

# The Cape Courier

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Feb 18 - Mar 10, 2026

An Independent Not-for-Profit Newspaper  
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## In the Spirit of Community

### Cape Elizabeth hosts inaugural Special Olympics Winter Games

By Kevin St. Jarre



Photo by CEMS 8th grader Connor Barrett

Cape Elizabeth athlete Allison Brooking competed in the speed skating event.

Cape Elizabeth teachers David Croft and Zach Nedwell lead a class at Cape Elizabeth Middle School called "Explore," which meets once per week. Students are offered a variety

of options in order to choose which Explore group they would like to join. This year, 15 students signed up and helped create the first-ever Cumberland County Special Olympics Winter Games, held at Gull Crest Fields and the Cape Elizabeth Community Arena.

According to Croft, "The group began by learning about developmental and intellectual disabilities and the mission of Special Olympics. We worked closely with Geoff Godo from Special Olympics Maine, who helped guide the students in understanding what a Winter Games event could look like. Students then split into small groups to brainstorm ideas and later came together to share and refine their plans."

Along the way, students participated in mini-lessons on making professional phone calls and writing professional emails, Croft explained, and they also learned about town regulations and worked to gain permission and support from various community partners, including the police department for awards and parking, the fire chief, town officials and school officials.

Croft said, "Students developed several thoughtful and creative ideas, including the creation of an Olympic Village where teams can wait for their competitions. The Olympic Village featured music, free hot chocolate, a fire pit with s'mores and a photo booth."

-see OLYMPICS page 6

### News from February 2 Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

need support."

#### Town Council Reports and Correspondence

Councilor Anderson said she saw in a report from the Fort Williams Committee that the middle school would not be used for TD Beach to Beacon registration and packet pick up because of "school construction." Councilor Sahrbeck said that the RFP for the school project will be released in late May and by July they'll start fencing off where the new school will be built. Town Manager Patrick Fox also confirmed saying that "construction will be well underway" because there needs to be a large, temporary parking lot and drop off area before school begins in the fall. Arrangements are currently being made for a new location for the TD Beach to Beacon registration.

Chair Scifres offered a statement "in response to recent events." Scifres said that "whether your family has been here for generations or you've moved here within the last year from Connecticut or Cuba and everywhere in between, you are a valued part of our community. You matter. Your rights matter. Reach out if you

#### Finance Committee Report

Councilor Swayze informed the council that a full finance report for the month will be available at the February 18 Town Council meeting. Swayze did say that the town received an interest rate under 2.5% for the first bond anticipation note for the school building funding. Patrick Fox added that each time the town "borrows under 4%, we're coming in under what was projected to be for the tax impact."

#### Town Manager's Monthly Report

The Town Council created the ad hoc committee for the 1934 Building recommendations once the new middle school is constructed and occupied in 2028. Fox mentioned that advertising for the open positions on the committee have been published on the town's website and social media with upcoming ads in the Cape Courier. Applications for a position on the 1934 Building Committee are due Febru-

-see TOWN COUNCIL page 2

### Misty morning at Kettle Cove



Photo by Martha Agan

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**NEXT ISSUE: Feb 18**  
**DEADLINE: Noon, Feb 6**

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**'Allow me to respectfully disagree'**

Cape Elizabeth residents received a communication from CEHS on 1/29/26 titled "Regarding Planned Student Walkout and School Expectations." Below is an email I wrote to Dr. Joe Greenberg on 1/30/26 (please note that I did get a response back from Joe on 2/2/26; I will leave discussing that to a future Letter to the Editor to follow).

Good Morning, Joe,  
 Thank you for your email and for the clarification on CEHS administration's position. Allow me to respectfully disagree. What is highlighted in your email is a clear message from CEHS administration to students, staff and families that CEHS is not supportive of the National Shutdown cry for justice. What is happening in our country right now is a coordinated and aggressive attack on

people of color by masked and armed federal agents, in broad daylight. American citizens have been killed on camera because they dared to peacefully protest. Locally, the immigrant community in Maine is being targeted, with many legal immigrants with no criminal records (holding their work authorization permits in hand) being randomly stopped, humiliated and aggressively detained.

I believe this is not the time to mince words and respect other opinions. The local and national calls for standing with our immigrant community is not a political issue; it is a moral issue and it is a just issue.

Thank you for reading.  
 Kindly,  
**Tarek Hammour**

**Town Council**  
 Continued from page 1

ary 26, 2026. The Appointments Committee will review applications in early March with confirmations scheduled for the March 16, 2026, regular Town Council meeting.

The office space at 343 Ocean House Road in front of Community Services will be vacated by Edward Jones by the end of February. Edward Jones has consolidated their offices and no longer need the space. Town staff is reviewing the highest and best uses for this town-owned space.

The town staff received a thank you letter from Gull Crest Community Garden Group for "all the logistical support the Public Works provides throughout the year." In 2025, the group harvested and donated over 580 pounds of produce to the local food pantry.

Fox shared that \$24,000 of the bottle shed funds were awarded to 24 organizations with a donation of \$1,000 each. These organizations include school activities and sports boosters, the historical society, Lions Club and many others. Fox offered thanks to everyone who has donated to the bottle shed fund.

February 10, 2026 was the 10th anniversary of the Thomas Memorial Library major renovation that was completed in 2016. The library now sees over 1,600

visitors per week. Residents and community members are encouraged to stop by the library and share their messages about what they love about the library. Messages will be displayed in the lobby of the library.

**Fort Williams Park Regular Use Requests**

The Fort Williams Committee voted 5-0 in a recent January meeting on the following Fort Williams Park uses in 2026: the South Portland Cape Elizabeth Rotary fireworks on February 28; Cape Elizabeth Little League various practices which begin on March 19; Great Strides Cystic Fibrosis Walk on May 16; Cape Elizabeth High School graduation on June 7; Family Fun Day Fun Fest, to include fireworks, on June 13 with a rain date of June 14; the TD Beach to Beacon on August 1; and the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on October 18. The Town Council voted unanimously to approve the requests.

Liquor License: On Premises: Beer & Wine Application for 327 Ocean House Road,  
 LLC; DBA Ocean House Bakery  
 Ocean House Bakery applied for an

-see MEETING page 15

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

# Possible contact between dog and raccoon

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

### PUBLIC INFORMATION

The first entry was accidentally omitted from an earlier issue.

- 12-7-25 An officer met with a resident in the Old Ocean House Road area regarding a possible criminal mischief complaint.
- 1-22 An officer met with a resident of the Fowler Road area regarding a trespass complaint.
- 1-30 An officer met with a resident of the Spurwink Avenue area who reported fraudulent activity on several personal accounts.
- 1-22 An officer met with a resident of the Ocean House Road area regarding a possible missing person. Contact with the person was made a short time later.
- 1-24 An officer met with a resident of the Shore Road area regarding a criminal threatening complaint.
- 1-28 An officer met with a resident of the Broad Cove area who had received a call from a subject claiming to be from Spectrum promotions with a special deal. He disconnected the call when the caller asked him to purchase Target gift cards.
- 1-28 An officer met with a resident of the Mitchell Road area regarding a harassment complaint.
- 1-30 An officer spoke with a resident of the Mitchell Road area regarding a complaint against a contractor.
- 1-31 An officer met with a resident of the Scott Dyer Road area regarding a

possible contact between their pet dog and a raccoon. The pet owner was advised to contact his vet and was issued a quarantine notice.

### SUMMONSES

- 1-21 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Shore Road, \$85
- 1-21 Cumberland resident, unregistered vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$145
- 1-21 South Portland resident, unregistered vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$145
- 1-22 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Fowler Road, \$85
- 1-31 Portland resident, operating after license suspension, Scott Dyer Road, \$325
- 2-1 Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Scott Dyer Road, \$148
- 2-2 South Portland resident, speeding (64/45 zone), Route 77

### ARRESTS

- 1-31 Lewiston resident, outstanding warrant, Scott Dyer Road

### ACCIDENTS

- 1-22 Adrienne Hurder, Vincent Olsen, accident on Fowler Road

### FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 6; EMS calls: 31

# Bottle Shed Program awards nearly \$25,000 to local youth organizations

The Recycling Committee is pleased to share that 24 local organizations serving children and youth each received \$1,000 grants through the community-supported Bottle Shed Grant Program.

Funding decisions for the 2025 application cycle were recently completed, resulting in nearly \$25,000 awarded. These funds were raised entirely through bottles and cans donated by Cape Elizabeth residents in the Bottle Shed at the Recycling Center, representing more than 400,000 bottles and cans returned in support of local kids—almost HALF A MILLION cans and bottles!

The more returnable cans, bottles and containers that you bring to the Bottle Shed, the more we can give back to the community! Be sure to take your returnables to the Bottle Shed, instead of putting them in the trash or recycling containers.

The Bottle Shed is right next to the Swap Shop, and is open during Recycling Center hours: Tuesday, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., and Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (closed Monday, Thursday and Sunday).

