



THE BEACHCOMBER

DUNE ACRES, INDIANA

WWW.DUNEACRES.ORG

July/August 2020

It was a (Yankee Doodle) Dandy Fourth!

The Independence Day celebration at Dune Acres may be the strangest we will ever experience. While the traditional parade and picnic were cancelled amidst the Covid-19 crisis, at least the traditional DA fireworks were continued. In many (most?) communities, fireworks were canceled, but here, the show went on with people gathered, at a safe social distance, on the Lake Michigan shoreline to watch the extravaganza! Fireworks each year are sponsored by



the Town Council supported by donations from local citizens.

To the left, Orion, grandson of Rob & Patty Carstens checks out the fire and rescue vehicles with his pal, Mark Taylor.



Ridge Beach Improvements

The Dune Acres Town Council and the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation teamed-up to bring much needed accessibility to the beach on Ridge Drive this summer. It was started off by the Town Council funding of new stairway from the sand dune down to the beach, providing easy access over the seawall so people wouldn't have to slide down (and crawl back up) through a



narrow sand chute in the dune to reach the beach.

DACIF provided additional funding to clear a level and safe pathway through a formerly poison ivy infested area across the dune. DACIF also provided the funding for a viewing deck that provides a seating area for viewing Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline.

The construction work at Ridge Beach and the new stairways at Crest Drive and Circle Drive (see "Stairways" on the last page) was executed by Duneland Landscape.



Dune Acres Summertime Activities

Nature Program

On July 16th, a nature program originally envisioned for children, saw Dune Acres adults turn out in full force to hear botanist Nathaniel Pilla, a passionate and dedicated educator, speak about the biology of our town. A dozen adults and a few teenagers enjoyed hearing a knowledgeable educator speak about common plants and rare endangered ones that can be found in our community. Pilla, holding a biology masters degree from Purdue, is co-authoring a book on common Indiana Dunes wildflowers.



biology masters degree from Purdue, is co-authoring a book on common Indiana Dunes wildflowers.

Taking a walk on the beach?

We love the Lake Michigan shoreline! It's one of the reasons that we live here. The next time that you head down to the beach for a stroll on the shoreline or to put your feet into the waves, please grab one of the blue baskets that you'll find at the beach entrances. Provided by the DA Town Council, the baskets give you the chance to participate in keeping our beaches clean and beautiful. Just leave the basket of trash you collected at the beach entrance/exit and it will be picked-up for disposal.



you collected at the beach entrance/exit and it will be picked-up for disposal.

Dune Acres Directories

Did you receive your Dune Acres Telephone Directory earlier this year? The annual publication is spearheaded by Lou Roberts with print funding from the DA Town Council and distribution funding from DACIF. The funding doesn't compare with Lou's efforts to organize the updated information each year. Thanks and a tip-o'-the hat to Lou for her yearly effort. If you didn't receive a directory, please check with Jan Bapst, Town Clerk, at the DA town office.



Tennis, anyone?

In these times of "social distancing", the Dune Acres tennis courts have become an area for camaraderie and interaction . . . opposite sides of court exceeding the "six foot" distancing recommendation of the CDC! Part of this court attraction is the presence of our Dune Acres "tennis pro" who offers lessons for children and adults . . . Mary O'Conner.



Mary is certified USPTA Tennis Professional with over 25 years experience. A #1 ranked player for Northern Illinois Tennis Assn, she represented NITA 3 years in a row as Midwest Junior Wrightman cup winner. She continues to compete, currently ranked 38th in the nation in 50 Singles and 6th in 30 Doubles.

Mary enjoys teaching. "There is nothing more rewarding the inspiring

and encouraging the discipline of the sport and building the self esteem of our youth." You will see her at the DA courts throughout the week as she provides lessons for children AND adults. Call 480-363-5451 to schedule your lesson!



What an evening view of the Chicago Skyline!

Opened earlier this year, the Max Carstens Memorial Viewing Deck is open to DA residents days and evenings for quiet reflection or just a chance to enjoy the views! ADA accessible. Please follow CDC safe practices.



