

# The Cape Courier

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*In the Spirit of Community*

## News from October Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

### Town Council Reports and Correspondence

Chair Penny Jordan presented the Ralph Gourd Award to Jim Rowe, saying that she was “honored to be presenting the award to a good friend.” Jordan said that Rowe has “generously given his time and talents to the Cape Elizabeth community through decades of public service.”

Rowe was on the Cape Elizabeth/South Portland Rotary, Cape Elizabeth Fire Department for 9 years, the Cape Elizabeth School Board from 1999 to 2002, the Fort Williams Arbor Committee, Cape Elizabeth Town Council from 2007 to 2009 where he served as Chair, as President of the Cape Elizabeth Historical Society, and as local election staff and a youth sports coach.

It was added that Rowe is “known for his integrity, humility, and unwavering commitment to service” and that receiving the Ralph Gourd Award is a fitting tribute for someone who has given so much of himself to the town he loves.”

Jim Rowe accepted the award, saying “from the bottom of my heart, thank you for this recognition. It means the world to me.” Rowe also addressed his grandchildren in the audience saying, “You’re kind, you’re good, you’re good to your friends... don’t ever change those things because the world needs you and other people like you.”

### Town Manager Monthly Report

Town Manager Patrick Fox said that “there are countless opportunities and needs for residents to participate in local government” and committees, and encouraged “residents to share their time, knowledge, and experiences with our town” by applying to fill vacant roles. Positions currently are open on the accessibility and inclusion committee, ad hoc privacy advisory committee, the board of assessment review, board of zoning appeals, conservation committee, energy committee, personnel appeals board, planning board, recycling committee, and Thomas Memorial Library committee. Applications closed on October 31, 2025, but positions will remain open until filled.

Fox also shared that Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) is helping municipalities to reach a 2027 deadline to comply with all federal ADA guidelines for digital platforms and access. This includes websites and its content, and materials from all town meetings. GPCOG is reviewing the initial

-see TOWN COUNCIL page 3

## Secret Supper raises funds for Cape Elizabeth schools



Photo by Joanne Lee

CEEF’s inaugural Secret Supper on September 26 drew 150 guests.

Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation’s inaugural Secret Supper drew 150 guests on Friday, September 26 with 11 local homes hosting intimate dinners before an after-party at the Horse Barn at Ram Island.

The fundraiser sold out quickly after tickets went on sale in August, with nearly 120 dinner guests and 30 after-party-only attendees. Proceeds support CEEF’s grants to the Cape Elizabeth School District. Since

2002, the foundation has funded over 350 grants totaling over \$1.75 million.

“The secrecy element—people didn’t learn their dinner location or after-party venue until the days before—added mystery and enjoyment to the evening,” said CEEF Executive Director Mika Reynolds. “We’re extremely lucky to have a community of

-see CEEF page 4

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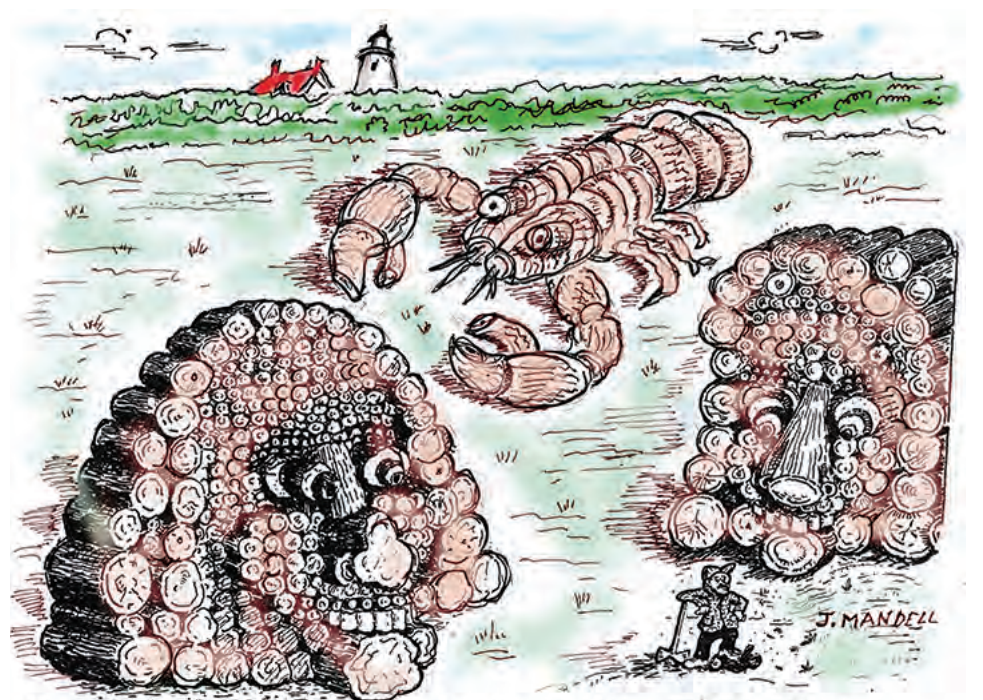
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Friday, December 12th

6th Annual Community Tree Lighting

## Capetoon: Monumental woodpiles

By Jeff Mandell



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## Decision was 'shortsighted'

The decision to shelve the Spurwink Marsh Restoration and Sawyer Road Removal Project was, in my opinion, shortsighted. It seems to signify that climate denial is alive and well in Cape.

The project was awarded \$1.59 million by the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program in 2023. The Spurwink Marsh Restoration project award was one of the largest in program history, attesting to the ecosystem and habitat benefits of removing the Sawyer Road crossing. The cooperative agreement between Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough, coupled with financial and in-kind contributions from multiple partners, were key steps to restoring Spurwink Marsh.

The marsh is home to several species of animals and plants considered to be rare, threatened or endangered in Maine, including the Saltmarsh Sparrow. Re-

moving the road would allow the marsh to adapt to more frequent flooding and the inevitable sea level rise while also removing a significant barrier to wildlife.

Drivers of the road (including me) will be negatively affected and will need to find alternate routes. But climate adaptation means changing behaviors, too. The existing crossing will present maintenance challenges for the town that will intensify over time, costing taxpayers a lot more than the cost of removal now. And it could create public safety issues for drivers willing to risk crossing the flooded roadway, which I've seen firsthand.

Marybeth Richardson

## Public thank you 'for voting to reject the discontinuation of Sawyer Road'

Just a note to publicly thank the council for voting to reject the discontinuation of Sawyer Road. A previous council should never be able to bind a future council in situations like the proposed road discontinuation, where the previ-

ous council put the cart before the horse and failed to have a robust town-wide discussion of the most difficult issue in the project.

It was suggested that Cape's course correction made Cape "an unreliable partner." To the contrary, it is a wise and responsive council (this is a democracy after all) that is willing to correct a badly flawed decision made without the public hearings required for the ultimate decision.

This road is perhaps unique to Maine and certainly one of the most beautiful drives, walks, runs, bike route, in the world. It would have been a true loss to deprive future generations of open access to this area. Like many people, I detour on this road to and from points south and west. The views never cease to amaze. We are lucky to live in such a beautiful place and we must make public access a priority.

And special thanks to Ed MacColl and Phineas Sprague for so eloquently advocating the importance of this road.

Mary Ann Lynch

-see RESULTS page 5

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## Exit polls and referenda results

By Kevin St. Jarre

On the two referendum questions this fall, Cape Elizabeth's results reflected what the people of the state of Maine voted as well.

On QUESTION 1: "Do you want to change Maine election laws to eliminate two days of absentee voting, prohibit requests for absentee ballots by phone or family members, end ongoing absentee voter status for seniors and people with disabilities, ban prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes, limit the number of drop boxes, require voters to show certain photo ID before voting, and make other changes to our elections?"

Voters in Maine rejected the measure, by a 64 to 36 percent margin. In Cape Elizabeth, the difference was much greater, with 4025 voting to defeat the question, and 763 voted to approve it. In Cape Elizabeth, there were more than 1,400 absentee ballots cast in this election.

On QUESTION 2: "Do you want to allow courts to temporarily prohibit a person from having dangerous weapons if law enforcement, family, or household members show that the person poses a significant danger of causing physical injury to themselves or others?"

Maine's voters approved the so-called "Red-flag law" by a 63 to 37% margin. Here in town, 4,043 voted in favor of the measure, while 734 opposed it.

Once again, this election season, Cape Elizabeth High School AP Government Teacher Ted Jordan and a team of volunteer students supported by CEHS Librarian Carolyn Young ran exit polling on behalf of The Cape Courier.

Nearly a quarter of Cape's voters agreed to participate in the exit polls after voting, and it provided an early accurate snapshot of what the ultimate results would be: the landslide victories in the municipal races and the outcomes of the referendum questions.

The exit polling also revealed what

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

## Town Council

Continued from page 1

assessment to see what actions need to be taken by Cape Elizabeth in order to be in full compliance.

Lastly, Fox said that dog licensing is open and available until January 31, 2026.

### Proclamation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month - October

The council voted unanimously to adopt the proclamation for October 2025 to be Domestic Violence Awareness month. Chair Penny Jordan said that “this effort is in part to raise awareness about the signs of abuse and ways to stop it and to uplift survivors’ stories and provide additional resources to leaders and policymakers.”

