

# The Cape Courier

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*In the Spirit of Community*

## How is the new school proposal different from last year's vote?

By Kevin St. Jarre



Photo by Kevin St. Jarre

One of the changes for voters to consider on June 10, compared to what was voted on in November 2024, is that in the new proposal for school construction and renovation in Cape Elizabeth has the 1934 building "removed from scope." The ultimate purpose and use of that building will be determined by the Cape Elizabeth Town Council.

November 2024 was the last time Cape Elizabeth considered a proposal for renovating local schools, and constructing a new middle school. On that day, 6730 Capers voted one way or the other on the question. The proposal was defeated by 166 votes, or 2 percent of the votes cast. Of the Cape residents who cast a ballot that day, 213 chose to skip the question on schools.

The Cape Elizabeth Town Council has added a referendum question for a June 10 vote about a new proposal for the schools project. The architectural firm, Harriman Associates, made changes to the plan voters narrowly rejected last year.

In November 2024, the question narrowly rejected by voters was whether or not to approve expenditures of up to **\$94,700,000**, plus Bond Premium and Investment Earnings, for a new middle school and for other building repairs and renovations and safety upgrades to Pond Cove Elementary School and Cape Elizabeth High School, and the 1934 building on the Cape Elizabeth Middle School campus, and authorizing issuance of the Town's General Obligation Bonds.

This June, voters will be asked to authorize expenditures of up to **\$86,499,993**, plus Bond Premium and Investment Earnings, for a critically needed new middle school and for other critically needed building repairs and renovations and safety upgrades to Pond Cove Elementary School and authorizing issuance of the Town's General Obligation Bonds. This is \$8.2 million dollars less than was proposed last November.

A comparison between the previous proposal and the new proposal was put together by Lisa Sawin of Harriman Architects. Here are the differences between the old proposal and the new plan up for a vote in June:

**1934 building:** What was proposed in November for the 1934 building has been "removed from scope" in the new plan. Sys-

tems will be disconnected from the existing Cape Elizabeth Middle School building. The 1934 building will be made watertight at any openings created in the building by disconnecting physically from the middle school. The ultimate use of the 1934 building will be determined by the Cape Elizabeth Town Council.

**Backup heat:** This, too, has been removed from the scope of the project. An alternative to backup heat is to have variable refrigerant flow, or VRF, attic stack equipment on hand in event of an equipment issue. This would eliminate lead time for equipment replacement. The all-electric heating system in the proposal is designed to operate to -10 degrees.

Plan efficiencies have been identified for the middle school: For example, some reduction in square footage from the previous plan. Such as, but not limited to, space in the cafeteria, corridors, and other spaces.

• **Locker rooms:** Reduced in size.

• **Pond Cove Elementary School STEM addition:** A new addition for STEM has been removed from the new proposal. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

o The STEM space will instead be relocated to where the Nurse and World Language/ESL conference space previously was in the design. This accommodates this STEM program space without an addition to the building.

• **Addressing some items with Facilities funds (CIP/Repair/Maintenance Budget):**

o These items at Cape Elizabeth High School and Pond Cove Elementary School can begin to be addressed right away after a successful referendum, instead of having to prioritize other items that will be resolved with a new Cape Elizabeth Middle School.

o Historically, the Facilities Department

-see PROPOSAL page 10

## Cape Fest, scheduled for June 7, calling all clubs and nonprofits

By Kevin St. Jarre

Cape Fest, formally known as Family Fun Day, is scheduled for June 7, and will once again be held at Fort Williams Park.

The planning committee is calling out to all non-profits and clubs in Cape Elizabeth. They are offering FREE space, 15 feet wide, along the road below the gazebo for any club or group that wants to participate and raise money for their cause. It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase a group and bring in much-needed funds.

They said that Cape Fest is "going to be an unforgettable event! The festivities kick off with a parade, followed by a fun-filled afternoon of games, activities, and delicious food from local vendors."

The planning committee has suggestions for what clubs and nonprofit organizations might do with the free spaces, such as:

• Refreshing treats: lemonade stand, snow cones or cotton candy

• Sweet treats: bake sale, cake or cupcake walk

• Games and fun: giant Jenga, ring toss, plinko, spin the wheel, paint rocks or a photo booth with props

• Unique vendors: partner with a local business to sell their products and split the profits

• Treasure hunt: host a tag sale or craft fair

The planning committee said they hope to make the event a huge success, and they're counting on community participation.

Sarah Gagne of the planning committee said, "Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to promote your group and raise some funds. Reach out to me for more details, and let's make this event exciting for our town!"

Those interested can contact Gagne at sarahcagne@gmail.com.

## CEHS seniors participate in JA Titan Challenge Adventure

By Trevor Brame, Elizabeth Wilk, Mia Arvelo

On April 3, Cape Elizabeth High School teacher Lisa Melanson's senior Composition class visited the IDEXX lab in Westbrook to participate in the Junior Achievement Titan business challenge.

The Titan challenge is an online business simulation that gives high schoolers the chance to see what running a business could look like. The students competed against teams from over 25 high schools all across Maine, and the winning team was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. This competition was the largest in over 15 years of Titan challenges in Maine.

In getting ready for the JA Titan Challenge, the class split into selective groups and played many practice rounds with Jessica Gilman, a community volunteer, helping out. The online challenge-game had several different simulations, where teams received varying amounts of money, and time to complete the round.

The students practiced for four weeks in advance of the competition. The class learned the four components of business: production, marketing, research and development, and corporate social responsibilities. Cape entered five teams in the

-see CHALLENGE page 10



Photo by Lauren Tarantino

Cape Elizabeth High School seniors visited the IDEXX lab in Westbrook to participate in the Junior Achievement Titan business challenge, which is an online business simulation that gives high schoolers the chance to see what running a business could look like. The students were members of CEHS English teacher Dr. Lisa Melanson's Composition class.





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**NEXT ISSUE: May 7**  
**DEADLINE: Noon, April 26**

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## 'Spaces matter'

As a child, I attended a crumbling middle school. The dim, oppressive environment made me feel invisible. The building seemed to say, "your education, your time spent here, isn't important." This was in stark contrast to the brand new elementary school I'd attended the year before, which was spacious, bright, and joy-filled.

That crumbling school was 45 years old and soon to be demolished. This memory comes back to me every time I look at CEMS, parts of which are over 90 years old. We've been debating solutions for our outdated schools since 1993 — over three decades! Now, we have the information, the plan, and the opportunity to act.

Some folks talk about renovating instead. But renovation options explored by the SBAC were nearly as expensive as new construction and still wouldn't get rid of that

sinking feeling you get when you walk into CEMS.

No one loves spending money, but I'd prefer a more lasting investment—one that resets the clock for 50 years instead of patching things up for another 15.

Yes, taxes will go up — but gradually over seven years, not all at once as some fear. Waiting until November to vote would add \$1M in additional costs, further delaying the progress our students and teachers deserve.

Spaces matter. They tell our students and teachers how much we value them. New, bright, and spacious buildings convey that their education is worth prioritizing. This June, let's send the right message—one of support, value and vision for the future.

Lauren Abrami

## Proudly 'voting yes'

Thank you to the School Board and Town Council for sending the critically needed new middle school project to the ballot in June. The School Board worked diligently with the experts at Harriman to further refine the project scope and design. I believe they successfully balanced the educational and safety needs of our community's youngest members with the need to re-

duce the project cost to give Cape taxpayers a well researched, long lasting investment in their town and community. The School Board has managed to cut \$30 million dollars in cost since the 2022 bond, and the tax impact - spread out over 8 years, never rises above \$154-a-year for a home valued at \$500,000.

As senior citizens, we believe it is imperative that we support the next generation of students and give them a building that not only supports, but enhances their education and prepares them for a bright future. A building filled with daylight and modern amenities that shows them that they matter. We will proudly be voting yes on the ballot in June, and hope that you join us in supporting this critical investment in our community.

I would also like to thank the Town Council for expanding tax relief for senior citizens. I know many voters are worried about the cost of bonding school projects. This tax relief provides assistance to those who need it. I encourage my fellow citizens to learn more about Cape's tax relief program if they are interested.

Colleen Graves

**-see more LETTERS TO  
THE EDITOR on page 5**

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NEWSPAPER

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Let us  
hear  
from you!



We love feedback!

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## 'Needs must be prioritized'

Whether you bought, built, or rented a home, you probably started with a list of things you believed to be needed. It is also likely that layout/design, practicality, and COSTS kept you from fulfilling all on your wish list – NEEDS must be PRIORITIZED.

The school project is no different and everyone had opinions on what "needed" was. When cost and scope plans were adjusted, the most seemingly CRITICALLY NEEDED items were again reviewed and identified in PRIORITY order. Several items were deemed as being able to wait just a bit – still very important but moved to an alternate funding plan which has been carefully considered by the school board and facilities team.

Many districts rely on referendums to address their most significant infrastructure needs, but not all maintenance should be deferred to a public vote. Many projects could be handled within the district's CIP/Repair/Maintenance Budget. Items like painting and flooring could even be completed (room by room) over time allowing use of available funds from this budget to address the next highest PRIORITY first, like HS HVAC or roof.

The school board is not hiding or deceiving the public on the additional \$15m in repairs, as some suggest. Rather, they have thoroughly reviewed, cost analyzed and prioritized the NEEDS list. As discussed in repeated public presentations/forums, this minimizes the bond tax burden and demonstrates a PLAN to address NEEDS at all three schools.

I will vote YES on the school referendum in June.

Gayle Schmidt

## Post grad plans

If you would like to announce your post graduate plans: The Cape Courier traditionally publishes post-graduate plans, college, travel or work plans, for Cape Elizabeth graduating seniors, either from CEHS or another high school. This information must be submitted by students or parents.

Please submit plans, including student and parent's names, and the college or activity, and location, to Debbie Butterworth at [dbutterw72@gmail.com](mailto:dbutterw72@gmail.com) by May 31.

