

Public Safety meeting set

Miller residents have been experiencing a rash of burglaries, at the same time that a whole new team has taken over the management of the Gary police and fire departments. **The MCC is sponsoring a public meeting at Beyond 4 Walls Christian Center, 875 S. Lake St. (next to Walgreen's) from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Thursday, April 19 which will give residents a chance to voice their concerns about public safety and to meet the new Police Chief, Wade Ingram, and Fire Chief, Teresa Everett.** Public safety plans and programs are extremely important for all Gary residents, so come and hear for yourself the new chief's plans for the Gary Police Department.

Cleanup planned for May 5

The annual spring cleanup has been on the MCC calendar for the past 40 years. This year, the event is also supported by the Miller Business Association, the Miller Garden Club, and other local groups. Everyone is invited to help clear trash and debris from the byways of Miller, from **7:00 am to noon on Saturday, May 5.** As usual, volunteers will be dispatched from the command post at the corner of Montgomery St. and Miller Avenue, under the "Miller sign".

Miller Arts District making big impact on Lake Street

The new farmer's market

The Miller Farmer's Market is being reorganized under the auspices of the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District. The market will be located at 667 South Lake Street, next to the South Shore tracks, with access to parking off of Sixth Place. It will be in operation **every Saturday from May 5 to September 29 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.** offering organic produce, ethnic foods, arts and crafts, artisan breads, flowers, candles, jewelry, meats, and live entertainment. The cost of booth space will be \$30 per event. Vendors who are interested in participating can contact Mary Dugger at mduguerre@aol.com to obtain an application form.

Pop-up Art

The next Pop-up Art event will again transform empty store-fronts on Lake Street into art galleries on Saturday, April 14, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Everyone is invited to come out and browse (and buy).

Banners

Within the next month, banners will be flying from all the lamp-posts in the Lake Street business district, featuring the logo of the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District, along with complementary banners for the various Lake Street businesses. The Miller Citizens Corp. has voted to spend \$200 for an MCC banner, to join the others along the street.

Planting

The Miller Garden Club has been caring for the planters in the middle of Lake Street, from the time they were first constructed. Last year, the planters were filled out with hundreds of new plants, including many day lilies and other specimens from the former Rosemary's Garden. This year, the Garden Club has agreed to take on the care of all the street-corner planters on Lake Street as well, to transform them from eyesores to beauty spots, in keeping with the club's objective of beautifying the public spaces of Miller.

Duly noted . . .

PIZZA FUNDRAISER. On **Tuesday, April 17 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm**, the **Gary Rotary Club** will again offer pizza by the **Rolling Stonebaker** as a fundraiser for their youth programs. Wood-fired flatbread pizzas with traditional and unusual toppings will be turned out from a converted Studebaker fire truck, at a cost of \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Ayers Realtors, the Lake Street Gallery, or Quick Care/Penzoil, 2119 Grant St. in Gary.

GREEN GARY DAY. The National Park Service and the Gary Park Department will present their annual **Green Gary program from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, April 21 at the Lake Street Beach and the Douglas Center on Lake Street.** The event will feature children's activities like kite flying, hiking through the dunes, a native plant presentation, a beach cleanup, art activities and a presentation on healthy homes by the Gary Health Department. Free parking and a shuttle between the two locations will be available.

GALLERY GALLOP. The **Lake Street Gallery**, 613 S. Lake Street, will again present the annual **Gallery Gallop** on **Saturday, May 19**, starting at 6:30 pm. The event consists of an 8.5 K run and a 3.0 K walk along the beach and into the dunes. There will be four prizes of \$250 each for the fastest men and women runners, and commemorative T-shirts for everyone. Pre-registration (prior to May 8) costs \$14 to \$16 per person; race-day registration is \$20. The Miller Business Association and the Miller Community Fund are also sponsors of the event. Proceeds go toward community projects.

PLANT SALE. The Miller Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale at the **Aquatorium on Saturday, May 19, starting at 9:00 am.** Plants donated by club members will be on sale at bargain prices, and they are almost certain to prosper in our environment – that’s why they are available to divide and give away.

LOCAL STUDENTS SHINE. Congratulations to the Wirt/Emerson Concert Choir which opened and closed the induction ceremony for the new Dean of Purdue University Calumet. Congratulations also to everyone involved in the middle school theater production of “The Wiz Jr.” under the tutelage of teachers Marion Lynn Boynes and Gary Peters.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MILLER CITIZENS CORP. BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 9, 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.

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.

