:17	8.7	3:36	8.2	9:26	1.3	9:41	1.2
21	Tue	4:02	8.5	4:28	7.7	10:17	1.4	10:27	1.6
22	Wed	4:49	8.4	5:25	7.4	11:12	1.5	11:17	1.9
23	Thu	5:41	8.4	6:25	7.3			12:11	1.5
24	Fri	6:36	8.5	7:26	7.3	12:12	2.1	1:12	1.3
25	Sat	7:32	8.7	8:20	7.5	1:10	2.0	2:07	1.0
26	Sun	8:23	9.1	9:08	7.8	2:04	1.8	2:55	0.6
27	Mon	9:10	9.5	9:53	8.2	2:52	1.4	3:39	0.1
28	Tue	9:55	10.0	10:35	8.6	3:37	0.9	4:21	-0.3
29	Wed	10:38	10.4	11:16	9.1	4:22	0.5	5:02	-0.7
30	Thu	11:22	10.7	11:57	9.5	5:06	0.1	5:43	-1.0
31	Fri			12:06	10.8	5:52	-0.3	6:25	-1.2
1	Sat	12:39	9.9	12:52	10.7	6:39	-0.6	7:08	-1.2
2	Sun	1:23	10.1	1:40	10.3	7:28	-0.6	7:53	-0.9
3	Mon	2:09	10.2	2:33	9.8	8:21	-0.6	8:42	-0.5
4	Tue	3:00	10.2	3:31	9.3	9:18	-0.4	9:36	0.0



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Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Grievance

Continued from page 1

ing and thus may not be processed through the grievance article.”

In short, as the letter relays, the teachers’ contract does not control the hiring, nor the terms of that hire, of a new administrator like the Dean of Students, nor does it control the creation of a new educational program.

It is the determination as to the actual nature of the Dean of Students position where the dispute seems to hinge. While the School Board’s letter says that Superintendent of Schools Dr. Chris Record has said the new position involves administrative work beyond teaching, the CEEA is pointing to the actual daily teaching work performed when they describe what the position is, regardless of the title.

A letter from the CEEA to the School Board, in response to the latest rejection of the grievance, points to language adopted by the School Board, May 8, 2007, as the duties of a teacher:

- Prepares instructional plans and materials incorporating principles of effective instruction.
- Creates, selects, or modifies instructional plans and materials to accommodate learner differences.
- Monitors student understanding and re-teaches as necessary.
- Communicates oral and written information effectively.
- Fosters a classroom culture of caring and respect.
- Maintains an evaluation program of student work and participation that regularly monitors their progress in an accurate and up-to-date manner.
- Maintains official grade reports as prescribed by School Board policy.

The letter from the CEEA goes on to read, “All we are demanding is that anyone in this district carrying out these duties be recognized as part of our [teachers’] bargaining unit, as required in the collective bargaining agreement the School Board entered into with us. Those serving in this capacity should then be paid according to that same agreement. The current Dean of Students presently performs the aforementioned duties, the same ones the School Board defines as a teacher, for four classes at Cape Elizabeth High School. This equates to a 0.8 FTE (full-time employee) for which we are asking the Board to use for the Dean of Student’s compensation in their role as a teacher.”

The CEEA’s letter explains that the association is not concerned with how the Dean of Students is paid for admin work, only with the principle of someone teaching classes, but being paid more than others performing the same teaching work.

The letter, in part, reads, “We don’t know how to make this any more clear than, our grievance has no interest in how you compensate this position while serving in the role of an administrator. Our grievance is not concerned with how much time this employee serves in that role, what their du-

ties are, what meetings they attend, what programs they lead, or any other requirements of their job description as an administrator. If you review our grievance, you will see nowhere any reference to their duties as an administrator, as that does not fall under our collective bargaining agreement.”

The letter continues, “All this is to say your response to our grievance incorrectly characterizes the Dean of Students as an administrative position. The Dean of Students is a combined teaching (as defined by the Board) and administrative position. The good news is that this one-year pilot program we are currently trialing provides us with a path to resolution. The School Board wisely accepts that the other two combined teaching and administrative positions, as part of this pilot program, are part-time teachers and part-time administrators. We simply ask that you see the wisdom of your own ways. The two high school assistant principals are recognized and compensated under our collective bargaining agreement for their role as teachers, and compensated as administrators for their role as assistant principals. We are perplexed why this same logical solution was not applied to all three positions in this pilot program.”

The letter from the CEEA goes on to read that there are teachers teaching leadership classes, and they are compensated according to the teaching contract, and since the Dean of Students also teaches leadership classes, thus performing similar duties in that role, the Dean should also be compensated according to the collective bargaining agreement for that teaching.

“Again, what the Board decides to pay the Dean of Students for their work as an administrator is not our concern, but we do believe they should be paid the same as everyone else in the district for performing their similar duties as a teacher,” the letter reads.

The Cape Elizabeth Education Asso-

ciation letter wraps up with, “In conclusion, the staff of the Cape Elizabeth schools are dedicated to providing the best possible education to the students of our community. To ensure our students are instructed by the most qualified staff, we work under a contract that requires that whenever a new teaching position is added, the position will be posted internally and externally. This is not only required by our collective bargaining agreement, but it is a best practice. Although someone may appear to be the best qualified candidate, the only way to ensure that our students have the best educator is to conduct interviews and select from all those that may be interested. Our collective bargaining agreement is the only way to guarantee that this best practice, for the good of our students, is followed. As seen with the pilot program, the Superintendent and School Board have established for the first time that administrators can be hired without fully posting the positions, conducting interviews for the positions, or seeking community input for the positions. This means the students in our community may be instructed by someone who is not the most qualified candidate. Do not misconstrue our words; this does not mean that the current Dean of Students is not a highly qualified instructor, but it is to say that without the hiring practice guaranteed in our collective bargaining agreement, we will never know if there was a better candidate out there. This also sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to our students having other instructors teaching them on a daily basis without any process in place, except to trust that the administrators in our district have hand-selected the best person. This is why teaching positions being recognized under our contract is so important. It’s not about one person in the present; it’s about the future of all the students in our community.”



