

Use this area to offer a short preview of your email's content.

[View this email in your browser](#)



Miller Message for November 2014

The spotlight is on us

Over a long period, the Legacy Foundation has provided grants for specific projects undertaken by not-for-profit organizations in Lake County. As an example, they provided funds for air conditioning the Gardner Center on Lake Street, which has made this location a vibrant center for diverse community activities.

At the beginning of 2014, the foundation announced a change of direction, from funding individual requests to developing and implementing a collective impact plan for whole communities. This involves creating a vision of what a neighborhood sees as its future, detailing clear goals to achieve that vision, and formulating a plan of action to achieve the goals. The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD), led by Karren Lee, has represented the Miller community in applying to become one of these “Spotlight Neighborhoods”.

Last week, the foundation announced that the “Gary-Miller” community will, in fact, be one of the first two “Spotlight Neighborhoods”. With this designation comes a grant of \$50,000 to hire a project coordinator, to work with Miller organizations and individuals in developing the community vision. There is also an implied commitment to fund some initial community project, to demonstrate that the Spotlight concept is about action, and not just talk. Eventually, the Legacy Foundation will also help locate funds for achieving the Miller community’s vision.

Thanks, and congratulations, to the dozens of persons who have worked for the past year to achieve this first milestone for the Gary-Miller community.

Knight grant program

What are your ideas for making Gary-Miller a better place? The Knight Foundation has made \$5 million available to solicit and implement ideas to make Knight Cities, including Gary, more successful. The ideas can be submitted by real people, rather than professional grant writers. They must be described in 150 words or less, and they should focus on the three drivers of city success – talent, opportunity, and engagement. The key criterion is innovation. After the most promising ideas have been identified, phase two of the grant process will deal with the cost of the proposals and their implementation.

Think about ideas for making our city more attractive to young adults who will build its future. Then, go online to www.knightcities.org to enter the contest. And do it soon – the deadline for submittals is November 14.

MCC has chosen new leaders

At the MCC general meeting on October 13 and the subsequent board meeting, MCC members elected their board of directors and officers for the next year.

The full board of directors includes the following twenty-five Miller residents:

Jason Arndt	Elkhart Street
Marsha Bradley	Forest Avenue
John Collie	Locust Avenue
Cullen Ben Daniel	Lake Street
Brian DeFries	Lake Shore Drive
Thomas Eaton	Oak Avenue
Ron Gholson	Lake Street
Douglas Grimes	Ironwood Avenue
Barb Hansen	Lake Street
Ed Johnston	Warren Street
Demuth King	Lakewood Avenue
Cari Kniola	Juniper Avenue
Pauline Millard	Lakewood Avenue
Samantha Norton	Hickory Avenue
Wendy Prettyman	Oak Avenue
Eric Reaves	Locust Avenue
Wardella Roby	Ironwood Avenue
George Rogge	N. Union Street
Carol Smith	N. Ripley Street
Louis Stewart	Lake Shore Drive
Judy Tonk	Randolph Street
Roland Walker	Vermillion Street
Deb Weiss	Oak Avenue
Rachel Weiss	N. Morgan Street
Joseph Winfrey	N. Morgan Street

The Board of Directors chose the officers for the coming year:

Eric Reaves	President
Carol Smith	Vice-president
George Rogge	Vice-President
Tom Eaton	Secretary
Wendy Prettyman	Treasurer

If you would like to discuss problems or opportunities in the Miller community, these are the people to contact. Don't hesitate to let them know what you're thinking.

OCTOBER 2014 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10 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 mceaton@aol.com. You can also visit the MCC website at www.millercitizenscorp.org.

Duly noted . . .

ANOTHER NEW BUSINESS. Dirty's Jazz and Blues is now open at the Point, where Rt. 12 and Rt. 20 diverge. (Dirty is the nickname of the owner). They are offering good music, good drinks, and good company for "over 40s" on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday starting at 8:00 pm, Friday starting at 5:00. There is a \$5 cover charge. Give them a try.

