

Community addresses problems at Lakeshore Dunes apartments

Between March and May, police reports revealed a large number of incidents at the Lakeshore Dunes apartment complex on Lake Street and the surrounding neighborhood. There were a large number of break-ins, a large number of shots fired, some physical altercations and miscellaneous other incidents. Both apartment residents and neighbors expressed concern.

In an effort to deal with the situation constructively, community leaders met with the apartment owners to discuss what could be done to bring the situation under control. Participants included the owners and managers of the apartment complex; George Rogge (MBA), Tom Eaton (MCC), and Karren Lee (MBACD); Police Chief Larry McKinley and Police Commander Kerry Rice. The owners described the investments they have made to improve the physical condition of the apartments, including the installation of steel doors to improve security. They also discussed their procedure for vetting prospective tenants, and expressed an interest in receiving updated information from the police if residents are charged with criminal activity. The owners noted that, in the past, they had issued vehicle stickers to identify cars belonging to residents, and they indicated they were willing to reinstitute such a program. They pointed out that the police are free to patrol inside the complex any time they want. In addition, the arts district offered to encourage participation by apartment residents in their activities. We will be keeping an eye on police incident reports, to see whether the situation at the apartment complex settles down.

In the background, the **COP office** on Lake Street is once again in use. **Officer Simon Lillie** is working out of the office in the evening, while keeping an eye on the Lake Street corridor. Officer Lillie also supervises the beach patrol officers. He can be reached at 938-0281 in the COP office. If no one answers, leave a message.

Aquatorium Society celebrates

The Chanute Aquatorium Society will mark its 25th anniversary with a big fundraising party on **Friday, July 24, beginning at 7:30 pm**. (This is also the birthday anniversary of George Rogge, but we're not saying how many). The event will include music by the **Garrett Cope Band, the ODE folk band, and the featured Corey Dennison Band with his "Lookout, Live Action Show"**. There will be a supper buffet prepared by Alice Pickford; beer from the 18th Street Brewery, plus wine and pop. Ticket buyers can choose to pay their age; \$40; \$75; \$100 or \$300. The \$100 and \$300 contributors will also receive a free limited-edition commemorative poster. You can purchase tickets on-line at eventbrite.com/event/17277231665, or by mail to The Society, 607 S. Lake St., Gary, IN 46403.

The proceeds will go toward the cost of building and installing the 2/3 scale replica of the World War II fighter flown by the Tuskegee Airmen, which will be displayed above the east wing of the Aquatorium beginning in August, 2017.

This summer, the Aquatorium is reserved for every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening through the end of September. Looking ahead, if you are planning an event for the summer of 2016, now is the time to make a reservation on-line at www.aquatorium.com, by looking at the "calendar" function and following instructions.

Miller Spotlight advances

The Miller Spotlight project, funded by the Legacy Foundation and managed by the Arts District, has gotten started by discussing with more than 200 Miller residents what they see as the strengths and weaknesses of our community. Results are on the Miller Spotlight website,

www.facebook.com/millerspotlight?fref=ts. In the next stage of the process, anyone who is interested is invited to attend a “visioning session” on **Tuesday, July 7 at 6:30 pm** at the Gardner Center. Participants will help to construct Miller’s community vision and sign up to join Action Groups which will meet three to six times between July and September and develop proposals for each of the major themes identified in the study. The whole process will culminate in a Community Plan to be implemented in 2016.

Duly noted

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK. The Gary Shakespeare Company has moved to IUN, and its performances are usually offered at the university’s theater on Grant Street in Glen Park. However, **the troupe is returning to Miller with weekly performances in Marquette Park during July.** The play is Shakespeare’s romance, **Much Ado About Nothing**, with skilled actors, costumes, sets and lights. The location is just west of Carmela’s Café in the park, and the time is 7:00 pm on Sunday evenings. The next offering will be Sunday, July 5. Chairs are provided, or you can bring your own. Come and enjoy a classic play in the park! You can also attend performances of **Much Ado about Nothing** at the IUN theater, 3660 Grant St. in Gary, on **July 3, 10 and 11 at 7:30 pm.**

A NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK. St. Mary of the Lake Church presents a fundraising event, Faith & Family Night at the Ballpark, on Saturday, **July 18 at 7:10 at the Oil City Stadium, on 119th St. in Whiting,** Join the NWI Oilmen and church congregations of all faiths for an evening of baseball & fellowship. Activities include a pre-game concert, comments from Bishop Dale Melczek, and St. Mary’s choir singing the national anthem. For tickets visit www.NWIOilmen.com or call 219-771-5881 or email info@oilmen.com. Hope to see you there!

SUMMER BBQ AT THE TEMPLE. Temple Israel on Montgomery St. will be holding their annual barbeque on **Saturday, July 25, starting with hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar at 6:00 followed by dinner at 7:00.** Menu items include grilled steak, chicken or fish and mac and cheese, with a variety of sides. The cost is \$18 for adults or \$6 for children. Make reservations by sending your check and menu choices to Temple Israel Sisterhood BBQ, 601 N. Montgomery St., Gary, IN 46403, no later than July 21.

