

# The Cape Courier

Volume 39 Number 6  
April 8 - Apr 21, 2026

An Independent Not-for-Profit Newspaper  
Serving Cape Elizabeth Since 1988

capecourier.com

*In the Spirit of Community*

## CEHS team wins Debate State Championships, Milton is individual state champ

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

The CEHS Congressional Debate team are not only Maine State Champions, but this is the third consecutive year that the team has won. This year's team are Celeste Tourangeau, Jonah Milton, Gideon Straw, Kayleigh Hanson and Luca Kleeman.

Congratulations to the Cape Elizabeth Congressional Debate Team, and to the Combined Debate Team, combining Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum, who recently won Maine State Championships.

The Congressional Debate Team in-

cluded students Celeste Tourangeau, Jonah Milton, Gideon Straw, Kayleigh Hanson and Luca Kleeman.

The Combined Debate Team members were Noelle Tadema-Wielandt and Sophie Rughanie, who won first place in the Novice division, and Cece Fremont and Eve Mockler, who were runners-up in the varsity division.

Individually, Jonah Milton won, earning the title of Maine State Champion in Congressional Debate-House of Representatives. Celeste Tourangeau was runner-up in Congressional Debate-Senate, and both earned bids to two national tournaments - the NCFL Grand National Tournament in Washington, D.C. and the NSDA National Tournament in Richmond, Virginia.

Milton explained, "It's a season that goes from September to January. Each competition, 'representatives' write as many as 6 speeches a week to prepare and present. The speeches are around 3 minutes long on a prewritten bill that students can submit. Afterwards, there is a questioning period of up to two minutes. The competition took place in the Maine State House, and we were lucky to use the chamber of the House of Representatives. During the championship, I was the presiding officer twice. A presiding officer is a representative who runs the

-see DEBATE page 8

## Town Council, Town Manager have proposed budget

By Kevin St. Jarre

The Cape Elizabeth Town Council voted to forward a budget presented by Town Manager Pat Fox.

The proposed General Operating Budget Expenditures for the town amount to \$20,192,516 which represents an increase of \$641,869 over fiscal year 2026. General Municipal Revenues are proposed to be \$9,602,261, which is an increase of \$442,677 from last year.

This would result in the net amount of \$10,590,255 taxes to be raised, representing an increase of \$199,192 over fiscal year 2026.

According to the town's website, this does not take into account any increases for the Cape Elizabeth School Department, nor for county increases. Without those, it represents a \$0.07 increase in the municipal mill rate, which is a 2.71 percent increase over last year's municipal tax rate. For a median-priced home in Cape Elizabeth, valued at \$775,000, annual property taxes would increase by \$55.

The Cape Elizabeth School Board will present its budget at the Town Council meeting on April 27. That portion of the budget is preliminarily estimated at almost \$38 million.

If that figure holds, the combined proposed budget would be around \$61 million, a 4 percent increase from last year, representing an annual property tax increase of about \$495 for the median-priced Cape Elizabeth home.

According to Fox, "The school and town run their budget processes concurrently. Therefore, when I discuss the town budget with the council, I separate town operations from the school's, since the School Board is working through those costs. The school numbers above are early preliminary estimates dating back to Feb/March. They will

-see BUDGET page 15

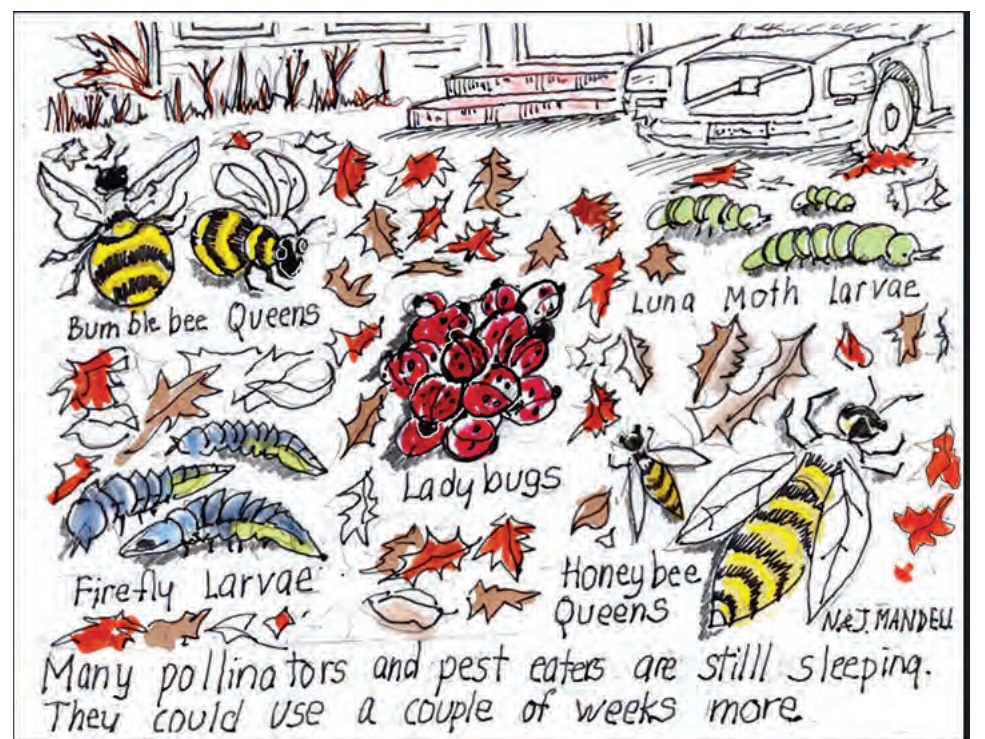


Contributed photo

Town Manager Pat Fox.

## Capetoon: Please leave leaves

Drawn by Jeff Mandell



Support your local news!

The Cape Courier  
@capecourier  
Scan the QR code

venmo

**NOW OPEN** Living Well Adult Day Program at The Landing at Saco Bay

Benefits include:

- A gradual transition into life as a full time resident at The Landing.
- A full calendar of engaging programs.
- Time for you, the caregiver, to take a much needed break, rest & relax.

To learn more call: 207.502.6746

The Landing at Saco Bay  
A Northbridge Memory Care Community

or scan the QR code >>



 **The Cape Courier**  
 P.O. Box 2248  
 South Portland, Maine 04116  
 207-939-9766  
 www.capecourier.com

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**  
 The mission of The Cape Courier is to foster a sense of community by presenting news specific and unique to Cape Elizabeth and its residents, and, whenever possible, to promote volunteerism within our community.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
 Debbie Butterworth, Jerry Harkavy, James Wagner, Ed Pfueller and Peter Carignan

**Publisher:** Tara Simopoulos  
 info@capecourier.com

**Editor:** Marta Girouard  
 editor@capecourier.com

**Community Reporter:** Kevin St. Jarre  
 community@capecourier.com

**Advertising Manager:** Tara Simopoulos  
 (Display and classified ads)  
 advertising@capecourier.com/207-939-9766

**Bookkeeper:**  
 billing@capecourier.com

**Photo finishing:** Ann Kaplan

**Distribution:** William Alexander  
 For general information:  
 info@capecourier.com/207-939-9766  
 For Advertising:  
 advertising@capecourier.com

**Writers:** Debbie Butterworth, Wendy Derzawiec, Erika Carlson Rhile, Kevin St. Jarre, Marta Girouard, E. Brooks Bornhoff, Hanna Gilley, Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)

**Photographers:** Martha Agan, Joanne Lee

*The Cape Courier is printed by Maine Trust for Local News in South Portland and mailed free to Cape Elizabeth residents 22 times a year. We disclaim all legal responsibility for errors, omissions or typographical errors. All reasonable care is taken to see that errors do not occur. We print corrections upon timely notification.*

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

**NEXT ISSUE: April 22**  
**DEADLINE: Noon, Apr 10**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
 \$21.10/year in Maine; \$25 out of state  
 \$15 student (9 months)  
 \$12 half year  
 (These amounts include state sales tax, which The Cape Courier is required to charge.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
 The Cape Courier  
 P.O. Box 2248  
 South Portland, ME 04116



**THANK YOU!**

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

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER**

Mike & Mary Takach

Steve Tonkovich

Michele & Harvey Rosefeld

Anonymous

Peter Flanders

Lindsay Dana

Rebecca Millett

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

Let us hear from you! 

We love feedback!

editor@capecourier.com

**'Tell them to stop grandstanding'**

The Town Council is about to start its annual review of the school district budget. State law requires this process. But there's a difference between what the law requires and the spectacle the council makes of it every year.

The School Board is elected. The budget goes to public referendum. Voters get the final say. So what is the Town Council actually adding to this process, other than confusion?

The school district budget is nearly twice the size of the town's, managed by a larger staff, covering a system where disruption hits families immediately. The School Board works on this all year. The Council shows up in April.

You don't see the School Board second-guessing the police budget or the road paving schedule. But every spring, council members who rarely attend School Board

meetings start picking apart school spending line by line. If they'd been in the room for the months of work that built this budget, they might ask better questions, or realize their questions were already answered.

The council calls this fiscal responsibility. In practice, the pressure and disruption they create pushes the board to water down budgets before they're even submitted, deferring costs that come back bigger down the road. These same council members then point to those deferred costs and claim mismanagement by the School Board, perpetuating the cycle. The review doesn't save money. It costs us money.

Email the Town Council at cetowncouncil@capeelizabeth.gov. Tell them to stop grandstanding and let voters decide the school budget for themselves.

**Chris A. Gorski**

**'Huge thank you' to CEFD and local emergency services**

A huge thank you to the Cape Elizabeth Fire Department and our local emergency services. This past weekend, our family experienced an emergency in our home, and the response we received was nothing short of exceptional.

In moments of crisis, every second feels like an eternity, yet the professionalism and speed of our first responders were staggering. To give a sense of their efficiency: the fire department had arrived at our house and was already stepping in to help before my husband and children had even managed to drive out of the neighborhood.

