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## Miller Message for October 2014

### MCC to choose new leaders

Every year at this time, the dues-paying members of the Miller Citizens Corp. come together to elect half of the organization's board of directors. These are the people we are counting on to contribute their talents, time and energy to keep Miller an attractive neighborhood for a wide variety of residents.

The MCC Nomination Committee has chosen the following ten candidates for positions on the MCC Board of Directors, for terms beginning in October, 2014 and continuing to October 2016:

**Cullen Ben Daniel**

**Ron Gholson**

**Doug Grimes**

**Barb Hansen**

**Ed Johnston**

**Dee King**

**Wendy Prettyman**

**George Rogge**

**Carol Smith**

**Wardella Roby**

In addition, two candidates have been nominated to fill one-year terms ending in October, 2015:

**Cari Kniola**

**Brian DeFries**

All the dues-paying members of the MCC are entitled to participate in the election of the Board of Directors, which will take place at the **Annual Meeting of the MCC on Monday, October 13 at 7:30 pm** in the downstairs meeting room of the Marquette Park United Methodist Church on Grand Blvd. To be eligible to vote, members must pay their dues for 2014 prior to October 6, to allow time for updating the membership list.

If there are members of the MCC who want to be elected to the Board of Directors but have not been slated on the "official" list, they can add their names to the ballot by submitting a petition to the Secretary, signed by at least 10 MCC members in good standing, prior to October 8, 2014. This will give the Secretary time to print ballots and arrange for counting votes for the election of board members.

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## **OCTOBER 2014 MCC MEETING**

**THE MCC ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 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 [mceaton@aol.com](mailto:mceaton@aol.com). You can also visit the MCC website at [www.millercitizenscorp.org](http://www.millercitizenscorp.org).

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## **Miller Arts District sponsors major events**

**The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District has lined up three don't-miss events in the coming month:**

**CHOIR OF ANGELS.** The 29th annual **Chorus Angelorum concert** will take place on **Friday, October 24 at 8:00 pm** at St. Mary of the Lake Church on Miller Avenue. This is a big-time musical event, it is conveniently taking place in our community, it makes use of St. Mary's excellent organ, and it's free (although free-will offerings will be solicited). The concert will open with works by Handel and by English renaissance composers and will continue with Haydn's Symphony No. 99, one of the London symphonies. The second half will feature Haydn's Mass in Time of War. Anyone with an interest in classical music wouldn't want to miss this concert.

**DANCE OF ANGELS.** The Miller Beach Arts & Creative District, with MASMEDIA7, will host an evening with international dance troupe, **Ailey II**, on **Tuesday, November 4, 2014, at 7p.m.**, at the Wirt-Emerson Theater, 210 N Grand Blvd. The talented dancers of Ailey II are renowned for captivating audiences and translating their strength and agility into powerful performances. Tickets are \$35.00 in advance, \$40.00 at the door. Tickets can be purchased from Ayers Realty, 646 S. Lake St., or on-line at [www.aileyinmillerbeach.eventbrite.com](http://www.aileyinmillerbeach.eventbrite.com).

**FLIGHT OF ANGELS.** The Arts District will present the documentary film “**Winged Migration**”, nominated for an academy award in 2002, which chronicles bird migrations on seven continents, photographed from right up next to the birds. “A movie miracle. It soars!” Price of admission is \$12, including refreshments and an introduction by Larry Lapidus. The film will be presented at the Gardner Center on Lake Street on **Saturday, October 11 at 7:00 pm.**

**SPECIAL DINNER.** To complement the Chorus Angelorum concert, the Miller Bakery Café is offering a special prix-fixe dinner, served from 4:30 to 7:00 on Friday, October 24.

**ART SHOW CONTINUES.** The exhibition of works by members of the Area Artists Association of Northwest Indiana, which has been on display at the Gardner Center since September 12, will conclude the first weekend of October. The exhibit will be open on **Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, and on Sunday, October 5 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.** The exhibit showcases diverse works in two and three dimensions.

## Duly noted . . .

**BRATS AND BULBS.** The Miller Garden Club hosts its annual **Brats and Bulbs** event on **Saturday, October 18 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm** at the Gary Aquatorium. There will be 30 varieties of bulbs for sale at bargain prices, to plant in the fall and flower in the spring; plus a \$4 lunch of bratwurst, chips and soft drinks, and background music by Cornell Buster’s band. Come, buy bulbs and have lunch, rain or shine.

