

The Cape Courier

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News from July 13 Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Town Council Reports and Correspondence

Councilor Sahrbeck provided an update for the School Building Committee that most recently met on June 9, 2026. Three bids were presented to the School Department from approved vendors and all three bids were presented between \$6 - \$8 million dollars under the anticipated budget while still including all proposed aspects of the school building project. This will allow for the project to move forward without the need for a bond and a ballot measure in November.

Construction has begun on the school campus for the temporary school bus drop off and parking lot. The construction has a hard stop deadline of August 15, 2026 to prepare for the upcoming school year. The

parking lot and drop off will be finalized and made permanent in approximately three years.

The 1934 Building Committee is finalizing its research on potential municipal uses and will now focus on potential commercial use of the building. The committee has a deadline in August to present a status report to the town council.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Patrick Fox offered a "special thank you" to the finance team and IT Director for their work over the last several months transitioning the software system for fee payment transactions. The effort moves town staff from operating with two separate software systems to one system,

-see TOWN COUNCIL page 2

Joan Benoit Samuelson talks with The Cape Courier

By Kevin St. Jarre

The Cape Courier went to press days before the 2026 TD Beach to Beacon race, and will have more coverage in our August 19 issue.

Joan Benoit Samuelson is from Cape Elizabeth, is the founder of the TD Beach to Beacon 10K race, and is a world-famous American marathon runner who was the first women's Olympic Games marathon gold medalist, running at the

1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

She held the fastest time for an American woman at the Chicago Marathon for 32 years after winning the race in 1985. Her time at the Boston Marathon was the fastest time by an American woman in that race for 28 years. She was inducted into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

The TD Beach to Beacon 10K race, held in Cape Elizabeth each summer, had its inaugural year in 1998, and it was founded by Joan Benoit Samuelson. Back then, it was called the Peoples Beach to Beacon 10K after the title sponsor. The race had a field size of 3,000 and drew 2,408 finishers. In 2025, the number of finishers had grown to 6,488.

Benoit Samuelson recently sat down for an interview with The Cape Courier, days before the 2026 TD Beach to Beacon 10K race. Here is that interview:

-see B2B

GOAL!



venmo

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

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

NEXT ISSUE: Aug 19
DEADLINE: Noon, Aug 7

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'The Cape Courier is dedicated to our community'

I am motivated to write this letter because I want to say how lucky Cape Elizabeth is to have a community newspaper – the Cape Courier. I talk to people in other communities who do not have the benefit of a paper that is delivered (hard copy) to their home twice a month. A paper that focuses on the happenings in their town.

I recognize that there are sites online where people can access local news, but the Cape Courier is dedicated to our community. I believe the Courier does a great job keeping us apprised of the many things that touch the households in our town.

Jordan's Farm has advertised in the

Cape Courier since the paper was started in 1988 and are proud to continue that tradition set by our father, Bill Jordan, Sr. We do this for a couple of reasons; yes, it creates visibility for our business, but at the same time our advertising dollars help keep the rare treasure of a community focused newspaper possible.

Thank you to the staff at the Courier for bringing community news to our homes throughout the year. The results of your work are a rare treasure today, again, thank you!

Penny Jordan

Congrats from the first women's tennis team

I would like to submit this picture of the first women's tennis team begun in 1965! We, the members of that team, would like to congratulate the present tennis team that just won the Maine Class B State Championship.

Marty Friberg, Class of 1965
Jackie Potter, Class of 1965



The first women's tennis team was formed in 1965. Pictured from left to right are: Patti Hayes, Wendy Adam, Carolyn Bell, Ms. Sarah Franklin (Faculty Advisor), Jackie Potter, Jean McNamamy, Marty Friberg.

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

Town Council

Continued from page 1

MUNIS, developed by Tyler Technologies. This system is used for vehicle registrations, property tax payments, and other fee transactions and will “greatly enhance tracking, reporting and workflow.”

Fox shared of potentially exploring an infrastructure bond to address “backlogged and essential capital improvement projects” for facilities, utilities, transportation and grounds projects. The topic had previously been discussed with town councilors during the budget season. Fox recommended that this be held off until winter so that the 1934 Building Committee can finalize and prepare their findings which will “allow the council to make a more effective determination” of what projects could be included in a bond question on a future ballot.

The Town Center Intersection improvement project will begin construction the Monday after the Beach to Beacon race and event. The project's duration is expected to be between four to six weeks and be less of an impact than the recent water line replacement project. This work will focus more on the road shoulder and side of the road work.

The new community basketball court is “receiving a lot of use, and a lot of feedback.” Councilor Thompson said that the court is “so popular... kids are there all day long.” He added that the court is “one of the best new assets we’ve been able to bring to the kids in our town.” Cape Hoops organized and hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 25, ahead of the annual 3v3 youth basketball tournament.

Fort Williams Park Committee Presentation

To kick off the series of monthly updates from community committees, Jim Kearney and Kathy Raftice of the Fort Williams Park Committee presented to the council. Kearney said, “we’re busy on the committee, the park has been very busy, we’ve been making money and we have a lot going on in the future.”

Kearney highlighted “big projects” completed in the past fiscal year including: the Pond Pavilion, built by a Maine company and constructed with volunteer help; Goddard Mansion improvements that repointed the walls to prevent falling stones, removed invasive species trees to improve the view, installed granite stairs leading to the water, and added a “micro-museum” to the building; and a new playground area.

-see MEETING page 11



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Gold bracelet left unclaimed

Reported by Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 6-25 An officer met with a clerk at Town Hall who reported that a personalized gold bracelet in a Springer’s Jewelry bag had been left on the counter a few weeks ago and no one had returned to claim it.
- 7-1 An officer met with a resident regarding a possible missing person who was later accounted for.
- 7-2 Two officers responded to Two Lights State Park for a possible missing person who was located a short time later.
- 7-3 An officer met with a resident of the Fowler Road area regarding a harassment complaint.
- 7-7 An officer met with a resident of the Oakhurst area regarding a dog bite complaint.
- 7-12 An officer responded to a bicycle/ pedestrian accident in the area of Shore Road and Seaview Avenue.
- 7-17 Two officers responded to a location on Scott Dyer Road for an assault.
- 7-18 An officer responded to Fort Williams for report of a dog/bicycle accident.
- 7-18 An officer met with a subject who turned over weapons per order of a Protection Order served by the Cumberland County Sheriff’s office.

