



The Bell Tower

Newsletter of the Ocean Park Association

...more than just a day at the beach

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STAYING OCEAN PARK STRONG, By Cindy Benedict, OPA President

I was asked to write an article for the Bell Tower many weeks ago. This is now my third attempt to come up with some timely, and relevant, thoughts. However, as I write this from my home in Massachusetts on Saturday, January, 13th, any previous versions no longer feel appropriate. And so, I will begin again.

Like many of you, I have spent much of the day been trying to follow what is happening in real time in Ocean Park today. For our community members who are dealing with this storm firsthand, we are very tremendously grateful for your reports, pictures and videos. I cannot tell you how important it is to all of us to see, and try to understand, what is happening in our beloved Ocean Park. We all pray for your safety and wellbeing.

As a teen, I remember visiting Ocean Park during a tremendous winter storm. Of course, I wasn't able to truly understand the ramifications of what was happening at that time. I will never forget not being able to walk up Temple Ave and past the tennis courts due to the flooded streets. I remember seeing homes with water marks two-thirds of the way up the outside walls. Debris from the destroyed pier littered the beach. Unlike today, few people lived in Ocean Park year-round at that time, and social media did not exist to record those events. Those pictures live in my mind, never to be forgotten.

I was able to visit Ocean Park after the first storm. I spoke with several residents and town employees. Each person told similar stories of neighbors helping neighbors, offering places to stay, meals, equipment, and assistance. Our community is a very special place. You all understand that. We survived that storm and came back better and stronger. We will again.

See back page for restoration updates.



VOLUNTEERS!!! Come join us for our **annual spring community clean-up day on Saturday, May 18th!** It just might take a community to get the Park in tip-top shape for this summer season!

We plan to **meet at the Temple around 8:30 am.** Wear/bring your work gloves, gardening stuff, rakes and shovels and let's spiff up the Park and our buildings! There's inside and outside work opportunities for everyone.

2024 GUEST PREACHERS AND SPEAKERS (Sunday services 10:30 am at the Temple)



Sunday, June 23
Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson
Dean
Worcester Polytechnic Inst.
Bus. Sch.
Worcester, MA



Sunday, August 4
Rev. Brandan Robertson
Pastor
Sunnyside Reformed Church
New York City, NY



Photo Coming Soon

Sunday, June 30
Rev. Fr. Basil Arabatzis
St. Demetrios Greek Ortho-
dox Church
Saco, ME



Sunday, August 11
Rev. Dr. Melanie Johnson-
DeBaufre
Interim Dean
Drew Univ. Theology School
Madison, NJ



Sunday, July 7
Rev. Dr. Doug Scalise
Pastor
Brewster Baptist Church
Brewster, MA



Sunday, August 18
Rev. Dr. Marcia B. Bailey
Pastor
First Baptist Church of Pottstown
Pottstown, PA



Sunday, July 14
Rabbi Howard Mandell
Congregation Beth Israel
Andover, MA



Sunday, August 25
Rev. Cynthia Maybeck
Spirit Story
Worcester, MA



Sunday, July 21
Rev. Dr. Nancy Taylor
Retired Senior Minister
Old South Church
Boston, MA



Sunday, Sept. 1
Rev. Dr. Richard Allen Hyde
Pastor
Community United Church of
Christ
San Carlos, CA



Sunday, July 28
Rev. Steve Garnaas-
Holmes
Retired Pastor
Rolling Ridge Retreat &
Conf Ctr
No. Andover, MA



Ocean Park Association
Founded 1881



Join us for the 2024 Music Festival!

Good music and entertainment in a timeless setting

- June 23** **Alive in the Root**, a roots band from southern Maine that performs original music - a mix of bluegrass, folk, blues, jazz and covers
- June 30** **Trevor & Company**, featuring Trevor Grenier, a piano player/singer/performer who plays classic rock tunes from Billy Joel, Beatles, Elton John, David Bowie and more
- July 7** **North River Music**, an Americana band with strong harmonies and expressive musicianship. From Crosby Stills and Nash, The Eagles and Dylan to traditional American standards
- July 14** **Seacoast Wind Ensemble**, performing an array of musical pieces including classic marches, contemporary compositions, jazz and popular tunes. Held at The Temple.
- July 28** **Mule Fuel**, featuring local residents Don Bouchard and Alex MacPhail performing classic pop and rock songs from Bob Dylan, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Stevie Ray Vaughn and more. Their acoustic set combines elements of blues and jam music with modern arrangements of traditional sounds and songs.
- August 2** **Beatles Tribute** - come hear the timeless music of the legendary Fab Four and be delighted by all the fan favorites that we have all come to know and love. Held at The Temple.
- August 4** **Par 5** is a local band made up of five members who have lived in the OOB Dunegrass community playing a little bit of something for everyone, from country, folk, rock and roll, and everything in between
- August 11** **Ocean Park Choir Concert** featuring country, classical, sacred rock, ballads and more Held at the Temple.
- August 18** **Trevor & Company Encore**, featuring Trevor Grenier, a piano player/singer/performer who plays classic rock tunes from Billy Joel, Beatles, Elton John, David Bowie and more
- August 25** **Kids at Play**: Kids at Play combines Al Smith's bass guitar and Ken Janson's percussion skills to offer music selections ranging from The Beatles and James Taylor to Willie Nelson and Rod Stewart, playing all your favorites that you know by heart

