

The Cape Courier

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In the Spirit of Community

News from January 21 Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Town Council Correspondence

Councilor Anderson offered congratulations to Elisa Dew, Cape Elizabeth High School student and class of 2027, as she was selected for the United States Senate Page Program. Anderson explained that this position is only given to “30 people nationwide” and that she wanted Dew to be recognized for this “wonderful thing.” The U.S. Senate Page Program is competitive and prestigious. For the spring 2026 semester, Dew and other selected pages will reside on Capitol Hill to work full time assisting the daily operations of the senate while also taking part in education field trips in D.C., and maintaining their high school studies. Dew was nominated by Senator Susan Collins.

Councilor Anderson also provided an update on the 2025 donations for the Thomas Memorial Library Foundation. The closed out donations for 2025 totaled “about \$57,000” which was around \$5,000 more than the previous year. The foundation had hoped for a 10% increase

to which they met that goal. The library’s budget for programming is \$50,000. These donated funds go directly back to the library for the programming budget.

Councilor Sahrbeck, member of the School Board Committee, said that there have been changes to the proposed site plan due to concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety. The updated site plan reflects those safety concerns including the elimination of a proposed crosswalk over the campus driveway and increased green space in the plaza area. The site plan will go before the planning board for review in the next couple of months.

Sahrbeck also shared that the Cape Elizabeth Historical Society hosted a panel at the Thomas Memorial Library about Cape Elizabeth sports in the 1950s and 1960s. Sahrbeck said that if the presentation was recorded that “you all [should] go and watch it. Members of the community shared stories. It was great.” Sahrbeck added that it was “very fun to watch.”

Sahrbeck also asked for an email from the planning board to be part of the record. Sahrbeck then shared a note of appreciation for Jim Huebener who retired from the Planning Board in December 2025. According to the note, Huebener has a “strong devotion to community,” a “level head” and “committed to do what was fair and right.” The note shared that Huebener is a “model to the planning board members both new and old.”

Councilor Swayze shared information from a presentation at the Portland Water District on biosolids management. The presentation discussed the increasingly difficult processing because of PFAs. There is a request for proposals out with ecomaine for a company or firm to propose and offer solutions to abate PFAs in biosolids.

Councilor Jordan updated the council from a recent meeting with the Regional Property Tax Committee with the continuing work creating recommendations for the task force established by the Governor to look into real estate and property taxes. Jordan said the committee is focusing on a “local option tax” and

-see TOWN COUNCIL page 2



Contributed photo

Action shot of Holton Kang and Lucas Haddad playing in round 4.

Cape Middle School dominates Pond Cove Chess Tournament

On Saturday, January 10, 53 chess players gathered at Pond Cove Elementary School for the annual Pond Cove Open. Competitors were separated into three rating-based sections. Each section used a four-round Swiss format, with the top performers meeting in the final round to decide the champions. Every point a player earned also counted toward the season-long scholastic championships.

In the U800 section, four of 28 players entered the final round with perfect 3-0 scores. Holton Kang and Silvio Cimato, both from Cape Elizabeth Middle School, won their final games and were named co-champions. Lucas Haddad and Georgie Morse of CEMS tied for third overall. Sam Ferraro and Sebastian Holbrook each contributed 2 points. In the Open section, Theo Reichl added a point playing against the top players in the state. All together, CEMS totaled 19 points, placing them atop the state middle school rankings.

Pond Cove Elementary was led by Adrian Reichl and Jay Mower, who each scored 2 points. Zev Hagopian, Henry Fisher, Carter Persing, Beau Sahrbeck and Margot Cimato each added 1 point, giving Pond Cove 8.5 points and first place in the season standings

for elementary schools.

The season-long competition will wrap up in March at the team state championships where the elementary team will look to defend their title from last year while the middle school team aims to improve upon their second place finish from last year.



Contributed photo

Pond Cove Tournament co-champions Silvio Cimato and Holton Kang.

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NEXT ISSUE: Feb 18
DEADLINE: Noon, Feb 6

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Town Council

Continued from page 1

changes to the state constitution regarding different categories by taxpayers. Jordan said the committee is hoping to “really dig into options” when the committee convenes in May 2026.

Senior Tax Relief Program

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Let us hear from you!



We love feedback!

editor@capecourier.com

Report

Town Assessor Nick Dejardins presented the senior tax relief program report for 2025. The program was established by the town council in 2019. There are reimbursement benefits ranging from \$750 to \$1,500 for those senior residents who qualify. Qualifications include an adjusted gross income of less than \$70,000 per year and a residence status of a minimum of ten years.

Residents who have approved applications will see notifications in the mail in the coming weeks that will explain their reimbursement benefit. Desjardins shared that 106 applicants are receiving a \$1,500 reimbursement, 60 applicants are receiving a \$1,000 reimbursement; and 46 are receiving a \$750 reimbursement.

Councilor Anderson shared that in 2025 the town council had increased the parameters of the program by “increasing the budget, increasing the income threshold for applicants and increasing the amount of stipends.” Desjardins concluded by saying that the program has been “good for the town” and has “clearly helped a lot of residents out” with many of those residents showing their appreciation.

1934 Building Committee Charge

Chair Scifres shared a note that there was a “slight oversight” in the meeting materials for the agenda item for the 1934 Building Committee charge. The total number of committee members is nine.

Councilor Anderson provided some background on the 1934 Building Committee including that the committee will include nine members, six being community members. The committee will meet for a period of 12 months in order to “get something lined up for the November 2027 ballot if necessary” referring to a citizen referendum. The committee will operate with open meeting and public records law and will be recorded so long as the technology is available. The committee will provide reports to the council explaining their research and recommendations in August 2026, December 2026 and a final report by March 31, 2027. The town council voted to approve the charge of the 1934 Building Committee

with a unanimous vote. Councilor Harriman was absent from the vote.

Appointment Committee Recommendations

Councilor Thompson shared that there were a number of open positions after the end-of-year appointments process including one opening for the planning board, two openings for the zoning board, and two on the conservation committee.

Those positions have been filled by Carol Ann Jordan, Chris Gorski, David Wright, Michael Branwine, and Piotrek Stamieszkin. Chair Scifres thanked the new members to the various committees for being “willing to serve and enrich our town.” The council voted unanimously to approve the appointments with Councilor Harriman absent for the vote.

LD1829 - Municipal Recommended Changes to State Law

Chair Scifres shared that Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG), submitted a letter to state representatives regarding the recently passed LD1829 legislation. LD1829 is an act to build housing for Maine families and attract workers to Maine businesses by amending the laws governing housing density. The creation of rules for LD1829 is in process.

The council voted to approve the council’s endorsement of the regional priority issues regarding LD1829 and directs Town Manager Patrick Fox to express similar concerns in writing to state representatives, to the Maine Municipal Association and to the Governor’s office.

Judy’s Pantry – a community feeding itself

Judy’s Pantry operates at the Cape Elizabeth Methodist Church on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Registration is available on-site for new clients.

For more information, please contact: cedjudyspantry@gmail.com

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

2026 Publication schedule		
Issue No	Ad/Copy Due/Issue	Published
01	Jan 2	Jan 14
02	Jan 23	Feb 4
03	Feb 6	Feb 18
04	Feb 27	March 11
05	March 13	March 25
06	March 27	April 8
07	April 10	April 22
08	April 24	May 6
09	May 8	May 20
10	May 22	June 3
11	June 5	June 17
12	June 19	July 1
13	July 3	July 15
14	July 24	August 5
15	Aug 7	August 19
16	Aug 21	Sept 2
17	Sept 4	Sept 16
18	Sept 18	Sept 30
19	Oct 9	Oct 21
20	Oct 30	Nov 11
21	Nov 13	Nov 25
22	Dec 4	Dec 16

Multiple thefts reported

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 12-27 An officer met with a resident who reported that her car had been burglarized while parked at Crescent Beach State Park and her purse was stolen.
- 12-31 An officer met with a resident of the Shore Road area who reported possible property damage caused by a car that slid off the road.
- 1-3 An officer met with a resident of the Fowler Road area regarding a motor vehicle burglary.
- 1-6 Two officers responded to a residence in the Shore Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 1-10 An officer assisted a subject with a possible domestic situation in the Ocean House Road area.
- 1-11 An officer met with a subject in the Ocean House Road area for a theft report.
- 1-12 An officer responded to a report of a possible theft in the Eastman Road area.
- 1-16 Two officers responded to a residence in the Mitchell Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 1-19 An officer met with a public works supervisor in the Woodland Road area for report of two vehicles obstructing snow removal. Owner was unable to be contacted and vehicles were towed.

SUMMONSES

- 1-6 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (26/15 zone), Scott Dyer Road, \$129
- 1-6 Saco resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 1-6 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device,

- Ocean House Road, \$85
- 1-7 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Mitchell Road, \$85
- 1-8 Portland resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 1-8 Portland resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 1-8 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Mitchell Road, \$85
- 1-12 Scarborough resident, speeding (50/30 zone), Fowler Road, \$230
- 1-14 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (64/50 zone) Ocean House Road, \$129
- 1-16 South Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Longfellow Drive, \$148

JUVENILE SUMMONSES

- 1-3 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (59/34 zone), Spurwink Avenue, \$170

ACCIDENTS

- 12-30 Juan Vanegas Orduz, accident on Russell Lane
- 1-4 Isaiah Doherty, accident on Fowler Road
- 1-7 Beatrice Robichaud, accident on Ocean House Road
- 1-13 Ishal Mahmud, accident location not given

FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 16
EMS calls: 57

Lions Club winter/spring public event schedule

The Cape Elizabeth Lions Club is pleased to announce its public event schedule for the 2026 winter/spring season. By popular demand we are having three spaghetti dinners this winter on the following dates:

- January 24, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- February 21, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- March 21, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

All spaghetti dinners include all you can eat spaghetti with meat or vegetable

sauce, garlic bread, salad, dessert and for our eat-in customers, soda/water. BYO wine is allowed. The price is \$15 per person and \$7.50 for those under 12 years of age.

