



THE BEACHCOMBER

DUNE ACRES, INDIANA

WWW.DUNEACRES.ORG

October 2020

Dune Acres Town Cleanup - - something crazy good in a crazy 2020!

It is hard to imagine a “town cleanup day” being the “social event of 2020” . . . but after months of lockdown with no gatherings of any sort, the October 17th Dune Acres annual fall event brought out a host of neighbors and friends to spruce up areas throughout the community.



Residents drag branches and tree trunks to the roadside for later pickup.

More than 50 individuals contributed to the effort in one way or another . . . and despite the masks and social distancing, everybody had a good time interacting (such as was possible) while improving the community.

Rich Hawksworth, Dune Acres town council president observed, "Volunteers planted more than 300 native plants in the savanna remnants adjacent to East Road near Town Hall. Species were selected to attract butterflies and other pollinators. Cleft and sand prairie phlox, butterfly milkweed, blue-stemmed goldenrod, sky-blue asters, and others will provide a succession of color from early Spring through Fall."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Jan Bapst noted that, “In the playground, the 'fall area' around some playground equipment was expanded, to meet an insurance inspection directive. Also, many pieces of playground equipment received a fresh coat of paint.”



Carolyn Mellen paints playground equipment.

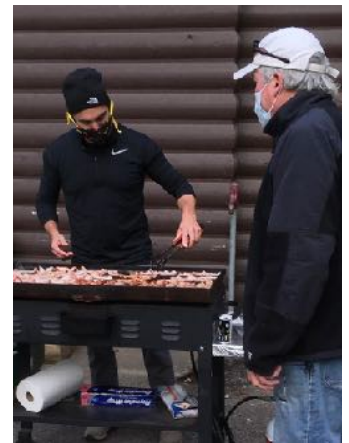
Bapst added, “Hundreds of invasive bittersweet vines were cut and treated with herbicide.”

Scarcely a spot of the town was left untouched by volunteers. Robin Tennant, organizer of the event, ticked-off the areas: East Beach cleanup, Ridge Beach cleanup, West Beach cleanup. She noted especially the town park and playground area where, “Moving cut limbs was a huge task. Volunteers dragged 'scores' of branches and vines to the roadside for contractor pick up.”



Robin Tennant

And, with Robin’s leadership, it is certain that nobody went hungry! Volunteers prepared a breakfast of biscuits and gravy along with egg and bacon burritos that got the workers off to a great start. A Chicago-style lunch included pizza as well as hot dogs



Tony Schirripa grills breakfast while Rob Carstens waits for a burrito.

and sausage on the grill. Snacks were available throughout the day and special attention was given to vegan and vegetarian options. In summary, Robin noted that the day was “a wonderful time to build a stronger community and develop closer relationships with our neighbors . . . it was a great time!”

[“Cleanup” continued — page 4](#)

WELCOME DUNE ACRES NEWCOMERS!

In 1984 after my husband Michael and I purchased our first Dune Acres home we were delighted to see our names in print in the *Beachcomber* -- even with an extraneous apostrophe in our name!

WELCOME NEW FOLKS!!

Dana and Michael Treister have moved into the lovely home formerly owned by Marian Johnson. Michael is an Orthopedic Surgeon. The Treister's have two sons, Jeremy, 13, and Nathaniel, 9. Nice to have you in Dune Acres!!

Our sons are now 40-something men. Nathaniel and his wife Stephanie live in Massachusetts. Jeremy met his wife, the former Rachel Deller, in Dune Acres when they were both young teens, and recently celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary. They and their children (20-year-old twins Beatrix + Solomon, and 17-year-old Eloise) spend much time with us in Dune Acres.

