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The Cape Courter

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capecourier.com

In the Spirit of Community

Principal John Springer will not return to CEHS in the fall

By Kevin St. Jarre

In a letter to staff and faculty, and in a separate letter to Cape Elizabeth families, John Springer announced that after four years of leading Cape Elizabeth High School, that he would not be returning in the fall.

Springer wrote, "Over the course of four years, I have been proud of the programming we have created for our students and the decisions we have made to try and make a more positive experience for them at CEHS. We created a schedule that reduced student stress, began conducting longitudinal surveys to inform decision-making, began partnering with the JED Foundation to look at how we continue to improve on how we support our students' level of stress/mental health and expanded our leadership programming to build confidence and skills outside of traditional academics."

Writing about a leadership change piloted at CEHS this last year, and the new roles taken on by teachers Elizabeth Yarrington and Andrew Lupien as assistant principals, Springer wrote, "Our coassistant principals have brought expertise from a teacher and administrative perspective, creating a consistent and thoughtful approach to the leadership of our school. Their ability to communicate and create relationships with students, parents and staff is truly commendable. This will provide a foundational aspect to leadership in the school moving for-

Springer wrote, "While I am extremely proud of the work during my time at CEHS, it has become clear my leadership priorities and vision do not align in a way that makes me the most appropriate person to continue to lead CEHS. Therefore, I will not be returning as principal of CEHS for the 2025-2026 school year."

"We are sad to see Principal Springer go after four successful years as principal of

CEHS. He began as principal just as we were returning to school full time while Covid was still very active. He helped guide the school well through that transitional process and also brought much needed attention to the social and emotional needs of students. Additionally, he helped move CEHS forward by providing varied educational opportunities and pathways for students and this has been a major School Board goal for the district during his tenure. While we will miss Principal Springer, I am confident CEHS will continue to shine as an excellent school because it has wonderful students, a very talented staff and highly engaged parents."

Springer also wrote, "I want to thank families and parents for welcoming me into the Cape community and for the ongoing support you have provided to our students, staff and administration. I will look back on my time here fondly and appreciate the opportunity I was provided in leading CEHS. I know the current leadership will continue to move CEHS forward in a positive direction."



Contributed photo

Cape Elizabeth High School Principal Cape Elizabeth Superintendent of John Springer has let faculty, staff and schools Chris Record said of the change, Cape families know that he will not be returning in the fall of 2025.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Check out our next issue for full graduation coverage

Two Lights State Park is open



Photo by Jeff Mandell

Two Lights State Park is now open. The park opens each day at 9 a.m., and closes at dusk. Check at the park entry or online to see the exact closing time. The new entry features a larger entry booth as well as a lane for bicyclists and pedestrians and improved sight lines with smoother and straighter entrance roads.

News from May Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Town Manager Monthly Report

Town Manager Patrick Fox thanked staff, committees, and councilors for "participating in changes to the budget format and approach" that was new this year and Fox hopes to be more efficient in future years.

Councilor Stephanie Anderson asked Fox for the status of the Town Center Intersection project. Fox replied that there will be a workshop on June 2 to discuss options to obtain bidders for the project. He added that the town may get to keep state funds for another year to assist with the project's cost which might help to attract bidders who may be booked up for 2025.

Item #61-2025 Consider Thomas Memorial Library Policy - Library of Things (LoT) Collection Development and Borrowing Policy

Thomas Memorial Library requested that the council consider their proposed policy for "Library of Things." A Library of Things (LoT) is a program operated through the library that lends "nontraditional items." The proposed policy clarifies the purpose and types of things in the Library of Things and how decisions will be made on what to include and how to acquire them. Items currently in the Library of Things include citizen science kits, electricity meters, and a telescope.

Thomas Memorial Library Director Rachel Davis shared that the Library of Things currently has two e-bikes on loan from the Bicycle Coalition to be borrowed for three days at a time. Davis said that she and the library staff are "excited about the possibilities of really developing this collection in a more deliberate way and being more comprehensive" about what is included in the Library of Things.

Councilor Caitlin Harriman made the motion to approve and was passed unanimously by the Council.

Item #62-2025 Fiscal Year 2026 Municipal General Fund Operating Budget Ap-

Councilor Scifres reminded those present that the Town Council was required to adopt the municipal budget during the May 12, 2025, regular town council meeting following a public hearing on May 5, 2025.

The Town Council made a motion to approve the municipal general fund operating budget for fiscal year 2026 of \$22,021,930 and with estimated non-property tax revenues of \$9,159,584 and estimated property taxes of \$12,862,346. The budget was approved unan-

Item #63-2025 Fiscal Year 2026 Special **Revenue Funds Budget Approval**

The Town Council unanimously approved the proposed fiscal year 2026 special revenue funds and CIP budget with proposed expenditures and revenues of \$5,374,153.

Item #64-2025 Fiscal Year 2026 School **Department Budget Approval**

The Town Council unanimously approved the proposed School Department budget as recommended by the School Board for fiscal year 2026 for a total appropriation of \$36,318.456 and estimated revenues of \$3,654,644.

Item #65-2026 Fiscal Year 2026 General Fund Budget Summary Motion Concerning Property Taxes

The Town Council voted to adopt the

-see TOWN COUNCIL page 19



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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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Letters should not exceed 250 words. We reserve the right to refuse letters and to edit for length, accuracy, clarity and civility. We do not withhold names and writers may be limited to one letter per month. Petitionstyle letters will be declined. Letters reflect the opinion of the author, not The Cape Courier. Email letters to: editor@capecourier. com or mail to P.O. Box 6242, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107. Please note: Letters will be acknowledged by email.

NEXT ISSUE: June 6
DEADLINE: Noon, June 18

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'I'd like to thank the NIMBYs'

Some people don't know that Bug Light was once in Cape Elizabeth. Once upon a time, CE was a town of fishing and agriculture, a wonderful combination of woodlands and fragile marshlands. It was a true "cape," surrounded by an ocean. But, as Portland grew, the northern part of CE also grew and in that area was clustered the majority of infrastructure (roads, sewer, municipal buildings and more modernization was on the way with bus lines, traffic lights and large commercial centers). Residents in southern CE were not willing to give up their rural lifestyle. They were NIMBYs. On March 15, 1895, CE split into 2 municipalities; CE and SOPO and Bug Light left CE.

In 1965 it was proposed to sell Ft. Williams to developers for housing. The Town

Council defeated that proposal on a 4-3 vote. Once again, NIMBYs prevailed.

Well, I'd like to thank the NIMBYs. There are too many to name, but they include the Jordans, Hannafords, Spragues, Maxwells, Thompsons, Simontons. They worked hard to hold on to our 23 farms, marshes and the ecosystem they support and our rich fishing heritage, miles of trails and woodlands and our beautiful beaches and rugged coast. Cape Elizabeth didn't just happen, it was fought for and protected by people who realized that there is no other place on earth like our town. I'm glad we have South Portland for urbanization, and I appreciate the vision of the NIMBYs of Cape Elizabeth.

Curtis Kelly

'Please consider the other options'

The School Bond (option 1) on the June 10 ballot estimates a 12.3 percent increase in property tax.

Although this estimated increase taken on its own and spread over a three year period may not seem to be overwhelming, when you take into account the financial impact of the recent town wide reevaluation and other general annual increases to our municipal and school budgets that will take place over the same time period,

it does begin to become overwhelming.

My wife and I own a very modest home, yet from the spring 2024 tax bill to the fall 2024 tax bill we saw a more than 64 percent increase in our annual property tax. Add to this what is estimated to be a 7.7 percent increase in the coming year and the 12.3 percent estimated (option 1) school bond we are looking at an additional 20 percent for a total increase of 84 percent over four years. This is before factoring in any added annual increases that will likely take place as a result of budgets the town will approve over the same time period.

Please consider the other options.

John Pearson

Change 'will provide many benefits'

"The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah is a novel about the Dust Bowl and how individuals and families eked out an existence during the 1930s. One thing that strikes me throughout the book is the genuine love and camaraderie of the characters. This book is historical fiction, but it makes me think about the opportunities we have on June 10 - to vote on a school referendum that will provide much needed improvements to our schools and the town center amendments which will provide affordable housing to seniors.

I have seen signs that say test scores won't change, maybe not, but how do we know for sure? I believe that improved facilities can make a big difference in student and teacher attitudes.

Although not analogous, the main family in "The Four Winds" moved from a flooded camp to a room with comforts we all know today. Did their circumstances change, no, but their outlook certainly did. With the acute housing shortage in Maine, changes to the town center amendments will allow individuals in need of housing to live in our wonderful community.

Yes, there will be change and I believe, will provide many benefits. My hope is that enough voters will see this as a welcoming move for Cape Elizabeth.

Please join me in voting yes for schools and yes for the town center amendment changes.

Debbie Grew

THANK YOU!

Your donations and other contributions help keep this community newspaper coming to your mailbox.

> PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

> Sheela & Maureen Rowland

R Fecher Family

Anonymous

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

Let us
hear
from you!

We love feedback!

editor@capecourier.com

-More LETTERS TO THE EDITOR on pages 4 and 5



Leslie Young, (Owner Operator)



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ACCREDITED MEMBER

2025 Publication schedule

A -1/O D	La acces Deals Radio and
• •	Issue Published
Jan 3	Jan 15
Jan 24	Feb 5
Feb 7	Feb 19
Feb 28	March 12
March 14	March 26
March 28	April 9
April 11	April 23
April 25	May 7
May 9	May 21
May 23	June 4
June 6	June 18
June 20	July 2
July 4	July 16
July 25	August 6
Aug 8	August 20
Aug 22	Sept 3
Sept 5	Sept 17
Sept 19	Oct 1
Oct 10	Oct 22
Oct 31	Nov 12
Nov 14	Nov 26
Dec 5	Dec 17
	Feb 7 Feb 28 March 14 March 28 April 11 April 25 May 9 May 23 June 6 June 20 July 4 July 25 Aug 8 Aug 22 Sept 5 Sept 19 Oct 10 Oct 31 Nov 14

DON'T BE MISLED. CAPE'S TAXES WILL SKYROCKET. Please Consider the Real Costs — Vote NO on June 10

"I don't want to price people out of town."*

-Penny Jordan, Town Council Chair

TAXES ARE INCREASING FASTER THAN NORMAL

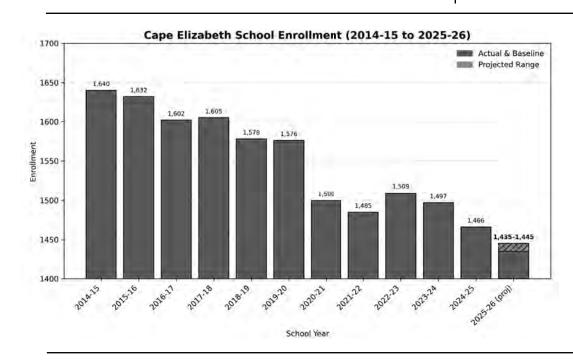
Cape taxes have already been rising **an average of 6.5% annually** over three years, even while draining an incredible \$4.3 million from reserve funds to hide the true impact. With new labor contracts due in 2027, next year's increase could hit 10%—**before** adding any school-bond debt.

