



THE BEACHCOMBER

DUNE ACRES, INDIANA

WWW.DUNEACRES.ORG

November 2020

Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation Wraps-up a Year of Community Projects

While many challenges faced us during a tumultuous 2020, the Dunes Acres Civic Improvement Foundation never lost sight of the community needs that were to be addressed in order to ensure that Dune Acres remains the place that we all want to call home. In the course of the year, donations by residents and friends to DACIF allowed it to provide funding support for six major projects with an investment in the community of over \$60,000 this year alone.

Town Council President, Rich Hawksworth, commented, "DACIF's financial assistance provided for town improvements that were far beyond our limited annual budget."



Carsten's Memorial Telescope and Deck.

corner of "clubhouse hill".

And, speaking of the clubhouse area, there were other enhancements and restoration that took place there as well. To complement the drive repaving and parking lot re-graveling funded by the town, DACIF contributed the funding for new

Projects included the construction of the Carsten's Memorial Telescope Viewing Deck located in a quiet picturesque



Clubhouse lot Lighting

lighting. Unsightly wooden poles that supported aging parking lot flood lights were replaced with sleek new aluminum masts that feature lighting fixtures that are "Dark Sky" compliant.

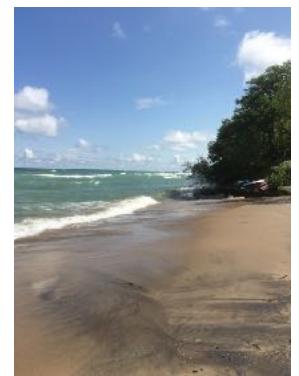


Clubhouse Exterior Refurb.

Often referred to as the "heart and soul of this little community", the historic Clubhouse, dating from the 1920s, required its regular triennial restoration work this year. As one might expect of a century old log structure situated on a high dune and exposed to the elements of wind, sun, and weather extremes (not to mention those blasted woodpeckers and bees!) the exterior needs regular repair, staining, and sealing. Although the cost for the work was substantially beyond that which was anticipated, DACIF stepped forward with the funds to keep this landmark in pristine exterior condition.

Of course, a principal feature of Dune Acres is access to the Lake Michigan shoreline . . . Lake Michigan itself being both an attraction and a potential enemy.

You can't really be a "beach community" without access to the beach! So the decades



Shrinking DA Beach Shoreline.

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old wooden stairways from both Circle Drive and Crest Drive required complete replacement, made possible by DACIF funding in



Circle Drive Stairs.

cooperation with Town Council and Administration planning and coordination.



Crest Drive Stairs.

As Lake Michigan continued to encroach on the Dune Acres roads and parkland, the final months of 2019 saw

the Town Council take action to protect these areas with the investment in an extension of the existing seawall.



DACIF provided



DA Lake Michigan seawall protection.

beach access difficult, the town undertook to add an additional stairway at Ridge Beach to provide access over the seawall. DACIF willingly provided funding to clear a path through the jumble of poison ivy and weeds on the dune so that the new town stairs would be accessible to those visiting Ridge Beach.

additional funding for this project.

Since this made



Pathway to Ridge Beach Stairs.

In addition to the pathway, DACIF provide the funds for construction of an intimate deck with seating that overlooks the waves below and the Chicago skyline in the distance.



Ridge Beach Viewing Deck.

Other DACIF projects this year included maintenance and upkeep of Plampin Park, support for the distribution of the Dune Acres Telephone Directory (a town project led by Lou Roberts), and seasonal decorations and flowers for the entrance to Dune Acres at the Mineral Springs Gatehouse (organized by Cathy Bomberger).



Welcome to Dune Acres!

Foundation president Paul Woidke expressed appreciation for the residents who have provided the financial donations that empower DACIF to fulfill its purpose as stated in the Articles of Incorporation "To economically assist the Town of Dune Acres". He noted, "DACIF is not the source of the funds to enhance our community . . . it is those residents who step forward with generous (tax-deductible) donations that enable the foundation to fulfill its mission of enhancing the wholesome environment of the community which is our home." He continued, "We look forward to continuing our support of projects that will enrich our community."

Welcome Dunes Acres Newcomers!