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

# UNFUNDED UNSUSTAINABLE UNAFFORDABLE



**ZERO DOLLARS FOR HIGH SCHOOL,  
DEFERS CRITICAL POND COVE NEEDS**

**PUTS TEACHER AND STAFF  
POSITIONS AT RISK IN NEAR TERM**

**THERE ARE FAR BETTER OPTIONS  
VOTE NO ON JUNE 10!**

## WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE PROPOSED \$86.5 MILLION SCHOOL BOND?

- **The total project costs at least \$106 million.** Taxes will increase by over 12% yearly for the middle school project alone. Many more increases will be needed in the near term to pay for long overdue critical investments at the High School and Pond Cove.
- **Shifts \$15 million of critical needs** into the Capital Improvement Plan—an **UNFUNDED wish list**. Does not address core infrastructure problems that have been on the verge of failure for years, guaranteeing substantial near future tax hikes when these systems inevitably fail. Cape taxes typically cover only \$200K/yr in CIP.
- **Demolishes nearly 25,000 sq ft of high quality construction that is ONLY 30 years old** – less than half its lifespan – and eliminates the high school-sized gymnasium, a full regulation sized soccer field, the middle school library, art room, and administrative wing.
- **Middle school enrollment dropped 27%**, from approximately 661 in 2004 to 445 today, with enrollment projected to decline further over the coming decade.
- **ZERO dollars for the High School** despite \$11 million in critical needs identified by Harriman for health and safety, such as failing HVAC, roofs, windows, walls, and other core infrastructure.
- **\$4 million in similar core infrastructure investments cut** from Pond Cove, as well.
- **Condemns the historic 1934 building**, omitting \$4.8 million needed to restore discontinued heat, electricity, water, and sewer—leaving it to deteriorate into total disrepair, creating another hidden future tax increase or a Goddard Mansion situation.
- **Despite an \$800,000 cut in state funding this year, with more cuts expected next year, the School Board has prioritized this deeply flawed project instead of paying for teachers, books, and support staff.** It is reckless to push an unfunded \$15 million repair plan when we can't even guarantee teacher salaries.

*“There are alternatives to a new building that invest in the critical needs for all three schools. I could not support a proposal that provides zero for the high school, and a pittance for Pond Cove.”*

**Tim Thompson**  
Town Councilor

*“I could not support a 12% tax increase. I don't want to price people out of town.”*

**Penny Jordan**  
Town Council Chair

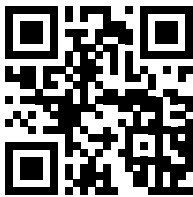
*“Instead of pivoting after two failed referenda, two public opinion surveys, and the SBAC recommendation, the school board has doubled down on the same project. We need a solution that builds consensus by respecting the public AND meeting the needs of all three schools.”*

**Stephanie Anderson**  
Town Councilor

## A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE: THE “THREE SCHOOL SOLUTION”

Developed by former School Building Advisory Committee members Larry Benoit and Michael Hussey, based entirely on Harriman's prior SBAC conceptual design options:

- **Invests responsibly:** Funding 100% of critical investments at Pond Cove, the Middle School, and the High School, securing town budgets and tax certainty for the long-term.
- **Stabilizes future budgets:** Ensures teacher and staff salaries and student needs come first—not emergency repair bills.
- **\$64 million total investment: Saves taxpayers \$22.5 million for bond, and \$42 million on total cost of project.** Reduces the immediate tax increase by ~33% and avoids future tax increases for CIP investments compared to the School Board Plan.
- **Minimizes student disruption:** requires 2 to 3 portable classrooms.
- **Builds 53,000 square feet of new construction**, including a new 6th, 7th, and 8th grade wing, secure entrances, new dedicated cafeterias for both the Middle School and Pond Cove, and dedicated state-of-the-art learning and performing arts spaces. New construction, not renovation.
- **Protects the original 1934 school building** by keeping it connected to heat, water electricity, and sewer.
- We ask you to **VOTE NO on JUNE 10** and demand proper consideration of alternatives, including the “Three School Solution.”



# Fulfilling Mainers’ Sixth Amendment right and protecting public safety

By Sen. Anne Carney

Much of my legislative work is dedicated to ensuring access to justice for all people in Maine. Access to justice includes strengthening the right to representation by a lawyer in a criminal trial even if you cannot afford to pay for one yourself, as guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment.

Maine has made good, bipartisan progress in recent years to rebuild our system for providing representation for all criminal defendants who cannot afford a lawyer. This includes the creation of a dedicated public defender system: the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services. While public defender offices have been established to serve four of Maine’s seven prosecutorial districts, many incarcerated defendants in Maine still remain unrepresented.

The persistent lack of representation for these clients led the ACLU of Maine to sue the state in 2022. Last month, Kennebec County Superior Court Justice Micaela Murphy ruled that the state was failing to fulfill defendants’ Sixth Amendment rights and that a series of hearings would take place to determine whether unrepresented detainees would be released starting in April. Additionally, the order asserted that charges could be dropped against defendants who went without representation for more than 60 days.

This ruling alarmed many in our state, including my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee and myself. Releasing people accused of violent crimes and dismissing the charges against them poses a public safety concern for communities throughout Maine. With continued urgency, we resumed our work on the difficult challenge

of providing representation to all who need it in light of the limited resources available.

Our vehicle for this was LD 1101, “An Act to Address the Limited Availability of Counsel in Courts to Represent Indigent Parties in Matters Affecting Their Fundamental Rights,” which I sponsored and worked on with the Judiciary Committee. This bill, if it becomes law, will create five new public defender positions to help represent the incarcerated defendants who do not yet have attorneys. It also relaxes some of the requirements for private attorneys who wish to serve as court-appointed counsel to represent individuals who cannot afford a lawyer. This short-term provision is intended to help the public defense system in working through the immediate need for representation.

LD 1101 gives Maine’s public defender system the additional resources it desperately needs to comply with Justice Murphy’s order in a way that provides effective representation to the defendants and protects public safety. The resources in this bill also ensure representation of parents in child protection cases who have a Sixth Amendment right to an attorney.

We passed this bill in the House and the Senate with strong, bipartisan support, and it is now on the Governor’s desk. I am hopeful that she will sign this important legislation so it can become law immediately.

You can sign up for my biweekly e-newsletter at mainesenate.org. You can also reach out to me at Anne.Carney@legislature.maine.gov or call my Senate office at 207-287-1515 if you have questions about LD 1101 or anything else in state government.

## 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. Recent eligibility guidelines for visiting Judy’s Pantry have eased.

Please contact Beth Owens: bethowensl@gmail.com. Please consider a non-perishable donation to the IGA drop box.

# A budget that provides stability and predictability

By Rep. Michelle Boyer

The legislative session is well underway, and I am so proud of the work that my colleagues and I are doing in the House of Representatives. Up to this point, the most important measure that has passed through the House is LD 609, which is the state’s continuing services budget. Its intent is to ensure the continuation of current state services and is set to distribute over \$11.32 billion from Maine’s General Fund over the next two years.

Over the past several months, communities across the state, including right here in Cape Elizabeth, have called on lawmakers to provide predictability and stability. During this tense and uncertain political climate, the budget provided a way for lawmakers to provide the people of Maine with a responsible, governing budget. It contains a wide variety of initiatives, but first, I want to be clear: It does not contain any new taxes or spending cuts to essential programs. What it does do is prevent a potential state government shutdown this summer, which we would have been forced to grapple with had we not been able to get this measure over the finish line before the end of March.

The intent of this budget is to fulfill the state government’s commitment to towns across Maine. Since starting this role, I have had the opportunity to meet with so many of you to discuss the issues that matter most to our community. What I hear most is that folks are struggling with the rising cost of property taxes. The continuing services budget helps to mitigate increases in property taxes by maintaining municipal revenue sharing at 5%. Without this funding, the costs for local services would fall even more directly on residents across the state, including right here in Cape Elizabeth.

Moreover, this budget provides essential support for families. First, it ensures that our state’s public K-12 schools can continue to provide breakfasts and lunch for all students. When our students are able to focus on what is going on in the classroom rather than worrying about where their next meal will come from, it leads to better learning outcomes. When Maine kids are given the resources they need to focus on their studies, we all thrive. Additionally, this budget will maintain funding for childcare providers throughout the state – our workforce behind the workforce – providing some ease of mind for parents who rely on those professionals and their services.

This budget represents just the beginning of the work that will come before the House. In the coming weeks, the Legislature is set to consider additional legislation regarding budgetary items and other major policy priorities. While I cannot predict the outcome of those votes, know that I remain committed to passing measures that support families in Cape Elizabeth and across the state.

Please feel free to contact me at michelle.boyer@legislature.maine.gov with any questions or concerns you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Representative Michelle Boyer is serving her first term in Maine House representing Cape Elizabeth. She sits on the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services.*

## CELT is looking for new committee and board members

Are you interested in meeting new people and making a difference in the community? The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust is looking for people to help preserve and care for special places in Cape Elizabeth, and to help connect the community with those places. You can help CELT maintain local walking and biking trails, remove invasive species, support conservation efforts, be a part of our educational programs in the schools and community, act as a land trust ambassador and attract new members, help with fundraising and special events, and more.

CELT has volunteer opportunities that

could be right for you. We have Committee and Board of Director openings in – Stewardship – Education – Community Outreach and Fundraising – Finance – Governance.

For Board of Director positions, we are looking particularly for individuals with interest and experience in the areas of Land Conservation, Non-Profit Governance or Development. We are seeking to be as diverse and inclusive a Board as possible. For more information about our committees and the CELT Board of Directors, please contact the CELT office at caitlin@cape-landtrust.org or 207-767-6054.

## Upcoming Lions Club community dinners

Chicken Dinners:

May 17, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Got a story to share? Email us! editor@capecourier.com



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# ‘Excited to cast my vote’

As an 18-year-old voting for the first time in the upcoming June referendum, I’m very happy that it includes the opportunity to vote on the construction of a new school. Having spent my educational years in outdated, crowded buildings, I’ve seen firsthand how it affects our learning environment. Leaky roofs, cramped spaces, and a confusing layout were constant challenges in the Pond Cove and Middle School. Buckets were regularly placed to catch leaks, and the overcrowded cafetorium was used for multiple activities, creating constant noise and distraction. These conditions were not just uncomfortable but hindered our ability to learn.

