

The Cape Courier

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In the Spirit of Community

News from January 13 Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Town Council Reports and Correspondence

Councilor Tim Thompson discussed a summer internship program for the town of Cape Elizabeth and asked the Council for ideas on how to promote the opportunity throughout the community. Thompson mentioned connecting with Ted Jordan at the high school to see if there is any interest among students. Councilor Elizabeth Scifres also suggested that Thompson talk to Lauren Tarantino who is the Extended Learning Opportunity Coordinator at Cape Elizabeth High School.

Thompson also shared that ecomaine is looking to expand its number of owners and that other towns are interested in joining as users and owners. Thompson said this only makes it more affordable for towns to buy in while also making

it more affordable for originators to the program such as Cape Elizabeth.

Chair Penny Jordan announced that there will be a Town Council workshop on February 27 as there is a “lot of business we need to get queued up.” Items to be discussed include the Housing Diversity Study Committee report and how to leverage all the work that was done, the Fort Williams Advisory Committee and others ahead of budget season. Chair Jordan also mentioned that there will be a “Councilor Corner” in the Cape Elizabeth newsletter “to make the community aware of all the great work we do” and to demonstrate transparency between the Town Council and the public.

Finance Committee Monthly Report

Councilor Scifres announced that

-see TOWN COUNCIL page 5

Cape Elizabeth dominates Pond Cove Chess Tournament

By David Cimato



Contributed photo

U800 Championship match with Lucas Haddad of Cape Elizabeth Middle School.

On Saturday, January 11 the Cape Elizabeth Chess Club hosted its annual US Chess rated tournament. The tournament featured 53 players travelling from across the state to play chess in 3 separate sections. The 3 sections were divided into ratings classifications of U800, U1400 and the Open.

The Open featured one of our toughest

fields yet and was won by Cape Elizabeth resident Matthew Fishbein. Matthew scored 3.5 points over the four round event edging out Gabriel Eaton of Brunswick High School on tiebreakers.

The U1400 division was composed of

-see CHESS page 4

Cape Robotics hosts annual competition

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Members of Cape Robotics Team 56S did exceptionally well at a recent competition hosted at CEMS, as did many of the Cape teams. They are Noah Scott, Hudson Charlebois, Finnegan Zwintscher and Jonah Chang.

Cape Elizabeth Robotics recently held its annual winter competition at Cape Elizabeth Middle School, hosting 39 teams from around the state and competing head to head with their custom-designed, custom-built robots. Nine Cape teams competed in the event.

The Cape teams performed exceptionally well. Cape team 56S, made up of Jonah Chang, Hudson Charlebois, Noah Scott and Finnegan Zwintscher teamed up with team 56F, comprised of Ayden Diamond, Erik Frey and Brendan Oakley, to take on and ultimately beat Cape team 56R, whose members Ezra Gabrielson, Alex Kang and Wren Venter had partnered with a team from Fryeburg Academy.

Team 56S also won the Excellence Award and Robot Skills Champion Award, while Team 56R won the Create Award, and Team 56F won the Design Award.

Cape Elizabeth High School teams 56H- members Luc Dallaire, Aman Khare and Nick Snow, 56M- members Massie Aouragh, Sam Greenfield and Finnegan Ketcham, and 56T- members Sam Hebda, Alex Reeves and Emmett

Wood each turned in their best performance of the season. The middle school teams likewise performed exceptionally well.

Cape Robotics team 56S members helped explain more about the team, robotics and the competitions.

Zwintscher, whose role on the team is to take part in the building, and the additional role of keeping a journal of the team’s process, known as “the notebook,” said, “I like working with my team in order to figure out what we’re going to do next or how we’re going to tackle a solution to a problem we’ve been dealing with. With the notebook, I enjoy being able to show the work our team has been doing by detailing our processes.”

He also said that the best part of competitions is seeing the work that the team has done from the last competition pay off. “A lot of times at competitions, our preparations can go awry, but the feeling of fixing the issues before each match and pulling out a victory is one of the best parts of robotics,” he said.

Zwintscher explained that the robots

-see ROBOTICS page 15



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'Hear and share our stories'

Recently, I attended an event at the library that was being put on by some very engaging high school students. It was called "Story Exchange" and it involved our facilitators (Maisie, Phoebe, Vivi, and Geo - all from CEHS) leading our group in an activity that let us share personal stories. But, maybe more importantly, it also challenged us to practice active listening to our partners.

I won't give away the process, in case they do it again (which I hope they do and encourage everyone to attend!), but I left feeling so connected and full of love for my fellow Capers in that room.

I didn't know some of them before and I most certainly will be saying hello to them when I see them out and about. I'm a hugger, so I'll offer a hug but a wave will do just as well.

In 2025, I'm hoping to move towards connection and if you'd like to join me, I hope you will! Step away from the screens, step out into the community. Have the conversations (even if they're hard), meet some new friends and neighbors, and hear and share our stories.

I hope I can run into Margaret at the IGA soon! Hi Margaret!

Eliza Matheson

'We must reconnect as people, not political labels'

As our nation grapples with unprecedented tensions, we've lost sight of our shared humanity. We've trapped ourselves in an either/or mindset, leaving no room for nuanced understanding.

The path forward is surprisingly simple: we must reconnect as people, not political labels. It starts with tiny gestures - a wave to a neighbor you've never acknowledged, spending an extra moment at your mailbox to say hello, or simply being present in your front yard instead

of the back. These small actions, requiring just seconds of our day, can spark genuine connections.

Without preconceptions or judgments, we can start small - perhaps bonding over shared annoyances like pesky ticks - and build from there. Even just chatting with one new neighbor this month can begin breaking down walls between us.

I'm convinced we agree on more than we disagree. All it takes is the courage to approach our neighbors with genuine curiosity, ready to discover our common ground. Together, we can bridge these divides, one wave, one hello, one conversation at a time. We the People are stronger together - it's not just a phrase from our Constitution, but a timeless truth that can guide us forward.

Michelle Gorski

Why don't dog owners take more responsibility?

I recently moved back to Cape Elizabeth after a 15-year hiatus. I love the area and enjoy walking to Fort Williams Park and many of the CE Land Trust trails.

I do question why dog owners don't take more responsibility in looking after their dogs, especially in the parks and trails... hence the Letter to the Editor...and hopeful submission to the paper.

Gail Kolbe

'Let's make sure our dollars count'

Please join me in thanking the School Board and Town Council for their continued efforts to identify a community supported solution to our aging school infrastructure. After being decisively elected in November, the new councilors and board members went immediately to work on this crucial issue.

If you have not followed this project closely, or if you voted against the school project in November, please tune in to the next Public Forum on February 11. You will hear from our elected representatives who are working together in a collaborative fashion to integrate feedback from the public with the professional advice from our Owner's Representative and Architects. Crucially, all parties are committed to a true "three-school solution": a project that resets the clock on our oldest and most problematic facility while also addressing key projects at Pond Cove and CEHS.

Pouring scores of millions of dollars into a rapidly deteriorating infrastructure is an irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars. Renovations are prone to delay and cost overruns - especially in patchwork facilities with mixed systems and materials (like CEMS). This is not a solution - a "renovations-alone" approach represents a short-term fix at long-term prices.

But as I said before, don't take my word for it. Please tune into the Public Forum and hear what our architects and Owner's Rep are saying. You will find that our elected officials are working towards a three-school solution that will last for three generations. Let's make sure our dollars count for the long run.

Scott Mazuzan

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Thomas & Martha Meyers
 Richard & Nancy Lemieux

-see more LETTERS TO THE EDITOR on page 3

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

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Let us hear from you!



We love feedback!

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News from January 21 Planning Board meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Blue Meadow Final Subdivision Review and Resource Protection Permit.

Applicant BRKR, LLC, requested for final major subdivision review and a resource protection permit to construct an 18-unit condominium development to be located at 90 Ocean House Road.

Bob Metcalf of Mitchell and Associates spoke on behalf of the applicant to notify the Board and the public of various updates made to the application materials.

These updates include a vegetative buffer plan and the relocation of two units along the edge of the property closest to Canterbury Estates to provide more space between property boundary lines.

Additionally, measurements for the lighting poles to be appropriate height above grade has been finalized, along with proper location for erosion control barriers, riprap modifications and the pavement restoration details.

Additionally, the vegetative soil filters will be consolidated into one system, a stormwater permit was submitted to the DEP, and a design for the sanitary sewer manhole to be located on Shore Road is being coordinated with Jay Reynolds, the Town Engineer. Still in discussions are the determined placement of two additional parking spaces on the property, the location of USPS mailboxes for the new units.

After some discussion initiated by Al Palmer on the topic of application completeness, Maureen O'Meara, the Town Planner, reminded the Board that they were looking for substantial information adequate for review, and that it's not unusual for things to be missing in an application at this stage in the process. She encouraged the Board members to ask themselves, "Is there too much missing?" when considering the application's materials and their vote to deem it complete.