Jenla Chance, Director of Advocacy and Victim Services at Through These Doors, a local domestic violence resource in Cumberland county, thanked the councilors for recognizing the awareness month.

Chance said that the town manager of Cape Elizabeth back in 2010 supported an application from Through These Doors for the Enhanced Police Intervention Collaboration (EPIC) program which is recognized locally, statewide, and nationwide in their work for trauma center work.

Chance thanked the police department for their leadership and partnership and said that Through These Doors is a 24-hour, 365 day organization run by staff and volunteers with confidential and free services.

### Public Hearing on Sawyer Road/Spurwink Marsh Project

Over a dozen residents and community members spoke both in support and opposition of the Sawyer Road/Spurwink Marsh project.

Those speaking in opposition included: Phineas Sprague who “thinks the town is getting bad information.” Ilya Fleishman asked “what’s wrong with restoring the hydrology of the marsh and still letting people traverse it?”

Robert Flaherty said that he supports the environment and preservation and “making sure we use our heads and intellect to make rational decisions” and asked the council to “rethink what you’re doing.” Deborah McGuire added that it “would be a true hardship” if Sawyer Road was closed and asked if there were any communications regarding evacuation plans. Eleanor Redmond added,

“it’d be tremendously inconvenient for Sawyer Road to close.”

Speaking in support of the discontinuance of the road included: Aubrey Strauss who discussed the costs of both keeping and removing Sawyer Road adding that “sea level rise is real...we can all see it.”

Elizabeth Hayes said that the road is a “severe safety issue” and that the town should “either remove or repair the road.” Corinne Ketchum, Chairperson for Cape Elizabeth Conservation Committee and licensed geologist working in the field of remediation, resilience and sustainability added “there’s nothing that can convince me that this road should remain open.”

Matthew Grimm said that “this decision is not an easy one but represents the most responsible long term course of action for the town.” Emily Day shared that the culvert is undersized, the health of the marsh is failing and that the roads (when flooded) are a public safety hazard.

### Discontinuance Order of Sawyer Road at the Spurwink Marsh

The Cape Elizabeth Town Council voted to hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 10 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Councilor Jonathan Sahrbeck “thanked all the town staff for all the time that they put into it over the decades.” Sahrbeck said that he was not in support of the discontinuance because the added traffic that would be on Wells Road will become a “very large safety concern for our town.” He added that the removal of Sawyer Road would “be permanent and irreversible” and that this issue speaks to a bigger issue about infrastructure in Cape Elizabeth.

Councilor Caitlin Harriman said that this issue is “one of the hardest decisions to evaluate” in her 15 years on the council. Harriman is not in support of “continuing the discontinuance” saying that she doesn’t “think we have enough evidence” to discontinue Sawyer Road just yet.

Councilor Stephanie Anderson stated that there are environmental, safety and the cost concerns with this project and that she’s “not convinced the enhancement of the marsh requires removal of the road.”

Councilor Andrew Swayze said “it’s unfortunate that we’re all going to vote ‘no’ on this.” Swayze said that in his view, “it’s free money and we won’t have to maintain the road anymore.

-see MEETING page 15

## News from October Planning Board meeting

By Hanna Gilley

### St. Bart’s Childcare Center

St. Bartholomew’s Church is seeking site plan review and a Conditional Use Permit to establish a 65 person day care facility within the existing St. Bartholomew’s Church located at 8 Two Lights Road.

Travis Nadeau with Platz Associates Architects presented the site plan on behalf of the applicant. The site plan addressed previous comments from Cape Elizabeth staff and a third party reviewer. The item with the “most significant impact” is that the applicant is exploring opportunities to tie the existing on-site septic system into the town septic infrastructure.

Items addressed were the change in the playground location which is now proposed to have the fencing and playground pulled back away from the front setback so that it will be 32 feet from the right of way. A professional surveying company will provide a surveyed boundary. Other items mentioned were the adjustment in operation hours to 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; using the existing water supply system; landscape architecture for vegetative buffering; and for lighting to be sufficient particularly near entrances but “not to create more [lighting] than necessary” to be respectful of abutters.


Nadeau said that “by and large” the application consists of putting up fencing with a storage shed and demarcating an area on the site plan for a dumpster

enclosure should that become necessary in the future.

Steve Letourneau, CEO of Catholic Charities, spoke on behalf of the proposed childcare program. Letourneau shared that Catholic Charities operates two dozen programs across the state in all 16 counties that include food pantries, a dental center and residential spaces for those in recovery. Catholic Charities currently operates two childcare centers, one in Portland and one in Biddeford, that are “5-level rated” that are the highest level rating the state provides. Letourneau said that the “intention for this program would be the same” 5-level rating in quality.

Letourneau also mentioned that the Catholic Charities childcare program located in Portland, St. Elizabeth’s, would be moving into the proposed location at St. Bartholomew’s in Cape Elizabeth. He noted that what sets this program apart is that families from all faiths and economic backgrounds are welcome to enroll their children, and that people from all backgrounds are also welcomed employees.

The application for site plan review and conditional use was deemed complete with a unanimous vote by the board. The board also voted to table a vote on complete approval after a public hearing which will be held at the regular planning board meeting on November 18, 2025. A site visit to St. Bartholomew’s was scheduled for Friday, October 24, 2025 at 5 p.m.



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# News from the School Board

By Phil Saucier

Now that our clocks have fallen back an hour and the trees are mostly bare, the school year is getting busier! Fall conferences will be underway once this issue goes to print.

At the board's October meeting we heard a presentation on the successful waste separation and composting initiative underway in both cafeterias. We learned that the school department is currently composting approximately 200 gallons of food waste each week. This has been an effort led by teachers Chriss Sutherland and Kyle Dancause at the middle school and Tom Farmer at the high school, along with members of the Environmental Club at the high school - and has been supported by teachers and staff of both buildings as well as students who diligently sort their waste. This effort was supported by a grant from ecomaine, and the work of our dedicated kitchen and custodial staff. This is a great initiative that will continue to grow going forward.

We also appointed members to the new School Building Committee (SBC). School Board member Chris Boniakoski is the Chair of the SCB and Caitlin Sweet is the Vice-Chair. The board also appointed the following community members: Daniel Chase, Patrick Cotter, Jocelyn Dickson, Jenn Grymek and Tim Hebda along with alternate Tyler Morin. The board also approved the following school department members: David Bagdasarian, Tiffany Karnes, Caitlin Ramsey and Sarah Rubin. The town council appointed Jonathan Sarhbeck as its member. The SBC's first meeting was on November 5 and will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. It is exciting to see the building plans move forward through the process and we thank members for serving on the SBC.

I also encourage readers to review the summary of the Cape Elizabeth School Board 2024-2025 Experience Surveys which is posted on our website under the materials for our October 28, 2025 workshop. This is the third year that the school department has conducted this survey, led by Crescent Cove Research Solutions. The survey objectives are to help determine which areas of the student, parent/guardian, and teacher/staff experience are driving overall satisfaction levels in the district, measures performances in those key areas, measures performance in those key areas, measures over time whether those key areas are improving or declining, and identify and implement actions which improve satisfaction levels. These are incredibly important data - and we heard from administrators with specific examples on how they have used the information in the surveys. This type of survey work is unique and valuable and we hope to continue to build upon this data to recognize trends going forward.

Finally, this is my last column as a member of the Cape Elizabeth School Board. It has been a distinct honor and pleasure to serve on the Board over the last six years. I will miss working closely with our incredibly dedicated and talented superintendent and members of the District Leadership Team, working with the Cape Elizabeth Education Association on contracts, hearing from our amazing teachers, staff, and students at our meetings and workshops, and serving members of the public. Thank you to my fellow past and present board members for all of the time you volunteer for our schools and community. And yes - I'll miss working on the budget, policies and in particular our building project! There is a lot to celebrate in the Cape Elizabeth schools. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

"What actually happened is we had so many hospitable people in town that we already have a few homes lined up for next year since we filled up so quickly," Reynolds said.

Zach and Colleen Sprague generously donated the barn venue for the "Sweet Celebration" after-party, allowing CEEF to direct more funds toward school grants.

Plans are underway for the 2026 Secret Supper, though Reynolds won't reveal details. "As with this year's planning, it's a secret," she said. "My lips are sealed."

## CEEF

Continued from page 1

people willing to take a chance on a new experience, open their homes to host, and generously support CEEF."

Reynolds said she borrowed the concept from larger communities that have held similar events. Initially, she worried about finding enough hosts in Cape Elizabeth.



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# Vehicle passes bus, theft complaint

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 10-7 An officer met with a resident regarding a suspicious email.
- 10-8 A subject came to the police station and dropped off an abandoned blue child's bicycle.
- 10-10 Two officers responded to a residence in the Scott Dyer Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 10-15 An officer met with a subject regarding a vehicle passing a stopped school bus in the Ocean House Road area.
- 10-16 An officer met with a subject in the police station lobby regarding surrendering weapons.
- 10-20 An officer met with a subject in the Two Lights Road area regarding a neighbor dispute.
- 10-23 An officer met with the representative of a local business regarding a theft complaint.

