



THE BEACHCOMBER

DUNE ACRES, INDIANA

www.DuneAcres.org

July 2026



Dune Acres Celebrates America's 250 Years of Freedom

Town residents celebrated our country's Semiquincentennial throughout the July 4th weekend with a full slate of activities. Volunteers and dedicated staff members stepped up in a big way to ensure every event ran smoothly despite the unpredictable weather. As we reflect on this memorable celebration, we are reminded how fortunate we are to be part of such an exceptional community—and such an incredible country.





Kollar Family Launches Gallery 1882 in Chesterton

Dune Acres residents continue to demonstrate their commitment to downtown Chesterton, helping ensure it remains a favorite destination for the Duneland community and visitors alike.

On May 23, Tim and Ellen Kollar celebrated the opening of Gallery 1882, featuring works more commonly found in major metropolitan art galleries.

The inaugural exhibit, entitled - **because... FLOWERS,**

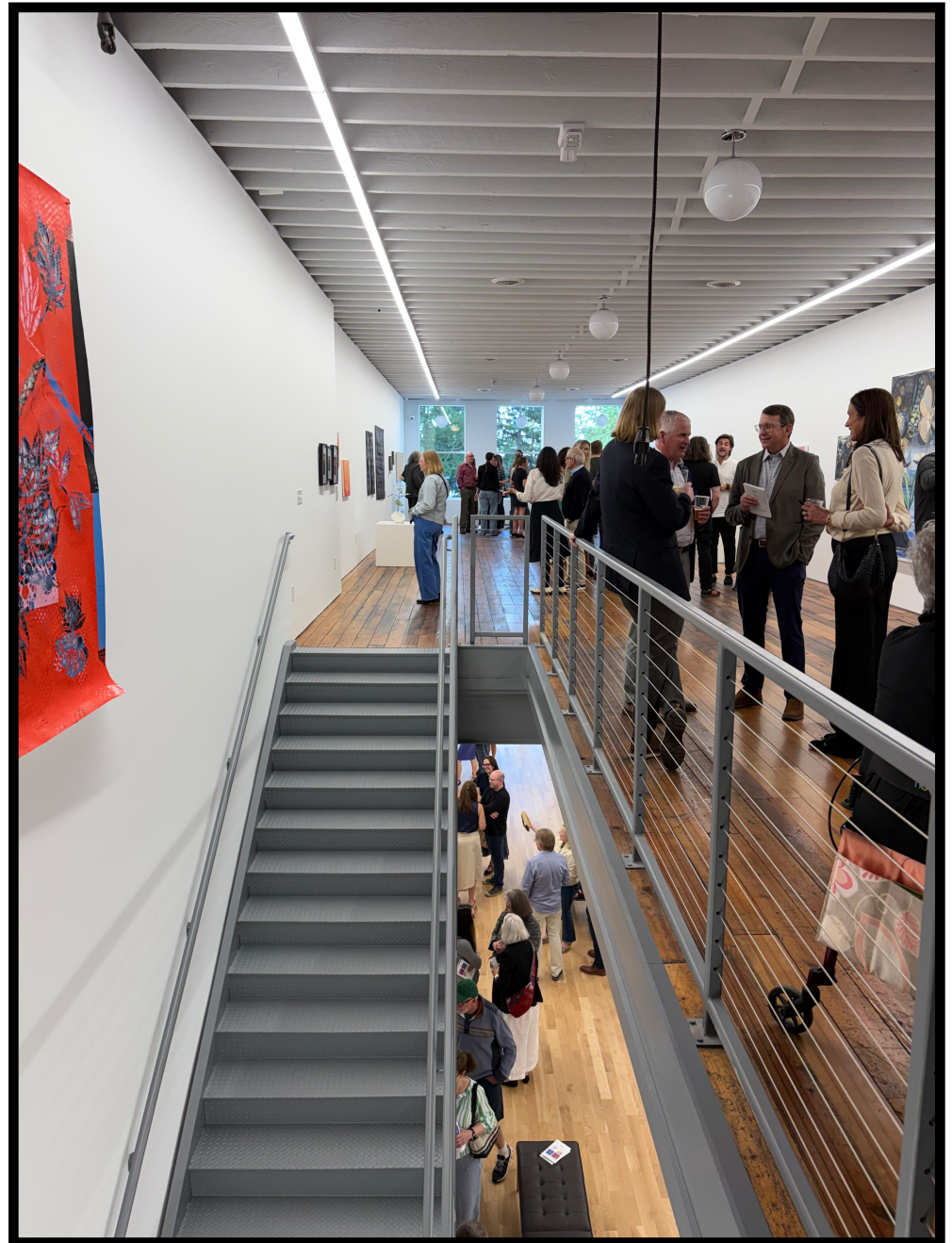
will be on display through July 19.

