



THE BELL TOWER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION

Celebrate Independence Day in Ocean Park!



Join us on Saturday, July 4th, as Ocean Park comes together for a full day of patriotic fun, family activities, music, art, and community spirit. Whether you're decorating a bicycle, marching in the parade, enjoying live music, or celebrating America's 250th birthday, there's something for everyone to enjoy throughout the day.

Schedule of Events

8:00 AM – Decorated Bicycle Contest

Kids are invited to bring their decorated bicycles to the Rec Hall for judging. Prizes will be awarded before participants ride in the Independence Day Parade.

8:45 AM – Ocean Park Band Gathering

The Ocean Park Band meets at Porter Hall before leading the parade festivities.

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Saco Bay Artists Art Show & Sale

Browse and purchase original artwork from talented local artists on the Library Lawn.

9:30 AM – Kazoo Band Line-Up & Practice

Meet at the Bell Tower and join the Kazoo Band! Open to all ages and abilities—no experience required.

10:00 AM – 75th Annual Independence Day Parade

Costumes are encouraged as we celebrate this beloved Ocean Park tradition. The parade will be led by the Ocean Park Band. Following the parade, free popsicles will be provided for all young participants at Jordan Hall, courtesy of Steven and Judy Breitmaier, owners of The Soda Fountain & Variety Store.

11:00 AM – Ocean Park Band Concert

Gather at the Bell Tower following the parade for a patriotic concert by the Ocean Park Band.

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Corn Hole Competition

Test your skills and enjoy some friendly competition on the Library Lawn.

5:00 PM – America's 250th Birthday Celebration

Join us in front of Jakeman Hall as we celebrate America's 250th birthday with balloons, games, cake, music, a family scavenger hunt, and more.

7:00 PM – Line Dancing with Skyler Miller

Put on your dancing shoes—or cowboy boots—and head to the Village Square for an evening of fun line dancing in front of Jakeman Hall.



WELCOMING OUR GUEST MUSIC DIRECTORS



If you've heard a few more conversations about choirs, organs, and music ministry lately, there's a good reason. The search for Ocean Park's next Music Director has reached an exciting new stage, and I'm pleased to share an update with the community.

Over the past several months, the Music Director Search Committee has conducted a nationwide search, reviewing applications and conducting interviews. Throughout the process, we sought candidates with strong musical credentials, organ and choral leadership experience, theological compatibility with Ocean Park's traditions and values, a gift for community engagement, and the vision to help lead worship and music ministry in Ocean Park for years to come.

As a result of that work, two outstanding candidates have been invited to serve as Guest Music Directors this summer.

Brian De Young, who arrived with his family in June, is serving during the first half of the season. Brian currently serves as Interim Director of Choral Leadership and Campus Ministry Musician at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Ryan Rogers will serve during the second half of the summer. Ryan received his doctoral degree in Choral Conducting at Indiana University and holds a master's degree in Choral Conducting from the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University. This fall Ryan will begin a position at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.

Rather than making a decision based solely on interviews and résumés, the committee chose an approach that feels very much in keeping with Ocean Park itself: inviting both candidates to spend time here. Ocean Park is difficult to understand from a Zoom call. The best way to get to know this community is to experience it. Likewise, the best way for us to get to know a potential Music Director is to watch them work! This is ultimately a big job, and the Music Director will be responsible for many aspects of our musical life together.

Each candidate will spend approximately six weeks in Ocean Park leading worship music, directing ensembles, participating in community life, and getting to know the people and traditions that make this place unique.

One thing the Search Committee never had to evaluate was whether Ocean Park would know how to welcome people. Time and again, this community has demonstrated extraordinary hospitality, and I know Brian and Ryan will experience that same spirit throughout the summer.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the search process thus far. We look forward to the music, fellowship, and new relationships that this summer will bring.

Tonya Robles
Chair, Music Director Search Committee



BRIAN DE YOUNG



RYAN ROGERS

Arts in the Park

• OCEAN PARK •

JULY 12-18, 2026

ART CLASSES

Get inspired. Get creative. All are welcome!

Limited spots available! Sign up today!