Photo by Kevin St. Jarre

The Cape Elizabeth Education Association has been in talks, and even filed a level 4 grievance, with the Cape Elizabeth School Board and Superintendent of Schools on the creation of a new position, the roles of that position, compensation, and the process of filling the position. The latest grievance was rejected by the School Board, and the matter is likely now going to arbitration.

Polar Plunge

Continued from page 1

the slate clean; one plunger saying “it’s so chilling, and exhilarating, but honestly a great way to kick off a new year!”

There was a very high tide as groups arrived to the Kettle Cove parking lot, and the cold rain and wind prevented some from entering shoreline staging area until just before the Fire and Rescue blew the horn at 11:00 a.m. Despite the ominous and dark clouds overhead, the plunge this year had a great turnout with over 60 people jumping in the water.

Prior to the 11:00 a.m. start, Cape Elizabeth’s Fire and Rescue’s very own WET Team (Water Extraction Team) arrived and prepared the area for safety - with three divers in the water well beyond the plungers, and a few on land to assist if there was an emergency. Upon exiting and recovering, the plungers were treated to hot chocolate and donuts care of this year’s CEHS Project Graduation Committee.

As always, donations received at the Polar Plunge benefit CEHS Project Graduation and the 2025 graduating class at CEHS. Project Graduation provides our seniors at CEHS a safe and memorable way to spend together as a class on Graduation Day. Please see the Venmo QR code below if you participated or still would like to donate. (Please note: PG25 in your donation comments).

Stay tuned for more events and opportunities to help support a safe and happy graduation night for our graduating seniors.

Thank you to the WET TEAM and to all who came out to jump in, and kick start a new year in support of a great cause.



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Group to hold meeting, also circulating petition for Cape Elizabeth schools to be phone/device-free

By Kevin St. Jarre

A local group calling itself Cape Alliance for Thoughtful Tech is offering an informational meeting titled “Parenting with Screens, FOMO & Endless Decision-Making” on Thursday, January 16, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Cape Elizabeth High School Library.

The announcement reads that while at the meeting, “We’ll dive into the nitty-gritty of screen time, explore the impact of social media and FOMO, and discuss those tricky device purchase decisions. Most importantly, we’ll connect with each other and build a supportive network to help us navigate these digital parenting waters. Think of it as a chance to connect with other parents in a no-judgment, open forum type of setting.”

The hosts say that all are welcome, and that it is not limited to middle school families.

The same group, Cape Alliance for Thoughtful Tech, has an online petition available for signing. At the time of this writing, the website says that there are 425 signatures.

The website, in part, explains the purpose of the petition in this way:

“By signing this petition, you are:

1) Indicating that you agree that a consistent, universal, and clearly implemented device-free policy is needed at the Cape Elizabeth Schools.

2) Letting the administration know that they have our full support in creating a device-free learning environment, for increased well-being and health of

every student.

3) Recognizing that device access and social media usage, outside of school, are also key components that effect our students’ in-school experiences, and are therefore willing to partner with the schools by implementing supportive practices outside of school.”

Reached for comment, Cape Elizabeth Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christopher Record replied, “Cape school administration, staff, and students are currently following cell phone procedures in each of our schools, as outlined below.”

The current cell phone procedures for Cape Elizabeth schools are:

Pond Cove Cell Phone Procedures

Some students bring cell phones or smartwatches in their backpacks to school as a means to communicate with family members after school.

Student cell phone use is not allowed during the school day and any cell phones that students bring to school must be kept securely in their backpacks and turned off. V-Tech/Apple watches or other similar devices with access to the network are not permitted at school.

The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal cell phones.

CEMS Cell Phone Procedures

Some students bring cell phones in

their backpacks to school as a means to communicate with family members after school.

Student cell phone use is not allowed during the school day unless a teacher asks a student to use and any cell phones that students bring to school must be kept securely in their locker and turned off. Students may wear a smartwatch but may not use it for communication purposes.

The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal cell phones. Please do not text message, IM or call your student on their cell phone during school hours

CEHS Cell Phone Procedures

Must be out of sight and silenced during class time unless the teacher directs. Students are expected to comply with each teacher’s cell phone procedure.

Cell phone use is permitted only between classes and in the cafeteria. Volunteer firefighters and student rescue members may keep devices on as long as they get permission from a building administrator. Students may use devices as needed for health plans.

Cell phones may be confiscated by any staff member and given to an administrator for return at the end of the school day.

Dr. Record also said, “We are aware of the Cape Alliance for Thoughtful Tech and appreciate their interest in a collaborative approach...our school Principals,

Director of Educational Technology, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent met with nearly 40 parents/guardians to discuss student cell phone usage in our schools.”

He said that the administrators shared the current cell phone procedures and how things are going so far this school year, and that multiple parents shared their perspective as well. “It was a wonderful conversation and a nice opportunity for our parents/guardians and school admin to learn from each other. We are in the process of surveying students, teachers, and parents/guardians to learn more about how our current procedures are working and will make adjustments as warranted. We are also paying close attention to the approach other school districts are taking and learning from the research as well,” Dr. Record said.