With this issue, we're reviving this tradition of officially WELCOMING all new Dune Acres residents - we hope you will enjoy this opportunity to learn a bit more about your new neighbors~ — Dana Treister

SARA and LEE McKINLEY moved into 4 Circle Drive in November 2019 with their 2 **Jack Russell Terriers: Batman and Kona**. For the first few months after relocating to Dune Acres from California in June 2019, they lived with Sara's brother, David Bolton, on Fern Lane until the right house became available. Sara grew up in Porter Beach, spending much time with friends here in



Dune Acres. After attending university, Sara moved to California to pursue a career in marketing research. She and Lee met in Los Angeles in 1988. Once they both (happily!) retired, they wanted to move to Dune Acres to be closer to family and to enjoy the area. Both enjoy swimming in Lake Michigan and running and hiking on the trails. Lee is an avid athlete, having competed in many ultramarathon trail and Ironman triathlon races out west, including 100-mile distance running races. Sara



participates in dog sports with their pups, such as dog agility, barn hunt, scent detection, obedience, and Jack Russell racing events. She also teaches K9 scent detection classes in Valpo and LaPorte part-time. They

have enjoyed meeting so many friendly Dune Acres neighbors!

CAROLYN and CHARLES WEINBERG, and HENRY and MARINA, formerly long-time Beverly Shores residents, are living at 2 Oak Drive. Henry is a junior at Butler University, and Marina is a senior at Chesterton High School.

NICOLE WILBUR and JEFF McSPADEN moved into their home at 54 Circle Drive in November 2019, with their cat **Walker Texas Ranger**. Jeff is an Emergency Manager with the U.S. Department of Transportation and loves to golf. Nicole is a Construction Manager with local railroad projects. She has an art studio at home and works in her free time as an artist and art tutor. Together they enjoy traveling -- especially in wine country -- and hiking.



ASHLEY and SHAWN FITZPATRICK, and BRECK and PRUETT, moved from Indianapolis into their home at 2 Fern Lane in July of 2019. Ashley is originally from LaPorte. When she and Shawn both took jobs in Chicago, they looked for a community close to the lake in which to raise their children (3½-year-old son Breck and 1½-year-old daughter Pruett). Ashley works as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner at Lurie Children's Hospital and Shawn as a Safety Auditor with United Airlines. Both children have attended the Forchetti YMCA Early Learning Academy. Breck is attending the Field Station Co-op this school year. The Fitzpatricks enjoy taking hikes, going on bike rides, and relaxing at the beach (weather permitting!) with their **Weimaraner named Link**. They are thrilled to share with the Dune Acres community that they are expecting their 3rd child in March!



"Welcome" continued — next page

SIMONA and MARIUS TOADER have been at 17 Linden Lane only since September, with their **2 Dachshunds named Bob (age 8) and Bill (age 7)**. The Toaders also have a home in Chicago, where Simona -- an optometrist -- owns an optical office, and Marius -- an entrepreneur -- owns restaurants. They love Jesus, meeting new people, and enjoying their many hobbies. Although they've been in Dune Acres for only a short time, they already sense this community truly is their "heaven on earth"!



SCOTT and MOLLY HALE, and HENRY purchased their home at 66 East Road in December of 2019. They also own a home in Chesterton, but Dune Acres is their primary home. Their "adorable" (no bias from the proud parents, of course!) son Henry was born in May 2020. Scott is a local attorney and Molly is an owner of Anion Blinds, a third-generation window covering business. The Hales love beach walks, scuba diving, snowboarding, hiking, and cooking. They are truly enjoying life in this beautiful town and look forward to getting to know everyone!



MARJIE NIELSEN and SONG CHENG closed on their new home at 4 Crest Drive mid-September and are still gradually moving in. They also have an apartment in downtown Chicago, but look forward to enjoying Dune Acres at least half of their time year-round... that is, at least once more of their furniture arrives! Both are attorneys, albeit in very different areas of law. Song specializes in corporate tax while Marjie's practice focuses mostly on family law. Song is a tennis player and golfer. Marjie enjoys hiking and is currently endeavoring to learn about native plant gardening. While their **Chow Chow named Bao Bao** loves the outdoors and other animals - including other dogs, she is indifferent to adult humans (unless they venture onto "her" property...) and is not comfortable around child-size humans. They hope Bao Bao will eventually become more comfortable in her new home and be less "on guard".

