



# The Changing Tides of Ocean Ridge

A publication for members of ORMA

VOLUME IV ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2012

## O.R. Singers Welcome Christmas

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Marsha Prock keeps telling Rod Peterson she must go home as they sing, "Baby It's Cold Outside."

The Ocean Ridge Singers welcomed Christmas on December 4 and 5 at the Plantation Club and again on **December 7 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church.** Both shows at the clubhouse were well attended, evidence of how much our singers are loved.

**This year's Christmas show brought some changes.** Before Thursday night's show began, people could be overheard discussing the program, in particular, the absence of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" from the program. The singers took us by surprise and gave us an unexpected new program. Since only laughter and applause were heard between performances, it seemed the audience approved.

The singers were at the top of their game with both traditional and not so traditional musical selections. There were many group and solo performances, both touching and **humorous.** **There was even a dancer (I can't resist** mentioning my daughter, Shannah, 15, who choreographed her own lyrical dance to Christmas Canon by Trans-Siberian

**Orchestra).** Marsha Prock and Rod Peterson did a hilarious rendition of "Baby, It's Cold Outside," depicting a young couple in love, and that same couple 60 years later. Michelle Sherwood and Sally Duffy were "Sisters" who loved each other conditionally. Mary Zuk and Joyce Kuthe had everyone roaring with laughter during their two-front-tooth-less rendition of "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth." There were bright and festive costumes made by Mary Zuk, who did a fantastic job creating them. We had two Elvises this Christmas, played by George Briggs and John Pugh, and neither disappointed us. Even the audience joined the show in a sing-along led by the singers; participation wasn't asked for twice, and the room was filled with song. There just isn't enough room here to mention every one of the singers individually, but all who performed gave a great show.

Thanks to the generosity of all who attended the three shows, \$1,660 was collected in donations. Both the South Brunswick Interchurch Council Food Pantry and the Brunswick Family Assistance Food Pantry will be given a check for \$830. Additionally, about 780 pounds of food was collected, so each food pantry will be given 390 pounds of food.

(Continued on page 2)

# O.R. Singers (continued)

While we are thankful for our Ocean Ridge Singers for putting us in the Christmas spirit, there are many in our county who were thankful to our singers for the very food on their tables this Christmas.

Mary Wayne  
Staff Writer



Above, clockwise from top: Joyce Kuthe and Mary Zuk only want their two front teeth this Christmas; Joanne Masino needs a silent night after her Christmas shopping; all the singers welcoming Christmas.

## The Changing Tides of Ocean Ridge

Please send all articles and submissions via email to [e-newsletter@ormaonline.org](mailto:e-newsletter@ormaonline.org).

Deadline for submissions: 20th of the month.

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# Message From the President



December is always a busy month preparing for the holidays and visiting with family and friends. This year has been especially busy. In addition to our usual activities, members of the ad hoc group formed under the direction of the Community Impact Committee were deeply engaged in preparing our presentation to the Brunswick County Zoning Board of Adjustment in opposition to the proposed Electronic Gaming Operation to be located across from our Route 17 entrance. The hearing was held on December 8 and, as you probably already know, we were successful in having the permit denied. We are not, however, out of the woods. The applicants have the right to appeal to the Superior Court, which we feel is a strong possibility.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep the community informed of any developments. The appeal process can take some time, and this in itself may discourage the applicants from appealing, or cause them to drop their appeal should they initiate one.

On Sunday afternoon, December 4, the Activities Committee organized our first annual Christmas tree lighting. Many property owners attended and donated cans of food, purchased red bows, or both, in support of **Brunswick Family Assistance**. **There was caroling, and cookies and punch were available in Tamer's after the lighting. Many remained for dinner at Tamer's and the event was quite a success. We hope to see attendance at this event grow in future years.**

**After ringing out 2011 at the two scheduled New Year's Eve parties, the board and committee chairs will begin** their work for the New Year. Some of this work has already started, as evidenced by the issuance of new automobile decals by the Access and Safety Committee. The 2012 assessment bills were sent out and were due by January 1. The year 2011 was a very good one for us financially, and as previously noted, the 2012 assessment is \$47 lower than the 2011 assessment.