Cape Alliance for Thoughtful Tech is using CEHS for a meeting space, just as multiple other community groups utilize Cape schools for meetings. More information is available at www.capealliance-forthoughtfultech.org.

Got a story
to share?
Email us!



editor@capecourier.com

2025: Will Cape’s Voters Be Ignored... AGAIN?

As we enter this new year, Cape Neighbors’ focus turns to troubling signals coming from our new Town Council, now led by Penny Jordan. Repeatedly, Cape’s voters have spoken on the three major issues that remain front and center. But Cape’s Council seems poised to execute some of its most brazen moves to date, yet again ignoring our community’s wishes.

School Building Project - A Third Vote in... JUNE!?!?

Did you know that Cape has now paid outside architects and consultants \$2 million of your property tax dollars, pushing school projects that our voters have rejected twice now via referendum? Did you know that in 2024, **tens of thousands of your property tax dollars were spent to fund the flashy, one-sided marketing campaign** that swung just a few hundred votes? Despite both the millions spent and the costly, property-tax funded campaign, Cape’s voters rejected both bond proposals. **But will those votes matter?**

In perhaps its most brazen move ever, Cape’s Town Council appears determined to schedule a third bond referendum vote – **this time in JUNE**. Historical voting records show that **only a small fraction of Cape’s voters participate in June elections**. Additionally, survey results after the first bond failure tell us which group of voters tended to support the bond, and which opposed it. The math could not be more straightforward. By scheduling a June vote, **the Council will effectively suppress the opposition vote and all but guarantee the bond’s passage**. Is this manipulative and divisive strategy the way to pass what would represent the costliest (by far) locally-funded school project in Maine’s history?

Residential Housing Ordinances - Massive Changes Again Threaten Cape’s Rural Character

In 2023, Cape’s voters were repeatedly assured that their housing ordinance changes met, but did not exceed, the new state law requirements. Cape Neighbors exposed that misinformation, and the Council reversed the excessive, overreaching changes at the end of that year. They substituted a scaled-back set of amendments that: (1) honored the promises to our community; (2) met Maine state requirements; AND (3) protected Cape’s rural character. But fast forward one year and guess what’s being pushed yet again? Yes, virtually the same overreaching changes are right back on the table, some more extreme than before. **The “density, density, density” ideology pushed by outside special interest is back in the driver’s seat**. This movement is once again set to invite corporate developers to exploit Cape. Large apartment buildings will be allowed in Town Center AND single family homes throughout Cape’s neighborhoods will be targeted to be replaced by “small multi-family developments.” Developers will be enriched, as Cape’s rural character is destroyed.

Cape’s Small Business Environment - The Real Barrier

After the embarrassing multi-million dollar lawsuit against the Lumberly was dropped last year, we thought things were finally moving in the right direction for Cape’s small businesses. Sadly, we were mistaken, as illustrated by the Planning Department’s heavy-handed treatment of The Cookie Jar over the past few months. The latest set of misinformation includes a false claim that small businesses like The Cookie Jar cannot apply for a driveway permit. Per statute, only large businesses “like drive-in theaters, shopping centers, ball parks or other large public gathering places” are subject to the additional scrutiny. Yes, the beloved bakery’s owners simply wanted to add an egress to the back of their property - but the Planning Department’s response unnecessarily put its (unrelated) front parking spots, and its financial future, at risk. **#ElephantInTheRoom**

What is the Cape Neighbors Alliance?

We are a group of Cape citizens who believe that good governance happens when our community is heard, our government’s processes are transparent, and personal agendas are set aside. We intend to stand with our neighbors and our community to ensure this vision becomes reality.

Winter solstice: A holiday tradition in Cape Elizabeth's state parks

By Kurt Shoener and Stephen Lyons (Garda)



Photo by Kurt Shoener

State park crew and volunteers celebrated the winter solstice with dinner and a fire.



Photo by Kurt Shoener

State park crew and volunteers celebrating the sunset on winter solstice at Crescent Beach State Park.

Each year Cape Elizabeth's park rangers and volunteers celebrate winter solstice. The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year -- a day of beginnings, of storytelling, of reflection.

State park crew and volunteers celebrated this moment on Saturday, December 21 with a potluck dinner and a fire that marked the return to light. However, all are invited to enjoy the fire with a backdrop of Crescent Beach and the Atlantic Ocean each year.

Maine State Park Volunteer Naturalist Jeanne Christie lead a forrest bathing walk and talk explaining the significance

of winter solstice. It does not get any better than this. Maine - the way life should be!

This year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), used its newest satellite "GOES-19" to provide a beautiful view of Earth during the winter solstice.

This satellite is positioned over the Western Hemisphere at 89.5° west longitude, between NOAA's GOES East and GOES West satellites. GOES-19 captured this celestial moment from space.

Capetons: Indoor winter games

By Jeff Mandell



Avoid a late fee, register your dog online now

From Town Hall website

To avoid penalties, all dogs must be registered or have their registration renewed before January 31, 2025. Proof of rabies vaccine is required.

While residents may still register their

pets at Town Hall, utilizing the state's online platform is speedier and preferred.

To register your dog online, visit: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal_welfare/doglicense/index.shtml.

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USS Eagle 56 War Memorial made possible by volunteers and donations

By Stephen Lyons (Garda)



Photo by Stephen Lyons (Garda)



Photo by Stephen Lyons (Garda)

Happy New Year

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This summer hundreds of thousands of visitors to Fort Williams Park will come across a war memorial, “USS Eagle 56”. This memorial honors the sailors killed in action off the shores of Cape Elizabeth during World War II.