The last event of the season is a SURPRISE created by our Lions Professional chef

April 25, 2026 – TBD

We have also created a new Facebook page at Lions Club CEME as well as a new website. Please check out both sites for additional information.

Thank you to the greater Cape Elizabeth community for supporting the Lions Club.

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

Utility Scams Heat Up During Colder Months

As temperatures drop in many states, criminals are turning up the heat on their deceptive tactics. While utility scams happen year-round, scammers are especially active when customers rely on these essential services to stay warm and safe. They pose as utility companies, claiming you're behind on your bill, and threatening to cut off service unless you make an immediate payment. Their goal is to trigger panic. When fear takes over, it becomes harder to think clearly, and they hope we stay in that state of panic just long enough to push through a payment. If you receive an unexpected call claiming your service will be shut off, hang up. Then contact your utility provider directly using the customer service number on a recent bill or by logging into your account online. In most cases, you'll find everything is in good standing.

Identity Theft Awareness Week

Each year, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) leads Identity Theft Awareness Week, a national initiative held in late January on how to avoid identity theft, recover if it happens, and spot these scams before they occur.

Identity theft is when your personal information is exposed; identify fraud is when

someone uses that data to take over or open accounts, steal your tax refund, file fraudulent health insurance claims and more.

It can happen to anyone, but we can take steps to protect against it. Monitoring your credit report is one of the best ways to spot errors or suspicious activity. You can get free credit reports from the main three credit reporting agencies—Equifax, Experian and TransUnion—at annualcreditreport.com.

Freezing your credit is an effective way to prevent unauthorized accounts from being opened in your name, especially if you have no near term plans to apply for a loan or credit soon. Credit freezes are free, and you can freeze or unfreeze your credit directly through each agency. Also, make sure you use strong and unique passwords for all accounts (a password manager makes this so much easier), use multi-factor authentication when it's available, and shred sensitive documents – dumpster divers are still out there.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of our fraud specialists about what to do next. Need a scam prevention speaker for your group? Click the link to fill out our online form or send an email to me@aarp.org.

Dean's list announcements

Brady Hanisko of Cape Elizabeth was named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Logan McVeigh of Cape Elizabeth was named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester at Sant Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Andrew Perruzzi of Cape Elizabeth has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester at Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts. Perruzzi has a primary major of Sport Management.

Nathan Hanisko of Cape Elizabeth was named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island.



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Capers look ahead to 2026



Richard Cass

I'm launching two new mystery novels this year and I have high hopes for their success. But mostly I hope to see more of the many ways in which members of this town have been watching out for each other. Given the fractious and complicated national (and global) condition, it feels more important than ever that we take good care of our friends, our neighbors and our community as best we can.



Julie Furt

My 2026 prediction is that this is the year we break ground on phase one of a permanent Cape Arena facility with all that it entails: Planning Board approval, permitting, fundraising, and many, many dedicated volunteers. The look of joy on community members of all ages that is captured during the winter can be replicated year-round with a facility that provides covered space for a range of activities at Gull Crest. And, of course, I hope to see Cape Soccer continue its dominance on the field in the fall as well.



Rachel Weinstein

I hope that we challenge ourselves, as a community, to ask ourselves how we are bringing more love and justice to our town, our state and our country. I hope we notice and challenge our prejudices and assumptions in order to be more truthful and kind and less afraid and angry...for both our own sakes and the sake of those suffering around us who need love, support and kindness.



Jeff Larrabee

As residents and business owners in town, we have two main hopes this year. The town will revisit the Shore Road improvement project to update the thoroughfare to Fort Williams Park. Our wish is for increased safety and beautification of this well traveled route for residents and visitors alike. To provide opportunities to bring people together this summer for community building activities and events that focus on fun, food and creativity. Stay tuned!



Dave Norman

Whatever grief and hardship may come, I know that our community will use empathy, love, and kindness to grow stronger through it. When the world's problems seem too big to fix, we can start by healing ourselves, our families, our neighborhoods, our town. That's not just good enough, it's how change works. I've seen that here, and it gives me hope.



Michelle Boyer

My hope for 2026 is that, as a community and a state, we continue to show up for one another, stay passionate about the issues that matter most, and find joy in everyday moments shared with the people we love.



Rhianna Jones

May your sails be full and your lighthouse shine bright. Hold your courses strong and your loved ones tight.



Missy Dunaway

This year, we hope to take more classes through the Cape Explorer program, attend new events at the Thomas Memorial Library and connect with other young families. We are also excited to start utilizing Community Supported Agriculture programs and local farm stands for weekly groceries. -Missy Dunaway, Joe Henrikson, and Imogen

Cape Elizabeth Public Works working hard

By Kevin St. Jarre

Cape Elizabeth's Public Works Department worked long, hard, cold hours clearing the community's streets in the record cold and huge snowfall totals, with more storms predicted for coming days.

According to the Jay Reynolds, Director of Public Works, "We had 15 employees working the snow storm. Their work includes plowing over 60 miles of road, clearing approximately 4 miles of sidewalks. Public Works is also responsible for managing the snow removal for all the municipal and school parking lots, the Recycling Center, Fort Williams Park, the Gull Crest complex and more."

The Public Works crew worked and rested intermittently for about 48 hours from start to finish, according to Reynolds, from Sunday, January 25, around 1 p.m. to Tuesday, January 27, 1 p.m.

When asked what the public can do to help the Public Works department, Reynolds said, "We always ask for help with motorists staying off the roadways during the storm if they can, keeping apprised of posted parking bans, and having their snow removal services clean up any snow they errantly push into the roads. All of these factors greatly contribute to our success in keeping our crews and the travelling public safe."

Library invites nonprofit organizations to apply for new "Community Spotlight" program

Thomas Memorial Library invites nonprofit organizations to apply for new "Community Spotlight" Program.

-see NONPROFIT page 10

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News from the School Board

By Cindy Voltz

As we move into 2026 and the second half of the school year, I want to thank our teachers, administrators, staff, families, and community members for the many ways you come together to support our schools and our students every day.

I would also like to thank Phil Saucier for his six years of service on the School Board, including his time as Board Chair. Phil's commitment to the district and his thoughtful leadership helped guide the School Board through many challenges and transitions. His dedication to public service and to the Cape Elizabeth community is greatly appreciated.

At our December 13 meeting, we welcomed Andy Patten as a new member of the School Board. I look forward to working with Andy along with Caitlin Sweet who begins her second-term on the Board, and continuing members Chris Boniakowski, Joy Engel, Lee Schroeder and Jenn McVeigh.

In December, the board approved its goals for 2026. These goals guide the work of the superintendent and the school department and help ensure alignment with district priorities:

1. Create a fiscally responsible budget that provides a high-quality education and meets the needs of all students.
2. Monitor and modify board policies, using data and an equity lens, to ensure a high-quality education for all students.
3. Attract, retain and support CESD staff through collaborative bargaining, professional development, and a budget that meets instructional and learning needs.
4. Communicate district news and relevant information with all community members through expanded and effective communication channels.
5. Maintain a long-term fiscally responsible plan for updating school buildings that advances modern teaching, increases learning opportunities, and enhances safety.
6. Advance the efficacy of the School Board by mentoring new members and supporting ongoing learning around policy, budget and educational programming.
7. Foster a supportive and inclusive school and community culture across academics, extracurriculars, athletics and social-emotional programming.

At the January 13 School Board meeting, we recognized three students for

outstanding achievements in the 2025 Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Phoebe Evans received a Silver Key in Poetry, Claire Gaudrault earned a Gold Key in Poetry and Madeleine Turgelsky received a Gold Key in Novel Writing. Congratulations to all on these impressive awards.

The school building project continues to make exciting progress following the community's approval of the project in 2025. The School Building Committee, which serves as an advisory body to the School Board on design, financial, contractual, and scheduling matters for the new middle school and the planned renovations at Pond Cove Elementary, met on January 7, 2026 at CEMS. At that meeting, several site plan and floor plan updates were reviewed and incorporated based on community feedback. The committee meets monthly at 5 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month in the CEMS Chorus Room, and community members are encouraged to attend as the project moves toward its goal of breaking ground in summer 2026.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4. Building updates and meeting materials are available on the school department website at <https://www.cape.k12.me.us/>, and questions or comments may be submitted to schoolbuildingprojectquestions@capeelizabethschools.org.

Our first budget workshop for the year will be held February 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the CEHS library, with presentations from the district leadership team. These workshops will continue over the coming months as the board works toward developing a clear, transparent and responsible budget.