A new, modern school would provide a

safe, inspiring space for students to thrive. This is about creating an environment that supports our potential and ensures better security for future generations. We deserve a space where we can take pride in our education and one built with the technology of today. Not with those of the 30s, 50s, 60s or 90s.

I am excited to cast my vote for a new school and urge others to join me in advocating for this crucial change. Please join me in fighting for the future of Cape Elizabeth in voting yes on the newest school project (the 3rd rendition) on the June ballot.

Meghan Tennyson CEHS Class of 2025

# ‘Letter was more of the same’

I was dismayed to see an attack on Town Councilor Stephanie Anderson in the April 9 edition of this paper. In recent years, with partisan endorsements, by both sides, and attacks such as this one, Cape Elizabeth town government has gone the way of Washington, with an inability to respect each other and to work together for the good of the town, despite differences of opinion. This letter was more of the same.

I have known Stephanie Anderson for many years as a dedicated and effective District Attorney, with significant accomplishments, including starting the first Drug Court in Maine and several innovative restorative justice programs. She brought

this same dedication and effectiveness to the Town Council. In her short town council tenure she has already proposed and successfully led the council to expand the senior tax credit. She initiated the current effort to identify barriers to small business, with the aim of making the town more business friendly. She wrote the code of ethics, recently adopted unanimously by the council. More importantly she listens to her constituents and tries to solve problems big and small. There is nothing she won’t do to improve the lives of Cape citizens. I am grateful that she is serving our town.

Mary Ann Lynch

# Registration open for kindergarten

Registration is now open for incoming kindergarten students who will matriculate at Pond Cove Elementary School during the 2025-2026 school year.

To attend kindergarten at Pond Cove, children must be five years old on or before October 15, 2025. Registration is required before a child may attend school and participate in the kindergarten screening process.

**How to Register**

The registration process has two steps, outlined below. All forms and documents must be submitted online through a PowerSchool account for which you will register.

Step 1: Pre-Registration.

To begin the registration process, follow the directions below. Please note: this step is pre-registration only.

- Visit the Cape Elizabeth District website at: <https://www.cape.k12.me.us/>
- Click “Enroll” on the right side of the site
- You will enter demographic, household, and grade level prompts.

Step 2: Full Registration and Submission of Required Documentation.

The pre-registration information will be reviewed and approved by the school, after which, you will receive an automated email guiding you to create a Power-

School account and complete the full enrollment process. (Be sure to check your spam/junk box for this). Once all forms are complete, you must upload the following required documentation:

- Child’s birth certificate
- Proof of immunizations
- Proof of residency

**Need Help?**

If you need assistance, contact the Pond Cove main office:

- Email: [pcoffice@capeelizabethschools.org](mailto:pcoffice@capeelizabethschools.org)
- Phone: 207-799-7339.

# ‘This is scandalous’

I was surprised to learn that within days of the rejection of the last school bond referendum, that the school superintendent signed a new contract with Harriman Architects in support of the same REJECTED project. I expected that after the rejection of a 12% tax increase, that the School Board would consider other more acceptable alternatives. I was naive.

Instead, the new contract made clear that the same rejected project would be put out to the voters for a “TDB 2025 referendum.” The school department has agreed to pay Harri-

man another \$58,000 for, among other things, 8 newspaper ads and 8 flyers for political advertising. That money should be used for teacher’s supplies and student needs, not political advertising.

Last year, the school board spent thousands of tax dollars on political advertising. And here we go again, our tax dollars are being used against us, despite two failed attempts at the polls. This is scandalous. I am voting “No.”

Nancy Martins

# ‘Don’t let the shamers win’

I’m writing in response to Chris A. Gorski’s letter in last month’s Courier, regarding Councilor Stephanie Anderson’s prior involvement with the Cape Neighbors Alliance. I served on the Town Council with Stephanie. She has very publicly disclosed her brief role in the grassroots group of Cape Citizens.

That said, I feel compelled to point out the obvious: if Mr. Gorski’s questions were genuinely motivated by curiosity rather than politics, he could have simply emailed Councilor Anderson. Given the recent wave of “doxxing” and public shaming on social media and elsewhere, it’s hard to believe that transparency was his true goal. The letter reads more like a thinly veiled attempt to shame and silence.

And I fully understand that not everyone in our community welcomes differing viewpoints. That was evident when Mr. Gorski made a loud and disruptive exit from a re-

cent town meeting while a woman he disagreed with was speaking during public comment.

This vocal minority, unwilling to respectfully disagree, has taken our town down a divisive and unfortunate path—one that’s become an embarrassment for Cape Elizabeth.

It’s entirely reasonable to suggest a more affordable school project that preserves the Middle School gym and library. It’s also reasonable to raise awareness about the real impacts ordinance changes will have on our town. Period.

As a former Councilor and lifelong Cape resident, I can assure you that most Councilors—and most Cape residents—welcome a diversity of voices in our community.

Don’t let the shamers win. Speak up. We’re better for it.

Susan Gillis

# ‘Are you okay with this?’

I am wondering if residents and visitors are aware that the trees on Shore Road marked with orange are set to be “trimmed or cut down” as reported by the head of public works.

This will be done by CMP. How much

money does CMP get per cut??? Also, not only will this injure and kill trees but also the wildlife spring nesting. Are you okay with this?

Susannah Harnden



**Kathleen O. Pierce**  
Vice President  
Real Estate Advisor


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# Cape Arena Group keeps the momentum going

By Crosley Jackson

Despite the spring thaw, the dedicated volunteers of the Cape Arena Group (CCAG) are far from idle, diligently laying the groundwork for their highly anticipated fourth season at the beloved Gull Crest ice rink.

The past winter proved to be another resounding triumph for the community hub, affectionately known as the “Cape Rink.” Clocking in at over 600 hours of ice time, with an impressive 320+ hours offered free to the public, the rink buzzed with enthusiastic skaters from across the greater Portland area.

Since its inception in 2021 as a non-profit organization, the 15-member volunteer Board of CCAG has cultivated a true landmark in Cape Elizabeth – a space that has quickly become an integral part of the community fabric. “Every year presents its own set of challenges and opportunities for growth, but I continue to be amazed by the positive impact this space has on our community,” shared Julie Furt, Chair of CCAG. “It provides a vital outlet for our kids to exercise and enjoy the fresh air, and of course, a chance for adults to enjoy some time on the ice as well. I cannot emphasize enough that none of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our incredible volunteers and generous sponsors. They are the very foundation of our ability to operate.”

From the outset, the aim has been consistent: to offer a recreational haven for all ages to appreciate Maine’s stunning natural environment. “And I believe we’ve achieved that,” stated Jack Lombard, a lifelong resident of Cape Elizabeth. “Our focus is on continuous improvement, beginning with the ice quality. We dedicated ourselves to creating and maintaining a superior ice surface this year, and

I’m confident in the result.”

The “Cape Rink” once again served as a vibrant center for numerous community programs and events throughout the season. Hundreds of skaters eagerly participated in popular initiatives such as Learn to Skate, Learn to Play, Pond Hockey Tournaments, Ladies Pond Hockey, the Espinal Youth Hockey Program, the Cape Hockey Club, and the spirited 60+ Pond Hockey league. “I had an absolute blast this year! After spending much of my playing days on the bench, getting this much ice time was a fantastic change of pace,” chuckled Pat Butsch, Hockey Programs Chair. Birthday parties also proved to be a major hit, offering young celebrants exclusive access to the ice and a private tent area. “I definitely want to do this again for my eighth birthday!” exclaimed a delighted Max Jackson.

Beyond the regular programs, special events like Skate with Santa, the dazzling Sparkle Skate on New Year’s Eve, and the annual end-of-season Rink Fest played a crucial role in raising awareness for the project and celebrating the remarkable progress achieved thus far. “We are thrilled to be a central point for winter activity in Cape Elizabeth, and the consistent turnout clearly demonstrates our community’s desire for this to become a permanent fixture,” stated Whitney Liston, Fundraising and Events Chair. “Every time we see a full parking lot and a bustling rink, we feel even closer to realizing that long-term vision.”

And that vision is steadily gaining momentum. Last November, CCAG hosted its inaugural “Miami Vice for the Ice” gala fundraiser at Purpoodock, a key event in their “Raise the Roof” Capital Campaign, which garnered an overwhelmingly positive response. “We

were thrilled to welcome over 200 attendees and raised over \$35,000 through our lively auction – it was every bit as fun as it sounds!” added Liston. “These crucial funds have been directly deposited into our capital campaign account, and we are committed to building on this success through ongoing fundraising initiatives.”

Looking ahead, the primary capital focus during this offseason remains the acquisition of a permanent ice chiller. “While our preliminary design plans encompass a roof, slab, and various amenities, securing a reliable chiller is our immediate priority,” explained Mike Backman, Operations Chair. “We understand everyone’s desire for a roof, and it’s certainly part of our long-term plan. However, investing in our own chiller makes the most sound

financial sense, as we currently incur \$4,000 per week in leasing costs, not to mention the significant expense of \$10,000 for transportation at the beginning and end of each season.”

“It continues to be an incredibly rewarding project to be involved in. We learn and improve with each passing year, and we are deeply grateful for the dedication and support of everyone involved, including the town and the members of the Town Council,” concluded Furt. “If you share our passion for the rink and want to see it become a lasting reality for Cape Elizabeth, please don’t hesitate to reach out. We are always in need of an extra set of hands and enthusiastic volunteers!”

For more information on how to get involved, please email [info@capearena.org](mailto:info@capearena.org).



Photo by Pat Butsch

A Youth Learn to Play Hockey team from this year’s season.



Photo by Mike Backman

The planned design for the future “Cape Rink.”