We often go about our daily lives taking these essential services for granted, but seeing them in action is a powerful reminder of the dedication required to keep our community safe. To the dispatchers and the firefighters who showed up with such calm and expertise—thank you. We are incredibly lucky to live in a town where neighbors look out for one another and where our emergency professionals are so remarkably prepared.

**Joy S. Engel**

**Clarification**

The Cape Courier would like to clarify a recent story regarding parking changes on Shore Road.

Due to limited space, we were unable to quote the many other community members, municipal officials and employees who have worked for years to find a solution to the safety issues near Cliff House

Beach. In no way was it The Cape Courier's intent to give the impression that these changes were the result of the efforts of a few, or even a single person. These changes were the result of widespread collaboration.

**-see more LETTERS TO THE EDITOR on page 4**

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

# News from March 16 Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

## Town Council Reports and Correspondence

Councilor Jordan gave a brief update regarding the regional property tax committee through Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG). Jordan explained that the group is continuing its work on a local option tax “which would be identified as 1% of sales tax” and hospitality tax. The group is “refining the allocations across towns based on the volume of taxes.” Councilor Anderson asked if the taxes would be increased by 1% or taken away from the existing amounts. Jordan clarified the group is considering taking a portion of existing sales and hospitality taxes and that “I think it will end up increasing” the tax.

Councilor Sahrbeck informed the council that the school board advisory committee recently had a site walk and are preparing to send the application to the planning board to be voted on the merits of the application. It’s anticipated to have the vote take place during the April planning board meeting with the bid process starting in May and June, and awarding the bid in July. Sahrbeck said that “overall the project is moving forward.”

Councilor Thompson relayed a request from a resident for the discussion at a future town council meeting to discuss the recent ordinance regarding pesticides. As it stands, Thompson said the ordinance “pretty much prohibits” residents from being able to use products to help with ticks on their lawn.

Councilor Jordan gave a shoutout to the Junior Police Academy Camp taking place this summer, saying that she thinks it’s a “great idea” and the program “talks about leadership, working together, and community service.” The program is for sixth, seventh and eighth graders. More information can be found on the town’s website.

## Town Manager’s Monthly Report

Town Manager Patrick Fox provided an update regarding the implementation of recent parking ordinance changes for residents on Shore Road and Cliff House Beach Road.

Fox said that by May 1, 2026, there will be “full implementation of the program.” The installation of parking signage will begin in April which include “No Parking” signs on Shore Road and “Parking Permit” signage on surrounding streets. The parking ordinance changes to Shore Road and Cliff House Beach Road will be enforced by Unified Parking Partners (UPP) which was recently purchased by another company, Towne Park. The town currently has a contract with UPP/Towne Park for the parking enforcement at Fort Williams Park which will now include patrol and parking enforcement of Shore and Cliff House Beach roads. Fox added that the reason for this is because the Cape Elizabeth Police Department currently does not have the staff capacity to patrol the area every hour of each day.

Fox said that the town recently received a DEP permit to perform improvements on the Greenbelt Trail at Canterbury Cottage, Brook, Dyer Woods, Highlands, and the Town Center, as well as revisions to the trail at Cross Hill and Gull Crest. This permit will allow for environmental contractor, FB Environmental, to complete the second half of improvements in their 2020 Greenbelt Trail assessment work.

Fox also shared that the Town Clerk’s office will be closed on March 24 for a staff training. Town Hall will remain open during that time.

## 1934 Building Committee Appointments

Councilor Thompson provided an update on the appointments of the 1934 Building Committee. Along with Councilors Jordan and Swayze, Thompson interviewed 17 applicants for the positions, and even more qualified people applied, what he considered a “tremendous turnout.” Thompson shared the names of the finalists and some of their background. Finalists include Cameron Brown, who works on restoring buildings

-see TOWN COUNCIL page 15

# News from March 19 Planning Board meeting

By Hanna Gilley

## Cape Elizabeth Middle School Project Site Plan

Doug Reynolds of Gorrill Palmer and the project manager of the Cape Elizabeth Middle School Project provided some recent changes made to the site plan application. Reynolds summarized the project by saying that they’re proposing a new 78,500 square foot footprint middle school, and Pond Cove Elementary School will have a 3,500 square foot admin addition, as well as a 1,600 square foot mechanical room addition. The updated site plan for the project also includes a new parking lot for the middle school as well as a reconfigured parent drop off and bus loop area. The new construction of the middle school will be located where there are now athletic fields, which will be moved between the two schools.

Other updates to the site plan include a six-foot fence along the school entrance drive to provide barrier between baseball and soccer fields; the relocation of a generator pad to be closer to the mechanical room addition; and, based on feedback from Public Works, there will be a revised sidewalk with ADA compliant landing area on Scott Dyer Road opposite from the school entrance driveway with added rapid rectangular flashing beacons (RRFBs), a parking spot for the crossing guard, and an esplanade to separate the sidewalk from the driveway.

Reynolds presented the project phasing schedule as follows: site plan amendment approval in April 2026; additional permitting approvals in May 2026; bidding phase for June 2026; proposed construction start in July 2026; and the completion of a temporary parking lot and drop off area before school starts for August 2026. Completion of the middle school and Pond Cove construction is proposed for July 2028 with oc-

cupancy in the new middle school in September 2028 for the start of the school year, and completion of the relocated athletic field from the 1934 Building area finished by August 2029.

Caitlin Sweet, member of the School Board, School Building Advisory Committee and the new 1934 Building Committee, offered her support for the project. Sweet said that there were “many changes made from community feedback” including increasing the green space of the plaza by the bus loop and parent drop off area, and the relocation of the cafeteria to face the plaza instead of the street.

Doug Reynolds of Gorrill Palmer addressed some comments made by Brian Harris during the public hearing portion of the meeting regarding parking. Harris had also submitted written comments. Reynolds said that they had reconfigured many parking areas based on Harris’ feedback from which there is only a net loss of 13 spaces from the original layout.

After comments made regarding an “optional” parking lot near the 1934 Building, Maureen O’Meara addressed the planning board saying “you don’t want to build more parking than you need because it’s an impact on taxpayers and the environment.” O’Meara said that even if all of those spaces were removed from the plan, the project would have seven more parking spots than is necessary based on ordinance and “hundreds more” than necessary after multiple assessments were made regarding parking vacancy on the campus.

The planning board voted unanimously for the site plan review to be tabled to the April 21, 2026, regular planning board meeting. Al Palmer had recused himself from discussion and the vote.

-see PLANNING BOARD page 10



**PRIVATE ENGLISH RIDING LESSONS**

Private English Riding Lessons with a focus on Tradition, Confidence, Kindness and Responsibility.

Horsemanship Club Thursdays at 5pm. (All ages welcome). 30 Fowler Rd.

(925) 705-0640

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @CAPE ELIZABETH EQUESTRIAN.



295 Ocean House Road  
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107



**Hire Bruce Balfour and start packing**

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Trust
- Dependability
- Neighborhood expertise

**Bruce Balfour 831-0166**




Full Service Veterinary Center in the Heart of Cape Elizabeth

**VETERINARY AND REHABILITATION CENTER OF CAPE ELIZABETH**

Cat Friendly Practice GOLD

AAHA ACCREDITED The Standard of Veterinary Excellence

**“YOUR OTHER FAMILY DOCTOR”**



207 Ocean House Road (Route 77), Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107  
(207) 799-6952 | info@vrcce.com | www.vrcce.com




**HILL WAY HOME WATCH PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

8 Golden Ridge Lane, Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107  
Phone: 207-835-9495  
info@hillwayhomewatch.com  
www.hillwayhomewatch.com

**Leslie Young, (Owner Operator)**

ACCREDITED MEMBER NATIONAL HOME WATCH ASSOCIATION

## Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2

### 'The double yellow line is vital'

I am responding to the letter "We can design it to be safer for everyone" that appeared in the Mar 25-Apr 7, 2026 edition. I respectfully disagree with the letter writer who recommends doing away with the double yellow center line on Fowler Road, when the road comes up for resurfacing.

The double yellow line is vital, providing guidance to drivers in all weather conditions, especially at night and even more so when it's raining. Friends and I felt much safer when the center yellow line was added at the first couple of hundred feet of the entrance/exit road at Fort Williams Park.

I appreciate the letter writer's view that "A low-cost solution is advisory bike lanes...Instead of a yellow centerline, the road is marked with dashed

lines near the edges...Cars share the middle lane and move partially into the edge lanes when passing oncoming vehicles..." However, this is truly a scary scenario given the blind turns all along Fowler and the huge, heavy trucks that use this road all day going to and from the gravel facility.

Making Fowler Road safer for everyone, and well worth the cost, would be to construct a sidewalk on one side for pedestrians, including children of all ages walking to and from school, parents with baby carriages, dog walkers and the elderly. All these groups use Fowler Road during the day and too often at dusk and after dark.

Nelle Hanig

### CEMS Drama's spring musical opens this week

The Cape Elizabeth Middle School Drama Club will perform their annual Spring Musical production, "Between the Lines Jr.," on the middle school auditorium stage this Friday through Sunday. The cast and crew of about 60 MS students are excited to perform this enchanting new musical for you.

#### Showtimes are:

- Friday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 11, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 12, 2:00 p.m.

Based on the novel co-written by bestselling author Jodi Picoult and her daughter Samantha van Leer, the story follows Delilah, an outsider in a new school who seeks comfort in the pages of her new favorite book. She feels heard and understood by one character in particular, the handsome Prince Oliver, but as the lines between fantasy and reality begin to blur in both extraordinary and astonishing ways, Delilah discovers how to find her place in the real world while keeping her dreams alive.

This story will captivate audiences of

all ages with its compelling characters, colorful scenes and songs that you'll be humming long after the curtain closes.

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults and are available at the door prior to each performance and online at <https://www.vancoevents.com/us/DRDC> or via the QR code below.



QR code to purchase tickets for "Between the Lines Jr.," which will run from April 10-12 in the middle school auditorium.

