The Cape Courter

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capecourier.com

_____ In the Spirit of Community ___

News from March Planning Board CEMS Drama Club to perform meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Cape Elizabeth Basketball Courts Site Plan Amendment

The town of Cape Elizabeth requested a site plan amendment to construct an outdoor basketball court located at 6 Scott Dyer Road. Steve Harding, of Sebago Technics and Cape Elizabeth Town Engineer, presented the site plan amendments to the Council. Harding also worked with Jay Reynolds, Public Works Director, and Meredith Beauregard of Cape Hoops.

The proposed location of the basketball court is adjacent to the Spurwink School building and near the Thomas Memorial Library, and Holman Road, a private road that connects to Scott Dyer Road. The basketball court is proposed to be 50 feet by 84 feet in size, with 5 or 6 feet around the edge and an additional practice hoop area sized to be 22 feet by 22 feet in size.

Since the proposed project is under 10,000 square feet of impervious area, no formal stormwater management plan is required. There are two rain gardens proposed that will help to maintain any stormwater and runoff amounts. The court will also include a black chain link perimeter fence measuring 10 feet in height with one point of access and egress; a portable restroom to be situated on a crushed stone pad with a stockade perimeter; and a painted logo on the

court much like at Hannaford field, and the color is to be determined.

Other details mentioned in the presentation is the suggestion for an overhead line to be buried for safety and to retain service to a building on the south side of the lot and a "carry in, carry out" policy with no trash receptacles on the lot. There will be no lighting in the park and the court will operate at a "dawn to dusk" arrangement like other parks in town. A parking generation analysis was performed as requested during a workshop meeting. Vehicular parking options will be off Hillway Road on the school parcel, near the middle school soccer field area, and behind Town Hall.

Planning board members voted unanimously to approve the site plan application for a basketball court construction as complete. A site plan was performed at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 22. A public meeting on the proposed basketball court will be held at the April 15 regular planning board meeting.

Steve Harding also presented a "second part" of the project requesting a site plan amendment to the previously approved site plan for the Thomas Memorial Library to construct a driveway connecting to Holman Road. Harding noted that these amendments are also part of the Town Intersection plan that will re-

-see PLANNING BOARD page 5

Cape 3rd/4th grade basketball team wins tournament, has undefeated season



Contributed photo

On March 2 the Cape Elizabeth boys 3rd/4th grade team won the Brunswick Parks and Rec basketball tournament. With a 4-0 record, the team closed out an undefeated tournament season.

Pictured left to right:

Front row: Abbott Oliver, Ivan Ritchie, Silvio Cimato

Middle row: Henry Hug, Ambrose Marlow, Teddy Bakis, Jack Mavodones, Ben Mitchell,

Back row: Coach Tom Marlow, Coach Lucas Ritchie, Coach Mark Oliver Not pictured: Phineas Knott, Bryce Ginn, Coach Matt Ginn, Coach Jeff Mitchell

Disney's 'Frozen Jr.'

By Steve Price



The cast of "Frozen Jr." Performances will run from April 10-13 in the CEMS auditorium.

ing stage adaptation of the top-grossing animated film of all time! Join Anna, Elsa, Olaf, and all of your favorite char- It Go," as well as wonderful new songs acters as they embark on an epic, icefilled journey of self-discovery, camaraderie and the real meaning of true love.

Do you want to build a snowman? Adapted for young performers, this mu-You'll love this fanciful and heartwarm- sical includes favorite Frozen songs such as "Love Is an Open Door," "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?," and "Let

-see DRAMA page 5

Sen. Susan Collins visits CEHS government class, virtually

By Kevin St. Jarre



Photo by Kevin St. Jarre

U.S. Sen. Susan Collins visits live with CEHS government students via Zoom, answering their questions. CEHS Teacher Ted Jordan, who coordinated the meeting with Collins' staffer and CEHS alumna Tess Haller, stands to the left in this photo.

Cape Elizabeth High School alumna Tess right into the students' questions." Haller works for U.S. Senator Susan Collins, and she collaborated with CEHS teacher Ted Jordan to hold a virtual meeting, via Zoom, between Jordan's Government students and the GOP Senator.

Haller first joined Sen. Collins' office as an intern in 2019 while still attending Assumption University in Worcester, Massachusetts studying political science and government. She is currently the Senator's Director of Scheduling. She graduated from CEHS in 2016, and is remembered at the schools as a terrific student and talented athlete.

Students and Jordan first asked Haller a few questions, before Sen. Collins herself came on the screen.

Jordan asked the Senator if she wanted to share something with the students, or to go directly to students asking questions, and Sen. Collins said she would be "delighted to jump

She then fielded a variety of questions, beginning with what her job actual entails. Sen. Collins also said she was opposed to the tariffs on Canadian goods, and was in favor of continuing the United States support for Ukraine in its defense against the ongoing Russian invasion.

A Social Studies teacher with decades in the classroom, Ted Jordan is a veteran educator on the CEHS faculty, and is known for bringing in notable, and sometimes tough to schedule, guest speakers. Sen. Collins, for example, is the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and as such is in high demand. Haller said that the day before, Sen. Collins had 75 separate meetings with Mainers in her Washington D.C. office, so even a virtual visit with Jordan's class, with roughly 25 students present, is quite a special learning oportunity.

The Cape Courier P.O. Box 2248 South Portland, Maine 04116 207-939-9766

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

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NEXT ISSUE: April 23 DEADLINE: Noon, April 11

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'Now is the time to invest in all children' 'Stop kicking the can

Feeling anxious and hopeless regarding our current political climate? Then now is the time to invest in the essential professionals working in our school system.

Like other districts around us, Cape is facing a budget shortfall this season (see Sentry article South Portland to lay off teachers, Ed. techs, administrators). But, ours is not due to a reduction in federal funding. It's the result of a tax revaluation.

There is more value in Cape than before. Let's invest that value in the invaluable staff that have decided to dedicate their work lives to educating and caring for our children. If you disagree with the egregious dismantling of federal services (e.g. 4,000 U.S. DOE staff facing layoffs), then email our school board and ask that they present a bold budget including a 0% reduction in staff (no RIFs).

As a teacher in our community and a father of three students across our three buildings, I can inform you that our schools are not adequately staffed. Consider the ratio of students to staff and don't be fooled. Is 20 to 1 a ratio you would stand behind when thinking of your child's education? Not to mention both food service and custodial, where a lack of staffing has necessitated an all hands on deck approach (think... administrators running registers).

Now is the time to invest in all children. Let's send a signal to Augusta and Washington that Cape supports educators.

Chriss Sutherland

Dismayed by ad in March 12 issue

I am writing to express my dismay at the ad addressing the proposed Town Center amendment placed by the Cape Neighbors organization in the March 12-25 edition of the Cape Courier. I believe that the ad leaves a reader with the impression that the Town Center amendment would apply to every neighborhood in Cape Elizabeth. That is simply not factual. Just as the title of the amendment indicates, it only would apply to a small area in the vicinity of the town center where

the town hall, police station, schools and retail activities are located.

From my knowledge of the proposed Hardy Pond senior housing project that led to the Town Center Amendment, I believe that it would be an amenity to the town. Its proposed location is ideal for senior residents given its easy access to town services, including retail and medical services. Accordingly, I strongly support the Town Center Amendment and will vote accordingly in the upcoming referendum.

John Grew

down the road'

Please know that we are in total support of the current revised \$86.5 million middle ground school plan.

With continued interruptions to all the work that's been put into this-the costs will just get higher and higher and the current political situation (tariffs, etc.) will escalate the costs even further.

The most current proposal has had many experts in their fields sharing in the project. Enough is enough. We do not think that others, without the expertise, should be allowed to pull down the efforts of those that have given many thousands of hours to this middle ground proposal.

We're 40+ year residents of Cape. Our children graduated from the schools. We currently have 4 grandchildren in the schools. Our daughter Catherine Adams is coaching the middle school field hockey team while raising 4 children and working as a VP at TD Bank. Her husband, also a Cape HS graduate, Ben Blouin, is coaching both the youth soccer and lacrosse programs while managing our grocery store in Kennebunk.

