

# The Cape Courier

Volume 39 Number 9  
May 20 - June 2, 2026

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

capecourier.com

## In the Spirit of Community

### CEHS students do well at Maine State Science Fair

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

27 Cape Elizabeth High School students competed with 250 other Maine students at the Maine State Science Fair at Orono High School, and a full third of them won awards.

Almost 30 Cape Elizabeth High School students competed with 250 other Maine students at the Maine State Science Fair at Orono High School. According to advisor and no High School. -see SCIENCE page 5

### Cape Elizabeth Land Trust celebrates opening of Davis Forest

By Marta Girouard



Photo courtesy of CELT

Alden Bornhofft helps Ardath Dixon and David Briman from CELT cut the ribbon at the official opening of Davis Forest.

Despite rainy weather, community members gathered on May 9 to celebrate the official opening of Davis Forest, the newest conserved property of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust. The event featured a guided one-mile walk through the forest and a ribbon-cutting ceremony. -see DAVIS FOREST page 16

### News from May 4 Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

#### Town Council Reports and Correspondence

Councilor Sahrbeck provided an update on the 1934 Building Committee. The committee is "looking at municipal use first" and held a small working group with town staff to discuss potential needs and gather information about town hall and its current condition. The committee will also hear from Community Services staff about their potential needs.

#### Fiscal Year 2027 General Fund (Municipal, School, County) Budget and Fiscal Year 2027 Special Revenue Funds Budget - Motion to Schedule Vote

After a public hearing was opened and no comments from the public were made, the council made a motion to schedule a vote for the fiscal year 2027 general fund and special revenue funds budgets for Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

During the special meeting on May 6, the Council voted unanimously to approve the both 2027 budgets. The municipal general fund operating budget, or the "general fund budget" of \$22,943,776 has an estimated non-property tax revenues of \$9,626,261 and an estimated \$13,317,515 in property tax revenue. The special revenues funds and capital improvement plan budget has a balance of \$5,252,048 with both revenues and expenses.

The council also voted unanimously to approve the school department fiscal year 2027 budget as it was recommended by the school board with a total of \$38,690,507 with \$3,115,948 in estimated revenue. The school department budget and municipal budget together have a total of \$48,892,074 in taxes to be raised, and equaling a 7.13% tax rate increase.

Cape Elizabeth voters will vote on the school department's 2027 budget at the June 9 primary elections. Early voting and absentee voting started on May 11.

#### Jordan Ridge Subdivision- Conditional Municipal Approval

Peter Beagle, landscape architect and site planner with Land Design Solutions, representing the applicants and gave an overview of the proposed Jordan Ridge Subdivision project. The applicants are seeking conditional municipal approval for a road and conveyance of open space to be taken to the May planning board meeting.

The subdivision project includes a 22-foot wide, and 2,300-foot long "loop" road, named "Summit Crest Drive" with sidewalk and crosswalk. The proposed road has been reviewed by town staff and peer reviewed and will be "built to town standards."

The open space, or green space, consists of three separate areas on the subdivision property that the applicants are proposing to be conveyed to the town of Cape Elizabeth. This land is made up of RPI soil wetlands and a pond owned by the Jordan family. The applicants also propose a trail that will connect "open space" in the proposed subdivision to the nearby Greenbelt Trail located on the north side of the subdivision. The total acreage of open space to be conveyed to

-see TOWN COUNCIL page 5

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**NEXT ISSUE: May 20**  
**DEADLINE: Noon, May 8**

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Tammy Walter

New Neighbor

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 We love feedback!  
[editor@capecourier.com](mailto:editor@capecourier.com)

## Building plans 'don't show a functional performing arts space'

Band, choral and drama parents: the new middle school is a tremendous opportunity for the performing arts, but only if we plan it right. Get it wrong and we're locked in for the life of the building.

Many parents don't realize the beautiful cafeteria renderings used to sell the new school don't show a functional performing arts space: wood paneling on the proscenium where scenery would hang, stairs cut into the stage edge where kids can fall during lunch, and only recessed cans for lighting. These problems are even more worrying because the stage also faces the gym, and untreated gyms are among the worst acoustic environments.

The committee has been provided with minimum specifications, but won't commit to meeting them. Bidding starts May 29. Once contractors are locked in, changes get expen-

sive.

I've spent many weeks and late nights as a volunteer setting up for our middle school musical. Most people don't know the enormous amount of time that goes into making students' instruments and voices clear and beautiful. It's hard enough in our aging cafeteria. It would be a loss for the town if the new school was no better.

I'm not talking about adding substantial costs or a rival to the Merrill Auditorium. It's simply about due diligence and best practices, the same way you'd expect the electrical to be up to code.

Email the school building committee at [schoolbuildingprojectquestions@capeelizabethschools.org](mailto:schoolbuildingprojectquestions@capeelizabethschools.org) and demand they commit to a performing arts space suitable for a multi-million-dollar school.

**Chris A. Gorski**

## 'Pingree has the experience, connections and vision'

I support Hannah Pingree for Governor of Maine because she has the experience, connections and vision to continue the progress we have made in the issues that matter most to me: energy efficiency, renewable energy and the environment. Vast portions of our state's economy depend on the fishery, tourism, and value of coastal property which are all threatened as sea levels rise and storms worsen.

Hannah Pingree has worked tirelessly on these issues as a legislator, Speaker of the House, Director of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) and Co-Chair of the Maine Climate Council (MCC). The MCC developed a plan, Maine Won't Wait, and under Hannah's leadership, the MCC brought together a coalition of educators, government agencies, legislators, non-profits and private industry and got them all

paddling in the same direction. These initiatives resulted in 30% lower carbon emissions, exceeding 50% of our electricity from renewable sources, and reducing reliance on imported home heating oil from 70% to 50% of households. The GOPIF activated 240 towns in every county to assess, plan and rebuild under the Community Resilience Partnerships after a series of devastating storms.

While amazing accomplishments, we have not yet reached our goals, and we must press on with effective leadership. And when we do, we will make all our own energy at the lowest cost right here in Maine, so no outside government can hold us hostage.

Please join me in voting for Hannah Pingree for Governor of the state of Maine.

**Julia Bassett Schwerin**

## Post grad plans due May 31

If you would like to announce your post graduate plans: The Cape Courier traditionally publishes post-graduate plans, college, travel or work plans for Cape Elizabeth graduating seniors, either from CEHS or another high school. This information must be sub-

mitted by students or parents.

Please submit plans, including student and parent's names, and the college or activity, and location, to Debbie Butterworth at [dbutterw72@gmail.com](mailto:dbutterw72@gmail.com) by May 31.

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

# Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

## When Grief Becomes a Target: Bereavement Scams

After the loss of a loved one, families deserve support—not scams. Unfortunately, criminals comb through obituaries, funeral home websites, and online memorials to find names and personal details they can use to target families. The schemes include impersonating the funeral home or cemetery about payment issues, appearing as a “long-lost” relative, promising healing through “spiritual advisers,” and identity fraud against the deceased loved one.

In the wake of a loved one’s death, consider the public nature of an obituary and online memorials, and limit information that could be used to deceive you. If the funeral home calls demanding money, hang up and call them back at a number you know to be legitimate. And if a “long-lost” relative or friend reaches out, ask other family members or longtime friends if they know the person.

## Investment Scams Promise Big Return but Deliver Big Losses

Criminals steal billions by promoting fake investment opportunities that promise quick, guaranteed or low-risk returns. They may sound professional and convincing, but they exist for one reason: to steal your money. Scammers often reach victims through seemingly errant text messages or on social media and dating platforms. Many build trust over time before the “investment opportunity” arises. But the opportunity is fake,

and when you try to withdraw your gains, they invent fees, taxes or technical problems, then disappear altogether.

As exciting as a new investment opportunity sounds, this is high-risk territory, and the financial consequences can be life-altering. In 2024, more people lost money to investment fraud than to any other type of scam, with reported losses totaling \$5.7 billion. That’s up about \$1 billion from the previous year, but still likely only a fraction of actual losses because fraud is notoriously underreported.

These days they often come in a new form: cryptocurrency scams. In these schemes, criminals typically draw people in with promises of quick, high returns on digital currencies like Bitcoin. They might direct victims to fake trading platforms or apps that display phony profits to build trust, then encourage bigger deposits. When victims try to cash out, the scammer claims they’ll need to pay a fee (or taxes) to access the money or that technical problems make withdrawal impossible.

Always research the investment and the person offering it. You can find great resources at SEC’s investor.gov website as well as FINRA’s brokercheck.gov tool. Scammers rely on targets acting with emotion rather than logic – this is from their playbook.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of our fraud specialists about what to do next.