## Credit card and state income tax return scams reported

Reported by Marta Girouard

### PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 3-9 An officer met with a resident of the Broad Cove area who advised that her credit card company had not received the check she had mailed. She contacted her bank and discovered it had been altered and cashed.
- 3-11 Two officers responded to a residence in the Scott Dyer Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 3-18 Two officers responded to a residence in the Fowler Road area for a well being check.
- 3-19 A resident came to the police department to drop off an iPhone that was found at Fort Williams.
- 3-19 An officer met with a resident of the Mitchell Road area regarding an ID theft complaint. Someone had used his personal information to file a state income tax return.
- 3-21 Two officers responded to a residence in the Ocean House Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 3-24 An officer met with a property owner in the Scott Dyer Road area regarding an issue with a contractor.
- 3-24 An officer met with a school representative regarding a trespass complaint.

### SUMMONSES

- 3-10 South Portland resident, speeding (59/45 zone), Route 77, \$129
- 3-10 Portland resident, uninspected motor vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$148
- 3-11 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding,

- (44/35 zone), Two Lights Road, \$114
- 3-12 Scarborough resident, speeding, (54/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$114
- 3-15 Portland resident, uninspected motor vehicle, Ocean Street, \$148
- 3-15 Portland resident, operating after suspension, Longfellow Drive, \$325
- 3-17 Portland resident, speeding, (51/35 zone) Spurwink Avenue, \$170
- 3-17 South Portland resident, operating vehicle while using a handheld device, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 3-20 Portland resident, operating vehicle while using a handheld device, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 3-23 Cape Elizabeth resident, uninspected motor vehicle, Cottage Lane, \$148
- 3-27 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using a handheld device, Old Ocean House Road, \$85
- 3-29 Scarborough resident, speeding (67/50 zone), Ocean House Road, \$170

### JUVENILE SUMMONSES

- 3-20 Speeding, Fowler Road, \$230

### ARRESTS

- 3-15 Lewiston resident, warrant, violation of bail conditions, operating after suspension, Scott Dyer Road
- 3-18 Biddeford resident, violation of conditions of release, Bowery Beach Road

### FIRE CALLS

Fire Calls: 21; EMS Calls: 46

## Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

### Schemes: "We'll Buy Your Home" Ads & Mailers

If you own a home, you've probably received a solicitation saying, "We want to buy your house." The offer may sound appealing, but it's often not in your best interest.

These sell-your-home schemes often target older homeowners who are likely to have significant home equity. The bad actors search public records for foreclosure filings, divorces, or recent deaths to identify homeowners who may be under financial or emotional stress. They frequently rely on high-pressure sales tactics and misleading claims—including misrepresenting the value of your home, exaggerating market conditions to create a false sense of urgency, or even suggesting you may owe back taxes. Even promises to buy homes "as is" can be misleading. In some cases, buyers later back out of that pledge and demand repairs before completing the sale, leaving the seller responsible for costly fixes after all.

If you're thinking about working with a "We Buy Homes" company, know the true value of your home, understand what you're signing, and get legal advice before moving forward.

#### Scam prevention tips

Stop and pause if you get any out-of-the-

blue communication from someone you don't know. Scammers will try to elicit strong emotions, such as fear and anxiety, to prevent your rational mind from taking charge. Taking a moment to reflect on the situation can break the spell. And remember that you are under no obligation to respond to calls, emails or texts from strangers.

Find a sounding board. It's a good idea to have at least one person who can help you identify potential scams by being a financial confidante — an objective party you can consult before making big purchases or money transfers to ensure that they're wise and legitimate. You can also call the toll-free AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline at 877-908-3360 for advice, support and resources (available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET).

Don't pay for anything in gift cards, cryptocurrency or gold. Criminals prefer untraceable methods of payment that are hard to reverse. If anyone asks for payment or debt settlement using one of these payment methods, it's a scam.

Report scams. It's important to create a record of the crime and to give the authorities the information they need to spot patterns, warn the public, and find and prosecute criminals. See our advice on how, where and why to report scams for more details.



### KATHLEEN PIERCE

ASSOCIATE BROKER, REALTOR

KathleenPierce.Masiello.com  
kathleenpierce@masiello.com

Mobile: (207) 232-4030  
Office: (207) 808-8333

295 Ocean House Rd.  
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107



An independently Owned & Operated Franchise

# CAPE LANDSCAPES

Looking for a high quality, reliable landscaping company?  
Please reach out to book our services today.

Now booking: fall cleanups, seasonal cutbacks and pruning & patio installations

207-749-9468 • [capelandscapes@yahoo.com](mailto:capelandscapes@yahoo.com)



**New Construction  
Remodeling • Service**

Oil • Propane • Natural Gas

(207) 939-5822

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



Ron Spidle, owner

Custom framing to fine carpentry

Where integrity means business

207-329-9017

Fully insured

[vindlebuilders.com](http://vindlebuilders.com)

## Road work on Spurwink Road at Cape town line

By Kevin St. Jarre

The town of Scarborough has announced that road work has begun on phase 2 of the Spurwink Road project. This impacts the road from the Cape Elizabeth town line to Pleasant Hill Road in Scarborough.

According to the press release, it is hoped that this phase will be completed by the end of June.

The project is set to realign the road, and to add and improve pedestrian and bicycle use. A sidewalk will not be constructed in the phase of the project, but bicycle lanes will be painted.

It is not anticipated that the road will be completely closed at any point, but there will be periods of single-lane traffic with flaggers directing traffic.

The project will also address what the statement referred to as “dangerous

curves and intersections” to the greatest extent possible. They also plan to improve the road surface and drainage issues.

They ask that potential delays be anticipated as the work continues. Public meetings regarding the project and its phases go back at least as far as 2022.

## CEPD to hold Drug Take Back day on April 25

The Cape Elizabeth Police Department will be holding a Drug Take Back day on Saturday, April 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Residents may drop off expired or unneeded prescription/non-prescription drugs at the police department.

## Alewives Brook Farm launches fundraising campaign

Alewives Brook Farm, a cornerstone of the Cape Elizabeth agricultural community for decades, officially announces the launch of its “Funding for a Farming Future” capital campaign. The initiative aims to modernize the farm’s infrastructure and ensure the continuity of the family legacy established by longtime farmer and fisherman Jodie Jordan.

Following the retirement of patriarch Jodie Jordan due to a diagnosis of Parkinson’s dementia, the next generation of the Jordan and Harriman families has stepped in to manage daily operations. To adapt to the demands of modern agriculture, the farm has identified several critical infrastructure needs that will increase sustainability, water conservation and efficiency.

“Transitioning a farm is never easy, especially without the guidance of our patriarch,” the family stated in a community update. “But over the last three years, we have rallied together. We aren’t just looking to ‘get by;’ we are looking to build a farm that is sustainable, efficient, and safe for the next generation.”

The “Funding for a Farming Future” campaign seeks community investment to fund high-priority capital projects, including:

- Drip Irrigation Systems: To enhance crop resilience and prioritize water conservation.
- High Tunnel Improvements: To extend the growing season and protect yields from unpredictable weather.
- Structural Infrastructure: Including new cement work and working platforms to create safer, more efficient workspaces.
- New Fencing: To protect the land and

long-term agricultural investments.

Community members can participate in the farm’s future through two primary investment tiers:

1. The “Funding for a Farming Future” Collection: For a \$200 investment, supporters receive limited-edition farm apparel (hat or t-shirt) featuring the campaign design.
2. The CSA Legacy Add-on: Members of the 2026 Summer CSA program can choose to include a Legacy Investment with their share, with 100% of the add-on funds going directly toward these infrastructure projects.

While the farm modernizes, the family remains committed to the personal connections that have defined Alewives Brook Farm for generations. Visitors to the farm store at 83 Old Ocean House Road will still find Jodie Jordan working where he can, and the family encourages the community to continue sharing memories and greetings with him during their visits. While the disease may change the nature of the conversation, the family notes that these moments of connection are powerful for Jodie and remind him of the community he has served his entire life.

“Your support tells our family that this work matters,” the Jordan and Harriman families added. “It tells Jodie that the farm he built has a community standing behind it.”

For more information on the “Funding for a Farming Future” campaign, or to sign up for the 2026 Summer CSA, please visit [www.alewivesbrookfarm.com](http://www.alewivesbrookfarm.com) or visit the farm’s new Facebook page at [facebook.com/alewivesbrookfarm](https://facebook.com/alewivesbrookfarm).

## Stories of Maine and the West Indies Trade, April 14



Photo courtesy of CEHPS

The J.B. Brown Sugar House. It was the largest building on Portland’s waterfront before the 1866 fire consumed it. At its peak of operation, the sugar house employed about 1,000 individuals.

Seth Goldstein has spent the last several years researching the Portland area’s involvement in what was known as the West Indies Trade. This trade saw Maine providing salt cod and other food stuffs to feed enslaved Africans on West Indian plantations. Other items shipped to that region from Maine included lumber, draft animals, casks and a variety of other goods. These items were critical for the production of luxury commodities on West Indian plantations; primarily sugar, rum and molasses but also cocoa and spices.

Lecture attendees will learn how this trade provided a significant source of income for Mainers starting in the colonial period and continuing until the eve of the 20th century. Seth will explain how the urban topography and architecture of Maine’s largest city, Portland, was shaped by this exchange. He will also discuss the horrid conditions that enslaved Africans endured in the West Indies while they produced goods eagerly consumed in Maine.

Seth is the South Portland Historical Society Museum and Development director. His talk will be presented in the Community Room of the Thomas Memorial Library on Tuesday, April 14, 6:30-8 p.m. The presentation is free and light refresh-

ments will be provided. Registration for the talk is requested via the library website, [www.thomasmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.thomasmemoriallibrary.org).

History related talks are offered by the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society in partnership with the library.

## 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. They will be extending their hours for April and May and will be open from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Registration is available on-site for new clients.

For more information, please contact: [cejudspantry@gmail.com](mailto:cejudspantry@gmail.com)

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

Got a story to share? Email us!



[editor@capecourier.com](mailto:editor@capecourier.com)

Please do your part.  
Recycle this newspaper.

