

The Cape Courier

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In the Spirit of Community

Four candidates vie for two Cape Elizabeth Town Council seats

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Caitlin Jordan Harriman



Photo by Lauryn Hottinger

Penelope (Penny) Jordan



Contributed photo

Timothy Reiniger



Contributed photo

Cynthia Troiano

All of the candidates were provided with identical questions, the same word limit, and given the same amount of time to respond with answers and a photo. Their responses are printed below, as *The Cape Courier* received them, up to the word limit. The candidates are Caitlin Jordan Harriman, Penelope Jordan, Timothy Reiniger and Cynthia Troiano.

Q- If elected or reelected, what would be the first issue you would like to work on in the coming term of office? Please stick to a single issue for this answer.

HARRIMAN- I have never had my own agenda when representing the town; I will continue to work on the issues that are before the council and initiate issues that the community has indicated are of concern to our communities a whole.

JORDAN- My primary issue stems from affordability which ripples into taxes, tax base and managed growth. The new middle school is happening, there are municipal projects such as town center intersection, Shore Road redesign and others that need to happen. There are projects that have been on hold as the town worked through school solutions. We will need to determine when these can/need to happen and how they will

be funded while paying for the new middle school. We will need to look at the investment needed for all projects over the next 10-15 years and determine how these needs will be met with taxpayer dollars, grant dollars or other funding. And at the same time determine how we address the needs of approximately 30% of our citizens that are financially challenged. Bottom line is I want to address the needs of residents who are finding it challenging to stay in their homes. This is not a standalone issue, it is an issue tied to all that I stated previously, and the fact Cape Elizabeth's tax base is somewhat stagnant, we need to think creatively about how we address affordability.

REINIGER- AI is a powerful tool for town employees to begin using to transform service delivery for residents and businesses. By making data more usable and interoperable, AI-driven governance promises to dramatically improve the experience of living and doing business in Cape Elizabeth. As an attorney and Chair of the Risk and Trust Committee of the Technology Section of the American Bar Association, I have been collaborating with legal and technology experts in analyzing the benefits and risks of AI, including government applications to improve quality of life and service delivery. I believe Cape can become a model community for Maine. Examples of how AI could be leveraged locally include:

1. Automated permit review for building and zoning applications, ensuring fast and objective code application.
2. AI tools to help build a public-facing interactive tool for comprehensive planning and participatory Zoning Ordinance modernization.
3. AI tools to assist public safety officials and caregivers in helping persons with special needs.

TROIANO- The first issue I want to address is restoring trust and transparency in town government. The most recent school bond referendum highlighted why this is so important: it was scheduled in June, when over 2,200 fewer residents voted compared

with November elections. While the measure did narrowly pass, earlier proposals had been defeated in higher-turnout votes, and the June timing left many residents feeling their trust was undermined. I see a clear opportunity to strengthen confidence by improving communication, scheduling major decisions when the greatest number of residents can participate, and creating a process where people know their voices matter. Cape Elizabeth is at its best when we come together, and I am committed to encouraging a spirit of openness, fairness, and accountability that unites our community and reflects the values we all share.

Q- For someone considering moving their young family to Cape Elizabeth, what would you say are Cape's strengths in order to encourage them to move to this town?

HARRIMAN- Our schools have always been a strength in comparison to other communities within our state. While we could use a reminder at times of the importance of our education system, the hearts of many in our town still believe in the need for having a strong school system.

JORDAN- When people ask me about Cape Elizabeth I say, "It is the center of the universe" (well my universe). Open space created by working farms, beautiful Fort Williams, outdoor life with miles of trails, pickleball courts, some of the best ice cream, a Christmas tree farm bringing the beauty of the season to life, the skating rink created by passionate citizens, engaged and active people demonstrating love for the town and seeking to add touches to create community. Committed school staff seeking to create one of the best schools in the state, the shoreline, lighthouses, strawberry fields, lobster. Town employees are ready to help, a police department that is about community, a volunteer fire department and many town committees if one wants to get involved. Community Services and a library with amazing programs for all ages. A beautiful town just minutes from live theater, the symphony and great food!

REINIGER- Cape's greatest strength has been its long tradition of nonpartisan council governance. For this reason, I am a registered independent and believe the council is at its best when collaborating in a nonpartisan manner. Issues such as fiscal responsibility, smart deployment of AI, and neighborhood preservation are not partisan issues. And, this nonpartisan approach is critically needed when considering the importance of fiscal and tax restraint on behalf of those on fixed incomes and households that are otherwise cost-burdened – nearly 30% of residents, both young and old. With rising costs for town and school personnel, \$5 million in new middle school bond payments, an additional \$10 million or more promised by the school board for necessary high school repairs, I see the likelihood of double-digit tax increases to pay for these commitments. A council that demonstrates a spirit of moderation will be a strong appeal to young families and retirees alike.

TROIANO- Cape Elizabeth offers an unbeatable combination of community, natural beauty and convenience. Families are drawn to our excellent schools, youth sports, and extracurricular programs that help children thrive while fostering lifelong friendships. The town is safe, welcoming, and deeply invested in its young people, with a strong spirit of civic engagement and volunteerism that makes newcomers quickly feel at home.

Cape's coastline is truly special: sandy crescent beaches, rocky coves, sweeping headlands, and iconic landmarks like Portland Head Light make everyday life extraordinary. With Crescent Beach, Kettle Cove, Fort Williams Park and Two Lights State Park nearby, you're never far from a walk, swim or picnic in a stunning natural setting.

At the same time, Portland's arts, dining, shopping and cultural events are just minutes away. Cape Elizabeth offers small-town peace with big-city access — a place where families enjoy natural beauty, excellent

-see CANDIDATES page 5

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Yes to Question 2

October 25, 2023 will be a day I'll never forget. It was the day of Maine's deadliest mass shooting in Lewiston, my hometown. When I called to check on family members, my brother shared that his daughter-in-law's cousin was among the eighteen victims murdered by Robert Card. Another thirteen victims were injured.

Eventually, we learned that the family and friends of Robert Card worried he would commit violence, and reported those concerns to law enforcement. Due to Maine's weak

No on Question 2

I will be voting No on Question 2, the so-called "red flag" law, because it weakens the protections Maine currently has in place.

Maine's yellow flag law, passed in 2019, works. It allows police to act when someone is truly a danger - after a medical evaluation and judicial review. That safeguard protects both public safety and due process.

The red flag proposal on the ballot would rip away those protections. It would lower the standard of proof and let firearms be seized on allegations alone. Courts would have sweeping power to suspend a person's right of self-defense, without the medical or legal guardrails that make the yellow flag system so effective.

Picture a woman facing threats from an

ERPO laws, that is, Extreme Risk Protection Order laws, law enforcement was prevented from removing Robert Card's guns, including the assault-style rifle he used in the massacre.

Following the tragedy, a state investigation found Maine's laws insufficient in preventing this tragedy. This November, Mainers can help enact stronger Extreme Risk Protection Order laws, by voting YES to citizen-initiated ballot Question 2.

Cathy Register

abusive partner. Under the red flag proposal, her abusive partner could flip the law against her with a false claim, leaving her disarmed and vulnerable. That's not justice - it's downright dangerous.

Question 2 does not strengthen safety. Instead, it invites abuse and erodes core freedoms. The right to self-defense should never be stripped without solid evidence and a rigorous process. Instead of tossing aside a system that works, Maine should improve the yellow flag law we already have in place.

On November 4, join me in voting No on Question 2. Maine can protect both safety and rights to self-protection - but this dangerous proposal does neither.

RuthAnne Haley

'Proud to support' Troiano

I am proud to support Cynthia Troiano for Cape Elizabeth Town Council.

I first met Cynthia when she was going door to door with a petition to make the streets near Cliff House Beach safer. Her genuine concern for neighborhood safety and her willingness to listen stood out to me right away. She wasn't simply talking about issues—she was already rolling up her sleeves and working on them.

Cynthia knows Cape Elizabeth well. She has strong roots here and has seen firsthand both the strengths of our community and the challenges we face. That perspective makes her especially committed to making sure residents' voices are heard and that town government is accountable to the people it serves.

She believes in protecting neighborhoods, using taxpayer dollars responsibly, and restoring trust in local government. Her professional experience has given her the skills to manage budgets and solve problems, and her civic involvement has shown she's not afraid to speak up for residents.

What I admire most is her focus on balance: keeping Cape Elizabeth safe, livable and welcoming while ensuring decisions reflect the needs of those who call it home year-round.

Cynthia brings energy, integrity and a clear sense of purpose. I believe she will be a thoughtful and effective town councilor, and I encourage my fellow residents to join me in supporting her on Election Day.

Susan Gillis

Thoughts on voter integrity

There has been overwhelming suspicion regarding a lenient open door for voter access and absentee voting. While it's a compassionate notion to have flexibility for senior and disabled voter access, there is a reality for potential abuse. Extending election day by 2 days or 2 weeks (a CA and IL transformative suggestion), increasing drop box locations and telephone requests only increase the potential for voter fraud and decreasing voter integrity.

The ideal for compassionate changes that weaken election integrity should be viewed looking at the potential reality of dirty voter rolls. For example, there have been 5 million names taken off state registration voter lists because of death and address change which is federally mandated in the National Voter

Registration Act for states to maintain but, was accomplished only after court law suites were filed against those states (KY, NY, CA). More are being pursued in PA, CO, NC, KY, OH, IL, OR and CA.

This is also questioned, still, after video and material evidence show individuals stuffing drop boxes and suit cases delivered into polling locations after hours filled with fraudulent ballots in the 2020 election. Elections have had, historically, a total vote count between 1.22 million to 1.37 million. However, in 2020 there was almost 1.6 million with a 3 million voter increase all to one candidate. Abuse of voter integrity should not be tolerated and we need to guard against it.

Bill Daviero

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2

Patten for School Board

I'm proud to endorse Andy Patten for a seat on the Cape Elizabeth School Board.

Over the past several years, I've gotten to know Andy through his visible and consistent presence and advocacy in our community. He is exactly the kind of board member we need — someone who shows up, listens carefully and does the hard work to understand complex issues. I've often seen Andy at town and school public meetings — where he is often one of only a handful of public participants — learning, asking thoughtful questions, and sharing his perspective drawn from years of service and experience.