At this time I would like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. We enter the year with a very optimistic outlook on what the future holds. I thank all those who have contributed so much of their time and effort over the past year to insure that Ocean Ridge continues to be the fine community and neighborhood that it is. Without the work of so many we would not be able to have the wonderful lifestyle we enjoy.

Happy New Year.

*Doug MacDonald  
President, ORMA*



## We've Only Got Ten Fingers



Army-Navy fans prepare to dig into the beer-steamed Wisconsin bratwurst.

That was the cry of the Naval Academy midshipmen on Saturday, December 10, as they held up ten fingers signifying their tenth victory in a row against Army. This was the 112<sup>th</sup> football game between these two cadres of military officers-to-be. Yes, Navy won their tenth game in a row against Army – which really represents the Super Bowl game for both teams. There is no other college football game with deeper foundations or greater prestige – the first such game dates back to 1890. The Activities Committee sponsored this annual event for the fifth year and the turnout was the best yet. This event continues to grow each year – **maybe it's the growing number of Army supporters with high hopes of coming away with a victory!**

**This year's game was very exciting, with the score being tied three times, including going into the fourth quarter.** With the outcome in the

balance, Navy kicked two field goals near the end of the game to seal a 27-21 victory, which capped off their season.

**Those Ocean Ridgers and guests in attendance were treated to real "tailgate party" food and fixin's, including Wisconsin bratwurst steamed in beer and fried onions, Italian sausage smothered in multicolored peppers and of course the all-American hot dog.** Attendees brought many delicious sides, including baked beans and a **variety of chilies. To top it all off, the dessert table overflowed with everything from a special "Army-Navy" cake to homemade pecan pie.** I almost forgot to mention the delicious appetizers that started the ball rolling (or should I say the bellies rolling).

**New to this year's event was a drawing at half-time for an official Army-Navy game day football.** The lucky winner was Rich Scaler of Staffordshire Place, an Army veteran, **who commented at the end of the game, "At least Army won something today!"** The support for the teams was pretty well evenly split this year at the party. [Additional pictures](#) from the event are posted in the Photo Gallery section of ORMA Online.

**Some of the Navy supporters were heard to say "Next year we may have to start counting on our toes" as they left the party.** Chet Bojanowski, a Navy veteran and party organizer, **commented that, "This is the best \$2.00 Ocean Ridge party you'll ever attend."** Watch for the announcement because next year will be even bigger and better.

*Chet Bojanowski  
Activities Committee*



Rick Scaler, left, and Chet Bojanowski show their camaraderie despite the rivalry between their branches of service.

# New Guard Service for Ocean Ridge Plantation

Ocean Ridge's guard service will officially begin transitioning to The Budd Group, Inc. of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, beginning this January. The current guard service provider, U.S. Security Associates of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, has been on duty for the past two years. The existing personnel will be considered for jobs if they are available and meet the qualifications of the new service provider.

Following an ORMA directive to seek competitive proposals for the Ocean Ridge guard service for 2012, the Ocean Ridge Access and Safety Committee, chaired by Greg Lipscomb, developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit competitive proposals. Three companies were offered an opportunity to provide proposals, including the incumbent company. Also included were Securitas Security Services and The Budd Group, Inc. The proposals were received in September, and The Budd Group, Inc. provided the lowest cost proposal. Following a careful evaluation of the **proposed services, cost and each bidder's references, the Access and Safety Committee recommended The Budd Group, Inc.** as the new guard service provider for 2012 and reviewed their recommendation with the Budget and Finance Committee. The new service provider was endorsed for a one-year period.

The Budd Group, Inc. will begin implementing its transition plan on January 9. We expect levels of service to remain uninterrupted during this period. The Budd Group also provides guard services locally to St. James Plantation and the Wood Lake Development. References from those developments strongly endorsed the new company, citing the training of their personnel as a big plus and indicating they were very impressed with the quality of their personnel. The new company provides feedback and communications quarterly and also stops by occasionally to visit with the management.

