

The Cape Courier

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In the Spirit of Community

News from April Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Finance Committee Report

Councilor Scifres provided a reminder on the upcoming budget calendar. At 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 28 there was a budget presentation to the Town Council. At 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 5 there was a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2026 budget. And on Monday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a regular town council monthly meeting in which the Town Council will be voting on the the FY2026 budget.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Update

Christina McEnough, Chair of the Cape Elizabeth Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, initiated the committee's presentation by introducing other present members including Sarah Clinton, Kara Lavender Law, Reagan St. Pierre, Nancy Della Matera, Monica Malcolmson and town staff, Rachel Davis. Other committee members were unable to at-

tend. The committee was established in 2021 and began meeting in January of 2022.

McEnough shared that one of the Town Council's goals for 2025 is to have an "informed and engaged citizenry." She stated that in order to "refine the charge for this work" the committee created a mission statement which borrowed language from the town's Comprehensive Plan, such as this line: "to advocate for a welcoming, accessible, and inclusive place to live, work, and visit."

McEnough shared that to act in alignment of the mission would be to engage the community, listen to voices from every corner of Cape Elizabeth, recommend policies to the Town Council, and report findings to the community. She added that "when people can access services and events and are proactively included, engagement will increase and they will feel like they belong" which are all crucial tenets in the committee's charge.

-see TOWN COUNCIL page 6

News from April Planning Board meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Cape Elizabeth Basketball Courts Site Plan Amendment

The town of Cape Elizabeth initially requested a site plan amendment to construct an outdoor basketball court adjacent to the Spurwink School building and Thomas Memorial Library during the March 2025 Planning Board meeting. Town Engineer Steve Harding presented additional changes based on feedback received during that meeting.

Harding explained the following changes that were added to the site plan amendment: moving the proposed court to meet the ten foot setback requirement; presented a deed in the application materials, the addition of a gate in the southeast corner, the addition of an overflow connection to the rain garden which is connected to the storm drain from the original library's drainage.

Harding also noted there will be the installation of three signs to note that waste is "carry in, carry out," the hours of the park are "dusk to dawn," and an alternate parking sign. The proposed portable restroom was recommended to be removed from the plans by the Public Works director Jay Reynolds because of the potential for vandalism and being an unattractive "eye sore" near the library's campus.

Jim Huebener introduced a motion to approve the amendments as presented with the additional clarification that potable water and sewage disposal are "not being provided, but they are not required." The motion was seconded by Natalie Burns and approved unanimously by the Board.

Old Mill Road Subdivision Amendments

Applicants Brendan and Sarah Ready

requested amendments to a previously approved Old Mill Road Subdivision plan. Bob Metcalf of Mitchell Associates represented the applicant. Metcalf explained that the applicants currently have four abutting lots in the subdivision plan that include three residential lots, #1, #2, and #3, and one common space lot, #4. The request is to merge lots #2, #, and #4 to create one, 19-acre lot for the eventual conveyance to family members. The Readys would then own two residential lots on Old Mill Road.

The applicant also requested a waiver of financial capability because there are no improvements associated with the project. Burns and Huebener made the motion to approve which was unanimously accepted by the Board.

7 Scott Dyer Road Subdivision Plan Amendments

Applicant Zev Myerowitz requested an amendment to a previously approved Tarbox Triangle Subdivision lot to shift the common boundary line between lots #2 and #3 and to amend the site plan located at 7 Scott Dyer Road. Greg Shinberg of Shinberg Consulting presented as the Owner's Representative. Shinberg explained to the Board that the applicant wishes to install a hot tub and the shifting of boundary lines, of which they are the owners of both properties, would accommodate a better site plan. The property is located at the corner of Hill Way and Scott Dyer Road.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the request based on completeness and substance of application materials.

-see PLANNING BOARD page 8

Togue Brawn looks to improve seafood availability

By Kevin St. Jarre



Photo by Nicole Wolf

Togue Brawn, third from the left, stands among fishermen. She is working to improve the quality of seafood available to consumers, while maximizing revenue opportunities and predictability for fishermen.

A great many of today's seafood entrepreneurs grew up in Cape Elizabeth. Luke Holden of Luke's Lobster, Brian and John Ready and Curt Brown of Ready Seafood, Jim Tseleakis of Cousins Lobster, Nate Perry of Pine Point Oyster, and Togue Brawn of Downeast Dayboat and Dayboat Blue.

Capers have been working on the water for generations. Brawn said of Cape Elizabeth's contribution, "When you consider how small Cape's population is, that's pretty crazy. I bet the folks who grew up in Cape process at least a third of the lobster produced in Maine."

Brawn's effort centers around bringing the highest quality seafood to the consumer at a reasonable price, while helping fishermen with predictability and amount of revenue for their catch. She's accomplishing this by restructuring how the product gets from sea

to table.

Brawn said the idea for her direct-to-consumer scallop business, called Downeast Dayboat, came from a discussion with fishermen at the Jonesport/Beals library. According to Brawn, one of the fishermen said "You know, Togue, I wouldn't mind lowering the daily limit [i.e. catching fewer scallops] but I never know what I'll get paid."

Brawn said, "I wondered why this fisherman, who brings in 100 pounds of beautiful scallops, just a few hours after harvest, is being paid a price set by the offshore fleet, who bring in thousands of pounds of old, water-logged scallops from trips lasting a week or more."

She explained that 95 percent of United

-see SEAFOOD page 15

CEHS theater program to put on 'Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom'

By Kevin St. Jarre

Christine Marshall has been the Theatre Director at Cape Elizabeth High School for the past 7 years. The theater program is already at work on its spring production of "Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom," by Jennifer Haley. It is scheduled to run Thursday through Sunday, May 22 to May 25.

The publisher's synopsis reads: "Jennifer Haley's dark comedy takes place in a suburban subdivision with identical houses, where parents find their teenagers addicted to an online horror video game. The game setting? A subdivision with identical houses. The goal? Smash through an army of zombies to escape the neighborhood for good. But as the line blurs between virtual and reality, both parents and players realize that fear has a life of its own."

Of selecting the project for this spring, Marshall said, "I first worked on the play

when it was published, in 2008. I loved the dark humor, the exploration of our struggle to communicate, especially when so much of our time is spent online, and the wonderfully natural characters Ms. Haley created. We produced it at CEHS the fall of my joining the CEHS team, and I wanted to revisit it with more awareness of the program."

Marshall said the play has 16 characters, who can be played either by a cast of four playing multiple roles, or by 16 individual actors. "That is a big factor in choosing our plays, serving as many CEHS students as possible," she said.

Musicals generally feature large casts, Marshall explained, and plays not as often. If they do, they can be focused solely on one or two main characters, leaving the large supporting cast with little to do. "Each of the characters in 'NEIGHBORHOOD 3'"

-see PLAY page 12



The Cape Courier

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

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NEXT ISSUE: May 21
DEADLINE: Noon, May 9

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'I will vote No' in June

Nobody disputes that all three schools have significant needs. On June 10, we will be voting on the school board plan for the third time. I will vote NO because this bond addresses ONLY the middle school. It is a one school plan, and the other two schools have critical needs to the tune of \$15 million that are being shoved off into an imaginary, unprecedented, unfunded, and wildly optimistic 12-year school department CIP plan. It will stress every budget for the next 12 years. Furthermore, the necessary and critical repairs identified by Harriman a year ago need to be done over the next 6 years, not 12. The school board refuses to budge from its "new middle school or bust" position, despite multiple community requests for alternative plans and a property tax increase of less than 10%.

'Yes vote on town center housing'

As a Senior Citizen of Cape Elizabeth, I am saddened to see the citizen referendum challenging the 55+ housing development in the town center. As an older Cape resident, I value the ability to have diverse housing options. As we all age, we're not always in control of the housing options we may need in the future.

Adding slightly denser housing in our town center is the responsible thing to do. It is environmentally responsible because it leverages the use of existing roads and utilities.

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Let us
hear
from you!

We love feedback!

editor@capecourier.com



This plan is neither the solution nor a reasonable compromise. There are alternatives which have been fully examined, developed and costed by our architects, vetted, and supported by the SBAC which will modernize and meet the needs and wants for all three schools. We know it can be done for \$20-\$40 million less - all three schools, no imaginary 12-year CIP plan, and no devastation of the 1934 building.

Vote NO in June. Tell the School Board to consider already vetted alternatives that meet the educational needs and goals of all 3 schools and that respects the community. One that builds community consensus. One that will pass in November.

Stephanie Anderson
Cape Elizabeth Town Council

It adds to our tax base, without the need to create new infrastructure. We saw through the revaluation how our tax base is stagnant - this project allows modest growth which lowers everyone else's taxes. Retail, especially hundreds of feet from the road where it can't be seen, isn't viable in Cape. The last town center plan we made was 40 years ago, and still all of the vacant sites then are vacant today. Why keep making the same mistakes?

Senior housing expands our tax base and allows people like me to age in place in our community. Not all of us want to be forced to move to Scarborough or South Portland, and the idea that as we age we should just move to Piper Shores is tone deaf. We just want to live near our kids and grandkids and enjoy everything our community has to offer and that means a yes vote on the town center housing question on June 10.