## Help Support Cape Elizabeth Robotics at Vex Robotics World Championship!

Dallas,Texas  
May 5th-May 11th



Congratulations to Maine state high school champions 56F (Ayden Diamond and Brendan Oakley), 56S (Jonah Chang, Hudson Charlebois, Noah Scott and Finn Zwintscher) and Maine state middle school champions 56K (Ben Foley, Elliot Hughes, Bennett Kang, Alex Markott and Patrick Rolfe) on winning spots at the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas,Texas, where they will be standing along side and competing with and against other students from all over the world. Our students will be representing Cape Elizabeth and the great state of Maine at the “Olympics for Robotics”!!!



This is such a proud moment for the team heading to worlds. We are asking our community here in Cape Elizabeth to stand behind these future engineers, scientists, innovators, designers, to support them in getting to the event of a lifetime where they will work on team building with other nations across the globe!!!

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Cape Elizabeth, me 04107

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April 25, 2025 Edition

# CAPE NEIGHBORS

## JUNE 10 ELECTION UPDATE: CAPE’S CRITICAL MOMENT APPROACHES

Despite citizen concerns over historical low voter turnout in June elections, the Town Council majority voted on April 7 to send both the School Bond and the Town Center Zoning Amendments to a June referendum.

The election will be held on **Tuesday, June 10**, at the High School.

**Cape residents will be able to vote early at Town Hall starting Tuesday, May 13, 2025** in the Council Chamber:

**Mondays** 7:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.  
**Tuesdays - Thursdays** 7:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Requests for absentee ballots can be made now at:  
[www.capeelizabeth.com/ElectionsVoting](http://www.capeelizabeth.com/ElectionsVoting)

## CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

### *Chair Jordan (now) a No Vote on the School Referendum*

At the April 7th Town Council meeting, **Council Chair Penny Jordan spoke with passion and conviction, declaring that the school bond headed to the June referendum is simply too expensive. “I’m a no vote,” she said.**

That statement, however, deserves context. A year ago now, as co-chair of Cape’s School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC), Councilor Jordan held a similar position on cost. But what happened immediately after she and the SBAC voted on May 9, 2024, in favor of a more affordable, comprehensive alternative remains an unresolved controversy in Cape Elizabeth.

Within two days of that vote, the SBAC’s work was abruptly and suspiciously shut down. To this day, it remains unclear who disabled committee members’ access to their shared drive and email accounts. This shutdown occurred despite the fact that the contracts and timelines clearly stated the SBAC was to continue its work “through referendum.” And because it was created by both the Town Council and School Board, the SBAC could not be shut down unilaterally.

Indeed, the School Board, displeased with the SBAC’s recommendation, rejected the committee’s proposal—dismissing countless hours of volunteer work and nearly a million dollars invested in the process. Many weeks later, the now “poisoned” SBAC was formally dissolved by both the School Board and Town Council.

In the months that followed, Councilor Jordan reversed her stance on cost, endorsing the School Board’s plan for a brand-new middle school—the plan that Cape’s voters rejected in November. Now, just six months before her expected re-election campaign, she has flipped yet again, opposing the School Board’s bond on the grounds that it is too expensive. **What are Cape’s voters to believe?**

Given the current makeup of the Town Council, her latest “no” vote was ultimately symbolic. The bond already had the four votes needed to appear on the June ballot.

### *An Alternative Plan Gaining Steam*

In the previous edition of *The Courier*, Cape Neighbors shared details of an alternative approach that is gaining traction in the community. We believe voters deserve to be fully informed of all options—regardless of how they intend to vote. **The new alternative, similar to the plan supported by the citizen SBAC committee, would preserve key school facilities known to be in excellent condition—and would save property taxpayers an estimated \$42 million compared to the June bond proposal.**

Highlighted as “bright spots” during recent school tours, **the Middle School’s gymnasium, library, and art room would be preserved.** Rather than demolishing these high-quality, inspiring spaces, the new alternative focuses on strategic investments to modernize and enhance the existing campus, including:

- Transforming the poorly executed 1994 cafetorium into a state-of-the-art performing arts center to house CEMS’s award-winning music program.
- Constructing a brand-new, modern kitchen and separate cafeterias for Pond Cove and the Middle School—easing congestion and improving lunch scheduling.
- Relocating grades 6–8 from the aging 1934 building and the 1994 connector wing into a new classroom wing designed for 21st-century learning.
- Repurposing the 1994 connector wing to house world language, special education, and gifted and talented programs.
- Building new school entryways, relocating administrative and nursing offices, and improving campus safety and traffic flow.
- Fully funding all essential repairs and upgrades at all three schools—with no hidden CIP taxes or deferred maintenance.

(continued, next column)

(continued from previous column)

Supporters of this pragmatic alternative believe it offers a rare opportunity for community consensus—creating an exceptional educational environment without placing undue financial strain on Cape’s seniors or its many cost-burdened families. **They argue that, compared to a full teardown and rebuild, this approach would result in a better-designed, more functional, and more inspiring Middle School—while also delivering tens of millions in property tax relief.**

By preserving well-built, durable structures—many of which are only 30 years old—Cape can avoid unnecessary demolition, minimize disruption, and invest in a smarter, more sustainable solution for students today and in the years ahead.

## TOWN CENTER ZONING AMENDMENTS

Town Center Zoning Amendments 2024 For development 125' or greater from a public road		
Standard	Existing	Proposed
Density: land per unit	3,000 sq. ft.	1,500 sq. ft.
Building Footprint sq. Ft.*	5,000 sq. ft.	12,000 sq. ft.
Building Height	35'	50'
First floor non-residential	Required	Not required
Minimum roof pitch	7:12	4:12
Openings on the first floor	50%	25%
Single multifamily	No	Yes, IF the lot also has a non-residential use bldg.
*Footprint expansion allows the connector portion of the building to include other uses.		

\*\*Chart from Cape Elizabeth Town Website

Despite overwhelming community concern — and the rejection of similar proposals just over two years ago — the Town Council recently passed a revived set of sweeping **Town Center Zoning Amendments**. These are the same types of changes that voters defeated at the ballot box in 2022, following a citizen-led petition effort.

But once again, Cape citizens responded. Thanks to another successful petition, the Town Council was required to put the ordinance changes on hold and send them to a town-wide referendum. **That vote is now officially scheduled for June 10.**

Here’s what you need to know:

- A developer has proposed a modest 55+ housing project — one that would have required several zoning changes, similar to the earlier Dunham Court proposal, but without any request for taxpayer subsidies.
- Instead of pursuing a limited, site-specific solution through conditional zoning — a tool recommended by the previous Council and used successfully in Scarborough and nearly each of Cape’s neighboring towns — **the Planning Department and current Council leadership chose to revive sweeping changes that apply to the entire Town Center district.**
- These amendments affect many significant properties — not just the proposed project site — including Ocean House Farm, the Methodist Church parcel, the former Key Bank site, land adjacent to Town Hall, and the 1934 High School building, and others.
- The amendments allow the 1934 High School building — **located on the school campus beside playgrounds and the school courtyard** — to be converted into taxpayer-subsidized housing.
- The amendments eliminate first-floor non-residential requirements
- The amendments raise height limits by over 40% (from 35 to 50 feet), doubles allowed density (e.g allowing 52 units instead of 26 in the same space), and expands building footprints by 140% (from 5,000 to 12,000 square feet).

**This shift toward high-density residential development is clearly at odds with decades of citizen surveys, the Comprehensive Plan, and consistent public input favoring a village-style center with small, locally owned businesses.**

Town officials continue to downplay both the scope of these changes and the community’s concerns. Cape residents have consistently expressed support for additional housing — but not at the expense of the long-standing vision for our Town Center.

**On June 10, Cape Elizabeth voters will have the final say.** We urge everyone to stay informed, spread the word, and vote. This is about more than one project — it’s about the character of our town. No matter how you plan to vote, your voice deserves to be heard.

### What is the Cape Neighbors Alliance?

We are a grassroots 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.



# Town Council sets June 10 as date for new school renovation/building vote

By Kevin St. Jarre

The CE Town Council voted, 5 to 2 to put a proposed \$87 million school renovation project on the upcoming June 10 ballot.

If approved by voters, the project would call for tearing down and rebuilding the middle school and renovating the Pond Cove Elementary School.

A previous proposal, with expenditures of up to \$94,700,000, was defeated in November 2024. The new proposal for voters to consider in June would authorize expenditures of up to \$86,499,993 for the project.

If approved, the tax impact for Cape Elizabeth property owners, over 5 years starting as early as 2027, is displayed in the table below. It shows the estimated tax dollar increase per home based on sample property values. The increases occur incrementally between 2027 and 2032. There are no additional increases until the bond payoff in 2057. An interest rate of 4 percent was applied to create the table, based on guidance from Joe Cuetara, of Moors & Cabot, provided on March 26, 2025. The annual tax increase percentage does not exceed 2.8% in any single year, and half of the six annual increases are less than 1.5%.

Property Value	Current mill rate	Current property tax	Annual property tax increase for project							
			2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
\$500,000	\$11	\$5,500	\$0	\$77	\$154	\$154	\$149	\$72	\$72	\$0
\$750,000	\$11	\$8,250	\$0	\$116	\$231	\$231	\$223	\$107	\$107	\$0
\$1,000,000	\$11	\$11,000	\$0	\$154	\$308	\$308	\$297	\$143	\$143	\$0
\$1,500,000	\$11	\$16,500	\$0	\$231	\$462	\$462	\$446	\$215	\$215	\$0
\$2,000,000	\$11	\$22,000	\$0	\$308	\$616	\$616	\$594	\$286	\$286	\$0

JPG Property tax increase

Data taken from FAQ document assembled by Town of Cape Elizabeth and Cape Elizabeth School Department staff.

# Officer captures bat in residence

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 3-26 An officer spoke with a resident of the Shore Road area regarding a neighborhood concern.
- 3-26 Two officers responded to a residence in the Ocean House Road area regarding a domestic disturbance.
- 3-28 An officer responded to a residence in the Mitchell Road area regarding a bat in the bedroom. The officer was able to capture the bat and returned to the station, leaving a message for the animal control officer to transport it to Augusta for testing.
- 4-2 Two officers responded to a residence in the Spurwink Avenue area for a report of a suspicious person.
- 4-4 An officer met with a resident of the Fowler Road area regarding a trespass complaint.