Please, we sincerely ask each of you, to stop kicking the can down the road and move forward. We knew 30+ years ago the schools needed work, but the school boards were shut down over the years by too many people only thinking of themselves and NOT for the good of the community.

> **Andrea Adams Bruce Dunphey**

THANK YOU!

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> > Anonymous

Kristina & Kevin Justh

Checks made out to The Cape Courier may be mailed to P.O. Box 2248, South Portland, Maine, 04116. Please include a message on your correspondence if you prefer to remain anonymous.

Let us hear from you!
We love feedback!
editor@capecourier.com

'Let's trust the process and the experts'

As a senior with neither kids nor grandchildren in the schools, I'm writing in support of a referendum to finance a new middle

The architect has worked through options and has made several changes to the most recent plan which will reduce the cost of the project. The last bond question brought to the voters in November 2024 lost by a mere 166 votes. Cape's owner's project manager, whose job it is to a provide professional opinion to safeguard the town's assets, has said the middle school is past its useful life and the mechanical systems are not providing the required services for a building with this kind of sprawl found in the school. Plus, the security situation has also been cited as in-

adequate.

A new middle school resets the clock on one of our buildings, addresses the sprawling nature of the building and provides flexible learning spaces found in modern schools. It avoids the possibility of finding concealed conditions which can significantly drive up costs and create construction delays. We are in a rising cost environment.

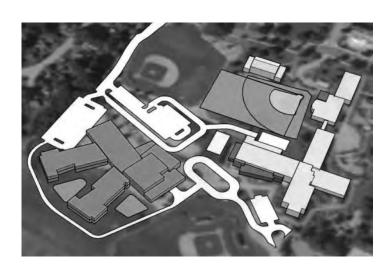
Responsible stewardship requires us to address these building needs as soon as possible to protect our investment. The time to act is now. Let's trust the process and the experts. Please support a June referendum question for a new middle school.

Andy Patten

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 UNACCEPTABLE



Though twice rejected by Cape Elizabeth voters, the School Board has rushed to send the failed middle school project for a low turnout June referendum, without any consideration of alternatives. The School Board's deeply flawed proposal was unacceptable in 2022 and 2024—and it's even worse today. Our students, teachers, and staff deserve better than this.

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

- The total project cost is at least \$106 million. And property taxes would rise by over 12% for the middle school project alone. Many more increases will be needed in the coming years 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.
- **ZERO dollars for the High School** despite \$11 million in necessary investments identified by Harriman for health and safety upgrades, 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.
- **Middle school enrollment has dropped 27%**, from approximately 661 in 2004 to 445 today, with enrollment projected to decline further by 2035.
- 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.
- Despite an \$800,000 cut in state funding this year, the School Board has priortized this deeply flawed project instead of paying for teachers, books, and support staff. It is reckless to push a plan with \$15 million in unfunded repairs when we can't even guarantee teacher salaries.

A SMARTER ALTERNATIVE: THE "THREE SCHOOL SOLUTION"

Developed by former School Building Advisory Committee members Larry Benoit and Michael Hussey, based on Harriman's prior SBAC 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**, ensuring teacher salaries and student needs come first—not emergency repair bills.
- 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 minimal portable classrooms.

- **Builds 53,000 square feet of new construction**, including secure entrances, new cafeterias for 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 demand proper consideration of alternatives, including the "Three School Solution."
- Contact the Town Council: cetowncouncil@capeelizabeth.org.



Cape needs to act now for the future

1932 and 1933 were perhaps the worst years of the Great Depression, with unemployment reaching almost 25% (for comparison, unemployment just before Covid and since recovery has been between 3.5% and 4.2%), hundreds of "Hooverville" shantytowns appearing around the country, and no sign that things were going to get better.

That was the state of the world when the residents of Cape Elizabeth recognized and acted on the need for a new school. They didn't have to take on that expense. They could have, quite reasonably, said "not now, we're in the middle of the worst depression

in a generation".

Instead of a new school, they could have built an addition onto the Town Hall that then housed high school students. But they didn't. In that dark time, when no one knew how long the darkness would last, Cape voters thought about their kids, and about the future, and not just about their own pain. The Cape we enjoy today is the product of their confidence in the future. The Cape of 50 years from now depends on our being as bold and forward-thinking as they were.

Jim Morse

'Sorting through the noise'

At the May 2, 2024 (recorded) meeting the SBAC brought in a consultant to assist in identifying key criteria for developing a school plan. While all expressed SAFETY was important, "LIKLIHOOD TO PASS" gained the most votes in a live exercise.

If the most important criteria for SBAC members was to get something to pass, it seems contrary that some are now ignoring the forward momentum of acceptance by town voters!

In November of 2022, referendum failed by 62% to 38% vote. However, after the impressive work by the SBAC, months of iterations, multiple board meetings and public forums, in a November 2024 vote, the momentum shifted only failing 51% to 49%, with a 166-vote difference. In 2025, with more refinements, another referendum endorsed by the school board is now before

the Town Council.

At the March 24, 2025 (recorded) TC meeting, 3 former SBAC members suggested an alternative which is not endorsed by the SB. Additionally, 2 other members shared views that the newest plan presented by the SB is the right one and why the suggested alternative comes up short.

In my opinion, Patrick and Corinne's professional careers most closely align with project and their comments, therefore, hold the most weight.

If you find it challenging sorting through the noise, I suggest finding someone in the community that aligns most closely with your gut instincts, follow their lead, and vote with your heart, and hopefully on a June ballot.

Gayle Schmidt

Schools are 'key foundations in communities'

I've attended many school board and town council meetings to hear all opinions and to better understand what is involved in the new middle school project. I'm not a fan of speaking in public settings, but that in no way means lack of opinion or interest. I completely support this project.

Some say we can save money on the project by not spending on the groundwork. This speaks to me as I am just about the last person in the car line for picking up my

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editor@capecourier.com

granddaughters. The staff are doing an incredible job to manage this process with the current configuration. Part of the proposal is to improve safety for parent pickup, bus lanes, parking lot locations, walking paths, and pedestrian traffic. ALL needed.

I have great respect for Dr. Record. I find negative comments about his handling of the enrollment numbers to be disappointing. I believe he has great integrity and is working faithfully to guide the best educational opportunities for all of Cape's children.

Line in the sand, neighbor against neighbor, and for what? - SCHOOLS! - One of the key foundations of communities.

Thank you for considering voting YES on the school board approved referendum.

Michael E. Schmidt

Basic transparency is required

page advertisement in the previous Courier supportive of the new middle school proposal.

The ad claims that this 3-schools proposal does three things:

- 1. Replaces the middle school with a new building
- 2. Constructs a secure entry and updates to Pond Cove Elementary school
- 3. Addresses repairs to the high school and elementary school using CIP+ Maintenance+Repair budgets over the next

Then in conclusion, it states the "Total Project Cost" is approximately 86.5 million dollars.

Now this is simply not true.

It costs 86.5 million dollars for 1. replacing the middle school and 2. construction at Pond Cove, PLUS 15 million dollars in critical repairs over the next 12 years.

Claiming that the total project cost, includ-

I want to bring your attention to the one- ing 12 years of critical repairs, equals 86.5 million dollars is inaccurate, misleading and non-transparent.

This ad's conclusion should read that the total project cost of 1+2+3= approximately 101.5 million dollars.

Our building's long delayed critical needs got this process started in the first place. These critical repairs are fundamental and integral to this project.

Delaying this 15 million in critical repairs over twelve years will result in significant inflation. These 12 years of inflation plus 15 million in critical repairs should not only be publicly available but should be included in all documents and advertisements related to "total project costs."

Whether one supports or does not support the current proposal, it's a requirement of basic transparency to provide this project information.

Jennifer Bodenrader

Cape residents 'deserve clarity'

I'm writing regarding the Cape Neighbors Alliance (CNA) and its relationship with our current town governance. Public documents filed with the state of Maine indicate that as of February 28, 2023, Stephanie Anderson held the position of "Vice President and Vice Chair" of this organization.