BOOK SIGNING. On Friday, July 3, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, the Lake Street Gallery will host a book signing for “Lost in Gary, Indiana” by Post Tribune columnist Jerry Davich,. The public is invited to enjoy refreshments and meet the author.

THE AIR SHOW IS COMING. The Gary Air Show is returning **July 11 and 12, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.** (Note the new start time!) The major concern of local residents is parking. At Marquette Park, parking is on the grass and the cost is \$30. Remote parking is available at Wirt/Emerson school and Banneker School (\$20) the Dunes Bowl and behind Fortune House on Rt. 20 (\$10). Shuttle buses will be available to move people from the remote parking locations to Marquette Park. Enjoy the show!

TIGER GRANT APPLICATION. The city of Gary is applying for a 21-million dollar federal grant to fund transit-oriented development at the Miller South Shore station. Local matching funds would come from the Regional Development Agency (RDA) – \$4.26 million; the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) – \$860,000 and the city of Gary -- \$1 million. Money from the grant would go for improvements at the Miller station, including a new high-level boarding platform. Long-range plans also include rerouting Rt. 12 between the Point and Lake St., adding tracks to provide two-way train traffic, and constructing side tracks so some South Shore trains could originate in Miller, rather than downtown Gary.

KIDS' PARADE. Don't forget the Fourth of **July Kids' Parade, starting, at 9:00 am** from the Miller Vintage Kitchen, Shelby and Locust, and proceeding via Shelby and Lake Shore Drive to Wells Street.

DOUGLAS CENTER ACTIVITIES. The Douglas Center on Lake Street is open **daily throughout the summer (including July 4) from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**, with a continuous stream of hands-on activities for adults and children. Stop in any time and see what's going on. Examples include a "fort-building contest from **10:00 am to 4:00 pm on July 4**, an invitation to bring your picnic lunch and ask questions to a ranger from **11:00 to 1:00 on Sunday, July 5**; storytelling, games and a nature hike for 2 to 5 year olds every **second Wednesday from 10:00 am to noon, starting July 8**. Every **Sunday at 1:30** there will be a ranger-guided hike in the Miller Woods. As a **special treat** on the First Friday of the month – **July 3, August 7 and September 4 at 6:30** - join a hike to the beach followed by stories, songs and smores around a supervised campfire.

JULY 2015 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 13 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 at www.millercitizenscorp.org.

DIRTTY'S IS IN ACTION. Dirty's Jazz Club on Rt. 20, is open for business, Thursday through Sunday starting at 7:00 pm, plus Sunday brunch from 1:30 to 5:30 pm. The featured attraction on Sunday, July 5, starting at 1:30, is Dr. Odie Williams.

Events at the Gardner Center

The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) is collaborating with the Save the Dunes Council to present, "**Saving the Dunes: Artists' Paths**", an exhibition of prints, paintings, and sculpture on the subject of the Indiana Dunes, from **Friday, July 10 to Sunday, August 9**, at the Gardner Center, 540 S. Lake Street. The opening reception is on **Friday, July 17 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm**. Otherwise, the gallery will be open on **Fridays and Saturdays from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and on Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm**. The exhibit relates to three anniversaries: the 50th anniversary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; the centennial of the National Park Service; and the centennial of the Indiana State Park System. The exhibit will include works of **Corey Hagelberg, Lora Fosberg, and Laura Marie Panozzo**, whose works approach the subject of the dunes from multiple perspectives.

Several related programs are also scheduled during the run of the exhibition. On **Sunday July 26 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm**, the three artists will be joined by other guests in a panel discussion of "Art, Ecology and Happenings in the Dunes" that will emphasize the connection between art, science, and community that helped preserve our Indiana dunes. In addition, Tibetan Monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in India will return with a "Sacred Arts Tour" event at the gallery from **August 1 through August 9**. They will be creating a sand mandala and conducting art workshops, along with a variety of other events.

Documentary about The Doors

On Sunday, July 19 at 7:30, the MBACD will present an award-winning documentary, “When You’re Strange”, about Jim Morrison and the rock quartet “The Doors”, written and directed by Tom DiCillo. There will be an introduction by Larry Lapidus. The cost of \$12 includes refreshments and is payable at the door.

New series of art classes

The Arts District is sponsoring two more art classes in collaboration with South Shore Arts. The classes will be held at 601 S. Lake Street, across from the Gardner Center and will be led by Nikki Kutansky. Call 219-836-1839 ext 103 **right now**, to register and pay for your class.

INTRO TO CARTOONING (ages 9 to adult) – Students will learn by drawing popular cartoon characters. Six **Tuesdays from 10:00 am to noon, beginning July 7**. Cost is \$100, including supplies.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING (ages 13 to adult) -- Students will learn the “how” of drawing. **Six Thursdays from 10:00 am to noon, beginning July 9**. Cost is \$100, including all supplies.

Later in the summer . .

August 14 to 30 - Art exhibit “Collective Perspectives” with the work of 8 photographers

August 15 - Sand Castle competition and beach **festiv**