Regular School Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday evening of each month in the council chambers, with workshops typically held on the fourth Tuesday evening in the high school library. Board committees meet throughout the month, with dates and times posted on the school department website. All workshops are public and we encourage community members to attend. Community members are always welcome to reach out with questions or feedback at cesb@capeelizabethschools.org.

Dean's lists announcements

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina:

Danica Sevigny of Cape Elizabeth is majoring in Biology

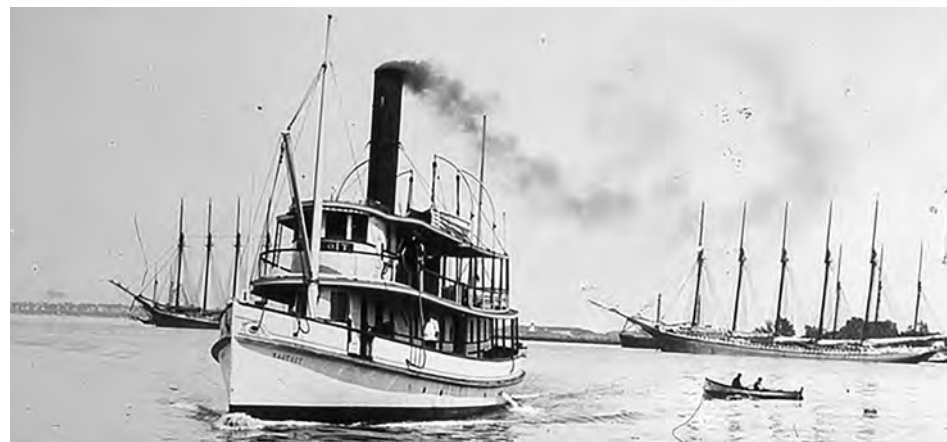
Audrey Torrey of Cape Elizabeth is majoring in Business Administration

Alex van Huystee of Cape Elizabeth was named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island.

Brendan Connolly of Cape Elizabeth has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester at the University of Hartford in West Hartford, Connecticut.

CEHPS to host program on Capt. Larry Legere

By CEHPS



Contributed photo

A 1904 photo of the steamship Maquoit in Portland Harbor. The name is Native American meaning "Grass Bay," the name given a body of water near Brunswick. In the background can be seen schooners with five, four and three masts each.

In the 1930s, when Casco Bay Lines Capt. Earl Stockton left Cliff Island, he headed his boat to Little Chebeague Island. At the end of the wharf was a white plank. If the plank was horizontal the boat just continued to Long Island.

If it was vertical, he knew that Archie Ross had dug clams that morning and wanted to get them to Portland. So, he docked to pick them up.

These unscheduled stops made the Casco Bay Lines – the oldest continuously operating year-round service in the country – a lifeline for islanders through the years.

"Every Picture Tells a Story," a slide show by Capt. Larry Legere, illustrating the ferry from 1894-1966 will be offered by the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society in partnership with the Thomas Memorial Library on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 6:30-8 p.m. in the library's Community Room. The presentation is free and light refreshments will be provided.

"Every one of the almost 50 photographs I will present has a tale," Legere said. "Over the years, I have been able to collect many rare photos and the stories that go with them."

Legere spent 44 years at Casco Bay Lines as crewman, Captain, Supervisor and unof-

ficial historian. His experience started at a young age when his father, Capt. Edward Legere, took him along on the boats.

While his father started the collection of photos, his son has added to them over the years. They form an overview of early water travel in Casco Bay.

Legere grew up in Cape Elizabeth. He graduated from Cape Elizabeth High School in 1974, and began working at Casco Bay Lines as a deckhand in 1973.

He attended college at Jacksonville University in Florida, studying history for two years before coming home and getting his Captain's license at the age of 21. After several years he went on the earn his Third Mate Ocean's License and served in the Merchant Marine.

When his father purchased the Eagle Tours Sightseeing business, Larry came aboard to man one of the boats. However, he never stopped moonlighting with Casco Bay Lines and in 1990 finally signed on full-time as Assistant Operations Manager and then Operations Agent. He currently volunteers at the Cushing Point Museum at Bug Light Park in South Portland.

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TAK FINANCIAL ADVISORY

CCAG hosts hockey tournament

By Oliver and Jacoby Furt
Seventh graders at Cape Elizabeth Middle School

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Cape Community Arena hosted a one day pond hockey tournament for over 75 kids aged 6 to 13. The tournament lasted all day and a lot of kids played and participated. The thing that makes this tournament so special is that it is for kids run by kids, meaning that all the refs, coaches and volunteers were kids. Even though it was snowing while the tournament was held, the volunteers were able to keep

the ice clean and the tournament running. "I like playing and coaching the kids. A lot of the kids are really nice. I just finished coaching 10u." said Callum McGivney, an 11 year old hockey player. At the end of the day 24 games had been played across 3 age groups with the champions being the Flames for 8u, the Maple Leafs for 10u and the Ducks for 12u.



Photo by Ang Foley

CCAG hosted a one day pond hockey tournament for over 75 kids on January 19.



Photo by Ang Foley

Hockey players at the tournament that was held for kids and run by kids.

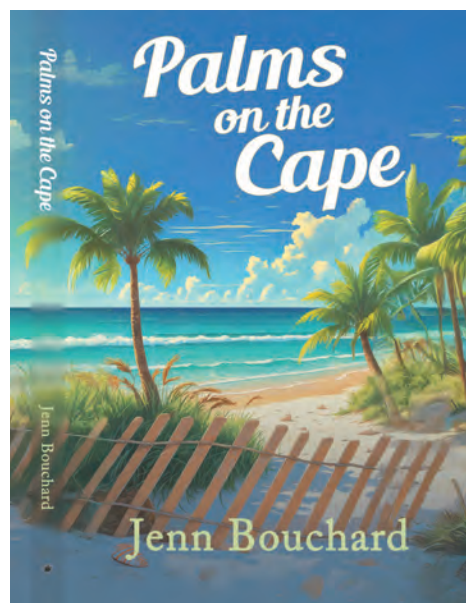
Cape Elizabeth authors share their inspirations

By Kevin St. Jarre

The Cape Courier asked local authors what motivates them to keep creating. Here is what some of them replied.

Author Jenn Bouchard said, "My growing readership motivates me to keep creating. When my debut novel First Course was published in 2021, I was very limited in what book events I could participate in. Many bookstores were still closed to in-person events, and I found opportunities wherever I could. Releasing Considering Us in 2025 was a very different experience. I have participated in over 50 in-person events since it was published in February 2025! Considering Us is set not too far away from Cape Elizabeth on the New Hampshire seacoast. It's about a private chef in Boston who gets embroiled in a scandal (partly of her own making). Left with only one client, she takes a job as the director of dining at a boarding school. When she gets there, she discovers the one who got away fifteen years ago is on staff. It's a very fun story!

My third novel Palms on the Cape will be published on July 2nd. This one is set on Cape Cod and centers around an upscale beach bar just off of Mayflower Beach."



Contributed photo

Jenn Bouchard's third novel, "Palms on the Cape," is set on Cape Cod and centers around an upscale beach bar just off Mayflower Beach.

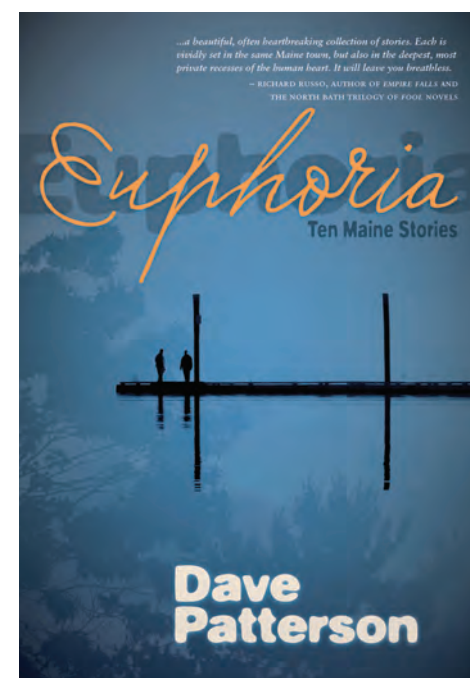
Author Boo Walker said, "Creating—plugging into the muse—is what gets me out of bed in the morning. I don't even know that I have a choice in the matter. I write high-impact, upmarket fiction. My publisher just sent over the cover for my forthcoming novel, "The English Bookstore in Bologna", which publishes in August. It's about a group of damaged-soul expats who find their missing pieces in an ancient Italian city."



Contributed photo

Boo Walker's forthcoming novel, "The English Bookstore in Bologna," is about a group of damaged-soul expats who find their missing pieces in an ancient Italian city.

Author Dave Patterson said, "Storytelling is an ancient, sacred art. There's something almost mystical about a great story well told. As a fiction writer, I'm motivated by the desire to take part in this old human endeavor of storytelling, of trying to write great sentences that move readers. In a fractured world, I believe that stories can make us whole again. And we need that more than ever right now. That's what keeps me at my writing desk every day."



Contributed photo

Last fall Dave Patterson published a collection of stories that takes place in a struggling mill town in Maine titled "Euphoria: 10 Maine Stories," chronicling the lives of working-class Mainers trying to make sense of a world that seems hellbent on leaving them behind.

-see AUTHORS page 7

CAPE ELIZABETH
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
NOW HIRING
Docent Program Coordinator

Help preserve and share the stories of Cape Elizabeth.

