

# The Cape Courier

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*In the Spirit of Community*

## The economics of growing garlic

By Kevin Jordan



Photo by Kevin Jordan

*Garlic field at Jordan Brothers Farm in Cape Elizabeth.*

An article published in the Portland Press Herald back in July of 2014 defined a large-scale garlic farm in Maine to be one that dedicated at least one acre to growing the crop. If that definition continues to hold true, then Jordan Brothers Farm (JBF hereafter) overlooking Great Pond in Cape Elizabeth qualifies as being a large-scale garlic farm. JBF has dedicated an acre or more to growing garlic for the past four seasons. If you've purchased garlic at a local farm market in Cape Elizabeth lately, likely it was grown at JBF.

Garlic often appears on lists of the most profitable crops for small farms to grow. It has a reputation for being low-maintenance and for having a long shelf life (and thus a long market window). Low maintenance, long shelf life, high profit ... the decision to start growing garlic at scale seemed like a no-brainer for the brothers of JBF.

You might be wondering, though, how well economic reality has matched expectations. As with any enterprise, profitability in farming depends upon the difference between revenue and expenses. Can an acre of garlic actually produce enough revenue to offset significant expenses such as real estate taxes, utilities, labor and others? How might unexpected increases in these affect profitability? How does garlic-growing compare to growing other crops at scale in Cape Elizabeth? Has JBF become wealthy from growing garlic? To answer these questions, let's start by describing the whole process.

Garlic is an allium, like onion. The main part consumed by people is the bulb that forms at the base of the plant. Ordinarily, the bulb grows just beneath the surface of the ground.

The garlic-growing season begins in October, and the planting process begins by preparing the ground. Thanks to fam-

ily connections, JBF is fortunate to have a steady supply of horse manure that it continually composts into natural fertilizer, and a very important aspect of ground preparation involves spreading this thickly over and then mixing it into the soil. This task consumes a couple of days at the beginning of the month, and then in late October, garlic is planted into the prepared ground.

The biggest and best garlic bulbs from the previous growing season are set aside each summer to be used as seed for the next season. The day before planting, these saved bulbs are split into individual cloves by hand. Each clove will produce a new plant for the next season. About 20,000 cloves are needed for an acre, and the task to split roughly 4,000 bulbs into 20,000 cloves consumes about 20 person-hours.

Next, a machine pulled slowly by a tractor delivers the 20,000 cloves into the ground. This task involves a minimum of three people: one to operate the tractor, and two to monitor the planting machine to ensure that it's adequately supplied and operating efficiently. About 20 person-hours (3 people times 6-ish hours of elapsed time) are consumed by this.

Next, the entire field is covered with straw mulch. This helps to protect the planted cloves from freezing too solidly during the winter. Garlic cloves need to freeze slightly, but not too much, during the winter. This encourages them to develop into bulbs that form cloves in the next season. If they don't freeze, they'll tend to produce bulbs that are more like onions than ordinary garlic. This is the primary reason that garlic is planted in autumn.

The straw mulch also serves as a weed barrier and helps to hold moisture in the

-see GARLIC page 19

## Amendments to town center ordinances, voters to decide on June 10

By Kevin St. Jarre

The Cape Elizabeth Town Council voted to amend the ordinances governing land use in the Town Center District, but those amendments have been put on hold until Cape voters have their say on June 10.

The amendments were developed in response to a request by HardyPond Development Company. The developer of the Center Court project is proposing the construction of 33 residential apartment units on lots 3 and 4 in the Ocean House Common, adjacent to Cape Elizabeth Town Hall.

**What part of Cape Elizabeth would the amendments involve?**

The changes would only apply to land within the Town Center District (see map), and only that land that is beyond the 125-foot setback from the public road/right of way.

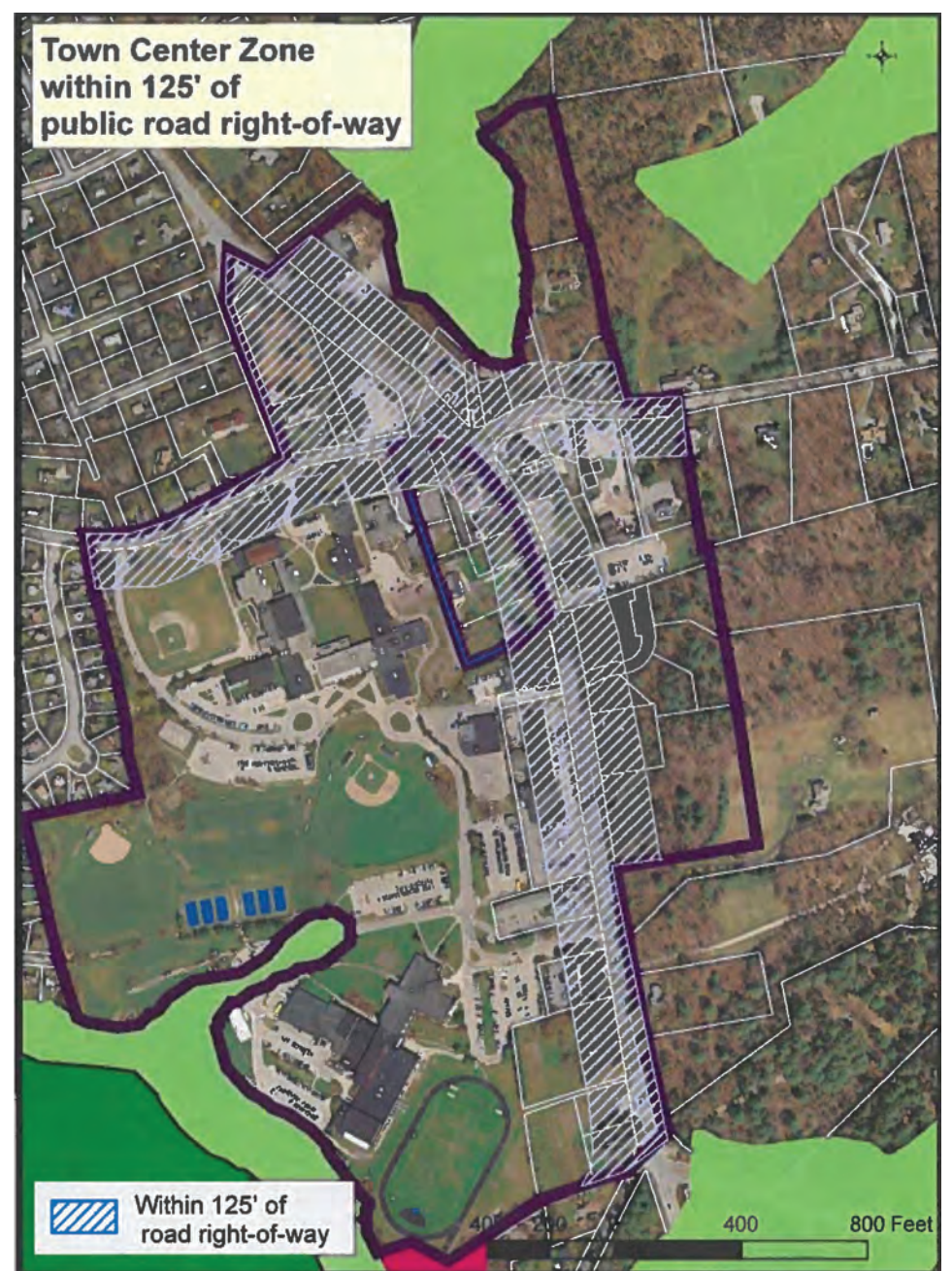
Town Councilor Jonathan Sahrbeck said, "The amendments to the town center ordi-

nances provide more opportunity for development ... if the development is set back 125 feet from Route 77. This will maintain the town center feel when one drives through, since any four-story building would have to be set back 125 feet. [What] the amendments do not allow for is five-story buildings."

There is a "D" shaped region within the Town Center District known as the Town Center Core Subdistrict, and the 125-foot setback would apply there as well. Town Planner Maureen O'Meara said land beyond the setback, inside the subdistrict, would also be able to apply for the special provisions that the amendments would allow.

However, the amount of land beyond the 125-foot setback within the town center core O'Meara said, "[Land within] the subdistrict is very limited, and further sandwiched between town land and the

-see AMENDMENTS page 16



Source: Town of Cape Elizabeth

Voters will soon decide on amendments to the land use ordinance for the Town Center District. The district is outlined in the photo in purple. Within the district, the white hashmarks show a 125-foot setback from the public road/right of way, where the new amendments would not apply. This would ensure that no new four-story building would be built close to the road. The "D" shaped region within the Town Center District is the "Town Center Core Subdistrict" and the 125-foot setback would apply there as well.





The Cape Courier

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# 'Feels like Groundhog Day'

The battle over a new school in Cape Elizabeth feels like Groundhog Day. The tired mantra of the opposition is that it is too expensive, ignoring or downplaying the need. Prior to moving to Maine in 1998, we lived in 8 communities in New England and never encountered such a reluctance to provide quality facilities as we have seen in Cape.

The school committee and its contractors have provided clear evidence of the need for a new school, with an intelligent model for meeting that need, and paying for the new

# 'Education is not about test scores'

I am dismayed by the latest signs against the school bond proclaiming that with a new school, "test scores will not change." First, education is not about test scores. And education is not just about attending school to acquire academic knowledge, although it does include formal learning evaluated by testing as one imperfect metric. More importantly, education equips students with tools to think critically, to analyze information, to communicate effectively, and to productively engage with and contribute to their community.

A key ingredient to a successful education is a supportive environment in which to learn and grow. This includes excellent teachers and school staff, the engagement of family and caregivers, and—as numerous studies demonstrate—a safe, healthy and

facility. Yet those opposed continue to raise misleading and, to my mind false, analyses, both as to need and cost.

We have not had a child in the Cape schools, but we are fully supportive of the effort to continue to provide quality education for the children of the town. If Cape Elizabeth is to continue as a vibrant, supportive community for its residents, we need to vote "Yes" in the June Referendum.

(Rev) Donald J. Rudalevige  
Suzanne Rudalevige

functional physical space.

How can students meet their potential when navigating around buckets collecting water from a leaking roof? Or when meeting with teachers in re-purposed storage closets or in hallways with a constant buzz of activity? How can they focus when an inadequate and failing HVAC system requires kids on one side of a classroom to dress for Maine winter temperatures, while their classmates on the other side of the room are sweating in t-shirts?

When you vote, please consider what our students need to succeed on any of the myriad potential paths before them. We are their community, and it is our job to provide them with everything that comprises a supportive learning environment.

Kara Law

# 'Our community deserves it'

I'm writing in support of the middle school proposal as both a Cape resident and a 5th grade teacher at CEMS. I share everyone's financial concerns. I do. But I also see firsthand how our current building hinders students and staff every day.

The 1994 additions weren't designed with middle school needs in mind. Many 7th and 8th grade classrooms are small and poorly located, creating congestion and making collaborative learning difficult. The K-8 cafeteria causes scheduling issues I've never seen in any of the seven schools I've worked in, and the gym's placement is completely impractical because of the additions tacked on around it.

Consequently, CEMS' layout necessarily has long hallways that slow transitions and cause chronic tardiness, leading to significant lost learning time. Support spaces—like

# 'There is no more delaying'

My husband and I have lived in Cape for 50 years. We raised our children in Cape schools. I worked in the school for 30 years as a Speech Language Pathologist - in the very same halls, buildings, and classrooms that we are asking to be rebuilt. Our kids experienced a wonderful education in Cape and we have grandchildren moving through the schools now. They are in the same halls, in the same buildings, in the same classrooms where I taught. The structures were old then; they are beyond their useful life now. The professionals have said this again and again.

