

THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

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

Town News

Election Results

- Voter turn out 748 (about 60% % of registered voters). Absentee ballots comprised about half
- Nobile wins over Ferraro for Budget Review Committee by 8 votes
- Funding warrant articles pass (about 2 to 1)
- State voters reject foreign campaign monies & public power, and support local mechanics and aboriginal inclusion in Constitution

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Is this the Community We Want?

In addition to being petty and childish,
Vandalism is a Crime.



(Only) one candidate's legal signs are trashed and stolen



Citizen's legal signs are trashed and broken



Just how far will someone go to silence a person, an organization or a political position they don't like?

And who will stop them?

Select Board Quote of the Month

When asked when the change from 6pm to 9am for Select Board meetings was going to be evaluated as previously stated, the Chair responded: "You have your BRC meetings at 9am. I can have my meetings at 9am. That's it."

November 14th at 1 hour, 3 min

Town Financial News

Port City Architecture of Portland awarded \$675,500 for the final architectural design for the Municipal Campus including the Dunaway.

Brex Corporation of Kennebunk awarded \$54K for the demolition of the Old Village School, expected in March.

Have a safe and warm
holiday season and a
joyful New Year!

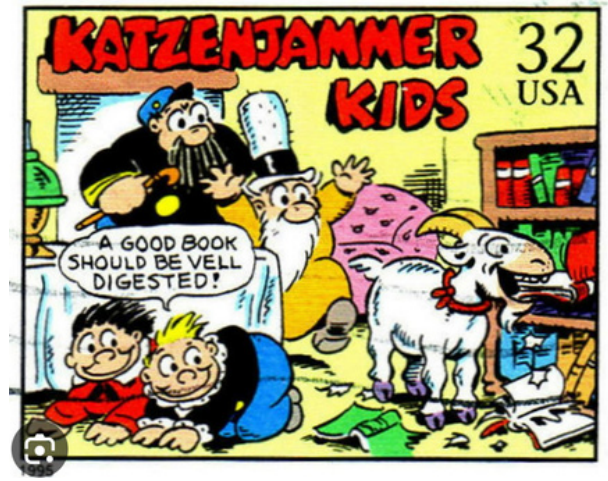


Faces & Places

Rudolph Dirks: Cartoonist, Painter, Golfer and Activities Director

When Rudolph Dirks first came to Ogunquit with his wife Helen from New York City in 1911, he was already a successful syndicated cartoonist. Eventually he became part of a group of artists who united each summer around Robert Laurent, the sculptor, participating in various activities planned around their daily artistic endeavors.

Born in Heide, Germany in 1877, Dirks emigrated with his family to Chicago when he was 7. At 13, a self-taught artist, he sold his first cartoon to a local newspaper. Eventually moving to NYC, he designed ads and sold cartoons to magazines. He earned the bulk of his living creating covers for pulp novels until the New York Journal, a Hearst newspaper, hired him as a cartoonist. Assigned to create a comic strip that could compete with the “Yellow Kid” being carried by their competitor, the *New York World*, Dirks used as his inspiration “Max und Moritz,” an 1860's children’s story by Wilhelm Busch.



Rudy Dirks 1917

He drew a German-American family consisting of twins Hans and Fritz, their mother, Mama, *der Captain* (their surrogate father) and *der Inspector*, a long bearded school official. Dirks submitted his sketches to the editor who dubbed it “The Katzenjammer Kids,” and the first strip was published on December, 1897 in “American Humorist,” the Sunday color supplement. The popularity was bolstered by the 30% of the immigrants in NYC who were German speaking or could understand rudimentary German due to its close relationship to Yiddish.

While he paused to serve his country in the Spanish-American War, by 1912, Dirks had been working on the strip for 15 years and needed a break. Although the Hearst syndicate refused his request, he left anyway. Taken over by cartoonist Harold Knerr, Dirks’ last strip appeared in March, 1913. Dirks sued over his rights to the strip, but eventually lost. Undeterred, he resumed writing a similar strip for the *New York World* with a new name, “The Captain and the Kids.” Both strips ran concurrently in the competing newspapers for years. By 1946 his son John started doing some of the work and, in the 1950’s, they created more characters. Rudolph Dirks still signed each strip until his death in 1968. John continued drawing it until 1979.

It was a varied group of artists who gathered in Ogunquit each summer and kept to a set schedule rising early to paint or sculpt or cartoon while the wives ran the households and took care of the children. Time was always set aside for other activities and, in the middle of it all, was Rudolph Dirks. He played a daily round of golf with sculptor Laurent, cartoonist Sterret and artist Leahey. “Dirks was the summer group’s ringleader. A man of action, he organized clambakes, picnics and fishing expeditions for his friends. He was everybody’s older brother, the one his friends sought for sympathy and advice.” [A Century of Color p. 56](#)

In 1921 Dirks and Helen bought a studio, a house and 19 acres of woodland behind what is now the Brickyard Brewing Company in Ogunquit. Although he spent most of his time working on his cartoon strip there, he also enjoyed painting scenes around Ogunquit. Modest about his paintings, he didn’t like exhibiting them but would often give them away to friends.