Maria Glaser

'The disingenuousness is palpable'

As we all think about the myopic decision to send yet ANOTHER school bond vote to the voters--despite failing two times--one can't help but think about the famous quote often attributed to Einstein:

"Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

Right now, the School Board and a majority of Council members are testing the faith of voters by their continual reliance upon antiquated data and cockeyed optimism. Aside

Help feed hungry Portland-area kids

You needn't travel far to find thousands of kids facing daily hunger. Half the school-aged children in Portland and more than a quarter in Cumberland County are food insecure. The numbers are sure to get worse: needy families pinched by inflation face probable cuts to federal hunger programs, and Maine farmers who generously donate food are threatened by the loss of federal farm supports.

The nonprofit Locker Project provides thousands of families with healthy food at schools and preschools throughout Portland, South Portland and Westbrook. It also partners with agencies and community groups to reach families with preschool children who might not have access to school-based food programs. Today, in common with other area food pantries, the Locker Project is struggling to find enough food and funding to meet this fast-growing need.

As a long-time Locker Project volunteer, I ask my Cape neighbors to look beyond our borders and help ensure that no Greater Portland child goes to school or to bed hungry.

What can you do?

- Donate generously to Locker Project, monthly if you can (mainelockerproject.org).
- Organize a food drive with friends, neighbors, your church or workplace. A list of items needed is on the Locker Project website.
- Patronize farms in Cape and elsewhere, many of whom are generous partners to hunger relief agencies.
- Tell our representatives in Augusta and Washington that the needs of Maine children are important to you.

Lee Mitgang

from their "abused puppy look" photos of kids learning in closets, we have the majority who are claiming that we need a new school.

Enrollment? Down.
Taxes? Up.
Leadership Skills? Absent.
Don't be fooled, Capers. The famous "bait and switch" arguments are in full force.
The disingenuousness is palpable.
Vote NO.

Rich West

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

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= 20% TAX HIKE!

Vote NO on June 10

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*Official Town Council proforma budget estimate 4/9/25

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Suspicious person, trespass and criminal mischief complaints

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 4-2 Two officers responded to a resident in the Spurwink Avenue area for a suspicious person complaint.
- 4-4 An officer met with a resident in the Fowler Road area regarding a trespass complaint.
- 4-8 An officer responded to a residence in the Two Lights Road area for a well-being check.
- 4-10 An officer met with a resident of the Shore Road area regarding damage to his vehicle in a hit and run accident.
- 4-8 An officer responded to a residence in the Hannaford Cove area for a well-being check.
- 4-10 An officer met with a resident of the Bowery Beach Road area regarding a possible contractor scam.
- 4-15 An officer met with a resident of the Broad Cove Road area regarding a criminal mischief complaint.
- 4-16 Two officers responded to a residence in the Ocean House Road area for a well-being check.
- 4-17 Two officers responded to a residence in the Mitchell Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 4-18 An officer met with a resident who wanted to turn in an old revolver for destruction.

SUMMONSES

- 4-10 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while holding hand held device, Scott Dyer Road, \$85
- 4-10 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (58/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road
- 4-10 Wells resident, failure to produce proof of insurance, Bowery Beach Road, \$186
- 4-10 Bath resident, unregistered vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 4-11 Westbrook resident, operating vehicle while holding hand held device, Cottage Road, \$85
- 4-11 Westbrook resident resident, operating vehicle while holding hand held device, Shore Road, \$85
- 4-11 Portland resident, failure to produce registration, Mitchell Road

- 4-13 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (40/30 zone), Shore Road, \$129
- 4-14 Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$148
- 4-16 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (59/50 zone), Route 77
- 4-18 South Portland resident, failure to produce proof of insurance, Bowery Beach Road, \$186
- 4-21 Cape Elizabeth resident, improper passing, Spurwink Avenue, \$180

JUVENILE SUMMONSES

- 4-19 Cape Elizabeth resident, failure to produce proof of insurance, Ocean House Road, \$186

ARRESTS

- 4-8 Scarborough resident, operating under the influence of alcohol, (1 prior), violation of conditions of release, Mitchell Road
- 4-15 Hancock resident, domestic violence aggravated assault, domestic violence criminal threatening, violation of bail conditions

ACCIDENTS

- 4-8 Justin Dickinson, accident on Mitchell Road
- 4-10 Jared Page, Ben Gallagher, accident on Fowler Road
- 4-21 Jack Gentile, accident on Ocean House Road

FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 12; EMS calls: 49

Post grad plans

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

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

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

How to Avoid Fake Check Scams

Several scams rely on convincing the target to deposit a check as a first step of the crime. They then convince the target to use the money in a specific way. For example, in some work-from-home scams, the "company" will send a check for deposit, and then once it "clears", they direct the target to purchase needed office equipment from the company's "catalogue".

The catch? The check was fake and it bounced, and the equipment catalogue was fake, too. The money the target spent on "equipment" came from their own money. And, the equipment never comes. Even though a check deposit may appear to be cleared on your banking app or website, the process can take several weeks. The criminals rely on most of us not knowing this, so they get us to deposit and then quickly transact against the deposit. When the check is determined to be fake, the target is out that money.

Be suspicious anytime someone wants to send a check that you then must act on with some immediacy – making purchases, paying a fee or sending funds to a third party for example.

Learn To Spot Common Health Scams

Dishonest companies will say anything to get you to buy their product or service. Learning the lies they tell helps you to spot and avoid scams.

- Dishonest companies tell you one product cures lots of different diseases and health problems. It won't.
- Dishonest companies use fake endorsements from patients or doctors claiming, "You'll get miraculous results." You won't.
- Dishonest companies say you'll "get results in 30 days or we'll refund your

money." You won't get either.

- Dishonest companies say their special product will cure your condition. It won't.
- Dishonest companies say you have to "act now." You don't.
- Dishonest companies use phony, scientific-sounding terms or refer to prestigious prizes, like the Nobel Prize. But don't take their word for it.

Five Ways to Avoid Health Scams

Companies might try to take advantage of your hope by making guarantees or promises that aren't true about health products or services. Before you buy a health product or service:

1. Do some research. See what other people are saying. Search for the name of the treatment or product online, plus the words "review," "complaint" or "scam."
2. Ask your doctor first. You might ask about the effectiveness of the treatment, its ingredients, if it's safe to take (including with your other medications), and how much to take.
3. Know that unproven products and treatments are risky. They can have bad interactions with other treatments. It's also risky to stop or delay taking proven medical treatments, or to delay making other important changes to help your condition — like changes to your diet or lifestyle.
4. Know that "natural" doesn't mean safe or effective. In fact, "natural" can mean harmful and ineffective. And some "natural" products might interfere with proven treatments recommended by your doctor.
5. Know that no government agency approves ads before they go public. Federal law says sellers that market cures must have scientific evidence to back up their claims, but dishonest companies might not. Ads must be truthful — not misleading.



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‘Please do not reduce the SNAP benefit’

No vote on town center zoning amendments

Since learning of the prospect of federal funding cuts for programs serving lower income persons, I have been very concerned, but unsure of what I could do. Then I thought of the SNAP Challenge – living on the average single person weekly food stamp benefit of \$50.50.

Barely staying within my \$50.50 limit, I bought enough food for the menu I designed, thanks to the less expensive Hannaford brands. I survived the week on my budget but I was often hungry throughout the day and on some nights, went to bed hungry. During the week, I found myself monitoring remaining portions of food, such as slices of bread, to be sure that I would have enough for the week. My greatest finding was that it would be very difficult to live on the SNAP benefit on an

ongoing basis. Perhaps my body would adjust to a lower food intake but continuing to eat the same boring menu would be very challenging.

Having experienced the challenge, I can’t imagine doing so on a lower benefit. Relying on a food bank would be necessary but federal support for banks have already been cut, putting a stress on their resources.

To Maine’s Congressional Delegation: Please do not reduce the SNAP benefit that many disadvantaged persons rely on. In particular, please do not cut funding for SNAP, Medicaid, rental assistance, and other programs that are so essential for many Maine residents in order to pay for tax cuts.

John Grew

‘Two new factors will affect budgets’

The School Board has received feedback from Cape Elizabeth citizens on the school bond. Twice, proposals have been voted down, but the board has presented a new bond with minimal cost reductions. Now, two new factors will affect budgets:

Tariffs: Research indicates tariffs will impact consumers in the range of \$2,100 - \$4,900 per year (source: CNN.com, Yale Budget Lab respectively). Tariffs are a moving target, but they will likely increase the cost of goods. This may present challenges for those on fixed budgets.

Dismantling of the Dept of Education: The cancellation of grants from the DOE will affect schools. Teachers could lose training opportunities, and there will be impacts for parents with students who have special needs/IEPs. Maine Public recently stated:

“The prospect of significant funding cuts comes as many communities are finalizing their school budgets for the coming year. Some are planning for an expected loss in funding. Portland, Maine’s largest school district, is anticipating a downward budget adjustment of \$1 million.”

To maintain school budgets, taxpayers might need to cover the shortfall. The current bond proposal includes a 12% property tax increase. While there is consensus that improvements to schools are necessary, it is important to consider what Cape citizens can afford. Please propose a plan that the majority of citizens can support rather than repeating the same cost proposal that has previously been rejected.

Amy Moore

Let’s ‘invest in the future’

I keep coming back to our concerns about how this school bond will impact seniors and those struggling financially. I care deeply about these impacts - never matter. And the reality is, there will never be a time when people in our community aren’t facing financial hardship or living on fixed incomes. That truth can’t be a reason to avoid taking action.

