



# 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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### **THE OCEAN PARK COMMUNITY,** by Stuart MacMillan, *Interim Executive Director*

There are many who think that a community is about buildings and parks, beaches and roads. Particularly OUR community.

But at a time of year when you don't go on the beach without your hat and mitts, and all our famous Ocean Park landmarks are covered in leaves and then snow....we get to see what community really is!

From Deck the Park to our tree lighting ... a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus ... to bringing in the New Year on the beach at midnight; and from Bar of the Month to Open Mic Fridays at Ocean Perk - the "year rounders" are keeping the sense of community alive and well this fall and winter.

The Ocean Park community is all of us, whether you're here seasonally or all year round! Rest assured those of us that are still here are preparing the way for an extraordinary summer 2025 season, and we look forward to ringing the bell on new memories and old traditions!



**DATE: Saturday, May 17th**



**TIME: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**SAVE THE DATE!** Join us for our annual clean-up day. Roll up your sleeves and make a difference. Details to follow - but we need you! Grab your friends and family and plan on making Ocean Park beautiful! Yard work, gardening, painting, cleaning - something for everyone!



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.

**2025 GUEST PREACHERS AND SPEAKERS** (Sunday services 10:30 am at the Temple)



**Sunday, June 22**  
 Rev. Nikita G. McCalister  
 President  
 American Baptist Churches  
 USA  
 Bloomfield Hills, MI



**Sunday, August 3**  
 Rev. Dr. Doug Scalise  
 Pastor  
 Brewster Baptist Church  
 Brewster, MA



**Sunday, June 29**  
 Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson  
 Dean  
 Worcester Polytechnic Inst.  
 Bus. Sch.  
 Worcester, MA



**Sunday, August 10**  
 Rev. Dr. Mary Day Hamel  
 Executive Minister  
 American Baptist Churches of  
 MA TABCOM  
 Groton, MA



**Sunday, July 6**  
 Rev. Steve Garnaas-  
 Holmes  
 Retired Pastor  
 United Methodist Church  
 Wells, ME



**Sunday, August 17**  
 Rev. Dr. Quintin L. Robertson  
 Director  
 Urban Theological Institute  
 and Black Church Studies  
 United Lutheran Seminary  
 Philadelphia, PA



**Sunday, July 13**  
 Dr. Sean McDonough  
 Professor, New Testament  
 Gordon-Conwell Theologi-  
 cal Seminary  
 So. Hamilton, MA



**Sunday, August 24**  
 Rev. Dr. Nancy S. Taylor  
 Senior Minister Emeritus  
 Old South Church  
 Boston, MA



**Sunday, July 20**  
 Rev. Dr. Allen Ewing-  
 Merrill  
 Executive Director  
 The BTS Center  
 Portland, ME



**Sunday, August 31**  
 Rev. Matt Laney  
 Co-Pastor  
 Dr. Virginia-Highland Church  
 Atlanta, GA



**Sunday, July 27**  
 Rev. Cheryl Harris  
 Retired Sr. Pastor  
 First Baptist Church  
 Attleboro, MA





Ocean Park Association  
Founded 1881



## Join us for the 2025 Sunday in the Park Concert Series! Good music and entertainment in a timeless setting

All performances are held at the Bandstand (11 Temple Ave. in Old Orchard Beach) and begin at 7:00 pm (unless otherwise noted). All events are NO COST.

To be a sponsor of our Sunday in the Park Concert Series, please contact the OPA office.

Don't forget to bring your beach or lawn chair to Bandstand events!

For more information, please visit our website at [www.oceanpark.org](http://www.oceanpark.org)