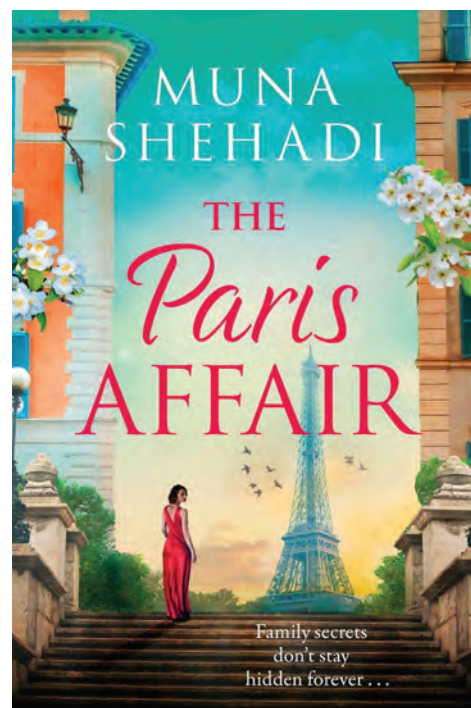
This part-time, contract position runs from May to October. We are looking for a dedicated individual to recruit, train, and schedule our museums' volunteer guides. This position is ideal for someone who enjoys local history, organization, and working independently. Some weekend hours may be required. Applications are due by 2/28/2026.

To find details of the position and an application, go to www.cehistory.org and scroll down to Latest News.

Authors

Continued from page 6

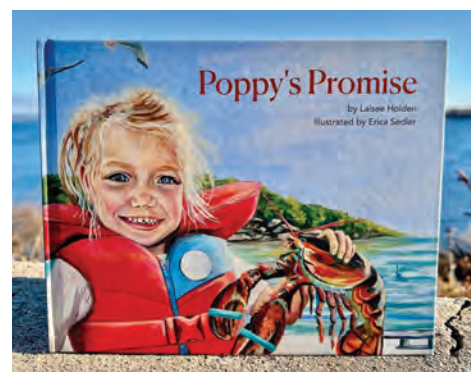
Author Muna Shehadi said, “Ideas that won’t stop interesting me (aka bothering me!). I’ve been making up stories in my head for as long as I can remember. It’s something I do without thinking. When I see people talking on the street I immediately start imaging who they are, what they’re saying, their backgrounds, etc. So it’s not motivation so much as an innate trait. At least that’s how it feels. I’m just finishing a trilogy about three friends in the 1970s who come into possession of three priceless objects in Paris, Cairo and Crete, and the decades-later stories of how their daughters and granddaughter stumble over the treasures and must cope with the fallout from old secrets and lies that dramatically alter their lives. The first book, “The Paris Affair” is out now, with “The Jewel of Cairo” following this spring. I’m actually turning in the third book, “The Temptations of Crete, today!” Then champagne and relaxation until the next idea hits.”



Contributed photo

Muna Shehadi’s book, “The Paris Affair,” is the first in a trilogy she is just finishing, about three friends in the 1970s who come into possession of three priceless objects in Paris, Cairo and Crete, and the decades-later stories of how their daughters and granddaughter stumble over the treasures and must cope with the fallout from old secrets and lies that dramatically alter their lives.

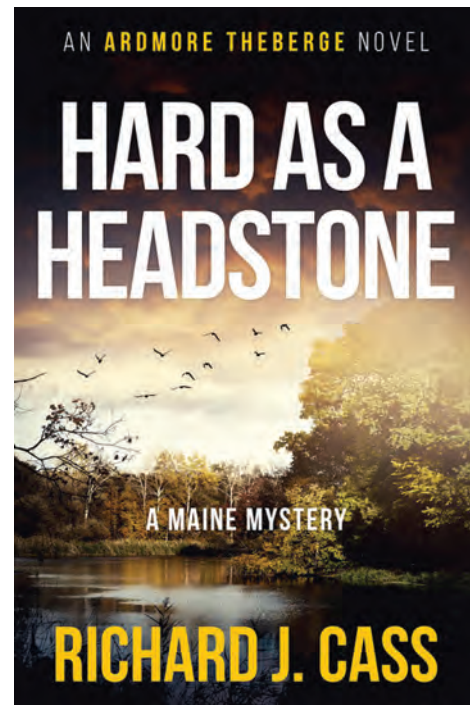
Author Laisee Holden said, “I feel inspired to share stories of Maine’s hard working people, and highlight their resilience and determination. It’s important for the next generation to understand the value of tradition, and the responsibility of protecting our environment. Now that ‘Poppy’s Promise’ is published, I hope to write more children’s books, as I love telling stories through the eyes of a child -- full of curiosity, imagination and hope.”



Contributed photo

Laisee Holden’s book “Poppy’s Promise” is a wonderful book for children about a young girl who goes along with her lobsterman father, and learns a lot.

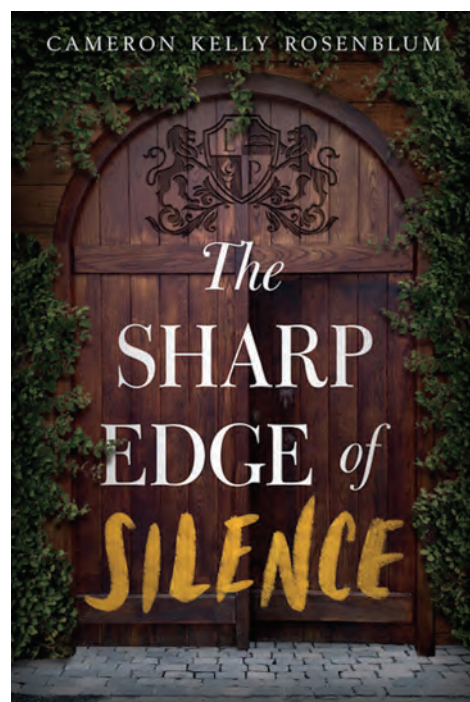
Author Richard Cass said that he is motivated by “...the endless capacity of people to surprise and delight with their stories.” His next book will be, Hard as a Headstone, coming from Islandport Press in September 2026, it’s a rural Maine thriller.



Contributed photo

Richard Cass’s latest novel, “Hard as a Headstone,” will hit bookstore shelves this autumn.

Author Cameron Rosenblum said, “Creating is what keeps me sane when the world feels out of control. I don’t meditate, but when I’m deep in my fictional world, I think I’m able to take a mental break from things that are beyond my ability to fix. I also find creating fundamentally healing. In any art, you create something that is uniquely yours. It’s life-affirming like that. And hopefully it’s something you can share that brings a little more light to someone else’s life. I’m working on a heist novel for young adults right now, and I’m loving it. Think Da-Vinci Code meets the Breakfast Club. My first two novels had serious themes. While I know it’s important to address such topics in literature, it’s also fun to deviate and create a straight-up mystery.”



Contributed photo

“Tradition” meets “People Like Us” in this timely and haunting YA contemporary novel by Cameron Rosenblum that tackles the contagious nature of toxic masculinity at an elite New England boarding school.

-see WRITING page 8

CEHS’s Bartleby honored nationally with REALM award for second time

By Kevin St. Jarre

Cape Elizabeth High School’s literary journal, Bartleby, has been recognized as a REALM First Class magazine by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) for the second year in a row.

REALM stands for Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines, and this year, schools in 44 states, Washington, D.C., and six countries nominated 456 student magazines published in 2025.

CEHS’s 2025 edition of Bartleby was edited by students Maddy Turgelsky and Matilda Gustafson, and the faculty advisor of the literary journal is Lauren Tarantino.

In a letter to Tarantino about the award, Emily Kirkpatrick, NCTE’s Executive Director, wrote, “It is my pleasure to inform you that your school’s literary magazine, Bartleby, has been selected to receive the rank of First Class in the 2025 REALM program. From all of us at the National Council of Teachers of English, congratulations to you and your students on this exceptional publication. We commend you for inspiring a love of writing that your students will remember for the rest of their lives.... Your magazine is a fine example of this mission in action, and the REALM committee looks forward to seeing future publications from your school. We hope that you will

widely share this accolade with your local community, personally and through social media, to increase the impact of your accomplishments.”

Those wishing to see this issue and previous issues of Bartleby can go to:

<https://sites.google.com/capeelizabethschools.org/bartleby>.



Contributed photo

The 2025 issue of CEHS’s literary journal, Bartleby, has been recognized as a REALM First Class magazine by the NCTE for the second year in a row.

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What's in a name?

By Stuart Gilmore



Contributed photo

A Cape Elizabeth resident contacted the Cape Elizabeth Historical Society inquiring how Monastery Road in town got its name and CEHPS got to the bottom of it.

Note: The Cape Historical Society's new and ongoing series, "What's in a Name" was inspired by a question from Lynn Bailets and we hope that you will be inspired to suggest any unusual local names which rouses your curiosity. Send your questions to cehps@capeelizabeth.gov.

Thank you to Stuart Gilmore who has volunteered to investigate and author the responses to your queries.

How did Monastery Road get its name?

