



Miller Message for January 2016

MCC December meeting

Three guests introduced themselves at the December 2015 MCC board meeting:

Arianne Campbell, a Gary native, is the new Americorps VISTA representative at the **Douglas Center on Lake Street**. She is reviving last year's successful Science and Art After School Club, which combines environmental awareness with arts and crafts projects for young students. She welcomes input from the community at bobomafo@gmail.com.

Sam is the owner of the **Miller K-Market** on Rtes 12/20 near Clay Street, which he purchased from Strack's in 2007. He has been gradually upgrading the store. Recent improvements include new freezer and refrigeration units inside the store, and new striping in the parking lot. Repairing the store's sign on Rt. 12 is an upcoming project. Sam invited customers to let him know what products and services they would like the store to provide. He noted that he is always looking for good workers and he wants to prevent vendors from setting up shop in his parking lot.

Ryan Fleming is the pastor of the **Revolution Church**, who has been renting space from the Chapel of the Dunes at 301 S. Lake Street and has recently purchased the building. (The Chapel of the Dunes congregation still meets there).

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

-----The MCC has purchased a **new computer for the COP office on Lake Street**, so the police officers assigned there can perform their duties without leaving the Miller neighborhood.

-----The collapsed **Tittle store** in the Rte. 20/Rte. 51 plaza has finally been demolished by the new owner of the pro-perty, who is tearing down all the vacant structures east of the truck sale and service business. The space will be available for redevelopment.

-----The MCC is keeping in touch with the owners of the **Lakeshore Dunes Apartments on Lake Street**. As promised, the management has implemented a tagging system for cars permitted to be parked at the complex. They have also evicted several tenants who were charged with law violations.

-----**Mayor Freeman-Wilson** has promised that the smashed planter on Lake Street will be repaired. Wait and see.

-----The MCC Executive Committee and the newly formed Social Justice Committee will both be meeting at 7:00 pm, on January 11, before the monthly MCC Board meeting.

The Aquatorium entertains

DIANE OF THE DUNES. Sunday, January 17 at 3:00 pm. Ken Martin and Richard Meister, historians from Ogden Dunes, tell the story of Alice Gray, a mathematician from Chicago, who moved out from the city, adopted an unconventional lifestyle, and became the semi-mythical figure, Diane of the Dunes. The cost of \$10 includes cookies and punch.

FATHER MARQUETTE. Sunday, February 23 at 3:00 pm. Historian Ruth Nelson recounts the story of Fr. Jacques Marquette, who paddled through the area in the 17th century and is commemorated by the statue at the entrance to the park which bears his name. Reserve a seat for just \$10.

Arts District events planned

The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) has scheduled a number of events for the current month:

Sunday, January 10 – “Open Doors”

As part of the Miller Neighborhood Spotlight roll-out event last month, a number of local artists created paintings using spare doors as their canvasses. A selection of these art works will be on display in the window of the Gardner Center on Lake Street this month. In addition, members of the public are invited to attend a creative session at the Gardner Center this coming **Sunday, January 10, starting at 1:00 pm.**, where they can join in painting additional doors. The door paintings can be compared to the painted cows which adorned main streets in Chicago some years ago.

Saturday, January 16 - 1:00-3:00 pm – Beginning Zentangle art class, back by popular demand. Patti Shaffner will be teaching another adult beginner class. Fee is \$35, including materials. Sign up and pay for your spot by calling 773-822-8086.

Sunday, January 17 - 1:00-3:00 pm – Inter-mediate Zentangle art class. Patti Shaffner will build on what students learned in beginning Zentangle and guide them to even more creative and beautiful tangles. Bring your kit. Patti will provide tiles, handouts and any additional materials. Fee for class is \$30. Sign up and pay for your spot by calling 773-822-8086.

Saturday January 23 - 7pm - Lucille Ball documentary film with introduction and discussion by Larry Lapidus. What is your favorite episode? Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door. Price includes soft drinks and nibblies.

Saturday January 30 1:00-3:00 pm Found Art workshop – a follow-up to the Found Art Exhibit of a few months ago. Bring your own “found” objects to the Gardner Center and you, too, can turn them into some-thing magical, showing that amazing art can be created from things laying around the house or found discarded outside. You’d be amazed what beauty some old plastic margarine cups, scrap metal, driftwood or bottle caps can hold. Resident “Art from Excess” guru Chris Toepfer will be on hand to help you turn your ideas into art. Appropriate for all ages.

Duly noted . . .

VISCLOSKY MEETING Congressman Pete Visclosky will be holding a town meeting at the Woodson Library on Lake Street, on **Saturday, January 16 at noon.** The public is invited to hear the congressman’s views on current issues and to ask questions.

