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Miller Message for September 2015

Membership drive in progress

The **Miller Citizens Corporation (MCC)** has been representing the people of Miller for the past 44 years. It is a broadly-based volunteer organization which has worked with a multitude of public officials and organizations to promote the interests of our community. The MCC is currently conducting its membership campaign for 2015.

In the age of social media, individuals can easily exchange information and express opinions, but it takes a long-term, continuing organization to produce results.

From the start, the MCC has succeeded in making Miller a neighborhood where people of every description want to live. It fought successfully for fair and reasonable property taxes. It brings Miller residents together and brings city and county officials to our community, on a regular basis, to solve problems in the areas of

Public safety and community policing
Park and shoreline use

Local schools and education policies
Community cleanup
Government services and public policy
Commercial and residential development

We invite all Miller residents to show support for this long-term effort by being dues-paying MCC members. Since **the MCC is a completely volunteer organization**, it doesn't spend much money and dues are cheap – **just \$10 per year**. Sign up by sending your check or cash to **MCC, P.O. Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403** with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address. . You can also sign up as an MCC member at the MCC web-site, www.millercitizenscorp.org, using paypal. An MCC member, Ruth Dekker, will also be accepting member-ship applications at the Miller Farmers' Market, the first two Sundays of September.

MCC election in October

On **October 12**, the Miller Citizens Corp. will hold its **annual meeting**, at which dues-paying members will elect half of the members to its board of directors, for two-year terms ending in October, 2017. The MCC is in the process of reducing the number of directors from 30 to 20, so this year ten members will be chosen. The candidates are:

Jason Arndt
John Collie
Thomas Eaton
Pauline Millard
Samantha Norton
Eric Reaves
Louis Stewart
Judy Tonk
Deb Weiss
Joseph Winfrey

In addition, **Ruth Dekker** has been nominated to fill a one-year term ending in 2016.

Additional candidates can be added to the list of nominees by submitting a petition to the Secretary of the MCC, signed by at least 10 dues-paying MCC members, no later than October 1, 2015.

Duly noted . . .

MILLER REVISITED. The **Nelson Algren Society** of Miller will present ***A Walk on the Wild Side***, retracing the steps of author Nelson Algren, when he lived in a modest Miller house in the 1950s. The guided tour will begin with a complementary craft beer at the 18th Street Brewery, will move on past Miller landmarks from sixty years ago, including Algren's cottage near the beach, and will finish with a 50s-themed party, including food and drink at nearby Ono's Pizza house. The cost is \$50 per person. Tickets can be purchased on-line at Eventbrite: or by mailing a check to Nelson Algren Society, 1130 N. Vigo St., Gary, IN 46403.

STEAK DINNER AT THE LEGION. The American Legion, Miller Dunes Post 279, on Old Hobart Road, invites everyone to a **Steak Fry** from **1:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Sunday, September 20**. Enjoy a great steak and salad bar for a donation of \$20 per person. Tickets are available for purchase. In addition, the Legion rents out its banquet facility, which will accommodate up to 125 persons. For information, call (219) 938-9856.

SEPTEMBER 2015 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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.

SOUTH SHORE MEETINGS. A number of MCC and MBA members attended meetings on August 5 and 6, sponsored by the Regional Development Authority (RDA), which dealt with plans for expansion of the South Shore Railroad. Proposals which would benefit our community include installation of dual tracks all the way from Gary to Michigan City (to speed travel times and eliminate delays) and installation of high-level platforms, at the Miller station, among others, (to speed boarding and exiting). Those who attended the meetings learned about plans for the railroad and had an opportunity to speak directly with the executives of NICTD (the railroad), NIRPC (regional planning) and the RDA (regional development), among others.

WIRT-EMERSON CLEANUP. In August, the MCC donated \$300 to support the volunteer cleanup effort at Wirt-Emerson School, which centered on removing weeds and vines from the athletic field.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN TALK. The monthly meeting of the Miller Garden Club will take place at **10:00 am on Saturday, September 19** at the Aquatorium in Marquette Park. The featured speaker will be Miller resident Jim Bertrand, who is an upscale landscape designer. Everyone is welcome

BUILD A FORT. The Douglas Center on Lake Street features a wide range of activities which bring visitors in touch with the surrounding natural environment. On Sunday, September 6 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, the center is hosting a Fort-building Contest.