# Sign up for the Cape Challenge, volunteers needed

The 2026 Cape Challenge on May 31 is quickly approaching! The event includes a Kids Fun Run, a Kids Mile Race and a 5K. This year’s race is sponsored by Penobscot Financial Advisors, in addition to many other local companies. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Cape Elizabeth PCPA, MSPA and HSPA. You can sign up on race morning, but you save money by pre-registering at: <https://runinarace.com/CapeChallenge>. (No registration is required for the Kids Fun Run).

This event would not be possible without the help of volunteers. If you are available, please consider signing up for a shift - see the QR code in this article for our SignUpGenius website.

Residents should note that Ocean House Road/Rt. 77 (from the high school

entrance to Scott Dyer Road), Scott Dyer Road and Brentwood Road will be closed to all car traffic from 9:30-10:00 a.m. on the morning of the race (5/31).

For any questions, please reach out to [capechallenge5k@gmail.com](mailto:capechallenge5k@gmail.com).



# Hit and run accident reported

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

Fowler Road area regarding a hit and run accident.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 4-11 An officer met with a resident of the Ocean House Road area regarding a protection order.
- 4-21 Two officers responded to a residence in the Fowler Road area for a well-being check.
- 4-22 Two officers responded to a residence in the Two Lights Road area for a trespass complaint.
- 4-23 Two officers responded to a location in the Ocean House Road area regarding a trespass complaint.
- 4-23 An officer met with a resident of the Fowler Road area who received a telegram on a messaging app accusing the complainant of sending lewd messages to a 13 year old girl and demanding a payment via Chime banking app or a gift card.
- 4-24 An officer met with a resident in the Two Lights Road area regarding a trespass complaint.
- 4-24 Two officers responded to a location in the Two Lights Road area for a suspicious person complaint.
- 4-24 An officer observed a vehicle being operated in a reckless manner and coming to a stop in the intersection of Wells and Spurwink Roads. Upon investigating, the officer discovered a verbal domestic disturbance.
- 4-24 An officer met with a resident of the

## SUMMONSES

- 4-21 Watertown Massachusetts resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Cottage Road, \$85
- 4-21 South Portland resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 4-21 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 4-21 Portland resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Old Ocean House Road, \$85
- 4-23 Cape Elizabeth resident, imprudent speed, \$134
- 4-23 Eliot, Maine resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Cottage Road, \$85
- 4-23 South Portland resident, operating vehicle while using hand held device, Ocean House Road, \$85
- 4-25 Portland resident, speeding (54/45 zone) Bowery Beach Road, \$114

## ARRESTS

- 4-23 Windham resident, Domestic Violence Assault, Obstructing report of a crime.

## FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 6; EMS calls: 18

# CEEF seeking nominations for Thompson Award

The Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF) is seeking nominations for the 2026 “Thompson Award,” honoring a Cape Elizabeth School District faculty or staff member who reaches out to students in a lasting and meaningful way. The award is named in memory of Cape Elizabeth High School graduate Timmy Thompson.

The Thompson Award is open to anyone in the district who goes above and beyond, from classroom teachers and guidance coun-

selors to bus drivers and beyond. Past recipients reflect just how many different people shape a child’s experience at school.

Nominations are welcome from parents, students and peers. The recipient is selected by a panel including Tim and Nancy Thompson, past winners, and CEEF Board members, and will be honored at the district wide breakfast in August ahead of the 2026-2027 school year. Submit nominations at [ceef.us/awards](http://ceef.us/awards) by June 26.

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## News from the School Board

By Cindy Voltz  
School Board Chair

It's hard to believe we are almost to the end of the school year!

I would like to thank our 2025-2026 student School Board representatives, Celeste Tourangeau and Tom Cadigan, for their contributions this year. They did an outstanding job keeping the board informed about activities and student life across all three schools and brought an important student voice and perspective to board discussions throughout the year. Celeste and Tom, congratulations on your graduation, and we wish you all the best as you head off to college.

At our May 12 meeting, the board reviewed the updated Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices in Schools policy. This policy prohibits the use of cell phones and personal electronic devices during school hours at all schools and was revised to align with new state legislation requiring Maine school districts to adopt "bell-to-bell" restrictions on student cell phone use by August 2026. The policy reflects many months of work by the Policy Committee, including research, community feedback, and discussion with students, families, and staff, and guidance provided by the Maine School Management Association. The board is expected to vote on the policy at the June business meeting.

**Budget update:** The proposed FY27 school budget will go before voters on June 9. Throughout the budget process, the School Board and District Leadership Team worked to reduce expenditures while continuing to support the strong educational programs our community values, despite continued reductions in state aid.

The proposed budget maintains all current educational programming, includes no reductions to currently filled staff positions, and preserves full funding for the district's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), including ongoing maintenance and repair work across our schools. Even with new school construction debt costs included, the district remains among the lowest expenditure increases (6.53%) in Cumberland County.

Maintaining full CIP funding allows

the district to continue addressing important facilities needs across all school buildings. There are several significant projects underway, which will continue throughout the summer. This includes roof and window replacement at Pond Cove and flooring improvements at the high school. The facilities team has also been working to adjust project timing to minimize disruption to students and take advantage of the summer construction window. Thank you to the team for the tremendous amount of work that happens behind the scenes to keep our schools safe, welcoming and well maintained.

The School Building Committee continues to make steady progress as the new middle school and Pond Cove renovation project moves closer to construction. The site plans were approved by the Planning Board in April, and at the May 6 Building Committee meeting the committee received updates on permitting and contractor prequalification.

The committee also reviewed several alternative scenarios that could be considered if construction estimates come in either higher or lower than expected. Five construction firms have now been prequalified and bidding is expected to begin at the end of May, with construction targeted to begin in mid-July.

As we head into the final weeks of the school year, our schools are filled with the energy and excitement of concerts, athletic events, end-of-year activities and graduation celebrations. The board is proud to recognize the hard work, growth, and accomplishments of all our students, and we look forward to celebrating the Class of 2026.

## 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.

## Raising a child takes a village, so we're building one

By Sen. Anne Carney

My fourth grandchild arrived during the last week of the 132nd Legislature, so after a long stretch of late nights in Augusta, I joyfully jumped into grandparent mode. Spending time with my grandchildren has been one of the greatest gifts of the past few years, and through it, I've found myself reflecting on my own experiences as a new mom.

Juggling law school, work and finances while trying to fit in a little sleep here and there was challenging! Affordable, dependable, high-quality childcare helped us survive and even thrive those first couple years. I finished law school and passed the bar exam, David pursued his career and we provided a safe and happy home for our young family.

I know firsthand that access to affordable childcare is life changing. Without subsidized childcare, I would not have been able to complete law school and later embark on the career path that landed me in the Legislature. I also know that young families across our state are juggling the same challenges – and affordable childcare is the key to successful families and a successful state.

The Legislature recognizes that affordable childcare is a necessity, and this year we expanded families' access to it. We made key investments in the supplemental budget, including an additional \$10 million in annual funding for the Child Care Affordability Program (CCAP), which lowers out-of-pocket childcare costs for families based on income. This investment will clear the current waitlist and expand the program's reach in future years.

We also took on several structural reforms to CCAP to reduce costs for families and better support providers. We lowered the cap on co-payments from 10% to 7% for participating families and en-

abled additional co-payment reductions or waivers for families with a child with a disability, families experiencing homelessness and families with a foster child. We worked to improve financial security for childcare providers by allowing for higher reimbursement rates under CCAP, while also shifting the basis for reimbursement from attendance to enrollment to increase stability.

Through the budget, we passed an expansion of Maine's nation-leading free school meals program. Students enrolled in public pre-K programs operated by community partners off-site have historically lacked access to free school meals due to federal eligibility restrictions under the National School Lunch Program. This new funding bridges that gap and lowers costs for families, ensuring all public pre-K students are well nourished and ready to learn.

This month's official launch of Paid Family and Medical Leave marks another recent victory for Maine families. Passed by the Legislature in 2023, the program enables working Mainers to receive 12 weeks of partial wages from the state when they have to take time off for a number of key life events, including parental leave for a new child.

I am grateful for the progress we made this year toward ensuring working families have the support they need to plant roots and grow here in Maine. Maine's future hinges on our children, and affordable childcare is as important as education and healthcare in creating a thriving state with strong economic opportunities going forward.

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

## Memorial Day parade will be held on May 25

Memorial Day in Cape Elizabeth will be observed with a parade, followed by a ceremony. This is an opportunity for the community to come together in remembrance of those who have died serving our nation.

The parade begins at 9:00 a.m. Parade participants are asked to gather at the middle school parking lot at 8:30 a.m. The parade route begins there, turns right on Scott Dyer Road, turns right onto Rt. 77, and ends at the village green adjacent to town hall. A brief ceremony and laying of the wreath will be held at the Village Green after the parade.

