



2014 Orleans Improvement Association

Newsletter and Membership Renewal

OIA's Mission is to preserve and improve the physical character of the Town of Orleans to ensure its attractive nature. For nearly thirty years, the Orleans Improvement Association (OIA) fulfills its mission working in partnership with local government, local businesses, other nonprofit organizations and community residents.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS



Nauset Regional Middle School Greenhouse Project

The greenhouse under construction at the Nauset Middle School will give students hands-on educational experiences in science, math, health and art. OIA worked closely with Principal Maxine Minkoff and the board of the Nauset Middle School Greenhouse Project on an early \$10,000 challenge grant to encourage other donors to make significant gifts leading to the groundbreaking in early 2014.



New Benches and New Planters

In the 1980's, OIA helped to transform an ugly parking area in front of what is now known as the Old Fire House into the lovely pocket park called Parish Park. OIA is replacing the worn wooden benches there with four attractive metal ones. One bench honors the memory of Cyndie Henson, a long-time OIA board member. Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank donated a bench to replace one it originally sponsored, and OIA donated the other two benches. All are gifts to the Town of Orleans and installed by the Department of Public Works and Natural Resources.

OIA also funded new planters on Main Street as part of the revitalization envisioned in the Orleans Streetscape Plan. Three Orleans businesses – The Farm, Agway and Flowers by Mary – planted for the summer, fall and winter seasons. Merchants located near the planters watered them and gave them loving care. The 2014 Spring Planters shown below were planted by the Farm – Thank You Sassy and Terence!

OIA worked with the Orleans Community Partnership (OCP), which has responsibility for implementing the Streetscape Plan, to incorporate the benches and planters into the plan.

Memorial gifts and sponsorships to add more benches and planters are welcome and encouraged. For more information, contact OIA at Info@orleansimprovement.org



Holiday Spirit

By decorating the Orleans Village Green and sponsoring the Holiday Decorating Contest, OIA adds to the glow of the holiday season. During the past five years, OIA has invested \$8,000 to purchase the large snowflakes and holiday lights on the Village Green and Academy Place. Each November, volunteers string the lights and install the snowflakes and then brave the cold in January to take them down. Agway once again donated the large Christmas tree placed on the Green with help from the Orleans Department of Public Works. The tree lighting at the conclusion of the holiday stroll sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce is an Orleans holiday tradition.

The Holiday Decorating Contest initiated by OIA encourages businesses and residents to decorate their premises for both day and night enjoyment. OIA awarded cash prizes in 2013 totaling \$900 to both businesses and residents based on objective criteria judged by local residents.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ORLEANS SPECIAL

OIA thanks everyone whose support makes these projects possible. In addition to you, our Members, our 2013 funds came from these sources:



Annual Garden Tour

Over half of OIA's income comes from the Annual Garden Tour in the form of sponsorships and ticket sales. Homeowners generously open their gardens to over 400 visitors. Volunteers manage all the details from ticket design to parking logistics. In 2013, music and art enhanced the tour. Artists painting plein air worked in all the gardens and displayed their paintings at receptions at the Addison and Rowley galleries. These innovations will be included in **OIA's 26th Annual OIA Garden Tour on JUNE 21, 2014. Please go to our website on May 1 to purchase tickets. Tickets purchased in advance are \$25. Tickets purchased on-line can be picked up at the Nauset Regional Middle School Greenhouse on 70 South Orleans Road. Tickets will also be on sale May 19th at Agway of Orleans, Friends Market Place and Snow's Home and Garden. Day of Tour Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at the Nauset Regional Middle School Greenhouse on 70 South Orleans Road.**



Art of Cooking

OIA's fall fundraiser, the Art of Cooking, generates another quarter of our income through ticket sales and sponsorships. In 2013, local chefs prepared signature recipes in the kitchens of Orleans residents who graciously opened their homes. Each ticket holder had the opportunity to visit two homes and to interact with two chefs before sampling their delicious food.

JOIN NOW AND HELP OIA KEEP ORLEANS BEAUTIFUL



Memberships

Membership support from individuals and businesses is the most critical element of OIA's ability to serve the community. It makes up a fourth of our revenue but is vital to demonstrating the depth and breadth of our community support. Your membership makes a difference in preserving Orleans' special character as a vibrant and attractive town.

Please Give Today by going to the Support OIA Donate Tab

Individual - \$20.00 Family - \$25.00 Business - \$30.00
Patron - \$50 Silver - \$75 Gold - \$100 Platinum - \$250



Volunteers

Your personal involvement is also vitally important. As an all-volunteer organization, OIA relies on the energy, creativity and skills that committed individuals can provide. Both short-term tasks and on-going involvement can be tailored to interests and schedules—volunteer for the Garden Tour, decorate the Village Green, help with technology, join a committee. Please let us know of your interest. Email us at [Link to info@orleansimprovement.org](mailto:info@orleansimprovement.org)



Event Sponsors

OIA extends a special thanks to all the Cape Cod Businesses which have sponsored our 2013/2014 events with their financial or in-kind support. The support of our sponsors allows us to offer more exciting programs and helps defray rising costs so that all funds raised go back to our community.