



# 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*

Volume 45 - Issue 4

October 2025

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### Page 1

- Our Youngest Fundraiser
- A Message from the President
- A Message from the Executive Director

#### Page 2

- Fall Events in OP
- Summer Fund Raising
- SPAM Alert
- Guild Park Trees

#### Page 3

- Eastern Trail Bike Ride through OP
- Committee Highlights—A Message from OPA Music

#### Page 4

- In Memoriam
- Your one stop Christmas Shopping place
- Future Bell Tower Issues
- R & C Survey Request

Ocean Park Association  
 14 Temple Avenue  
 P O Box 7296  
 Ocean Park ME 04063  
 207-934-9068  
 opa@oceanpark.org  
 www.oceanpark.org

### YOU ARE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO GIVE!

Nine year old Nate Steckler of Westfield, NJ raised money for the OPA by giving away sea shells he collected and accepting donations during this year's Illumination Night. He was able to raise a whopping \$125 for the OPA! It goes to show that you are never too young (or old!) to give back to your community. We truly appreciate your support Nate! Way to go!



### OFF & RUNNING SEASON #146, by Linda Lauritano, OPA President

I want to start by thanking the many volunteers and our dedicated staff who made our 145th summer season such a success. The wide variety of summer programs and activities brought so many opportunities for creating connections and memories with family. It is my joy and privilege as President to get to meet and work with so many of you and I am amazed at and appreciate the generosity of our special community!

We welcomed our new Executive Director in July. Fran Day is a delight to work with. She is a seasoned non-profit executive and is bringing a new focus on revenue generation and fundraising which will be important in positioning ourselves for a sustainable future. The Executive Committee continues to work to provide the support Fran needs for a successful transition.

What's next? While the summer is over, the Board of Directors and Committees and the office staff are busy year round. In partnership with Fran, we are already planning next year's programs and events, and working on 2026 goals and budget.

We are thankful for the generous financial support of all of our members and friends. Look for our fall appeal letter in the mail—Your continued support of our organization is critical for us to move forward with our plans.

### SOMETHING TO CONSIDER, by Fran Day, Executive Director

Summer has faded, Fall is in glorious bloom, and yet, with beauty all around us, those of us in the Association office miss the voices and visits of community members. We look forward to your return in the Spring. The Association staff appreciates each of you and your joyful spirit. As you may know, the number of year-around residents is increasing. To serve these individuals, we are testing a series of winter activities. These are described elsewhere in the Bell Tower. If you are a winter resident or visiting for a few days, we hope you will participate in the scheduled activities. You may call the Association office and speak with Debbie Evans for more information. We wish you joy and peace, and look forward to hearing from you.

## Upcoming Fall Events in Ocean Park

Although the 2025 season is officially over, there are still things to do in our village. Check out these off-season opportunities for residents & friends, in Jakeman unless otherwise specified.

- 1st, 3rd & 4th Tuesday of each month– Mahjong—6:30-8pm
- Every Wednesday– Chair Yoga—9 am
- Every Wednesday – Coffee & Chat Fellowship—2-4 pm
- Every Thursday – Game day—2-4 pm
- 2nd Tuesday of each month– Naughty Needles—7:00 pm
- 4th Tuesday of each month– Naughty Needles—3-5 pm
  
- **October 25**– Halloween Party in Jakeman at 5:30– bring an appetizer to share and dress for the occasion!
- **November 7**– Chili Cook-off (with Prizes) Jakeman Hall 6-8pm
- **December 7**–Deck the Village in Red & Green. Beginning in Jakeman at 12:30 to decorate the Park and finishing with an appetizer pot luck at 5:00 pm
- **December 17**–Caroling from 4-6:30 pm



### Summer Fund Raising & A Big Thank You

- Illumination Night Sold Out of Strawberries  
Thanks **Lauren Gallagher** & Your Team of Volunteers
  
- 5K Race– Surpassed previous year’s fund raising  
Thanks **Scott Belanger** & Your Team of Volunteers
  
- Art in the Park Great New Format  
Thanks **Heather Fountain** & Team of Volunteers & Artists
  
- Adult Dance & Auction Hurray for Food Trucks  
Thanks **Deb Sousa** & Team of Volunteers

### Increase in Spam Emails from OP

In the Spring we moved to a new email service provider and have recently seen an uptick in the number of spam requests for gift cards and donations. We assure you that this does not affect your donor information, but if you see emails asking you to purchase gift cards or send a donation that are not coming officially from the office—please ignore and delete them!

### Where are all the Trees Going?



Perhaps over the summer you saw first hand the markings on some of the trees in Guild Park. In the coming months sadly some of our trees will need to be removed due to insect infestation. This will be completed as a part of an agreement with the Northeast Forest Management Program, often referred to as the Project Canopy Grant Program.