## SUMMONSES

- 3-29 Monmouth resident, speeding (44/35 zone), Spurwink Avenue, \$114

- 4-3 Cape Elizabeth resident, passing a stopped school bus, Scott Dyer Road, \$326
- 4-6 Hope resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Shore Road, \$85

## JUVENILE SUMMONSES

- 3-25 Cape Elizabeth resident, violation of instruction permit, Cottage Road, \$152
- 4-6 South Portland resident, violation of interim license, Spurwink Avenue, \$385

## ARRESTS

- 4-7 South Portland resident, attaching false license plates, operating after license suspension, operating after registration suspension, operating with expired temporary registration, outstanding warrant, Route 77.

## FIRE CALLS

- Fire calls: 15
- EMS calls: 33

# Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

## TSA Deadlines & Real ID Scams

The deadline is coming – in fact, it’s almost here. Beginning May 7, 2025, airline passengers will need an enhanced driver’s license, known as Real ID, or a passport to board a plane. This change is based on a recommendation of the 9/11 Commission as a way to improve airline safety.

But, beware, anytime there is a deadline there will also be scams.

Most Real ID scams will likely be phishing attempts that appear to be from a legitimate source, such as your state DMV or the federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Be wary of emails, texts or phone calls claiming to be from these agencies, or another state agency, and never click on links. These government offices will not contact you about Real ID. It is an optional license and is up to each individual to obtain it on their own.

For more information about obtaining a Real ID, contact your state or local DMV office or visit [dhs.gov/real-id](https://dhs.gov/real-id).

## 2024 Fraud Totals

Fraud reached unprecedented levels in 2024, with a staggering \$12.5 billion lost, a shocking increase of 25% over 2023. The number of reports remained stable from 2023 to 2024, but the percentage of reporters who had money stolen jumped from 27% to 38%.

Key Takeaways: Impostor scams continue to rise, with criminals impersonating trusted individuals, companies, or government agencies to deceive victims. 1 in 5 victims of impostor scams had money stolen from them, with an average loss of about \$800 per person. Many scams were tied to gift card purchases or cryptocurrency, with a total of \$2.95 billion being stolen from consumers across the country. Email remained the most popular method for criminals to reach their victims, with a 25% increase in its use compared to last year. These numbers are shocking, but the true extent of fraud is likely much higher, as a significant amount of fraud goes unreported. Last October, the FTC factored in underreporting from 2023, estimating that the \$10.4 billion in losses reported to the agency that year was more like \$158.3 billion.



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## CE School Board unanimously approves FY25-26 budget

(Press release) - At the April 8 regular business meeting the Cape Elizabeth School Board unanimously approved the proposed school budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The budget will be presented to the Town Council on Monday, April 28.

This year's budget process was especially challenging, as the district is set to receive nearly \$800,000 less in state subsidy than the current year. Despite that, the School Board and district and school leadership worked collaboratively to craft a budget that protects the excellence of Cape Elizabeth's school programming while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

"We are proud to put forward a budget that makes no cuts to educational programs, retains all currently filled staff and teacher positions, and fully funds our maintenance and repair needs," said School Board Chair Phil Saucier. "This is no small feat, given rising insurance premiums and the significant loss of state aid. Superintendent Dr. Chris Record and his team have done exceptional work stewarding district resources and preparing us to weather a year like this. Their long-term planning and careful financial management have made it possible to sustain the excellence our community expects."

The budget includes one of the lowest expenditure increases in years and is expected to result in one of the smallest tax increases Cape Elizabeth taxpayers have seen in recent years.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Record echoed that sentiment. "We are very pleased to offer a budget that continues to deliver excellent education to all of our amazing students," he said. "This is only possible because of our outstand-

ing staff and teachers, who bring talent, heart, and dedication to our schools every single day. I'm incredibly proud that every currently filled position remains in place for next year, and that we've preserved full funding for our facilities and infrastructure. This budget represents one of the lowest expenditure increases in years, and it reflects the strategic, thoughtful work of our entire leadership team."

Since Dr. Record joined Cape Elizabeth in 2021, the district has worked diligently to build its fund balance – often called a "rainy day fund" – allowing for greater flexibility in challenging financial years like this one.

"This budget reflects hundreds of hours of hard work, detailed analysis, and collaboration between the board, district leaders, and our community," Saucier added. "It balances the need for fiscal prudence with our shared commitment to excellence in public education."

The FY25-26 school budget will be presented to the Town Council on April 28 and on the ballot for voter approval on Tuesday, June 10.

**Cape Elizabeth School Department 2025-2026 Budget Facts:**

**Total Budget:**  
**\$36,318,456**

**Expenditure Increase:**  
2.46% (lowest in Cumberland County)

**Estimated Tax Impact:**  
2.91%

## Paint for Preservation is back

Paint for Preservation, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust's only fundraiser, is back for its 18th year over the weekend of July 11-13. Once again, a group of award-winning artists will be bringing their plein air talents to Cape Elizabeth, where the public can watch them work throughout the weekend.

The weekend culminates on Sunday, July 13 when the new works will be auctioned at a benefit gala, held under tents at a storied seaside location in Cape Elizabeth. (Touring the artist sites is free. Tickets for the auction will go on sale in June).

For many years, this event has been recognized as one of the premier art sales in Maine. It is a juried event, in which one or more guest jurors, drawn from the local arts community, selects which of the artists who apply to be included. Said Patty Renaud, Chair of the event's planning committee, "We're confident that this year's stellar list of artists will create a lot of enthusiasm. We have a great mix of new artists and beloved veterans joining, and the caliber of the artists is a huge part of its repeated success for CELT."

Congratulations to the selected artists! They are:

Lyn Asselta, Todd Bezold, Thomas Bucci, John Caggiano, Daniel Corey, Ken DeWaard, Cooper Dragonette, Stephen Florimbi, Margaret Gerding, Jill Hoy, Anne Ireland, Eric Jacobsen, Marguerite Lawler, David Lussier, Susan Lynn, Grace Maybury McIntosh, Nathaniel Meyer, Vanessa Michalak, Colin Page, Pamela Lang Redick, Edgar Reims, Kathleen Robbins, Bjorn Runquist, Matthew Russ, John Santoro, Janet Sutherland, Judy Taylor, Michael Vermette, Meghan Weeks, and Graham Wood.

The applications submitted for the coveted spots were juried by Dennis

Gleason of Gleason Fine Art Gallery in Boothbay, Maine. He shared his experience choosing the artists, thanking all who took the time to submit and help create a challenging process. "It is a challenge to make any eliminations from the many excellent submissions received for this year's Paint for Preservation event. The selection is made based on criteria that is intended to represent a wide variety of style and medium, as well as an evaluation based on the plein air nature of the event. In the end, it is always a subjective process and is not a reflection on the talent and ability of the artists who have submitted."

Once selected, the artists choose from a list of Cape Elizabeth's landscapes including CELT conserved lands. All paintings must be made entirely outdoors (en plein air) over the three-day weekend, with no studio work allowed. The public is welcome to tour painting locations, meet the artists and watch them work. A list of locations will be made available in July on CELT's website, [www.cape-landtrust.org/paint/](http://www.cape-landtrust.org/paint/).

To support CELT's fundraiser, artists donate at least 50% of their art sales to benefit CELT's land conservation, trail and habitat stewardship, and community education programs. Tickets to the gala and auction will be on sale beginning in June.

Paint for Preservation is widely supported by a number of business sponsors, whose financial contributions help defer the many upfront costs of such a large and complex event and help more funds go to CELT's conservation programs.

Sponsors include Prentice Group, Décor Maine, ETHOS, R.M. Davis, Yokogawa Fluid Imaging Technologies, Key Bank, Maine Stone Scapes, Progressive

-see P4P page 10

## Notice of Cross Hill Trail closure

The town of Cape Elizabeth Conservation Committee is closing the Cross Hill Trail Loop for the duration of "mud season."

Surface trail improvements commenced last fall and will be completed this year, subject to weather conditions.

Use of the trail in the interim may damage the trail surface, impair drainage and result in the need for costly repairs. Trail users are urged to use trails that are less vulnerable to wet conditions.

The Conservation Committee appreciates your cooperation. Please check the Cape Elizabeth town website, [www.capeelizabeth.gov](http://www.capeelizabeth.gov) for updates.

### Dean's list announcements

The following students were named to the fall 2024 dean's list at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts:

Owen Bromage  
Caden Lee  
Joseph McDonald  
Andrew Trachimowicz

Astrid Akerman was named to the fall 2024 dean's list at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia.



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# News from the School Board

By Phil Saucier

Spring is finally in the air, and when this column is printed our students, teachers and staff will be on a much-anticipated April break. When we return from break, students will be busy working on final projects and studying for end of year lessons – it is hard to believe that summer is around the corner.

One of the real pleasures of serving on the School Board is hearing from the terrific student successes and all the great work that our teachers, coaches, and staff do for our schools. At our April business meeting we heard presentations from the Cape Chess Clubs (Pond Cove Club won the State Championship and the Scholastic Grand Prix, and the Middle School Club came in third place in the State Championship and also won the Scholastic Grand Prix), Cape Robotics (who won the VEX Robotics State Champions and are headed to the World Championships), the CEHS Best Buddies Chapter (recognized as one of the Outstanding Chapters of the Year), the CEHS Women's Leadership Academy (members of whom who will be soon attending the Grand Teton National Park – Teton Science School in Wyoming), and a large contingent of outstanding middle and high school student musicians who were named to the MMEA District I Honors and State festivals for band, chorus, and jazz. We also heard a presentation from the Cape Elizabeth Energy Committee and discussed how the new middle school project's all electric heat system can help achieve the emission reduction goals included within the town's Climate Action Plan.