2026 Town Budget = 7.7% Tax Increase

Middle School Bond = 12.3%

= 20% TAX HIKE!

With the school bond, Cape's taxes could easily double over the next ten years.



DECLINING ENROLLMENT = LESS STATE AID

- 89 current incoming kindergartners
- 129 seniors graduating
- \$800K lost in state education aid this year due to falling enrollment and rising property values
- Every lost student means less state aid and a bigger bill for local taxpayers
- More aid cuts coming in 2027 as enrollment is set to decline again

What They're Not Telling You About the "Six-Year Plan"

The School Board claims the tax burden will be spread over six years—but that's baloney and they know it. **There is no fixed financing plan**. The issuance of \$86.5 million in bonds will be based on **market conditions**. And if interest rates continue rising, a stretched-out borrowing schedule **will end up costing much more in the long run**. The bottom line is taxpayers are facing a **12.3% increase from the bond alone**, on top of annual town budget increases that have already averaged **6.5% per year** over three years.

Cape Doesn't Need an Oversized, Overpriced Middle School A Smorter Affordable and Environmentally Extendly Blan Evictor

A Smarter, Affordable, and Environmentally Friendly Plan Exists

Addresses 100% of critical needs, does MUCH more for students K-12, and saves at least \$42 million **Learn more about the alternative "Three School Solution" at CapeVoters.com**

'Why not take a phased approach?' 'We can't keep doing nothing'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I'm a senior citizen—but that's not why I'd vote "No" on school spending or other town initiatives. I believe in our children and in strong public education. But I also believe in logical, sustainable decisions with long-term vision.

The current school situation is a result of deferred maintenance. If we had addressed issues as they arose, the costs might have stayed manageable. Now, we're faced with an enormous, expensive plan all at once-difficult for many to absorb.

Why not take a phased approach? Fix the most urgent problems first, then move forward in stages. It's how many of us manage our homes and budgets. The traditional Yankee mindset—save first, then spend—still holds value.

We also need to consider fairness.

Could seniors on fixed incomes receive a tax break? Could families currently using the schools contribute a bit more? Let's explore creative ways to share the cost equitably.

As for the Town Center Housing project-again, this reflects delayed action. Years ago, the Comprehensive Plan called for a vibrant, functional town center. The need exists. The planning is done. It's time to act.

I'd much rather spend my money in Cape Elizabeth than drive to South Portland or Scarborough. Let's invest in a community that serves all of us.

This isn't about resisting change or being older. It's about making thoughtful decisions that support young families, seniors, and future generations alike.

'Let's make a smart investment'

The "tax hike" propaganda fails to tell the whole story. There is no \$0 option for Cape Elizabeth schools. The last professionally vetted and cost estimated addition/renovation option carried a price tag north of \$70 million and an expected extension of useful life of less than 20 years. At that juncture, all three of our school buildings will be facing even more critical failures.

Is it responsible to fund a 20 year fix with a 30 year bond? Do renovations usually come in under budget? No and no.

Our independent owner's rep, our architect, and 11 of 14 elected town officials all agree that new construction is

Janet Smaldon the most strategic use of taxpayer funds, and that this project should be approved by voters. Renovation is nearly as expensive, carries a higher risk of cost overrun,

and represents a dramatically lower re-

turn on investment. Our community has

spent two years negotiating reductions of

scope and cost in response to taxpayer

concerns. Block out the rest of the noise and consider these facts. Supporting information is available in the public record. This problem is not going away; let's make a smart investment.

Scott Mazuzan

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No school upgrades. No new housing.

Referendum after referendum, it's exhausting to see our roadsides lined and our mailboxes filled with reminders that Cape's loud no-nothing groups are determined to keep blocking changes this town sorely

Of course we all support affordable housing and better schools, it's just that THIS plan isn't the right one. "We can do better."

Translation: "We can do nothing."

Trouble is, we can't keep doing nothing. We can't keep calling Cape schools the best

while the buildings fail and their students and staff face growing health and safety hazards. We can't keep barring the door to would-be working class residents who could bring life to a "town center" that offers little more than a picture-postcard image.

We won't make these issues go away just by rejecting plans to resolve them. We'll just make them bigger and more costly. So when I see the No No signs, I know what to look for on my ballot June 10.

Yes. Yes.

Jeff Ham

No respect for 'scare tactics'

but I respect people who oppose it on rational grounds. What I do not respect is the misinformation on the yellow signs on our streets and on mailers. They claim that the bond proposal will result in a 20% tax hike, with the implication that the hike will come

The 12.3% school bond tax increase is a sum of projected increases over 6 years, FY 27-32; there is NO increase projected in FY 26. To get to the 20%, the bond opponents add the 6 year FY 27-32 total increase to a

I am in favor of the school bond proposal, 7.7% town budget tax increase, which is presumably for FY 26.

> If the school bond proposal passes, the FY 26 tax increase will be 7.7%, not 20%. The FY 27-32 increases will be whatever town budget tax increase is approved plus bond increments between 1.3 % and 2.8%.

> I respect good faith differences of opinion on the substance of the school bond proposal. I do not respect incorrect tax increase scare

> > Ed Rea

'Here is my perspective'

The Cape schools need updating and here is my perspective, a longtime educator and grandma of Cape students who has lived here for a long time. We have always been fiscally responsible so as to be able to retire in Cape and remain in our home.

I know facilities are important and that all three schools need significant improvements, and note that the teaching staff in the most important school resource.

Capers have already voted down the proposed building plans two times. Now another proposal is on the June ballot, not on the November voting ballot, why? How many times will we have to VOTE NO before we have a better solution?

There was a responsible and affordable solution -\$64 million, three-school plan based

on Harriman architect's assumptions, drawings and documents. This was estimated to result in a 8.7% tax increase, renovating all three schools. WHY do we not have a choice of plans when we vote? Why one plan? How many costly elections before the citizens VOTE stands? Really?

Most Capers want the best for our children and grandchildren, however we must also protect the financial health of our community and the quality of life many of us have worked hard to maintain. Please join me in voting NO on June 10. Your NO vote will eventually pave the way for a plan that will support all students, teachers and our entire community.

Jeanette Guglielmetti



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Comparison 'is misleading'

Mr. McGovern has hopped on the bandwagon of a six-year financing plan to soften the blow from a 12.3% tax increase, but he knows well that bond passage doesn't guarantee how it's financed. Only the Town Council decides that—after the fact. A six-year phase-in could actually cost more if interest rates rise. Whether financed in one or six years, taxes will rise—by an estimated 12.3% or more.

He also called our ethics complaint against the School Board a "diversionary" tactic. Yet in a 4/29/25 letter to the Town Council, he wrote, "Transparency is needed, including by the School Department," and added, "If the schools do not voluntarily file [with the Ethics Commission], the Town Council should." It is disingenuous to dismiss our complaint while making the same criticism.

He also cited the town's 1964 purchase of Fort Williams—\$200,000, or just \$2 million in today's dollars—as a reason to support a

new \$86.5 million middle school. We disagree. Fort Williams was a great deal; this \$86.5 MM bond proposal is not.

In 2024, the SBAC recommended a less expensive option that addressed critical needs across all schools—new construction and renovations at the middle school and significant upgrades to the high school and Pond Cove. That common sense plan was responsible, student-focused and fair to taxpayers.

In short, comparing Fort Williams to this proposal is misleading. Voters have rejected this project twice. A 20% total tax hike—including the newly adopted 7.7% increase—is not fiscally responsible. Cape Elizabeth students and taxpayers deserve better. Vote No!

Larry Benoit Mary Ann Lynch Jessica Sullivan

Have 'trust in the rigorous process'

As a long-time resident of Cape Elizabeth and former state senator and state representative for our town, I strongly support the proposed \$86.5 million school bond. This plan is the result of years of professional planning, extensive public involvement, and transparent oversight by elected officials and experts.

From the start, this project valued public input and expert guidance. Architects, engineers, educators, and financial professionals have worked together to ensure the proposal is both fiscally responsible and educationally sound. The community weighed in through surveys, forums, and committee meetings, making this a truly collaborative effort reflecting our shared values.

Crucially, 11 of our 14 current elected officials—including Town Council and School

Board members—support this plan. These individuals were elected to represent the public interest, and their support speaks volumes.

Cape Elizabeth has long taken pride in its schools. Investing in safe, healthy, efficient and modern facilities is not just about buildings—it's about supporting our children, educators, and the future of our community. Well-maintained and up-to-date schools enhance learning, attract families, and preserve the town's strong reputation. It also reflects responsible stewardship.

I urge fellow residents to trust in the rigorous process behind this proposal and to vote yes on the school bond. It's a long overdue investment in our community and our future.

Rebecca Millett

'Surprised' at wording in bond

I was surprised to see the words "critically needed" included in the middle school bond question that will appear on Cape Elizabeth's June 10 ballot.

While state law governing ballot questions is written for statewide referenda, it sets a standard: questions should be "clear, concise and direct," and should objectively describe the issue at hand. Ballots are not campaign flyers—they're a foundational part of our democracy. The wording voters see should be neutral, factual, and free from spin.

Labeling the bond "critically necessary" crosses that line. It implies the outcome is already decided and that there's only one reasonable vote. That's not the role of a ballot. It's up to voters—not town officials or committees—to determine whether a proposal is necessary.

Cape residents already turned down a similar proposal. And the School Building

Got a story to share? Email us!



editor@capecourier.com

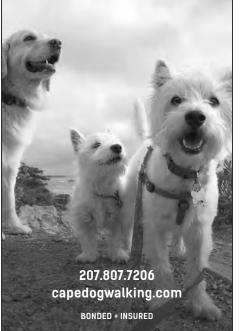


Advisory Committee supported an alternative that would save tens of millions of dollars while delivering a school many believe would be even better than the current plan. Whether you support that alternative or not, the vote should take place on a level playing field.