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- June 29** **J Train** - featuring Ocean Parker Jon Wells and his **J-Train** band offering a little bit of humor and a lot of Rock 'n Roll! Enjoy an evening of music from bands such as The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith The Romantics, The Doors, Dire Straits, Steve Miller – and more!
- July 6** **Small Boy Pete's** - description to follow
- July 13** **Seacoast Wind Ensemble**, performing an array of musical pieces including classic marches, contemporary compositions, jazz and popular tunes. Held at The Temple.
- July 20** **TBD**
- July 27** **Ben Lyons & Brian Rex** - description to follow
- August 1** (Friday) **Kids at Play** - Ken Janson and Al Smith began playing together in a well-known band called Exit 5 in 1981. Kids at Play combines Al Smith's bass guitar and Ken Janson's percussion with a library of backing tracks to provide the melodies, piano leads, and sax solos. With selections ranging from The Beatles, Jimmy Buffett, The Eagles, Kenny Chesney, and Toby Keith, Al and Ken will sing and play all your favorite songs you know by heart!
- August 3** Small Boy Pete's (an encore performance!)
- August 10** **Bold Riley**, a folk quintet from Western Maine known for full vocal harmonies and uplifting originals. Fiddle, guitar, banjo, accordion, bass and percussion provide a wide range for listeners. Members take turns singing lead and a strong sense of community drives the energy of their music.
- August 17** **Choir Concert** - will present an evening of music featuring a wide variety of musical styles to appeal to all age groups. The Temple Brass and Temple Bells will each perform. Bring your entire family, friends and neighbors!
- August 24** **Bluehill** is a seasoned Portland area Americana/Blues/Roots/Rock band featuring Guitar/Vocals, Sax/Harp, Bass and Drums. We play music by Zach Bryan, Chris Stapleton, Jason Isbell, Tom Waits, Van Morrison, Red Clay Strays, Jonny Lang, Allman Brothers, Caamp, SteelDrivers, Tab Benoit, Tracy Chapman, Jonathan Edwards, The Beatles, Marc Broussard, Josh Ritter, and more...
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Looking for individuals, families or businesses that would like to be patrons of our **Sunday in the Park Concert Series!** Be recognized on signage at all our concerts and do your part to maintain and enhance the musical culture and heritage of Ocean Park.

Reach out to us to become a Platinum, Gold or Silver supporter of The Sunday in the Park Concert Series!

Platinum  
1000.00

Gold  
500.00

Silver  
250.00



## ***TUESDAY IN THE PARK 2025***, by Linda Sulkala, Chair of the Education Committee

The Education Committee is proud to offer the following programs in 2025! All will take place at Jordan Hall at 7:00 pm. Cost to attend is \$5.00 per program. Hope to see you there!

### **JULY 1 - A National Wildlife Refuge in our Backyard?**

Discover the beauty and importance of the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Southern Maine. Join us for an inspiring presentation by Tom Wall from the wildlife refuge as he explores how this unique refuge connects people to nature through its diverse landscapes, wildlife and conservation efforts. Learn how you can get involved in protecting this natural treasure.



### **JULY 8 - Wood Island Lighthouse**

Rick Koehler will offer a virtual tour of Wood Island Lighthouse, the 1808 lighthouse that can be seen from Ocean Park, as well as a virtual tour of the islands. Learn about the recent restoration and the role it plays in preserving local ecosystems and how you can get involved in protecting this natural treasure. Whether you are an outdoor enthusiast, a nature lover, or simply curious about conservation, this presentation is for you.



### **July 15 - Maine's Narrow Gauge Trains**

From the 1880s to the 1940s, Maine was the only state to boast a system of two-footer narrow gauge railroads. These diminutive railroads had an outsized impact on Maine's development. Join this fascinating discussion by the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. & Museum of Portland to learn how and why Maine developed its unique style of railroading, and what it meant for the state's development.



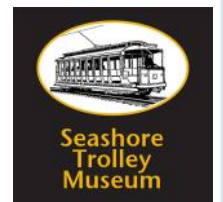
### **July 22 - Climate Change on our Coast: Is our Weather Really Changing?**

Ever felt a bit cloudy after hearing about climate change? Come listen to Channel 8 Meteorologist Ted McInerney discuss the impact of climate change on Maine's coastline, particularly in Ocean Park.



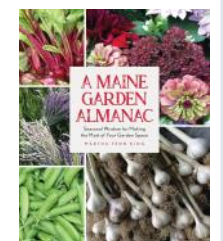
### **July 29 - Maine's Seasonal Trolley Museum**

Join Katie Orlando, Executive Director of the Seashore Trolley Museum, as she brings to life the history of trolleys in our seaside towns and beyond. The talk will cover the impact that electric and steam railroads played in our community from 1880 through 1939, including fascinating facts about the old 'dummy train' that ran through Ocean Park from Old Orchard to Camp Ellis over a century ago.



