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THE BELL TOWER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION

OPA RAFFLE

Last week we launched our first ever online raffle! We have over 25 items listed and will be adding a few more. Help support the OPA mission and enter to win some great prizes before the Holiday season! Click HERE to view the raffle.

You can also purchase in-person or by phone

GUILD PARK UPDATE

The Ocean Park Association will be closing Guild Park to the public from dawn to dusk on October 29th in order to apply pesticide to the lower bark of a select number of hemlock trees. This is being done in compliance with the OPA Integrated Pest Management Policy to combat the infestation of wooly adelgid that are weakening the trees. It will be safe for the public to use the park again beginning on October 30th.

OPA Program Council Holds Inaugural Meeting

The Ocean Park Association's newly established Program Council held its inaugural meeting on October 15, bringing together representatives from across the Association to strengthen collaboration and enhance the quality and variety of Ocean Park programming. Chaired by Patty Hurter, the Council will help coordinate and evaluate programs across OPA's four pillars—Religion, Education, Recreation, and Culture—while supporting the committees that plan and deliver them. Among its first-year priorities are improving the balance of program offerings, expanding community participation, strengthening program evaluation, and exploring new signature programs and partnerships.

The Council reviewed the 2026 summer season, which featured approximately 350 program experiences. Initial participant survey results were overwhelmingly positive, with an average overall rating of 4.7 out of 5, although additional feedback will be sought to better understand community interests and needs. Discussion focused on opportunities to expand afternoon offerings, engage more teens and younger families, encourage intergenerational activities, and strengthen connections with local businesses. Members also identified improvements in audiovisual technology, program hosting, scheduling, and participant feedback that will help enhance the experience for presenters and attendees alike.

A highlight of the meeting was the adoption of "Anchor in Belonging" as Ocean Park's 2027 theme. Celebrating community, connection, and the many ways people find a sense of belonging in Ocean Park, the theme will provide a common thread across programs, activities, and special events. The Council envisions creative opportunities to bring the theme to life through the arts, education, recreation, worship, and community-wide initiatives. As planning for the 2027 season gets underway, the Council looks forward to working with OPA committees and community members to build on Ocean Park's cherished traditions while welcoming new ideas, new participants, and new opportunities to connect.

Our new musical director is a familiar face!

Written by John Lamb



After serving as musical director for half of the 2026 season, Brian De Young will return as Ocean Park's full-time director in 2027.

Brian, a pianist, organist, and vocalist based out of Minneapolis, is known for his colorful performances, spirited collaborations, and dynamic teaching. He brings passion and excellence to all he does.

"He is warm, genuinely interested in the Ocean Park Community, and very giving of himself, " says Linda Lauritano, president of the Ocean Park Association.

Last summer, Brian shared musical director duties with Ryan Rogers, who began a position at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire this fall.

Also a skilled bass-baritone, Brian has sung with the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus, Minnesota Renaissance Choir, and the Italian Baroque ensemble Consortium Carissimi. He has conducted church and community choirs in Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota and currently serves as Director of Music at Olivet Congregational Church in Saint Paul.

Brian studied organ performance at Dordt University, church music at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and piano pedagogy at Grand Valley State University.

In its recommendation, the Search Committee called Brian "an exceptionally strong candidate who combines profound spirituality, exceptional musicianship, collaborative leadership, and genuine community engagement. Many respondents indicated they could readily envision him serving successfully as Ocean Park's Music Director for many years."

"I am so excited to be officially joining the Ocean Park community as your new Music Director!" says Brian. "My family and I fell in love with this place during the first half of the summer, and Alena and our daughters are equally eager to return. We're looking forward to many more summers of music, worship, summer camps, meaningful conversation, and all the other beautiful things Ocean Park has to offer. See you in June!"

APRIL & MAY- SPOTLIGHT ON MAINE

ISLANDS OF TIME

BY BARBARA KENT LAWRENCE

What happens when a 14 year old girl visits Maine in 1958 and falls in love with a local.

Read the sequel...

THE OTHER ISLAND: BEN'S STORY

The story of that boy and his love for the Gulf of Maine from the eyes of a fisherman and marine biologist.

BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB

Pack your Lunch and join us at noon in Jakeman to catch up with friends and discuss our monthly read

- October 28
- November 18
- January 27
- February 24
- March 31
- April 28
- May 26

OPA OFF-SEASON BOOK CLUB

JOIN US IN READING THIS WINTER AND DISCUSSING OUR WINTER READS

OCTOBER WORLD SERIES MONTH

GONE FROM THE GAME BY CHRISTOPHER FAHY

It's 1928 and the Philly Athletics are poised to supplant the Yankees, if only they could get rid of Babe Ruth.

