



Miller Message for June 2015

Town hall meeting June 23

Learn about Lake County government issues, ask questions, and make comments. **Jamal Washington**, the County Council member for the Third District, which includes Miller, is sponsoring a first-ever town hall meeting with Lake County leaders. Our representative on the Board of County Commissioners, Roosevelt Allen, and other county officials are also expected to attend. The event is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 23 at 5:30 pm** at the Aquarium in Marquette Park. Come, meet our representatives in county government, and let them know what you are thinking on current issues.

Miller Arts District brings Lake-effekt to Lake Street

The Lake-effekt festival, sponsored by the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) will be taking place on Lake Street for the next two weeks.

Friday, May 22 was the opening for the Art Exhibit, based on street art themes, which will continue at the Gardner Center **until June 13**.

Friday, June 5 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm: "A Piece of My Art" Drink & Draw fundraiser will take place at the 18th Street Brewery, on Miller Avenue at Lake St. Drawing materials will be provided, and everyone is invited, regardless of skill level. A collaborative large canvas painting will be created, which will be carved into pieces to be auctioned off on the closing day of Lakeeffekt. **This event is a**

variation on the “Drink and Draw” evenings which are held at the Brewery the first Friday of every month.

Saturday, June 6 at 7:00 pm: “Style Wars” DVD and Q&A at the Gardner Cener. This Documentary shows young artists struggling to express themselves through their art, and their points of view on the subject of graffiti, as well as the views of then New York City Mayor Ed Koch, police officers, art critics, and people on the street.

Lake-effekt street festival

Saturday, June 13 from noon to 8:00 pm: Street Festival with 40 artists, food vendors, beer garden, stage with 7 live bands, spoken word, dance performances, community announcements, and children's art garden (face painting, chalk drawing and large canvas project) Bands include folk, blues, classic rock, American roots rock, and hip hop. The South Shore Dance Alliance, ARISE and Banneker school students will be participating. There will be more painting on blank walls, including new works at Ming Ling which are already finished.

Sunday, June 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm: Closing day of the art exhibit with the announcement of winners of the silent auction.

To be part of the show, go to the MBACD website: www.millerbeacharts.org, click on “Registration for Pop-ups”, complete the form and send with check or money order, to arrive no later than June 6.

Later in the summer

July 10 to August 9: Save the Dunes art exhibit

July 31 to August 9: Tibetan Monks sand mandala, drum gongs, community dinner and more

August 14 to 30: Group photography exhibit

Support the MBACD

Dr. Sean Egan, Miller resident and Arts District board member, has offered to match contributions to the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District, up to \$2,500. To support this vibrant organization, send checks to MBACD, 540 S. Lake Street, P.O. Box 2405, Gary, IN 46403, by June 30. Write "Egan Challenge" in the memo field.

Nelson Algren bio film at the Gardner Center - June 27

Nelson Algren was a well-known novelist and author whose life included dramatic ups and downs - from fashionable circles in Paris and Hollywood to jail in Texas. In the 1950s he lived for a time in Miller, enjoying the duneland environment and romancing Simone de Beauvoir. Now, as its introductory event, the Nelson Algren Society of Miller Beach, in collaboration with the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD), is presenting the film **Algren**, directed by Michael Caplan, who will speak after the show. The performance is scheduled for **Saturday, June 27 at 7:00 pm** at the Gardner Center on Lake Street. Cost of admission is \$10.

Subsequent events include **A Walk on the Wild Side**, a presentation in collaboration with the Miller Historical Society, September 26, dealing with Miller Beach in the 50s, followed by a period party. Then, in February 2016, in cooperation with the Aquarium Society, there will be a presentation of readings from the works of Algren and the love of his life, Simone de Beauvoir. In the summer of 2016, a street festival on the Algren theme is being developed in cooperation with the MBACD.

Duly noted . . .

A NEW SHOP ON LAKE STREET. Adell's Beach Boutique, retailing stylish fashions for women, has just opened at 567 Lake Street, the former location of Curves. The shop will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. Phone 938-5059 for additional information. Check the place out! [As an aside - the landlord for this location is now the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District, to whom the property was recently donated.]