Interested in sponsoring a band? Contact Lori Gramlich via email at director@oceanpark.org

All performances are held at the Bandstand (11 Temple Ave. in Old Orchard Beach) and begin at 7:00 pm (unless otherwise noted).

Cost of all events: \$5.00

Bring your beach or lawn chair to Bandstand events!

For more information, please visit our website at

www.oceanpark.org

OFFERING FAMILY-FRIENDLY PROGRAMMING SINCE 1881

14 Temple Avenue • P.O. Box 7296 • Ocean Park, ME 04063

Ph: 207-934-9068 • Email: opa@oceanpark.org • www.oceanpark.org

EDUCATION | CULTURAL ARTS | SPIRITUAL | RECREATION

WOOD ISLAND TOURS - 2024, by *Richard Koehler, Chair of the Education Committee*

The floods of 2024 are (hopefully) behind us, but the clean up and repairs here in Ocean Park are not yet complete. The same is true for Wood Light Island Light Station. As houses and other buildings in Ocean Park were being buffeted by waves and flooded by rising water, Wood Island Light Station was undergoing the same indignation. While the lighthouse itself and the keeper's house survived the storm intact, the boathouse, boat ramp, and part of the raised walkway across the island did not.



The boathouse, which has stood for over 100 years at the head of the ramp designed to launch and recover the keeper's boat or peapod, was lifted off its foundation and deposited on rocks about 25 feet away. The ramp and its connection to the walkway are both awaiting fair weather so repairs can be completed there, also. But the Friends of Wood Island Lighthouse (FOWIL) are going to attempt to provide tours of the light station again in July and August.

The Education Committee of the OPA has arranged with FOWIL to again set aside some 2024 tours for OPA members, their families, and OPA donors. Specific dates have not yet been established, but the tours commence on or about July 1 and take place on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings. They leave from Vines Landing in Biddeford Pool at 9 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM, and 12 PM, and last for about 1.5 hours. Transportation to and from Wood Island is provided by FOWIL in their boat, Lightrunner, which can accommodate 13 guests on each trip.

If you are interested in taking an OPA tour, please contact the OPA office via email with your name, phone number, email address, and dates when you will be in Ocean Park this summer. This will give us a count as to how many spaces to request. **IT WILL NOT REGISTER YOU FOR A TOUR.** All participants must be aware of the following:

1. All tour participants must wear proper footwear. **NO FLIP FLOPS!!** You **WILL** be turned away. Sneakers are strongly suggested. Sandals must attach to your feet at both your toes and your heels. Nonslip soles must be on your shoes.
2. All tour participants must be able to walk the .5 miles across the island to the lighthouse, the .5 miles back to the boathouse, around the uneven grounds, and in the keeper's house. Climbing the tower is optional for guests 10 and older.
3. All tour participants must make their own reservation with FOWIL by registering with them at woodislandlighthouse.org and clicking on tours. We will give you the date and time of the tour; you will have to provide all the information required and pay for the tour. In 2023 the ticket prices were \$35/adult and \$20/child under 12. **OPA WILL HANDLE NO MONEY AND WILL NOT MAKE RESERVATIONS OR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.**
4. Because of limited parking at Vines Landing, carpooling is recommended.
5. If you are not going to be in Ocean Park when the tours are scheduled, you can contact FOWIL at woodislandlighthouse.org to schedule your own tour. The portal will open on or about June 1, and tours fill up quickly, so register early.

After leaving your contact information with the OPA office, you will be contacted by Rick Koehler, Education Committee Member and FOWIL Docent, when it is time for you to register with FOWIL for your tour. It will be your responsibility to register, pay for your tour, and make your way to Vines Landing in Biddeford Pool ½ hour before your scheduled tour. Carpool if possible and remember to wear the proper footwear. On the day of your tour if it is cancelled because of rough seas or foul weather, you will be contacted in advance by FOWIL. If you have any questions, you may contact Rick at drdk@sbcglobal.net.