— Dana Shepherd Treister

The October *Beachcomber* marked the revival of a Dune Acres tradition of officially WELCOMING new Dune Acres residents - an opportunity to learn a bit more about our new neighbors. Turns out the feature also provided a catalyst for some of the newcomers featured in the October *Beachcomber* to arrange to meet up in person - even in the midst of a pandemic - outdoors and socially-distanced around the new DA Fire Table.



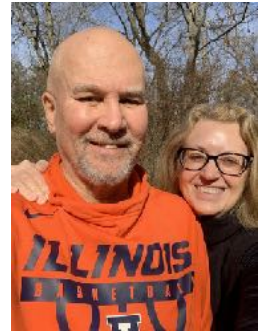
(Clockwise from selfie-taker Jeff McSpaden): Michael + Dana Treister, Scott + Molly Hale, and Nicole Wilbur.

Kudos to JEFF

McSPADEN and his wife **NICOLE WILBUR** for organizing TWO separate gatherings (“small, cold, and windy, but an amazing success”, in Jeff’s words!), and thanks in advance to **SIMONA and MARIUS TOADER** for inviting the same cohort to their fire pit. My husband Michael and I were honored to have been invited to participate as well - what a cool group of new neighbors. To paraphrase Jeff again, “We met independent business owners, physicians, outdoors people, attorneys, ballet dancers, hikers, construction managers, beachcomber professionals, great parents and neighbors -- amazing and interesting people who make our community great.”

CONNIE ELLIS and HARVEY JOHNSON

have been part-timers at 23 Summit Drive since October 2019, but are now settling in as full-timers, having just sold their Willow Springs home. At another time during their 33-year marriage, Connie and Harvey lived in a very



different home-near-a-National Park - in the historic Pullman District of Chicago, named a National Monument in 2015. Harvey is retired, and Connie works for a private equity firm. He is a self-described “big sports fan”. Back in the 1970s Harvey was ‘Benny the Bull’ - the iconic costumed mascot of the Chicago Bulls! Other favorite teams are the Chicago White Sox and the Fighting Illini - perhaps you have noticed their orange-painted lamp post? They especially love spending time at the beach with their **granddaughter Mackenzie Greco (age 7) and MacKenzie’s parents Josh and Sarah**. Connie and Harvey are passionate travelers who look forward to the time when they will once again be able to explore the world...

A “really hot” DA “newcomer” . . .

— Jan Bapst

Thanks to town resident donations, the clubhouse patio now has a propane 'fire pit table' for socializing while maintaining social distance outside.

To operate, open the side door and turn the gas on; push the gas gauge and lighter button in at the same time to light. The flame is fully adjustable.



(l-r) Lynn Remington, Sara McKinley, and Jan Bapst enjoy the new fire pit at the Clubhouse.

Each propane tank provides 10 hours of service. A spare tank is on site. Be sure to email the town clerk if you encounter a problem or have any suggestions.

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Print Version - - Full Mail Distribution