The parade will include members of the Cape Elizabeth police, fire and rescue departments, the Water Extermination Team, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Middle

School Marching Band, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Veterans and active-duty personnel are invited to march. We encourage anyone who has a family member on active duty or in the Reserves/National Guard to notify Jim Huebener prior to the parade at 207-767-1754 or [jhuebener56@gmail.com](mailto:jhuebener56@gmail.com) so they can be recognized. Groups interested in marching should also contact Jim Huebener.

The 2026 Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshal is Robert G. Orff, an Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

The event will be canceled only in the event of heavy rain. The cancellation will be announced on the Cape Elizabeth town website by 7:00 a.m. on the day of the parade. No alternate location has been set.

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**Science**

Continued from page 1

CEHS Science Teacher Amy DeVries, “They all represented our school exceptionally well with a variety of topics that showcased their interests. Developing these projects is a yearlong process in my Honors Biology classes and the Extended Learning Science research class that Kathy Bock and I co teach. While we act as guides for the students during this process, it is the students’ hard work and passion that really makes their projects shine. A judge even approached me in the middle of the fair and praised our students’ knowledge and communication skills. A third of our students won an award.”

The following students placed:

**Skye Teelham** – 1st place in Animal Sciences

The Prevalence of PFO Channels in Ovine Hearts

**Finn Zwintscher** - 2nd place in Animal Sciences

The Feeding Method Preference for Eastern Grey Squirrel Based on Amount of Food Taken

**Addie Miller & Franny Haydar** - 1st place in Behavioral and Social Sciences

The Impact of Participants’ Age on Accuracy in Distinguishing AI-Generated From Human-Taken Photographs

**Henry Boucher** - 3rd place in Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Effects of Caffeine and CBD on *Daphnia magna*

**Jonah Chang** - 3rd place in Engineering and UMaine Engineering Scholarship

IRIS: Intelligent Robotic Identification & Sorting

**Kelsie Law** - 2nd place in Environmental Science

The Effect of Dryer Lint Accumulation on Broad Bean (*Vicia faba*) Leaves

**Amelia Welborn** - 3rd place in Environmental Science

Subnivean Environments in Southern Maine

The following participants also showed their work:

**Rubina Anker**  
Student Cell Phone Use During School

**Olive Blouin & Avery Forsyth**  
Perception of Stress in Terms of Pressure and Time Management in High School Athletes

**Finley Digiovanni**  
Does danger outweigh the importance of heading the ball in soccer?

**Abigael Francis**  
Different Genres of Classical Music and their Effect on Memory

**Cece Fremont**  
Assessing Menstrual Cycle Awareness Among Female Athletes

**Luca Kleeman**  
How Scent Affects Memory Recall

**Phoebe Evans**  
Difference in the Decomposition of Foods with Different Levels of Processing

**Finn Gilbert**  
Making Ink from Maine Invasive Plants

**Jonah Milton**  
Developing a Hydrogen PEM Fuel Cell with a Fe-N-C Catalyst

**Noah Scott & Miles Vettese**  
Testing the Thermally Insulating Properties of Different Materials With Silica Aerogel Particle-Infused Paint

**Elizabeth Adams**  
Sand Layers and Wave Energy

**Aral Azis**  
Effect of Microclimates on Weather Patterns

**Isabelle Bam**  
Relationship Between Larval Plankton and Month of the Year

**Hailey Fallon**  
Exploring Microplastic Distribution in the Casco Bay based on Gnome Current Simulations

**Wenshin Lu**  
Microplastics in Maine Sea Salt

**Callie McCarley**  
Impact of Impervious Surface Runoff on Coastal Water Quality

**Keaton Mosonic**  
The Impact of Selective Breeding on *Petunia* Traits Compared to Parent Plants

Additionally, Finn Gilbert’s and Wenshin Lu’s projects were 2 of 12 Maine high school science projects selected to be presented at the BioME Student Showcase. This event is a life science competition hosted at the University of Southern Maine. Lu won 3rd place which came with a \$500 award for her presentation of her project on Microplastics in Maine Sea Salts.

**Town Council**

Continued from page 1

the town adds up to 14.21 acres. Councilor Thompson asked if that 14 acres of conveyed open space would be placed on the tax rolls. Councilor Sahrbek added that the project requires a percentage of open space and that the 34 housing units would go onto the tax rolls. Town Manager Patrick Fox added that the open space is “undeveloped low value land” that will have a higher rate once fully developed. The open space at Jordan Ridge will not be developed because of the wetlands.

Thompson asked the applicant if all the units would be priced at market rates. The town ordinance has an affordable clause that requires a percentage of the units to be low-income. For this project, five percent of the units are required to be low income which will be two duplex units.

A traffic study was a “major part of the

process” with traffic reports and “data proposed improvements.” The increased traffic and safety measures were a big discussion point with residents and the planning board. Some actions have already been taken for traffic safety such as tree clearing leading up to Pheasant Hill and around the subdivision right of way for more visibility.

Chair Scifres asked the applicant to describe the project. The Jordan Ridge proposed subdivision consists of 14 single-family homes on the “loop road” and ten duplex units on an attached dead end road. The duplex units will be a “condo style development.” The duplexes will have shared driveways split with vegetative buffers down the middle and garages in the center of the duplex unit. The condos are proposed to have three bedrooms.

The council voted unanimously to approve the conditional municipal approval request. Councilor Penny Jordan recused herself from discussions and the vote.

**CEHS theatre program presents ‘The Three Sisters’**

The Cape Elizabeth High School Theatre Program proudly announces upcoming performances of “The Three Sisters,” written by Anton Chekhov in 1901.

Directed by CEHS Theatre Director Christine Marshall, with Technical Director Chris Gebhart, “The Three Sisters” runs from Thursday, May 28 to Sunday, May 31 at the Cape Elizabeth High School Auditorium.

Performances are Thursday - Saturday at 7:00 p.m., with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased through: <https://givebutter.com/Tickets-Three-Sisters-CEHS>.

Set in the Russian countryside in the years just before the Russian Revolution, “The Three Sisters” tells the story of the Prozorov family. The sisters and their brother all chafe at the constraints of life in their small provincial town, once a bustling army garrison where their late father served as a general. They each dream of returning to Moscow, where they imagine life would be better in every way.

With sly humor and lyrical honesty, Chekhov’s play shows us the timelessness of our capacity as humans to hope, and to dream. The dreams we are willing to fight

for, as well as the ones we must set aside, and the ones that are taken from us.

It is a deeply human play, which, like all of Anton Chekhov’s work, has had a profound impact on the art of modern playwrighting.


“‘The Three Sisters’ is still as relevant today as it was when Chekhov wrote it,” said Director Marshall. “As they rehearse, the students get to have these wonderful ‘Aha’ moments. The language, location, and time may be unfamiliar, but what the characters are feeling and experiencing are very familiar. The Tech students, with Mr. Gebhart’s guidance, are creating a lovely environment in which to set this beautiful, important piece of theatre. They are all doing terrific work, and we’re excited to share it with the community.”

Don’t miss your chance to experience Chekhov’s “The Three Sisters” at the Cape Elizabeth High School Auditorium.

For more details on the production and to purchase tickets, visit [www.cehs-theaterboosters.com](http://www.cehs-theaterboosters.com) or contact the Cape Elizabeth High School Theater Boosters at [cehstheater@gmail.com](mailto:cehstheater@gmail.com). Join us for a night of fantastic theatre!

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# Celebrating 250 Years: The Osborn (Gray/Lyons) legacy

By Cape Elizabeth Historical Society

In this, the 250th anniversary of the birth of our nation, attention once again turns to those who were present in the delivery room for that birth. As deserving of acclaim as are those intrepid colonial leaders whose names we learned in grade school, just as deserving are the unheralded and often forgotten farmers, fishermen, bankers, lawyers, businesspeople, tradespeople, clergy members, laborers, etc. (and their families) who dared stand with a woefully inadequate arsenal against an oppressive monarchy and its juggernaut military force. Overwhelming odds. But odds nevertheless...meaning there was a chance.

Cape Elizabeth's Stephen Lyons has many interests, including history, genealogy and especially in publicly honoring those who are owed undying respect. His research into his own family several years ago and its connection(s) to America's fight for independence brought an amazing discovery to light...one that should be shared. No finer time for that than in our present celebration year.

Here is an incredible piece of family history to have preserved! Finding a contemporary account from over a hundred years ago—especially one that details a father and seven sons all serving in the Revolutionary War—is like hitting the genealogical jackpot. An article written well over a century ago by a William Osborn described the Revolutionary War service of an ancestor, George Osborn, Sr., Stephen's 5th great-grandfather, as it turns out and his seven sons.

On the morning of April 19, 1775, the air in Massachusetts was thick with the scent of spring and the tension of impending conflict. When the "shot heard 'round the world" was fired at Lexington and Concord, George Osborn Sr. didn't hesitate. He enlisted that very day, trading his plow for a musket and setting a precedent of service that would define his family for generations.