Chair Gilbert shared that "it appears there was a good faith effort to submit information" on behalf of the applicant. Jim Huebener made a motion to approve, seconded by Natalie Burns. The motion passed with two abstentions. The Board scheduled a site walk on the proposed development property for Saturday, February 1 at 8:30 a.m. with the public welcomed to attend.

Supplemental LD 2003 Amendments.

The Planning Board reviewed supplemental amendments to LD2003 as referred by the Town Council. The amendments refer to an increase in housing opportunities in Maine that were signed into effect via state law in April 2022. The town has been discussing and reviewing Cape Elizabeth specific amendments in the 17 months since. The amendments in discussion during the January Planning Board meeting were repealed by the Town Council in a 4-3 vote in December 2024.

During the public hearing portion of this agenda item, several community members spoke both in support and against the Planning Board approving the amendments to LD2003.

Tom Dunham shared that he is "very concerned of the impact to the town" and that the amendments go "significantly beyond" what the state mandates and that "neighborhoods are going to deteriorate." He cites the maximum size of an ADU would be disruptive to Cape neighborhoods including the stormwater, traffic, and fire and safety issues these ADUs supposedly present.

Eliza Matheson voiced her support for the supplemental amendments calling it "good public policy" which will allow "our citizens to be flexible with their property." Ed Libby also shared support as the supplemental amendments will offer "diversifying housing options" in the community.

There was additional discussion among the Board that included ADU ownership and primary structures on a lot. As the ordinance stands, an ADU would not be separately owned by a potential occupant other than the owner of the property. If a property has two designated living spaces owned by two separate owners, it is considered a "duplex" and not an ADU.

Also discussed was the possibility for a property owner to build a new primary and have their current house become a designated ADU. This is allowable and does occur, for example, when a property owner builds a garage with a living space above and then builds a separate structure as the primary dwelling.

The motion to approve was made by Huebener and approved unanimously by the Board.

The LD2003 supplemental amendments will once again go before the Town Council for review.

Improving the business climate in Cape Elizabeth

This past December, a Business Forum was held at Town Hall hosted by Town Council member Stephanie Anderson.

The purpose of the forum was to gather information on ways to improve the business climate for the Cape Elizabeth business community. The Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) was hired to facilitate a "listening session" with Cape Elizabeth businesses. The objective was to understand the Cape Elizabeth business climate through the eyes of owners and operators. The list of businesses invited was obtained from the assessor's database of 49 Cape Elizabeth businesses. About 15 business owners attended. According to the 2019 Comprehensive Plan for the town, Cape Elizabeth hosts 300 businesses in town, amounting to 1% of Cumberland County employment or roughly 1,261 jobs.

Cape Elizabeth is located within the Portland-South Portland metropolitan statistical area. This places Cape Elizabeth within

short driving distance of over a half million people.

Let's hope that the results of GPCOG's "listening session" will point the town in the direction of establishing a strategic plan with measurable objectives that will include the following:

- A vision for the future for a positive business climate in Cape Elizabeth.
- A plan to inventory community assets.
- Dynamic planning for business support.
- Education and incentives for businesses - not just regulation.
- Streamline permitting process for business; Clear, Concise, Consistent.
- Creation of a "one-stop-shop" where a business owner knows what is expected and what the timeframe and cost will be for any permit.

Francis Walsh

"Let's see past the obfuscation"

In 2025 we will have another opportunity to vote on a school building project. Construction costs will continue to rise until we finally pass something. As we consider how to vote, we should steel ourselves for the naysayers that will inevitably grace our social media and mailboxes.

Leading up to the November 2024 vote, after an extensive public engagement process, public support for building a new school surged. Just watch the public testimony and read the letters to the SBAC, School Board and Town Council to see what I mean. I am encouraged that the measure came VERY close to passing, despite the best efforts (and finances) of a few loud voices trying to throw us off track. This time around:

Beware of SBAC members who vowed they wanted a school project measure to

pass, but when the option on the ballot wasn't their first choice, did everything in their power to make sure it wouldn't.

Beware of wealthy homeowners feigning concern for others while looking out for their own pocketbooks.

Beware of Armchair Architects throwing "new" ideas at the wall, trying to cause delay and confusion.

Our actual architects have been extremely responsive to the community, providing expertise on the short- and long-term costs of various options, the resulting disruption, and the educational and safety needs that would or would not be met. We are moving cooperatively toward a solution that will meet the moment.

Let's see past the obfuscation. Vote YES on the school project in 2025.

Becky Brosnan

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Suspicious subject confronted in Community Services building

Reported by Marta Girouard

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 1/1 An officer met with an UBER driver at the PD where he turned over a wallet he found in his vehicle. The owner was identified and contacted.
- 1/3 An officer responded to a residence in the Ocean House Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 1/5 An officer met with a resident of the Cross Hill area who turned over a found cellphone.
- 1/5 An officer responded to a residence in the Ocean House Road area for a well-being check.
- 1/6 An officer met with a resident of the Spurwink Avenue area regarding a harassment complaint.
- 1/8 An officer met with a resident of the Mitchell Road area regarding a suspicious person complaint.
- 1/13 Two officers responded to a location in the Mitchell Road area for a well-being check.
- 1/23 An officer responded to the Community Services building and met with witnesses who had confronted a suspicious male subject inside the building and left.
- 1/25 An officer conducted a traffic stop and did a well-being check requested by a neighboring agency.

- Road, \$325
- 1/19 Saco resident, speeding (65/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$230
- 1/19 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (60/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$170
- 1/22 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using a handheld device, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 1/22 Oxford resident, texting while driving, Ocean House Road, \$325
- 1/26 Cape Elizabeth resident, uninspected motor vehicle, Scott Dyer Road, \$148

JUVENILE SUMMONSES

- 1/3 Cape Elizabeth resident, dissemination of unauthorized images

ACCIDENTS

- 1/8 Forrest Hagerman, Garden Circle
- 1/8 Giovanni Zanollo, Scott Dyer Road
- 1/14 Lucien Boxer, Winding Way
- 1/25 Timothy Fredericks, Stephenson Street
- 1/26 Stella Morrison, Bowery Beach Road
- 1/26 Peter Meitzler, Shore Road

FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 25
EMS calls: 75

SUMMONSES

- 1/5 Portland resident, speeding (55/35 zone), Two Lights Road, \$170
- 1/9 Cape Elizabeth resident, OUI, Spurwink Avenue
- 1/9 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (45/30 zone), Mitchell Road, \$170
- 1/9 South Portland resident, speeding (47/30 zone), Mitchell Road, \$170
- 1/9 Cape Elizabeth resident, uninspected motor vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$148
- 1/9 Scarborough resident, speeding, (63/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$170
- 1/9 Auburn resident, uninspected motor vehicle, Bowery Beach Road, \$148
- 1/10 Cape Elizabeth resident, failure to produce insurance/uninspected motor vehicle, Bowery Beach Road, \$186/\$148
- 1/13 Portland resident, speeding (60/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$170
- 1/14 South Portland resident, speeding (70/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$278
- 1/16 Cape Elizabeth resident, failure to produce insurance or permit, Bowery Beach Road
- 1/17 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating after suspended license, Bowery Beach

Chess

Continued from page 1

16 players including many high school students and adults. Theo Reichl of Cape Elizabeth Middle School however upset all of them. Theo prevailed in a tough finale against Walker Vivian of Massabesic High School to produce a perfect score of 4.0 and take the section.

The U800 division featured 10 members from the Cape Elizabeth Chess Club in the field of 26. Lucas Haddad of Cape Elizabeth Middle School, playing in his first tournament, went a perfect 3-0 to start the tournament, and earned a ticket into the finals against Wyatt Seiders of Messalonskee High School. Lucas eventually fell in a well-fought match but earned a tie for 3rd place with Holton Kang of Pond Cove Elementary. Holton also went 3-1 on the day in another strong performance.

Students from Cape Elizabeth will use this experience as they train for the scholastic championships coming up in March.

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

Utility Scams

With temperatures dropping in many states, scammers are turning up the heat on their deceptive tactics. Each winter, criminals pose as utility company representatives, claiming a missed payment and threatening to shut off service unless payment is immediate.

If you get a surprise call from the "utility company" threatening to shut off your service, hang up the phone. The goal of these scammers is to create a sense of panic, making it harder to think logically and verify their claims. Their hope is that we stay in that state of panic long enough to complete a payment.

To verify the status of your utility payments, contact your provider using the customer service number on a recent bill (or log into their website or app if that's an option). Chances are you will find out your payments are up to date.

Concert Ticket Scams

Getting tickets to top concerts is tough – don't let scammers make it harder. With most concert venues switching to digital tickets only and concert demand through the roof, criminals are producing more counterfeit tickets than ever. Here are three tips to avoid buying a fake ticket:

1) Stick to known ticket sales sites or visit the National Association of Ticket Brokers (natb.org) to ensure that you are dealing with a verified reseller. Always type the web address of the site you want to visit into your browser rather than clicking on a link that could take you to a copycat site.