### The 2025 award recipients:

- BSA Troop 30
- Cape Community Arena Group
- Cape Elizabeth Baseball Boosters
- Cape Elizabeth Boys Lacrosse Boosters

Cape Elizabeth Girls' Basketball Boosters

- CEHS Boys Soccer Boosters
- CEHS Cardiac Club
- CEHS Parents Association
- CEHS Softball Boosters
- CEHS Speech & Debate Team
- CEHS Volleyball Boosters
- Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society
- Cape Elizabeth Hockey Boosters
- Cape Elizabeth Lions Club
- Cape Elizabeth Music Boosters
- Cape Elizabeth Project Graduation 2026
- Cape Elizabeth Robotics Boosters
- Cape Elizabeth Soccer Club
- Cape Elizabeth Swim & Dive Team Boosters
- Cape Elizabeth Theater
- Cape Elizabeth Ultimate Frisbee
- Cape Hoops
- The City Team Middle School Hockey
- Pond Cove Parents Association

The town of Cape Elizabeth and the Recycling Committee thank all residents who donate bottles and cans at the Bottle Shed and help turn everyday recycling into meaningful support for local youth programs. Youth-serving groups are encouraged to apply for Bottle Shed grants each October.

# Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

### Tax Season Is Prime Time for IRS Impostor Scams

Tax season is stressful enough, and scammers take full advantage of that with IRS impostor schemes. They reach out, claiming you owe back taxes and threaten legal action if you don't pay immediately. These messages are designed to create panic and push you to act fast, often demanding payment by wire transfer, gift cards, or cryptocurrency — all guaranteed signs of a scam. Unless you're already working with the IRS on a tax issue, the agency will generally not contact you, and if they do, it's typically by mail first. When in doubt, disengage and verify by contacting the IRS directly using a trusted number from an official letter or IRS.gov — never one provided in a suspicious message.

### Not Just Romance: The Rise of Friendship Scams

You don't have to be looking for love to be targeted by a relationship scam. Increasingly, perpetrators take the friendship route, building deep connections over time, starting by claiming they share your interests, experiences or struggles. They may initiate contact by commenting on your social media posts, reaching out through direct messages, or even sending what seems like a text sent by mistake. Over time, they earn your trust before asking for money or pitching an investment opportunity. Because these relationships appear platonic, they can be harder to recognize. Red flags include pressure to move conversations to encrypted apps and eventually urgent requests for money or encouragement to invest in cryptocurrency.

Make it a habit to talk to a friend or family member when new relationships bloom. Together, you may be able to see signs of a scam that you couldn't see alone.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at 877-908-3360.

# Lions Club upcoming events

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 spaghetti dinners this winter on the following dates:

- February 21, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- March 21, from 5:00 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 Vino is allowed. The price is \$15 per person and \$7.50

for those those under 12 years of age.

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

April 25 – TBD

We have also created a new Facebook page @ 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.



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## Cape Elizabeth 1956 Basketball State Champions

By Steve Hill  
CEHS Class of 1968

In Maine February and March mean high school basketball tournament time and throughout its sports history Cape Elizabeth High School basketball teams have made the tournament many more times than not. The month of March 2026 marks the anniversary of a state championship team from Cape Elizabeth that could arguably be one of the best basketball teams in Cape's history. Turning the clock back to 1956...

Coach Bill Bonville's team looks to win its 4th Triple-C title in a row and go much deeper in the tournament than in 1955 when they lost in the opening round.

Bonville likes the early play of sophomore Roger Curtis along with Pete Scott, Lloyd Bankson and Dale Farnsworth among others. Cape captured its 4th Triple-C title and peaked just at tourney time. In the Western Maine Prelim they beat Standish 72-53 with Pete Scott leading the way, as he would in the entire tournament, with 26 points. Bankson had 14 and Curtis 13. The semifinal was a grudge match of sorts with Lisbon who had eliminated Cape the year before. Not this time!

With Scott controlling the game with 27 points, Cape downed the Greyhounds 52-43. Cape met Jay in the finals and with a 70-55 victory Cape had its second Western Maine title in 4 years. Pete Scott again scored over 20 points with 22 and Lloyd Bankson had his best game of the tournament with 19 points. Pete Scott was named the Western Maine Class M Outstanding Player.

It is interesting to note that this was the last Cape basketball team to play in the gym in the old high school. The 1957 team would play in the new gym which is currently the middle school gym.

Cape now faces Lincoln who enters the state championship game with a 21-0 record and the presumed advantage East-

ern Maine teams have over the West.

Coach Bonville had his team of Scott, Bankson, Farnsworth and others ready and not paying attention to records or reputation. Cape handed Mattanawcook Academy of Lincoln a stunning 75-51 defeat and broke the state championship scoring record while they were at it. The previous record of 66 points was set by Cape in the 1953 title game. Cape played only 6 men to win the title, Scott had 26, Farnsworth 20, Bankson 18, Roger Curtis 6, Ray Twitchell 3 and Kevin Reilly 2. The 1956 team set a very high standard for teams in the future and it is no surprise that Peter Scott, Lloyd Bankson and Dale Farnsworth were all selected to the Triple-C All-Star Team 70 long years ago.

It should be noted that 1956 was not an exception to Cape's basketball success in the 1950s. In 1950 Cape was a solid third place in the Triple-C League. 1951 saw the arrival of two big names in Cape sports, Bill Hoadly and Lester Jordan. Cape would make the tourney in both 1951 and 52 and this would set the stage of Cape's first state championship of the 1950s.

Cape played only 5 players in the 1953 state championship game against Pemet-ic High School of Southwest Harbor in winning a dramatic 66-59 victory in OT. Bill Hoadley led Cape with 24 points, Ed Mandell had 14, Dave Burkes 12, Fred Armstrong 10 and Al DeSantis 6. The coach was Bill Madden.

Solid Cape Elizabeth teams would make tourney runs again in 1954 and 55 and as mentioned win the state championship again in 1956. Cape lost in the Western Maine finals in 1957. Cape would make the tournament again in 1958 and 1959 under new Coach Ray Bicknell.

The decade of the 1950s was indeed a very impressive one for Cape Elizabeth Basketball and would be a good foundation for future success.

## News from the superintendent

By Dr. Chris Record

I hope you and your family are doing well during this mid-winter chill. It has been nice, if you enjoy activities in the snow, to have an oldtime Maine winter. In our schools, we are pleased to continue to offer a warm, welcoming, and safe environment to all of our students and staff. All of our students and staff are valued and all are welcome in our schools. I want to assure our community that we are committed to providing a safe learning environment free from discrimination, harassment or bullying.

We have much to highlight as we continue to teach and learn throughout our district. For instance, recently at Pond Cove Elementary School second graders learned about wind, weathering and erosion. Students explored a variety of books on these topics and chose one area of interest to research more deeply. Using what they learned, they began creating posters and practiced explanation writing, focusing on clearly explaining their topic and the science behind it. We are excited to see their learning come together through both research and writing.

Additionally, Ms. Birmingham's 4th grade class had a special opportunity to deepen their learning about rocks and erosion through an engaging program called Sedimentary Sleuths, presented by Park Rangers from Acadia National Park. As part of our science studies, students have been exploring how rocks form and how erosion shapes the land. This presentation helped connect our classroom learning to real-world changes happening right in our own backyard along the Maine coast.

Meanwhile, students and staff at CEMS collaborated to host a Special Olympic Winter Games for 125 athletes from several area schools at Gullcrest. The tremendous athletes competed their hearts out in snowshoeing, XC skiing and speed skating. Several Cape students, staff and administrators packed the sidelines to cheer them on.

A very big thanks to CEMS teacher Dave Croft for organizing this amazing event and for all the students, staff and volunteers that helped pull it off. What a great reminder for all of us to continue to "celebrate the good."

Speaking of celebrating, the CEHS Congressional Debate Team won the Maine State Championship earlier this month. Additionally, for the second consecutive year, the CEHS literacy magazine Bartleby earned "First Class" distinction from the 2025 NCTE REALM program. Also of note, 11th grader Elisa Dew has been selected as one of only 30 students nationwide to serve as a U.S. Senate Page in Washington D.C. through June.

The school building project is continuing to progress. Our architecture team from Harriman is finalizing construction

documents and we are targeting to go out to bid in May and break ground in July. Please go to <https://www.cape.k12.me.us/o/cesd/page/buildingproject> for more information.

Building Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m. in the CEMS chorus room.

Additionally, I am thrilled to report that our first BAN (bond anticipation note) for \$21 million, will be financed at an interest rate of 2.4% due to Cape Elizabeth's terrific Aa1/AAA bond rating. Prior to the referendum during the project design phase, borrowing costs and the impact on taxes were estimated at a 4% borrowing interest rate. So this is very good news for every household in Cape. This initial issuance of bond anticipation note will provide cash flow to support the school construction project until the first general obligation bond issuance in November 2026.

I am very pleased to share that Cape Elizabeth Public Schools has been awarded funding through the Maine Department of Education's FY26 School Revolving Renovation Fund (SRRF) for a major safety and accessibility improvement project at Pond Cove Elementary School.

Out of 35 projects approved statewide, Cape Elizabeth was one of just three school districts in Cumberland County to receive an award during this funding cycle. The approved project includes \$685,732 to support safety and security improvements at Pond Cove Elementary.

The SRRF program provides zero-percent interest loans for critical school infrastructure projects, with a portion of each award forgiven as a grant. These funds are dedicated to health, safety, and compliance upgrades that help schools maintain safe, accessible, and modern learning environments.

