



The Bell Tower

Newsletter of the Ocean Park Association

Affirming our heritage through our summer assembly embracing and celebrating diversity and programs centered on religion, education, recreation and culture

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WE'VE BEEN BUSY! by Cindy Benedict, OPA President

While many folks have been busy this Fall putting their cottages to bed, the OPA office in Jakeman has seen a flurry of activity and changes.

With the sudden departure of our Executive Director in August, the Board quickly came together to develop a plan to keep the Association's office functioning. Bills were processed and paid, payroll done, checks signed, insurance policies renewed, flood relief applications drafted and submitted, job descriptions developed, interviews conducted, and new employees hired -- to name only a few of the many tasks that needed to be attended to.

Our staff members demonstrated their dedication to Ocean Park Association, and we all worked together to keep the ship afloat and sailing forward.

After speaking with other organizations for transition advice, we concluded that seeking an Interim Executive Director to serve while we did further discernment on our organizational needs was the best path forward.

We posted the position opening within our organization and met with consultants who could assist us in filling this position. As luck would have it, we did find a candidate right in our community. After several interviews with a number of key OPA members, we offered the position to Stuart MacMillan. He accepted and started the following week and expects to continue in the role through the next season.

We could not have made it through the past few months without the hard work and dedication of our wonderful community and dedicated volunteers. Particular thanks go out to Terry Gallagher and Linda Lauritano, who spent long hours most days to ensure that everything that needed to be accomplished was done.

REMINDER: All end-of-year deposits made by the OPA office will need to be recorded in the general ledger based upon the ***date of the deposit***. To ensure your gift is booked for 2024, please make sure we receive your contributions before Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

THE BELL TOWER IS THE CENTER, by Stuart MacMillan, Interim Executive Director

I was told many years ago that the Bell Tower located in between The Temple and Jordan Hall is the geographic Center of Ocean Park! I am not sure if this is entirely true, but if I look on a map, it certainly appears that way! How fitting then, that our “central” communication tool is The Bell Tower! I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Stuart MacMillan, and I will be filling the role of Interim Executive Director of the Ocean Park Association for the next year.

I spent my first summer at Ocean Park when I was only 2 weeks old! Notwithstanding, our summer home being “across the brook” in Kinney Shores, I have been a long time member of the Association and a long time supporter of all that our community represents.

From sitting on the wall of the Nautilus front lawn with my Dad to wipe sand off my feet, to Rec Hall dances and 50 cent movies at The Temple, this community has been so much a part of my life that every major decision I have ever made involved standing on the seashore at the foot of Temple Ave. looking out over Saco Bay often at night in the intermittent beam of the Wood Island Lighthouse. My wife, Deb, and I were married at The Temple and had all our guests enjoying an ice cream cone at The Soda Fountain thanks to the generosity of Gordon and Patti Spence, whilst Lisa Kidd took our wedding photographs in front of the Ocean Park lifeguard stand.

I take on this role primarily because I am passionate about our community. I am passionate about the preservation of our memories but perhaps, more importantly, passionate about ensuring we create memories for generations to come. Typically as the leaves change colors and begin to fall, Deb and I pack up our golf clubs, our dog, and our summer clothes and begin the trek back to Florida. Sadly, or perhaps opportunistically, Hurricane Helene wreaked havoc on our Florida home which is now unlivable and forced us to remain here for the winter! It will be an interesting season for Deb - the Florida girl - as we look to immerse ourselves in all that New England in the winter has to offer.

We asked God, “What do you have for us here to do? How do we serve while we are here?” The opportunity to serve in this capacity, and leverage my 35 years as a senior executive and leader in the corporate world seemed like a great place to start!

I encourage all of you who have loved Ocean Park, who continue to love Ocean Park, and those of you wanting to pass that love on to your kids and grandkids to do whatever you can to preserve this special community. Give of your time, your treasure and your talents, and in the spirit of our coastal community, Keep Shining and Be a Light!



GUILD PARK, by Justin Foster, Chair Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Good news for our much loved Guild Park - The Ocean Park Association's (OPA's) Environment and Natural Resources Committee has been awarded a \$7,500 grant by the State of Maine Forest Service to develop and implement a forestry management plan in Guild Park! The OPA will match the grant 50/50. The OPA has already engaged a licensed forester to create an integrated pest management plan for Guild Park with an emphasis on long-term stewardship, wildlife habitat, invasive species control, and water quality protection. Additional objectives will include the assessment of overall health and safety of the existing trees with recommendations to address short- and long-term issues. These include woolly adelgid, pesticides, beetles, tree removal, and reforestation. Community education will be a priority as we execute the grant – primarily in 2025.



Special congratulations is due to Cindy Oatis for her leadership in the grant application process. Onward in our efforts to protect and conserve Ocean Park's natural resources!

ARTS IN THE PARK: JULY 13-19, 2025, by Heather Fountain

As we revel in the beauty of fall and brace ourselves for the changes that winter brings, it is nice to dream about the summer to come. Mark your calendars for Arts in the Park Week, which starts on July 13th with the arrival of our Plen Air Artists (Artists who work outside and create from what they see in front of them). This year Art in The Park becomes ARTS in the Park, as we will have even more art opportunities added to the schedule so everyone can find a way to learn about, create or appreciate art. Keep your eyes open in the Spring for the whole line up of art-related events, from art camp to classes.