Curiosity led Lynn Bailets of Cape Elizabeth to contact us about the name "Monastery Road" and how it came to be. We did not know, but one of our members contacted a neighbor who supplied the answer

According to the neighbor, the real story is that Robert Monks, who lived there and named the road, had a unique sense of hu-

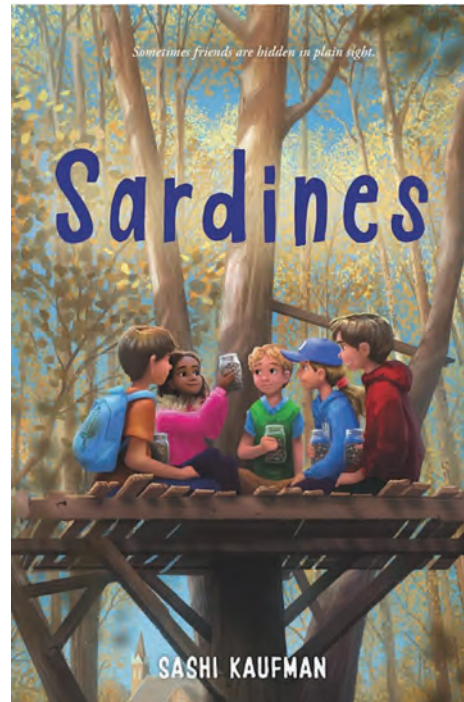
mor. He said that if Monks are going to be living there, then there must be a... Monastery Road!

I was pleased to write this series as I, too, had wondered about that name. Years ago, when my wife and I first drove down Rt. 77 towards our little vacation cottage, we noticed the Monastery Road sign. I couldn't help but wonder if they made beer or jam, since monks often make delicious food. I envisioned a great abbey overlooking the ocean, with a large kitchen where brown-robed monks meditated, read, and brewed the finest ales, and made blueberry preserves! Well, now we know that Monks do have an historic connection there, but whether they brew fine ales and create delicious foods is not known.

Writing

Continued from page 7

Author Sashi Kaufman said, "What motivates me to keep creating is the general sense of joy I feel when reading or telling a great story. I like being surprised by the way things unfold. It's exciting when something I create resonates with a reader. My most recent book, "Sardines" (Harper Collins 2022), was middle grade realistic fiction. This was my first published book for the age group I teach. I'm also a middle school teacher here in Cape. My next book, "The Greatest Common Factor of You and Me" (Harper Collins 2027), is also realistic fiction for a middle school audience. It will hopefully be out within the next 18 months."



Contributed photo

Sashi Kaufman is a teacher at CEMS whose most recent book "Sardines," was middle grade realistic fiction. Her next book, "The Greatest Common Factor of You and Me," will hopefully be out within the next 18 months.

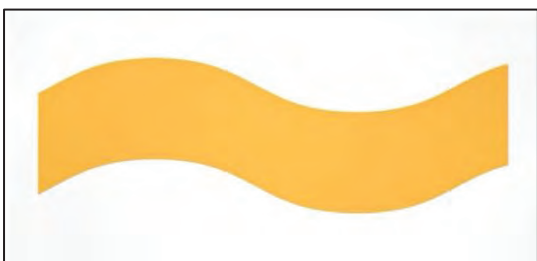
Author Andrés Vera Martínez said, "As a graphic novelist, my work is about the connection between history, identity and the power of telling a good story. I use my drawing to give a voice to people whose stories are often overlooked. Whether I am working on a historical biography, speculative fiction, or a personal memoir, I rely on deep research and careful draftsmanship to capture the real human emotions behind what I express as larger than life moments. A big part of my work is focused on children's literature. I believe that picture books and graphic novels are some of the best ways to educate and inspire. I want to tell stories that offer a moral compass for young readers—stories that teach positive life lessons like empathy and resilience. I try to create books that act as mirrors for kids to see themselves and windows for them to understand the diverse people they live alongside every day. The second book in my middle grade graphic novel series "Monster Locker: Nine Tail Trouble" will be out on April 21 and my graphic novel adaptation of "Esperanza Rising" will be out in the fall...I'm currently working on an illustrated book with Professor/Author Marie Alohloni Brown, "Hawaii Gods and Heroes," forthcoming in 2027."



Contributed photo

Andrés Vera Martínez's book "Monster Locker: Nine Tail Trouble" coming April 21.

Compassion Forward Hosts Community Conversations



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February 19th

Thomas Memorial Library

5:30 – 7:00

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CEHPS hiring Docent Program Coordinator



Contributed photo

The Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society is looking to fill a paid, part-time Docent Program Coordinator role for the coming summer months.

If you're looking for a paid, part-time job for the summer months, Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society (CEHPS) invites you to consider applying for its new Docent Program Coordinator role. This contracted position offers flexible scheduling and it may require some weekend hours.

The Cape historical society is currently accepting applications for this position, which will run from May to October.

"One of the historical society's most successful and exciting projects has been the creation and opening of our museums that focus on our unique town history and the history of Fort Williams, founded in 1899," said CEHPS president Bob Dodd. "We are looking for a dedicated individual to help recruit, train and schedule our museum volunteer guides."

The Docent Program Coordinator will play an important role in supporting the society's museum operations during its busiest season. Anyone who is interested can find full details about the position and download an application by visiting the CEHPS website at cehistory.org. Applications are due February 28.

Capetoon: Super B'Olympics

By Jeff Mandell



MEET DEAN WHITTEN

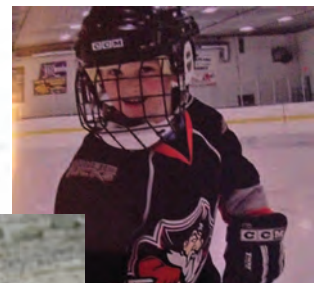
I learned the meaning of teamwork and trust long before I got into real estate. Growing up in Portland, the hockey rink felt like a second home. Early mornings, late nights, and long seasons taught me discipline, accountability, and the importance of showing up for the people beside you.

Off the ice, I spent a lot of time around my mom's preschool, The Back Cove School. Watching her work with kids and families showed me how powerful patience, consistency, and genuine care can be. Between the rink and the classroom, I learned that relationships matter and that trust is earned by doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.

That's how I approach real estate today. I treat my clients like teammates and every transaction like a commitment. When I'm not working, you'll usually find me with my family or exploring Maine with my Australian Shepherd, Princeton, who's always ready for the next adventure.

Maine raised me, shaped me, and taught me to put people first and that's exactly how I show up for the people I serve.

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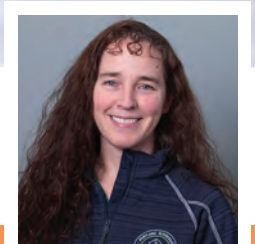


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February naturalist's corner: Who's Whoooo in the Winter Dating Scene

By Erika Carlson Rhile

On February 1 at 5:09 p.m. the Full Snow Moon arrives just as winter is about to reach its mid-point. February 2nd—still cold, still snowy, but quietly tipping toward longer days and a whole lot of wild matchmaking!

February in Maine marks the peak mating season for several wildlife species, resulting in increased activity, noise and potential interactions with humans. Key animals mating in February include striped skunks, red foxes, raccoons, coyotes, fishers and bobcats. Bird species such as great horned owls and bald eagles also begin their nesting season in February.

Smelling a skunky odor this time of year might be the perfumed urine of red foxes, not an actual skunk. Red foxes use both urine and feces to communicate their presence, dominance and sexual status. Foxes will urinate up to 70 times per hour putting themselves back on nature's dating app!

Increasing daylight encourages raccoons to find mates this time of year; peak breeding season is in February. Raccoon courtship is complex, with males pursuing females who

test them with violent attacks before bonding and grooming. You may hear loud screeching, growling or fighting as males compete for dominance. Males are polygynous, mating with multiple females, while females generally mate with one male. Despite being primarily nocturnal, raccoons may be more visible during the day as they seek partners, often looking for dens in chimneys, attics or trees.

Monogamous Great Horned Owl pairs have usually laid 1 -3 eggs by this time. Barred owls also mate for life; February finds them flirting. Common behaviors include males and females perched close together, bobbing and bowing their heads, raising their wings and caterwauling. Males sometimes feed females and further display by swaying back and forth with raised wings while sidling along the branch, making their romantic intentions unmistakably clear.

February may be only halfway through winter, but across Maine the natural world is already leaning toward spring—pairing up, calling out and laying the quiet groundwork for the months ahead. This season reminds us that love, persistence and renewal don't wait for warm weather.

Nonprofit

Continued from page 4

The Thomas Memorial Library is launching a new "Community Spotlight" program in conjunction with the annual Summer Reading Program theme, "Build a Better World." This initiative will annually feature a different Maine nonprofit organization.

How it Works:

- Summer reading participants (children, teens and adults) will be encouraged to support the chosen nonprofit through donations of money, goods or volunteer time.
- The library will integrate the selected organization's focus into its summer reading promotional materials, book displays and other awareness-building opportunities.

Application Process:

- Maine nonprofits are invited to apply to be this year's Community Spotlight organization.
 - More information and the application form are available on the library's website.
 - The deadline for applications this year is February 28.
 - The selection will be made by the Thomas Memorial Library Committee, the seven-member committee appointed by the town council to advise and support the library.
- Visit the library's website for complete details and to apply.

Local birding report

By Brooks Bornhoft

On the coldest weekend of January, I set out in search of Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs. These open country species, wandering winter visitors from far to the north, form an iconic seasonal trio that with a bit of persistence, can be found here in Cape. All three are seasonally camouflaged and easy to overlook as they forage for grass and wildflower seeds across open fields, plowed cropland, shorelines and roadsides.