Recent CNA advertisements in the Cape Courier have taken strong positions on various Town Council matters, characterizing proposed zoning amendments as potentially harmful to Cape's neighborhoods, questioning the scheduling of school bond referendums, and raising concerns about Council decision-making processes. The CNA has also indicated support for citizen-led petition efforts to challenge Council decisions.

In the interest of transparency, I believe Cape Elizabeth residents deserve clarity on the following:

• Is the Stephanie Anderson listed in CNA's organizational documents the same person who currently serves on our Town Council?

- If so, when did her leadership role with CNA begin and/or end?
- · How does she reconcile any past or present association with an organization that appears to oppose various Council initiatives?
- How does she ensure that positions taken by CNA do not create conflicts with her obligations as an elected official?

The Cape Neighbors Alliance describes itself as advocating for transparency and good governance where "personal agendas are set aside." I believe these questions align perfectly with those stated values.

This inquiry is not about criticizing any individual or organization, but rather about ensuring Cape Elizabeth residents fully understand the various interests and affiliations that may influence our town governance.

Chris A. Gorski

CE Little League celebrates 75 years

Cape Elizabeth Little League is turning 75 — and we're inviting the entire community to join the celebration!

Whether you're a former player, coach, volunteer, or a longtime fan, we'd love to see you at this year's special anniversary events. Festivities include:

- April 11 opening day featuring special
- May 16 a gala fundraiser to support our

local fields

• May 17 - an alumni softball tournament

Let's honor the past and pitch into the future — visit https://www.capelittleleague. com to learn more, see this year's Little League schedule, sign up for the distribution list, share stories from the past, buy tickets to the gala, or sign up to play in the alumni game. We can't wait to celebrate with you.

Play ball!

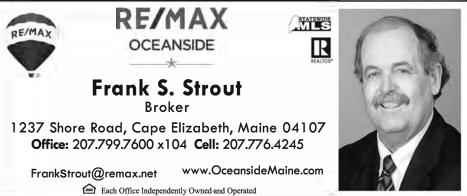




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Body found at Fort Williams

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 3-13 An officer, along with EMS and CEFD responded to Fort Williams for a report of a body in the water on the shore line. The scene was secured and Maine State Police was contacted for further investigation.
- 3-14 Two officers responded to a location in the Spurwink Avenue area for a well-being check.
- 3-16 An officer spoke with a subject by phone regarding a minor motor vehicle accident that was possibly non-reportable.
- 3-16 An officer met with a subject at Fort Williams regarding a found backpack.
- 3-17 Two officers responded to a residence in the Fowler Road area for a trespass complaint.
- 3-21 An officer met with a resident of the Mitchell Road area who reported that she was working on her Mac Book, clicked on the Facebook shortcut and her screen blinked or froze and then her phone rang. The caller claimed to be from Apple Fraud and that her computer had been hacked and accessed by four different people. She was transferred to two other people with the last one telling her to withdraw several thousand dollars, and that the bank teller would ask her several questions before granting the withdrawal, and told her how to answer the questions. After she had the money she was sent to the Maine Mall to purchase gift cards and to call back with the gift card numbers. She was then asked to purchase more gift cards. At that point, realizing she might have been scammed she contacted Apple Fraud and her bank and neither had any record of their fraud departments contacting her about the transactions or computer problems.
- 3-21 An officer met with a resident in the Scott Dyer Road area regarding a domestic situation

Drama

Continued from page 1

from the Broadway production. With its empowering message of love and understanding, Frozen Jr. will be sure to melt your heart.

The cast and crew of about 70 students involved in this year's CEMS spring production Disney's "Frozen Jr." have been rehearsing since late January and are getting excited to perform for our community this week.

Opening night of the production is Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m., with another 7 p.m. performance on Friday, April 11, followed by two 2 p.m. matinee performances on Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13. The show runs about an hour and the performances will be held in the CEMS auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults and are available online and at the door prior to each performance. Tickets can also be purchased via the QR code on the right.

We hope that you can make plans to attend a performance of Disney's Frozen Jr. and celebrate spring with us by supporting another of our community's wonderful performing arts offerings. See you at the show!

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Ron Spidle, owner

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3-23 An officer met with a resident of the Scott Dyer Road area who reported that she was unable to file her tax return as someone else had filed a return using her social security number.

3-24 An officer met with a resident of the Shore Road area regarding an issue with a contractor.

SUMMONSES

- 3-13 Hebron resident, operating vehicle while using handheld device, Route 77, \$85
- 3-14 Scarborough resident, speeding (44/35 zone), Spurwink Avenue, \$114
- 3-14 South Portland resident, speed (44/30 zone) \$129
- 3-14 South Portland resident, speed (39/30 zone), Shore Road, \$114
- 3-15 Windham resident, uninspected vehicle, Shore Road, \$148
- 3-18 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating after license suspension, Bowery Beach Road
- 3-19 Brownfield resident, uninspected vehicle, Bowery Beach Road, \$148
- 3-18 Cape Elizabeth resident, uninspected vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$148
- 3-22 Portland resident, failure to produce proof of insurance, Bowery Beach Road, \$186

JUVENILE SUMMONSES

3-14 Cape Elizabeth resident, violation of interim license, Scott Dyer Road, \$385

ACCIDENTS

- 3-19 Barbara Perry, Robyn Shaw, accident on Ocean House Road
- 3-24 Jensen Swett, accident on Bowery Beach Road

FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 14. EMS calls: 32



QR code to purchase "Frozen Jr". tickets.





Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

National Consumer Protection Week

It's National Consumer Protection Week—and while AARP is focused on protecting consumers year-round—this is a good time to highlight some key consumer protection tips.

Make certain to use strong and unique passwords on all online accounts; look into password managers as an easier way to tackle this challenge. Where offered, use multi-factor authentication, where you receive a code by text, phone, or installed app, to add a layer of protection beyond your username and password. Rather than clicking links from texts and emails from your bank or from businesses you have accounts with, go to your app if you have one, or to a web browser and type the address in yourself—that way you know you are going to the legitimate site. Also, freeze your credit with the three main credit reporting agencies: TransUnion, Experian and Equifax to block attempts to use any of your sensitive personal information that may have been exposed to open accounts in your name.

Planning Board

Continued from page 1_

move the landscape island and separate Shore Road and Scott Dyer Road intersections.

Harding explained that the residential properties on Holman Road need access to Scott Dyer Road and the town is proposing to provide access by connecting Holman Road to the parking lot at Thomas Memorial Library. The library parking lot will lose three parking spaces to accommodate the travel way connection that will be 19 feet long and 22 feet wide.

Learn how at annualcreditreport.com/securityFreezeBasics.action.

Avoiding the Cruise to Nowhere

Winter is still here and many of us would do just about anything to find some warm weather. Enter the cruise scam. Many of these trips to nowhere literally pop up online as a "free" incentive or a can't-miss deal. What they really are is an attempt to steal your information or your money.

Here are three tips for avoiding a cruise scam when shopping for your spring getaway.

- 1. Beware of starting with a search engine: Scammers buy ads and use fake websites to appear at the top of results. Consider starting your search on trusted cruise line websites instead.
- 2. Check the source: If you receive unsolicited cruise offers, investigate the company to verify its legitimacy, ask questions and study the fine print before booking.
- 3. Pay with a credit card: If you've done your homework and are ready to make the investment, credit cards offer the strongest and most immediate fraud protection.

Members of the Planning Board agreed that "everything we can do to lessen the load on the library" would entail adding signage to indicate flow of parking lot traffic and to limit any traffic from blocking the private road section of Holman Road that leads to residential properties. They also discussed the topic of snow removal to be discussed with town staff since the connector will be a town owned roadway.

Planning board members voted unanimously to approve the site plan amendments to connect Holman Road with the parking lot at Thomas Memorial Library located at 6 Scott Dyer Road as complete.



