



# THE BEACHCOMBER

DUNE ACRES, INDIANA

July, 2015

## DACIF embarks on Master Planning Process

The Dune Acres Clubhouse, opened in 1926, is arguably the town's most valuable publicly owned asset, and certainly the recipient of the largest portion of DACIF's funding in recent years.

Expenditure of these funds, which have been primarily for preservation, has been somewhat controversial, since the building is under-utilized. And the dune upon which it sits, with its magnificent views of the lake and Chicago skyline, contains only an unimproved parking area and a maintenance shed.

DACIF has embarked on a strategic planning process to develop a long-range plan for the enhancement of the Clubhouse Dune as a community resource. We have hired Terry Guen Design Associates, Inc. to lead us in the development of a Master Plan – a vision of how we want to use the space for the foreseeable future. This master plan would allow us to prioritize projects, fund raise for them, and live into them.

Ms. Guen is a well pedigreed urban planner whose work ranges from Chicago's Millennium Park and Navy Pier to gardens in China. She is very familiar with, and has a great love for, the special ecology of the Dunes and is excited about helping us to enhance and preserve our precious natural resources. Her services will include facilitating resident meetings, drawing plans, and estimating costs of identified improvement components. Plan

details will be developed using input from various stakeholders. Priorities will be determined and fundraising strategies will be developed.

DACIF is funding this planning process. Whether any of the ideas resulting from this process will be implemented will be decided in the future by the Town Council, DACIF, and the community as a whole. This first step is to generate ideas and discussion, and to explore whether we can translate our dreams for our beloved duneland into reality. We hope you will be involved.

Bill Spence, Bobbi Taylor and Jane Dickey are leading DACIF's steering committee. Their first step was to invite a group of "interested parties" from the town to a brain-storming session held in April and led by Terry to begin identifying possibilities. The ideas that bubbled up from this session were captured on large posters. Images of these are available on the Dune Acres website in the Beachcomber section entitled July, 2015 Posters.

Within the coming months you will be receiving an invitation to attend one of a number of small informal gathering to solicit ideas, feedback and opinions. Your involvement in this process is important, and it is our hope you will attend one of these meetings and add your ideas to our vision of the future.

You can read about Terry Guen's expertise at:  
<http://www.tgda.net/profile.htm>

## Holiday Festivities Schedule

FRIDAY, JULY 3RD BYO PICNIC - East Beach. Grills will be hot & ready for you.  
DUSK FIREWORKS DISPLAY ON THE BEACH

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH

- 7:45 am Annual 3K Walk/5K Run - meet at tennis courts
- 10:30 am Face Painting and Decorating - Town Hall
- 11:00 am Assemble for Parade - at tennis courts
- 11:30 am Grand Parade along East Road
- 12:00 noon Hot Dog Roast at East Beach
- 1:00 pm Games at East Beach
- 3:00 pm Sand Castle Judging
- 6:30 pm - 11:00 pm Community Party at the Clubhouse
- 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm The Chicago Kingsnakes perform



## Spring Fling

The Spring "Fling" Party was a special night for Dune Acres. So many old and new friends gathered to share their lives. We had the clubhouse decorated beautifully by our own Mary Boeke. She even made two spectacular new posters celebrating spring in the dunes.

Bill and Lois Nixon did a Herculean effort with the bar and making the "spring fling" welcoming sign. John and Marge Saphir worked the bar and greeted folks. Dan and Marla O'Keefe, our new neighbors, greeted people and assisted in many tasks. Emily and Linus Schrage worked setting up, cleaning up, serving at the bar and replenishing food. Tina and Jim Read set up and cleaned up and were totally present for the party. Ann and Jerry Murphy were helpful with set up and clean up. Kenneth Warren spent a lot of time as bartender and so did Mike Lapinski who wasn't even on the committee. Barbara Plampin was head greeter. Adele Simmons made many of the name tags. Michael Triester was magnificent playing his flute, it added so much.

Carolyn Mellen was a perfect co chair -she is an exceptional town volunteer. A big thank you to Bob Evans who not only printed the invitation, but distributed them to our mailboxes.

