

# Beachwalk News



*the way life should be*



## Beachwalk at Dawn

June, 2007

Vol. 1, Issue 2

Hi Neighbor,

This is the second issue of Beachwalk News and I'd like to draw your attention to a new feature: the "Homeowners' Corner", which will be a permanent fixture, and, hopefully, the most interesting column. If this column works, we can use it to enhance the sense of Beachwalk as a community. And it will work to the extent that Homeowners take the risk and the time needed to share with others in the Beachwalk community. So, send photos, engagement and birth announcements, or anything else you want to share. Also, please feel welcome to send any criticisms, observations, or suggestions for improving the Newsletter.

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### Developer's Column - How the Property Tax Assessment changes effect Beachwalk Homeowners

As most of you know, new assessment practices in LaPorte County have generated legitimate concern regarding the property tax bills for Beachwalk homeowners. These bills are expected some time this summer. "What do I know? and "What can I do? My sense is that there are 4 avenues open to me and you.

#### 1. Appeal my taxes.

There appears to be some, probably short-term, benefit to appealing one's assessment. Residential taxpayers will be notified of their new assessments when they receive their tax bill. Appeals must be filed within 45 days of receipt of one's tax bill. Understanding the nuance of the appeal process and settling on the most effective strategy for successful appeal, is an evolving matter. Therefore, for myself, I plan to wait until the tax bills are sent before I appeal. In addition, I would recommend careful review of available exemptions, particularly the homestead exemption, that is, comparing the value of the homestead exemption at Beachwalk with its value at your other residence.

#### 2. Become politically active, locally.

I believe that a well-defined, narrow political effort is appropriate. This effort should be exclusively focused on solving our problem with our property taxes. The most effective strategy for political action is also evolving. I plan to pursue the best political option available when the tax bills arrive. I will ask your assistance at that time.

#### 3. Litigation regarding tax assessment practices.

Although lawyers familiar with our issues believe that "class action" litigation would be an appropriate and effective response to the inconsistent assessment practices across LaPorte County, this approach has been legislatively prohibited. Individual lawsuits may hold some promise. I will be continuously reviewing this approach and will have a recommendation this summer.

#### 4. Legislative Lobbying.

Although lobbying the legislature may seem a stretch for our issue, I believe it could prove to be the most effective long-term strategy. The Indiana Legislature recently narrowly failed to pass "Hometown Matters" legislation, which would have allowed counties, and then cities and towns, the right to design their own approach to revenue collection, e.g., using county income or sales taxes to diminish the use of property taxes. I am currently exploring ways that we might join lobbying efforts that could help reduce our property taxes.

As the summer and tax season unfolds, I will give you a detailed update on what I plan to do. Best of luck to all of us. Tom Moss

### Beachwalk/Michiana News

**Activities** for children of all ages (including grammas and grandpas)

Mondays (from 6/18) 10:00 AM - at Lake Kai Sandcastle Contest Prizes awarded  
Wednesdays (from 6/20) 10:00 AM - BBall courts Chalk Drawing Contest Prizes awarded  
Thursdays (from 6/21) 10:00 AM - Rental office Family Scavenger Hunt Prizes awarded

Sign-up sheets for all above activities at the front desk of rental office.

**Music at Lake Kai** Saturdays 6:00 - 8:00 on the deck behind the Club Deli performances by musicians from Front Porch Music.

June 16	Beth Niemann	Acoustic Rock
June 23	Mami Matsuda	Contemporary Acoustic Music
June 30	Glen Steven Johnson	Country Influenced Rock

Look for weekly flyers with more information about the artists.

**Movies on the Grass** Sundays 8:30 to 10:15 behind Club Deli. Family movies al fresco.

June 17	Happy Feet
June 24	RV
July 1	Summer Rental

Bring Popcorn and blankets

**The Center Street Bar** has reopened under the new management of Marty Bergersen, a Beachwalk homeowner. It is located at 501 Center Street, 5 minutes from Beachwalk, close to the casino. Marge Chapello believes that this restaurant/bar is the "local spot nearby" that we have always said we wanted. Great Burgers, and breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Feel free to stop by the rental office for directions to this or other restaurants in the area.

**Reminder - Spring Cleaning** This Saturday, June 2, there will be a 20-yard dumpster located by the trash area near the tennis courts. This is being provided for you to use for any yard waste, garage junk, etc. that you want to dispose of. Dumpster will remain in place and be emptied and replaced, as needed for the remainder of the month

### Homeowners' Corner

**Homeowners' Bring One Take One Library.** What seems a very good recent suggestion was the creation of a Library (Books, at first, maybe DVDs later). Planning is not yet final (i.e., all suggestions are welcome), but probably a few bookcases in a public space with an expectation that users, on a very loose honor system, would take a book to read and bring it back when finished. Library to be "stocked" by donations (please no HS geometry texts) More to come.

**Many thanks** to Marge Chapello, for arranging, and to Linda O'Mahoney, for hosting, the thoroughly enjoyable **Annual Beachwalk Homeowners Wine Tasting.** Combine a very pleasant setting, some fine wines, and about 25 or so of the wonderful folks of Beachwalk and it makes for a delightful evening.

**Basketball Clinic/League** Details are not all quite final, but Beachwalk will definitely have a team enrolled in the Michigan City Summer Hoops Program. This program is open to boys and girls entering 5th and 6th grade, and is **free**. All expenses will be underwritten by Mayor Oberlie and NIKE. The Summer Hoops Program consists of a clinic to be run on July 9th and 10th, with league play starting on July 13th through the end of July at Elston Junior High. Dave Emerson, League President, was on Al McGuire's staff at Marquette, and was a scout for the Cleveland Cavaliers. For more information, contact Dave at [dcpitts@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dcpitts@sbcglobal.net) or call 219-878-0323.

**Newcomers** Recent additions to the Beachwalk community include: Eric and Jean Petraikis, 100 Austin Lane; Keith and Heather Stout, 315 Childers ; Mary Collier, 309 Childers; Vivian Ho, 312 Beachwalk Lane; Jayne Irvin-Hopps, 400 Beachwalk Lane; Tim and Amy Richardson, 401 Beachwalk Lane.

### How to take Beach Pictures

Just a few hints: 1. Zoom in tight. If you think you are tight enough, zoom in some more. 2. Do not center the image on the frame. 3. Try black and white, high contrast, or vivid color settings, on your digital camera. 4. Shoot in early morning or late afternoon. 5. Use a longer aperture open speed, e.g. 1/8th second will create enough blur for moving targets to convey movement. 6. Take lots of candid shots; need only print the few that capture the experience well.



### Upcoming Events

Saturday June 2, 2007  
BPOA Informational Meeting  
202 Beachwalk Lane  
Michigan City, Indiana 46360

### Closing Headline

Thanks in advance for your participation in July's Homeowners' Corner.

### Contact Information

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Beachwalk Resort

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