2) Beware of offers on social media and online marketplaces, where this scam thrives. These platforms are a hotspot for fraudulent ticket sales.

3) Never pay with a peer-to-peer payment app unless you are getting tickets from someone you know. You don't have the same consumer protections with these payment methods that you have with a credit card.

Don't Answer Calls from Unknown Numbers

Receiving a call from an unknown number may seem harmless, but it could be the start a scam. Criminals are using increasingly sophisticated tactics to deceive you into revealing personal information or making payments.

Here are three tips to protect yourself from unknown callers. 1) Let it ring. The easiest thing to do is not answer the call. If it is important, the caller will leave a message or call back again.

2) Let the caller speak first. E.g. The AARP Tax Aide program is now calling people using "unknown" (*67), but they always leave a message and do not use an auto dialer.

Most scammers use an auto dialer – an automated system that calls a bunch of random numbers at the same time and connects to a live person when someone answers the phone. That brief pause or delay before the caller speaks is a red flag that the call could be a scam.

3) Block suspicious calls. Check with your service provider to learn about options to block spam and scam calls.

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.

Fourth graders to become published authors through CEEF-Funded Telling Room partnership

By Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation

Pond Cove's fourth grade students will embark on a unique literary journey this spring through a partnership with The Telling Room, a Portland-based literary arts organization. Over ten weeks, professional writers and volunteers will guide students in crafting and editing original pieces that will be published in a collected book.

The initiative, funded through a Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF) grant secured by Pond Cove's fourth grade teaching team, aims to strengthen students' writing skills while building their confidence as authors.

Each of the five fourth grade classrooms will participate in weekly sessions where students will work one-on-

one with writing mentors.

The Telling Room, known for empowering young writers ages 6-18, creates an environment where students discover their authentic voice and learn to view themselves as writers.

By providing students with a real audience for their work through publication, the program helps them understand the impact their words can have on the world around them.

This CEEF-funded residency represents a significant investment in students' creative development and literacy skills, with the final published book serving as both a milestone of achievement and a lasting testament to their creativity.



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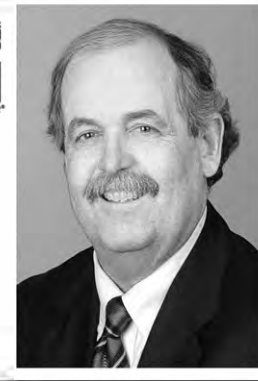


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Town Council

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Town Council budget workshops will begin on March 17 and 18, and April 28 and 29. The workshops are open to the public and include public budget review sessions.

Citizen Comment Items Not on the Agenda

Larry Benoit followed up on the Town Council and School Board Workshop from earlier in January. Benoit shared that “a three-school solution that equitably addresses the priority needs of the elementary, middle, and high schools is the best path forward for our community.” He urged the Council not to agree to a referendum vote before the November general election.

Town Manager’s Monthly Report

Town Manager Patrick Fox wished everyone a happy new year and said that January is a “great time for reflection as well as committing to progress in the coming year through collaboration.”

Fox shared the status of several projects including that RJ Grondin has been contracted for the Fort Williams Pond Reclamation project. This project is currently in the permitting stage and will begin construction within the month. Fox said that the bell at Fort Williams Headlight will be removed, repaired and then returned and installed. And the proposed work for the basketball court adjacent to the library parking lot will go before the Planning Board in February for the site plan amendment process.

Additionally, Encore Renewables will begin construction on the landfill solar project in the spring, no later than a start date of May 31, 2025. The Town Center Intersection Project is officially out to bid with all bids due by February 26. And lastly, starting in February Cape Elizabeth Community Services will have the ability to process passport applications for community members.

Item #25-2025 Consider 2025 Uses for Fort Williams Park

The Town Council unanimously approved the recommendation from the Fort Williams Park Committee for the 2025 uses for Fort Williams Park. These include Cape Elizabeth Little League, a Cystic Fibrosis awareness walk, Cape Elizabeth High School graduation ceremony, road races for Beach to Beacon and the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, and a Family Fun Day with a fireworks show.

Item #26-2025 Consider Proposed Fee Increases for the Riverside Memorial Cemetery

The Riverside Cemetery Committee previously met with Debra Lane and other town staff to put forth a recommendation to increase fees and lot purchases to be enforced immediately. The Town Council voted to approve this recommendation unanimously.

Item #27-2025 Consider Scheduling a Public Hearing - Town Center Amendments

The Town Council scheduled a public hearing for Monday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Cape Elizabeth Town Hall located at 320 Ocean House Road relating to the Ordinance Committee’s recommendations for amendments.

Tom Dunham of Becky’s Cove Lane shared that he was “aware of expanding multi-family housing or apartments beyond what LD2003 mandates” and that it’s “really important to have exhibits showing what visually these changes would mean to our neighborhoods.” Dunham continued that if LD2003 were to be expanded, it would not be “the town I moved into 40 years ago and it’s going to change the town significantly and I’m very concerned about it.”

Chair Jordan shared that she wants to “create clarity around the project before it goes to public hearing to diffuse any opportunity for a narrative that might not really be in line with what the intent” of these ordinances are.

Councilor Sahrbeck clarified that the scheduled public hearing for town center amendments “doesn’t have anything to do with LD2003.” Sahrbeck added that five properties at a maximum would be affected by the proposed amendments if approved.

Chair Jordan added, “In order to have a vibrant town center, we need to have people, and people live in apartments and houses. If we want businesses in this town center, we need people.” She added that these proposed amendments to the town center align with the Town’s Comprehensive Plan.

The Council voted unanimously to approve the scheduled public hearing.

Item #28-2025 Acknowledge Receipt of the Property Tax Assistance Program Annual Report

The Town Council voted unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the report relating to the 2024 property tax assistance program. Councilor Thompson shared that he has “not had any single item that’s come before [the Town Council] that I’ve gotten more positive feedback on than this particular one.” Thompson continued that he thinks Cape Elizabeth has shown a lot of leadership among Maine municipalities with this program and “what we’ve been able to do for our citizens.”

Town Manager Fox thanked Clint Swett for putting the report together and for administering the program which has grown considerably in one year, and that he looks forward to carrying it out next year.

News from the Superintendent

By Dr. Chris Record

I hope your winter is going well so far. It is hard to believe we have already reached mid-February. I am starting this update with a few highlights from our schools and from our Nutrition Services department. I then share a quick review of the 2025-26 school budget development process and provide an update on the Three School Phased Plan to address our multiple and serious school facility needs.

Pond Cove Elementary School recently hosted its inaugural Kindergarten Showcase, featuring the new K for ME curriculum. During the event, all kindergarten students acted as “student experts,” sharing their knowledge on various topics, including salmon, wolves, frogs and owls. These presentations highlighted their learning from Unit 2: Animals and Habitats. The students created detailed dioramas of animal habitats using materials like clay, Legos, paint, and more, and shared insights into the life cycles, habitats, and fascinating facts about each animal.

First grade students had the exciting opportunity to explore the Northern Stars Planetarium, a portable, inflatable planetarium. Led by local astronomer John Meader, the interactive session introduced students to the features of the night sky, took them on a tour of the solar system, and taught them how to identify comets, asteroids, and constellations.

Meanwhile, the fourth grade students are engaging in a residency with The Telling Room, a local nonprofit dedicated to empowering youth through writing. The organization works to build confidence, enhance literacy skills, and provide real audiences for student work. As part of this residency, students are collaborating with professional writers and artists on an intensive writing curriculum. They will have the chance to work closely with writing mentors and will see their original pieces published and celebrated at a special school event.

I am excited to share that CEMS has received an Advocacy in Action award from Music for All, which is one of the largest music education organizations in the U.S. The CEMS band program encompasses 230 students in grades 5-8 with four concert bands and two directors. Given the challenges of large group instruction and limited instructional time, our goal is to remove

many of the barriers that impact the success, engagement and retention of our newest band members.

The Markings & Mini-Lessons initiative focuses on three areas: Front-loading instruction before using instruments, using instrument specific markings to provide students with visual reminders for assembly/hand positions, and a mini-lesson event where students and parents receive one-on-one instruction to learn instrument assembly, hand position, embouchure, and sound production. It’s amazing to see CEMS recognized nationally.

At CEHS, our students continue to excel in a variety of state and local competitions and music festivals. A small--compact--squad of sixteen CEHS students finished in the top three in team sweepstakes for Speech, Debate, and Congress, with Congress earning 1st place. The tournament was held at Skowhegan Area High School and included fourteen teams from around the state.

Individual first place honors went to Story Straw (Congress); Matilda Gustafson (Original Works); Noemi Marquart-Grainer and Madeleine Turgelsky (Duo Interpretation).