SUMMONSES

- 7-1 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (47/30 zone), Shore Road, \$170
- 7-2 Cape Elizabeth resident, operating vehicle using mobile phone, Cottage Road, \$85
- 7-3 Cumberland Center resident, uninspected vehicle, Ocean House Road, \$148
- 7-7 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (54/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$114
- 7-10 Skowhegan resident, speeding (44/35 zone), Two Lights Road, \$114
- 7-10 Portland resident, speeding (54/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$114
- 7-11 Minnesota resident, speeding (44/35 zone), Two Lights Road, \$114
- 7-11 Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Mitchell Road, \$148
- 7-12 Portland resident, speeding (54/45 zone), Bowery Beach Road, \$114
- 7-12 Portland resident, speeding (39/30 zone), Shore Road, \$114
- 7-13 Cape Elizabeth resident, uninspected vehicle, Spurwink Avenue, \$148
- 7-14 New York resident, speeding (47/30 zone), \$170

- 7-17 South Portland resident, uninspected vehicle, Belfield Road, \$148
- 7-19 Maryland resident, speeding (44/35 zone), Two Lights Road, \$114
- 7-19 Cape Elizabeth resident, speeding (44/35 zone), Two Lights Road, \$114
- 7-20 Auburn resident, operating after license revoked

ARRESTS

- 6-30 South Portland resident, unlawful possession of scheduled drug, violating conditions of release, criminal trespass
- 6-30 Westbrook resident, unlawful possession of scheduled drug, violating conditions of release, criminal trespass
- 7-4 Cape Elizabeth resident, criminal threatening, threatening display of weapon
- 7-8 Portland resident, outstanding warrant

ACCIDENTS

- 7-1 Lorenzo Perez, accident on Two Lights Road
- 7-16 Jason Favreau, accident on Wheeler Road

FIRE CALLS

Fire calls: 28; EMS calls: 66

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

Beware of Fake QR Code Scams

QR codes have become a convenient part of our daily lives, from viewing restaurant menus to paying for parking meters. However, scammers are increasingly taking advantage of this technology to steal your personal information and money through a tactic known as “squishing.” By physically pasting fraudulent stickers over legitimate ones, or sending fake codes via email or text, criminals can redirect you to malicious websites meant to mimic trusted businesses.

In public settings, you might unknowingly scan a tampered code on a flyer or parking meter, sending your payment directly into a scammer’s account. When scanning a physical QR code, ensure it’s not a sticker layered over the original. When in doubt, avoid the QR code entirely, and use your phone’s web browser and type in the official web address yourself. Additionally, keeping your device’s operating systems updated and using antivirus protection can offer an important second line

of defense.

Jury Duty Scams

In jury duty scams, criminals call or message posing as court officials, U.S. marshals or sheriff’s deputies. They falsely claim that you missed a jury summons and threaten you with immediate arrest unless you pay right away. To heighten the panic, criminals often spoof caller ID screens to display a local courthouse or police department number. They aggressively demand that you stay on the phone while you purchase gift cards, send a wire transfer, or deposit money into a cryptocurrency account. In other instances, they may ask for your Social Security number under the guise of checking records. Real courts will never contact you out of the blue to demand immediate payment or sensitive information over the phone, nor do they threaten jail time for a missed jury summons. Official court business regarding jury service is managed exclusively through the mail. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up immediately and verify the claim by calling your local courthouse directly.

Conservation Committee launches Adopt-a-Trail Program

By the Cape Elizabeth Conservation Committee

The Cape Elizabeth Conservation Committee has launched a new Adopt-a-Trail Program to help care for the town’s nearly 19 miles of Greenbelt Trails.

The Adopt-a-Trail Program was created to give frequent trail users an opportunity to become more actively involved in caring for the trails they enjoy. Trail Adopters serve as the Conservation Committee’s “eyes and ears” by identifying maintenance needs, performing light trail maintenance, removing litter, and reporting larger issues before they become more significant problems.

The program is built on the idea that everyone can play a role in caring for our public trails. By taking ownership of a designated trail section and addressing minor issues as they arise, volunteers help keep our trail system safe, clean and enjoyable for everyone.

The program has already attracted several

volunteers who have adopted trail sections throughout the Greenbelt network. Current Trail Adopters represent a diverse cross-section of Cape Elizabeth’s trail community, including walkers, hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers, dog walkers, and other outdoor enthusiasts who share a commitment to protecting the town’s natural spaces.

Each Trail Adopter is assigned a one to two mile section of trail that they visit regularly. During these visits, volunteers perform light maintenance, monitor trail conditions, and report issues such as erosion, fallen trees, damaged bridges, drainage problems, or missing trail markers. Their observations help the Conservation Committee assess trail conditions, identify maintenance needs and priori-

tize future improvements.

Cape Elizabeth’s Greenbelt Trails are more than just recreational paths. They connect neighborhoods, schools, parks, conservation lands, and natural areas while providing opportunities for recreation, wildlife observation, and environmental education. The town’s recently launched Greenbelt StoryMap highlights the different sections of the trail system and showcases the important role these trails play in the community.

While many trail sections have already been adopted, additional volunteers are still needed. Residents interested in becoming a Trail Adopter can learn more by visiting the Adopt-a-Trail webpage on the town’s website and exploring the Greenbelt StoryMap.



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ACCREDITED MEMBER


News from July 21 Planning Board meeting

School construction bids announced

By Hanna Gilley

Cape Commons Site Plan Review

GreenMars Real Estate Services requested a site plan review for a commercial and 18-unit mixed use building located at 316 Ocean House Road for application completeness.

Travis Letellier, a civil engineer with GreenMars, presented changes to the original site plan application. Those changes include increasing the amount of live-work spaces from two to six; significant landscaping and vegetative buffering particularly on the north end property line, abutting residential units; a new 24-foot driveway with two lanes for bidirectional traffic with access connections to the neighboring condo development and the existing town parking lot. A live-work space is designed so that a commercial space and living space are attached. This helps small businesses by allowing them to use the address for their commercial business.

Stormwater management will utilize the low impact development of three rain garden systems, one in the front of the property and two in the rear of the property, all three to include vegetated swale treatment component. The building will also have a roof drip line filter. The applicants also received service letters from Portland Water District and the Cape Elizabeth Public Works for water and sewer utilities.

The town council has granted the applicants to get an easement to connect the sidewalk to the adjacent property. The easement will be drafted and Town Manager Fox has authorization to sign off on it.

Pool and fitness center annual cleaning

The Donald Richards Pool will be closed starting at noon on Friday, July 31 through August 16 for annual cleaning.

The planning board unanimously approved a motion to table site plan review for the August 18, 2026, meeting when a public hearing will be held. A site walk was scheduled for Friday, July 24, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. where the applicants showed planning board members property lines, a “general layout” of the proposed building, and driveway and traffic access on the property.

Paperwork Reduction Amendments

The planning board held a public hearing on proposed amendments to the zoning and subdivision ordinances that create a planning application submission policy and reduce paper submission requirements.

Chair Gilbert said the amendments were originally his idea as “it seemed like a lot more paper than necessary” was being included in submissions. The amendments will not change the requirements to submissions, just in how they’re being submitted. The amendments include a minimum paper submission requirement.

Natalie Burns noticed needed revisions in two separate sections, 16-2-3 and 16-2-4 that reference “number of copies.” Those details will be revised to be consistent with the new policy.

Chair Gilbert added that these amendments limit costs to developers, to private citizens, and time spent sorting through materials for planning board members and town staff. The motion to recommend the amendments to town council for consideration passed unanimously.

Bid Summary

Bidder	Base Bid	Add Alternates Value	Base Bid Including Add Alternates
Great Falls Construction 20 Mechanic Street Gorham, ME 04038	\$64,485,870.00	\$430,536.00	\$64,916,406.00
Landry French Construction 160 Pleasant Hill Road Scarborough, ME 04074	\$64,775,000.00	\$390,820.00	\$65,165,820.00
PC Construction Company 193 Tilley Drive South Burlington, VT 05403	\$66,888,000.00	\$598,000.00	\$67,486,000.00

The Cape Elizabeth School District and the School Building Committee are pleased to announce that construction bids for the new Cape Elizabeth Middle School and updates to Pond Cove Elementary have come in significantly under budget.

The district received three highly competitive, close bids, all falling well below the allocated budget. Because of these favorable numbers, the Building Committee will not need to execute any cost-cutting deductive alternates. Instead, the district can accept all proposed add alternates, ensuring the community receives the fully realized scope of the project.

