



THE BEACHCOMBER

DUNE ACRES, INDIANA

WWW.DUNEACRES.ORG

April 2025

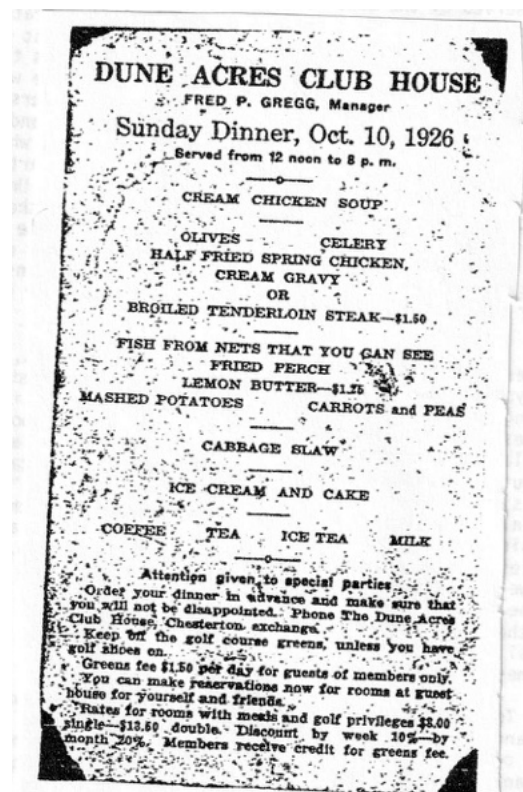
Then and Now....



Then - Left to right: Young man 1, Young woman 1, Hugh Dougherty Studebaker SR (1869 - 1949), Young man 2, Young woman 2, Mildred E. Studebaker (1894 - 1947), Rebecca (Bessie) Koch Studebaker (1870 - 1943)

Now - Left to right: Dave Rearick, Michele McClead, Bill Griffin, Rick Demkovich, Barbara Hollister, Mary Boeke, Bette Norris

With Dune Acres Historical Committee member Dan Kleine behind the camera, neighbors had fun updating a photograph taken in front of the clubhouse 100 years ago. The clubhouse once served as the dining room for visitors staying in the multi-room guesthouse located in what is now the maintenance building. Room rates included meals – the “American Plan.” - along with golf privileges.



Spring has Sprung!



With some warmer days recently, residents are out and about enjoying our beautiful surroundings. Pictured left resident Tammy Donnelly enjoying the outdoors with daughter Caitlin Graves and grandson Walter Graves. Tammy serves as a DACIF board member and Treasurer.



The Artemiuk grandkids practiced their lacrosse with tennis balls while visiting during spring break. They are from Minnesota so the 35 degree windy weather did not deter them.



New kids on the block enjoying the playground! William and Annika Johnson; and Marligh and Haze Lenhart.

Dune Acres' Residents Answer

“What are you looking forward to this spring?”

“...an early and prolonged spring, and the return of our many birds.” Lou Mellon

“...a spring wedding in Huntsville, Alabama” Rick Demkovich and Michele McClead

“Warmer weather!” Barbara Hollister and Bill Griffin

Social Happenings

The DA Social Committee has been busy! Residents enjoyed an evening of live **music and dancing** with the KGB Band on March 8.



Sound therapy, a new event was well attended and received rave reviews from attendees.



Dune Acres honored former residents (and Social Committee Chairs) Marius and Simona Toader with a **baby shower** at the clubhouse. The Toader's first child is expected soon!



Dune Acres Calendar of Events

Kids' Egg Hunt PARK	<u>Saturday April 19</u> 10:30 am
Town Cleanup TOWN HALL	<u>Saturday April 26</u> 9:00 am
Spring Derby Party CLUBHOUSE	<u>Saturday May 3</u> 4:30 – 7:30 pm
Independence Day Fireworks EAST BEACH	<u>Saturday July 5</u> Dusk
Humane Indiana Wildlife CLUBHOUSE	<u>Saturday Aug 23</u> Morning Time TBD
Labor Day Band Beach Party EAST BEACH	<u>Saturday Aug 30</u> time TBD
Day of the Dead Party CLUBHOUSE	<u>Saturday Nov 1</u> 6:30 – 11:00 pm
Winter Holiday Cocktail Party CLUBHOUSE	<u>Sunday Dec 7</u> 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Historical Committee Request

The Dune Acres Historical Committee needs your help. If you have photos, slides, video, film, audio recordings, articles, or old copies of the Beachcomber please contact one of the Committee members listed below. You may have forgotten items stored away which we would like to archive. Information can be scanned and returned to the owner. We have videos about Dune Acres History posted at: www.youtube.com/@duneacres1923

Heidi Studebaker, Chairperson
 Bette Norris
 Daniel Kleine
 Jeff McSpaden
 Mary Ann Tittle
 Bev Hubbs
 Cara Sullivan
 Harvey Johnson

Sandhill Cranes Return!