The project qualified for SRRF funding because it addresses both safety and accessibility needs by upgrading outdated communication equipment and adding visual alerts and synchronized systems to ensure emergency messages are accessible to all students and staff. The work replaces a 1994-era system with aging wiring, inconsistent speaker coverage, and unsynchronized, battery-powered clocks, bringing Pond Cove a modern emergency communication system that improves clarity, reliability and school-wide coordination.

This SRRF grant represents the largest single-building award the district has ever received, underscoring the significance of the project and the state's investment in safety and accessibility at Pond Cove.

The successful application was led by David Bagdasarian, Facilities Director, in close partnership with Marcia Weeks, School Business Manager, with the support of the Superintendent and School Board. Their work reflects the district's ongoing commitment to proactively identifying safety needs and leveraging state resources to reduce the burden on local taxpayers.

More information about the SRRF program and the full list of approved projects is available on the Maine Department of Education's website.

As always, I want to sincerely thank you for your support of our students, staff and our schools.


## 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: [cejudyspantry@gmail.com](mailto:cejudyspantry@gmail.com). Please consider a non-perishable donation to the IGA drop box.




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## Safeguarding rights through ICE surge

By Sen. Anne Carney

The past year has been heavy, with nearly every day bringing a new headline on federal immigration enforcement stoking fear and division in communities across the country. Having spent so much of my career working to safeguard civil rights and expand access to justice, it is deeply concerning to see the federal government not only fail to protect, but actively threaten public safety and due process, targeting lawfully present asylees, refugees, naturalized citizens and people born in the U.S. without regard to their legal rights.

Last month brought these threats much closer to home as ICE presence multiplied in the greater Portland region. I heard from community members who were too afraid to go to work, citizens who wouldn't step outside their homes without a passport and parents whose children's classmates quietly vanished from school, their families sheltering in place or fleeing despite their legal status here in Maine.

While the aim of these fear tactics may be collective paralysis, our community sprang into action. It filled me with hope to see neighbors support neighbors by organizing grocery deliveries, safe rides, school drop-off patrol groups and other resources for those more vulnerable to profiling by ICE.

As Senate chair of the Judiciary Committee, charged with leading our Legislature's work on civil rights and due process, I am committed to our community's values — treating others with care and compassion while upholding the law of our land. We began the year with a major step forward as LD 1971 was passed into law, limiting the context in which local law enforcement can support and interact with federal law enforcement and, subsequently, helping to focus resources on promoting public safety rather than on federal immigration activities. Though the law will not officially take effect until this summer, Maine State Police have been following it since early January.

The Judiciary Committee is actively working on several other bills poised to protect community members' rights and

safety in the face of a sweeping federal commitment to mass detention and deportation. LD 2106, for example, would require federal law enforcement to obtain a judicial warrant signed by a judge before accessing a sensitive location or confidential record. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Ellie Sato of Gorham, reflected, "Many Mainers have stopped going to work, attending school or going to the doctor out of fear for their safety. Employers like MaineHealth have reported understaffing as workers call out due to the increased ICE presence in our state. Community organizations are reporting that the terrifying tactics of immigration enforcement are exacerbating public health issues." The bill would strengthen constitutional protections against unlawful search and seizure in key community spaces like schools, hospitals and libraries, which the Trump Administration rescinded early last year.

Also on our docket is LD 2176, which aims to improve timely access to legal representation in immigration detention proceedings. That bill's sponsor, Sen. Jill Dusen of Portland, explained, "Mainers are being profiled and detained via aggressive immigration enforcement sweeps in communities across the state. Without access to legal representation, detained persons have limited ability to assert their right to liberty and challenge the lawfulness of their detention." The bill would make clear that a person deprived of rights under the Maine Civil Rights Act in the course of an unlawful immigration detention can seek remedies, including compensatory damages and attorney fees.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Judiciary Committee and beyond to advance these urgently needed protections for public safety and due process — because our communities are better off for the rich contributions of all who call Maine home.

As always, you can contact me at Anne.Carney@legislature.maine.gov or (207) 287-1515 for help navigating state services or to share questions, comments and concerns.

## Winter CELT programs

### 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 is a winner of the National Conservation Young Leader Award from the National Wildlife Federation. He also 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. Greg is currently studying Ecology and Environmental Sciences at the University of Maine, while also promot-

ing many issues regarding wildlife conservation in the state.

Come learn about Maine's Big Night and how you can participate during late April or early May when the amphibians emerge again.

Date: Tuesday, March 24  
 Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
 Thomas Memorial Library  
 No registration required  
 Please visit <https://www.capelandtrust.org/events/> for registration and more information

## Cape Elizabeth Accessibility & Inclusion Committee invites community feedback

Every person wants to feel they matter; to know their voice is heard, their experiences count, and their contributions make a difference. The town of Cape Elizabeth's Accessibility & Inclusion Committee (formerly the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee) is guided by that belief.

The committee's mission is to help make Cape Elizabeth a welcoming, accessible, and inclusive place to live, work and visit. It serves as a bridge between residents and town government, offering recommendations and resources to ensure that our town's facilities, programs and communications support participation by all.

"When people feel they matter, communities thrive."

The committee's work directly supports the town council's goals, reinforcing a shared commitment to a thriving, connected community:

- **Asset Management and Planning:** The committee helps ensure that town-owned buildings, parks, sidewalks and other public spaces are accessible to people of all abilities. This includes recommending tools and consultants to assess ADA compliance and universal design principles.
- **Community-Driven Projects:** The committee provides input on how to make community facilities and gathering spaces inclusive of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, helping to ensure everyone can take part in the life of our town.
- **An Informed and Engaged Citizenry:** The committee supports accessibility in town communications, meetings and events—advising on ways to make digital platforms, surveys and public documents easier for all to use and understand.

To strengthen this work, the committee is inviting residents and visitors to share their experiences—both positive examples and ar-

eas where accessibility or inclusion could be improved. A new Accessibility & Inclusion Input and Feedback Form makes it easy to share your perspective. Simply scan the QR code below or visit the Accessibility & Inclusion Committee page on the Cape Elizabeth Town website ([capeelizabeth.gov](http://capeelizabeth.gov)) to share what's working well or where we can do better. We also invite community members to attend committee meetings which are posted on the town website meeting calendar.

Hard copies of this form are available in print and large print at the Thomas Memorial Library.

Your feedback helps identify successes worth celebrating and opportunities for meaningful improvement. Whether you've noticed an accessible feature that makes life easier or a barrier that could be removed, your insight will help the committee and the town prioritize initiatives and take action that benefits everyone.

Together, we can ensure that Cape Elizabeth is a community where every person feels welcome, valued, and able to participate fully.



Scan this QR code to fill out the new Accessibility & Inclusion Input and Feedback Form.



## Town of Cape Elizabeth

### Ad Hoc 1934 Building Committee

The Town Council's Appointments Committee is accepting applications from residents for the newly formed

### Ad Hoc 1934 Building Committee

The Town Council has established the charge of an ad hoc committee to advise and support the Council on the transition of the 1934 building currently used by the Cape Elizabeth Middle School until it is relinquished in the Fall of 2028. The Ad Hoc 1934 Building Committee will explore, study, and gather information on the building for town use or discontinuance and make one or more recommendations to the Town Council by March of 2027.

**This is an important opportunity to directly influence the future of our town. By joining the Ad Hoc 1934 Building Committee, you will play a key role in studying the options and shaping a recommendation that will have a lasting impact on Cape Elizabeth.**

The nine-member committee will include six community members, two Town Councilors, and one School Board member. Residents interested in examining all possibilities of use, including public, private, or mixed use, sale of building, and removal are encouraged to apply.

Residents interested in serving on the Ad Hoc 1934 Building must complete and return the Application for Boards and Commissions by **4:30 PM, Thursday, February 26, 2026**, and return via email, fax, or mail to:

Angela S. Frawley, Town Clerk  
 320 Ocean House Road Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107  
 Email: [angela.frawley@capeelizabeth.gov](mailto:angela.frawley@capeelizabeth.gov)  
 T: 207-799-7665 / F: 207-799-7141



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# Olympics

Continued from page 1



Contributed photo

The Explore group, from left to right, are Madi Ross, Franchi Knott, Sophie Favreau, Piper Poltak, Mia Dionne Eguren, Harper Moloney, Ava DeNino, Ivy Mullins, Waverly Soch, Lylah Sawyer, Fiona Grady, Shaw Sandals, Oliver Furt, Sam Law, Bodhi Babcock. Not pictured is Abbott Coyne. These 15 students signed up and helped create the first-ever Cumberland County Special Olympics Winter Games.

Students also worked collaboratively to secure equipment such as cones and rope to mark courses, as well as snowshoes and cross-country skis for athletes or teams who may not have access to their own gear. In addition, they recruited volunteers, promoted the event, and learned about event logistics and planning.

Jeff Thoreck, the Cape Elizabeth High School athletic director, visited the group to share his experience running events at Gull Crest, Croft said, and he offered valuable insights on logistics and planning considerations.

Croft said, “The students planned a special opening ceremony, complete with a parade of athletes, speeches and music. While snow was initially a concern, the group developed both a Plan B and a Plan C.”