Harriman Architects and Turner & Townsend (Owner’s Representative), for their tireless dedication to this project.

Construction on the new Cape Elizabeth Middle School is slated for completion by August 2028. Details regarding an upcoming groundbreaking ceremony and project fundraising efforts will be shared with the community in the coming weeks.

For more details please visit: <https://www.cape.k12.me.us/page/buildingproject>.

Dean’s list announcements

Next Steps and Project Timeline

The apparent low bidder’s base bid came in \$8,146,477.00 under budget. The district has officially signed a contract with Great Falls Construction of Gorham, Maine, to serve as the primary contractor.

This major milestone is the direct result of extensive hard work and greatly appreciated community support. The school district extends its deepest gratitude to the residents of Cape Elizabeth, as well as the teams at

Nathan Hanisko was named to the dean’s list for the spring 2026 semester at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island, where he is a freshman double majoring in Accounting and Criminology.

Brady Hanisko was named to the dean’s list for the spring 2026 semester at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is a freshman majoring in Sports Management.

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CEEF helps CEHS juniors finally explore the Freedom Trail



Contributed photo

The Class of 2027 exploring the Freedom Trail in Boston this past May.

As many know, the Covid-19 pandemic led to a lot of disruption for our students. One of those disruptions was to the Class of 2027 who missed the opportunity for the annual 5th Grade Field Trip to Boston to explore the Freedom Trail back in 2020, a tradition that still goes strong up to this day. However, thanks to a grant submitted by CEHS Social Studies teacher Michael Young and the generosity of the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF), some of those students finally had their chance in May to make the trip to Boston.

In March, Mr. Young applied for a CEEF grant for 40 of his students to go on the long-delayed field trip to Boston’s Freedom Trail. “My grant was an attempt to recapture the Boston Freedom Trail Field Trip that the current junior class missed out on in 5th grade due to COVID,” said Young. “We left on the same day as the current 5th graders and toured the same sites, but we had separate start and end points in order to ensure our own experience. This grant allowed our students to experience this CESD rite of passage.”

These high school juniors went with the same time and trip as the 5th grade students to see sites like the Bunker Hill Monument, the Paul Revere House, Faneuil Hall and the USS Constitution in Charlestown. For these high school students, it may have been more meaningful because of what they had missed because of the pandemic. And this trip meant to a lot to them. Mr. Young stated, “The achievement I’m most proud [from this CEEF grant] is seeing the joy on the students’ faces while experiencing history. This is the 250th year of independence, and to see the students engaged with their peers in some of the most historic sites of the founding period was unforgettable. I’m especially proud of how the students, acting as tour guides, also demonstrated their knowledge of the events and sites in some of the most creative ways I could imagine!”

The impact of the trip was felt even after the students left Boston. “A highlight that best captures the impact of this field trip was when we got back in class the next day and I had students share one highlight and one thing they learned, and each student had something at the ready,” said Young. “Sometimes getting class participation is like pulling teeth, but to see how enthusiastic the students still were a day or two later showed the impact it had on them. Many students expressed how much they enjoyed climbing the 296 steps to the top of the Bunker Hill Monument, a site where the

Marquis de Lafayette laid the cornerstone during his visit on the 50th anniversary of Independence.”

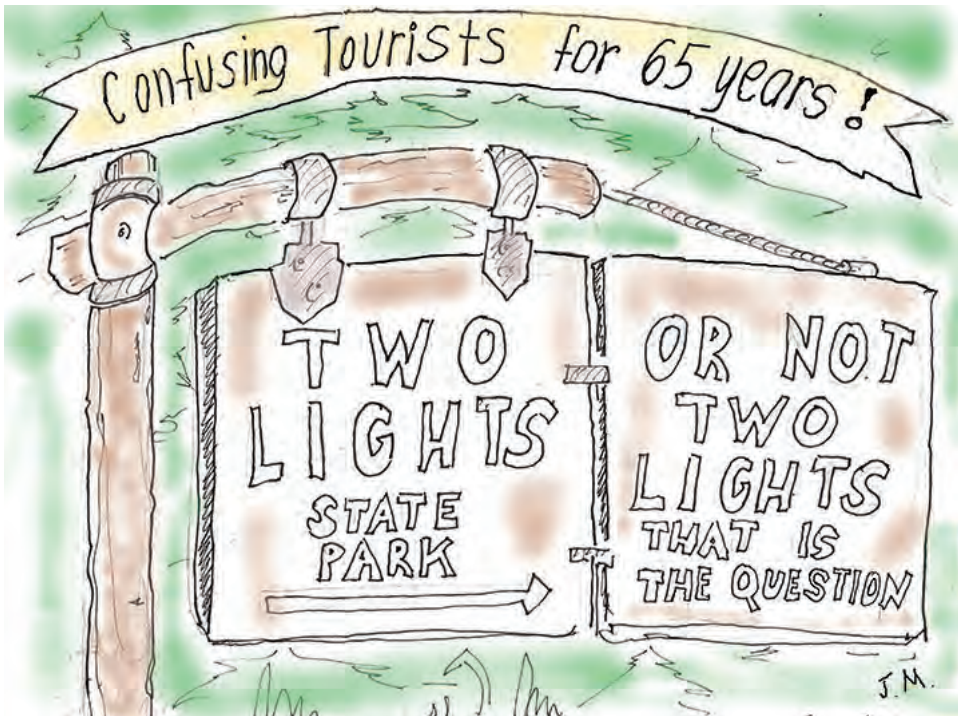
The grant didn’t just have a positive impact on the teachers, but also the students. “Thank you so much for the amazing Boston trip, I had so much fun!” reported one grateful student.

The trip could not have been funded without the generous support of the many community members who provide support to CEEF. Since CEEF’s inception in 2002, donations and fundraising by CEEF have funded 359 grants totaling over \$1.75 million in support of the educational experience in Cape Elizabeth. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, CEEF relies on community donations and fundraising to turn innovative grants ideas into reality and supports programs across our entire district, from pre-kindergarten through high school. CEEF grants create learning opportunities that students won’t find anywhere else — the types of experiences that make Cape schools extraordinary.

CEEF’s next fundraising event will be its annual “Secret Supper” which will be held on October 3, 2026. Please be on the look out for details of how to participate as more information is released towards the end of the summer.

Capetoon: Still no lighthouses

By Jeff Mandell



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New assistant principal at CEMS is Julie Riordan

New 7th grade math and science teacher at CEMS

By Kevin St. Jarre

Julie Riordan is the new assistant principal at Cape Elizabeth Middle School. She began her career teaching 5th and 6th grade in both Westbrook and in Bonita Springs, Florida. For the past four years, she has served as a district literacy instructional coach for the Westbrook School Department, supporting teachers through professional learning, literacy instruction and instructional best practices that foster positive learning environments. During that time, she was honored to be recognized as Maine's Instructional Coach of the Year, and she said that she enjoyed helping educators grow so they can provide the best possible outcomes for students. "I'm excited to bring that same commitment to the Cape Elizabeth community," Riordan said.

She earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Psychology from the University of Maine. She later completed her master's degree in Educational Leadership at the University of Southern Maine.

She said she was drawn to CEMS by the opportunity to be part of a school community that values both academic excellence and the growth of every student. "I was also excited by the opportunity to join the district as it prepares to open a new middle school. It's a unique time to become part of the community, and I look forward to building strong relationships with students, families and staff while contributing to the continued success of the school," Riordan said.

