



THE BELL TOWER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION

From the Board of Directors

Update on the Strategic Plan from Linda Lauritano

The Board of Directors authorized the appointment of a Strategic Planning Subcommittee to draft a Strategic Plan for the Ocean Park Association. They met face to face at the end of February and presented a draft plan to the Board in April. After further discussion at its May meeting, the Board approved the Strategic Plan.

The purpose of the Plan is to strengthen Ocean Park as a vibrant, financially sound, multi-generational Chautauqua community, rooted in its heritage and open to new ideas, by expanding programs, improving infrastructure, deepening member engagement, and building an organizational capacity need to support year round connection and future growth.

The Board discussed areas of greatest importance and settled on 4 overarching goals:

- Strengthen Financial Stability and Revenue Growth
- Strengthen Organizational Capacity and Effectiveness
- Deepen Donor and Member Engagement and Grow Participation
- Strengthen Programs and Advance Environmental Stewardship

The next step is to develop an implementation plan. We have identified Strategic Action Items for each goal and Metrics that the Board will be tracking quarterly. Linda is in the process of pulling together the plan and identifying some teams to work on each goal with an August 1 start date for implementation.

Fran and Linda will be hosting Thursday round tables on Thursday afternoons this summer to discuss the Strategic Plan and to get your input. We will focus on a different topic each week. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

Thanks to Don Hurter (our facilitator) and the Strategic Planning Subcommittee for all their efforts on this plan: Janet Anderson, Jeff Chute, Fran Day, Suzanne Dix, Terry Gallagher, Patty Hurter, Barry Jackman, Linda Lauritano, Elizabeth Morrison, Chris Root, Martine Taylor, Cathy Stackpole (ED at Ferry Beach).

Ocean Park Building Condition Assessment Completed

The OPA hired Barba & Wheelock to conduct a building condition assessment of all buildings owned by the Association, with the goal of identifying potential problems with the buildings in order to develop strategies and facilitate the decision-making process for future repair and renovation work. We received a scope of work lists for each building, which are prioritized from Immediate work to Short-term work to Long-term work and items to monitor.

There is a work group starting the process of reviewing these materials and prioritizing some immediate repairs. The results of the study will be an input to the strategic plan actions around improving property utilization and a 5 yr. Capital Maintenance plan.

ARTS IN THE PARK 2026: EXCITING NEWS AND HELP NEEDED



This will be our second year of expanding the offerings during this dedicated week of celebrating and enjoying the arts in Ocean Park. Not only will there be visual artists to talk to and interact with daily, but there will also be multiple music events, expanded art class offerings, youth theater dance camp, improv sessions, visiting artist programs and an exploration of hope through poetry and art.

Honoring our Arts in the Park roots, we have selected six plein air artists [artists who paint outside from direct observation] to paint around Ocean Park, culminating in an art show and sale in the Temple on THURSDAY, JULY 16th [Please note the change of day for the art show]. Returning from last year we have artists, Melanie Barash Levitt, Bill Paarlberg, Sara Gray and Liane Whittum. After many years away we have our Ocean Park hometown favorite, Russel Whitten, returning this summer, as well as Debbie Mueller, who has painted with us in the past. All are exemplary award-winning artists who are excited to be in our community this summer sharing what they love with each of you.

New This Year: We will be expanding class offerings including classes specifically for teens. Artist Jamie Beals will be leading a teen class on multi-media artmaking, also, returning artist and teacher Diane Mulligan will be offering 2 sessions, one for youth and one for adults, on Plein Air sketching that will include a series of hands-on exercises designed to encourage close observation of nature, creative play, and self-expression. As she explains, "No experience is necessary, just a curious mind!"

The inclusion of poetry is new this year and is a wonderful way to explore our summer theme of Embracing Hope. There will also be an expanded offering of family events including, a Mini Art Scavenger Hunt around town, Art Bingo at the Rec Hall, Art Storytime at the Bandstand/Library, a kid friendly program with artist and author of the Big Nate series [books and Nickelodeon TV show] and fun activities with art prizes at the art show.