Kathleen O. Pierce

Vice President Real Estate Advisor

207.232.4030 kpierce@advisorsliving.com



THGD specializes in fine gardening and landscape care, ensuring your garden thrives year-round. Our services include:

- Soil Testing with Amendment Recommendations –
 Optimize plant health and growth
- Garden Design & Installation Utilizing native plants for sustainable, resilient landscapes
- Rejuvenation & Rehab Projects Restore and enhance existing gardens

Contact us to keep your garden looking its best.



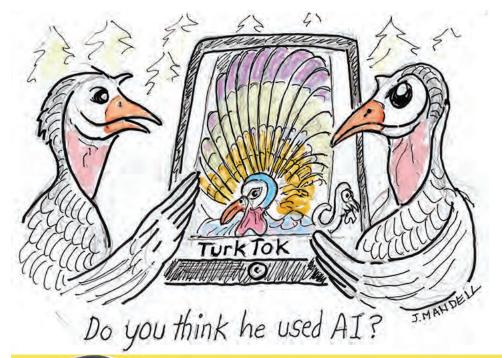


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Capetoons: Turkey mating 2025

By Jeff Mandell



Cape Challenge 5K is May 18

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 other generous sponsors, 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 at 9:00 a.m. and the 5K Cape Challenge at 9:30 a.m.

Proceeds from this event benefit the Cape Elizabeth Pond Cove, middle school and high school Parents' Associations. An awards ceremony will begin at 10:15 a.m. in the Pond Cove/Middle School Cafetorium.

A fundraiser night to support the Cape Challenge will be held on Tuesday, April 15 at Flatbread Company, located at 72 Commercial Street in Portland. The event will run from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. and applies to dine-in, take-out orders and deliveries.

Follow the Cape Challenge on Facebook and on Instagram: @CapeChallenge5k. For any questions, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact capechallenge5k@gmail.com.





Travel & House League For players in grades K-8

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Kindergarten registration open

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
- 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@capeelizabeth-schools.org
 - Phone: 207-799-7339.

April 9, 2025 Edition

CAPE NEIGHBORS

CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL BUIDLING UPDATE

Rejected by Cape's voters in November, the School Board and the Town Council majority continue to fast-track their Middle School building bond to yet another referendum—controversially in **June**, when voter turnout is dramatically lower.

Meanwhile, a new, fiscally responsible approach is gaining momentum. Succinctly, the plan would preserve key school facilities that are known to be in excellent condition—and would save property taxpayers an estimated \$42 million.

Highlighted as bright spots during recent school tours, the Middle School's gymnasium, library, and art room would be retained. Rather than demolishing these inspiring, high-quality structures, the new approach preserves them and focuses on strategic investments to modernize and enhance the current campus, including:

- Transforming the poorly utilized 1994 cafetorium structure into a state-of-the-art performing arts center that would house CEMS's award-winning music program.
- Constructing a brand-new, modern school kitchen and separate cafeterias for both Pond Cove and the Middle School, easing congestion and improving lunch schedules.
- **Relocating grades 6-8** from the aging 1934 building into a brand-new, modern classroom wing, expertly designed for 21st-century learning.
- **Building brand-new entryways,** relocating nursing and administrative offices and improving campus safety and flow.
- Fully funding every critical and essential repair and upgrade at all three schools—with no hidden CIP taxes.

Supporters of this pragmatic alternative believe it presents a rare opportunity for community consensus by creating an exceptional educational environment—without placing undue financial pressure on Cape's seniors and young, cost-burdened families. They explain that, when compared to a complete rebuild, this approach would result in a better-designed, more functional, and more inspiring Middle School—while also delivering tens of millions of dollars in property tax relief.

By preserving durable, well-built structures—many of which are just 30 years old—Cape can avoid their costly demolition, reduce disruption, and invest in a smarter, more sustainable solution for students today and in the future.

TOWN CENTER AMENDMENTS AND CONTRACT ZONING

As we await an anticipated **June referendum vote** on the excessive Town Center amendments, concerns are now mounting over the Planning Department's recent approach to "Contract Zoning." The tool was proposed by the Council to Cape's Planning Board back in October 2024. Limited for use in the Town Center district, it could provide a pathway for evaluating specific projects such as "Center Court," without requiring broad zoning changes across the entire district.

Nearly every town in Southern Maine permits Contract Zoning, and several limit its use to specific zones—a balanced approach Cape could adopt. However, the Planning Department has greatly expanded the proposal to allow for Contract Zoning throughout all of Cape Elizabeth. (continued, next column)

The Planning Board's new, overly broad version reflects a recurring pattern—routinely exceeding what's necessary and contributing to ongoing community mistrust. The original version, which limits Contract Zoning to the Town Center district, would promote both greater transparency and greater accountability.

The Planning Board has also elected to add a public benefit requirement to the proposal, but thus far has inexplicably omitted 55+ housing as a qualifying purpose, despite its alignment with Cape's Comprehensive Plan and its ability to address a key community need.

The long delay on Contract Zoning, combined with their policy decisions, seems to contradict the Planning Department and Council's claims of support for the "Center Court" project.



LD 2003 SUPPLEMENTAL ZONING CHANGES

Cape Elizabeth residents are also raising questions over yet another set of proposed zoning changes. Described as "LD 2003 Supplemental" by the Town Council, these changes continue to be misrepresented as being required by state law LD 2003.

State law LD 2003 mandated certain updates to local zoning, such as more flexibility around Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). Cape Elizabeth has already exceeded those mandates, having instituted changes such as the removal of off-street parking requirements and the allowance of detached ADUs up to 800 square feet, well beyond the required 190 square foot allowance.

The proposed discretionary changes go significantly further, including increasing the allowable ADU size to 1,100 square feet —larger than many homes in Cape. Critics warn this could lead to major, unintended impacts in established neighborhoods.

Another controversial provision involves voluntarily shrinking Cape's minimum lot size requirements. The proposed reductions would allow for hundreds of additional small apartment buildings—up to four units each—to be built on smaller lots throughout residential areas. Over 400 potentially affected properties have been identified by the Planning Department, but they have not contacted those property owners or the 1,000+ neighbors.

Cape residents have shared other concerns as well. Under the current proposal, these neighborhood apartment projects would even bypass site plan review, eliminating oversight of safety, environmental, and design issues—and would yet again leave neighbors with no notice or input.

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.

CEEF seeking annual Alumni Award nominations

The Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation is seeking nominations for its 2025 CEEF Alumni Award. This award is given annually at the CEHS Graduation, which will be held June 1 to recognize outstanding professional and community contributions by Cape Alumni, who have lived up to the guiding principles of the school's mission and vision:

- academic excellence
- creative and collaborative problem solving
- commitment to community
- passion and perseverance
- willingness to take constructive risks
- life guided by personal integrity, em-

pathy, responsibility and respect for self and others

Past winners include: Curt Brown (2024), Christine Marshall (2021), Clare Egan (2020), David Barber (2019), Nick Tammaro (2018), Don Perkins (2017), David Weatherbie (2016), Henry Kramer (2015) and Luke Holden (2014).

If you know of a Cape Alumni who is deserving of this honor and recognition, CEEF wants to hear from you. To nominate somebody, please visit CEEF's website for the application: https://ceef.us/alumniaward/

Deadline for submission is April 30.

Print editions of several area newspapers will cease

By Kevin St. Jarre

The Maine Trust for Local News is a non-profit, established in 2021, to take over a port-folio of local print and digital newspapers, including the Portland Press Herald, from Masthead Media. They have announced that they have entered into a restructuring period, cutting nearly 50 jobs and ending the run of some print editions.

The jobs eliminated include 36 full time and 13 part time positions responsible for production of the print editions, and their circulation. Advertising positions are also impacted, according to a press release. However, no reporters were cut.

The restructuring is necessary to be financially sustainable and accessible, the release read.

The print editions replaced by digital newsletters and electronic editions include those of the American Journal, Biddeford Courier, the various Forecasters, Kennebunk Post, Scarborough Leader and South Portland Sentry.

This will leave The Cape Courier as one of the very few printed newspapers in the region, serving the community since its first issue on March 5, 1988.