Andy brings a combination of deep experience and genuine commitment. With a decade of elected service in a town very similar to Cape Elizabeth, he understands the nuances of municipal governance. His background in education gives him a clear grasp

of the challenges our School Board faces each year — maintaining an excellent school system while balancing realistic, responsible budgets.

Importantly, Andy's financial expertise will be critical as our town and schools navigate pressing challenges: upgrading infrastructure, adapting to demographic changes and managing rising costs in a volatile economy. He approaches these issues with a steady, thoughtful demeanor and a respectful, solution-oriented style — qualities our society can use more of in these uncertain times.

I encourage everyone to meet Andy Patten, learn about his vision and join me in voting for him. Our schools and our community will benefit greatly from his leadership.

Kevin Justh

Support for Reiniger

I write to support Tim Reiniger for election to the Town Council. Tim is a leader in technology and understands how Artificial Intelligence can help the town do more with less, make better decisions and most importantly, improve services for the benefit of residents. We need to understand and accept the great potential of AI and to make sure municipal employees can deploy these tools.

In a period challenged by tight budget and staff shortages, AI can help Cape Elizabeth provide municipal services more efficiently. With \$87 million in bonds about to be issued for the new middle school, and over \$10 million in necessary high school improvements budgets will be tight; we need to work smarter and give employees the training and tools they need for 21st century work.

Just as importantly, Tim understands the risks of AI and the importance of proceeding with best practices to insure the protection of privacy, cybersecurity, and compliance with laws and regulations.

We can use AI to cut costs and improve services, but we need leaders who understand the technology and the issues surrounding the deployment of AI in municipal government. Tim Reiniger brings this knowledge to the table.

Lastly, I support Tim because he is independent, and not a member of either party. Our municipal government was formed as a non partisan government. Tim understands that municipal budgets and services are not partisan issues and are best resolved collaboratively. Please join me in voting for Tim Reiniger.

Mary Ann Lynch

Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 5

The Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church will hold a Blessing of the Animals in its Outdoor Chapel on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. The blessing is open to the public.

The blessing takes place on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment. All animals are invited but please leash your dogs. The blessing will be led by The

Rev. Gwyneth Arrison. If it rains, the blessing will be held inside the church.

A voluntary donation of cans of dog or cat food will go toward filling the Pet Blessing Box on the kiosk at the entrance to Chapel Woods.

The Outdoor Chapel is located on the trail at the end of the church parking lot. The church is located at 280 Ocean House Road (Route 77).

Op-ed: Reflections on my first legislative session

By Rep. Michelle Boyer

As I reflect on my first year serving our community in the Legislature, many memories come to mind. A few simple lessons I've had to learn include how to navigate the legislative process effectively and even small things like where to find food during long days — a pro tip: bring your own. Personally, the most rewarding experience has been the work that I've done with my colleagues on the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, along with bipartisan friendships that I've made.

There were so many important measures enacted this session, and many didn't get a lot of press coverage. A few that come to mind include a cryptocurrency kiosk regulation bill to protect Mainers from being scammed, a measure that I introduced to help small independent healthcare providers have more of a voice with insurance carriers, and a bill to limit prior authorizations required for chronic conditions. That measure felt particularly timely. Prior authorizations have been shown to cause provider burnout, resulting in a shortage in the health care workforce, which is already a significant problem in our state.

I'm also proud of a bill I sponsored to improve access to lactation services. Before coming to the Legislature, I had the privilege of working with Senator Anne Carney on legislation to better support maternal health, a policy area that continues to be a personal passion of mine. The bill we passed this year, LD 865, allows those with MaineCare — the state's Medicaid program — to receive lactation services outside of a hospital setting. This also allows lactation providers to offer their services to more people.

Previously, MaineCare patients were limited to receiving these services in a hospital setting or through WIC, which is the USDA's special supplemental nutrition program for women, children and infants. Breastfeeding has been proven to benefit both new mothers and their babies, and if the woman chooses to breastfeed, this bill makes it more equitable to receive support and services for that choice. I am proud of the passage of this measure, and I believe that it will benefit maternal-child health across the state.

The challenges facing Maine right now are complex, and it's intense work to craft legislation that is both thoughtful and intentional. Every bill must take into account the long-term impact, not only in one town or county but across the entire state. As a legislator, I spend countless hours in committee reviewing testimony and negotiating language with my colleagues to ensure that we pass policies that are best tailored to the people of Maine and will move our state forward.

With what is currently happening in the federal government, it's easy to believe that there is no bipartisan collaboration in Augusta. But the truth is that a significant portion of legislation that we passed this year actually had support from both sides of the aisle. Some of the most meaningful work that I have been a part of this session has been in collaboration with Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike. This spirit of hard work and bipartisanship, while not always flashy, is what keeps me inspired and makes me excited to return to Augusta this January for the next legislative session. It is an honor to be your state representative, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at michelle.boyer@legislature.maine.gov

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

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.



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Bridges: Intergenerational opportunities

By Cape Elizabeth Community Services

Bridges was conceived last fall by Nate Carpenter, the Dean of Students at CEHS, and Jane Anderson, the Adult Program Coordinator at CECS. The mission of Bridges is to connect students and older adults through engaging events and activities organized by our schools and recreation departments. Our goal is to create opportunities for collaboration, understanding, and friendship, thereby enriching the lives of both younger and older members of the community.

Last year's high school events included the Back to School Redo, Dinner and a Show, and Teen Tech Support. We also partnered with the CEMS EXPLORE program to teach students how to knit, with help from community volunteers.

After last fall's successful "Back to School Redo," the high school juniors and seniors in the Leadership Experience class are inviting you to join them once again on Wednesday, October 22. You will have the opportunity to attend two 75-minute classes of your choice. This immersive educational experience is open to Cape Elizabeth residents aged 62

and older who can accompany a student to the classes, followed by a collective debrief.

Participants will meet at the Community Center at 7:30 a.m. and walk over to the high school for the first period, which begins at 7:55 a.m. After the second period, we will gather together with Nate to discuss our experiences.

Pre-registration is required and can be done by calling Community Services at 799-2868. Please note that registration is limited to 15 participants.

Community Services is once again partnering with the MS EXPLORE program to teach students how to knit. The first of three 7-week sessions began on Wednesday, September 24. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Jane at 799-2868 for more information.

Bridges is planning to host another dinner this fall in collaboration with the School Nutrition and Modern Home Economics and Leadership Experience students. You can find details about this event and others in our bimonthly newsletter. If you're interested in receiving the newsletter, please contact Cape Elizabeth Community Services at 799-2868.

Cape Elizabeth Harvest Festival is October 18

Mark your calendars! The Cape Elizabeth Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, October 18, from 12:00–4:00 p.m. at the Pond Cove Elementary School outdoor courtyard.

This beloved community tradition brings neighbors and friends together for an afternoon of fall fun. Families can enjoy activities like the petting zoo, slapshot challenge, and dynamic obstacle courses—organized by local groups including Cape Elizabeth Community Arena, South Portland's Best and Cape Ledge Farm.

The Harvest Festival would not be possible without the dedication of these groups

and the many hands that make the day run smoothly.

Volunteers Needed

Want to be part of the fun behind the scenes? We're looking for day-of volunteers to help run activities such as the donut-eating contest, "cake or no cake," and more. Shifts are just 90 minutes, and your time will make a big difference in bringing joy to the community.

Sign up here: tinyurl.com/CapeE-2025HarvestFest

Come join the fun, celebrate the season, and be part of this great community tradition!

News from September Planning Board meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Fort Williams Park Master Site Plan

The town of Cape Elizabeth requested review of and recommendation for the 2021 Fort Williams Master Plan and master site plan approval for 10 projects in the 2021 Fort Williams Master Plan and located in Fort Williams Park on Shore Road.

Kathy Raftice, Director of Fort Williams Park and member of the Fort Williams Park Committee explained that every ten years a third party develops a Master Plan that includes "a lot of public input." Raftice explained that by presenting these ten proposed projects together for approval, it would prevent delays in project time down the road and take up less of the planning board's time.

Sashi Meisner, landscape architect for the Fort Williams Master Plan projects gave a rundown of the ten proposed projects agreeing with Raftice that grouping them together for approval is a "matter of expediting" the process for small projects. Not all ten projects would require site plan review or approval; however, some of them could potentially require a site plan in the future depending on specific project variables.

These ten "relatively small" projects most notably include a new playground at the Children's Garden, the development of a "mini theater" on the sloped area near Battery Blair, and a constructed 24x16 foot pavilion by the pond to "reactivate the pond area." Six of the ten projects are access related and include recommendations such as extending the cliff walk at Battery Williams and Hobart, removing or updating impervious surfaces, adding more walkways between the north and south circulation paths, and ADA-compliant access from the bleachers area.

The Planning Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the master site plan for the ten proposed projects.

1226 Shore Road Site Plan Amendment

Kristen Homicz, representing Redtail Properties, requested an amendment to the previously approved site plan for 1226 Shore Road to allow for residential use on the first floor of an accessory structure.

Homicz explained that "Building B" was changed from a storage structure, then to retail space, and is now requesting an amendment for Building B to be compliant as residential use. Homicz added that this request is after the town zoning and ordinances changes from June 2025. There will be no exterior changes to Building B, and Homicz agreed

that the applicant will paint striping lines for the crosswalk in front of 1226 Shore Road. The planning board voted unanimously to approve the requested amendment.

Miscellaneous Amendments Part 2

The Cape Elizabeth Planning Board prepared additional amendments to the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances that make the setback for accessory structures that do not exceed 200 square feet in size uniform at 10 feet and eliminate the option for the financial capability review to be done by the town manager. The planning board unanimously voted to approve these further amendments which will then be brought forward to the Town Council.

Center Court Site Plans

John Mitchell, representing the applicant Bob Gaudreau of Hardypond Development, Jason Vafiades of Atlantic Resource Consultants and Mark Mueller, architect for the proposed project, all presented updates to the site plan based on prior feedback from the Planning Board and town staff.

Mitchell told the board that via a letter from Bob Gaudreau, the applicant is marketing the development as a "55+" community. Mitchell added that after the Traffic Safety Working Group creates a comprehensive plan for crosswalks in the town center district, the applicant has agreed to participate in installing crosswalks at the project site to include paving, curbing, and painting as needed.

Mitchell addressed previous comments regarding the buffer easement saying that there will be "no impact or disturbance of the 100-foot-wide buffer easement" and that there will be a chain-link construction fence installed to protect the area during construction activities.

