

MCC election approaches

The Annual Meeting of the Miller Citizens Corp., when all dues-paying members are invited to attend and vote on the new Board of Directors, is scheduled for **Monday, October 14 at 7:30 pm at the Marquette Park United Methodist Church on Grand Blvd.** The MCC nominating committee, consisting of Chairman Cullen Ben Daniel and members Ed Johnston, Judy Tonk, Terry Payonk, and Meg Roman has slated the following candidates:

FOR TERMS ENDING IN 2015:

Jason Arndt	Elkhart St.
John Collie	Locust Ave.
Tom Eaton	Oak Avenue
Heather McCarthy	Lake Shore Drive
Pauline Millard	Lakewood Ave.
Samantha Norton	Hickory Ave.
Anita Quiett	Lake Shore Drive
Eric Reaves	Locust Ave.
Marsha Bradley Smith	Forest Ave.
Louis Stewart	Lake Shore Drive
Judy Tonk	Randolph St.
Roland Walker	Vermillion St.
Deb Weiss	Oak Avenue
Rachel Weiss	Morgan St.
Joseph Winfrey	Morgan St.

FOR THE TERM ENDING IN 2014

Cari Kniola	Juniper Ave.
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MCC members in good standing who have not been slated by the Nominating Committee can get their names on the ballot by submitting a petition signed by at least 10 MCC members, no later than October 9, 2013. Persons who wish to **vote** in the election must have their dues paid for 2013 no later than October 4, 2013.

Duly noted!

THE ANGELS SING. Once again, the traditional **Chorus Angelorum Concert**, a highlight of the musical season in Northwest Indiana, will take place at **St. Mary of the Lake Church on Miller Avenue**, starting at **8:00 pm on Friday, October 18.** Orchestra, choir, soloists and organ will present works by baroque masters - Gabrieli, Schutz, Vivaldi and Bach. There is no charge for admission, but free-will donations will be accepted.

ST. BARNABAS LUNCH. On Saturday, **October 19 from 11:00 to 2:00**, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church on Pottawatomie Trail in Miller will offer a variety of **homemade soups and salads**, to eat in or take out, for \$6.00. The event will also include a bake sale of homemade goodies. Proceeds will go to local schools and community. Please call Sarah Hensel at 938-3027 for tickets or for more information.

BRATS AND BULBS. The Miller Garden Club will present the sixth annual **Bulbs and Brats** event at the **Aquatorium in Marquette Park, Saturday, October 19 from 11:30 to 2:30 pm**. A large selection of bulbs for fall planting and spring blooming will be on sale at moderate prices – daffodils, tulips, alliums, hyacinths, and crocuses. On the side, lunches of freshly grilled brats and pop will be on sale for \$4, with a background of live bluegrass music for a pleasant fall event. As a sequel, the Garden Club will have a **work day** for members and other willing workers on the following **Saturday, October 26**. Volunteers will meet at the library on **Lake Street** at 9:00 am, to plant about 1,200 bulbs in the planters on Lake Street and in other public spaces.

TASTE OF CHILI AT THE LEGION. The **Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion Post 279** on Old Hobart Road will present a rerun of their **chili competition** on **Sunday, October 13**. Teams will cook up their pots of chili in the morning, and the results will be available for the public to taste and judge from 12:00 noon until 4:00 pm. Many types of chili will be represented and you can try them all for a modest \$4. .

LAKE STREET GIFT SHOP. A new gift shop has opened at 621 S. Lake Street (next to Hollywood's Barber Shop). Despite its small size, **Indie Indie Bang Bang** offers a wide range greeting cards, fashion accessories, jewelry, candles, personal care items, books, handbags, and other gifts. Hours are 10 to 6 weekdays except Monday and 11 to 4 on Sunday. The shop will have a grand opening and raffle on Friday, October 5.

BAKER'S HOUSE RETURNS. The Baker's House, at 6004 Miller Avenue, next to St. Mary of the Lake Church, will again be open for breakfast starting Tuesday, October 8. They will offer coffee and other beverages, pastries, and brunch items from 6:00 to 10:00 am., with the intention of expanding their hours later to include

ELIMINATING EYESORES. The Miller Business Association, led by George Rogge and Gene Ayers, is moving aggressively to demolish eyesore properties in Miller, with emphasis on the Lake Street corridor. They

are beginning by documenting the demolition procedures for city-owned properties, privately owned properties whose owners are cooperating in the process and properties whose owners are not cooperating. The MCC, under the leadership of Barb Hansen, worked for years to clean up eyesores in Miller, using the code enforcement process, but the system was largely ineffective – we could take people to court, but they just ignored the judgments and fines.

