

Miller Message

July 2016 news from around the Miller Beach community

Keeping the lakeshore clean and safe

The MCC Shoreline Committee, led by Carol Smith, has morphed into the **Beach, Park and Public Safety Committee**. Participants at the June committee meetings included Commander Head, who is in charge of uniform services, patrol and traffic for the Gary PD; Officers Simon Lillie and Shea Russell who are regularly assigned to Miller and operate in and out of the COP office on Lake Street; Tiffany Merrills who is the manager of the Marquette Park Pavilion and beaches; Commander Sharon Bennett and Lt. Guy Mikulich from the Lake County Sheriff's department; and Councilwoman Rebecca Wyatt. **The Shoreline Committee is the organization which brings all these officials together at the same time.**

The committee is dealing with a variety of issues:

-----Closing time for the beach has been moved from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm., and it takes about 45 minutes to clear the parking lots. Cars which remain after 10:00 pm will be towed.

-----We were late this year in getting buoys set up along the beach because a number of buoys needed repairs.

-----Damage from vandalism at Carmella's Café has required electrical repairs and replacement of two windows. This has been a slow process.

-----Access to the parking lot at Carmella's is a continuing issue. If the lot is open when the café is not, visitors trash the area. Since parking there is free, many visitors take advantage of the parking without patronizing the café.

-----Use of the beach late at night by unruly youths has been a long-term problem. Currently, this issue centers around parking at the Shelby/Locust business area, where everyone wants people to park if they are patronizing the restaurants, but not if they are going to the beach. On most nights, a police officer is parked on Shelby St. to stop parties headed for the beach. In the area of Shelby St., an officer with an ATV often clears the beach late at night.

-----Despite the difficulty of operating on sand, the Park Department's payload is emptying trash cans on the beach on Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Republic empties trash cans in the park on Tuesday.

-----Supplementing all the beach cleanup activity, Carol Smith is personally picking up trash in the park several times a week, and other private citizens are cleaning the beach and park when they can. Thanks to them all!

Upcoming committee meetings: Thursday, July 14 at 10:00 am, location to be determined. Thursday, July 21 at 7:00 pm at the Gardner Center on Lake Street.

Garden tour spotlights Miller

On Saturday and Sunday, July 16 and 17, "Deja Bloom", the Miller Garden Club **"Secret Garden Tour"** shows off the Miller neighborhood. This year's event will feature six gardens, on display from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm each day. Starting point for the tour is the Aquatorium in Marquette Park, where participants can buy tickets and catch the shuttle bus, included in the ticket price, that will take them from one garden to another. The last shuttle will leave the Aquatorium at 2:00 pm. Tickets for the garden walk are \$10, and they can also be purchased at any of the participating gardens

Vendors will be selling their wares and lunches will be available at the Aquatorium. In the background, the Garden Club will present a brief garden-related educational seminar each morning and afternoon.

Duly noted . . .

LEGION HAS NEW CHEF. The American Legion Post 279 on Old Hobart Road has a new chef, Walter Baronick, who trained at Charlie Trotter's and at Bartlett's and will be serving up a tasty and affordable menu daily, Tuesday through Saturday, from 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Closed Sunday and Monday. The public is invited to eat in the dining room, but the bar is for members only.

FREE PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP. Miller artist Corey Hagelberg is presenting a free printmaking workshop at the Indiana Dunes State Park. The program will begin

with an opening reception and artist talk on Friday, July 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, followed by the printmaking workshop on July 16 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm and July 20 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Corey's work will be on display at the visitors' center during July and August. To sign up for the workshops, call the State Park Visitors' Center at 219-926-2255.

GARY AIR SHOW RETURNS. The Gary Air Show is set for Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Aquatorium will be the center of activity. It is the area closest to the action and the location of vendors offering refreshments. Feature performers will be the Navy Blue Angels and the Army Golden Knights, along with numerous other familiar acts.

APARTMENTS ARE QUIET. It is rumored that a rape has been committed at the Lakeshore Dunes Apartments, but the manager indicates that they have police officers on duty full time and no such incident has been reported. On the contrary, the installation of additional lighting and hidden cameras has brought calm to the residential complex. The manager noted that almost all **the apartments are occupied at market rates**, so anyone who is thinking of moving in should sign up fast.

FEST IN THE FIRST SEEKS VENDORS. On Saturday afternoon, September 17, the **Fest in the First** will return, with food, vendors, music and kids' activities on Lake Street. **Organizer Mike Chirich is still welcoming applications from vendors.** Anyone interested in participating can contact Chirich at 938-2277.

DEMOLITION AT RT. 51 PLAZA. Miller residents cheered when the former Tittles building at Rt. 51 and Rt. 20 was demolished, but the rubble has not yet been hauled away, because the property owners did not have a permit to demolish the structure, so the city has stopped work on the project. Meanwhile, demolition of the buildings on the north side of the plaza is halted because asbestos has been found, thereby complicating the demolition process.