George didn't march alone for long. His eldest son, George Osborn Jr., followed his

father into the fray at age 22. While the elder George helped hold the lines in the early days of the war, the younger George found himself in the thick of the Battle of Saratoga, a turning point that proved the Americans could stand against a world superpower.

The Osborn commitment reached deep into the household, calling upon even the youngest members. Peleg Osborn was just 14 years old when he enlisted in 1777, spending four years, the remainder of his adolescence, defending the cause.

Michael Osborn, joining at 18, displayed the family's versatility by serving both as a militiaman on land and as a marine in the Massachusetts Navy. The sea claimed much of the family's energy and, tragically, its lifeblood. Hugh Osborn served three years as a teenager before transitioning to the marines.

He was followed by William Osborn, who enlisted as a marine in 1781. In a poignant sacrifice for the new nation, William gave his life at sea while serving aboard the frigate Alliance, one of the most famous ships of the Continental Navy.

Meanwhile, Thomas Osborn stayed close to the heart of the struggle, enlisting alongside his father and serving in five different battles under the direct command of General George Washington.

Perhaps the most stirring image of the Osborn legacy is that of "Boy John." At a mere 11 years old, John Osborn (known as "Boy John") was assigned to his first ship in the Massachusetts Navy in 1779, a child-soldier in a family that refused to remain on the sidelines.

Eight members from the same nuclear family. Imagine the stress level of a wife and mother!

As we celebrate 250 years of American independence, the story of George Osborn Sr. and his seven sons stands as a vivid reminder that the Revolution was won not just by generals, but by entire families who risked everything, from the first alarm at Lexington to the final tallies at sea to ensure a future they would never fully see.

We thank Stephen for sharing this story with us and for his many contributions to the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society, including making a connection with the family of Col. George Fogg, who was arguably "the face of Fort Williams" for decades.



Contributed photo

This Marine honor guard participated in one of the remembrance ceremonies which Steve Lyons helped organize at Fort Williams.



Contributed photo

The binder pictured here contains the genealogical research (including Honorable Discharge papers) for Stephen Lyons' eight Osborn ancestors who served in various capacities during the American Revolution.

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# Cape Elizabeth charts course for climate action

By Gerry Lax

After months of planning, Cape Elizabeth's Climate Action Plan is moving from paper to practice.

At an April 15 meeting held at Thomas Memorial Library, the Energy Committee gathered a broad cross-section of town stakeholders to map out next steps. Representatives from the School Board, the Recycling Committee, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, and the Thomas Memorial Library joined the conversation, along with facilitators from the Greater Portland Council of Governments, who were key partners in developing the plan.

The group worked through the nuts and bolts of implementation: who's responsible for what, how progress will be measured, and how to keep momentum going over time. The conversation covered a lot of ground: municipal energy audits, energy efficiency programs through Efficiency Maine, land conservation, recycling and composting, and how to best involve Cape residents to shape the process and outcomes.

Neighboring towns are sources for inspiration. On transportation, for example, Scarborough and South Portland have enacted EV charging ordinances, and Falmouth and Yarmouth are well into transitioning their municipal fleets. Cape Elizabeth is asking similar questions about its own fleet and has taken beginning steps by procuring an electric Hyundai Ioniq and installing EV chargers at Fort Williams and Community Services. There was also strong interest in nurturing local microtransit solutions and exploring public transit options to Greater Portland.

Thomas Memorial Library is already taking many actions that naturally align with Cape's climate action goals. The library has a native planting project underway and is participating in the nationwide Sustainable Library Certification Program. It has also expanded its lending library to include an infrared camera for home energy audits, and its highly popular E-bike lending program may be expanded this year.

Cape Schools are actively engaged.

School leaders continue to work to enhance the energy and environmental performance of the town's new and existing schools. Additional ideas include offering tours of Eco Maine, creating new opportunities for students to be directly involved in climate action initiatives, and expanding student education on Cape's recycling and composting programs.

Looking ahead, the Energy Committee is working to broaden its coalition. Representatives from town administration, committees and interested residents are all welcome at the table.

For more information or to get involved, contact the Cape Elizabeth Energy Committee via [dbagdasarian@capeelizabethschools.org](mailto:dbagdasarian@capeelizabethschools.org) or visit the Climate Action Plan website on the town's website and by opening the link via the QR code below.



# CEHPS museums kick off third season



Contributed photo

Visitors at the Fort Williams Museum in Fort Williams Park.

As its third season begins on Saturday, May 23, the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society (CEHPS) welcomes Debbie Fisher as its first Docent Program Coordinator. This season, the History Center and the Fort Williams Museum, located in the Bachelor Officers Quarters at Fort Williams Park, will be open from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and from 9:00 a.m.-noon on Mondays and Thursdays. The History Center and Fort Williams Museum will be closed on Family Fun Day, June 13, and for the Beach to Beacon 10k race, August 1.

Serving as a docent is a great way to become involved in the local community while learning more about it. Time commitments

are flexible based on each person's availability. Docents generally work anywhere from one 3 or 4 hour shift per week to one or two shifts per month. A typical shift involves welcoming visitors, orienting them to the various displays and sharing information. Training and training materials are provided; docents usually work in pairs.

Last year docents welcomed around 2,000 visitors from all 50 states, one US territory and 31 countries! It is truly an amazing experience.

Anyone interested in finding out more about becoming a docent is invited to contact Debbie Fisher at [cehpsdocents@gmail.com](mailto:cehpsdocents@gmail.com).

# Debbie Fisher is first CEHPS Docent Coordinator

As its third season begins, the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society (CEHPS) is pleased to announce that Debbie Fisher will serve as the first Docent Program Coordinator for the Cape Elizabeth History Center and Fort Williams Museum, located in the former Bachelor Officer Quarters at Fort Williams Park. A 30-plus year resident of Cape Elizabeth and a lover of history, Debbie will recruit, train and schedule the volunteer docents who greet and guide guests through the History Center and Fort

Williams Museum.

Debbie has extensive experience working in the non-profit sector. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, as well as traveling, hiking and cooking.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a docent, Debbie would love to talk to you. Contact her at [cehpsdocents@gmail.com](mailto:cehpsdocents@gmail.com).



Contributed photo

Debbie Fisher will serve as the first CEHPS Docent Coordinator.



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## Tickets available for CEEF's Picnic at Prouts Neck

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On Thursday, June 4 from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., CEEF will be hosting its "14th Annual Play for Education Golf Tournament and Auction" event at the beautiful Prouts Neck Country Club in Scarborough. As part of this exciting event, non-golfers are invited to join the 2nd Annual Picnic Lunch. For only \$30 per ticket, attendees enjoy a catered lunch and drinks on the front lawn facing Western

Beach and Saco Bay. Mingle with golfers as they complete their rounds, enjoy a beverage with friends before the chaos of summer vacation begins, and bid on incredible silent auction all while taking in the gorgeous ocean setting. All proceeds go to CEEF, which has 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 fundraising to turn innovative grants ideas into reality and supports programs across our entire school 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. Tickets can be purchased at [ceef.us/golf](http://ceef.us/golf).



Contributed photo

Tickets are still available for CEEF's 2nd Annual Picnic Lunch at its Annual Play for Education Golf Tournament.

## Gabe Zimpritch Poetry Symposium features Richard Blanco

By Kevin St. Jarre



Photo by Lisa Melanson

Renowned poet Richard Blanco leads a daylong writing workshop with 10 CEHS students: Lula Babcock, Peyton Bizub, Cameron Coyne, Iris Dietsch, Hailey Fontaine, Claire Gaudrault, Finn Gilbert, Aven Gilbert Kleker, Liam Nudd and Brendan Oakley during the Gabe Zimpritch Poetry Symposium, held at Thomas Memorial Library. The students were selected by CEHS teacher Lisa Melanson, who has coordinated the symposium since 2007.

Beginning in May 1997, the Cape Elizabeth High School's English Department and the Thomas Memorial Library have held an annual poetry symposium. The symposium is an opportunity for 10 to 15 students to devote a full school day to studying and writing poetry under the guidance and direction of a respected poet with a published body of work, and this year the renowned poet was Richard Blanco. It is also an opportunity to keep the memory of Gabe Zimpritch alive.

Zimpritch, a member of the Cape Elizabeth High School class of 1996, died sudden-

ly on May 2, 1995 during a lacrosse practice. Without warning, he collapsed and died, his death the result of an unknown heart condition. Those who knew him wrote, "He was where he should have been, and doing what he should have been doing."

Zimpritch loved reading and had a passion for writing poetry. Thus, in 1996 a Poetry and Writing Room was established to house the Gabriel Zimpritch Poetry Collection, a collection of poetry and poetry-related books, periodicals, and other materials. This was made possible by gifts from family members, friends, and the community for the enjoyment of poetry and to encourage and inspire writing.