I want to thank the other committee members for bringing delectable goodies and their effort at the bar and clean up. You all add so much to making our town so amazing.

I am honored to have had the experience of working with you all.

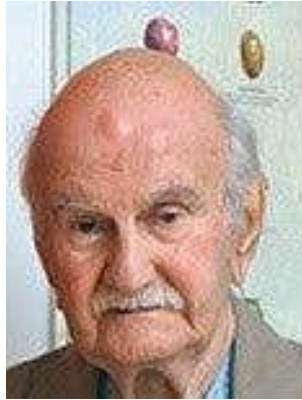
- Robin Tennant



Lois Nixon, Bill Nixon, Linus Schrage and Mary Boeke

## Happy Birthday, Harry

On June 2, about 14 members of the Elderberries group met to celebrate the 92nd birthday of our neighbor, Harry Petrakis. Shirley Hull brought some "awesome" home-baked pastries, including a scrumptious lemon cake. Harry himself brought the champagne. John Crayton led the group in Happy Birthday (in Greek!). Harry said it was the first time anyone had sung Happy Birthday in Greek to him. It was a most happy celebration.



For those who may not know Harry, he could well be considered the Dune Acres "Writer in Residence," having published several novels and innumerable short stories (especially about the Greek immigrant experience in Chicago). His most recent book is "Songs from my Life" (2014), a memoir about events in his long and most memorable life.

- by Mary Ann Crayton





## Congratulations, Jeremy

Perhaps you've seen these avid bicycle riders in and around Dune Acres? Dana and Michael Treister's son Jeremy was just named "FATHER OF THE YEAR" by the USA Cycling Association, having been nominated by his 15-year-old daughter Beatrix. Bea actually spends more time in the ballet studio than on a bicycle, but does occasionally participate in cycling, and clearly has great admiration for her father.



Here is an abridged version of the official Fathers' Day announcement of Jeremy's honor:

**"MY DAD INSPIRES ME EVERY DAY..."**

That's how Bea Treister described her dad, Jeremy, when nominating him for "Best Cycling Dad" in USA Cycling's Father's Day Contest. Jeremy primarily races track, and has also ridden cyclo-cross and road.

Bea says her dad is an inspiration on – and off – the track. "About three years ago, my dad was diagnosed with testicular cancer. It was devastating," says Bea. "But he was determined to continue cycling."

Jeremy had begun riding competitively in his mid-to late-30s, racing with a local team in the Chicago area where the family lives. "We were putting on a criterium series early in the spring," says Jeremy, "and at one of those early season races four years ago, I noticed that something just did not feel right. I went to the urologist the very next day and was diagnosed with testicular cancer. I had surgery the following day."

Jeremy considers himself lucky that his cancer was Stage 1A. "The cancer had not spread at all because I acted so quickly," he says. "I didn't know what would happen after the surgery, but I knew I wanted to get back in the game."

## Indiana Dunes Birding

*This article appeared in the Indiana Dunes Birding blog on May 19, 2015*

Greetings from the Indiana Dunes. It's been a long week or so since we last provided an update. Truth be told, it's the sad fact for so many blogs to wither away. Fortunately, we've been able to capture and report on the migration in the dunes for four years now. In the reality that has been the last two weeks, we have counted thousands of birds, hosted a very successful bird festival for the very first time, trained our staff for the upcoming season, dazzled in amazing warblers visiting the park, the nature center, and it's feeders. It's now nearly 10 days since the festival ended and we're now getting a chance to update everyone.

The birds continue to fly by the tower. Brendan has logged many thousand neotropical migrants in the past week. Obviously today's cooler weather has put a damper on it, but there should be still some late movement coming through in the next week. These include flycatchers, waxwings, late warblers, cuckoos, and some shorebirds. We'll give an update soon on where we stand for the year.

In the cooler weather, both of the last two weekends, we've seen a multitude of warblers visiting the park feeders. The bird bath and nearby shrubs have played host to many great species that can be seen from the comfort of the viewing bench.

