



THE BEACHCOMBER

DUNE ACRES, INDIANA

WWW.DUNEACRES.ORG

May, 2015

Spring Clean-Up

What a glorious day we had - 74 degrees and sunny! Our work was focused on four locations to eliminate some of the invasive species and we were successful beyond my expectations.

Jan Babst led a group up and around the ice rink which was covered in Bittersweet. On her team were Mary Ann Crayton, Marie Slaughter, Austin and Sarah Bancroft, Mike Konapacki and Jake Tennant.

Linden Lane - led by Jane Dickey and Sandy O'Brien. Carolyn Mellen, Mike Lapinski, Bob Lauer, Bill Quinn, Rich Hawksworth, Tony Schirripa and Alex Stemer all worked on removing Burning Bush. They made tremendous progress.

Playground group - Kathy Lauer, Lynda Silverman, Dusty Stemer and Robin Tennant.

West Road - Mark Taylor worked with Rick Demkovich, Michele McClead and 3 Chesterton High School volunteers. These troopers cleared heavy vines and dead trees.

Sue and Nathan Chermel cleaned up trash from East Road to Beach Drive. Mark and Lilly Hull, along with Jenny and Rachel Carey, worked on cleaning up the beach.

I am happy to report a record amount of monetary donations from the Marcheschi, Gerson, Hartmann, Heenan, Simmons, Slaughter and Plampin families.

Clarice Gourley and Ruth Dyerly made yummy goodies.

Thank you one and all for a fantastic fun day.

by Robin Tennant

[Photos on page 8]

UFO'S in Dune Acres!

Unfinished Objects, that is. Under the organization of Sue Smith, a group of crafty women have been meeting weekly at the Town Hall to work on unfinished projects in a congenial atmosphere. Here are five artisans, their beautiful pieces and the stories behind them.



Sue Smith

This is a Needlepoint project started 3 years ago. It is the first of a series of six designs depicting the Six Days of Creation by Alex Beattie. If the First Day took 3 years plus, it will be a real work in progress by the time number six is done! But it has been a lot of fun working with everyone on the UFO Thursday.



Cathy Bomberger

Quilt: this project is less than a year in the making. It is for our granddaughter who helped to pick out the fabric. It incorporates her love of pink, as well as horses.

continued on page 3

DACIF'S STRATEGIC PLAN

The Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation board has identified a need for the development of a long term strategic plan for the top of Clubhouse Hill. Bill Spence, Vice President of DACIF and Jane Dickey will co-chair the team. A group of fifteen community leaders attended a planning workshop on April 25th to start the process. Led by Terry Gruen, a Master Gardener and Landscaper Architect with experience in the development of strategic plans for communities, members of the team started by discussing the history and ecology of the Clubhouse and dune area. They engaged in activities to provide ideas and input on topics that included program use, accessibility, security and design aesthetics.

Through the planning process, the community will be able to create a blueprint for future development. This process provides an opportunity for the entire community to weigh in on the ideas generated and offer their suggestions. Projects will be identified and prioritized through community input.

At this stage in the process, our mission is to gather as many ideas as possible. Timelines for completion will be developed as resources become available and the community sees a need.

by Carolyn Mellen



Participants brainstormed at the Strategic Planning kick-off meeting at the Club House on April 25.



THANKS DAVE

When asked a few weeks ago to fix our town sign at the front entrance, Dave Rearick said "sure". But Dave, a world-wide sailor and accomplished builder, is a stickler for details. He worked with a graphic artist and successfully matched the signage with the town wide Dune Acres grey rustic signs. And he donated his time and expenses. When given thanks for a job well done, Dave responded with this:

"This is the way I was brought up to live in a community. You are part of the community and when something needs to be done that fits in your strong suit, you step up and take care of it....as a young kid in town when we'd have a major snow fall, Jim Creighton who was the GM at Bethlehem would send over a labor crew to clear off the ice rink. Joe Kiss would pull together the sailing program all summer...BG Snyder took care of the tennis courts...Pete Klawson would gather up us kids in the summer to work on the ice rink...Bob Hunter stepped up and provided the swimming pool for the YCMA...it's just what you do. In my unrealistic view, the world needs more leaders and leadership. Washington is a perfect example of this...it's easy to be a problem finder, much more rewarding to be a problem solver."