She believes that one of her strengths as an administrator is balancing strong relationships with a commitment to continuous learning and evidence-based practices. She said, "I'm always looking for ways to learn and grow so I can better support students, staff and families. I also believe that when people feel heard, valued and supported, great things happen for

kids."

Outside of school, Riordan enjoys exercising and running, and is looking forward to participating in the Maine Half Marathon this fall. "Most of all, I enjoy spending time with my daughter and making the most of our time together," she said.

When asked what the keys are to a good relationship between an administrator and the community, she said, "The best relationships are built on trust, communication and collaboration. When educators, families and the community work together with a shared focus on what's best for students, amazing things can happen. I believe listening, being present and keeping students at the center of every decision are essential."

As for thoughts on teaching, she said, "For both new and experienced teachers, I believe the key is to remain curious, continue learning and build strong relationships with students and colleagues. Middle schoolers are at such a fun and important stage of life, and it's important to embrace the energy, curiosity and sense of humor they bring to school each day."

Riordan said that teacher evaluation should be centered on growth and continuous improvement. She said, "Coming from an instructional coaching background, I see the assistant principal's role as partnering with teachers through meaningful feedback, encouragement and support so they can continue to grow professionally. When teachers grow, students benefit."

As for extracurricular activities, she said they are one of the best parts of the middle school experience. Riordan said, "They give students the chance to try something new, make lasting friendships, build confidence and have fun along the way. Every student deserves the opportunity to find something

-see AP page 7

By Kevin St. Jarre

Samantha (Sam) Mengual will be teaching 7th grade math and science at Cape Elizabeth Middle School this year, coming from nearby South Portland Middle School, where she has been teaching 5th grade math and science for the past few years. "Before teaching 5th grade, I taught 8th grade science in South Portland, and prior to that I was an educator at The Leadership School at Kieve," Mengual said.

She attended Hamilton College where she majored in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Biology and minored in Hispanic Studies. "I also recently completed my Master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages at [University of Southern Maine]," she said.

Mengual said, "My first few years teaching in South Portland were at Memorial Middle School. While I have loved teaching at SPMS, I missed the smaller school feel we used to have. I'm looking forward to teaching in a tight-knit community where I get to know more students than just the ones in my classroom."

She said she is a very patient person which she thinks serves her well as a middle school teacher. "I rarely have big reactions and keep my cool under stress. I think that calm demeanor helps students feel more comfortable in my classroom," Mengual said.

For recreation, she said, "I had my first child in September of 2025, so my hobbies are a bit more limited these days, but when I get a moment to myself I make pottery! I've been doing it for about eight years now. I also enjoy reading, gardening and running."

Mengual said that she thinks communication and being present are essential to good relationships with all members of a community. She said, "While surprises are fun at parties, they're not so great when it comes to grading and expectations. I strive to communicate frequently with families about what to expect in my classes as well as any celebrations or challenges their students may be experiencing."

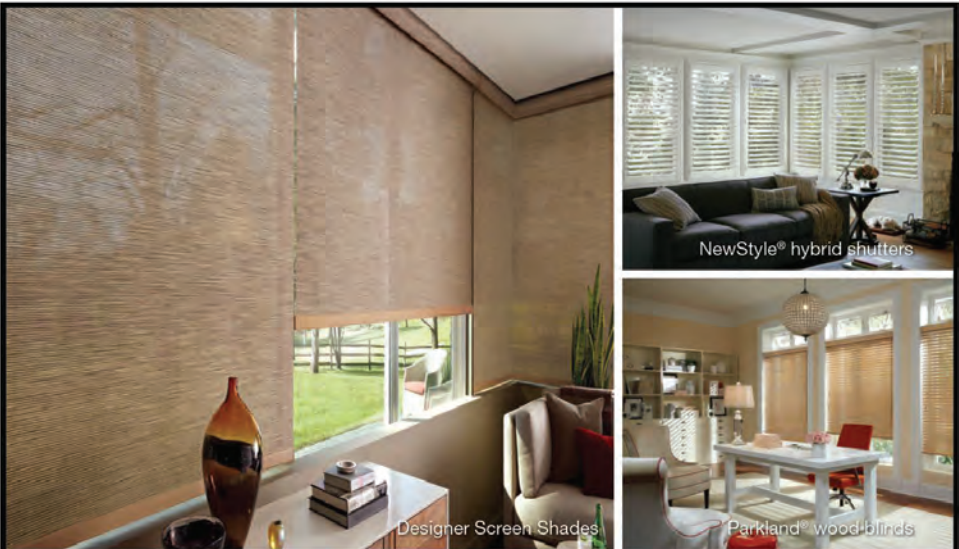
I also like to set clear expectations and create a classroom community where all members feel represented. In terms of colleagues, I love being part of a team. Working toward something bigger than myself has always been incredibly motivating for me. I like to share resources and also am looking forward to learning from all the amazing teachers at CEMS."

She said that a concern of hers as a STEM teacher is the stigma that comes with doing math and science. "I always encounter people (my husband included) who think they're bad at math. I do not think this is possible. I do however think people lack confidence in math. One of my goals in my math classroom is to inspire confidence and to reduce barriers to vulnerability. I encourage students to take risks, make mistakes, and try new things because that is what makes learning engaging and fun. Science is a little less tricky to make engaging, but a goal for me is to build student curiosity this year. Scientists are primarily people who ask good questions and want to understand things they experience. I hope by making these stigmatized subjects more accessible, my students will find new interests and passions," Mengual said.



Contributed photo

Samantha Mengual and her son, Mateo on a hike for Father's Day.



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Paint for Preservation raises funds for land conservation

What’s growing on Cape farms

On July 19, nearly 425 supporters of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust gathered to raise more than \$140,000 to support open spaces, trails and environmental education in Cape Elizabeth.

In its 19th year, this Paint for Preservation was graciously hosted by Maggie and Shaw Sprague, Jr. at their property overlooking beautiful Higgins Beach.

Two Cape Elizabeth artists received record sales prices in the auction. In just one weekend, resident Cooper Dragonette painted a stunning depiction of the Spurwink Marsh from Sawyer Road, and native Matthew Russ thrilled the crowd with “Kettle Cove.”

Said Russ of his experience, “I could have easily called this painting “The Breakwater.” As I set up my easel on Saturday morning, I was struck by the thin line of the breakwater connecting Richmond Island to the mainland...The magic of Paint for Preservation is that every painting in the tent is an earnest attempt to celebrate Cape’s natural beauty,

and the viewing audience is eager to join in the celebration.”

Funds from CELT’s only annual fundraiser come from 50% of the art sales donated by the 31 artists, ticket sales, members of the Host Committee, business sponsors and community contributors. This year’s lead sponsor, Mary Libby Living Real Estate, attended for many years before becoming a sponsor. “It was a true privilege to sponsor this very remarkable event and enjoy the afternoon alongside family, friends, and community members. I look forward to continuing my support and encourage everyone to share the experience by sponsoring or purchasing tickets next year.”

CELT is grateful to the other community businesses that contributed: Fresh Pickins, Jordan Farm, and Pond Cove IGA, and especially the Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth who once again provided expert parking assistance.

Photos of the event and of the artwork can be found at www.capelandtrust.org/paint.



Attendees at the 2026 Paint for Preservation event.

Photo by Christine Petit

Judy’s Food Pantry

Judy’s Pantry is open for clients to shop for produce, protein and nonperishables at the Cape Elizabeth Methodist Church (280 Ocean House Road) on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. June hours are 3:00 - 4:30 p.m., and July and August hours are 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Registration is available on-site for new clients.