Richard Blanco was selected by President Obama as the fifth Presidential Inaugural Poet. In 2023, Blanco was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Biden from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Born in Madrid to Cuban exile parents and raised in Miami in a working-class family, Blanco's personal negotiation of cultural identity and the universal themes of place and belonging characterize Blanco's many collections of poetry, including his most recent, "Homeland of My Body," which reassess traditional notions of home as strictly a geographical, tangible place that merely exist outside us, but rather, within us.

Blanco has received numerous awards, including the Agnes Starrett Poetry Prize, the PEN American Beyond Margins Award, the Patterson Prize, and a Lambda Prize for memoir. He was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and has received numerous honorary degrees. Currently, he serves as Education Ambassador for The Academy of American Poets and is an Associate Professor at Florida International University. In April 2022, Blanco was appointed the first-ever Poet Laureate of Miami-Dade County.

This year, the CEHS students selected to participate were: Lula Babcock, Peyton Bizub, Cameron Coyne, Iris Dietsch, Hailey Fontaine, Claire Gaudrault, Finn Gilbert, Aven Gilbert Kleker, Liam Nudd and Brendan Oakley.

Participant Claire Gaudrault said the event culminated in an evening student poetry reading attended by community members. "I heard about the event when I was a freshman, and have attended every year since. It's definitely one of my favorite days of the school year. I especially enjoy hearing my peers' poetry to see how everyone interprets the prompts given to us slightly differently," she said.

Gaudrault said, "During the symposium,

-see SYMPOSIUM page 10

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# Get ready for the 2nd Annual Cape Cornhole Challenge



Contributed photo

Players at the 1st Annual Cape Cornhole Challenge. The event is returning again this year to Family Fun Day and it will be held on Saturday, June 13 at Fort Williams Park.

The 2nd Annual Cape Cornhole Challenge is coming to Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 13, at 4 pm at Fort Williams Park in Cape Elizabeth. Sponsored by C Salt Gourmet Market, the tournament will feature 2-person teams competing for trophies and having fun with community members to raise money for local nonprofit organizations.

Why “cornhole”? According to the American Cornhole Association, the game began in the farmlands of the Midwest and originally featured dried corn kernels, sewn up into beanbags made from old feed sacks. Players would compete by tossing the beanbags, or cornbags, into a hole 27 feet away, if following the official rules.

Players can register at scoreholio.com by searching for “Cape Cornhole Challenge.” Registration is \$15 per player, and the fees may be paid on the website or in person on the day of the tournament. Play will be limited to 24 teams, so reg-

ister now. In case of rain, the tournament and Family Fun Day will be moved to Sunday, June 14, at 4:00 p.m.

The band ALWAYS, sometimes will play from the Family Fun Day stage during the contest to entertain players and their fans, and food trucks will be available for local treats.

For more information, visit the Cape Elizabeth Family Fun Day social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram, or their website at [https:// sites.google.com/view/capeelizabethfamilyfunday/home](https://sites.google.com/view/capeelizabethfamilyfunday/home).

Got a story to share? Email us!



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

# Cape career coach

By Holly Smevog

*Holly Smevog is a Cape Elizabeth resident and founder of HMS Career Coaching, a team with over 15 years of experience helping professionals navigate career transitions and find fulfilling work. For career advice, please email your questions to [editor@capecourier.com](mailto:editor@capecourier.com).*

## Dear Cape Career Coach,

I am graduating in May and just started applying for my first job out of college. I have a few interviews lined up and I am wondering if I get an offer, is salary negotiation something I should do or should not do? I don't want to mess up my first job offer in this competitive market.

—First Job Jitters in Cape Elizabeth

## Dear First Job Jitters,

Congratulations on the interviews. You are asking a great question. The short answer: yes, you should negotiate. Honestly, most people who skip negotiation are simply leaving money on the table. Every percentage raise or bonus will be based on that number.

Here is the reality. Most employers build wiggle room into their first offer. They expect a conversation. When you accept the first number without a word, they move on. They might remember that you did not advocate for yourself.

Let me walk you through what this can look like in practice. Say a company offers you \$52,000. You have done your research and know the market range for this role in Maine runs from \$50,000 to \$60,000. You might say something like:

“Thank you so much. I am really excited about this role. Based on my research and the skills I bring, I was hoping we could get closer to \$57,000. Is there flexibility there?” That is it. Just a calm, specific ask. They might ask you a question or go away and think about it, but your final salary will likely be somewhere between the offer and your number.

Will they pull the offer? Almost never. In more than 15 years of career coaching, I have never seen it happen. A company that takes back an offer because you asked a reasonable question is a company that was probably going to be difficult to work for.

A few practical tips. Don't negotiate in the interview. Wait until you have the offer in writing and a day or two to review it. Up until that moment, your only job was to get the offer. Now the job is to negotiate your best package. Do your homework first. Sites like Glassdoor, LinkedIn Salary and the Bureau of Labor Statistics can give you a sense of what the role pays in your area. Know your number before you get on the call. Negotiate benefits, bonuses, title, start date, and PTO first. If you don't get the salary you want, you can circle back to those.

Here is what I want you to remember. Negotiating is not aggressive. It is professional. It signals that you know your worth and that you communicate clearly.

You're not trying to squeeze every dollar out of the offer. Your goal is to have a productive back and forth conversation that leaves both parties feeling good.


Good luck — you've got this.

~Cape Career Coach

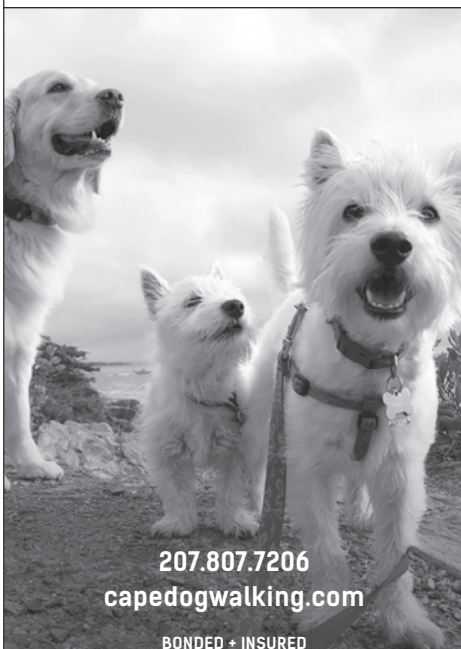


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# Capetoon: Off-season park(ing)

By Jeff Mandell



# Secretary of State visits Cape Elizabeth Middle School



Contributed photo

Secretary of State Shenna Bellows visited Cape Elizabeth Middle School on Wednesday, May 6. She joined students in an Intro to Feminism elective class, which is part of CEMS's Explore Program where students select courses of personal interest. Bellows talked with students about her childhood, professional journey, lessons learned along the way, women in leadership and other relevant issues. Students joined in the discussion and asked insightful questions related to immigration, politics, sexism, equality and other current events. Our future leaders were inspired by her visit!



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21	Thu	2:59	10.9	3:51	9.4	9:30	-0.8	9:45	0.7
22	Fri	4:02	10.4	4:54	9.3	10:31	-0.4	10:51	0.9
23	Sat	5:08	9.9	5:56	9.2	11:33	0.0	11:58	1.0
24	Sun	6:13	9.4	6:56	9.3			12:33	0.3
25	Mon	7:18	9.1	7:53	9.5	1:06	1.0	1:32	0.6
26	Tue	8:20	8.9	8:46	9.6	2:10	0.9	2:28	0.9
27	Wed	9:17	8.7	9:33	9.8	3:08	0.6	3:18	1.0
28	Thu	10:08	8.7	10:17	9.8	3:58	0.4	4:03	1.2
29	Fri	10:54	8.6	10:57	9.9	4:44	0.2	4:45	1.3
30	Sat	11:37	8.6	11:36	9.8	5:26	0.2	5:24	1.4
31	Sun			12:18	8.5	6:05	0.2	6:02	1.5
1	Mon	12:14	9.8	12:57	8.5	6:42	0.2	6:39	1.6
2	Tue	12:51	9.7	1:35	8.4	7:19	0.3	7:16	1.7





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## Symposium

Continued from page 8

students first discussed the poetic devices used in several of Mr. Blanco's poems. As shown in one of the provided photos, his presentation focused on reframing the classic 'show not tell' piece of writing advice as 'telling by showing, with a tiny bit of telling.' He encouraged students to incorporate this concept into their work through the addition of sensory details. We spent the afternoon applying this advice to our poetry, then reading the pieces and receiving feedback from Mr. Blanco. At the poetry reading, every student shared what they had written. Mr. Blanco also read several of his poems, including 'One Today,' which he performed at the second inauguration of President Barack Obama."