Additionally, Cape Robotics hosted its annual winter competition at CEMS on Saturday January 18, hosting 39 teams from around the state, including nine of our own. Our Cape teams performed exceptionally well, with duo 56S (Jonah Chang, Hudson Charlebois, Noah Scott, Finnegan Zwintscher) and 56F (Ayden Diamond, Erik Frey, Brendan Oakley) besting 56R (Ezra Gabrielson, Alex Kang, Wren Venter) and their partner from Fryeburg Academy, in a tournament final nailbiter. 56S also won the Excellence Award and Robot Skills Champion Award, 56R the Create Award, and 56F the Design Award. High School teams 56H (Luc Dallaire, Aman Khare, Nick Snow), 56M (Massie Aouragh, Sam Greenfield, Finnegan Ketcham), and 56T (Sam Hebda, Alex Reeves, Emmett Wood) each turned in their best performance of the season. Our middle school teams likewise performed exceptionally well.

Students from across Southern Maine recently gathered for the District I Honors Music Festival at Noble High School. Stu-

-see SUPERINTENDENT page 9

Winter is the time to...

- Assess and prune ornamental trees and shrubs
- Rejuvenate overgrown hedges and fruit trees
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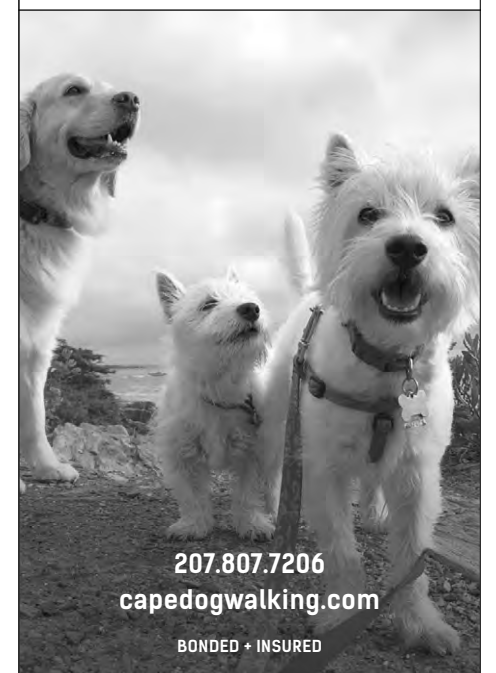
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Cape Voters: Do NOT be Disenfranchised by a June Referendum

In the previous Courier, Cape Neighbors exposed the brazen push to schedule yet another (third) vote on the school building bond, **this time in JUNE**.

For many years, it has been acknowledge that **scheduling a vote for June effectively disenfranchises Cape's voters**:

"I tend to lean toward a... a November time frame, for a couple of different reasons – and one of them, of course, is turnout." **Councilor Penny Jordan, Dec 1, 2021**

"If we're really going to get the biggest, you know, take on what the town really thinks, you need to do this in November." **Councilor Caitlin Harriman-Jordan, Dec 13, 2021**

Both of these statements were made as the Council debated the timing of the referendum vote on the controversial Town Center zoning amendments - a vote prompted by a successful citizen-led petition effort to require a town-wide vote. That vote, and both unsuccessful school bond referenda, were each held in November.

So, why the sudden push today for a June school bond vote? Is this blatantly manipulative and divisive strategy truly the way to pass what would represent the largest locally-funded school bond in Maine's history?

Several Other Questions Remain Unanswered by the CESD

1) Once one of the top three school districts in Maine, the Cape Elizabeth School Department's (CESD's) performance vs other Maine districts has slipped dramatically under the oversight of the current administration. Has the unending focus (and millions spent) on the battle for costly new buildings contributed to the decline? Can the CESD learn from other districts like Cumberland/North Yarmouth, where Greely remains Maine's top performing high school, despite its 29 portable classrooms?

2) CESD's K12 enrollment continues to decline precipitously, down over 20% from its peak just 20 years ago. Cape's Middle School's enrollment has declined even further, **down over 25%** in that same time period. CEHS graduated 148 seniors in 2024, and Pond Cove has only 105 kindergartners enrolled this year. Forecasts shared by the CESD show that **the decline is set to continue.** Why are these data so hastily dismissed, ignored, and often replaced by demonstrably false claims of enrollment growth?

3) During the past election, a critical enrollment projection report was released by the CESD. The numbers in that report (completed by The New England School Development Council, or NESDEC), show that **the so-called "Middle Ground" proposal had been designed (and marketed) under a false premise of projected enrollment growth.** Per several members of Cape's School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC), the CESD appears to have delayed the production of the report by withholding (from NESDEC) data that was needed to complete it. **Did the CESD drag its feet in reporting its fall enrollment figures to NESDEC?** Did a majority (thousands) of Cape's voters in-fact vote (early/absentee) under this false pretense of future growth? Did the CESD have a legal and/or ethical obligation to correct the record in a timely manner?

4) How much did Cape's property taxpayers pay for the CESD's last one-sided advertising campaign? How much should Cape's property taxpayers expect to pay for the next campaign? Is it legal/ethical for the CESD to be using Cape's property tax money to fund one-sided political campaigns in the first place?

A "Squirrely" Double-Whammy That Will Change Cape Forever: Two Extreme Sets of Unrequired Zoning Ordinance Changes

1) So-Called LD 2003 Supplemental (NOT REQUIRED) Amendments

When the new chair of Cape's Planning Board describes a provision in the changes as "squirrely," you best be paying attention. That's exactly what happened at the January 21 Planning Board meeting when the Board's Chair, sitting directly next to Cape's Town Planner said, **"This feels a little squirrely to me."**

That unsettling comment was in reference to a provision that would **allow for a 1600 sf (this in NOT a typo) "Accessory Dwelling Unit" (ADU)** to be built as an "accessory" to a single-family home - and then be **sold to a separate owner.** When the provision was exposed, the meeting quickly became uncomfortable, as Cape's Town Attorney and Town Planner scrambled to explain their reasoning. A primary justification shared was... People are "just going to do it anyway." Really. So the provision remains.

But the "squirrely" doesn't end there. Not only are they **not required**, their proposed changes also:

- Eliminate minimum lot size requirements so **developers can replace single family homes, in residential neighborhoods, with up to four unit apartment buildings.**
- Remove site plan review requirements for those same apartment units, so **abutting neighbors will have no notice - and no say.**
- Make the radical ADU allowances despite the fact that Cape can no longer (by state law) require off-street parking for ADUs.
- Fail to require notice to be mailed to Cape's **hundreds of impacted property owners - and their (over a thousand) abutters.**

Further, what are the conflicts of interest? Do any town leaders stand to (tremendously) benefit financially from these changes? Have such conflicts been disclosed?

2) Town Center Ordinance Changes: Overturned by Cape's Voters, Council Leadership Embraces A More Radical Version

In November of 2022, Cape's voters rejected the Council's controversial set of Town Center ordinance changes that were set to make way for large apartment developments in Cape's Town Center. Those changes are back on the table and, consistent with this new Council, are more radical than before.

How did we get here? This past summer, a developer proposed a new 55+ project for the lots behind the town green. While significantly more modest than the previous "Dunham Court" proposal, it too violates some of Cape's zoning ordinances. The prior Council proposed to use "conditional zoning," to move the specific project forward without impacting the entirety of Town Center. This is the exact type of zoning that made way for "Piper Shores" in Scarborough. But the Planning Department, and current Council leadership, have chosen to use the new proposal to resurrect the controversial Town Center zoning amendments that apply across Town Center. And as with their other plans, these too are more extreme than ever.

The concerns that applied to the rejected Town Center ordinance changes remain. But this time, they allow the 1934 High School building to be used as taxpayer subsidized housing, too. Developers would be permitted to build an apartment complex on CESD's campus, adjacent to our playgrounds. What are they thinking?

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.

Thomas Memorial Library offers winter reading challenge, CEHPS program about the Aucocisco people



Contributed photo

An 18th century watercolor of an Abenaki couple by unknown artist. Join the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society on February 11 as David Farnham, president of the Falmouth Historical Society will share what they have learned about the Native People who farmed, fished, hunted, and thrived by Casco Bay before the arrival of English settlers around 1630.

Holiday Closure
The library will be closed on Monday, February 17 for Presidents' Day.

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!

dren and Teens), January 13- March 15
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.

No-Sew Rag Doll Workshop
February 8, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Join local author Karen Richards

Winter Reading Challenge (for Chil-

-see LIBRARY page 8



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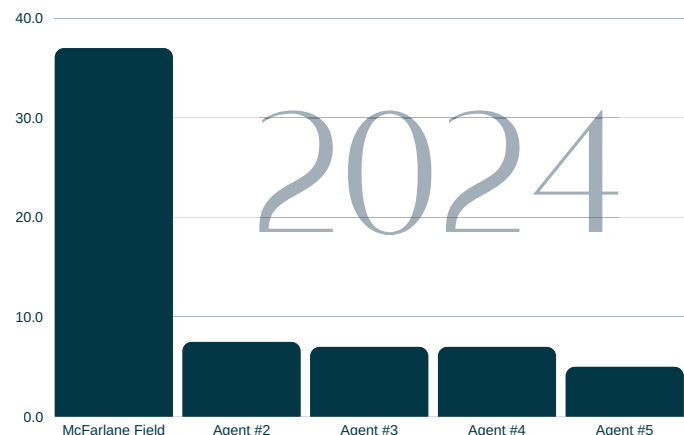
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*Based on information from Maine Real Estate Information System Inc. (d/b/a Maine Listings) for the period 1/1/24 - 12/31/24 © 2024 Maine Listings.