We are very pro-school, pro-children, and pro-investment in our educational facilities. We understand the benefits of educating the future generation of world citizens in modern facilities that have flexible space. We prioritize safety and well-being for all children. Now is the time, there is no more delaying this decision. Do not be fooled by false promises of a cheaper "solution" or a simpler way out of investment. It is time to make a REAL investment. Please vote YES on the school bond.

Susan Saffer

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



*“I don’t want to price people out of town.”*

**-Penny Jordan**  
Town Council Chair

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**Vote NO on June 10**

“

*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 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 Council Chair

\*Official Town Council proforma budget estimate 4/9/25  
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## ‘Who is benefiting?’

Recently, the town manager of Skowhegan resigned after only one year. The role had been vacant for 10 months prior to that. When asked why she was resigning, she shared that “misinformation has made this job really, really hard” and that misinformation regarding spending for a town ball field project was at the forefront of her decision. (WGME13, 4/25/25) It’s no surprise, given that municipal associations across the country offer workshops on how to combat misinformation locally. And yet - it proliferates, often unchecked, to the detriment of all of us and the health of our town.

When town staff get verbally attacked, their reputations smeared publicly, and their qualifications or motivations questioned - who is benefiting? Accountability and transparency, of course, are necessary. There are systems in place for

that. Our town manager and school superintendent are hired by the council and school board that represent the people. We, as citizens, elect those people. We always have opportunities to meet the final candidates to ask questions and provide feedback.

When did it become the norm to bypass all of that and file ethics complaints, pursue lawsuits, and more? Do we want to be known as the town that no one wants to work for or with? It’s already difficult to attract highly qualified candidates to these vital roles. This damaging vitriol will leave us in the same position as Skowhegan - and with a reputation that follows us for decades, to our very own self-created demise.

Eliza Matheson

## ‘We’ve already said NO’

On June 10, Cape Elizabeth voters face two major issues: the Town Center Zoning Amendments and the School Bond. Both have already been rejected. Now they’re back with minor tweaks—but the same fundamental problems. Why are town officials ignoring our prior NO votes?

In 2022, voters rejected town center zoning changes that threatened the character of our town. This latest version goes even further and still provides significant financial incentives for developers. If it passes, Ocean House Farm will likely be replaced with a 50-foot tall apartment complex and parking lot. The amendments also clear the way for the historic 1934 High School on Scott Dyer Road to be converted into a large apartment building—right on the school campus. And more. Most residents aren’t even aware these dramatic changes are being proposed.

The School Bond, defeated just last November, is back with only slight ad-

justments. The cost still exceeds \$100 million. Instead of meaningfully scaling back the project, millions have been quietly shifted into the town’s annual budget—meaning taxpayers will start paying even sooner.

These are major, long-term decisions that have been deliberately scheduled for a June vote—when voter turnout is typically low and opposition is easier to overcome. Schools will mobilize parents through get-out-the-vote emails. But what about the rest of the community?

Voters deserve honesty, transparency, and respect. We’ve already said NO. How many times do we have to repeat ourselves?

Tammy Walter

**-More LETTERS TO THE EDITOR on pages 2 and 5**

## Increases will ‘hurt real people’

Both sides of the school bond debate now acknowledge its 12% impact on property taxes. The “Yes” side softens the blow, noting the increase will be spread over six years. Let’s accept that, and even generously assume an average of just 2% per year from the bond.

This year alone, Cape’s municipal budget requires an 8% tax hike. Add 2% from the bond, and that’s a 10% increase in year one. But what about the next five years? If annual budgets grow at their 10-year average of 4%, and we add 2% from the bond, we’re looking at five subsequent years of 6% increases. By year six, property taxes would be an astounding 47% higher than today.

Some argue that Cape’s property taxes are low, citing our mil rate. But mil rate is only half the equation. Valuation is the other. Cape’s mil rate may resemble Westbrook’s,

but our home values, and therefore our tax bills, are far higher. Cape residents pay roughly double what Westbrook residents pay on a per capita basis.

While Cape is seen as affluent, many households are living paycheck to paycheck. These increases aren’t theoretical. They’ll hurt real people.

We can pursue an ambitious vision while keeping it sustainable, and reset the clock on our middle school. By simply preserving the gymnasium, library, and art room, we can create a superior facility than a full teardown would offer.

Let’s be honest about the cost, and the alternatives.

For our students and our community, vote NO.

John Lewis

## ‘Does this sound familiar?’

I am urging my fellow Cape residents to vote Yes on the Town Center Ordinance Amendments.

These amendments were carefully construed and thought out over a period of months by the Planning Board, and had the 5-2 support of the Town Council at their February 10, 2025 meeting.

They would provide reasonable and sensible development in the Town Center while also being restrictive to not change the character of Cape Elizabeth.

They could provide for much-needed housing, including for seniors, which could revitalize the town center and support our local businesses. In addition, housing and development would be a means of lowering property taxes.

Did you know that our town saw 0.1%

growth in 2025? Housing in the town center could add \$10-\$15 million to the tax base!

It’s unfortunate that some in our town want nothing to change and are furthering a message that we need to “Save the Town Center.” Does this sound familiar? It’s the same scare tactics as “Save the Cookie Jar” scheme when the Planning Board demonstrated that it was never in peril.

Also, there would never be any “five-story high-rises” since one could not build over 50 feet and with the 125-foot setback from Route 77, no buildings would even be very close to the street.

I urge people to see through this fear mongering and do the right thing for our town by voting Yes for the Town Center Amendments.

Jessica Buckley

## ‘There is a more serious’ question

The School Department has spent thousands of taxpayer dollars influencing the June 10th referendum election in the support of the \$86.5 million school bond and possibly violated state election and campaign finance laws by failing to register as a ballot question committee and file required campaign spending reports with the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Campaign Practices.

That’s bad enough, but there is a more serious and entirely separate question: Does the school department have the legal authority under the Town Charter or state law to spend public funds (taxpayer money) on advertising to influence referendum elections? The School Board has officially defended the

expenditures.

The Town Charter provides that the Town Council may: “4. Make investigations. Inquire into the conduct of any office, department, agency, board or commission of the town and make investigations as to municipal affairs.” However, the Town Council has ignored a request from citizens to investigate the improper expenditure of taxpayer money for political advertising and prohibit the school department from making any further expenditures for this purpose.

Cape citizens and taxpayers should expect and demand transparency, accountability and compliance, but none have been provided by the town council or the school board.

Sharalyn Morrison-Andrews

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## Vote Yes and Yes

Growing up in Cape, I have seen changes to this town. I remember when the Stonegate, Elizabeth Farms and Cross Hill neighborhoods were built. It seems to me that some people are forgetting that change isn't a bad thing. Change is what has allowed many people to move here. That's why to me, the idea of voting No on either the School Bond or the Town Center Amendments goes against what has worked for this town.

I understand that there is a 12% tax increase spread over 6 years with the school bond. I pay taxes here. I don't want them to go up. That said, I also understand the compromise of receiving needed services and infrastructure that comes with paying taxes. And it's a fact that we need to invest in a new middle school.

Also, the only thing that is going to decrease the tax burden in this town is broadening our tax base. A Yes vote on the Town Center Amendments will do that in a smart manner that will not destroy the town center. Yes, there could be some change, but, again, change isn't always a bad thing. It would bring people to live in the town center, which will help our local businesses. It's ironic to me that the people against these ordinance amendments want to "Save the Town Center." Apparently, they like seeing vacant lots and limited foot traffic.

Vote Yes to the School Bond and Yes to the Town Center Amendments.

Jonathan Sahrbeck

## 'Vote Yes on town center zoning changes'

On June 10, voters will decide whether to affirm the Town Council's recently approved zoning changes that would allow a 35-home community for residents aged 55 and older on two long-vacant lots in our town center. There are only four vacant lots in the Town Center District, and these are the only ones impacted because the changes are narrowly tailored to meet the proposal's specific needs.

Our town center includes 42 separate lots, 33 of which are owned by small, local businesses. The most important thing our business owners have consistently asked for is flexibility—flexibility to adapt as their businesses evolve, and flexibility for their families and future generations as land use continues to change. Another key concern is fairness,

and these zoning updates ensure that no landowner is treated more - or less - favorably than another.

As a community, we often say we want to support local businesses, increase our tax base, and provide more housing options for our seniors. These changes help accomplish all three—nothing more.

So on June 10, we need to ask ourselves:

Do we value our local businesses?

Do we want to modestly grow our tax base?

Do we want to give older residents the chance to remain in the town they love?

If the answer is yes, then vote Yes on the town center zoning changes.

Kevin Justh

## 'It is time to make a fresh investment'

We are now approaching a vote on a new middle school. As someone who has studied local history, I am reminded of the debates in 1964 on whether to spend \$200,000 to purchase Fort Williams. It was said it was too much money. The "town" could not afford it, etc. The town borrowed the money and we all benefit from the vision that local leaders had.

It is time to make a fresh investment in our community's future. I note that the town now has little debt. The financing plan for the school softens the cost impact as it is spread over six years. Despite the signs we see in town, no one has promised that the school will increase test scores and no one has argued that the school population is growing. The opponents pretend that the proponents are claiming so. They are not. The opponents recently filed an ethics claim to the state about funding of the last campaign. These are all diversionary tactics so

that the focus is not on the actual aging of the current building and the years of study that resulted in 11 of our 14 local elected officials supporting the proposed project.

While I have no children or grandchildren, I am voting "YES." I am also voting for the school budget and for the zoning amendments for the town center. This has been a great town to live in over many decades. We need to aspire to remain a welcoming community to raise children.

Michael K. McGovern

## News from the School Board

By Phil Saucier

It is hard to believe that summer is just around the corner and that we will all soon be celebrating the conclusion of the school year. Congratulations are especially in order for the Class of 2025! We are proud of all of the achievements you have accomplished as you set out for new adventures.

As I write this column I am reviewing the agenda and preparing for our next School Board meeting on May 13. The best part of our monthly meetings are when we get to hear from our students, faculty, and staff highlighting all of the good work happening in our schools. At our upcoming meeting we will hear from the Unified Basketball team and Cape Special Olympic athletes, from Portland Arts & Technology High School (PATHS) Director Kevin Stilphen on the opportunities that PATHS and the Westbrook Regional Vocational Center (WRVC) provide for our students, an overview of spring highlights from our three building principles, and a review of draft facilities projects by Facilities Director Dave Bagdasarian.

We will also have a chance to thank the 2024-2025 School Board Student Representatives Madison Kirwan and Tori Stevens for their service. This will be Madison and Tori's last meeting before graduation - they have provided a strong voice for students this year and have kept us apprised of happenings in all three school buildings.

### School Building Project

Cape Elizabeth has a long-standing tradition of excellence in education. We are deeply grateful for the support this community has shown for our schools, our teachers, and our students. As your School Board, we take our role as stewards of the next generation of Cape Elizabeth residents seriously.

On June 10, residents will have the opportunity to vote on a bond to replace the middle school and make critical repairs to Pond Cove. This bond is the result of years

of thoughtful planning and community input. We believe passing it is crucial to ensuring safe, high-quality learning environments for our students and to ensure fiscally prudent planning for our School Department's infrastructure needs. Passage of the bond will do the following:

- Address Aging Infrastructure: This plan will replace the Middle School, resetting the clock on one of our three aging buildings and addressing necessary updates and improvements to meet current and future needs—helping us avoid a looming fiscal cliff.