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 November 2023 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.

William C. Thurston	Groton, MA and Ocean Park, ME	December 31, 2022
W.J. Duke Dufresne	Sacramento, CA and Ocean Park, ME	October 20, 2023
Roland Jalbert	Saco, ME and Ocean Park, ME	November 29, 2023
Dorothy Gardner	Waltham, MA and Ocean Park, ME	January 19, 2024
Carter Whittaker	Ocean Park, ME	March 1, 2024
Lucy A. Parlee	Quincy, MA and Ocean Park, ME	March 7, 2024

The following is a list of new Ocean Park Association members since the November Edition of the Bell Tower:

Regular Members:



Peter Anania
Karen Ceseretti
David Dennett
Lisa L. Dumas
John Edwards
Don Hoenig
Ginger McMullin
Randy McMullin
Rachael Oatis
Julie Sheehan

FROM THE BOARDROOM, by Kathy Wade, Board Secretary

The Board of Directors and Committees have been meeting regularly throughout the Fall and Winter. Key actions taken by the Board include:

Adoption of 2024 Budget. In November, the Board approved a \$610,600 budget for 2024, which was presented by Terry Gallagher, Treasurer, and had been approved by the Administration & Finance Committee.

Appointment of New Board Members to Fill Vacancies. In November, Stuart Goldstein was appointed as Chair of the Administration & Finance Committee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Kate Howe. In February, Linda Sulkala was appointed by the Board as Chair of the Education Committee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Rick Koehler. Rick will continue as a member of the Education Committee. Both Stuart and Linda will serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Association.

Adoption of Two New Personnel Policies. The new Personnel Subcommittee, which is charged with reviewing the Association's personnel and compensation policies and practices, developed two new policies to address gaps in the Association's written policies, both of which were unanimously approved by the Executive Committee. A new *Paid Time Off Policy*, which applies to full-time employees, sets the terms and conditions for accruing, requesting, and taking paid time off for vacation, sick time, holidays and personal time. A *Harassment Policy*, which is intended to ensure that OPA provides an environment free of harassment, including sexual harassment. This policy includes an Incident Report Form and the requires harassment training for all employees, OPA committee and Board members, volunteers and 3rd party vendors.

Funding Flood Restoration Projects. The Board has been kept up to date on the impact of the January flooding and has authorized the use of funds in the Association's Maintenance Reserve Fund and other sources for the various clean-up and restoration projects, which are ongoing.



Biddeford Mills Walking Tours for Ocean Park Members and Friends – The Education Committee of OPA is pleased to have made arrangements with the Biddeford Mills Museum to host two private walking tours of the mills complex for Ocean Parkers. Tours are led by local historians and former mill workers who know well the stories of these historic textile mills. Tours are scheduled for **10am on Wednesday July 17 and 10am on Wednesday August 14**. Cost for adults is \$25 for a 90 min tour; children ages 5-17 are free. Maximum of 20 adults per tour. Click this link [OPA Biddeford Mills Tour](#) to secure your spot and join us! Questions? Contact Andrea from the Education Committee at andrea.lee.esser@gmail.com.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING AT JORDAN -
2024 LINE-UP
7:30 PM AT JORDAN HALL
COST: \$5.00**

- July 10** - Port City Sound, barbershop quartet
- July 17** - Hyperion Trumpet Ensemble
- July 24** - Fred & Friends: A Tribute to Roland Jalbert
- July 31** - The FLUKES, ukulele musicians
- August 7** - The Temple Brass
- August 14** - The Civil War and the Music of its Time
- August 21** - The Coastal Ringers, bell choir

HEADS UP OCEAN PARK KIDZ AND TEENS! *By Beth Keene, President of the Educational Bureau*

Ocean Park's Kidz Got Talent Camp is coming to the Temple in 2024. That's right! Brush up on your music, dance, comedy, juggling, or other performance-related talents, so that you can perform live on the Temple Stage this summer. The camp will run Monday through Friday mornings July 29 through August 2 and culminate in an Ocean Park's Kidz Got Talent Show on August 2. In addition to having practice and rehearsal time, all participants will perform in one or two fun dance numbers learned at the camp. \$100 camp fee. Ages 6-18 and all levels of experience are welcome. Preregister by July 15 with Beth Keene,



A NOTE FROM OCEAN PARK REALTY, by Chris Whittaker

Thank you Ocean Park for your generosity and perseverance. As of this moment we've had 3 significant storms this year plus high water in December. That's a lot to overcome and I'm so amazed by all of you who have shown endurance and strength even under these circumstances.