Fortunately, it turned out that there was enough snow for the event to go on as planned. “We were not sure how the event would be received and sent out an Intent to Participate and got over 125+ interested athletes!” Croft said.

Croft said he has always been interested in the Special Olympics, and he has organized the Cumberland County Special Olympics Swim Meet in Cape Elizabeth for many years. “I’ve long wanted to create a Winter Games

as well, but finding a location with enough space for two 400-meter snowshoeing and cross-country ski courses—along with a rink for speed skating—was challenging,” he said.

With the completion of the Cape Community Arena, the idea really started to take shape.

“I also wanted to create meaningful opportunities for our students to learn about and interact with individuals who have developmental or intellectual disabilities,” Croft said.

He said, “The swim meet is one of my favorite days of the year, and many of the students in this Explore group are athletes themselves. This project gave them a chance to give back, build community connections, and help create opportunities for athletes who may not always have access to team sports or competitive events.”

Students signed up to help create this event for a variety of reasons. “Some already had a personal interest in Special Olympics or experience with inclusive athletics, while others had never heard of Special Olympics and were eager to learn more. Many students were drawn to the opportunity to plan a real-world event, work as part of a team, and make a positive impact in their community. For several students, this project combined their love of sports with a desire to give back and create inclusive opportunities for athletes of all abilities,” Croft said.

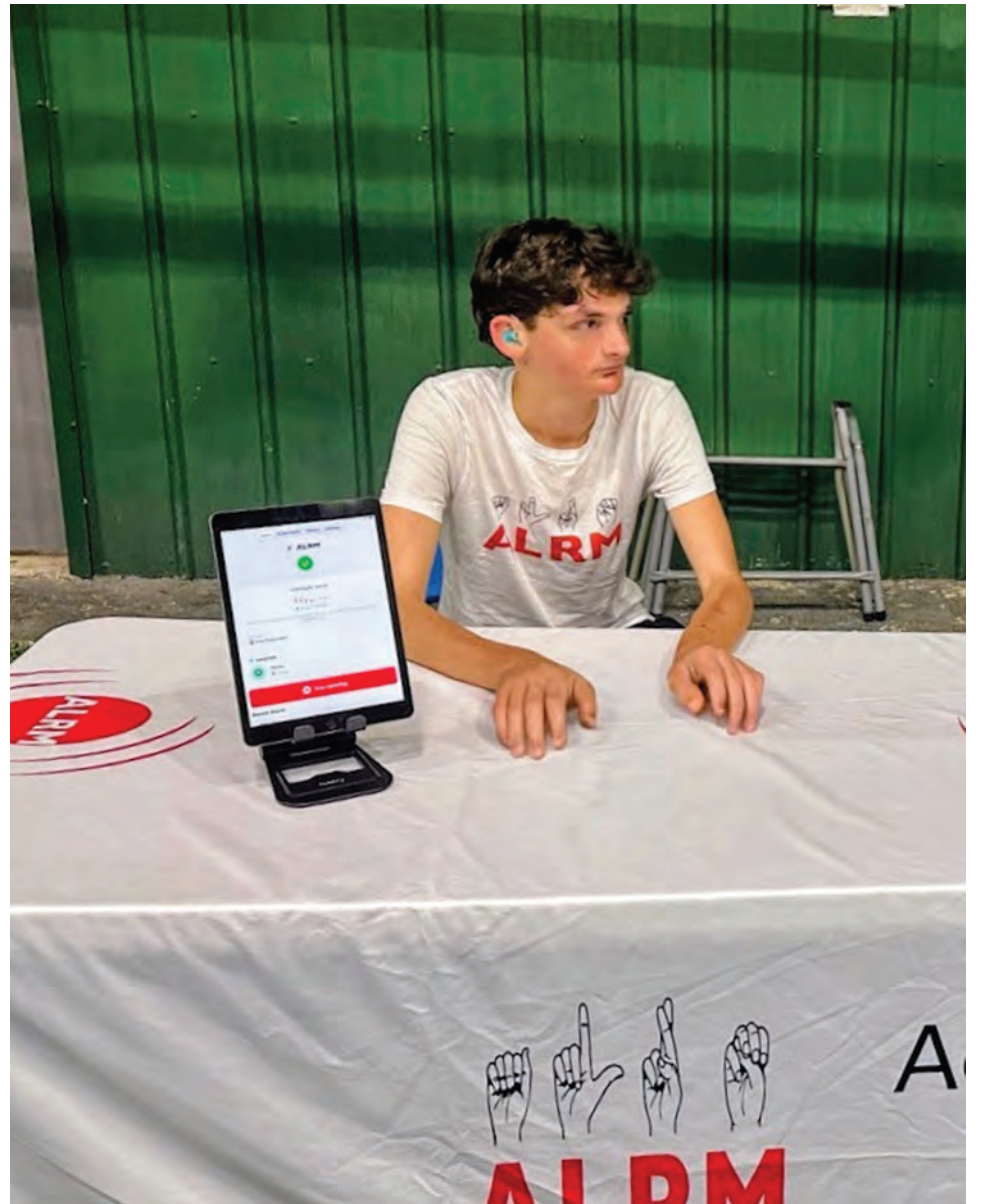
Most of our volunteers are middle and high school students, with a small number of adult volunteers, according to Croft.

“This is truly a student-led event, and the students have taken on the majority of the planning and volunteer roles,” he said.

Croft added, “Shout-outs to the Cape Community Arena, our volunteers, various town organizations [such as] Public Works, Police, Fire, Cape Schools and Jeff Thoreck. Special shout-out to Jay Weiss, who groomed our courses. Griffin Thoreck from Cape Facilities helped with set up and clean up and various things during the event, Cape Arena for letting us use the rink and their facility, Jim Shiminski for helping to make sure the events were running smoothly, and the middle school classes who came over to support the athletes.”

# Caper develops ALRM app to keep deaf people safe

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Cape Elizabeth High School sophomore Gavin Phelan created an app called “ALRM,” which alerts the deaf and hard of hearing that an alarm is sounding in their location, such as fire alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and severe weather sirens, through vibration patterns and visual notifications.

Gavin Phelan is a sophomore at Cape Elizabeth High School, and he has developed an app called ALRM which detects when an emergency alarm is sounding, and notifies a deaf or hard of hearing person of the alarm through vibration and visual notification.

Phelan will present how emergency sound detection technology works to leaders from over 100 countries at an esteemed international conference in Vienna, Austria called The Zero Project Conference, the world’s premier gathering for disability inclusion innovation.

ALRM is an AI-powered mobile app that alerts users to emergency sounds like fire alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and severe weather sirens.

According to Gavin Phelan’s father, Kevin Phelan, only 31 percent of state emergency operations plans even mention deaf or hard

of hearing populations.

Gavin Phelan said he had the idea of developing such an app after learning about emergencies where deaf and hard of hearing people were killed because they never heard the warning. “The Lewiston shooting particularly struck me - four deaf people were among the victims. Then came the Maui wildfires, and I kept thinking about what happens during these disasters if you can’t hear the alarm,” Gavin Phelan said.

“As someone who is hard of hearing myself, I’ve had my own experiences with home safety systems like smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors that I might not hear,” he said.

Gavin Phelan said that over the past two years, he’s been speaking with deaf, deaf/blind, and hard of hearing people to learn what they do today and what they need.

“So many described feeling like a sitting duck - defenseless because [they don’t] know danger is coming. Imagine being in a school hallway and suddenly everyone starts running for their lives, but you didn’t hear the gunshot or the alarm. ALRM gives you equal access to that life-saving information when seconds matter most. ALRM turns the device already in their pocket into a life-saving alert system for millions deaf and hard of hearing Americans,” Gavin Phelan said.

The younger Phelan said he started teaching himself to code two years ago with AI tools like ChatGPT and Claude. He then created a database of emergency sounds - fire

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BuySellMaine@gmail.com

-see ALRM page 15

# Representative Michelle Boyer announces bid for re-election



Contributed photo

State Representative Michelle Boyer has formally announced her bid for re-election for District 123, which includes most of Cape Elizabeth.

*Press release* – State Representative Michelle Boyer is formally announcing her bid for re-election for District 123, which includes most of Cape Elizabeth.

“It has been an incredible honor to serve my community and it would be a privilege to continue my work for the people of this district,” said Boyer.

In her first term as a State Representative, Boyer has built on her work as a private citizen to improve healthcare for Mainers. She introduced a bill, which the Governor signed, that requires reimbursement for lactation services through MaineCare. This important piece of legislation will ensure that parents who wish to breastfeed have the support they need to be successful. Breastfeeding has been shown to reduce the risk of respiratory diseases, obesity, diabetes and sudden infant death syndrome in infants, while also providing benefits for the breastfeeding parent.

Boyer also authored a bill to require insurance carriers to provide a contact for independent providers to negotiate rates for their services. Independent providers are an integral part of our healthcare system and this is a small step to helping providers stay viable in a highly consolidated healthcare market.

Should Rep. Boyer have the honor of continuing her service on behalf of Cape Elizabeth in the Maine House, she will continue her work to support gun safety

measures, support meaningful reforms to improve our healthcare system, protect reproductive freedom, reduce Maine’s carbon footprint and preserve Maine’s natural beauty.