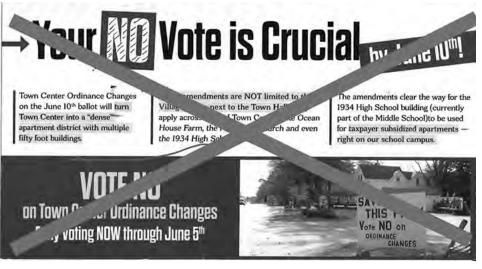
It's too late to change the ballot now. But we can still acknowledge the problem—and do better next time. Every voter deserves language that respects their right to make up their own mind.

Annie Christy





'Moved to share this information'



I posted this on social media and was asked by several people to find a way to reach more people about the flyer and the ad in the previous Courier by "Concerned Cape Citizens."

I am moved to share this information because my cousin Greg Jordan, owner of the property in the picture to the left, stopped by to ask what he could do to get the message out that his property is "safe from development." The picture of his property is in this "flyer" and in an ad in the Cape Courier. This picture is from two years ago, when the family was working to settle their father's estate. That is no longer the case, and Greg Jordan is neutral on the town center amendments. This picture misrepresents the position of the landowners. It is recognized that the picture is out in the cyber-world and people can choose to use it, but when it misrepresents the position of the landowner and could impact their business, this is not appropriate. At the very least, before including a person's property and business in an ad or flyer, it would be respectful to ask their permission. And, bottom line, the landowners are not supporters of the flyer nor the Courier ad. Thank you for listening.

Penny Jordan

Cape Fest kicks off summer

By Cape Fest Committee

While many may think Memorial Day Weekend is the kick-off to summer, that's not the case here in Cape Elizabeth. We officially start the summer with a parade on the first weekend in June, which runs along the one-and-a-half-mile route from Shore Road to Fort Williams Park. June 7 (rain date June 8) is all about celebrating and supporting local non-profits and school groups as well as our Cape Elizabeth community.

This year, more than forty vehicles, including the Cape Elizabeth Police, Fire & Rescue, Wet Team, Farm Alliance, and lots of Little Leaguers, will be participating. The Boy Scout Color Guard, local and state leaders, Avant choreographed dancers, ukulele players, and even our Recycling Bin Mascot will also march in the parade.

Once we arrive at Fort Williams Park,

-see CAPE FEST page 14



Kathleen O. Pierce

Vice President Real Estate Advisor

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Cape Elizabeth High School announces Top Ten Percent of Class of 2025

Andrew Choi



Parents: Sarah and John Choi Future Plans: UC Berkeley **Accomplishments and Recognition:** Bowdoin Book Award, Baseball Captain, National Honor Society

Andrew Deniz



Parents: Ms. Emily Jacobs Future Plans: Georgia Institute of Tech-

Accomplishments and Recognition: President of NHS. Helped put on blood

drive, food drive and beach cleanup. Nominated for presidential scholars program. Certificate of excellence in math and Spanish. All academic team for alpine skiing.

Alexander Emery



Parents: Karen and Peter Emery

Future Plans: University of Florida **Accomplishments and Recognition:** National Honor Society and AP scholar with distinction

Sage Evans



Parents: Heather and Devon Evans Future Plans: Dartmouth College **Accomplishments and Recognition: Activities:**

Portland Youth Symphony Orchestra Principal Flute, Portland Youth Wind Ensemble 1st Flute, Kennebec Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra 1st Flute, Maine Music Mentors (Founder), Public Forum Debate Team (Captain 11,12), CEHS Young Democrats (President), Sailing Team (Captain 11,12), Ski Team (Captain 12)

Sailmaine Summer Race Team

Honors:

U.S. Presidential Scholar Semifinalist, National Merit Scholar, Coca-Cola Scholar Semifinalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, Scholastic Writing Competition Silver Key, Dartmouth Book Award, John Philip Sousa Band Award, Maine All State Band 1st Flute (10,12), Bangor Symphony Orchestra High School Concerto Competition Honorable Mention, Maine C420 Sailing State Champs 3rd Place ('22&'23), NHS, Excellence in Band (9,10) and Digital Design (11)

Sebastian Francis



Parents: Karin & Sanjeev Francis Future Plans: UC Berkeley **Accomplishments and Recognition:** Earned my Private Pilot's License

-see TOP TEN page 8



Saturday, June 7th FORT WILLIAMS PARK CAPE FEST CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY Sunday, June 8th (rain date)

Schedule of Events

10:00 am Parade (Cottage Farms Road along Shore Road) 10:45 am Opening Ceremonies

Main Stage Music

ALWAYS, sometimes 11:00 am **Back Woods Road** 1:00 pm **Curse of Kona** 4:00 pm

Ocean House Road Band 6:00 pm

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Carnival Games Climbing Wall Inflatable Obstacle Course Bounce House Train Rides Artisan, Craft, and **Author Booths Food Booths Pony Rides**

4:00 pm - DUSK

C-Salt Corn Hole Challenge Live Music Mainely Burgers & Mainely Treats Fireworks at Dusk

Cape Fest benefits local non-profits and school groups while celebrating our community.

Join the fun and help these worthwhile organizations!

Election Edition June 4, 2025

CAPE NEIGHBURS

SCHOOL BUILDING NEGLECT

Why Have Critical Repair and Security Upgrades Been Delayed?

In recent weeks, school security has received renewed attention—a subject that deserves thoughtful and responsible dialogue. Unfortunately, the Cape Elizabeth Police Department (CEPD) has been drawn into the debate without its consent. Let's be clear: every proposal under discussion addresses security, and the CEPD has explained that it has not endorsed any plan—including the one currently on the ballot. Any suggestion otherwise is both misleading and disrespectful. It violates the trust we place in those who work every day to protect and serve our community and our children.

That said, concerns about school maintenance and security are not new. In fact, it was a **2016** security breach that first sparked the broader conversation about the condition of our school buildings. In our July 2024 Cape Neighbors newsletter, we raised a critical question: **Have enough resources been allocated over the years to properly maintain and secure our schools?**

To illustrate the concern, we cited minutes from a 2019 meeting of the Needs Assessment Committee, during which school security was discussed:

"MS. SCIFRES SAID THAT SHE IS IN SUPPORT OF TAKING CARE OF THINGS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT WOULD BE CONCERNED THAT IF A SMALLER BOND WAS APPROVED TO TAKE CARE OF SECURITY ISSUES THAT THE LARGER BOND WOULDN'T EVER HAPPEN AND CONSTANTLY BE PLACED 'ON THE BACK BURNER.'" -JANUARY 9, 2019

Since then, voters have been asked to weigh in on a new school bond three times—twice in the past six months. Again, we don't assume bad intent on behalf of the former School Board Chair, now Town Councilor. Nor do we believe this strategic mindset is hers alone. But the approach underscores a troubling pattern: even critical upgrades, including those tied to safety, were and have been delayed for years. How do those delays relate to the current "larger bond" that is now before Cape's voters?

THE MANDATE

Why Are We Voting on These Issues Again?

One of the most common questions being asked in Cape today is: Didn't we already vote on this?

It turns out, according to one town councilor, the answer is more complicated than you'd expect. When you cast your vote last November, you may have thought you were voting for individual candidates. But based on comments made at a February Town Council meeting, that vote is now being framed as a "referendum" in support of the Town Center zoning changes—even though the issue wasn't on the ballot.

In other words, previous votes rejecting very similar zoning changes are being brushed aside, supposedly overridden by a candidate's win in an unrelated election.

That kind of reasoning might make more sense in a national election, where voters are deeply familiar with the candidates and issues. But in a local race? While many Cape residents are highly engaged, it feels like a reach—and frankly, a bit presumptuous—to claim a mandate. Especially when voters have already weighed in on the issue.

And if this reasoning applies to the Town Center Zoning Amendments, is it fair to assume that's exactly why we're seeing virtually the same school building project on the hallot? What other issues did you give this Town Council a mandate on?

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 <u>VOTE EARLY</u> at Town Hall through June 5 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

Apartment Developers Anxiously Await Cape's Vote



*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 will raise Town Center land values by allowing large apartment development—driving up property taxes and pressuring current owners to sell.
- 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. That renders the vision of a vibrant town center—filled with shops and restaurants—virtually 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.

What is the Cape Neighbors Alliance?

Top TenContinued from page 6_

Hartson Mosunic



Parents: Drs. Cory & Chris Mosunic Future Plans: Emory University **Accomplishments and Recognition:**

Columbia University Book Award, AP Scholar with Distinction, Excellence in Science Award, The Council on International Educational Exchange Merit Scholarship, 3x Varsity Maine Girls Ice Hockey All-Conference Team, High School Hobey Baker Character Award recipient, CEHS National Honors Society, 2024 BioME Student Showcase Finalist, Co-leader of the Botany Club, Leadership team of the Chemistry Club.

Graham Plourde - Salutatorian

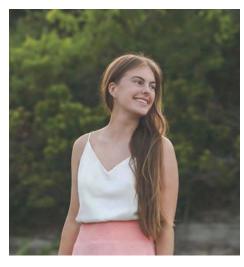


Parents: Sheila & Allen Plourde Future Plans: Trinity College **Accomplishments and Recognition:**

Athletic (swimming): State record holder (200 Medley Relay), individual state champion three consecutive years (200IM), team state champions three consecutive years, 4x New England championships qualifier, 10x individual Maine state champion, Colby College pool record holder as a freshman

Academic: Salutatorian, National Honor Society Member, Excellence in Overall Math, Excellence in Algebra 2, Top-Scoring Junior on the AMC 12 Math Exam Schoolwide, AP Scholar with Dis-

Isabelle Reeves



Parents: Heather & Ethan Reeves Future Plans: Smith College **Accomplishments and Recognition:**

Smith College Book Award, National Merit Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, Cape Chapter of the National Honors Society, Western Maine Conference All-Academic XC Team, Mock Trial Team Captain, and Certificates of Excellence for Computer Science, Band, and Personal Finance

Declan Scifres



Parents: Aaron & Elizabeth Scifres Future Plans: Bowdoin College **Accomplishments and Recognition:**

Recipient of National Merit Bowdoin College Scholarship; AP Scholar with Honor; National Honor Society; Maroon Medal Society; MMEA BOC All-State SATB Choir; Started organization "Concerts Without Barriers" that collects gently-used concert clothing and provides it to students who need it at CEHS and CEMS; AAPPL Maine Seal of

Biliteracy in Spanish; Tri-M Music Society

Caroline Story Straw -

Valedictorian



Parents: Hope and Chris Straw Future Plans: Harvard College **Accomplishments and Recognition:**

Academic: Valedictorian; Harvard Book Award; AP Scholar with Distinction (15+ AP courses); Excellence Awards in Music (2x), Statistics, and Computer Science; Scholastic Art & Writing Awards (3 Silver Keys, 2 Honorable Mentions); National Merit Finalist; U.S. Presidential Scholar Candidate

Debate: NSDA Maine Student of the

-see GRADS page 9

Vote NO on the Town Center Ordinance Changes!

