

# THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

A MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE COMMUNITY  
FROM THE OGUNQUIT RESIDENTS ALLIANCE



## Town News

- Peter Griswold joins the Budget Review Committee after **ballot recount** confirms his win. **New BRC** meets August 11th at 6PM
- Linda Jarochoym has been hired as **Assessor**
- August 9th Select Board discussion of warrant articles for **November 8th** ballot; **September 6th** last day to finalize & submit citizens petitions
- New Town website [ogunquit.gov](http://ogunquit.gov)



**A BIG THANK YOU!**  
to Elaine Cooper who, after three years of working diligently for the Planning Board, was not reappointed by the Select Board

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## In What Direction Are We Headed?

The Select Board announced at the July 19th meeting that it's "Taking the Planning Board in a different direction."

**What is that direction?** How is it different than the current direction? Is the Select Board supposed to influence the Planning Board? Or are they merely the "appointing body"? Is the Comprehensive Plan Committee aware of the new direction?



It's becoming apparent that the Select Board pool of FOTSB (Friends of the Select Board) candidates for committees is dwindling as they are now recycling familiar names on and off various committees often filling vacant seats without alerting the public to consider applying.

They've obviously neglected to read the new Town Charter regarding the Select Board liaison rules related to committees. Advised by the Charter to take a step back and rely on timely reports on committee progress, they have instead further moved to interfere with the autonomy of the boards by dominating discussions and pushing their agenda at meetings.



A hot morning didn't dissuade the many inter-generational speakers and supporters who turned out for the Women's March!

See [Channel 8 Coverage](#)



Thank you  
Ogunquit  
Police!



Above is the masthead of the 1979 midwinter edition of the Ogunquit Breeze compiled by Althine B. Watson, Leonard Wyman's mother, a teacher in Wells. Why are the Fire Station and the Footbridge photos on the front page? Answers to these questions plus other interesting items found in this issue follow.



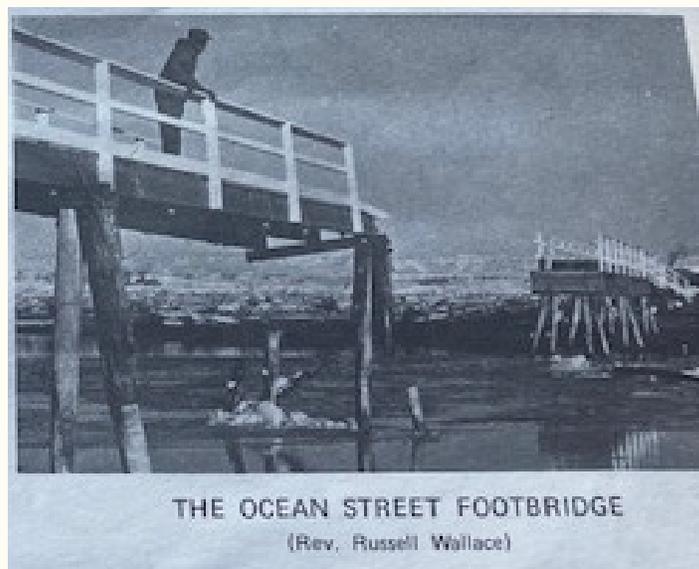
The Ogunquit Fire Station doubled in size with a new addition and renovations to the kitchen and banquet hall. There are now outlets to both School Street and Cottage Street with each truck having its own exit. The cost for the project was \$206,000 and was financed by the Department of Commerce through the Economic Development Act.

Although started on September 25, 1901, the fire department was first organized in 1910 when they met in the barber shop. In 1911 they moved into Fireman's Hall which was later demolished in 1973 to build the Dunaway Center; they had sold the building in 1917 to the Ogunquit Village Corporation but retained space to store their trucks there. They bought their first motorized fire truck in 1921 which was also the year Roby Littlefield joined the fire department. "One of their first recorded runs was in February 1922 when they were able to get to Wells in 17 minutes to assist in fighting the Wells High School Fire, in spite of a foot of snow."

In 1926, in order to raise money for a siren to call the volunteer firemen, they had a tag day where Bette Davis, who was working as a waitress at that time, agreed to give the project her help. In 1927, the siren was installed. In 1953, the original brick fire station was built on land acquired years before where the Old Capt Kidd Dance Hall once stood. The earliest recorded fire in Ogunquit destroyed Moses Perkin's barn, behind the Ogunquit Square Theater and the roof of the Stevenson House, (now the Marginal Way House) which was moved to its present location.