This would be an excellent time for you to consider purchasing a replacement tree that can be planted in the spring. If you are interested in helping us re-seed our little forest next Spring, please make contact with the office.

This past month Ocean Park hosted one of the rest stops for the **Eastern Trail Alliance Lighthouse Bike Ride** on September 13th.

Riders could select to bike for 25-100 miles along the coast of Maine, making a first ever rest stop in Ocean Park. The 100 mile ride included 9 lighthouses. Why not start training and join them next year when they return for another ride.



## ***SUMMER REFLECTIONS***

*by William Fred Scott, Interim Music Director*

Twenty-one people in Aloha shirts, strumming their ukuleles to a Roy Orbison song as a crowd of almost 90 folks gathered in Jordan Hall the next-to-last Wednesday in August. Old friends and new in a well-rehearsed and joyfully presented program. And, ultimately, the whole room was singing. Yes, Jordan Hall itself was singing “Country Roads.”



There was a lot to sing about this summer, in fact. Audrey Cabral led the band, brass and bells. Dan Evans had a banner unfurled in his honor and Jerry got a Russel Whitten watercolor in gratitude for his decade-plus leadership of the Ocean Park music program. I, myself, received blessing after blessing as this summer’s music director. I watched my neighbors enjoy Walt Dowling’s barbershop quartet and Trevor Lavenbein’s amazing trumpet ensemble. People I had never met said how much they liked the choir concert. Boo Radley kept us swaying to the music from the bandstand one glorious Sunday night and I think I promised BB & J & Company a slot on that series for next summer. There’s just too much of them for Jordan Hall!

Our rather amazing pipe organ, parts of which get devoured by winter rodents perennially warming themselves inside the pipes and other parts held together by chewing gum and duct tape, made it through the summer with only one false note. And the Temple sang! Yes, it did! Hymns, old and new, mostly familiar, rang out like never before in Sunday worship. Our choir, almost forty singers strong every week, turned in magical, musical, magnificent work. They put up with my cajoling all summer long, almost never flinched, and certainly gave me some of the happiest memories of my musical life. “Great is Thy Faithfulness” isn’t just a good tune: it’s theology and music come together in a special way. Great was our choir’s faithfulness!

Ocean Park has always blessed me with wonderful memories. I’ll never forget seeing the place for the first time in March, 1992, covered in snow and under skies of grey. I thought it was the most seductive place I had ever been. If Bud Murphy had never sung for me at the Opera Company of Boston, I wouldn’t have known about this place. Then, joyous news: Stewart Shuster wanted to sell his cottage on Massachusetts Avenue. Spoiler alert: I bought it. Every summer has been wonderful, even the one when I broke my clavicle “hiking” in the woods. I am grateful for all this community gives me. For all those notes of wonder, all those hymns of praise, thanks be to God, and to all of you. I may be “off the clock” next summer but I’ll never be far away.

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

D. Bruce McGregor	Ft. Myers, FL & Ocean Park, ME	August 11, 2023
Patricia M. Lutz	Tiffin, OH	February 10, 2025
Shirley Sauer	Ocean Park ME	August 9, 2025
John B. West	Santa Barbara, CA & Ocean Park, ME	August 13, 2025
Richard H. Skillin	Longmeadow, MA	August 14, 2025
Robert E. Lingner	Worcester, MA & Ocean Park, ME	August 25, 2025
J Edward MacNider	Ocean Park ME	September 8, 2025
Peter Farr	Ocean Park, ME	October 4, 2025

## ***CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS***

Before we know it, another season of giving will be upon us. An Ocean Park granite paver is a great way to honor or remember loved ones—especially those people who don't need or want anything but you still want to give them a special gift. This past summer we installed more than a dozen new pavers! The pavers will continue to be installed in the walkway to the Memorial Library in DeMerrit Square, beginning again in the spring of 2026. For only \$300.00 you can add to the history of Ocean Park and permanently celebrate someone special in your life.

If you would like to purchase a paver, you can:

- ◆ stop by the office
- ◆ call the office at 207-934-9068
- ◆ email the office at opa@oceanpark.org; or
- ◆ go to the OPA website at [www.oceanpark.org](http://www.oceanpark.org) and fill out the form that can be found by clicking on Donate - then scroll down to the section on Memorial/Honorary Pavers; then click on the link that reads [2024 Paver Order Form](#).

Don't Forget - the Association has a HOLIDAY ORNAMENT featuring the Bandstand for only \$10.00!

It is our hope to distribute the Bell Tower on a monthly basis in the coming year. If you have something you'd like included it must be sent to [OPA@oceanpark.org](mailto:OPA@oceanpark.org) no later than the 5th of each month, so we can send the Newsletter out on or about the 15th of the month.

What did you think of the Temple worship services in 2025?

The Religious & Cultural Committee wants to know your thoughts!

Please complete this brief survey to share your reflections and suggest preachers for the future.

<https://tinyurl.com/optemple2025>