JULY 2016 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE MONDAY, JULY 11, AT 7:30 PM, IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE MARQUETTE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON GRAND BLVD. MCC members are invited to attend and participate.

Contact the MCC between meetings at P.O.Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403, or e-mail mceaton@aol.com. You can also visit the MCC website, www.millercitizenscorp.org.

WOODLAKE HAS NEW OWNERS. The Woodlake Village apartment complex, off County Line Road just north of Rt. 20, has new owners, with the aid of a \$28 million bond issue approved by the Gary Common Council. They are making the complex a hundred percent government-subsidized property, and they are forcing out tenants whose income exceeds the limit for "Chapter 8" housing. The MCC views this as an injustice for the tenants and it deters businesses from coming into the Miller community when such a large proportion of residents have no money to spend.

MILLER PROM RETURNS. The MCC has signed contracts with the Marquette Park Pavilion and its caterer, Focus, to revive the traditional MCC Valentine's Day dance. The event is set for **Saturday, February 11, 2017.** The "dressy" affair will offer hors d'oeuvres, music for dancing and a cash bar. Tickets will be \$30 per person, in advance.

SUMMER AT THE DOUGLAS CENTER. The Douglas Center on Lake Street has an open house with special activities every Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The "Find Your Park" film series continues on Saturdays at 2:00 pm, and there is a guided hike through the Miller Woods on Sundays from 1:30 to 3:30. There are other special activities during the week.

BUS TO THE BEACH. On Fridays after noon and all day Saturday, the Gary Public Transportation Corp. is re-

routing the **Oak and County Line bus** to operate on Oak Avenue from Montgomery St. to Grand Blvd, with stops at Carmella's Café, the Aquatorium, and the Pavilion. In addition, the National Park Service is operating free shuttle buses, on **Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am to 6:30 pm**, on a loop from the Miller South Shore station, up Lake St. to the Douglas Center, the Lake Street Beach, and Marquette Park, then back to the station via Grand Blvd., in coordination with the South Shore schedule. **Up until now, the mini-buses have been unlabeled, but they are expected to have more visible signage prior to the Air Show weekend.**

NEW CANOE LAUNCH. The new handicapped-accessible canoe launch is available for use on the lagoon in Marquette Park, between the Aquatorium and the Pavilion.

Upcoming Lake Street events

July 1 – First Friday. There will be a Lake Street Jam Fest, featuring Buddy Goetsch, performing in front of the Gardner Center, 540 S. Lake Street from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. There will also be special events in all the Lake Street shops and restaurants. Inside the Gardner Center, Art Shay's Nelson **Algren photo exhibit** will continue **until July 17.** Shay wandered countless miles with author Nelson Algren during the 1950s. Normal gallery hours are **6:00 to 9:00 on Friday and Saturday, and 1:00 to 4:00 on Sundays.** **NOTE:** The gallery **will not be open** on the Air Show weekend, July 9-10.

Friday, July 15 is the deadline for submitting photos to be included in the exhibit of **Mid-Century Architecture in Miller**, which will be on display at the Gardner Center from **August 19 to September 4.** If you have images you would be willing to contribute for the show, please send them to meg@millerbeacharts.org.

MBACD FUNDRAISER!

Monday, July 18 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, a fundraiser for the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District at the Miller Bakery Café. Stephan Wanger of **Bead Town** will lead a martini and Margarita glass decorating experience. Tickets are \$90 per person, including a buffet dinner, 3 drink tickets for pre-mixed cocktails, live music by Angelo Cicco and your decorated martini glass. Tickets can be obtained on the internet from Event-Brite at mbacdbeadtowntmartiniexperience.eventbrite.com or in person from Ayers Realtors. For additional information, contact Ann Rose at 219-902-9642.

Friday, July 22 from 6:00 to 8:30 -- a book signing and live reading by **Jeff Manes** from his book "All Worth Their Salt", as well as interviews with characters from around Northwest Indiana. The event is free, and books can be purchased for \$25. (NOTE: This event was previously scheduled for July 9.)

Saturday, August 13 – Sandcastle Competition and vendor fair will take place at the Lake Street Beach.

A MAJOR MILLER BEACH EVENT

Friday and Saturday, August 19 and 20 – The Indiana Landmarks Society and the Miller Beach Arts & Creative District present **Lake Michigan Modern: Miller Beach**, a day-long exploration of Mid-Century Modern architecture, featuring a tour of four private homes, two churches, and a synagogue, along with a talk on the history and architecture of the area. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$55 for Indiana Landmarks members, including a continental breakfast and lunch. The number of participants is limited and many Indiana Landmarks members are expected to participate, **so register online NOW** at lakemichmodmiller.eventbrite.com or call 317-639-4534. On **Friday, August 19**, there will be a separately-ticketed **VIP reception** at the Gardner Center, with an exhibit highlighting photography, art, period clothing and furniture associated with mid-century Miller Beach. Tickets for the reception are \$40 (\$30 for Indiana Landmarks members) and are available on-line at lakemichmodmillervipreception.eventbrite.com. The exhibit will run from August 19 to September 4.