We thank U.S. Security Associates for its level of service to Ocean Ridge over the past two years and expect a seamless transition between the companies. The Access and Safety Committee will monitor the new service provider's personnel during the year to ensure we are receiving the expected levels of guard services for Ocean Ridge. Comments and feedback are welcome.

*Access & Safety Committee*



ARE YOU A NEW RESIDENT IN OCEAN RIDGE?

HAS SOMEONE NEW MOVED INTO YOUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD?

The Welcome Committee would like to contact all new residents in our community. Our volunteers have a packet full of community and local information. If you are new or know of someone new to Ocean ridge, please send us an email at [linnypr8@atmc.net](mailto:linnypr8@atmc.net).

## ORMGA's 9th Annual Neighborhood Challenge



The winning team, L to R: Rich O'Connor, Bill Bixler, Gordan Wicke, Gary Allison, George Woodard and Kevin Fitzgerald. Front Row Bill Edwards and Joe Coffini.

The Ocean Ridge Men's Golf Association held its ninth annual Neighborhood Challenge Tournament on November 28, 30, and December 5, with four combined "neighborhoods" competing against each other in a three-day winner-take-all event. Each neighborhood team consisted of four foursomes, to make up one 16-man team per neighborhood. The first day's event on Panther's Run counted two best-net scores per foursome, with two players using the blue tees and two using the white tees. One best-net score was used from each tee, for a total team par of 576. The day ended with Dartmoor ahead, scoring 551 (-25), to edge out Abbington-Windsor and Castlebrook, tied at 552 (-24), followed by Brookshire-Sedgefield at 554 (-22). The second day's event on Lion's Paw was a four-man scramble, with total team par being 288, for a total two-day par of 864. Dartmoor maintained its lead by scoring 275 (-13), for a two-day total of 826 (-38), followed by Brookshire-Sedgefield at 829 (-35), Castlebrook at 837 (-27),

and Abbington-Windsor at 838 (-26). The third day's competition on Tiger's Eye counted the three best net scores per foursome, for a total team par of 864 for the day, and a three-day par of 1728. Brookshire-Sedgefield made a charge to take the lead, winning the tournament with a total net score of 1645 (-83), two strokes less than Dartmoor at 1647, and blowing away Abbington-Windsor at 1665 (-63), and Castlebrook, at 1666 (-62).

Special recognition should be given to the foursome of Gary Allison, Joe Coffini, Kevin Fitzgerald and Rich O'Connor, who turned in a (-16) during the final day of the tournament to lead Brookshire-Sedgefield to victory.

*Carl Schuster*  
Sports Commentator



**The Ocean Ridge Ladies' Golf Association was** presented with a plaque by the Brunswick County Health Department, honoring their contributions over the past four years to the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, which provides breast and cervical cancer screening. Shown presenting the award, and accepting on behalf of ORLGA, are (L-R) Diana Jones, Registered Public Health Nurse and BCCCCP Coordinator; Carole Schuster, ORLGA President; Sally Duffy, ORLGA Cancer Rally Co-Chair and David Stanley, Brunswick County Health Director.

# Going Green in Ocean Ridge

Sorry, this is not an early St. Patrick's Day announcement! Phoenix Landscape Management, the company that handles our landscaping upkeep, recently approached the Property Maintenance Committee with a request. It seems the company had experienced great results testing an organic turf care program at a property in Greenville, South Carolina. The property owner's representative in Greenville referred to the product as "Magic Juice" because of the effects he had seen. Phoenix asked the committee to consider using this organic product, "Holganix," in Ocean Ridge. After much discussion and investigation, the Property Maintenance Committee, with the support of the Sedgfield Landscape Sub-Committee, recommended the use of Holganix.

