



THE BEACHCOMBER

DUNE ACRES, INDIANA

WWW.DUNEACRES.ORG

July, 2014

DA's Annual Independence Day Celebration SATURDAY JULY 5TH All Day Events

- 7:45 am 3K walk/ Run
- 10:30 am Decorating and Face Painting
- 11:00 am Assemble for Parade
- 11:30 am Grand Parade
- 12:00 Hot Dog Roast
- 1:00 pm Beach Games
- 3:30 pm Sand Castle Judging
- 5:30pm Social Hour and Children's Entertainment at the Club House
- 6:30 pm Pig/Chicken Roast by Ruge Meats at Club House
- Dusk: Fireworks



Clubhouse Renovation

Perhaps you've heard the noise of the specialized dry-ice blasting? Or noticed a stream of trucks with specialized equipment passing through town? Or maybe you've driven up Clubhouse Drive for a meeting and realized that the wood seems.....*different?*

The Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation (DACIF) members are thrilled to report that the restoration work on our beautiful Clubhouse is nearing completion! The noise and traffic will soon be put to rest and the 100-year-old structure will be prepared to face her next century in fine form. Some Dune Acres residents may recall that the last time any significant work was done on Clubhouse was more than 7 years ago. The erosion of the stain and seal on the logs, combined with significant erosion of the "chinking" (oakum between the logs), meant that the building would soon be compromised if we delayed work on the Clubhouse much longer.

The process of finding a wood restorer who was skilled and able to take on our renovation work was not easy. Dune Acre resident Mark Hull led the over a yearlong effort to locate and interview skilled craftsmen. The procedure for cleaning, staining and sealing the wood involved a sandblasting of dry ice combined with power washing of the soffit and fascia boards. After a light sanding of the logs, the "Permachinking" is installed, and the logs stained twice (transparent, exposing the natural wood grain) and clear sealed once. What separates this renovation apart from past work is "Permachinking" carries a lifetime warrantee so all that is required in the future is clear coating every 3 years.

We are pleased to report this renovation came in at a cost more modest than we expected. Though it was underwritten almost completely through DACIF funds, the Town of Dune Acres pledged an additional \$10,000 to our Clubhouse project.

A Local Treasure

Author Harry Mark Petrakis read to a diverse group of residents at a recent presentation by the Elderberries Senior Group. People of all ages from Octogenarians to a teenager enjoyed as Harry read whimsical and provocative passages from one of his several books. Between readings, Harry graciously autographed books that the crowd purchased for keepsakes and entertainment. All \$600 of the proceeds from the sales were donated to the Food Pantry of Northwest Indiana. During a question and answer period it was revealed that one of Harry's books "King of Dreams" was made into a movie starring Anthony Quinn and Irene Pappas. The 91 year old author also explained how through a childhood illness he developed his love for the written word. And through years of long hours of work and many drafts, Harry practiced the art of writing until his characters became life like, filling his dreams at night and effortlessly telling their own stories as his fingers stroked the typewriter.

You can read more about this distinguished Dune Acres resident on his website at <http://www.harrymarkpetrakis.com/index.html>



A Good Deed!

A while back, the flagpole rope at the security office broke. Thus no flags were able to fly. It took some time, but a new rope was obtained, one with a wire running through it to give it more strength. But restringing (or should we say re-roping) the flag pole was not an easy task. A person couldn't do it with a ladder -- how can you balance a ladder on a flagpole?). A bucket truck was needed. So we asked around the towns for some help. Porter Fire Dept. couldn't help.

Well, one day, Justin's Tree Service did some tree work at our house and we casually asked him if he had a bucket truck to be able to put our town's flags back up.

The following week Justin came back to Dune Acres from LaPorte with his bucket truck and found he couldn't get the job done by himself, so he made another trip the following week with one of his men. And, lo and behold, the flags are flying again!

To this day, we have received no bill for this generous act. So we wanted to tell everyone about this good deed. Justin's Tree Service deserves a round of applause! If you need some tree service done, we suggest you consider calling Justin at 239-840-3003. Can't help but give him a little free and well deserved advertising!

- Tom and Lou Roberts

Update on the Sandhill Cranes

Last August, Jan Bapst reported on the first successful breeding pair of Sand Hill Cranes in Cowles Bog. Looks like baby is all grown up!



photo by Ivan Chermel

From The Beachcomber Editors

There is no set number of pages for The Beachcomber. It will always be as long (or short) as needed to accommodate the content that residents want to submit. The editorial board has been delighted that so many folks have submitted so many stories and photos for the revival of this publication. Keep them coming!