Stefanie Manning, the managing director of The Maine Trust for Local News, said in the news release, "Printed news products are an essential and ongoing part of the work we do..." but she cited the ongoing challenge of advertising revenue and market size.

The nonprofit said it expects the hire more reporters and editors this year and to add new beats, reporting positions and digital news products.

The National Trust for Local News, founded in 2021, acquired the portfolio from Masthead Media.

Project Graduation 2025 Online Auction!

Auctions starts April 1st Bidding ends Sunday, April 13 at 5:45 PM





https://www.32auctions.com/CAPEELIZABETHPG2025

Come see the amazing items available for bid on our online auction - including prime seating and parking for Graduation Day! Local artists, retailers, and services have donated generalously in support of Project Graduation 2025.

Don't miss your chance to bid & support!

CEEF funding launches first CEHS Trades Day

Cape Elizabeth High School held its first-ever Trades Day on Wednesday, March 26. The event, organized by Ms. Coombs, Ms. Tarantino, Mrs. Hetrick, and Mrs. Gagne, gave students a unique opportunity to explore in-demand career pathways in skilled trades and other hands-on professions.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF), students connected with professionals from construction, electrical, boat building, cosmetology, tourism, public safety, medicine, mechanics and more

"We were excited that over 70 CEHS students participated in our first Trades Day! Students said they enjoyed the small group discussions and learned about careers they hadn't known about before. We established strong partnerships with large companies like Bath Iron Works and MaineMedical as well as local organizations like the Cape Elizabeth Fire and Police departments. We look forward to planning more career exploration

events in the future," said Sarah Coombs, CESD Student Pathways Coordinator.

As industries nationwide face a growing demand for skilled workers, students learned how trade careers can offer job security, strong earning potential and stability. The event highlighted pathways that feature on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and certification programs—allowing graduates to enter the workforce faster and with little to no student debt. With Maine's economy relying heavily on industries such as construction, marine trades, and healthcare, learning a skilled trade can lead to highpaying, recession-resistant jobs that are essential to communities.

Participating organizations included:

- Public Safety: Cape Elizabeth Police & Fire Departments
- Construction & Electrical: Maine Construction Academy, Apex Electrical
- Real Estate: ReMax Oceanside, Marsden Real Estate
- Cosmetology: Rock, Paper, Scissors
- Tourism & Hospitality: Luke's Lobsters, Mainely Burgers
- Medical Careers: MaineHealth (CNA, phlebotomy, tech roles)
- Blue Economy: Lift All Boats, Landing School of Boat Building & Design
- Mechanics & Engineering: Bath Iron Works

Students had the opportunity to ask questions, participate in demonstrations, and learn about educational requirements for various trades. The event's success has prompted discussions about making Trades Day an annual tradition at CEHS.

Judy's Pantrya community feeding itself

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

Prior registration is necessary. Recent eligibility guidelines for visiting Judy's Pantry have eased. Please contact Beth Owens: bethowens1@gmail. com. Please consider a non-perishable donation to the IGA drop box.

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Dr. Marta Agrodnia DVM, DACVS-SA



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Springtime in the Park

By Cape Elizabeth Community Services

Parks Foreman Scott Smart and the Public Works Department are beginning their spring clean-up duties in the park, which includes installing those court nets.

If you haven't yet viewed the local and military history exhibits on display at the Fort Williams Museum and Cape Elizabeth History Center, they are currently open on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, or by appointment. They are located near the baseball field in the former Bachelor Officers' Quarters at the end of the Parade Ground.

Andrea Southworth, Ecology Project Manager for Friends of Fort Williams will resume weekly bird-watching walks beginning Wednesday, April 9, at 7 a.m. The group meets in front of the lighthouse, and you are welcome to join them on any Wednesday through early July. If weather conditions necessitate a cancellation, updates will be posted on their social media pages.

April is National Kite Flying Month, and the Nor'Easters Kite Club will hold its Easter Fly event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 20. Feel free to join them atop Battery Knoll (where the flag pole stands) and fly your kite or watch club members fly theirs.

Victory I will set sail on April 17 for its inaugural journey from Portland to Toronto, Canada, marking the first ship in the port this season. Cruise ship passengers can sign up for The Lighthouse Excursion, which includes a visit to Fort Williams Park.

As the weather warms up, food vendors will begin returning to the park on weekends. Currently, food trucks Bite Into Maine and Gorgeous Gelato will be back, and local favorite C-Salt will be joining them. Together, they will offer a variety of delicious options, including lobster rolls, sandwiches, salads and gelato.

Visitor Services Supervisor Dom Walker will launch a new free walking tour in the park starting Monday, May 12. These onehour guided tours will run daily (weather permitting) at 3 p.m. Interested visitors should gather behind the Greeter's Shed in Central Parking. A park ranger or greeter will lead the tours along the one-mile Cliff Walk Trail, which will include eight stops featuring discussions about fort structures, native plantings, shipwrecks and lighthouses.

Before the park gets into full swing, Community Services will open the tower for Cape Elizabeth residents on Sunday, May 18. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, firstserved basis starting Monday, May 12 at 8 a.m. Tickets can be picked up at the Community Center and include an assigned climbing time beginning at 10 a.m. for the 85 steps to the top. The U.S. Coast Guard Guard's regulations require all participants must be at least 48 inches tall.

We are preparing the museum and gift shop to open for their 43rd season starting Saturday, May 24, with hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily through October. The museum and gift shop are staffed by over 30 volunteers whose efforts generate essential revenue to help maintain the lighthouse. We are always in need of more volunteers; if you are interested, please contact the director at 207-799-2868 or kathleen.raftice@capeelizzabeth.org.

In anticipation of opening day, Gift Shop Supervisor Rosanne Rogers is looking to recruit a couple of Cape Elizabeth High School students to fulfill their Senior Transition Project requirement and assist with unpacking inventory and stocking shelves. Interested students can reach out to STP Coordinator Ted Jordan for more information.

As you can see, a lot is happening in the park this time of year. The seasonal staff looks forward to welcoming you back for birdwatching, kite flying, picnicking, participating in the walking tour, attending the Sounds by the Sea summer concert series starting July 7, and supporting the gift shop and museum through volunteering or by shopping for lighthouse inspired gifts.





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News from the superintendent

By Dr. Chris Record

Happy spring everyone! I hope you and your family had a wonderful winter and you are now looking forward to warmer weather and all of the trees and flowers coming back to life. March can be a long month in schools due to the dreary weather, but I continue to be so proud of and impressed by our amazing students and very talented staff.

By the time this issue is published, the School Board will have voted on the 2025-2026 School Budget. The District Leadership Team and the School Board collaborated over several workshops to both meet our budget goals and to also reduce expenditures from the original budget request presented to the Board in January. Unfortunately, due to an 18% valuation increase of Cape Elizabeth by the state, our state aid was reduced by nearly \$800,000 for next year. This is nearly a third of what we typically receive. Despite this, we believe we are still coming forward with a budget that continues to provide our students with an excellent education, but also has among the lowest, if not lowest, expenditure increase of any school district in Cumberland County. We ask for your support of the School Budget in the upcoming June

As for the school building project, at

a special business meeting on February 24, the Cape Elizabeth School Board unanimously approved a school project referendum and moved it forward to the Town Council for review. By the time of the publishing of this Courier issue, we will know when the Town Council chose for the referendum date. We will also be scheduling school tours, to allow a chance for you to go inside the middle school and see why we believe it needs to be replaced.

The referendum includes plans to construct a new middle school and build a safe and secure front entrance main office addition to Pond Cove Elementary. The total cost of the referendum to accomplish this investment in our schools is \$86.5 million. For more information on the project please go to https://www.cape.k12.me.us/page/ buildingproject.

We will continue making needed improvements to Cape Elizabeth High School and Pond Cove every year utilizing our facilities funds from our regular yearly school budget.

Now, I am proud to share a few highlights from our schools.

At Pond Cove Elementary, students have been highly engaged in a variety of music lessons. In the photo below, first

-see SUPERINTENDENT page 15



Contributed photo

Pond Cove Elementary first graders working on their drumming skills.