CLASSES & SCHEDULE

1 Mixed Media Art Creation
with artist *Jamie Beals*
Porter Hall
Ages 12-18
Wednesday, July 15
6:00 – 7:30 PM
FREE!
(thanks to generous funding)

2 Plein Air: Making Art Outdoors
with artist *Diane V. Mulligan*
Porter Hall
Tuesday, July 14
Ages 12-17 1:00 – 2:15 PM
Adult Class 3:00 – 4:30 PM
FREE!
(thanks to grant funding)

3 Resin Pendant Class
with artist *Pam Chute*
Jakeman Hall
All ages!
(10 and under must have an adult sign up with them.)
3 SESSIONS AVAILABLE:
• Monday, July 13 7:00 – 8:30 PM
• Tuesday, July 14 9:00 – 10:30 AM
• Tuesday, July 14 7:00 – 8:30 PM
FREE!
(thanks to grant funding)

SIGN UP FOR ONE OR MORE CLASSES!

CONTACT OR STOP BY THE OPA OFFICE
to register and learn more.
207-934-9068

OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION
Chartered for the Sea

Supporting Arts & Community in Ocean Park

Thanks to generous funding from The William & Elsie Hurter Education Fund & The Maine Arts Commission, the cost of classes and supplies is free.

★ **CREATE. CONNECT. CELEBRATE.** | Let's make Arts in the Park 2026 our most creative week yet! 🌸

Art Classes – No Experience Necessary Reserve Your Spot Now

This year during our Arts in the Park week [July 12-18], there are more hands-on art class offerings than ever before.

Back by popular demand, and thanks to the generous grant funding of the Hurter Family Fund, artist Pam Chute will be teaching 3 sections of her Resin Pendant class. This class is open to people of all ages, but anyone under 10 years of age must also have an adult signed up for the class who will attend with them and create alongside them.

There are also three new class offerings:

1. A *Mixed Media Art* class with local artist Jamie Beals for youth ages 12-17
2. *Making Art Outdoors* with Plein Air artist Diane V. Mulligan for youth ages 12-18
3. *Plein Air: Making Art Outdoors* for Adults with Plein Air artist Diane V. Mulligan [Generous funding has provided support for the artists and supplies. All classes are free for students and will include all art supplies, but space is limited so sign up ASAP by contacting the office to reserve your spot. Call 207-934-9068 or stop by to reserve a spot. See the image for more information on the times and location of the classes.]

No experience is needed for any of the classes, and all are welcome regardless of your art experience.

Come have fun and learn more about art.

ART Exhibition Opportunity

- Two-week juried exhibition time slot in Ocean Park
- Five cabinets floor to ceiling with shelves – three locked and two unlocked
- A feature in the monthly Bell Tower newsletter sent to all OPA members and shared on social media
- 80% of sales to the artist, 20% commission fee to OPA
- Rolling application until spots are filled

To apply, submit the following:

1. Your name and media [Fine Craft or Fine Art]
2. Website or social media where your work can be viewed
3. Short 1-2 paragraph artist bio sharing your story as an artist
4. One professional image of your work and one professional image of you or you with your work
5. Preferred 2026 exhibition month- Add 1st, 2nd & 3rd choice
2026-June, July, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec
2027-Jan, Feb, March, April, May, June
6. Are you a member of any of the following organizations: Ocean Park Association, Saco Bay Artists, or The Educational Bureau of Ocean Park? If so, please list.



Send completed application to:
fountainglass10@gmail.com
Add "OPA Art Exhibition" to Subject Line

CARPENTER Needed!

We're looking for a skilled carpenter to help bring our community vision to life!

We have this display piece and need your help to transform it into a mini art museum for our community.

Project includes:

- ✓ Add a roof to the top
- ✓ Add a door to the front
- ✓ Add a post with base
- ✓ So it can stand outside and serve as a mini art museum



Help us build something beautiful for our community!



Interested?

Please contact:

Heather Fountain
FountainGlass10@gmail.com



Beach Roses by Charlotte Thibault

JULY 16, 2026

5:00-7:00 PM IN THE TEMPLE
50 TEMPLE AVE, OCEAN PARK, ME. STOP IN ANYTIME.