**Budget Update.** The Board unanimously approved the proposed school budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year at our April 8 meeting. This year's budget was challenging in that the district's state subsidy was reduced by \$800,000, but the district and school leadership team worked collaboratively to develop a budget that has one of the lowest expenditure increases in the County at 2.46% with an es-

timated tax impact of 2.91%.

Importantly, this budget continues to fund our capital improvement, maintenance, and repair budget lines at a level that allows us to address our aging infrastructure in a thoughtful, planned way through our Capital Improvement Plan. Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Record and the District Leadership Team, including Business Manager Marcia Weeks, years of careful financial planning has allowed us to adopt a fiscally responsible budget that limits the impacts on taxpayers while continuing to provide an excellent education for our students.

We urge you to support this budget at the June election.

**School Building Project.** As I noted during our last update, the School Board unanimously approved the school building project developed together with Harriman Architects and thoughtful feedback from the community over the last several months. The project includes a critically needed new middle school – recommended by our experts – and which will reset the clock on one for our three aging buildings. The project also includes a safe and secure new front entrance and other critically needed repairs for Pond Cove. This project represents years of work and feedback from the community.

The school department will be conducting tours of the middle school as we get closer to the June election, and we will release more information about these tours soon. We believe this plan is the best long-term plan for taxpayers and our schools and ask for your support. You can learn more about the plan at [www.cape.k12.me.us/page/buildingproject](http://www.cape.k12.me.us/page/buildingproject)

Our regular meetings are on the second Tuesday evening of every month in Town Hall, our workshops are held on the fourth Tuesday evening in the High School Library, and our committees meet regularly throughout the month with dates and times posted on our website. Please reach out to us at [cesb@capeelizabethschools.org](mailto:cesb@capeelizabethschools.org) anytime.

# CEEF's Play for Education fundraiser is June 5

CEEF's 13th Play for Education Golf Tournament & Auction is June 5. The annual fundraiser is held at the picturesque Prouts Neck Country Club, where breathtaking ocean views provide the backdrop for golf and auction-bidding in support of a worthy cause. Lead sponsor Alex Kadish of Wells Fargo Private Wealth Advisors said, "As a Cape graduate ('97), I think it's important to continue to support the school district that gave me so much. Donating to

CEEF is a no-brainer given all they do for the current and future kids in Cape schools." To support the event with a sponsorship, foursome, auction donation or reception ticket, visit [ceef.us/golf](http://ceef.us/golf). Golfer registration opens Tuesday April 29 at 10 a.m. All proceeds support the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF), which is dedicated to fostering innovation and excellence in Cape Elizabeth schools.

## Proposal

**Continued from page 1**

has addressed these items for less cost (e.g. the new PCES gym floor that was installed last year).

The Facilities Department, the Owners Representative and Harriman have and continue to collaborate to figure out the key priorities year by year.

Lisa Sawin is a Principal at Harriman Architects, and according to their website, is the leader of the firm's Pre-K to 12 Studio. "She works closely with communities,

school boards, administrators and educators to envision inspiring learning environments." Her work, the website continues, encompasses district-wide master planning, feasibility studies, new construction and renovation project in urban and rural contexts. Through her design work, and as a board member of EducateMaine, Sawin is "dedicated to elevating the educational experience and infrastructure of towns and cities across northern New England," the profile reads. She holds a bachelor of science and a master's of architecture from Norwich University.

## Challenge

**Continued from page 1**

challenge.

"The JA Titan challenge was a really fun way to learn about entrepreneurship and business," said Luke Gagne, a student at Cape Elizabeth High School. "We met a few kids from other schools and were able to talk to professionals from different companies," he said.

One student in Cape's group, Trevor Brame, even did some networking, and discussed a possible internship at Kennebec Savings Bank next year with his in-game mentor, Chip Burnham.

On the day of the JA Titan Challenge, the group boarded the bus at 7:30 a.m. On the way there, hopes were high; everyone was determined to have a great time and win. The group split into their teams and one person on the team controlled the computer that was playing the game, with the others giving tips and advice on what to do next.

None of the groups ended up placing, and a team from Yarmouth ended up winning the scholarship. Out of the five groups, the Cape Four team placed highest at 7th. Even though none of the teams won, they had an adventure through networking with what they learned in class.

## P4P

**Continued from page 9**

Dental Care, The Downeast Group at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Wilmington Trust, N.A., Woodhull, Inn By the Sea, Casco Bay Frames & Gallery, GoGo Refill, Knickerbocker Group, Rarebreed Veterinary Partners, Veterinary and Rehabilitation Center of Cape

Elizabeth

More sponsorship opportunities are available – interested businesses should call the land trust at 207-767-6054.

We hope everyone comes out to see these incredible artists at work and participates in the auction on July 13 to show support for protecting the incredible natural areas around us.

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# TML to offer free access to the NYT and Mango Languages

## TML Foundation Funds Free Access to the New York Times and Mango Languages

TML cardholders can now access everything The New York Times has to offer for free, including News, Games, Cooking, Wirecutter and The Athletic.

Thanks to funding from the TML Foundation, the library was able to purchase an annual subscription to the New York Times' access program for public libraries. From within the library, library visitors can now access the news sections of the New York Times without a paywall on any device. Additionally, you can access news and special sections from anywhere by visiting TML's dedicated New York Times URL and retrieving a code. This code grants 24 hours of free access from anywhere (you will need to log in with the first five digits of your TML card) to News, Games, Cooking, Wirecutter and The Athletic. You will be prompted to log into an existing New York Times account or create a new one. Anything saved during the 24-hour access period will be accessible the next time you log in. After 24 hours, simply retrieve another code to continue free access.

Beginning May 1, the library will also offer free access to Mango Languages, the highest-rated online language-learning app. Mango Languages uses organic language acquisition and emphasizes learning grammatical principles through realistic conversations to teach over 70 language courses, as well as English lessons in 17 languages and specialty courses to teach cultural differences. Features include interactive lessons, spaced repetition, reinforcement exercises, color-coded translations, video content, Google Translate integration, and the ability to record and compare pronunciation to a native speaker. Courses are accessible from a web browser or an app, and progress can be synced across devices. A TML card is required to log in. TML funding has not only made it possible for the library to offer the general Mango Languages offerings, but also the Little Pim module for ages 0 - 6, and the American Sign Language Module.

Complete details about how to access both new offerings can be found on the library's website.

## Free For All: A Public Library Movie Event for Youth and Families

Saturday, April 26, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
TML is thrilled to partner with Indie Lens for our second pop-up screening of "Free For All: The Public Library." This 60-minute documentary is truly for everyone, and we are excited to host this special youth event just for kids and families.

Bring your favorite book as your "date" and join us for popcorn and the movie, then stick around for some fun activities, including an "Ask a Librarian" panel featuring your favorite folks from the children's room, a chance to share the favorite book you brought and draw a picture from it, and a library scavenger hunt! There may be more special guests and perhaps even some fun things to take away from the day...don't miss this opportunity to celebrate all your favorite things about your local library.

## Springtime Clothing Swap

Saturday, May 3, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
It's that time of year! TML is pleased to once again partner with the Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee on a Springtime Clothing Swap. Donate your clean, gently used apparel for kids and adults, then come to shop. Donations will be accepted beginning Wednesday April 23.

**How to Participate:**  
Donate items in advance: Receive a ticket for entry starting at 12:00 p.m.  
Donate items on the day of the event: Enter and "shop" at 1:00 p.m.  
Don't donate at all: Enter and "shop" at 2:00 p.m.  
Volunteer to help set-up, run, or take-down the event: Receive extra early preview "shopping" privileges!  
Visit the library's website for complete details and to register to volunteer.

**Comic Con, May 9 - May 10**  
Wizards, princesses, jedis, and adventurers! Come join us for Comic Con at the library. Create a mask to hide your superhero identity, set off on a quest in a one-shot D&D adventure, or show off your powers in an action-filled costume show. The activities will start on Friday, May 9 and fly all the way through Saturday, May 10, closing with a BANG! and a POW! with a Q&A panel with some of the wonderful artists in our community. Visit the library's website for the complete schedule of events.

**PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS & TEENS**  
Please visit the library's website for information about weekly story times and other recurring programs. We have something going on every day of the week.

**1-2-3 Grow with Me**  
Children 0-5 years & caregivers are welcome to participate in a 5-week series of special play dates in the Library Community Room. You will have the opportunity to interact informally with community resource professionals on a range of important topics for child development.  
Learn more and register on our website.  
Wednesdays, Apr 30 - May 28 (10:30-11:45 a.m.)  
Apr 30 - Literacy - TML Family Engagement Staff  
May 7 - Speech & Hearing - Katherine Quigley (Early Intervention for ME)  
May 14 - Child Development - Melinda Corey (Help Me Grow)  
May 21 - Nutrition - Denise Gaudette

-see LIBRARY page 15

# Capetoon: No mow May, for real

By Jeff Mandell



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# Local birding report

By Brooks Bornhofft

Spring is here and the northbound migration of birds has just begun. During the first week of April there was a profusion of sparrow activity across Cape. Chipping Sparrows arrived adding to the mix of White-throateds, Song and Fox Sparrows. Slightly larger than a Chickadee, the Chipping Sparrow has a bright rusty crown atop its head. This bird's song is similar that of the Dark-eyed Juncos and somewhat like that of a Pine warbler.

On the late afternoon of April 4 as snow blanketed the landscape, I was observing the bird activity around our feeders when I noticed some commotion further off in the background. Taking a closer peek revealed a small flock of Cedar Waxwings fluttering and plucking at an ornamental berry bush. During the winter and early spring months Waxwings depend on fruit for survival.

I also noticed that one-by-one the Waxwings would disappear down to the ground area where I knew there was a seasonal creek (which ultimately feeds into Pond Cove). Interestingly, the bill and esophagus of the Waxwing has evolved to allow them to swallow berries and fruits whole. Because the winter fruit available to waxwings is high in sugar but largely low in water these birds must drink water more often than many birds. On this same day three first of season Norther Flickers passed through our yard, stopping briefly to gorge on suet.