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TML hosts Aleah Black, Japanese fish printing by Nate Garrett on display

Gyotaku, Japanese fish printing by Nate Garrett on display in April

Maine artist Nate Garrett's work is grounded in the tradition of Gyotaku, Japanese fish printing, and draws upon traditional and experimental printing techniques. His minimalist compositions present subjects in isolation, inviting viewers to engage through the unique prism of their own experiences and memories. The start realism and thoughtful use of space and color have drawn comparison to 18th century Japanese painter Itō Jakuchū. Nate gained international recognition in 2023 with appearances on TV Tokyo and participation in a group exhibition at the Hall of Awa Museum in Tokushima, Japan. Nate lives and works in South Portland. He will do a Gyotaku demonstration at the library and talk about his work on Tuesday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. Nate's show can be viewed in the Stier Family Gallery throughout the month of

Holiday Closure

The library will be closed on Monday, April 21 for Patriots Day.

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!

Maine3Railers Model Train Display

Tuesday, April 22 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Join local model train enthusiasts to learn about their craft and see their trains in action. We are thrilled to have the Maine3Railers Model Train Club return with their fabulous display to transform the meeting room into THE destination for train lovers of all ages.

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

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 (Cooking Matters)

May 28 - Music & Movement - Jud Casewell

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

Saturday, April 26, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate National Library week with a very special film and fun event for all ages. TML is thrilled to partner with Indie Lens for a 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 fami-



lies. 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.

FOR ADULTS

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

Gyotaku: The Japanese Art of Fish **Printing, with Nate Garrett**

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

Join artist Nate Garrett for a live demonstration of Gyotaku, and a discussion of his life and work, some of which is on display in the Stier Family Gallery throughout the month of April.

Cape Elizabeth Garden Club Presents: Making a Spring Container Garden

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

Grace Frost from Highland Farm in Scarborough will present a program on making a spring container garden. Typically she can be found in the annuals department, teaching workshops, or taking care of the retail items. She started gardening as a child with her mother and grandmothers and earned a degree in biology with a focus on botany side at USM. Houseplants and starting plants from seed are two of her passions, but she really loves any aspect of gardening and sharing her

How to Make A Poem with Aleah Black (T)

Saturday, April 19, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

This in-person workshop with Aleah Black, also known on Instagram as gendersauce, is for experienced writers and new artists alike. The 2-hour workshop will include exploration of how to make honest poetry, the value of writing and pieces of art to take home. This class includes a lot of experimentation-- with pens, with ink, with brushes, with words. Participants can expect to leave with new ways of approaching their writing practice that center authenticity and play. Celebrate National

Poetry Month with this new and exclusive workshop from an exciting voice in today's creative world. This workshop is appropriate for ages 15 and up. Limited to 16 participants. Registration required.

Aleah Black Book Reading and Signing Saturday, April 19, 4-5 p.m.

Part poetry book, part coffee table art book, part spell book, "It Is Always A Circle" dives deep into the cycles that make up human experience. The poems track the reader's journey from death into life, from despair into hope. Each page is filled with original linocuts, drawings, musings and poems. Join us for a special reading from Aleah Black, with books available for sale and for signing. Don't miss this evening of creative wisdom, inspiration, and spirit and your chance to hear from a singular voice in today's artistic landscape.

Novel In Stories Writing Workshop with Cynthia Reeves and Laura Bonazzoli

Tuesday, April 22, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Who ever heard of a "novel-in-stories"? Back by popular demand is Cynthia Reeves

and Laura Bonazzoli to answer this and other questions. This novel-in-stories workshop is a conversation, with the audience actively participating, about the art of the novel-instories. The agenda includes: exploration of the genre's background; characteristics that separate this form from traditional short story collections; the benefits and challenges for readers; approaches to writing the novelin-stories; and a conversation about favorite examples of the genre. Cynthia Reeves is the author of three books of fiction; Laura Bonnazoli's poetry has appeared in dozens of literary magazines and several anthologies and has been selected for Maine Public Radio's "Poems from Here." Please register for this workshop on the library website.

Individual Style with Julie Cunningham (T)

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

-see LIBRARY page 15



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Dog owners encouraged to register USS Eagle 56 War Memorial their dogs

By Stephen Lyons (Garda)



Photo Stephen Lyons (Garda)

Cape Elizabeth Resident Dog "Lea" with Town Clerks Wendy Skillin, Linda Winker and Martha Parowski.

Cape Elizabeth Town Clerk Angela Frawley reported that the state has implemented a new registration system this year (called Pet-Point) and many residents are attempting to register their dogs via the new online system but are running into roadblocks.

Some residents are not getting confirmation of their transactions, or not receiving the tags that they paid for. Some residents are getting kicked out of the system before they can complete registration; others are not able to navigate how to register a second dog.

Some are getting so frustrated with the system that they simply opt not to complete the registration process.

Frawley encouraged residents to contact the State Department of Animal Welfare to express their concerns. Frawley would also invite residents to register their dogs in person at Cape Elizabeth Town Hall. As always, a current rabies certificate is required, and now that we are beyond the January 31 date, a state-implemented \$25 late fee is attached.

Dean's list announcements

Ander Erickson was named to the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester at the the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virgina.

Finn Brucker, Business Administration Major, was named to the fall 2024 dean's list at the University of Maine.

Ada Smith was named to the fall 2024 dean's list at Emmanuel College in Boston, Massachusetts.

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester at Tufts University in Medford, Massachu-

Georgia Stewart **Hannah Johnson Tucker Livingston** Sara Levenson

Alex Brooking, an Education major, Honors minor at University of Southern Maine has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester.





Service to be held at Fort Williams

By Stephen Lyons (Garda)

The annual memorial service for the 49 sailors aboard the USS Eagle 56 killed in action off the coast of Cape Elizabeth during World War II will be held on April 23 at 11 a.m. at Fort Williams Park. The service will be attended and organized by members of the VFW Portland, American Legion South Portland, U.S. Marine Corps League, U.S. Navy Sailors of the USS Harvey C. Barnum Jr. (DDG-124) Bath, U.S. Coast Guard. The public is invited to attend and remember these heroes.

During World War II, the USS Eagle 56 was ported at the U.S. Naval Frontier Base in Portland. The Eagle 56 was assigned to Navy Air Station in Brunswick. As part of the USS Eagle's 56 mission, it was assigned patrol work and towing targets off the coast of Cape Elizabeth. The ship routinely pulled practice targets for aircraft from the Navy Air Station in Brunswick.

Portland and Casco Bay was an extremely busy port during World War Two, with U.S. Naval ships, fishing vessels and ships carrying commerce. Casco Bay was protected by a loop recorder and the "Harbor Entrance Control Post" (HECP) at Fort Williams. The HECP required captains of all vessels to wait clearance from the Fort Williams HECP before they could exit or enter the bay. Waiting ships HECP were visually identified and granted clearance based on pre-arranged challenges and responses that used simple passwords, blinking lights and code letters hoisted in signal flags. According to U.S. Navy reports, the HECP at Fort Williams during the month of March 1945 had 1,501 vessels stood through all channels of Casco Bay, and 1,515 outbound vessels of Casco Bay. A total of 3,016 vessels coming in and out of Casco Bay during the month of March, 1945. And even though the war was coming to an end, the German Navy had an interest in attacking these vessels.

At 8:15 a.m. on Monday, 23 April 1945, the USS Eagle 56 departed Portland into Casco Bay. The USS Eagle 56 had sailed with six officers and fifty-seven men when they left Portland that morning. The ship traveled past Portland Head Lighthouse and into the Gulf of Maine to practice towing targets. At approximately 12:13 p.m., the USS Eagle 56 was taking a break from pulling targets and stopped still in the waters about five miles from High Head, Cape Elizabeth.

