



THE BELL TOWER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION

A 250th to Remember!



Ocean Park proudly celebrated Independence Day with another memorable Fourth of July filled with patriotism, tradition, and community spirit as we also commemorated America's 250th birthday. The morning began with the decorated bicycle contest before the Ocean Park Band led the 75th Annual Independence Day Parade through the village. As always, the parade brought together residents and visitors of all ages, with colorful floats, decorated bicycles, community organizations, and plenty of red, white, and blue on display. Following the parade, families gathered at the Bell Tower to enjoy a patriotic concert by the Ocean Park Band, continuing a cherished tradition that has delighted generations.

The celebration continued throughout the day with activities for everyone to enjoy. Visitors browsed the Saco Bay Artists Art Show & Sale, joined the Kazoo Band, competed in the evening Corn Hole Competition, and wrapped up the festivities with line dancing in Village Square. Thanks to the Educational Bureau for organizing a celebration of America's 250th birthday at the Bandstand, featuring appearances by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Martha Washington, and Abigail Adams, patriotic music by the OP Brass Band, the ceremonial birthday cake cutting, family games, cupcakes, a scavenger hunt, and plenty of opportunities to celebrate together.



Events like these are what make Ocean Park such a special place. They bring neighbors together, welcome visitors into our community, and preserve the traditions that have been enjoyed for generations while creating new memories for families today. The Ocean Park Association extends its sincere thanks to the many volunteers, performers, sponsors, and participants whose time and dedication made this year's celebration possible. Thanks to all that registered for the parade. This helps protect OPA from any issues that could occur. We look forward to continuing this beloved tradition and celebrating together again next Independence Day.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the fourth annual Gratitude + Giving. It was a wonderful evening celebrating the generosity, spirit and strong sense of community that make Ocean Park so special. Thanks to your incredible support, the event raised more than \$46,000, resulting in approximately \$33,000 in net proceeds to benefit the Ocean Park Association and its ongoing work.



With over 200 people in attendance, we honored Doug Moon, Judy Barrett Breitmayer, Deb Dolan and Lisa Kidd as Community Partner Award Winners. Steve & Dayle Moreau and Debbie Sousa were our Above and Beyond Recipients. The Lifetime Service Award went to Dan Evans. Mark Lauritano and Lauren Gallagher were our Volunteers of the Year. A huge thank you to the Event Committee and all our Volunteers who play a huge role in these events.

We are deeply grateful for your participation and look forward to welcoming you back next year. Watch for a 2027 Save the Date later this year!



The Beach, An Ocean Park Treasure

This summer you may have noticed news reports of beach closures up and down the east coast due to water quality issues. Have you ever wondered if Ocean Park's beach is safe for swimming?

Fortunately, there is a way for you to find out. Ocean Park is one of over 60 beaches from Kittery to Acadia National Park that is monitored by the Maine Healthy Beaches (MHB) Program which was established to ensure that Maine's saltwater beaches remain safe and clean. The program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is managed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Here's how it works. Every Tuesday morning between Memorial Day and Labor Day volunteers gather information about activity on the beach, air & water temperature, water salinity and walk out into knee-deep water to collect samples that are sent off to the state laboratory. The two beach sites monitored in Ocean Park are located at the end of Porter Road and Reggio Road. There are four additional sites monitored between the Brunswick and the Friendship Oceanfront Suites. Test results are posted on the MHB website (<https://www.maine.gov/depl/water/beaches/index.html>) by Wednesday afternoon, and an advisory is issued if Enterococcus (ENT) bacteria levels exceed federal safety guidelines. If you're already at the beach look for any advisory (orange: Elevated Bacteria or yellow: Precautionary Rainfall) or closure (red) signs or other signs posted at the beach entrance or on the lifeguard stands. Contact with water containing elevated levels of ENT bacteria may cause symptoms ranging from gastrointestinal pain to eye and ear discomfort to flu-like symptoms.

So where do these ENT bacteria come from and what have we learned from MHB water quality tests? The primary source of ENT bacteria is from wildlife and human fecal contamination. A heavy rainfall is the most common event that elevates ENT bacteria in saltwater. Stormwater runoff from roads and yards along with leaking or ageing septic systems carries bacteria laden water directly into our marshes which empty into

What Can You Do To Protect Ocean Park's Beaches:

- ✓ Safely dispose of pet waste
- ✓ Minimize surface runoff on your property by limiting paved/impervious surfaces
- ✓ If you have a septic system, get it inspected or even better opt to connect your home to the Town of Old Orchard Beach sewer system
- ✓ Accompany an MHB volunteer on Tuesday mornings. Just let the OPA office know and a MHB volunteer will reach out to you.