- Art Sale
- Art Scavenger Hunt for kids
- Food & Drinks
- Meet the Artists

All are welcome!

MEET AND TALK TO ARTISTS AND SEE WHAT THEY HAVE CREATED AROUND OCEAN PARK THIS WEEK.

CHILDREN CAN TAKE PART IN AN ART SCAVENGER HUNT WITH ART PRIZES.

FREE ENTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

See the booklet for daily/weekly events. Current members can pick up their booklet at the OPA Office. It is also available on the home page of our website.

Notable events are listed below:

- July 2nd - Sand Sculpture on the beach, 6:30 PM
- July 4th - Independence Day Celebrations, all day
- July 11th - Gratitude + Giving at The Temple, 5:30 - 9:30 PM
- July 24th - 5k Race, 7 PM
- July 25th - Kids Fun Run, 10 AM
- August 1st - Illumination Night, *Strawberry Festival* - 6:30 PM
Walk About - 8 PM

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.

REMINDERS

- You do not need cash for program and events. Credit cards will be accepted!
- Sunday Worship starts at 10 AM all Summer. Please check the booklet for opportunities to have "Spiritual Conversations" led by our Temple Preachers. Sessions may reflect on the sermon, delve deeply into scripture passages, or explore broader themes of faith. All are invited to attend!

Coffee & Conversations with Fran Day, our Executive Director, and Linda Lauritano, Board President, will be available on Thursdays, at 3:30 PM in Jakeman Hall starting June 25th. Coffee, soft drinks and water will be available.

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.

**THEODORE POLAND
PORTLAND, MAINE
MAY 30, 2026**



Ocean Park
REALTY
"Vacation at the Beach"

Curious to know what your home would sell or rent for?

REACH OUT TODAY!

Chris Whittaker has over 25 years of real estate experience and deep ties to the Ocean Park community.



New Winter Rental in Ocean Park

10 Winona Ave.

Corner lot- 5 houses from the beach.

Ocean view from primary bedroom. 4 bedrooms upstairs. 3.5 bathrooms. Hardwood floors. Fieldstone fireplace with gas insert. Kitchen is updated. Winter rental flexible start date. \$2600/month plus utilities. No pets. No smoking.



Your trusted partner
for real estate sales and rentals
OceanPark | OldOrchardBeach | KinneyShores

CHRIS WHITTAKER

207-800-6116 (CELL)
CHRIS@OCEANPARKREALTY.COM

(207) 937-5054
oceanparkrealty.com

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

Just Listed For Sale

17 Randall Ave in Ocean Park
4 bedrooms, 1 bath, beautiful corner lot two blocks from the beach.
You will love this front porch and the charm of this spacious summer cottage.
\$795,000



OCEANWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

LOBSTER BOIL & BBQ

JOIN NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FELLOWSHIP & DELICIOUS FOOD!!

ON THE MENU:

LOBSTER, BBQ CHICKEN, SHRIMP BOIL, HOT DOGS, YUMMY SIDES AND DESSERTS!

TICKETS SHOULD BE PURCHASED ONLINE PRIOR TO THE EVENT, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE PLEASE CONTACT NATASHA AT (207) 934-9655 EX.2 OR RETREATS@OCEANWOOD.ORG

Scan to Purchase Tickets



JULY 19TH

1:30PM-3:00PM

OCEANWOOD

17 ROYAL STREET

OCEAN PARK TRIVIA



1. Who made the original beach signs on the beach?
A. John Smith B. Chris Whittaker C. William Bedford D. Sylvain Johnson
2. In what year did the Educational Bureau purchase The Curtis House?
A. 1882 B. 1887 C. 1900 D. 1945
3. Who was the first President of the Women's Bureau- aka Educational Bureau?
A. Emeline Burlingame B. Nellie Wade Whitcomb C. Clara Dexter
D. Susan Porter
4. Oren B. Cheney was the President at which college?
A. Westbrook College B. Bowdoin College C. Bates College
D. College of the Atlantic
5. This photographer owned a studio from the 1930's to 1960's in Ocean Park.
A. James Norris B. Claire Milliken
C. Tom Thomas D. Ethel Wight

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS:

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. D
5. B