While the USS Eagle 56 stood stationary in these same waters, a German submarine U-853, was lurking along the coastal waters of Cape Elizabeth. A battle was about to take place between the U.S. Navy and German Navy, five miles off the coast of Cape Elizabeth,

The German Submarine U-853 set its sights on its prey and fatally torpedoed the USS Eagle 56. It was a direct hit on the USS Eagle 56, splitting the ship in two. The ship sunk to the frigid cold ocean waters killing most of its crew. Only one officer and thirteen men survived to return home.

U.S. Navy Ships and military observation posted along the Cape Elizabeth coast saw the explosion of the USS Eagle 56. These ships immideately went toward the explosion in an effort to rescue the survivors and counter attacked the German U-853. A battle took place with the U.S. Navy dropping ordnance in an effort to counter attack and searched for the submarine throughout the night, but were unable to make contact with the enemy that day. (Had you been at High Head at Two Lights State Park you would have been able to watch this battle). The U.S. Navy continued its pursuit of the German U-853 and sunk the German submarine on May 6, 1945 off the coast of Massachusetts.

A war memorial that includes two bronze plagues of the USS Eagles 56 with the names of all the sailors aboard the ship that day is located at Fort Williams Park near Portland Head Lighthouse.



Photo by Stephen Lyons (Garda)

US Navy salutes War Memorial USS Eagle 56 Fort Williams Park; U.S. Coast Guard in background.



Local birding report

By Brooks Bornhofft

Despite the lingering snow of late March, spring migration is well underway. Certain birds mark the changing of the seasons for me and there is something special about the arrival of Fox Sparrows every spring that renews my spirit. This lusty, robust ground sparrow is a wild bird of thicket and forest and typically does not linger long in our backyards on its way north to the Canadian boreal for-

Amongst the dozen or so Song Sparrows, three White-throated Sparrows and pair of Dark-eyed Juncos below our bird feeder on March 23, the Fox Sparrow stood out in the crowd. Slightly larger than a bluebird and with a uniform comprised of rich rusty-chestnut and white with broad spots and streaks below, this bird is one of sparrows that scratches the ground with two feet at once.

Later in the afternoon along Trundy Point my youngest son and I came upon a single Yellow-rumped Warbler foraging within the tiny swath of pines, the soft golden light filtered through the branches illuminating the bird with a warm, almost ethereal glow. A flock of seven Cedar Waxwings passed overhead.

A few additional notes from the yard and field over the last two weeks include, on March 25 within a small pond along Wells Road I came across an uncommon migrant to Cape, a pair of Northern Shovelers. This dabbling duck's specialized bill is shaped like a shovel, measuring nearly an inch longer than a Mallard's and containing nearly a hundred fine, comb-like projections that serve to filter out seeds, aquatic invertebrates and tiny crustaceans from the water.

The female's plumage is mottled brown and similar to a female mallard but has an extensive bright orange bill. Males exhibit a bright white chest, rusty side and a bright green head, Ornithologist Edward Howe Forbush once stated "The Shoveller stands alone. No other duck in North America carries about such a long, broad and extremely specialized spatulate bill, and no other exhibits in the full plumage of the handsome male so peculiar an arrangement of striking colors. It bears no close resemblance to any other bird."

On March 28 the first Brown-headed Cowbird arrived in our yard; fortunately it was run off by a Sharp-shinned Hawk. That evening my wife alerted me to an owl calling outside. I stepped out into the starey darkness and stood listening.

Shortly thereafter an eerie guttural squawk pierced the stillness and my imagination went into overdrive—spinning possibilities from logical to the most outlandish (Great blue heron). Greathorned Owls are known for their range of vocalization and a mating pair will often communicate with squawks and chitters. As I had heard two owls calling to each other several nights prior, the noise I was hearing was likely coming from a female

Great-horned Owl calling to her mate to hurry up and bring food back to the nest.

Also, on March 29 along the Sawyer Road section of the Spurwink River I noted a flock of twenty or more Greenwinged Teals, two Greater Yellowlegs and a Northern Harrier. On this same day I spotted a Northern Harrier flying below the Cliff Walk in Fort Williams.

And last but not least, on the cold, soggy afternoon of March 30 along the Spurwink River Crossing, I was observing four Snow Geese flying high out over the marsh when a fellow birder directed my attention to a spot along the far bank of the tidal river where a Wilson's Snipe was hunkered down.

Elusive as it is interesting, this robinsized member of the Sandpiper family's camouflaged coloration allows it to blend into the wet meadows, marshlands and bogs that it dwells in. Wilson's Snipes are equipped with eyes set far back on their heads, allowing the bird to see in almost every direction.

Snipes also have long, flexible bills which are roughly one-third of its body length. This distinguishing characteristic allows the bird to probe for food deep within the soil. Their feeding habits contribute to soil aeration, which enhances nutrient cycling and supports plant growth. Additionally, the presence of Wilson's Snipes serves as a reliable indicator of wetland vitality— habitats like the Spurwink Marsh are among the richest and most diverse on the planet. Protecting them, along with their inhabitants, is crucial for sustaining global biodiversity.

During the coming weeks males will fly high in the sky over the marsh making haunting whistling noised, referred to as "winnowing." Henry David Thoreau described hearing his first snipe of the season in one of his journal entries as "a-lulling the watery meadows, fanning in the air like a spirit over some far meadow's bay."

Although hiding is one of the snipe's primary defenses, this "shorebird" is primed to make a quick escape if a threat presents itself. Snipes are equipped with huge pectoral muscles that make up more than a quarter of their weight. These muscles allow them to quickly reach speeds up to 60 mph. Both speed and an erratic flight style helps this secretive bird to stay safe from the predators of the marsh. Interestingly, the word "sniper" originated among British soldiers in India during the 1770s as they hunted for snape.

Got a story to share? Email us!



editor@capecourier.com

Celebrating Cape Elizabeth Land Trust's 40th anniversary

By Marta Girouard

The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT) is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. In 1985, a group of Cape Elizabeth residents were serving on the town's Conservation Commission and wanted to help preserve the rural character of the town for future generations. According to Patty Renaud, current CELT Membership and Development Manager, around 20 people were involved in the land trust's first meeting. Some of those in the group included Nat Clifford and Peter and Alice Rand, Carolyn Fritz, and Frances Haywood.

Mike McGovern was the Cape Elizabeth Town Manager at the time. "I remember quite well Dr. Peter Rand and Nat Clifford coming into my office to tell me of the plans to launch a land trust. The town was already investing in acquiring land for the Greenbelt and other open spaces, but they indicated that they thought more donations would be generated through a not for profit than to the municipal government. Dr. Rand served at that time as a board member of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust and cited their success," he said.

With an initial budget of \$900 provided by the town, CELT was officially incorporated in December of 1985. One of the organization's first goals was raising awareness and gaining support for its conservation efforts. The first land conserved was the Wood Road Quarry, donated by Joe and Christine Groff. This marked the beginning of many successful land conservation efforts. To date, CELT has officially conserved 898 acres in 36 parcels.

In 1986 an all-volunteer board of directors was formed and today consists of 12

Cape Elizabeth residents who generously contribute their time and resources to the land trust's mission. An Advisory Council with 27 members provides guidance and the organization is run by a full-time staff of five. About 550 individual members also make annual contributions which provide most of their operating funds.

In addition to conserving open space, CELT strives to educate and engage the community in the stewardship of these lands. Throughout the year, the organization offers stewardship work parties and various programs for the community, from guided walks for young explorers ages 3-5 to its three annual spring 8-mile cross town walks, to talks at the library on a variety of topics. CELT's Education Program Coordinator also works closely with the schools in town to coordinate field trips to the land trust's properties and trails as well as afterschool offerings like the spring and fall hike clubs for 3rd and 4th graders.

Over the past 40 years, CELT has played a vital role in saving Cape Elizabeth's treasured landscapes, from shorelands and marshes to farmlands and woodlands. The land trust looks forward to continuing its work of conserving Cape Elizabeth's special places for generations to come. Stay tuned for more articles commemorating CELT. The land trust also has a number of special events planned throughout the year which will be published in The Cape Courier and posted on CELT's website and social media channels.

For more information on how you can support CELT's ongoing conservation efforts, visit CELT's website: https://www.capelandtrust.org/.