Since 2017, Cape Elizabeth has been trying to address the real structural challenges facing our middle school—issues

that stem from how it was originally built. This is our third attempt in eight years, and I believe it’s time to move forward. I trust the experts our citizen volunteers have chosen to guide this process, and I plan to vote yes.

Strong communities are built by people who show up, make thoughtful choices, and invest in the future. Let’s come together and do just that.

Aglae Shaw

I will be voting no on the Town Center zoning amendments on June 10 — and I urge my fellow Cape Elizabeth residents to do the same.

Despite overwhelming community concern — and the clear defeat at the ballot box just two years ago — the Town Council has pushed through a revived set of sweeping zoning changes. These amendments, like those rejected in 2022, were passed without the broad public support they require.

Thankfully, Cape citizens responded once again. A successful petition effort has forced these changes to a town-wide referendum, giving voters a chance to stop them.

Here’s what’s at stake:

- The amendments raise maximum apartment building heights by over 40% — from 35 to 50 feet.
- They double the allowed apartment density, permitting 52 units where only 26 were allowed before.

- They expand maximum apartment building footprints by 140%, from 5,000 to 12,000 square feet.

These are not modest adjustments — they fundamentally alter the scale and character of our town center.

The excessive changes affect many major properties, including Ocean House Farm, the Methodist Church parcel, the former Key Bank site, land beside Town Hall, and 1934 High School building — which sits directly on our school campus near playgrounds and student spaces and could be converted into taxpayer-subsidized housing.

Cape residents deserve thoughtful, site-specific planning — not broad ordinance changes that permanently reshape the heart of our town.

Please vote NO on June 10 to keep our town center true to the longstanding scale and character of Cape Elizabeth.

Laura Morris

‘This plan is a smart investment’

As a longtime Cape resident and senior citizen, I have been fortunate to watch my stepchildren and five grandchildren thrive in Cape schools. Over the past 15 years, I have attended my grandchildren’s countless concerts, presentations, sports events and graduation festivities. I am familiar with the condition of our schools and I wholeheartedly support the school bond on June 10.

This plan is a smart investment. It prioritizes student and staff safety, creates a welcoming learning environment, and protects our property values. It also helps preserve Cape’s strong reputation for excellent schools. Despite what some “Vote No” ads suggest, this bond does not jeopardize teacher salaries or future

school funding.

Please take a close look at the financials. The cost is reasonable and spread out over time. Next year, there will be no tax increase for anyone due to the school bond. Starting the following year, increases will be gradual—no more than \$154 per year (or 2.8%) for a home assessed at \$500,000. After seven years, the total increase tops out at \$678 (\$56 per month) for that same home. That’s it—no additional increases after that.

This is a well-planned, affordable path forward. Let’s do right by our students, educators and our town’s future.

Bev Altenburg



Kathleen O. Pierce
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Town Council

Continued from page 1

McEnough presented to the Council a recommendation to change the committee's name from "Cape Elizabeth Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee" to the "Cape Elizabeth Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee" to better represent the committee's work and alignment with Town Council goals.

Councilor Scifres added that "looking at outreach strategies is foundational to everything the Town Council wants to accomplish" and is "excited to hear more ideas on how to hear from more people."

Chair Jordan proposed a combined workshop between the committee and the Town Council to initiate what a first set of actions

might be. Jordan asked the committee to prepare a list of action items for the workshop which will be scheduled for June.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Patrick Fox shared several updates including the adoption of a new town website, www.capeelizabeth.gov, which went live on Friday, April 18. Fox said that the new and current websites will work concurrently and that the town staff is taking public feedback in the first 30 days for the new website.

Fox discussed that there have been mentions in the news recently on the potential removal of a federal tax exemption from municipal bonds which help to pay for roads, bridges, utilities and other municipal infrastructure. He said that this has been discussed before but never acted on or removed previ-

ously. If removed, it could result in significantly increased borrowing costs.

Fox also mentioned that statewide building code updates went live on April 7 for which there are resources and information at the Town Hall for anyone needing to access building codes. These updates include adjustments for energy efficiency and health and safety.

Lastly, Fox informed the chamber of an upcoming town election on June 10. Residents can request an absentee ballot by calling the Town Clerk, or by request at Town Hall, Community Services, Thomas Memorial Library and the town website. Requests can be made up until 4:15 p.m. on June 5. Early and absentee voting begins on May 13.

Consent Calendar Item #50-2025 - Item #52-2025

The consent calendar provides for Item #50-2025 - Item #52-2025 to be considered en bloc. Any town councilor may ask for any item to be considered separately. At the discretion of the chair, any item removed from the consent calendar may be considered before or after the consideration of the items remaining on the consent calendar.

The Town Council voted unanimously to approve the consent calendar en bloc which included a liquor license renewal for Tostones Cafe, and appointments for the Recycling Committee and the Code Enforcement office.

Councilor Scifres offered a message of congratulations to Melissa Kim as the nomination for the recycling committee.

Item #53-2025 Amendments to Chapter 13 Traffic Regulations

Councilor Harriman summarized the agenda item by sharing that the ordinance committee has met several times to discuss parking issues and concerns along Shore Road. The Council previously tasked Jay Reynolds, Public Works Director, to conduct a traffic study which he presented to Council on February 24, 2025. The ordinance committee needed to make changes in order to adopt the recommendations presented by Reynolds. These included no vehicular parking permissible in front of or within five feet of a public way, or on a crosswalk or within 20 feet of a crosswalk.

After a public hearing for which there was no public comment, councilor Harriman made the motion to adopt the ordinance committee recommendations to amend Chapter 13 traffic regulations relating to traffic and safety concerns as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Scifres.

During Council discussion, Councilor Anderson suggested that parking being allowed ten feet from driveways rather than five feet might be more fitting with safety codes and standards. Councilor Sahrbeck said that he would also be in favor of changing the parking restriction from five to ten feet.

Town Manager Fox clarified that this parking requirement would be enforced town-wide and not just on Shore Road and that "it's important that we adopt something whether it's five or ten feet" so that the police department can help enforce parking issues. This prompted additional comments from the Council and the Cape Elizabeth Police Chief who said that there is the potential for concern or complaints particularly in "tighter neighborhoods" such as Longfellow or off Fowler road from people who were used to parking there who may not be able to if proposed ordinance is adopted.

It was clarified that striping to delineate parking would be done on Shore Road but not necessarily throughout all of town.

The council voted unanimously to approve the amendments as presented with the hopes of implementation beginning in spring or early summer.

Item #54-2025 Opportunity for Public Comments Relating to the Proposed FY 2026 Municipal Budget

Andy Patton shared his appreciation for the updated formatting of the municipal budget proposal making it "more readable and concise." He also appreciated the included department accomplishments which he said is good for the residents to read.

Patton asked how having a lower unsigned fund balance might impact bond ratings. Fox replied that the discussion of bond ratings, debt and other issues would be covered in greater detail in the upcoming workshops. The workshop was held on April 16, 2025.

Item #55-2025 Landfill Solar Project - Change Proposal

Chair Jordan shared that Encore Energy was awarded the landfill solar project back in 2020, and that there have been several delays and extensions in the years since. Jordan said that now the project is now ready for construction, however the rate of construction and savings to the town are no longer achievable under the original net metering proposals.

Encore Energy has recommended that the town move forward with a direct land lease payment structure in lieu of variable rate savings to the town, and is ready to begin construction under a revised proposal.

Chair Jordan shared that she was "disappointed from the start" of the project because of the ongoing delays encountered. She mentioned, "from my perspective, the savings don't demonstrate that the town should move forward with this," adding her suggestion that the Council terminate the project and discuss it in executive session.

Councilors Anderson, Sahrbeck and Scifres shared their agreement, with Scifres also sharing her disappointment after being excited during initial stages of the project.

Jesse Stowell from Encore Energy said that he fully understands the frustration shared by the Council. Stowell said that in Maine over the last four years, a utility company has gone through a number of iterations and interconnection studies, and a changing policy that has been difficult to navigate. Despite the "long, twisty road" Stowell said that Encore Energy is at a place where they can deliver a project on the landfill, with designs completed and parts already ordered. Stowell also mentioned that a direct land lease option would contract revenue to the town as opposed to fluctuating savings in the original agreement.



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CAPE NEIGHBORS

CAPE ELIZABETH MIDDLE SCHOOL BOND

With Three Clear Options, Only One Will Be on the June Ballot

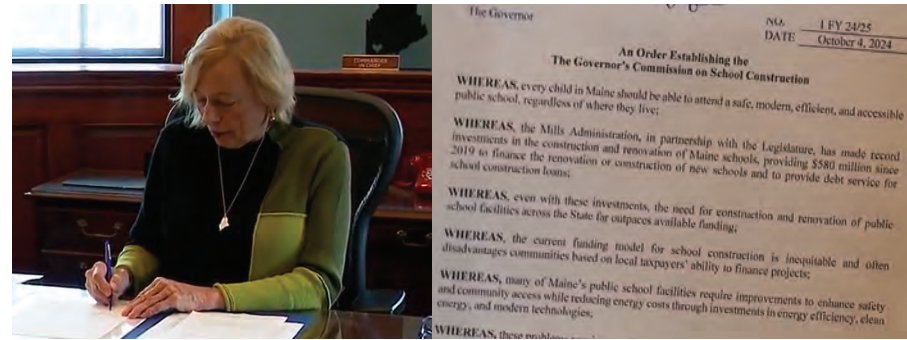
At the April 7th Town Council meeting, Council Chair Penny Jordan spoke with passion and conviction, declaring that the school bond headed to the June referendum is simply too expensive. “I’m a no vote,” she said.

