



## Miller Message for May 2015

### Big Miller cleanup – May 2

The Miller Citizens Corp. (MCC), the Miller Business Association (MBA) and the Miller Garden Club will join forces for the annual spring cleanup of our trash-strewn roadways – **Saturday, May 2 from 7:00 to noon** (Come when you can.). The command center for the event will be the former Ralph's parking lot at Grand Blvd and Miller Avenue, where volunteers will be signed in, will receive supplies (i.e., plastic bags) and equipment (i.e., gloves, etc.) and will move out to various highways and byways to pick up trash. Last year, more than 100 volunteers participated, and we're hoping for more this year.

### St. Mary of the Lake Church holds 'Festa Italiana', May 2

St. Mary of the Lake Church on Miller Avenue is sponsoring a spaghetti supper on **Saturday, May 2 from 4:00 to 9:00 pm.** in the church gym. A \$10 ticket will get you a dinner of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic bread and a soft drink. Desserts, beer and wine will be available at additional cost. There will also be music and a silent auction. **This is a community event to which everyone is invited.**

In the background, Gary's new Catholic bishop, Donald Hying, has given the Miller parish a year to show that it is a viable organization, both financially and from the point of view of parish activities. During this time, retired bishop Dale Melczek (a Miller resident) will serve as the parish

administrator and will be the usual celebrant at St. Mary's 10:00 am Sunday Mass. A month ago, Bishop Hying was ready to close down the parish, but he decided to give St. Mary's another chance, based on the pleas of parishioners and of many non-Catholic Miller residents, who see the church as an important presence in this community.

## The Miller Garden Club presents a "Spring Fling"

The Miller Garden Club is expanding its annual plant sale into a one-day festival, the "Spring Fling" on **Saturday, May 16 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm** at the Aquatorium in Marquette Park. This year's sale will feature plants donated by Garden Club members, beautiful flats of annuals and herbs, slightly used garden paraphernalia, books, pots and jewelry. Delicious box lunches and baked goods will be provided by Marilyn's Bakery from Hobart.

An added feature this year (with mother nature's cooperation) will be a self-guided **mini garden tour** with an early peek at a few selected spring gardens for a \$5.00 fee.

The Spring Fling will be the Garden Club's main fundraising event this year, since the annual Secret Garden Walk has been preempted by the Gary Air Show. The Garden Club supports beautiful plantings all around Miller – in the mid-street planters and corner planters on Lake Street, at the South Shore stop, at the Woodson Library, the fire station on Grand Blvd., the planter at Oak and Shelby, at the Miller Town Hall.

## 2015 beach plans reviewed

Every year, the MCC Shoreline Committee holds a kickoff meeting with park and public safety representatives, to discuss plans for managing the city's beaches. This year, about 40 residents attended the meeting on April 16, along with representatives of the Gary Park Department, the Gary Police, the Gary Fire Department, and the Lake County Sheriff, all of whom are working cooperatively to assure that going to the beach will be a safe and pleasant experience for everyone.

Plans for the coming season call for more mobile lifeguards in the area from Lake St. to Montgomery St., the "designated bathing beach". Police officers patrolling the beach will be spread out in four zones for quicker response to problems, and more police patrols will be scheduled at night, when the beach is officially closed.

Maintenance of Marquette Park and the beach still depends on massive volunteer effort. The Park Department promises to have one maintenance employee assigned to the park, to handle routine upkeep. However, there will still be a need for volunteers to pick up litter, control weeds, and plant flowers. During April, the Shoreline Committee assembled a task force of 21 workers to dig up sand burr plants in the vicinity of the Kids' Park, in the hope of minimizing this nuisance in 2015. Committee members have also trimmed and weeded the area around Fr. Marquette's statue. In addition, many lakefront residents pick up litter on their own areas of the beach.

## Duly noted . . . .

**AQUATORIUM EVENT.** The Chanute Aquatorium Society is holding a fun-raising event "**Pizza, Plaque and People**" on **Friday, May 22, beginning at 5:30 pm**. The public is invited to come, eat pizza, and watch the unveiling of plaques listing the names of donors for the continuing renovation of the Aquatorium in Marquette Park. Cost of tickets to the event is \$25. For a donation of \$200 (or \$250 for two persons), you can have your name engraved on one of the commemorative plaques which are being installed. The deadline for donations is May 15. For tickets and contributions, contact Greg Reising at 607 S. Lake Street or phone 219-938-8080.

**ELECTION DAY, MAY 5.** Don't forget to get out and vote on election day, Tuesday, May 5. The MCC does not support or oppose candidates for office, **but it does recommend a vote against the tax increase requested by the Gary Community Schools, which is the subject of a referendum on this year's ballot.** The added levy would increase the property tax rate significantly above the 1%-2%-3% caps.