"Attending this workshop my freshman year helped introduce me to poetry, and it has been an enjoyable hobby ever since. I rarely work on anything specific, but I find that it is a relaxing way to exercise creativity. Additionally, I think that exploring poetry helps me to improve other types of writing that I study more frequently in my school classes," Gaudrault said.

## Spring CELT program listings

Please visit <https://www.capelandtrust.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 Change!)**: Wednesday, May 20  
 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

### CELT Presents Within the Whale

Step inside one of the ocean's most important animals! Join Within the Whale for an immersive experience where participants explore the 3D anatomy of a life-size inflatable humpback whale named "Chunk." As seen on ABC news, Within the Whale is an engaging educational program designed and conducted by award-winning wildlife educator Jessica Woodend. Discover how whales support healthy oceans and a thriving planet. Chunk brings the ocean to life with hands-on learning, engaging activities, and inspiration about marine mammals and environmental conservation. You'll learn how the survival of whales is connected to Earth's ecosystems, and what we can all do to protect them. Perfect for curious learners of all ages.

Date: June 6  
 Time: 1:00 -3:00 p.m.  
 Location: Cape Elizabeth High School Gym  
 No registration necessary  
 Please visit <https://www.capelandtrust.org/events> for registration and more information

### 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)

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 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 Thomas Memorial Library

-see CELT page 15

## Local birding report

By Brooks Bornhoff

Over the past two weeks, as new birds have filtered into my yard, I've been thinking about how birders learn to recognize not just species, but individuals—the particular birds who occupy and defend the small territories woven through our landscapes. Birds sing for many reasons, but two stand above the rest: to attract a mate and to stake out a claim. Their songs are both invitation and boundary line.

Right now, three male Common Yellowthroats are busy carving out fiefdoms in my backyard. By standing in the same spot each day and listening to their wicky wicky exchanges, you can begin to map where one bird's realm ends and another's begins. Walk through any forest and you're moving through an invisible patchwork of these overlapping territories, each one held by a particular bird with a particular voice.

Once you begin to notice this, your relationship with the birds around you deepens. When I'm standing in a certain corner of the yard and hear a Yellowthroat singing, I know it isn't just any migrant passing through — it's Larry, one of the three resident males (respectively: Larry, Curly and Moe). And when I'm down in the bog, the Great Crested Flycatcher calling closest to me is the same bird, albeit yet to be named, who will defend our patch of wet woods until late September.

Naming birds isn't about anthropomorphizing them. For me, it's about understanding who lives on the land and how they use it, so I can create or improve habitat that supports them. Sometimes that means building slash piles for cover, planting native shrubs like elderberry, serviceberry, hazelnut, and dogwood, or adding a birdbath. Moving water is key — my wife reminded me of this recently — so I've outfitted our old bath with

a small circulator. Studies show that moving water attracts more species, including warblers. A shallow basin, regular cleaning, and placement in an open area with nearby perches are all critical ingredients.

Additional notes from the field include: May 5 brought foul weather and the flute-like carols of Baltimore Orioles. Their song resembles an American Robin's but with sharper call notes woven through. I'm always on the lookout for their smaller cousin, the Orchard Oriole as well. Males are a deep brownish red rather than orange, and second year males resemble females except for a bold black "beard" and mask. Females are surprisingly small, closer to a large wood warbler in size. Orchard Orioles are uncommon but regular breeders in Cape, though parasitism by Brown headed Cowbirds is rampant. Last spring, after hearing one singing, I located its pouch like nest high up in a birch tree along Great Pond. Orchard Orioles do not defend nesting territories and can nest in close proximity to Baltimore Orioles.

Other recent highlights on this day in May included a singing Winter Wren, strong numbers of Pine Warblers, several Yellow Warblers, a single male Northern Parula, and a solitary Nashville Warbler working through an apple tree along Shore Road. Nashville Warblers — gray headed, white eyed, yellow below and olive above — are ironically named; they pass through Nashville at most and nest far to the north in cool mixed woods.

On May 8, the big to do in my yard was when four male Rose breasted Grosbeaks and one female arrived at the feeder. The males are striking birds — handsome, musical, and devoted partners. Later in the sea-

-see BIRDING REPORT page 15



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# Library offers programs on yardscaping, invasive plants, seals

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Summer Reading 2026: Building A Better World, Round 2!

For our second summer of “Building a Better World,” Thomas Memorial Library is delighted to shine a spotlight on a local organization making a difference in our community. The Locker Project is a non-profit focused on the greater Portland area, committed to sharing fresh, nutritious food with kids and families. Through partnerships with schools, libraries, farms, and with the help of more than 200 active volunteers, the Locker Project tackles food insecurity with a generous heart and a splash of fun – truly helping to build a better world.

To uplift the incredible work of the Locker Project, TML invites readers of all ages to participate in our summer reading program. From June 15 - August 15, the library will offer anyone (local or otherwise) the opportunity to complete our challenges and compete for a range of fun prizes. We’ll also host an array of programs and events relating to the mission of the Locker Project, who will be featured in a special gallery downstairs for the entire month of July.

Stay tuned for more information and details on what we have in store for this summer. To learn more about the Locker Project and how you can support them, check out their website. We can’t wait to build a better world with them!

### Expanded “Library of Things!”

You may have been aware that the library lends some unusual items, such as ukuleles, a telescope, and night sky binoculars. We have been working hard over the past few months to expand our Library of Things Collection (LoT) to include many new items (with more on the way). You can now borrow the following:

- Blu-ray player
- BRICK device (to help you limit your phone dependence)
- digital projector
- electronic stud finder
- Kil-o-Watt kits (electricity use meter)
- luggage scale
- moisture meter
- night sky binoculars and a variety of nature exploration kits
- radon detector

- telescope
- thermal imaging camera
- ukuleles
- UV floor lamp
- white noise machine

Currently, most items circulate for a three week loan period with no renewals, and cannot be reserved--first come, first served! Stop by the main desk for more information.

### It’s almost the end of our Kanopy trial year

Our new Kanopy plan starts in July but we need your help to decide which genres we should keep. British TV? World cinema? Documentaries? Family favorites? Keep exploring everything Kanopy has to offer and use up your digital tickets so our data reflects what you love best.

Thank you to the TML Foundation for bringing this free streaming service to our patrons and encouraging all ages to learn through the power of film.

### Senior Social Hour featuring Middle School Artists

Wednesday, May 20, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

We are delighted to welcome the middle school art club, Art for a Cause, back to Senior Social Hour. This time, folks of all ages will be welcome to decorate bookmarks together and maybe share some of your current favorite reads with each other, too!

### Yardscaping: From Lawn to Landscape

Thursday, June 11, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Are you enjoying your yard as much as you’d like to? Join us for an informative evening with Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District and learn how to swap your lawn and associated maintenance for pollinator gardens, vegetative buffers, edible landscapes, groundcovers, rain gardens, and other natural landscapes you can choose from to make your yard work for you.

Bring a layout of your yard (drawings, satellite image, pictures) for free technical assistance from the instructor. Free site visits may also be available.

### Adventuring Through Maine: Discovering Hidden Gems

Tuesday, June 16, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Don’t know where to plan your next weekend trip? Whether you are new to Maine or a lifelong resident, there is bound

to be something for everyone in this delightful talk with Nigel Osborne of the Maine State Visitor Information Center. The mission of this presentation is to encourage local communities to explore the state with the help of Travel Counselors in the 8 State Visitor Information Centers who curate personal experiences and itineraries, providing all visitors with tools and resources that encourage them to explore our wonderful state with peace of mind. The talk will cover a range of many different experiences.

Nigel, who moved to Maine with his family of 6 in 2002, brings his deep industry knowledge home to Maine—connecting local businesses, communities, and travelers while helping both visitors and residents discover the state’s most memorable and lesser-known experiences. Complete with travel guide and a highway map for everyone, this fun program is one you won’t want to miss.

Maine Tourism Association is a member-supported non-profit association that handles the planning and fulfillment for the Maine Office of Tourism. With more than 40 years of leadership experience in the global travel and hospitality industry, Nigel has held senior executive roles with companies including Insight Vacations, Holland America Line, and Virgin Vacations before starting with The Maine Tourism Association in 2021.

### Invasive Plants in Maine with CELT

Thursday, June 18, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Join Mike Hanks, a member of CELT’s Stewardship Committee, for a talk at Thomas Memorial Library about the invasive plant species found in Cape Elizabeth. Throughout the program, Mike will teach the audience how to identify specific plants, all about eradication strategies, and why invasive species pose a threat to an ecosystem. He will bring in samples of actual invasive plants found in town, for participants to touch and photograph, in order to sharpen their identification skills.

CELT will have a sign-up sheet at the talk, and if enough interest is garnered, Mike will host a walk at Runaway Farm the following week to see the plants in their natural environment. Participants on the walk should meet at the upper parking lot at Gull Crest field off Spurwink Avenue, and be prepared to go on a gentle hike, rain or shine. All participants must register at least 48 hours in advance of the walking program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.