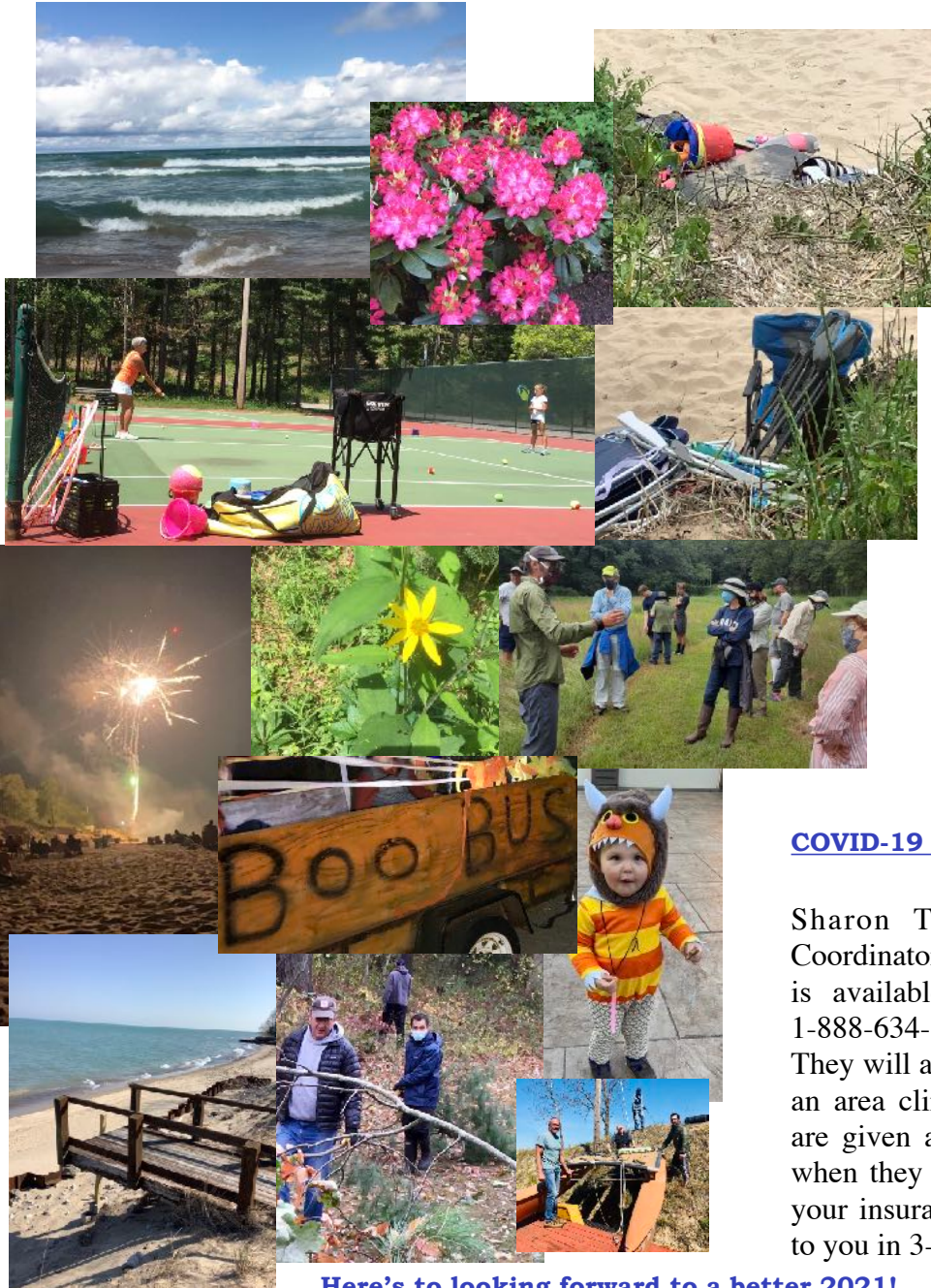
Due to the costs of printing and mailing, most issues of The Beachcomber are only published “electronically”. In order to be certain that you are notified of new issues, you can sign up on the Dune Acres website at: <http://www.duneacres.org/emailnotifications.html> for publication notification of all issues. The Beachcomber is posted in a PDF format which allows viewing 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.

TWTWTW — also known as TW3

That Was The Week That Was

If you are old enough to remember the early 1960s, you may recall this satirical television program. In 2020, the acronym would have to be changed to **TWYTW** (That Was The *Year* That Was)! The impact of “stay at home” orders was at times onerous, but as Dune Acres residents, we shared a wonderful place to stay . . . and as best we could, life went on in our lakeshore community . . .



Here’s to looking forward to a better 2021!

Mask Up!!

. . . and unlike the hairy DA denizen, make sure it covers your nose *and* mouth!



(l-r) Bella-10 & Mia-8 Schirripa with friend Emma Weldy-10 point out that the Dune Acres bear is not properly masked!

COVID-19 TESTING

Sharon Tutlewski, Dune Acres Wellness Coordinator reminds residents that Covid Testing is available without a doctor’s order. Call 1-888-634-1116 for a Covid testing appointment. They will ask for your zip code to match you with an area clinic and make your appointment. You are given an ID number to present at the clinic when they do your nasal swab. Be sure to take your insurance card with you! Results are texted to you in 3-6 days.

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.