- Immediate Action for Pond Cove and CEHS: The plan also adds a new secure entry and replaces aging mechanicals at Pond Cove. In addition, existing facilities funds in our budget will be allocated immediately upon approval to address critical needs at Pond Cove and Cape Elizabeth High School through the Capital Investment Plan.

- Expert Design and Planning: The project has been carefully designed by Harriman Architects, Maine's leading education-focused architectural firm, in partnership with Turner & Townsend Heery—one of the nation's largest Owner's Project Management firms. Their expertise, alongside the input of community leaders and district staff, has shaped this plan.

- Student-Centered Focus: Above all, this plan prioritizes student safety and learning, while also creating spaces that benefit the entire Cape Elizabeth community.

For the past three years, we have worked with Turner & Townsend Heery, who bring nearly 50 years of experience in K-12 building projects. Their guidance has been clear: the Middle School has passed its useful life and needs to be replaced.

We understand this is a significant investment. We also believe it is a necessary one. Since the initial school building project came

-see SCHOOL BOARD page 8



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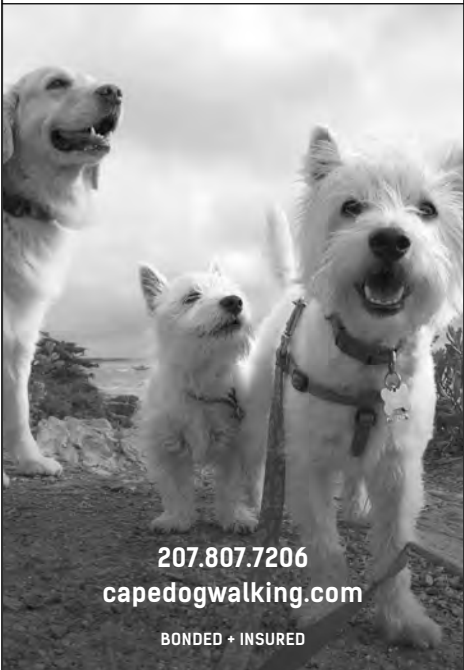
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# Backpack with beer found

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

4-25 An officer met with a resident of the Spurwink Avenue area who had found a backpack containing beer and other assorted items. The backpack was returned to the police station for safekeeping and the beer destroyed.

## SUMMONSES

4-27 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (40/30 zone) Shore Road, \$129

## JUVENILE SUMMONSES

4-26 Cape Elizabeth resident, violation of interim license, Scott Dyer Road, \$385

## FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 4. EMS calls: 17

# Wishing Crane taking flight at CEHS

By Kevin St. Jarre

At Cape Elizabeth High School, an initiative has been adopted known as The Wishing Crane Project. Students Kelsi Law and Addison Miller are the president and vice president, respectively, of the local chapter.

It's a nationwide nonprofit that strives to bring hope and joy into the lives of those who are struggling with health issues. This is done by donating origami crafts, and specifically paper cranes, to hospital patients and people in need of support and hope.

Law said, "I started the CEHS chapter of the wishing crane project because I'm passionate about helping those in need and I wanted to find a way to connect CEHS students with people who are struggling. I heard about this non-profit through social media about a year ago and the idea stuck with me."

Miller said, "I got involved in the Wishing Crane Project because I wanted to make a difference in people's lives and give them support when they are going through tough times. The little things in those tough moments are what count. The Wishing Crane Project's mission is to give people a little bit of hope and show them a lot of love."

The Wishing Crane Project at CEHS held a voluntary activity in support of this effort during Advisory period recently. Each Advisory was supplied with origami paper, roughly enough for each student to make one paper craft, with the hope that students would make some origami cranes. If a student didn't want to participate that was okay, said the organizers.

YouTube links with instructions on how to make each piece of origami, depending on which shape the students chose, was supplied as well.



Photo by Kelsie Law

CEHS students embarked on a project known as The Wishing Crane. This origami crane was made by sophomore Rubina Anker.

# Scam alert bulletin board

Reported by Jessica D. Simpson

## Sweepstakes Scams

Who wouldn't want to win thousands or even millions of dollars, or the chance to go on a luxury vacation? There are many legitimate sweepstakes and contests out there, and the idea of winning some fabulous prize can be mighty alluring. Criminals get that, and they exploit our excitement to score that big check or dream trip.

When a sweepstakes or a contest is fraudulent, there is often a big red flag: you must first pay upfront fees or taxes to get your prize. No legitimate sweepstakes or contest requires upfront payment. Another clue is if you are asked to share sensitive information to receive your prize, such as your Social Security number or bank account information. Again, this is something perpetrators do, not legitimate entities.

If you find yourself reacting to an out-of-the-blue communication with a heightened emotion, and it comes to you with great urgency, let that be an indicator or a fraud attempt. Take an "active pause" – consider what you are being confronted with, what you might know about it, and then react with intention. That moment of deliberation could be what keeps you safe.

## How to Make Yourself a Harder Target

Criminals are always looking for ways to get your personal information to use in criminal activities. The good news is that there are many steps you can take to help protect your data and minimize its value to criminals.

Here are three: Create stronger passwords: Better protect yourself by using strong and unique passwords or passphrases or consider using a password manager to store and generate strong passwords securely.

Use multi-factor authentication: A second layer of defense to your accounts makes it harder for cybercriminals to gain access. Check account settings for two-factor authentication, two-step verification, or multi-factor authentication, and follow the setup instructions.

Keep your operating system updated: Sometimes those updates are to patch a known vulnerability; set yours – and your antivirus protection – to update automatically.

Be a fraud fighter. If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at [aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork).

# What's your story? Share for CELT's 40th Anniversary

In 1985 a group of about 20 people formed the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust – CELT, and the organization has been an integral part of the Cape community for 40 years. Conserving cherished pieces of land, caring for the land and building trails, and providing education programs for school children and adults, CELT has made an indelible impact on the town.

No matter how long you've lived here, you probably have some memories of the land trust. Maybe it was eating corn on the cob

at the Harvest Party, running in the Tri for Preservation, pounding nails in a boardwalk, clearing a trail or leading a school field trip to Robinson Woods, enduring a board or committee meeting, or buying your first painting at Paint for Preservation.

CELT wants to hear from you! Share your story and help celebrate 40 years of conservation, connection, and community by adding your voice to the collective history. CELT hopes to gather 40 stories (or more!) by June 30th. Email [info@capelandtrust.org](mailto:info@capelandtrust.org).



# Thank You!



Veterinary Clinic & Rehabilitation Center of Cape Elizabeth

Tamaro Landscaping

GC Construction

AJC Remodeling

Aroma Joes

CSalt Gourmet Market

Cape Community Services

FG Construction

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CEFD



CEPD



Project Graduation has realized its fundraising goal of providing our high school graduates a fun, festive, and safe evening of celebration. We are grateful to all of our business sponsors!



The CEHS Project Graduation 2025 Committee



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CAPE NEIGHBORS

CAPE ELIZABETH BUDGET UPDATE

A LOOK INTO THIS YEAR'S NUMBERS

Cutting to the Chase

This year's proposed budget includes a 7.7% increase in property taxes—but even that high number is artificially low. The school department used \$1 million in limited reserve funds to soften the impact. **Without that one-time use of reserves, the true increase is over 10%.** That's a serious concern. Not only are we relying on reserves to mask the actual cost, but the 2.4% reduction they provide is temporary—it disappears next year. And with school salary negotiations underway for the first time in several years, it's clear the budget will climb further once new, inflation-adjusted contracts are in place.

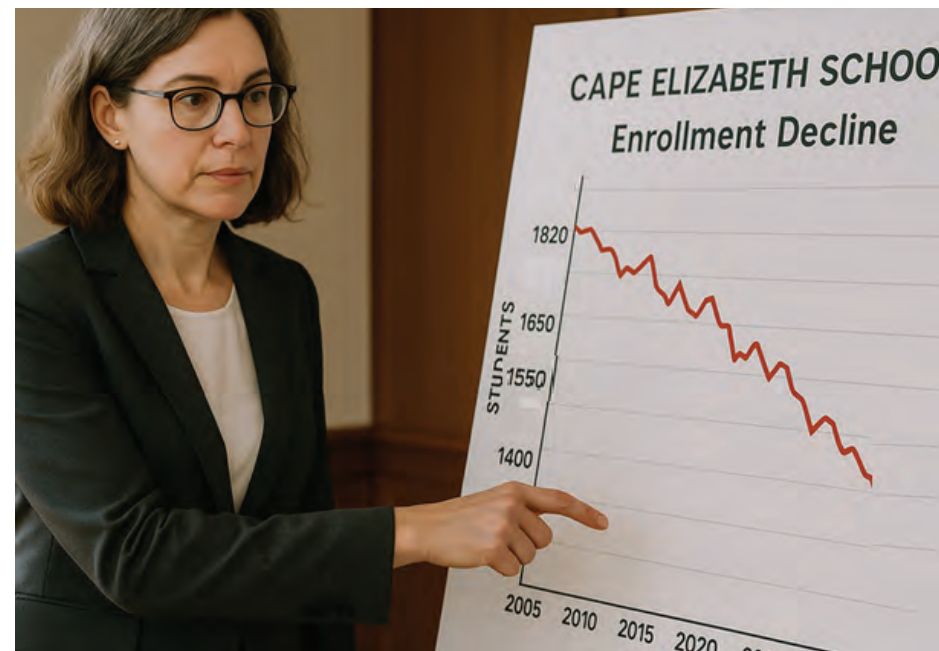
Is Cape Under-Taxed?

It may sound like a silly question, but some very outspoken residents have been claiming that our property taxes are too low, and that we need to be in more debt. Their argument? They point to Cape's mill rate—and the mill rate alone. But that's of course misleading. Property taxes are calculated by multiplying the mill rate by property values, so looking at the rate alone tells you very little. When you compare apples to apples—such as by looking at taxes per capita—Cape's property tax burden ranks among the highest, if not *the* highest, in our region.

How Does the Middle School Bond Fit In?

Cape Neighbors doesn't tell people how to vote—instead, we shine a light on the facts. Voters deserve to understand the full range of options and the true costs involved. Unlike Cape, some neighboring towns have given their residents choices on the ballot. If there's a way to build new while saving over \$40 million on the school project simply by preserving the middle school gym, library, and art room—facilities that have been acknowledged to be in excellent condition—shouldn't voters at least hear about it? **What kind of property tax relief could \$40 million provide?**

Likewise, if Governor Mills is actively exploring new state funding options that would significantly improve our chances of receiving aid, shouldn't voters know that, too? As we noted in the previous *Courier*, the initial report points to revenue sharing—an approach that would help fund more projects across the state. By charging ahead now with *any* project, are we risking the loss of tens of millions in potential state funding?



CAPE SCHOOLS: ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Much attention has been paid to the Cape Elizabeth School Department's 20% decline in K-12 enrollment over the past two decades. But the trend shows no sign of slowing—and professional projections continue to miss the mark.

**In just the past five years, enrollment has dropped by 99 students.** This fall, incoming Kindergarten families have been told the district will reduce from six Kindergarten classrooms to five, with fewer than 90 new students expected.