**Frank S. Strout**  
Broker

1237 Shore Road, Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107  
Office: 207.799.7600 x104 Cell: 207.776.4245

[FrankStrout@remax.net](mailto:FrankStrout@remax.net) [www.OceansideMaine.com](http://www.OceansideMaine.com)

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Local husband and wife dentists running a small practice.

We started this office because we believe dental care should feel personal, unhurried, and honest.

If you are looking for a smaller, more personal dental experience, we would love to welcome you.

**Now Accepting New Patients**

1232A Shore Rd Cape Elizabeth  
207-799-0760

# Season outlook for CEHS spring sports

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

This year's CEHS softball team is young, with 4 freshmen on the roster, but they're ready to go. Their first home game is on April 22 against Fryeburg Academy.

The Cape Courier reached out and received some insight on the Cape Elizabeth High School spring sports seasons.

### BASEBALL

According to Coach Donny Dutton, in his 4th year coaching the program, the Team Captains this year are Caiden Johnson, Max Hayward and Joe Rinaldi.

Dutton said, "The 2026 Capers baseball team is looking to maintain recent success over the last 3 years. Coming off a 13-win season last year the capers are ready to make a deep playoff run.

Returning players include Captain Caiden Johnson who will be the teams shortstop as well as a key piece to the pitching staff. Johnson will play college baseball next year at Dickenson. Junior captain Max Hayward is a 2-time all-conference player and will set the tone in the middle of the Capers lineup. In addition to Johnson and Hayward, returning starters include junior

Joseph Grela, sophomore Finn Connolly, and junior Cooper Justh will take over as the team's full-time catcher. The Capers have a lot of depth at multiple positions."

### BOYS' TENNIS

Coach Andy Strout is in his 48th season coaching boys' tennis at CEHS.

"The boys' tennis season looks competitive this year as we return our top 3 singles players who seasoned well last year- Liam O'Brien, Kenyon Smith and Matt Berman. If we can put together a couple of competitive doubles teams we could compete with the best!"

### SOFTBALL

Kayleigh Hanson is a sophomore playing pitcher, outfield and first base for CEHS softball. She said, "We're coached by Andrea Labonte, and this will be her second year coaching varsity softball at

Cape Elizabeth High School. We're a small team this year, but we're still hoping to win some games. Our first game is home against Fryeburg Academy on April 22; come show us some support! We have 3 seniors, 2 juniors, 2 sophomores and 4 freshmen this year. Preseason is already underway, and we're looking at a strong pitching staff of about 4 players. These include me, class of 2028, Finn Gilbert, class of 2027, and Emmy Scott and Gabriella Critchley, both class of 2029. We're super excited for the upcoming season! For more information, visit our team Instagram, @cape.softball. We hope to see you at our games!"

### BOYS' LACROSSE

Coach Ben Raymond said he is very ex-

cited to start the season. "We have a great bunch of senior leaders that have played a lot of lacrosse for the Capers and will now be counted on to lead the team and the program. They are supported by a strong group of underclassmen in both the junior and sophomore classes, returning players that were key members of the team last year. We return about 20 players from last season. All gained valuable experience and we will count on them a great deal this season. Our focus will continue to be on daily improvement both individually and as a team, competing each and every day and making sure we are enjoying all of our time together on the field. I am looking forward to what will be a great season and I know the players are excited as well."

## April naturalist's corner

By Erika Carlson Rhile

The snow has melted and our landscape is shifting almost overnight—from the stillness of winter survival to the urgency of spring reproduction: red maple buds forming, peepers are peeping and red wing black birds are calling.


Have you noticed the increase in bird song? Each morning, it grows louder and more complex. Songbirds are establishing territory and calling for mates. Many birds arriving now have traveled long distances and are visibly fatigued. In these early days, they refuel wherever they can, often low in shrubs and along the ground.

For those willing to slow down and watch, this is one of the best times of year for birding. I used the Merlin app in the woods recently and identified 8 different species in less than two minutes. The brown creeper is one of my favorite birds and there were so many of them—spiraling up tree trunks,

blending so perfectly into the bark that they're easy to miss until they move.

Vernal pools are now teeming with gelatinous clusters of wood frog and spotted salamander eggs float just beneath the surface. These pools are fleeting, destined to dry by summer, and the creatures that depend on them are on a tight schedule. On rainy evenings, this urgency becomes visible. Amphibians migrate en masse from the forest to these breeding pools, often crossing roads along the way. Keep an eye out for citizen scientists who help these small travelers safely cross.

April asks us to pay attention. While I dread mud season, for many in the natural world, April is a race to find a mate, breed and hatch. So pause for a moment: step outside at dawn and listen to the chorus, or walk by a pool at dusk and take in the sound of peepers. Spring is in full swing!



**CAPE LEDGE FARM**

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!**

Farm Camp & Half day week:  
horseback riding, chicken day,  
goat yoga, pizza party and more..

**FARM CAMP**

MON- FRI 8:30AM-3PM

- June 22
- July 13
- July 20
- August 3
- August 10
- August 17

**HALF DAY**

M - TH 8:30AM-NOON

- June 29
- July 27
- Aug 24

35 OCEAN HOUSE ROAD,  
CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE

capeledgefarm@gmail/capeledgefarm.com

AGES 5-12  
TO REGISTER EMAIL US!



## OVER TWO DECADES OF TRUST

Since 2006, REMAX Oceanside has been your steadfast partner in real estate through every market shift.

**FIND YOUR NEW HOME  
OR LEARN YOUR HOME'S VALUE**

RE/MAX

OCEANSIDE

**1237 SHORE ROAD  
CAPE ELIZABETH  
207-799-7600  
REMAXOCEANSIDE.COM**

# Celebrate Earth Week with the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust

By CELT staff



Contributed photo

Hans Hackett in his Mitchell Road neighborhood during CELT's Earth Week Community Cleanup in 2025.

This year marks the 56th celebration of Earth Day and The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust's fifth annual self-guided Earth Day Community Clean Up. CELT is working with Cape Elizabeth's Department of Public Works (DPW) to coordinate a week-long cleanup of Cape's roads, trails, and beaches from Saturday, April 18 to Sunday, April 26.

Anyone can choose their favorite location to pick up trash, then sign up online ([www.capelandtrust.org/events](http://www.capelandtrust.org/events)) or in person at the CELT office (330 Ocean House Road, Cape Elizabeth). This will help confirm that many various areas across town will be covered. CELT also has a list of locations to select from at their office.

Use your own materials or pick up supplies (trash bags, gloves and vests) from the CELT office during business hours (M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) beginning Monday, April 13.

During a convenient time that week,

safely clean up and dispose of trash. To make things easier, DPW has selected several locations around town where you can drop your bagged trash for pickup. The map is available when you sign up with CELT or call DPW.

When you're done share what you did! Using the links on the CELT website, post photos of your trash, report your hours and share your insights with your friends and neighbors.

Complete instructions are at [www.capelandtrust.org/events](http://www.capelandtrust.org/events). Contact CELT with any questions to (207) 767-6054 or [info@capelandtrust.org](mailto:info@capelandtrust.org).



# CEEF grant sprouts two-headed trout

In October 2025, CEMS Sixth Grade Science Teacher Josh Chase was given a grant by the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF) for a "TroutsKids" Program. Students learn about a variety of topics related to the native fish species, including anatomy, adaptations, development, and reliance on healthy water, as well as hydrology, water quality, pollution, and remediation through the hands-on experience of raising trout.

In early February, CEHS AP Biology seniors made a special delivery to each 6th Grade classroom. They brought 200 Brook Trout eggs straight from the hatchery in Casco. Mr. Chase explained, "This was an extra cool moment for me because the senior class was the first group of students we started the Brook Trout Project with." For the next two months, students will be writing in their Trout Journals every Friday and doing observations of the trout. One egg has even yielded a two-headed trout! The classes will be raising the trout until they are Fry and taking a field trip to release them in May.

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.



Photo by Josh Chase

Pictured above, a two-headed trout from a "TroutsKids" Program, made possible by a CEEF grant given to 6th grade teacher Josh Chase.

# CEHS student has poem published



Contributed photo

Cape Elizabeth High School student Finn Gilbert, pictured on left, will have her poem published in DePaul's Blue Book: "Best American High School Writing 2026."

Titled "I Like the Square Base the Most," this is the second piece that she has had selected.

DePaul's Blue Book accepts less than 1 percent of submissions, so having work accepted twice is a remarkable accomplishment by the young poet.

*Your Local Farmers Market*

**FARM STAND**  
767-2740

Open Friday & Saturday  
10:00 – 5:00

---

**In Our Farmstand**

~~~~~

Greens, Kale, Beets,  
Cabbage, Onions, Apples,  
Potatoes, Carrots, Parsnips,  
Squash, Meats, Chicken,  
Cheeses, Eggs, and more...

Strawberry  
Apple Sauce

~~~~~

Cape Elizabeth  
Strawberries and  
Maine Apples  
creates a sweet  
blend of flavors

---

**GARDEN & LAWN**

Compost ~ Screened  
Topsoil ~ Straw ~  
Playground Chips

**HARDSCAPE PRODUCTS**

Gravel ~ Screened Sand ~  
Crushed Stone ~ Stone Dust

**HOURS**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Monday – Saturday  
10:00 – 4:00 Sunday

---

**BARK MULCH**

Pine Spruce Mix ~  
Dark Mix ~ Natural Cedar

**Pick-up Delivery**  
207-807-1761

---

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO KEEP FOOD GROWING

Jordan's Farm
 @jordans\_farm
 [www.jordansfarm.com](http://www.jordansfarm.com)

Please call for  
Reservations  
207-799-3134

View the entire menu  
at [Seaglassmaine.com](http://Seaglassmaine.com)

A Happy  
Mother's Day *by the sea*

**Sunday, May 10 - 8am-2pm**

Join us for a sumptuous, ocean view three-course brunch

Three-Course Prix Fixe Sample Items:

Spring Fruit & Burrata	Brioche French Toast
Wild Mushroom Quiche	Braised Short Rib Hash
Dutch Baby Pancake	Halibut
Crab Cake Benedict	Roasted Mushrooms (V)
\$83 adults & kids 4-12, \$36	Vanilla Bean Panna Cotta

At Inn by the Sea

Special Children's Menu:

Fruit Plate Scrambled Eggs French Toast Brownie Sundae Sorbet

Kids 4-12, \$36

**40 Bowery Beach Road | Cape Elizabeth**

## Debate

Continued from page 1

chamber by calling speakers, questioners and gaveling times. The competition felt great. I spoke on 5 bills, 1 of which was a bill to ban Congressional stock trading, which I wrote.”

