



The Bell Tower

Newsletter of the Ocean Park Association

**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE**

...more than just a day
at the beach

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<https://www.facebook.com/OPMaine/>

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NEWS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ocean Park Association Year End - We Need Your Support!

The Ocean Park Association sends out a donation appeal twice a year. This year we wanted to share with you some information about why it's **crucial** for YOU to financially support the OPA with a year-end donation.

Thanks to all of our members and supporters, through some challenging times during the pandemic, we have been able to have stable revenue. **However**, at the same time, our expenses and future expenses have increased significantly. It's not just the cost-of-living increases - we have significant improvements that need to be made to several of our buildings, preservation of our natural resources like Guild Park, and technology improvements.

Despite these challenges, The Ocean Park Association has made great strides in 2023 and are actively planning a robust 2024.

What did we accomplish in 2023?

- We welcomed Lori Gramlich as our new Executive Director.
- We hosted over 250 programs during the 2023 11-week season.
- We hosted a successful spring clean-up day with members.
- We launched a new OPA website.
- A significant amount of our budget goes towards building repairs and maintenance. In 2023 we were able to make significant repairs and improvements to **The Temple** (new curtains and lighting system), **Porter Hall** (safety improvements accessing the storage area), **Tennis Courts** (extensive repairs needed after the December storm), **Library** (electric and roof repairs), upgrades at **Cheney** (kitchen cabinets, ceiling repairs) and window repairs) and an engineer was hired to survey the **Rec Hall** for future improvements.

What do we need to accomplish in 2024?

Enhanced and increased programming, major improvements to our buildings, further initiatives in Guild Park, as well as significant upgrades to our computers, and upgrading our processing systems to make it easier for our members to use online payment options.

We are asking our members to reflect on how important Ocean Park is to YOU and to *prioritize the Ocean Park Association in your holiday giving plans*. This will help us to preserve our programs, our resources, and our buildings and plan an exciting 2024!

- If you have already given this year, please consider a second donation.
- If you could increase your annual donation amount, we would appreciate it.
- If you have never before given – now is the time.

Ocean Park is more than just a day at the beach; it is history, it is memories, it is tradition, and it is a legacy we all share.

Thank you for your financial support and helping us to preserve, protect and improve our buildings and our programs.

BOARD UPDATE ON THE OCEAN PARK VISION,

By Linda Lauritano



With the hiring of our new Executive Director this spring, further discussions on strategies for carrying the Vision forward were deferred. We wanted our new Executive Director to have time to get to know the OPA and the community so that we could have her input.

That doesn't mean we didn't continue to make progress on the goals that the Board established in 2022.

In 2021, after surveying members, we held a 2-day Visioning Session with the OPA Board of Directors. In April, The Board adopted the OPA Vision Statement, which can be found on our OPA Webpage: <https://oceanpark.org/mission-vision/>

Progress on Vision Goals in 2023 include:

- Successful Volunteer Spring Clean-up May 2023
- New and updated Website rolled out in June 2023
- Enhanced social media presence with notices of events, videos and more to our Facebook and Instagram pages
- Revised Bylaws adopted at the July 2023 Annual Meeting.
- Addition of new Environment and Natural Resources of Ocean Park Committee – supporting efforts such as Goosefare Brook Restoration Project and addressing the woolly adelgid infestation killing hemlock trees in Guild Park
- Lowering the age of eligibility for membership to 18
- Enhanced engagement with Volunteers
- Development of a Personnel subcommittee and Technology subcommittee.

Our current focus is on financial stability for OPA's future.

- An ad hoc committee met to strategize ways to increase giving and revenue and reported their findings to the OPA Board in October 2023. The Development Committee is actively implementing these recommendations.
- Potential Grants and diversified funding opportunities are being researched and pursued.

During this season of giving, please consider making a gift to the OPA. Your contribution helps to fund these and other important initiatives which support the OPA Vision and the Chautauqua Mission.

We look forward to continuing to make progress in the upcoming year!

A NOTE FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to be engaged with such a caring and welcoming community. As your new executive director, I have been pleased to have had the opportunity to meet so many incredible people and to have worked with so many dedicated volunteers – all of you – who care so much for our lovely seaside community of Ocean Park. It is our love of Ocean Park which unites us. During this season of giving, please consider a gift to the Ocean Park Association.

Thank You—Lori

“For it is in the Giving, That We Receive” ~ St. Francis of Assisi

LEADERSHIP & NOMINATING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES UPDATE ,

By Lizzie Morrison

As the weather shifts and the calendar changes over, we are heading into a season of giving and gratitude. We have so much to be thankful for with our individual connections to the Ocean Park Association. Whether you visit for a day and enjoy a Raspberry Lime Rickey at the Soda Fountain, or you are staying with your family for a week and taste the Cinnamon Buns from the OP Grocery Store, we all have a connection to the community of Ocean Park. It is important to show our appreciation for this wonderful place and this can be done in a variety of different ways.