Ocean Park Realty represents 75 rental units mostly in Ocean Park and quite a few sustained damages. We have 5 units that won't be renting due to repair costs and time. There will still be many options for those of you who want to rent a cottage this summer. A few of our rentals have added additional weeks as well as June and September openings.

The strength of our community is the people and we can overcome anything and come out stronger because of these adversities. We have resources and referrals upon request and look forward to working together with our neighbors.

Chris Whittaker is the Designated Broker at Ocean Park Realty, a boutique brokerage in Ocean Park Maine specializing in sales and vacation rentals along the Saco Bay. Chris has had a real estate license for 24 years. Before working his dream job in Ocean Park, he sold luxury homes in San Diego County for 9 years and Las Vegas Nevada for 11 years. During the great financial crisis of 2008 he represented two large banks selling foreclosures in a very distressed market. For experience in ALL market conditions, give Chris a call (207) 800-6116.

Date: _____ Order # _____

Temple Service Flower Order Form 2024

Those who wish to pay tribute to their loved ones by placing flowers in the Temple for Sunday services can do so by completing this form and submitting it to the OPA office by **4:00 pm** no later than the **Monday before** the desired date. Arrangements are **\$60 each**, and are provided by Prestige House of Flowers in Biddeford.

Contact Person: _____ Phone Number: _____

Date of Arrangement: _____ *We will contact you if this date is not available.*

Text for Sunday Bulletin: (no more than 15 words, please) _____

Special Floral Requests: _____

Payment Type (select one): Check Credit Cash Amount Enclosed: _____

Credit Card: Visa MC Disc. Amex 3/4 Digit Sec. Code: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Card Number: _____ Signature: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____

Checks payable to: Ocean Park Association

Mail completed forms to: Ocean Park Association, PO Box 7296, Ocean Park, ME 04063

Sharon can be reached at 934-9068 (ext. 0) or via email at opa@oceanpark.org.



14 Temple Avenue | PO Box 7518
Ocean Park, ME 04063

SALES and RENTALS

"Vacation at the Beach"

Phone: (207) 937-5054

Fax: (207) 934-2823

Website: oceanparkrealty.com

Email: chris@oceanparkrealty.com

jeff@oceanparkrealty.com

Spring in Ocean Park means buyers and sellers. How has local flooding affected home values? Will mortgage rates play a big role in sales this year?

Stay tuned to find out! Call direct if you're in the market this year (207) 800-6116.

PRIVATE SALE in Ocean Park Meadows

2 bedrooms, 1 bath

SOLD \$480,000

Ocean Park Realty represented the buyers.

Welcome to Ocean Park Ed and Linda!! It was a pleasure working with you.

We still have GREAT opportunities for your family vacation. Options being added to the site. These weather delays won't stop us! Also off season rates for early June and Late September are available. We are doing our best to keep up with demand, continued patience appreciated.



47 Winona Ave.

FOR SALE

Features:

- ◆ 3-season porch (18'x6') - perfect for morning coffee
- ◆ Den/TV room, can also be used as a bedroom
- ◆ Open kitchen-dining-living room area
- ◆ Opening directly to a new 15'x10' deck with retractable awning overlooking a marsh with wildlife and birds
- ◆ Full bathroom on main level
- ◆ Upstairs are 3 bedrooms with a second full bath
- ◆ Open and bright primary bedroom with cathedral ceiling
- ◆ Walkout basement has 2 bonus rooms and a workshop/storage area



Listed: \$849,900

Don't miss this opportunity to call Ocean Park your home! If you wish to view this year round property, please call or email the Ocean Park Realty office.



Chris Whittaker
Designated Broker/Realtor
(207) 937-5054
Chris@oceanparkrealty.com

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!



Jeff Chute
Associate Broker/Realtor
(207) 937-5054
Jeff@oceanparkrealty.com

STORM RESTORATION UPDATE, by Lori Gramlich

This Winter in Ocean Park, has been one like no other. Our community took a rather significant hit during the devastating January storms and damaging floods as a result of these storms. Ocean Park, however, is a community of resiliency and generosity. In spite of being without an office at Jakeman for over 3-months, a less than optimal Post Office building, a completely destroyed Memorial Library, damages to Soda Fountain, Variety and OP Home and significant debris and major clean up throughout the Park, our community once again proved strong. With expenses of recovery and re-building nearing \$300,000.00, our #OceanParkStrong campaign has raised nearly \$200,000.00.

We still have much work to do, but in spite of all of these challenges, we remain poised to offer our Summer programming that brings many to our lovely seaside community year after year.

Thank you for your support and generosity. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation for our flood restoration efforts, you may do so here: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/OceanParkAssociation/flood2024relieffund-1.html>



Take a picture/scan the QR code to donate!