## SUMMONSES

- 10-9 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating after license suspension, Ocean House Road
- 10-11 Westbrook resident, speeding (48/30 zone), Mitchell Road, \$170
- 10-14 Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$148
- 10-14 Gardner resident, owner of vehicle passing a stopped school bus, Ocean House Road, \$326
- 10-15 Gorham resident, speeding (60/40 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$230
- 10-18 South Portland resident, speeding (55/45

- zone), Ocean House Road, \$129
- 10-22 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (49/35 zone), Two Lights Road
- 10-23 Portland resident, speeding (44/35 zone), Ocean House Road, \$114
- 10-23 Windham resident, operating after license suspension, Bowery Beach Road, \$325

## JUVENILE SUMMONSES

- 10-17 Scarborough resident, speeding (40/30 zone), Fowler Road, \$129

## ARRESTS

- 10-12 Cape Elizabeth resident, outstanding warrant, Two Lights Road
- 10-13 Cape Elizabeth resident, outstanding warrant, Broad Cove Road

## ACCIDENTS

- 10-7 Brian Foley, accident on Old Ocean House Road
- 10-9 Nathaniel Monaghan, Taylor Asenjo, accident on Ocean House Road
- 10-17 Jonathan Grady, accident on Ocean House Road
- 10-18 Glenda Earle, accident on Bowery Beach Road
- 10-22 James Mooney, Kenneth Roberts, accident on Scott Dyer Road

## FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 13. EMS calls: 60

# Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

## TikTok and Social Media Scams

According to the Federal Trade Commission, more money is reported stolen through fraud originating on social media than by any other method of contact. Reports to the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline show a rise in scams on TikTok. Many are recycled fraud tactics with a social media twist.

Here are three ways to help protect yourself:

Check your privacy settings. Limit who can see your posts and which apps can access your information.

Be skeptical of direct messages. Scammers often pose as celebrities, influencers, or even friends to request money, solicit "donations," or promote fake investments. Red flags should go up if a friendly conversation turns into mentorship or romance that offers "investment" advice involving cryptocurrency.

Shop carefully on social platforms. TikTok Shop, Facebook Marketplace and similar sites can host scams where products are misrepresented, poor quality, or never delivered. Review seller ratings, be wary of prices that seem far below market value, and use a credit card for the best protection.

## Honoring Veterans and Protecting Them from Fraud

Veterans Day, celebrated each year on

November 11, is a time to honor the service and sacrifice of those who have served in the U.S. armed forces. It's also a reminder of the need to protect veterans beyond their time in uniform.


Earlier this year, AARP surveyed veterans and active-duty military service members to learn more about their experiences and concerns around fraud. The findings reveal that veterans face a higher risk of fraud and are often targeted with tactics related to their military background, benefits or deep sense of trust. Nearly four in ten veterans, representing more than 7.5 million people, say they've received solicitations from someone pretending to be from the Department of Veterans Affairs or another government agency. About 28%, an estimated 5.5 million veterans believe their veteran status made them a target.

While many veterans are already taking steps to stay safe online, more than one in three say there aren't enough resources available to help protect them. That's where the AARP Veterans Fraud Center comes in. This online education and resource hub helps veterans, service members, and their families learn how to spot and avoid scams.

Learn more about this research and the work AARP is doing to support America's veterans at <https://www.aarp.org/lp/vets-fraud-center/>.



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# Jordan, Harriman reelected to Town Council

By Kevin St. Jarre

Town Councilors Penny Jordan and Caitlin Harriman easily won reelection, defeating Timothy Reiniger, the former chairman in his attempt to return to the council, and newcomer Cynthia Troiano.

Jordan garnered 3,318 votes, while Harriman won 2,714, more than double what Reiniger and Troiano each pulled in, at 1,291 and 1,288 respectively. This means that even if either of the challengers had not been in the race, and their votes had gone to the other, that one could not have caught Harriman.

Once again, many Cape voters who cast ballots decided to skip the town council race, but even if those 949 votes would have gone to one of the challengers, it would not have made a difference in the outcome.

With their substantial victories, it would seem Jordan and Harriman have clear mandates. During the campaign, Harriman said she would continue to work hard on issues brought before the council and important to community members, and Jordan said a

primary issue for her "...stems from affordability which ripples into taxes, tax base and managed growth. The new middle school is happening, there are municipal projects such as the 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 to 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 percent 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."

# Sweet reelected, Patten elected to School Board

By Kevin St. Jarre

Caitlin Sweet has been reelected to the Cape Elizabeth School Board with 3,063 votes, and Andrew Patten has won a seat with 2,946 votes. Anastasia Troxel also ran, earning 1,131 votes.

There were also 59 write-in votes.

An interesting anomaly has occurred once again. In something nearly unique to Cape Elizabeth, there were 2,387 voters who submitted ballots, but who skipped the school board race. Obviously, these voters could have changed the outcome of the race.

In reviewing passed elections, the same phenomenon of a large number of voters skipping particular races has been known to occur in Cape Elizabeth, and sometimes in Scarborough, but in other surrounding towns, it is far less common.

Towns such as Westbrook and Gorham, for example, have recorded instances when a few dozen voters, out of thousands of ballots cast, skip a race, but in Cape Elizabeth as many as 50 percent of voters will choose not to vote on a particular issue or race, such as what has happened in this year's election of Cape Elizabeth School Board members.

## Results

Continued from page 2

voters said were the most important issues to them:

- 1- The school buildings 52.2%
- 2- Affordable housing 51.9%
- 3- Property taxes 50.7%
- 4- Renewable energy 39.8%
- 5- Roads, infrastructure, cell service 35.2%
- 6- Attracting businesses 23.1%
- 7- Phones in schools 19.7%
- 8- Tourism 5.5%

When voters were asked how things are going in the state of Maine:

Generally going in the right direction 55.6%

Neither right nor wrong 29%

Generally going in the wrong direction 15.4%

Some of the demographic data col-

lected by the AP Government students included:

54.6% of Cape voters identified as female, 43.6% identified as male and the remainder as nonbinary.

36.4% were between the ages of 41 and 55, 29.5% were between the ages of 56 and 70, 15.3% were between the ages of 26 and 40, 13.1% were 71 years old or older, and the remaining and smallest group were between the ages of 18 and 25.

The Cape electorate continues to be highly educated, with 34.8% reporting that they graduated from college, and 47.2% saying they have earned advanced degrees.

Exit polls respondents also reported that their primary sources for local information were:

The Cape Courier 52.4%

Friends, family, neighbors 17.6%

"Online sources" came in third place, beating out the remaining other five sources of information.

# The wild transition from military base to Fort Williams Park

Fort Williams, once the largest Army installation in the state of Maine and a bastion in the coastal defense of the city of Portland and Casco Bay for nearly 90 years, never fired its impressive array of cannons at an enemy.

And yet, the fort's closure in 1962 triggered a battle of its own. For more than a decade and a half, discussion, debate, and argument about what would become of the 90+ acres of Cape Elizabeth shorefront dominated local politics and triggered many discussions at the dinner table.

Mike McGovern and Jim Rowe will lead

the audience through that turbulent era, recalling the prolonged process, the people and their skirmishes which narrowly led to arguably the most beautiful municipal park in Maine.

Mark your calendars! The presentation will be held Tuesday, Dec. 9 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Thomas Memorial Library's Community Room. This is part of the monthly community program series co-sponsored by the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society and the library. The program is free and light holiday refreshments will be served.



Photo courtesy of CEHPS

Fort Williams Park grounds when it served as a military base.



Photo courtesy of CEHPS

Fort Williams Park grounds after its transition from a military base.

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# Sage Evans selected as a 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholar, honors influential teacher

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Sage Evans, center, with her family, is one of only two Maine students selected this year as a U.S. Presidential Scholar.

While the U.S. Presidential Scholars are typically announced in May or June of a year, the 2025 announcement did not come until late September. The program has announced that Cape Elizabeth High School graduate Sage Evans is one of only two Maine students selected for 2025.

Being named a U.S. Presidential Scholar is considered one of the nation's most prestigious academic awards for high school graduates.

As part of her application, Evans was asked to write about an influential teacher.

She chose CEHS English Teacher Matthew Clements. As such, he was recognized as a "Distinguished Teacher" by the U.S. DOE program.

Evans said in response to being chosen, "I'm incredibly honored to be selected and so appreciative of the teachers and community of Cape Elizabeth that supported me along the way."

About Clements, Evans wrote in her application, in part: "Mr. Clements, through his never-ending thoughtfulness and enthusiasm for the topics we explored in

class, showed me what could be achieved through my writing. He was genuinely interested in what each of us had to contribute to our daily class discussions, encouraging me to develop my opinions and speak with confidence. I learned that my writing was a powerful tool for the advocacy and policy that I was so passionate about, and learned to write well about topics I cared about. Most importantly, in Mr. Clements' class, I learned to love learning—something I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

In response to the selections, U.S. Sec-

retary of Education Linda McMahon said, "Congratulations to this year's Presidential Scholars for their remarkable academic, artistic, and technical achievements. Out of 3.9 million high school graduates, these 161 students are recognized for their extraordinary performance in their high school career. I look forward to seeing all they accomplish in their future!"

Evans is currently studying Public Policy at Dartmouth College and is a walk-on to their D1 sailing team.

## CEEF awards four grants

At its October 15 meeting, the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF) awarded \$27,000 in funding to four innovative educational projects spanning the district's middle and high schools. The evening's grants will support a diverse range of learning opportunities for Cape Elizabeth students, from hands-on creative coursework to environmental stewardship and academic competitions.