Unlike other towns that have given voters multiple options on the ballot, Cape voters will once again be presented with only a single choice. These pages have been filled with information and advocacy for that lone option: a complete tear-down and rebuild of Cape’s Middle School (CEMS). But what are the alternatives? What are the costs of each, and why is it especially important to consider cost—particularly at this moment in time?

What are the three leading options, and what are their costs?

- Option 1**—the only option that will appear on the June ballot—calls for building an entirely new middle school. One of the key concerns it addresses is the amount of time students currently spend walking during transitions. This new design would eliminate sprawl and support what advocates describe as “21st Century Learning.” It would also address security concerns that have been identified but only minimally addressed over many years. Proponents argue that this option would “reset the clock” on the middle school. However, a significant drawback is that the plan leaves the historic 1934 building without utilities, creating \$4-5 million in additional cost that Cape’s property taxpayers would need to cover.
- Estimated cost: Over \$101 million (\$86.5 million bond plus \$15 million added to future annual budgets).**
- Option 2**, outlined by Cape Neighbors in the previous issue of the Courier, would also reset the clock on the middle school—while saving roughly \$42 million in property tax dollars. This plan strategically preserves key structures such as the current gymnasium, library, and art room, all recently identified during school tours as “bright spots” in excellent condition. It adds a brand-new 6th–8th grade wing, a new kitchen, and new lunchrooms for both CEMS and Pond Cove. It would transform the current “cafetorium” into a dedicated performing arts center and relocate administrative offices and nursing centers into new secure entrances at each school. Proponents explain that this plan would deliver a facility far superior to a complete tear-down and rebuild—both in quality and functionality—at a much lower cost.
- Estimated cost: \$58 million (entirely bonded, with no impact on the annual budget).**
- Option 3** is often referred to by critics as a “band-aid fix.” It would reset the clock on all critical needs, including security upgrades, across all three of Cape’s schools. It would replace major systems—such as installing entirely new HVAC units with an expected lifespan of 25–30 years. Like Option 2, this plan also moves administrative offices and nursing centers into new secure entrances at both CEMS and Pond Cove. However, it does not address the concern about sprawl, meaning CEMS students would continue to lose several minutes of learning time each day while traveling between classrooms. Another criticism is that students would remain in their existing classrooms, which opponents argue would limit the ability to fully implement “21st Century Learning.”
- Estimated cost: \$37 million (entirely bonded, with no impact on the annual budget).**

Why is cost a critically important factor at this point in time?



**Governor Mills on October 4, 2024 signing an executive order to study Maine’s school building funding*

Governor Mills has established a commission to review Maine’s school building funding program, and the news for Cape is promising. Currently, the state covers most of the cost for each approved project. However, with Cape’s declining enrollment and the comparatively better condition of our schools, our chances of receiving funding in the near future are slim to none. In the most recent cycle, just 12% of projects were funded by the state.

If Maine were to implement a cost-sharing model — a suggestion listed in the commission’s April 15 interim report — many more projects could be funded. For example, Massachusetts uses a 50% cost-sharing model, allowing twice as many projects to receive support. Cape would likely have to wait a few years, but would almost certainly secure significant state funding. That would be a game-changer for Cape’s many struggling seniors and young families, enabling us to invest in our schools while protecting taxpayers.

What is the Cape Neighbors Alliance?

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

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 starting **Tuesday, May 13, 2025** in the Council Chamber:

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

Absentee ballot requests through June 5 at: www.capeelizabeth.com/ElectionsVoting

TOWN CENTER ZONING AMENDMENTS



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

- Despite overwhelming community concern — and the rejection of similar proposals just over two years ago — the Town Council recently passed a revived set of sweeping **Town Center Zoning Amendments**. These are the same types of changes that voters defeated at the ballot box in 2022, following a citizen-led petition effort.
- But once again, Cape citizens responded. Thanks to another successful petition, the Town Council was required to put the ordinance changes on hold and send them to a town-wide referendum. **That vote is now officially scheduled for June 10.**
- Here’s what you need to know:**
- A developer has proposed a modest 55+ housing project — one that 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 High School building — **located on the campus beside playgrounds and the school courtyard** — 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.

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

On June 10, Cape Elizabeth voters will have the final say. We 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 voice deserves to be heard.

Meeting

Continued from page 6

The Town Council unanimously approved to table the item and schedule an executive discussion.

Public Comment Not on the Agenda

Brian Harris told the Council that he had provided examples and documentation last fall on the undervaluing of commercial and residential property after the recent reassessment. Harris said that at the time of presenting to the Council, the Council expressed they had heard his concerns and had heard similar concerns from others.

Harris said he knows the assessor is “likely working diligently with homeowners” who have come forward when they believe that their property has been overvalued. Harris said that “those who are undervalued are not going to come forward” and that the onus was on the town to make corrections out of “fairness and financial prudence.” Harris asked the Council what steps have been made in the recent months to address the inconsistencies and poten-

tial errors from the reassessment. Patrick Fox said that the goal is to set up a process where the town can check values and make updates on a regular basis without having to wait for a full revaluation. He said that by the fall he and the Town Assessor should have a “good plan of attack” on how that can happen. Fox reiterated that the concerns are recognized and the goal is to never have to go back to that level of adjustment experienced in the recent revaluation.

Planning Board

Continued from page 1

Contract Zoning Amendment

The Town Council referred to the Planning Board amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to establish contract zoning. The Planning Board has been tasked with providing guidance and recommended draft language after having several meetings and workshops.

During the public hearing for the proposed amendments, three citizens spoke individually to express their opposition to the amendments.

Dave Andrews expressed his concern

with the current approach of adopting town-wide contract zoning as his belief was that the Town Council intended to propose contract zoning for the Town Square district only. Andrews said that several neighboring towns have contract zoning but places such as Saco have limitations and designated areas for it.

Tom Dunham shared concern about the “expansiveness” of the language proposed. Dunham said having town-wide contract zoning would create angst, residents would take advantage of it, and will overburden the Code Enforcement office. Tim Reiniger explained that the original goal of the contract zoning amendments, first introduced while he was Chair of the Town Council, were to enable Hardy Pond to move forward with their residential development project. Reiniger is not in favor of a town-wide ordinance and is opposed to the current draft.

Planning Board Chair Andrew Gilbert shared that the Board needed to forward the amendments back to the Town Council either in support or not in support, and reiterated that the Town Council is the ultimate decision maker on whether the ordinance is passed. Gilbert said in his view, the contract zoning ordinance “leaves a lot of subjectivity on the

table, too much for my comfort.” Other Board members shared that no citizens had raised concern or support or attended any of the several Planning Board meetings or workshops held since last fall. The Board did receive five letters the day of the April 15 meeting and three opposition comments during the public hearing.

Natalie Burns said most of the towns that have adopted the contract zoning ordinance do not have limitations or designated areas, and that it is a municipal-wide ordinance. She explained that the Town Council had the ultimate decision on any future application requesting contract zoning, that some applications may be denied because they did not comply with the comprehensive plan, and that not everyone who applied for it would get it or that not everyone would bother to apply because “it’s a long process.” Burns also said applicants have an alternative to contract zoning in that they can “request a map or tax change.”

Burns said that she would be comfortable with a town-wide ordinance. She also clarified an incorrect comment made during the public hearing that the town’s attorney claimed contract zoning ordinance would need to be town-wide. This is false in that the town’s attorney never made those comments, nor is it true in a legal sense. Burns stated that she was the one, not the town’s attorney, to have suggested a town-wide adoption of the ordinance.

After some deliberation on the issue, the final vote to approve the amendments to be referred back to the Town Council resulted in a 4-2 vote with Chair Gilbert and Matt Caton in opposition.

Sign up for the Cape Challenge

Don’t forget to sign up for this year’s Cape Challenge event on Sunday, May 18. Registration is open at: <https://runinarace.com/CapeChallenge/>.

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

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

You can also support this fundraiser by purchasing raffle tickets. So many great prizes available at <https://givebutter.com/CapeChallenge2025Raffle>.

This community event would not be possible without the help of volunteers. If you are able to volunteer, please visit our SignUpGenius page via the QR code below.

Residents should note that Rt. 77/ Ocean House Road (from the high school entrance to Scott Dyer Road), Scott Dyer Road and Brentwood Road will be closed to all automobile traffic from 9:30-10 a.m. on Sunday, May 18 due to the race.

Follow the Cape Challenge on Facebook and on Instagram: @CapeChallenge5k. For any questions, please contact capechallenge5k@gmail.com.



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EMERGENCY COVERAGE AT WARREN AVENUE LOCATION

Community unites for Project Graduation

Project Graduation at Cape Elizabeth High School is a chemical-free, fun and festive graduation night for CEHS graduates to safely celebrate one final time together as a class. This evening is made possible by the tireless efforts of a committee of volunteers who dedicate their time during the school year to fundraise and plan this special night. The goal - to provide access to the graduation night festivities for each member of CEHS Class of 2025, roughly 125 graduates.