The MASSIVE Changes Are WORSE THAN ANTICIPATED - Please VOTE NO on JUNE 10th!

Your **NO** vote is more crucial than ever, because of **LD 1829.** It's another bill out of Augusta that overrides local control, **adding 14 feet** o apartment building height allowances. The Town Center Zoning Changes would make way for 64ft tall apartments!

- Is your vision of Cape's Town Center apartment district, filled with "DENSE" FIVE-story apartment complexes?
- 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 CRITICAL! The Town Center Ordinance Changes on the <u>June 10</u> ballot would allow:

- Housing on the school campus converting the historic 1934 High School building into taxpayer-subsidized apartments.
- 64-foot-tall apartment buildings up to five or more stories including at Ocean House Farm, the Methodist Church, and many other Town Center properties. Owners would face INCREASED PROPERTY TAXES, pressuring them to SELL.

These zoning changes are not limited to the Village Green next to Town Hall—they apply across the entire Town Center. They would create **relentless financial incentives** for developers to build large apartment complexes throughout, including the redevelopment of currently developed properties. Up to 422 apartments on just six lots!

"We knew it was bad. We had no idea it was <u>THIS</u> bad."

Vote NO... There's a Better Path Forward:

- Focus the changes to a limited Village Green district as envisioned in Cape's Town Center Plan.
- Support the new Hardy Pond 55+ development.
- Vote NO on the Town Center Ordinance Changes. and say YES to a thriving, balanced future for Cape!

SIXTY-FOUR FOOT!!!

FIFTY FOOT "DENSE" APARTMENT BUILDINGS ACROSS TOWN CENTER?!? TOWN CENTER AMENDMENTS **SAVE TOWN CENTER - AGAIN**

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

Grads

Continued from page 8_

Year; Maine State Congressional Debate Champion; Academic All-American with Outstanding Distinction; Captain of Maine State Champion Congressional Debate Team; National Qualifier in Congressional Debate and International Extemporaneous Speaking; Advanced to National Oration Championship as Maine's representative

Sailing: Maine State Sailing Champion (Club 420); 15th at U.S. Sailing Youth Nationals (i420); 5th at i420 New England Championship; Area A Representative at Youth National Triplehanded Championship; competed in C420 Team Racing Nationals, Atlantic Coast Championship, Coed and Girls' New England Championships; will be sailing for Harvard College as an academic admit

Music (saxophone): All-State Band; All-State Jazz Band; District 1 Honors Band; District 1 Honors Jazz Band; Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

Hope Taylor



Parents: Erin & Eric Taylor Future Plans: Amherst College **Accomplishments and Recognition:**

National Honors Society, Emily Caras Snyder Memorial Scholarship Award, Maine Interscholastic Swim League All-State Team, Cape Elizabeth High School Winter Athlete of the Year, All-Academic Team Swimming and Diving, Junior Class Citizenship Award, Volunteer Club, Bee

Jessica Thayer



Parents: Evan Thayer and Katharine

Future Plans: University of Maine **Accomplishments and Recognition:**

Nine Scholastic Writing Awards (seven for poetry, two for personal essays), Maine State Seal of Biliteracy for Spanish, 2024 Rensselaer Medal recipient, 3rd place in Biomedical and Health Sciences category at the 2024 Maine State Science Fair, 2024 AP Scholar with Distinction, four academic awards (FR: Honors Physics, Honors Algebra 2, SOPH: Honors Sophomore English, JNR: Honors United States History)

Vollie Weiss



Parents: Andrea Southworth & Jason Weiss

Future Plans: University of Maine **Accomplishments and Recognition:**

Among the many facets of my laudable disposition are a steadfast commitment to volunteerism, leadership as captain of the tennis team, active membership in the National Honor Society, ordination, recognition as an acclaimed Model UN writer, distinction as an academic force, and a cultivated interest as a connoisseur and adept user of artificial intelligence.

Dean's list announcements

Nina Stevens, daughter of Robin and Drew Stevens, was recently named to the dean's list at The University of Vermont. A member of the Honors College, she is majoring in Political Science with an American Politics focus.

Analise Gordon was named to the dean's list at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia for the spring 2025 semester.

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri:

Drew Butzel Char DeGeorge

News from the Superintendent

By Dr. Chris Record

Happy summer to all of you! We are excited that 126 students from CEHS graduated on June 1 and are now headed on to new adventures. We are hopeful and confident that we prepared them well. We appreciate the support the community provided these students during their thirteen years in our schools.

June 10 is an important day as Cape citizens are considering supporting the school budget and also supporting the building of a new school for the first time in 50 years. We believe we are 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% expendi-

-see SUPERINTENDENT page 13





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HunterDouglas Gallery

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What Parents and Grandparents Should Know About the Middle School Plan



ZERO \$ for Cape Elizabeth High School

- **Gym floor buckling and warping**. Will further deteriorate until properly replaced.
- Improved AP exam facilities sorely needed
- Failing HVAC and rooftop heat recovery systems compromise air quality and comfort
- Aging, **leaky windows** drive up energy costs
- Roof sections overdue for replacement
- Science Lab & Achievment Center upgrades
- **Kitchen upgrades needed**, e.g walk-in cooler
- Emergency lighting, upgraded camera security



Pond Cove Gets Short-Changed (Again)

- Roof sections overdue for replacement no funds for these important upgrades
- 3rd and 4th graders spend 10 to 12 minutes per day walking to and from lunch. Logisitcal problems not addressed
- Aging mechnical systems need upgrades
- Dedicated STEM facilities removed
- Failing HVAC and exhaust systems will compromise air quality and comfort
- ...and much more

MASSIVE DISTRUPTION, LIMITED BENEFIT

- Significant Site Work (\$11 million!): Years of heavy construction, noise, dust, and traffic disruption.
- Passing this Middle School bond means critical issues at the high school and Pond Cove will remain unfunded for another generation. **These issues need to be addressed today**, not 10 or 20 years out.

VOTE NO ON JUNE 10 – THERE IS A BETTER ALTERNATIVE

The "Three School Solution" is based 100% on Harriman's prior SBAC design options

- Immediate fixes for ALL three schools: No student is left behind. Fully funds 100% of all critical needs.
- New modern middle school wing: Builds a brand-new 6th-8th grade classroom wing, includes state-of-the-art Special Education and STEM spaces.
- Dedicated Performing Arts Center: We should not create another substandard "cafetorium."
 Our students deserve a proper space.

- Saves at least \$42 million over the Middle School plan, money we will need to pay teachers and staff.
- **Minimal student disruption:** managable construction timelines with limited site work.
- 53,000 square feet of new construction: Also includes secure entrances, new cafeterias for the Middle School AND Pond Cove, and dedicated state-of-the-art special education and performing arts spaces.

18 wheeler drives off road

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 4-28 An officer met with a resident of the Two Lights Road area regarding a criminal mischief complaint.
- 4-28 Two officers responded to Cunner Lane for a report that an an 18 wheeler had driven off the road, damaging posts and was now stuck.
- 4-30 A found wallet was turned into the police station, owner was identified and wallet returned.
- 4-30 An officer met with a resident of the Bowery Beach Road area who had lost his passport and work visa.
- 4-30 Two officers responded to a residence in the Scott Dyer Road area for a well-being check.
- 4-30 An officer met with a resident of the Bowery Beach Road regarding a motor vehicle complaint.
- 5-1 Two officers responded to a residence in the Scott Dyer Road for a well-being check.
- 5-1 An officer met with a resident of the Mitchell Road area who had signed a contract to have a tree removed. The contractor cashed the check but has not returned to do the work.
- 5-5 An officer responded to Kettle Cove to check the well-being of a pedestrian.
- 5-5 An officer met with a resident of the Scott Dyer Road area who filed a missing person report. The subject was later accounted for.
- 5-7 An officer met with a resident of the Shore Road area regarding a possible violation of a protection order.
- 5-11 An officer met with a resident of the Cottage Farms area who reported that her car had been entered during the night, but nothing appeared to be missing

SUMMONSES

- 4-29 Portland resident, speeding (54/45 zone), Route 77, \$114
- 4-29 Albany Township resident, operating vehicle while using hand-held device, Cottage Road, \$85
- 4-30 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (71/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$278
- 5-2 Lisbon Falls resident, uninspected vehicle, Bowery Beach Road, \$148
- 5-2 Cape Elizabeth resident, registered owner of vehicle passing a school bus, Spurwink

5-3 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (39/25 zone) Scott Dyer Road, \$129

- 5-3 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (49/30 zone), Fowler Road, \$170
- 5-8 Arcadia, Florida resident, uninspected vehicle, Old Ocean House Road, \$148
- 5-11 Cape Elizabeth resident, failure to produce proof of insurance, Ocean House Road, \$186
- 5-11 South Portland resident, speeding (59/40 zone), Sawyer Road, \$170
- 5-12 Bridgton resident, speeding (54/45 zone) Route 77, \$114
- 5-12 Scarborough resident, speeding (44/30
- zone), Mitchell Road, \$129 5-12 South Portland resident, speed, (34/25
- zone) Scott Dyer Road, \$114 5-14 Portland resident, speeding (54/45 zone),
- Route 77, \$114 5-14 South Portland resident, speeding (44/35
- zone), Route 77, \$119 5-14 South Portland resident, speeding (50/35
- zone) Ocean House Road, \$170 5/14 Edgecomb resident, failure to produce insurance, Bowery Beach Road, \$186
- 5-15 South Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Cottage Road, \$148
- 5-16 Casco resident, violation of protection order, Shore Road.

