

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

## Holiday Greetings from the Executive Director

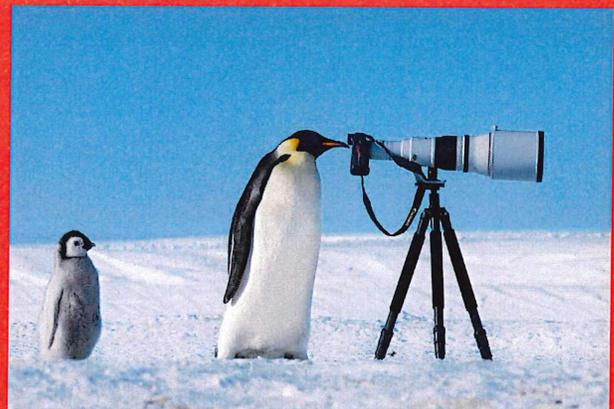
As we approach Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's, and the other holidays that mark this season, on behalf of the OPA office staff and Post Office, we wish you joy and blessings. We ask each of you, whether near to Ocean Park or afar, to extend to those whom you encounter the kindness and grace that characterizes our community. And we ask that you be generous, in spirit and support. There are many among us this season who need a kind word, a box of groceries, a phone call or visit.

As a community, we care for each other—let's extend that caring to our neighbors. We appreciate you and all that you do to support our community. In the spirit of the season, we encourage you to take care of yourself—go for a walk, join carolers, smile, and above all, enjoy the blessings that come to us this season.

Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year.  
All our good wishes, Fran Day

## We Need Your Photos

In February we will be publishing the Annual Giving Report for the Ocean Park Association with a brand new look. We want to include memories from 2025. If you have photos from some of our events, or your family's gatherings please feel free to email a quality photo that can be considered for inclusion. Two lucky winners may see their photo on the Summer Booklet for 2026. No more than three pictures per person please—so pick your favorites. In addition, we cannot guarantee your photo will be selected. Please clearly identify the event, the persons in the photo and the date it was taken (must be from 2025).



Make sure you ask those photographed if it's okay! Deadline for all entries is December 31!

## Upcoming Events in Ocean Park

Check out these off-season opportunities for residents & friends, in Jakeman unless otherwise specified.

- 1st, 3rd & 4th Tues of month- Mahjong—6:30
- 2nd Tues of each month- Naughty Needles—7:00 pm
- 4th Tuesday of each month- Naughty Needles—3:00-5:00 pm
- Every Tuesday & Wednesday at 9:00 am—Chair Yoga and other fun exercise activities
- Every Wednesday at 2:00 pm -Coffee & Conversation
- Every Thursday from 2:00-4:00- Games day
- **December 17** Caroling from 4-6:30 pm
- **December 31- 12:00 midnight—** join us on the beach at Colby to ring in the New Year!
- **January 6 Library open 10:00-2:00**
- **January 20 Library open 10:00 - 2:00**
- **January 27- Book Discussion**

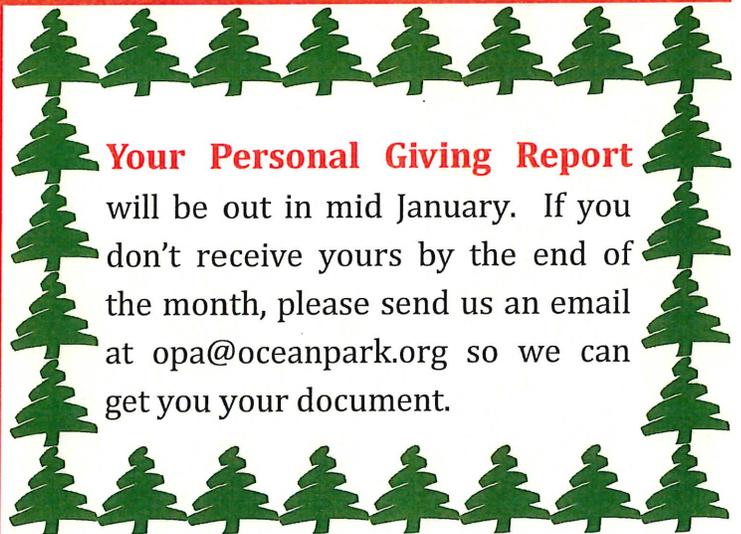


## OUR FOOD DRIVE- THANKS EVERYONE!



**We are so close to our Annual Fund 2025 goal! If you haven't sent your year-end gift, there is still time to help us reach or surpass our 2025 goal.**

**Raised to date is from December 1, 2025**



### Your Personal Giving Report

will be out in mid January. If you don't receive yours by the end of the month, please send us an email at [opa@oceanpark.org](mailto:opa@oceanpark.org) so we can get you your document.