Janna DeWan, an art teacher at CEHS, received funding to purchase new sewing machines and supplies for the Fashion & 3D Design course. Students in the course learn textile design and wearable art while exploring sustainability issues, fast versus slow fashion and the global implications of clothing production. The course also investigates personal identity through fashion as a creative medium.

Ellen Bailey, a District Learning Instructional Strategist, secured funding to send three middle school teams to participate in the Noetic Learning Math Contests and MOEMS (Math Olympiads for Elementary and Middle Schools). The competitions aim to encourage student

interest in mathematics, develop problem-solving skills through non-routine problems and build a strong foundation for advanced STEM learning.

Winthrop Phillips, an English teacher at CEHS, will bring professional authors into the classroom to discuss the writing process. Students will gain insight into how writers work and what it takes to produce quality writing.

Josh Chase, a 6th grade teacher at CEMS, received funding for water testing equipment to support place-based environmental programs at both the middle and high schools. At CEMS, the grant will replace equipment for the TroutKids Program, an established and successful program where sixth graders raise and release brook trout at the Trout Brook Nature Preserve each spring. The grant also provides water quality testing equipment to replace materials previously borrowed from Portland Water District. At CEHS, the equipment will support the ongoing Spurwink Marsh monitoring project conducted by biology students in partnership with the town.

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# Our work to help Mainers with disabilities shows democracy as it should be

By Sen. Anne Carney

When Disability Rights Maine (DRM) requested that I sponsor legislation to preserve access to advocacy services for individuals with serious mental illness, I felt honored to have a role in their important mission. DRM employs advocates and attorneys to advance and enforce civil and legal rights through public policy reform, training, systemic advocacy and individual representation. They have spent decades establishing protections for Mainers with disabilities.

The bill, LD 1866, "An Act Regarding the State-designated Agency Advocating for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness," sought to ensure that hospital and community-based advocacy services that had been provided for many years continued. The services were originally required as part of the 1990 AMHI Consent Decree, which resolved legal claims against the state on behalf of residents of the former Augusta Mental Health Institute, a state-run psychiatric hospital. The decree was dismissed in December 2024, but services for Mainers with disabilities are still necessary.

LD 1866 demonstrated strong, bipartisan dedication to advocacy services for individuals with mental illness. Republican and Democratic lawmakers in both the Senate and House stepped up to sponsor the legislation. When challenges arose, stakeholders gathered for an early morning meeting, determined to overcome differing perspectives, and were able to come to agreement on the bill language. After this hard work under significant time pressure, the bill ultimately passed out of the Health and Human Services Committee and through

both the House and Senate without a single opposing vote and was signed by Gov. Mills on June 17, 2025.

The new law requires that the state contracts with and makes good faith efforts to continue vital mental health advocacy services and ensure that advocates for individuals with serious mental illness continue to be present in state hospitals and the community.

As the session progressed, this particular bill affirmed, for me, the power of Maine's legislative process to advance justice for Mainers with disabilities. It also made me hopeful about the democratic process on which our state and nation are built.

LD 1866 is an example of the democratic process as it's meant to work. Legislators agreed unanimously on the importance of mental health advocacy services for individuals with serious mental illness. And when disagreement arose, Mainers responded with determination to overcome differences in service of an important goal. In this era of political discord, the legislative process brought us together to advance justice for Mainers who have disabilities.

This fall, Disability Rights Maine recognized my legislative work with their 2025 Champion of Justice Award. I am grateful for the opportunity to join DRM's work to advance the disability justice movement.

# Shout out to the Cape Elizabeth Fire and Rescue team



Contributed photo

The Cape Elizabeth Fire and Rescue team carefully work to gently free a student whose leg became wedged in the tree fork.

Appletree School recently had a visit from the CE Fire and Rescue team and we wanted to give a shout out to thank them for their help.

At our primarily outdoor, nature-based preschool we see children in all kinds of engaged activities in the woods and open fields. But one day we found ourselves with a tricky situation of a child getting stuck in a tree! Not up high, not out on a limb, but about 30 inches off the ground.

Our young friend got his knee wedged between two branches and we needed to call the fire department to come to the rescue. One of them said "well, we've had calls for cats in a tree but never seen this before!"

They tried a few different approaches to help him out but ended up needing their hydraulic rescue tool otherwise known as the jaws of life. They pried the branches apart a bit and out came our young friend into his mother's arms. He got to sit way up high in the fire truck while the EMTs checked him out where he received a thumbs up for no injuries, and also a toy firetruck and a fire fighter's hat. Since that day, we've had a talented woodworking mom come and build a creative structure around that fork in the tree which the children love. We send a big thanks to her and to the Cape's rescue team for their professional and caring approach!

Got a story to share? Email us!



editor@capecourier.com

Plants must be picked up on 12/3/25 from CEHS.

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# CEHS Theater presents the Addams Family Musical this month

By Kevin St. Jarre



Photo by Christine Marshall

Performing as the Addams family, from left to right: Grace Carmellini, Katie Halter, Zack Sahlin, Liam Nudd, Calvin Powers and Oliver Deniz.

The Cape Elizabeth High School Theater Program proudly announces the upcoming performances of “The Addams Family Musical,” which is billed as “a spooky, yet sweet musical” with music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa and directed by Christine Marshall, director of the CEHS Theater Program, with Music Director Joanne Lee and Technical Director Stephen Price.

Running from Thursday, November 20 to Sunday, November 23 at the CEHS Auditorium, this production promises “to captivate audiences with its hilarious and heartwarming story exploring the wackiness in every family.” Performances are scheduled on Thursday through Saturday evenings at 7 p.m., with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m.

They also performed the opening number at Merrill Auditorium in late October for Spooktacular, a children’s event highlighting the Kottschmar Organ. Marshall said of that preview performance, “The kids were amazing.”

The musical features an original story and a dilemma that’s every father’s night-

mare: Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family—a man her parents have never met. And if that wasn’t upsetting enough, Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he’s never done before—keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday’s “normal” boyfriend and his parents.

“The Addams Family Musical shows a family of characters who are proud of their individuality,” said Marshall. “Our students are thrilled to share this with our community.”

For more details on the production and to purchase tickets, visit [www.cehstheaterboosters.com](http://www.cehstheaterboosters.com) or contact the Cape Elizabeth High School Boosters at [cehstheater@gmail.com](mailto:cehstheater@gmail.com). Tickets are \$15 with a special price of \$5 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased through <https://givebutter.com/AddamsTix>.

# What is the Cape Elizabeth High School Math Team all about?

By Kevin St. Jarre

Cape Elizabeth High School Teacher Alexis Dandaneau coaches the CEHS Math Team, and provided some insight into the team and the meets in which they compete.

She said that there are between 8 and 15 students who participate, what Dandaneau called a “...strong cohort of juniors and seniors who regularly attend meets and practices.”

She explained that a Math Meet is composed of 5 individual rounds and 1 team round. The “mathletes” have 12 minutes in each individual round to answer 3 questions on paper. Each of the three questions scores 3, 4 or 5 points. Each round focuses on a different concept or area of mathematics. During the team round, each school works together to answer the 9 questions.

Since Mathematics covers several subjects, Dandaneau explained further, “Each meet is composed of 5 different topics in mathematics and these topics change for each meet. Our meet in November will focus on: 1. Arithmetic with Ratio and Proportion, 2. Series and Sequences, 3. Counting Principles and Bi-

nomial Theorem, 4. Polynomials, 5. Areas and Volumes.”

Historically, CEHS’s Math Team has done well. The Maine State Math Meet is a yearly event held in April. The meet is attended by 1,000 students from all around the state.

During the 2024-2025 season, at the State Math Meet, CEHS earned 2nd place for Class C. At the 2023-2024 season State Math Meet, they earned 4th place for Class B, and during the 2022-2023 regular season CEHS earned 1st place in the Small School Southern Maine Division.

When asked what she personally loves about math, Dandaneau said, “I personally love the creativity and problem solving that is involved in mathematics. You have to think outside of the box to answer a lot of these questions and tie multiple concepts together in unique ways. Each of the problems acts as their own puzzle. At first you may not be able to see the solution but as you lay each piece and try one strategy after another you eventually see the whole picture come together. That ‘aha’ moment is so exciting and rewarding.”

**8 pts 7.** To encrypt a word, an algorithm uses four steps as follows:

- (1) Turn each letter’s rank in the alphabet. (A = 1, B = 2, ..., Z = 26)
- (2) Write the sequence of numbers backwards.
- (3) Subtract each number from 27.
- (4) Convert each number into its corresponding letter (1 = A, 2 = B, 26 = Z).

Decipher: VVWZPXRSX

(7) Ans. \_\_\_\_\_ 8 pts

**8 pts 8.** The solutions for  $\begin{vmatrix} x-1 & x+3 & 5 \\ 2 & x-5 & 3 \\ x & 2 & x-3 \end{vmatrix} = 89$  are  $x = d$  and  $x = \frac{a \pm \sqrt{b}}{c}$ , where a, b and c are relatively prime. Find the value of  $a + b + c + d$ .

(8) Ans. \_\_\_\_\_ 8 pts

Taken from the Problem Archive, Maine State Math Meet website.

A sample from the challenges the CEHS Math Team faces at Math Meets.

Thank you for your sacrifice, your bravery, and the example you set for us all. In short, thank you for your service! To all those who have served, and those who continue to serve...