JUVENILE SUMMONSES

- 5-2 Cape Elizabeth resident, failure to produce insurance, Ocean House Road, \$186
- 5-12 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (52/30 zone) Fowler Road, \$230
- 5-15 South Portland resident, criminal speed, Sawyer Road
- 5-20 Cape Elizabeth resident, domestic violence assault

ACCIDENTS

- 5-6 David Thompson, accident on Scott Dyer Road.
- 5-7 Jodie Rae Antonowicz, Kristen Matzkin, accident on Scott Dyer Road
- 5-11 Cynthis Bachelder, accident on Charles E Jordan Road
- 5-14 Jennifer Allen, accident on Ocean House Road
- 5-16 Adam Chamberland, Tina Lucas, accident on Stony Brook Road

FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 17; EMS calls: 39

Tickets on sale for CELT's P4P Thirty award-winning artists from all —a smaller signed work by one of the event's

Thirty award-winning artists from all over New England are eagerly scouting out their assigned painting locations for Paint for Preservation, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust's 18th annual wet paint auction.

Tickets to the art auction from 4-7:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 13 can now be purchased on CELT's website, www.capelandtrust.org/paint. Guests will enjoy a summer evening under a tent overlooking Boat Cove, peruse the stunning pieces of freshly created art, and join in the lively auction featuring auctioneer Kaja Veilleux of Thomaston Place Auction Galleries.

The juried artists donate a portion of the art sales, which, combined with ticket sales and business sponsorships, support CELT's land conservation, stewardship and education programs. The land trust is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year, which makes this event even more exciting.

Juror Dennis Gleason of Gleason Fine Art Gallery selected a very talented slate of artists – including two from Cape Elizabeth (Cooper Dragonette and Graham Wood). The group includes several new faces, some returning after an absence, and a number of veterans of the 18 years that the event has been held.

You can view samples of work by these award-winning artists on CELT's website, www.capelandtrust.org/paint.

Guests can also avoid the pressure of the auction by simply purchasing a Mystery Box

Thirty award-winning artists from all —a smaller signed work by one of the event's over New England are eagerly scouting out artists, packaged in an unlabeled black box.

-see P4P page 13

Scam alert bulletin board

Look Out for Fake Checks

Checks might seem like something from the past, but scammers often use fake checks in their crimes so they can exploit the time it takes for them to bounce. During that waiting period, scammers will ask you to act on those funds. But once the check bounces, any amount you acted on is gone. This tactic shows up in several scam types from fake job and work-from-home scams (the fake check is to purchase equipment from the "employer" or for you to wire or otherwise send funds to "vendors"), to a seemingly innocent overpayment you received where you're asked to send part of the money back.

It's important to know that, just because the check looks like it cleared, it doesn't mean it has – it can take time for a bank to validate a check, but the federal rules are to make the amount available, usually within 24-48 hours. Use caution when accepting a check: ensure it is validated by your bank and reject seeming overpayments where you're asked to pay back the overage to the sender.

Spotting Fake QR Codes

QR codes are everywhere - from restaurant menus to package tracking. But where there is innovation, there are criminals exploiting them for fraud. QR codes are now being used by scammers to lead you to phishing websites, where they may steal sensitive details like banking info, login credentials and more. Before acting on a QR code in the real world, check for signs of manipulation (a sticker over the original QR, for example). And you don't have to use a QR code – if you're at a restaurant, ask for the printed menu. Also, look at emailed or texted QR codes with suspicion; the point of them is to link you to a website when you're not otherwise online. Just like when clicking links, it is important to use caution when scanning QR codes to ensure the source is trustworthy.

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





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1500 TECHNOLOGY WAY 5CARBOROUGH, ME

CESD voices full support

(Press release) - The Cape Elizabeth School Board has unanimously endorsed the proposed school bond on the June 10 ballot, emphasizing that the plan is the most fiscally responsible and educationally sound path forward to address the town's aging school infrastructure.

The board comprises residents with diverse professional backgrounds, life experiences, and family situations but all seven members share a common belief: Cape Elizabeth must act now to invest in its future.

"I strongly support building a new middle school and making significant improvements to our elementary school building," said Phil Saucier, School Board Chair and father of a 6th grader and 4th grader. "Our architects and owner's representatives have let us know that the middle school building is beyond its useful life. Renovation would still require tens of millions of dollars, years of portable classrooms, and wouldn't solve the core problems. I recognize this is a significant expense, but it's a necessary and important investment in our community. It's time."

Cindy Voltz, School Board Vice Chair, mother of two CEHS graduates, and member of the School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC), agreed. "I support the school bond because I believe in the value of public education and the importance of investing in our schools. We've been studying this issue for nearly 10 years. Rebuilding is the lowest-cost long-term solution, and delaying only makes it more expensive. Safe, modern facilities benefit everyone."

Board member Jennifer McVeigh, an educator and mother of two high school students, emphasized the importance of long-term thinking. "I supported the middle school bond three times, even though my own children won't walk through the doors of the new school. I did it because I believe in leaving

things better for the next generation. Our kids deserve safe, modern spaces to learn and grow — and it's up to us to make that possible. I trust the experts who have spent years studying the needs of our schools and designing a plan that is fiscally, environmentally, and educationally responsible. We're in this position because previous generations kicked the can down the road without a long-term plan, and that short-sightedness has caught up with us. Now is the time to act."

Chris Boniakowski, father of a 4th grader and 2nd grader, added: "A majority of our community agrees Cape Elizabeth needs to invest in our school infrastructure. This project delivers what our students and teachers deserve—and it does so in a way that reduces the total tax burden over time compared to repeated renovations. It's the right thing to do."

Joy Engel, parent of a second grader and a rising kindergartener, shared a personal perspective. "My parents moved to Cape Elizabeth when I was in high school, and in 2018 I returned with my own young family. I feel so lucky to raise my children in a town I love. I believe this plan is the right compromise. I trust the experts when they say there is no real solution that doesn't include rebuilding the Middle School. It is my sincerest hope that this plan will pass on June 10 so we can finally move forward as a community—together."

Lee Schroeder, parent of a Rising Freshman at CEHS and Citizen Committed to Continuing Cape's Public School Excellence, underscored the educational stakes: "Every child deserves access to an excellent public school education. In Cape Elizabeth, we have the teachers, the administration, the educational programming, and the supportive community needed to provide all Cape kids with an excellent public school education. What we

-see SUPPORT page 18

News from May Planning Board meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Solar Farm Site Plan Extension

The town of Cape Elizabeth is requesting a one-year extension of the site plan approval that was previously extended on May 21, 2024, to install a solar farm on the landfill cap located at 21 Dennison Drive.

The Board decided to pull this item from the consent agenda because Natalie Burns was not on the Board previously, and Chair Gilbert said it had "been long enough to at least mention it."

Town Manager Patrick Fox summarized the item saying that the project has been around for a few years and was approved in 2023 with an extension in May 2024. Fox said there are "several things at play for a solar farm" project including agreements with Central Maine Power, permitting changes and amendments, and Encore Energy, Cape Elizabeth's project partner, having gone through staffing changes.

Fox also said that certain programs to financially aid solar array projects for municipalities had ended in 2024. Because of this, the Town wanted to be sure the project would still be beneficial. Encore Energy offered a land lease option to the town. If approved, the project could be under construction as soon as August, however, the town is looking to extend the site plan approval for one more

Matt Caton initiated discussion on the possibility of allowing second extensions for site plan applications. Fox mentioned that having discussed this same issue with Maureen O'Meara clarified that the Board "can do another extension, there's nothing that limits it to one."

Chair Gilbert said that there have been 'delays beyond control for these energy type projects" and suggested that the Board approve the extension with language clarifying it would be the last extension.

Natalie Burns made the motion to approve the one-year extension. The motion passed with a 4-3 vote, Palmer, LaVallee and Caton having voted against the motion.

Blue Meadow Condominium Subdivision approval extension

BRKR, LLC, requested a 90-day extension of the subdivision approval granted on February 18, 2025 for the Blue Meadow Condominium development at 90 Ocean House Road. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Wentworth Lodge Special Event Facility Site Plan Renewal

The Sprague Corporation requested site plan approval to operate a special event facility at Wentworth Lodge, located at 10 Winters Lane.

Trevor McCourt, Property Manager of Sprague Corporation, said that they're not seeking any changes or alterations to the renewal application, and that historically the site plan renewal has been approved in threeyear cycles with the original having been approved in 2016.

McCourt said the property is owned by Sprague Corporation and is approximately 19 acres in size and located within the special events overlay district. The event space has capacity for 275 attendees and has 19 events currently scheduled for the 2025 year, primarily wedding receptions, family events, corporate outings and birthday parties.

There is access and egress on private roads for any traffic generated from the events at Wentworth Lodge. There are no stormwater

-see Planning Board page 18



Supporting Mainers in Recovery: Leading the Way as an **LADC or CADC**

Use your lived experience to make a difference in someone's life

Though more than a decade has passed since Rachelle was in the throes of addiction, the hopelessness she felt then is never far from her mind. She never takes it for granted that the sense of fulfillment she feels now— as a working mom with a son who is thriving and a job she loves- once seemed completely out of reach.



"I was wandering aimlessly out there," she says. "I had no idea that I could be where I am today."

That lived experience is an important part of what makes Rachelle so effective in her role as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, or a CADC. Rachelle works in the criminal justice system, helping people who are incarcerated connect to community resources and build the skills they need for a sustainable recovery.

Rachelle is a part of the growing field of Direct Support, ensuring that Mainers with age-related, physical, behavioral, intellectual and cognitive health needs have the support they need to stay safe, independent and empowered to achieve their personal goals. There are thousands of openings with employers throughout the state. Training is widely available, and many employers offer flexible scheduling options.

"I feel so empowered that I'm actually making a diffe in this world"

Rachelle's first-hand understanding of what substance use disorder is like helps break down the walls with the clients she serves.

"They can open up, be themselves, and be vulnerable," she says. "And seeing that someone has been through it before and come out on the other side provides hope that they can also recover."

Rachelle derives satisfaction from knowing that she's offering a critical dose of empathy, compassion, and a judgement-free space for individuals who have hit their lowest low.

"A lot of these people have been living with substance use disorder for a really long time. They've burned a lot of bridges. As soon as they know that someone actually cares and is there to listen, it's a great thing,"

Seeing people brighten with hope and move towards recovery and healing is part of what makes it so meaningful. "When I see them grow, even just a little bit, I see that I'm changing someone's life," she says.