Library

Continued from page 7

Toothaker for a special story time and craft. In the children's book "The Rag Doll Gift," Kimberly receives a Rag Doll homemade with love from Gran. Come hear the story and make your very own rag doll. All materials are supplied, however, if you have some "rags" with special meaning, bring them to use for your doll. Pam Leo, with the Book Fairy Pantry Project, will also be present to give away a free book to all attendees. For ages 3-8 and their caregivers. Registration required, please sign up on our website.

Saturday Matinee

Saturday, February 15, 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a very special screening of a fantastic Disney film about a princess who loves to cook and her hoppy amphibian prince. 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.

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 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.

CEHPS Presents: The Aucocisco Peo-

ple, with David Farnham

Tuesday, February 11, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Join the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society as David Farnham, president of the Falmouth Historical Society will share what they have learned about the Native People who farmed, fished, hunted, and thrived by Casco Bay before the arrival of English settlers around 1630. Recent research has shown much of what they had been told about the original inhabitants was wrong.

In describing his presentation, David says to expect the first slide to be a disclaimer that he is a "white dude" whose ancestors included English settlers (invaders according to David) of Maine. David has been president of the FHS since 2017 and has served on the board since 2015. He enjoys researching family and property histories. "Living in Falmouth," he says, "means you can't kick over a stone without finding a story beneath it."

The presentation is free and part of the monthly program provided by the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society in partnership with the Thomas Memorial Library. The presentation will be held in the library's Community Room. Light refreshments will be provided.

Valentine Treats with Kaite Thayer

Thursday, February 13, 6:30 - 8pm

Come learn how to fill and decorate chocolate covered strawberry macarons! In this class with Kaite Thayer she will teach you how to create the perfect smooth ganache and dipping techniques to wow your friends and family. Then practice what you learn by assembling macarons that you get to take home (or eat)! Please register on the library's website.

A Seal's Journey with Jessica Woodend from Marine Mammals of Maine

Thursday, February 20, 6:30 - 8pm

Join Marine Mammals of Maine (MMoME) as they take you through a seal's journey from stranding to release, and all of the obstacles in between. Starting with seal basics such as: whether it's normal for them to be out of the water and why you might see a baby on its own, and then dive into when and why seals need our help. You will learn what MMoME is, what they do, the animals they care for (with special stories from Cape Elizabeth), and how you can help.

CEMS celebrates return of Scripps School Spelling Bee



Contributed photo

Sixth grader Addie Rosato (left) earned the title of Spelling Bee Champion and 8th grader TJ Rondeau was named Spelling Bee Runner Up at the recent Scripps School Spelling Bee at Cape Elizabeth Middle School.

The Cape Elizabeth Middle School community celebrated the return of the Scripps School Spelling Bee on the evening of Wednesday, January 8. The Spelling Bee is an honored tradition at the middle school that was paused during remote and hybrid school years. During this school year the CEMS Library & Learning commons has hosted monthly spelling bees for students leading up to the school wide event. A total of 15 students from grades 5-8 competed in

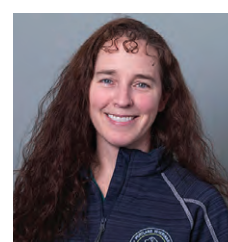
the School Spelling Bee with Glenn Jordan, retired Portland Press Herald writer, serving as pronouncer, and staff Amanda Kozaka, Megan Brady and Kathryn Toppas as judges.

After 17 rounds of play 6th grader Addie Rosato earned the title of Spelling Bee Champion and 8th grader TJ Rondeau was named Spelling Bee Runner Up. Both Addie and TJ will represent our school in the Cumberland County Spelling Bee at Gorham Middle School on February 3. Congratulations to Addie and TJ, and thank you to all 15 participants.

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Superintendent

Continued from page 5

dents were selected from an audition and recommendation process. Each ensemble spent the better part of two days working with outstanding conductors from around New England. Cape Elizabeth was represented in the Mixed Choir, Auditioned Concert Band and the Recommendation Concert Band.

The School Nutrition Department currently has all staff "ServSafe Certified." Salad bars are in operation for all three schools, and the team has been able to provide scratch cooking for menus. There have been 21,192 breakfast meals, and 60,254 lunch meals served as of 12/20/2024. Thank you to our School Nutrition staff for all of their hard work.

The School Board has begun deliberations on the 25-26 School Budget and has several workshops scheduled for February and March to finalize the budget for Town Council and voter consideration in June. The School Budget consists of an expenditure side and a revenue side. On the expenditure side there are still significant unknowns due to the current negotiation of three labor contracts and the as of yet unknown percentage increase to health insurance for the upcoming year. On the revenue side we are still waiting for the finalized amount of state funding that Cape will receive.

As we finalize the budget, we are keeping in mind the following School Board budget goals:

- Meets the academic, social-emotional, and health needs of all students.
- Supports recruitment and retention of high-quality personnel.
- Supports appropriate and on-going building maintenance and repair.
- Supports the advancement of instructional skills of our staff.
- Reflects a careful consideration of the effectiveness and efficiency of each line item and position.
- Strives for clear, transparent, and regular

communication with the public throughout the budget process.

The School Board is continuing to develop a Three School Phased Solution to address our significant school facility needs. You may ask, What is the phased plan?

A new Middle School will last approximately 60+ years.

We will replace sections of Pond Cove Elementary School and address more significant renovations at the high school over the coming decades.

Ongoing repairs and minor renovations at the high school and Pond Cove will be achieved with only an inflationary increase to the existing CIP/Maintenance/Repair budget. The good news is by building a new Middle School, most of the existing CIP/Maintenance/Repair budget lines can be immediately focused on the High School and Pond Cove.

There are multiple reasons Why a New Middle School is part of this short and long-term plan:

1. Takes a comprehensive approach to safety & security
2. Resets the clock on 1 of 3 schools
3. Flexible 21st century learning spaces
4. Allows us to construct appropriate spaces to serve special education programming & music programming
5. Addresses sprawling layout
6. Zero disruption to learning (students will not be moved to portables or bussed out of cape)
7. Saves \$3m that would be required for temporary learning space if renovated instead
8. Brings mechanical systems indoors, extending the life
9. Reduces the risks encountered with renovation
10. Increases safe community access to town facilities

There are multiple reasons Why a Pond Cove Addition is part of this short and

long-term plan:

1. Secure & integrated main office & updated nurse space
2. Replacement of aging mechanical systems
3. Repairs can be addressed within our current annual CIP & Maintenance Budget
4. Plan for phased replacement of older school sections over time

Finally, the School Board recently authorized me to seek private fundraising donations towards the middle school building project in order to offset the total borrowing cost for Cape taxpayers and/or to support specific aspects of the project. Please reach out to me at crecord@capeelizabetschools.org if you are interested in learning more about donating to this important project.

DEI Committee to hosts second Annual Inclusion Skate

Join the town of Cape Elizabeth's DEI Committee for a free outdoor inclusive skating event catering to diverse needs, with wheelchair access and some adaptive equipment. We'll also have a warming tent, quiet coloring and a hot chocolate treat.

No registration is necessary for this event, which will take place at the Cape Arena on Saturday, February 8 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

For more information, please email Rachel Davis, the DEI Committee's staff representative, at rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us.

Dean's list announcements

Curtis Sullivan, son of Dan and Joanne Sullivan, and a 2023 Cape Elizabeth High School Graduate was named to the deans list at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina for the 2024 fall semester.

The following students were named to the dean's list at Bates College in Lewiston for the fall 2024 semester:

- Evelyn Agrodnia**
- Jack Hagan**
- Cayden Royal**

Samuel Fisher was named to the fall 2024 dean's list at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, New Hampshire.


Kate Wilber was named to the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester at Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts.


Nate Mullen was named to the fall 2024 dean's list at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island.

Thomas Carignan was named to the fall 2024 dean's list at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts.

The following students were named to the dean's list for the 2024 fall semester at the University of New England:

- Lila Gaudrault**
- Ann Guimond**
- Jack McKibben**
- Andrew Miller**


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*2024 Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For®, published April 2024, research by Great Place to Work®, data as of August 2023. Compensation provided for using, not obtaining, the rating. From Fortune. ©2024 Fortune Media IP Limited All rights reserved. Used under license.

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Return of the Comfort Food Challenge



Contributed photo

Cape Robotics teams at the recent Cape Elizabeth V5RC High Stakes Qualifier.

Please join us for the return of the "Comfort Food Challenge" to benefit the Cape Robotics program!