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BONDED + INSURED

# Dave Norman, prolific author, debuts his first novel

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Author Dave Norman

Cape Elizabeth's Dave Norman has been a writer for 38 years, and professionally so since 2000. He's the author of five books, has edited books and newsstand magazines, and published nearly countless articles in print and online. He holds a Master's degree from Dartmouth College, where he studied narrative nonfiction writing and wrote his first two books. He said, "I once covered the sport of paintball for eight different consumer magazines, a 15-year career that found me covering events from California to Maine, and in Russia, India, the UK and Malaysia. While my career as a journalist paid the bills for many years, fiction writing has always been a more personal passion of mine." His latest book, "Hash 207 - A Hash House Harriers Story," is his debut novel.

Norman said that he is currently working on more narrative nonfiction projects, including "I Wanted a Cactus - My Reluctant Journey of Paternity," a humorous nonfiction project about becoming a dad. "When not writing, I'm focusing on my day job as a mental health therapist. We understand the world, and our places within it, through the stories we tell... so it was a surprisingly intuitive expansion of practice from being a journalist by day, to being a therapist by day who now writes at night," he said.

"Hash 207" benefitted tremendously from his work with developmental editor Alan Rinzler, Norman said, who has worked with Hunter S. Thompson, Toni Morrison and Tom Robbins among others.

Advanced readers of the work have said that "Hash 207" is:

"...an anthem of hope, that will put a smile on your face" -Dr. David Collins, Accidental Activists

"I laughed until I realized this was the story of my life, too. Then I finished through beautiful tears" -Randy Salisbury.

Norman said, "It's received outstanding support from the Hash House Harriers community, an organization to which I pay homage in the story, as well as in the title, as well as readers of contemporary American fiction. I'm truly honored, and frankly surprised, by the amount of support that this title has engendered already."

Norman explained that "Hash 207 - A Hash House Harriers Story" is a work of contemporary American fiction set in modern-day Portland. "It follows a group of street artists and a hard-partying running club as they hold tough against the affordable housing crisis, and navigate the ethics of resistance. Their apartments, jobs, and even their ways of life are under threat by gentrification and

the plans of an ambitious developer and conflicted politicians. With the No Kings protests here in the real world and the back-and-forth between powerful groups of people with conflicting visions for our country, many of them wrestling with how to make their voices heard effectively as well as ethically, this is an uncomfortably perfect cultural moment for a book like 'Hash 207' to hit the shelves," he said.

One of the early reviewers pointed out that "Hash 207" easily passes the Bechdel Test, a measure of women's representation in media. Norman said, "There are many social justice themes running through the book, which frequently put the characters at odds with their antagonists and sometimes with each other, as they navigate personal growth and community change."

When asked what drew him to writing in the beginning, Norman said, "I began writing at five years old, by flashlight under the covers after bedtime. I still write late into the night, while my family is asleep—the quiet leads to introspection and the flight of ideas that take shape in my work."

Norman said his writing style is "...a pastiche of my author heroes—Kurt Vonnegut, Hunter S. Thompson, Tom Wolfe and Tom Robbins—mixed with my own personal voice."

He said, "While the process is absolutely brutal, most of all to one's ego and confidence, there is absolutely no replacement for the benefit of working with topnotch editorial support to develop your skills and produce valuable work that connects with its audience."

His advice for writers just starting out is, "Your first draft is for you. Fall in love with the story, and the process of telling it, whether it be fiction or nonfiction. Invest yourself completely in the process, and let it become what you need it to be. This will never be wasted effort. Then—and this makes the difference right here—If the goal is to publish, get excellent editorial support and shape every one of your subsequent drafts evermore for your intended audience. The first draft is for you. The final draft, though, is for your readers—make sure it's really for them."

Those interested can read the first chapter of "Hash 207" for free at: [www.hash207.com/chapter-one](http://www.hash207.com/chapter-one)

Norman said he is available in person or through Zoom to give book talks and guest

speaker visits to social groups, book clubs, libraries...any group with an interest in the topic at hand or the experience of being a writer. "I've given talks at book stores and libraries, Rotary International Clubs and private events, and look forward to helping folks put together an inspiring and successful event," he said.

"Hash 207" is available through any local bookstore—just ask them to order it for you. It is also available in print or as an e-book through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Author-signed copies are available author-direct through: [www.hash207.com/buy](http://www.hash207.com/buy)

Norman's previous books include: "Following Josh" (narrative nonfiction), "White River Junctions" (narrative nonfiction), "A Small Town Celebration" (photo journalism) and "501 Paintball Tips" (how-to guide).



Contributed photo

Dave Norman's fifth book is his debut novel, "Hash 207 - A Hash House Harriers Story." It is a work of contemporary American fiction, set in modern day Portland.

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Contributed photo

Daniel DeSimone and Melora Gregory of Cape Elizabeth recently brought along the Cape Courier to Iguazu Falls in Brazil.

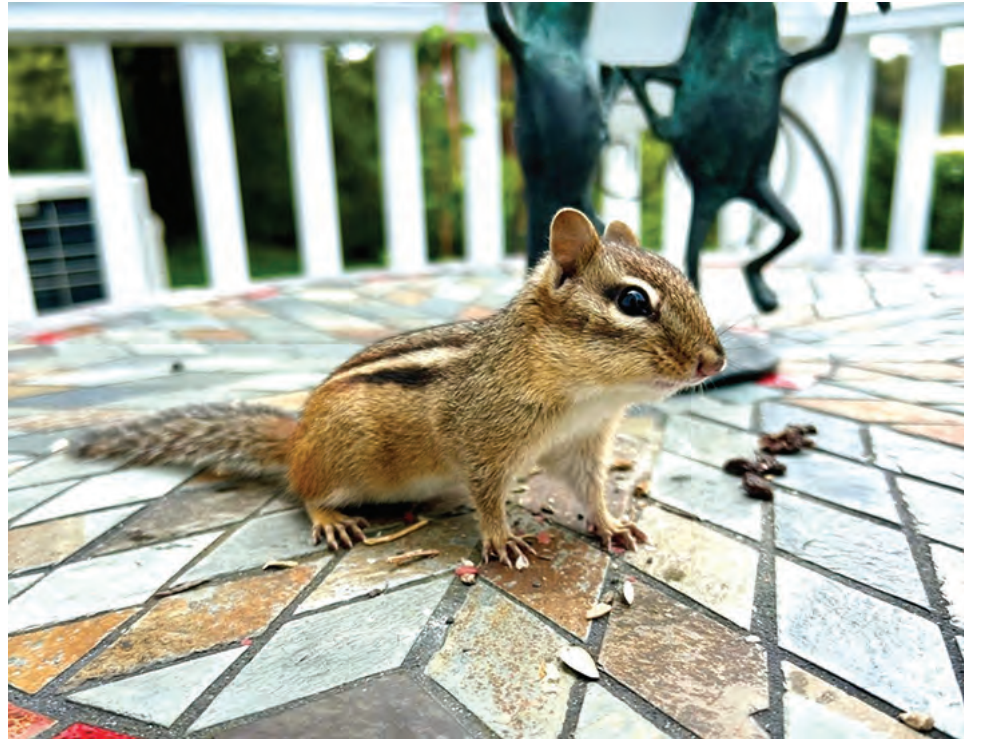


Photo by Laura Morris

Laura Morris named this frequent visitor Abner. "He enjoys our yard as much as we do," said Morris.



Photo by Martha Agan

Jordan Farm's annual pumpkin display.



Photo by Martha Agan

Martha Agan snapped this photo of a half moon above Kettle Cove beach at sunset on October 29.

### 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.

Pantry have eased. Please contact Beth Owens: bethowens1@gmail.com.

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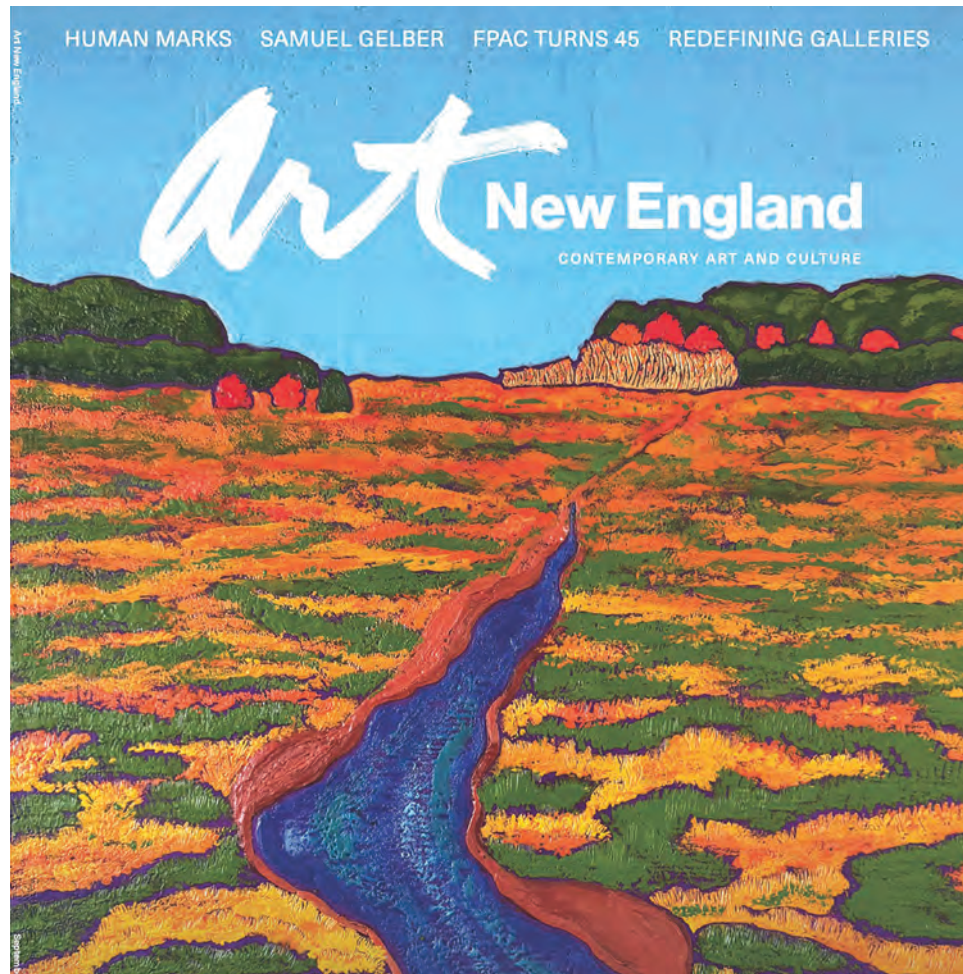
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**HOME AND PET GUARDIAN**