St. Mary of the Lake reaches out

PANCAKE BREAKFAST. The Outreach Committee of St. Mary of the Lake Church is sponsoring on a **pancake breakfast** from **8:00 am to 12:30 pm on Sunday, September 20**, as a fundraiser and an opportunity to honor alumni and former parishioners. Cost of the meal is \$8. Everyone is invited to the breakfast and the associated 10:00 am Mass.

CHORUS ANGELORUM. On **Friday, October 16**, St. Mary of the Lake will join with the Miller Beach Arts District to present the 30th annual **Chorus Angelorum concert**, a premier musical event in the Region. The centerpiece

of this year's concert will be the Petite *messe solennelle* of Giacchino Rosinni. Admission is free.

OCTOBER FESTIVAL. On **Saturday, October 17, from noon to 10:00 pm**, St. Mary's will present **Rock-tober Fest**, featuring top local bands, craft beer, local delicacies and casino. Cost of admission is \$10.

Miller Beach Arts presents . .

Since 2011, the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District, with its center of activity at the Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts on Lake Street, has presented a continuing stream of events -- exhibits, concerts, performances, films, street festivals, the Farmers Market, community meetings and fundraisers -- which bring life to the Miller commercial district, with the goal of attracting a diverse audience from a wide geographic area. The MBACD is offering another selection of activities during September and October:

WATERCOLOR AND MORE (ages 16i – adult) – six art classes in collaboration with South Shore Arts, Thursdays from September 10 to October 15 with instructor Marsha Browne. Fee is \$90. Make reservation NOW, call 219-836-1839.

MARQUETTE PARK STORY. At the Gardner Center on Lake Street, on **September 24, at 6:30 pm**, Bloomington-based storyteller Stephanie Holman will present “**A Shining Jewel on the Dunes**”, dealing with the history of Marquette Park and the people who were important in its history, back to the 1920s. Post-Tribune columnist Jerry Davich, author of the newly-released book, *Lost Gary*, will also speak and will sign copies of his book, which explores the city's vanished landmarks. Tickets are \$10. .

THE UNWONTED – art exhibit on display from October 9 to 15, with opening reception on October 9 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

GHOST STORIES to share, October 16 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

BASH RESCHEDULED. The **Bees Knees Bash**, a party and fundraiser for the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) has been rescheduled for

Halloween – **Saturday, October 31** at the Miller Bakery Café. The \$65 cost includes buffet, ‘giggle water’, music, dancing, live and silent auctions, all in Roaring 20s Speakeasy Style. You can make reservations, starting now, by calling 219-427-1446.

IN THE BACKGROUND, The Arts District has been conducting art classes for residents of Parkshore Commons on County Line Rd., and it has recently been awarded a grant from the Legacy Foundation which will make it possible to continue the classes and to extend them to residents of the Lakeshore Dunes Apartments on Lake St. as well. At Parkshore Commons, over 40 students a day attended 8 classes throughout June.

Discouraging bad businesses

The MCC and the Miller Business Association (MBA) have supported actions to eliminate two disreputable local businesses.

A recent homicide took place in the parking area of **Murphy’s House of Pain** on Rt. 12, which was also the scene of two other killings in the past several years. Murphy’s liquor license was up for renewal in June, 2015, but they had liquor law violations and no one from the bar appeared to explain what remedial action had been taken. The license renewal was therefore continued to the July, August and September meetings of the Liquor Board. At the September Liquor Board meeting, repre-sentatives of the MCC and the MBA opposed the license renewal, helping to assure that it would be rejected. The bar has not been opened for about the past month and it is currently for sale.

The **‘Too Much Temptation Gentleman’s Club’** at 6900 Melton Rd. was recently cited for allowing prostitution and for permitting customers to enter with alcoholic beverages. These are criminal offenses, which will be pursued in court. Gary Councilman-at-large Ron Brewer is initiating action to remove the Club’s city business license, which should force it to close, regardless of what happens with the morals and liquor offenses.

HELP FOR GARY POLICE. Gary has been plagued recently by a spurt in criminal activity, including homicides, at the same time that the police department is seriously understaffed. Sheriff Buncich, with financing from the

Lake County government, has been offering continued manpower support to our city. In addition, other area law enforcement agencies have also contributed to a one-time 'sweep' on August 6, which picked up a significant number of individuals with out-standing warrants.

MCC – the organization that does the things that people think just happen

Visit us at www.MillerCitizensCorp.org

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