Holganix is an organic, plant-based turf care product made with botanical extracts and natural microorganisms that will greatly reduce the use of chemical fertilizers in Ocean Ridge. As a non-toxic and environmentally friendly product, it increases drought resistance and tolerance of environmental extremes, promotes strong root growth, improves new planting survival and growth, enhances soil structure and permeability, and does not pollute off-site surface or ground water. The traditional chemical "blooms" in nearby surface water are avoided with the use of "blue water approved" Holganix. Since Holganix is classified as a food-grade edible soil stimulant, it is sweet-smelling when sprayed and completely non-poisonous. The product is stored in refrigerated containers and all containers are promptly recycled after use. The results attributed to Holganix have been noted in combinations of sun and shade areas, clay and sandy loam soil, and both Bermuda and Centipede turf. Initially, Holganix has an effect upon turf, but ultimately the positive effects will spread to nearby plants and trees. Over time, typically three years, Holganix helps create weed-free, insect-free, disease-free lawns, trees and plants while reducing the need for up to 90% of traditional chemicals. More detailed information can be found on the company web page, [Holganix.com](http://Holganix.com).

In addition to their move into organic fertilizer, Phoenix has already converted their trucks and mowing equipment for propane use. At the point of use, propane has less carbon content than gasoline, diesel or ethanol and is not a direct greenhouse gas when released into the atmosphere. Propane-fueled trucks and equipment provide an alternative to more polluting traditional fuels. Cleaner-burning propane is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and unlike traditional fuels, leaves no lead, varnish and carbon deposits. Used in commercial mowing equipment, propane results in up to 48% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than gasoline!

Phoenix has also demonstrated a concern for noise abatement in a high use area. They have put electric trimmers and blowers into service around the Plantation Club to reduce noise and point of use emissions. This is especially beneficial for all outdoor activities associated with our use of the clubhouse.

**Chad Johnson, a partner in Phoenix Landscape Management, says, "We are always looking for ways to cut environmental impact while improving the quality of the results." Cutting the negative environmental impact will not cost more and will actually produce a cost savings. Phoenix is passing along these savings to us, as reflected in our 2012 assessment. Phoenix does more than just talk the talk. As a result, we are definitely "Going Green in Ocean Ridge."**

*Dennis Hand, Vice-Chair  
Property Maintenance Committee*

# First Annual Christmas Tree Lighting



Ocean Ridge property owners, along with their children and grandchildren, were invited to Ocean Ridge's **First Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, which took place December 4 outside Tamer's.** Brunswick Family Assistance was the beneficiary of funds raised through the sale of red bows to decorate the tree, as well as canned goods contributed by the attendees.

Our sporty Santa made a surprise visit, along with his cute elf, after making his other deliveries around the neighborhood. The tree-lighting and some caroling were followed by cookies and **cider. Tamer's offered a light supper to those interested in staying at the conclusion of the event. The tree lighting was one of several holiday activities planned and organized by ORMA's Activities Committee.**



# Facilities Report

Now that the holiday rush is over, it is time to reflect on our prior year accomplishments and move forward with what lies ahead of us for 2012. First and foremost, I would like to thank the many volunteers of the Facilities Committee who continue to dedicate much of their personal time to maintaining and improving the amenities we all enjoy throughout the year. As I look back over 2011, there were significant improvements that were made over the past year:

- Improved sidewalk lighting at the plantation clubhouse
- Indoor pool renovation
- New indoor and outdoor pool furniture
- New and upgraded workout room equipment
- Replacement of the railroad ties at the farmhouse gardens

Additionally, one area not visible to the property owners was the competitive bidding of major service contracts, including housekeeping, power washing, window washing and pool maintenance. Over a four-month period, the committee spent many hours identifying the required tasks that comprise the scopes of work, and walking through the facilities with the various bidders. Our goals were to obtain quality service at a competitive price and implement contracts that would be in place for a three-year period.

Based on the results of this process, all but one of our service providers will remain the same. *Clyde Sullivan of Pennymaids* will continue to provide housekeeping services to the Beach House, Pavilion and Plantation Clubhouse. Clyde has been with us for many years and continues to provide four-hour emergency response as well as services above and beyond what are required.

*Sheila Smeltzer, of A+ Pro Window Cleaning*, was awarded the contracts for window washing and power washing at the Beach House, Pavilion, Plantation Clubhouse and farmhouse. Sheila and her team were first with us in 2011, so we are delighted they will be back for the next three years to keep the windows sparkling and the building exteriors like new.