The hammer, chisel, and sweat of the men who built this war memorial, knew the importance of not forgetting those who served and died for a country they love so much. It was this love of not so ordinary men who ensured these sailors would not be forgotten for their ultimate sacrifice.

The USS Eagle 56 War Memorial at Fort Williams was originally facilitated in 2005 with the assistance and planning of Mr. Paul Lawton of Massachusetts. In 2020, an addition to the war memorial was added with the names of all the sailors aboard the USS Eagle 56 that fateful day of April 23, 1945. Of the 62 sailors aboard the USS Eagle 56 that day, 49 were killed in action. This additional stone work with the sailors’ names was organized by Lawton with donations and reduced labor cost from “Richardson Monument” in South Portland.

A granite platform and base to the USS Eagle 56 memorial was built free of charge in 2024 by Tucker Labbe of “Isaac N. Labbe Masonry Contractor, Inc” & Larry Napolitano. The granite stone was donated by “New England Specialty Stone,” Arthur Gallant.

Thanks to all of those who donated their time and money to make this war memorial happen so that these sailors would not be forgotten. This year (2025) a memorial service honoring the sailors of the USS Eagle 56 is being planned by the VFW in Portland.

Photo top left: Pictured with the USS Eagle 56 War Memorial at Fort Williams Park are some of builders of the war memorial: Arthur Gallant, Adam Miller, Phil Toher, Tucker Labbe and Larry Napolitano.

Photo top right: Pictured with the USS Eagle 56 War Memorial at Fort Williams Park are some of the builders of the war memorial: employees of Richardson Monument in South Portland and U.S. Sailors from the U.S. Navy Recruiting Station in Scarborough/Portland Portland.

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EMERGENCY COVERAGE AT WARREN AVENUE LOCATION

Caper Jack Queeney, the creative force behind Massif Goods

By Kevin St. Jarre

Jack Queeney was born in Maine and currently lives in Cape Elizabeth with his wife and dog. While he is a furniture craftsman today, he was previously a Senior Product Design Engineer at Apple where he worked on the iPad Pro line, specializing in camera system integration.

He started Massif Goods in 2023 during Queeney's time in the nine-month comprehensive course at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport.

He said that Massif Goods is a studio that exists to design and make wood furniture and wood objects that make people happy.

Queeney said that Massif Goods pieces are proudly designed and built here in Cape Elizabeth out of domestic hardwoods to be worthy of a lifetime of love. "I love to work with simple forms with interesting junctions and curved features that invite people to interact with a piece and connect with it," he said.

When asked what drew him to furniture making after working corporate/high tech, Queeney said, "A few things. Growing up, my dad was always tackling projects around the house, and by watching him, I developed a real appreciation and love for making things. I can't remember a time in my life when I wasn't out in the garage either taking things apart or making things. This continued in high school when I took Industrial Technology."

Then, Queeney said that while working at Apple, he got to work with amazing designers and learn about how to

design objects that people interact with every day. "Making furniture for our house seemed like an awesome opportunity to put this learning to the test and get back to my love of making things with my hands. One project in and I was hooked. I fell in love with working with wood, one of the most remarkable and beautiful materials on earth. I also saw in real time just how much our environments shape our lives. It was so wonderful to live with thoughtfully designed, well-made furniture and objects. I knew I wanted to make things for people that would brighten their days and make them happy," Queeney said.

Queeney grew up in Cape Elizabeth and graduated from Cape Elizabeth High School in 2011. He said, "After that, I studied mechanical engineering in college, then moved out to California and got a job doing product design at Apple. My wife and I had always talked about moving to Maine and in 2022, after seven years in the Bay Area, we decided it was time to come east."

They lived in Topsham for 9 months while he took the course at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship. "We moved to Cape in June of 2023 and we love being here. As a maker, I find the landscape and people of Maine very inspiring creatively," he said.

When asked what people might not know about furniture making, Queeney said, "Solid wood moves! Throughout the year, as the humidity changes, solid



Contributed photo

Jack Queeney is a former Apple engineer who has returned to Cape Elizabeth and is now crafting fine furniture.

-see MASSIF GOODS page 11



GIVE A HELPING HAND TO KEEP HISTORY ALIVE

Be part of Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society's Annual Fundraising Appeal - 2025

Some key projects we need your help with for 2025:

- Acquisition of new display materials for our museums
- Continued hosting of tours and creation of more learning materials for school groups
- Ongoing digitization of documents and photos that can be accessed online from anywhere
- Purchase and upgrading of technical equipment and storage

You can help save Cape's history by donating generously today.

Mail check made to CEHPS (please include name, email, and/or phone) to:
CEHPS, 1000 Shore Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

The Breeches Buoy - Helped passengers escape sinking ships, late 1800s to early 1900s

OR
Credit cards may be used online at CEHistory.org/donate



Donations of \$25 or more include one-year membership in CEHPS. Visit us online at CEHistory.org. CEHPS is a 501(c)(3)

TML offers programs on sugar cookie decorating, children's book writing

Holiday Closure

The library will be closed on Monday, January 20 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Winter Lantern Festival Set for Saturday, February 1

Join us for what we hope will become an annual community event! Help us bring light into the darkness of winter as we decorate the library's front lawn with an illuminated village, and hang illuminated paper lanterns all around the grounds.