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

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

By Kevin Jordan

Dropping the suffix “berry” from “strawberry” yields “straw.” Instead of strawberries, the Maxwell’s Farm fields on Two Lights Road have been producing straw for the past couple of years. Straw is a very valuable commodity for use in growing other types of produce.

Straw and hay are not the same. Hay is cut from green grasses. It is rich in nutrients for use as food for livestock. Straw is the dried stalk of grain crops such as rye, wheat or oats. High-quality straw is free of viable seeds from the original plant.

Other local growers in Cape Elizabeth purchase the straw bales harvested on Two Lights Road by Maxwell’s Farm. For example, Jordan Brothers Farm uses it as mulch for growing garlic. Immediately after planting garlic in the fall, Jordan Brothers Farm covers it in a thick layer of chopped straw. This serves as an excellent weed barrier during the

growing season, helps to seal moisture in the ground and adds organic material to the soil as it decays.

Straw is a valuable cover for strawberries too. It helps them to over-winter by insulating them from desiccating wind and extreme changes in soil and air temperature. Then, when raked off in the spring, straw helps to suppress weeds between the rows of strawberries. It also helps to prevent soil from splashing onto the berries during rain and irrigation events, leaving the fruit nice and clean and ready to eat.

Thus, the former strawberry fields on Two Lights Road have been converted recently to straw fields. These new straw fields are directly benefitting the production of other Cape Elizabeth crops including garlic and, almost ironically, strawberries. Bill Bamford, co-owner/operator of Maxwell’s Farm said, “I love growing things that I can sell directly to other Cape farmers to help them grow the produce they sell to consumers.”



Contributed photo

Straw drying after having been cut.

AP

Continued from page 6

that sparks their interest, helps them discover their strengths, and makes them feel like they belong. The experiences and life skills they gain often stay with them long after they leave middle school.”

She said her first priority is to listen and learn. “I want to get to know the students, staff, families, and community, understand what makes Cape Elizabeth Middle School so special, and build strong relationships along the way. I’m excited to become part of the community and work together to help every student succeed,” Riordan said.



Contributed photo

Julie Riordan is the new assistant principal at Cape Elizabeth Middle School. She’s pictured here with her daughter Cecelia.

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TML offers musical senior social hour, hosts filmmaker Sam Dunning

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer reading for all ages at TML wraps up on August 15! Be sure to bring in your challenge card before then and let us know about your accomplishments so you can earn raffle tickets for some of our exciting prizes. Anyone with a Maine library card can participate. For the adult challenges, all prize packages include two books, an art print and a local gift card. Stop by the circulation desk to sign up today.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Collage A Family Recipe Saturday, August 1, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Join Library Director Rachel Davis in creating a work of art out of a family or favorite recipe. Bring a printed copy of your recipe and any collage or found materials you may wish to use. We'll have lots of images from discarded books and magazines that you can use to create a frameable collage to showcase your special recipe. If you like, your work could be displayed in our Community Art Boxes during the month of August. This workshop is for adults and teens, but motivated children are welcome to attend with a caregiver. Please register online.

Piping Plovers of Maine with Maine Audubon

Tuesday, August 4, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Come learn about Piping Plovers and other coastal birds during this all-ages program with Maine Audubon. This presentation dives into Piping Plovers, their behaviors, habitat, current threats to the species and action community members can take to protect these endangered birds. There will be time for questions and possibly some trivia if the audience is up for it.

How Food Communicates With Our Bodies with Steve Deschenes

Thursday, August 6, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Food plays many roles in our lives. It can be a source of pleasure and enjoyment; a means of connecting with one another through shared meals; a way to signify cultural identity; it can anchor us to the place we live; and it can be a medium through which we can express our creativity. Join Nutrition Therapist Master Steve Deschenes for a presentation on how food communicates with

our bodies in specific ways, and how these communication systems seem to be breaking down as a consequence of the modern food environment. We'll explore how the idea that a food's value derives solely from the sum of its nutrient parts may not be the best way to understand food and its relationship to our health. When we focus only on nutrients, we end up chasing our tail. It's not one single thing; it is the synergy between everything.

Steve Deschenes started Exemplar Nutrition Coaching out of a long-standing interest in food and its relationship to our health. Over time, this evolved into a deeper interest in the ways food and culture intersect. There are forces at play, both internal and external to us, that have a hand in shaping the decisions we make at each meal. With ENC, Steve aims to uncover the bedrock nutrition principles that most of us would benefit from understanding, and to share these findings with others so they may be confident that their food choices and eating habits are fortifying them for the demands of the day. We've all got busy lives, and mealtimes, more often than not, should be a source of pleasure.

Drinks From The Garden with Claire Schreiber

Tuesday, August 11, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled, hands-on class with Claire Schreiber that will have you exploring a variety of ways to incorporate herbs, fruits and vegetables into drinks (mocktails and cocktails included) that you can make at home! We will spend time on vinegar shrubs - a fruit-infused vinegar that early settlers used as their own version of a refreshing sports drink. In addition to shrubs, we'll discuss other creative uses of fruits, herbs, and vegetables in drinks such as flavored simple syrups and lightly touch on the topic of kombucha. This is a very fun class with many opportunities to sample. Registration required; first 12 registrants are able to take samples home.

Claire has been a UMaine Cooperative Extension Master Food Preserver Volunteer since 2018 and has been enjoying preserving food at home much longer than that. She lives and works in Brunswick with her family.

Musical Senior Social Hour feat.

Classical Guitarist Bruno Panunzio

Wednesday, August 12, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

All ages are welcome to attend this special Senior Social Hour musical performance by Bruno Panunzio. Bruno is a versatile guitarist with experience in classical and flamenco guitar, as well as South American styles. He has performed as both a soloist and ensemble

musician in Italy and throughout the United States. As a recording artist, he has released two solo guitar albums, "Tarde Azul" (2022) and "Sincronismo" (2024). Alongside his performing career, Bruno is a dedicated teacher currently serving as Artist Faculty at the University of Southern Maine, where he teaches guitar and chamber music.

Canoe Dig It? Screening and Q&A with filmmaker Sam Dunning

Thursday, August 20, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join us at the library with a very special screening of "Canoe Dig It?" followed by a Q&A with director, writer, and lead actor Sam Dunning of Brunswick. Winner of "Best Maine Film" at the 2025 Maine Outdoor Film Festival, this mockumentary comedy about a fictional canoeing competition in Northern Maine is perfect for any fan of New England, Christopher Guest, summer sports or Marden's. Please register online if you plan to attend.

Film School: Bonnie and Clyde (1967) Tuesday, August 25, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

This month, Film School will travel back in time to the 1967 movie that changed everything in Hollywood. "Bonnie and Clyde" was and remains a landmark film in American history. Join us for a screening and discussion of this must-see film for any cinephile. Snacks welcome; popcorn provided.

Big Little Lies Picnic and Discussion with Finding Our Voices

Saturday, August 29, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Join us for an outdoor coffee-and-pastries book discussion on the hit book and HBO series "Big Little Lies," hosted in collaboration with nonprofit organization Finding Our Voices. While conversations about the reality of domestic violence are never easy, we hope that peering into the topic from the lens of popular culture may make it feel more accessible and safer. This discussion also comes on the heels of the August 25 release of "Big Little Truths," Liane Moriarty's long-awaited follow-up to her 2014 hit, and we will have a drawing for a free copy of the new book at this event. We hope to see you there.

