

## **MBA upcoming events slated**

**George Rogge reports that the Miller Business Association (MBA) has a number of activities planned for the coming month.**

**A LIGHT SUPPER AT WELLS STREET BEACH. Thursday, September 13 at 5:30 –** Everyone is welcome. Free for MBA members, \$5.00 for others. As you can see, this is NOT a fund-raiser – just come and have fun.

**A COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE AT THE WELLS STREET BEACH, Saturday, September 22 at 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.** Clean out your closets, basements, sheds and garages and rent a space for \$25.00 to sell your unwanted treasures. Or come to shop and stay for lunch. The concession stand will be open. **All rental fees and concession stand profits will benefit the Miller Community Fund.** To rent a space, call 938-8275 or 939-8711.

**FUNDRAISER FOR THE MILLER COMMUNITY FUND, Sunday, October 7 at 3:00 pm** at **Angela's Pantry on Miller Avenue. Tickets are \$40 in advance or \$50 at the door.** They will go on sale September 6 at Angela's Pantry (427-1047), Ayers Realtors (938-1188), Lake Street Gallery (938-4566) and Petit Accounting (938-2644). **Angela's Pantry promises to offer interesting and tasty items for sampling during this event. Get your tickets early!**

## **Report from the August 2012 meeting of the MCC board**

### **EDUCATION AFFAIRS.**

Dr. Adrian Richie, the new principal of the Wirt-Emerson High School, appeared at the invitation of First District School Board Member Barbara Leek, to introduce himself to the MCC Education Committee and the MCC board members. Dr. Richie grew up in Gary, but he began his career as an educator about 30 years ago in Houston, TX. Most recently, he has been a school administrator in Lowell, IN. **He noted that the student body at Wirt-Emerson will include grades five through twelve, and will be divided between an arts group and a high ability group. The school year will be divided into three trimesters of 12 weeks each, and class periods will be 70 minutes in length.**

The MCC Education Committee has complained that members tried to volunteer their services in the Gary schools, but the previous principal at Wirt-Emerson had not forwarded a single volunteer application to the central office. Dr. Richie, in contrast, was receptive to the idea of having volunteers help out in the school, and he can be expected to approve such applications in the coming year. He believes volunteers would be helpful in the classrooms to facilitate his “discovery approach” to learning, and in the halls to provide increased security.

School Board member Barbara Leek appeared, to correct misconceptions concerning the Gary schools’ policy on courses for dual high school and college credit. She noted that the school city does have arrangements for such classes in collaboration with Purdue North Central, and has talks under way with Indiana University Northwest (in Gary). However, the Gary schools do not have joint credit classes with Purdue Northwest because the Hammond campus chooses to work exclusively with the Crown Point schools.

### **MARQUETTE PARK RENOVATION**

The promise is that the work on the Pavilion will REALLY be completed in September and everything else will be done before winter. Seeing the roads paved is an encouraging sign of progress. However, on controversial issues where the MCC representatives expressed an opinion, we have never gotten to first base.

From the start, the MCC (and the Regional Development Authority, which is funding the project) insisted that the city agree to a park management plan which included a “park conservancy” with shared responsibilities between the city and the outside support group. Both Mayor Clay and Mayor Freeman-Wilson have dragged their feet on this issue, and in the end, the city has put forth a management plan which retains full control with the city. The claim is that the Marquette Park facilities will generate enough revenue to pay for park maintenance, recognizing that the city does not have money to contribute to this effort. Carol Smith, the MCC lakeshore committee chairman, is willing to give the city a chance to show that this approach will work.

When the construction schedule called for closing the Lake Street boat ramp in the middle of August, we initially got the city to agree to keep it open through Labor Day. However, they reneged on this promise and closed the ramp early, with the argument that the revenue we lose does not justify the cost we would incur if all the work is not completed before snow falls.

Many Miller residents have objected, from day one, to the plan for a single lane of automobile traffic through the

park, but the planners have not reconsidered their decision.

Very recently, observers have been dismayed by the triangular traffic island unexpectedly installed at the intersection of Oak Avenue and Montgomery Street. However, the last-minute objections of the MCC did not prevent the island from being completed.

**Local residents who have followed the design and construction process uniformly complain that the planners have held all the required public meetings, but have paid no attention to anything which members of the public have said at those meetings.**

#### **OTHER ISSUE.**

The MCC board has voted to support the request for a liquor license at Angela's Pantry, our new restaurant on Miller Avenue, thereby drawing a line between **restaurants** which we promote and **strip joints** which we don't.