TRASH CANS FOR LAKE STREET. A contribution from the Miller Garden Club, with

a supplemental grant from the Miller Community Fund, will finance the acquisition and installation of six additional trash cans on Lake Street. The containers will be permanently anchored steel shells with locked-in liners that will provide a convenient alternative to throwing trash on the ground.

JANUARY 2016 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 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 mcceaton@aol.com. You can also visit the MCC website, www.millercitizenscorp.org.

WITH MEMORIES OF SUMMER. The Miller Garden Club invites the public to its annual Winter Soiree, at the Aquatorium in Marquette Park on **Saturday, January 16, beginning with social time at 6:30 pm.** Susan Wilczak Wood, Michigan's noted art curator and public art maven, will talk about "Art in the Garden", beginning at 7:00 pm. Enjoy an evening of convivial conversation with appetizers and wine and a special speaker. The cost for club members and guests is \$5 per person. Reservations are required. To reserve a place, call Corya Channing at 938-8532.

ACTION ON SHELBY. Carmella's Stage, next to the Beach Café on Shelby St., has been attracting viewers to weekly jazz concerts, **Saturday evenings at 7:30.** The same venue will be offering Art with Mrs. Hansen (for 4th to 8th graders), starting **Friday, January 15.** Call 219-241-7431 to register.

KIDS PARK NEWS. Joe Petras reports that this year's Men and Boys lunch raised \$1,160 for the benefit of the Marquette Kids' Park. Linda Bonner Fisher indicates that volunteers have planted native flowers and grasses at the park, which will be coming up this spring. She notes that repairs will also be made to the Ore Boat to extend its use for another ten years.

BIKE RACKS ARE COMING. The Miller Spotlight Transportation and Infrastructure

Action Group is trying to nudge people away from their customary dependence on private automobiles for getting around the neighborhood. Instead, they encourage people to walk, bike, and take public transportation. To further these goals, they have obtained grants to fund the installation of eleven bike racks in the Miller area during the spring of 2016. Kidstuff Playsystems, our local manufacturer of playground equipment, will manufacture the racks, and volunteers will be recruited and trained to install them.

Annual Trivia night returns

The eighth annual **Trivia Night at Temple Israel** is set for **Saturday, January 30**. The doors will open at 5:30 pm and the game will start at 6:30. Individual seats are \$20, or you can assemble a team and reserve a table of 8 for \$160 or 10 for \$200. Proceeds go to the Temple and its Community Chest.

In the background, there will be a silent auction, along with snacks and beverages for sale. If you are a little weak at answering questions, you can boost your Table Points by donating canned goods or cash. There will also be prizes for the best-decorated tables.

To reserve a seat or table, send your check to Temple Israel, 600 N. Montgomery St., Gary, IN 46403. If you have questions, e-mail templeisraelmiller@gmail.com or call (219) 938-5232. This is a popular event, so it pays to reserve your place in advance.

The Douglas Center brings the Indiana Dunes to life

The Douglas Center on Lake Street is open to the public **daily except Sunday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.**, with exhibits and activities aimed mostly at children. **Some special activities are featured during January, 2016.**

EVERY SATURDAY FROM 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM – If there is at least an inch of snow on the ground, borrow (for free) snowshoes or cross-country skis and set off to explore the Miller woods.

ANY DAY THROUGH MARCH 1 – Children can try an indoor scavenger hunt of African-American stories in the national parks.

SATURDAYS AT 2:00 PM – **“Find Your Park”** Film Series celebrates the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service with films every Saturday at 3:00 pm featuring the various parks:

January 9 – African Burial Ground National Monument

January 16 – Mount Rushmore National Monument

January 23 – National Parks of Arkansas

January 30 – Acadia National Park

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9 AT 10:00 AM, REPEATED AT 12:30 PM – “In the Footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.”

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13 AT 10:00 TO NOON – Story telling, games and a nature hike for 2 to 5 year olds.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 9:00 AM TO NOON – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM – Kids Fishing Tackle Series. Get ready for spring by making your own fishing tackle.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM – Yoga Tales combine yoga poses and stretching exercises with nature stories.

For more information, contact the park’s information desk at 219-395-1882 or check the park’s website at www.nps.gov/indu.

Story Heading

Bead Town Northwest Indiana will continue its run at the Gardner Center on Lake Street until Mardi Gras – March 4. The exhibit consists of large artworks designed by Stephan Wanger, made of discarded Mardi Gras beads, to create colorful townscapes and designs. The show will be on display **daily throughout February (10:30 to 6:00 Monday through Thursday, 10:30 to 8:00 Friday and**

Saturday, and noon to 6:00 on Sunday). Two special events are included in the schedule:

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