PEACE AND JUSTICE SEDER. Following the 6:30 Haggadah service on **Friday, April 13**, Temple Israel on Montgomery St. will host a Peace and Justice Seder to which the public is invited. A festive meal will be served, for a cost of \$20 for adults or \$10 for students. Children under six are free. Purchase tickets in advance no later than April 8 – send a check with your reservation. For additional information, call the Temple at 938-5232.

LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT. Miller resident Corya Channing will be directing the Purdue University Calumet Theatre Co. in “Big Bowl of Broadway”, a review with songs and scenes from Broadway’s best musicals. The event will have a short run from Friday April 27 to Sunday, April 29 at the Purdue campus in Hammond. For more information or to make reservations call 219-989-2357.

Dawn is breaking for the Marquette Park renovation

After lagging behind schedule for the past year, the major reconstruction of Marquette Park is finally showing signs of progress. Even casual passers-by can see that there are

now windows (for better or worse) in the Pavilion, drive-ways and curbs are emerging, and the May completion date for work on the pavilion is looking almost realistic.

AQUATORIUM DEDICATION. Meanwhile, work on the Aquatorium, which has been on schedule all along, is nearing completion. **In fact, the Aquatorium Society has confidently set a firm date of Friday, May 11 for the festive dedication of the renovated west wing.** They have planned a big party from 5:30 to 9:00 pm, with the actual dedication taking place about 7:00 pm. For a ticket price of \$25, participants will be treated to wine, beer and hors d'oeuvres. **For another \$150, you can also have your name displayed on the bronze dedicatory plaque.** Mail requests (and checks) to the Aquatorium Society, 607 S. Lake Street, or stop in and pay in person.

THE NEXT STEPS. Mayor Freeman-Wilson is joining a host of other public officials on Tuesday, April 3, to “break ground” for the next phase of the Marquette Park Lakefront East project, which will include a new parking facility and utility improvements throughout the park.

In addition, Nora Glenn, the godmother of the **Kids Park**, has reported that this feature of Marquette Park will also be reworked. The local Kidstuff company will replace all the playground equipment. The ore boat (donated by Jennie Khan) will remain and will be repaired. The shelter will be rebuilt and will have power. There will be new water fountains and sidewalks, and the glider will be moved (to the dune where Octave Chanute flew it), perhaps to be replaced by swings.

REMAINING ISSUES. The configuration of the roadway through the park has not yet been determined, but there are strong voices from the community insisting that two lanes of traffic are imperative, regardless of what other needs for bikes, walkers, or parking are to be met. There are also questions about the plans for parking lots and for the proposed paved walkway over the dunes from Lake Street to the Marquette Park beach.

Officials and residents talk about beach rules and safety

As advertised, the March meeting of the MCC Shoreline Committee dealt with plans for the upcoming beach season. Gary Park Department Superintendent Caren Jones was present, along with public safety officials and representatives of the park renovation team, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and local residents.

Issues included when and how police officers should patrol the beach and what rules they should try to enforce, in relation to drinking, dogs, and boats. On all these issues, there is disagreement as to what should be permitted or prohibited and uncertainty about what city ordinances require. In addition, there are issues with physical facilities, including the buoys which separate swimmers from boats in the lake, trash cans all along the beach, and lifeguard stands which need to be repaired or replaced.

There was agreement that the police should be patrolling from around noon until after dusk, rather than starting patrols at 4:00 pm, which is already too late. Participants also agreed that there should be signs, at each access point to the beach, stating the beach rules and identifying the location for the benefit of rescue workers. **Committee members and the Park Department agreed to cooperate in designing and installing the signs, but there was less agreement concerning what rules to enforce.**

The Shoreline Committee will try to resolve some of these issues at their next meeting on Thursday, April 26 at 6:00 pm at St. Barnabas Church on Pottawatomie Trail. They then plan to have a public meeting at the Woodson Library on May 21 to let everyone know what has been decided.

Gary library faces challenges

At the **February board meeting**, the MCC voted to approve the decision of the Gary Library board to close the main library on Fifth Avenue and to serve Gary residents through the four branch libraries in Brunswick, Glen Park, Midtown and Miller, in order to deal with a drastic reduction in revenue. At the **March board meeting**, the MCC directors added that they do not support closing the main library and they are skeptical about the alternative uses for the building. They do not think the proposed museum and other activities will attract many users. They argue that the planned renovation is expensive and uses up reserve funds which could be devoted to upkeep of the four remaining branch libraries. In addition, these funds come from the library tax and should be used to operate libraries, not for other purposes.

Finally, the **MCC has invited Tony Walker, the president of the Library Board, to attend the April 9 MCC meeting**, to explain the plans for the main library building and to answer questions. As a result, the MCC board will know more about the library's plans and the library board will know more about what we think of those plans.