Dr. Lisa Melanson has been coaching CEHS Speech & Debate since 2008,

and she restarted Debate in 2011 with a CEEF grant. It had gone defunct when it was cut in the 2008 school budget. This year, Combined Debate was coached by Breelyn McClernand, her first year in the position.



Photo by Dr. Lisa Melanson

CEHS student Jonah Milton recently competed at the Maine State House in Augusta and won, earning the individual title of Maine State Champion in Congressional Debate-House of Representatives.



Contributed photo

CEHS's Speech & Debate team at the Maine State Championship in Skowhegan. From left to right: Peyton Bizub, Domenic Linnell, Hailey Fontaine, Coach Lisa Melanson, Dash Young, Eve Mockler, Cece Fremont, Finn Gilbert, Emily Scott, Duke Lawler, Nolan Homicz, Celeste Tourangeau, Brendan Oaklye, Gideon Straw, Noémi Marquardt-Grainer, Piper Weyrens, Nora Franks, Avery Kleeman, Sophie Rughani, Coach Breelyn McClernand, and Noelle Tadema-Wielandt.



Beautifully woven.  
Wonderfully energy efficient.

Duette® Architella® India Silk fabric is luxuriously woven, featuring a subtle texture and slight shimmer. And, the beauty of Architella is also in its exclusive, energy-efficient honeycomb design.



**THE CURTAINSHOP OF MAINE**  
175 WESTERN AVE  
SOUTH PORTLAND, ME  
MONDAY - SATURDAY 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
SUNDAY CLOSED  
207-773-9635  
www.maineblindsandshades.com



## Beyond the beacon

By Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)



Photo by Stephen T. Lyons (Garda)

Fort Williams Park greeter Tony Nappi.

Fort Williams Park, home to the iconic Portland Head Light, relies on dedicated park greeters to play a central role in welcoming visitors and managing the flow of tour buses. Their efforts ensure an enjoyable experience for everyone. It is estimated that one million visitors arrive at Fort Williams Park each year, primarily during the warm months.

At the edge of the sea, these greeters are the friendly guardians of the 90-acre grounds. Many times they are the first faces a traveler will see, standing ready at their wooden booth in the heart of the bustling parking grove.

Like keepers of old secrets, they hold the answers to the park's long history and guide wanderers toward the right path. They are the masters of the great iron coaches, skillfully directing the heavy buses into their lanes and collecting the bus parking fees required for their passage.

When the sun climbs high and the peak season arrives, from the blooming of mid-May to the golden leaves of mid-October, these guardians step out from their booth with

a welcoming smile, directions, and yes, a story, as they lead travelers on a grand walking tour along the Cliff Walk trail. Spinning tales of mighty fort structures, ghostly shipwrecks and the lonely guiding light of the tower.

While walking through Fort Williams Park, I had the pleasure of receiving a personal history tour of the grounds with longtime greeter Tony Nappi. A seven-year veteran of the park and a true master of storytelling, Tony is a first-rate ambassador for both the park and the town of Cape Elizabeth.

As we walked, I watched him seamlessly balance history with hospitality, pausing to help visitors snap the perfect lighthouse photo or offering recommendations for the best local lobster rolls. At one point, Tony turned to me with a grin and said, "I love my job! I have the best office in the world."

For Tony, first impressions are everything. His philosophy is simple: greet everyone with a smile and an open-handed conversation. He recognizes many visitors are retirees finally crossing a "bucket list" item off their map. For others, the trip is deeply sentimental, a return to the spot where a spouse once proposed or an annual pilgrimage to reminisce about a loved one who has passed away. Tony never takes the scenery for granted, but he insists it's the visitors and their stories that truly move him. For many, a visit to the lighthouse is an emotional, even spiritual journey. Rain or shine, they make the trek just to stand before the tower.

He shared a particularly moving memory of a couple and their young son sitting on a bench near the greeter's booth. They had driven up from Boston for the day to give the

-see GREETER page 9

Clip this ad and bring to Shopper's Hardware and receive 25% off one item. \*See details

**True Value**  
Shopper's Hardware  
50 Market St  
Mill Creek Plaza  
South Portland, ME 04106  
207-799-6191

\*Sale items excluded. Excludes Weber, Chappywrap and LEGO products. One coupon per household. Other exclusions may apply, please see store for details. Not valid with any other offer and not redeemable for cash. Non transferable, do not duplicate. Good only at Shopper's Hardware. Customer is responsible for all taxes. Valid only for the dates shown.

**Valid 4/8/26-4/19/26**



Contributed photo

Fort Williams Greeter Tony Nappi assists a visitor on her journey to Portland Head Light.

### Greeter

Continued from page 8

boy one last special experience before he underwent his third open-heart surgery the next day. Sensing a "Make-A-Wish" moment, Tony immediately sprang into action. He surprised the boy with a Matchbox truck he had on hand, then went a step further by calling over Park Ranger Rick Knowland. They buckled the lad into the ranger's golf cart and whisked him away for an exclusive tour of the park he would never forget.

Tony recalls one special visitor—a woman for whom every step was a challenge. She had never seen a lighthouse in person but had always dreamed of visiting the iconic Portland Head Light. Tony gently took her arm, steadying her as they walked together toward the tower. When she finally reached out and touched the stone, she wept with joy.

On one such occasion, he couldn't help but flash a wide smile, as two familiar faces approached the Portland Head Light. It isn't every day that marketing icons stroll through the park, but there they were: the Doublemint Twins. Standing against the rugged Maine coastline, the sisters mirrored the same effortless charm that made their "Double Your Pleasure" campaign a staple of advertising history. As they chatted about the lighthouse views, Tony couldn't help but feel that having the legendary duo on-site truly did double the fun of the afternoon shift as they sang for him.

Of course, not every day is serene.



Contributed photo

Fort Williams Park Greeter Tony Nappi with the Doublemint twins singing a jingle.

Stress hit the park when visitors realized they had lost their passports. The park employees immediately mobilized, walking a synchronized grid across the grounds until the documents were found and safely returned to the gift shop.

Tony credits his natural way with people to the 47 years he spent working/managing the Mellen Street Market in Portland, alongside his father and brother. In that business, customer service and making people feel comfortable were the keys to survival. He still lives by a simple rule: treat people exactly how you want to be treated.

However, Tony is quick to deflect the praise, insisting his success as a greeter is a team effort. From the fellow greeters and rangers, to the park maintenance crew and town departments, he believes everyone works together to create a "lifetime experience" for visitors. He vividly remembers when a woman fell and required emergency transport. Though she was visibly terrified, the Cape Elizabeth Fire and Rescue team settled her fears with instant professionalism. He specifically notes the great work of his co-worker, Bruce Knowland, in handling such moments. Tony talks about his trustworthy, hardworking coworkers so much you'd think they were superheroes sharing a single brain cell. He's always gushing about his dream team of greeters and rangers he works with: Rick Knowland, Dirk Witham, Paul Robinson, Dom Walker, and Bruce Garrow.

A resident of Cape Elizabeth since 1982, Tony and his wife, Donna have raised five children in Cape Elizabeth, and are now proud grandparents to four. A former basketball player for Portland High School, Tony has traded the court for the coastline. Looking out at the view, he often says it doesn't get any better than this. Living and working in Cape Elizabeth is, for him, a lifetime well spent.

## Fourth graders meet the governor



Photo by Marco Esquandolas

Ms. Birmingham's 4th grade class recently went to the State Capitol and by chance met Governor Janet Mills. Pictured above are: Olive Hanratty, Stella Faherty, Beau Sahrbeck, Artie Woolery, Theo Green, Shelby Coyne, Norah McKimmy, Governor Janet Mills, Miguel Lago Holck, Rose Ross, Isabelle White, Lee Birmingham (teacher), Grace Robinson, Marley Harris, Ben Lee, and Elizabeth Robbins.

## Cape Challenge set for May 31

Have you heard of The Cape Challenge? This is a legacy race in town that has been held each spring for over twenty years (with the exception of the Covid years)!

The event includes a Fun Run for kids 8 and under scheduled for 8:30 a.m., a 1-Mile Race for kids 12 and under scheduled for 9:00 a.m., and the 5K Cape Challenge scheduled for 9:30 a.m. This year's race will be held on May 31 and is sponsored by Penobscot Financial Advisors, plus many other local companies. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Cape Elizabeth Pond Cove, middle

school and high school Parent Associations. Sign up to run at: <https://runinarace.com/CapeChallenge>.

A fundraiser night to support the Cape Challenge will be held on Tuesday, April 14 at Flatbread Company, located at 72 Commercial Street in Portland. The event will run from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. and applies to all dine-in, take-out and delivery orders.

Follow the Cape Challenge on Facebook/Instagram @CapeChallenge5k. For any questions, please reach out to [capechallenge5k@gmail.com](mailto:capechallenge5k@gmail.com).

**Tonka**  
Home Services

**ERIC ALDEN**  
(207) 210-2905  
[tonkahomeservice@gmail.com](mailto:tonkahomeservice@gmail.com)

Carpentry  
Painting  
Drywall  
Renovations  
Interior & Exterior

Slow down. Warm up.  
Breathe deep.

Kettle Cove Sauna – wood-fired,  
delivered to your door.

From \$250 we deliver and get the fire going.  
Cape Elizabeth & Greater Portland

Book at  
[KettleCoveSauna.com](http://KettleCoveSauna.com)

**CAPE DOG WALKING**

207.807.7206  
[capedogwalking.com](http://capedogwalking.com)

BONDED • INSURED

**Portland Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Care**

We provide compassionate and expert specialty and emergency care for your pet, and peace of mind for you.

