

Gary South Shore air show coming July 6th to 8th

If you're at all interested in air shows, the Gary South Shore air show is the one to watch. The action in the air is unequalled, and while you watch you can relax comfortably on the sand and cool off occasionally in the water. It's especially good for children, who have beach activities to amuse them in between aerial acts overhead.

Highlight of this year's show will be the US Air Force Thunderbirds who will perform each day at 3:30, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Thunderbirds will start off the Friday show at 3:30. This will be a twilight show, ending with the sun setting over Chicago and followed by fireworks, to be set off in the area of the Aquatorium.

Saturday and Sunday, the show will run from noon until 4:00 pm, and the Thunderbirds will be the final act.

All three days, admission is free. Premium parking just steps from the beach costs \$20. There are also food and merchandise vendors, a Kids Zone, a beer garden and military displays featured throughout the park. **Note that visitors who use the premium paid parking or who are dropped off inside Marquette Park are not allowed to bring coolers.**

Parking for the air show is also available at the West Beach of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, accessed off County Line Road. Parking there costs \$6, and there will be free shuttle service to Marquette Park. There will also be a free "trolley" picking people up along Oak Avenue and taking them to the park.

Miller Garden Club shows off our "Secret Gardens"

The Miller Garden Club will present its thirteenth annual garden walk, **"Flower beds, bird baths, and beyond"** on the weekend after the air show – **July 14 and 15 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.** This year's walk will feature 9 gardens, but it requires only five stops, since some of the gardens are adjacent to each other.

Tickets for the walk are \$8 and are available in advance at Ayers Realtors, the Lake Street Gallery, and the Marquette Perk (and from some garden club members.) On

the days of the walk, tickets can be purchased at the Aquatorium or at any of the gardens on display.

Headquarters and starting point for the walk is the Aquatorium in Marquette Park. From there, **free shuttle service** will take visitors to all the gardens on a regular schedule, starting at 10:00 am and ending at 2:30. There will also be a **bicycle tour**, starting from the Aquatorium at 10:30 am on Saturday. **Box lunches** will be available at the Aquatorium for \$10, and you can enjoy your meal in the beautiful confines of the renovated building. There will also be **vendors with garden products for sale** at the Aquatorium.

THE GARDEN CLUB BLOOMS MILLER

The Miller Garden Club brings together more than a hundred local residents, to encourage and assist them in developing their own gardens. Then, it also creates beautiful garden spots in the public spaces of Miller. What visitors see first is the garden at the South Shore Station, which leads into Lake Street with its flowering planters.

The long planters are currently at their peak and are worth a visit. Garden Club members also maintain the planters at the Aquatorium and they cooperate in keeping up the gardens at the Old Town Hall on Miller Avenue and the fire station on Grand Blvd. If you would like to share the sociability, the sense of accomplishment, AND THE WORK, join the club. Dues are just \$15 a year. You can sign up at Garden Club events (like the Garden Walk) or at monthly meetings – 10:00 am on the third Saturday of the month from March to November, at the Aquatorium. All are welcome.

Educational choice in Miller

Twenty years ago, public education in Miller meant Nobel and sometimes Miller School for the primary grades, Kennedy-King for middle school, and Wirt for High School. Special permission (granted mostly to basketball players) was required for Miller youth to attend any other Gary school. Now, our children can attend almost any school anywhere, and there are many new school options.

The MCC education committee has recently been active in dealing with the challenges of this educational diversity. They have championed two specific issues and have found Gary leaders to be uncooperative.

DUAL CREDITS. Most high schools in the Region offer some college-level courses to qualified seniors, which count as high school courses leading to graduation and also count as college courses, to give students a head start in college. At the urging of the Education

Committee, the MCC has written to the Gary Community School administration, urging them to offer dual-credit courses as well. This elicited a strong negative response from Gary school administrators who objected to the pressure from the MCC. They say they're working on it. Anyway, Gary still doesn't offer dual-credit courses.

SIDEWALKS. Committee member Jason Arndt found a source of funding which would provide grant money for constructing sidewalks on many streets leading to Gary schools, which students can now only reach by walking in the street. Lack of sidewalks is a safety hazard which could be corrected without cost to the local community. However, the City of Gary chose not to apply for the grants because they are developing a master plan for streets and sidewalks and want to include school access routes under some other grant proposal, which has not yet seen the light of day.

CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE DUNES (CSOTD). The first charter school in Gary was the Charter School of the Dunes, which has been operating since 2003 at the end of Lake Street, in the former national guard armory and associated modular classrooms. Danielle Sleight, the board president at CSOTD, notes that one of her sons started there as a kindergarten student and has now graduated from eighth grade. For several years, the CSOTD has been planning to build a new school on land they acquired at the corner of Rt. 20 and Old Hobart Road. These plans are now coming to fruition. Sleight expects the loan papers to be signed early in July, with construction to start shortly thereafter. The new school building, which will serve grades K through 12, should be ready for use in the fall of 2013. Students starting kindergarten will have the opportunity to stay in the one school for 13 years of education. This duplicates the original Gary system, where schools like Roosevelt, Tolleston, and Wirt all offered a K through 12 education.

MOSAIC MIDDLE SCHOOL. The Old Miller School will become a school once again for the coming year. It is being leased by **Mosaic Middle School**, a **private** (not public or charter) school for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students, partnering with New York-based Expeditionary Learning. Tuition at the private school will be \$4,950. Parents will be encouraged to apply for Indiana's school voucher program, for which the school has already been approved. The new school hopes to enroll at least 200 students, with an offer of small classes and a friendly learning environment. For more information, contact Janiece Carter by e-mail at janiece.carter@mosaicschools.org or call 1-888-793-8826.

Duly noted

INCOME TAX. The MCC Government Affairs Committee has decided to withdraw its proposal for the MCC to support the passage of a Lake county income tax.

FARMERS' MARKET. Don't forget the Farmers' Market, on Lake Street next to the Old Miller School, **every Saturday** through September **from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.** The market offers produce, prepared foods, and a variety of arts and crafts.

ART ON LAKE STREET. The next Pop-up Art event is scheduled for Saturday evening, August 11, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. There will be more details later, but for now, save the date!

444 GRILL. The 444 Grill at 444 S. Lake Street has been operating on a part-time basis, and potential customers have not known when they would be open. **The restaurant is now offering a "Caribbean fusion dining experience" daily except Sunday from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm.** Give it a try!

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

MCC MEMBERSHIP. Renewal notices will be going out soon to MCC members whose memberships expire in 2012, and members, old and new, will also be signed up at community events during the remainder of the summer. Being an MCC member makes you a contributor to the organization which has been working for more than 40 years to make Miller a desirable place to live. Members receive the Lakeshore Shopper, with the monthly Miller Message, in the mail. They are also entitled to participate at MCC monthly meetings, to vote for the board of directors at the annual meeting in October, and to take part in MCC committees, which deal with local problems and opportunities. Memberships

which are renewed in 2012 will be good until September, 2013. If you would like to join and support your community organization, you can send the \$10 yearly dues to MCC, P.O. Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403, along with your name, address, e-mail address, and phone number. The MCC has always kept dues cheap to encourage everyone in Miller to join and participate.

HISTORY PRESENTATION. The Miller Historical Society will sponsor a special presentation on the Tuskegee Airmen at the Douglas Center on Lake Street, Saturday July 7 at 1:00 pm. The public is welcome.

Marquette park develops

Marquette Park has a beautiful lakeside beach and it now boasts two beautifully restored buildings to host meetings and social events. **Both the Pavilion and the Aquatorium are booked for most weekends throughout the summer.** However, the surrounding parking space and lawns have been a disaster. Now, things are beginning to come together. The main parking lots are to be completed prior to the air show and some of the gates and fences will be removed.

The Marquette Kids Park is being rebuilt by the local firm Kidstuff, in compliance with current safety standards. The memorial bricks, which recognized persons who contributed to the construction of the original park, will be saved and replaced.

The **former tennis courts** have been removed and the area returned to wetlands, as nature urges. The **asphalt trail** across the dunes from the Pavilion to Lake Street remains in the plan, and residents are urged to have confidence that the planners know what they are doing. Some of the **Ginko trees** which line Oak Avenue through the park have been removed because of damage, but the trees which remain will stay. Trees have also been removed from the foredune along the beach, where they were interlopers whose shade interfered with the growth of dune grass.

The **Aquatorium Society** has been negotiating with the new Gary Fire Chief over fire safety requirements. The Society is installing an elaborate fire control box at a cost of \$30,000, and is awaiting installation of a fire hydrant in front of the building. No open flame will be allowed in the building until these items are completed. The Society is still negotiating with the City over the cost of fire watch personnel.