Inspiring words to live by.

by Carolyn Mellen



UFO's

continued from page 1**Clarice Gourley**

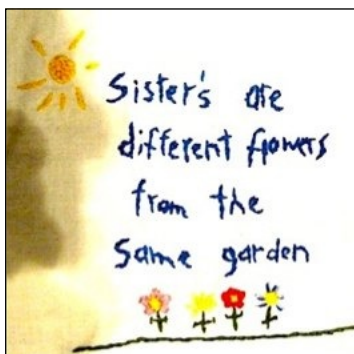
Clarice Gourley is pictured with her Cross Stitch Sampler quilt for a King sized bed titled "American Sampler." She started the Cross Stitch when their Dune Acres house was completed in 1986! After a few years she put it aside, and it was only a few years ago that she started working on it. Between her diligent time working on it at home, and the Thursday gatherings of the UFO group, Clarice finished the workmanship on the beautiful quilt on May 1, 2015. It consists of five panels, the main center piece and two side panels for each side. Congratulations Clarice.

Clarice shared some of her previous work of three Oriental Rugs for her 9 room doll house. Living Room 6 1/2" x 10": Master Bed Room 6 1/2" x 7": Dining Room 5 1/2" x 4". The Living Room rug was an award winner for her!

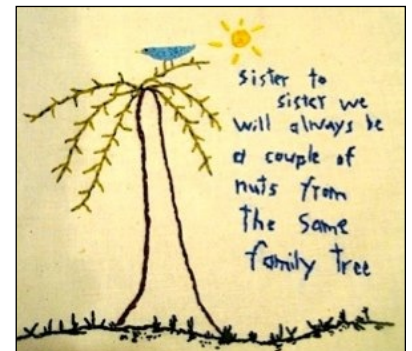
**Ruth Dyerly**

Emmett the Clown by **Cathy Bomberger**. Hooked rug started as a gift for our first baby due in June 1965. Now, as her 50th birthday approaches, I am trying to finish it! The wool is from my camel hair winter coat and various other pieces of clothing cut into strips. The group is encouraging and a time to work!

I learned to knit in college. At that time argyle socks were the rage. When I started knitting again after a 50 year hiatus, I decided to make baby blankets for future great grandchildren. None have appeared on the scene, but I have high hopes. It's a fun project. My daughter, Cindy, & her 2 daughters have started knitting. We are hoping to have a knitting get away week-end.



Mary Ann Crayton finished several projects that had been pending for some time. Through UFO time she completed 2 sweet pictures that she gave to her sisters, pillow cases and a punch needle box top.



The Water Crossroads Hub of America - Chicago or Michigan City?

“Slowly, the last of the glacier shrank back from the lands upon which it had lain so long. The ice sheet had covered much of North America. Age by age the glacier receded, and as it went, an ocean formed on its southern edge, somewhat above the center of the continent. “Lake Chicago,” scientists later called it, but no man was there to call it anything during its lifetime. From this inland sea, the water ran off in rivers southwest through the Great Valley of the Mississippi to the warm Gulf of Mexico.”

So wrote Lloyd Lewis in his classic 1929 history of Chicago's first century. Thousands of years after the glacier had fully melted and the enormous Lake Chicago had shrunk, there remained a much smaller lake named Lake Michigan. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, a corridor of wetlands – swamps, marshes, bogs and muddy flats – lie between the southwest shore of Lake Michigan to the east and the great prairie lands to the west. Traversing these wet lands was a small river that emptied into Lake Michigan near where the government had established a small fort it named Dearborn.