Originally designed as a fundraiser to send qualifying teams to Worlds, the CFC was so much fun that it has been reimagined as an annual fundraiser for Cape Robotics as a whole. The robotics program continues to grow with 70 students participating at the middle and high school levels, and several teams already qualifying for states.

Join family, friends and local celeb-

rity judges for a fun and lively culinary evening on Sunday, March 9 at the Cape Elizabeth Lions Club, 1 Wheeler Road.

Dinner will be served from 5-8 p.m. with the winner announced at the end. \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids under 12 to sample all of the comfort foods we have to offer. Drinks and dessert will also be available for purchase.

With so many delicious dishes, which one will you vote for?



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Wonderful Winter Events by the sea

Wine & Brine Wednesdays - 4pm- 8pm (Offerings change weekly)

Maine Oysters for \$2 each with featured wines for \$10-\$12 & \$12 handcrafted Martinis.

Wagyu Smash Burger Thursdays - 5pm- 8pm

Special Burgers (known for rich marbling), served on a brioche bun w/ fixings & onion rings for \$20.

Fire & Ice! Every Thursday through Sunday through March 2

Two-Hours for Four at our Sea Glass Deck Fire Tables with Heated Huga Seats & Blankets Complimentary Bottle of Moët Ice • Farmer's Board \$200+ per group* • Upgrades Available

*Credit card required to secure reservation. 72-hour cancellation required. Reservations are weather permitted & determined by Sea Glass management.

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 Salad Chilled Maine Lobster
Roasted Carrot Tortelloni Filet Mignon Chocolate Cake

Feb. 20, 21 & Feb. 22 - 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. \$25 entry donation - 100% donated to Full Plates Full Potential. Enjoy a complimentary glass of bubbles as a thank you for your donation!



40 Bowery Beach Road | Cape Elizabeth, ME

Cape career coach

By Holly Smevog

Holly Smevog is a certified career coach, founder of HMS Career Coaching and a Cape Elizabeth resident. Holly and her team help individuals navigate career transitions with confidence. Send any career questions to editor@capecourier.com and they will be answered anonymously here!

Dear CC,

I have been at the same company for over 20 years. In the last couple of years they were sold and have gone through a lot of reorgs. I am on my 5th boss in 18 months. I've never had trouble with a manager, but this time it's not a great fit...I think I might need to look for a new job but I don't know where to start. Do you have any advice?

Best,
Dedicated Employee

Dear Dedicated Employee,

I completely understand how unsettling this situation must feel. After dedicating over 20 years to your company, working hard, navigating rapid changes, and now finding yourself with a boss who isn't a great fit, it's normal to feel off balance. It might be hard to see this, but this could be an opportunity to reflect, recalibrate, and start a new, and better, career chapter.

First, take some time to assess the situation and find the real source(s) of the issue. Is the discomfort just due to your new boss, or do you feel the company's culture and direction no longer align with your values? Over two decades, it's natural for your priorities to shift. Reflect on what truly matters to you now. Are you still inspired by your role, or are you ready for a change? If the problem feels tied to your manager but not the broader organization, consider whether an internal transfer to a different team, if possible, might offer the fresh start you need.

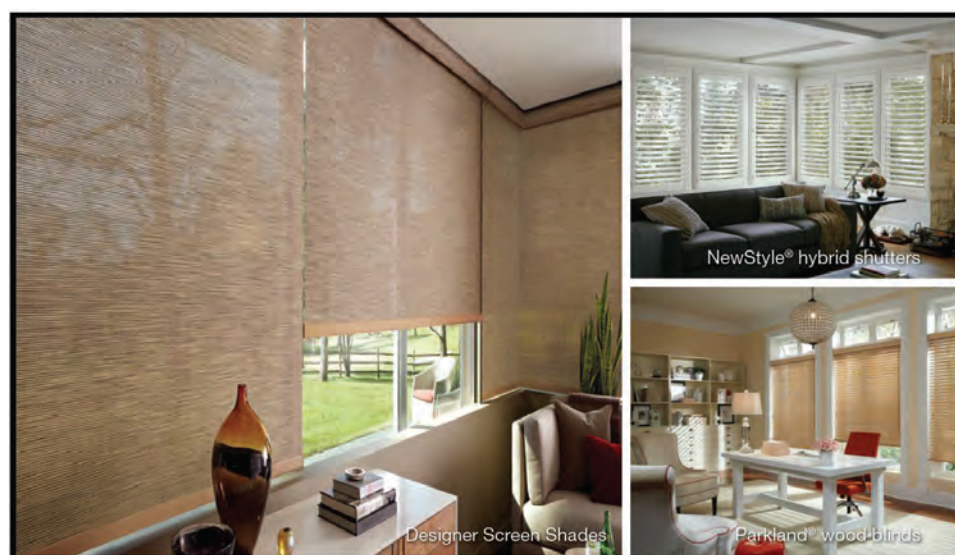
If you haven't already, it may be worth

opening the door for an honest conversation with your boss. Share your concerns calmly and constructively, focusing on solutions rather than problems. For instance, you might say, "I'd like to make sure we're aligned on expectations and communication styles and I feel like we might be able to explore ways to work more effectively together." Sometimes a direct conversation can uncover misunderstandings or set a more collaborative tone moving forward. If the situation doesn't improve, keep a record of any problematic interactions, as this documentation could be helpful if you decide to escalate your concerns or transition to a new role.

If, after thoughtful consideration, you decide it's time to explore new opportunities, start by articulating your professional value and deciding what's a good fit for you next. Get some feedback and do some research to make sure your self assessment is correct. Next, update your resume and LinkedIn profile. Highlight your impressive tenure, adaptability and accomplishments. Employers value the depth of experience that comes with such loyalty. Start researching companies that match your values and career goals. Pay attention to their culture, employee reviews, and mission. Energize your network—reach out to former colleagues and industry peers to let them know you're exploring new possibilities. Even personal connections often lead to valuable insights or leads.

Remember, you're not alone in feeling uncertain during such transitions. Change is stressful, but it also brings the chance to rediscover what truly fulfills you. Take your time, trust your instincts and prioritize your well-being. You've built an incredible foundation—now it's about shaping the next chapter. You deserve to look forward to going to work every day!

Warm regards,
Career Coach



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Then and Now: The Cape Courier - A research tool in Germany?

By Jim Rowe



Photo submitted by Frank Jung, Koenigswinter, Germany

A 1917 Locomobile-model-48.

I received an email recently from a gentleman named Frank Jung, who lives in Koenigswinter, in the Rhine River valley of Germany. Mr. Jung is a mechanical engineer by trade. He is also a lifelong antique automobile aficionado. He owns a beautiful 1917 Locomobile-model-48 (pictured above). The Locomobile-48 was a luxury touring car that was manufactured in Bridgeport, Connecticut during the WWI era. The company remained in business for only a few years. Surviving Locomobiles today are considered quite rare and valuable. In researching the provenance of his car, Mr. Jung came to a roadblock somewhere around 1959. He had found a few online newspaper references to 1917 Locomobile-48s, including a 1947 "for sale" ad. According to the ad, that particular car was being sold by a Ralph Gould, 31 Forest Road, Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

Well this of course triggered Mr. Jung's Google search for Ralph Gould. Among the links that popped up was to a submission I had made to the Cape Courier a few months ago. My article was about "our" Ralph Gould and his amazing musical instrument collection, now a treasured exhibit at the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society. In my article, I had mentioned Mr. Gould's home address, and so the connection to Mr. Jung's newspaper ad was made. Could Mr. Jung's car have once been owned by Ralph Gould? Mr. Jung acquired my contact information, and an impressive email thread was born.

I offered to try and help him in his quest. Understandably, Ralph Gould's descendants had no information on the car. But I found a 1947 Portland Press Herald newspaper article which featured Mr. Gould and his Locomobile. The article included photos. The photos were of such poor quality, however, that Mr. Jung was unable to confirm that the car shown was the one he now owns. Then I found another article with a photo- also poor quality, but which showed enough of the car's details that Mr. Jung could definitively say that his Locomobile was not the car that Mr. Gould owned.