To curate the show, the Kollars collaborated with James O'Donnell, Ellen's brother, and Heather Hubbs, Executive Director of the New Art Dealers Alliance in New York City. Heather, daughter of Dune Acres resident Beverly Hubbs of 18 Crest Drive, grew up in Dune Acres and has maintained lifelong friendships with the Kollars and many other Dune Acres families.



Heather Hubbs, Tim and Ellen Koller and James O'Donnell

Tim and Ellen purchased two adjacent buildings in Chesterton's historic downtown district in 2023. They first renovated a new space for the Red Cup Café before turning their attention to Gallery 1882, named in honor of the building's 1882 construction date. The result is the modern, two-story showpiece that stands today.



Summing up their motivation, Tim explained, “We think this is an exciting time for Chesterton, which is perfectly positioned as a place for more and more people to visit and live. We’d love to see the historic downtown area become the premier gathering place in the Duneland area — somewhere people can linger, make connections, and enjoy themselves.”



DACIF MEMORIAL DAY PROJECT

**LANCE HORNADAY
& BROTHER-IN-LAW,
MIKE CHECK
CONSTRUCT A KAYAK RACK
AT THE HILL DRIVE ACCESS STEPS**



Durability, Efficiency, Comfort – 18 West Road Construction

Our story starts in 2020, when after retiring from an engineering career, John's technical "nerdiness" found a new focus in residential house design and we discovered the world of high-performance, Passive building. So let's jump into the Passive house design of our 18 West Road home that our grandson affectionately named the "Sandbox House."

Durability: A passive house is designed to last 100 years or more. Each material in the Sandbox House is selected for durability. Here are just a few examples:

- 24-gauge metal roof with lifetime installation warranty & 40-year coating warranty.
- Huber Zip-R12 wall sheathing with 30-year delamination, air & water resistance performance warranty. Joints & nail heads sealed with Zip tape or caulk.
- Below grade concrete coated with Tremco TREMproof 250GC 90 mil thick waterproofing membrane on concrete basement walls/footers with 20-year warranty. 15 mil Stego vapor barrier waterproofing sheet under all floor slabs taped to seal out air & water with a "life of the building" warranty.

Efficiency: Passive houses are designed to use 60%-90% less energy than a standard house and don't use fossil fuels. The Sandbox House has a Home Energy Rating System score of 7 (with solar) which is 93% more efficient than the standard reference home yielding an estimated \$12,300+ annual savings in electrical costs. Our average utility bill over the past 3 months is \$134 for a 5,500 square foot house.

Comfort: Passive design eliminates the discomforts of cold drafts near windows, 2nd floor hot and humid conditions, and downstairs musty/cold environments. Comfort design features used include insulated exterior walls rated between R48 & R51, and having Solar with battery storage, providing electricity during outages and maintaining comfort without gas generator maintenance & breakdowns.

Health: A Passive house has standards to enhance human health, with air quality that reduces allergen levels and cancer risk, addressing chemicals and radon. The Sandbox House is equipped with a 24/7 near HEPA level filtered fresh air system, so no need to open windows and air out the house – it's always being aired out. Passive houses are less

dusty, requiring less cleaning. The whole house water filtration and descaling system provides a higher level of drinking water quality.