Speaking of "newcomers" . . .

. . . meet "Steve"!

— Sara McKinley

A wayward racing pigeon was spotted in Dune Acres in mid-September. He spent several days wandering the roads in search of food and water. With the bird-catching skills of Mark Taylor and his handy net we captured "Steve" the pigeon and located his owner. "Steve" was very hungry and thirsty.



Mark Taylor with his new friend "Steve".

— photo Sara McKinley



He spent a few days in a crate eating and drinking before we sent him on his way.

Racing pigeons can become disoriented due to the lake as well as cell phone and other towers. You can determine if a pigeon is a racing bird if you see a leg band. The number corresponds to the bird's registry and owner. When contacted, the registry put us in touch with "Steve's" owner.

Be sure you get each issue of The Beachcomber

Due to the costs of printing and mailing, most issues of The Beachcomber are only published "electronically". In order to be certain that you are notified of new issues, you can sign up on the Dune Acres website at: <http://www.duneacres.org/emailnotifications.html> for publication notification. Issues are posted in a PDF format which allows you to view The Beachcomber on most computers. The Adobe Acrobat reader is required and is **freely available** at https://download.cnet.com/Adobe-Acrobat-Reader-DC/3000-10743_4-10000062.html

By signing up for DA Town emails, you will also receive information about upcoming events and important notifications.

"Cleanup" continued —

Hawksworth noted, "Many people volunteered and contributed to this effort, each in their own way."



(left to right) Carrie Crouch and Al Pamintuan take a well deserved breather from hauling branches to chat with Dick Taylor.

Hawksworth summed up the day concluding, "The town cleanup was a tremendous success and wonderful opportunity to reconnect with friends and neighbors. A special thanks to Dune Acres environmental commissioner, Robin Tennant, for organizing the safe, fun, and inspiring day. It was a great reminder of the amazing civic pride we have for our beloved town."

Howard & Christine Feiler



Behind these masks, everybody is smiling! Use of the golf cart (background) offered by Howard & Christine Feiler was a great help in moving branches and saving aching arms and backs from dragging heavy buckets of sod from the playground.

. . . and then the branches were gone!

On Monday, October 19th, the roadside stacks of branches and debris (from DA public land as well as individual's homes) were removed by Justin's Tree Service workers.

New Roof for the Dune Acres Security Building

The windy weather (note the flags in the photo!) and occasional rain shower didn't keep the folks from Rogers Roofing inside . . . the roofing construction went on as planned!

CLEAN ENERGY GRANT FOR TOWN SECURITY VEHICLE

The Dune Acres Town Council is pleased to announce receipt of an Indiana Office of Energy Development Grant that will assist with the purchase of an alternative energy vehicle for our security staff.



In the first quarter of 2021, the town will take delivery of a Ford, 2021 all-wheel drive hybrid utility vehicle priced at \$38,898. The grant will cover 80% of the cost, or \$31,118, with a 20% town match.

Benefits of the grant include major capital support for the initial purchase along with reduced annual operating costs. This is our first step in transitioning to a clean fuel community.

The Council continues to pursue outside funding sources for the improvement of our town and in service to our residents.

All Aboard the “Boo Bus” for a Dune Acres Halloween!!



Trick-or-treat photos courtesy of Shawn Fitzpatrick, Karen Riffle, & Rob Carstens.

Things that go Boo in the night!

On Halloween, Dunes Acres was not only replete with a band of trick-or-treaters, but there were scarier things to be seen at 70 West Road. The creation of Cheryl Evans, this was something that would give you *b-a-a-a-d* dreams!



— photo credit: Sharon Tuttlewski

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.