**The only change you'll see for 2012 is with pool maintenance. An individual walk-through** of our facility was provided to five service providers. With the new contract, we went above and beyond the minimum requirements required by the state. The new contract has specific schedules identified for various services, including pool vacuuming, skimmer cleaning, cleaning pool walls and cleaning tiles. While the services are more expensive than **what we've had in the past, we are optimistic the results will be highly visible to many property owners and guests** who enjoy use of our indoor and outdoor pools. *Ocean Isle Pool & Spa*, owned by Bob and Mary Grebla, were awarded the three-year contract, and we look forward to working with them.

The upcoming year will not be without additional improvements, all of which are planned for the first half of the year:

## Additional Storage – Plantation Clubhouse

**In late January, we will start renovation of the women's restroom, by converting unused space into additional storage.** For those of you familiar with the layout of the restroom, we will be moving some of the existing cabinets

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Facilities Report (continued)

on the left to the alcove on the opposite wall. This will enable us to close off the space on the left and create two new storage rooms with access from the hallway. One storage room will be dedicated to housekeeping for storing supplies and equipment. The other storage room will be available for use by property owners who require an area to store supplies used for meetings and activities conducted at the clubhouse. Several groups have already indicated an interest in storage space – ORLGA, the quilting group, duplicate bridge and step aerobics. Once the space is available, keys will be provided to a couple of members of each group so they have access to the storage closet when needed. If you belong to a group that would benefit from having storage space, please send a request to [facilities@ormaonline.org](mailto:facilities@ormaonline.org), indicating your specific requirements.

### Motion Light Detectors – Beach House, Pavilion, Plantation Clubhouse

**In an effort to reduce electrical costs, we've identified key areas that we feel would benefit from the installation of motion light detectors.** All bathrooms at each facility, as well as the workout room, conference room and library at the clubhouse will be included. This effort is planned for the February timeframe.

### Renovation of the Outdoor Pools

In the April timeframe we will start renovation of the outdoor pools. Similarly as was done with the indoor pool and spa, the outdoor pools will be revitalized with an epoxy finish. At the same time, the depth markers **will be replaced and the tile/grout cleaned.** Assuming we have Mother Nature's cooperation, the pools will be refilled in plenty of time for the first swim of 2012!

### Under Consideration – Pickleball Court

**We've been asked by one of our property owners to consider having a pickleball court.** For those of you unfamiliar with this sport, pickleball is a racquet sport which combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. From a Facilities standpoint, implementation would be minimal, as we could use one of the existing tennis courts to define the pickleball court with a contrasting paint. Before we proceed, however, we would like to know if there is community interest in the sport. There are a number of informative web sites concerning pickleball, and Wikipedia provides a good general overview [here](#). If you have an interest, please let us know at [facilities@ormaonline.org](mailto:facilities@ormaonline.org).

I look forward to working with you all in 2012!

**Phyl O'Connor**

*Chair, Facilities Committee*

# Second Annual Arts and Crafts Show and Sale



Ron Sorice's pottery

Thanks to all of you and your generosity, our annual Arts and Crafts Show held in early December was a tremendous success! It raised about \$900 for charity – that amount will assist the Ocean Ridge Charities Association in its fundraising for the Hospice Life Care Center now under construction.

The proceeds came from the very successful bake sale, headed by Phyllis O'Connor, and the vendor fees. The vendors displayed a wide variety of media such as painting, water color, jewelry, fabric art, pottery, stained glass, paper art and photography.

The Arts and Crafts Fair seemed to be a big social event, too, with people coming and going at the Plantation Club all day long.

Thank you for your tremendous participation, and we hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season!

Mary Pat Lynch



Above, clockwise from top left: a necklace by Annamarie Gildea ; Michelle Sherwood's photo greeting cards ; Mary K Donahoe's paintings and Marilyn Pounds' paintings.

# Ocean Ridge Emergency Response Protocols

A number of residents have questioned which police, fire departments and EMS units respond to emergencies within Ocean Ridge Plantation when dialing 911. This article will address each organization separately. For any emergency within Ocean Ridge Plantation you must call 911 to get the fastest response. Do not call the watchmen at the Route 17 entrance gate.