Additionally, on the night of April 6 along Shore Road I heard the high pitched too-too-too call of a Northern Saw-whet Owl. These little forest elves are master ventriloquists capable of a vast range of noises from whines to whistles to harsh bat like squeaks. Northern Saw-whet Owls are short distance migrants and every spring substantial numbers migrate

along the Atlantic's coastal lowlands and islands from Virginia up to Maine. While most females and younger Saw-whets migrate, many males remain in the state throughout the winter months. Weather conditions, wind direction and moon phase are important factors for saw-whet movements. On this night the prevailing Southwest winds and a waning crescent moon provided ideal conditions for these "invisible owls" to be on the move. Interestingly, eastern U.S. populations exhibit a population cycle in which Saw-whet numbers generally peak every four years. This peak is closely tied to the small rodent populations which also peaks in high mast (acorn) years such as this past year.

And on the sunny afternoon of April 10 I went to Robinson Woods in search of a Winter Wren. After a good bit of searching, I located this secretive little bird amongst the cattails deep within the Pond Cove Brook corridor. To hear the ecstatic song of this little bird calling from the thawing bogs of damp coniferous woods is a very special occasion.

Describing the voice of a Winter wren is no easy task, at times a rather sharp chick, chick, often a rippling sort of trill and with twists and turns that increase in octave from one note to another. The haunts and habits of the Winter wren are most appropriately captured by Edward Forbush when he wrote, "this little Brownie of the forest creeps like a wood mouse under the roots of trees standing on banks overhanging the water, in and out of brush heaps and wood piles along river bottoms and on the banks of woodland brooks, cautious and furtive – an absurd little creature."

On this same outing I noted five Eastern Phoebes, three gloriously yellow male Pine Warblers and a single male Palm Warbler along the fringes of the great meadow in Robinson Woods.

# Sign up for the Cape Challenge

Mark your calendars for the 2025 Cape Challenge 5K, which will be held this year on Sunday, May 18. Sign up for the race at: <https://runinarace.com/CapeChallenge>.

Sponsored by Mary Libby Living and many other companies, the race will include a Fun Run for children ages 8 and under scheduled for 8:30 a.m., a 1-Mile Dash for children ages 12 and under scheduled for 9:00 a.m., and the 5K Cape Challenge scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Proceeds from this event benefit the

Cape Elizabeth Pond Cove, Middle School, and High School Parent Associations. An awards ceremony will begin at 10:15 a.m. following the race. You can also support this fundraiser by purchasing raffle tickets at <https://givebutter.com/CapeChallenge2025Raffle>.

Follow the Cape Challenge on Facebook/Instagram @CapeChallenge5k. For any questions, or if you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to: [capechallenge5k@gmail.com](mailto:capechallenge5k@gmail.com).

# Neighbors



Contributed photo

The Cape Courier recently visited Pena Palace in Sintra, Portugal with Cape Elizabeth resident John Danaher.



## Town of Cape Elizabeth PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

The Cape Elizabeth Public Works Department has an immediate opening for an equipment operator.

This full-time position involves the operation of all types of equipment including, but not limited to, dump trucks, front-end loaders, mowers, trimmers, and other roadway/grounds maintenance-related equipment. Knowledge of summer and winter road maintenance practices is desirable. The Equipment Operator participates in all snow plowing and on-call requirements during the winter season. Also required is the ability to perform a variety of tasks in a variety of weather conditions. A CDL Class B license is required (or the ability to obtain one within six months of hiring date), along with a clean driving record.

Applicants interested in these positions shall apply in writing on or before Monday, May 19th, 2025 to:

**Attn: Public Works Director**  
**Cape Elizabeth Public Works Department**  
**10 Cooper Drive**  
**Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107**

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# CELT spring programs

## CELT's 40th Anniversary Guided Walk Series:

**Little Explorers (ages 3-5 with an adult)**  
Join CELT educator Lisa Gent on a gentle hike through Robinson Woods where we will explore the habitat around us while we search for birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and plant life. Please dress in comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle. All participants must register at least at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.  
Date: Wednesday, May 14  
Time: 9:00 -10:00 a.m.  
Location: Meet at Robinson Woods parking lot, Shore Road.  
Cost: \$6/family. Min 3/Max 5

**Invasive Plants Nature Walk**  
Join Mike Hanks, a member of Cape Elizabeth Land Trust's Stewardship Committee, at Runaway Farm to learn about invasive plants found in Cape Elizabeth. During this CELT sponsored event you can expect to learn how to identify specific invasive plant species, eradication strategies, and why invasive species pose a threat to an ecosystem. All participants must register at least at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.  
Date: Wed June 4  
Time: 6:00– 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Runaway Farm, 498 Spurwink Avenue  
Cost: \$6 per person. Max 10/Min 3

**National Trails Day Cross Town Walk**  
Join CELT staff and educators for the annual spring Cross Town Walk. Beginning at Portland Head Light, located at Fort Williams, this walk will traverse 8.2 miles of trails highlighting Cape's great places. The walk takes approximately four hours and includes a BYO lunch stop. Snacks, drinks and lunch should be brought by each participant. Interested in joining but concerned about the length of the walk? Consider signing up for the "Second Half" option. All participants must register at least at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.  
Date: Sunday, June 8  
Time: 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Location: Meet at Portland Headlight near the lighthouse.  
Cost: \$10 per person. Max 15 / Min 5

**National Trails Day Cross Town Walk (Second Half Option)**  
Interested in the Cross Town Walk, but not ready to commit to all 8.2 miles? Join Cape Elizabeth Land Trust for a half-distance (~4.5 miles) walk highlighting some of Cape's great places, including Spurwink Marsh and Great Pond. Hikers will meet at the CELT office in Town Center and will carpool (arranged prior to walk) back to Fort Williams after lunch. Snacks, drinks and lunch should be brought by each participant. All participants must register at least at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.  
Date: Sunday, June 8  
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Location: Meet at CELT Office  
Cost: \$10 per person. Max 15 / No Min

**CELT's 40th Anniversary Library Talk Series with Thomas Memorial Library:**  
**Bird Migration: A Journey Across Continents**  
Embark on an enlightening journey through the fascinating world of bird migration. Learn about the incredible flights undertaken by migratory birds and the science behind their long-distance travels from Cape resident and National Audubon Society scientist Dr. Carrie Gray. From tiny songbirds to majestic raptors, discover the patterns, challenges, and remarkable strategies that allow birds to navigate vast distances and reach their seasonal destinations. Topics covered will include: the science of bird migration: navigation, timing, and instincts; different migration routes and stopover sites; the environmental factors influencing migration patterns; how climate change is affecting migratory behaviors; and the importance of conserving migratory routes and habitats.  
Date: Tuesday, May 20  
Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
Location: Thomas Memorial Library Community Room  
No registration required

**Bird Song Identification Workshop**  
Join Cape resident and National Audubon Society scientist Dr. Carrie Gray for an immersive and educational workshop that will help you connect with nature through  
-see CELT page 14

# Prescribed burn at Robinson Woods

Depending on when you're reading this, you may have recently seen a patch of burned land at the Robinson Woods Preserve. If you haven't, it's coming!

As the owner and steward of the Robinson Woods Preserve, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust is working with the Maine Forest Service (MFS) and Cape Elizabeth Fire Department to conduct a prescribed controlled burn on approximately two acres of field and woods at the preserve. The designated area is in and around the blueberry field, just south of Robinson Pond.

The burn is proposed to be conducted sometime during April into possibly early May on a weekday when the MFS and Fire Department determine that weather conditions for a controlled burn are favorable and safe. Appropriate signage will be posted throughout the area on the day of the burn and the trails will be closed to the public for that day.

The burn will serve the land trust by maintaining this unique habitat of open meadow and nearby woods, and will provide a valuable training opportunity for Cape Elizabeth firefighters.

Fire is a natural part of many ecosystems. After many years of fire exclusion, an ecosystem may become stressed from overcrowded

trees, invasive species, and the buildup of flammable materials that would be hazardous to human communities in the event of an accidental fire.

The right fire at the right time reduces the buildup of hazardous fuels, minimizes the spread of pest insects, removes invasive species, recycles nutrients back to the soil, among other benefits. As forests develop, different species of plants and wildlife rely on the variation of habitat. Fires are a way to create early successional habitat from a more mature forest. By prescribing a burn, we can help manage this habitat for the benefit of the ecosystem.

Native Americans have used prescribed burning to manage habitats for many millennia. In the eastern U.S., fires were used to stimulate specific nut crops from oak and chestnut trees. As European colonizers came to the U.S., fire suppression became more common and reduced the number of cultural burns. Forest managers are now tapping into traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) to better inform our practices in modern management.

After the burn has occurred, we encourage you to walk the trails throughout the summer and watch how the habitat responds. For more information, visit [capelandtrust.org](http://capelandtrust.org).

Our Fourteenth Annual

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# Nature scene around town



Photo by Jon Clark  
A pair of cardinals on a gray wet Saturday morning in Jon Clark's yard.

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CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

Please see the town website, [www.capeelizabeth.com](http://www.capeelizabeth.com) for meeting locations

*Instructions for joining video conference meetings listed below will be posted on the town website, [www.capeelizabeth.com](http://www.capeelizabeth.com).*

Monday, April 28

School Board Executive Session - NEGOTIATIONS, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 3:45 p.m.  
Town Council Finance Committee, Town Hall, 6 p.m.  
School Board Policy Committee, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, April 29

Town Council Finance Committee, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 1

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

Monday, May 5

Town Council, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 6

Planning Board Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Ongoing each week

Al-Anon, 7 p.m. Fridays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland. Parking in rear.  
Alcoholics Anonymous, 2 p.m. Saturdays, First Congregational

Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland; 7 p.m. Wednesdays, St. Bartholomew Church; 7 p.m. Fridays, St. Alban's Church.  
Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society, 9 a.m. - noon on Thursdays and by appointment, 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](http://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](http://sp-ce-rotary.org).