Our festival will include an evening parade down Scott Dyer Road, live music and hot chocolate. Please visit the library's website for complete details, instructions for making a variety of lanterns and registration for lantern-making workshops. You can also stop by the library to pick up a paper bag lantern kit.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Rachel Davis, Library Director at rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Make Tiny Art for a Gallery Display

The library is inviting community members of all ages to decorate a miniature canvas and return it to the library for a display in the Stier Family Gallery during the month of February. You can pick up a tiny canvas during regular library hours throughout January (available while supplies last.) Bring your canvas home and create your masterpiece. Return your completed art by Friday, January 31. You can also attend our Tiny Art Chill Zone on Tuesday, January 21, where supplies will be available and you can make art alongside other community members. No registration necessary.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Please visit the library's website for

information about recurring weekly story times. We have something for young children going on every day of the week.

Winter Reading Challenge (for Children and Teens), January 13, 2025 - March 15, 2025

Cozy up with a good read. Pick up a challenge card at the Children's Desk or in the Teen Center, and complete the challenge to win a book. For ages 0-17.

Welcome Week 2025 - January 13 - January 18, 2025

Whether you've been to the library one time or one thousand times, come celebrate TML with us in the new year. Take a library tour, get to know our staff, and learn more about library programs and resources. Youth ages 0-17 can take part in our Winter Reading Challenge. You may even get to take home a prize. See what else is in store on our website.

Make a Snowflake and Help Turn the Library into a Winter Wonderland! January - March 15

Visit the Children's Room to make your own snowflake creation. Watch as the library fills with snow!

Family Game Night, Thursday, January 16, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Come play one of our many board games, including giant Jenga, Uno, Poetry for Neanderthals and more. Bring a friend or the whole family. Snacks will be provided.

Saturday Matinee

Saturday, January 25, 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a very special screening of a fantastic Pixar film about a very special rat who loves to cook. We hope you'll join us for this yummy movie experience.

FOR TWEENS & TEENS

Venture Club

Wednesdays, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. (when school is in session) (Ages 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.

Library Squad

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

Library Squad is a community of library-loving middle schoolers that meets monthly, and whose opinions, ideas and help form the foundation of our programming. Library Squad meets after school on the first Friday of each month from 2:45 - 3:45 p.m. Next meet-

ing: Friday, January 3.

After-Hours Teen Movie Night, Friday, January 17, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a special after-hours teen movie night at the library. Once the library closes, it will be time to snack on popcorn, hang with friends, and watch "How to Train Your Dragon." Teens 13-18. Registration is required.

FOR ADULTS

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

Fireside Writing

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

Looking for a comfortable and cozy

-see LIBRARY page 11



Photo by Gabby Doane

The Winter Lantern Festival on February 1 will feature paper lanterns and illuminated houses like these ones created by Cape resident Gabby Doane.



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Town of Cape Elizabeth 2025 Dog Licenses Now Due!



2025 Dog License

Dogs 6 months of age are require by state law to be registered

Dogs registered after January 31, 2025 will be charged a \$25/per dog late fee in addition to the license fee.

Current rabies and spaying/neutering certificates are required.
Dogs may be registered at the Tax Office at Town Hall or online at www.capeelizabeth.com.
(Dogs registered after 1/31/2025 must be registered at the Tax Office.)

Massif Goods

Continued from page 9

wood will expand as it absorbs moisture and contract as it releases moisture. Maine, especially Cape Elizabeth, has some of the largest humidity swings in the country, as we go from extremely dry in the winter to very humid in the summer, which means that furniture can move a lot here. It's really important to design furniture to account for this movement, as it's essentially impossible to stop the wood from moving. An improperly designed piece can tear itself apart as the wood moves. I think it's really cool that even after a tree has been felled, the wood from that tree continues to respond to the changing seasons, as if it's still living."

Queeney said he'd like to do more hand carving. "I did a few days of it at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, and I would love to really give it a go on a project. There's something so perfect and alluring about the slight imperfections of hand carved details," he said.

Like nearly every creative person, Queeney said he wishes he had more time. "There's so much that I want to make and seemingly so little time to make it. New designs are constantly popping into my head, but I just don't have the time to make them all!" he said.

Those interested in learning more about Massif Goods can go to www.massifgoods.com.



Photo by Jack Queeney

This column shelf is an example of the craftsmanship available from Massif Goods.



Photo by Mark Juliana

This side table is an example of the fine furniture crafted at Massif Goods.

Upcoming Lions Club community dinners

Spaghetti Dinners:

January 25, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.
February 22, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.
March 22, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Chicken Dinners:

April 12, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.
May 17, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Library

Continued from page 10

spot to join other writers? Come to TML's Fireside Writing program!

Fireside Writing gives you the space and opportunity to work alongside fellow writers and reach your writing goals. Bring your laptop or your favorite notebook and join us by the fire for tea and quiet writing time! Meets weekly on Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. No registration necessary.

Senior Social Hour: Wednesdays, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Come stop by for our usual coffee, tea, snacks and conversation. Check our website for special guests and topics.

Winter Sugar Cookie Decorating with Kaite Thayer (ZOOM PROGRAM)

Thursday, January 16, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Looking for a cozy class to take from the comfort of your own home? Learn how to bake perfectly delicious sugar cookies and decorate them with royal icing in this online workshop with Kaite Thayer. In this class we will go over cookie tips and tricks and how to get perfect consistency in our icing to achieve beautiful results. Register on our website.