Our commitment extends to treating all pet emergencies  
24 hours a day,  
7 days a week  
even on holidays!

[pvesc.com](http://pvesc.com) | 207-878-3121

739 Warren Ave. Portland      2255 Congress St. Portland

**EMERGENCY COVERAGE AT WARREN AVENUE LOCATION**

# Hockey players honored at banquet



Contributed photo

Cape Elizabeth Boys Hockey players were honored at the year end hockey conference banquet held on March 15. Pictured from left to right: Alex Mainville, D, (Captain), Owen Poshpeck, G, and Bennet Hooper, F (Ast Captain), who received league All-Star citations for the 2025/26 hockey season.

# Planning Board

Continued from page 3

## Jordan Ridge Subdivision

Peter Beagle, landscape architect and site planner with Land Design Solutions, along with Silas Canavan, civil engineer with Canavan Civil Consultants, presented updates to the site plan for the proposed Jordan Ridge subdivision. The applicant had been before the Board previously on February 17, 2026, and a site walk was performed on March 11, 2026.

Based on comments and feedback made after the initial submission of the site plan, the applicant explained that a forced sewer line connecting to the sewer main on abutting Tiger Lily Lane would have an easement of 30 feet wide with a pipe trench two feet wide. Maintenance would be the responsibility of the HOA which includes keeping five feet over the pipe clear of vegetation and a 12-foot wide buffer free of trees to prevent any roots from reaching the pipe. The applicant is considering a temporary wetland disturbance for the construction of the pipe and then putting wetland soil back

over the pipe and reseeded with wetland vegetation mix.

Beagle explained that the applicant is proposing two separate HOAs, one for the condo association on the private road in the back of the property, and one for the single family homes located around the "loop" road. The condo HOA will be responsible for maintenance and utilities on the road, stormwater BMPs, and maintenance, inspection, and recertification for the sewer main connection. The single-family home HOA will be responsible for stormwater BMPs.

The applicant is proposing large boulders every 25 feet and on corners of the RPI buffer and wetlands areas with the addition of restrictive language in the HOA documents and property deeds to "prevent any disturbance." The applicant is also proposing that legal documents be drafted for the HOA documents, open space, and various easements for stormwater and drainage areas to be completed for final stage of approval. The final versions of the documents will be perfected by town staff and the town attorney and put in place and recorded before each phase of construction starts.

Based on ordinance, there will be two affordable condo units included in the project and will be the first duplex on the left, units #1 and unit #2.

Additionally, Beagle is requesting an HHE-200 waiver so that septic design can be completed and submitted at the same time as the building permit for each unit. The applicant will demonstrate suitable soils on each lot on the site plan but not include septic design for each unit.

Chair Gilbert asked the applicant about the possibility of a gravity fed system instead of the sewer connection to the main sewer at Tiger Lily Lane. Silas Canavan, engineer for the project, explained that while they did look at many options, the gravity fed system includes challenges due to grade changes with high and low points where additional systems would need to be installed. Canavan said that "its in our opinion that the only practical solution is the one proposed."

Dave Scheffler, resident of Pheasant Hill Road, suggested that the proposed crosswalk be eliminated as he doesn't "see how it adds to the safety of the area" saying it's essentially a "bridge to nowhere" because there are no sidewalks on either side of Spurwink Avenue. He also suggested that a big safety improvement to the area would be signage at the top of the hill, before the location of the proposed project and Pheasant Hill Road, to say "turning and entering traffic ahead."

Derek LaVallee asked the applicant how they determined the two affordable lots for the project. Beagle explained that the ordinance requires either 10% moderate income or 5% low income units to a project. They decided on two low income units rather than 4 moderate income after learning that the low income cap was \$120,000 and that they want to attract "young families getting started."

Al Palmer asked if the applicant had considered "guest parking" for the condo units as they have also asked for a waiver to reduce the width and length of the private road. Beagle said that each unit has four parking spaces, and they have not considered additional guest parking. Beagle said that the solution proposed is typical of similar residential developments.

The planning board voted unanimously to approve the site plan review. Carol Anne Jordan recused herself from discussions and the vote due to conflict of interest.



Bring Your Garden Ideas to Life.



# Folklore Gardening

- Ecological Design
- Coaching & Consultation
- Home Garden Assessment
- Native Plant Expertise
- 20+ years Experience

SCAN TO LEARN MORE 

Practical guidance. Lasting beauty.

mike@folklore Gardening.com • (207) 838-4070 • folkloregardening.com



Your Neighbors' Trusted Choice for **Emergency and Specialty Pet Care**

**OPEN 24/7**



- Emergency & Critical Care
- Oncology
- Internal Medicine
- Ophthalmology
- Radiology
- Surgery
- Cardiology
- Neurology
- Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine

RECEPTION@MVMC.VET | 207-885-1290 | MVMC.VET | 1500 TECHNOLOGY WAY SCARBOROUGH, ME

# Friends' news and notes: Supporting families, planting trees

By Friends of Fort Williams Park staff

Friends of Fort Williams Park (FFWP) has been awarded a matching Project Canopy Assistance Grant of approximately \$15,000 to plant native trees in and around the future playground site near the Children's Garden.

Trees will be chosen for their lasting beauty and shade-producing canopy, helping to shape an outdoor space that feels welcoming and inviting. The trees will also provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, reflecting FFWP's ecological goals and long-term stewardship of the park.

Along with the trees, FFWP will plant a diverse mix of native shrubs and perennials. Plants like serviceberry, bayberry, and bee balm will attract butterflies and pollinators while adding color, texture and fragrance.

Children learn through play, and it is essential to healthy development. Research shows that the quality of a child's environment shapes the quality of their play, and that early experiences in nature, especially alongside supportive adults, help cultivate a lifelong ethic of care for the natural world.

At Fort Williams Park, the plantings contribute to a broader vision of the landscape as a living classroom, a place that fosters imaginative play, sensory exploration and quiet discovery.

While the Project Canopy grant provides critical funding, it does not cover the full cost of plant materials and maintenance. FFWP is working to bridge this

gap through community giving. Gifts of any size help bring more trees and native plantings into the park—an investment that will benefit generations to come. To learn about donor and volunteer opportunities, visit [fortwilliams.org](http://fortwilliams.org) or email [info@fortwilliams.org](mailto:info@fortwilliams.org). Thank you!

Project Canopy is funded by the Maine Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Photo by Andrea Southworth

Along with trees and shrubs, FFWP will plant native perennials like bee balm at the park's future playground site. Pictured above: Wild bee balm, *Monarda fistulosa*, in the Children's Garden.

# 2026 spring CELT programs

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

## CELT's Little Explorers (ages 3-5 with an adult)

Children and caregivers will spend an hour exploring the natural wonders of the Maine woods in spring during this Cape Elizabeth Land Trust event. Join CELT educator Lisa Gent on a gentle hike through Robinson Woods where we will explore the habitat around us while we search for birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and plant life. Lots of hands-on explorations and games included.

Please dress in comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle. All participants must register at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Wednesday, May 13

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Location: Meet at Robinson Woods parking lot, Shore Road

Cost: \$6/family

Min 3/Max 5

## Medicinal Herb Walk

Join Mischa Schuler, herbalist and owner of Wild Carrot Herbs, on a walk through Robinson Woods. As the plants reawaken to spring, we will visit with these extraordinary beings in their young stages of growth - learning to recognize their patterns across the refreshed landscape.

Our evening will be rich with herbal folklore and inspired by our curiosity and imagination. All participants must register at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of

changes or cancellation.

Date: Thursday, May 7

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Meet at Robinson Woods Kiosk

\$6 per person

Max 10/Min 3

## Spring Cross Town Walk

Join Cape Elizabeth Land Trust staff and educators for the annual Spring Cross Town Walk. Beginning at Portland Head Light, located at Fort Williams, this walk will traverse 8.2 miles of trails highlighting Cape's great places; including Spurwink Marsh, Robinson Woods and Great Pond.

The walk takes approximately four hours and includes a BYO lunch stop. Hikers will meet at the Portland Head Light and will carpool (arranged prior to walk) back to Fort Williams. Snacks, drinks and lunch should be brought by each participant. Interested in joining but concerned about the length of the walk? Consider signing up for the "Second Half" option, which is listed as a separate event. All participants must register at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Saturday, June 20

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

Location: Meet at Portland Headlight near the lighthouse

Cost: \$10 per person

Max 15 / Min 5

Spring Cross Town Walk (Second Half Option)

-see CELT page 13

- Chimney and foundation repairs
- Commercial and residential power washing and painting
- Walls and patios and walkways
- Waterproofing

**Commercial and Residential**

greygoosemasonry.com / 207.332.2860

# Thomas Memorial Library offers senior social hour with middle school art club, program on growing cut flowers for small gardens

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Library Closed for Holiday and Spring Cleaning

The Thomas Memorial Library will be closed for four days, from Monday, April 20 through Wednesday, April 22.

The closures are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, April 20: Closed for Patriots Day.
- Tuesday, April 21 – Wednesday, April 22: Closed to allow the Facilities Department to perform deep cleaning, painting, and other essential building maintenance that cannot be easily done during regular operating hours.

During this time, library staff will use the opportunity for training and working on major projects.

The library will reopen to the public on Thursday, April 23.

### April Gallery Exhibit Features Works by Cathryn Falwell

“Tree Translations: Works on Paper” by Maine artist Cathryn Falwell will be on display in the Stier Family Gallery throughout the month of April.

Falwell spent most of her professional life as an illustrator and author of children’s picture books. For the past three years, she has returned to her love of drawing. Her works on paper, done in charcoal and collage, celebrate her love of trees and the natural environment.

Falwell will also present a special story time and craft for children in celebration of Earth Day on Thursday, April 23, 2:00-3:00 p.m. (see details under Children’s Program listings).

