

THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

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

Town News

Town Elections

- **Absentee Ballots** available until June 8th
- **Annual Town Meeting June 13th:** 8am-8pm to vote or drop off ballot

Town Events

- June 2nd & 9th [Annual Chamber Music Concert](#) at the Dunaway
- June 10th [Old Boston Preserve Trail Opening](#) 9-10am
- June 17th **Heritage Museum Reception** [Don Gorvett](#) exhibit 2-5PM
- Children's Story Hour on the Lawn Tuesdays at the [Library](#)

What You Should Think About When Voting on the Budget Items

Is the Budget creating an unaffordable place to live?

- Operating Costs are increasing \$730,000
- Capital Improvements will cost \$600,000
- Monies taken from Rainy Day Fund \$200,000
- The current debt load is \$8.3 million
- The proposed \$12 million 'Municipal Campus' will more than **double** the debt for the Town

What will future expenses be? How much more will be added to the tax burden?

- The Town's Operating Budget will continue to increase and will not be offset by significant revenue increases
- Other costly projects ahead include:
 - Perkins Cove Bridge, Dredge and Harbor Office
 - Agamenticus Park
 - Beach Parking Lot and Erosion Issues
 - Ongoing Repairs to the Marginal Way
 - Annual Vehicle and Equipment Purchases
 - Stormwater Management

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Main Beach Parking Lot will be closed all day Saturday, June 10th



Starting in July and after 3 months of free rent in a Town building, how much "fair market rent" will be charged to the Chamber of Commerce?

Quote of the Month

in regards to Article #59 'Municipal Campus'

"... there's a bond that's going to be a 30 year term and, most likely, folks, people our age won't be here for the full funding so it's not going to cost us anything."

Comment by a Member of the Facilities and Space Needs Committee at May 8th meeting at 21 minutes



Ogunquit Residents Alliance

Sign up at ogunquitbreeze@gmail.com

Faces and Places “How will we know it’s us without our past?”

John Steinbeck



Hoyt's House, the "Fieldstone," and the Chauffer's Cottage

These beautifully preserved historic homes (above), built in Ogunquit around 1900 by Edward Hoyt, have been lovingly maintained for over 120 years.

To successfully accomplish this, it requires total dedication to the task fueled by a deep respect for the history of the property and a willingness to do whatever it takes to honor its past by saving it for the future.

The part these properties play in preserving the charm of a town requires the public to recognize that, without them, the history of the town is lost. Although the owners of these places play the most significant part in capturing their charm, other factors are required to successfully safeguard that these properties remain.

Ogunquit is losing its important historic properties at a frantic pace because of the lack of factors necessary to stop their destruction that is prevalent all over Town.



Captain Daniel Maxwell's Homestead and Barn 1840

- No active Historic Preservation Commission that is mandated by the State.
- An apathetic Planning Board with no interest in preserving known historic properties.
- Weak town ordinances that, if properly written and enforced, would control and direct what must be done to ensure proper preservation of these structures.
- An uninformed public that is unaware of what is happening to the charm of Ogunquit until they notice that an important property is gone.



Today



Grasshopper Lane Built *circa* 1900



Today

If you're troubled by what you've seen on this page, there is something that you can do.

- Go to Planning Board Meetings
- Go to Select Board Meetings
- Voice your concern at these meetings
- Send emails to the various boards

You pay taxes in this Town and should have a say in what happens here.

If opposition isn't loud enough then this will continue to happen.



Blacksmith's Mall Built *circa* 1840



Today

Natural Resources

Our Endangered Piping Plovers

Have you ever wondered why dogs are not allowed on the beach from April 1st to September 8th every year? One of the major reasons is that the endangered Piping Plover can only nest on the broad sandy beaches that provide camouflage as they transition their way from the dunes to the intertidal areas. Anything coming too close (dog, cat, fox, skunk, human...) is seen by plovers as a deadly threat to themselves and their chicks. They have become an endangered species because, despite adapting to master the beach, people have made this very challenging.

Healthy plovers also mean healthy beaches. They search the shoreline for marine worms, crustaceans, sand fleas, and various insects. In addition to safeguarding their habitat, healthy beaches for these little birds benefits other species, including humans, the ecology and biodiversity.