Alumni Spotlight: THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITING with Elisa Boxer

Saturday, January 18, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what happens after graduating from CEHS? Join us for the first in a new series of programs featuring Cape Elizabeth alumni as we hear about their journeys beyond Cape and what led them to where they are now. Kicking off this exciting new series is writer and journalist Elisa Boxer, author of 11 books for young people.

Elisa will tell us how she got her start, where her career has taken her, and what she hopes life holds for her in the future. After Elisa's talk, she will lead us through an hour-long writing program. Want to write a children's book, but aren't sure where to start? This is the workshop for you. Elisa will walk you step-by-step through the basics. You'll learn how every great story starts with a big emotion. From there, you'll embark on adventures in character, setting and plot. And you'll

come away with ideas for your very own children's book -- the one that only you can write. Zero experience necessary. All ages welcome.

Tiny Art Chill Zone

Tuesday, January 21, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Join us for another evening of lowkey music, candlelight and art-making. This time, we will offer supplies for you to make your own piece of tiny art to be included in February's Tiny Art Show. Open to all ages, the Tiny Art Show is a wonderful opportunity to share your creativity with the community. Drop by and make something cool with us.

Film School: Double Indemnity

Tuesday, January 28, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

This month, we're following up our study of screwball comedy with the genre's twisted sister--film noir. Was it an accident? No! Was it suicide? No! It was murder! Join us for our screening and discussion of Billy Wilder's quintessential film noir, "Double Indemnity." We'll talk about conventions of the genre, many of which were established in this classic

1944 movie, along with some discussion of its many permutations over time. Come just for the movie and popcorn, or stay for the conversation afterward too. To stay up to date on future Film School screenings and receive post-discussion material, sign up for the Film School mailing list. No registration required to see the movies. Open to all from movie buffs to casual viewers, and everyone in between.

Cape Elizabeth Author Talk with Dick Cass and Kevin St Jarre

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

Are you a writer curious about the process of completing and publishing a book? Don't miss this event featuring two of our town's very own published authors. Cape Elizabeth's Kevin St. Jarre and Richard Cass will be here to interview each other, talk about their most recent books, and read short excerpts from them. They will cover everything from the writing process, their paths to publication, and the current state of the book world. Books will be available for sale and signing and a Q&A session will follow.



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2025 winter Cape Elizabeth Land Trust program listings

By Cape Elizabeth Land Trust

CELT's Crosstown Winter Walk

Join CELT member and Maine Master Naturalist Amy Witt and CELT Stewardship Committee member Hans Hackett for our Winter Crosstown Walk.

Beginning at Kettle Cove State Park, this walk will traverse over eight miles of both town of Cape Elizabeth and CELT trails, highlighting some of Cape's great ecosystems. The walk takes approximately four hours and includes a BYO lunch stop. Hikers will meet at Fort Williams Park and carpool to Kettle Cove.

Participants should wear proper footwear, as the trail may be icy at this time of year. Participants who register at least 48 hours in advance will receive notification of changes to the program or cancellation. Participants should be 12 years or older; please call about younger ages.

Date: Saturday, February 8

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Meet at Fort Williams Park (the plowed parking lot closest to the lighthouse)

Cost: \$6 per person

Min/Max: 4/20

Please visit <https://www.cape-landtrust.org/events/> for registration and more information

Winter Story Walk with Snowshoes and Animal Tracking for Families

In conjunction with Maine Winter Kids, A Story Walk of the Children's Book "Lost. Found." by Marsha Diane Arnold, will be placed along Runaway Farm to check out at your leisure. Children's snowshoes will also be available to borrow, at no cost, from Cape Elizabeth Community Services on a first come, first served basis.

Additionally, there will be two guided walk programs with CELT educators through Runaway Farm to follow the story and learn common winter animal tracks. Children and their caregivers will meet at the upper parking lot of Gull

Crest and spend an hour taking a gentle hike through Runaway Farm Preserve and exploring the habitats around them. They will search for signs of the changing seasons, animal tracks and winter adaptations. They will also get a chance to practice tracking, weather permitting.

Participants should wear warm, dry clothing and sturdy footwear for potentially icy conditions. The outing is subject to weather conditions and all participants must register at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification regarding changes or cancellation.

Dates:

• Winter Animal Tracking and Guided Story Walks:

-Thursday, January 30, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

-Tuesday, February 4, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

• The Story Walk boards will be up and snowshoes will be available to check out from Cape Elizabeth Community Services on a first come, first served basis from January 28 through February 5 during the hours of 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Location: 1 Gull Crest Avenue. Meet at the Upper Parking Lot of Gull Crest Field, closest to Spurwink Avenue

Cost: \$6 per parent and 1 child, \$3 for each additional child for the Guided Animal Tracking Walk

(No registration or fee for Snowshoe rental or Self Guided Story Walk)

Min/Max: 3/10

CELT Library Programs with Thomas Memorial Library

Marine Mammals of Maine Talk: A Seal's Journey

Join Marine Mammals of Maine (MMoME) volunteer and wildlife educator Jessica Woodend as she takes you through a seal's journey from stranding to release, and all of the obstacles in between. She will start with important seal basics, such as whether it's normal for seals to be out of the water, and why you might see a baby seal on its own.

Woodend will then dive into when and why seals need our help. As gray seal pups begin to appear on the coast of Maine in the winter, she will discuss what you as a community member should do if you encounter a seal.

You will also learn about what MMoME is, what they do, and more about the animals they care for, including the famous 2023 Cape Elizabeth Gray Seals.