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Senior Social Hour feat. Middle School Art Club

Wednesday, April 8, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Come by a special Senior Social Hour

to meet some of the young artists in our town! Art for a Cause is one of the spring sessions students can take at the middle school, which is a group focused on partnering with others within the community to make art together or provide them with hand made decorations for their enjoyment. These young art lovers will be dropping in on the April 8 Senior Social Hour meetup to casually make good use of the library’s Posca Pen collection and decorate some garden rocks with anyone who comes by. We hope you’ll stop in to say hello; they want to meet you, too!

### CEHPS Presents: Stories of Maine and the West Indies Trade

Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Seth Goldstein has spent the last several years researching the Portland area’s involvement in what was known as the West Indies Trade. This trade saw Maine providing salt, cod, and other food stuffs to feed enslaved Africans on West Indian plantations. Other items shipped to that region from Maine included lumber, draft animals, casks and a variety of other goods. These items were critical for the production of luxury commodities on West Indian plantations; primarily sugar, rum and molasses but also cocoa and spices.

Lecture attendees will learn how this trade provided a significant source of income for Mainers starting in the colonial period and continuing until the eve of the 20th century. Seth will explain how the urban topography and architecture of Maine’s largest city, Portland, was shaped by this exchange. He will also discuss the horrid conditions that enslaved Africans endured in the West Indies while they produced goods eagerly consumed in Maine.

Seth is the South Portland Historical Society Museum and Development director. His talk will be presented in the Community Room of the Thomas Memorial

Library on Tuesday, April 14, 6:30-8:00 p.m. The presentation is free and light refreshments will be provided.

This is a part of a series of history related talks offered by the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society in partnership with the library.

### CEGC Presents: Growing Cut Flowers For Small Gardens

Thursday, April 16, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Join the Cape Elizabeth Garden Club as they invite Mary Ellen Chadd of Green Sparks Farm in Cape Elizabeth to present on growing cut flowers for a small garden. She will also talk about the process of preparing for their annual plant sale which runs from mid May to mid June.

Mary Ellen Chadd started Green Spark Farm with her husband in 2009. 2026 marks the farm’s 18th season in production. Green Spark Farm is a year-round market farm producing MOFGA Certified Organic mixed vegetables and specializing in heirloom tomatoes, winter greens, and an annual organic plant sale featuring vegetable seedlings, herbs, cut flowers, pollinator plants and perennials.

For six years, between 2013 and 2018, Mary Ellen managed a cut flower crew in growing, harvesting and processing production bouquets for sale at retailers and the Portland Farmers’ Market. She stopped cutting flowers to focus her time on her two kids. She continues her love for flowers by producing flowering plants for sale to gardeners at her annual organic plant sales in spring.

### The Unusual Art of Bookish Perfume with BibliOddities

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

Join us for a very special opportunity to learn about a unique Maine creative, and participate in their process along the way. BibliOddities is an Augusta-based business known for their book-inspired fine fragrances.

In this program, you will learn about the process of creating perfume, what it’s like to collaborate with authors in this unusual way, and even participate in the creative process yourself!

Registered audience members will have the chance to brainstorm with Quinn what “The Great Gatsby” might smell like, and will later be able to pick

up a sample of the results.

Quinn will also be joined by Elizabeth Skarpnes, author of the cozy romantasy novel “To The Gallows,” and the collaborator behind BibliOddities’ Little Star fine fragrance. Don’t miss this unique opportunity to learn more about an unusual Maine business and hear how a perfumer works with writers to create one-of-a-kind scents.

Limited to 25 participants. Registration required.

### Invasive Trees with Cape Elizabeth Tree Warden Jeff Tarling

Thursday, April 23, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Join us for an informational session with our town’s Tree Warden, Jeff Tarling, on the important topic of Maine’s forest health.

The Maine Forest Service will present an update on current tree & forest threats to Cape Elizabeth, with a focus on the Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Beech Leaf Disease and Winter Moth. These pests are posed to negatively impact trees in Cape Elizabeth this year. Come learn what to look for along with information about mitigation options.

### Embroidery and Mending for Adults

Saturday, Apr 25, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Learn decorative stitches that can be used to mend clothing or add a personalized touch to your garments. Join us for this workshop, taught by Maine-based fashion designer and graphic artist Eleanor Cox.

With ten years of experience working in the industry and a degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology, Eleanor has worked in everything from luxury fashion and menswear in NYC, to graphic and print design. Join her as she embarks on her newly-discovered role as teacher for this free workshop.

For ages 18+. Limited to 10 participants. Registration required.

### Film School: “Arrival”

Tuesday, April 28, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

-see LIBRARY page 13



**FIDUCIARY FINANCIAL PLANNING & INVESTMENT ADVICE**  
Individuals, Trusts & Estates

**Laongdao “Tak” Suppasettawat, CFP®, CPA**  
Maine Licensed Registered Investment Advisor

(207) 799-2010  
tak@takadvisory.com  
www.takadvisory.com

**TAK FINANCIAL ADVISORY** 


**HOBBS FUNERAL HOME:** *Pre-planning a funeral avoids worry about arrangements or payments, and can save additional expenses later on.*

*At the Hobbs Funeral Home, there is no cost for pre-planning a funeral. It only takes a short visit with one of our professionals – at Hobbs or in your own home. The cost of services is under YOUR control because it is based on YOUR choices. And your arrangements will be made at today’s costs, protecting your family against inflation.*

*Pre-arrangement is today’s way to provide peace of mind for you and your loved ones.*

*Hobbs Funeral Home: A family caring for families. Competent, professional, personal – and local.*

**Peace of mind.**



HOBBS FUNERAL HOME • 230 Cottage Road • South Portland, Maine 04106 • (207) 799-4472

**Enhancing Neighborhood Trees & Shrubs Since 1880.**

- Complete Tree & Lawn Care •
- Quality Pruning & Removal • Deep-Root Fertilizations •
- Insect & Disease Management • Certified Arborists •

Call For a Free Estimate  
**207.828.0110**  
www.davey.com/portlandme

**DAVEY**   
Proven Solutions for a Growing World

**Efficiency Maine QUALIFIED PARTNERS**   **A+** rating

**BAUMAN ELECTRIC** Incorporated

**We now have a bucket truck to better serve your needs!**

Call us for Holiday lighting, flood light replacements, service wire repairs, commercial parking lot lighting repairs and installations. We do it all!

**HIGH HOPES?**  
24 Hour Service  
Senior/Veteran Discounts on Service Calls  
baumanvolts@yahoo.com

www.trustthisbiz.com/bauman\_electric Phone 207-571-4607

# Library

Continued from page 12

This month, Film School takes a close look at "Arrival," Denis Villeneuve's acclaimed 2016 adaptation of the novella "Story of Your Life" by Ted Chiang. From alien linguistics to world peace and free will, this existential masterpiece presents a breathtaking view of humanity's potential and questions that will leave you both devastated and strangely hopeful. Join us for a screening and discussion of this unforgettable film, and feel free to bring your own snacks. Popcorn provided.

## REGULAR PROGRAMS

### Senior Social Hour

Every Wednesday from 1-2 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, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

### FE Recurring Programs - Children's

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

Let your imagination run wild and join us for Messy Minis time in the Community Room. Let's color, cut and paste together to make magic!

For budding artists ages 2-5 or anyone who enjoys creative play.

#### Baby Storytime: Tuesdays @ Noon

This program is designed for infants and toddlers from birth - 18 months old and their caregivers.

Join Family Engagement Assistant Sarah Gabrielson for 15 minutes of short stories, finger plays, rhymes, songs and movements followed by 30 minutes of free time to play and chat.

Please note, capacity for this program is 25 people. No prior registration required.

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

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

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

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

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

Join us in the Community Room for songs, stories, and Belinda the Bear! Geared toward children ages 3-5 or anyone who enjoys listening to a solid two stories.

### \*SPECIAL\* Lego Club : First Tuesday of the month @ 3:30 p.m., April 7

This month, we're celebrating Comic-Con! Come free-build with the library's Lego collection, and your masterpiece may be displayed in a special Lego gallery during our Comic-Con event on Saturday, April 11. No registration necessary. Capacity is 30 people.

### 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 10-12.

### 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

#### 1-2-3 Grow with Me!

Wednesdays March 25 - April 29 from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

**CASCO BAY HOME MAINTENANCE**

- Trouble With Your House?
- Not Sure Who To Call?
- Don't Wait, Call Today!
- No Job Too Small!

**CALL 207-200-3395**

Crosby@CascoBayHome.com  
Serving The Greater Portland Coastline

Children 0-5 years & caregivers are welcome to participate in a series of special play dates in the Library Community Room.

You will have the opportunity to interact informally with community resource professionals on a range of important topics for child development. Capacity: 13 children & their caregivers. Please register on the TML website.

Schedule of Sessions all held from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. in the Community Room:

- APR 8 - Child Development - Melinda Corey, M. Ed. (Outreach Specialist @ Help Me Grow Maine)
- APR 15 - Nutrition - Denise Gaudette, RDN, LDN (Manager @ Cooking Matters Maine)
- (Skip APR 22 due to School Vacation Week)
- APR 29 - Music & Movement - Jud Caswell (Award-winning songwriter and multi-instrumentalist)

### Comic-Con for Kids

Saturday, April 11 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for a super-powered, fantasy-filled, comic-fueled event at the library. Come dressed in your best fantasy, sci-fi, or comic character garb and say hi to our local Star Wars 501st Legion. Build a mask to hide your secret identity, appreciate the art of Lego in a special gallery showing, and discover the beauty of comic books, graphic novels and more.

### Tree Translations - Story Time & craft with author & artist Cathryn Falwell

Thursday, April 23, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Help us celebrate Earth Day with a special story time and craft program with author and artist Cathryn Falwell.

Cathryn will read from her book "David's Drawings," about a shy young boy who loves to draw. David begins a beautiful picture of a tree he has seen, and one by one his classmates come by and join him.

As the drawing develops, David overcomes his shyness and finds a way to make new friends. After the reading, Cathryn will lead everyone in making their own trees.