Prior to being elected to the State House of Representatives, Boyer served on the Cape Elizabeth Conservation Committee for three years. She also worked on a postpartum healthcare bill with Sen. Anne Carney which was signed by the Governor in 2022 as well as served as a volunteer for the Maine Gun Safety Caucus at the Legislature.

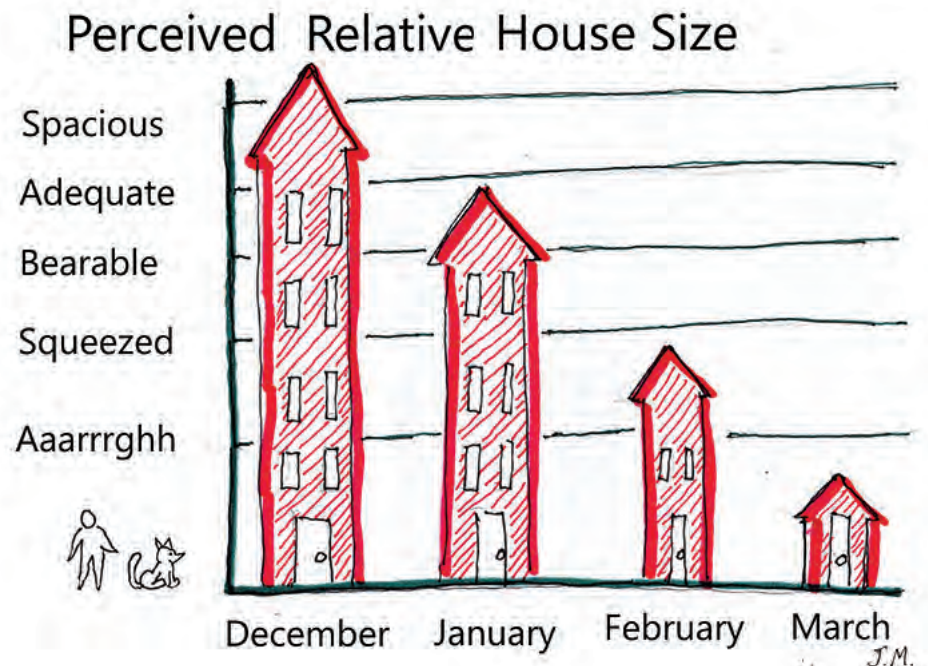
Representative Boyer’s work experience includes banking, mortgage licensing and compliance, and small business ownership.

She and her husband Mark have lived in Cape Elizabeth for over 12 years where they are raising their two children. “We feel so fortunate to raise our children here in this beautiful state where we could share our love for the outdoors and natural beauty of Maine and raise them in a safe and close-knit community.”

Contact:  
Michelle Boyer  
michelleformaine@gmail.com  
(207) 239-6318

# Capetoon: Cabin fever index

By Jeff Mandell



# Pond Cove kindergarten fall registration now open

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.

- 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

### 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 web site at: <https://www.cape.k12.me.us/>
- Click “Enroll” on the right side of the page

### Need Help?

- If you need assistance, contact the Pond Cove main office:
- Email: [pcoffice@capeelizabetschools.org](mailto:pcoffice@capeelizabetschools.org)
  - Phone: 207-799-7339



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# CEHS students compete at Model UN

By Kevin St. Jarre



Photo by Melissa Oliver

CEHS students competed recently in a Model UN event in Boston. Front row, left to right- Emily Scott, Katherine Halter, Phoebe Evans, Alexa Mallory, Audrey Higgins, Emerson Durkin, Isabelle Lee, Sophia Lee, Azara Govind, Daphne Boxer.

Back Row, left to right- Jonah Milton, Finn Zwintscher, Cameron Scott, Charles Converse, Thomas Cadigan, Avery Leonhirth, Erik Frey, Dorothy Van Dessel, Cassia Lührman.

Cape Elizabeth High School saw 20 students spend a weekend competing at a Model United Nations event in Boston. The current faculty advisor, CEHS Teacher Colleen Currier, partnering with long-time former advisor and CEHS Teacher Melissa Oliver attended as well.

As CEHS Principal Dr. Joe Greenberg wrote to the faculty in his weekly email, "I would have loved to be a fly on the wall to see them employing their diplomatic skills and navigating what I know are complex simulations of real-world matters."

According to Currier, the following students won awards for their performances-

- Phoebe Evans, representing Pakistan

in the Committee on the Status of Women- Diplomatic Commendation

- Isabelle Lee, representing Somalia in the Food and Agricultural Association- Honorable Mention

- Jonah Milton and Finn Zwintscher, representing Trinidad and Tobago in OPEC- Best Delegate

- Thomas Cadigan, representing Maine in the US Senate: The New Deal- Diplomatic Commendation

- Katie Halter, representing José Córdoba Montoya in Clue: Whodunnit? Colosio's Last Campaign- Best Delegate

# CEEF approves five grants totaling \$21,074, including \$6,000 for annual Chewonki Trip



Photo by Charlie Carroll

Sixth grade students participating in the 2024 Chewonki field trip.

On February 4, 2026, the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF) approved five grants supporting innovative programs across all three Cape Elizabeth schools. At Pond Cove Elementary School, second graders will learn the art and science of maple sugaring through a new \$1,000 grant requested by second grade teacher Enrique Polletta. Students will discover how the Wabanaki People and other Indigenous Nations developed this centuries-old practice, tap trees, collect sap and boil their own syrup. The project culminates in a community pancake breakfast where students will share their handcrafted maple syrup.

Cape Elizabeth Middle School received three grants. Charlie Carroll requested \$6,000 to help ensure the entire sixth grade class can continue their annual Chewonki Outdoor Classroom experience, helping offset increased program costs while keeping family expenses manageable. The annual Chewonki trip has become a staple of the Cape Elizabeth School District, with CEMS students attend-

ing for over 40 years. The second grant was Eric Huntington's "Project IGNITE," which brings advanced manufacturing tools directly to students through a mobile makerspace featuring 3D printers, coding kits, and electronics that can move between classrooms, and was granted \$7,249 from CEEF. Finally, Libby Heselton secured a \$4,575 grant supporting an immersive seventh grade Human Project Retreat at the Ecology School with Maine Boys to Men, focusing on healthy relationships, consent and boundaries in a setting designed for deeper engagement.

At Cape Elizabeth High School, Thomas Farmer received a \$2,150 grant to fund a large-format printer, allowing students to produce professional-quality architectural drawings, posters, and visual projects that can be displayed throughout the school, giving their work a public audience and building confidence in their creative and technical abilities.

-see CEEF page 15



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# Manhattan to Maine: movie actor finds peace on the coast

By Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)

One of the best parts of living in Cape Elizabeth is the chance to cross paths with neighbors and dive into their stories. Everyone carries a narrative worth hearing; you just have to be willing to listen. From the mailman and the police officer to the local lobsterman - or even a movie star - there's always a captivating history waiting behind every face. While the 1950s residency of Bette Davis and Gary Merrill at "Witch Way" in Cape Elizabeth is a well-known piece of local history, character actor Michael Murphy had also maintained a residence in the town for awhile.

You might have passed Michael Murphy on the streets of Cape Elizabeth without realizing you were in the presence of a true Hollywood veteran. Famed for his extensive collaborations with director Robert Altman, Murphy is well-remembered for his role in the 1979 classic "Manhattan," starring alongside Woody Allen and Diane Keaton, among a long list of other films and television roles.

We picked up a coffee at C-Salt Gourmet Market, one of his favorite local spots for a coffee or quick bite. We then continued our conversation in front of the fireplace at Thomas Memorial Library, where I sat back and listened to his journey, a story worthy of a book rather than just an article.

Mike found his way to Maine in 1979 when his sister and brother-in-law purchased an inn in Kennebunkport. Mike then bought an adjacent barn and converted it into a family home where his children spent their summers. Decades later, after his family sold the inn, Mike sold his property and relocated to Cape Elizabeth. This move proved ideal, as it placed him closer to his then adult son and daughter in greater Portland.

Mike is a celebrated American actor with an acclaimed career spanning film, television and the stage. He is best known for his nuanced portrayals of ethically compromised authority figures, from politicians and judges to clerics and high-level executives. Recently, he has lent his distinctive voice to the prestigious PBS "American Experience" documentary series. His big break came when his friend, mentor and iconoclastic filmmaker Director Robert Altman gave him a part in the 1960s television series "Combat."

Over time, Mike asked Altman for guidance about taking a job offer in a television series. Altman's response was blunt and in-

sightful: You can either be a celebrity in a television series, and those come and go, or you can be an actor and do some interesting work and focus on that. Mike chose the latter and that philosophy guided his craft for over fifty years.

With over 100 acting credits, Mike's filmography includes 84 films, 27 television series, and over 40 documentary narrations. While he is best known for iconic roles in "M\*A\*S\*H\*," "Nashville," "Batman Returns," and "White House Down," Mike counts his narration of the PBS series "The Irish in America: Long Journey Home" as one of his most rewarding projects.