REGULAR PROGRAMS

Senior Social Hour

Every Wednesday from 1-2 p.m.

Fireside Writing

Every Thursday from 5-6 p.m.

Death Cafe, with Davinica Nemtzw

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

Songwriting Workshop, with Jud Caswell

First Tuesday of each month, 6-8pm

Youth Services Recurring Programs:

Summer

Baby Storytime: Tuesdays from Noon - 1:00 p.m.

This program is designed for infants and toddlers from birth - 18 months old and their caregivers. Join us for 15 minutes of short stories, finger plays, rhymes, songs, and movements followed by 45 minutes of free time to play and chat. Please note, capacity for this program is 25 people. No prior registration required.

Toddler Story Time: Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Great for children who have transitioned to one nap per day and are alert in the mornings. This storytime is designed for children ages 18 months to 3 years old and their caregivers. Join us for one picture book, songs, finger rhymes, felt board stories and board book read-alongs. Please note, capacity for this program is 30 people. No prior registration required.

Lego Club : First Tuesday of the month from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

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

Venture Club: Wednesdays 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.

Youth Services Special Programs

My First Book Club

August 11, from 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

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. Featured Book of August: "Heartwood Hotel," by Kallie George. Caregivers asked to participate alongside. Registration required.

Miss MacDonald Has a Farm: Special Story Time

Friday, August 21, from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Children ages 3 through 7 years old and their caregivers are welcome to the garden outside of the Children's Room for a sing-along reading of "Miss MacDonald Has a Farm," by Kalee Gwarjanski. Come for a fun story and stay to contribute to a mural of vegetable prints to display in the children's room this fall. Bring your own clothing, bags, and more to create one-of-a-kind pieces of art to take home with you. Water-soluble paints, fabric paints, and vegetables will be provided. Child supervision is required at all times. No registration required.

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Road work at town center planned for next six weeks

Local birding report

By Kevin St. Jarre

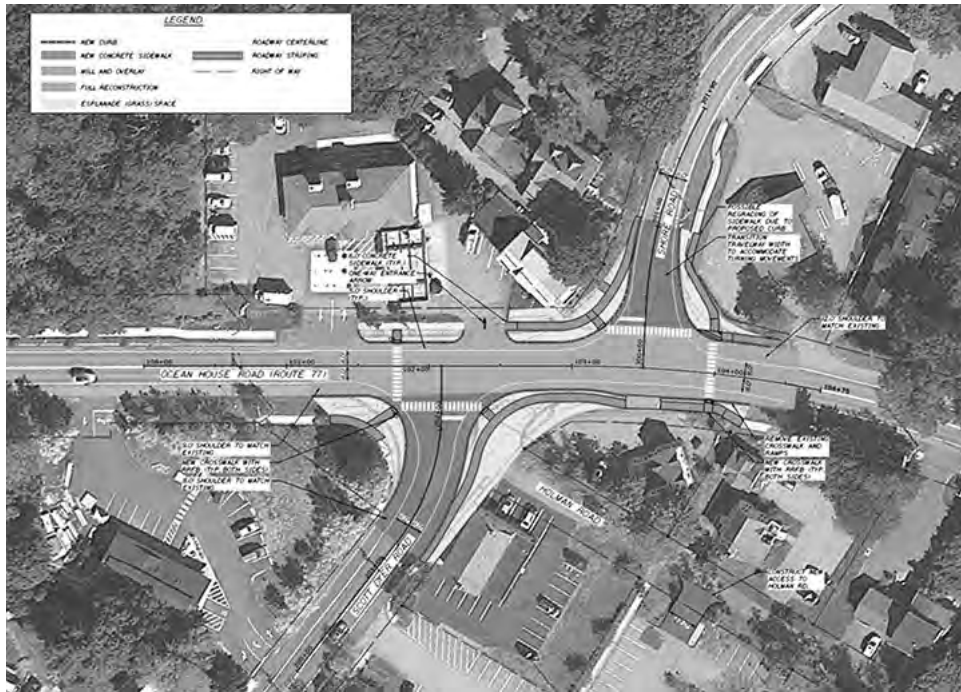


Photo courtesy of Cape Elizabeth Public Works

A project has begun to make the intersection of Scott Dyer Road, Route 77 and Shore Road safer. Drivers should be aware that the work is slated to take six weeks.

The project at the meeting of Scott Dyer Road, Route 77 and Shore Road has begun. In fact, the project will make the long-troubled intersection into less of a four-way affair, and more like two adjacent T-shaped junctions.

Scott Dyer Road and Shore Road will be less aligned, and space now used by driver's who do not wait for turning cars will be turned into esplanade, or grassy, space.

One of the entrances to Cumberland Farms will officially be enter-only, which is another measure intended to make driving in the intersection safer. New curbs, crosswalks, and concrete sidewalks will also be added.

The work is anticipated to last approximately six weeks, meaning it will last through when buses are running for the

first weeks of school. Traffic will move between alternating, one-lane configurations, with flaggers managing traffic.

According to a post on the Cape Elizabeth Police Department's Facebook page, drivers should anticipate minor traffic delays.

The notice also reads that the project will require a 2-day closure of a small portion of Scott Dyer Road at the intersection with Ocean House Road, and that detours for Scott Dyer Road will be established during this closure. The Scott Dyer closure is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 10 and Tuesday, August 11.

The CEPD post says that additional updates will be posted on the town website.

Nomination papers available

From Town Hall website

Nomination papers for serving on the Town Council and School Board became available on Wednesday, July 29 in the Town Clerk's office. The deadline to return completed papers for signature verification is Monday, September 7.

Seats Up for Election in November:

Town Council: 2 (Two) seats for one, three-year term to expire 12/2029
School Board: 2 (Two) seats for one, three-year term to expire 12/2029

The terms of town councilors Stephanie P. Anderson and Timothy L. Thompson expire in December 2026. The terms of school board members Jennifer L. McVeigh and Cynthia R. Voltz expire in December 2026.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Registered Voter of Cape Elizabeth
 - Residency Required During Term of Office
- Please see the Elections & Voting website for more information: https://www.capeelizabeth.gov/departments/town_clerk/elections_voting.php

By Brooks Bornhoff

July in Cape Elizabeth hums with quiet abundance. Birdsong drifts through marshes and shorelines—not the exuberant chorus of spring, but a more contemplative music. Juvenile calls mix with the rehearsals of late breeders, and the rhythms of migration begin to stir just beneath the surface. It's a time when the landscape feels full and fleeting, and when a watchful eye might glimpse seasonal transitions, perhaps a fledgling tracing its first flight path, a dowitcher probing the flats, or a wren bubbling into view. This is birding in Cape Elizabeth at summer's height: warm, wild and quietly expectant.

Looking back on July, what sticks out in my mind most were the following birding experiences across Cape; some I see as rights of summer passage, other new summer surprises.

On July 7, a sizable gathering of Short-billed Dowitchers caught my attention within the tidal wetlands section of Sawyer Road. These plump shorebirds, wielding surprisingly long bills like sewing needles, rhythmically probe the mud-flats for invertebrates with mesmerizing precision.

Despite their name, their bills rival those of the Long-billed Dowitcher; the "short" is merely comparative. But it's not just their feeding that fascinates; it's their understated beauty and adaptability. Breeding adults wear a tapestry of orange, gold and brown. Juveniles, edged in golden hues, shimmer in shifting light. They nest in boreal wetlands and migrate in flocks, favoring saltwater marshes and coastal lagoons. Their soft "tu-tu-tu" calls and elegant flight add a lyrical texture to northern bogs and our southern estuaries alike. Particularly intriguing is their molt strategy, referred to as molt migration.