Being a member of the OPA is the first way to get involved. If you haven't already done so, please be sure to renew your annual membership. In addition to your annual membership, another way to give is to volunteer. The OPA is always looking for people to volunteer for an event or even join a committee. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Ocean Park Association, please reach out to our OPA executive director, Lori Gramlich to discuss possibilities.

One of the best gifts you can give a family member is the gift of membership. Please consider growing our network by gifting a membership to a loved one.

The Ocean Park Association relies on annual giving from its members as well. Please consider showing your gratitude for Ocean Park by contributing financially. The generosity of our members allows for engaging educational, recreational, religious and cultural programs during the summer months, all of which we could not do without your support.

GROUNDS UPDATE, By Lori Gramlich

We wanted to be sure that you all understand that our compost station on Temple Ave is for compostable waste only. Sadly, we have seen more and more dumping of household waste which compromises our efforts for compost. And, recently, someone saw fit to remove our sign at our community compost station indicating "No Bagged Yard Waste". Fortunately, one of our many dedicated volunteers, Anne Parsons Marchant and her husband, David, repaired and reposted this sign.

Additionally, the overflow of household garbage, car trash and pet excrements at our trash bin in Guild Park prompted us to remove this bin. Understanding that we live in a community of responsible adults and conscientious pet owners, we had trust that people who enjoy our lovely Park would dispose of their waste appropriately. While we do have part-time maintenance staff who are dedicated to assuring our Park is cleaned and well maintained, this situation had become untenable. Please - Be respectful of our grounds and take responsibility for your trash.

If you need a trash receptacle, contact the Old Orchard Beach Department of Public Works <https://www.oobmaine.com/departement/public-works/curbside-trash-recycling-disposal/>

**And remember to carry in- carry out.
YOU can Truly make the difference. Be the change you want to see.**



HOLIDAY GIVING IDEAS

Keep Ocean Park in your thoughts when you are trying to find the right gift for someone special –

Give a gift of OPA membership

Consider adding a new family member or a friend to the Ocean Park family the holiday season. Membership dues are \$150 for Adults, \$25 for Youth (under 21) and \$2,500 for a Life Membership - and most of the amount is tax-deductible. If you wish to give a 2024 membership as a Christmas gift, you can:

- Stop by the office;
- Call Sharon at the office at (207) 934-9068, ext. 0;
- Email the office at opa@oceanpark.org; or
- Print and complete the membership application form found online at <http://www.oceanpark.org/pdf/MembershipApplication.pdf>, and send it in to the OPA office along with your payment.

If you do not want the welcome packet to be sent directly to the new member, you must indicate that this is a gift and to whom the packet should be sent.

Make a Donation to the Annual Fund in recognition of someone special

In addition to your donation to the Year End Giving Appeal this year, consider making a donation in the name of someone special to you and to whom this gift would be meaningful.

Stop by the OPA Office - we have a set of wonderful **coasters** or a Christmas tree **ornament** for sale! Don't miss these one-of-a-kind gifts!

HOLIDAY SHOPPING IN OCEAN PARK! *By Lisa Kidd and Deb Dolan*

If Shopping Local is your goal, Cottage Designs just made it easier!! We have decided to stay open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, from now until Christmas.

We know it can be a bleak time in Ocean Park, and we want to “Keep the Lights on”! Please support us and we all win. Local safe shopping throughout the whole season. We have all the OP gear and jewelry on your list. Handbags and crossbodies? Oh man do we have them. Seabags, check! Stonewall Jams and jellies, fig for your charcuterie boards. Got that. Christmas everything? It's here and on its way. We have been buying all of August and September to fill the store back up for the holiday season! Hope to see you soon!



IN MEMORIAM

The following is a list of those friends of Ocean Park whose passing has come to the attention of the Association since the printing of the June Bell Tower.

To notify the Ocean Park Association of the passing of a loved one, please contact the office at (207) 934-9068, ext. 0, or opa@oceanpark.org.

Vivian M. Kennedy	Aromas, CA and Ocean Park, ME	July 23, 2023
Richard Kessler	Hobe Sound, FL and Ocean Park, ME	October 6, 2023
William "Bill" O'Donnell	Old Orchard Beach, ME	October 18, 2023

Interested in making a donation to the OPA in memory or in honor of a loved one? You can send a check to the OPA at PO Box 7296, Ocean Park, ME 04063. Be sure to write in the memo line who the gift is honoring. Have a specific fund in mind? Give us a call to learn more!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT, By Lori Gramlich

The community of Ocean Park is such a special place for so many. We all have a deep love for this beautiful community and the Ocean Park Association is so grateful for the countless volunteers who do so much for our community. This month, as we enter the season of gratitude, and giving, we would like to focus on some of our incredible volunteers, namely Dayle and Steve Moreau.