Weather permitting, we'll do this program outside for inspiration. Cathryn's art show Tree Translations will be on display in the library's Stier Family Gallery April 2-29, 2026.

# CELT

Continued from page 11

Interested in the Cross Town Walk, but not ready to commit to all 8.2 miles? Join Cape Elizabeth Land Trust for a half-distance (~4.5 miles) walk highlighting some of Cape's great places, including Spurwink Marsh and Great Pond.

The walk takes approximately three hours and includes a BYO lunch stop. Hikers will meet at the CELT office in town center and will carpool (arranged prior to walk) back to Fort Williams after lunch. Snacks, drinks and lunch should be brought by each participant.

All participants must register at least at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: Saturday, June 20

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

Location: Meet at CELT Office

Cost: \$5 per person

Max 15 / No Min

### CELT Library Talks with the Thom as Memorial Library

#### Marine Mammals of Maine Talk: A Seal's Journey

Join Marine Mammals of Maine (MMoME) volunteer and wildlife educator Jessica Woodend as she takes you through a seal's journey from stranding to release, and all of the obstacles in between.

Jessica will start with important seal basics, such as whether it's normal for seals to be out of the water, and why you might see a baby seal on its own. She will then dive into when and why seals need our help, and what you as a community member should do if you encounter a seal. You will also learn about what MMoME is, what they do, and more about the animals they care for, including the famous 2023 Cape Elizabeth Gray Seals.

Date: Tuesday, June 23

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Thomas Memorial Library Community Room

No registration necessary

Got a story to share? Email us!



editor@capecourier.com

## Mike's Window Washing

(207) 776-4924  
mikeharmon399@yahoo.com

*"I've worked with Mike for several years. He always does a fantastic job and our clients love him!"*  
- Michelle Whitney, Owner, Whitney & Co. Staging

kc abroad

LUXURY TRAVEL

*We are a concierge travel agency who specializes in designing custom itineraries around the world, tailored to your unique travel preferences.*

Phone: 617.221.4242 ext. 111  
Email: Krissy@kcabroad.com  
www.kcabroad.com

## total mortgage

NMLS#2764

"Proudly Serving the Next Generation of Capers"

**Steven P. Lavalley**  
Sr. Loan Officer - NMLS# 326146  
📞 207.776.2306  
✉ slavallee@totalmortgage.com  
LICENSED IN ME, NH, MA & FL

- Purchase
- Refinance
- Renovation Loans
- 2nd Homes

# CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

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

## Wednesday, April 8

SB School Building Cmte, CEMS - Chorus Rm 14 Scott Dyer Rd, 5 p.m.  
Community Services Committee, Community Services Building, 5:30 p.m.  
SB Buildings & Grounds Cmte, CEMS - Chorus Rm 14 Scott Dyer Rd, 6 p.m.

## Thursday, April 9

SB Negotiations Cmte Executive Session, CEEA-Teachers, 3:30 p.m.  
Monday, April 13  
Accessibility & Inclusion Committee, Thomas Memorial Library, 5 p.m.

## Tuesday, April 14

School Board Regular Business, Town Hall - Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.  
Conservation Committee, Town Hall, Jordan Conference Room, 7 p.m.  
Conservation Committee, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

## Wednesday, April 15

Traffic Safety Working Group, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 8:30 p.m.

## Thursday, April 16

Fort Williams Park Committee, Community Center, 6 p.m.

Energy Committee, Town Hall, 7 pm

## Tuesday, April 21

Planning Board, Town Hall, Town Council Chamber, 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, Spurwink Rod & Gun Club, 1250 Sawyer Road. Contact: [ccrcme.com](http://ccrcme.com) for Cape information.

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

## CABLE GUIDE

## CETV CHANNEL 1302

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

**Planning Board Meeting**  
April 21 - 7 p.m.  
**School Board Meeting**  
April 14 - 6:30 p.m.



# Invisible Fence Brand

Keeping pets happy, healthy & safe @ home™

## Play Safe. Worry-Free.

# Invisible Fence of Southern Maine

## 800-585-2803

[southernmaine.invisiblefence.com](http://southernmaine.invisiblefence.com)

©2018 Invisible Fence of Southern Maine. Invisible Fence® is a registered trademark of Invisible Fence, Inc. All rights reserved.

# 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



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

Tell them here!  
Classifieds in The Courier work!

**TAMMARO LANDSCAPING**  
Maintenance & Construction

Scan to request free estimate



INVASIVE BRUSH REMOVAL

PRUNING

VIEW POINT PRUNING

PERIMETER CUT BACKS



Call us to schedule-Winter Discount Applies Now

207-831-8535

**MUSIC LESSONS**

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

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

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

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

**BUSINESSES/SERVICES**

**EXTREMELY CLEAN - Deep Cleaning Services.** The Way Cleaning Should Be! References/Insured 25+years of experiences Luz Carpenter - 207-329-3757

**Paint Services offered.** Indoor or outside. \$35 an hour. Happy to help. David Shields. Email: ds8031@yahoo.com

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Town Council**

Continued from page 3

and their HVAC systems; Amit Oza, who works with municipalities to restore their historic buildings; Laura Briggs, a retired Cape Elizabeth school teacher who also has a master's degree in Planning; Kevin Guimond, a former Fire Chief in South Portland and longtime Cape Elizabeth resident; Brian Harris, who has experience in commercial appraisal; and James Rowe, recent recipient of the Gould Award, and who has a "proven background of working on committees and providing excellent guidance."

Councilor Swayze added that they did not "have a single, bad candidate" for appointments on the committee, and thanked all those who showed their interest. The first meeting of the 1934 Building Committee will be on March 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jordan conference room.

**Casino Beach Drainage Easement**

Jay Reynolds, Public Works Director, provided some background on the request for an easement for the Casino Beach drainage. Reynolds said that the drainage on Casino Beach has been in "decline for many years" and that the system has "failed." Reynolds said that drainage is "coming out upstream and onto the beach" which is causing "more erosion than you'd like to see for any storm-

water system." Reynolds added that this failing is "definitely a maintenance issue" that has cost the Town resources in the past.

Funding has been in place from fiscal year 2025 and fiscal year 2026 which was used in part to obtain engineering designs that determined a 24" pipe in the existing system's infrastructure will "handle the hydraulic and stormwater."

The easement will allow engineers and the Public Works department to get to the beach via property at 960 Shore Road to make the project "as cost effective as possible." The council voted unanimously to approve. Councilor Harriman was absent from the vote.

**Approval of Municipal Election Warrant**

Cape Elizabeth's Town Clerk Angela Frawley had prepared the municipal election warrant for the June 9, 2026, school budget referendum for the council's consideration. Frawley said that the warrant "is standard wording" and approval from the council is necessary so that the town can move forward to order ballots in time to arrive one month before the election. The council voted unanimously to approve. Councilor Harriman was absent from the vote.

**Town Manager's Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget Presentation and Referral to Finance Committee**

Town Manager Fox gave a special thank you to the town's finance director and all department heads for "going above and beyond" putting together the fiscal year 2027 municipal budget. Fox said that there will be a public hearing on May 4, 2026, and a vote to approve the budget on May 6, 2026, and that they will be "taking public comment along the way."

Fox presented an overview of the budget with a few key items that he wanted the members of the council to be aware of including the \$120,000 in increased revenue due to lease payments for the solar arrays on the landfill; wages and benefits for town staff "go up every year" and have increased about \$200,000 from last year; and an approximate increase of \$100,000 in facility utilities due to an increase in oil prices. Fox added that "gas and diesel prices are locked in." Fox also shared that some expenses went down including "using \$180,000 less in the General Fund" due to grants and matching funds and vehicle and equipment lease payments being "dropped off."

The council voted unanimously to refer the proposed town manager's municipal budget for fiscal year 2027 to the finance committee for review. Councilor Harriman was absent from the vote.

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)

**Budget**

Continued from page 1

likely change before the School Department presents to council in late April."

Fox provided the following statements about the draft budget:

- Municipal expenses are increasing by 3.28 percent over last year.
- Total expenses (school, town and county) are increasing by \$2.4 million, or 4.12 percent.
- Municipal non-tax revenues increased by \$442,677.
- With increased revenues helping to offset rising costs, the municipal portion of the mill

rate will increase by approximately 2.71 percent, mentioned above. Because the school faces rising costs and decreasing non-property tax revenue, its tax rate increase this year is higher than the town's operations increase.

The impact of the proposed town budget on taxpayers, moving from fiscal year 2026 to 2027, is projected to be considerably less than it was moving from FY 2025 to FY 2026.

"The practices of last year are paying off. There's still going to be some odd years where we run into things, but it should be far more consistent rate versus the swings we've seen," Fox said.



**Gowen Power Systems**

**Generator installation, sales and service.**

**Locally owned and operated since 1969.**

**Contractor discounts available.**

**WWW.GOWENPOWER.COM**  
**207-773-1761**

**The "KID" Courier**

Are you a young, aspiring writer or artist? We want to hear from you!!

We are looking for artwork or stories for our new section, The "KID" Courier.



Send submissions to: [editor@capecourier.com](mailto:editor@capecourier.com)

### Nature scene around town



Photo by Martha Agan

A painter at Portland Head Light. If the artist sees this photo, we'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to The Cape Courier at: [editor@capecourier.com](mailto:editor@capecourier.com).



Photo by Martha Agan

Deer on Charles E Jordan Road.



Photo by Martha Agan

Courtship behaviors of Common Eiders at Kettle Cove.



Photo by Martha Agan

A windsurfer braving 30-40 mph wind gusts at Kettle Cove.



Cape Elizabeth teammates celebrate with fans after defeating Yarmouth 2-0 on Nov. 6, 2025. Photo by Derek Davis/Maine Trust for Local News

**Local news keeps Maine communities** **CONNECTED.**

**Celebrate Local News Day on April 9. Read. Share. Subscribe. Donate.**



Support The Cape Courier  
[capecourier.com/donate](http://capecourier.com/donate)



Working together to strengthen local news across Maine.