**GALLERY OPENING.** The Lake Street Gallery will present a two-part exhibit “**Through Jean’s eyes**”, featuring new paintings by Jean Bargeron. The public is invited to the opening reception on **Saturday, October 18 at 7:00 pm.** The second part of the exhibit will open on January 11, 2015

**COFFEE SHOP BACK IN BUSINESS.** The Miller Vintage Kitchen is now in operation, serving breakfast and lunch at the corner of Shelby and Locust, in the location of the former Marquette Perk. The new café offers a varied menu of breakfast and brunch items. Give it a try.

**TROMP THROUGH THE WOODS.** Enjoy the beauty of bright fall colors in the Miller Woods, while taking part in ranger-led hikes on the next three Saturdays – October 4, 11 and 25 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Just show up at the Douglas Center on Lake Street and be prepared to ramble. Walks can vary from a quarter mile to three miles, with the rangers pointing out interesting features as you go. There are also indoor activities for children and adults.

**REVISING THE GARY SCHOOL BOARD.** About twenty-five years ago, State Representative Charlie Brown sponsored the legislation which converted the Gary school board from an appointive body to an elected body, with one representative for every councilmanic district and one member elected at large. Now, Rep. Brown is thinking that this change has not worked well. The members elected by district have turned out to be too insular, and there is no

requirement that any of the members know anything about education. Brown is now suggesting that three members of the board be elected at large and two be appointed by the Mayor, with the advice of a nominating committee. New legislation might also restrict the pay and benefits of board members, which many people feel are excessive. If you would like to share your opinions on this subject, contact Rep. Brown by e-mail at [h3@iga.in.gov](mailto:h3@iga.in.gov) or by phone at 800-382-9842.

**SOUTH SHORE MARATHON.** The second annual Dawn of the Dunes marathon, half-marathon and 5K run is scheduled for **Sunday, October 26, starting at 8:30 am.** The race will begin in the vicinity of the Marquette Park pavilion and the race course will wind through the Miller neighborhood and along Rt. 12. Detailed information is available on-line at [www.dunesmarathon.com](http://www.dunesmarathon.com).

**DOGS IN THE PARK.** The first annual Cause 4 Paws 5k dog walk/run will take place in Marquette Park this **Saturday, October 4, beginning at 7:30 am.** The event will include food and pet vendors, and other activities, aimed at raising money to establish an off-leash community dog park in Gary. For more information, contact Michelle at [www.cause4pawsgary@gmail.com](mailto:www.cause4pawsgary@gmail.com).

**DANCE AT THE PAVILION.** The Broadway Area Community Development Corp. is holding a fund-raiser, the Diamond Dinner-dance, at the Marquette Park Pavilion on Friday, October 10. Tickets are \$45 and are available at [www.broadwaycdc.com](http://www.broadwaycdc.com). Along with an open bar and music, carriage rides in the park are also available.

**MBA REVAMP.** George Rogge, President of the Miller Business Association (MBA), has revised the format for the organization's monthly board meetings. Instead of meeting for breakfast, the group will come together after work hours, at 6:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings will take place at a variety of Miller business locations, and will include refreshments and a guest speaker. The October 14 meeting will be at the newly opened Miller Vintage Kitchen, which has replaced the Perk at Shelby and Locust. Anyone with a Miller business connection or any local organization is welcome to join the MBA. Dues are \$60 per year, but anyone signing up at this time would only pay a three-month price of \$20.

**TRASH.** Most Gary residents were surprised when the city cancelled its trash collection contract with Waste Management. However, the Director of the Gary Sanitary District, Dan Vicari, assures us that garbage collection will continue while a contract is negotiated with a new provider. He also insists that the fee for garbage collection will not increase. [As an aside, Vicari noted that grass clippings (but NOT leaves) can be placed in the normal green trash containers, without paper bags. Grass decomposes quickly and produces methane gas, which is used by the landfills to power their electricity-generating equipment.]

## Planning for the future

The federal Strong Cities team, representing HUD (Housing and Urban Development), the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and the DOT (Department of Transportation) have been working with Gary administrators on

proposals for developing the Gary northside neighborhoods – Horace Mann, Emerson, and Aetna/Lakeshore (sometimes known as Miller). The ideas for the Miller area were submitted to Mayor Freeman-Wilson about three weeks ago, but nothing has been heard since then.

The Miller Business Association (MBA) effort to demolish conspicuous derelict properties in Miller has made progress. They have found lawyers who will do the legal paper work at bargain rates and they have located funding for the actual demolition. However, the cooperation of the city is essential, and the administration has not provided support.

On a positive note, the Kaplan Trucking Company, which has been operating for some time at the corner of Rt. 51 and Rt. 20, is planning to expand, and is ready to invest \$2 million in new facilities. A tax abatement, which is the key to keeping this business here in Gary, will be up for a vote at the city council meeting on October 7, but the mayor is not supporting the measure.

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