Vafiades explained some updates to the "jellyfish" structure proposed for stormwater management at the site. Vafiades said that the applicant is "investing a little more money into the infrastructure" to better accommodate the site and surrounding sites. He explained that the stormwater runoff will flow into the jellyfish structure and be directed towards the vegetative buffer where stormwater "drains naturally." Vafiades' design now includes a couple area drains and the storage for stormwater to be "underground in front of the jellyfish" structure.

Jim Huebener and Al Palmer both said that they are "comfortable" with how the applicant presented and that "the conditions of approval with findings of fact are reasonable." The planning board unanimously voted to approve the site plan as presented with Natalie Burns recused from the vote. After the vote, Huebener added that it is a "good project, good luck."

The Hardy Pond Development proposed project will include the construction of a 35-unit residential apartment building to be located on lots 3 and 4 of Town Common Circle. There will also be a one-story covered parking garage consisting of 13 vehicle spaces.

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Climate Action Plan gains momentum

Just days after the Town Council approved Cape Elizabeth's first Climate Action Plan, the town has completed the installation of five high-efficiency heat pumps at the Community Services Building. Funded through the Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grant, the project is one of the first tangible steps in translating the plan's goals into action.

The upgrades targeted the preschool classrooms and the community/kitchen room, two of the most heavily used spaces in the building. New controls integrate the heat pumps with the building's existing unit ventilators, allowing the town to maintain required fresh air standards while shifting the primary heating and cooling load to high-efficiency electric systems.

"This project demonstrates how Cape Elizabeth can modernize its infrastructure in a way that both serves residents today and advances our long-term climate goals," said Facilities Director Dave Bagdasarian, who also serves as the town and school liaison to the Energy Committee. "By reducing our reliance on oil, cutting emissions, and improving comfort for the families who use these spaces daily, we are proving that local action can deliver immediate community benefits while building a more sustainable future."

Teachers working in the building say the impact has already been felt. "The building is old and it's been tough, and it used to add stress coming to work each day not knowing if the room would be too hot or too cold. Now the classroom is going to stay comfortable, and that means the kids can just settle in and focus," one preschool teacher said.

The heat pump installation is Cape Elizabeth's second successful Community Action Grant, both written by Bagdasarian, with a third application currently under review to support a solar array at the Thomas Memorial Library.

"Each project is part of a larger strategy," Bagdasarian said. "We are aligning grant opportunities with the Climate Action Plan and the Energy Committee's priorities so Cape Elizabeth can access outside funding, reduce the burden on taxpayers and move steadily toward the state's climate targets. It's a model for how communities can turn planning into measurable progress."

Cape Elizabeth's Climate Action Plan includes 88 action items ranging from building efficiency upgrades to flood resilience and electrification of transportation. The heat pump project illustrates how those items can be advanced quickly with state partnership and local leadership.

Town Councilor Andrew Swayze underscored the urgency when the plan was adopted: "We need to do this. We can't sit around and wait."

Candidates

Continued from page 1

schools and a strong community.

Q- If on the Town Council, which issue or issues would be most important to you to hear community feedback/input on so that you could really get a sense of where the majority of Cape residents are on the issue(s)?

HARRIMAN- The issue before the town currently that I am most interested in hearing from our citizens on is the Shore Road parking and Cliff House Beach issue.

JORDAN- I believe in listening to people on all issues/items, even items not before the council. If a resident has an issue, it is important to them no matter how many other people might be talking about it. I truly encourage public engagement we have a town full of talented and knowledgeable people. I believe in leveraging the brain trust.

I believe strongly in public forums that are interactive and engage residents in solution development. Issues such as beach access, parking, short term rent-

als, significant ordinance changes, tax relief, traffic/road safety, town center intersection, major municipal project such as 1934 school all the things that touch one's life here in Cape Elizabeth should be viewed as an opportunity to engage people and hear about what is important.

REINIGER- Community input is essential to achieving a creative balance between innovation and preservation. Cape's finances, neighborhoods, and rural village character are increasingly difficult to maintain. I believe the next council must make tough decisions that prioritize residents' needs in the following matters:

1. Making Cape more affordable by exercising stronger fiscal discipline.
2. Near Cliff Beach, scaling back parking on Shore Road, creating residential permit parking in adjoining neighborhoods, and diverting out-of-town beachgoers to Crescent Beach State Park.
3. In Shore Acres and Broad Cove, town acceptance of the paper streets so as to use all town-owned area to extend public walking access along the shoreline, something current incumbents have not supported
4. Retention of the Sawyer Road pas-


sage from Cape Elizabeth to Scarborough, in some form, through the Scarborough Marsh. Reiniger sees this passage as being vital for runners, walkers, cyclists and motorists alike.

TROIANO- The issues I most want community feedback on are those that directly affect quality of life in our neighborhoods, such as safety, traffic, noise, parking and short-term rentals. I also believe residents must have a strong voice in major decisions that could permanently shape Cape Elizabeth's character. For example, proposals like removing Sawyer Road, a historic and well-loved road through the marsh, should only move forward with full transparency and robust public input - especially since Cape taxpayers will bear the project's cost overruns even though a majority of the road is in Scarborough. Just as important, when a problem threatens neighborhood safety or livability, residents deserve timely action, not years of delay. Cape thrives when decisions are open, responsive, and guided by the voices of the people who live here, and my goal is to ensure that community input drives thoughtful, balanced outcomes.

REINIGER

TOWN COUNCIL

Progress Not Politics



"Cape faces serious fiscal and planning challenges, and I believe we can meet them with a spirit of moderation and creative balance of spending, innovative planning, and respect for our neighborhoods. My goal is to protect taxpayers, preserve what makes Cape unique, and bring smart, practical tools like AI to improve town services for everyone." - Tim Reiniger

- **Former Cape Elizabeth Town Council Member (Chair, 2024)**
- **Attorney specializing in information law and policy and digital rights law**
- **Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, Member**
- **Graduate of Georgetown School of Foreign Service & University of Michigan Law School**
- **Husband to Alice Reiniger and father to Charles & Robert**

- **Fiscal Responsibility** – Keep Cape affordable by exercising strong budget discipline, protecting taxpayers from excessive property tax increases, and prioritizing spending in the face of new school bonds, rising operating costs, and facility costs.
- **Smart Use of AI** – Leverage Artificial Intelligence under town employee control to streamline services, modernize zoning and permitting, and improve public safety while ensuring transparency and accountability.
- **Preserving Neighborhoods** – Protect Cape's village and rural character by supporting safe traffic policies, neighborhood-friendly land use, and scaling back policies that overwhelm residential areas.
- **Community Access & Safety** – Back measures such as residential permit parking near Cliff Beach, maintaining the Sawyer Road connection to Scarborough, and securing shoreline walking access via use of town-owned paper streets.
- **Nonpartisan Leadership** – Serve as an independent voice focused on collaboration and solutions that benefit all Cape residents, regardless of politics.

For more info: TimReiniger.com

Paid for and authorized by the candidate

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editor@capecourier.com



Cynthia Troiano announces candidacy for Town Council

(Press release) - Cynthia Troiano, a life-long Maine resident with deep roots in Cape Elizabeth, has announced her candidacy for Town Council. After returning to town following her mother's passing, Troiano was inspired to step forward and give back to the community she was raised in. She is running on a platform of safer streets, fiscal responsibility and preserving Cape Elizabeth's quality of life.

Troiano's family has lived in Cape Elizabeth since 1959. She attended Cape schools, played varsity soccer, and swam under Coach Don Richards before graduating cum laude from Seattle University with a BA in Communications, where she was nominated to the National Jesuit Honor Society.

Her professional experience spans sales, marketing, real estate, hospitality, and the arts—careers that taught her fiscal oversight, problem-solving and the value of community trust. "I know how quickly costs can spiral if you're not careful," Troiano said. "Residents deserve thoughtful stewardship of their tax dollars, not surprise burdens."

Troiano has been a consistent voice for safe streets and responsible decision-making. She has raised awareness around local traffic issues, including the recent restriping on Shore Road near Cliff House Beach, where reduced sight lines created unsafe conditions. After helping organize petitions signed by nearly 400 residents, she continues to advo-



Contributed photo

Cynthia Troiano

cate for changes that restore safety.

On major policy questions, Troiano has urged caution and accountability. She opposed past school building bonds because they dismissed cost-effective alternatives that would have responsibly served all three schools without adding unnecessary extra burden to property taxpayers. She also notes that the bond referendums failed twice in November elections—most recently in November 2024—only to pass by a slim margin

-see TROIANO page 15

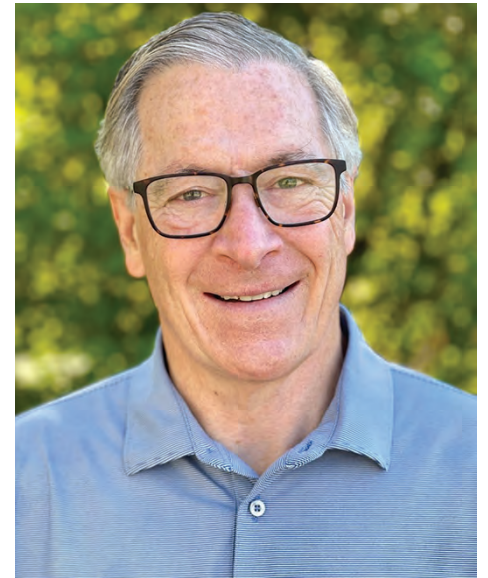
Andrew Patten announces candidacy for School Board

(Press release) - Andrew and his wife moved to Cape Elizabeth in 2016. Like so many other residents who have moved to our town, they knew that after many visits to Cape while raising their three kids, they would develop a strong connection to the community.

Andrew is a big supporter of public education. He and his wife raised three adult children who attended public schools. He believes in, and is motivated by, the concept of a social compact in a town where each generation works together to support the younger ones.

Andrew trained to be a teacher, and received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Boston College School of Education where he student-taught in Spanish/English bilingual classrooms in K-1 grades. Although he never taught after graduation, Andrew gained a deep appreciation for teachers, schools and their mission. He later earned a master's degree in International Management and has worked in the seafood industry in sales and strategic sourcing for the past 30+ years. Extensive travel to Canada, South America, Iceland and Southeast Asia has afforded Andrew the opportunity to work and interact with people from all age groups, languages and cultures. Most importantly, this work conditioned him to be tolerant and respectful towards people of all ages and walks of life.