Mike's career is marked by long-lasting collaborations with directors and casts including many celebrated actors. His creative bond with Robert Altman spanned decades and included films such as "M\*A\*S\*H\*" (1970), "Brewster McCloud" (1970), "McCabe & Mrs. Miller" (1971), "Nashville" (1975) and the political miniseries "Tanner '88." Murphy easily moved between prestige dramas and major blockbusters, and appeared with Woody Allen and Diane Keaton in "Manhattan" (1979) and supported Jill Clayburgh in "An Unmarried Woman" (1978). His versatility is shown in Paul Thomas Anderson's "Magnolia" (1999), Tim Burton's "Batman Returns" (1992) and "X-Men: The Last Stand" (2006). He also worked in the political thriller genre in John Sayles' "Silver City" (2004) alongside Chris Cooper. Among other honors, Murphy won two Gemini Awards for Best Supporting Actor in a Dramatic Series (2004, 2005).

Born and raised in the heart of Los Angeles, Mike's entry into the film industry was a natural byproduct of his upbringing. As the son of a charismatic salesman for a movie-backdrop canvas company and a dedicated teacher, he navigated the culture of moviemaking from an early age with the help of his father's deep industry connections. Mike's childhood was uniquely Hollywood: he attended Catholic school alongside the children of screen icons like John Wayne, viewing these high-profile friendships as entirely ordinary. With the support of his parents, his transition into the world of film was as seamless as it was inevitable.

His path took a turn when his father started a business that required the family to move to Arizona. Mike enrolled at Brophy College

Preparatory in Phoenix, where he was a self-described "wise guy." Although he struggled academically, his life changed when a friend convinced him to audition for a school play. As fate would have it, his friend didn't make the cut, but Mike did. Theater became his lifeline; his performance was so vital to the school that a priest let him stay in school in spite of his poor grades because he excelled on stage. After performing during his junior and senior years, he graduated in May 1956, already hooked on acting.

At the same time, Mike felt a deep calling to serve his country. Having grown up near the California coast, he initially had a romantic vision of enlisting in the Navy to watch sunsets from the deck of a ship. Yet, upon graduating high school in 1956, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, and received an honorable discharge.

After his military service, Mike utilized his veterans' benefits to attend the University of Arizona and UCLA. While he enjoyed the social aspects of college life, discipline from his

military service benefited his performance in both academics and theater. After earning his teaching credentials, he taught high school English and drama for two years before committing to a full-time acting career in 1964. He compared movie-making to his time in the Marines, noting that both required intense collaboration. Just as close-order drill taught him that he was part of a team working toward a common goal, "you're only as good as the person you're working with."

During his early career, Mike acknowledged the systemic hurdles women faced in the film industry, but he worked with some of the best including Julie Christie, Diane Keaton and Glenda Jackson. He said to get in the movie industry, you really have to want it, and make sacrifices.

Mike has traveled much of the world making films, before retiring to the peaceful landscape of Maine, and long beloved by

-see ACTOR page 10



Photo by Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)

Movie actor Michael Murphy sits by the fireplace at Thomas Memorial Library.

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## Love letters to the park

In the last issue of *The Cape Courier*, the Friends of Fort Williams Park invited readers to write short love letters celebrating this remarkable place. The responses were heartfelt and generous. Here is a selection, along with several inspired works of art.

**Mike, Cape Elizabeth:** What a unique gem is Fort Williams Park - Ninety acres that includes so much: history, beauty, recreation, opportunities to simply relax and more! So grateful to have this tremendous resource close by and well cared for by the Town of Cape Elizabeth and the Friends of Fort Williams Park!

**Annie, Age 33, Lafayette, CO:** Dear Fort Williams Park, Thank you for being the last stop on the Crosstown Trail—your lighthouse a beacon to weary hikers who have traversed far (aka all of Cape Elizabeth). Thank you for the brisk air and wind off the water along the cliff walk, reminding me that I am alive and in Maine. The first place I want to visit when I arrive, the last place I go to say, “see you later.”

**Betsy, Portland:** I love Fort Williams Park. Each visit is a unique experience that activates my sense of wonder and deepens my connection to nature. I am so grateful that a space like this exists for all to enjoy.

**Gardener for Friends of Fort Williams Park:** Thank you, Fort Williams Park. From my favorite vantage point, I see bees buzzing around beach plums and monarchs resting on milkweed. In the distance, families are having picnics and visitors are climbing on the rocks. If I’m lucky, someone will play an instrument, like the bagpipes that resonated beautifully one evening last summer. From atop this hill, I can see the Portland skyline and know that I’m stewarding a special place for my community.

**Pam, (over 21!), Argyll, Scotland:** Through happenstance back in the 1990s, long before online dating, I fell in love with a wonderful man who lived in New Hampshire while I lived in Scotland. We corresponded, talked and finally met for one week only in July. During that time, it was my birthday and he gave me a print of Portland Headlight at Fort Williams Park which still hangs on my wall even now, reminding me of those halcyon days.



Drawn by Charlotte, age 9, Cape Elizabeth



Drawn by Peter, Houston, Texas

**Jan, Cape Elizabeth:** On Valentine’s Day, we thank you for your beauty, sea breezes, winding paths and wooded trails. Our dog leaps with delight when we pull into the parking area. From her happy zoomies to birdwatching by the bay to exploring the changing beauty in the Children’s Garden, every visit is the best kind of reset. Thank you for all the ways you bring joy to our days. You’re not just a park; you’re our happy place!

**Jessica, Cape Elizabeth:** I have lived in Cape for 23+ years, and the drive into the park still takes my breath away. We’ve watched countless soccer games there, walked our dog for miles along its paths, and brought every visitor to see the lighthouse and experience the Cliff Walk. The

park has been the backdrop of cherished family photos and memories. It’s a priceless gem and I hope it will be protected and enjoyed for generations to come.

**Laurie, Palmyra, VA:** Dear Fort Williams Park: It’s almost a year since we’ve been together and I miss you so much! No unrequited love with us—our long-distance relationship from Maine to Virginia is strong. Your breathtaking beauty beckons me from afar. I can’t wait to wander down the Cliff Walk and around the Children’s Garden, enjoy a picnic on the grass, and daydream my cares away while gazing at Casco Bay.

### Actor

Continued from page 9

creatives including the legendary filmmaker John Ford, who was born in Cape Elizabeth and is often remembered as the state’s greatest cinematic export. Mike now exchanges having weekly dinners for fifteen years with Woody Allen in Manhattan, to having coffee/lunch in Cape Elizabeth.

“The life of a film actor is a grueling cycle of uncertainty and adrenaline, where roles are often won through networking and industry reputation.” While Mike remains in demand, he finds himself increasingly typecast as the “eccentric grandfather.” Moreover, his professional choices are now guided by a personal priority: a reluctance to leave his dog, Ruthie, (Black and Tan Coon Dog) for long stretches on location.

Although the circle of his former film industry colleagues grows smaller with each passing year, Mike remains deeply connected to them. He embraces each day as a gift, finding joy in simple pleasures like walking his dog, spending time with family/friends, watching classic films and visiting CSalt Gourmet Market for coffee/lunch. Above all, Mike cherishes his quiet life in Maine and plans for his final rest in the ocean waters off Cape Elizabeth.



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## Nature scene around town



Photo by Martha Agan

Martha Agan recently spotted a couple of large birds at the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. She was unsure about the coloring so she contacted a field naturalist at Maine Audubon, who wrote back and said they were Bald Eagles in the middle of their second year of growth. They were most likely females due to their large size. The female is 30 percent bigger than the male. It takes a Bald Eagle five years to reach their full coloration pattern with the white head and tail.

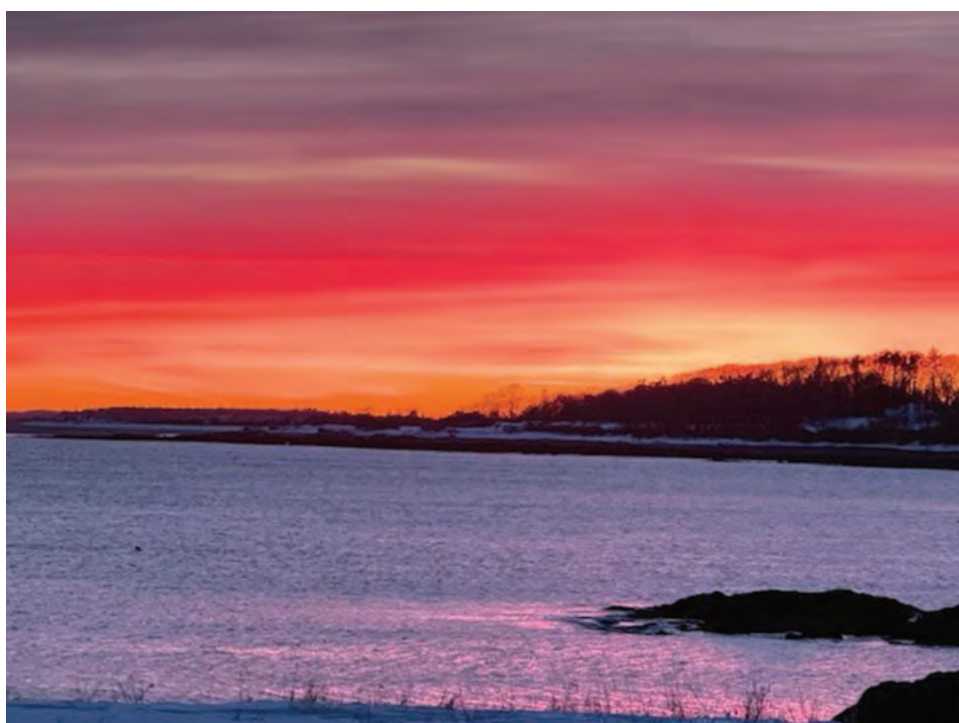


Photo by Jill Hobert

Sunset on the evening of February 1.