Upcoming CELT programs

CELT's 40th Anniversary Guided Walk Series:

Little Explorers (ages 3-5 with an adult)

Children and caregivers will spend an hour exploring the natural wonders of the Maine woods in spring during this Cape Elizabeth Land Trust event. 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. Lots of hands-on explorations and games included!

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

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CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

Please see the town website, www. capeelizabeth.com for meeting locations

Instructions for joining video conference meetings listed below will be posted on the town website, www. capeelizabeth.com.

Wednesday, April 9

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Thomas Memorial Library, 6 p.m.

Thursday, April 10

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

TML Strategic Plan Working Group, Thomas Memorial Library, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, April 14

Town Council, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 17

Fort Williams Park Committee, Community Center, 6 p.m. Energy Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22

Board of Zoning Appeals, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Ongoing each week

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

Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society, 9 a.m. - noon 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 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.

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

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

Planning Board

April 15 - 7 p.m. **Town Council Meeting**

April 14 - 7 p.m.

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SERVICES

Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene

499 Ocean House Road (Route 77)

747-1113

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

Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church

280 Ocean House Road **799-8396**

799-8396www.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, 10 - 11:00 a.m. Sunday School/Primary: 11:10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Church of the Second Chance

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

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

Rise Church

1047 Congress Street, Portland **874-9779**

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

Congregation Bet Ha'am 81 Westbrook St., South Portland

879-0028

www.bethaam.org Worship: Friday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Family Shabbat Services: Second Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Hope Community Church

879 Sawyer Street South Portland **799-4565**

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

Promised Land World Reach Center 536 Cottage Road, South Portland

799-3152

Sunday Prayer & Intercession: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Family Bible Studies: Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Sermon recordings available to download Redeemer Lutheran Church - LCMS

410 Main Street, Gorham

839-7100 www.RedeemerMaine.org

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

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church 885 Shore Road

799-4014

www.stalbansmaine.org Sunday Services:

Rite 1 with Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. Rite 2 with Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

Live Streaming on YouTube (stalbanschannel)
Children's Programs 9:30 a.m.
Celtic Eventide 5:30 p.m.

Room for all

St Bartholomew Catholic Church of Saint John Paul II Parish

8 Two Lights Road, **207-883-0334** Website: www.JP2me.org

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.
Daily Mass: Mon. and Wed. 8 a.m.
Sacrament of Confession: Mon. 8:30-9 a.m.
Additional Mass times in Scarborough

& South Portland listed on website

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

301 Cottage Road, South Portland 799-3361

www.fccucc.org

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

First Congregational Church of Scarborough

167 Black Point Road, Scarborough 883-2342

www.fccscarborough.com Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery Care

Upcoming Lions Club community dinners

Chicken Dinners:

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

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

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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.

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Library

Continued from page 11_

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.

Edward Jones

Superintendent

Continued from page 10_

graders were working on their drumming skills. They practiced copying rhythms, making up their own rhythms, playing a beat and playing along while singing. After each rendition, (I can play the drum 1-2-3, pass it to the person next to me) students pass the drum to the person next to them so everyone gets to try each different drum.

Second graders have learned the "broom dance." This was an introduction to contra dancing and a chance to practice the sashay, the two line formation and working with many different partners.

Third graders have been listening to "Fanfare of The Common Man," by Aaron Copland. The challenge was to listen and respond to the drums and gong by tossing the scarf in the air. When the brass instruments played, they had to make up a different movement to show the change. This lesson encouraged responding to form in music. It was also a fun way to explore the meaning of a Fanfare, and also how in modern times, this dramatic piece is frequently used at the start of hockey matches and other sporting events such as the Olympics.

The CEMS Drama Club is proud to present Disney's musical production of "Frozen Jr." Please come enjoy a show involving dozens of our talented students on April 10, 11, 12 at 7 p.m. or on the 13 at 2 p.m.

Also recently at CEMS, we had a full house of Cape families who gathered to create family tech plans and learn about healthy screen use. Together, families thought about what they valued and how those values could be used to guide their tech choices. They asked themselves some specific guiding questions like, When and where are screens allowed and when and where are they not? How do different screen-based activities warrant shorter or longer limits? And What happens when a screen time limit is violated?

Meanwhile at CEHS, senior Hannah Lowenstein is looking for participants to create a community art piece that highlights the powerful impact of art therapy on mental health. Participants will receive one tile to design, art supplies, and art therapy prompts. Completed tiles will be assembled into a permanent installation consisting of two seven foot by five foot wooden brains, in the CEHS cafeteria. The event will be April 15 at 4 p.m., 100 participants (14+) are welcome to fill, regardless of artistic experience. This project is made possible thanks to a grant from Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF). For updates, follow @cehsbrainwavesinstallation on Instagram.

Thanks again for your support of our schools and we look forward to seeing you at our various student events, games and activities this spring.

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WHY DO WE NEED A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL?

- The current middle school and the systems therein have far exceeded their useful life. The school is struggling to stay operational. If we do not take action and soon there is a danger that we will not be able to safely provide instruction to students. On any given day, if something breaks down, the town's dedicated facilities team is stretched thin addressing emergency repairs.
- Beyond the very real operational concerns, the school cannot meet the needs of the students and modern educational practices. A new building allows for students to meet the needs of a 21st century education.

WHY ARE WE BUILDING A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTEAD OF RENOVATING?

- A renovation is almost as costly as building a new school, involves much more risk and is a shortterm fix. Experts agree: if we renovate, we would still need a new middle school in as few as 10 years, whereas a new build carries nearly the same price tag and would last the town upwards of 60 years.
- Occupied renovations require phasing which lengthens the construction schedule and impacts education
- The sprawling layout of the existing middle school, lack of separation between private and public spaces, and security concerns due to the physical constraints of the building do not meet the town's needs. The new building is more efficient, provides better learning spaces and has a smaller footprint.
- o A new build is a better long-term solution for the financial health of the town.

HOW ARE REPAIRS TO POND COVE AND THE HIGH SCHOOL BEING ADDRESSED?

- The \$86.5M project includes a new secure entry and admin addition, mechanical addition, right-sized nurse space, and renovated STEM space at Pond Cove.
- In response to voters' cost concerns, this project thoughtfully reallocates some repairs to the annual Maintenance and Repair budget, bringing the overall price down to a smaller bondable amount. Our facilities staff will work with consultants to develop a plan to responsibly address these repairs over time using our established annual budget.
- Replacing the Middle School immediately focuses our annual Facility Funds (CIP, Maintenance, and Repair) budget toward repairs at the High School and Pond Cove. Once the referendum is approved, the town's facilities team will have the bandwidth to tackle the critical needs at the other schools immediately, without the pressure of ongoing emergency repairs at the Middle School.
- Items shifted to this budget were lower-priority items that can be addressed over time and through in-house or local resources at a lower cost than if included with the overall project. This allows us to reduce the impact to tax payers without sacrificing student need.

HOW ARE SAFETY & SECURITY BEING ADDRESSED?

- The new Middle School allows us to take a comprehensive approach to safety and security, beginning with a clear main point of entry, a secure entry vestibule, and administrative oversight in all directions (interior and exterior).
- The new Middle School eliminates school sprawl currently inhibiting our Middle School, with clear organization and wayfinding throughout.
- Separation of "public" and "private" spaces keeps the school safe during after hours use (the current gym is centrally located in the school, so visitors freely navigate through the school).
- Pond Cove will receive a new secure entry and admin addition, addressing the need for better oversight at the elementary school level. Other critical safety upgrades to Pond Cove are also included in this plan.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A JUNE REFERENDUM?

- Every day we wait, the project costs more. The School Board recommends sending this to a June referendum -delaying until November could cost taxpayers \$1M.
- Multiple other large school projects are targeting a November referendum. With limited qualified contractors for large school projects, this could saturate the market and drive up cost.
- A June referendum allows for a Spring 2026 bid instead of a Winter 2026/27 bid, which could lead to winter conditions (temporary heat, frozen ground, etc.), which will increase cost and lengthen construction schedule.