Andrew also has experience in town government, having served as a town meeting member for ten years in the town where he and his wife raised their children. During that time, he also had a three-year assignment on the town's 15-person town finance committee, and was privileged to serve his last year as chair person. The finance committee charge was to review all town depart-



Contributed photo

Andrew Patten

ment budgets on behalf of all town meeting members, including the schools, and through that experience, Andrew earned a deep appreciation for the complexity of resident needs and variety of stakeholders in town, from empty nest seniors to families raising school age children. He believes that children are also stakeholders since they are residents of our town. Andrew is seeking to leverage his past experience and pair it with what he believes our community's goal should always be: to preserve our reputation as a town with high performing schools. That said, he also understands there are complex challenges in balancing input from all stakeholders and is committed to considering the needs of all residents, especially since a typical school budget takes up a significant amount of a town's total budget. A fiscally responsible

-see PATTEN page 15

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 - Michelle Whitney, Owner, Whitney & Co. Staging

Penelope Jordan announces candidacy for Town Council

(Press release) - Penelope (Penny) Jordan is a lifelong resident of Cape Elizabeth and an owner of Jordan's Farm where she grew up along with her siblings, Bill Jr., Pam and Carol Anne. Jordan's Farm, a fifth-generation mixed vegetable farm on Wells Road has an onsite farm stand and sells into the wholesale market helping provide Penny with a firm understanding of the challenges and opportunities of owning a business in Cape Elizabeth.



Photo by Lauryn Hottinger

Penelope (Penny) Jordan

Jordan worked at UNUM for over 20 years as an IT project manager and in 2000 she returned to the farm where she grew up. She graduated from Cape Elizabeth High School and earned her master's degree in social work from Boston University focusing on Community Organizing and Program Design.

Jordan is active in addressing food insecurity. She serves on the statewide committee to end hunger in Maine by 2030 and started the organization "Farms for Food Equity," which purchases produce from Maine farms and works closely with food security organizations, such as Preble Street's Food Security Hub, Wayside Food Programs, and South Portland Food Cupboard, who help ensure access to Maine raised produce. Jordan is also a member of Maine Farm Bureau and is continually active in agriculture related policy at a local, state and national level. Jordan is one of the founding members of Cape Farm Alliance an organization that works to ensure the viability and sustainability of Cape Elizabeth's farms.

During her tenure on the Town Council, Penny has chaired the Ordinance Committee, co-chaired the School Building Advisory Committee, represented Cape Elizabeth

on Maine Municipal Association's Legislative Committee, Ecomaine, and the Greater Portland Council of Governments' Metro Regional Coalition. She is currently serving as Town Council Chair. Penny's passions are her hometown (Cape Elizabeth), working alongside her family at their farm, policy and problem solving and ensuring people have access to food and housing.

Jordan states that she is running for re-election because she wants to focus time and energy on ensuring that Cape Elizabeth continues to have economic diversity, remains farm friendly, that we find ways to balance tourists and day-to-day life, and balance the needs of the schools and other municipal needs, including the Sawyer Road project, and the Shore Road redesign. Most importantly Penny wants to address the needs of residents that are finding it financially challenging to stay in their homes.

Jordan is grounded in the heritage of Cape Elizabeth having watched many changes during the 60s and 70s with an influx of housing, and investment in schools

-see JORDAN page 15

Timothy Reiniger announces candidacy for Town Council

(Press release) - Cape Elizabeth can best handle future challenges through a creative balance of management of spending, smart deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and municipal and land use policies that support neighborhoods. Timothy Reiniger is seeking re-election to the Town Council to advance these priorities with a spirit of moderation and nonpartisanship.



Contributed photo

Timothy Reiniger

Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility
During his three years on the Council, Reiniger demonstrated a commitment to making Cape Elizabeth more affordable through careful budgeting and spending restraint. As Town Council Chair, he helped achieve a property tax increase of only 2.6%, one of the lowest in twenty years, compared with the 7.3% budgeted increase the following year in his absence.

Reiniger emphasizes the importance of fiscal and tax restraint on behalf of those on fixed incomes and households that are otherwise cost-burdened – nearly 30% of residents, both young and old. With rising costs for town and school personnel, \$5 million in new middle school bond payments, an additional \$10 million or more promised by the school board for necessary high school repairs, an estimated \$12 million to renovate the 1934 school building, he sees the likelihood of double-digit tax increases to pay for these commitments.

Harnessing Artificial Intelligence
Reiniger sees AI as a promising tool for town employees to transform service delivery for residents and businesses. By making data more usable and interoperable, AI-driven governance can transform the experience of living and doing business in Cape Elizabeth.

As an attorney and Chair of the Risk and

Trust Committee of the American Bar Association, Reiniger has worked with legal and technology experts in analyzing the benefits and risks of AI, including government applications to improve quality of life and service delivery. He believes Cape can become a model community for Maine. Examples of how AI could be leveraged locally include:

1. Automated permit review for building and zoning applications, ensuring fast and objective code application.
2. AI tools to help build a public-facing interactive tool for comprehensive planning and participatory Zoning Ordinance modernization.
3. AI tools to assist public safety officials and caregivers in helping persons with dementia and to support elders in combating

-see REINIGER page 15

Cynthia Troiano for Town Council

Putting Cape's Residents First



Cynthia's Priorities for Cape:

- **Trust and Transparency**
Restore confidence in town government by making sure residents' voices are heard and decisions are made openly.
- **Safe, Livable Neighborhoods**
Address traffic, parking, noise, and short-term rental issues to protect the quality of life in every neighborhood.
- **Community Input**
Encourage broad participation by improving communication and scheduling major votes when the most residents can be involved.
- **Protect Cape's Character**
Preserve our town's unique coastline, open spaces, and historic places so they remain part of daily life for generations.
- **Fiscal Responsibility**
Manage taxpayer dollars wisely and fairly, ensuring investments strengthen Cape Elizabeth without adding unnecessary tax burden.

"Cape Elizabeth works best when we speak plainly and honestly with one another. I'll call things as I see them, stand up for residents, and work with our community to protect what makes this town strong and unique."

Shoppers True Value Hardware celebrates 70 years

By Debbie Butterworth



Photo by Debbie Butterworth

The Shoppers Hardware family from left to right: Lauren Springer with Daniel, Tom Simpson, Carter Simpson and Jessica Simpson with Big Foot.

So, where would you go (on this side of the bridge) if you needed just a few deck screws or roofing nails right in the middle of your project? How about sewing needles, embroidery floss, bird food, a hose extension, a plumbing thingamajig, toys, summer furniture, socks, snowblowers, greeting cards, popcorn machine rental, the loving adoration of two store cats, or even dishtowels (big seller)? All in one store?

That's a tall order, except for the anchor of the Mill Creek area, Shoppers True Value Hardware, who has been serving the needs of our community for 70 years in so many varied ways. Owned by long time Cape Elizabeth resident Tom Simpson and his daughter, Jessica, the store has evolved from a much smaller location, occupied now by the book-

store, to a much larger store further down the shopping strip, and an exceptional expansion of the products they carry, seemingly always things customers describe as necessities.

The store was originally owned by Shaw's, then purchased in 1955 by Warren Simpson. His son Tom recalls that his first job as a teenager at the family store was to weigh nails... they came in wooden barrels and Tom's assignment was to weigh them and package them in thick heavy paper bags for sale at the counter. Warren proudly advertised the store as the first "Self-Service" store north of Boston. In all other stores, products were kept behind a counter and employees fetched what the customer asked for, but in their store, most items were on open shelves for customers to help themselves. The Simpsons also

owned a location in the Northgate Shopping Center in Portland but soon closed that to focus all energies on the Mill Creek location.

Warren's wife, Velma, joined the family work force and created the gifts section, all high quality, reasonably priced items, and not items you'd typically see in a hardware store. The variety of pottery pieces, items for entertaining, dishes, bowls, figurines, and jewelry fill several aisles, as well as local South Portland and Cape Elizabeth branded pottery, a big hit with cruise ship visitors who often make their way over to the store.

The family aspect of the store kept growing, as Tom's wife Maddie left her job in the accounting department of Shaw's and quickly learned more about nails, screws, and all things hardware, and eventually took over and expanded the gift department as well.

Then the next generation came along... Tom and Maddie's children, Michael and Jessica, both graduates of the University of Maine, joined the ranks as well. And one more generation, Jessica's son Carter, a student at South Portland High School, can frequently be seen running the register, stocking shelves or mixing paint.

The entire family clearly instilled the old fashioned work ethic as they all raised their children.

The family has weathered through tragedies, the loss of Maddie in 2011, after courageously battling ALS...the loss of Velma, then Warren...Warren continued working until he was 94! Then the loss of Michael after a long struggle with brain cancer in 2019. Yet the family persevered and continued running the store and being the SP-CE neighborhood hub for conversation, friendship, news of the towns and neighborhoods. "It seems like everyone knows my dad," commented Jessica, "he gets recognized everywhere."

A few others have integrated into the Simpson hardware family, most notably, a best friend of Jessica's, Lauren Springer, who brings to the store a whole new set of skills... creative displays, merchandising, collaboration of ideas with Jess...even as we were interviewing about the store, they frequently tossed ideas back and forth to each other about various aspects of the store, including the upcoming 70th Anniversary Celebration. They also appreciate and admire their crew of college kids and other people who support the store with the same work ethic.

The least dedicated, least knowledgeable, and least energetic employees of the family, while at the same time the employees who attract the most attention from customers have to be Daniel and Big Foot, the store cats. Adopted by Jessica when Tom was away on a trip, these cats have become the mascots of the store, if not the whole franchise! They appear on True Value flyers, have been featured in numerous newspaper articles and local television news shows, have their own social media pages, their own merchandise and stickers, and an incredible following of fans who frequent the store just to visit these charismatic cats. In fact, when my grandchildren visit from Massachusetts, their first stop is always to see Daniel and Big Foot.

They have multiple napping spots in the store, some of which change seasonally, cat beds, to cat couches, to beach chairs, and even on the computer keyboards... they can always find a spot.

When I asked them about their store responsibilities, despite their job descriptions including customer service, offering assistance and advice to customers, and nighttime security, both cats expounded on their passion for unraveling skeins of yarn, chewing up pool noodles and anything made of styrofoam, clearing off merchandise displayed on shelves, and most importantly, leaving "gifts" for Tom when he comes to work at 6 a.m. in the form of mouse control.