# Cape artist's work selected for cover of Art New England

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

September/October cover of Art New England, which features Marcia Crumley's painting.

Cape Elizabeth resident Marcia Crumley's painting "October Marsh" was selected as the cover image for the September/October issue of *Art New England*, the region's premier arts and culture magazine. This painting is one of 21 encaustic landscapes that are in Marcia's solo exhibition "Finding Joy" at the Blue Door Gallery in York. The show ran through November 8.

Crumley said, "I was honored and thrilled to have one of my paintings chosen for the cover of *Art New England*. The issue also contains a preview of my current exhibition."

According to a release from Blue Door Gallery, "Finding Joy" is about recognizing the delight and wonder found in simple, often unexpected, places. "These paintings celebrate those times when the beauty of the natural world suddenly stops you in your tracks: Being mesmerized by a starry night sky, noticing how the brilliant oranges and golds of autumn foliage pop against the deep blue sky, or watching a kaleidoscope of monarch butterflies as they pass through on their annual migration," the release read.

Of her coming creative plans, Crumley said, "I'm going to continue to develop a series of encaustic seascapes on round panels, meant to give the sense of the view through a ship's porthole. I have two of them in the current show, but want to do more featuring different weather conditions and times of day. I'm also planning to incorporate gold or silver paint or leaf to give more of the shimmering dawn feel to a few of them. Getting ready for the York show kept me busy all summer."

Crumley's painting process is defined by layering. Each piece contains up to 15 to 20 strata of pigmented wax. With each pass, she is not just applying more paint, but intuitively responding to what is already on the surface and adding fresh thoughts and observations. She also incises and scrapes away wax, revealing underlying colors and textures. During the final stages of a painting, she often rubs oil paint into the marks she has made, to create even more visual interest. The highly textured surfaces of these encaustic paint-

ings invite viewers to spend more time with them. Crumley likes the artist's hand to be visible in her work, and the longer you spend looking at these paintings, the more you see – subtle gestures, hidden textures, and even "mistakes" that she decided to leave in the work. Videos of her process can be seen on her web site: [marciacrumleyart.com](http://marciacrumleyart.com).

Blue Door Gallery is located at 2 Southside Road in York. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment on weekends and evenings. For more information call (207) 332-2938 or email [janicesantini@icloud.com](mailto:janicesantini@icloud.com).

# Mailman shows off Next Generation Delivery Vehicle

By Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)

Mail carrier Matt Greenleaf has been a mail carrier for 29 years, the past six years in Cape Elizabeth. Recently Matt received a new postal truck to deliver his mail. A Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV), a significant upgrade from the 30 year old Grumman Long Life Vehicle (LLV) he was driving with hundred of thousands of miles logged on. The new trucks, manufactured by Oshkosh Defense, are part of the U.S. Postal Service's plan to modernize its aging fleet.

Matt gave me a tour of his new vehicle, with much needed new including:

Comfort and safety: Unlike the older LLV, which had no air conditioning and

unreliable heating, the NGDV offers modern features, including air conditioning, larger windshields, airbags, collision avoidance, and a 360-degree camera system. The new vehicles have a higher roof and a larger capacity for mail and packages, which can reduce the number of trips required to deliver high package volumes.

Carriers like Greenleaf appreciate the upgrades, which are a major improvement over the frequently broken-down and uncomfortable older trucks. They have a distinct utilitarian appearance, however Matt said his new truck has improved functionality and enhanced comfort.



Photo by Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)

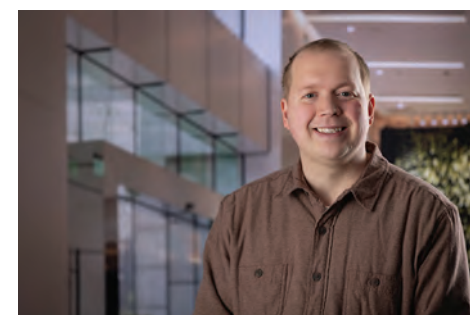
Pictured above, Matt Greenleaf's Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV).

# Cape grad to perform in "Annie"

Tom Schrank, CEHS graduate Class of 2010 will be performing as Fred McCracken and his puppet Wacky in the Portland Players' production of "Annie."

The show will run from December 5 through December 21. Performance days and times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Information on the price of tickets can be found on the website at [www.portlandplayers.org](http://www.portlandplayers.org).



Contributed photo



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# TML offers Zentangle with Cathi Belcher, special all-ages Film School

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Fireside Writing is Back!

The winds have shifted and the air is getting chilly once again...which means it's time to settle in by the fire and write that novel! TML, with the help of Amanda Avallone, is happy to offer another season of Fireside Writing, a weekly gathering for anyone who writes—at any stage of the journey, in any genre, for any intended audience. Come join us by the fire on a drop-in basis. Based on the group's interests, we may share a bit about our projects and processes, offer tips on making space for writing in our lives, or—just maybe—share a little bit of our work with another. No registration required.

## SPECIAL EVENTS (ADULT)

### Zentangle with Cathi Belcher

Saturday, November 15, 1-4 p.m.

Zentangle is a form of meditative drawing that anyone can learn. It's an easy, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing easily learned structured patterns, one stroke at a time. Join us for a special class with Cathi Belcher and discover the beautiful results you can get by simply drawing a series of straight lines, dots and curves. It is an art that literally anyone can master in a short time. In this class, you'll learn the history of Zentangle, what it is, and a series of patterns you can use beyond this class to create beautiful, original artwork and gifts for your family and friends. Limited to 20 participants; registration required.

### Celebrating 40 years of CELT

Tuesday, November 18, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

To celebrate the 40 years since the founding of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, CELT is partnering with the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society and the Thomas Memorial Library for a panel discussion about CELT's role in land conservation for the last four decades.

Panelists will include current and former board members with firsthand experience in the various projects that have gone into conserving nearly 900 acres of land in Cape. They will also discuss CELT's goals for the future and how CELT continues to live their mission of permanently conserving and stewarding cherished lands – from shorelands to marshes, from farmlands to woodlands – for ecological benefit and for the enjoyment and education of all people.

The presentation is free and light refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there.

## Special All-Ages Film School:

### WALL-E

Tuesday, November 25, 5-8 p.m. (updated, previously scheduled for November 18)

For this month's edition of Film School, we're doing something a little different. To celebrate the medium of animation, TML is having a very special all-ages screening and discussion of WALL-E! For the first time, anyone and everyone is invited to watch a movie together and talk about it after—and there is lots to say. WALL-E is the only Pixar movie to be included in the esteemed Criterion Collection, and for good reason; this 2008 film is full of social commentary, sci-fi adventure and sweeping romance. Kids, tweens, and teens, we would love for you to join us and share your thoughts on what makes this movie so special. And grown-ups—don't skip this opportunity to discover why animated movies aren't just for kids!

## Senior Social Hour featuring live music from VentiCordi

Wednesday, November 19, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Join us for another special Senior Social Hour filled with music, this time from classical ensemble VentiCordi. Led by violinist Dean Stein and oboist Kathleen McNerney, VentiCordi has delighted audiences and critics throughout the state of Maine. Their recent debut recording has been described as “a kaleidoscope of changing moods and vividly contrasted instrumental colours,” and “noteworthy for its imaginative programming and unusual trio formats.”

## Perpetual Nature Journaling with Rebekah Lowell

Saturday, November 22, 2 - 4 p.m.

Artist, author and Maine Master Naturalist Rebekah Lowell is returning to TML for a brand new creative workshop. Nature Journaling is a practice that can help us see the natural world around us more clearly. A Perpetual Journal is one where you draw one natural object a week over 52 page spreads, and start over year after year until the book is full. Paying close attention in a Perpetual Journal helps us notice the phenology of changing seasons through observing details such as buds forming, flowers blooming, snow melting, bugs in our yard and more. By the end of five years, your journal will be full with the phenology around you and serve as a record of your natural observations over time. Helpful supplies to bring would be a sketchbook, waterproof ink pens and watercolors.