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## Friends' news and notes: Listening for spring

By Andrea Southworth  
Ecology Project Manager, Friends of Fort Williams Park



Photo by Amy Witt

Mockingbirds are best known for the habit of some species mimicking the songs of other birds and the sounds of insects and amphibians.

Late winter can feel quiet, but if you pause and listen closely, the world is stirring. Though the wind is cold and the days are crisp, the clear songs of birds remind us that seasons change.

Fort Williams Park is a wonderful place to experience these moments. With its rocky coastline, freshwater pond, woodland edges, and native plantings, the park offers a rich mix of habitats that attract birds throughout the year. Whether you're an experienced birder or someone who simply enjoys being outdoors, the park invites you to slow down and pay attention.

This spring, the Friends of Fort Williams Park will once again offer Wednesday morning birding walks beginning in late March and continuing into July, weather permitting. Walks start at 7:00 a.m. and

meet in front of Portland Head Light. Details and start dates will be shared on the Friends' website ([fortwilliams.org](http://fortwilliams.org)) and social media.

However, you don't need to wait for a group walk to begin. Even now is a perfect time to step outside, take a breath and listen. Birds invite us into a different way of noticing—one that rewards patience, curiosity and connection.

And while you're thinking about birds, be sure to stop by Thomas Memorial Library to see our bird photo exhibition and attend my talk with Amy Witt on February 26. It's a joy to share this sense of wonder with the community, and I'm grateful for the opportunity.

Spring is coming. The birds know it—and if we listen, we can too.

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# TML hosts Erika Jâmece, in need of volunteers for lantern festival

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Erika Jâmece - Gallery Reception and Artist Talk

Thursday, March 5, reception at 5:30 p.m., talk at 6:30 p.m.

Erika Jâmece is known in artistic circles as the Queen of the Hongolo - which, in Kimbundo (one of the native languages of one of the ethnic groups of Angola) means Rainbow.

Born in Luanda in 1977, Erika is an accomplished multimedia artist with expansive global experience and inspiration. After years of studying and exhibiting her art in Luanda, Angola and Lisbon, Portugal, Erika's work was also notably featured in the 2014 film "The Water Gods" ("Los dioses del agua") which was the first film co-production between Angola and Argentina and explored cultural and ancestral links between the two nations. "The fantasy of color, creative freedom and African roots are dominant traits throughout my art," Erika states on her website.

Thomas Memorial Library is thrilled to present a selection of Erika's work, which ranges from acrylic paintings, engraving, ceramics, mixed media to jewelry and fabric, in the Stier Family Gallery during the month of March.

To celebrate, there will be a gallery reception on the evening of Thursday, March 5, followed by a talk with Erika herself. We hope you will join us for this opportunity to welcome an exciting artist to our gallery and hear her story for yourself.

### Lantern Festival: Love and Light

The 3rd annual Lantern Festival and parade with beautiful handmade lanterns will take place on Saturday, February 28 at 6:00 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:

Family-Friendly Workshop: Pyramid and Globe Lanterns  
Friday, February 20  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

To make this event possible, we will need help from volunteers. You can reach out to Gabby Doane at [gtrappe@gmail.com](mailto:gtrappe@gmail.com) to inquire about ways to help, or you can find a volunteer signup form on our website.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### 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 "Fall-

ing 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.

### CEHPS: From Fort to Park

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

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.

### Cape Elizabeth Garden Club Presents: Creative Fresh Flower Arrangements

Thursday, March 19, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Katie Hoagland from Blue Flag Farm in Buxton will show us creative ways to arrange fresh cut flowers and spring flowering bulbs in combination. She will also share about her sustainable farming practices and favorite spring plants for cut flowers, as well as answer your questions about spring plants.

Blue Flag Farm is a spring focused, specialty cut flower farm selling wholesale and direct to customers since 2021. You can learn more at [www.blueflagmaine.com](http://www.blueflagmaine.com) or on Instagram by searching for @blueflagfarmmaine.

## 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 Caswell

First Tuesday of each month, 6-8 p.m.

### FE Recurring Programs - Children's

-see LIBRARY page 13

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# Library

Continued from page 12

(Note: all recurring morning programs, with the exception of Wednesday's play group, will be on break from March 2 - 21.)

### 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.

### 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., March 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.

### 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

### Special Baby Play Group: Sleep Solutions

Tuesday March 3 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. For parents and caregivers of babies. Join Certified Child Sleep Consultant Zara Jarrett for a special play group. Zara will lead a relaxed group Q&A about baby and toddler sleep while the babies play with toys and each other. Come with your questions—or Zara will kick things off with common sleep challenges to get the conversation going. We'll chat together as a group so everyone can learn from each other. No registration required.

### Maple Sugaring - Agriculture 101 with 4-H

Thursday March 12 from 3:30 to Children 5 - 10 years old and their caregivers are welcome to join the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Cumberland County 4-H for the first of our series of Agriculture 101 programs at the Thomas Memorial Library. Participants will explore tree identification, equipment and the maple sugaring process in the comfort of our community room. You will even get to taste different categories of maple syrup! Maximum capacity is 15 children. Caregivers are required to stay in the room. Please register on the UMaine Cooperative Extension website: <https://extension.umaine.edu/cumberland/4h/mmspring/>

# Local birding report

By Brooks Bornhoff

This winter, as the frigid Arctic air continues to dip south and snow sweeps across Maine, one of the far north's most iconic raptors has drifted silently into our landscape: the Snowy Owl. Their presence brings with it a feeling of wilderness—an echo of tundra winds and open expanses far beyond Cape.

On the last day of January my family and I were walking Crescent Beach when I noticed a large, white object atop a very distant telephone pole. Even without binoculars I just knew that this had to be a Snowy Owl! This sighting was especially meaningful because it was the first time we had ever spotted a Snowy Owl in Cape. After several minutes the large white owl took to the air and flew to another telephone pole, its great white wings and body contrasting with a blue vault of sky.

Snowy Owls are the most famous of the irruptive owls, known for dramatic southward movements every four to seven years. These irruptions have been recorded since the 1830s, especially across eastern North America. Though a few birds reach Maine most winters, only on rare occasions do they arrive in numbers like the winter of 2013-14. Mature males are almost entirely white, while females are larger and often display heavier brown spotting and barring across their upper parts, much like younger owls of both sexes.

The Indigenous people of Labrador and Quebec, referred to as the Inuit, call the bird Ookpik and once used its sacred feathers to fletch hunting arrows. The name "Ookpik" is associated with an Inuit handicrafting a sealskin owl toy with a large head and big eyes resembling a Snowy or "Arctic" owl.

Snowys live a nomadic life, moving south when rodent populations crash or conditions become too harsh. Young males tend to travel the farthest, older females, the least. The long-distance travelers make multiple stopovers and defend temporary territories at each stopover. Their shifting habitats mean they are seldom monogamous, though some pairs remain together for up to five years.

During the Arctic summer, lemmings and mice make up the bulk of their diet. During the winter, coastal Maine becomes a migration corridor and feeding ground for Snowys due to abundant seabirds and open vantage points. During the cold months this species becomes an opportunistic hunter, feeding heavily on sea ducks, geese, grebes,

gulls and even lingering Great Blue Herons. Their dietary flexibility allows them to linger in one location far longer than many Arctic species.

To conserve energy in harsh winter months, Snowy Owls often rely on stationary perches and minimal movement—quietly scanning for prey from poles, or atop open dunes. Recent studies have documented Snowy's hunting over the open ocean and using can markers and buoys as hunting perches. My mind conjures a Snowy Owl perched on a frigid can marker in Casco Bay, fresh from taking a sea duck on the wing – an image steeped in a raw wintry myth.

Bald eagles are among Snowy Owls' primary competitors, often attempting to steal owl kills. This forces Snowy Owls to be cautious when feeding. Great Horned Owls, though less common along open coastlines, remain dangerous nocturnal predators, prompting Snowy Owls to avoid wooded fringes. These interspecies dynamics shape where the owls choose to hunt and roost each winter.

Recent genetic and tracking research suggests the global population of Snowy Owls may be far smaller than once believed—possibly only 25,000 to 50,000 individuals worldwide. Earlier estimates placed the number between 200,000 and 300,000. That means there are fewer Snowy Owls on Earth than the number of people living in Portland.

And remember: Snowy Owls are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, so ethical viewing is essential. Give these birds the space they need—staying roughly five school buses (about 150 feet) away helps ensure you don't disturb an owl that's simply trying to survive the winter.