Meanwhile, 129 seniors will graduate. That means enrollment will fall from 1,567 students in 2020 to an estimated 1,428 next fall. **In just five years, Cape's schools have lost more than an entire grade level's worth of students.**

JUNE 10 ELECTION - VOTING INFO

CAPE'S CRITICAL MOMENT APPROACHES

Despite widespread concern over historical low voter turnout in June elections, the Town Council majority voted on April 7 to send **BOTH** the Middle 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 may **VOTE EARLY** at Town Hall **NOW** in the Council Chamber:

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

Absentee ballot requests through June 5 at: [www.capeelizabeth.com/ElectionsVoting](http://www.capeelizabeth.com/ElectionsVoting)



\*Rendering of apartment conversion of the historic 1934 High School Building

TOWN CENTER ZONING AMENDMENTS

The June ballot will include a recently passed, revived set of sweeping **Town Center Zoning Amendments**. These are the same types of controversial changes that voters defeated at the ballot box in 2022, following a citizen-led petition effort.

As in 2022, Cape citizens have 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.

Here's what you need to know:

- A developer has proposed a more modest 55+ housing project — one that requires several zoning changes, similar to the earlier Dunham Court proposal, but without any need for taxpayer subsidies.
- Instead of pursuing a limited, site-specific solution through conditional zoning — a tool recommended by the previous Town Council and used successfully in Scarborough and nearly each of Cape's neighboring towns — **the Planning Department and new Council majority chose to revive sweeping changes that apply to the entire Town Center district.**
- The amendments on the June ballot 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 would make way for the 1934 building, **located on the school campus beside playgrounds**, to be converted into taxpayer-subsidized apartments.
- The amendments eliminate first-floor non-residential requirements, rendering the vision of a vibrant town center filled with shops and restaurants nearly impossible.
- 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 increases building footprints by 140% (from 5,000 to 12,000 square feet).

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

**On June 10, Cape Elizabeth voters will have the final say.** We ask that you 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 vote is a vital one.

What is the Cape Neighbors Alliance?

We are a grassroots group of Cape citizens who believe that good governance happens when our community'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.



# Two residents file ethics complaint against CESD concerning advertisements in 2024

By Kevin St. Jarre

Larry Benoit and Mary Ann Lynch have filed an ethics complaint against the Cape Elizabeth School Department, and Superintendent Chris Record, in connection with the purchase of advertisements explaining the proposal behind \$95 million school bond referendum question, and CESD’s position, before it was voted on in November 2024.

Buying ad space is in line with past practice by town councils and schools boards, and predates Record’s tenure as superintendent.

In support of a 2004 referendum to renovate Cape Elizabeth High School and add the kindergarten wing to Pond Cove, the Cape Elizabeth School Board mailed a newsletter to every household in Cape Elizabeth.

Also, prior to the 1993 referendum to renovate Pond Cove Elementary School and Cape Elizabeth Middle School, the CESD paid to place a four-page insert in The Cape Courier.

Benoit and Lynch’s complaint, filed with the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, alleges that Record authorized the spending of more than \$5,000 on advertisements, and spending that amount would have required the CESD to register with the state as a “ballot question committee,” which it did not.

The complaint reads, in part, that Superintendent Record “...is spending taxpayer funds to influence the outcome of a referendum on the proposed construction of a new middle school in Cape Elizabeth” and that the CESD paid for advertisements in The

Cape Courier, exceeding the \$5,000 threshold.

Record has said that the CESD has a right to spend funds for school purposes. The Portland Press Herald has reported that Record wrote, “As a school district we believe it is fundamentally important to inform the citizens of Cape Elizabeth of the needs of our schools and the costs before they consider voting on a project.” His statement reportedly continued, “Our taxpayers should have factual information available to them before they make any decisions. State law also expressly authorizes school units to expend resources for school purposes, and it is permissible to encourage citizens to vote.”

Local groups purchasing political position ads, before exceeding the \$5,000 threshold, would have to register as ballot question committees, in order to comply with Maine state law.

Obviously, while there is no evidence of the practice by anyone, one way around the law is for people to create a series of groups, often much the same group under a new name, each spending up to, but not more than, the \$5,000 threshold.

The purpose of the law is to ensure that those reading the ads know who was ultimately behind them, which the school department ads already clearly disclosed. If the CESD had formed a ballot question committee before purchasing the advertising, this would not have blocked the publication of the informational ads, nor imposed some sort of ceiling on the cost.

Benoit and Lynch are asking the ethics commission to weigh in on whether Record

-see COMPLAINT page 19

## School Board

Continued from page 5

to a vote in 2022 we have carefully refined the scope of this project, reducing costs by \$30 million. The tax impact is spread over six years, beginning in 2027.

The School Department will be conducting a tour of the middle school on Monday, June 2 at 6 p.m. We encourage anyone who is interested to attend one of these tours.

It is a privilege to serve this community, and we are grateful for your continued support of education in Cape Elizabeth. You can learn more about the plan at [www.cape.k12.me.us/page/buildingproject](http://www.cape.k12.me.us/page/buildingproject).

**Budget Update.** We are incredibly proud of our 2025-2026 budget, and in particular we are thankful for the hard work by our tremendous administrators in a challenging subsidy year to arrive at a budget that has one of the lowest expenditure increases in Cumberland County and is expected to result in one of the smallest tax increases in recent years.

I would like to personally thank Superintendent Chris Record and the District

Leadership Team for this work - Assistant Superintendent Michelle McClellan, Finance Manager Marcia Weeks, High School Principal John Springer, Middle School Principal Sarah Rubin, Pond Cove Principal Tiffany Kearns, Technology Director Troy Patterson, Athletic Director Jeff Thorack, Nutrition Director Robin Taylor, Facilities Director Dave Bagdasarian, Director of Special Services Ryan Fairchild, and Transportation Director Monica Cooke, along with Assistant Principals Sarah Forrey-Pettit, Jake Haugevik, Andrew Lupien, Liz Yarrington, and all of the District staff worked together on this budget.

This budget balances the need for fiscal prudence with our shared commitment to excellence in public education.

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@capeelizabetschools.org](mailto:cesb@capeelizabetschools.org) anytime.

## Gabe Zimpritch Poetry Symposium



Contributed photo

Participants of the 2025 Gabe Zimpritch Poetry Symposium, an annual workshop held in memory of CEHS Class of 1996 member Gabe Zimpritch, listening to guest poet Sara Berkeley. The event culminated in an evening poetry reading with students reading poems drafted that day. According to CEHS English teacher Lisa Melanson, the poet was “blown away” by the students’ receptivity to writing prompts and willingness to share what they’d written.

# ote NO on the Town Center Ordinance Changes!

Preserve Cape’s Vision & Embrace FOCUSED Growth Where It Belongs: Cape’s Village Green!

For the second time, a citizen-led petition has paused an excessive set of zoning amendments that would turn our entire Town Center into a large apartment district. The decision is now in your hands — the amendments are on the **June 10** ballot.

- Is your vision of Cape’s Town Center filled with multiple four-story apartment buildings with no ground-floor shops?
- Or do you imagine a vibrant center as envisioned in Cape’s Comprehensive Plan — bustling with small businesses, bakeries, a small family farm, and gathering spaces woven alongside homes?

**YOUR “NO” VOTE IS CRUCIAL! The Town Center Ordinance Changes on the June 10 ballot would allow:**

- Housing on the school campus — converting the historic 1934 High School building into taxpayer-subsidized apartments.
- 50-foot-tall apartment buildings — up to four or more stories — including at Ocean House Farm, the Methodist Church, and many other Town Center properties.

These amendments are NOT limited to the Village Green next to Town Hall. They apply across ALL of Town Center. The changes would create powerful financial incentives for developers to build large apartment complexes across much of Cape’s Town Center.

### There’s a Better Path Forward:

- Focus the changes into a limited Village Green district as envisioned Cape’s Town Center Plan.
- Support the new Hardy Pond 55+ development.
- Preserve the heart and vision of Cape Elizabeth.

**Vote NO** on the Town Center Ordinance Changes.  
And say YES to a thriving, balanced future for Cape!

Submitted by Laura Morris, on behalf of a group of concerned Cape citizens.





Shir Brothers expand service in Cape

Capetons: Spring cleaning

By Kevin St. Jarre

Two brothers have come together with a business idea to serve the community of Cape Elizabeth. Shir Brothers Co. was founded by Sulayman Shir and his brother, Abubakr Shir.

Sulayman Shir said, “The company is built on strong family values, quality craftsmanship, and a dedication to excellent customer service.”

The Shir brothers serve the residents of Cape Elizabeth with landscaping, including landscaping design and maintenance, interior and exterior painting, and dependable snow removal during Maine’s long winters.

Raised in Cape Elizabeth, Sulayman Shir graduated from Cape Elizabeth High School in 2018. He says his deep connection to the

town inspires him to give back by helping homeowners and businesses keep their properties beautiful and well-maintained throughout the year.

“Running Shir Brothers Co. has taught us the importance of hard work, responsibility, and community connection,” Sulayman says. “We take great pride in building strong relationships with our customers and delivering services that reflect our family’s commitment to quality.”

Sulayman Shir said, “No project is too big or too small; every job is approached with the same attention to detail and commitment to satisfaction.”

Those interested can reach Shir Brothers Co. by calling 207-318-4390 or emailing [shirbrothersco@gmail.com](mailto:shirbrothersco@gmail.com).



Contributed photo

Brothers Sulayman and Abubakr Shir have embarked on a business venture, serving the Cape Elizabeth community. Pictured are the before and after results of the brothers’ work.

### CEHS student is 1 of 6 Presidential Scholars semifinalists in Maine

By Kevin St. Jarre

Sage Evans, a student at Cape Elizabeth High School, has been named a semifinalist by the U.S. Department of Education, and is one of only six Maine students as semifinalists in the 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The national program recognizes seniors across the country as being among our nation’s most distinguished graduating seniors.

Ultimately, the committee will pick one boy and one girl from Maine, so Evans has a 1-in-3 chance of being selected.

In January, more than 6,000 total candidates were selected from nearly 3.9 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in the year 2025

From Maine, 112 candidates were named, and six of those were from CEHS. Those 112 Maine students have been further winnowed down to six.

Evans’s focus on her music and starting Music Mentors in Cape Elizabeth and in the greater community no doubt played a part in

her application. She and her sister Phoebe Evans are 1st and 2nd Flute at All State this year.

Sage Evans was also 1st flute in 2023, and has been a principal flutist at Portland Youth Symphony Orchestra for the past 3 years. Additionally, Sage Evans was a captain on the CEHS Debate Team, a captain on the CEHS Sailing Team, a skipper on the SailMaine Community Sailing Summer Race Team, a captain on the CEHS Alpine Ski Team, and member of multiple state champion CEHS Swim Teams.

Sage Evans will attend Dartmouth College, and plans to study public policy, continue playing flute and hopes to sail as a walk-on.



Photo by Heather Evans

Sage Evans, a senior at CEHS, is one of 6 semifinalists statewide in the 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

By Jeff Mandell



Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEFF) seeks a part-time **Executive Director** to lead this independent, dynamic non-profit organization, which supports Cape teachers and students by funding initiatives and projects that fall outside of the school budget. In this role, the Executive Director will work with the CEEFF Board of Directors to oversee fundraising initiatives, grant programs, community outreach, and daily operations.

For a complete job description, please visit [ceef.us/employment](http://ceef.us/employment). All interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to [Employment@ceef.us](mailto:Employment@ceef.us).

Applications due no later than June 6, 2025.

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## DEMOLISHES Quality Buildings ONLY 30 Years Old

The School Board's plan demolishes nearly 25,000 square feet of high quality construction built in 1994 that is less than half its expected 60+ year lifespan.