Date: Thursday, February 20

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Thomas Memorial Library Community Room

No registration necessary

CEHS student Jack Marston is a musician and songwriter

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Jack Marston is a musician and songwriter who is an accomplished guitar player already, with a desire to return to Ireland to play again. All this while being only a Sophomore at Cape Elizabeth High School and too young to drive.

Even though Jack Marston isn't old enough to drive, he's writing songs and is already an accomplished musician.

While people are most likely to see him playing guitar, there is more to Marston. "I write a lot of music, although not all of it on guitar. I like to produce music with Garageband and FL Studio, and make songs digitally when I'm at school and cannot play guitar. My favorite music to play would be jazz or bluegrass. They're both great, and jazz gives me that extra challenge, which I like, too," he said.

He says his playing style depends on what he's playing, and with whom he's playing. Marston said, "If I'm playing a ballad or something like that, I wouldn't really play fast during a solo, I would play slower and more melodically for example. But if I were to just play a solo alone, my playing style would be working a lot with dynamics. Going loud to soft. The same also goes with speed, going fast, then going slow."

He said he has been around music pretty much his entire life. "Growing up, my parents always had music playing around the house. When I was really young, I liked Doc Watson and The Band so I've always been very interested in music. I actually started out playing pia-

no. But then at a summer camp, I played the bass which I really liked so I thought, 'How could I go further?'" Marston said.

Then he picked up a guitar when he was in fifth grade, and has been playing ever since. "I always try to learn new things especially when it comes to music, but as of late, I've been dialing in what I already know, and expanding on that little by little," Marston said.

Given a chance to play anywhere, Marston said he'd like to return to and play in Ireland. "When I took a vacation there, I got the opportunity to sit in with some musicians at a bar and they were so welcoming. The environment is pretty much perfect for upcoming musicians. There is pretty much live music everywhere you go," he said.

Marston said he wishes he had had more people to play with and give him tips at the start. He said, "Because I started playing guitar pretty much at the very start of COVID, I was pretty isolated."

For those interested in hearing Marston's work, he said one of the primary ways is his Instagram account. He said, "I usually post what I'm working on at the moment, or shows I'm playing. My Instagram is marsman_317."

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Local birding report

By E. Brooks Bornhoff

In early January, I am thankful for many things, including but not limited to, the fine sweet trill of a Red-breasted Nuthatch, the thin, silvery calls of Golden-crowned Kinglets deep within the forest, the way a Brown Creeper's song calls to mind pine boughs sighing in the wind, the sweetly whistled Tufted Titmice tune that accompany the falling snow, the hurried winter song from the ever curious Carolina Wren couple, the cheery warbler of rosy-red House Finches, the low sweet melodies sung by Dark-eyed Juncos, and the querulous chatter of five Eastern Bluebirds socializing around the birdbath on a shivery morning.

One day several weeks ago I noticed an unusual bird in our backyard. Amongst the White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos was a stout, sparrow sized bird with two rather prominent white wingbars that contrasted against a subdued grayish colored wing. A pale eyering, which birders refer to as "spectacled" was also visible. There are very few wood warblers that dare to brave the winter months of Maine, and this happened to be one of them, Setophaga pinus, a female Pine Warbler!

Although not as glamorous as its male counterpart who arrives early every spring cloaked in bright-yellow, olive and green, the presence of this modest minstrel of our pine woods has added a bit of excitement to our backyard. Pine Warblers are among the earliest warblers to arrive and the last to leave Maine. According to Peter Vickery's "Birds of Maine," small numbers of these warblers are known to survive through the winter, subsiding on seed and suet from backyard feeders. In addition to eating insects, the Pine Warbler is the only warbler that regularly eats seeds, primarily pine seeds but also sunflower seeds,

cracked corn, millet and suet. As of January 7 this hardy little songbird has continued to persevere.

Over the last two weeks another uncommon winter visitor has been regularly sighted along the Two Lights Road/Kettle Cove area, a Snow Goose. Of the thirteen species of geese found in North America, nine have been spotted in Maine, and only three (including the Snow, Canada and Brant) are regularly recurring.

Amongst two hundred or more Canada Geese, this rather large white goose with black wingtips easily stands out from the crowd. Its pinkish bill with distinctive black 'grinning patch' or smile gives this goose a unique facial expression.

Snow Geese come in two color morphs, a more common white morph and less common dark (blue) morph which has a bluish-grey body and white head. Until 1983 the American Ornithological Society treated the "Blue Goose" as a separate species.

A medium distance migrant, Snow Geese seen along our coastline in winter typically arrive from the Canadian Arctic tundra where they were born. The population of Snow Geese has grown rapidly since the mid-twentieth century, possibly because of warming conditions on their arctic breeding grounds. Snow Geese also nest in remote areas and their breeding colonies have suffered minimal impact from humans. Additionally, they have adapted well to winter foraging within agricultural fields. Interestingly, this goose picks the same mate for life, choosing an individual of the same color morph (white or "blue") as the family members they grew up with.

Of note, there have been two other sightings of individual Snow Geese in Cumberland County so far this winter.

Snow goose sighting



Photo by Martha Agan

Martha Agan recently took this picture of a Snow goose, which is seldom seen in southern Maine, in foggy and rainy conditions along Two Lights Road.



Have something to sell?
Having a yard sale? Want to spread the word about a new business or service?

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Classifieds in The Courier work!

January naturalist's corner

By Erika Rhile



Photo by Erika Rhile

A harp seal at Kettle Cove. Harp seals are about 5 to 6 feet long and spend most of their time diving and swimming in the icy waters of the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans.

January 13, 5:27 p.m. - Full Wolf Moon

This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Wolf Moon because this was the time of year when hungry wolf packs howled outside their camps.

