



# THE BEACHCOMBER

DUNE ACRES, INDIANA

WWW.DUNEACRES.ORG

May 2020

## Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation Honor Role



**THANK YOU** to these generous residents whose contributions enable the foundation to fund projects to benefit the entire Dune Acres community.

The aim of The Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation (DACIF) is to provide a means by which Dune Acres residents and friends can aid the Town of Dune Acres in its efforts to maintain high quality facilities and services. DACIF works with the town government to support programs and projects which contribute to the character of the community that we all call . . . home.

Elsewhere in this issue of *The Beachcomber*, you'll read about just some of the other projects supported by community residents through DACIF.

The Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation is an IRS-approved 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to DACIF are 100% tax deductible as allowed by law.

### You've Got Mail

Dune Acres maintains an **'email blast address listing'** to electronically notify residents about upcoming events and important notifications. **It also ensures you receive *The Beachcomber* electronically!** Residents are encouraged to participate. Instructions are found on the Town's website under "Information for Residents." Please sign up if you're not receiving emails or verify your participation if you have not recently received a message.

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**The Dune Acres skating season was very short . . .**

The cold October weather seemed to bode well for skaters this year, but by the time winter months arrived the temperature had warmed. There were not enough cold days to keep the rink in shape, so aside from a few days of merriment, most skates ended up like the poor one shown here. Special thanks to town residents who helped set up the rink . . . and then take it back down with little “ice time” to show for it. We hope for better conditions in 2020/21!



**. . . but we still have sky-high hopes for the 4th of July!**



**A Belated . . .**



. . . to Dune Acres Chief of Security Glenn Brown who celebrated his **eightieth** birthday in March. One of the familiar smiling faces at the gate house, Glenn observed, “Yeh, I’m older than a lot of the trees around here!”

A Northwest Indiana native, Glenn was born in Gary and has worked in this area his entire life. In his previous jobs, he served in security roles at Acme Steel and at Bethlehem Steel. Now heading-up the 10 person force in Dune Acres, Glenn has served here twice, once from 1991 to 1995 and in this present tenure since 2013.

**Best wishes, Glenn!**



**New Telescope Deck is Open!**

The Rob and Patty Carstens family, in collaboration with town officials and the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation, is pleased to announce completion of the Max Carstens Memorial Viewing Deck.

The viewing area with telescope, located just northeast of the maintenance building on Clubhouse Dune, was selected and developed by the Carstens family to provide a unique place for personal reflection and for residents to experience the vast beauty of our natural environment.



During these challenging times, residents are encouraged to visit the site. The clubhouse drive gate will remain open for extended hours for walkers and cars. The site is ADA accessible. Please maintain proper social distance at all times and supervise children. Sanitizing the telescope before use is the responsibility of each individual.



**Dune Acres Roads Resurfaced**

Despite the rainy spring, road improvement work in Dunes Acres has been completed. Bruce Riffle, DA Roads Commissioner, noted that that 2020 roadway resurfacing included:

- Ridge Drive (including catch basin)
- Fern Drive
- Pine Lane
- Linden Lane
- Hill Drive
- Mineral Springs (south section)



This year's road projects were again funded by a combination of town match (\$50,000) and Community Crossings Road Grants (\$150,000.) Dune Acres officials will continue to pursue outside funding sources aimed at improving infrastructure and beautifying our town.

**Organic Yard Waste – No Dumping Please!**

It's spring time (well, sort of, given the temperatures in May) so here's a reminder for residents. When you are sprucing-up your lawn or garden, please remember that placing yard waste such as clippings or branches onto Town parkland or roadsides is prohibited. Lawn and garden refuse should be placed in reserved spaces on your own property or removed by one of the many lawn services that are licensed in Dune Acres. Removal is highly encouraged.



Because most Town parkland is natural woods and dunes, adding yard waste would seem harmless. But, in fact, these areas are complex ecosystems that provide habitat for many rare plants, and are extremely sensitive to introduced disturbances. All such debris requires removal by resident volunteers and/or maintenance staff. Please help keep our town beautiful and reduce potential wildfire fuel – remove your accumulated yard waste.