The Dunes birdathon just occurred this past weekend. And.. what an interesting day for a birdathon. An absolutely interesting day greeted Alexandra Forsythe, Matt Kalwasinski, Penny Starin, Kimbelry Ehn, and myself to tour the Lake Michigan Lakeshore searching for every bird we could find. Despite concerns about hot weather and rain showers, we avoided nearly all of it, and only had a few sprinkles throughout the day. The temperatures stayed low enough to keep bird activity going all day long. We couldn't quite make our new lofty goal of 170, but came close. As luck would have it, we tied last year's record of 165 species. The day began with a peenting woodcock at Cowle's Bog and ended after dark at the Gary Bald Eagle nest... just like last year.

We raised some funds for bird conservation and took the rare chance to be outside in nature for over 18 hours in a row! Despite all this, it's amazing how many common birds you can miss. Our biggest misses this year... Belted Kingfisher, Barred Owl, and Veery!

*To see the complete list of all 165 species sighted, go to:*

<https://indianadunesbirding.wordpress.com/2015/05/19/birdathon-update-and-more/>

*- submitted by Mary Ann Crayton*

*continued on page 4*

*continued from page 3*

## Jim Gaffigan's new show premieres July 15 on the TV Land Channel

You can catch our own Jim Gaffigan Wednesday's at 9 pm Central time on Comcast channel 70 beginning July 15. Gaffigan was born in Elgin, Illinois, and was raised in Dune Acres. He attended La Lumiere School in La Porte, Indiana. He is the youngest of six children and often jokes about growing up in a large family. He attended Purdue University for one year, where he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. He graduated from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business in 1988. After graduating, Gaffigan moved to NYC to work in advertising, taking improv classes at night. His comedy career began when a friend bet him to do stand-up.



"The Jim Gaffigan Show" stars and is inspired by the real life of comedian, actor and New York Times best-selling author Jim Gaffigan, chronicling one man's struggle in New York City to find a balance between fatherhood, stand-up comedy and an insatiable appetite. Also starring in the series is Ashley Williams as Jim's off-beat Catholic wife, Jeannie; Adam Goldberg as Jim's aggressively single comedian friend, Dave; and Michael Ian Black as Daniel, Jeannie's gay ex-boyfriend and confidante, who is also Jim's biggest critic. Tongayi Chirisa co-stars, playing Jim and Jeannie's endearing priest, Father Nicholas. Throughout the season, there will also be special celebrity cameos by Chris Rock, Steve Buscemi, Rachel Maddow, Keith Olbermann, Lawrence O'Donnell, Joe Scarborough, Mika Brzezinski, Dave Attell, Hannibal Buress, Macaulay Culkin, Janeane Garofalo among others. The show is executive produced by writing team Jim and Jeannie Gaffigan.

## Jeremy Treister

My dad didn't just continue cycling, he took it to the next level."

That following year, Jeremy engaged a coach and decided to concentrate on his training, and he has already moved up. "I wanted to see if I could move up the ranks, find out what I could with do with cycling as a sport," he says. "I really enjoy taking seriously what I do for fun!"

Jeremy is the President/Owner of CMIT Solutions of Downtown Chicago, an IT consulting firm.

"He inspires me every day, even if I feel something is too hard, or over my head. He cycles through the best of times and the worst of times. That is the definition of a cyclist." Bea and Sol have been riding with their dad since they were 10 years old. "I enjoy when we ride together and spend time with each other," Bea says. "We get to relax. We get to bond. We don't just talk about cycling, but about everything in our lives."

For his part, Jeremy says that surviving cancer has made him rethink a lot of things. "You only live once. I had been racing and enjoying it, but I wanted to learn how to race to win. I was pretty good at it, but I wasn't great," he says. "I wanted to find the limits of my potential. If I hadn't gone through a major life experience, I'm not sure I would have even thought of it."

"We never know what's going to happen," Bea adds. "He showed me that even when hard things come along, we can push through it to get to the better parts of life."

And isn't that also the definition of a great dad?