Affordability: Industry data says that building a Passive house adds 5%-15% to the cost. For the Sandbox House, we estimate the Passive design premium was near 15%. To offset the premium, we anticipate reduced maintenance, better health, and less energy usage. Industry analysis of Passive design shows that a positive return on investment occurs in 7-12 years, but even if it is higher for the Sandbox house, multiple generations in our family will benefit from the design and performance.

We are blessed by our wonderful family & contractor team that built this home. If you have any questions or want to further investigate High Performance House design, please contact us at 513-300-8838 and if you would like to see first-hand these Passive design features, we would be happy to give you a tour.

John and Donna Snyder



Zip-R Sheathing: tape joints, caulk nail heads, & apply Siga Fentrim 430 (grey tape) to seal concrete & mud sill interface.



18 Panel 9 KW Solar System on south facing roof.



Whole house 24/7 fresh air system being installed in utility room

Meet the Guard

Angie Burk has been greeting residents and visitors at the gatehouse for nearly a year now. All of us are familiar with her friendly smile and willingness to help whenever needed.

A northwest Indiana native, Angie was recruited for the position by another member of the security team who recognized that her energy and interpersonal skills would be a perfect fit for the town. In addition to her shifts here in D.A., she works in hospitality and operates a dog-walking business. She also provides home health services for one of our long-time residents, living here part-time to further assist him, and operates an on-line used clothing boutique.



Angie is a veteran of the Indiana Army National Guard and enjoys adventure and extreme sports, including white-water rafting. Her home is a busy one, shared with three rescue dogs—two German Shepherds and a Golden Retriever—as well as an adopted cat.

And Angie still finds time to travel.

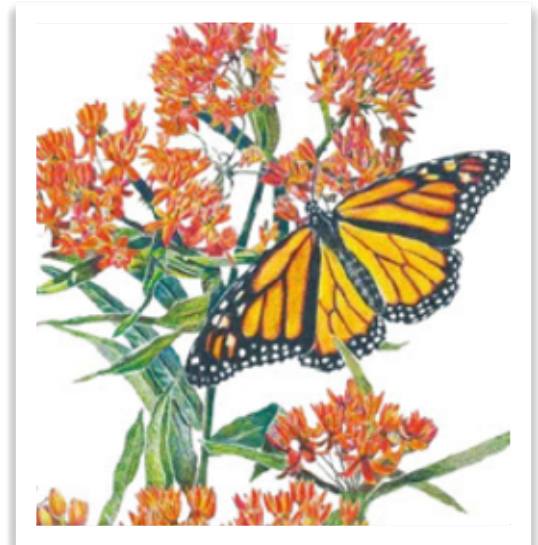
Visiting her two-year-old grandson, along with her daughter and son-in-law in Florida, is always a highlight of her year.

Supporting Dune Acres Natural Habitats

Terry and Laura Truax welcomed neighbors into their home for an informational program on Monarch butterflies and environmental restoration. Attendees left with a renewed commitment to protecting our town's extraordinary ecosystem and to planting milkweed!



Presenters Jim Starin, Monarch Preservation and Jonathan Macri, Healing the Earth



Residents Bill Spence, Rona Talcott, DeeDee Spence, with hosts Terry and Laura Truax

Welcome New Residents

by Dana Shepard Treister

Following several years in Chicago and Oak Park, Kellie and Brad Beumer have returned to their Hoosier roots and look forward to becoming full-time residents in their 20 Crest Drive home just as soon as their Valpo home sells.



The Beumers' daughter Kaia will be a sophomore at DePaul in Chicago, studying nursing with the goal of becoming a DNP. Daughter Stella will be a senior at Indiana Academy High School on Ball State's campus. The family knows their two cats will love birdwatching... from the windows.

Brad's tech career evolved from consulting for companies like Accenture and EY to developing software with Microsoft and UiPath. He is currently the head of AI and innovation at First Merchants Bank.