This little river – an insignificant topographical feature within the Northwest Territory of an expanding America – had little utility other than the drainage of prairie lands to the southwest. The small waterway was used by Native Indians and Canadian-French fur traders as a transportation route, albeit limited. According to Lewis, the local Pottawatomie Indians called this river “Chickagou,” an Indian word meaning wild garlic, which, along with onions, grew in abundance along the banks.

Who would have conceived in the year 1800 that this place, where the waters of a small river entered the second largest fresh water lake on the North American continent, would within a century become the second largest city in the United States? What did this muddy area have that allowed it, no, mandated that it become the water crossroads of America? Well, it had a river, of sorts. But so did Milwaukee and so did Michigan City, earlier-settled two towns that arose many years before easterners and immigrants started arriving in the environs of the old Fort Dearborn at the foot of the Chickagou.

Returning to historian Lloyd Lewis:

Up to the year 1833, it seemed that either Milwaukee or Michigan City would be as likely to be the gateway to the Northwest [what the Midwest was then called] as was Chicago. Both were less muddy, larger, and possessed far better harbors. In 1830, Michigan City had over three thousand people, enormously more than Chicago and far better dressed. Michigan City's harbor had already been improved by the [federal] government, its piers ran out into the lake, and vessels up to two-hundred tons carried farmers' grain.

Lewis noted that though Michigan City had “3,000 persons in 1833 [actually, the number was less, closer to 2,000], “Chicago had forty-one homes and less than 200 inhabitants.”

Michigan City like Chicago also had a small river that flowed through the town into Lake Michigan, a waterway the Potawatomie called the “Myewes-Zibwe” meaning “trail-creek” because it passed over the Chicago to Detroit Indian trail. A shoreline survey in the early 1800s revealed that at the point where Trail Creek flowed into the Lake Michigan, it was 30-feet wide. Two branches of the small river converged into one channel before draining into the lake, similar to that of the Chickagou (Chicago River) forty miles across the bottom of Lake Michigan to the west. The two sites shared similar topographical features to the extent that visionaries foresaw their respective potential of serving as a major harbor site conducive for commerce.

In 1832, a man named Isaac Elston purchased land adjacent to Trail Creek in Michigan City with the ambition to build roads into rural Indiana and Michigan. This would enable farmers to bring crops to what Elston envisioned would become a booming shipping port on the great lakes. He and others already saw how Trail Creek's entrance at Michigan City afforded development of lumber and gristmills. One report has it that in the 1800s, thirteen gristmills went up along its banks.

How could Michigan City become a water commercial crossroads of the Northwest Territory (the vast region east of the Mississippi, north of the Ohio, and south of the Canadian border, an area that became the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio)? Consider the following.

From Michigan City, Indiana, Trail Creek flows east, northeastward, and joins the deeper and wider St. Joseph River, which in turn traverses southern Michigan, dipping into Northern Indiana, then back into Michigan exiting into Lake Michigan at St. Joseph, Benton Harbor. The St. Joseph drains nearly a 5,000 square mile watershed of largely fertile lands over its 206-mile course. Clearly, moving farm produce from the Midwest to the East Coast, especially New York, would become feasible, especially given the completion of the Erie Canal through New York State. But neither Elston's vision and money nor Michigan City's natural advantages were sufficient. Outside “clout” was necessary and it wasn't forthcoming.

When it came to clout, none could top that of the Federal Government and the Illinois Legislature. In

continued on page 5

Crossroads

continued from page 4

1822, while the Erie Canal linking the Hudson River to the Great Lakes was being constructed, the United States Congress authorized the building of another navigable waterway, this one in the "Old Northwest" that would connect the Illinois River with Lake Michigan.

Pursuant to the federal mandate, the Illinois General Assembly in 1829 approved a 96-mile canal be built from where the Chicago River ended west of the city, through the Illinois prairie to where it could channel into the Illinois River and then Mississippi. The canal would be named the Illinois-Michigan Canal, connecting Lake Michigan to the Illinois River.