**Beach Erosion Intensifies**

Rescuing the Boats

It used to be that Dune Acres boaters could safely store their boats atop one of the East Beach sand dunes and slide them down the gentle slope to the water. No longer. The winter storm erosion has turned the slope into a 90° cliff. In order to get the stored water craft off of the dune and moved to safety, they had to be winched over the edge (pictured below) and onto the lake's beach before disassembling the masts and trailering them off of the beach. The task was undertaken by Dune



Acres volunteers under the direction of Beach Commissioner Rob Carstens. The work was done the first weekend in May. A few of the volunteers are pictured on the next page.

**Say "Goodbye" to these old stairs!**



Two sets of aging (and not too safe!) beach access stairways are slated for removal . . . and replacement this summer! Both sets of stairs are at least 35 years old and the years and weather have taken their toll. Treads and railings have been replaced over the years, but for the sake of safety, the time has come for a complete reconstruction, including

support posts. The stairs from Circle Drive to East Beach (above) and the stairs from Crest Drive to Ridge Drive (right) will be demolished and replaced, perhaps by the July Fourth weekend. The funding for this project is provided by the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation and overseen by the Town Council and the Planning Commission.





*Note the safe social distancing rules being practiced!*

### Rescuing the Shoreline

According to the National Weather Service, “Lake Michigan water levels remain near the

highest observed monthly levels (since at least 1918). The most recent period with similar lake levels was 1986-1987.”

In the fall of 2019, in order to protect Beach Drive, the Town Council entered into a contract with Great Lakes Engineering to provide a seawall. The firm is also exploring the design and engineering to replace the lakeside deck that was lost during the storms and the high water of the previous winter.



Funded principally by the town of Dune Acres, additional funding was provided by the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation. Town Council president, Rich Hawksworth commented, “Thanks to everyone who was involved—from design and permitting, fundraising, and construction—we were able to avert a potential disaster this winter. It’s a tribute to the generosity and spirit of volunteerism that have always characterized Dune Acres.”

Special thanks to Irene Newman, former editor, for her support, encouragement (and *The Beachcomber* template) needed to relaunch! -ed

## Rest in Peace

### William J. Tutlewski

On March 9th, Dune Acres resident Bill Tutlewski died suddenly after an exquisite evening spent enjoying what he loved most: time with friends to savor the sunset from his home high over Lake Michigan. He leaves a void in this town he called home for the past 13 years, a place where he loved life and will be remembered as a good neighbor and a great friend whose signature saying was “Every day is Saturday”.

Bill is survived by his wife of 34 years, Sharon (Frey) Tutlewski; son, William J. Tutlewski Jr.; stepdaughters, Lori Ann (Herb) Fitzgerald and Michelle (Eric) Hansen; He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Donna (Wranish) Tutlewski.

Bill was born April 15, 1947 in Gary. A lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, Bill embodied the best qualities of the “Region Rat” stereotype, manifested in a lifetime of hard work and an unwavering commitment to his friends and family. Speaking of Bill, his brother Bobby said, “To the day he died, even when times were tough, you would never hear him complain . . . a genuinely great human being who will be sorely missed.”

### Daniel Jenkins

Former Dunes Acres resident Daniel L. Jenkins passed away peacefully on April 30th at his home in Peoria, AZ, just days short of his 100th birthday.

Dan grew up in Gary, where he attended Lew Wallace High School and went on to attend Indiana University. Drafted into WWII as an officer, he spent time in China and then Burma, alongside Merrill’s Marauders. After returning home he married and eventually moved to Dune Acres where he served on the Board of Zoning Appeals and The Town Council for eight years. After retiring from Sears Roebuck, he and his wife Marie traveled extensively. They then built the house in Peoria, AZ, where he lived for 30 years.

Dan loved life and had many good friends along the way. He always said he had truly been blessed! He is preceded in death by wife Marie. His ashes will be placed alongside hers at “A Place Apart” at the Ogden Dunes church. Services not yet determined.

**The Fine Print:** *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”! It is hoped that *The Beachcomber’s* previous regular publication schedule can be revived in the months ahead. Any information, news, creative contributions, articles, reports, corrections, suggestions, Letters to the Editor, art work, photos, comments and otherwise (and volunteers!) are welcomed and encouraged to help revitalize this much missed publication.

Email contribution submissions to [The Beachcomber](#). Please use “**Beachcomber**,” in the subject line.