Kellie's career has been with nonprofit medical research and healthcare associations, most recently in the field of cell and gene therapy, where she leads the development of conferences and educational programs.

Brad bikes and swims; Kellie hikes and is getting back into running. With their daughters, the Beumer family looks forward to getting involved with the Dune Acres community, to enjoying the beach as much as possible for as long as the weather allows, and to learning the actual rules of pickle ball instead of just faking it on the courts!

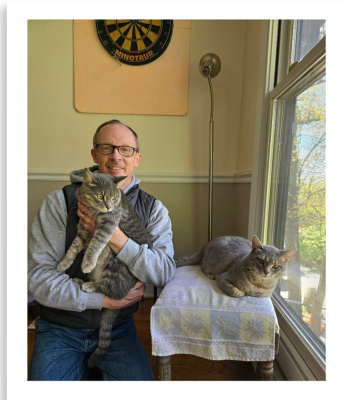
Behind the Scenes

Desirée DeLeon and Dune Acres kids work hard on the mural commemorating our country's 250th anniversary of Independence.

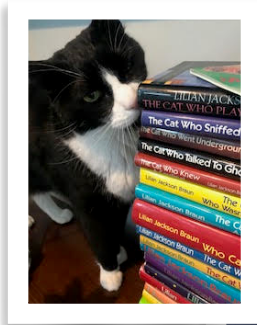


After the great response we had from the article on residents and their dogs, we thought it only fair to bring you:

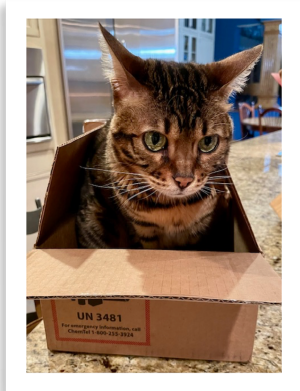
RESIDENT CATS AND THEIR PEOPLE



Jeff McSpaden with Chunky Van Gough and Kit Kat Cassatt



Linda Twomey's nosey tuxedo cat, B-Bo, sniffing out The Cat Who Sniffed Glue and Kitty Girl, senior snoozer



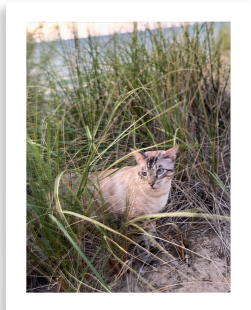
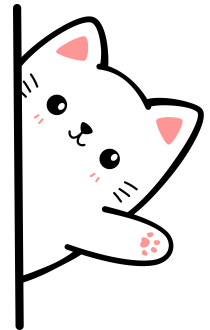
Maya Weakland



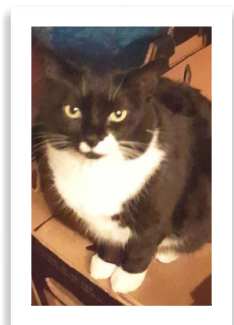
Cata Evans



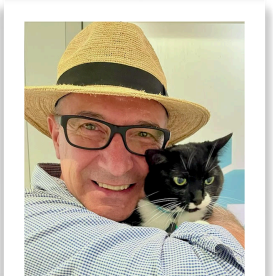
Mya Carstens with her best friend Orion



well known east side resident Archie Powers AKA - Simba (Cara Sullivan)



FOUND! Victoria, the lost cat, is home with Alex. Our community made it possible.





Ladies Game Night

The first monthly Ladies Game Night, held Thursday, June 4 at the clubhouse, delivered plenty of laughter, fun, and a completely hassle-free evening out. Was it possible that not one of us knew how to play Bunco – the focus for the evening? Nevertheless, we learned together—and we're fairly certain we got most of the rules right.

All D.A. ladies are invited to join the next gathering on Thursday, July 9. Come as you are, bring a dish to share, BYOB, and don't worry if you're not a game enthusiast. Winning is optional; good company is guaranteed. It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors.



Photos by Bonnie Hawksworth Thank you Karen Hansen for organizing!