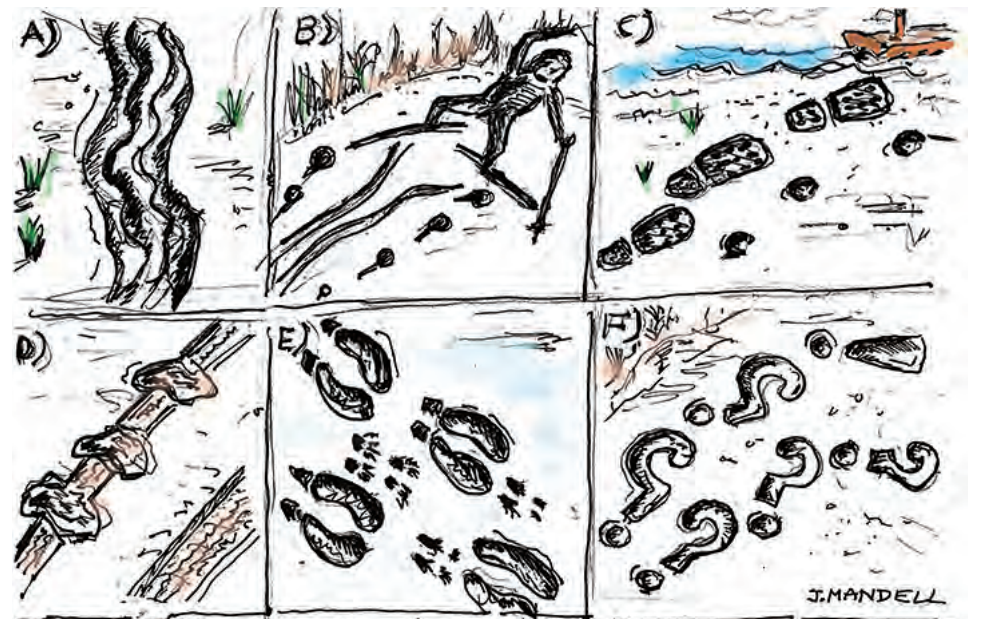
As any scientist will tell you, experiments that disprove theories can be as valuable as those that validate them. So while the outcome of this search was perhaps disappointing, it was an exhilarating exercise in research- on both sides of the Atlantic- that never would have been made without the key link provided by our Cape Courier!

I did learn several things about Ralph T. Gould that I did not previously know. I learned that Mr. Gould's Locomobile was blue with yellow wheel spokes, and was originally owned by a Searsport sea captain.

And I made a new friend in Germany. So my time was not wasted!

Capetoon: Tracks in the snow

By Jeff Mandell



Match the tracks to:
Pirate, Moose and squirrel, Novice Skier
Porcupine, F150 with flat tire, AI

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Celebrate 40 Years with the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust

In the fall of 1985, a group of Cape Elizabeth residents serving on the Town's Conservation Commission (as it was named at that time) formed a non-profit organization to protect natural, scenic and historic open space in the public interest. Since then, it has been the mission of CELT to connect people with the magnificent properties we have been privileged to conserve.

Said Carol Fritz, one of CELT's founders, "There was a lot of pressure from development in Cape Elizabeth, and we didn't really have adequate ordinances in place. So, we were all looking around for some solutions and there was this land trust option, and we just decided we would go for it." Thanks to that vision and dedication to conservation, CELT was born.

That was 40 years ago! CELT has steadily grown from its first operating budget of \$997 and an all-volunteer operation to a staff of 5 full time employees, 31 board and advisory council members, hundreds of volunteers, and the permanent conservation of 865 acres on 35 parcels of land. CELT's local efforts have permanently preserved many of the iconic beaches, forests, farmlands, marshes, and trails that will continue to be treasured by local residents and visitors for generations to come.

At its heart, CELT is a community organization, continuing to serve the public interest, to engage Cape Elizabeth residents and visitors in conserving and caring for the land, and offering programs in schools in Cape and beyond to inspire the next generation of land

stewards.

And so, throughout 2025 we will be celebrating our 40th Anniversary with YOU! We'll be bringing you a series of events where you can get involved, learn about the environment in your own backyard and celebrate your community.

Watch for our launch party kick-off and visit www.capelandtrust.org for more information.



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.

CELT winter programs

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.capelandtrust.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 sub-

ject 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

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.



Finding meaningful work that's flexible and close to home

Direct Support workers help Mainers stay connected to their communities

From her earliest memories, Kathleen's mother, Alice, has been independent. Having raised four children largely on her own, Alice worked until she was 85 and is a fixture in their island community.

But as Alice aged, her vision began to deteriorate. She wanted to continue living independently in the home and community she loved, but she and her kids knew that she needed a helping hand to remain safe and happy.

For the family, that helping hand came from Jim, a Direct Support worker, who lives nearby, and now visits Alice for a few hours, several days a week. He supports her with a variety of household tasks, including shopping and preparing meals. Often, the most valuable support is the conversation and camaraderie he provides.

"Jim is my godsend," Alice said. "I look forward to him every single week."

Jim is part of the growing field of Direct Support, ensuring that Mainers with age-related, physical, behavioral, intellectual and cognitive health needs have the support they need to stay safe, independent and empowered to achieve their personal goals.

For Jim, this is the ideal encore career. At 65, he retired from his full-time job; but after two years, he began to feel restless.

"If you have too much time you can overthink things and feel like you're missing out on something," he said. "But when you're helping somebody, it feels like you're in exactly the right spot. And that's such a good feeling."

For Dakota, 24, the steady presence of a Personal Support Specialist, Sonya, has made all the difference in the world. Dakota, who lives with intellectual and developmental disabilities, says that Sonya's support has allowed him to gain the independence and a sense of connection to the community that he didn't have before. In addition to assisting with activities of daily living, her support allows him to go to the movies, go to bookstores and do many other activities he loves.

"It makes me feel so happy to be a part of society," he said. "With her support, I really feel like I've been able to flourish."

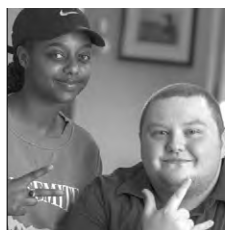
To learn more about full-time, part-time and per-diem opportunities in your community, go to Mainecareerswithpurpose.org.

Follow @MaineCareerswithPurpose on Facebook and Instagram.



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"It makes me feel so happy to be a part of society,"



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Nature scene around town



Photo by Martha Agan

A Bluejay in Martha Agan's yard perched on branches freshly coated in snow.



Photo by Martha Agan

Horseback riders along Charles E Jordan Road.



Photo by Martha Agan

Martha Agan snapped a photo of this Bluebird in her yard after a round of fresh snow.

February naturalist's corner

By Erika Rhile



Photo by Chris Burleson

A barred owl visiting Erika Rhile's neighbor's farm this winter.

February 2, Groundhog's Day: Punxtawny Phil has been predicting the weather since 1887 (according to his keepers, he is sustained by an elixir of life called Groundhog Punch), but statistically he's only been right 39% of the time. February 2 is also the halfway point between the Winter Solstice and Vernal Equinox; you've made it through the darkest days of winter! So will it be six more weeks of winter or six weeks until spring? We leave it to a woodchuck.

February 12, 8:53 a.m., Full Snow Moon: This moon has also been known by some tribes as the Hunger Moon, since the harsh weather made hunting difficult.

A planetary alignment is a visual phenomenon when the planets appear close together in a small sky sector, as seen from the Earth. If you missed the "parade of planets" in January, there will be another planetary alignment around February 25. In the evening just after sunset, seven planets — Saturn, Mercury, Neptune, Venus, Uranus, Jupiter, and Mars — will align in the sky. Four of them (Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Mars) will be easily visible to the naked eye. For Uranus and Neptune, get a pair of binoculars or a small telescope. Saturn will be the

most difficult target to see — you'll need to know the exact time for your exact location as the planet hangs close to the sun. There are great free apps to load on your phone to help you locate and identify celestial objects.

Love is owl you need? Barred owls are in the midst of courtship, and are most vocal this time of year. Males usually roost and call, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" in the vicinity of the nest. Females respond in kind or the pair may caterwaul. This duet has been described as "a chaotic, non-stop barrage of every sound...including cackles, barks, hoots, cat-like wails, whoops, deep-wind up murmurs that rise to extra emphatic HOO-ahhs, and raven-like gurgles at the same time." Sounds very attractive! Barred owls are monogamous and typically mate for life, often returning to the same nest and territory for multiple years.

Got a story to share? Email us!



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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, February 5

School Board Executive Session - NEGOTIATIONS, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 3 p.m.
School Board Policy Committee, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

Thursday, February 6

TML Strategic Plan Working Group, Thomas Memorial Library, 6:30 pm
Recycling Committee, Public Works Department, 7 p.m.

Monday, February 10

School Board Executive Session - NEGOTIATIONS, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 3:45 p.m.
Town Council, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11

School Board Public Forum, Town Hall, 6 p.m.
Conservation Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 12

School Board Executive Session - NEGOTIATIONS, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 3:45 p.m.
Community Services Committee, Community Center, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 13

Privacy Advisory Committee - Ad Hoc,

Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 6 pm

Tuesday, February 18

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7 pm

Sunday, March 9

Robotics Comfort Food Challenge, Cape Elizabeth Lions Club, 1 Wheeler Road, 5 - 8 p.m.

Ongoing each week

Al-Anon, 7 p.m. Fridays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland. Parking in rear.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 2 p.m. Saturdays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland; 7 p.m. Wednesdays, St. Bartholomew Church; 7 p.m. Fridays, St. Alban's Church.

Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society, 9 a.m.-noon Mondays and Thursdays; and 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays - when "Open" sign displayed, Fort Williams, in the brick building closest to Shore Road (ring the doorbell).