*Article By Brad Bumgardner,
 Executive Director, Indiana Audubon*

Each year, the skies above Dune Acres, Indiana, come alive with the majestic sight of Sandhill Cranes migrating through the region. These graceful birds, standing over four feet tall with wingspans reaching up to seven feet, embark on a remarkable journey from their breeding grounds in the northern United States and Canada to their wintering habitats in the southern U.S., including Georgia and Florida. The Indiana Dunes area, with its diverse ecosystems, serves as a vital stopover for these cranes during their migration.

In recent years, the Indiana Dunes Longshore Tower at the State Park has recorded impressive numbers of migrating sandhill cranes. Notably, on March 3, 2024, a record-breaking 39,790 cranes were observed flying past the tower, surpassing previous state records and highlighting the area's significance as a migration corridor. If that alone doesn't show the importance of the Indiana Dunes region to birds, what does!?

Long known to the residents of Dune Acres, Cowles Bog, within the Indiana Dunes National Park, has a great combination of varied habitats that make it perfect for both a diversity of birds, but also the birders that love to watch them. Of the two main areas in the National Park to find nesting Sandhill Cranes, the large expansive habitat allows spotting even the baby colts possible.

Few realize the real unique natural phenomenon we get to enjoy right here in northwest Indiana. Watching cranes, both here and at major migration sites like Jasper Pulaski should be on every Hoosier's bucket list.

While Sandhill Crane populations have rebounded significantly after years of decline due to habitat loss and hunting, conservation efforts remain crucial. Wetland preservation and responsible land management practices in Indiana help ensure these birds have safe resting and feeding grounds during migration

Remembering Resident Jane Dickey

Long time Dune Acres resident Jane Montgomery Dickey passed away peacefully on January 29, 2025, at the age of 92. Born in Pittsburgh on October 9, 1932, she was the daughter of the Honorable Harry Milton Montgomery and Bertha Watson Montgomery. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, William Henry Dickey and her dear brother, Harry Milton Montgomery, Jr., "Pete". She is survived by her four children, Peter Dickey, Thomas Dickey (Renee), Jane Renaud (Stephen) and William Dickey "Chip"; and five grandchildren, Carlin and Katherine Renaud, Jarrad and Kristen Dickey and Andrew Dickey.

Jane graduated in 1953 from Pennsylvania College for Women, now Chatham University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Jane and Bill were married on May 8, 1954, and began their married life in Pittsburgh where they raised their four children. They ultimately found their way back to Bill's home state of Indiana, settling in Dune Acres.

She will be remembered for her involvement in the Dune Acres community. Jane was President of the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation and was active in many other town organizations, including the Dune Acres Planning Commission.

Above all, family was most important to Jane. She was a devoted mother and grandmother, and loved nothing more than family gatherings at home and spending time with her children and grandchildren, as well as her Westie, Duffy.



A memorial service was held on March 1, 2025. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation in Jane's memory.

Remembering Resident Sharon Snyder

Sharon Quint Snyder, age 87 of Dune Acres passed away on March 25, 2025 after a brief battle with cancer. She was born on November 16, 1937 in Hammond, IN to Frances (Martin) and Tony Quint.

Sharon is survived by four daughters: Laura (Rob) Fawcett, Julie (Byron) Snyder, Karen (Paul) Schmit and Gretchen (Paul) Shinn; six grandchildren Derek (Kristin) Fawcett, Kristen (Jonathan) Konstantopoulos, Elizabeth (Danny) Roy, Margaret (Henry) Papineau, Callie Schmit and Ryan Schmit; seven great grandchildren: Kira and Ben Konstantopoulos, Zachary, Owen, and Cody Fawcett, Teddy Roy and Jon Paul Papineau. And, of course, her beloved canine companion, Winnie. Sharon was preceded in death by her husband, H. B. Snyder Jr., her parents, Tony and Frances Quint and her sister, Judy Quint Carroll.

