



## Miller Message for December 2014

### Rash of Miller burglaries bring Police and community response

Police Chief Larry McKinley set up a community meeting on November 18, which Mayor Freeman-Wilson also attended, to discuss the recent string of burglaries in Miller – about 16 in the past three months. The meeting brought out a large crowd of more than 200 persons – they filled all the chairs; more chairs were brought in; people sat on the stairs and others stood – reflecting residents' concern about the break-ins. The first aim of the meeting was achieved before a word was spoken. It demonstrated that both the administration and the residents recognized a serious problem and were serious about dealing with it.

Police Chief McKinley announced that he has responded to the burglaries by increasing the police assigned to the Miller area from two officers to eight (including two traffic cops). This will provide more surveillance and faster response to calls.

There was also a subsequent meeting on November 29 at the Marquette Park United Methodist Church, which centered on the creation of block clubs and neighborhood watch groups.

At both meetings, the police recognized that they cannot prevent crime all by themselves. The residents were reminded of many ways they can contribute to public safety. Some of the key points were:

**If you see something suspicious, call the police – 881-1260 or 911 in an emergency.**

**Get to know your neighbors, and tell them when you will be away from your home, so they can keep a watch out.**

**Turn on outside lights or install motion-sensor lights.**

**Get loud alarm systems and turn them on.**

**Get good cameras for surveillance**

**If you like dogs, get a big dog.**

**Record serial numbers of electronics – especially flat-screen TVs**

**Talk to neighbors about starting a block club.**

**DO NOT confront suspected criminals – call the police.**

**If you buy new electronics, like televisions, don't throw out in a visible place the boxes they come in.**

### **ON THE SIDE:**

Remember that the increased police presence in Miller includes two traffic cops. When they are not responding to emergency calls, they will be issuing tickets, so be careful driving.

If you want to check out the crime picture on your own, go on the internet to [www.nwi.com](http://www.nwi.com) (NW Indiana Times page), skip down to the banner that says "Regional Crime Report" and click on the arrow. Then, choose the community you want to look at. You can maneuver the Gary map to focus on Miller.

## **Upcoming events in Miller**

**TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.** St. Mary of the Lake Church on Miller Avenue will present its holiday bazaar on **Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm each day.** Visitors can lunch on home-made soup and sandwiches, then shop for books, plants, CDs, ornaments, homemade crafts, baked goods and more. There will be a raffle with a top cash prize of \$1,000 for which you can buy tickets during the bazaar. There will also be basket raffles on the floor.

**CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG.** The Lake Street Gallery will present its 21st annual Christmas Sing-along, starting at **7:00 pm on Saturday, December 6.** With Kay Lewis at the organ, you can join a talented chorus of your friends and neighbors in singing the familiar holiday songs. There will be refreshments to improve your pitch, and you can check out the Gallery's merchandise while you're there. New singers are always welcome.

**THE FULL BELLY BOWL.** Temple Israel, at Forest and Montgomery, presents its Empty Bowl Project on **Sunday, December 7 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.** The admission fee of \$5 earns you an afternoon supper of home-made soups and chili, while you bid on pottery bowls made by local artists and art students, with a background of dramatic readings and music. It's all for the benefit of the NW Indiana food bank. Elaine Spicer and Deb Weiss are in charge.

**"BUTTERBIRD CHRISTMAS"** On **Sunday, December 7 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm,** the Miller Beach Arts & Creative District will host Family Folklore Players performing the radio play "Butterbird Christmas" at the Gardner Center on Lake Street. The radio play, which brings back memories of Lake County in the 1950s, will be performed from 4:00-4:30pm. Doors open at 3:30pm so you can purchase bakery items, enjoy refreshments and listen to live jazz performed by Calumet Ridge Jazz Ensemble before and after the play. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for teens, and free for children under 12.

**MILLER/OD CONVERSATION.** The Ogden Dunes Stories Project, funded by a grant from Indiana Humanities, has invited several Miller organizations and individuals to join in a guided conversation about Connections and Divisions: Miller Beach and Ogden Dunes., which will take place at the 18th Street Brewery at Lake Street and Miller Avenue on **Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30 pm.** The discussion is intended to deal with the history of the area, the good and bad points of the several communities, and the ways in which they can work together. Come, enjoy the conversation, and drink some excellent beer.

**MEN AND BOYS.** The traditional Men and Boys lunch, for the benefit of the Marquette Kids Park, is moving on up to the Miller Bakery Café. The event is planned for **Saturday, December 13 from noon to 2:00 pm.** Admission is \$10 per person, which is a contribution to the kids' park, and participants can then order (and pay for) lunch from a special menu which includes kids' items. The bar will be open, but the seating will be in the main dining room.