Police – **The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department is the only police agency that will respond to a police-related emergency within the Ocean Ridge Plantation properties.** The response unit will be determined relative to the seriousness of the situation and the availability of the closest unit. If it is a life threatening or crime in progress situation, it will receive the highest priority, and the nearest available unit will be dispatched immediately. If no life threat or emergency is involved, the call will be prioritized and dispatched **as manpower becomes available.** **The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department uses the 911 system for both receiving and dispatching emergency requests for help and to schedule and dispatch non-emergency requests (robbery discovery, vandalism, noise complaint, etc.).** If you want an officer to respond to anything, you must call 911.

Fire Department – Ocean Ridge is located within three different fire districts. The Grissettown-Longwood Fire & Rescue (GLFR) district covers the majority of the plantation. The Sunset Beach Fire Department (SBFD) district includes Castlebrook Way from Dartmoor Way near the Old Georgetown Road gate to just **past the Leopard's Chase Clubhouse, the Summerhill Glen section, and Jaguar's Lair.** **The Ocean Isle Beach Fire Department (OIBFD) district covers an area on the back side of Leopard's Chase Golf Links, where no lots are plotted, and the Waterbrook Woods area off Jenrette Road.** Because of the way fire districts were **established many years ago, they don't necessarily match any current communities' property lines.** The opening of the SBFD Station 2 on Old Georgetown Road will not change the existing fire districts. It will allow the SBFD to make a faster response to calls in the plantation.

When a structure fire dispatch is initiated, the fire department whose district has the structure in question is the primary department dispatched. In addition, one or more additional departments are dispatched, depending on the location of the property. Normally a minimum of three departments will be responding with four or more engines, ladder trucks and tankers. Additional support vehicles and personnel will typically respond.

GLFR will normally always respond to a structure fire call within the Ocean Ridge properties described above, as either the primary department or as mutual aid. The SBFD is the only agency that has a key to the Lock Box at the Old Georgetown Road gate. Lock boxes are a method that fire departments use to be able to access secure areas and buildings, and the keys are tightly controlled and regulated. That is why the Brunswick County EMS units and police do not have keys to lock boxes. At night, when the Route 904 gate is closed, it can be opened by any emergency vehicle with a siren, which is how the EMS unit would enter at night.

Brunswick County EMS (EMS) – When 911 is called and a request is made for a medical response in Ocean Ridge, three different agencies may be dispatched. Many have wondered why so many vehicles and people show up for a call. The system is designed to provide you the fastest response with the best trained people

*(Continued on page 13)*

## OR Emergency Response Protocols (continued)

under many diverse conditions, including multiple emergency calls in the same general area and timeframe. The following explains the purpose of each agency.

- 1) The fire department is dispatched as they are often able to make the fastest response and are staffed **with combinations of first responders, EMT's and a paramedic with a wide variety of medical equipment**, including an Automated External Defibrillator. The EMS station on Old Georgetown Road houses a Brunswick County EMS Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit, but may not be at that location, or may be in the process of handling a previous dispatch.
- 2) EMS will be dispatched and will come from the Old Georgetown Road station if they are available. They will be staffed with at least one paramedic and are the most highly trained and equipped response unit. If they are not available, another EMS station will be asked to respond.
- 3) Calabash Volunteer EMS (VEMS) may be dispatched if they are available and will be staffed with at least one EMT.

The reason three agencies are dispatched:

The fire department, because they can ensure a fast response when the EMS units are handling a previous call or out of the service area;

The EMS, because they generally will have the most highly trained and equipped staff;

The VEMS is used to transport patients that do not have a life threatening condition, which frees up the EMS unit to take another higher priority call.

All of these agencies are staffed with highly trained personnel who are in a constant mode of training and practicing **their skill so they are ready to serve at a moment's notice**. Many of these responders are volunteers who commit hundreds of hours, and in some cases over one thousand hours, every year to be ready for the call in the middle of the night. We are proud to be able to serve our communities.