For more than 35 years, Maine Audubon, currently led by Laura Minich Zitske and Laura Williamson, along with the Coastal Birds Project led in Ogunquit by Sue Craig and Deputy Chief Neal Pawlik, have worked with local residents, land owners, and visitors to ensure that endangered birds, wildlife and people can safely share the beach. The reduced shoreline habitat from building has resulted in more people and pets at the beach. This can keep adult plovers from tending to their eggs and chicks, and cause them to waste energy trying to flee a threat.

- In 1981, there were only 7 pair in the entire State
- After decades of hard work, 140 pairs recorded in 2022, with Ogunquit registering the largest number of pairs nesting on a beach in Maine (19) and fledging 35 chicks
- In 2023, there are to date 17 pair
- Nesting pairs increased 12% in the State from 2021-2022 from 125 to 140 with high productivity
- There are now 2,000 pair on the Atlantic Coast.



The population depends heavily on these six-inch-high shorebirds producing lots of chicks in Maine. The village it takes to help people and plovers share the beach now includes not only Maine Audubon but the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), the Nature Conservancy, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, and municipalities working with local residents (30+ volunteers in Ogunquit), landowners and beachgoers to protect and help increase the population of these endangered birds.



Adults are about 6" high with yellow-orange legs which speed them along

The plover's nest ("scrape") is made of small indentations in the sand by the male above the high-tide line. The nest may be lined with seashell fragments or small stones. At times, some birds choose to shelter their nests under tufts of vegetation. Its mate chooses one of several scrapes in which to lay the eggs. The clutch of 4 eggs, laid one at a time, is incubated after the 4th egg is laid. If the first nest fails, the birds will attempt a second nest before May 20th. The chicks hatch in 21 days already covered in downy feathers with the same size twig legs as an adult, so they are able to keep up with the adults while foraging for food. These little bow-legged, pigeon-toed babes can be seen pumping down the beach as they begin probing the sand and wrack line for invertebrates to feed independently.

The chicks fledge in 28-35 days and may live as long as 14 years. After eating well, and if not disturbed throughout the summer, the plovers will leave in September to winter on beaches from North Carolina to Florida, the Bahamas and West Indies, to return the next spring. As the birds are not tagged, it is impossible to know whether the same birds continue to migrate back to Ogunquit.

Disturbances other than people getting too close include predators, increased wave sizes and higher tides, drones and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and other not permitted and destructive activities throughout the breeding season. These cause broods to move great distances and may displace them from their parents, making them much more vulnerable. *continued on page 4*

How You Can Help Protect the Plovers

- If you hear the birds peeping loudly with an agitation cry, moving frantically, or feigning one or two broken wings to pull predators away from nests or chicks: stay at least 100 feet away if you see the birds, and stay clear of fenced areas
- If you see an abandoned hole in the sand: fill it in so birds are not trapped
- Fly kites and drones away from nesting areas. Plovers mistake these for predators and leave nests to ward off these “intruders”
- Take away trash and food scraps that attract gulls, foxes, racoons and skunks that prey on plover eggs and chicks

Contact Maine Audubon if you see any disturbances in nesting areas
207 245-2353

Piping Plover Beach Walk and Talk: Tuesday, June 13, 1-3pm at Laudholm Farm. The program is led by Helen Manning, Biological Technician from the Rachael Carson National Wildlife Refuge.

If you would like to volunteer: contact plovertern@maineaudubon.org



It's been **one year** since the Land Use Office sent out over 100 letters to property owners whose septic pumping updates were overdue.

As the summer approaches and water quality on the estuary will again be an issue, **WHEN** will we hear about the Town's progress on ensuring that septic tanks aren't leaking into the groundwater?

Bob Winn Scholarships to Wells-Ogunquit High School Graduates



The Bob Winn Run to Win Scholarship Award
Gregory MacDonald will be studying Culinary Arts at State University of New York Cobleskill

The Bob Winn Scholarship Award

Anna Woodward will be studying Business Management at Rollins College



Did You Know?



The police are available to measure noise level disturbance

Town Ordinances on Noise

[Chapter 129](#)



Fuel for 2023-2024

Deadline June 30th
Prices good until April 30, 2024

Propane	Pre-buy \$2.14	Lock in \$2.19
Oil	Pre-buy \$3.34	Lock in \$3.39

For more info and to sign up, contact: bferraro@maine.rr.com