Don't forget to return your gifts to the **Giving Tree** before December 18th, so they can be distributed to the family before Christmas!



*Ocean Park*  
REALTY  
"Vacation at the Beach"

**A SINCERE THANK YOU  
FOR AN INCREDIBLE 2025 SEASON!**



3 BED, 1.5 BATH, 1 CAR GARAGE  
3 Casco Ave., Ocean Park



3 BED, 1.5 BATH, 1 CAR GARAGE  
6 Oceana Ave., Ocean Park



2 BED, 2 BATH  
131 Temple #23, Old Orchard Beach



3 BED, 1.5 BATH, 1 CAR GARAGE  
12 Oceana Ave., Ocean Park



2 BED, BATH  
14 Weymouth Ave., Ocean Park



3 BED, 2 BATH  
131 Temple #9, Old Orchard Beach

14 TEMPLE AVENUE  
OCEAN PARK, ME 04063  
**(207) 937-5054**  
oceanparkrealty.com

**FROM THE BOARDROOM**

By: Kathy Wade, Board Secretary

Items of Special Interest for members from the December 4th meeting.

- Development of a long-term strategic plan. A group of 8-12 people will be assigned to work on a draft strategic plan.
- Sue Collard, the Chair of the Development Committee, presented a proposal of the Development Committee to increase membership dues, which make up a key part of the Association's annual budget. She noted that dues were last increased in 2018 and are not keeping up with the increasing costs of the Association. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Committee's proposal. Since the membership dues and life membership fees must be approved by the Association, there will be a special on-line meeting of the members on January 14th to consider and (hopefully) approve the change. Details will be sent separately to all members of record before the end of this month.
- Chris Root, Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, presented a proposed budget for 2026 of \$773,200. After discussion, some minor adjustments were made, but the total amount was not changed and the budget was approved by the Board.

## Invasive Insects Living Among Us!



People recently passing by Guild Park will have noticed an ongoing tree thinning, which is part of a Forest Management Plan the Ocean Park Association (OPA) is implementing to address an infestation of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). HWA can kill a healthy hemlock in just a couple of years, so action to prevent the spread was necessary. The OPA is working closely with Maine's Land Trust Community to help mitigate the infestation. HWA are small and difficult to see with the naked eye. According to Colleen Teerling, a Maine State Forest Entomologist, "the white fuzz that you see on the underside of hemlock needles is a protective coating for the insect's egg sack, not the insect itself. HWA feed on the tree's sap all winter and spring, effectively killing a tree over time. HWA hibernate and are inactive in late summer. All the adelgids on hemlock trees are female, producing two generations of eggs per year with as many as 250-500 eggs per generation."

Recently the OPA was awarded a \$7,500 Project Canopy grant by the State of Maine Forest Service to develop and implement a Forest Management Plan to maintain the health and safety of Guild Park and to minimize the spread of this invasive insect. In the summer, damaged and overcrowded trees were marked with blue paint by a licensed forester. While marking trees for removal, dead or nearly dead trees were selected first for removal, trees with declining crowns/broken tops/or low live crown ratios were selected second, lastly trees which simply needed to be spaced for growth and health reasons were marked for removal, while trying to leave the trees of best health and vigor. We anticipate that close to 25% of our trees will need to be removed. Hemlocks are an important feature of Maine's woods, and evidence of HWA has been found at Acadia, Seal Harbor, Long Pond as well as communities in Brunswick, Topsham, and several islands along the coast.

We will need your help next Spring when we begin replanting under the guidance of the forester's recommendations. Among the types of trees that are under consideration for planting are the following: Pitch Pine, Norway Spruce, White Spruce, White Oak, and Red Oak. These have the best growing potential and least vulnerability to pests in the future. The date for planting has not yet been determined, so watch for more news in future months, after the snow melts!