A young Abraham Lincoln, a member of the General Assembly, led a group of supporters of the project. To Lincoln's disappointment, the project was abandoned a few years later when funds ran out. Not until 1836, did construction start up again but only for a short time as labor and continued funding problems besieged the project. Instead of being completed by 1837 as Congress had intended, it finally was opened for commerce in April 1848. The United States, Midwest manufacturing, Midwest farming, and most of all, the City of Chicago would forever be changed.

Lloyd Lewis, Chicago: The History of its Reputation, Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York.

James William Putnam, Illinois and Michigan Canal, University of Chicago Press (1918).

The Illinois and Michigan Canal -- 1827-1911; Jesse White, Secretary of State of Illinois (custodian), retrievable on the Internet (2014).

Trail Creek (Lake Michigan), retrievable on Wikipedia (2014).

by Mike Swygert

As I was going through some files, getting them ready to ship back to the US from Cape Town, a small yellowed piece of paper with a short message fluttered out of a folder onto my desk. Perhaps the message is well-known, but I don't think it's a cliché. If it is not familiar, and you wish to put it in the Beachcomber, please do so. I have no idea about its source. It reads:

"You will always have sand from the Indiana dunes between your toes. Build your dream castle with it."

by Bill Hilliker

Spring Wildlife

Spring is in sight which means baby season for wildlife is coming. Birds nesting season can start as early as April and mammal babies can be seen as early as March. Do you know what to do if you find a baby bird or mammal out of the nest? Does the animal need to be rescued or is it behaving normal? If at any time the animal has been caught by a domestic pet or has a visible injury please call the closest rehabilitation center immediately. When in doubt call a rehabilitator to walk you through the wildlife situation to determine if a rescue is needed. Below are a few tips to help determine if that baby needs to be rescued.

Baby Birds

A nestling bird will have little to no feathers and will not be able to hop or fly. If you find a nestling bird on the ground search the area for a nest. Look high and low as a nest could be located in a tree, in a shrub, or in the corner of your porch. Once the nest is located carefully place the baby back into the nest, and watch from a distance out of sight to see if the parents return to feed the baby(s).

A fledgling bird will have most of its feathers including the tail, be able to hop and flap its wings, but may not be able to fly. Watch the bird from a distance out of sight to see if the parents are continuing to feed and care for the bird. Fledgling birds can be on the ground unable but learning to fly for a few days before they master the skill of flying. Remember to keep all domestic pets contained and away from the fledgling.

Baby Mammals

A neonatal mammal will have little or no hair and their eyes may not be open. If you find a neonatal mammal out of the nest search the area to try to locate the nest or den site. Squirrels will nest high in trees while a raccoon may nest in a hollow log or stump. Wearing proper protective gloves place the baby back into the nest or den site. If the mother is near watch from a distance out of sight and see if the parent will retrieve the baby.

A juvenile mammal will have all its fur and be can be very active. Usually the parents will be watching from a distance while the young are learning to forage and exploring their territory. Remember to keep all domestic pets contained and away from the young. Watch from a distance out of sight to see if a parent is near.

Eastern Cottontails and White-tailed deer are usually kidnapped from concerned individuals when a rescue is not needed. If you find a nest of

continued on page 8



Spring In The Dunes

Dune Acres Annual Spring Party

Saturday, May 23rd – 6:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse

Food, drinks & live entertainment !

Please RSVP by Thursday, May 21st by filling out the form below & returning it to the Security Office or Town Hall with a check for \$25.00 per person made out to Dune Acres Social Committee.

Number of Attendees: _____

Names: _____,

Amount of \$ included: _____



WINE AND CANVAS EVENT

The Dune Acres Social Committee invites you to join in a creative and fun evening painting your own "Sand Dunes" masterpiece at the Clubhouse on Friday, June 19th at 6:30 p.m. Wine & Canvas, "The painting class with cocktails", will supply us with paints, canvas and table easels and will direct us with step by step instructions. All you need to bring is your beverage of choice. Cheese and crackers will be served. Fortunately, no talent or experience is necessary!