Registration limited to 15 participants.

## RECURRING PROGRAMS (ADULT)

### Senior Social Hour

Every Wednesday from 1 - 2 p.m.

### Fireside Writing

Every Thursday from 5 - 6 p.m.

### Death Cafe, with Davinica Nemtzow

Thursday, November 6, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

### Songwriting Workshop, with Jud Caswell

Tuesday, November 4, 6 - 8 p.m.

### FE Recurring Programs - Children's

Messy Minis: Mondays @ 10:30 a.m.

Let your imagination run wild and join us for Messy Minis time in the Community Room. Let's color, cut and paste together to make magic. For budding artists ages 2-5 or anyone who enjoys creative play.

### Baby Storytime: Tuesdays @ Noon

This program is designed for infants and toddlers from birth - 18 months old and their caregivers. Join Family Engagement Assistant Sarah Gabrielson for 15 minutes of short stories, finger plays, rhymes, songs, and movements followed by 30 minutes of free time to play and chat. Please note, capacity for this program is 25 people. No prior registration required.

### Play Group: Wednesdays @ 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Join us for this drop-in play session for children and their caregivers. The Community Room is open for exploration during this time, with special toys and stations while you visit with friends. The capacity for this program is 25 people. Doors open at 10:25 a.m. Arrive early to secure your spot.

### Toddler Story Time: Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m.

This program is for children who are not ready for a traditional story time but who love to sing songs, move their bodies, and listen to stories. This gentle introduction to the routines and props of story time is great for curious, wandering wigglers ages 1-3 and their caregivers.

### Preschool Story Time: Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

Join us in the Community Room for songs, stories and Belinda the Bear! Geared toward

children ages 3-5 or anyone who enjoys listening to a solid two stories.

### Lego Club : First Tuesday of the month, 3:30 p.m., November 4

Come free-build or pick up a challenge card to try something new. Masterpieces will be put on display until the next Lego Club meeting. No registration necessary.

### Venture Club

Every Wednesday from 2:45 - 4:30 p.m.

Venture Club is a teen-led board/card game and D&D club for teens 13 and up, with an emphasis on board games. We'll try to play new games every week. No prior gaming experience is needed. Snacks will be provided.

### Library Squad

First Friday of the month @ 2:45 p.m.

Library Squad is a group of young people who advise on library happenings. Members of the squad have a designated book recommendation shelf. They help design displays, craft children's room decor, and provide feedback and ideas on library programs. Monthly meetings include snacks, social time, the occasional craft, and cool vibes with friends and librarians. For tweens and teens ages 11 - 13.

### TLC: Teen Leadership Council, for ages 14+

Last Friday of the month @ 2:45 p.m.

Help shape the future of the teen space and...

- Earn volunteer hours
- Advise on library policies
- Design new programs

The Teen Leadership Council (TLC) will meet once a month on the last Friday of the month. Among other topics meetings will include snacks, chatting, and teen-led discussions about library programs and policies.

### Family Engagement Special Programs Dinosaur Daze - A Prehistoric Storytelling Adventure

Saturday, November 8, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Join Jackson Gillman for a prehistoric comedy of stories and songs that will have you stomping, soaring, and singing along. Jackson incorporates song, story, comedy, dance, mime and sign language into his own intimate style of theatre. For children and families ages 5+. No registration required.

-see LIBRARY page 14

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## Local birding report

By Brooks Bornhoff

As November deepens, Cygnus, the celestial swan, drifts slowly westward, its wings dimming in the early dusk. Once radiant and high in the summer sky, it now echoes the quieting of the natural world below. Yet as one rhythm fades, another begins: the steady wingbeats of winter birds and waterfowl gathering on coastal waters and inland ponds—a seasonal change of the guard that brings a new kind of energy to the landscape.

A few noteworthy sightings over the past two weeks highlight this transition. On the morning of October 31, four female Purple Finches quietly arrived at our backyard feeder. Often referred to as “winter finches,” Purple Finches are partial migrants, with northern populations moving south in winter depending on cone crop availability.

Female Purple Finches contrast sharply with their male counterparts, sporting streaked brown and white plumage and a distinct white eyebrow that aids in identification. I like to think of them as miniature female Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, though they’re more often mistaken for House Finches. Compared to their unsavory cousin, Purple Finches are chunkier, more crisply patterned, and—despite regional declines due to competition and habitat changes—their overall populations remain relatively stable thanks to their adaptability and nomadic habits.

On November 2, while exploring the windy headland of Trundy Point with family, we witnessed a remarkable movement of Brant Geese—six flocks totaling well over 300 birds flying low along the coastline. Their laid-back, throaty calls overhead created a moment of quiet awe. In flight, Brant form tight, swarm-like groupings, less linear than Canada Geese. Not much larger than a Mallard, their name comes from the Old Norse brandgas, meaning “burnt goose,” a nod to their dark, blackish-gray plumage. A white necklace-like patch around the neck adds subtle contrast, though it’s often hard to see from a distance.

## Stories from CELT’s 40 years and future plans

To celebrate the 40 years since the founding of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, CELT is partnering with the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society and the Thomas Memorial Library for a panel discussion about CELT’s role in land conservation for the last four decades.

Panelists will include current and former board members with firsthand experience in the various projects that have gone into conserving nearly 900 acres of land in Cape. They will also discuss CELT’s goals for the future and how

Brant are Arctic breeders and among the wariest of New England’s wildfowl, historically hunted for both meat and feathers—once prized for pillow and bedding fill. Today, their greatest threat is habitat degradation, especially in wintering wetlands. A 2005 study in *Global Change Biology* by David H. Ward and colleagues suggests that anthropogenic changes to marine wetlands have forced Brant to shift from native aquatic plants to foraging in cultivated fields and beach grasses—behavior now observed more frequently along Maine’s coast. Interestingly, historical records suggest that November counts rarely exceed 40 birds, making this recent sighting all the more notable.

Other highlights from the same day included a dozen Northern Gannets plunging into offshore waters and the season’s first sightings of White-winged, Black and Surf Scoters.

Also on November 2 I spotted a single Orange-crowned Warbler in an ornamental fruit tree near the middle school. A rare treat, this understated warbler is typically yellow-olive to greenish with no wing bars, and its namesake orange crown is almost always hidden. Unlike many warblers that winter in the tropics, Orange-crowned Warblers pass through Cape Elizabeth en route to the southern U.S., and will occasionally visit feeders offering suet.

Lastly, a bit of good news from the conservation front: BirdSafe Maine recently reported that after WEX treated its problematic corporate windows with bird-safe tape this past summer, volunteers found zero dead birds at that location during September and October. This underscores the effectiveness of bird-safe materials—especially when compared to untreated facades where strikes continue. The birding community is grateful to WEX and other Maine companies taking meaningful steps to reduce bird collisions.

CELT continues to live their mission of permanently conserving and stewarding cherished lands – from shorelands to marshes, from farmlands to woodlands – for ecological benefit and for the enjoyment and education of all people.

This special presentation will be held Tuesday, November 18 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Thomas Memorial Library.

The presentation is free and light refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there.

## Great Pond, more than an exaggerated fish story

By Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)



Contributed photo

Steve Lyons’ son-in-law fishing on Great Pond this past summer.

Mark Twain’s wisdom about fishing is best exemplified by the quote, “When you fish for love, bait with your heart, not your brain.” Twain offered pragmatic advice like, “Do not tell fish stories where the people know you; but particularly, don’t tell them where they know the fish.”

A certain amount of exaggeration is expected when telling a fishing tale, along with a bit of wisdom. This summer, I enjoyed paddling “Great Pond” with my son-in-law, a highly skilled angler, who has landed plenty of bass and pickerel, teaching me a few things along the way.

Fishing Great Pond reminds me of a nostalgic way of everyday life, particularly this past summer. It was a simple pleasure, with peaceful moments and cherished bonds be-

tween generations of family.

It offered a tranquil sanctuary, where the thriving wildlife creates a calming escape, as the shorelines created its own chorus and natural soundscape, with the crickets singing.

While the town’s people canoe and fish Great Pond, I hope it reminds them of the patience, persistence, and success required in the understanding of the process, the ability to handle disappointment, and the willingness to learn from experience.

The Great Pond moments taught me the importance of appreciating simple things in life, connecting with nature and the value of sharing knowledge to empower others. Something I hope to pass along with those exaggerated fish stories.

## CEUMC offering a wreath, bake and attic treasures sale

The Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church’s Women in Faith is holding a Wreath Sale, Bake Sale, and Attic Treasures Sale at the church on Saturday, December 6 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The prices for wreaths are \$25 for decorated and \$18 for undecorated. If possible, order your wreaths in advance by leaving a message by phone at (207) 799-8396 or by e-mail to [capeelizabethumc@gmail.com](mailto:capeelizabethumc@gmail.com). Leave

your name, phone number and how many wreaths you would like to purchase.

Some wreaths will still be available for purchase on December 6 at the church. The Bake Sale will offer cookies, cakes, pies and other holiday treats. The Attic Treasures Sale will offer a wide range of small and large items.

The church is located at 280 Ocean House Road (Route 77) in Cape Elizabeth.



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# CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

Please see the town website, [www.capeelizabeth.com](http://www.capeelizabeth.com) for meeting locations.