A personal memory, I can remember years ago, going in to buy embroidery floss, and there was Maddie, sitting on the floor, sorting hundreds of different colored skeins of into small wooden drawers for customers to find the exact right shade of blue, or green, or red, that they needed for their project. More recently, I went in to get more embroidery floss and there was Jess, sitting on the floor, sorting the hundreds of different skeins, organizing them in the very same wooden box. A family legacy for sure. Grandpa Warren's old office chair still sits in their back office, used every day just as when Warren was there.

Everything the store offers is essential and helpful, but by far, the most valuable asset they give the steady stream of customers is ADVICE. Tom has a wealth of knowledge from how to trap a squirrel in the cellar (per-

-see CELEBRATION page 15

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Concert choir announces residency Capetoon: Soccoween

By Jeff Mandell

The Cape Elizabeth Concert Choir, under the direction of Joanne Lee, is thrilled to announce a two-day residency with nationally recognized choral conductor, educator and clinician Dr. Christopher Owen on October 1-2.

Dr. Owen is a highly respected conductor, pianist, organist, harpsichordist and tenor. He holds degrees in Music Education and Conducting from the University of Wisconsin-Superior, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. He currently serves as Director of Choral Activities, Associate Professor, and Acting Music Department Chair at Northeastern Illinois University, where he leads the NEIU Chamber Singers, University Chorus, and teaches conducting and vocal music methods. In addition, he is a frequent clinician, adjudicator and contributing author to the Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir series.

The residency, supported through the generosity of the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF), will immerse choir students in Comprehensive Musicianship Through Performance. Clinics will focus on:

- Attaining musical goals through gesture and ensemble coordination
- Building efficient vocal technique
- Exploring resonance and timbre across musical styles

“The long-term impact of this residency will be profound,” said Joanne Lee, Director of the Cape Elizabeth Concert Choir. “Dr. Owen’s expertise will empower our en-

semble artistically, strengthen our culture of expressive performance, and foster a lasting shift toward intentional, integrated music-making.”

This project is made possible through the generous support of donors to the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF). Community members and supporters are invited to learn more about the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation at <https://ceef.us/>. For more information, please contact:

Joanne Lee, Director, Cape Elizabeth Concert Choir
jlee@capeelizabethschools.org, (207) 799-3309



Contributed photo

The Cape Elizabeth Concert Choir will host Dr. Christopher Owen for a two-day residency.



New kindergarten teacher at Pond Cove Elementary

By Kevin St Jarre

Katie Norton (pictured on right) is a new kindergarten teacher at Pond Cove Elementary School. She has come to Cape Elizabeth schools most recently from Long Island Elementary School on Long Island. She said, “I taught K-2, all subjects, and K-5 Writing, Music and Art.” She grew up in Wilton.

For her undergraduate education, she attended College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, and then the University of Maine for her Master’s Degree in Literacy, with a specialty in Writing and Teaching Writing. Norton also has done graduate work in Special Education.

Norton said, “I was so excited to take this job in Cape Elizabeth. My kindergarten team is incredibly supportive and kind, creative and funny, helpful and inspiring. All of the staff have been welcoming! I am learning that I have the freedom to create curriculum I love and believe in, within the adopted guidelines of the district, which feels really good. The students are sweet, smart, and silly and I look forward to seeing them every day!”

As far as her interests outside of the classroom, she said, “I’m a writer and a musician. I play music with my husband Jonathan, who grew up in Cape, and other friends. I write poetry and longer fiction, and I have a YA novel coming out in ‘27.”

Norton said that some of the things she enjoys most about teaching include, “I love that no two days are the same, knowing I’ll never be bored, using my brain, and being a part of the foundations of education for these children.”



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EMERGENCY COVERAGE AT WARREN AVENUE LOCATION

Vehicle strikes fire hydrant

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 9-8 Two officers responded to a residence in the Fowler Road area for a well-being check.
- 9-9 An officer responded to Sawyer Road at Farm's Edge for a report that a vehicle had struck a fire hydrant.
- 9-11 An officer met with a resident in the Two Lights area regarding a concerning post on social media.
- 9-11 An officer responded to the Mitchell Road area for report of a motorcycle accident and the operator seemed unconscious. Upon arrival, the witness reported that the vehicle was a moped, and the male operator regained consciousness and left on the moped.
- 9-12 An officer responded to the Two Lights area for a report of a suspicious item.
- 9-13 An officer responded to the Shore Road

area for a suspicious vehicle.
9-14 An officer responded to a residence in the Scott Dyer area for a neighbor dispute

SUMMONSES

- 9-9 Cape Elizabeth resident, expired license, Shore Road, \$152
- 9-11 Virginia resident, failure to produce insurance, Ocean House Road, \$186
- 9-14 South Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$148

ARRESTS

- 9-10 Cape Elizabeth resident, outstanding warrants, Channel View Road
- 9-13 Unknown resident, domestic violence assault, domestic violence aggravated assault, domestic violence criminal threatening

FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 3; EMS calls: 17

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

Peer-to-Peer Payment Scams

Peer-to-peer (P2P) payment apps like Venmo, Zelle and Cash App have made sending money between family and friends easier than ever. But while these apps make exchanging money fast and convenient, they also make it quick and seamless for criminals to steal your money.

You might get a message that appears to be from a loved one in trouble who needs you to send money quick through a P2P app. Or you may see a "discount" for an online marketplace product if you make the payment through a P2P app, only to discover the seller is a scammer. Another common scam involves someone "accidentally" sending you money via a P2P service and then asking you to return it. However, their initial payment will later bounce like a bad check, leaving you responsible for any funds you sent back.

It's best to use P2P apps to send money to friends, family, and other people you know and trust. These apps do not have the same consumer protections as credit cards. Transactions are like paying cash — instantaneous and usually irreversible. If you receive an unexpected payment, don't accept it and report it to the app provider.

Steps to Protect Against ID Theft

Identity fraud and scams are a massive and growing problem, but there are things each of us can do to protect against identity fraud, even if our data has been exposed. One way to help safeguard your personal information is to enable automatic updates on your device's operating system and antivirus software. These updates often fix known security vulnerabilities that criminals could exploit.

Another way to stay protected is to be cautious of unsolicited calls, texts, emails and

-see ALERTS page 16

Fall news from the Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee

October offers some great opportunities for us all to reduce, reuse and recycle. You can donate your returnable cans and bottles to a program that benefits youth in Cape Elizabeth. You can swap clothing you no longer need for new gems at the Fall Clothing Swap. And you can reduce clutter by shredding documents and safely getting rid of hazardous waste this fall as well.

Bottle Shed Grant applications

Could your nonprofit use \$1,000 extra dollars next year? If you are a Cape Elizabeth-based nonprofit or not-for-profit service club or organization that benefits Cape Elizabeth youth, you are eligible to apply for a Bottle Shed Grant.

Cape Elizabeth maintains a Bottle Donation Center at the Recycling Center where residents can drop off returnable cans, bottles and jugs. The funds received from CLYNK from these returnables are then returned to the community in the form of grants. Last year, the Recycling Committee awarded more than \$27,000 (we think it's a record high!) to 21 different organizations like Boy Scouts, Cape Robotics, Music Boosters and Thomas Memorial Library, among others.

Deadline: 4 p.m., October 31

How to apply: Visit capeelizabeth.gov/recyclingcenter

Complete the application form online, or download a PDF and send it in.

Requirements: A completed application, a copy of the organization's W-9 form, and documented participation in at least one shift helping to bag cans at the Bottle Shed (this requirement is waived for new applicants).

The Recycling Committee reviews applications and rewards grants in December.

Support Cape Elizabeth youth by dropping off your returnable bottles, cans, and jugs into the bins at the Bottle Donation Center, right next to the Swap Shop. The more returnables you donate, the more groups and youth programs we can support.

Fall clothing swap

October 4, 12-3 p.m., at Thomas Memorial Library

Donate clean, gently used apparel for kids and adults, then come take some new treasures home as well. Donate clothes at the library. Clothes for all ages and genders will be accepted and available. Please wash your donated clothes ahead of time.

Offered in partnership with the town of Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee and Thomas Memorial Library.

How to participate

- Donate items in advance: Receive a ticket for entry starting at 12 p.m.
- Donate items on the day of the event: Enter and "shop" at 1 p.m.
- Don't donate at all: Enter and "shop" at 2 p.m.
- Volunteer to help set up, run, or take down the event: Receive extra early preview "shopping" privileges! Visit the Thomas Memorial Library website and search the Events Calendar (thomasmemorallibrary.org/events/) to find a link to the volunteer sign-up form.

IMPORTANT DATES
MOBILE SHREDDING at the Recycling Center
October 4, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE drop-off at the Recycling Center
November 8, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Feedback requested on privacy and data security

The town of Cape Elizabeth is inviting residents to complete a brief, open questionnaire about privacy and data security when using town services—such as permits, taxes, school forms and online portals. Responses will help the town's Privacy Advisory Committee set priorities for policy, training and technology improvements.

This is an informal questionnaire open to all residents. It takes about 3–5 minutes, and participants may skip any question. The questionnaire is open September 16 through October 16.

How to participate: Visit https://www.capeelizabeth.gov/news_detail_T6_R171.php or find the link on the town website at capeelizabeth.gov.