### A Seal’s Journey

Tuesday, June 23, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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. She 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. Gray seal pups begin to appear on the coast of Maine in the Winter, and she will discuss 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!

## REGULAR PROGRAMS

### Senior Social Hour

Every Wednesday from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

### Death Cafe, with Davinica Nemtzow

First Thursday of each month, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

### Songwriting Workshop, with Jud Caswell

First Tuesday of each month, 6:00 - 8 p.m.

### FE Recurring Programs - Children’s

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

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

#### Baby Storytime: Tuesdays @ Noon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Lego Club : First Tuesday of the month @ 3:30 p.m., June 2

-see LIBRARY page 13

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## Library

Continued from page 12

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

### Read to a Dog

Most Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

### Venture Club

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

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

### Library Squad

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

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

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

Last Friday of the month @ 2:45 p.m. Help shape the future of the teen space and...

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

The Teen Leadership Council (TLC) will meet once a month on the last Friday of the month. Among other topics meetings will include snacks, chatting, and teen-led discussions about library programs and policies. Join us and build your leadership and advocacy skills while establishing connections with your community.

### Family Engagement Special Programs

#### My First Book Club, 3:30 - 4:15 p.m., Jun 9

Join in My First Book Club for beginning readers ages 6-8 on various Tuesdays throughout the summer. As a group, we will begin a read-along, and play some games. All reading happens within the program time, meaning no pre reading or homework required. Each child participant will get a copy of the book to take home! Caregivers asked to participate alongside. Registration required.

# Thomas Memorial Library renovates Teen Space

By Kevin St. Jarre

According to Thomas Memorial Library Director Rachel Davis, members of the Teen Leadership Council, working with Youth Services Librarian Sierra Aceto, were the driving force behind renovations of the Teen Space at the library.

Davis said, "Last year, our Teen Leadership Council worked with Sierra, one of our Youth Services Librarians, and staff from the Maine Youth Action Network, to develop plans for a functional and inviting space for teens within the library."

Sierra Aceto said, "About two years ago, I had just taken responsibility for some of our tween and teen programming, including our TLC. I had connected with CJ Smith from the Maine Youth Action Network (MYAN), and I brought them on as a consultant to learn how the library can best support youth voice. One of my objectives was to make the library's teen space better suit the needs and wants of our local youth. I wanted to highlight the library as the critical third space it is, and part of that goal meant creating a teen space that teens found valuable and wanted to use. With support from Rachel and the rest of the leadership team at TML, CJ and I brainstormed about the possible ways to make the teen space more conducive to the needs of our teen patrons."

Davis said, "Thanks to funding from the TML Foundation, we were able to put TLC's recommendations into action. In phase one of the project, which took place last October, we installed glass walls around a portion of the teen area to provide a sound-dampened area for teens to feel comfortable being themselves."

Aceto said, "One of our hopes was to allow the teens to enjoy their space and speak, study, or play games at a conversational level, without disrupting other patrons seeking quiet reading or working time." She said Portland Glass installed the glass wall in the fall of 2025.

In phase two, which is still underway, Davis said they made some adjustments to shelving so that the entire teen collection can be housed in the area just outside the lounge space.

At the end of April, new furnishings were installed. Davis said, "The members of TLC had looked at the range of furnishings available, considered how they most wanted to use the space and made their recommendations. From there, a designer determined how everything they wanted to could fit in the space. There are two movable tables that can be pushed together or used separately, two cafe-height tables equipped with power and charging stations, three lounge chairs with adjustable laptop trays, and a storage cabinet for craft supplies, board games, free personal care items, noise-canceling headphones, fidgets, and more."

Davis said, "It's been very rewarding

to see teens using and enjoying the newly furnished space! Come by and check it out!"

Aceto said, "Working with our teen patrons has informed me about how they enjoy using the library. I knew that working with our teen patrons to renovate the teen area was crucial. Without their input, I would be guessing what they wanted to see in the space. To make the teen area a place teens actually want to be, I wanted to consider their desires and development to co-create a space where they felt welcomed and found it useful. I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with them and uplift their voice in the library. I wanted TML to become a space that was designed to not only include them, but intentionally support them."

Aceto said she wants teens to know they are important and valued in library

spaces. "I recognize the difficulties, awkwardness and uncertainties that can come with being a teenager, and I want them to know they are welcome and celebrated at the library. Teens arguably derive the most value from third spaces. They are in a developmental stage where they're stretching their comfort zones and testing their ability to be independent, and libraries are a fantastic space for them to do that. I hope they find value, connection and joy in our new teen space. I look forward to finding more ways to amplify their voices and ideas to continue making the library a place they love to be," she said.

Those who would like more information about the Thomas Memorial Library Foundation can go to [www.thomasmemorialfoundation.org](http://www.thomasmemorialfoundation.org).



Contributed photo

The Thomas Memorial Library has renovated and improved its Teen Space. The project involved the support and cooperation of the Thomas Memorial Foundation, the Teen Leadership Council, Thomas Memorial Library Director Rachel Davis, Youth Services Librarian Sierra Aceto and CJ Smith from the Maine Youth Action Network.

## Dean's list announcements

**Josie Mary Lyons Caton**, a junior biology major, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

**Kathryne Clay** was named to the Dean's List at Colby College in Water-

ville for the fall 2025 semester.

**Matthew Grobert** was named to the dean's list for the spring 2026 semester at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, New Hampshire.

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# 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).*

## Thursday, May 21

Fort Williams Park Committee, Community Center, 6 p.m.  
Energy Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

## Tuesday, May 26

Ad Hoc 1934 Building Committee, Jordan Conference Room Town Hall, 6 p.m.  
Zoning Board of Appeals, Town Hall Council Chamber, 7 p.m.

## Thursday, May 28

School Board Policy Cmte, Wm. Jordan Conf Rm - Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.  
Thomas Memorial Library Committee, Thomas Memorial Library, 6:30 p.m.

## Monday, June 1

Town Council Workshop, Town Hall Council Chamber, 6 p.m.  
Town Council Meeting, Town Hall Council Chamber, 7 p.m.

## Tuesday, June 2

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

## Ongoing each week

Al-Anon, 7 p.m. Fridays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage

Road, South Portland. Parking in rear.  
Alcoholics Anonymous, 2 p.m. Saturdays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland; 7 p.m. Wednesdays, St. Bartholomew Church; 7 p.m. Fridays, St. Alban's Church.  
Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society, 9 a.m. - noon on Thursdays and by appointment, Fort Williams, in the brick building closest to Shore Road (ring the doorbell).  
Cape Elizabeth Lions Club, 6:39 p.m., first and third Tuesdays at the Bowery Beach Schoolhouse (except July and August), Two Lights Road  
Cape Elizabeth Republican Town Committee, 6-8:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, 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.

Zoning Board of Appeals  
May 26 - 7 p.m.

# 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

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

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**CELT**

Continued from page 11

Invasive Plants Nature Talk/Walk

Join Mike Hanks, a member of CELT's Stewardship Committee, for a talk at Thomas Memorial Library about the invasive plant species found in Cape Elizabeth. Throughout the program, Mike will teach the audience how to identify specific plants, all about eradication strategies, and why invasive species pose a threat to an ecosystem. He will bring in samples of actual invasive plants found in town for participants to touch and photograph, in order to sharpen their identification skills.

We will have a sign-up sheet at the talk, and if enough interest is garnered, Mike will host a walk at Runaway Farm the following week to see the plants in their natural environment. Participants on the walk should meet at the upper parking lot at Gull Crest field off Spurwink Avenue, and be prepared to go on a gentle hike, rain or shine. All participants must register at least 48 hours in advance of the program to receive notification of changes or cancellation.

Date: June 18

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Thomas Memorial Library

No Registration Required

Date and Time for Follow Up Walk TBD as needed.