This April, PG25 Committee held a Spring Social at Purpudock Golf Club with 50-75 community members coming out to support PG25. Attendees enjoyed light refreshments and the spirit of giving. There were raffles for a dinner and hotel stay at Inn By the Sea, as well as a 50/50 cash raffle. This year's social also featured the final hours of a two-week online live auction that featured an array of incredible items generously donated by our community members, local businesses and supporters. From unique experiences to exquisite original artwork, from luxurious getaways to practical household items, there was something for everyone to explore and bid on. Thank you to all donors for helping out a great cause and to all those who bid generously - thanks to you PG25 achieved its fundraising goal!

Among the most sought-after auction items were original artworks by three Cape Elizabeth artists: well-known Maine painter Cooper Dragonette's "Island Light" sold for \$1,000, Laurie Fisher's "Breather" sold for \$760, and Jenn Feeney's "Richmond Island" print went for \$750. As for the Inn by the Sea,

PG25's own Lynne Cross won, with Michael Gordon of Cape Elizabeth winning the 50/50 cash prize.

When all was said and done, the Project Graduation 2025 Committee was able to raise over \$10,000 helping get to their overall fundraising goal to cover each graduate of CEHS Class of 2025. Thank you to all those who came out to participate and help PG25 its goal. The committee recognizes the following generous business sponsors: Veterinary and Rehabilitation Center of Cape Elizabeth, C Salt Gourmet Market, Tammaro Landscaping, FG Construction, AJC Remodeling and Construction, and CG Construction LLC.

Thanks to the dedication and generosity of the community, Project Graduation is set to provide the CEHS graduates with a night they'll cherish forever—celebrating together safely and joyfully.

PG25 Committee thanks you - the graduates thank you!

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. Please consider a non-perishable donation to the IGA drop box.

News from the Superintendent

By Dr. Chris Record

Spring has finally sprung! Our staff and students are excitedly teaching and learning through the final month of the school year and are surely looking forward to the last school day on June 18. The older I get, the more I realize that there are long days and long weeks, but wow do the years fly by.

The District Leadership Team and the School Board collaborated over several workshops to both meet our budget goals and to also reduce expenditures from the original budget request presented to the Board in January. Unfortunately, due to an 18% valuation increase of Cape Elizabeth by the state, our state aid was reduced by nearly \$800,000 for next year. This is nearly a third of what we typically receive. Despite this, we believe we are still coming forward with a budget that continues to provide our students with an excellent education, but also has the lowest expenditure increase of any school district in Cumberland County. We ask for your support of the school budget in the upcoming June election for the following reasons:

- Maintains our excellent educational standards that our community supports & expect
- There are No educational program cuts
- There are No teacher or staff cuts to any currently filled positions
- Maintains facilities funding for C.I.P./ Maintenance/Repairs
- Fiscally responsible w/ a 2.46% expenditure increase, resulting in a 2.91% projected tax increase

As for the school building project, at a special business meeting on February 24, the Cape Elizabeth School Board unanimously approved a school project referendum and moved it forward to the Town Council for review. The Town Council then subsequently

chose June 10 for the referendum date.

The referendum includes plans to construct a critically needed new middle school and build a safe and secure front entrance main office addition to Pond Cove Elementary. For more information on the project please go to <https://www.cape.k12.me.us/page/buildingproject>.

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

Prior to the referendum date, we have scheduled school tours, to allow a chance for you to go inside the middle school and see why we believe it needs to be replaced. Please meet us at the Main Entrance of CEMS on Monday May 12 at 6 p.m. or June 2 at 6 p.m.

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

At Pond Cove, Kindergarten has begun their final unit of their K for ME curriculum. During this unit, Our Earth, children will explore the natural world by investigating and researching Earth's properties, focusing on its surface and plant life. Sustainability and individual and collective stewardship of the environment are explored in Read Alouds, Centers, and a Capstone Project.

Mrs. Merriam's 4th grade class visited the State House prior to school vacation and had the chance to meet Sen. Carney and Rep. Boyer while they were there.

At CEMS, our staff continue to work hard with district learning strategists on curriculum reviews in ELA, Science, Social Studies and continuing work in Math. We believe we are moving in the right direction in terms

-see SUPERINTENDENT page 12

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.



Stories from the Cape Historical Society

By Bob Dodd



Photo courtesy of CEHPS

Connie Murray, founder of CEHPS, and then Police Chief Dave Pickering talk at the ceremony for the re-internment of bones of people lost in a shipwreck off Crescent Beach and found during excavation work near the Inn by the Sea. Photo dated 1998.

On Tuesday, May 13 at the Thomas Memorial Library, members of the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society will share highlights and stories of how CEHPS came to be. This is part of a monthly series of presentations in partnership with the library and will be in the Community Room, 6:30-8 p.m.

It all started with an idea Dr. Constance Murray had in 1977, soon after she returned to her hometown after a career teaching high school history in Massachusetts.

You will hear stories of her work to rescue and preserve some very old town records, and her creation in the 1980s of the Historical Center in a new addition to the former Thom-

as Memorial Library building.

You'll also hear stories about human bones that were found when The Inn by the Sea

wanted to expand; how they were identified and moved to a new resting place. You will hear about how some of our notable acquisitions came about such as the original Robert Jordan will and testament; the Ralph Gould collection of unique musical instruments; the painting "Delano Woods" by John Calvin Stevens; and much more.

Also to be told will be the stories of our "pandemic projects" – the Trolley Tours walking tour and the large dioramas now on display in our museum. We will wind up the presentation by inviting stories and questions from the audience.

A short meeting to elect our new officers will be held before the presentation and is open to all. The presentation is free. Light refreshments will be provided.

Senior's art installation brings community focus to mental health with CEEF grant



Contributed photo

Hannah Lowenstein, with funding from a CEEF grant, is creating a community art piece that highlights the powerful impact of art therapy on mental health.

With funding from a CEEF grant, CEHS senior Hannah Lowenstein is creating a community art piece that highlights the powerful impact of art therapy on mental health. This initiative is part of their Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) with Ms. Tarantino. Hannah invited the community to come together on April 15 and create (paint, write, illustrate) single wooden tiles which will be combined to form the shape of two large brains, each measuring 7' x 5'. The event reached full capacity with over 100 community members creating abstract art guided by Hannah's prompts and then reflecting on how

the process benefited their mental well-being. Next steps? "The completed installation will be put up in the high school as a permanent art piece, serving as a lasting reminder to CEHS students that mental health is real, that it matters, and that no one is ever truly alone," Hannah explained. "I'm incredibly grateful to CEEF for making this project possible and supporting an important conversation in our school."

For updates, follow @cehsbrainwaves-installation on Instagram. For more CEEF Grants, visit ceef.us/grants

May naturalist's corner

By Erika Carlson Rhile

May 12, 12:56 p.m. - Full Flower Moon - This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Flower Moon because this was the time of year when spring flowers appeared in abundance.

Attract Baltimore orioles to your yard by cutting oranges in half and hanging by your feeder. Wash out your hummingbird feeders. Most male ruby-throated hummingbirds are staking out territory by the first week of May;

females will follow soon thereafter. By the end of the month, bluebird babies are leaving the nest.

Take a walk in the woods to find spring ephemerals. The word ephemeral means "lasting for a very short time." These wildflowers take advantage of the sunshine on the forest floor before trees have their leaves. Early bloomers to spot are bluets, red trillium and wood anemone.

-see NATURE page 13

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Special Children's Menu:

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French Toast

Brownie Sundae

Sorbet

Kids 4-12, \$36

40 Bowery Beach Road | Cape Elizabeth

TML offers family birding adventures, e-bike rentals

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.

Family Birding Adventures at Fort Williams Park
Two more Saturdays in May 10 & 17 from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Join Thomas Memorial Library and Andrea Southworth for a birding adventure at Fort Williams Park, located at 299 Ocean House Road. Bring the whole family and learn the fundamentals of birding. Learn to use two important Cornell Ornithology apps, Merlin and eBird, and be a citizen scientist in your community. In partnership with the Friends of Fort Williams Park. Recommended for families with children ages 6+. Registration required, please sign up for one or all three programs on our website. Bring your own binoculars, if possible; a limited number of binoculars will be available for use. Please register on the library’s website.

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

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

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.

Borrow an E-Bike from the Library in May
Thomas Memorial Library is pleased to announce our participation in the Maine Library E-bike Loan Program—a partnership between the Bicycle Coalition of Maine and the MaineDOT. This program, which will run for 4 – 6 weeks beginning Monday, May 12, will allow adult TML cardholders to borrow a Class I electric-assist bicycle. The goal is to let more people see how practical and fun e-bikes are, and how they might help with car-free personal transportation. The library will have two e-bikes to lend out as part of this program. TML cardholders 18 and up will be able to borrow an e-bike for a three day loan period. For complete details on the program and how to borrow an e-bike, please visit the library’s website.