*-by Dana Treister*



Read and watch more:

Jim's website <http://www.jimgaffigan.com/>

TV Land Gaffigan show website <http://goo.gl/5m8uKB>

Huffington Post review <http://goo.gl/tC46XP>

A review published by *The Gospel Herald* on May 23, 2015 <http://goo.gl/eZAUxI>

*-submitted by Bev Hubbs*



## Dune Acres: On the Wild Side

The Town Clerk of Beverly Shores sent this notice on June 15:

Please be advised that Michigan City has had a black bear sighting. Today it was spotted on Meer Road, which is the east side boundary for Michigan City.

Here's some advice from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources if he crosses your path:

As bear populations in neighboring states increase, it is likely that black bears may find their way into Indiana. Black bears are rarely aggressive toward humans but can create problems. Most problems arise as bears search for food. If bears associate the food they find with humans, they can become habituated.

### Black Bear Facts

- Stocky animal with short legs.
- Typically, males weigh 150-400 lbs and females weigh 100-250 lbs.
- In the eastern United States, typically have a thick black coat with a tan muzzle.
- Omnivorous, feeding on grass, seeds, and berries to insects, rodents, and deer.
- Intelligent with a keen sense of smell and hearing.
- Young bears, particularly males, may travel long distance, up to 20 miles per day, into new areas, before retreating to establish a territory closer to the primary range.
- The last confirmed report of a black bear in Indiana was in 1871.

### Black Bear Dos& Don'ts

DO remove bird feeders and bird food from late March through November.  
DO clean and store grills away after use.  
DO eliminate food attractants by placing garbage cans inside a garage or shed.  
DON'T intentionally feed bears. Bears that become accustomed to finding food near your home may become "problem" bears.  
DON'T leave pet food outside overnight.  
DON'T add meat or sweets to a compost pile.

For additional information on black bears, visit:  
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3357.htm>

### If you see a black bear:

- Enjoy it from a distance.
- Advertise your presence by shouting and waving your arms and backing slowly away.
- Never attempt to feed or attract bears.
- **Report bear sightings to the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife at 812-334-1137 or : [dfwinput@dnr.in.gov](mailto:dfwinput@dnr.in.gov)**

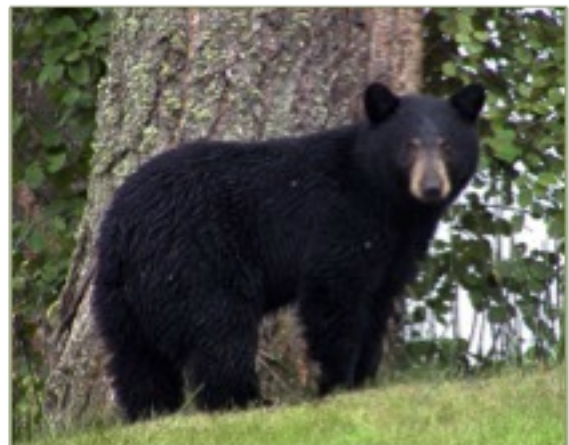


Leah and Jason Harp spotted this Eastern hog nose snake on Summitt on June 14. Shown here it flattened its head, then it would relax and look like a regular old snake. According to Rich Hawksworth, it's non poisonous and non aggressive, just tries to look and sound like a bully.

Do you have unwanted guests at your house? Raccoons, squirrels and many other wildlife species can cause significant damage to your home, once they have occupied your attic space. Chris our humane wildlife technician can help! We remove wildlife humanely and keep families together. Services also include preventative measures to keep out wildlife and prevent re-entry. Please give us a call at 219-299-8027 or learn more at [www.mrwildliferehab.org](http://www.mrwildliferehab.org)

Moraine Ridge Wildlife Rehab Center also takes native animals. Check out their website. They are a wonderful rehab center. I volunteer for them so you can also call me 787-8104.

-by Mary Ann Crayton





## Fox Hunt

These amazing photos were taken by our town's maintenance expert, **Mark Taylor**, through the windows of the Dune Acres Clubhouse on June 2nd and 3rd.

The mother appears very thin but her kits look healthy and are full of rambunctiousness. The three kits appear together in only one photo.