Help Needed: Arts in the Park is a community effort. People are always needed to help with the following items: Before Arts in the Park Week:

- Fold Brochures
- Stuff Art Show invitations into Sunday Temple Bulletins
- Hang Art Show and other program posters around our area at hotels/shops/libraries etc...
- Carpenters needed to help with adding weatherproof doors and roofs to outdoor mini art galleries. The main structures already exist but need modification to be able to stand independently and survive outdoors.

During Arts in the Park Week:

- Providing a room for an artist [They are often out painting early and sometimes in the evening too but do appreciate a place to sleep and store some food to grab between working] They are self sufficient and typically arrive on Sunday morning and leave after the art show on Thursday.
- Donate a beverage, appetizer or dessert for the refreshments at the art show- Thanks to Pam Chute who will be organizing that effort.
- Set up and breakdown down of the art show.
- Check on Artists and bring them water or popsicles on hot days.
- Provide a parking spot for an artist while they are painting [Just designate where to park, what times are available, and on what days]. I will be making a map so artists know where to park, as parking is always an issue in the summer. The artists have a lot of gear with them to lug around, so always appreciate a place to park near where they are painting. Artists will also have an Arts in the Park Parking sign to place in their cars, so you know that they belong where they are parked.

Please contact Heather Fountain if you can assist with any of these items; it takes a village and how lucky we are to be part of this amazing village we call OP. Heather can be reached by email: fountainglass10@gmail.com or phone 207-713-4029 [txt or call]



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**Now accepting winter rental applications.
Email to inquire. No cost to apply.**



Volunteers, We Need You!

The Ocean Park Association thrives because of the time, energy, and passion of our volunteers. Whether you're interested in helping with events, serving on a committee, supporting community initiatives, or lending a hand behind the scenes, there are many ways to get involved.

Volunteering is a great way to meet neighbors, share your talents, and make a meaningful impact in our community. Opportunities are flexible and available for all interests and schedules. If you're looking to connect, contribute, and be part of something special, we'd love to have you!

Please contact Lizzie Morrison
(echawk83@yahoo.com)

OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION



BLOOD DRIVE

We will be hosting a Blood Drive at Jakeman Hall on Friday, May 29th with the American Red Cross. Sign-up here:

<https://bit.ly/4vba3F4>

EDUCATIONAL BUREAU

The Educational Bureau looks forward to the 2026 season and would like to remind families that they can pre-register their children for our summer camps by contacting Beth Keene at keene1512@aol.com.

- Art Explorer's Camp July 6 – 10 Explore art media and create!
- Theatre Dance Camp July 13 – 17 Dance and sing on the Temple Stage!
- Ecology Adventure Camp July 2-22 Explore OP's wonderful ecosystems!
- OP Kidz Got Talent July 27 – 31 Perform in a lively Talent Show!
- Beach Olympics August 3 – 7 Play and compete in beach games!

Our Annual Bazaars will be July 15 and August 12. Contact Nancy Kenney at 978-502-2615 for table reservations. Please note that the Ed Bureau is no longer accepting White Elephant items, but we urge you to join with a friend or two to take a table and sell your own treasures.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT - DEB EVANS

Deb is our Programming Coordinator and joined OPA in 2025. She has spent most of her career working in special education.

In her spare time, she's a dog breeder; her dog Tiki recently placed 2nd at Country! Her husband, Craig, serves as the Old Orchard Beach School Board Chair and they have one son. Deb is also a musician, a person of many talents!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out these off-season opportunities for residents & friends, in Jakeman unless otherwise specified. *Off-season events end in Early June.*

- Mahjong:

May 19, 26

June 2

6:30 - 8:30 pm

- Every Wednesday at 9:00 am—Chair Yoga and other fun exercise activities (June 3rd will be last of the season)

- Every Thursday from 2:00-4:00—Games day

there will be no book discussion in May



AUCTION ITEMS

We are seeking auction items for our Gratitude & Giving event on July 11th. Please reach out to the OPA office if you have an item you would like to donate!

If you are interested in sponsoring a table, please also contact the office.

207-934-9068

opa@oceanpark.org

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY!

WE STILL NEED SOME VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ON SATURDAY, MAY 16TH. PLEASE USE THE LINK [HERE](#) TO SIGN-UP.

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 OUR LAST BELL TOWER. TO NOTIFY THE OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION OF THE PASSING OF A LOVED ONE, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT OPA@OCEANPARK.ORG OR BY PHONE.