**Destroys \$17.5 million in real estate value** (\$700/sf).

### 1994 spaces destroyed:

- Beautiful Library
- 7th and 8th Grade Wing
- Art Room
- Administrative Office Wing

**Cape Elizabeth Does NOT Need a New Middle School  
There Are Better, Affordable, and Far Greener Solutions**

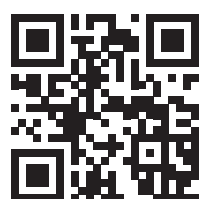
**THE FICTION:** The school department claims in ads **paid with taxpayer money** that a new middle school is "critically needed."

### THE FACTS:

- Harriman and Heery **never** told the SBAC a new middle school was 'critically needed.'
- Colby-Simons Architects: **The physical condition of all buildings is functionally satisfactory.\***
- 1994 school project architect Philip Kaminsky: "The quality materials in the school won't be affordable in today's market."
- Thousands of tons of demolition debris will be **landfilled at great environmental cost.**
- The **greenest building is the one already built.** It can take 80 years to recover the carbon costs.
- Demolishes **high school-sized gym, lobby, and locker rooms**—15,000 sq ft in good condition.
- Regulation sized **soccer field eliminated** and replaced with a smaller one.
- School **enrollment is down 27%** since 2004 and projected to decline further. (NESDEC, 10/29/24).

\*Cape Elizabeth Schools Needs Assessment Report, Page 6

Paid for by CapeVotersBQCII, Jessica Sullivan, Treasurer, P.O. Box 2514, South Portland, ME 04116



**More Info -> CapeVoters.com**



## Fresh faces coming for P4P

From July 11-13 this year, Paint for Preservation will continue the tradition of plein air artists fanning out across Cape Elizabeth to paint its iconic land-and seascapes. Thirty artists have been chosen through an application and juried process.

Said CELT’s Patty Renaud, “We’re excited to have such amazing artists for this fundraiser again. This is recognized as one of the premier art auctions in Maine, and the caliber of the artists is a huge part of its repeated success.”

The public will be able to tour the painting locations throughout the week-end, and the resulting artwork will be auctioned at a ticketed event on Sunday, July 13. Tickets go on sale in June. Selected artists donate 50% of the sale of their work for CELT’s only annual fundraiser.

In addition to many familiar faces returning this year will be several new faces. Watch for their assigned locations in July and be sure to visit them at work. Samples of their work can be viewed at [www.capeandtrust.org/paint](http://www.capeandtrust.org/paint).

**John Caggiano** paints “en plein air” in an “Impressionistic-Realism” style, utilizing both brush and palette knife, to achieve his colorful and light-filled paintings. Aside from his many awards in plein air events and national exhibitions, John has been featured no fewer than twenty-four times in Plein Air Magazine and Fine Art Connoisseur.



John Caggiano

**Stephen Florimbi** studied art and resource economics at UNH. His paintings have been exhibited in ME, CT, NYC, and Singapore. His work graces the cover of a rock band album, the back cover of Wilton Magazine, and the poster for the Maine Boats and Homes show. He was awarded honorable mention at the 2024 Ogunquit, Perkins Cove Plein Air Event.



Stephen Florimbi

**Grace Maybury-McIntosh** grew up amongst the dunes of Cape Cod and the panorama of blue mountains in Farmington. After completing her bachelor’s degree in psychology, she plunged into the world of painting at the Maine College of Art and Design to finally pursue a language through art to express her love for the beautiful land that surrounded her.



Grace Maybury-McIntosh

**Vanessa Michalak** earned a MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston with a concentration in painting. Her work has been included in the publication New American Paintings No. 110, and the MFA National Competition, First Street Gallery, New York. She has participated in numerous residencies in Colorado, Oregon and Massachusetts.



Vanessa Michalak

**Meghan Weeks** is a Boston-based representational painter who works primarily en plein air. She worked for over a decade in the cultural heritage sector before pursuing art full-time in 2022. She is a member of the Rockport Art Association & Museum, The Artists Association of Nantucket, and the Copley Society of Art.



Meghan Weeks

## CEEF appoints four new board members

The Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF) is proud to welcome Sara Best, Stacey Curry, Laisee Holden and Hilary Mitchell to its Board of Directors. With kids ranging from pre-school to high school, they bring a diverse perspective and fresh energy to the organization.

“We are thrilled to welcome Stacey, Laisee, Sara and Hilary to the CEEF Board,” said Eliza Sandals, Board President. “We look forward to the valuable insights they will

bring to our organization as we work to help Cape teachers and students thrive.”

As the organization celebrates the induction of these new volunteers, CEEF also bids farewell to four outgoing board members: Sheri Bragg, Jennie Coyne, Anna Crowley and Aglae Shaw. Their dedication and support during their years of volunteerism positively impacted CEEF, the Cape schools, students and community.



Contributed photo

Stacey Curry, Laisee Holden, Hilary Mitchell, Sara Best

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Barack Obama

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# 80th Anniversary of sinking USS Eagle 56, awarding of Purple Heart

By Stephen Lyons (Garda)



Contributed photo

Deceased Navy Sailor from USS Eagle 56 killed in action brought ashore at Grand Trunk Pier, U.S. Naval Station in Portland.

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, marked 80 years since the sinking of the USS Eagle 56 off of Cape Elizabeth during World War II. An annual memorial service takes place at the USS Eagle 56 War Memorial at Fort Williams Park each year. The memorial honors the forty-nine sailors killed in action aboard the USS Eagle 56 during World War II.

The memorial service was organized and attended by officers and enlisted Sailors from the USS Harvey C. Barnum Jr. (DDG-124) Bath, Maine, US Coast Guard, Portland, Maine, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Portland, American Legion South Portland, Marine Corps League, and Disabled American Veterans.

The guest speaker for the memorial service was Commanding Officer CDR Benjamin Cantu, U.S. Navy, USS Harvey C. Barnum Jr. (DDG-124) Bath. The ceremony included a color guard with the naming of each fallen sailor, the laying of a memorial wreath on the war memorial, followed by a 21 gun salute,

and the playing of taps.

At the same time of this solemn event, Commanding Officer, CDR Benjamin Cantu, US Navy, had the privilege of presenting the Purple Heart to the family of Fireman First Class Norris Jones, one of the brave sailors who gave their lives that day. Jones was born on April 22 1925 in Paullina, Iowa, and grew up in Radisson, Wisconsin on the family farm. Sadly, Jones was killed one day after celebrating his 20th birthday, and never returned home to the family farm.

During the latter days of World War Two, the USS Eagle 56 was assigned to Navy Air Station at Brunswick. The Eagle 56 was ported at the U.S. Naval Frontier Base, Portland Station, Grand Trunk Pier in Portland. As part of the USS Eagle's 56 mission, it was assigned to patrol Casco Bay and the Gulf of Maine for enemy ships. The Eagle 56 had additional duties of pulling targets for U.S. Navy planes to simulate bombing raids of enemy ship.

At 8:15 a.m. on Monday, 23 April 1945, the USS Eagle 56 departed Grand Trunk Pier, Portland. The USS Eagle 56 sailed with six officers and fifty-seven sailors that morning. The ship traveled past Portland Head Lighthouse and into the Gulf of Maine to pull targets. At approximately 12:13 p.m., the USS Eagle 56 took a break from pulling targets about five miles from High Head, Cape Elizabeth.

While the USS Eagle 56 stood stationary in these waters, the German submarine U853 was lurking along the coastal waters of Maine.

The German submarine set its sights on its prey, and fatally torpedoed the Eagle 56. It was a direct hit, splitting the ship in two. Lieutenant Junior Grade, John Scagnelli, the only surviving naval officer of the battle, watched as the ship sunk to the frigid

ocean waters. Of the sixty-two sailors aboard the Eagle 56 that day, only thirteen survived the battle.

Nearby U.S. Navy ships and military observers posted along the Cape Elizabeth coast saw the explosion of the USS Eagle 56. These ships immediately went toward the explosion in an effort to rescue the survivors and counter attacked the German submarine. A battle took place with the U.S. Navy dropping ordinance in the counter attack, but the German Submarine escaped. Had you been at High Head, located at Two Lights State Park, that day, you would have been able to watch this battle. The U.S. Navy continued its pursuit of the German U-853, and sank the German submarine on May 6, 1945 off the coast of Massachusetts.

## First annual Cape Cow Bingo set for May 31



Contributed photo

Ryan Tammaro with Tex.

The first annual Cape Cow Bingo is set for May 31 at 2:00 pm, rain or shine, at Moulton Field at Cape Elizabeth Middle School. Come join the Middle School Parent Association (MSPA) for what is sure to be a great event. The Tammaro family has graciously offered their cow, "Tex," up for this fun game.

Tex will be turned loose on the field where there will be 100 squares painted and wherever Tex does his business, the owner of that square will win \$1,000. Each square will cost \$50 with the proceeds going to the MSPA. This event is sure to be fun for the whole family! Scan the QR code on right for event details, official rules or to purchase a square.



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Thomas Memorial Library’s summer reading programs being June 16

**Holiday Closure**  
The library will be closed on Monday May 26 for Memorial Day.

**Library’s Summer Reading Programs begin June 16**  
The library has a summer reading program for every age, birth through adult. This year, participants are invited to choose activities from a bingo card that not only encourage reading, but also that help “Build a Better World,” the theme for the summer.  
Once again, the incentives for the children’s program will be the collection of beads to attach to a special summer reading necklace, but the library is transitioning away from plastic beads to more eco-friendly materials. For complete details on the programs and how to sign up, please visit the library’s website.

**Art Quilts Maine Group Show in the Stier Family Gallery**  
For the third year in a row, artists from Art Quilts Maine are displaying their work in the library’s gallery space. Each year, quilters are given a theme for inspiration for their work. This year’s show features works based on the inspiration “Global Fabric Traditions.” The quilts may be viewed throughout the month of May.

**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.

**Supporting Children Experiencing Loss - Caregiver Night**  
Thursday, May 29, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Where there is change there is loss and where there is loss there is grief. Caregivers of children are welcome to participate in a workshop in support of loss of all types led by the Center for Grieving Children’s Sara Asch. Come to our library Community Room to learn about and discuss children’s developmental understanding of loss, how to support children who experience big and confusing feelings, and approaches to talking with children about their feelings. Coffee, tea and light snacks will be provided. Please bring your questions. Please register on the library’s website.

**Supporting Children Experiencing Loss - Play Group**  
Saturday, June 7, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Where there is change there is loss and where there is loss there is grief. Children

and caregivers are welcome to participate in a play group with the Center for Grieving Children’s Sara Asch. Come to our library Community Room to learn ways to safely explore and express feelings of loss. A toy kitchen dress up toys, puppets and an infant area will be set up for quiet play. Please bring a sense of curiosity. Capacity: A total of 25 people (children & caregivers). Registration Required. Please register on our website.

**FOR ADULTS**  
For information on our regular recurring programs, please visit the library’s website.

**Senior Social Hour - The Many Faces of Grief with Kelly Blanchette**  
Wednesday May 21, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
There is grief all around us. In this presentation, Kelly explores what grief is, when we can experience grief, and the many ways it affects us. She will discuss the entire spectrum of grief from anticipatory grief experienced prior to a loss to the ways we struggle when we experience loss. Grief is natural, normal and happens to everyone and we will learn how to recognize grief in ourselves and others. We hope that after the presentation people understand that grief is a natural part of life, and it isn’t something to overcome, but something to allow time and space for in your life.