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

Subject to change. Please see [cetv.capeelizabeth.org](http://cetv.capeelizabeth.org) for latest program guide and video on demand.

Town Council Finance Committee

April 28 - 6 p.m.

Town Council Finance Committee

April 29 - 6 p.m.



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499 Ocean House Road (Route 77)  
747-1113

[www.capenazarene.org](http://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](http://watch.capenazarene.org)

Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church

280 Ocean House Road  
799-8396

[www.ceumc.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.hopesopo.com)  
[www.facebook.com/hopesopo](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fccscarborough.com)  
Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School & Nursery Care

CELT

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the birds you'll hear. No prior experience is necessary.  
Date: Tuesday, May 27  
Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
Location: Thomas Memorial Library Community Room  
No registration required

the sounds of local birds. Topics covered will include: the basics of bird song and call identification; how to distinguish between similar-sounding birds; tips for listening and observing birds in the wild; fun facts about

Tammaro Landscaping & Property Services

Winter Services

With not much snow out there this year it allows us to continue with the following services:

- Brush Clearing • Fallen Tree & Limb Clean-up
- Pruning & Invasive Plant Removal

Call for your FREE ESTIMATE: 831-8535

Currently scheduling spring landscaping projects

539 Ocean House Road • Cape Elizabeth, ME



## MUSIC LESSONS

**Flute lessons:** For beginners and intermediates of all ages. Call Kris: 767-3712.

**Piano, Voice, Guitar, Ukulele lessons for all ages.** Beginner through intermediate. Carey Rasco: 232-7015

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

**Drum Lessons:** Any age/level. Flow technique, reading not required. Frank, 603.285.3032.

## BUSINESSES/SERVICES

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

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

## Library

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(Cooking Matters)

May 28 - Music & Movement - Jud Casewell

### Family Birding Adventures at Fort Williams Park

Three Saturdays in May - May 3, 10, & 17 from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Join Thomas Memorial Library and Andrea Southworth for a birding adventure at Fort Williams Park, located at 299 Ocean House Road. Bring the whole family and learn the fundamentals of birding. Learn to use two important Cornell Ornithology apps, Merlin and eBird, and be a citizen scientist in your community. In partnership with the Friends of Fort Williams Park. Recommended for families with children ages 6+. Registration required, please sign up for one or all three programs on our website. Bring your own binoculars, if possible; a limited number of binoculars will be available for use.

### Speical Toddler Story Time

Thursday, May 8, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Join family engagement assistant Sarah Gabrielson and certified child sleep consultant Zara Jarrett for a special sleep-themed story time. The first half will include songs and a short sleepy time book. Starting at 11:00 a.m., we will open up the room with some toys for your child to play with while you ask Zara your sleep-related questions in an informal setting.

This program is for children who are not quite ready for a traditional story time, but love to have fun with friends. Great for infants and wandering wiggles ages 0-36 months and caregivers. Capacity for this program is 30 people. No prior registration required.

### NEW! \*\*\*My First Book Club, for ages 6 - 8

Third Tuesday of the month from 3:30-4:15 p.m. Begins May 20

Join My First Book Club, for beginning readers ages 6-8 who are discovering the joy of reading and stories. Each month we'll explore a different genre - from graphic novels, chapter books, to non-fiction. As a group, we'll complete a read-along, participate in discussions and dive into a brief craft. Each kid will get a copy of the book that we read that month to take home. Caregivers are required to

participate in the group with their child. Registration Required.

### FOR ADULTS

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

### Individual Style with Julie Cunningham

Thursday, April 24, 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
Your clothes send messages every time you dress yourself. To be confident and happy with your wardrobe, the messages you send must be congruent with who you really are. When you understand your style type, you can dress for every occasion and still be yourself. When it is right, your spirit will soar. You are a Dramatic, Natural, Classic or Romantic. There are many varieties in each of these four basic style types so it will be very different for each person, hence the name "Individual Style." The right clothing personality for you can be expressed in all situations: business, casual, family, community, sports or romance. You can gain confidence from your wardrobe when you send valid and true messages about yourself with your clothing. This is the essence of individual style.

Learn more from professional image consultant Julie Cunningham with this event, the second in her April series here at TML. No registration required.

### Support Circle, last Saturday of the month, April 26 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Parents of children and adults with disabilities are invited to participate in an informal monthly discussion group to share and learn from each other. Meets on the last Saturday of every month in the library's Conference Room. Light refreshments will be provided, please register on our website.

### Wardrobe Development with Julie Cunningham

Tuesday, April 29, 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
A closet full of clothes and nothing to wear is common, but unacceptable. A successful wardrobe evolves when you know your best personal choices in color and style and you combine these winning combinations in clothing that is appropriate for your life. Knowing how to clean out your closet on a regular basis improves your wardrobe. You create better outfits from what you already own with an orderly closet, resulting in a closet full of clothes you actually wear. Dressing well is an art, and the skills of any art must be taught. Join us for the final program in Julie Cunningham's April series here at TML to learn more and give yourself the building blocks for mastering this art. No registration required.

### Discussing 1984 for 2025: Employing Orwell as an Opportunity for Building Imaginative Community with Chriss Sutherland

Thursday, May 8, 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
Regardless of your political leaning, "1984" provides ample food for thought and discussion regarding our greatest philosophical and existential issues both locally and in the greater world. Join Cape resident and teacher Chriss Sutherland for a facilitated discussion. We'll use Orwell's fictional dystopia as a drawing board on which we'll imagine something different and better. Copies of the book may be borrowed from the library's print collection, as well as an ebook or digital audiobook from CloudLibrary. The library even owns a graphic novel edition.

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Announcement or Event?



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Or contact Tara Simopoulos at:  
[advertising@capecourier.com](mailto:advertising@capecourier.com)





A Happy  
Mother's Day *by the sea*

Sunday, May 11 - 8am-2pm

Join us for a sumptuous, ocean view three-course brunch

Three-Course Prix Fixe Sample Items:

Smoked Salmon  
Avocado Toast  
Caesar Salad  
Eggs Benedict  
\$79 adults & kids 4-12, \$36

Pan-Seared Halibut  
Braised Lamb  
New York Striploin  
Roasted Mushrooms (V)  
Vegan Chocolate Mousse

SEA  
glass

At Inn by the Sea

Special Children's Menu:

Fruit Plate Scrambled Eggs French Toast Brownie Sundae Sorbet

Kids 4-12, \$36

40 Bowery Beach Road | Cape Elizabeth

Please call for  
Reservations  
207-799-3134

View the entire menu  
at [InnbytheSea.com](http://InnbytheSea.com)





# IT'S TIME FOR AN INVESTMENT IN CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOLS

## Critically Needed School Construction Project on the June 10th Ballot

**Experts Agree: Cape Elizabeth Middle School is facing critical issues that threaten student safety, learning, and wellbeing.**

- **Hard to Exit in an Emergency:** Narrow stairwells and long hallways in the 1934 building create dangerous bottlenecks.
- **Difficult for First Responders to Navigate:** In an emergency, time matters—and this layout works against us.
- **Visitors Get Lost:** Sprawling layout leads to confusion and slows response times.
- **Poor Visibility:** Hidden corners and disconnected hallways make it hard to properly supervise students or guests.
- **Difficult to Lock Down:** In a crisis, every second counts—and this building wasn't designed with today's security needs.
- **Undersized Classrooms:** Many don't meet the needs of today's student population.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** Mechanical systems are well past their useful life, and at risk of failure.

**“Those of us who drive cars with 200,000 miles on them know we are on borrowed time. The Cape Elizabeth Middle School far exceeds a car with 200,000 miles on it.”**

**- Cape Elizabeth Owner's Representative  
Turner & Townsend Heery**



**Sprawling MS layout is a safety concern.  
Main Office is 50 yards from the front entrance.**

Renovating the current Middle School would come at a high cost, with nearly every classroom built on load-bearing walls that make updates complex and expensive. It's not just a construction challenge—it's **a growing risk to student safety and a financial liability for taxpayers.** Fixing the old building would cost more than building new, and waiting could lead to sudden failures, emergency spending, and major disruptions to learning. Building a new school is the smarter, safer investment for Cape's future.

The School Board cut \$30 million dollars in cost and scope since the 2022 bond. The estimated tax impact - spread out over 8 years - **never rises above \$231-a-year for a home valued at \$750,000, a monthly cost of \$20.**

Approximate effect of \$86.5 million School Bond on Property Taxes annually (at a 4% interest rate)

Property Value	Current mill rate	Current Propety Tax	Annual Property Tax increase for Project							
			2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
\$500,000	\$11.00	\$5,500	\$0	\$77	\$154	\$154	\$149	\$72	\$72	\$0
\$750,000	\$11.00	\$8,250	\$0	\$116	\$231	\$231	\$223	\$107	\$107	\$0
\$1,000,000	\$11.00	\$11,000	\$0	\$154	\$308	\$308	\$297	\$143	\$143	\$0
\$1,500,000	\$11.00	\$16,500	\$0	\$231	\$462	\$462	\$446	\$215	\$215	\$0
\$2,000,000	\$11.00	\$22,000	\$0	\$308	\$616	\$616	\$594	\$286	\$286	\$0

Annual Tax Increase Percentage: 0.0% 1.4% 2.8% 2.8% 2.7% 1.3% 1.3% 0.0%

Table 1 courtesy of the Town of Cape Elizabeth.

Estimated tax dollars per home based on property values. Increases occur incrementally between 2027 and 2032 and then remain flat until the bond payoff in 2057. An interest rate of 4% was applied based on guidance from Joe Cuetara, of Moors & Cabot, on March 26, 2025.

**The School Board's Phased Three-School Approach is:**

- The best plan for the education of our town's children.
- The best plan for student and staff safety and security.
- The best plan to address critical needs at all three schools.
- The best plan for long-term facility planning of our schools.

**A New Middle School & Effective Long-Term Planning Are Both Possible on June 10th!**



**LEARN MORE**

[www.cape.k12.me.us/page/buildingproject](http://www.cape.k12.me.us/page/buildingproject)