- the Editors

Thanks to the following people who made this issue happen:

Bob Evans	Irene Newman
Rich Hawksworth	Tom & Lou Roberts
Beverly Hubbs	Howard Silverman
Lynn Martin	Sue Smith
Carolyn Mellen	Alex Stemer
Lou Mellen	Mike Swygert

If you would like to contribute a story, photo, poem, art, something from your children or grandchildren, etc, the deadline for the next issue is July 24!

Clubhouse Renovation

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Please come by and see the results for yourself. July 4th Holiday weekend is a wonderful opportunity to come up to the Clubhouse to enjoy the view and our newly restored historic building.

By Laura Truax on behalf of the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation



Permachinking

Sand blasted

A Town Full Of Workers!

There are many willing and able bodied folks in this town who do things to improve Dune Acres that go unnoticed. We hope to shed a light on a good deed or a volunteer act with each Beachcomber edition.

Not that I understand much of anything in “engineerese”, but I learned that Irv Call, assisted by Mike Konapacki and Rick Demkovich did an almost impossible repair job on the electrical line to the water pumps that feed the fire system at the Clubhouse. Best ask Irv if you want details!

Past residents, Town Council President and Social Chairmen Jeffrey and Linda Swoger set up the graphic art advertising for our new phone directory – from Pittsburgh! Once your heart is in Dune Acres it never truly leaves! Thank you Jeffrey and Linda! We miss you.

Thanks to the donation from John Kramer, there are two new basketball rims and a new backboard at the courts. The installation was more difficult than it sounds – Lou Mellen and Mark Taylor worked tirelessly and then went on to repair park benches.

Who keeps the flowers at Town Hall, the gate and the Clubhouse so pretty? Of course it is an effort of many- but you should know that Sue Smith and Diane Swygert are usually involved.

Bob Evans is a regular trash collector on West Road. Though I can’t go into detail on an item that he recently threw away, I for one am glad that I won’t see it in the road. That, along with trash and, unfortunately, lots of soda pop cans, Bob is a town beautifier.

If anyone sees or hears of a good neighborly deed being done, please let the Clerk-Treasurer, or the Editor of the Beachcomber know! It’s a great way for us to keep in touch with our neighborhood.

OTHER NEWS

Some old timers might recognize a new employee here in town. Glenn Brown, Jr. worked as a Security Guard in the 1990’s. Well, he’s back, and we are glad! Stop and introduce yourself to Glenn.

- by Carolyn Mellen

Stemer Celebrations

Since the Beachcomber's hiatus, we have had two weddings and a baby!! The weddings were, of course, here in Dune Acres - a Stemer tradition. The clubhouse looked beautiful for both weddings.

March 13, 2013 - Jordan Stemer married Jackson Levy Miranda

September 21, 2013- Dr. Andrew Stemer married Dr. Emily Sosnoski

July 29 - Jordan & Jackson Miranda welcomed their daughter Shia Avery Miranda . Shia is planning on celebrating her first birthday in Dune Acres.

- by Alex and Yolanda Stemer



Dr. Andrew Stemer and Dr. Emily Sosnoski



Jordan Stemer and Jackson Levy Miranda



The Clubhouse all dressed up.

Come All Ye Crafters

A stitching/sewing/craft group has formed in Dune Acres, aka UFO's, as in Un Finished Objects! Everyone is welcome and all that is required is some unfinished work that needs to be completed!

We meet every Thursday at the Town Hall from 9 am to noon. The response has been tremendous, with quilting, knitting, needlepoint and crewel work being represented and the conversation is lively!

Hope to see more of you, drop in for 3 hours or just one, whatever your time allows.

- by Sue Smith



The sensors at the railroad crossing have been repaired! We shouldn't see the gate arms come down unless there is a train coming or they are switching tracks. For a while there, the gate had a mind of its own.

Mr. Bear

Our granddaughters have fallen in love with Mr. Bear. I have no idea whose brilliant idea it was, but thanks to the town commissioners for implementing it. And I wonder if there isn't another idea which could come from it.

What if woodland/ lake animals became a feature of this wonderful community? If a street wanted one, it could get approval from the town for the cost: the town could pay half and the residents of the street could pay the others half. The next one would come off of West, then East, and so on.

Perhaps the council would decide on a maximum number per year to do.