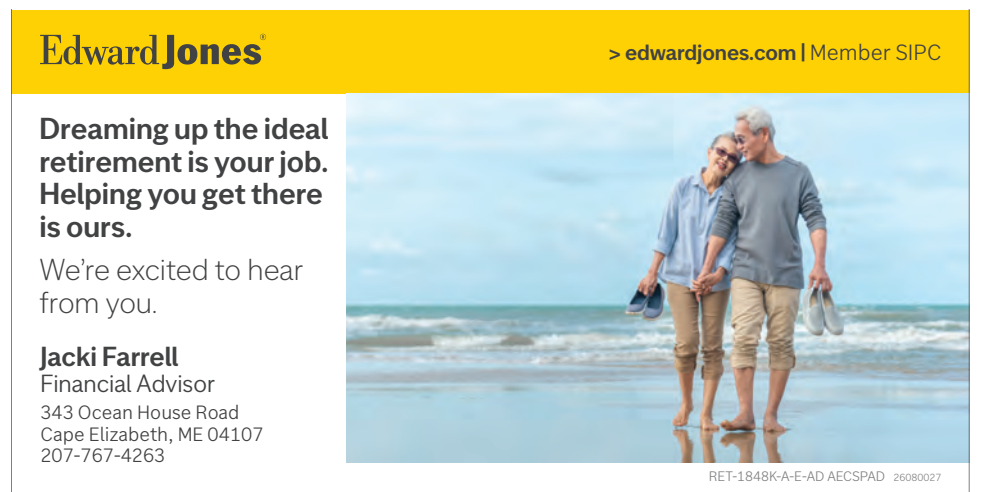
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Autumn Harp Sound Bath

OCTOBER 18, 2025

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CAPE ELIZABETH, ME 04107

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/AUTUMN-HARP-SOUND-BATH-TICKETS-1715120173609?AFF=ODDTCREATOR](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/autumn-harp-sound-bath-tickets-1715120173609?AFF=ODDTCREATOR)



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Waypoint REAL ESTATE

Local business spotlight: Route 77 Hot Sauce

By Marta Girouard

Sean Becker was in between jobs during the COVID pandemic shutdown in 2020 when he decided to try his hand at growing peppers. "My wife Stacy and I have always loved trying different hot sauces and thought it would be fun to experiment with our own," he said. Their experiment was a hit with friends and family and what started as a backyard hobby quickly turned into four recipes and the launch of Route 77 Hot Sauce.

The Beckers created recipes with produce they can get anytime of the year so they initially focused on habanero and jalapeno peppers. Ghost and Carolina reaper peppers are more seasonal. Once Route 77 Hot Sauce was launched, they had to partner with a commercial kitchen to do the cooking and bottling, per state laws. "We chose to work with Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP) in Brunswick, said Sean. "Can't say enough good things about how awesome they are and the amazing work they do in the community." MCHPP reduces food waste and supports food access by transforming rescued ingredients into nourishing meals for neighbors in need. It also serves as an afford-

able, fully equipped commercial kitchen and incubator space for local food entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and community partners working to build a more just and sustainable food system.

Sean said that the business venture has become a family effort to keep up with demand. "Our goal is to be in the kitchen 4 days per month in which we produce one recipe per day there. My mother-in-law and father-in-law, along with my brother-in-law and the help of a few kids, we are able to pump out enough. We can go in and produce over 100 bottles in 3-4 hours of one flavor, bottle and seal it on site and lastly when we get home, we attach the labels, and they are then ready to go out the door." Route 77 Hot Sauce currently offers four sauces, with two seasonal sauces coming this fall. The four sauces are: Zesty Tomatillo Jalapeno, Habanero Peach Pineapple, Maine Blueberry Habanero and Fiery Red Hot Habanero. For those who are heat sensitive, the Zesty Tomatillo Jalapeno is for you. The Maine Blueberry and Peach Pineapple habanero sauces are more of a fruity hot sauce and the Fiery Red Hot Habanero is for the heat lovers. Sean and Stacy said that the motto of their business is: "We



Contributed photo

Sean and Stacy Becker launched their own hot sauce business, Route 77 Hot Sauce, after their hobby became a hit with friends and family. They are pictured here with two of their children, Ari Bodoff (left) and George Roy-Becker (second from right).

hate fake! But love big flavor. Yea, we love heat too of course, but if you can't taste it why bother!"

Route 77 Hot Sauce is a side gig for the Beckers. Sean is a Trust Officer with Cambridge Trust in New Hampshire while Stacy is a Client Manager at Key Bank. Both said that it can get busy at times but MCHPP is a 24-hour facility which makes it a little easier finding the time to get in and cook. When asked what is the most challenging part of running a business, Sean replied getting their sauces in as many places as possible. "Unfortunately, there are certain times in the day that are better than others when approaching different establishments to carry our sauce and that is where my day job can get in the way a bit. But we make it work. The most rewarding part is hearing how much someone loves the sauce and how they used it. We obviously love the sauces but it's always nice to hear it from someone we've never met."

The Beckers said that creating the product, structuring the company and launching and running the business has been quite the learning curve and they have been very fortunate to have the help of family along the way. There are also a couple of special people that truly helped bring this business to fruition that they'd like to give a shout out to:

"Robert Cochran of Robert Cochran Art was instrumental in bringing our vision to

life with the label. Robert understood what we were looking to do and really took it to the next level with his creative design ideas. Chip Brewer, founder of Growth Story LLC has played an integral role in helping us navigate some tough decisions as we brought Route 77 Hot Sauce to the marketplace. He not only guided us in brainstorming our identity as a company (our mission, vision and values) but how to bring that through to social media and our website."

Route 77 Hot Sauce is available for purchase online and locally in Portland, Cape Elizabeth (CSalt Gourmet Market, IGA), South Portland (DiPietro's), Scarborough, Old Orchard, Litchfield, Greene and Milo and soon to be in a town or store near you. Visit their website, www.Route77hotsauce.com for more details and follow them on social media:

Instagram, @route77hotsauce
Facebook @route77hotsauce



Contributed photo

Route 77 Hot Sauce, a business started by Cape Elizabeth residents Sean and Stacy Becker, offers four hot sauces and two seasonal sauces.

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Valid 10/1/25-10/12/25

Thomas Memorial Library hosts Dave Patterson, Phuc Tran

Holiday Closure

The library will be closed on Monday, October 13 for Indigenous Peoples Day.

October Gallery Show: BiblioQuilts, by Larry Clifford

This month in the Stier Family Gallery, a selection of Hampden artist Larry Clifford's work will be on display. Larry's "BiblioQuilts" are created from damaged or distressed books that were salvaged from basements, attics and public libraries throughout New England. You can view Larry's show at the library throughout the month of October.

New Digital Resource at TML: Get SetUp

Thanks to funding from the Thomas Memorial Library Foundation, TML cardholders now have access to a new online platform called GetSetUp. While accessible and appealing to everyone, GetSetUp was built specifically with older adults in mind as a way to provide more opportunities for social connection, personal growth, and lifelong learning. With a wide array of short online courses, you can explore art and creativity, nutrition and wellness, technology, and more. Please visit the library's website for more information.

Our Library of Things is growing!

Did you know you can borrow kits to help measure and record the amount of electricity consumed in your home at the library? Or a radon detector? Our Library of Things collection is small but growing! We are excited to announce that along with our large collection of board games, binoculars and more, we are adding ukulele kits to check out. Contact the library to learn more about borrowing these items today and look for more offerings in the near future.

ALL AGES SPECIAL EVENTS

Fall Clothing Swap

Saturday, October 4, 12 - 3 p.m.

It's time for the Fall Clothing Swap! Offered in partnership with the town of Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee, twice a year the library hosts a chance for folks to both clean out their closets and find treasures from our neighbors. Please visit the library's website for details on how to participate.

CELT Cottontail Walk at Runaway Farm

Saturday, October 4, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Runaway Farm. Meet at the parking lot between the fields/rink at Gull Crest (1 Gull Crest Drive, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107)

Join Sarah Dudek at Runaway Farm to learn how CELT has joined the effort to help recover endangered New England Cottontail Rabbits, view suitable NEC habitat, and learn how you can provide habitat at home. Please visit <https://www.capelandtrust.org/events> for registration. Participants registering at least 48 hours in advance of the program will ensure they will receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Ongoing Programs

Please visit the library's website for details about weekly and monthly program offerings for adults, teens, children and families..

Special Events for Adults

Medicare Information Session with Lisa Frazier and Jacki Farell

Tuesday, October 7, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Confused about Medicare? Join us for an educational seminar from insurance professional Lisa Frazier to discuss the complex subject of Medicare. There will be a Q&A period following the presentation, along with time for personal questions to be answered privately after the seminar. Lisa Frazier joins us from the Frazier Insurance Agency, specializing in Medicare Health Plans for over 25 years. No registration necessary.

CEHPS Presents: Wabanaki Ghost Stories with Jennifer Pictou

Tuesday, October 14, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Hear authentic Wabanaki Ghost Stories with professional Mi'kmaq Storyteller Jennifer Pictou. During this thrilling hour-long presentation, listen to Indigenous stories from the deep woods and waters of Maine and find out why you never, ever want to sleep with your windows uncovered. These Indigenous stories have been passed down from generation to generation and are still part of vibrant Wabanaki cultures today. This special program is free to all and light refreshments will be

served.

Movies, Crafts, and Support, OUT Maine Caregivers and Youth

Thursday, October 16, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

(See description below under Tween/Teen programs)

A Murder Most Foul with Sully McCarthy: Adult Edition

Saturday, October 18, 2:00 -4:00 p.m.

Sully McCarthy is back with a brand new murder mystery for you to solve. This thrilling story is a Shakespeare-inspired tale taking place in the fictional kingdom of Acadia. This mystery is written for 11 characters, and will be limited to 15 participants. Register to secure your spot to solve this Shakespearean crime.

Film School: Night of the Living Dead

Tuesday, October 21, 5-8 p.m.

For this month's edition of Film School, join us in celebrating old-fashioned horror with the revolutionary and original "Night of the Living Dead" (1968). George Romero's independent classic is often credited with popularizing the zombie genre, and is considered a touchstone of horror cinema. Critic Rex Reed once wrote of the film, "If you want to see what turns a B movie into a classic ... Don't miss 'Night of the Living Dead.' It is unthinkable for anyone seriously interested in horror movies not to see it." No registration required.

"Euphoria: 10 Maine Stories," with Dave Patterson

Thursday, October 23, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Author and Cape resident Dave Patterson will discuss his new book, "Euphoria: 10 Maine Stories." Patterson will outline how growing up in rural New England and teaching in small Maine towns for the past twenty years inspired the book's characters and fictional setting, Euphoria, Maine, a mill town with sagging farmhouses, sprawling trailer parks, a local dive bar and a paper mill always under the threat of downsizing. Books will be available for sale and for signing. No registration necessary.

Special Events for Tweens & Teens

Movies, Crafts, and Support, OUT Maine Caregivers and Youth

Thursday, October 16, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join TML and OUT Maine for a special

double event: for youth ages 12+, a movie and craft night. And for their parents and adult caregivers, an in-person support/social group. Caregivers and parents can register without registering accompanying youth, and vice versa. Registration encouraged. RSVP through the link on our website.

A Murder Most Foul with Sully McCarthy - Teen Edition

Friday, October 17, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sully McCarthy is back with a brand new murder mystery for you to solve. This thrilling story is a Shakespeare-inspired tale taking place in the fictional kingdom of Acadia. This mystery is written for 11 characters, and will be limited to 15 participants. Register to secure your spot to solve this Shakespearean crime.