Having the ability to give back has supported Rachelle's own recovery. "I continue to grow and learn on a daily basis," she says, "It gives me the opportunity to feel like I matter, I feel so empowered that I'm actually making a difference in this world."

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



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Memorial Day in Cape Elizabeth

By Kevin St. Jarre



Photo by Kevin St. Jarre

The Cape Elizabeth Lions Club carried their enormous garrison flag, as they do every year, onto the green, and members held it for the duration of the ceremony.

Jim Huebener once again led a ceremony honoring to those who gave that "last full measure of devotion" to our nation and its causes. That quote, from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, was heard across the Cape Elizabeth Commons as the speech was read, as was the poem "In Flanders Fields," written by Dr. John McCrae.

A well-attended parade arrived and kicked off the event, featuring a color guard and members of the local Boy Scout troop, a band from the Army National Guard which performs in a different town each Memorial Day, and the Cape Elizabeth Middle School

Quantities are limited and sell out very

and invaluable financial support that makes

a real difference to the success of the event.

CELT is grateful to: Décor Maine, ETHOS,

Prentice Hospitality Group, R.M. Davis,

Corporate Sponsors provide generous

P4P

Continued from page 11_

quickly each year.

The Cape Elizabeth Lions Club carried their enormous garrison flag, as they do every year, onto the green, and members held it for the duration of the ceremony. Katie Halter sang the National Anthem, and then Huebener read the names aloud of those with ties to Cape Elizabeth who are currently serving.

Near the end of the ceremony, four young CEMS musicians played "Taps," a 24-note melody played late each evening on military posts and bases to signify lights out, and which is typically played on bugles at military funerals and memorial services.

Downeast Group at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Inn By the Sea, Key Bank, Maine Stone Scapes, Progressive Dental Care, Wilmington Trust, N.A., Woodhull, Casco Bay Frames & Gallery, GoGo Refill, Knickerbocker Group, Rarebreed Veterinary Partners, Tammaro Landscaping & Property Center of Cape Elizabeth.

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Superintendent Continued from page 9____

ture increase, resulting in a 2.91% projected tax increase

As for the school building project, at a special business meeting on February 24, the School Board unanimously approved a school project referendum and moved it forward to the Town Council for review. The TC then subsequently supported the referendum and 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 CEHS 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 June 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Now, I am proud to share a few highlights from our schools. At Pond Cove, I am pleased to share the following highlights:

Ms. Gaare, our talented art teacher, prepared for her first-ever Pond Cove Gallery Walk—an exciting event featuring incredible artwork from our students. Many pieces were accompanied by an artist statement, offering insight into the creative process and artistic choices of each young artist.

As a part of their Maine Studies unit, fourth graders had the opportunity to visit the State House in Augusta last month. Classes were able to visit the House and Senate chambers, tour the entire building, and also met the representatives and senators who represent Cape Elizabeth.

As part of the third-grade unit on local history, students visited Victoria Mansion, the Longfellow House, and the Observatory in Portland. Kindergarten has visited Wolfesneck State Park as part of their K for ME Our

At CEMS, we launched two major programs that have made a real impact for our students. The first is Homebase, which is our new advisory program. Every student starts their day in their Homebase which is a small group with a consistent staff member. Once a week we expand that time for grade-levelwide activities that are built around guiding questions centered around community.

Advisories are a cornerstone of great middle school programming—they help students feel connected, known, and grounded. Homebase has been a powerful community builder, and we've already seen the ways it's strengthening relationships across the school.

The second is Explore, a weekly elective block where teachers offer a wide range of creative mini-courses. It's provided students choice and voice and the energy around the building on Wednesdays is electric!

At CEHS, I am also pleased to share that students recently had the opportunity to participate in Trades Day and a STEAM Fair to learn more about various future career pathways. Additionally, we are thrilled that students have pursued science-based Extended Learning Opportunities on the following topics:

How clouds affect UV and particulate matter Building a backyard wind turbine

Looking at how to find the most effective ways for finding hair at crime scenes

How veterinary wellness plans impact medical compliance and vet practice revenue

Circadian rhythms in adults vs. teens

Conducting a survey to determine how sense of direction is linked to memory, mental imagery and facial recognition.

Thanks again for your support of our schools and we hope you have amazing plans for your summer.



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Sr. Loan Officer - NMLS# 326146

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- Refinance
- Renovation Loans
- 2nd Homes

Library offers teen movie night, mixed-media collage workshop

Holiday Closure

The library will be closed on Thursday, June 19 for Juneteenth.

Build a Better World with Summer Reading!

The library has a summer reading program for every age, birth through adult. This year, participants are invited to choose activities from a bingo card that not only encourage reading, but also that help "Build a Better World," the theme for the summer. Once again, the incentives for the children's program will be the collection of beads to attach to a special summer reading necklace, but the library is transitioning away from plastic

beads to more eco-friendly materials. Registration begins Monday, June 16 and continues throughout the summer.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS & TEENS

Please visit the library's website for information about weekly story times and other recurring programs.

Supporting Children Experiencing Loss - Play Group

Saturday, June 7, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Where there is change there is loss and where there is loss there is grief. Children and caregivers are welcome to participate in a play group with the Center for Grieving Children's Sara Asch. Come to our library Community Room to learn ways to safely explore and express feelings of loss. A toy kitchen dress up toys, puppets and an infant area will be set up for quiet play. Capacity: A total of 25 people (children & caregivers). Registration required. Please register on our website.

Social and Facilitated Discussion with **OUTMaine**

Friday, June 13, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

movie night! Teens, join us for a showing of "Mean Girls" (2024), complete with popcorn, pizza and cozy seating. It may not be a Wednesday, but we will still be wearing pink!

Parents and caregivers will attend a facilitated discussion led by OUTMaine. Bring your questions, find support, and build connections.

Special Story Time and Pine Cone Craft, Saturday, June 14 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Hear the inspirational true story of a pine cone that can only grow new life when it faces fire. Join local, award-winning author Elisa Boxer for a story time and Q&A - bring your questions about books, writing, publishing or anything. After the story, we'll make adorable pine cone hedgehogs. Feel free to bring your own pine cones, but we will have plenty

Every child will get to take home a bookmark and a limited-edition print featuring art from the book, "Pine Cone Regrown: How One Species Thrives After Fire." No registration required.

Build a Better World! Be a Book Fairy!, **Saturday, June 21 from 10:30-11:30am**

WANTED! Gently-used, gift-quality board books. Babies need books, and you can help. Bring your gently-used, gift-quality board books to our Book Fairy Party at the library. We are only able to accept donations on the day of the event.

Join TML and Pam Leo, founder of the Book Fairy Pantry Project, to make your own Book Fairy crown, hear a story and play in our play center. Light refreshments will be provided. All donors will receive their very own pair of fairy wings! No registration necessary.

Teen Movie Night and Caregivers'

Celebrate Pride Month with an after-hours Ages 13-18. Registration required.

12 participants; registration required. Senior Social Hour - An Intimate Look

FOR ADULTS

Kimm Topping

all ages.

For information on our regular recurring

Join us for a creative mixed-media collage

workshop exploring LGBTQIA+ history and activism through art. Participants will use

historical images, dried florals, and personal

stories to create meaningful pieces. Open to

Mindfulness Practices for Self-Care in

Mindfulness teacher Heidi Whelan will

guide us through several mindfulness prac-

tices such as: awareness of breath and body

meditation, body scan, and walking medita-

tion. Information will be presented on how

the brain perceives stress and how mindfulness can interrupt the fight and flight respons-

es that keeps us in a reactive state. Limited to

at the End-of-Life Journey with Kim

a Stressful World with Heidi Whelan Thursday, June 12, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

programs, please visit the library's website.

LGBTQ+ History & Collage with

Saturday, June 7, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Crabill

Wednesday, June 18, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. An Intimate Look at the End-of-Life Journey: Death is hidden from us by our society and culture, and Dr. Martha Atkins aims to change that. When she presented at HSM's 2023 Thresholds Conference, she shared her friend's end-of-life story through videos of her progression, to make it available to share. We will watch clips of her journey and share our own stories to help dispel the cultural ta-

Cape Fest Continued from page 5

boo we hold.

Town Manager Pat Fox will kick off the festivities from the main stage on the parade grounds. High school students Emma Gebhart and Isabelle Pollick will perform our National Anthem. From then until 3 p.m., enjoy carnival games, pony rides, live music, food, artisan booths, and opportunities to meet local authors. If you haven't had a chance to rest, now would be a good time to take a break before the second half of the festival begins.

Starting at 4 p.m., we will have our first annual C-Salt Corn Hole Challenge. Adults and high schoolers of all experience levels are invited to compete in this professionally run round-robin/single-elimination competition. There will be awards, great live surf music, food trucks, and plenty of fun. Register online at www.scoreholio.com.

Throughout the day and evening, live music will be performed on the main stage. The schedule includes:

- ALWAYS, sometimes playing radio favorites and deep cuts from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Back Woods Road, known for its tight harmonies and instrumental solos, from 1 - 3
- Curse of Kona, showcasing true surf music from 4 - 5:30 p.m.
- Cape's own blues rock band, Ocean House Road Band, will perform from 6 - 8 p.m.

It's a fun-filled day, and it isn't over yet! What would the kick-off to summer be without fireworks? As dusk falls, get ready to enjoy a spectacular fireworks display over Casco Bay. When the day comes to a close, it will officially be summer here in Cape Elizabeth.

Cape Fest (formerly Family Fun Day) isn't just for families; it's for everyonekids, parents, friends, neighbors, grandparents, and grandchildren. Come join the fun and help support these worthwhile community organizations!



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Dr. Marta Agrodnia **DVM, DACVS-SA**

We grew up here.

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

Many of us have decided to raise our families here. We all plan on supporting the next generation, just as the generations before have invested in us.