CRIME AND SAFETY. The Gary Police Department (GPD) Burglary Unit hosted a community meeting at the main police station on May 18 to discuss crime

prevention. As usual, neighbors were encouraged to look out for each other. Residents were particularly advised to record the serial numbers of electronic products, so they could be identified and recovered in case of theft. Subsequently, there has been considerable concern about the number of police calls and crime statistics in the vicinity of the Lakeshore Dunes apartment complex on Lake Street. This subject is expected to become an issue for the MCC in June.

MCC SHORELINE COMMITTEE. The next evening meeting of the Shoreline Committee will be Thursday, June 18 at 6 PM. Members of the Shoreline Committee and the Marquette Park Playground Committee have continued to work at removing sandbars from the playground area. Carol Smith is also looking for help with the park cleanup effort, since several frequent volunteers have moved away. Picking up trash is usually done on Monday and Thursday from 9:00 to 10:30 am.

JUNE 2015 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 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. You can also visit the MCC website at www.millercitizenscorp.org.

BIBLE STUDY. St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 601 Pottowatomie Trail (across from the former Nobel School) invites Miller residents to come together in the church basement, for Community Bible Study, coffee and fellowship, **every Thursday at 10:00 am, beginning May 21.** Everyone is welcome.

CLASSES AT GARDNER CENTER. South Shore Arts is sponsoring two series of art classes at the Gardner Center on Lake Street. Fawn Szymoniak is offering a six-week program on creating Japanese Manga comics, **Wednesdays from 12:00 to 2:00 pm starting June 3.** Cost is \$75. Marsha Browne is offering a five-week class for seniors on the use of watercolor and pastels to

portray natural landscapes. Cost is \$75. Classes will meet on **Tuesdays from 12:00 to 2:00 pm beginning June 2**. To register, for either class, or for more information call 219-836-1839 x103.

Gary Sanitary District project at Locust & Shelby

The City of Gary sponsored a meeting at the Marquette Park Pavilion on Wednesday, May 27, to discuss the proposed waste water control project in the vicinity of Locust and Shelby which will be financed by a federal grant. Dan Vicari, CEO of the Gary Sanitary District, was again the chief speaker, with support from other city employees and a concluding comment from Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson.

The Sanitary District has obtained a federal grant to re-configure the area, where storm water accumulates to form a pond after any major rainstorm. Curbs, sidewalks and parkways will be installed on Locust Avenue from Rush Street to Shelby, and on Shelby Street from Locust to Oak. In the process, some asphalt will be replaced with grass and trees, allowing rain water to soak in. It will also give the area a more finished look. A large poster on Shelby shows graphically what the proposed streetscape will look like.

Local residents who attended the meeting expressed concerns about the reduction of parking spaces and the change to a more formal streetscape. Vicari noted that plans for the project are not yet final.

SANITARY DISTRICT ADDENDA. When Dan Vicari spoke at the April MCC board meeting, he touched on several other subjects of interest to Miller residents:

The monthly Sanitary District bill is based on water consumption in fall, winter and spring months, and doesn't include peak water use for lawn and garden spraying in the summer. Although you don't have to pay the added wastewater disposal fee, you do have to pay for the water.

Residents can deliver small truckloads of rubbish directly to the city's dump sites: in the 7200 block of West 5th Avenue and the Republic transfer station at 15th Avenue and Clay Street. You cannot use commercial vehicles or trailers and can

only bring rubbish three times a month.

Normally, the recycling crews pick up yard waste in brown paper bags. However, if they fail to pick up some bags, it is permissible to put them in the blue cans along with normal trash.

South Shore developments

After years of uncertainty, the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), which operates the South Shore Railroad, is in agreement with the city of Gary, the advisors from the Federal Government, and local leaders that the Miller South Shore stop should remain where it is, and should form the foundation for transportation-oriented development in this community.

The railroad, the Regional Development Authority (RDA) and the city of Gary are all committed to provide local matching funds for a major federal appropriation, which will finance new platforms with high-level boarding; double tracking; storage tracks; and engineering for a new station. These improvements will make boarding easier and faster and will eliminate delays due to rail traffic conflicts. It will also be possible to initiate trains at Miller which now start out at downtown Gary.

In the background, NICTD has also approved fare increases, which are largely justified to pay for mandated safety improvements. The basic fare from Miller to Chicago will increase from \$6.00 to \$6.50, and monthly passes will go up about 12%.

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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