**Bird Song Identification Workshop with CELT**  
Tuesday, May 27, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
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 the sounds of local birds.  
In this hands-on session, you’ll learn to identify various bird songs and calls commonly heard in our area. Whether you’re a beginner or a seasoned birdwatcher, this workshop will sharpen your listening skills and deepen your appreciation of the avian world. 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 the birds you’ll hear. Bring your curiosity and love of nature – no prior experience is necessary. By the end of this workshop, you’ll have the tools to recognize a variety of bird songs and enjoy your outdoor experiences even more!

**Supporting Children Experiencing Loss - Caregiver Night**  
Thursday, May 29, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Where there is change there is loss and

where there is loss there is grief. Caregivers of children are welcome to participate in a workshop in support of loss of all types led by the Center for Grieving Children’s Sara Asch.  
Come to our library Community Room to learn about and discuss children’s developmental understanding of loss, how to support children who experience big and confusing feelings, and approaches to talking with children about their feelings. Coffee, tea and light snacks will be provided. Please bring your questions. Capacity: 25 Caregivers of children. Registration Required. Please register on our website.

**Support Circle, last Saturday of the month**  
May 31, 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.

**Free For All: The Public Library**  
Tuesday, June 3, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Indie Lens Pop-Up, presented by ITVS, INDEPENDENT LENS, and Thomas Memorial Library, will host an event featuring a shortened, preview version of “Free for All: The Public Library,” and a panel discussion with TML librarians Allyson Frick, Amy Hannaford and Sasha Kohan. “Free for All: The Public Library” tells the story of the quiet revolutionaries who created a civic institution where everything is free and the doors are open to all.  
The public library is one of America’s most valued yet endangered institutions.

Director Dawn Logsdon travels the United States, discovering historic and modern-day figures, especially women, who contributed to the library’s integral position within democracy. “Free for All: The Public Library” chronicles the evolution of the nation’s public libraries, tracing the battles over who can enter, what belongs there, and who makes these decisions, while exploring how public commons are defined and defended.

**LGBTQ+ History & Collage with Kimm Topping**  
Saturday, June 7, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
Join us for a creative mixed-media collage workshop exploring LGBTQIA+ history and activism through art. Participants will use historical images, dried florals, and personal stories to create meaningful pieces. Open to all ages.  
Kimm Topping, Ed.M., is an artist-educator, writer, and historian dedicated to preserving LGBTQIA+ history. Their first book, “Generation Queer,” is a nonfiction YA highlighting the stories of LGBTQIA+ youth activists. Their historic tours of Cambridge and New York City spotlight queer and feminist activism from the 1970s to the 1990s, and their series, “Mapping Feminist Cambridge,” is available through the Cambridge Women’s Commission.

As founder of Lavender Education, a national program promoting LGBTQIA+ history and youth leadership, Kimm leads impactful workshops, professional development, and historic walking tours. Kimm lectures at Harvard Graduate School of Education, specializing in gender, sexuality, and equity. Their work has been recognized by the 2025 Curve Power List and the 2023 Inaugural In-Service Award from the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition.

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# Keeping older Mainer’s retirement savings safe from scammers

# CELT spring programs

By Sen. Anne Carney

Even at 85 my dad was sharp. He was a lawyer who started his day with crossword puzzles before heading to work as a court auditor. He was the last person I expected to lose nearly \$10,000 to the “grandparent scam.” But true to his character, he thought only about the needs of the person pretending to be my son and sent the money off. My dad never reported the crime, and I believe the scammer was located overseas, beyond the reach of law enforcement.

Like my dad, too many older Mainers fall victim to financial exploitation. They are often targeted because they have retirement savings and other assets. Across the country in 2023, people aged 60 and older made 101,068 complaints to the FBI for a total reported loss of \$3,427,717,654. Here in Maine in 2023, financial exploitation affected nearly 400 Mainers over 60, resulting in a combined loss of \$7.1 million.

Much of this money flows through banks and credit unions, which most Mainers use to protect their savings and do their financial transactions. However, transaction holds, a key tool to prevent fraud, are currently allowed in Maine only for broker-dealers and investment advisers.

To address this issue, I proposed LD 1445, “An Act to Prevent Financial Exploitation of Maine Residents 62 Years of Age or Older,” which would enable Maine banks and credit unions to use this tool as well. As amended, this bill would allow transaction holds, known as “stop and hold,” by tellers who suspect a

fraudulent transaction. Holds would be targeted to populations that are more likely to be targets of scams: Mainers older than 65 and individuals protected under the Adult Protective Services Act.

These holds are temporary (initially limited to seven days), but they allow the account owner time to double check their transaction. They also provide the opportunity to report suspicious transactions to the Attorney General and involve law enforcement in an investigation. Additionally, LD 1445 allows account holders to designate a “trusted contact” who is not an owner of the account to be contacted to determine if a transaction is legitimate.

Once the investigation into the transaction is completed and it’s determined to be legitimate, the hold is lifted and the account holder’s transaction goes forward. However, if it’s found to be fraudulent, the account holder will have the chance to protect their savings, their family and their wellbeing.

This legislation was inspired by a constituent in Cape Elizabeth who has been involved with the AARP Maine Fraud Watch team and has seen firsthand the disastrous effects financial scams can have. The bill is supported by Maine’s banks and credit unions, AARP Maine, Legal Services for Maine Elders and Gov. Mills’ administration. I appreciate their input and advocacy.

LD 1445 received unanimous support in committee and will soon come to the Senate and House for votes. I am hopeful that the Legislature will support this important measure to better protect older Mainers from losing their life savings to bad actors.

**CELT’s 40th Anniversary Guided Walk Series:**

**Invasive Plants Nature Walk**

Join Mike Hankes, 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.

Participants should meet at the upper parking lot at Gull Crest field off of Spurwink Ave, and be prepared to go on a gentle hike, rain or shine. 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 Cape Elizabeth Land Trust 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; including Spurwink Marsh, Robinson Woods, and Great Pond.

The walk takes approximately four hours and includes a BYO lunch stop. Hikers will meet at the Portland Head Light and will carpool (arranged prior to walk) back to Fort Williams. 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, which is listed as a separate event.

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

**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.

The walk takes approximately three hours and includes a BYO lunch stop. 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**

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.

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. Whether you’re a bird-watching enthusiast or simply curious about the natural world, this lecture will deepen your understanding of one of nature’s most extraordinary phenomena.

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 the sounds of local birds. In this hands-on session, you’ll learn to identify various bird songs and calls commonly heard in our area.

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 the birds you’ll hear.

Bring your curiosity and love of nature – 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

**Dean’s list announcements**

**Benson Offit** was named to the dean’s list for the fall 2024 semester at Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Jack McCormick** was named to the dean’s list for the fall 2024 semester at Columbia University in New York, New York.

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Dr. Marta Agrodnia

DVM, DACVS-SA



Taxes will gradually increase over 6 years to a total of 12.3%.

2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
1.4%	2.8%	2.8%	2.7%	1.3%	1.3%

For a \$750,000 home, the monthly property tax increase is:

2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
\$9.67	\$19.25	\$19.25	\$18.58	\$8.92	\$8.92

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.

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, **VOTE YES** for a  **SMART** long-term plan for our community!



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# Amendments

Continued from page 1

school campus, so there is very little expectation any development would occur there.”

**The amendments:**  
Increasing density- When speaking of density, this refers to how much land is required to have a certain number of residential units, such as apartments, on that land. The ordinance required a builder to have 3,000 square feet of land per unit, and the amendment reduces the requirement to 1,500 square feet of land per unit.

Increase in footprint- The amendments would allow the building’s footprint to be increased from 5,000 square feet to 12,000 square feet. While this obviously provides for a larger building, it still must be 125 feet removed from the roadway.

Allowing residential use on the first floor- Since COVID, real estate for nonresidential uses have seen a decline in value. It has become much more difficult to find tents for of- fice space and the like. HardyPond requested relief from including non-residential uses on the first floor, citing the financial hardship in- curred with commercial uses as well as the difficulty in obtaining commercial uses in occupying the space. They have identified mixed use buildings located in much denser areas in the region where the first floor, com- mercial space has taken years to fill, if at all.

Increasing building height- The amend- ments would increase the maximum building height from 35 feet to 50 feet. While some less familiar with construction and real estate might think this provides for a 5-story build- ing, simply by dividing max height by ten, this is in error. The maximum possible with the amendments would be a 4-story building.

Decreasing roof pitch- The pitch of a roof,

or slope, is expressed in a ratio. How many inches does the slope rise, for every 12 inches horizontal run. The amendments would al- low a 4:12 pitch, instead of the currently re- quired 7:12 pitch. The roof would have slope which is less steep, in other words.

Change opening space dimensions on the first floor- “Opening spaces” refers to what percentage of the first-floor walls would be taken up by windows and doors. Because the amendments would allow the first floor to be residential units, the requirement that half of the wall space be windows and doors would be undesirable for people living in those units. The amendments would reduce the requirement from 50 percent, to 25 percent.

**Timeline of events:**  
July 2024- HardyPond Development Company requests amendments, submitted by John Mitchell of Mitchell & Associates Landscape Architects on behalf of his client, Bob Gaudreau, HardyPond Development Company.

August 2024- Cape Elizabeth Town Council voted unanimously in favor of refer- ring the Town Center District amendment requests to the Planning Board and then directly to the Ordinance Committee upon conclusion of the Planning Board’s process.

September through November 2024- The Planning Board discussed the amendments with the developer and holds public meetings, ultimately voting unanimously to recom- mend the amendments to the Town Council. The amendments forwarded directly to the Ordinance Committee.

December 2024 - The Ordinance Com- mittee reviewed the Town Center Zoning Amendments drafted by the Planning Board. The Ordinance Committee voted 3-0 in favor of sending the proposed amendments to the Town Council.

January 2025 - The Town Council set

a Public Hearing for the amendments to Chapter 19 Zoning Ordinance Town Center Amendments.

February 2025 – Councilor Sahrbeck made a motion to approve the amendments as developed by the Planning Board and recommended by the Ordinance Commit- tee. Councilor Andrew Swayze seconded the motion. The vote passed with 5 in favor and 2 opposed. Councilors Anderson and Tim Thompson voted against it.

February 2025 - A citizen petition is filed, requesting that the amendments be referred to referendum. A Town Council Special Meeting, scheduled to reconsider the amend- ments is canceled due to the citizen petition.

Signatures for the citizen petition were verified by the Town Clerk.

March 2025 – The Town Council held a public hearing on the citizen petition. No public comments were received during the public hearing and no action/votes were tak-

en by the council.  
April 2025 - Town Council votes to send Citizen Petition to referendum on Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

According to information on the town’s website, there is a false narrative circulating that the Affordable Housing Density Bonus of 2.5 times the base density, which is part of LD 2003, can be compounded with the Town Center Zoning Amendments.

In fact, the Affordable Housing Density Bonus specifically references “base density.” Further, the Supplemental LD 2003 Amend- ments clearly display the base density num- bers in a table.

The Town Center Zoning amendments, being voted on June 10, create a separate cat- egory of development, “Multifamily housing located 125’ or more from a public road right- of-way in the Town Center District” that in- cludes density and other requirements that are distinctly different from “base density.”

## CELT is looking for new committee and board members

Are you interested in meeting new peo- ple and making a difference in the com- munity? 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 walk- ing and biking trails, remove invasive spe- cies, support conservation efforts, be a part of our educational programs in the schools and community, act as a land trust ambas- sador 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 – Stew- ardship – Education – Community Out- reach and Fundraising –Finance – Gover- nance.