### **August 5 - What is Happening in Your Garden?**

Let's share our stories of our challenges in times of drought or excess rain and what works for us with Martha Fenn King, author of "A Maine Garden Almanac: Seasonal Wisdom for Making the Most of Your Garden Space". Martha will also share excerpts and poems from her book which will be available for purchase (book cost \$33.00, cash only) and signing.



### **August 12 - The Ultimate Beach Book: Ocean Park as the Main Character?**

Join life-long Ocean Parker Victoria Denault who will share her journey to becoming an author and how she uses Ocean Park as the setting and inspiration for many of her romance novels. Could a character be based on a local inhabitant?



### **August 19 - Colorful, Charismatic Crustaceans & Climate Change**

Orange, blue calico, even split-colored, crabs in the Gulf of Maine? Come hear current on-going research into why, as well as work being done on invasive green crabs and their ecological impact in context of climate change. Dr. Markus Frederich from UNE will present this fascinating talk.



## ***AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION AWAITS!***

*by Dana Howe DeFilippo, Leadership and Nomination Committee*

Ocean Park is looking for several eager volunteers  
As some committee members' terms will expire this year  
Our eight committees are dedicated to making a difference  
Sharing their love for Ocean Park with enthusiasm and persistence  
Here are all the committees that may spark your interest  
Take a moment or two and see where you would fit best  
I hope you don't mind stolen lines from Saint Nick  
I'll list the committee names, and I'll try to be quick  
*So more rapid than seagulls with responsibilities they came  
With the Bell Tower chiming and echoing out their names  
On Property, on Development, on Recreation and Education  
On Environmental, R & C, on A & F, Leadership and Nomination*  
As you can see there is quite a variety to choose from  
With your knowledge and expertise, it will be hard to pick only one  
For details and description as to what commitment would mean for you Ocean Park Maine-ahs  
Please do not hesitate to reach out and contact Dana

**OPA Members are eligible for candidacy as committee members.**

Please visit the website below for an OPA Membership Application and brief description of each committee.  
<https://oceanpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2025-Application-for-Membership.pdf>

The Leadership and Nomination Committee is excited to extend this invitation towards discovering members eager to continue bringing inspirational ideas to the various committees!

Dana: dgdefilippo@comcast.net

## ***FROM THE BOARDROOM, by Kathy Wade, Board Secretary***

Since my last update on the activities of the OPA Board of Directors, we have had two regular meetings. Key actions taken by the Board include:

Adoption of 2025 Budget. At the December Board meeting, Stuart Goldstein, Chair of the Administration & Finance Committee, presented a proposed budget of nearly \$655,000 for 2025, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Flood-Related Actions. The Association received a grant of \$65,000 from the State of Maine for flood-related repairs and resiliency efforts. Applications to both the US Small Business Administration and FEMA for reimbursement of flood-related costs have been submitted. Treasurer, Terry Gallaher, and Vice President, Linda Lauritano, have been working on moving these through the review process. The Board also approved the purchase of flood insurance that will provide coverage (after a deductible) for the library, soda fountain building and Jakeman Hall.

OPA Building Assessment. The Board approved a proposal made by Steve Sousa, Chair of the Property Committee, to engage a firm to take initial steps to assess the current condition of the Association's buildings and property with a view to proceeding with a full assessment of likely costs of maintenance and repairs over the next 10 years.

Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee to Review Ocean Park Realty Bylaws. Kathy Wade was appointed Chair of an ad hoc committee to review the Bylaws of Ocean Park Realty, Inc., the Association's wholly owned subsidiary, and make recommendations to the OPA Board for consideration. Members of the committee include Frank Gwalthney, Vicki Keene, Lizzie Morrison and Debbie Sousa.

Appointment of New Committee Members to Fill Vacancies. In December, Deb Dolan was appointed as a member of the Development Committee and Chris Root was appointed as a member of the A&F Committee. Each will serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Association.

Expansion of Code of Conduct Policy to Include Speakers. At the request of the Personnel Subcommittee, the Executive Committee approved the expansion of the Association's Code of Conduct to apply to speakers as well as Association members and employees.



## 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 2024 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](mailto:opa@oceanpark.org).

