



THE BELL TOWER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION

★ ★ ★ STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AND ILLUMINATION NIGHT ★ ★ ★



Nearly 500 Strawberry Shortcakes were sold!



Drone shot overlooking Ocean Park thanks to Alexander Ryan.



The Youd Family handed out 1,500 candles and prayer cards on Sandpiper!



Thanks to Bob Kelly of LORAX Lighting for the lighting display in our Town Square

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

As you drove past Guild Park at the end of July, you probably noticed a large pile of wood chips had been delivered, 100 yards total. The chips were spread evenly a few days later. Their purpose is to inhibit weed growth on the bare ground and improve drainage and runoff during rain events. The E&NR Committee has been exploring various landscaping options for this area and will keep OPA members informed as we move ahead with this project. In the meantime, we welcome any input or ideas. Thanks very much.

by Don Hoenig, E&NR Committee member



Beachgoers may soon notice a new addition just offshore of Goosefare Brook: a small, buoy-shaped water quality sensor about the size of a basketball. Funded by a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, the buoy is part of a University of New England research project to monitor coastal water quality in real time. Every 15 minutes it will record temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity (cloudiness or murkiness), and tryptophan, a compound that serves as an early indicator of possible sewage-related contamination. Together, these measurements will help UNE researchers, working alongside the OPA Environmental and Natural Resources Committee, better understand water quality patterns and potential pollution sources along Goosefare Brook and the surrounding coastline.

The project has been approved by UNE and the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, and the team is coordinating deployment with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Saco Harbor Master, and Old Orchard Beach Town Hall by late August. Once operational, the data will be posted on a public UNE dashboard, and researchers plan to work closely with the community to help interpret the incoming data. A matching buoy will also be deployed at the eastern end of Goose Rocks Beach in Kennebunkport. Questions about the project or the data are always welcome and can be directed to Dr. Will Kochtitzky (wkochtitzky@une.edu) at the University of New England.

Submitted by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee



Have you ever wondered... IF you could return to the Ocean Park of the past... IF you could experience what the area looked like way back when... IF you could see the faces of Ocean Parkers past and present....YOU CAN!

Every Sunday after the service in the Temple, Porter Hall (the building to the left) welcomes you to time-travel into the past. The dedicated volunteers of the Historical Preservation Committee have spent many hours finding, sorting and arranging a number of revealing displays: Bathing Beauties, By the Sea, Camp Life, We Love a Parade, Then & Now, and much more! So whether you're new to Ocean Park, are part of a family that's been here for generations, or think you've "seen it all", grab some refreshments after the service then come on over. You never know what you'll discover.

OCEAN PARK TRIVIA



1. **In 1958, which local radio station, based in Biddeford, broadcasted Sunday Services?**
 - a. WBFD 1300 b. WIDE 1400 c. MNEB 1320
 - d. WGME 1600
2. **Miles S. York was the owner of which Ocean Park Business?**
 - a. Whittemore Associates b. Ocean Park Bus Line
 - c. Ocean Park Laundry d. Ocean Park Bank
3. **This Ocean Park business in 1922 offered "Post Cards of all Parts of the Park"**
 - a. Demeritt Studio b. OP Photography
 - c. Armstrong's Studio d. York County Art
4. **The Temple Garden was originally built in which year?**
 - a. 2000 b. 1905 c. 1935 d. 1921
5. **Who built the Memorial Library?**
 - a. Writers' Conference b. The Florida Club
 - c. The Acquaintance Club d. York County Bates Alumni

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS:

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

Contact Us

Who should I contact in the office?

The OPA staff works diligently to support the needs of Board and Committee members and our community. We are experiencing confusion and duplication of effort because opa@oceanpark.org is accessed by several staff members who then respond. Further, many volunteers are sending mass emails to all staff members which also leads to confusion. To that end, we are discontinuing use of the email opa@oceanpark.org. Effective July 31, 2026, the opa@oceanpark.org address will be eliminated from the system.

Each staff member has a specific email and an assigned set of duties. Please send your requests to the appropriate staff member. If you have a question about who should receive the communication, then be in touch with Fran. For a detailed list of staff duties, please click [HERE](#).



Fran Day, Executive Director
director@oceanpark.org



Marcia Cocker, Administrative Manager
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Mike Nicholas, Marketing Manager
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James Cocker, Facilities Manager
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Deb Evans, Programming Coordinator
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PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WORK WITH THE
APPROPRIATE STAFF MEMBER RELATIVE TO YOUR REQUEST.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For a full list of upcoming events, please visit oceanpark.org for “This Week in Ocean Park” and our Booklet.

Notable events are listed below:

- August 18th - Embracing Hope in Poetry & Art at Jordan Hall, 7 PM
- August 19th - Ocean Park Temple Brass at Jordan Hall, 7 PM
- August 20th - Family Doubles Tournament at Shuffleboard Court, 9 AM (arrive 15 min early)
- August 23rd - Sunday Service w/ Rev Genna Hosterman at the Temple, 10 AM
- August 23rd - J-Train band at the Bandstand, 7 PM
- August 25th - All Washed Up! at Jordan Hall, 7 PM
- August 26th - Clarinet Chromatics at Jordan Hall, 7 PM
- September 18th - OPA Blood Drive at Jakeman Hall, 9AM-2PM

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, visit [HERE](#).
- We want your feedback! Take our short [SURVEY](#).
- We’ve seen an increase in email spoofing, where scammers send emails that appear to come from OPA staff or Board members. Be cautious of unexpected requests for money, gift cards, personal information, or clicking links. Always check the sender’s actual email address, and if something seems suspicious, contact the OPA office or the person directly to confirm.

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oceanpark.org

We have some great last-minute cottage rentals available for August—especially during the week of 8/22 – 8/29. Email Chris@oceanparkrealty.com and book your Ocean Park vacation.

September in Ocean Park

We have discounts for the shoulder weeks of September. Discounts as much as 30% off the prime week pricing. Email Chris@Oceanparkrealty.com with your preferred dates.

For Sale in Ocean Park

Classic seasonal cottage on spacious corner lot two blocks from the beach.

4 bedrooms

1 bath

\$795,000



Sale Pending

Under Contract in 3 Days.

17 Ancona Ave.

4 Bedrooms

3 Baths

Over 2500 square feet

New pine floors, Bosch appliance package with convection oven, granite countertops, lots of beautiful hardscaping.



Winter Rentals Available:

65 Colby- \$2000/month plus some utilities

Unit 71 at Ocean Park Meadows- \$1900/month plus some utilities

Unit 36 at Ocean Park Meadows- \$1900/month plus some utilities

18 Oceana- \$2000/month plus some utilities

Email Chris@Oceanparkrealty.com for a no-cost application.