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

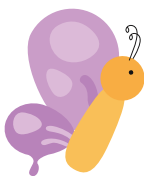
# WELCOME TO KIDS CORNER!

## JOKE OF THE DAY

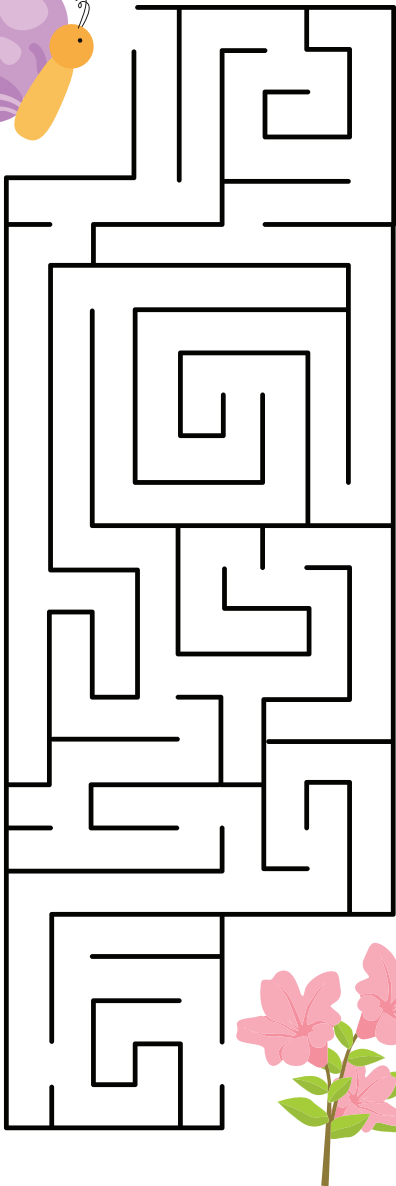
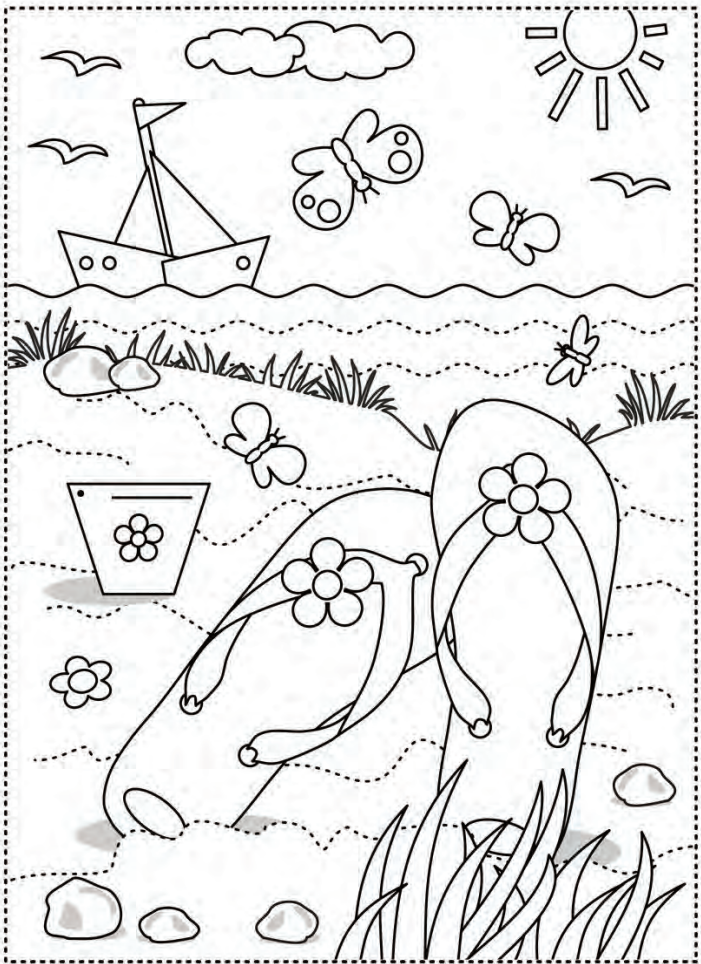
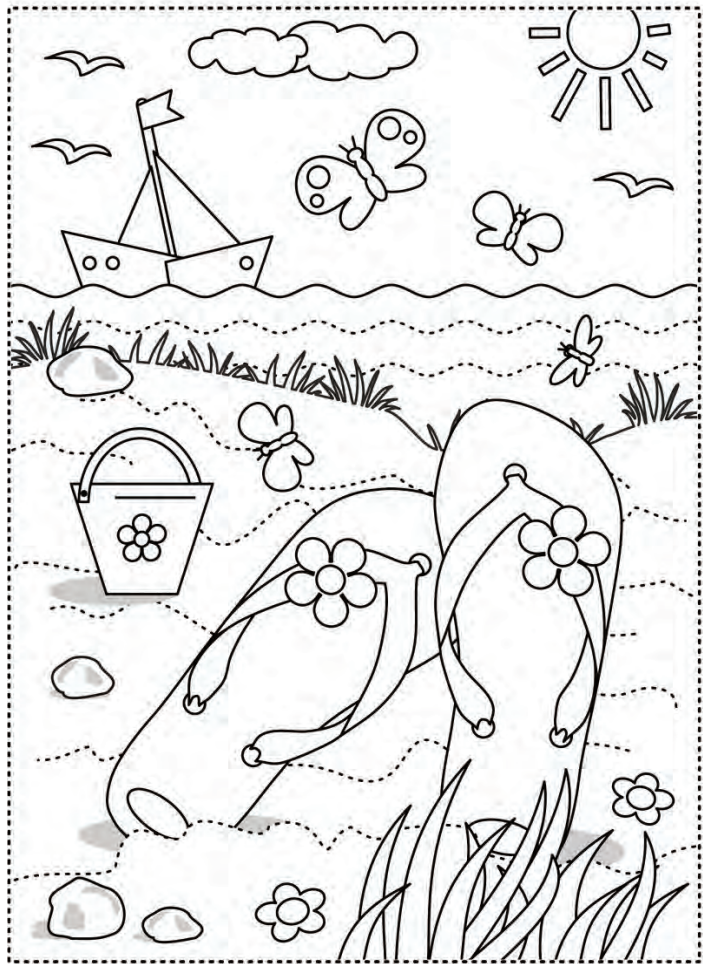
What do you call an illegally parked frog?

Toad!

HAHA!



Find 10 differences.





## Local birding report

**By Brooks Bornhofft**

Over the last couple of weeks there has been a steady progression of spring migrants crossing into and passing through Cape.

A few notes from the yard and field include, on the mizzly morning of May 4 a shadowy dark blue bird appeared under our finch tube feeder. Closer inspection revealed the dazzling deep sapphire plumage of a male Indigo Bunting.

Whether it's your first time seeing an Indigo Bunting or the hundredth time, its brilliance is undeniable and with electric blue feathers the bird almost seems surreal. Imagining that this bird just arrived from some far away land, likely either Central America, the Caribbean or north South America is unfathomable. Understandably this tiny jewel was hungry, and he dined on sunflower kernel pieces, canary and Nyjer seeds throughout the day, departing sometime well after sunset.

That afternoon five Baltimore Orioles devoured orange slices in my backyard and a single White-crowned Sparrow showed up to the party as well. Upon first impressions this bird's largely plain gray appearance can be rather deceiving. My favorite thing about these large sparrows is the alternating black and white bands, with a broad white stripe running down the center, flanked by two black stripes that adorn the top of its head.

Edward Forbush, an early 1900s ornithologist, wrote "It is a red-letter day for the novice in New England ornithology when he or she meets this bird of distinguished appearance. Its gray vesture, black and white crown and elegant form give it an aristocratic appearance as if

it were above the common herd of sparrows and in a class by itself." This sparrow is a somewhat uncommon migrant in Cape and most years a small number are reported in the spring. That afternoon a walk around Hinkley Park in South Portland with my family yielded a Northern House Wren, Black-and-white Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, three Northern Parulas, a Chestnut-sided Warbler and a pair of male American Restarts.

On the rather raw and rainy May 5 I came across a second Indigo Bunting within the Spurwink Church Cemetery along with my first female Common Yellowthroat of the year. Travelling on from there to Spurwink River Crossing I discovered two Willets and a Belted Kingfisher perched directly below an adult Bald Eagle in an old Snag along the river.

Next stop was the Sawyer Road section of the Spurwink River. As I traversed the road across the marsh my thoughts were consumed with a recent reporting of a Black-necked Stilt. Scanning the marsh I noted a large flock of Glossy Ibis' along with Least Sandpipers, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs. A Merlin who had been watching from the fringes of the forest took wing, spooking the shorebirds on the marsh and lo and behold the Black-necked Stint came flying right out from a hidden pool and landed not far from where I was standing along the road! Nicknamed the "Lawyer" because of its vociferousness, this long-legged dandy's sharp, rapid ip-ip-ip alarm call provided a warning to other wild denizens on the marsh. After the danger had passed the stint went on wading in a shallow saltwater pool, pecking

and probing for fish and plant material while being trailed by several Lesser Yellowlegs.

Described as a straggler and casual spring vagrant (meaning that it is quite rare) to Maine, this distinctive, tall but lean, small-bodied shorebird is somewhere between a robin and a crow in size. This handsome bird has a bill that is twice as long as its head and is black above with greenish reflections. Its forehead and underparts are snow white and its long legs are a spectacular lake red or coral color. Females look similar but slightly duller.

I had never seen this bird in Cape, in fact the only time I had ever seen a Black-necked Stint was in Florida years ago. Pushing the northern boundaries of its range into Maine and Nova Scotia, each year a very small handful of sightings are reported. There are no known breeding records in Maine, yet.

The first Black-necked Stint was recorded being taken in Rockland Stint in 1889. Back then the eastern populations were decimated by hunting and not until this activity became regulated in the early 1900s did their numbers rebound to the extent that the population began to expand back to Virginia and Delaware. Today the Black-necked Stint's population on both the east and west coast of North America is stable according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey; however, they are still vulnerable to wetland destruction and pollution from pesticides.

One of the many reasons that I am drawn to birding relates to how kind, energetic and helpful other birders are that

I meet in the field. While watching the Stint a fellow birder showed up and with a scope picked out a White-faced Ibis in the crowd of Glossy Ibises. Just when I thought the day could not get any better it did!

Not long-ago White-faced Ibises were considered accidental visitors in Maine with the first Maine record of this bird in 1996. Today this large purple, green and bronze wading bird with ruby red eyes looks very similar to a Glossy Ibis but has a bare patch of skin in front of its eyes which is bordered with a sharp white mask. White-faced Ibises are more common in marshes across large parts of the American West.

A few more noteworthy mentionings include: on May 7 I spotted three Black-crowned Night Herons flying together at dusk over IGA. And on May 8 my youngest son and I hung our Great-crested Flycatcher box in a boggy area of our property. Minutes later we heard the loud, penetrating whee-eeep whistle call of from a flycatcher not far off. On the morning of May 8 the first pair of male and female Rose-breasted Grosbeaks feasted together at our feeder while a Barn Swallow and two Chimney Swifts flew high overhead.

And finally, on the sun filled day of May 12 at Hinkley Park, I spied a Swainson's Thrush in a wooded section of the park and shortly thereafter a dashing Prairie Warbler sprang out from the low bushes under the powerline section to utter a succession of summery mellow buzzy notes. Unlike any other wood warbler its distinctive buzzy song increases in pitch as it progresses.