Other serious fires were at The Ontio on September 30, 1934 which destroyed the whole front of the building. The Walter Perkins Pavilion at Ogunquit Beach in the 1940's when embers from the fire flew across the river and set fire to the Hoyt's estate, Fieldstone. The Baptist Church fire on January 21, 1941. The Colonial Inn fire at midnight on June 3, 1951 which demolished a wing. The Maxwell House fire on August 14, 1968. The Whistling Oyster fire in August, 1976.

The damage shown in the photo of the Footbridge occurred during the blizzard of 1978. "When the February 7th storm took out a large section of the footbridge at the end of Ocean Street, it could have meant a big loss to the economy of the village. Fortunately, the reconstruction of it was included in the funds received from the Federal government for storm damages."



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## Faces & Places

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"Last summer (1978) the parking lot took in \$19,500 in parking fees which was about 20% over the previous year. The cost of the repairs was approximately \$24,000. The cost of the original construction was \$4,441.83. By its installation, it opened up taxable property in the amount of nearly one million dollars, as well as giving easy access to the central area of Ogunquit Beach. Last summer it was very difficult to find a spot to "stake out your claim" for the day.

The land for the parking lot was purchased from Roby P. Littlefield. The original cost of a 50 foot house lot at that time was as low as \$450. The last one, I heard about sold for \$10,000."

Other interesting items: a A \$153,000 gift to the town from the estate of Judson Dunaway for special musical programs for the community. A committee was formed to plan this, chaired by Elizabeth Burnham, Mr. Dunaway's daughter. Seven new homes have been built on Adams Island at Perkins Cove. The Old Village Inn glassed in their front porch to add a year round dining area to the building. "The chief conversation in the village, at this time, is the decision of the Overseers for separation from Wells."



*Althine Watson*

## Ogunquit antique dealer: LEONARD WYMAN

When Lenny Wyman was asked if he collected junk or treasure, he said, "I don't know of a junkman who died poor!" In truth, Lenny's collections could fill a museum and much of his wares have provided for their building. Ogunquit's own walking history textbook is familiar to us all as we frequent the transfer station, but few realize that his land is what made it possible.

And fewer still hear the stories he remembers that sit on the tip of his tongue; the familiar names he recalls like his mother, Althine Watson who was a reporter for the original *Breeze* begun in 1912; like the acreage behind the 'dump' that had cows roaming and 42 acres in hay bales: the stories of the long passed folks we only read about in town and so much more that he has discovered through his ancestry searches.

Lenny was hatched (as he says) at York Hospital in 1938. His coming of age was spent in this town, and with the exception of eight years in the Air Force, here he remains. His work included construction on notable projects with 15 of those years at the sewer plant in its early years.



For 49 years he was with his partner, the beloved artist Norman West, until his untimely death. He recounts grinningly, the life they led as a Democrat and a Republican and, through his tales, one imagines he handled his many intrigues and differences with the same intelligence, diplomacy and wit.

As he poses before his truck filled with windows and lamps, think about where they may end up. His collection of old glass now adorns the museum windows at The Strawberry Bank in Portsmouth. Your junk may become Lenny's treasure.

# Natural Resources

## Transfer Station News

Compared to the same period prior to the start of the Pay Per Throw system:

- Solid waste has been reduced by more than 150 tons
- Cardboard (sellable) has increased by 25 tons
- Vehicle visits have been reduced by 4,350

With the elimination of food waste by the addition of a Composting Program (pilot starting soon), the Town will benefit from reduced/cost adjusted hauling fees.

Thank you staff!

## Piping Plover Counts



August starts to see their departure to winter in the Bahamas

Current Count on Ogunquit Beach:  
All Chicks have Fledged (35)  
Current Total in Maine: 48 chicks  
205 fledges



On any day in July, broken glass, wire, cigarette butts, napkins, plastic straws, cans, candy wrappers and other garbage can be collected along the path

## Marginal Way Monitors

Thanks to this group of volunteers, the path is more pristine and safer for residents and visitors to enjoy!

## Maine Healthy Beaches

### Enterococci Bacteria Counts

Safety threshold in marine waters: 104 MPN/100mL

Date/Count	Riverside	Little Beach
May 31, 2022	203	110
June 2, 2022	379	160
June 14, 2022	1046	226
June 15, 2022	10	63
June 21, 2022	less than 10	less than 10
June 29, 2022	less than 10	less than 10
July 5, 2022	10	less than 10
July 12, 2022	31	119
July 13, 2022	NA	less than 10
July 19, 2022	96	less than 10
July 21, 2022	less than 10	NA
July 26, 2022	less than 10	10

Want to know what's going on in Ogunquit?

Can't **hear what's said** at the meetings?

Don't want to read through **more than 100 pages** of pre-meeting documents?

Read the [Breeze!](#)

