

2nd District News

Keeping the residents informed on Town issues

Welcome to the 2nd District Newsletter

I'm Charlie Costanza. I was recently elected to the 2nd ward of the Ogden Dunes Town Council. I want to thank everyone that voted for me. I am bringing you this newsletter to help build better communication between the Town Council and the people in my ward. It was brought to my attention that a good number of people do not know what is going on in town. I want my constituents to be kept informed on all issues, large and small. If you feel you have something on your mind that needs to be brought to the council, I ask you to write it in a letter with your name, address, email and phone number on it and drop it off at Town Hall with my name on it. I will read each one. I will respond either in this newsletter, an email or a telephone call.

The running of this town would not be hard to do, if done by the book. I will do everything in my power as your representative to do this. However, I will need your help. I am one vote out of five on

The council and we can't have the will of the people rule without a majority vote by the council. They need to know where their constituents stand, loud and clear, on issues. Talk to your neighbors. Let them know what you know. Have them show their support on town issues as they have in the past. I believe people are the ultimate power of any government, including this town council, and when they let it be known they want things done a certain way, we will do it their way. I will do everything in my power as a representative of this town to not let a small group of powerful individuals dictate how this town will run. When I sit up at the table during council meetings I will not let my personal feelings override the will of the people. I applaud former council people Eric Haussman and Connie Collins for having the courage to hear the voice of the people and act accordingly in their vote on the deer cull. If one of the other three council people had the integrity to act for

The will of the people the deer cull issue would not have divided this town as it is. I will ask this council to use referendums to help decide the outcome of contentious issues.

We are at the beginning stages of a new era in Ogden Dunes. For a long time the reigns of power were handed down to a new group of individuals without ever having an election at all. This last election, however, brought 3 contested races, the most in recent history in Ogden Dunes. I want to work with the rest of the council to ensure the best interest of the people are at the forefront of every decision we make. We will need input from you to know what that is. I look forward to getting this done.

I have no ambition to govern men; it is a painful and thankless office.

Thomas Jefferson

I am on this council to allow people to govern themselves.

Charlie Costanza

Appointments: committees and boards

On January 17 the new Town Council will appoint members to fill open spots on committees and boards. Please go to the town hall or Ogdendunes.net notices page to find an application to be considered for one of these spots. Many of the members of these boards and committees have been volunteering for these positions for a very long time and they deserve a break. And perhaps it's time to get some new blood into these spots to help the town start thinking in new and creative ways!

Building Code Review Committee (3)
Board of Zoning Appeals (2)
Plan Commission (3)
Waterworks Board (1)
Park & Recreation (2)
Environmental Advisory Board (1)
Beach Nourishment Committee(5)
Town Beautification Committee (1)
Grant Committee (1)
Community Fund Committee (1)
Cable Advisory Board (1)
Bridge & Railroad Committee (6)

Deer Cull Update

To date there have been 12 deer killed. The hearing to determine the validity of the deer cull permit has been rescheduled to some time in January. The group established to solicit accountability from the council for the actions on the cull, continues their fight to have the deer cull permit revoked. They believe erroneous, unproven information was used by the previous council in order to obtain the permit. This cull has divided the town as it has in every community that has initiated a cull.

Remember When.... Dave Harbaugh

Do you remember seeing the picture of the sand barge stuck near the breakwater earlier this spring? A little history: Shortly after I moved to Ogden Dunes in the early 1980s the town had a serious erosion problem at the beach. That is why you see portions of a steel piling wall that run almost the entire length of the town. The construction of the Port of Indiana disrupted the natural lake currents depleting sand from our shoreline, high lake levels aggravated the problem, in the early 80's and water lapped at residences yards for a long section on the east side of town. That is when individual homeowners installed the steel walls. Long story short, the Town Council at the time tried to remedy the situation by installing some "well researched" concrete fingers into the lake. Every few hundred feet along our beach there were huge concrete sandbags sticking out into the lake. This was another project funded with OD taxpayer dollars that didn't work. The final solution was a lawsuit won by the town holding the Port Commission responsible for the problem. Now, every couple of years they re-nourish our beach with barged in sand. We, as a town could not afford to undertake this solution by ourselves. We were not responsible for the that problem, either. Today we face a similar perceived problem with the ticks. Is this a natural problem with no solution or has it been aggravated by establishment of the Indiana Dunes National Park by the NPS or the re-establishment of the deer population by the Indiana DNR? This problem is much bigger than we are. We could not build a beach, then, and we can not manage the deer population of all northwest Porter County, now. We need help! We are trying to do something we can not do alone wasting OUR money, and dividing OUR town in the process.

GEORGE SANTAYANA:

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it,"

opinions expressed in this article are those of the author alone

Artists of Ogden Dunes

We would like to feature artists of Ogden Dunes in future newsletters. If you or anyone you know from Ogden Dunes would like to submit art, poetry or photos to be published here, please send us an email!

New Building Commissioner Sought

The Town needs a new building commissioner. Pay: \$ 6,695.00 annually (\$257.50 biweekly) plus \$ 75.00 per inspection (as of 12/2011)

Minimum training and experience required to perform essential job function:

High school diploma or equivalent with vocational/technical training in building inspection and three to five years of building trades supervisory experience, or any combination of education and experience that provides equivalent knowledge, skills and abilities.

Requirements

Language ability and interpersonal communication. Requires the ability to utilize a wide variety of reference, descriptive, advisory and/or design data and information such as permit applications, plans, and specifications plan reviews, inspection reports, code

2nd District Newsletter Contact:

Charlie Costanza Councilman

762-5033

Mark Coleman Editor:

510-7092

OD2ndDistrict@comcast.net

books, zoning ordinances, reports, standards, guidelines, rules, procedures and non-routine correspondence.

Requires the ability to communicate orally and in writing with the Plan Commission, BZA, Town departments, engineers, residents, contractors, and the public.

Mathematical Ability

Requires the ability to perform addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, calculate percentages and decimal may require the ability to perform mathematical operation with fractions, algebra and geometry

Physical Requirements

Requires the ability to use rulers, tape measures, and for related materials used in performing essential function. Ability to coordinate eyes, hands, feet and limbs to climb stairs and sand dunes, in performing skilled movements such as building inspections Requires the ability to recognize and identify degrees of similarities or difference between characteristics of colors, shapes, sound and textures associated with job related objects, materials and tasks.