On January 23, I came across a flock of nine Horned Larks along the Maxwell Farm fields on Route 77. Watching these sparrow sized birds on the move is always rewarding. As I observed them through binoculars from the roadside, their delicate field marks began to stand out. The males showed varying amounts of yellow on their faces, along with the two small feathery "horns" that give the species its name, sometimes tucked low, sometimes held boldly upright.

At one point, two larks faced off, their heads lowered like miniature gamecocks, only to explode into the air moments later, twisting, turning and darting in a brief, acrobatic skirmish. A Horned Lark can be a stubborn, tit for tat fighter or an exuberant playmate, depending entirely on its mood. Both males and females engage in lively chases throughout the flock. When mixed in with other winter birds, Horned Larks are usually the chasers rather than the chased, Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs included.

One of their most distinctive behaviors is their seed foraging "jump." The way they spring up to take seeds from the weed stalks feels like a small, precise gesture of winter survival. Eventually, the flock lifted into the air, their high pitched tinkling calls drifting overhead as they winged off to their next foraging spot. This bird is North America's only true lark.

Later on in the afternoon I made my way along the back path field section of Crescent

Beach State Park and a flock of a nine Snow Buntings took flight in the direction of Richmond Island. Another winter visitor from the Arctic Tundra, these chunky ground dwelling birds feed mostly in fields and farmyards. Bluebird in size, their snow-white underparts contrast with black wing tips and rufous overtones.

On January 25 at the Spurwink River Crossing I was admiring the chocolate-brown head of a female Barrow's Golden eye duck when a large flock of forty or more Horned Larks sprung out from the tundra-like landscape and took to the air in a swift, twisting and turning flight, landing across the river from me but close enough to get good looks. Upon closer inspection of the flock I noticed a small streaky bird moving about in a mouse-like manner and identified it as a Lapland Longspur! Hailing from the high Arctic this species is gregarious outside of the breeding season, and winters in open fields, often associating in large flocks of Horned Larks such as was the case here. The song of the Lapland Longspur is a sweet, jingly warble that sounds somewhat like a Bobolink.

And on a bird related note, on January 26 my sons and I dragged a ladder through the snowdrifts to the boggy corner of our property to check the Great Crested Flycatcher box I'd hung the previous spring but never gotten around to inspecting. In past years, I've found nests lined with interesting items including shards of shed snakeskin. Last year a red squirrel immaculately stored a cache of mushrooms within the box atop the flycatcher nest. Unfortunately, this time the box was empty, which made me wonder if I'd put it up too late in the season. Hours later, however, a serendipitous discovery came while we were building a snow fort: I glanced up to see a Baltimore Oriole's hanging pouch nest, no more than twenty feet above our heads, suspended from the outermost branch of a large oak tree.

2026 Winter CELT Program Listings

CELT's Winter Crosstown Walk

Join CELT member and Maine Master Naturalist Amy Witt for our Winter Crosstown Walk. Beginning at Kettle Cove State Park, this walk will traverse over eight miles of both town of Cape Elizabeth and CELT

trails, highlighting some of Cape's great ecosystems. The walk takes approximately four hours and includes a BYO lunch stop.

Participants should wear proper footwear, as the trail may be icy at this time of year. Participants who register at least 48 hours in advance will receive notification of changes to the program or cancellation. Participants should be 12 years or older; please call about younger ages.

Date: February 7, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Meet at Fort Williams Park (the plowed parking lot closest to the lighthouse) to park your car and take a bus over to Kettle Cove to start the hike

Cost: \$6 per person

Amphibian "Big Night" Program

The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust and Thomas Memorial Library are excited to collaborate once again on a program from Greg LeClair about Maine's Big Night. Greg started Maine's Big Night program - a Community Science initiative to protect amphibians. The program encourages citizens to collect data on migrating frogs and salamanders during the rainy spring season. Come learn about Maine's Big Night and how you can participate during late April or early May when the amphibians emerge again!

Date: March 24, 6:30-8:00 pm

Thomas Memorial Library

No registration required

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




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Friends' news and notes: Love letters to the park

By Friends of Fort Williams Park staff

Some places stay with us. Fort Williams Park is one of them.

Loved for its beautiful coastline, rolling landscape, Portland Head Light, and remnants of the past, the park is a special place to many. To celebrate this connection, the Friends invite you to write a short love letter to the park. Whether you visit every day or carry it with you from afar, your words help tell the story of why Fort Williams Park matters.

Submission details:

Keep responses to 75 words or less; we welcome sketches and children's drawings.

Include your first name and, if you'd like, your age, along with your city and state.

Email submissions to info@fortwilliams.org; write "Love" in the subject line.

Submissions are due by February 6, 2026.

Selected submissions will be published in the upcoming Cape Courier issue and shared on our website; submissions may be edited

for brevity or clarity.

Thank you for sharing your words, and your care, for the park. To find out more about the Friends of Fort Williams Park and our mission of environmental stewardship and community benefit, visit fortwilliams.org.



Pond Cove Elementary kindergarten registration for Fall 2026

Registration is now open for incoming kindergarten students who will matriculate at Pond Cove Elementary School during the 2026-2027 school year. To attend kindergarten at Pond Cove, children must be five years old on or before October 15, 2026. Registration is required before a child may attend school and participate in the kindergarten screening process.

How to Register

The registration process has two steps, as outlined below. All forms and documents must be submitted online through a PowerSchool account, which you will create after pre-registration approval.

Step 1: Pre-Registration

To begin the registration process, follow the directions below. Please note this step is pre-registration only.

- Visit the Cape Elizabeth District website at: <https://www.cape.k12.me.us/>
- Click "Enroll" on the right side of the page

- You will enter demographic, household and grade level prompts.

Step 2: Full Registration and Submission of Required Documentation

The pre-registration information will be reviewed and approved by the school, after which you will receive an automated email guiding you to create a PowerSchool account and complete the full enrollment process. (Be sure to check your spam/junk box for this!) Once all forms are complete, you must upload the following required documentation:

- Child's birth certificate
- Proof of immunizations
- Proof of residency

Need Help?

If you need assistance, contact the Pond Cove main office:

- Email: pcoffice@capeelizabethschools.org
- Phone: 207-799-7339

Lookout for Gnomes!

By Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation

For those of you exploring the Cape Elizabeth trails this winter, don't forget that you will be sharing the snowy forest with numerous gnomes! The CEMS 5th Graders have been working collaboratively with the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, Friends of Fort Williams, the town of Cape Elizabeth and CEMS teachers for the last two years to bring a magical experience to a few walking trails in Cape Elizabeth.

The Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF) funded a project where partners built gnome houses which are now nestled amidst the trees on these trails. They each created a uniquely named gnome out of clay which lives in the gnome house. Visitors to these trails can download/print or pick up

a punch pass at CELT or the Thomas Memorial Library that will provide visitors a map of the trail with the various locations of gnome homes. Visitors can use the unique-shaped paper punches found inside each gnome home on the punch pass. Also inside the 'gnome home' will be a QR code on the door. Once scanned, visitors will be able to read a story or poem about their gnome written by the 5th grader who built that particular gnome and house.

The gnome homes are located on 5 different trails in Cape Elizabeth- Turkey Hill Farm, Fort Williams Children's Garden, Nordic Trail, Great Pond and Willow Brook Trail. You can scan the QR code to find a link to the maps as well! Can you find them all?



Contributed photo

Be on the lookout for gnome houses in some of the walking trails around town, a project made possible with funding from CEEF.



Annual Ice Bar & Seafood Celebration

Feb. 19, 20 & Feb. 21 - Annual Seafood Fest

Ice cold hot spot! From oysters & Littlenecks to grilled lobster tails & bubbles, join us for a night or weekend to celebrate the flavors of the sea. \$25 entry donation - 100% donated to Full Plates Full Potential. Enjoy a complimentary glass of bubbles as a thank you for your donation!

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- Half-Pound Lobster | Lobster Bisque | Crab Cakes



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TML offers community mahjong, workshop on foundations of Ayurveda

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February in the Stier Family Gallery

Winged Visitors: Birds of Fort Williams-Fort Williams Park is known for its sweeping ocean views and the iconic Portland Head Light, but it is also a vital place for birds. "Winged Visitors: The Birds of Fort Williams Park" celebrates the birds that forage, nest, overwinter or pass through this special place. The images, taken by amateur photographer Amy Witt, invite viewers to learn about the bird species while also encouraging a sense of wonder, curiosity and appreciation. Presented by Amy Witt (Earthwalkers) and Friends of Fort Williams Park.

Celebrating 10 Years in Our Renovated Building

To celebrate the ten-year anniversary of the library's renovation, which officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on February 8, 2016, we invite you to share what you love about our space! Throughout the month of February, visitors can write a special message on a decorative heart and hang it on our "celebration tree" located in the library lobby. Stop by, grab a heart and help us mark the first ten years in our extraordinary building!

Introducing Community Mahjong a TML. Have you been looking for a place to practice playing Mahjong? For the month of February, look no further than the library!