Mark says the family lives beneath the front porch of the Clubhouse and come out when no one is around. When the Mother hears the noise of any person or any vehicle coming up the road they quickly disappear. Mark was working in the Clubhouse when he spotted them and used his phone camera to capture these priceless pictures.





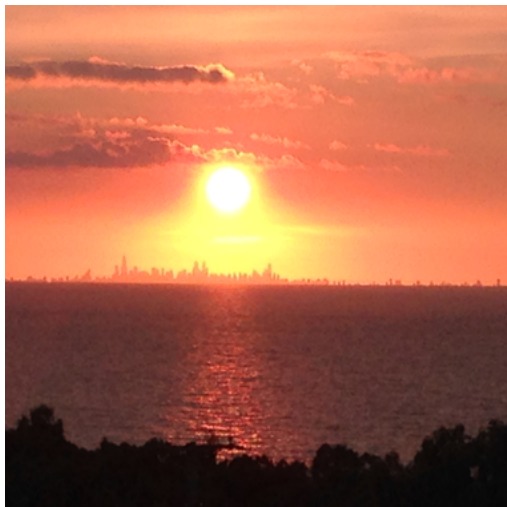
## Spring Flowers in the Dunes

The beautiful wild, purple flowering Lupine abounds in Dune Acres in May and in early June. They bloom throughout the town, but especially on the West side of Clubhouse Hill along Shore Drive. After the invasive plants on Clubhouse Hill have been greatly removed in the past couple of years, the Lupine has roared back. The plant's official genus is *Lupinus*, of the family, Fabaceae. With more than 200 species, Lupine of various flowering colors grow in North America and South America, as well as in Mediterranean regions. For thousands of years, their seed were eaten raw and used in cooking.

In the Indiana Dunes, the purple Lupine flowers have been a wildflower of distinction, having been the subject of some of Frank Dudley's great dune paintings. The four photos of Lupine were taken May 22nd on Clubhouse Hill.



*photos and text by Mike Swygert*



Almost solstice sunset taken from the porch of the clubhouse on June 19. The sun is directly over the Chicago skyline. Photo by Irene Newman.

## No UFO sightings this summer!

The UFO gatherings will be suspended for the summer months, and will resume in September.

- Sue Smith



## Summer Solstice

Mike Swygert took these photos from Dune Acres on June 21, 2015, the Summer Solstice when the sun appears furthest north on the horizon.



Looking Eastward, this photo was taken around 5:35 a.m. on May 21st in Dune Acres.

- Mike Swygert

### July Beach Class Schedule

7/11-Cleanse Yoga Detox Flow

7/18-20min. Arms 20min. Abs 20min. legs & buns.

7/25-Power Yoga Flow

**\*Remember to bring your mat!**

Classes will be on Saturday mornings at 10 am.

\$5 per person or \$3 per person if 10 or more show up.

Weather permitting, classes will be on the beach, either Dune Acres or Porter Beach. Dune Acres Town Hall if inclement weather.

*by Sharon Tuttlewski*





## Wine and Canvas

Participants of the June 19th Wine & Canvas event held at the Clubhouse were in agreement – LET’S DO IT AGAIN! 15 novice painters followed step by step directions, with their own creative flair and came up with 15 similar yet very different paintings of a dune sunset. Set up in the front north room on the second floor of the Clubhouse we were surrounded with one of nature’s best views for additional inspiration. Those interested shared pizza and other goodies beforehand.

Thanks to Jenny Carey for arranging the event. Hopefully more folks will give it a try this fall when another Wine & Canvas is tentatively planned, because the painting was a lot of fun and surprisingly (for me, at least) something to be kind of proud of.

- Carolyn Mellen



Painter Pierre – aka Lou Mellen.



Thanks to the following people who made this issue happen:

Mary Ann Crayton	Sue Smith
Jane Dickey	Mike Swygert
Leah & Jason Harp	Mark Taylor
Bev Hubbs	Robin Tennant
Carolyn Mellen	Dana Treister
Irene Newman	Sharon Tutlewski

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 July 27**  
Publication date August 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](mailto:inewman680@aol.com). Please use “**Beachcomber**,” in the subject line.