Craig Brown '70 **Nancy Strout '73 Eileen Dunfey '74 Tracy (Lewis) Lydon '76 Amy Chipman '81 Lynne Cross '83 Peter Carignan '88 Greg Gordon '89** Ari Berman '89 Amy (Hall) Lombardo '91 **Duncan McAllister '92** Katie (Martin) McCoy '92 **Emily (Ornatek) Garvin '93** Ali (Altenburg) Carignan '93 Amy (Byrd) Cochran '93 **Andie (Mitchell) Mahoney '93** Melanie (Rioux) Tennyson '94 **Jessica (Mooney) Govind '94** Ben Blouin '94 Bernadette (Sweeney) Shaw '94 Andrew Brownell '00 **Patrick Cotter '95** (SBAC Member) Chris (Roberts) Casterella '96 **Catherine Adams '96** Kate Garmey '97

Tim Riley '97

Lauren Wendell '98

Jessica Simpson '98

Jamyn (Mooney) Dawes '97

Lauren (Holt) Springer '98

Jonathan Sahrbeck '98

Jeff Mitchell '98 Laura Warren '98 **Curt Brown '98** John Brownell '98 **Erin Plummer '98** Sadie (Williams) Lombard '99 Ali (Garmey) Chardon '99 Jenyse (Greenier) Rickman '99 **Gretchen Spadinger '99** Peter Blake '99 **Jack Lombard '99** Sarah Fisher '99 **Ed Sze '99 Vince Faherty '99 Lindsay (Groff) Barrett '00** Gerad O'Shea '00 Kathryn (Harris) Swayze '00 Michael D'Angelo '00 **Pavel Darling '00 Kirsten (Barton) Goethert '01** Sarah (Yantakosol) Gayer '01 **Grady Stevens '01 Alexander Spadinger '01** Rachel Mehlsak '02 Julia (Dunfey) Brown '02 Elizabeth (Smith) Kirby '02 Kate (Wentworth) Lewis '03 Anna (Lombard) McGeachey '03 Vio Connelly Voltz '24 **Mary Chapman '03** Eliza Matheson '03

Elizabeth (Livada) Piantidosi '03 **Emily (Landis) Jackson '03 Taylor McFarlane '04** Caroline (Brown) Muller '04 **Emily Dodd '04** Katie Lydon '04 Hillary (Weimont) Saucier '04 Katie Tammaro '04 Kristine (Babick) Gent '05 Zach Nedwell '05 **Brett Brown '05** Matt Yantakosol '06 Carly (Rapaport) Vargas '06 Kat (Graves) Bridgewater '06 Hanna (Landis) O'Meara '06 **Benjamin Weimont '06 Drake Livada '06** Joe Geoghegan '06 Cassie (Barrett) Nedwell '07 **Ashley LaRose '07 Alex Mancall '07** Hannah (Bechard) Herbert '08 Samuel Casey '08 **Henry Springer '08 Russell Thompson '08** Michael Takach '09 Jack Queeney '11 Ella Stanley '21

Sebastian Hesser '24

Isabelle Reeves '24

Join us in voting YES on the school bond.

A fully vetted, thoughtful, and smart investment for current and future generations of Capers.

Local birding report

By Brooks Bornhofft

Despite this spring being the rainiest on record over the last twenty-five years, during the second and third weeks of May Cape witnessed an awe-inspiring migration surge, with vast numbers of songbirds and shore-birds passing through. Analysis by The Cornell Lab revealed multiple nights where over two million birds were aloft across Cumberland County. These birds skillfully navigated atmospheric currents, seeking optimal winds while avoiding turbulence. Those traveling at such elevations tend to cover greater distances and disperse widely across suitable stopover habitats.

Each May, I find myself drawn to my bookshelf, instinctively reaching for a book that feels like an old friend. "The Warblers of North America," published in 1909 by Frank M. Chapman and adorned with exquisite illustrations by Louis Agassiz Fuertes, holds a special place in my heart. My grandmother had given it to me, and it once belonged to my great-grandfather. In the introduction Chapman states, "the warblers of North America are nature's living jewels, flitting through the forest with brilliance that rivals the blossoms of spring." At the time of publication, it was considered a groundbreaking work in ornithology—one of the first comprehensive guides devoted exclusively to the vibrant and elusive warblers.

Over the last several weeks across Cape, wood warblers filled the landscape. I counted twenty-one different species with Pine Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Ovenbirds, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and Yellow Warblers appearing in abundance. American Redstarts and Northern Parulas clung to the branches of oaks, ashes and maples, as if dripping from the trees themselves. Scattered among these gems were Wilson's Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers and Cape May Warblers, while Magnolia Warblers arrived

in impressive numbers, joined by Chestnut-sided, and Tennessee Warblers. High above, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers flitted through the canopy, their rapid, fading trills echoed through our forests. One warbler that often eludes me is the Northern Waterthrush. On May 20 I came across this secretive bird in Kettle Cove, singing from deep within an overgrown boggy thicket. As I listened to its rich, rolling song, an Acadian Flycatcher appeared in a nearby bush.

On May 13 a Solitary Sandpiper along Pond Cove and along the fringes of Robinson Woods III a female Magnolia Warbler bathing, a Canada Warbler energetically foraging, and a Scarlet Tanager calling. Male Scarlet Tanagers sing a song that is like that of an American Robin, albeit it sounds more rushed. Recently I familiarized myself with the energetic chick-burr calls from Scarlet Tanagers. Both male and female Scarlet Tanagers make this distinctive call. Catching a glimpse of this striking bird in dense foliage is a test of patience. Henry David Thoreau wrote in his journal "that contrast of a red bird with the green pines and blue sky! Even when I have heard the note and look for him and find the bloody fellow, sitting on a dead twig of a pine, I am always startled. That incredible red, with the green and blue, as if these were the trinity we wanted. Yet with his hoarse note he pays for his color. I am transported: these are not the woods I ordinarily walk in. How he enhances the wildness and wealth of the woods!"

On May 19 a female Cape May Warbler, many Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers. The latter two warblers are often discussed together because they share similar plumage and structural features, including long primary wings, short tails and bold white wing bars. In their fall plumages Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers closely resemble each other and are sometimes referred to as "Bay-polls." Eastern Wood Pee-Wees calling in the woods at dusk.

On the windy overcast day of May 20, I crept out onto the end of Dyer Point and found a single Brant, two Laughing Gulls and two Black-bellied Plovers hunkered down. On May 21 within Winnick Woods' Greenbelt Trail, I noted six Red-eyed Vireos, a Blackburnian Warbler and a clamorous Broad-winged Hawk. Later that same day my wife and I spotted a single Bobolink along the fringes of the Spurwink Marsh.

On May 23 along the Sawyer Road section of the Spurwink Marsh I found a single Little Blue Heron amidst Glossy Ibis, three Snowy Egrets and a Great Egret. Adult Little Blues have a dark slaty-blue body and a purplish maroon head. Interestingly young Little Blues are completely white. An uncommon migrant along the southern Maine coast in

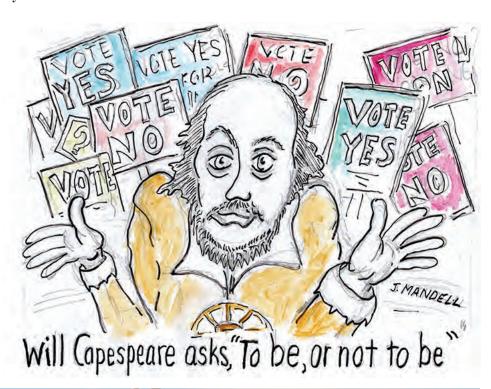
spring through summer, the Little Blue Heron is a rare breeder on Stratton Island in Casco Bay.

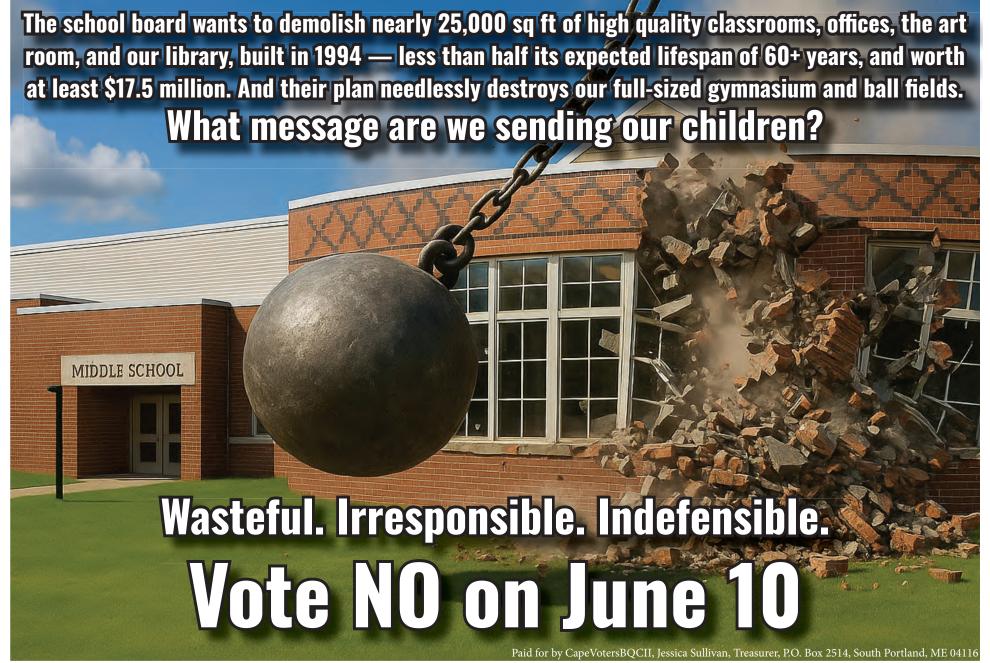
Later on this same day along Two Lights Road an awkwardly flying bird with its neck partially extended flew past me at close range. At first I thought I had just seen an American Bittern however minutes later I located a male Green Heron, with its red legs and deep iridescent green body skulking along the edge of a small nearby pond. At that moment I realized that the bird I had seen was more likely a female Green Heron who had just had a rendezvous with male.

Lastly, on May 24 along Crescent Beach State Park I noted six Piping Plovers, four Semipalmated Plovers, two Semipalmated Sandpipers and a lone, Black-bellied Plover.

Capetoons: Time to decide

By Jeff Mandell





IT TAKES A VILLAGE

We are Cape Elizabeth residents. Almost all of us are over 60. Over 90% of us do not have children in Cape Schools (but some of us do have grandchildren in Cape Schools)

We support the new Middle School and the \$86.5 million bond

Cape Elizabeth is at a crossroads. We can choose to invest in our schools – our most important infrastructure – and remain one of the best towns in Maine in which to live. Or we can kick the can down the road again and risk the education of Cape's children and our own property values. It is no secret that the quality of schools – both physical plant and educators – is a big factor in attracting families to our Town. We have all benefitted from having strong schools over the decades, and it is time that we recognize that and come together as one Town for the benefit of all.