*Instructions for joining video conference meetings listed below will be posted on the town website, [www.capeelizabeth.com](http://www.capeelizabeth.com).*

## Wednesday, November 12

Accessibility & Inclusion Committee, Thomas Memorial Library, 6 p.m.  
School Board Meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

## Thursday, November 13

Town Council Annual Organizational Caucus for 2026, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

## Friday, November 14

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

## Tuesday, November 18

School Board All-Day Retreat, McKernan Inn & Events, Southern Maine Community College, South Portland

## Wednesday, November 19

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7 p.m.  
School Board Policy Committee, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.  
Traffic Safety Working Group, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.

## Thursday, November 20

Fort Williams Park Committee, Cape Elizabeth High School, 6 p.m.

## Friday, November 21

Energy Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

## Ongoing each week

Al-Anon, 7 p.m. Fridays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland. Parking in rear.

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

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

Cape Elizabeth Lions Club, 6:39 p.m., first and third Tuesdays at the Bowery Beach Schoolhouse (except July and August), Two Lights Road  
Cape Elizabeth Republican Town Committee, 6-8:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, Cape Elizabeth Community Center. Contact: [cercme.com](http://cercme.com) for Cape information.

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

# SERVICES

## Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene

499 Ocean House Road (Route 77)  
747-1113

[www.capenazarene.org](http://www.capenazarene.org)

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

## Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church

280 Ocean House Road  
799-8396

[www.ceumc.org](http://www.ceumc.org)

Sanctuary Service: 10:00 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](http://www.bethaam.org)

Worship: Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

Family Shabbat Services:

Second Friday, 6:00 p.m.

## Hope Community Church

879 Sawyer Street South Portland  
799-4565

[www.hopesopo.com](http://www.hopesopo.com)

[www.facebook.com/hopesopo](http://www.facebook.com/hopesopo)

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

## Promised Land World Reach Center

536 Cottage Road, South Portland  
799-3152

Sunday Prayer & Intercession: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.  
Family Bible Studies: Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
Sermon recordings available to download

## Redeemer Lutheran Church - LCMS

410 Main Street, Gorham  
839-7100

[www.RedeemerMaine.org](http://www.RedeemerMaine.org)

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

## Saint Alban's Episcopal Church

885 Shore Road  
799-4014

[www.stalbansmaine.org](http://www.stalbansmaine.org)

Sunday Services:

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

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

Live Streaming on YouTube ([stalbanschannel](http://stalbanschannel))

Children's Programs 9:30 a.m.

Celtic Eventide 5:30 p.m.

Room for all

## St Bartholomew Catholic Church of Saint John Paul II Parish

8 Two Lights Road, 207-883-0334

Website: [www.JP2me.org](http://www.JP2me.org)

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.

Daily Mass: Mon. and Wed. 8 a.m.

Sacrament of Confession: Mon. 8:30-9 a.m.

Additional Mass times in Scarborough & South Portland listed on website

## First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

301 Cottage Road, South Portland  
799-3361

[www.fccucc.org](http://www.fccucc.org)

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

## First Congregational Church of Scarborough

167 Black Point Road, Scarborough  
883-2342

[www.fccscarborough.com](http://www.fccscarborough.com)

Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Nursery Care

## CABLE GUIDE

## CETV CHANNEL 1302

*Subject to change. Please see [cetv.capeelizabeth.org](http://cetv.capeelizabeth.org) for latest program guide and video on demand.*

Nothing scheduled for November 12-25



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## Library

Continued from page 12

The capacity for this event is 50, please come early to secure your spot.

### Sewing Adventures: Recycled Sweater Hats

Saturday, November 22, 1:30-3:00 p.m.  
EASY level, beginning sewists welcome.  
For children ages 7-14 and their caregivers.

Children under 10 must have a caregiver present. Wishing for a cozy new hat? Need a handmade gift for a loved one? Join us as we recycle donated sweaters into new hats for fall and winter using simple patterns, machine or hand applique, and embroidery. Make a pom pom or tassel to top off your hat. If you have a certain shrunken sweater you'd like to turn into a hat, bring it along.

All materials provided. Registration is required, please sign up on our website.

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

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

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**OBITUARIES**

**Kristine Dunklee Rioux**



**Kristine Dunklee Rioux** passed away peacefully on October 3rd, 2025. She is remembered for her passion to help and care for others and will be greatly missed by her loving husband, five children, and ten grandchildren.

Kris was born on October 6th, 1946, in Brattleboro, Vermont, the third child of Esther and Robert Dunklee Jr. Her childhood was spent between Brattleboro and Scituate, RI. Kris graduated from The Lincoln School in 1965 and then attended the University of Maine at Orono, where she met her husband, Roger Rioux. In June of 1969, Kris and Roger graduated from college, married, and moved to Massachusetts, where Kris worked as a social worker before becoming a mother. In 1974, they moved their family to Cape Elizabeth, Maine, where they were active in their community for 47 years. After her first three children reached school age, Kris earned her nursing degree at the University of Southern Maine. She then worked as a night nurse at Maine Medical Center in Portland until the birth of her last two children in 1988. In 1994, she started working as a nurse at Camp Wawenock for six years while her sons attended a boys' camp.

Kris was a loving and supportive mother. She attended all of her children's athletic events - soccer, softball, baseball, tennis, and swimming. She encouraged her daughters to learn to play the piano and created a bribe bag - a paper bag filled with small treats - for motivation to practice. She loved listening to her children and grandchildren play music, regardless of how simple or masterful the tune.

Kris was a strong supporter of children's literacy. She enjoyed finding treasures at

garage sales - she loved a good bargain - and provided her grandchildren and neighborhood families with stacks of children's books. One of her favorite activities was frequenting the Maine bookstore chain, Bull Moose, to find discounted books for her toddler-aged grandchildren. For years, she volunteered for the Cape Elizabeth library book sale and also worked in the public school system as an aide. Many children benefited from her generosity and thoughtfulness.

Kris loved growing and harvesting rhubarb. She enjoyed giving bunches away to friends and strangers. She was well known for a few culinary creations: homemade pizza, pasta sauce, chocolate cupcakes with cream cheese frosting, cream puffs, and pancakes. During strawberry-picking season, Kris let her children eat homemade strawberry shortcake for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Her favorite holiday gift was pizzelles stacked in a bag tied with a bow. She was renowned for her pies -pumpkin, strawberry rhubarb, custard, lemon meringue, and coconut cream. She would travel to see her grandchildren with coolers filled with pies - never apple, though, as she greatly disliked the fruit.

Kris was an early riser and loved coffee. She enjoyed speed walking each morning through her Sherwood Forest neighborhood, down Shore Road, and through Fort Williams Park. As she slowed in her early 70s, she was known to the maintenance staff at the fort for walking with her dog Lily and for picking up trash left by tourists. She was an avid bridge player, starting while in college, and she played with her friends for many years.

She leaves behind her beloved husband of 56 years, their five children: Nicole (Jake) Hynes, Holly (Kevin) Crosby, Melanie (Eric) Tennyson, Silas (Nora) Rioux, and Zach (Teale) Rioux, as well as 10 grandchildren: Eva, Camden, Amelia, Maya, Caroline, Meghan, Catie-Riley, Adeline, Harrison, Winter, and one more on the way. She is predeceased by her sister, Betsey Jackson, and brother Douglas Dunklee. She is survived by her brother Robert Dunklee and his wife Marilee, and her sister Rebecca Howarth and husband Richard.

A celebration of Kris's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Southern Maine Agency on Aging.

**Meeting**

Continued from page 3

Councilor Elizabeth Scifres said that the project addresses 4 out of 9 town council goals for 2025-2026 including goals on asset and financial management, environmental issues, property tax relief issue and a transportation safety issue. Scifres said that all problematic roads in Cape Elizabeth will need to be addressed and that this isn't an "either or" issue.

Councilors Tim Thompson and Chair Penny Jordan also shared that they are not in favor of closing Sawyer Road. The vote resulted in 5 to 2 in favor of not continuing with the discontinuance of the project.

**Council Appointment to School Building Committee**

Councilor Swayze nominated Jonathan Sahrbeck to represent the town council on the school building committee. Councilor Thompson shared that he is "supportive of Jonathan being on this" and that "it'll be really important that we get communications for a nice, smooth transition."

Sahrbeck said he appreciated everyone's support and looks forward to being a liaison between Council and School Build committee. The council voted unanimously to approve.

**Amendments to Chapter 2 - Administrative Code**

Town Manager Patrick Fox explained that a purchasing policy and a purchasing procedure ordinance both exist, and that he "can't verify they have both been

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updated at the same time with the same language." Fox recommended to the council to remove the ordinance and leave the purchasing policy in place. The council voted unanimously to approve.

**Shore Road/Cliff House Beach Parking Area**

The council voted to refer to the ordinance committee the issue of Shore Road and Cliff House Beach parking area. Sahrbeck said that he was "looking forward to getting this back in front of the ordinance committee based on the public input."

**Additional Agenda Items**

The town council discussed numerous agenda items for which the vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Those agenda items included the liquor license renewal for Tacos Y Tequila; general assistance ordinance and appendices updates; the employment agreement with public works bargaining unit; fiscal year 2025 carry forward amendment for the salt shed; chapter 13 parking amendments for Fenway Road; and putting FEMA reimbursements into the budget along with the road paving funds from the state.



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