To sign up, go to www.wineandcanvas.com and go to private events calendar. Click on the June 19th calendar box and fill out the form. The cost is \$35 per person and it is paid directly on line to the company.

A Fond Farewell

Every day we are greeted by a friendly guard at the security office. But a couple of the familiar faces will be changing soon. Diane Bartley, who has worked security for 10 years, is moving to southern Indiana with her husband. Diane has always had a smiling face to welcome us and she will be missed. She will be working through May. Please stop and wish her well the next time you see her.



Justin Kookan, our youngest employee has graduated college and is pursuing full time employment. Justin has primarily done the beach patrol for the past 4 summers and has also filled a couple of security shifts monthly. We wish him a successful future.

Welcome Newcomers

Replacing these two positions will be Bernie Olis and Kyle Dishman who will start working in June. Kyle will work beach patrol this summer and you will see Bernie at the security office. Please introduce yourself to these new folks when you get a chance.

In Memory of John Norris:

A Teacher Who Preserved the "Connection between Knowledge and the Zest for Life"

Alfred North Whitehead, English teacher, mathematician and philosopher, long ago authored an outstanding book: *"The Aims of Education."* For most of his professional life, Whitehead was a teacher – first at an English boarding school for middle and high-school-level students, and later at Trinity College of Cambridge University, from which he graduated.

In *The Aims of Education* (first published in 1916) Whitehead wrote:

[The best education] preserves the connection between knowledge and the zest for life, uniting the young and the old in the imaginative consideration of learning. This atmosphere of excitement transforms knowledge. A fact is no longer a bare fact: it is invested with all its possibilities. It is no longer a burden on the memory, it is as energizing as the poet of our dreams and as the architect of our purposes.

John Norris was a teacher, the noblest of professions. John's teaching exemplified the finest. He worked with his students in the spirit and manner that Alfred North Whitehead described above. Former students and colleagues in the Duneland School System describe how John stretched their minds. They learned how imaginative possibilities reach far beyond the past and the current "facts." Those who were attentive understood that the future was for them to make, for them to imagine, and that they could achieve what they wanted by combining knowledge with imagination and fueling their zest for life. To have had John Norris as a teacher, one was fortunate indeed.

John, on behalf of your former students, colleagues, and friends, especially in Dune Acres, we miss you both personally and as an exemplar of excellent teaching. There should be more like you.

by Mike Swygart

Thank you, Jan

Compliments and many thanks to Jan Bapst for her diligence throughout the past two years in single handily clearing the park area adjacent to the ice skating rink. You may have seen Jan at work along Crest Drive.

This area is home to many native plants that have not appeared due to being shaded out and covered by invasive species. How nice it now looks and how interesting it will be to learn what will now be growing.

by Cathy Bomberger

Spring Wildlife

Continued from page 5

cottontails in your yard with no mother, this is by no mistake. Cottontail mothers only return to her nest 2-3 times per day to feed the young as to not attract predators. Cover the nest with the surrounding grass and leave the area. Place a few strings over the nest and check in the morning to see if she has returned in which the strings will have been moved. White-tailed fawns are left alone by the mother when they are very young to not attract predators. Watch from a distance out of site as the mother will likely return for her baby shortly. If the fawn is screaming excessively or acting frantic when left alone call immediately.

I'm sending this to residents I think are interested in our wildlife. Please pass it on to your friends. I am a volunteer for Moraine Ridge Wildlife Rehab Center and this comes from them. Please look at their website and Facebook page as they have many great videos of their rehabbed animals getting released. They can be reached at 219-299-8027 or call me at 787-8104. They are a wonderful organization and Dr. Rachael Jones in Valparaiso is their volunteer vet.

by Mary Ann Crayton

Poetic Inspiration in the Dunes

WAVES

A gentle, steady north wind
Begets waves reflecting their parentage
Not tumultuous or menacing
But lazy undulations
Carrying long tenuous crests
Paper thin at their peaks, breaking,
Crashing into sparkling white spray.