Local Business Spotlight: Chesterton Toys



Since opening a booth at Chesterton's European Market in 2012, Chesterton Toys has been the local destination for both classic favorites and the latest toy trends. Recently relocating from their Calumet Avenue storefront, the shop is now welcoming customers at 211 Broadway.

Owners Tracy Melcher and Zach Kimsey continue their commitment to supporting the local community while offering a diverse selection of toys and games sourced from around the world. Their inventory includes something for every age group, from infant rattles and educational toys to model cars and 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzles.

One of this summer's hottest items is the wildly popular "Squishies." Demand has been so high that purchases are currently limited to a set number per customer.

Tracy and Zach take pride in providing personalized service and a shopping experience that simply can't be found in big-box stores, where selection is often limited and specialty products aren't offered.

Whether you're shopping for a birthday gift, a rainy-day activity, or a nostalgic favorite from your own childhood, Chesterton Toys offers a unique experience for kids and kids at heart.



Marquette Greenway Update

When complete, the Marquette Greenway Trail will run continuously from Calumet Park on Chicago's south side to New Buffalo, spanning three states, five counties, and 60 miles. Although full completion may still be years away, a new, fully funded section is now under construction that will provide Dune Acres residents with a wonderful new amenity right at our front door.

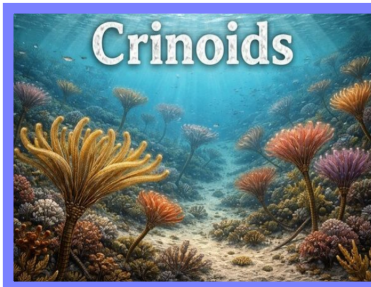
Already paved from Mineral Springs Road to the Dune Park train station,

the next 5.6-mile section of the Marquette Greenway is scheduled to open late fall. It will cross over Highway 12 at State Road 49, then wind

through the woods south of Highway 12, then along a dedicated roadway path, then cross back over Hwy 12 to Broadway in Beverly Shores.



“Lucky Stones” Crinoids



One of the most treasured beachcombing finds in Dune Acres — and throughout the freshwater Great Lakes — is the crinoid fossil. Found in many shapes and sizes, these small round fossils with holes in their centers are between 300 and 500 million years old. They are the stem segments of ancient marine animals that once covered the sea floor.

Sometimes called “Indian Beads” because Indigenous peoples strung them together as ornaments, crinoids are also known as “Lucky Stones,” with folklore claiming that anyone who finds one will be blessed with good luck!

Farewell to the McKinleys

Friends and neighbors gathered at the clubhouse in May for a heartfelt farewell, wishing Lee and Sara McKinley all the best as they prepared for their move out of state. During his 2½ years as Town Security Commissioner, Lee provided dedicated service to the community. Sara co-edited the *Beachcomber*, served on the DACIF Board, organized community food drives, and coordinated speakers for several Saturday morning educational programs. Thank you, Lee and Sara, for your many contributions to the community, and best wishes in your new adventure!

New Co-Editor

Linda Twomey

Linda Twomey is the new co-editor of the *Beachcomber*. An Indiana native, Linda grew up in Munster and graduated from Indiana University Bloomington. She and her husband, Jay, owned a popular campus restaurant in Bloomington throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.



In 1995, the couple moved to Las Vegas, where they opened Jay's Markets on the Strip and at other locations throughout the booming city. After retiring in 2009, they relocated to North Carolina where Linda volunteered for animal rescue in Haywood County and became a member of the Main Street Artists Co-Op in Waynesville.

Following Jay's passing in 2014, Linda returned to Indiana, settling once again in Munster. In 2022, she purchased her beach house on Hill Drive in Dune Acres and now shares her time between the two residences. Linda learned to swim in the backyard pool of her childhood home during the 1950s, so discovering the beauty of Lake Michigan and the beaches of Dune Acres has been a welcome new experience.

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 contributions to jbapst10@gmail.com or linda2menc@gmail.com. Please use "Beachcomber" in the subject line.