What you can do now to help:

- **Host an artist at your home.** Artists usually have their own schedule of getting out early to create and most just need a place to stay. They are lovely people who enjoy being in our beautiful community.
- **Sign Up to bring an appetizer or handheld dessert** for the Art Opening Event at the Wet Paint Sale on Wednesday Night.
- **Add The Wet Paint Sale on the evening of Wednesday, July 16th to your calendar.**
- **Think about what friends, family members or children you can bring to the Wednesday night Wet Paint Sale Art Opening Event.** There will be an art scavenger hunt with prizes for youth interact with the art and artists.
- **Offer an art class in Ocean Park on Thursday or Friday of Arts in the Park week.** If you are interested in teaching an art class for youth and/or adults, create a small description and contact Heather Fountain to discuss it further.



To add your name to the list for hosting an artist, bringing an appetizer to the Wet Paint Sale Art Opening or offering a class, please contact Heather Fountain fountainglass10@gmail.com or 207-713-4029.

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 2025 membership as a Christmas gift, you can:

- Stop by the office;
- Call Brenda or Sharon at the office at (207) 934-9068, ext. 1;
- Email the office at opa@oceanpark.org; or
- Print and complete the membership application form found online at <https://oceanpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-Application-for-Membership-1.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.

Purchase a Celebration Paver

For only \$300, you can add to the history of Ocean Park and permanently celebrate someone special in your life. To purchase a paver, contact the office by one of the methods above or go fill out the form found online at the OPA website at <https://oceanpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Paver-Order-Form-1.pdf>

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

In addition to your donation to the Holiday Annual Fund this year, consider making a donation in the name of someone special to you and to whom this gift would be meaningful.

Don't forget about the special OPA set of coasters and Bandstand ornament! Just call the OPA office or stop by to get yours!



Coasters = \$25.00/set of 4

Ornament = \$15.00



HOLIDAY SHOPPING IN OCEAN PARK! by Lisa Kidd and Deb Dolan

'Tis the season for holiday sales!! Join us Friday, Saturday and Sunday this season starting on November 22nd! Each weekend will hold special deals for your local shopping!



Follow us on Cottage Designs - [Instagram](#) and Facebook - for weekly updates.

The elves will soon be turning Cottage Designs into a winter wonderland!



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 September Bell Tower.

To notify the Ocean Park Association of the passing of a loved one, please contact the office at (207) 934-9068, ext. 1, or opa@oceanpark.org.

Louise Seidel	Ocean Park, ME	March 10, 2024
David S. Baker	Stow, MA and Ocean Park, ME	May 14, 2024
Jules Fertig	Old Orchard Beach, ME	October 25, 2024

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

Regular Members:
Linda Robillard

Life Members:
Pamela Grant

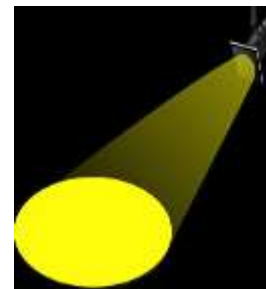


EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT, by *Stuart MacMillan, Interim Executive Director*

You may see a new face in and around Ocean Park, but particularly if you come into the OPA Offices.

We want to wish a hearty Ocean Park welcome to our new Administrator, Brenda Frantz. She is a life long Mainer and is excited to have found this jewel by the sea. With a strong background in office administration, she will be a huge help to the organization.

Please join me in welcoming Brenda to the OPA!



WISH LIST FOR THE REC HALL, by *Levon Akoghlanian, Recreation Committee Chair*

As we begin planning for our 2025 summer season, donations of the following items for the Rec Hall would be most appreciated. And a hearty "THANK YOU" to those who donated the wonderful art supplies this past season!

friendship bracelet string
(we still have lots of beads)
color markers (washable please)
color pencils
coloring pages or books
washable paint
wiffleballs and bats
football (Nerf)
dodgeball balls
pickleball rackets and balls
volleyball/pickleball net
2 pool table sticks/ques
new bulletin board for outside

Movies needed for 2025 Family Movie Night:

Migration
Wonder
Kung Fu Panda 4
Raya & the Last Dragon
Mowgli
Princess Bride
Inside Out 2
Moana 2

WISHLIST



Get Ready to...



Deck the Park 2024!

Join us at Jakeman Hall on Sunday, December 8, 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, let the office know (207-934-9068, ext. 1) or talk with Debbie Walker in the Post Office.

The fun continues with the

Ocean Park Holiday Gathering (new in 2024!)

----- at 5:00 - 6:30 pm at JAKEMAN HALL-----

Bring an hors d'oeuvre and enjoy fellowship with your neighbors! Note that this is not a dinner as we are attempting to accommodate our space issues for our never-ending number of Ocean Parkers!

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.

**Special thanks to Debbie Walker and Dana Howe
for spearheading this event this year!**

Mark Your Calendars!



Naughty Needles happens the second Tuesday of every month from now until June 10. Bring your newest needle craft project and meet at Jakeman Hall at 7:00 pm. Hosted by Ginny McCall.

Questions? Call 207- 934-9068 to learn more!



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Private sale at 54 Winona Ave
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From your friends at Ocean
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We have Winter Rentals.

For an application email
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18 Oceana -3 bedrooms- \$2000/
month plus oil. No pets.



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

Ocean Park Realty

Hey, Ocean Parkers! Did you know? If you rent or sell your home/cottage through Ocean Park Realty, some of the proceeds go to the Ocean Park Association and its work in supporting the mission of our Park?

Ocean Park Realty, a subsidiary of the Ocean Park Association, is a full-service brokerage that can serve all 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.



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



*Our best wishes for a happy holiday
season and
blessings for the New Year ahead.*

*Thank you for supporting the
Ocean Park Association!*