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

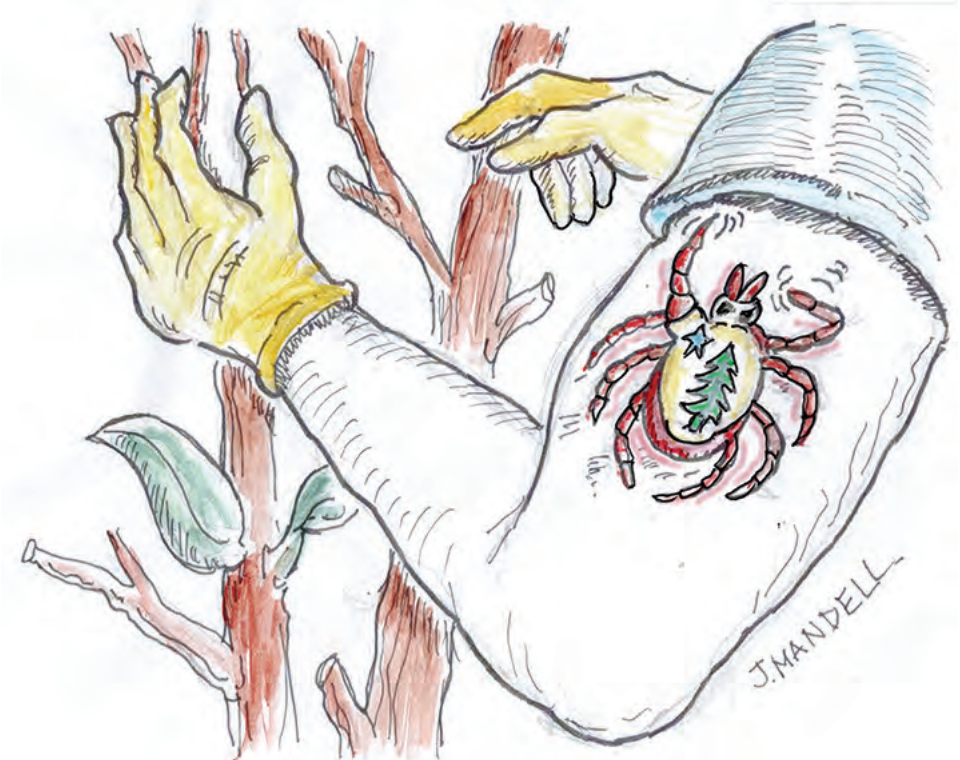
Discussing 1984 for 2025: Employing Orwell as an Opportunity for Building Imaginative Community with Chriss Sutherland
Thursday, May 8, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Regardless of your political leaning, 1984 provides ample food for thought and discussion regarding our greatest philosophical and existential issues both locally and in the greater world. We’ll use Orwell’s fictional dystopia as a drawing board on which we’ll imagine something different and better. Print, graphic novel, ebook, and downloadable audiobook editions are available to borrow through the library. Please register on the library’s website.

CEHPS Presents: Stories from the Cape Historical Society
Tuesday, May 13, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Members of the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society will share highlights and stories of how CEHPS came to be. It all started with an idea Dr. Constance Murray had in 1977, soon after she returned to her hometown after a career teaching high school history in Massachusetts. You will hear stories of her work to rescue and preserve some very old town records, and her creation in the 1980s of the Historical Center in a new addition to the former Thomas Memorial Library building. You’ll also hear stories about human bones that were found when The Inn by the Sea wanted to expand; how they were identified and moved to a new resting place. You will hear about how some of our notable acquisitions came about such as the original Robert Jordan will and testament; the Ralph Gould collection of unique musical instruments; the painting Delano Woods by John Calvin Stevens; and much more.
Also to be told will be the stories of our “pandemic projects” – the Trolley Tours walking tour and the large dioramas now on display in our museum. We will wind up the presentation by inviting stories and questions

-see LIBRARY page 12

Capetoons: Tickle, Tickle

By Jeff Mandell



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Play

Continued from page 1

are complex people, presenting the students with real challenges as actors,” she said.

The play has been cast with a wide range of students, freshmen to seniors. It is a true ensemble, in that there are no leads. Each character helps weave the story together, Marshall said.

When asked what challenges there are for the actors, that particular to this play, Marshall said, “The highly naturalistic nature of Ms. Haley’s language and plot can be a challenge for young actors. In contrast to musicals, where one can burst into song mid-scene, a play like this requires student actors to explore letting go of a broad acting style, and embracing a more realistic, nuanced style, which, though much closer to themselves, can seem suspiciously unlike ‘acting.’ How do we just sit, stand, move and talk in our everyday lives? How do we translate that to the stage, keeping in mind the challenges of being seen and heard in a 500-seat theater?”

The spring play is always an opportunity to explore acting technique, Marshall said, which is essential for students who are considering continuing to explore theatre after high school.

When asked about sets, Marshall said, “Our Tech Crew is the best! They fully embrace the concept of ‘team.’ They understand that in order for tech to be safe, effective, and well-executed, they need to work together, always. We also have quite a few students who go from acting to tech and back. It is a great asset to be able to understand the challenges of being onstage as well as off, and makes for more understanding between cast and crew.”

Although this play can be produced with minimal tech, Marshall said the tech crew students requested the challenge of creating more realistic sets, which they are building

right now.

“The play’s unique exploration of the virtual world also creates fun challenges for tech - how do we depict the world of a video game, or suggest the blurred lines between the real world and the virtual one?” Marshall said.

When it comes for who the intended audience is, Marshall explained, “The play contains some adult language, and, as it deals with kids playing a video game involving zombies, there is a suggestion of violence as the play progresses. Parents should absolutely attend with teens. There are both parents and teens in the play, and the struggle for communication and understanding between the generations, as well as between peers, is a huge part of the plot.”

She also said that the play actually is a bit scary, especially as the characters begin to suspect that the game may not actually be a game at all, and that the zombies they are fighting are real. “I would say it is not appropriate for younger audiences,” Marshall said.

Tickets will be available online soon, and at the door. \$15 for adults, and \$5 for students and seniors. Those interested should look for posters, and postings in the HSPA newsletter.

At the Saturday, May 24 matinee, some roles will be played with alternate casting, offering more students an opportunity to perform.

At the Saturday, May 24 evening performance, we will celebrate our graduating Seniors, and present awards and scholarships.

Marshall added, “The students of the CEHS Theatre Program are the best! It is always a real pleasure to watch them, as a team, create something new - to see new students emerge with talents unique to each of them alone. Theatre at CEHS is a place where students can be their authentic selves in a supportive, challenging, fun environment.”

Library

Continued from page 11

from the audience. A short meeting to elect our new officers will be held before the presentation and is open to all. The presentation is free. Light refreshments will be provided.

Cape Elizabeth Garden Club presents: Yardscaping: Healthy Lawn Care Made Easy
Thursday, May 15 , 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Do you want a lawn that’s safe for families, pets, and the environment while saving time and money? Learn how to build healthy soil for a healthy lawn with tips on fertilizing, weed and pest management, watering, renovating an unhealthy lawn and more. Whether you maintain your lawn or hire a professional, round up your neighbors and join us. This class is compatible with Cape Elizabeth, Portland and South Portland ordinances.

Story Exchange with CEHS and Narrative Four: A Special After Hours Event
Monday, May 19, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a powerful night of storytelling at this special Story Exchange event led by Narrative Four-trained facilitators from Cape Elizabeth High School. You will share stories in pairs as well as in a group. A prime opportunity for perspective-sharing, empathy-building, and connecting in community. Registration required. Ages 16 and up.

Bird Migration: A Journey Across Continents with CELT
Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Embark on an enlightening journey through the fascinating world of bird migration! Learn about the incredible flights undertaken by migratory birds and the science behind their long-distance travels from Cape resident and National Audubon Society scientist Dr. Carrie Gray.

From tiny songbirds to majestic raptors, discover the patterns, challenges, and remarkable strategies that allow birds to navigate vast distances and reach their seasonal destinations. Topics covered will include: the science of bird migration: navigation, timing, and instincts; different migration routes and stopover sites; the environmental factors influencing migration patterns; how climate change is affecting migratory behaviors; and the importance of conserving migratory routes and habitats.

Whether you’re a birdwatching enthusiast or simply curious about the natural

world, this lecture will deepen your understanding of one of nature’s most extraordinary phenomena.

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

Superintendent

Continued from page 9

of solidifying curriculum and improving instruction and assessment to be more uniform across grades and more connected vertically.

We are proud to announce that CEMS has been selected to host Texas-based composer JaRod Hall for the Beyond the Notes 2025 ComMission Possible Project’s World Premiere performance. This special artist residency will take place on May 7 and 8, culminating in the World Premiere performance on May 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the CEHS Auditorium — and we warmly invite you to join us for this memorable event.

Congratulations to CEHS senior Rylie McIntyre for being named student of the quarter in her Careers in Education program at Portland Arts and Technology High School (PATHS).

In their announcement, PATHS went on to say that Rylie “...is highly motivated, determined, and organized... [She] is currently completing a fieldwork assignment in a third-grade classroom and will be attending High Point University in North Carolina next year to study elementary education.”

During April vacation, nearly 100 CEHS Band & Chorus students traveled to Washington D.C. to perform in the National Festival of the States. Our students participated in clinics and performed at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

Thanks again for your support of our schools and we look forward to seeing you at our various student events, games and activities during the last month of the school year.



Helping others while building a life you love

As a Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician (MHRT/I), no two days are the same for Faith. At a residential facility for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness, she supports with daily tasks like cleaning or grocery shopping and provides the calm support they need to reengage with the world.



“To see the progress that these residents are making is so rewarding,” Faith says. “It’s like, ‘wow, we’re making a difference.’”

Faith is part of Maine’s growing Direct Support workforce, ensuring that Mainers with age-related physical, behavioral, intellectual, and cognitive health needs live safely and independently. With thousands of openings statewide, training is accessible, and many employers offer flexible schedules to support work-life balance. After years working in education, Faith was looking for part-time work that matched her experience and allowed time for parenting. The MHRT/I certification was easy to complete, and the career has allowed her to continue working—even while returning to school.