Due to popular demand, each Saturday in February from 10:30 a.m. to noon, we will offer a space for intermediate and experienced players to hone their skills and meet fellow enthusiasts in the area. (If you are completely new to Mahjong, we recommend taking advantage of learning opportunities offered locally by places like the Cape Elizabeth Community Center, South Portland Community Services and Falmouth Rec.)

Due to overwhelming interest, each session this month will be registration-required, with a maximum of 20 players per session. Some tile sets will be available, but we encourage you to bring your own if you have one. To register for game time and to sign up for a general interest survey for updates on this program-in-progress, go to the TML calendar on our website.

Lantern Festival: Love and Light

The 3rd annual Lantern Festival and parade with beautiful handmade lanterns will take place on Saturday, February 28 at 6 p.m. The parade will start at the Town Community Circle near the town hall and end at the library where we will have a lantern installation and treats to enjoy. This year's theme is "Love and Light," and we welcome everyone to join us in making lanterns and join the parade to celebrate with the Cape Elizabeth community and beyond. This is an event for all ages and there will be many opportunities for lantern-making in advance of the festival.

February's community workshops include:

House and Heart Lanterns

Tuesday, February 3
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Pyramid and Star Lanterns

Thursday, February 5
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Valentine's Day Hearts Lanterns

Saturday, February 14
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Family-Friendly Workshop: Pyramid and Globe Lanterns

Friday, February 20
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Please note: With the exception of the February 20 offering, these workshops are best suited for ages 9-99. Kids under the age of 13 must have a caregiver registered as well. Due to limited space, registration is required.

To make this event possible, we will need help from volunteers. See below for some of the volunteer needs, and reach out to Gabby Doane at gtrappe@gmail.com or you can find a volunteer signup form on our website.

Prep for in-class lantern workshops

In-class workshop volunteers: We can use volunteers to assist workshops and those who are comfortable running workshops themselves. Training and instructions provided. We are planning on making lanterns with most of the Pond Cove classes, so there are a lot of opportunities here and help is very much needed. Workshops will be happening during the school day from January 26 - February 27.

Library lantern take-home kit prep: Help

assemble kits for kids to take home and make their own lanterns.

Lantern workshop prep: Getting materials ready for workshops in advance. The first workshop takes place January 20.

Lantern workshop facilitation: We can use volunteers to assist with our February workshops. Training and instructions provided.

Photographer for Lantern Festival and parade

Provide Music or singing for during the parade

Help set up the lantern art installation at the library and downtown from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and again from 4 - 6 p.m. on Saturday February 2.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Foundations of Ayurveda: A Community Workshop

Saturday, February 7, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Yoga is an ancient physical practice that was introduced here in the 19th century, and since, it has been booming here as an industry. For many it has become a doorway to feeling better. For some it is a form of physical activity or a philosophy and life path. But have you ever heard of Ayurveda? Ayurveda is a holistic, natural indigenous medicine that originated 5,000 years ago in India. It uses food, spices, herbs and lifestyle practices with the intention of attaining better health—especially as we tackle the colder months.

Join us for a special workshop (including a yoga practice alongside educational instruction) with Brett Aldrich, founder of Seed the Spirit in Portland, to learn how the guidance of Ayurveda can lead to better overall health and life in this new year and beyond. Registration required.

Brett Aldrich is the founder of Seed the Spirit, an Ayurvedic Healthcare Counselor and Breathwork Practitioner whose life and work have been devoted to service, healing, and empowerment. A graduate of the Kripalu School of Ayurveda, Brett also holds advanced training in Ayurveda of the Mind, Ayurvedic herbology for women's reproductive health, Yoga Nidra, Restorative Yoga, trauma-sensitive yoga, and has trained in Spiraldance Breathwork. Now affiliated with the Global Professional Breathwork Alliance, she offers a compassionate, integrative ap-

proach to wellness, helping clients create lasting transformation through simple, sustainable practices. You can keep up with Seed the Spirit on their Facebook page.

Every Picture Tells A Story: Life Aboard Casco Bay Lines, presented by Cape Elizabeth Historical and Preservation Society

Tuesday, February 10, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

In the 1930s, when Casco Bay Lines Capt. Earl Stockton left Cliff Island, he headed his boat to Little Chebeague Island. At the end of the wharf was a white plank. If the plank was horizontal, the boat just continued to Long Island. If it was vertical, he knew that Archie Ross had dug clams that morning and wanted to get them to Portland. So, he docked to pick them up.

These unscheduled stops made the Casco Bay Lines—the oldest continuously operating year-round service in the country—a lifeline for islanders through the years. "Every Picture Tells a Story," a slide show by Capt. Larry Legere, illustrating the ferry from 1894-1966, captures some of these experiences.

"Every one of the almost 50 photographs I will present has a tale," Legere said. "Over the years, I have been able to collect many rare photos and the stories that go with them."

Legere spent 44 years at Casco Bay Lines as crewman, Captain, Supervisor and unofficial historian. His experience started at a young age when his father, Capt. Edward Legere, took him along on the boats. While his father started the collection of photos, his son has added to them over the years. They form an overview of early water travel in Casco Bay.

Legere grew up in Cape Elizabeth. He graduated from Cape Elizabeth High School in 1974, and began working at Casco Bay Lines as a deckhand in 1973. He attended college at Jacksonville University in Florida, studying history for two years before coming home and getting his Captain's license at the age of 21. After several years he went on to earn his Third Mate Ocean's License and served in the Merchant Marine. When his father purchased the Eagle Tours Sightseeing business, Larry came aboard to man one of the boats. However, he never stopped moonlighting with Casco Bay Lines and in 1990 finally signed on fulltime as Assistant Operations Manager and then Operations Agent. He currently volunteers at the Cushing Point

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Museum at Bug Light Park in South Portland.

Divided North: Abolition, Slavery, and the Slave Trade in Maine, with Carol Gardner

Tuesday, February 17, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Join author Carol Gardner as she presents on the subject of her 2025 book, "The Divided North: Black and White Families in the Age of Slavery." This historical narrative follows two actual families from Portland, Maine—one Black and one White—who were deeply involved in the slave trade and the antislavery movement throughout the 1800s. Their exploits, as slave captains, political activists, and operatives on the Underground Railroad make for an engaging—and eye-opening—discussion of Maine's Black history.

Books will be available for sale and signing.

Writing the Novel in Stories

Saturday, February 21, 1 - 3 p.m.

The novel-in-stories workshop is a conversation, with the audience actively participating, about the art of the novel-in-stories. In this workshop with Maine authors Cynthia Reeves and Laura Bonazzoli, participants will learn about characteristics that separate this form from traditional short story collections, the benefits and challenges for readers, approaches to the form, and some favorite examples of this unique genre. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to sign up, whether you are a seasoned novelist, beginner poet, or even a curious reader. Limited to 20 participants; please register on the TML website.

About the authors:

Laura Bonazzoli is a Maine writer of many genres. Her novel in stories, "Consecration Pond," was described by Publisher's Weekly as "poetic and introspective . . . a solid, meditative collection of interconnected short stories that . . . leave a haunting impression." Laura's poetry has appeared in dozens of literary magazines and several anthologies and has been selected for Maine Public Radio's Poems from Here. She has also published creative nonfiction. She has worked as a freelance editor and ghostwriter for more than thirty years, has taught English at The Watershed School, and currently teaches creative writing at local venues and virtually with Maine Media Workshops.

Cynthia Reeves is the author of three books of fiction: the novel in stories "Falling Through the New World," winner of Gold Wake Press's Fiction Award; the novel "The Last Whaler;" and the novella "Badlands," winner of Miami University Press's Novella Prize. She holds an MFA from Warren Wilson College and taught creative writing at Bryn Mawr and Rosemont Colleges. She lives with her husband in Camden.

Film School: Moonlight

Tuesday, February 24, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

To honor Black History Month, our February Film School selection is one of the most unforgettable Best Picture winners of

all-time: Barry Jenkins' "Moonlight" (2016). From editing to cinematography, score to script, there is so much to appreciate about "Moonlight" ten years after its theatrical release. We hope you'll join us for a viewing and discussion of this powerful story about a young man's complex journey through abuse, inner conflict, and self-acceptance.

Winged Visitors: The Birds of Fort Williams Park

Thursday, February 26, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Join Amy Witt (Earthwalkers) and Andrea Southworth (Friends of Fort Williams Park) for a program highlighting the migratory and resident birds that visit and/or live at Fort Williams Park.

Enjoy Amy's photos while learning about the bird species and their habitats; find inspiration in the birds' stories and symbolism. Birding is a wonderful hobby that connects us to each other and the natural world, and the park is an ideal location for birders of all levels. From shore birds to spring warblers and chickadees, find wonder and awe among the park's winged visitors.

REGULAR PROGRAMS

Senior Social Hour

Every Wednesday from 1 - 2 p.m.

Fireside Writing

Every Thursday from 5 - 6 p.m.

Death Cafe, with Davinica Nemtsov

First Thursday of each month, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Songwriting Workshop, with Jud C aswell

First Tuesday of each month, 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 pro-

gram is 25 people. Doors open at 10:25 am. 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.

Family 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., February 3

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.

Read to a Dog

Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Children in grades K-6, especially developing readers, are invited to sign up for 15-minute time slots to read to a certified therapy dog. Please sign up on our TML Events Calendar on the website for a slot with your child's name and your email address. Families with multiple children are advised to sign up each child separately, so each may have quality time with our reading dogs.