#### **AUTUMN DANCE SCHEDULED**

**The MCC is formulating plans for a Halloween Masked Ball, to be held at the newly renovated Marquette Park Pavilion on Saturday, October 27. Details are still being worked out, but for now SAVE THE DATE!**

**If you could help organize this event, contact Heather McCarthy at 757-1830 or by e-mail at [heather.mccarthy@geminus.org](mailto:heather.mccarthy@geminus.org).**

## **Duly noted . . .**

**PAWS & PARTY 2012.** The **Humane Society of NW Indiana** (on Rt. 20, next to Jonathan's) will hold their big annual fundraiser on **Saturday, September 22 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm** at the home of **Jerry Kanies, 1145 N. St. Joseph St. in Miller**. The event will include a silent auction, a live auction, a 50/50 raffle, with a background of serious hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and soft drinks. Tickets are \$50, and can be reserved by calling 938-3339, or you can pay at the door.

**WOODY GUTHRIE BOOK SIGNING.** To celebrate the centennial of Woody Guthrie's birth (1912-1967), author **Ron Cohen** invites you to a discussion and book signing for his recently-published biography of Guthrie, *Writing America's Songs*. The event will take

place at **Angela's Pantry, 6132 Miller Avenue** (219-427-1047) on **Sunday, September 16 from 5 to 7 pm**. There will be light refreshments (plus a cash bar), along with musical entertainment by Miller's own Rich Hoblitzel.

**REVOLUTION CONCERT.** On Saturday, September 15, the Revolution Church, 301 S. Lake Street, will host an R&B and Hip Hop concert, featuring national and local artists: *Thi'sl, Reconcile, AD3, Tina Carter, Lucius, Point Ash, and DJ Rhino*. Tickets are \$8, and are available at the door or on-line at <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=zovo5kcab&oeidk=a07e69i7vfy16ac32ae>. Doors will open at 7:00 and the concert starts at 8:00. For further information contact Ryan Flemming, The Revolution, [rhino1287@gmail.com](mailto:rhino1287@gmail.com), 219-628-5974

## **SEPTEMBER MCC MEETING**

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MILLER CITIZENS CORP. BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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 meeting will include a short presentation by Sandy Rodriguez concerning the Stewart House Urban Farm and Gardens in Gary.**

**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).**

**THE ANGELS WILL BE SINGING.** The annual Chorus Angelorum concert will again be presented at **St. Mary of the Lake Church on Miller Avenue, Friday October 12 at 8:00 pm**. This year there will be an all-Mozart program, culminating in the "Great" Mass in C Minor. This is always a must event for lovers of classical music. The concert is free, but they do take up a collection.

**COLLEGE NIGHT PLANNED.** The Gary Community School Corp. will host the annual **Regional College Night** on Tuesday, September 18 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Gary Area Career Center, 1800 E. 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. Over 70 colleges will be represented. Financial aid

information will be available. The event is free to all—students, parents and the general public.

**POP-UP ART – OCTOBER 13.** The next **Pop-Up Art event on Lake Street is planned for Saturday, October 13 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm.** The Arts District is looking for artists interested in showing their work to hundreds of spectators who might prove to be a whole new market. For more information, check [millerbeacharts.org](http://millerbeacharts.org). (The final Pop-Up Art event for 2012 is scheduled for December 8.)

**OLD MILLER SCHOOL NOW EMPTY.** As a result of an uncertain tax status and arbitrary demands by the owner of the building, South Shore Dance has moved from the former Miller School on Lake Street to new quarters at 201 N. Griffith Blvd. in Griffith. Then, the proposed Mosaic Middle School also decided to seek other quarters. As a result, the building on Lake Street has no occupants. (Unfortunately for Mosaic, the alternative location they chose is also beset with tax problems, and they have been forced to postpone opening until the 2013 school year.)

## **MCC membership drive is on**

MCC membership renewal forms have been sent out and returns are beginning to come in. **Annual dues remain at a modest \$10 per year**, because the community organization wants to maintain a broad base of support. At the same time, additional contributions are welcome from those who can afford more.

**The basic benefit from paying dues is keeping the MCC in operation**, to look after the interests of Miller residents in areas such as public safety, education, recreation, taxes, economic development, code enforcement, and community cohesion. In addition, members receive a copy of the MCC newsletter, the Miller Message, each month in the mail as a feature of the Lakeshore Shopper advertising paper.

If you have received a renewal notice, please send in your dues for the current year without delay. Dues which are paid prior to October 2012 entitle the member to vote in this year's election of MCC board members.

**If you have NOT received a renewal form (or can't find it) you can become an MCC member by sending a check for \$10 to MCC, P.O.Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403 with your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. The MCC wants to have the support of every Miller resident.**