Dayle and Steve have been coming to Ocean Park since 1971 and are lifetime members of the OPA as are their children and grandchildren. Dayle serves on the OPA Property committee as she and Steve both feel that it is important to care for and maintain the OPA owned properties so that they will be here for many generations to enjoy.

The Moreaus have been volunteering their time during this past Autumn logging in nearly 300 hours, working at Cheney which was built around 1881 and has needed some love and attention. With love, dedication, hard work, grit and lots of elbow grease, Dayle and Steve have repaired doors, fixed locks, refreshed the kitchen with newly painted cabinets and repainted a rusted refrigerator. In the dining room they added a few extra cabinets for storage so that the dishes now have a home.

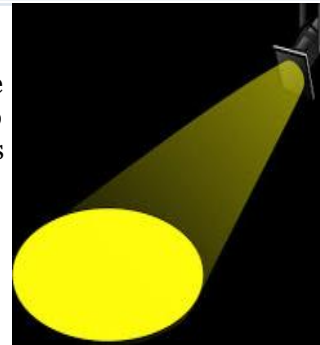
Steve has worked many hours on non-functioning windows so that they can be opened and will stay open without prop sticks. The shower doors have been leveled, an inner rail installed, has new caulking has been applied, all to prevent leaking down into the kitchen as has happened a number of times in the past. Dresser drawers have been fixed and glued so they will function as they should.

If staying there, you will now have a towel bar for each person in the room to hang their wet towel on after their shower or from the beach.

This is just a short recap of some of the jobs that Dayle and Steve have accomplished! The work they have done is incredible and we are so very grateful for their commitment and yes – elbow grease to our beloved Cheney! Dayle stated: "We were happy to do this for the safety and comfort of the guests at Cheney in 2024 and years to come!"

We would like to also thank Dave & Vicki Keene for their generous donations of furniture, cabinets and many other articles used for repairs and/or additional improvements for this labor of love.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the OPA, please contact executive director Lori Gramlich – We are so very appreciative of all of you who love this beautiful Park. Peace and Blessings during this Season of Gratitude.





Deck the Park 2023!



Join us at Jakeman Hall on Sunday, December 3, at 12:30 pm.

All decorations will be provided. Dress warmly and don't forget your gloves and wire cutters!

FRESH BOUGHS ARE NEEDED!

If you have any fresh tree boughs or know of any areas where they may have fallen recently, contact Walt Dowling at 207-281-2644 or let Sharon in the office know (207-934-9068, ext. 0).

The fun continues with the Ocean Park Holiday Potluck Supper

----- at 5:30 pm in Jakeman Hall-----

Bring your favorite dish, catch up with friends and neighbors, and warm yourself with the spirit of the holiday season!

Come to one or both! Open to everyone in the Park!

Please sign up in advance at the OPA Office or at the Post Office.

Let's help the Food Pantry!

Bring a non-perishable item to donate to the Old Orchard Beach Food Pantry!

There will be a collection box at Jakeman Hall during the Potluck Supper - let's fill it with non-perishables for the Old Orchard Beach Food Pantry! Just bring in one item - together we will make a difference! Healthy foods and supplies are needed by many of our families. There is also a collection box in the Ocean Park Post Office year round.

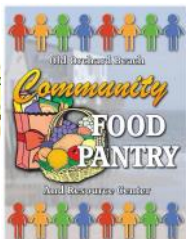


Thank You!



Mark Your Calendars!

Mahjongg is held at Jakeman Hall every Tuesday at 7:00 pm (except the second Tuesday when Naughty Needles is held) from now until June 4. Hosted by Deb Guimont.



Naughty Needles happens the second Tuesday of every month from now until June 11. Bring your newest needle craft project. "Needlers and Hookers" meet at Jakeman Hall at 7:00 pm. Hosted by Ginny McCall.



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SALES and RENTALS

"Vacation at the Beach"

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS
from our families to
yours.

Thank you for your
business in 2023,
and best wishes in
2024 from
Ocean Park Realty.

Chris Whittaker
Jeff Chute



Chris Whittaker
Designated Broker/Realtor
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Ocean Park Realty

Ocean Park Realty, a subsidiary of the Ocean Park Association, is a full-service brokerage that can serve your real estate needs throughout Southern Maine. If you are looking to purchase or sell your cottage, home or condo, or if you are looking for a seasonal rental, call or stop by the office in Jakeman Hall at 14 Temple Avenue, or call (207) 937-5054. Jeff and Chris are always ready to help you!



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Ocean Park Association

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