Sharon grew up in Miller Beach and attended Wirt High School. She attended Miami of Ohio University for a short period of time and left college to marry H. B. Snyder Jr. in 1956. Their marriage lasted 48 years until his death in 2004. She loved being a wife and mother and enjoyed all aspects of the "job".

Her enthusiasm showed in her cooking, gardening and general welfare of her family. She served on the PTA for her daughters' school, took an active role in the Lake and Porter Counties Planned Parenthood, and joined the board of The Carillon Foundation, a fund-raising unit of Porter-Starke Services. She believed that volunteerism is what keeps our communities and country going.

While living in Dune Acres, Sharon served on and chaired many of the community events. She also served as Secretary of the Plan Commission and was on the Town Council.

For nearly a decade, Sharon along with her family, owned and operated The Spa Restaurant in Porter. In the early 1990s, Sharon became a Real Estate Broker. From then on, she and family members developed property in Dune Acres West.



Meet Your Dune Acres' Security



Jeaneen Dougherty - is one of our longest tenured guards - she has been working as a Dune Acres security guard for 9 years. Jeaneen previously worked at Bethlehem Steel Security for 30 years. In her spare time Jeaneen likes to ride her Harley Davidson motorcycle in her free time.



Jeaneen has just announced that she will be retiring in May. We will miss her warm greeting at the guard house.

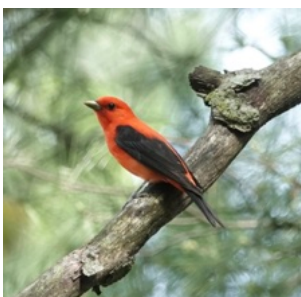
Indiana Dunes Birding Festival

The **Indiana Dunes Birding Festival (IDBF)** will be held May 15-18 in and around Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes State Park. Our own Cowles Bog is one of the area's top birding hotspots and you will likely see groups of birders during the festival.

The festival coincides with the peak of spring migration, when thousands of birds pass through the region. More than 370 bird species have been recorded in the Indiana Dunes area, making it a prime destination for spotting warblers, raptors, and waterfowl.

Festival Highlights include Guided Birding Tours, Workshops & Presentations, Keynote Speakers and Youth & Family Activities, and a Birding Marketplace. Beyond birdwatching, the IDBF emphasizes conservation, raising awareness about habitat protection and bird-friendly practices. Proceeds from the festival support local conservation efforts and education programs.

For more details, visit the official festival website at: <https://indunesbirdingfestival.com/>



Rodenticides (aka Rat Poison)

*Article By Nicole Harmon,
Humane Indiana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Director*



This Eastern Screech Owl was found on the ground in LaPorte unwilling or unable to fly. After being rescued he was transported to our Humane Indiana Wildlife for an exam to determine his lethargic behaviors. It was determined that he had elevated levels of lead and his blood took hours to coagulate. This is a very real sign that this Eastern Screech Owl had recently

ingested a mouse that had been poisoned. He is being treated with Vitamin K and has begun eating on his own and is much more alert.

Most rodenticides are anti-coagulants. They prevent the blood from clotting and thin it until the victim eventually dies from internal bleeding. The time taken for a rodent to die after eating the bait varies from 2 to 12 days. A rodent eating a sub-lethal dose (not enough to kill it) may carry the poison in its liver for several months. Before a poisoned rodent dies it may be caught by a predator which then ingests the poison (secondary poisoning). Creatures which have been killed by secondary poisoning include opossums, foxes, owls, hawks, raccoons, and coyotes. Animals which have been killed by directly eating rodenticide baits include dogs, cats, pigeons and blackbirds.

Please don't use rodenticide! Most of us in Dune Acres have had mice issues - seems to go with our weather and older homes. But instead of using poison that can harm other animals, including our pets, use traps. There are several different styles of traps that are much more effective and safer than poison.

Save The Date!

Nicole Harmon of Humane Indiana Wildlife will visit Dune Acres on August 23rd in the morning, time TBD, at the Clubhouse. She will bring a variety of the center's animal ambassadors for a show and tell session. We enjoyed meeting the animals 2 years ago and are looking forward to another fun presentation.



Local Business - Joe's Bread

Each issue will feature a locally owned business in the Duneland area. We have some unique and wonderful businesses here! We are not so much reviewing as we are offering information (but we might have an opinion from time to time). If you have a suggestion for a business to feature, please contact Jan or Sara.