**"FENCES" AT THE SHAKESPEARE.** The Shakespeare Theater, 500 Lake Street, has postponed its production of MacBeth, but the intimate theater will not remain dark. **Mas Media 7** will present performances of the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, **Fences**, written by August Wilson, produced and directed by Mark Spencer. The play deals with a black family and their interaction with each other and the world in which they live. Performances are scheduled for **December 12 and 13 at 7:30 and December 14 at 2:30.** General admission tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Since the theater only holds 50

people, it would be a good idea to reserve tickets in advance by calling or visiting Café 444 (219-030-0444) or Indie Indie Bang Bang (219-229-9093).

**GARDEN FUN IN WINTER.** Chicago radio personality **Mike Nowak** will be the featured speaker at the winter gathering of the Miller Garden Club, to be held at the Gardner Center on Lake Street, **Saturday evening, January 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm.** Nowak will be presenting “That ain’t no way to treat a tree”. The public is invited. Admission is \$10, or \$5 for Garden Club members, at the door. BYOB and bring a dish to share.

**TRIVIA NIGHT IS BACK.** Trivia Night will return to Temple Israel on **Saturday, January 24, starting at 6:30 pm.** The event is a fundraiser for Temple Israel and its Community Chest. Cost is \$120 for a table of 8 or \$150 for a table of 10. Individual entries are \$20. There will be food, a cash bar, a silent auction and prizes. This has been a fun-filled event in past years, and the available spaces – 20 tables of 10 persons each – have all been filled up, so reserve your place early by sending a check to Temple Israel, 601 N. Montgomery St., Gary, IN 46403; or call (219) 743-0624 for more information.

## **Duly noted . . . .**

**OLD HOBART ROAD TO RE-OPEN.** The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has assured the City of Gary that Old Hobart Road, which has been closed most of this year, will re-open on December 12, 2014. We still need to wait and see, but having a specific date for re-opening the road is a good sign.

**NEW TRASH CONTAINERS.** When Republic Services took over trash collection in Gary from Waste Management, the old green trash containers were picked up (by Waste Management) and new blue containers were distributed by Republic. Any Gary resident who failed to receive a new container can inform Republic of this oversight by calling Republic Services customer service division at 800-828-2253 or contacting the Gary Sanitary District at 219-944-1211. First District Councilwoman Mildred Shannon is telling residents to contact her if the appeal to Republic Services does not solve the problem. Shannon can be reached at [mshannon@ci.gary.in.us](mailto:mshannon@ci.gary.in.us), or by phone at (219)-881-1315.

**THANKS, CARMELLA.** This year, Miller residents and visitors alike have enjoyed stopping for breakfast, lunch and snacks at Carmella’s Café in Marquette Park. For the first time in many years, people could count on the Café to be open every day, whenever they wanted to

stop in. Thanks to Carmella Saraceno for making this convenient service available. She began with the commitment to keep the shop open daily through the summer into fall, and she did what she promised.

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### **DECEMBER 2014 MCC MEETING**

**THE NEXT MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 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 [mcceaton@aol.com](mailto:mcceaton@aol.com). You can also visit the MCC website at [www.millercitizenscorp.org](http://www.millercitizenscorp.org).

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**THE PARK IS BURNING.** Controlled burns are planned for the Marquette Park Oak Savannah on the south side of the park. Weather permitting, the dates scheduled are **Tuesday, December 2, Saturday December 6 and Sunday, December 14, starting about 9:00 am and ending around 4:00 pm.** The objective of the burns is to make the oak trees and native plants grow well next summer. If you can volunteer to help on any of these dates, call Sandy O'Brien, who is overseeing the burns, at 219-743-0679 or write to her at [ecorealm@msn.com](mailto:ecorealm@msn.com). Volunteers should bring heavy gloves, but other equipment, like shovels, will be supplied.

**MCC THANKS HOSTS.** The MCC has voted to make contributions of \$100 each to the Marquette Park United Methodist Church and to the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District, as a thank you for letting us use their meeting spaces for monthly MCC meetings and meetings of the MCC Shoreline Committee. We appreciate using these suitable and convenient venues.

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING.** You know the holiday season is here when you see lights and garlands decorating the Miller South Shore Station, the Welcome signs, and the Aquatorium. The holiday trimmings are one of the beautification projects of the **Miller Garden Club**, which otherwise plants flowers in warmer seasons.

Let's hope that seeing the lights and pine boughs will warm you up in this cold season.

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