While many shorebirds molt before heading south, Short-billed Dowitchers delay this process until reaching coastal wintering grounds. Spurwink Marsh serves as a critical stopover point for this long distance migrants, offering sanctuary for rest and renewal.

Other birds of note along this stretch of marsh on this summery day included the raspy trills of Nelson's Sparrows mixed with the chu-weep calls from Semipalmated Plovers. While observing a Snowy Egret doing its golden booted foraging dance, a similarly sized steel blue colored bird came into view. This bird was clearly taking advantage of the Snowy's foot-stirring, toe tapping behavior.

The uniform deep blue gray coloring led me to identify the bird as a Little Blue Heron, another bird that has become a summer right of passage for me to see. Little Blue Herons forage exclusively by walking slowly and employing head sways or tilts during hunting. Snowy Egrets have more tricks up their

sleeves as they do stand still, walk-slow, disturb-and-chase, and foot-stirring.

An uncommon migrant during the summer months along the southern Maine coast in spring through summer, the Little Blue Heron is a rare breeder on Stratton Island just off of Cape in Casco Bay.

Additionally, one late afternoon in July, my two sons and I travelled along the fringes of Great Pond in our canoe listening for the Marsh Wren song. Every year around this time I am eager to hear this bird's liquid gurgling song that melts into a mechanical chatter. Cape Elizabeth hosts four wren species annually. The Marsh Wren, similar in stature to the House Wren, nestles between the larger Carolina Wren and the diminutive Winter Wren. Only the Carolina Wren weathers spends all four seasons in Cape.

Also of note, in the afternoon on July 17 I set out across the Town Farm property, a 150 acre temporary easement protected by CELT and stumbled across Eastern Meadowlarks, two young males and mother.

This was the first time I have ever seen Meadowlarks in Cape Elizabeth. Amazingly, two Bobolinks appeared while I was watching the Meadowlarks. Juveniles of both species utilize protected properties like Town Farm and that includes pastures, hayfields, and grasslands to find food and avoid predators. Both species are ground nesters which contribute to their steep population declines through habitat loss and agricultural mowing practices that destroy nests during the breeding season. Meadowlarks are a Species of Special Concern in Maine and have a near threatened status. According to Bird Analyst's Breeding Bird Survey data, the Eastern Meadowlark population in Maine has collapsed by close to 99% since 1968. If the current trends persist, Maine may not see another Meadowlark by 2028.

Lastly, on more than one occasion in late July, while walking through Robinson Woods II and III, I was greeted by the measured songs of the Winter Wren accompanied by Black-throated Green Warblers and Hermit Thrushes. Warm summer breezes drifted through the forest canopy as their melodies echoed among the trees.

I am reminded that these are the moments that I find myself longing for during the darkest days of winter, when snow piles up outside and the landscape lies dormant. It's all here in the moment, an evergreen aroma, the filtered sunlight casting long shadows across the woods, and the timeless songs of the thrushes and a Winter Wren carrying through the forest.





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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.

Wednesday, August 5
Recycling Committee, Public Works Building, 6 p.m.

Monday, August 10
Town Council Workshop - Town Hall Chamber, 6 p.m.
Conservation Committee - CAN-CELED, Town Hall, Jordan Conference Room, 7 p.m.
Town Council Meeting - Town Hall Chamber, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 12
SB School Building Cmte, CEMS - Chorus Rm [Door #7] 14 Scott Dyer Rd, 5 p.m.
Community Services Committee, Community Services, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 18
Planning Board, Town Hall Chamber, 7 p.m.

Ongoing each week
Al-Anon, 7 p.m. Fridays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland. Parking in rear.
Alcoholics Anonymous, 2 p.m. Saturdays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland; 7 p.m. Wednesdays, St. Bartholomew Church; 7 p.m. Fridays, St. Alban's Church.
Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society, 9 a.m.-noon Mondays (museum only); 9 a.m. – noon Thursdays (archives and museum); 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays (museum only), 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 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.

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

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SERVICES

Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene
499 Ocean House Road (Route 77)
747-1113
www.capenazarene.org
Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:45 a.m.
Services streamed live or on demand: watch.capenazarene.org

Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church
280 Ocean House Road
799-8396
www.ceumc.org
Sanctuary Service: 10:00 a.m.
In-person Sunday services 10:00 a.m. For Zoom services, call 799-8396

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
29 Ocean House Road
799-4321
Sacrament Meeting: Sunday, 10 - 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Primary: 11:10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Church of the Second Chance
Greater Portland Christian School
1338 Broadway, South Portland
641-3253
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Rise Church
1047 Congress Street, Portland
874-9779
<https://www.riseportland.church>
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School for children: 10:00 a.m.
Services streamed live on Facebook

Congregation Bet Ha'am
81 Westbrook St., South Portland
879-0028
www.bethaam.org
Worship: Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
Family Shabbat Services: Second Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Hope Community Church
879 Sawyer Street South Portland
799-4565
www.hopesopo.com
www.facebook.com/hopesopo
Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

Kid's Church for ages 4 through grade 5
Service videos available on our website

Promised Land World Reach Center
536 Cottage Road, South Portland
799-3152
Sunday Prayer & Intercession: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Family Bible Studies: Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Sermon recordings available to download

Redeemer Lutheran Church - LCMS
410 Main Street, Gorham
839-7100
www.RedeemerMaine.org
Sunday Bible Class for all ages: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.
Services are in person and streamed on Facebook and YouTube

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church
885 Shore Road
799-4014
www.stalbansmaine.org
Sunday Services:
Rite 1 with Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.
Rite 2 with Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Live Streaming on YouTube (stalbanschannel)
Children's Programs 9:30 a.m.
Celtic Eventide 5:30 p.m.
Room for all

St Bartholomew Catholic Church of Saint John Paul II Parish
8 Two Lights Road, **207-883-0334**
Website: www.JP2me.org
Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.
Daily Mass: Mon. and Wed. 8 a.m.
Sacrament of Confession: Mon. 8:30-9 a.m.
Additional Mass times in Scarborough & South Portland listed on website

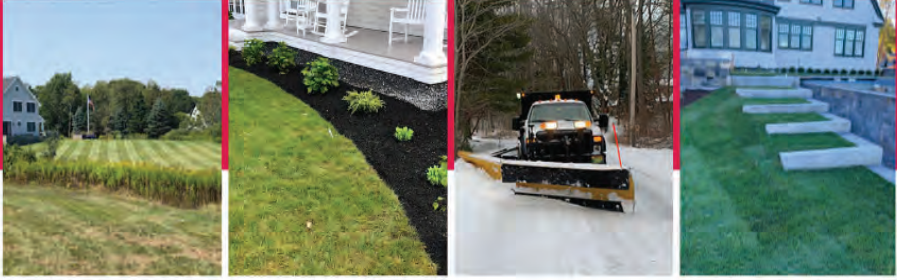
First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
301 Cottage Road, South Portland
799-3361
www.fccucc.org
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. in person and streamed on Facebook & YouTube

First Congregational Church of Scarborough
167 Black Point Road, Scarborough
883-2342
www.fccscarborough.com
Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Nursery Care

Got a story to share?
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Piano, Voice, Guitar, Ukulele lessons for all ages. Beginner through intermediate. Carey Rasco: 232-7015

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

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

BUSINESSES/SERVICES

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Meeting

Continued from page 2

The updated park logo that was created a couple of years ago will be the focal point of a new sign at the park's entrance and that will be installed soon. There have also been improvements to Battery Blair that substantially cleaned up the area and made it safer for visitors. An engineering study was completed for Powers Road that will address road shoulders, re-striping and repaving of the road.