Cape Elizabeth Lions Club, 6:39 p.m., first and third Tuesdays at the Bowery Beach Schoolhouse (except July and August), Two Lights Road

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

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

SERVICES

Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene

499 Ocean House Road (Route 77)
747-1113

www.capenazarene.org

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:45 a.m.
Services streamed live or on demand: watch.capenazarene.org

Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church

280 Ocean House Road
799-8396

www.ceumc.org

Sanctuary Service: 10 a.m.
In-person Sunday services 10 a.m. For Zoom services, call 799-8396

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

29 Ocean House Road
799-4321

Sacrament Meeting:

Sunday, 10 - 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School/Primary: 11:10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Church of the Second Chance

Greater Portland Christian School
1338 Broadway, South Portland
641-3253

Sunday: 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Rise Church

1047 Congress Street, Portland
874-9779

<https://www.riseportland.church>

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School for children: 10:00 a.m.
Services streamed live on Facebook

Congregation Bet Ha'am

81 Westbrook St., South Portland
879-0028

www.bethaam.org

Worship: Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

Family Shabbat Services:

Second Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Hope Community Church

879 Sawyer Street South Portland
799-4565

www.hopesopo.com

www.facebook.com/hopesopo

Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.
Kid's Church for ages 4 through grade 5
Service videos available on our website

Promised Land World Reach Center

536 Cottage Road, South Portland
799-3152

Sunday Prayer & Intercession: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Family Bible Studies: Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Sermon recordings available to download

Redeemer Lutheran Church - LCMS

410 Main Street, Gorham
839-7100

www.RedeemerMaine.org

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

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church

885 Shore Road
799-4014

www.stalbansmaine.org

Sunday Services:

Rite 1 with Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.

Rite 2 with Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

Live Streaming on YouTube (stalbanschannel)

Children's Programs 9:30 a.m.

Celtic Eventide 5:30 p.m.

Room for all

St Bartholomew Catholic Church of Saint John Paul II Parish

8 Two Lights Road, 207-883-0334

Website: www.JP2me.org

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.

Daily Mass: Mon. and Wed. 8 a.m.

Sacrament of Confession: Mon. 8:30-9 a.m.

Additional Mass times in Scarborough & South Portland listed on website

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

301 Cottage Road, South Portland
799-3361

www.fccucc.org

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

First Congregational Church of Scarborough

167 Black Point Road, Scarborough
883-2342

www.fccscarborough.com

Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Nursery Care

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

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

Nothing scheduled for Feb. 5 - Feb. 18



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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

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Part Time Personal Care Assistant: Disabled woman, with a full time job, needs part time assistance in Cape Elizabeth. No medical training required. Must be reliable, have references and a joyful approach to problem solving. If interested, please call 207-536-0619 and leave a message.

Robotics

Continued from page 1

are electrical. “The maximum number of motors is usually 8. If you use 5.5 W motors, you can have more, but the total wattage of the motors must add up to 88 W. You can only use 1 battery per bot: the VEX V5 Battery,” he said.

Scott said of the robots, “The robot can have a maximum of 88 watts of motors. This is because there are two types of motors, the standard 11-watt motor, and the smaller and less powerful 5.5-watt motor. the 11-watt motors can have three different cartridges; 100 rpm red cartridges, 200 rpm green cartridges, and 600 rpm blue cartridges. Rpm stands for rotations per minute, which means the red cartridges are the slowest but also have the most torque and the blue cartridges are the fastest and have the least torque.”

The robots also use compressed for pneumatic pistons. Zwintscher said, “Pneumatics pistons can extend and retract. They can help save motors space, but also have functions that motors can’t do. In this game, we use pneumatic pistons for our Mobile Goals clamp in order to help score points and for an arm in order to clear rings out of the corners of the field.”

As for the building process, Scott said, “For the physical robot, we usually build the base of the robot, also called the chassis, first. This allows us the build up from the chassis to add the modifications we need to score points on the completion of the season. However, we have also started designing our robot in a digital space where we can 3d model our robot before we even start to build with physical materials so we can space everything out before we realize we need a different size of something or need to make something bigger.”

Chang, who is the teams coder writing software, also does CAD, and does a lot of building and pneumatics as well,



said of the code required to make the robot function, “With 5 to 6 distinct code variations, we’ve accumulated thousands of lines [of code] and hundreds of individual files.”

Of course, the matches are exciting. Zwintscher explained, “The robot is both driven and autonomous. In the first 15 seconds of the match, the robot is autonomous and executes commands based on what it was coded to do, but only on their half of the field. The last 2 minutes are all driver controlled where the drivers try to score as many points as possible across the entire field.”

Scott added, “If the robot completes a certain set of tasks within this period, it adds an additional win point to the team’s record. Then, for the rest of the match, the driver takes control and drives the robot. Additionally, there is another part of the competition called Robot Skills. This is a one-minute period where you try and score as many points as possible in both driver and autonomous. A high enough skills score and ranking in qualifications can qualify the team for the excellence award.”

Zwintscher further explained the notebook. He said, “The notebook is a log of the brainstorming, building and testing processes of a bot. The notebook also goes into more depth about how you identified problems, selected solutions, built upon the design process, researched, and managed your team. The notebook is scored based on all of these elements and the quality of these explanations.”

So far, and there are more tournaments where additional teams can qualify, four Cape teams are going to the high school Maine State Championship: 56S, 56F, 56T, and 56R, and there is one CEMS team, 56K, qualified for the Middle School Maine States Championship.

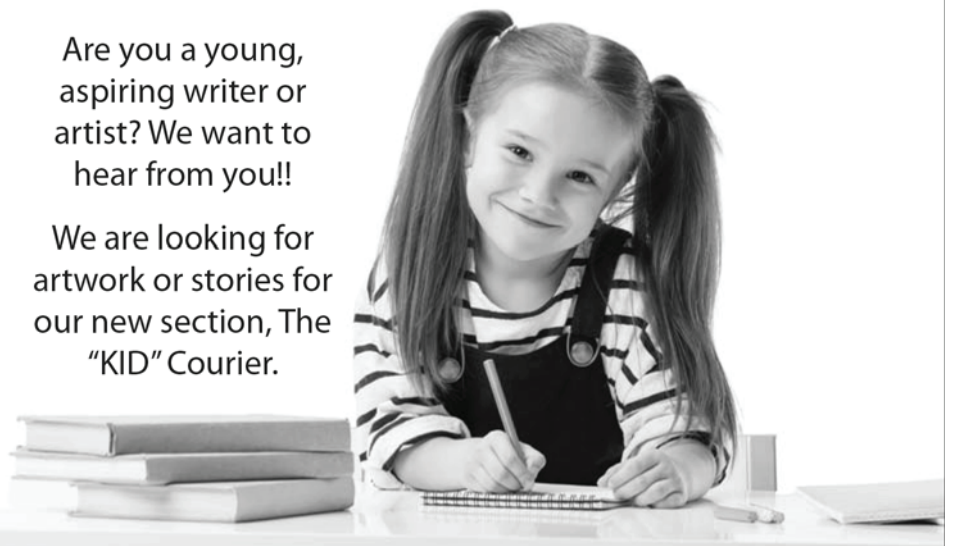
Zwintscher said, “If I can be perfectly candid and unbiased, I think that robotics is one of the best clubs offered by CEHS. If you have any interest in engineering as a passion or as a possible career path, robotics is the perfect club to foster that interest.”

Scott said, “if you want to support the Cape Elizabeth Robotics Team, please email the Cape Robotics boosters at caperoboticsboosters@gmail.com. If you want more information about robotics, email Cape Robotics Team Coach Alex Anesko at aanesko@capeelizabethschools.org.”

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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(STUDENTS WILL NOT BE MOVED TO PORTABLES OR BUSSED OUT OF CAPE)



INCREASES SAFE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO TOWN FACILITIES



BRINGS MECHANICAL SYSTEMS INDOORS, EXTENDING THE LIFE



ALLOWS US TO CONSTRUCT APPROPRIATE SPACES TO SERVE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMING



ADDRESSES SPRAWLING LAYOUT



SAVES \$3M THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR TEMPORARY LEARNING SPACE IF RENOVATED INSTEAD



REDUCES THE RISKS ENCOUNTERED WITH RENOVATION

WHY AN ELEMENTARY ADDITION?

SECURE & INTEGRATED ADMIN & UPDATED NURSE SPACE



PLAN FOR PHASED REPLACEMENT OF WINGS OVER TIME



REPLACEMENT OF AGING MECHANICAL SYSTEMS



REPAIRS CAN BE ADDRESSED WITHIN OUR CURRENT ANNUAL CIP & MAINTENANCE BUDGET

WHAT IS THE **DRAFT** PHASED PLAN?

A new Middle School will last approximately 60 years.

We will replace wings of Pond Cove Elementary School and address more significant renovations at the High School over the coming decades.

Ongoing repairs and minor renovations at Pond Cove and the High School will be achieved with only an inflationary increase to the existing CIP/Maintenance/Repair budget.



LEARN MORE

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

BUILDING PROJECT PUBLIC FORUM
FEBRUARY 11, 6PM AT TOWN HALL

Hear an update from Harriman and share your thoughts with the School Board.