**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. She 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 pm – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Thomas Memorial Library

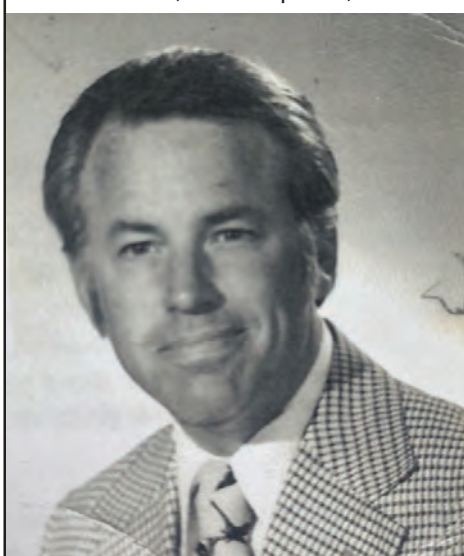
Community Room

No registration necessary

**OBITUARIES**

**Melville Olds Warren**

October 21, 1936 – April 24, 2026



**Melville "Mel" Olds Warren** lived a full and accomplished life defined by creativity, family, community involvement, and a successful career in advertising. Born outside San Francisco, Mel moved as a child to Michigan, where he lived with his mother, Marjorie, and brother, Roger. For a time, they stayed with his great-uncle, automotive pioneer Ransom E. Olds, in Lansing. Mel later attended the University of Michigan, where he played tennis and co-founded the Ann Arbor Artist Guild. A professor recognized his artistic talent and arranged for him to study with renowned muralist Diego Rivera. After graduation, Mel traveled through Europe, served in the Air Force, and pursued graduate studies at Michigan State University. He began his advertising career in Chicago before spending nearly a decade in New York as a media and marketing executive. There he met his wife, Priscilla, and they married in 1966. In 1968, Mel moved to Denver and later settled in Portland, Maine, where he spent more than 25 years in advertising and founded Warren Marketing Group. He served on numerous community boards, including the Portland Symphony Orchestra and Maine Suzuki Association. An avid fly fisherman and traveler, Mel cherished time with family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife, Priscilla; daughters Sarah and Laura; son-in-law Erik Anderson; grandchildren Sofia, Reid, and Hazel; brother Roger and sister-in-law Kate; and extended family members he loved deeply.



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**Birding report**

Continued from page 11

son a lucky observer may even catch a male standing guard over his mate at the nest, singing her a soft, sweet song.

May 10 brought a different kind of spectacle. While sitting on the rocky shoreline of Pond Cove, I watched flocks of Lesser Yellowlegs working the wrack line. At one point, twenty seven of these dainty shorebirds foraged around my son and me, barely acknowledging our presence. A Spotted Sandpiper — robin sized, orange billed,

and boldly spotted in breeding plumage — bobbed along nearby. Their teetering gait and alternating bursts of rapid wingbeats and gliding make them unmistakable. Later that day, I welcomed my first Northern House Wren of the season back to the garden and while walking the fringes of the bog below our house, my son and I watched a male Black throated Green Warbler bathing in a shallow, gently moving "warbler stream." These birds nest in Robinson Woods so listen for their rising and falling "trees trees I love trees" refrain next time you wander into the forest.



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# Davis Forest

Continued from page 1

The Davis family owned the land for two generations. Arlen Davis' mother purchased 60 acres in the 1960s, later selling a portion to the Purpoodock Club. After years of discussions with the land trust, Arlen Davis partnered with CELT staff and volunteers in 2024 to conserve the back 15.5 acres of his property and the organization purchased what is now known as the Davis Parcel.

The portion owned by the Purpoodock Club remained undeveloped and in 2025, CELT purchased the 32.4 acres of fully forested habitat. Together with the Davis Parcel, the Davis Forest encompasses 47.9 acres of wooded upland and wetland terrain. This is now one of CELT's largest conserved properties. The property includes a half-mile loop of wide carriage-style trails and an additional 0.7 miles of standard hiking trails created by CELT volunteers over the winter.

Trails within Davis Forest are linked with the Davis Parcel, Cross Hill, Dyer-Hutchinson, and Winnick Woods trail systems, creating approximately eight continuous miles of trails across more than 287 acres of Cape Elizabeth. Visitors can currently reach the property through a connector trail at Tiger Lily Lane, then heading north along the Cross Hill trail to the Davis Forest entrance.

The Cross Hill network of trails has multiple road access points including Tiger Lily Lane, Steeplebush Road, Leighton Farm Road, Wells Road, Cross Hill Road and Hawthorne Road. There are also road access points and trail connectors from Winnick Woods, Dyer Hutchinson and Eastman Meadow. Future plans include constructing a small dirt parking area off Spurwink Avenue to improve

public access.

Davis Forest supports a rich diversity of native plant species, including American Beech, Big-leaf Aster, Purple-Flowered Raspberry and Trailing Arbutus. Conserving the land also adds to the existing large undeveloped block of habitat for animals such as deer, coyote, fox, weasels and other species who need these large areas to thrive.

The forest also contains part of the upper watershed of Trout Brook, which flows into Casco Bay. Conservation of the property will support broader environmental efforts led by the state of Maine, the town of Cape Elizabeth, South Portland, local land trusts, and other organizations working to improve Trout Brook's water quality and protect regional ecosystems.

Visitors to Davis Forest are asked to follow posted guidelines, including staying on marked trails, respecting neighboring private property, and avoiding motorized vehicles, fires, camping, or other prohibited activities. Public access is available from sunrise to sunset.

Dog owners are also reminded to carry out pet waste and ensure dogs remain under control and within sight at all times.

CELT is still actively raising funds to complete the purchase of Davis Forest for the benefit of the community and the ecological health of the area. To see how you can help, contact Patty Renaud: [patty@capelandtrust.org](mailto:patty@capelandtrust.org) or 207-767-6054.

**More information about Davis Forest and trail access is available at: [www.capelandtrust.org](http://www.capelandtrust.org).**

# Davis Forest

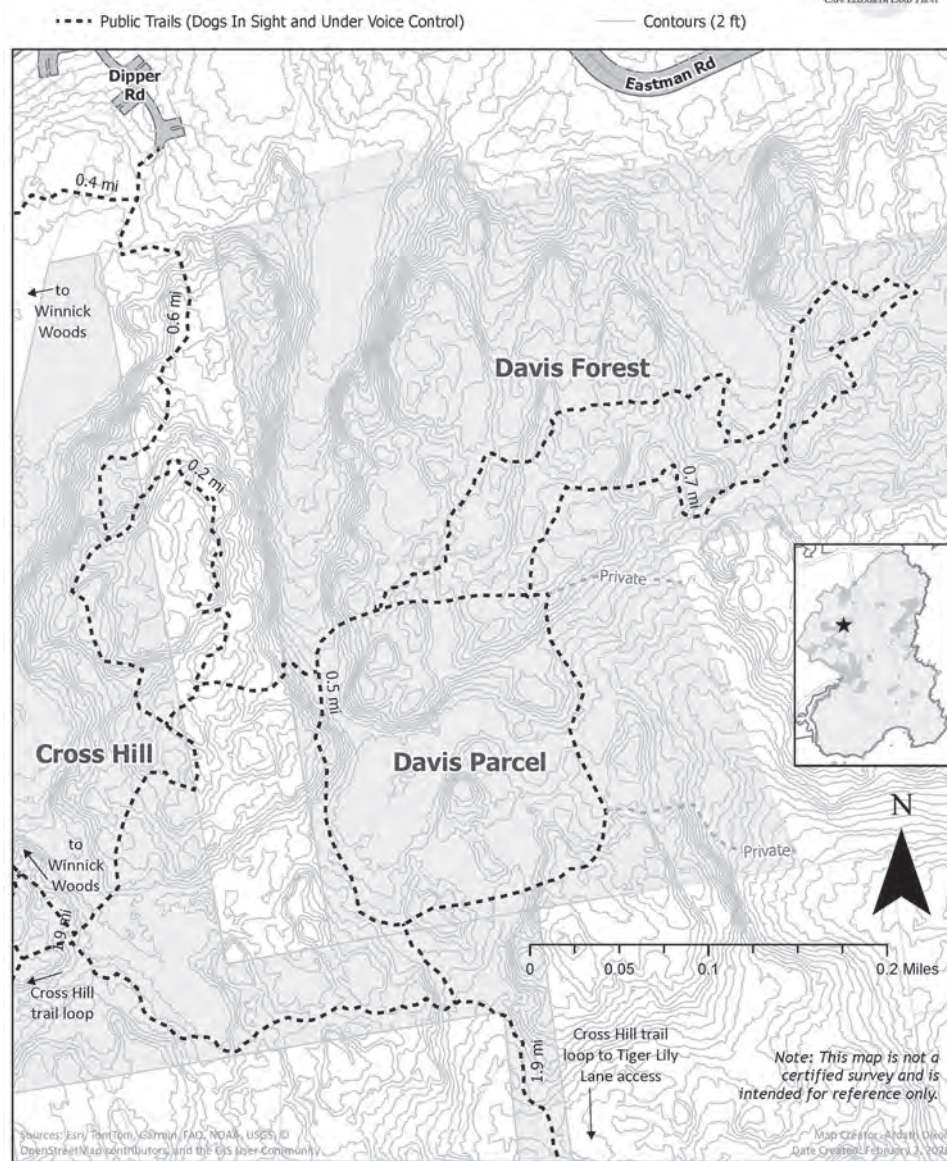


Photo courtesy of CELT

The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust recently celebrated the opening of Davis Forest. Together with the Davis Parcel, Davis Forest encompasses 47.9 acres of wooded upland and wetland terrain. The property includes a half-mile loop of wide carriage-style trails and an additional 0.7 miles of standard hiking trails.



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