Dirks and his family spent many years in Ogunquit and, after his death, his son John regularly stayed in the cottage. It’s sad to see that this charming place was not saved from demolition when the area began to be developed in the early 2000’s.



Ogunquit Landscape 1921

Natural Resources

Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?

In light of the increasing intensity of heavy rain storms, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and other natural disasters throughout the country, are you prepared for a weather emergency, another pandemic, and do you have an evacuation plan?

Recent studies have shown that hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean are now twice as likely to grow from a weak storm into a major Category 3 or higher hurricane within a single hour. As hurricanes intensify this quickly, not only is it difficult to forecast how severely places will be impacted, they are also the most costly climate-related disasters.

The most critical issue when preparing for a natural disaster is to plan ahead. First, you need to determine what types of risk you will face between wind and water. Long before a potential storm consider where you are located, how your home is constructed and what retrofits or upgrades you should consider?

- Install storm shutters to provide protection for your windows and doors
- A garage door is the most vulnerable part of a home, make sure it is rated for pressure or impact
- Trim trees to prevent branches from falling onto the house
- Secure patio furniture, trash cans and other potential projectiles
- Even if you are not prone to flooding, consider getting flood insurance as weather patterns are changing. Standard home insurance policies do not cover storm flooding. Contact the [National Flood Insurance Program](#)



Next, assemble your supply kits for you and your pets. You may need to survive on your own for several days after the emergency. There are some [commercially available](#). A basic kit should include the following recommended items:

- **Water** (one gallon per day per person for drinking and sanitation) and **food** (at least a several days supply of non-perishable food and a manual can opener)
- Battery-powered or hand crank **radio** and a NOAA Weather radio with tone alert with extra batteries
- **Cell phone** with chargers and a backup battery
- Matches in a waterproof container and **Fire extinguisher**
- **Flashlights** with extra batteries in multiple places, **first aid kit** and a whistle to signal for help
- Have **Cash** on hand
- Keep at least a half tank of **gas**
- **Masks** and hand sanitizer
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place
- Wrench or pliers to **turn off utilities**
- **Medications** (have a way to organize and keep dry)
- Eyeglasses and hearing aid supplies
- Infant supplies and books, games, puzzles for kids
- Important **family documents**, saved electronically or in a waterproof container
- Sleeping bags or **warm blankets**
- **Pet supplies**

Finally, maintain your kit(s) after assembly, and keep them in a designated place, ready for a quick exit. Put the most important items in a separate kit (mark as the primary one) in the event all of these supplies are not able to be carried if you need to leave unexpectedly. Make sure to carry a picture of you, your family and your pet(s). If you have multiple family members, you may want to have an occasional drill to remind everyone on fire and household safety, and the evacuation plan.

More on Elections

Citizen Petitions



At the meeting of November 14th, the Select Board **denied** two petitions requiring a special election. No discussion occurred nor public comment elicited.

These petitions addressed elections for Committee members under certain circumstances, and improvements to the Lifeguard Services by creating an overseeing Board. They were signed by 108 and 111 voters respectively.

Why was the Select Board unwilling to discuss the problems voiced? Why were the concerns of Citizens disregarded and ignored?

Town Voting in November

- There is an increase in voting when Federal and State candidates and propositions accompany Town warrants
- The availability of Absentee Ballots and the convenient drop box have made voting more accessible
- Candidates not fulfilling their terms in an elected office, thereby creating a vacant seat and interim election, is increasingly common
- Voting for Budget Review Committee in 2019 (2 seats), 2021 and 2023 has reflected a divided community with small differences in votes between candidates (5, 38, 23, and 8 votes respectively)
- Recent examples of ballot options achieving a wider majority of votes include conservation/land issues, restricting helicopters, and building renovations

Local Events

Check out the new **Local Artists Series** and more at the [Ogunquit Library](#)



15th Annual Benefit Dinner

At Billy's Chowder House
Mile Road in Wells
Sponsored by Dick & Sherri Varano

Tuesday December 5, 2023

HELP KEEP OUR FRIENDS AT THE
WELLS-OGUNQUIT SENIOR CENTER
WARM THIS WINTER

100% OF THE PROCEEDS DONATED TO THE WELLS-OGUNQUIT SENIOR CENTER

For more info, call the Center
207 646 7775



Center For Wildlife

Cape Neddick
Santa, Critters & Crafts
December 9th
Check it Out & Get Tickets

Wreath Making Workshops

[Snug Harbor Farm](#),

Kennebunk
December options

[Bad Rabbit Flowers](#)

Old York Historical Society
December 10th 11-12



As we start our 4th year of the *Breeze*, we want to thank the many contributors to articles and our readership for their support.

We will be updating our email list, so if yours has changed, please let us know at ogunquitbreeze@gmail.com

You can also access the newsletter (usually the first week of each month) and other ORA projects on our [website](#).