The town clerk could poll the residents of the street to see if they are willing to be a part of this, and no one would know if a person refused.

I have talked to some of our neighbors, and they said to go forward.

So this is a first step to see if you think such a plan has merit, and if so, how to proceed.

I think it would also be a property enhancer and would emphasize what a family friendly community we are.

It would be fun to give directions: turn at the bear (or deer or gull.)

Well, you get the drift, please email me with your thoughts, pro or con and I will pass on to the town commission .

- by Lynn Martin



Isabel, Cora, and Mimi Leinenweber

“Walking” – A Strong Recommendation of a Very Small Book

Living in Dune Acres allows us ceaseless opportunities to explore and enjoy our natural surroundings. Walking arguably is the best way to become better acquainted with the beach, dunes, swamps, bogs, forests, and the amazing variety of flora and fauna. This leads to my recommending a 38-page-gem, a book simply titled “Walking” by Henry David Thoreau.

In 1851, Thoreau gave a lecture on the majesty of nature as revealed by walking and becoming sensitized to its incalculable charms. The lecture was subsequently published in the Atlantic Monthly magazine following his death (and later still as a book).

Underscoring that beauty abounds in the great outdoors, Thoreau observes that he had come to appreciate swamps emphasizing that he would love having a house on a swamp. He decried the cutting down of trees and the destruction of natural habitats. At one point he says: “By not taking advantage of getting outdoors and walking and really noticing nature, we would miss the enjoyment of it all.” Indeed, let of us not miss that enjoyment.

Book information: 38-pages; Publisher, CreateSpace, 2010. Available from Amazon -- \$ 5.35 paperback, \$19.79 hardcover.

- by Mike Swygert

A few copies of The Beachcomber, printed in black and white, are available every month at the Gate House.



Did you smokers know that there is now a cigarette receptacle at the beach viewing deck? Please use it. Cigarette filters, depending on make, can take 18 months to 10 years to biodegrade!! Yuck.

The Northern Border of the State of Indiana

(Excerpted by Beverly Hubbs from a paper entitled "The Establishment of the Northern Border of the State of Indiana" by William F. McNabney, Ed.D. provided by his friend and long time Dune Acres resident John Wilhelm.)

Did you know that Indiana almost did not have any Lake Michigan shore line? We might be living in Michigan.

Before there was Indiana, there was the Northwest Territory, which was acquired before the U S Constitution was adopted. The U S Congress, which was established by the Articles of Confederation in 1778, formed a committee headed by Thomas Jefferson which drew up the "Land Ordinance of 1785" to provide for the survey and governance of the new territory. The committee also adopted the "Northwest Ordinance of 1787." This outstanding document provided for freedom, individual rights, religious freedom, encouragement of education, due process, trial by jury, right of habeas corpus, and prohibition of slavery two years before our Constitution was ratified in 1789 and many years before the amendment to the Constitution known as the Bill of Rights.

The "Land Ordinance of 1785" provided that the Northwest Territory be divided into no less than 3 and no more than 5 states. Those states eventually emerged as Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, and Minnesota. The ordinance also contained language setting the boundaries of the territory. An east west line was drawn to establish the northern boundaries of Ohio and Indiana at the southernmost tip of Lake Michigan. There were numerous surveys and much confusion about the exact latitude of this line with a final compromise at 41 Degrees, 38 minutes, 58 seconds by Congress in 1836, which was at a the southern tip of Lake Michigan.

The "Northwest Ordinance of 1787" provided the path by which the areas in the Northwest Territory could become a state. One of the stipulations required 60,000 male inhabitants of age. Somewhere around 1815 Thomas Posey, who replaced William Henry Harrison as the Indiana Territorial Governor, wrote to the US Secretary of State, James Monroe, that there were sufficient numbers in Indiana to petition for statehood, but "two thirds of the people in Indiana were too poor to support a state government" and that "there were not enough educated or talented men to run a government." He concluded by saying, "We have numbers sufficient and that is all we can boast of.

Town Birthday

The Town of Dune Acres recently celebrated the 90th anniversary of its incorporation. Dune Acres was incorporated as a town in 1923 with a population of sixteen people living in five homes. A special election was held on September 15, 1923, in which nine voters responded "yes" (none voted "no") to the question, "Should the Town of Dune Acres be Incorporated?"