*Art Thompson*  
Access & Safety Committee

### Water Aerobics Ugly Cover Up Contest



On December 17 at 8 a.m., eight Water Babes from Nicole's Water Aerobics Class wore decorated cover ups in all imaginable designs (they were priceless). Nicole's husband Mike chose the winner, Evelyn Larkin, who was awarded a gift certificate. Great job, ladies.



*Linda Anderson*  
Staff Photographer

## New Neighbors - Jim & Barbara Ellenberger



When Jim and Barbara Ellenberger moved into 539 Gladstone Circle last August, next door to Eric and Carol Dunham, they **discovered one of the many “small world” coincidences that are uncannily common in Ocean Ridge: Barbara taught third grade science to Eric’s son! As a teacher in Fairfax County, Virginia elementary schools for 23 years, retiring as a reading specialist, Barbara is likely to meet more parents of former students among the scores of Ocean Ridgers arriving here from the “Old Dominion” state.**

Barbara originally hails from Toledo, Ohio, and Jim is a fourth-generation San Francisco, California native. They met at Fort Benning, Georgia, where Jim was stationed with the Army and **worked with Barbara’s first husband, who died in Vietnam when she was pregnant with their first child, a daughter.** After Jim completed his tour of duty in Vietnam, he traveled around the world and the U.S. for a bit, stopping off in Toledo to visit with Barbara. They stayed in touch, Barbara eventually came to San Francisco, and they married in 1970, later adding a son to the new family.

**Jim’s civilian career brought them to the Washington, D.C. area, where he served 28 years in the national AFL-CIO, working with injured workers, legislators and other advocates to improve workers’ compensation laws and unemployment insurance. He also served four years in former Virginia Governor Mark Warner’s administration as deputy commissioner of the Virginia Employment Commission. He still consults as a social insurance expert.**

As the Ellenbergers approached retirement, they put their Vienna, Virginia home on the market. It sold in **one day! They joke they were suddenly “homeless,” although it was no joke, as they had to quickly decide where to go next.** Fortunately, it was not a hard decision. They had friends here and in Wilmington, and had surveyed this area for several years. Ocean Isle Beach offered much that they were looking for, and its location is ideal: halfway between their son and his family (including three of their grandchildren) in **Jacksonville, Florida, and their daughter’s family (two of their grandchildren) in Salem, Virginia.**

Now that they are settled in, Barbara stays fit with water aerobics at the Plantation Club and bowling in the **Ocean Ridge league. She enjoys the gardening club’s educational offerings, and she works with the Ocean Ridge Charities Association (ORCA) board.** In Virginia, Barbara was very active with organizations that assist victims of domestic abuse. It is a cause she strongly believes in, and she plans to volunteer for events **and programs that support Brunswick County’s Hope Harbor Home for domestic violence victims.**

Jim used to be an avid squash player. Sadly for him, that sport is missing in this area. So in addition to **bowling with the league, he is taking golf lessons and already discovering what many of us know: “It’s a pretty frustrating game!”** Fortunately, he can still pursue another favorite activity: **long-distance riding**

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## New Neighbors - Jim & Barbara Ellenberger (continued)

adventures on his BMW motorcycle to “biker” meccas around the country. Barbara prefers to catch up with him by car or air at the end of those rides!

The Ellenbergers also enjoy traveling together at other times. Egypt, Italy, Africa, Machu Picchu and Patagonia are among the countries they have explored, and they look forward to having the time now to see a few more.

In the meantime, Jim and Barbara love being in Ocean Ridge and the close-knit Gladstone Circle “neighborhood within a neighborhood” that has made them feel so welcome.

*Barbara Augone*  
Staff Writer

### Glad You Asked!



Have you walked on Sunset Beach and wondered about the jellyfish that have washed ashore and dotted the sand, looking like transparent pie plates? Most are common Moon Jellies (*Aurelia aurita*) with their distinctive **pale pink rings in the center**. **Aurelia is Latin for ‘golden.’ At sunset the jellyfish lived up to their Latin name, discarded by the sea but shining like golden discs along the beach.**

Another golden and exotic looking jelly is just as common along the southeastern coastline. These are the Cannonball Jellyfish, photographed **bobbing in the advancing surf at day’s end in early December**. **More** descriptively, they are also called cabbage head jellyfish. Leatherback sea turtles find them irresistible and feed on them along ocean pathways. Department of Natural Resources studies indicate that commercial harvesting of the cannonball jellyfish for export to Asian markets may adversely impact sea turtle populations.