**GALLOPING ON THE BEACH.** The 22nd annual Gallery Gallop is scheduled for **Saturday, May 16** at the Lake Street Beach. Registration is set for 5:00 to 6:00 pm and the starting gun will sound at 6:30. The event consists of an 8.5 K run and a 3 K walk. The run is a Gold Cup Series event, and cash prizes will be awarded to the overall male and female winners and the senior male and female winners. All participants will receive a T-shirt with a design by a local artist. Registration is \$20 in advance or \$25 on race day for the run and \$15 or \$20 for the walk. Advance entries can be purchased at the Lake Street Gallery, 613 S. Lake Street. For additional information, call 938-4566.

---

### MAY 2015 MCC MEETING

**THE NEXT MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON**

**MONDAY, MAY 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](mailto:mcceaton@aol.com). You can also visit the MCC website at [www.millercitizenscorp.org](http://www.millercitizenscorp.org).

---

**MARKET OPEN FOR BUSINESS.** The Miller Beach Farmer's Market, sponsored by the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District, will be opening for the season on **Sunday, May 3 and will be in operation every Sunday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm until the end of September.** The market is located on Lake Street, next to the South Shore tracks, and vendors will offer fresh produce, honey, cheese, baked goods, coffee, specialty food items and craft items. Musical groups will often provide entertainment as you shop.

**FLYING FIGURES AND FLOATING FORMS.** The exhibition of artwork by painter Rashelle Roos and sculptor Joe Agati will continue at the Gardner Center on Lake Street on weekends through May 10. The gallery will be open on **Friday and Saturday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.** The show has received an enthusiastic response from visitors and many of the works were sold on the opening weekend. For additional information, contact Larry Lapidus at 773-456-4316 or [lapidus721@gmail.com](mailto:lapidus721@gmail.com).

## **CEO Dan Vicari explains Sanitary District functions**

The Miller Citizens Corp. and the Miller Business Association conducted a joint board meeting in April, to hear a presentation by Dan Vicari, the CEO of the Gary Sanitary District, who addressed a variety of issues.

### **GARBAGE COLLECTION CONTRACT**

At the end of 2014, the City of Gary cancelled its garbage removal contract with Waste Management because of complaints about their service, especially in the parts of Gary where pickups are in the alleys. They then signed a temporary contract with Republic Services for garbage pickup.

The city subsequently requested bids for a long-term trash removal contract, and three providers

responded. Waste Management chose not to submit a proposal. South Shore Recycling, out of Chicago, made an offer, but they do not have experience with curbside pickups and their collection facility is in Illinois, which would complicate service. The contract was subsequently signed with Republic Services, covering 22,894 households at the current cost per household plus an increase of 3% per year. The garbage collection fee charged to single-family residences also increases by 3% per year, based on an ordinance approved by the Gary Common Council.

## **LOCUST AND SHELBY PROJECT**

The Storm Water Management District processes runoff water in areas where storm sewers and household sewers are separate, and one of its aims is to divert rain water into the ground before it gets into the sewer and has to be processed by the Sanitary District. In parts of Marquette Park, for instance, rainfall is funneled into low spots filled with rocks and gravel, where it will soak into the underlying sand.

The Sanitary District has obtained a federal grant to re-configure the area at Locust and Shelby, which is the lowest point in the neighborhood, where storm water accumulates to form a pond after any major rainstorm, because it is the lowest point in the neighborhood. 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 sign on Shelby shows graphically what the proposed streetscape will look like.

To residents on St. Joseph Street, Rush Street, Oak Avenue and any other street: contrary to rumors going around, this project does not affect you.

The addition of curbs and sidewalks will introduce parallel parking, like on most Gary streets. Normally, parking on the street is permitted for anyone who chooses to park there.

## **AIRPORT EXPANSION**

Vicari is also the “in house” project manager for the Gary Airport runway expansion project. He reports that, at this point, the main part of the runway and the end of the runway extension are functional, but there is a section of about 500 feet which is incomplete because the ground is seriously polluted and must be capped before the runway can be built over it. This is to be completed by June 25.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

In some areas, people have been stealing man-hole covers. The Sanitary District can and will replace them. Notify the city's 311 system if this happens.

The Sanitary District has three new street sweepers. They have embarked on a project to clean up all the city's streets (about 500 miles) by working 24 hours a day, 5 days a week. In the past year or so, Vicari has made equipment available to sweep the Lake Street business district on special occasions.

---

Visit us at [www.MillerCitizensCorp.org](http://www.MillerCitizensCorp.org)

---

*Copyright © 2015 Miller Citizens Corporation, All rights reserved.*

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a white, cursive font within a grey rectangular box.