“You have to be compassionate, respectful, and love what you do.”

“There is a lot of flexibility to meet your needs,” she says. “And it’s helped me stay this long.”

“It’s all about being compassionate, respectful, and loving what you do,” Faith adds. “It’s a calling.”

To learn more about full-time, part-time, and per-diem opportunities in your community, go to Mainecareerswithpurpose.org. Follow @MaineCareerswithPurpose on Facebook and Instagram.



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Local birding report

By Brooks Bornhofft

Migrating at night is a risky business. One way to increase chances of success is for birds to travel in small flocks, constructively working as a team. Many songbirds including warblers, sparrows and thrushes use short, high-pitched nocturnal flight calls to communicate while on the wing. These distinct calls most likely evolved to facilitate collective decision-making, helping flocks of birds stay together and navigate in darkness. Only in the last couple of years has technology allowed for efficient identification of these unseen rivers of northbound neotropical migrants - cuckoos, grosbeaks, tanagers and orioles all soon to be moving across our night sky.

On the night of April 25, Cornell's Migration Dashboard estimated that nearly 1.6 million birds had crossed through Cumberland County. The following morning our backyard was carpeted with White-throated Sparrows along with an array of first of the year birds including a Northern Parula, two Gray Catbirds and a female Eastern Towhee. I could also hear the calls from Black-throated Green Warblers in the surrounding woods and the squeaky wheel turning, wee-see-wee-see-wee-see call notes from Black-and-white Warblers. Later that morning I also discovered my first Blue-headed Vireo within Pond Cove.

Blue-headed Vireos are a joy to come across with their moss-green body and clean white "spectacles" set off against a blueish-gray head. With a bit of patience, I was able to hear the Vireo whispering its cheerful carol song. Blue-headed vireos move in a deliberate, methodical fashion, which contrasts with the lightening quick pace of most wood warblers occupying the same middle elevations of mature and second growth woods.

On this same morning within Kettle Cove, I noted several Laughing Gulls, a plump of Brant sea geese, eleven Long-tailed Ducks and rafts of Black Scoters. The musical twittering's of Ruby Crowned Kinglets filled the invasive tangles surrounding the shoreline.

Travelling along Fessenden Road yielded hundreds more White-throated Sparrows

and several Dark-eyed Juncos and Song Sparrows. Mixed in with these birds were three Savannah Sparrows.

Also, on the afternoon of April 26 I noticed a small bird with what appeared to be a forked tail perched high up in an Ash tree along the fringe of our yard. The Song Sparrow sized bird sat for five minutes, carefully watching the other birds at the feeder. Although little more than a black outline against the cloudy backdrop, the bird's head shifted at one point so that the daylight cast a Raspberry red glow atop its crest and crown - Haemorrhous purpureus! Purple Finches are always a special treat to see because I do not see these gems very often. Later that afternoon a total of nine Purple Finches, five males and four females were cracking black-sunflower seeds with their heavy rounded bills at our feeder. This boreal species has been driven deeper into the woods by the introduction of the more aggressive House Finch in 1939 and its population throughout southern Maine is in decline.

The identification of male Purple Finches depends quite as much on his song as his color. In fact, this favorite bird of mine is one of the most melodious of New England finches. The male's song is a gushing, ecstatic warble with a variety and rapidity that gives it a character of its own. In Neltje Blanchan's 1899 publication of "Bird Neighbors," she writes of this remarkable vocal effort, "By the beginning of May the male Purple Finch is desperately in love, and sudden joyous peals of music from the elm or evergreen trees on the lawn enliven the garden. How could his little brown lady-love fail to be impressed with ta suitor so gayly dressed, so tender and solicitous, so deliciously sweet - voiced? With fuller, richer song than the Warbling Vireo's, a perfect ecstasy of love pours incessantly from his throat during the early summer days."

Additionally on the evening of April 27 and within less than a minute of each other, I heard both a Barred Owl and a Great-horned Owl calling from their haunts along Shore Road.

As spring migration continues to heat up it is critical for all of us to remember how

perilous songbirds' journeys are. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services estimates that between 388 million and 988 million birds die from glass collisions each year. Glass can be both transparent (when lit from inside) and reflective (acting like a mirror) creating a mirage for birds. Alerting a bird to the presence of a window is the solution and this is accomplished by treating the outside surface of windows with a range of bird strike deterrents ranging from screens to hanging cords to window decals made by CollidEscape and Feather Friendly.

Over the last half decade BirdSafe Maine, a coalition between Maine Audubon, the University of Southern Maine and the Portland Society for Architecture have led the efforts to educate architects, homebuilders, homeowners and local and state officials about the magnitude of bird strikes. Using data (dead or injured birds) collected by volunteers who survey routes in the early morning hours in Portland during spring and fall migration BirdSafe Maine has been able to take years' worth of data and turn it into policy action. Companies like MEMIC with a six-story building on Commercial Street have covered a significant section of their exterior windows with polka-dot spot decals which has virtually eliminated bird strikes

thanks to BirdSafe Maine.

Additionally, WEX has committed to similar glass improvements at their headquarters and L.L. Bean's new headquarters in Freeport has been completely retrofitted to help prevent bird strike. Other noteworthy efforts by BirdSafe Maine include the Portland City Council unanimous approval of a city-wide bird safe buildings ordinance in June of 2024. Additionally, this amazing coalition has been at the forefront in making Maine one of only four states currently taking statewide action with the passage of LD 670, An Act to Protect Birds in Construction, Renovation and Maintenance of Public Buildings.

Nature

Continued from page 10

You may have seen volunteers scouting roads around town for amphibians and salamanders. They are a part of a citizen science project called "Big Night." Herps are on the move, migrating in large numbers on warm, rainy nights. Monitoring these events provides invaluable data for understanding amphibian populations, migration behaviors, and the impact of human infrastructure on their survival. Check out mainebignight.org to learn more.

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CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

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

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

Wednesday, May 7

Town Council Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 8

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

Monday, May 12

Town Council, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13

School Board Meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14

Community Services Committee, Community Center, 5:30 pm
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Thomas Memorial Library, 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 15

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

Tuesday, May 20

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Ongoing each week

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

Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society, 9 a.m. - noon on Thursdays and by appointment, Fort Williams, in the brick building closest to Shore Road (ring the doorbell).

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

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

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

SERVICES

Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene
499 Ocean House Road (Route 77)
747-1113
www.capenazarene.org
Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:45 a.m.
Services streamed live or on demand: watch.capenazarene.org

Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church
280 Ocean House Road
799-8396
www.ceumc.org
Sanctuary Service: 10 a.m.
In-person Sunday services 10 a.m. For Zoom services, call 799-8396

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
29 Ocean House Road
799-4321
Sacrament Meeting: Sunday, 10 - 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Primary: 11:10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Church of the Second Chance
Greater Portland Christian School
1338 Broadway, South Portland
641-3253
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Rise Church
1047 Congress Street, Portland
874-9779
<https://www.riseportland.church>
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School for children: 10:00 a.m.
Services streamed live on Facebook

Congregation Bet Ha’am
81 Westbrook St., South Portland
879-0028
www.bethaam.org
Worship: Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
Family Shabbat Services: Second Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Hope Community Church
879 Sawyer Street South Portland
799-4565
www.hopesopo.com
www.facebook.com/hopesopo
Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.
Kid’s Church for ages 4 through grade 5
Service videos available on our website

Promised Land World Reach Center
536 Cottage Road, South Portland
799-3152
Sunday Prayer & Intercession: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Family Bible Studies: Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Sermon recordings available to download

Redeemer Lutheran Church - LCMS
410 Main Street, Gorham
839-7100
www.RedeemerMaine.org
Sunday Bible Class for all ages: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.
Services are in person and streamed on Facebook and YouTube

Saint Alban’s Episcopal Church
885 Shore Road
799-4014
www.stalbansmaine.org
Sunday Services:
Rite 1 with Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.
Rite 2 with Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Live Streaming on YouTube (stalbanschannel)
Children’s Programs 9:30 a.m.
Celtic Eventide 5:30 p.m.
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St Bartholomew Catholic Church of Saint John Paul II Parish
8 Two Lights Road, 207-883-0334
Website: www.JP2me.org
Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.
Daily Mass: Mon. and Wed. 8 a.m.
Sacrament of Confession: Mon. 8:30-9 a.m.
Additional Mass times in Scarborough & South Portland listed on website

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
301 Cottage Road, South Portland
799-3361
www.fccucc.org
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. in person and streamed on Facebook & YouTube

First Congregational Church of Scarborough
167 Black Point Road, Scarborough
883-2342
www.fccscarborough.com
Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Nursery Care

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

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

Nothing scheduled for
May 7 - 20



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Upcoming Lions Club community dinners

Chicken Dinners:
May 17, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Tammaro Landscaping & Property Services

Winter Services

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

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- Pruning & Invasive Plant Removal

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

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

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

BUSINESSES/SERVICES

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Seafood

Continued from page 1

States sea scallops come from large vessels that are often at sea for a week or more at a time, and 10 days is not uncommon. Brawn said, “They bring in thousands of pounds, and as they’re caught they’re stored in cloth bags buried in ice. As the ice melts, the scallops absorb it like little sponges, adding weight and diluting flavor. In contrast, Maine boats can only bring in 90, 135 or 200 pounds depending on where they fish, so their scallops are brought ashore quickly and never come into contact with ice, they’re stored in 5-gallon buckets. But for decades, we were just trucking them out of state to be mixed in with the stuff from the federal fishery. That’s like pouring a bottle of Dom Perignon into a vat of Barefoot Bubbly. So, I wanted to find a better way to showcase our incredibly delicious scallops.”