**WILLIAM TACKABERRY
CAMPBELLVILLE, ONTARIO
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

WHAT'S NEXT FOR GUILD PARK?



As one enters Ocean Park on Temple Avenue, it's hard not to miss the changes to Guild Park since last fall. The tree canopy is now much more open, allowing sunlight to reach the forest floor and a new generation of trees to emerge. This is all part of a forestry management plan funded by a Project Canopy Grant that was approved by the Maine Forestry Service. The primary goal of the tree thinning this winter was to reduce the local and long distance spread of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, an insect that left to its own devices would eventually kill nearly 1,000 trees in the park. Another noticeable change in the park is the number of branches strewn across the forest floor. Except for the established trails, the broken limbs from fallen trees were intentionally left on the ground as protection for emerging seedlings and to provide nutrients to the soil as they decompose. According to the Maine State Entomologist, severed Hemlock branches at this time of year don't pose a threat to the forest, because Woolly Adelgid insects die off when they can no longer feed on a tree's sap.

To promote a healthy mix of vegetation, a group of volunteers helped to plant roughly 500 tree seedlings in early May that includes Red & White Cedar, Norway & White Spruce, Larch, Douglas Fir, Shagbark Hickory, Allegheny & Juneberry Serviceberry, and High Bush Blueberry. Each seedling is marked with a small flag so that we can monitor their progress over time. This will help to inform any future seedling planting. By the end of May there will be several other steps taken to improve the park, such as the release of additional beetles to feed on Woolly Adelgid that wintered over, the re-installation of the Guild Park sign at the park entrance across from Manor Street, and the roping off of an open area off Temple Avenue as a future site for ground cover and/or native plants. In addition, there will be ongoing work on clearing and fully restoring the trails in the park. Maximizing the long-term health and resilience of the Guild Park forest will require ongoing management over many years including planting of tree seedlings, beetle releases, and other adaptive strategies.

What can you do to help preserve the Guild Park?

1. Learn more about the park by attending a free program on the evening of July 2. The program, organized by the Environmental & Natural Resources Committee, will feature a naturalist led stroll through the park followed by a presentation at Jordan Hall with time for Q & A.
2. **Whenever you visit the park be sure to stay on the marked trails, carry out anything that you carry in, and keep your dogs on a leash.**

WHO ARE WE?

Ocean Park Association, which was incorporated 145 years ago, was always intended to serve as a retreat for families and individuals looking for rejuvenation, inspiration and community. Ever since the Temple was built by these founders in 1881, it has served that role for families, friends and visitors. But, in order to do so, we need a healthy, financially stable organization.

Four years ago, we articulated our vision for Ocean Park, as a welcoming community for all where we can celebrate and preserve our heritage, while remaining open to new ideas and activities that enrich our lives and the community; our educational, recreational, religious and cultural programs inspire and engage all generations; our natural environment is nurtured and cared for and our properties are well maintained; and we create an environment that inspires participation in community activities and the Association. Established primarily as a summer resort community, Ocean Park has been increasing its welcome to residents and visitors throughout the year.

As a member of this non-profit organization, you have the ability to participate in decision-making and work with other members on committees to develop programs and activities, as well as knowing that you have helped ensure that Ocean Park continues to serve its community. If you have not renewed your membership for this year, please consider doing so today so we can put your dollars to work. To join or renew your annual membership, click [HERE](https://oceanpark.org/membership/) or visit <https://oceanpark.org/membership/>

OCEAN PARK TRIVIA



1. The “Florida Club” was founded in what year?

A. 1977 B. 1909 C. 1924 D. 1942

2. “The Story of Ocean Park” was written by who?

A. Leslie Wyman B. Robert Smith C. Ethel Rowlands D. Adelbert Jakeman

3. How many cottages were built in the first year of the Association?

A. 30 B. 300 C. 5 D. 100

4. What was the name of the Restaurant, Coffee Shop and Bakery open approximately 1908-1978?

A. Oarweeds B. OP Coffee C. Temple Table D. Silliker’s

5. Winthrop Welch held which position at OPA in 2012?

A. Properrt Committee Chair B. President
C. Treasurer D. No position

LAST MONTH’S ANSWERS:

1. Way of Truth Temple 2. Rec Hall
3. Percy C. Hicks
4. 80 5. Union