EXHIBIT BY VALPO U FACULTY. In the second part of October, the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District will present a major exhibit of works by nine members of the Valparaiso University faculty, representing a variety of media and styles. The exhibit, at the Gardner Center on Lake Street, will begin with an opening reception on Saturday, October 12 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The show will be open to the public subsequently on Sunday, October 13, Sunday October 20, and Sunday October 27 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm, and on Saturday October 19 and Saturday October 26 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The public is welcome.

ALVIN AILEY NOT COMING. The performance by the Alvin Ailey Dancers, planned for Tuesday, October 29 at the Wirt=Emerson auditorium, will **not** be taking place.

OCTOBER 2013 MCC MEETING

THE ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE MILLER CITIZENS CORP. WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, AT 7:30 PM IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE MARQUETTE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON GRAND BLVD. Members are invited to attend and participate. The General Membership of the MCC will elect half of the board of directors, for terms ending in 2015, and will fill one vacancy for a term ending in 2014.

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.

LEGION CRAFT BAZAAR. On Sunday, October 20, from 12:00 noon until 5:00 pm, the American Legion

Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a craft bazaar, featuring a variety of items, including jewelry, purses, food and baked goods. For additional information, call 938-9856.

BYOW AND CANVASS FUNDRAISER. Deb Weiss, a local resident and art instructor at Wirt-Emerson, will present an evening of instruction in acrylic painting at the **Marquette Perk coffee shop**, Locust Ave. at Shelby St., from **5:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Sunday, October 6**. Materials, (including paint, canvass and aprons) will be provided for participants to create their own paintings. Appetizers and desserts by Chef April Krantz are included, and students are encouraged to bring their own wine. Cost is \$50, of which \$20 will contribute to the purchase of additional kitchen equipment at the Perk. Only 15 places are available, and tickets can be purchased in advance at the Perk.

UPCOMING PARTIES. The **Roosevelt Class of '67** is planning a **Halloween costume ball at the Hobart Elks Club on October 26 from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am**, with dancing, live entertainment and food. The cost will be \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. For more information call Melvin at 219-306-0167. **The MCC would also like to revive its traditional Valentine's Day dinner-dance, and is looking for a Miller location which would be more affordable than the Marquette Park Pavilion.**

DUNES MARATHON SCHEDULED. There will be a marathon/half-marathon/5K run through Miller Streets on **Sunday morning, October 27**, starting at 7:30 am. The race will begin at Marquette Park and will wind through the beach neighborhood, downtown Miller, and Rt. 12. The event will include a buffet brunch at the Marquette Park pavilion, beginning at 9:30 am. **Runners can register on-line at www.dunesmarathon.com.** Costs for the marathon are \$100 in advance, \$125 on race day; for the half-marathon \$50 or \$60; for the 5K run \$25 or \$30. The races will be professionally timed and will establish eligibility for more selective marathon events. All the races will have awards by age groups.

Miller community works to maintain parks and gardens

The state-sanctioned Regional Development Authority (RDA) has invested \$28 million in the renovation of Gary's Marquette Park, but is prohibited from providing funds for park operation and maintenance. Money from park events and city taxes combined has been inadequate to fund effective operation of the park. From the start of the renovation process, the RDA demanded that the city

establish a Management Board, to raise funds and operate the park. However, the city insisted on operating the park on its own.

This has not worked well. The MCC has documented, in words and photographs, some of the shortcomings in this year's operation, which include a landscape full of weeds; an inoperable boat launch at Lake Street; a vacant concession stand at Montgomery St.; rest rooms which are never open; and dependence on volunteer effort for routine maintenance and trash collection. As a result, the MCC has revived proposals for a Marquette Park Management Board, and has assembled a delegation of local residents to meet with Mayor Freeman-Wilson and plead for a new management arrangement.

In the meantime, the **MCC Shoreline Committee** has adopted the area around Fr. Marquette's statue and has scheduled regular work days for weeding, trimming, mowing and planting. A group of residents has been working every Monday and Thursday morning to collect trash in the park, and beach cleaning has fallen on the shoulders of ordinary beach users. We can be thankful for all this volunteer effort, but it is no way to operate the park in the long run.

Meanwhile, park revenues have suffered because money-earning facilities, like the pavilion and the boat launch, have been underutilized.

In the background, volunteer efforts have been responsible for beautifying all of Miller. Garden club volunteers, led by **Susan Binkley and Dawn Vanzo**, have maintained the planters on Lake Street and public spaces at the South Shore stop, around the library, and at the Miller Town Hall. They have been aided by a team from the **Student Conservation Association** in mulching all of these areas. The Students will also be helping the Garden Club plant about 80 trees and shrubs donated by **Jansen's garden store in Hobart**. **The Miller Business Association** has provided funds for street cleaning on Lake Street and to finance some of the Garden Club work. Students from the Charter School of the Dunes have contributed two work days for cleaning up litter in the park. Thanks to all of these generous and hard-working volunteers!

Don't forget to send in your MCC membership renewal.