The Abenaki called this moon Lowatannassick, which translates to "middle of winter."

January 16- Mars at its closest approach to Earth

Mars will be illuminated by the sun and at its brightest tonight. Borrow a telescope from Thomas Memorial Library, and you'll be able to see Mars' red surface in detail.

What's that bright star by the crescent moon? What seems to be the brightest star in the sky is often the planet Venus. Looking southwest after sunset on January 18, Venus will be joined by Saturn. The two planets will be "in conjunction," only 2.2 degrees apart in the night sky. In reality these two planets are millions of miles apart. Grab some binoculars to see Saturn's rings.

Winter is a time to see some migratory pinniped visitors like hooded seals and harp seals, who have traveled from

the Arctic Circle. Gray seals live in our waters year-round, but the height of pupping season is in mid-January. Brrr! Check out the gray seal pupping cam on Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge (off the coast of Rockland).

If you see a stranded seal call Marine Mammals of Maine's hotline at 1-800-532-9551.

Is it just me or are there more bluebirds? I am delighted almost every day when I see "my" flock of more than a dozen bluebirds visiting our feeder. It doesn't hurt that I feed them their favorite food: mealworms.

Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count had an all-time high count of bluebirds in 2024. Despite the reasons why the bluebird has expanded its range (climate change, suburban sprawl), I do love seeing that flash of bright blue in the bleak midwinter.

Got a story to share? Email us!



editor@capecourier.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, January 15

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Thomas Memorial Library, 6 pm
Town Council Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 pm

Tuesday, January 21

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7 pm

Tuesday, January 28

Board of Zoning Appeals, Town Hall, 7 pm

Monday, February 3

Town Council Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 pm

Tuesday, February 4

Planning Board Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, 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 Road

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

South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club, 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays at 107 Preble Hall, Southern Maine Community College, 2 Fort Road, South Portland. sp-cc-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 Jan 15 - Feb. 4



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Dean's list announcements

Grace Callahan, School of Human Ecology, was named to the dean's honor list for the 2024 fall semester at the The University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Owen Patry earned Liberty League All-Academic honors at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. Patry is a member of the Class of 2026 and is majoring in psychology.

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

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Retirement

Continued from page 1

within the position. With Angela [Frawley] and Melissa [Newsome], the clerk's office is a strong and capable team, providing quality services." Frawley is the Town Clerk, and Newsome is the Deputy Town Clerk.

Lane is a 1984 graduate of University of Maine, with a degree in Public Administration. She has worked in municipal government for more than 40 years, and more than 39 of those have been with the town of Cape Elizabeth.

In her letter, Lane also wrote, "Serving the residents of the community, my home, has been an honor. I am blessed to have worked with you, Michael McGovern, Matthew Sturgis, both current and past town councilors, staff, and talented and dedicated department heads."

She went on to write, "The work has been challenging and rewarding. I have seen changes in elections, the evolution of technology, working through the days of retrenchment in hard economic times, constantly examining efficiencies and the quality of services we deliver, trying to accept the new norms of an office environment and working to meet the expectations of the public."

Lane ends with, "My wish for you and my colleagues is for health, happiness and may you prosper."

Contacted to see if she had anything she would like to add to her letter, Lane said that she would like "...to emphasize as my letter states how lucky I have been to work with such talented and dedicated employees. Past and present managers, department heads, town councilors. Municipal clerk colleagues around the state and New England. I hesitate to list any names as I will leave out someone. The work environment was different when I started and the pressures of life were different. In general, I hope we are on track for respecting one another, remembering we do have differences and that is okay, working together towards the common goal of a happy and healthy life and environment."

She closed with, "I have worked hard and given it my all. I am proud of my accomplishments and couldn't have done it without the support of my family and colleagues."

The "KID" Courier

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

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



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Feb. 14, 15 & 16 - Valentine's Day Features

Celebrate love with Chef Brown's romantic additions to the Sea Glass menu.

- Oysters on the Half Shell Citrus & Fennel Chilled Maine Lobster
Roasted Carrot Tortelloni Filet Mignon German Chocolate Cake

Feb. 20, 21 & Feb. 22 - Inn by the Sea Annual Seafood Fest

Ice cold hot spot! From oysters & Littlenecks to grilled lobster tails & bubbles, join us for a night or weekend to celebrate to flavors of the sea.

Sample à la carte items:

- Bangs Island Mussels Smoked Salmon
Maine Oysters Fish Cakes
Shrimp Cocktail Half Lobsters & Lobster Bisque

\$25 entry donation - 100% donated to Full Plates Full Potential.



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Nature scene around town



Photo by Martha Agan

The December full moon, also called the cold moon, near Dyer Cove Two Lights.



Photo by Martha Agan

Wing foiling at Kettle Cove.



Photo by Martha Agan

Harlequin ducks at Two Lights State Park.



Photo by Martha Agan

Waves at Two Lights State Park.

2025 marks the 75th Anniversary of Cape Elizabeth Little League!!

Registration for the 2025 Spring season is now open through February 7th.



LITTLE LEAGUE

CELL provides T-ball, softball and baseball opportunities to Cape children, ages 5-14.

Assessments are planned for mid to late March with teams starting practices beginning in April. The season will run through June. If you are new to the area or to baseball or softball we encourage you to come out!

Please go to www.capelittleleague.com to register or email: barrett.austin@gmail.com for more information.

Volunteer coaches, concessions support, team administrators and board members are needed for the season. If you're interested, please indicate it on the registration.

Play Ball!!