Photo credit: Rob Carstens

Faces at the “Gateway” to Dune Acres

We appreciate the security guards at the Dune Acres gatehouse throughout the year . . . but especially during the summer months when they are kept busy, especially each weekend, redirecting drivers who think that they have found a new entrance to the Indiana Dunes National/State Park. Particularly on holiday weekends, you might find two for them on duty as they get errant drivers redirected and do their best to keep access open and smoothly available for DA residents.

Stop and say “Hello”

Please take a moment to thank these folks. Roll down that driver’s window and give a wave as you leave Dune Acres and roll down the passenger window and offer a “Thank you” as you come back home!



Glenn Brown
Chief of Security



Debbie Wilson
Asst. Chief of Security



Jeaneen Dougherty
Head of Patrols



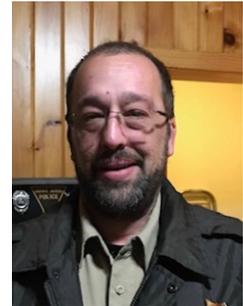
John Fejes



Steven Claar



Bernie Olis



Scott Marinchak

All photos courtesy of Bill Griffin, Security Commissioner

Stickers Keep Traffic Flowing!

Help our security staff at the gatehouse by displaying a Dune Acres vehicle sticker on your windshield!

Registration forms are found online. Completed forms, with a copy of your vehicle registration and \$40 check payable to "Town of Dune Acres," may be dropped off at security or in the lock box in front of Town Hall. Stickers are available for pick at security the next business day. Only residents are eligible



Alex Ridlin



Wayne Belsha

Keep Dune Acres Roads Safe This Summer

Slow Down.

Dappled sunlight and curving hilly conditions can create driver blind spots on Dune Acres roads. Please remind younger drivers and guests that our roads are our sidewalks - give cyclists and pedestrians a *brake*.

Gatehouse and Cowles Bog Crosswalk

Hikers can appear out of nowhere! Stop at the gatehouse and at the crosswalk and look both ways.

Pedestrians and Bikers

Rules of the road: walkers face the traffic and cyclists ride with the traffic. It's the law. Be safe.

Dune Acres Construction Sparkles in the Summer Sun

Improved East Beach Facilities

Jan Bapst, Dune Acres Town Clerk, has directed residents' attention to the 2020 enhanced changing room and toilet facilities now available at East Beach.



She observed that all of the construction work was done by Dune Acres Maintenance Commissioner Dick Taylor and staff member Mark Taylor. The new shelter is much roomier

than the old one, and a separate changing room for those long days at the beach has been added!

Stairways to the Beach Replaced

Safer access to the beaches was a priority focus this year. Wobbly beach access stairways from Circle Drive to East Beach (below left) and from Crest Drive to the Ridge Beach access point (below right) were both replaced earlier this year with funding from the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation.



Clubhouse Area Facelift

The Dune Acres Clubhouse parking lot has a new "shine" for visitors after dark functions. The re-paving of the drive and the re-graveling of the parking area was facilitated by the town earlier this year. The Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation provided funding for new lighting in the parking area.



This lighting is "Dark Skies" compliant and is much more attractive in its design. David and Nate from D&K Electric erected the new aluminum poles and mounted the energy efficient lighting in a single day after the new concrete bases were ready.

The Dune Acres Gatehouse looked festive and patriotic . . .



. . . on both Memorial Day and Independence Day thanks to the flower planting and flag waving community spirit of Cathy Bomberger!

SAVE these DATES

Our wonderful summer weather will soon pass (sigh), but here are some fall calendar dates of which to make note. Details will be published as available:

VACCINE CLINIC — September 12
Sharon Tutlewski: Town Wellness Ambassador

SEPTICSMART WEEK — September 14-18 (Pump & Inspect every 3 -5 years!)
Paul Woidke: Clean Water Ambassador

TOWN CLEANUP — October 17
Robin Tennant: Environmental Commissioner

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.

This edition distributed electronically only.

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