At about the same time, the Dunes Highway (now US12) was being completed between Gary and Michigan City. The property on which the Town of Dune Acres was developed was originally privately held by Dune Acres, Incorporated, a real estate corporation, formed in April 1923. The incorporators were William A. Wirt, Superintendent of the Gary Public Schools; Colonel Arthur P. Melton, planner of the City of Gary from its inception in 1906; Harry Hall, a realtor; C.R.Kuss, a banker; and C.V. Ridgely, an attorney-- all of Gary, Indiana. Their purpose was to develop an upscale community in the Indiana Dunes on the shores of Lake Michigan akin to those on Chicago's North Shore.

There is a lot more to our Town's history! You may learn more about our Town's history at <http://www.duneacres.org/townhistory.html> and read some of our historical documents at <http://www.duneacres.org/historicalarchives.html>

(This is a reprint from the DA E-Mail Notifications)

In 1815 when Indiana petitioned Congress for statehood they pleaded for an extension of their northern border to the north. When Congress passed the Enabling Act on April 19, 1816, for Indiana to become a state, it also moved the Indiana northern boundary "ten miles to the north of the southerly extreme of Lake Michigan".

So now the northern boundary of the State of Indiana is exactly 10 miles north of 41 Degrees, 38 minutes, and 58 seconds and we live in Indiana on the shore of Lake Michigan.

There were many disputes over boundaries as the five states emerged from the Northwest Territory, the most notable of which are referred to in this paper as the "Toledo Wars." Read the rest of the story in the full article which is posted on the Dune Acres web site under a link you can find on the Town History page. <http://www.duneacres.org/historicalarchives.html>

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Dune Acres has a system to notify you in the event of an emergency or disaster in Town. In the past, the Town utilized a telephone tree system to notify residents at their Dune Acres home. With the advent of new communications technology (e.g. cell phones instead of land lines, text messaging, e-mail, computer-generated calling and messaging, etc.), this new system uses this technology. Here is how it works:

Telephone Notifications

We use the capabilities of the Phonevite computer system (www.phonevite.com). The system is password protected, and it is only accessible by those who have been authorized by the Town Council. Your Dune Acres telephone number, as listed in the Dune Acres directory is maintained in the Phonevite system. If your Dune Acres number is not in the directory, your listed cell phone number is used, or else your listed non-Dune Acres number is used. If you wish to have additional land line or cell phone numbers called, please complete the Emergency Notification Preferences form.

In the event of an emergency or disaster, the authorized person will record a message that is uploaded to the Phonevite system and have the Phonevite system call the telephone numbers that are maintained in the system. If you have an answering machine, it will leave the message on your answering machine.

Email Notifications and Text Messages to Cell Phones

We use the capabilities of the Your Mailing List Provider (YMLP) computer system (www.ymlp.com), which is the same system that is currently being used for e-mail notifications. The system is password protected, and it is only accessible by those who have been authorized by the Town Council. If you are a Town resident and are currently receiving e-mail notifications, your e-mail address will receive emergency or disaster notifications. The system has the additional capability of sending a text message to a cell phone. If you wish to have additional email addresses added, or text messages sent to a cell phone, please complete the Emergency Notification Preferences form.

In the event of an emergency or disaster, the authorized person will upload the message to the YMLP system, and it will be sent to all email addresses and as a text message to all cell phones designated to receive the emergency messages.

Emergency Notification Preferences Forms may be downloaded from the Dune Acres website at <http://www.duneacres.org/Forms/EmergencyNotificationPreferences.pdf>. Completed forms should be returned to the Town Clerk's office.

- Howard Silverman
Phonevite Administrator

The deadline for the next issue of *The Beachcomber* is **July 24**.

E-mail Notifications

Are you receiving e-mail notifications of changes to the Dune Acres web site, upcoming Town and social events, and other matters of interest to Dune Acres residents? You may also read past e-mail notifications. It is the best and most convenient method for the Town to keep you informed. If you are not already receiving the notifications, please sign up at <http://www.duneacres.org/emailnotifications.html>.



Lost Power?

We want to provide you with a few helpful reminders if you lose power.

- Report any power outages on-line at NIPSCO.com, through a mobile device at m.NIPSCO.com or by calling 800-464-7726.
- Receive outage updates, including estimated restoration times at NIPSCO.com/outagecenter.
- Stay away from any downed trees or power lines.
- If you rely on life support equipment, be sure to have a back-up plan in the event of an extended power outage
- Keeping you informed and safe during a storm is important to us. Learn more at NIPSCO.com/outagecenter.