Dungeons & Dragons

Teens, ages 13 - 18: October 16 -

November 13, 2:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Tweens, ages 10 - 12: Dates to be determined (visit the library website for details)

Set out on a fantastical quest with a magical crew of characters in this all-levels D&D campaign. Dungeons & Dragons is a role-playing game (RPG) where players form a party and explore fantasy worlds together as they embark on epic quests and fight epic battles. This program is for all levels of players (beginner, advanced, master).

Children's Special Events

Sensory-Friendly Play Group

Wednesday, October 1 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Autistic children 0-5 years old & their caregivers as well as children who are not autistic and their caregivers are welcome to join TML Family Engagement Assistant Sarah Gabrielson and Jessica Molloy from the Autism Society of Maine to play and learn about resources.

Join us in the low-lit music-free community room to play with toys including dress up, kitchen, baby mat and toys, puzzles, books, big blocks, a balance beam and an art activity.

25 people maximum capacity. No registration needed. Drop-ins welcome.

-see LIBRARY page 15

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Local birding report

By Brooks Bornhoff

Many of my most memorable bird sightings in Cape have taken place along the old stretch of Sawyer Road that crosses the Spurwink Marsh. There's a certain magic to these wetlands—one that can only be truly felt by being out in them. At times, when no cars pass for a minute or two, standing along the road in this expansive, windswept landscape—surrounded by the calls of birds, the rustle of grass, and the gentle murmur of the great marsh itself—feels to me like stepping into another world.

Renowned conservationist Rachel Carson once wrote, "To stand at the edge of the sea, to sense the ebb and flow of the tides, to feel the breath of mist moving over a great salt marsh, to watch the flight of shore birds that have swept up and down the surf lines... is to have knowledge of things that are as nearly eternal as any earthly life can be." For me, that sentiment perfectly captures the experience of being out in the Spurwink Marsh.

Designated as an area of Statewide Ecological Significance, Spurwink Marsh ranks among the region's most vital bird habitats. It supports a remarkable diversity of species, including threatened and endangered birds, tidal waterfowl and wading birds.

With the proposed Spurwink Marsh Restoration Project (see the town website for details), I hope thoughtful consideration is given to the unique opportunity this road offers—not only to experience nature firsthand, but to educate us all on the importance of this land and the creatures that depend on it as both a vital migratory stopover and home. A birding observation deck on the Cape side of the marsh or a wildlife walking trail that crossed the marsh, for example, could be meaningful additions.

On September 19, along this beloved stretch of road, I watched a Northern Harrier twist and weave across the Spurwink Marsh. This slender, medium-sized raptor glided low over the grasses, its wings held in a distinctive V-shape. As it drew closer, the bird's presence stirred a ripple of commotion across the larger pools of marsh. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs—sometimes called "Tattlers"—sounded their alarms. Nearby, a Belted Kingfisher perched watchfully, an Osprey hovered

in the distance, several Killdeer darted about, and two vociferous Willets called out. A lone Whimbrel briefly revealed its crescent-shaped bill from behind a mudflat.

Just after the Harrier disappeared from my vantage point, a small bird foraging along the roadside caught my attention. Its tail wagging gave it away: an American Pipit—the first I've ever seen in Cape! Back in March, I'd noted a report of a Pipit near the Spurwink River crossing, but I never managed to find that little songbird, often overlooked due to its drab coloring.

This charming, sparrow-sized bird has a modest brownish-gray body with streaking across its breast and sides. Despite its understated appearance, the American Pipit is a remarkable long-distance migrant, nesting in both Arctic tundra and alpine meadows. In Maine, it's a state-listed endangered species, known to nest in only one place: Mount Katahdin.

Other recent sightings around the yard and field include a Brown Thrasher that's been visiting our suet feeder throughout the day. Slightly smaller than a Blue Jay, this normally secretive bird is one of North America's most accomplished songsters, capable of singing over 1,100 distinct song types. A gifted mimic, its vocalizations are complex and often blend calls of other birds with man-made sounds. Additionally, on September 21, Great Horned Owls were heard calling—one behind the Town Green and another off Olde Colony Lane.

In other birding news, a hybrid Black-throated Blue Warbler and Yellow-rumped Warbler was recently discovered on Hilton Head in South Carolina. While not the first warbler hybrid ever recorded, it's the first known combination of these two particular species. Such hybridizations are often linked to habitat loss in breeding grounds.

When a bird cannot find a mate of its own species, it may settle for one closely related. Interestingly, about 10% of the world's 10,000 bird species have been known to mate with another species.

The most common warbler hybrid is between Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers, and even three-way hybrids involving Chestnut-sided Warblers have been documented.

October naturalist's corner

By Erika Carlson Rhile

Monday, October 6, 11:47 p.m. is the Full Harvest Supermoon. The full moon closest to the Autumnal Equinox is known as the Harvest Moon. This is also the first of three supermoons this year, so it will appear bigger and brighter since it's in its closest point to Earth in its orbit. The Harvest Moon is also special since it rises at the same time for a few nights. This extra illumination was ideal for farmers who wanted to harvest their crops before the first Fall frost. Watch for the Harvest Moon-rise at 5:51 p.m.

As I was gardening recently I found what I originally thought was the largest wooly bear caterpillar I'd ever seen! Unlike the orange and black striped wooly bear, it was all black and 3 inches long, and when it curled up it showed red banding. It turns out it was actually a Giant Leopard Moth larva. They are especially abundant this time of year as they search for a safe place to hibernate.

Speaking of wooly bears, can they actually predict the severity of the winter ahead? Nope! A wooly bear's banding is based on its diet and age, plus there are actually different species of wooly bear caterpillars with different size bands. So where did this old wives' tale originate? Blame an entomologist in the late 1940s who collected only 15 wooly bears, measured their orange bands and made a prediction about the upcoming winter which was picked up by the New York Herald Tribune, which perpetuated the myth!

Peak foliage for Cape is generally mid-October, but the lack of rain in the Northeast will cause many trees, especially shallow-rooted ones like maples and birches, to go into survival mode, "shutting down" early and preparing for winter. This stressful condition causes leaves to turn brown and fall off before they reach peak color. The leaves that do change color will do so very briefly and may be more muted than normal.

Upcoming CELT programs

CELT's 40th Anniversary Guided Walk and Library Lecture Series:

Please visit <https://www.capelandtrust.org/events> for more information and registration

Date: Wednesday, October 8
Time: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Location: Robinson Woods Kiosk
Cost: \$6 per parent and child, each additional child \$3

Youth Programs

CELT's LITTLE EXPLORERS (ages 3-5 yrs with an Adult)

Join the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust as we explore Robinson Woods in October. Children and their caregivers will spend an hour exploring the natural wonders of Maine with CELT educator Lisa Gent. We will take a gentle hike through Robinson Woods, where we will explore the habitat around us and search for signs of the changing season with age-appropriate games and activities. Please dress in comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle. Participants registering at least 48 hours in advance of the program will ensure they will receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Adult Programs

CELT New England Cottontails program: In the Thick of It

Join Sarah Dudek from the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve for a New England cottontail presentation at the Thomas Memorial Library and a habitat walk-and-talk at Runaway Farm.


On Oct. 4, join Sarah at Runaway Farm to learn how CELT has joined the effort to help recover NEC, view suitable NEC habitat and learn how you can provide habitat at home.

Cape Elizabeth is home to the largest known population of New England cottontails in Maine. Come learn about where

-see CELT page 16




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CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

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

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

Wednesday, October 1

Candidates' Night, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 7

Planning Board Workshop, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 8

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

Tuesday, October 14

School Board Regular Business Meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Committee - CANCELED, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 15

Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
School Board Policy Committee, Town Hall, 8:30 am

Thursday, October 16

Energy Committee, Town Hall, 7 pm

Tuesday, October 21

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.org.

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

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

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SERVICES

Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene

499 Ocean House Road (Route 77)
747-1113

www.capenazarene.org

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

Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church

280 Ocean House Road
799-8396

www.ceumc.org

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.
In-person Sunday services 10:00 a.m. For Zoom services, call 799-8396

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

29 Ocean House Road
799-4321

Sacrament Meeting:

Sunday, 10 - 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School/Primary: 11:10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Church of the Second Chance

Greater Portland Christian School
1338 Broadway, South Portland

641-3253

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

Rise Church

1047 Congress Street, Portland
874-9779

<https://www.riseportland.church>

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School for children: 10:00 a.m.

Services streamed live on Facebook

Congregation Bet Ha'am

81 Westbrook St., South Portland
879-0028

www.bethaam.org

Worship: Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

Family Shabbat Services:

Second Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Hope Community Church

879 Sawyer Street South Portland
799-4565

www.hopesopo.com

www.facebook.com/hopesopo

Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

Kid's Church for ages 4 through grade 5

Service videos available on our website

Promised Land World Reach Center

536 Cottage Road, South Portland
799-3152

Sunday Prayer & Intercession: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Family Bible Studies: Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Sermon recordings available to download

Redeemer Lutheran Church - LCMS

410 Main Street, Gorham
839-7100

www.RedeemerMaine.org

Sunday Bible Class for all ages: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

Services are in person and streamed on Facebook and YouTube

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church

885 Shore Road
799-4014

www.stalbansmaine.org

Sunday Services:

Rite 1 with Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.

Rite 2 with Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

Live Streaming on YouTube (stalbanschannel)

Children's Programs 9:30 a.m.

Celtic Eventide 5:30 p.m.

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



Have something to sell?
Having a yard sale? Want to spread the word about a new business or service?

**Tell them here!
Classifieds in The Courier work!**

Tamarro Landscaping

Lawn Renovation

Remove your old lawn and start from scratch
Call to schedule a lawn renovation estimate now!

831-8535

**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

Troiano

Continued from page 6

in June 2025, when more than 2,200 fewer Cape residents went to the polls.

“As I’ve gone door-to-door, I’ve repeatedly heard that moving such a major decision to a low-turnout election eroded residents’ trust in town leadership,” Troiano said. “That was disappointing, but I see this election as a chance to restore that trust and ensure Cape’s decisions reflect the will of the whole community.”

She also remains concerned by recent zoning changes that now make way for 64-foot apartment towers in the town center and top-down housing mandates that threaten the character of Cape’s neighborhoods. “We need solutions that reflect Cape’s charm and scale, not policies that cater to outside special interest groups,” she said.