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. Join us and build your leadership and advocacy skills while establishing connections with your community.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Sewing Adventures

February 28 (1:30-3pm, Community Room): Tiny Teddy Bears

Do you love teeny tiny animals? Do you want to carry a charm of cuteness in your pocket? Join us in practicing our hand sewing with little stitches to make a 4" teddy bear made from felt and embroidery floss. Prerequisite skills: threading a needle and tying the knot. Ages 7 - 14. Ages 9 and under must be accompanied by an adult. All materials provided, registration required.

Tween Dungeons & Dragons (TMLF)

During February School Break (3 sessions; check the TML website for exact dates and times)

Mark your calendars! The library's next tween D&D campaign sets off for a 3-session adventure during February break (exact dates and times coming soon). Set out on a fantastical quest with a magical crew of characters. 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). This campaign is for tweens ages 10-12.

Got a story to share? Email us! 
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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, February 4

School Board School Building Committee, CE Middle School - Chorus Room 14 Scott Dyer Rd (Enter by MS visitor parking, Door #7, 5 p.m.

Recycling Committee, Public Works Building, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, February 10

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

Conservation Committee, Town Hall, Jordan Conference Room, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11

Accessibility & Inclusion Committee, Thomas Memorial Library, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, February 17

Fort Williams Park Committee, Community Center, 6 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: crrcme.com for Cape information. South Portland/Cape Elizabeth

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

SERVICES

Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene

499 Ocean House Road (Route 77)
797-1113

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: 10:00 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
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

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

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

Nothing scheduled



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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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NOTICES

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Edward Bilotti to lead new intensive outpatient program

CoRecover has announced the launch of its new R.E.S.E.T. Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) designed for individuals with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. Led by Cape Elizabeth resident Edward Bilotti, MD, a psychiatrist board-certified in addiction medicine, the program brings a state-of-the-art, evidence-based treatment model to the region.

The program, called R.E.S.E.T. (Real Evidence-Based Science Empowering Transformation), offers structured group treatment four days per week, three hours per day. Group sizes are intentionally kept small to ensure participants receive individualized attention. The clinical team consists of highly experienced professionals, and Dr. Bilotti will personally facilitate select group sessions.

Clinical Team

- Edward J. Bilotti, MD, FAPA – Graduate of Tufts Medical School, board-certified in psychiatry and addiction medicine with nearly 30 years of experience.
- Howland Bickerstaff, LCPC – Professional counselor with decades of experience in addiction treatment
- Jonathan Orgel, LCSW – Licensed psychotherapist with extensive experience treating mental health and addiction in both group and individual settings
- Shelby Klimas, LADC – Licensed alcohol and drug counselor with expertise in group and individual treatment.

For more information, visit www.co-recover.com or call (207) 482-0276.

Claire McDonald awarded Marshall Scholarship



Contributed photo

Claire McDonald of Cape Elizabeth Maine was awarded the Marshall Scholarship in December. McDonald, who will study at the London School of Economics, was one of 43 students chosen for the prestigious award.

The Marshall Scholarship program was created by an Act of British Parliament in 1953 as a living memorial to former US Secretary of State General George C. Marshall and American assistance provided following World War II. The scholarship allows up to three years of fully funded graduate study in any academic topic at any university in the United Kingdom, home to 17 of the top 100 universities in the world. Over 2,200 Americans have received advanced UK degrees through the program since its inaugural class over 70 years ago.

David Clay MBE, British Consul General to New England said:

“The academic achievements and leadership potential of this year’s Marshall Schol-

ars reflect the very best of the U.S., and I am confident they will make a lasting impact during their time in the UK. These scholars represent the future of our transatlantic partnership.”

John Raine, Chair of the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission said:

“As our special America 250 cohort it is fantastic to see such a talented group of future leaders in fields spanning international relations, science, technology, health and the humanities. We look forward to welcoming them into the strong tradition of Marshall Scholars who have contributed so much to the world and to our special UK-US relationship. I congratulate them warmly and wish them every success.”

The program received 1,023 applications this year from candidates representing academic institutions across the United States. Thirty-one universities across 21 U.S. States are represented by the winners. Nearly a third of this year’s winners are from public or state universities as well as two winners representing U.S. military service academies. New institutions representing a scholar for the first time are the University of San Diego and Oregon State University.

The program is principally funded by the British Government but also benefits

from generous support through partnership arrangements with world-leading British academic institutions and generous support from the Association of Marshall Scholars, the official alumni organization of the Marshall Scholarship and The British Schools & Universities Foundation.

About the Marshall Scholarship

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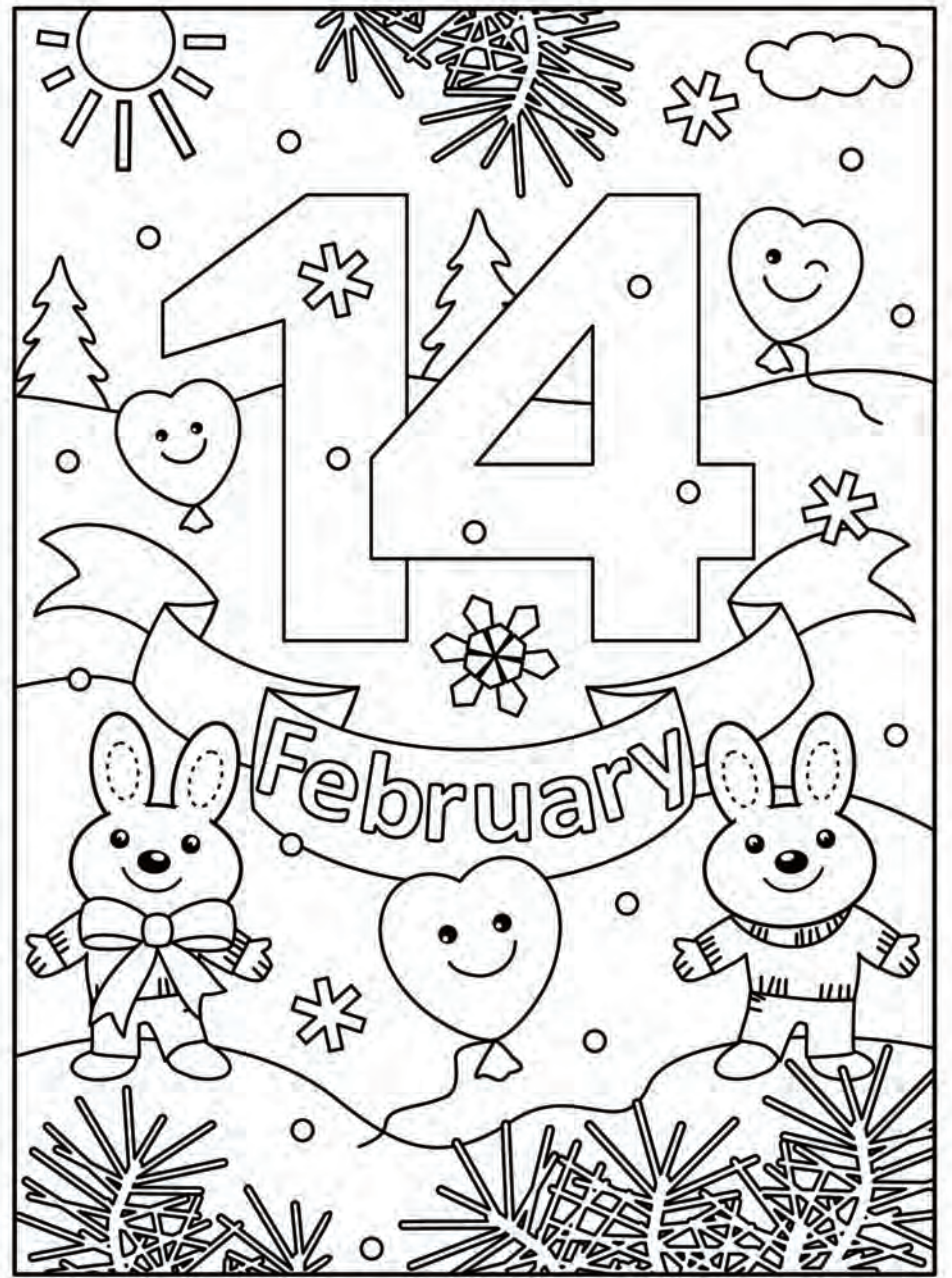
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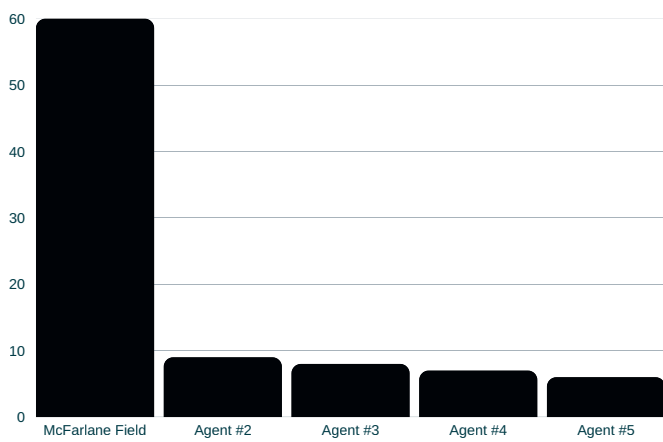
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