- NIPSCO Customer Care Center

A Dune Acres Artisan's Work on Display in Chicago

For several years since retiring from the corporate world, Irene Newman of Dune Acres and Chicago has been creating unique jewelry art – bracelets, pins, necklaces -- primarily through embroidery and off-loom weaving of beads. Her distinctive pieces have been displayed and sold at the Spertus Museum and at many charity events throughout the city. In only a few days, however, she takes a big step up in the world of recognition. On July 11, Irene's creations go on display as part of the Vale Craft Gallery Summer Group Show, a gallery many believe to be the premium craft gallery in the city. The show continues through August 30. On behalf of all of Irene's friends and neighbors in Dune Acres, we salute her artistic accomplishments and wish her well. A public reception to meet the artists (including Irene) will be held on Friday July 11, from 5 to 8 p.m. See some of Irene's work at www.pinterest.com/IreneNewman/

- by Mike Swygert

The Vale Craft Gallery is at 230 West Superior Street in the River North neighborhood within the small community "SuHu" (after NYC's "SoHo"), a district a Chicago newspaper has described as a "chic, cultural hub, filled with art galleries, boutiques, antique stores, and . . . restaurants."

Vale Craft Gallery
 230 West Superior Street, Chicago IL 60654
 (312) 337-3525 www.valecraftgallery.com
 Tues-Fri: 10:30 to 5:30
 Sat: 11:00 to 5:00

SUMMER GROUP SHOW
 July 11 - August 30, 2014
 Opening reception: Friday, July 11, 5-8 pm



Judy Petacque



Irene Newman



Nicholas Bernard



Mike Arnold



Rare Plant Discovered....on the Town Playground?

The Indiana Dunes enjoys a worldwide reputation as a botanist's paradise. But, did you realize that the Dune Acres area is not only the richest in the Dunes, but has more floral diversity than just about anywhere in North America? It's true. More than 700 different plants have been recorded in the 1400 acres surrounding Dune Acres. The National Park Service's own "Special Vegetation" report calls our little corner of the world "...a leviathan among natural areas."

Considering this, it's not altogether surprising when a unique plant is found growing within town limits. So it was in 1991 when Dune Acres resident (and preeminent botanist) Barbara Plampin first noted an unassuming grass-like plant on the playground. A bit of research revealed it to be *Schoenoplectus hallii*, a flowering sedge known by the common name of Hall's tufted bulrush. What this little nondescript plant lacks in charisma, it makes up in scarcity. It is so extraordinarily rare that it has been recorded in only one hundred places on the planet! This is due in part to its exacting habitat requirements. While the scientific literature says nothing of its proclivity for monkey bars or merry-go-rounds, it suggests that Hall's bulrush grows only in wet, sandy soils that are subject to fluctuating water levels. To adapt to these variable conditions, its seeds lie dormant in the soil, often for many years, waiting for the ideal environmental circumstances to align--which doesn't happen very often. Since 1991, Barbara has noted Hall's bulrush growing in only a few years--most recently in 2011.

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Happy Flowers from Dianne Swygert's Garden



Photos by Mike Swygert

THE GLOBAL CIRCUMNAVIGATION!

Our very own intrepid traveler, Dave Rearick, completed a single-handed sailing circumnavigation of the globe on June 14, 2014. Dave began his journey on October 2, 2013 aboard his specially built craft, Bodacious Dream. You can read more about Dave's amazing journey on his website BodaciousDreamExpeditions.com.



Rare Plant

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Hall's bulrush is listed as both state and federally endangered and imperiled globally. Ecologists from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources recently visited Dune Acres to assess the areas where it has been seen and prescribe measures to help preserve its habitat. Among their recommendations: avoid herbicides, fertilizer, and grass seed, and adjust our mowing routine to allow it to grow unimpeded throughout the summer. So, if you notice a few un-groomed patches around the playground and soccer field, chalk it up to conscientious environmentalism rather than mowing under the influence.

- by Rich Hawksworth

The Fine Print: *The Beachcomber* is published on-line shortly after the monthly Town Council meeting. All information, news, creative contributions, articles, reports, corrections, suggestions, Letters to the Editor, art work, comments and otherwise are welcomed and encouraged. *The Beachcomber* is a grass roots publication not officially affiliated with either the Town of Dune Acres or the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation, Inc. (DACIF). All content is believed to be reasonably accurate and reliable but not "guaranteed!"

Editorial Board: Carolyn Mellen, Irene Newman and Mike Swygert.
 Email submissions to inewman680@aol.com. Please use "Beachcomber," in the subject line.