*Paid for by Eliza Matheson, this ad cost \$218.23, no BQC filing required. Support local journalism.*

**We grew up here.**

**We walked these same school hallways.  
We played on the fields and courts.  
We learned in the classrooms.**

**Many of us have decided to raise our families here.**

**We all plan on investing in the next generation, like the generations before us invested in our education.**

**Join us in voting YES for Cape Schools on  
or before June 10th.**

**Duncan McAllister '92**  
**Amy (Hall) Lombardo '91**  
**Emily (Ornatek) Garvin '93**  
**Ali (Altenburg) Carignan '93**  
**Melanie (Rioux) Tennyson '94**  
**Bernadette (Sweeney) Shaw '94**  
**Patrick Cotter '95**  
**Ben Blouin '95**  
**Chris (Roberts) Casterella '96**  
**Catherine Adams '96**  
**Kate Garmey '97**  
**Lauren Wendell '98**  
**Jonathan Sahrbeck '98**  
**Jeff Mitchell '98**  
**Curt Brown '98**  
**Ali (Garmey) Chardon '99**  
**Sarah Fisher '99**  
**Lindsay (Groff) Barrett '00**  
**Gerad O'Shea '00**

**Kathryn (Harris) Swayze '00**  
**Kirsten (Barton) Goethert '01**  
**Rachel Mehlsak '02**  
**Kate (Wentworth) Lewis '03**  
**Eliza Matheson '03**  
**Elizabeth (Livada) Piantidosi '03**  
**Taylor McFarlane '04**  
**Caroline (Brown) Muller '04**  
**Katie Lydon '04**  
**Hillary (Weimont) Saucier '04**  
**Matt Yantakosol '06**  
**Carly (Rapaport) Vargas '06**  
**Kat (Graves) Bridgewater '06**  
**Hanna (Landis) O'Meara '06**  
**Drake Livada '06**  
**Joe Geoghegan '06**  
**Hannah (Bechard) Herbert '08**  
**Russell Thompson '08**  
**Vio Connelly Voltz '24**

*Paid for by Eliza Matheson, this ad cost \$218.23, no BQC filing required. Support local journalism.*





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).*

Tuesday, May 27

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

Monday, June 2

Town Council Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.  
School Board Policy Committee, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, June 3

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.

Board of Zoning Appeals  
May 27 - 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](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

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: [bethowens1@gmail.com](mailto:bethowens1@gmail.com). Please consider a non-perishable donation to the IGA drop box.

## 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The 10th Reunion for Cape Elizabeth High School's Class of 2015** will take place over Labor Day weekend on Sunday, August 31st from 5-9pm at the Porthole Restaurant & Pub and Casablanca Cruises. Please reach out to Daniel Menz at dmenz27@gmail.com to RSVP.

OBITUARIES

Stephanie Betzold



**Stephanie Patricia ("Pixie") Van Sant Betzold**, 74, died suddenly of a stroke at Maine Medical Center, Portland ME on April 23, 2025. A celebration of Stephanie's life will be held on Saturday May, 31 from 1-3 p.m. at the Elizabeth Hobbs Hospitality Center at Hobbs Funeral Home, 230 Cottage Road, South Portland.

Garlic

Continued from page 1

ground during the spring/summer growing season. About 400 bales of straw are needed per acre. Another tractor-drawn machine shreds the bales and spreads the straw evenly over the freshly planted garlic crop. This task also involves three people, and it consumes about 15 person-hours.

In early spring, a light dusting of nitrogen-rich fertilizer is spread over the garlic field to promote root and leaf growth. Provided that rainfall is adequate, and the straw mulch is doing its job as a weed barrier, no other maintenance is needed until June. That's when the plants begin

to produce scapes.

Scapes are curly stalks formed by garlic plants. If left untouched, they will develop into colorful flowers. They are edible, they taste like garlic, and a limited market does exist for them. Considerable energy is required to produce them, though, and that inhibits the plants from directing energy into producing large bulbs instead. To maximize bulb production, scape production must be discouraged. Thus, beginning in June, the scape removal phase of garlic-growing commences.

Two or three times per week from mid-June to mid-July, every plant in the field is visited. If a plant has a scape, the scape is removed. Each of these passes across the garlic field consumes about 8 person-hours. Each plant will produce only one scape, but individual plants produce them at different times, especially when multiple varieties of garlic are grown, and so it takes about a month to ensure that the one scape produced by each of the 20,000 plants has been removed.

During the scape removal phase, some bulbs will already be large enough to harvest and sell as green garlic. Green garlic is simply garlic to which the normal drying process has not been applied. It's quite delicious but perhaps not as strong-tasting as fully dried garlic.

Harvesting green garlic is a manual process. It involves searching the field for plants having large enough bulbs, pulling them from the ground by hand, and then washing by hand to make them attractive to consumers. About 1 person-hour of effort is needed to harvest and prepare 10 pounds of green garlic. JBF produced around 450 pounds of green garlic in 2024.

By the end of July, all remaining plants reach full maturity and are ready to be gathered from the field and laid out on drying racks. This has been a manual task at JBF. It involves pulling the plants from the ground by hand, transporting them to a barn, and laying them out gently across 35 4'x8' drying racks. The process consumes about 40 person-hours.

By mid-August, dried garlic is ready to be processed for sale. To make it look attractive to consumers, outer layers of dried skin are removed from each bulb before it's delivered to a farm market. This is another manual task that consumes about 8 person-hours for 40 pounds of bulbs. JBF delivered over 800 pounds of dried garlic to local farm markets in Cape Elizabeth last season.

If you've been paying attention and tallying the numbers to this point, you'd be well-justified in challenging the original premise that garlic-growing is a low maintenance endeavor. It might require less maintenance than some other types of field crops, especially those needing hand-weeding, but it's obviously quite labor-intensive. What about the profitability claim?

Annual expenses for growing garlic include fuel, fertilizer, utilities, soil testing, straw bales, insurance, and real estate taxes. Around 400 person-hours of labor were expended on the 2024 crop too. At JBF, all that labor was very generously donated by family, friends, and the brothers themselves. However, most commercial farms aren't fortunate to have free labor.

Calculating the maximum possible profit per acre that an ordinary farm in Maine might expect to make from garlic requires assigning a cost to those 400 person-hours. If JBF paid only the state's minimum wage, for example, the profit could be as much as \$4,000/acre.

Farms can't compete effectively in the job market by offering only minimum wage, though, so a more realistic profit estimate might be \$2,500/acre, based upon Maine's current average hourly wage. When amortization of long-term investments such as machinery and infrastructure are factored in, the actual profitability would be even less.

Consider how profitability would be affected by increases in expenses. For example, increases in utility rates, real estate taxes, or taxes on fuel and fertilizer could have a large, negative impact. Likewise, large increases in labor costs (including the wage that the farmer would like to pay him/herself) would reduce profit/acre significantly too.

Clearly, growing one acre of garlic has not made JBF wealthy. Perhaps if the farm's garlic production expanded to hundreds of acres, this assessment would be different. However, scaling to hundreds of acres would require an enormous investment in infrastructure, automation, and labor. It would certainly require expanding outside of Cape Elizabeth too, as the town does not have hundreds of acres of unused, arable land.

It might be surprising to realize that the statistics enumerated above actually support the original claim that garlic is a more profitable crop to grow than other crops commonly grown in our region. Various sources indicate, for example, that a profit of \$4,000/acre is double or better than what can be expected for corn, green beans, lettuce, potatoes, tomatoes, or strawberries. A profit of \$2,500/acre is better too.

Because farming is a very low-margin business, a successful family farm requires financial acuity, very efficient operation, and scale in acres to remain viable. Viability, as measured by profitability, tends to be especially sensitive to unanticipated increases in annual expenses such as fuel, fertilizer, utilities, and taxes. Yes, buying locally grown produce helps to support local farms, and farms greatly appreciate this kind of support. Another way to support local farms, however, is to make thoughtful public policy choices that avoid unintended negative impacts on them.



Complaint

Continued from page 8

and the school district should have created a ballot question committee last year in advance of spending over the \$5,000 threshold. The question to be answered, therefore, is whether or not a municipality or school district is subject to the same restrictions as an independent political committee is, or do they have the leeway to use funds to inform the public in an effort toward transparency without first creating an in-house ballot question committee.

The executive director of the state ethics commission, Johnathan Wayne, has confirmed that they received the complaint, but declined to comment on whether failing to register as a ballot question committee in this case is a violation of state law.

Next comes the commission's request for a response from the CESD, and to schedule a public hearing with the commission, which could happen as late as June. A decision by the commission would come sometime after the hearing.

Last November's effort was the latest vote on improving the community's educational facilities. In 2002, 62 percent of those who voted opposed a \$116 million bond to build new elementary and middle schools.

Leading up to last November's vote,

a School Building Advisory Committee, of which Benoit was a member, spent 18 months coming up with a \$77 million plan to build a new middle school and renovate Pond Cove Elementary School and Cape Elizabeth High School. The nine-member SBAC was split, however, with four members supporting a larger, more expensive, proposal.

The Cape Elizabeth School Board then looked at what the two halves of the SBAC had each supported, and came up with an \$88.9 million compromise proposal based on the SBAC's disparate ideas, dubbed "the middle ground" solution.


Subsequently, in what some saw as a "poison pill" addition in order to make the amount to be borrowed higher and less appealing to voters, the Cape Elizabeth Town Council added an additional project, bringing the total to \$94.7 million. With the new price tag, 6,730 Cape voters voted and the proposal was defeated by 166 votes, or 2 percent of the votes cast.

The latest proposal for voters to consider in June 2025 would authorize expenditures of up to \$86,499,993 to build a new middle school and to renovate other district buildings.

For more information on the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, go to: <https://www.maine.gov/ethics/home>



# CE WHAT DOES THIS INVESTMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS MEAN FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD?




### LONG TERM INVESTMENT

Best strategic step to allow for future campus projects

A 40-60 year investment

Restarts the clock on one building



### EDUCATION/ PROGRAMMING


Supports modern education

Learning community-focused plan reinforces collaboration, community, flexible learning spaces

Intentionally designed Special Education spaces

Daylight/views from educational spaces shown to reduce stress & improve educational outcomes

Supports all learning styles




### SAFETY & SECURITY

ES and MS Admins have clear views for supervision

New MS layout reduces opportunities for bullying & unsafe behavior

Clear MS layout makes emergency response easy

Clear separation of “public” and “private” spaces in new MS (building locks down in secure segments)



### ENVIRONMENT/ SUSTAINABILITY

One campus building built to modern energy code requirements

Opportunity to offset energy with solar panels

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APPROXIMATE EFFECT OF \$86.5 MILLION SCHOOL BOND ON PROPERTY TAX ANNUALLY (AT A 4% INTEREST RATE)										
PROPERTY VALUE	CURRENT MILL RATE	CURRENT PROPERTY TAX	ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR PROJECT							
			2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
\$500,000	\$11.00	\$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

Tax Impact courtesy of the Town of Cape Elizabeth

## ATTEND A SCHOOL TOUR!

CAPE ELIZABETH MIDDLE SCHOOL

## JUNE 2ND, AT 6PM

Meet in front of The Middle School



# LEARN MORE

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

“We have looked at the cost implications and have not come to this decision lightly. This is all about protecting [Cape Elizabeth] tax dollars for us. **We want to make sure you are getting the best value for your money, and we believe if [the town builds] a new Middle School, that’s the best value for your money.”**

—Chuck Adam,  
Owner’s Representative