On a birding-related note, using eBird's "search by species" feature for December through February 2026 shows strong numbers of Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks just to our north, west and downeast. If the cold and snowy weather continues, our chances of seeing these two species in Cape should improve before winter wraps up.

Got a story to share? Email us!



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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, February 18

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

## Thursday, February 19

Energy Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

## Tuesday, February 24

SB Negotiations Cmte Executive Session, CEEA-Administrators, 3:30 p.m.

School Board FY27 Budget Workshop, CEHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals, Town Hall Council Chamber, 7 p.m.

## Monday, March 2

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

## Tuesday, March 3

School Board FY27 Budget Workshop (if needed), CEHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

## Wednesday, March 4

SB 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, March 10

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

Conservation Committee, Town Hall, Jordan Conference Room, 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.

Zoning Board of Appeals  
Feb. 24 - 7 p.m.



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Happy Birthday To Our Loved Forever Grandson**



**Love, Grandma Schmitz**

**CEEF**

Continued from page 8

Since CEEF's inception in 2002, donations and fundraising by CEEF have funded 359 grants totaling over \$1.75 million in support of the educational experience in Cape Elizabeth. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, CEEF relies on community donations and fundraising to turn innovative grants ideas into reality and supports programs across our entire district from pre-kindergarten through high school. CEEF grants create learning opportunities that students won't find anywhere else — the types of experiences that make Cape schools extraordinary.

**CEHPS hiring Docent Program Coordinator**

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

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

**ALRM**

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alarms, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms, severe weather sirens, security alarms and gunshots. Then he built an AI detection system that runs entirely on the phone itself.

"Everything happens on-device, which means we never store or transmit audio to the cloud. This privacy-first approach was essential because people shouldn't have to choose between safety and privacy. The app is designed to do one thing really well: listen for these six emergency sounds and immediately alert Deaf and Hard of Hearing users through vibration patterns and visual notifications. This is a really hard problem that I'm trying to solve and the app is only gonna get better with time and hopefully this is an example of AI for good," Gavin Phelan said.

He said that as a Cape Elizabeth student and resident, he approached school administrators and local police about what he was building. "Everyone has been incredibly supportive and helpful in teaching me how emergency management works. We're currently in discussions about piloting ALRM at Cape Elizabeth High School. My broader vision is that every school, workplace, shopping mall, stadium and airport offers ALRM as part of their emergency preparedness plan. Schools especially need this - it's not just about ADA compliance, it's about making sure every student and staff member has equal access to emergency information when lives are on the line. No one should be left as a sitting duck during an emergency just because they can't hear an alarm," he said.

**From Fort to 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 discussion, debate, and argument about what should become of the highly-valued 90-plus acres of Cape Elizabeth shoreline dominated local politics and triggered many dinner table discussions by town residents.

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 the creation of arguably the most beautiful municipal park in Maine.

The presentation will be held Tuesday, March 10 from 6:30-8 pm at the Thomas Memorial Library's Community Room. The program is free and light refreshments will be provided.

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," says 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 2/28/2026.**

Have a Classified Ad, Announcement or Event?

Go to [www.capecourier.com](http://www.capecourier.com)  
Or contact Tara Simopoulos at: [advertising@capecourier.com](mailto:advertising@capecourier.com)

**Meeting**

Continued from page 2

on-premise beer and wine license application with documents submitted to the Police, Fire, and Code Enforcement departments for review. The Code Enforcement office has said that there seems to be "no issue" for license approval. Councilor Anderson asked if "on premise" meant to sell or consume alcohol on site. Councilor Jordan confirmed that on premise meant that alcohol would be consumed on premise and not offered for take away. Jordan also confirmed that the bakery's operation hours were remaining from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with the applicants having no intention of expanding their hours. The liquor license request was approved unanimously by the council.

**Shore Road Parking- Ordinance Committee Recommendations**

Councilor Harriman informed the council that the Ordinance Committee met on November 10, 2025 to finalize the draft ordinance for parking on Shore Road and Cliff House Beach neighborhood. The town's attorney reviewed the ordinance and offered minimal changes

to sentence structure with no substantive changes to the language.

Matthew Ward, resident of Shore Road, offered his thanks to the ordinance committee. He said the parking ordinance has been years in the making and that "you've listened and worked hard to put this together and I know I and my neighbors appreciate it."

Councilor Jordan said that the Ordinance Committee did a fabulous job and is looking forward to the implementation of the ordinance. Chair Scifres also offered thanks and said that in her short time on the council, this ordinance was "probably the highest engagement from community members" through forums, emails and petitions. Scifres added that there's no perfect solution but that the committee tried to balance the needs of all community members with the ordinance.

The costs for parking placards and other items will be discussed during the budget season in the spring. The council voted unanimously to schedule a public hearing for the ordinance during the February 18, 2026, regular Town Council meeting.



*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!

**Sample Menu Items:**

- Native Maine Oysters | Smoked Salmon
- Bangs Island Mussels | Shrimp Cocktail
- Half-Pound Lobster | Lobster Bisque | Crab Cakes



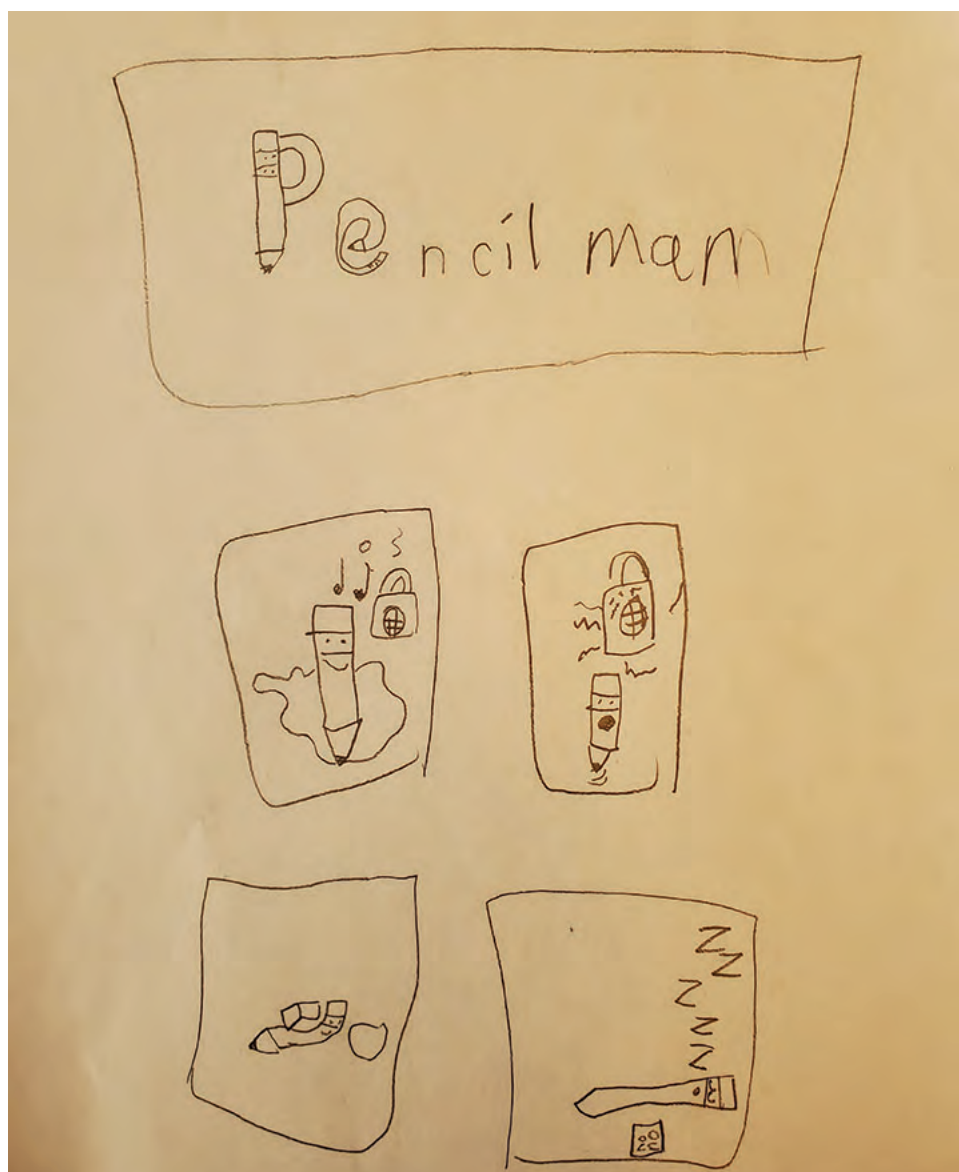
**Cash Bar featuring exclusive varietals of bubbles. VIP Packages available. Full details at [Innbythesea.com](http://Innbythesea.com). Please call 207-799-3134 for reservations.**

40 Bowery Beach Road | Cape Elizabeth, ME

# The "KID" Courier



Drawn by William Collura



Drawn by William Collura

William Collura, age 7, recently drew and submitted two comics to *The Cape Courier*. William lives in Cumberland but unfortunately, the *Northern Forecaster* discontinued its print edition last year. However, his grandmother lives in Cape Elizabeth and shares each issue of *The Cape Courier* with William and his family.