A passionate advocate for Cape’s natural environment, Troiano has called for balancing tourism with resident livability. “Fort Williams and our coastline are treasures, but residents shouldn’t feel pushed out of their own town during peak months,” she said.

Troiano’s priorities include:

- Fiscal discipline to protect taxpayers from unnecessary spending and inflated property revaluations.
- Neighborhood safety through smarter traffic planning and pedestrian protections.
- Preserving Cape’s character by resist-

ing special-interest-driven housing mandates and overbuilding.

- Environmental stewardship to protect Cape’s natural beauty for residents and future generations.

“I’m running for Town Council because Cape Elizabeth needs strong, independent voices who will protect taxpayers, preserve our neighborhoods and ensure the town’s decisions truly reflect the will of the community,” Troiano said. “As I’ve gone door-to-door, I’ve heard the concerns and hopes of my neighbors, and I believe together we can build a safer, more affordable and more connected Cape Elizabeth.”

Patten

Continued from page 6

approach to budgeting is critical.

Andrew is running because he believes in:

- Supporting public education with real-world experience in the classroom and at home.
- Fiscally responsible leadership that balances the needs of families, seniors and taxpayers.

• Investing in our schools — from facilities to staff — to create the best environment for learning.

• Listening first, leading with respect, and building bridges between the School Board, Town Council and YOU.

• Focusing on what matters: student success, educator support, and thoughtful governance — not micromanagement.

Andrew will diligently strive to bring the community together to build a school system that serves every generation, now and into the future.

Because our kids and our community deserve nothing less.

Andrew would respectfully appreciate your vote on November 4.

Jordan

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and infrastructure. She watched as her father, Bill Jordan Sr., and others worked to manage growth through their work on the Town Council in a way that recognized the town’s roots while creating the town so many people love today. Jordan seeks to be part of the decision making that retains the elements that make Cape Elizabeth attractive to families, retirees and others while also recognizing that change will happen.

When you go to the polls on November 4, Penny’s name appears as Penelope A. Jordan.

Have a Classified Ad, Announcement or Event?



Go to www.capecourier.com
Or contact Tara Simopoulos at: advertising@capecourier.com

Reiniger

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online fraudsters.

Preserving Cape’s Neighborhoods

Reiniger stresses that Cape’s neighborhoods and rural village character are increasingly difficult to maintain, and he believes the council must make tough decisions that prioritize residents’ needs. He supports:

1. Near Cliff Beach, scaling back parking on Shore Road, creating residential permit parking in adjoining neighborhoods, and diverting out-of-town beachgoers to Crescent Beach State Park.

2. In Shore Acres and Broad Cove, council acceptance of the town-owned paper streets to extend public walking access along the shoreline, something current incumbents have not supported.

3. Retention of the Sawyer Road passage from Cape Elizabeth to Scarborough, in some form, through the Scarborough Marsh. Reiniger sees this passage as being vital for runners, walkers, cyclists and motorists alike.

A Nonpartisan Approach

Reiniger is a registered independent and believes the council is at its best when collaborating in a nonpartisan manner. He emphasizes that fiscal responsibility, smart deployment of AI and neighborhood preservation are not partisan issues. These are the priorities he pledges to advance if re-elected to the Town Council.

Library

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Special Story Time with Phuc Tran

Saturday, October 11, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join us for a special reading by the author of Cranky and Cranky Makes a Friend—beloved stories about trucks, feelings and friendships. Phuc Tran is an award-winning writer, as well as a tattoo artist and Latin teacher (who pronounces his first name like “Luke”). Following story time, Phuc will lead the group in a draw-along activity. Don’t miss this very special author visit with a reading of some of our most popular picture books. No registration needed, but there is a limit on capacity of 45 people.

1-2-3 Grow with Me! Special Play Dates Series

Five Saturdays from 10:30-11:45 am (10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22)

Children 0-5 years & caregivers are welcome to participate in a series of special play

dates in the Thomas Memorial Library Community Room. You will have the opportunity to interact informally with community resource professionals on a range of important topics for children and caregivers. Topics will include Speech & Hearing (10/25), Literacy (11/1), Child Development (11/8), Nutrition (11/15), and Music & Movement (11/22). Capacity: 13 children and their caregivers. Registration required and available on the TML Events Calendar . (Please only register if you are available to attend at least three out of five sessions.)

Celebration

Continued from page 8

sonal experience), to engine repair, tips on how to install a toilet flush valve, fix frozen outside faucets, and how to fix a doohickey at the end of an electrical wire. He’s passed a lot of this knowledge on to Jess, Lauren and Carter, so no matter where you turn, there is a friendly, knowledgeable person ready to help you find or fix anything.

A popular annual event is “Ladies Night”, which this year will be held on November 6, where they offer crafts, raffles, 25% discounts on items that can fit into a shopping bag, give aways, and a food truck. No reservations needed but the first 50 customers get treats, like a gift bag or maybe a coupon for the food truck!

The Celebration of 70 years will take place on October 18, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The celebration will include various events, a store-wide sale, raffles, food trucks, crafts and other goodies. They’re also inviting local booster groups to participate to earn money for their group by selling items such as popcorn, donuts and cider.

The plans are evolving, and even as I was talking to them, Jess and Lauren were tossing ideas off of each other in their true collaborative style. Daniel and Big Foot’s roles have not been disclosed but you can be sure they will be an integral part of the festivities.

This store, this family (and these cats) are a treasure to the entire neighborhood of South Portland, Cape Elizabeth and beyond. You can stop in to buy a few nails, a last minute birthday present for an adult or kid, a lawn mower, pipe cleaners for a craft project, rent a carpet cleaner, snuggle with cats, and get advice and news from the neighborhood.

Maybe all they need now is a pot bellied stove and a checkerboard balanced on an old wooden barrel of nails...



**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Boards and Committees Annual
Appointments Process**

The Town Council's Appointments Committee is accepting applications from residents to fill anticipated vacancies on boards and committees.

To see the full list of openings, please visit our website at:

www.ca peelizabeth.gov

Residents should apply online.

Questions should be directed to Angela Frawley, Town Clerk at:
207-799-7665 or angela.frawley@ca peelizabeth.gov

Applications must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. Thursday, October 30, 2025.

New term begins January 1, 2026

Terms are 3 years, unless otherwise specified.

Deliveries build connections

By Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)

In Cape Elizabeth's Great Pond neighborhood, mail carrier Matt Greenleaf's daily deliveries go beyond a simple transaction. For some residents, particularly the elderly or homebound, his arrival represents a significant daily connection to the outside world.

While many go about their day when the mail arrives, others wait patiently. Matt makes this simple transactional interaction positive, enhancing the person's day. Especially in a world where impersonal emails and text rule the day.

Matt's habit of taking a moment to greet and chat with his neighbors builds strong relationships rooted in trust and empathy. These small, human interactions with a simple "hello" or a shared memory, create

friendships that are often more valuable to people than the mail he delivers.

His mail delivery fosters a profound sense of community and warmth, building connections that extend far beyond his official duties. His friendly greeting and attentive ear make their day brighter and healthier. For many, the most important delivery doesn't come in an envelope, it comes with Matt's warm greeting and listening.

A 6'7" standout basketball player at Deering High School, Matt was named first-team "All Maine" and selected for "Maine's McDonald's Seniors All Stars," which raises funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine. Matt grew up in Portland and has worked at the post office for 29 years.



Photo by Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)

Mail carrier Matt Greenleaf delivers mail in the Great Pond neighborhood.

CELT

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they live, why other animals also need these thickets, and what we are doing to help the cottontails rebound in Maine. All proceeds go to CELT. Participants registering at least 48 hours in advance of the program will ensure they will receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Saturday, October 4, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Runaway Farm. Meet at the parking lot between the fields/rink at Gull Crest

No Fee, please visit <https://www.cape-landtrust.org/events> for registration

CELT's Cross Town Walk

Join Cape Elizabeth Land Trust volunteer Colleen Hough for the annual Fall Cross Town Walk. Beginning at the Portland Head Light at Fort Williams Park, this CELT sponsored walk will traverse 8.6 miles of the Town of Cape Elizabeth and CELT trails, highlighting some of Cape's great places. The program takes approximately five and a half hours. Hikers will meet at the Portland Head Light and will carpool (arranged prior to walk) back to Fort Williams after a picnic at Kettle Cove. Snacks, drinks and lunch should be brought by each participant. Participants should be 12 years or older; please call about younger ages. All participants must register at least 48 hours in advance of the program and will receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Saturday October 11

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Meet at Portland Headlight in the dirt parking lot closest to the light house.

Cost: \$10 per person

CELT's Cross Town Walk (Second Half Option)

Interested in the Cross Town Walk but not ready to commit to all 8.2 miles? Join Cape Elizabeth Land Trust for a half-distance (roughly 4.5 miles) walk highlighting some of Cape's great places, including Spurwink Marsh and Great Pond. The walk takes approximately three hours. Hikers will meet at the CELT office in town center and will carpool (arranged prior to walk) back to the CELT office after a picnic at Kettle Cove. Snacks, drinks and lunch should be brought by each participant. All participants must register at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Saturday October 11

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Meet at CELT Office - 330 Ocean House Road

Cost: \$5 per person

Alerts

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social media messages. Criminals spoof phone numbers and impersonate trusted sources to appear legitimate. Avoid clicking on links in emails, texts or online ads. Rather, type the web address of the company whose site you want to visit directly into your web browser. Let your voicemail or answering machine handle unfamiliar calls. If the call is important, the person will likely leave a message, and you can verify the number and information before calling back.

Despite the rise of online threats, criminals still rely on traditional methods to steal personal information. Shred anything containing sensitive information that you don't need to keep for specific purposes. AARP offers free document shredding and other fraud-related events across the country. To see if one is planned near you, visit aarp.org/local.

SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS & OUR WORKFORCE!





Cape Schools are seeking members for a new group!

GREATER CAPE SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

- Strengthen partnerships between schools, local businesses, nonprofits & community organizations
- Support skills students need to be successful in our workforce
- Collaborate to provide relevant learning experiences for our students to prepare them for successful futures

CE

KICKOFF MEETING: 10/29/25 @ 7:30-9:00 A.M.

Learn more & register: <https://www.cape.k12.me.us/page/school-community-alliance>
Sarah Coombs, Student Pathways Coordinator - scoombs@capeelizabethschools.org - 207-799-8176 x 7216