NOVEMBER VETERAN'S DAY

LADY OF THE LOUVRE: A HISTORICAL NOVEL OF COURAGE, RESISTANCE AND PRICELESS ART BY HELEN CONSTANTINE

You've seen the Monuments Men – now read the story of the woman who helped them!

JANUARY-BRRRR

NORTHEASTER BY CATHIE PELLETIER:

A story of Courage and Survival in the New England Blizzard of 1952.

FEBRUARY

SECRET LANGUAGE BY MONICA WOOD

Story of 2 Sisters who couldn't be more different. As childen of egocentric actor parents how do they define love, fulfillment and family.

MARCH

ALIAS AGNES: A NOTORIOUS TALE OF A GILDED AGE SPY BY ELIZABETH DEWOLFE

The Story of Jane Tucker- who took a job as an undercover deterctive and the trial and scandal that captivated a nation. Rediscover the power of women in Washington

WINTER BORROWING FROM THE LIBRARY

OPA members can borrow books for three week periods over the winter by emailing library staff at library@oceanpark.org. The borrower will be notified by email when their book(s) are available for pickup at the OPA office and can be returned there when done.

OPA office hours are 9 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday. The library catalog can be viewed at: opac.libraryworld.com/library/MEMORIALOCEANPARK



UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON FOREST MANAGEMENT IN GUILD PARK

Progress continued this summer with implementation of the forest management plan. Wood chips were spread over the open area by the Temple Ave. entrance to suppress weed growth. We hope to restore this area in the future by planting native vegetation. Many of the seedlings planted last spring have grown during the summer with some now more than two feet tall. Additional seedlings will be planted next spring. Also, natural regeneration is occurring with maple, oak, and pine seedlings now visible in the park. You may have noticed the orange tapes around some of the hemlock trees in the park. These were marked for pesticide treatment to the bark to minimize the Wooly Adelgid infestation.

We hope that this treatment along with annual releases of adelgid-consuming beetles will ensure that the forest continues to support hemlock trees in the future. Finally, we have completed a forest inventory by tagging all 2,383 trees in Guild Park with a diameter larger than 10 inches. We now have a record of the tree type, location, and diameter of each tree which will be used to track the health and future growth of the forest. We thank volunteers Randy McMullin, Lee Murray, and Bill Thorburn for the many hours they devoted to helping us complete this task. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with ongoing efforts to maintain the park should contact Justin Foster, Chair of the OPA Environment & Natural Resources Committee at oceanparkconservation@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS



UPDATES

Recently we updated our Board of Directors page on our website. Get to know your 26-27 Board HERE!

Jakeman Hall has been upgraded to Fiber Internet! We continue to make technology changes around town to improve connectivity. A big thank you to Jim Grace for all his assistance on this project.

POST OFFICE NOTICE

The Ocean Park Post Office only accepts USPS, FedEx, UPS and DHL. These are the only accepted carriers through the United States Post Office.

Please include your street address for any other personal package deliveries. (Ex. Wal Mart, Home Depot, etc.)

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.

Steven Hager
October 18th
Hawaii and Ocean Park

FOLLOW US ONLINE!

Ocean Park REALTY
"Vacation at the Beach"

For Sale in Ocean Park
17 Randall Ave
Classic seasonal cottage on spacious corner lot two blocks from the beach.
4 bedrooms
1 bath
NEWLY PRICED! $695,000



Ocean Park Realty has winter rentals available now until June 2027. Reach out to chris@oceanparkrealty.com to inquire.

WINTER RENTALS 2026/27

17 Ancona Avenue- 4 bedrooms -$3500/month plus utilities.
1 Ocean Ave., #308- 2 bedrooms- includes utilities $2000/month.
Unit 36 at Ocean Park Meadows- $1985/month plus some utilities- 2 bedrooms one level
1 Weymouth First level- 1 bedroom
65 Colby- 3 bedrooms- $2000/month plus utilities.
27 Winona Ave.- 3 bedrooms- $2000/month plus utilities.
Unit 71 at Ocean Park Meadows- 2 bedrooms- **LEASED**
42 Massachusetts Ave.- 2 bedrooms- **LEASED**
25 Massachusetts Ave.-4 bedrooms- **LEASED**
1 Casco lower- 2 bedrooms- **LEASED**