A variety of custom coffee drinks



In addition to bread, freshly made pastries are available.



This Joe, founder. We found him hard at work during our visit.

Joe's Bread, located at 225 S. Calumet Road in Chesterton, Indiana, has swiftly become a destination for artisanal baked goods since its opening three years ago. Founded by Chesterton resident Joe Grossbauer, the bakery is the realization of his vision to blend artisanal baking with quality ingredients, inspired by his travels abroad.

All of Joe's breads are handcrafted in small batches using organic flour sourced from The Mill at Janie's Farm in Ashkum, Illinois. Employing natural leavening methods and incorporating whole wheat, the bakery ensures each loaf boasts rich flavor and texture. Beyond breads, Joe's offers a selection of pastries known for their exceptional texture and diverse flavors.

The café menu features fresh-made croissants, omelets and egg dishes, sandwiches and salads. And of course, a variety of artisanal breads, with sourdough available daily and other specialties rotating regularly. The establishment provides indoor and outdoor seating. A great place to meet friends for coffee and a treat. Jan and I enjoyed some special coffee and a homemade English muffin that was so much better than the grocery store counterparts.

Joe's Bread operates daily from 8 AM to 3 PM. Their menu is available on the website: joesbread.com.



Bread! Each day sourdough is available, along with a rotating selection of different varieties.

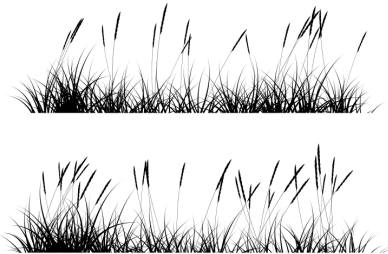
Thank you Michele!

The clubhouse kitchen has been refreshed with a brand-new epoxy floor! Clubhouse Coordinator Michele McClead led the project, managing everything from securing contractor quotes and obtaining Town Council approval to coordinating town staff and volunteers for moving appliances before and after the installation. Michele's dedication to delivering a fantastic result is yet another example of how our Town volunteers keep everything running smoothly. The extra efforts from our Community Maintenance Manger, Mark Taylor, were invaluable.

Before



After



Our modern day “gangsters” appeared in black and white on the first page - we had to share the color photo because they look a bit less threatening!



Lupines in Howes Prairie

It's almost time for the breathtaking spring bloom of lupines in Howes Prairie. While Dune Acres boasts several areas where these distinctive wildflowers flourish—such as Clubhouse Dune—the 80-acre Indiana Dunes National Park preserve adjacent to our town offers an especially remarkable display that every resident should experience.

You can access the trails from both Pine Lane and Lupine Lane (there are 2 parking spots for residents at the end of Lupine Lane). To protect the delicate plants, it's essential to stay on designated paths and keep dogs leashed. The lupines begin sprouting in April and remain fragile until their vibrant purple and blue flowers emerge in early to mid-May. These blooms not only create a stunning visual display but also provide a vital habitat for pollinators like butterflies and bees.

The Lois Howes Prairie was officially dedicated by the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in honor of longtime Dune Acres resident Lois Howes. Lois lived in the community from 1941 until her passing in 1985, making significant contributions to environmental preservation and ecological research. Her work played a crucial role in protecting the local landscape and raising awareness about the region's rich biodiversity.

For more information about Lois Howes and her lasting legacy, visit the U.S. National Park Service website.

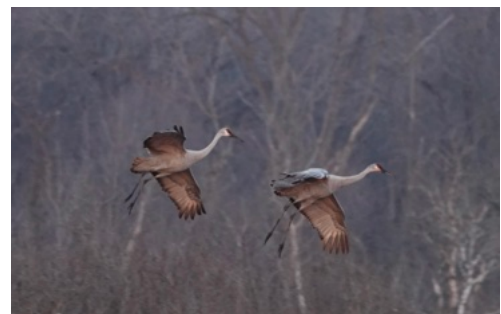


Photo of Lois Howes



Photo of Lupine flowers in Howes Prairie by Richard Hawksworth

*So long...
until next issue!*



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"! Any information, news, creative contributions, articles, reports, corrections, suggestions, art work, photos, comments and otherwise (and volunteers!) are welcomed and encouraged to help sustain this publication.

Email contribution submissions to jbapst10@gmail.com or saralmckinley@gmail.com.
Please use "**Beachcomber**," in the subject line.