John Grandin	Wakefield, RI and Ocean Park, ME	November 18, 2024
Patricia Jalbert	Saco, ME and Ocean Park, ME	December 24, 2024

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



### Regular Members:

Christine Alicea  
Ed Alicea  
Tom Bonanno

### WEDNESDAY EVENING AT JORDAN - 2025 LINE-UP 7:30 PM AT JORDAN HALL COST: \$5.00

**July 9** - Ian Mackenzie & Cilantro, classic rock 'n roll, ballads, folk music, barber-shop quartet

**July 16** - Port City Sound, barbershop quartet

**July 23** - Hyperion Trumpet Ensemble

**July 30** - Stephanie Babirak, harpist

**August 6** - BB & J and Company, classic rock, country, easy listening and more

**August 13** - The Temple Brass

**August 20** - The FLUKES, ukulele musicians



### DON'T FORGET TO RE- NEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025

Your annual membership investment is vitally important to the health and well-being of Ocean Park. All of the programs and activities, including Sundays at the Temple, Illumination Night, The Sunday in the Park Concert Series and the July 4th Parade can only happen with your financial support! Membership renewal letters went out in the mail at the end of January. We also encourage you to renew your membership online by visiting our website at [www.oceanpark.org](http://www.oceanpark.org) and clicking on the "It's Time to Renew Your Ocean Park Membership" link.

If you have already renewed your membership for 2025—THANK YOU!! Your membership dues help us to maintain and continue the Mission and Vision of Ocean Park!

### JEFF CHUTE RETIRES FROM OCEAN PARK REALTY, by Chris Whittaker



After more than 40 years selling, renting, teaching and living real estate, it's Jeff Chute's time to retire and we are so grateful to have had him as the Designated Broker here at Ocean Park Realty.

Jeff has been in the real estate business for over 28 yrs. His roles have included agent, office manager and principal broker, state-certified real estate instructor and expert witness. Along the way, he has earned many designations and certifications. Appearances include the Massachusetts Association of Realtors Annual Conference, where he was awarded Educator of the Year in 2010 by the Massachusetts Association of Realtors. Jeff held a brokers license in Massachusetts and a designated brokers license in Maine. At Ocean Park Realty, he specialized in sales. Jeff owns and resides in Ocean Park so please say hi when you see him reading to the kids in the library, volunteering in Ocean Park, spending time with grandkids or out on the golf course. Jeff, enjoy your bonus time with family and thank you for your years helping the Ocean Park community with their real estate needs.







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

## SALES and RENTALS

*"Vacation at the Beach"*

Phone: (207) 937-5054  
Website: [oceanparkrealty.com](http://oceanparkrealty.com)  
Email: [chris@oceanparkrealty.com](mailto:chris@oceanparkrealty.com)

**Curious what your house or cottage is worth in 2025?**

**Call or text for a no obligation market analysis.**

**207-800-6116**



*Just Sold*

7 New Salt, Ocean Park  
\$1,399,999

We know Ocean Park! If you are interested in buying a home or you would like a **FREE** Market Analysis of your home, call . . .

**Now booking 2025 summer weekly rentals.**

We have lots of great properties for rent this summer. All bookings are done by email. Prime weeks still available. Discounts at some of our rentals for early June and September weeks.

**NEW RENTALS FOR 2025:**



42 Free St. (coming soon)  
Rate TBD



15 Oceana  
\$3200/week plus tax



35 Randall  
\$2300/week plus tax



42 Mass. Ave.  
\$1600/week plus tax



Unit 71 at Ocean Park Meadows \$2500/week plus tax



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

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



Ocean Park's Kidz Got Talent Camp is returning to the Temple in 2025. 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 28 through August 1 and culminate in an Ocean Park's Kidz Got Talent Show on August 1. 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 14 with Beth Keene, at keene1512@aol.com.

***A NOTE FROM ABOUT OCEAN PARK'S TENNIS TEAM,***  
*by Todd Whitney, Tennis Subcommittee Chair*

Our Ocean Park tennis team has hosted The "MainelyOld Guys" team, 65+ league play at Ocean Park on Sunday afternoons for 4 years. This was the 3rd year Maine has won the NE sectional championships, which allows them to go on and compete at the nationals against 16 other teams from all over the country, including Hawaii and the Caribbean. The nationals were held in Surprise, Arizona. This was their best performance yet, placing fifth in the competition.