Brawn said she tried to convince a few Maine seafood dealers to focus on scallops, and when she couldn’t do so, she quit her job with the Maine Department of Marine Resources and started Downeast Dayboat, where she ships scallops across the country within 24 hours of harvest.

But shipping this fresh catch was not without its challenges. She said she hated how expensive shipping can be, sometimes amounting to 40 percent of the price of an online order, and there are also environmental costs to individual air shipments.

Brawn said she attended a conference in Alaska and saw Sonia Strobel speak about how she had found a way to get around exorbitant shipping costs by utilizing frozen seafood exclusively and working with community partners grocers, butchers, wine shops, etc. as pickup locations. The product was frozen, and unlike the large federal catches, the scallops were not submerged in melting ice water.

Brawn said, “That meant [Strobel] could transport aggregated orders inexpensively on [refrigerated] trucks across Canada. And the pickup could run over multiple days rather than being an inconvenient ‘meet me between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at this church parking lot.’ When she said, ‘FedEx doesn’t need my money,’ I was blown away. I’d much rather take the 40 percent that would otherwise go to shipping, and use it to pay the fishermen a better price while charging less money for the seafood. Great seafood shouldn’t be reserved for the wealthy!”

Brawn said the model works great because people pay in advance, and she can buy and freeze seafood at the best times, which is good for costs and good for fishermen. “Then

folks can order exactly what they want when they want rather than getting a ‘mystery box’ every week or every month. And the Community Partner gets an influx of savvy food shoppers who will likely pick up olive oil or wine or produce when they pick up their order. And orders are packed in paper bags rather than insulated boxes with gels. It’s win-win-win!” she said.

Just like certain other meats, when it comes to seafood, there is a misunderstanding when it comes to terms such as “fresh” and “frozen.” Traditional distribution moves seafood through many links in a long chain, from harvester through dealers to distributors and then back through more links before it reaches consumers.

Brawn said, “Each link is an opportunity to add cost, reduce quality and ‘fudge’ information about the catch. Even on the coast of Maine it can be hard to find good quality, local seafood, because grocers and fishmongers need to have seafood at all times, and local supply has massive ups and downs. It doesn’t have to be that way. It sounds counterintuitive, but buying frozen is often the best way to get top quality seafood. When I see folks advertising ‘never frozen,’ I wonder why they think it’s a good idea to highlight that they’re letting it sit around and age before it’s purchased. Plus, if it is fresh, consumers have to rush to cook it within a few days. My seafood is literally frozen at its peak quality. Consumers can keep it on hand and defrost it when they want. Today’s freezing technology has advanced dramatically, but our attitudes about frozen seafood haven’t. We need to change that!”

Brawn said, “Despite being right on the coast, it is often very hard to get good, local seafood in the greater Portland area. If you look at the majority of fish offered at local grocers and fish markets, it’s from away. Dayboat Blue has its first Maine Community Partner, and she is Penny Jordan of Jordan’s Farm.”

She said she considers herself incredibly fortunate to have grown up on Wells Road in Cape Elizabeth. Brawn said, “My father, whom I absolutely idolized, was a 5th grade teacher at Cape Elizabeth Middle School, and he’d borrow a microscope over the summers for me. My father was also a lobsterman in addition to being a teacher. He lobstered out of the mouth of the Spurwink River. He was able to lobster out of there because he was granted access by Stan Doughty, who lived across the street from us on Wells Road. The Doughtys were a local legend on Wells Road.”

She continued, “I’d trudge down to fish things out of the salt pannes, and I remember many a night blasting my Elvis Presley records while examining algae and critters under the scope. There were woods and waters to explore, and my childhood was absolutely idyllic. I also had the privilege of having Hal Hackett for a biology teacher at Cape Elizabeth High School, and he instilled in me an enthusiasm for questioning everything, which is definitely part of how I got to where I am. He’s also the reason I went to Duke University. He had gone there for graduate school and since I just adored him, I decided to go there for my undergraduate degree.”

When asked what’s next for her, Brawn said, “I’d like to amp up the ‘community’ by working with schools and non-profits so a portion of each sale can be a fundraiser. And I certainly want to expand to other parts of the country. With Downeast Dayboat I never wanted to be a big business, because I didn’t want to run a huge facility and deal with all the HACCP plans and other things that don’t excite me. But now, with Dayboat Blue, I see a means to truly revolutionize seafood distribution.”

Those who would like more information can go to www.dayboatblue.com.



Drawn by Henry Fisher



CAPE FEST
CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

Saturday June 7
Rain Date June 8

Fort Williams Park
10 AM - 9 PM

Gather with friends, family, neighbors,
children, grandparents, and
grandchildren in support of Cape
Elizabeth non-profits and artisans.

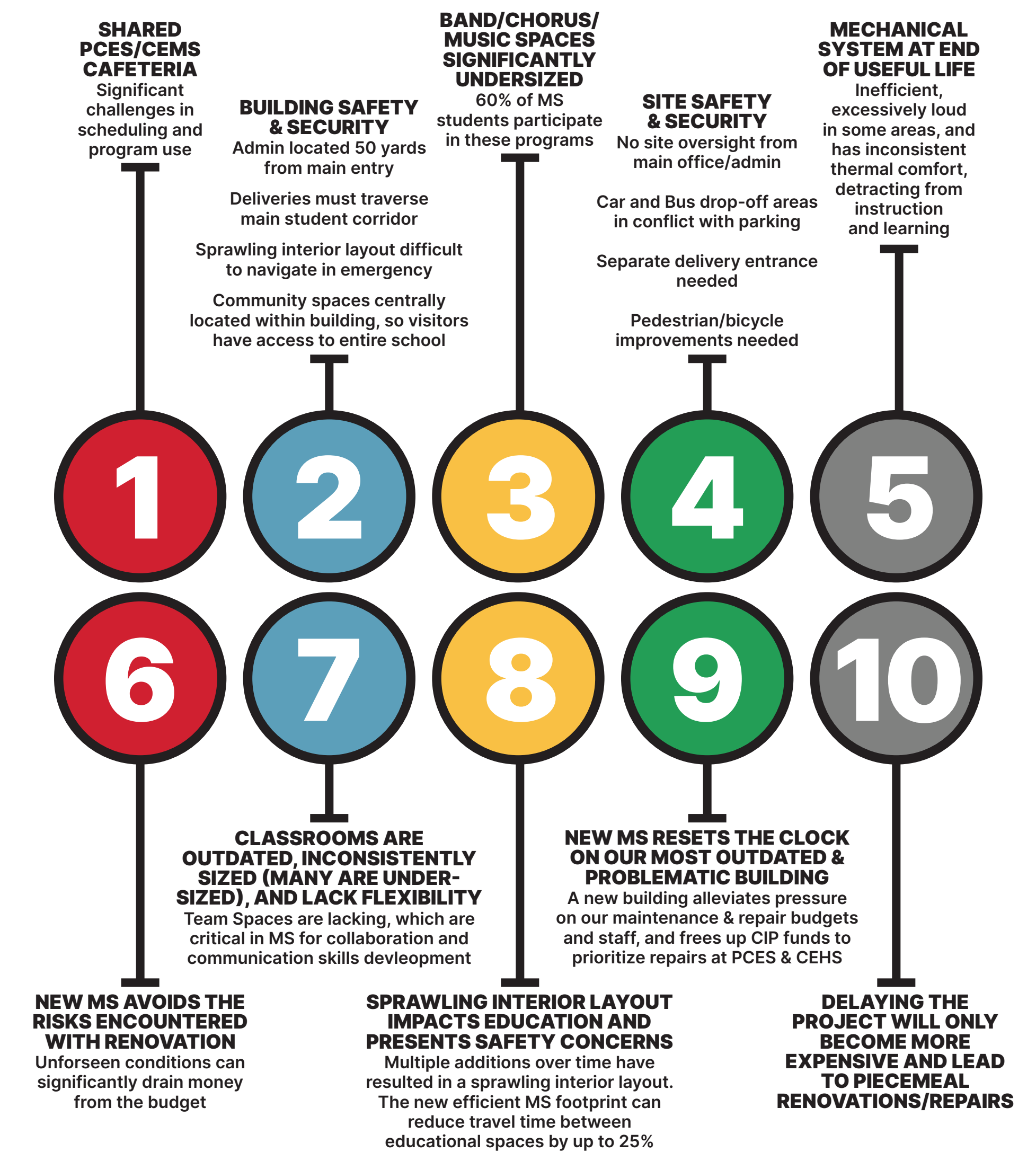


Contact Us @ capeelizabethfamilyfunday@gmail.com

TOP 10 REASONS

A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL IS CRITICALLY NEEDED

What is “Critical”? Scope items of high importance to support Cape students’ educational needs as outlined in the Educational Specifications (such as Safety & Security and Programmatic needs)





JOIN US FOR A SCHOOL TOUR!
MAY 12TH & JUNE 2ND
6PM

LEARN MORE

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