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septic systems carries bacteria laden water directly into our marshes which empty into Goosefare Brook and the ocean. We know this because additional water samples collected at the New Salt Road tidal gate and under the bridge on West Grand Avenue contain consistently higher levels of ENT bacteria than in seawater during these events. Over the first seven weeks of this summer there have been two advisories issued by MHB for Porter beach and zero for Reggio beach. In all these cases the beaches remained open because follow-up water samples taken the next day showed that bacteria counts had dropped back down to acceptable levels.

For additional concerns about beach safety and decisions regarding beach closure, contact Ben Quiram (207-934-4416), Beach Manager with the Town of Old Orchard Beach.

Mark Lauritano on behalf of the OPA Environment & Natural Resources Committee

BERLINER PLAYGROUND CLIMBER INSTALLED

One of the newest additions to Memorial Park is already helping create new memories for Ocean Park families. The Ocean Park Association is deeply grateful to Jim Grace for generously donating the new cable climber, located behind the existing playground near Colby Avenue. More than twenty years ago, Jim's own children spent countless hours playing on a similar climber, and those happy memories inspired him to give today's children and families the opportunity to enjoy the same kind of active play and connection.

The new equipment offers an exciting challenge for older children while encouraging families to spend time together outdoors, building friendships and making memories that will last a lifetime. Jim also donated the original Memorial Park playset in 2004, and we sincerely thank him for his continued generosity and commitment to making Ocean Park a special place for generations to come.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For a full list of upcoming events, please visit the [website](#) for "This Week in Ocean Park" and our Booklet. Current OPA Members may also pick up a physical booklet at the OPA Office.

Notable events are listed below:

- July 24th - 5k Race, 7 PM
- July 25th - Kids Fun Run, 10 AM
- July 26th - Sunday Service w/ Sandra Dorsainvil at The Temple, 10 AM
- July 27th-31st - Ocean Park Kidz Got Talent Camp
- August 1st - Illumination Night, *Strawberry Festival* - 6:30 PM
Walk About - 8 PM
- August 2nd - Sunday Service w/ Dr. Doug Scalise at The Temple, 10 AM
- August 3rd-7th - Beach Olympics Camp



REMINDERS

- You do not need cash for program and events. Credit cards will be accepted!
- Interested in Volunteering? There are several ways you may do so. For more information, click [here](#).

The OPA Annual Meeting was held on Saturday Morning, July 18th, attended by more than 80 members, where officers, new members to the Board and new committee members were elected.



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.

**JOSEPH FINN
SACO, ME
JULY 2026**



Ocean Park
REALTY
"Vacation at the Beach"

Now booking Winter Rentals in Ocean Park area Please email Chris@OceanParkRealty.com for a no cost application.

Summer rentals- August 22-29 discounts available. Ask about our off-season rates extending into early October.

We just SOLD 32 Temple Ave privately (no MLS). If this is something you'd be interested in please send Chris an email. We have buyers interested in move in ready year round properties as well as small cottages.





TELL US HOW WE'RE DOING!

We'd love your feedback on your experience in Ocean Park!

SCAN
this QR code with your phone's camera

CLICK
the **yellow** link to get to our feedback form

SHARE
your thoughts—everyone's feedback **is welcome!**



We appreciate your participation!




COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Thursdays at 3:30 PM in
Jakeman Hall



Fran Day, Executive Director



Linda Lauritano, President



Thanks for those who have been joining us! We want to hear your input and answer your questions.

OCEAN PARK TRIVIA



- Who was the first "Matron" of The Curtis Home?
A. Roxana Buzzell B. Susan Porter C. Clara Dexter D. Mildred Weeks
- Who built the Ocean Park Hotel in 1882?
A. Mr. A. M Jakeman B. Mrs. I.C. Estes C. Mr. Paul c. Cornwell D. Mrs. Agnes L. Parks
- In 2012, who was the Designated Broker of Ocean Park Realty?
A. Maddie Paquette B. John Hatcher C. Jakeman Jordan D. Edwin Abbey
- Who was both a Recreation Director at the Rec Hall and also a 6th Grade Teacher in Cape Elizabeth?
A. Carolyn Barstow B. Paul Casey C. Gordon MacDonald D. Jim Jenkins
- This 1880s-era bed and breakfast was located at 1 Temple Ave
A. OP Inn B. Old Orchard B & B C. The Inn at Temple D. Webfoot Inn

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS:

- C
- B
- C
- C
- D