Kearney shared that there is a "very good set of revenue streams" to the park and the town's budget including nearly \$900,000 in funds from parking fees. Almost \$300,000 of which come from commercial buses, tour buses, trolleys and vans that bring visitors to the park. The Beach to Beacon event generated approximately \$43,000 in revenue, and food vendors generated around \$34,000 in funds. The park totaled "about \$1.3 million" in revenue for the past fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2026.

There are no "huge projects" on the docket for the park committee this year; however, they will be focusing on deferred maintenance projects such as fixing road curbing, removing invasive species and landscaping work.

Appointment of Town Clerk

In accordance with article 3 section 1.1. of the town charter, town manager Patrick Fox recommended the appointment of Melissa Newsom from interim Town Clerk to a permanent position of Town Clerk.

Chair Scifres said that Newsom has been "exceptional" in filling the role from April through the June elections and is an "innovative and valuable member of the staff team. The motion was approved unanimously by the council. Newsom's appointment was made official starting on July 20, 2026.

School Renovation Loan from Maine Bond Bank

The Cape Elizabeth school department is seeking a loan from the Maine Municipal Bond Banks School Revolving Renovation Fund (SRRF) to finance renovation work

Happy Birthday To Our Forever Loved Grandson



Love Grandma Schmitz

at Pond Cove Elementary. This renovation work is part of the long term capital plan for school facilities with an amount not to exceed \$685,732.

Marcia Abbott, business manager for Cape Elizabeth schools, said that the Pond Cove Elementary renovation project is the largest approved through the SRRF program. The program offers 30% grant and 70% loan at zero percent financing. For the total project amount, \$205,730 will be forgiven with the grant, leaving \$480,012 to be financed over ten years with zero percent interest.

The project will focus on comprehensive safety, communications and accessibility. It will include "clear, audible and visual messages" throughout the school to include emergency communications integrated with fire and safety systems. The work will improve daily systems and provide a light system and intercom system outside near the playground for security purposes.

This will be the third project that Cape Elizabeth schools have been awarded with the SRRF. The council passed the motion unanimously.

Cape Community Arena Group Agreement extension

Councilor Sahrbeck said that the Cape Community Arena Group are requesting an extension of one year to their memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the interest in, and use of, property at Gull Crest for a covered, open air ice arena.

The extension is being requested so that the project's designs are able to successfully fulfill the planning board's processes for review and approval. The motion passed unanimously.

General Fund Budget Carryforwards FY 2026 to FY 2027

Fox shared that town's department heads are asked each year to request their carryforward funds be carried to the following year's budget for pending expenditures. These funds flow into the unassigned fund balance. Fox said that there is "only \$140,000 to carry forward" and is a reflection of the department heads' ability to accomplish projects and remain under budget. The council voted unanimously to approve carryforward funds from fiscal year 2026 to fiscal year 2027.

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The "KID" Courier



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

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

Send submissions to: editor@capecourier.com

Wiggins earns master's from Harvard



Contributed photo

Ryan Wiggins of Cape Elizabeth has earned a master's degree in Educational Leadership from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, marking his second graduate degree. He previously earned a master's degree from Oregon State University and completed his undergraduate studies at the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Wiggins is the son of Gene and Jackie Wiggins, also of Cape Elizabeth. His wife, Heather Wiggins, is an educator in the Scarborough school district. The couple's two daughters, Willa and Winnie, attend school in Cape Elizabeth, where the family has resided for the past nine years.

Mr. Wiggins is employed by Apple, where he works within the company's education division.

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B2B

Continued from page 1

The Cape Courier: Congratulations on completing the World Marathon Major Six Stars. I know you had a knee replaced during that effort, how is it holding up?

Joan Benoit Samuelson: Oh, thank you. I had a knee replaced in the middle of COVID. I've run three marathons since. I was just hoping to be able to jog; it's served me well. I have a lot of miles on these legs and joints, the fact that I'm still able to get out there and run is quite a gift.

Courier: You've said you're working to encourage young people to get into sports, especially girls. In many sports, an athlete is chasing a ball or a puck, but there is something about runners...they seem to really love their sport. What is it about running that makes it so special?

JBS: I think running is affordable and accessible for young children as well as adults. You can do it anywhere, at any time, and you just need a pair of running shoes. You don't need a lot of special equipment or facilities. You basically go out your front door or office or wherever and run.

Courier: At Cape Elizabeth High School, the cross-country team head coach is Andrew Lupien and the assistant coach is Mike Young. What advice would you have for these running coaches when it comes to making their sport all it can be for these young people?

JBS: I just think the sharing of one's passion in the sport is really the greatest

gift you can give.

Courier: What would you tell the parents of a young child who wants to get into sports and running?

JBS: (laughs) Don't let them run the TD Beach to Beacon 10K until they're 14 years old.

Courier: Until they're 14.

JBS: I think that young children should be exposed to a variety of sports and disciplines. I think let them chart their own course. You know there are a lot of parents who live vicariously through their children. I think that's a disservice to young people, BUT that's only my opinion.

Courier: Some people say that the hardest part of going for a run is putting your shoes on, and that once you had them on, you'd go. What do you feel is really challenging about staying motivated to run?

JBS: You know, I think every runner, at every level, has good days and bad days... For me, it starts my day. It gets me going. I do a lot of thinking while I'm out running in the morning and try to prioritize my day, and what's going on during the week, what's significant and what's not.

Courier: I know a story is better, but if you were going to design a poster for the bedroom wall of a young athlete just getting into competitive running, what would it say?

JBS: Follow your heart, and live your dreams.

Courier: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

JBS: I'd just like to thank the town of Cape Elizabeth for supporting this race for so many years, and for all the host families who open their homes to runners from around the world. That's a real gift. I know many of the runners continue to stay in

touch with their host families, some come back to visit, some of the families have gone to weddings, you know, it's special here in Cape Elizabeth. I lived a charmed childhood; it's a special place.



Photo by Kevin St. Jarre

Joan Benoit Samuelson pictured with Elodie Girouard. Elodie will be starting second grade at Pond Cove this fall and really enjoyed participating in the cross country program this past spring offered by Community Services.

To The Community,

This past January restaurant tenant Tacos Y Tequilla ghosted without notice from 517 Ocean House Rd. leaving behind substantial debts and unmet obligations to a wide range of entities. Notably, there were no immigration issues. This level of irresponsibility is disappointing and sad. But it's now time to move on to something different.

The longstanding local owners of 517 Ocean House are committed to seeing that what potentially comes next ideally rises to the level of a sustainable local and national gem. Echoing for example The Well at Jordan's Farm or Erin French's Lost Kitchen in Freedom Maine. Cape Elizabeth is an extraordinary community with exceptional fundamentals. What comes next for this location, ideally, should also be exceptional. Let's do our best to get it right this time.

We are now entertaining serious and well qualified purchase offers and concepts. Our scope is national. But ultimately our focus is local. As community members let's put our collective heads together in order to get the word out and expand this search, reaching for something that is well beyond the ordinary and reflects Cape community values – not least of which includes delicious food. Let's see what happens!

Thoughtful and serious inquiries to:

Chris Craig, The Dunham Group
chriscraig@dunham-group.com