Alone on the beach at first I
See, then hear, then feel
And slip into a trance.
Each wave, a life of its own
Is mine to join in exultation
As it mounts to its utmost reach;
Is mine to share in dismay
As it falls to its utter extinction.

I reach for a piece of driftwood
Almost hidden in a bed of sand.
Gentle I caress it, for it
Has had a life of mystery and romance.
I hold it to the sun
And utter a prayer.

Then a wild, compulsive urge
Takes hold, I fling it into the waves
As panic shatters my tranquility
Gripped by desire and fear to follow.

by Judge Luther M. Swygert



Alex Stemer, Bob Lauer and Mike Lapinski tackle Linden Lane during Town Clean-Up.



Bob Lauer, Tony Schirripa, Carolyn Mellen, Jane Dickey and Sandy O'Brien teamed up to rid Linden Lane of Burning Bush.

About the author

My father wrote 110 poems over the decades he lived in Dune Acres and was sitting on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Most of them he wrote in long hand while sitting on the Dune Acres beach.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Judge Swygert to the Northern Indiana U.S. District Court, where he served until 1961, when he was appointed to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago by President John F. Kennedy where he served until his retirement in 1977. He died in 1988.

by Mike Swygert

Beach Exercise Classes

Melinda Massette and Sharon Tutlewski are arranging beach exercise classes taught by Ashley Hall, a personal trainer from Chesterton YMCA.



A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION THIS YEAR

Dune Acres' tradition is to celebrate Independence Day on the Saturday that is closest to July 4th. Not competing with the bigger towns' fireworks displays on July 4th, allows us to have a fabulous fireworks display for a much discounted cost. But what do we do when July 4th IS on a Saturday? Well, our celebration is going to be just a bit different this year.

Friday, July 3rd – Fireworks display on the Beach at dusk. Come down for the fireworks early and enjoy a beach picnic. Grills will be hot and ready for use from 5 p.m. to dusk at Each Beach for families to use for their own BYO picnics. Then settle on to your blankets or chairs for another spectacular Dune Acres Fireworks display.

Saturday, July 4th – Day Full of Activities including 3K Walk/5K Run, Parade, Hot Dog Roast at East Beach parking lot, Games at East Beach, Sand Castle Judging, and an extended cocktail party at the Clubhouse. **THERE WILL BE NO FORMAL DINNER SET UP IN THE CLUBHOUSE THIS YEAR.** But fear not, we will have a lovely party with lots of food, drinks and entertainment.

More information will be sent out soon.

Classes will be on Saturday mornings at 10 am.
\$5 per person or \$3 per person if 10 or more show up.

Alternating classes : booty boot camp, pilates/abs, and strength and tone but everyone would be required to bring their own Dumbbells.

We are also planning beach classes with a yoga instructor. We will keep you posted as to start date and location.

Classes will be on the beach, either Dune Acres or Porter Beach.

by Sharon Tutlewski



Thanks to the following people who made this issue happen:

Cathy Bomberger	Irene Newman
Mary Ann Crayton	Sue Smith
Ruth Dyerly	Mike Swygert
Clarice Gourley	Robin Tennant
Bill Hilliker	Sharon Tutlewski
Carolyn Mellen	

If you would like to contribute a story, photo, poem, art, something from your children or grandchildren, etc,

The deadline for the next issue is June 27
Publication date July 1.

The Fine Print: *The Beachcomber* is published on-line monthly during the summer and periodically during the winter. All information, news, creative contributions, articles, reports, corrections, suggestions, Letters to the Editor, art work, comments and otherwise are welcomed and encouraged. *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!"

Editorial Board: Carolyn Mellen, Irene Newman and Mike Swygert.

Email submissions to inewman680@aol.com. Please use "Beachcomber," in the subject line.