**Ocean Ridge’s proximity to a barrier island coastal environment is worth exploring in so many ways. Even in winter there are golden treasures to discover from the sea.**

*Sue Gehris*  
Staff Writer

Another (upside down) view of the cannonball jellyfish. They are so exotic looking, even as they are washed ashore and probably not alive.



## New Neighbors Sue and Vic Guarino



Next spring, when the Ocean Ridge ospreys remodel their nest, **they'll be able to look down and observe their new neighbors**, Sue and Vic Guarino. The couple chose their lot to complement their love of nature and the environment. Their adventure for two summers, a few years ago, included working for The National Park Service concessions at Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. Of course, it gave them plenty of **free time to explore each one**. **Sue's background is in nursing** and Vic worked for Lockheed Martin in northern Virginia. Just before they moved into their new house, their son was married in Philadelphia and they headed north to attend his wedding, while their daughter joined them from Boston.

Both grew up in the same Rhode Island town as Joe & Regina Booketaub; however, they had not met until coming to Ocean Ridge. **It's a small world within these gates.**

As their house was being built, and while renting nearby, Sue and Vic jumped into community activities full time. They were regulars at many scheduled Newcomer's events as well as the Ocean Ridge History Club, Garden Club and quilting group. For that reason, they hardly seem like "newcomers." Since their move, a different activity piqued Vic's artistic interest. For months he logged many hours working on set design and painting scenery for the Brunswick Little Theater, including the production of "Doubt" and another production for children.

Their new house serves as a personal gallery of many of Vic's original oil paintings. At the holidays, the Santas he has hand-carved from basswood stand elbow to elbow along the shelving above the fireplace, making the viewer wonder how one man could carve figures with such a variety of depicted activities and poses. Each one reflects the whimsical side of his artistic personality. Among the Santas, one is holding a four-dip ice cream cone with the top dip leaning precariously askew. How many of us could imagine Santa eating an ice cream cone? **The Guarinos' collection was displayed at the Halseys' home in last month's Ocean Ridge Garden Club Holiday Tour.**

**We don't know if Vic plans to make these annual events, but he and his daughter and son made quick dips into the ocean Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Granted, it was unseasonably warm, but is this the start of a tradition...?**

*Sue Gehris*



# Ocean Ridge Men's Golf Bah Humbug Tournament



Runners-up, front row, L to R: George James, Dave Powers, Carl Schuster. Winners, back row, L to R: George Cassidy, Don Bridwell, Rich Scaler, George Mangelsdorf.

The December ORMGA Bah Humbug Tournament was won by the team of George Cassidy, Don Bridwell, Rich Scaler and George Mangelsdorf at a combined score of 30 under par. The tournament, **played on the Panther's Run golf course, had everyone teeing off from designated tees, usually on the sides of hills or behind trees or bushes.** Each foursome selected its best drive, and then everyone played their own ball from there and counted the best two nets per hole. Special putters were used on the ninth and eighteenth holes (a hockey stick and a metal pipe). Second place went to the team of Phil Harrington, George James, Dave Powers and Carl Schuster at -28. Tournament directors were Bob Ludman and Dave Powers.

*Carl Schuster  
Sports Commentator*

## Scenes from the Holiday House Tour



**Above, left to right: Pat Ronay's table setting, Lisa O'Rourke's Byer's Carolers and Sue Halsey's Dickens Village. Over 130**

Ocean Ridge neighbors and their guests attended the home tour. Photos courtesy of Kathy Lonsinger.

*More photos next page*

## ORMA Officers and Committee Chairs



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The list of contacts for all Ocean Ridge [activities](#) is located under Cultural and Social on the ORMA Online web site.

## Holiday House Tour (continued)



Above, left: Howard Johnson at the controls of his model railroad. Right, **Vic Guarino's carved Santas.**