CRIME MAPS AVAILABLE. Indiana University Northwest has collaborated with a number of local police departments, including Gary's, to produce on-line maps of crimes reported during specific periods of time. Just log on to nwi.com/regionalcrimereport. Selecting the community you want to view will give you its map, with symbols for various types of criminal activity. You can control the scale of the map by clicking on the + or – in the upper left corner. Clicking on the symbol gives you additional information about the location and time of the criminal activity.

PAVING NEEDS. We are thanking the Mayor for the street paving which has recently been completed, but we are also collecting suggestions for additional work next year (in case there is a paving program). Let MCC President Eric Reaves know what additional streets deserve to be on the priority list. Write to the MCC address, or e-mail to ericereaves@aol.com.

CORRECTION. Last month's Miller Message indicated that Mayor Freeman-Wilson was opposing the reverse tax abatement for the Kaplan Trucking company, which is expanding its operation at Rt. 20 and Rt. 51. This was incorrect. The Mayor supported the abatement which was subsequently passed by the city council. The expansion project is moving forward.

NEW TRASH COLLECTOR. The transition from Waste Management to Republic for trash collection has been accomplished. Residents can now decide for themselves if the change is beneficial. If you have questions about the new service, you can call Republic Services customer service division at **800-828-2253** or contact the Gary Sanitary District at **219-944-1211**. A community forum will be scheduled soon so that residents can ask questions and meet representatives from Republic.

A calendar of holiday events

DANCE PERFORMANCE AT WIRT-EMERSON. The Ailey II Dance Theater will perform at the Wirt-Emerson Theatre on Grand Blvd at **7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 4**. Tickets are available online at www.aileyinmillerbeach.eventbrite.com or at Ayers Realty (219-938-1188).

EXHIBIT AT THE GARDNER CENTER. Miller Beach Arts presents "Oil Porn", a show of oil paintings by Michelle Gordon which is currently in progress until Sunday, November 9. There will be a reception to introduce the artist on **Friday, November 7 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm**. The gallery will also be open from **6:00 to 9:00 pm on Saturday, November 8** and from **1:00 to 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 9**, followed by Artist Talk with Michelle Gordon, Corey Hagelberg, and Tom Sourlis from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the Miller Bakery Café across the street.

A NEW DEPARTURE FOR INDIE BANG. Indie Indie Bang Bang on Lake Street, which has been known during the past year for its eclectic array of gift and specialty items, is adding a new dimension with an exhibit of paintings by acclaimed Chicago artist Deva Suckerman, beginning with an artist's reception from **5:00 to 8:00 pm on Friday**,

November 7. Whatever your questions, you can contact Indie Indie Bang Bang at shopindiebang@gmail.com or 219-979-6680.

URBAN PLANNING PRESENTATION. In the past year, students from AIC, IIT, and UIC have developed presentations on the theme “Regenerating Miller Beach”. You can see the results of their work at the Gardner Center on **Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, and on Sunday, November 16 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm**. On **Saturday, November 15, there will be a reception and moderated discussion from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.**

“THROUGH JEAN’S EYES” A new exhibition of works by Jean Barger on will begin with a reception on **Saturday, November 15 at 7:00 pm.** at the Lake Street Gallery. A different selection of Barger on’s works has been on display since October 18.

“HOLIDAY MARKET” The Miller Arts District will present a holiday bazaar at the Gardner Center on Lake Street, on **Saturday, November 22 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.** The event will include a background of live music to make buying a pleasure. Here is your chance to get an early start with your Christmas shopping.

HEALTH FAIR. The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the Gary Park Department and the Gary Methodist Hospital will present a health fair at the Douglas Center on Lake Street, from **12:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Saturday, November 22.** Activities will emphasize how to use the park to stay healthy. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/indu or call 219-395-1858.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY. As the holiday shopping season gets started, come check out your local businesses, all day on **Saturday, November 29.**

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 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 and basket raffles on the floor.

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.

XMAS 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 keep you going and you can check out the Gallery’s merchandise while you’re there.

“BUTTERBIRD CHRISTMAS” The Miller Arts District will present a radio play at the Gardner Center on **Sunday, December 7 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.** The show will bring back memories of Lake County in the 1950s, with music, a bake sale and refreshments in the background.

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.

Visit us at www.MillerCitizensCorp.org