Our schools need investment. The tax impact is gradual over 6 years from fall 2026; not an immediate increase as the signs around Town imply

If we don't invest, we fear that families will choose other Portland area towns in which to live and raise children, which could lead to a further downturn in school enrollment, an exodus of our best educators and in time a decline in Cape's reputation as one of Maine's top school systems. We need our schools to maintain a vibrant, diverse Cape Elizabeth. The alternative is our Town becoming an over 55 community with a limited future, and none of the advantages that our schools have brought us.

We urge our fellow Capers, seniors and younger, to VOTE YES ON THE SCHOOL BOND ON JUNE 10

Ulla Messerschmidt Steve Gent Osa Berg **Stewart Wooden** Kathleen Pierce Gina Mitgang Lucille Sottery Doug Kaplan Andrea Adams Stephanie Clifford Lynda Calderon Paul Laiberte Neil McGinn Pam Stevenson Jim Rowean Ian Neilson John Park Suzanne Rudalevige Kathy Mikulka Dennis Leiner Henry Simpson Julia Wooden Bruce Sahrbeck Brigitte Kingsbury

Joe McNally **David Wennberg** Doreen Rockstrom Michael Tumas Gayle Schmidt Charlene Petruccelli **Bruce Moore** Liz Murley Philip Licari Maria Glaser Karen McLean Hessel Lynn Bailets **Bruce Dunphey Terry Garmey** Wyman Briggs Caroline Phillips-Licari Mary Michals Kathy Ornatek Ken Pierce Maya Cohen Lauren Springer Jan Chapman Christine Groff

Jerry Petruccelli

Jayne Leiner Kevin Kobel Ann Kaplan Cathy M. Register Mandy Garmey Katherine Crosson Anne Carney **Bev Altenburg** Asher Kramer Mvlan Cohen **Alison Tumas** Anna McNally Rebecca Millett Kathy Neilson Patty Callahan Jim Messerschmidt Lisa Gent Jessica Linzer Simpson Hal Kingsbury Gail Darling Debra Kendall Suzanne McGinn Tom Lechner

Tom Mikulka

Lee Mitgang Heather Payson Mike Schmidt Rev. Donald Rudalevige Frank Stevenson Tom Murley **Debbie Riley** Riccardo Calderon Kathy Sahrbeck Elizabeth Matheson Michael Coughlin Jan Geyer Anne Laiberte Barbara Powers Tony Ornatek Drue Rowean Bill Springer Karen Lechner Peter Darling Susan Ross Haltof Zuzka Sladek Priscilla Armstrong Laura Briggs Bill Riley

Arranged by Tom and Liz Murley 133 Two Lights Road & Paid for by the Signatories

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.

Thursday, June 5

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

Saturday, June 7

Family Fun Day, Fort Williams Park

Monday, June 9

Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 10

School Board Business Meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Committee, Town Hall Road, 7 p.m.

School Budget Citizen Referendum, Cape Elizabeth High School

Wednesday, June 11

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

Thursday, June 12

Privacy Advisory Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Support

Continued from page 12_

do not have are school facilities that are consistent with this standard. While each of our buildings require investment, it is clear that replacing the middle school is the most urgent facility issue that needs to be addressed. As a community, we have an obligation to make the needed investments in our school facilities that are necessary to support the educational needs of students while being fiscally responsible. I believe that the proposed school building plan and referendum will allow us as a community to make meaningful progress on meeting that obligation."

Caitlin Sweet, a mother of three and former SBAC member, focused on the cost-efficiency of new construction: "My time on the SBAC taught me a lot about our schools, primarily that any renovation or rehab of our middle school that fully addressed the safety

Tuesday, June 17

Open House in Honor of Debra Lane, Town Hall, 1 p.m.

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7 pm

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.

issues and right sizing classrooms would be prohibitively expensive, let alone all the other secondary needs we're trying to address. The fact that the building is almost all load bearing walls just makes renovation impossible. I take my responsibility as a steward of tax-payer dollars extremely seriously; I support building a new middle school because I believe any other option would be a misuse of those taxpayer dollars; if we're going to ask for tens of millions of dollars we need to use it to fix a problem, not to put some duct tape on and hope it holds."

The School Board urges all residents to vote on June 10. Polling will take place at the Cape Elizabeth High School gymnasium from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots are also available through the Town Clerk's office. To learn more about the proposed bond and the building plan, visit https://www.cape.k12.me.us/o/cesd/page/buildingproject

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

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.

Celtic Eventide 5:30 p.m. Room for all

St Bartholomew Catholic Church of Saint John Paul II Parish

8 Two Lights Road, 207-883-0334
Website: www.JP2me.org
Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.
Daily Mass: Mon. and Wed. 8 a.m.
Sacrament of Confession: Mon. 8:30-9 a.m.
Additional Mass times in Scarborough
& South Portland listed on website

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

301 Cottage Road, South Portland 799-3361

www.fccucc.org

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

First Congregational Church of Scarborough

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



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Planning Board Continued from page 12

flows proposed as the existing hay field absorbs storm runoff. Additionally, there is no landscape to be maintained but the property is buffered by existing trees and shrubs; the utilities for the event property are serviced by

a generator; "dimly lit patio lights" exist as exterior lighting on rental tents; and no music at any event will commence before 9 a.m. or after 10 p.m. Chair Gilbert told McCourt that he "always presents such complete applications." The application for renewal was approved unanimously by the Board.

Tammaro Landscaping & Property Services

Winter Services

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

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

Call for your FREE ESTIMATE: 831-8535
Currently scheduling spring landscaping projects

539 Ocean House Road • Cape Elizabeth, ME

MUSIC LESSONS

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

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

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

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

BUSINESSES/SERVICES

EXTREMELY CLEAN - Deep Cleaning Services. The Way Cleaning Should Be! References/Insured 25+years of experiences

Luz Carpenter - 207-329-3757

Town Council Continued from page 1_

dates of October 15, 2025, and April 15, 2026, as the dates for which one-half of a property tax bill will be due. Additionally, interest will accrue on unpaid taxes at the rate of 7.5% per annum.

Item #66-2025 Proposed Amendments to the Fee Schedule

The council voted unanimously to approve changes to the fee schedule effective July 1, 2025, to include a \$5 charge for items discarded in the bulky bin section of the transfer station. Councilor Harriman suggested that it should be clarified of what items can or cannot go in the compactor versus the bulky bin area. Town Manager Fox agreed that clarifying signage would be appropriate.

Councilor Thompson suggested that non-residents who do business in Cape Elizabeth and use the transfer station should be paying more than the proposed fee which is a \$50 increase from a resident's fee. Chair Jordan said that "people that live in another community and do services in Cape Elizabeth should have access to the transfer station at the same rate as Cape Elizabeth citizens."

Item #67-2025 Consider Referring to

the Ordinance Committee Contract Zoning Enabling Amendment

In October 2024, the Town Council referred to the Planning Board an amendment for the zoning ordinance to allow for contract zoning. After sufficient Planning Board review, the item was voted on by the Town Council in April 2025 with a passing vote of 4-2.

Councilor Harriman made the motion to refer the contract zoning amendment back to the ordinance committee. The Council voted in favor with only Councilor Thompson in opposition.

Item #68-2025 GPCOG Delegate Appointment

The current delegates for Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) are Chair Penny Jordan and Town Manager Patrick Fox. The GPCOG recommended Councilor Johnathan Sahrbeck for appointment on the GPCOG executive committee. Patrick Fox would then become an alternate delegate.

Councilor Thompson said that he thinks Johnathan will do a great job representing Cape, but added "it seems a little odd" that the GPCOG would tell Cape Elizabeth who they would like on the executive committee, rather than Cape nominating a delegate themselves. Thompson asked if that is how appointees usually happen or if it is "out of the norm."

Fox clarified that GPCOG will nominate or recommend a citizen for appointment "from time to time." Fox added that there is no obligation for Cape to pursue a nomination but that GPCOG "saw value" in having Sahrbeck on the executive committee and that is why they nominated him. The one-year appointment for Johnathan Sahrbeck to be on the executive committee of the Greater Portland Council of Governments passed unanimously.

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.

Edward Jones

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The "KID" Cour rer



Drawn by Matthew O'Donnell

Cape Elizabeth Middle School 5th grader Matthew O'Donnell drew this picture freehand of Big Dill and The Brat (from Fortnite).



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Town of Cape Elizabeth Notice to Voters

School Budget Validation & Municipal Referendum Election Tuesday, June 10, 2025

POLLS

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 Cape Elizabeth High School Gymnasium Polls Open 7:00 a.m. Close 8:00 p.m.

Voter Registration

Residents may register to vote at the Town Clerk's Office prior to Election Day

Or

At the polls on Election Day

Proof of Residency and Proof of Identity Required

Absentee Balloting

Voters may vote by absentee ballot, in-person at Town Hall, until 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 5
Requests for absentee ballots to be mailed or delivered must also be received by the Town Clerk's Office by

4:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 5

Deadline to Return Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots must be received by the Town Clerk no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Town Hall – Town Clerk's Election Hours:

Monday 7:30-4:45 Tuesday – Thursday 7:30 – 4:15

For more information: www.capeelizabeth.gov

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APPROXIMATE EFFECT OF \$86.5 MILLION SCHOOL BOND ON PROPERTY TAX ANNUALLY (AT A 4% INTEREST RATE)										
	CURRENT	CURRENT PROPERTY TAX	ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR PROJECT							
	MILL RATE		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
\$500,000	\$11.00	\$5,500	\$0	\$77	\$154	\$154	\$149	\$72	\$72	\$0
\$750,000	\$11.00	\$8,250	\$0	\$116	\$231	\$231	\$223	\$107	\$107	\$0
\$1,000,000	\$11.00	\$11,000	\$0	\$154	\$308	\$308	\$297	\$143	\$143	\$0
\$1,500,000	\$11.00	\$16,500	\$0	\$231	\$462	\$462	\$446	\$215	\$215	\$0
\$2,000,000	\$11.00	\$22,000	\$0	\$308	\$616	\$616	\$594	\$286	\$286	\$0

Tax Impact courtesy of the Town of Cape Elizabeth

HOW THE PROJECT MEETS OUR NEEDS



Addresses Critical Safety and Security Needs
both inside and outside



Supports our Educational Programming Priorities



A Long-Term Investment that Resets the Clock on one of our three schools



Efficient Design Meets Modern Code & Energy Standards

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

- Cape Elizabeth Owner's Representative Chuck Adam (Turner & Townsend Heery)

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