

Ed Asner to appear as FDR

The Miller Beach Arts District, in collaboration with Mark Spencer and Mass Media VII, will present television, stage and film star Ed Asner in a one-man show as President Franklin Roosevelt in **FDR**, at the Marquette Park Pavilion on Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 pm. From Broadway in New York, this will be an exclusive performance in the Chicago area. Reviewer Steve Seigel calls the performance “a tour de force of the actor’s craft, as intensely physical as it is emotional.”

General admission tickets will be \$35, but the Arts District is also soliciting contributions and is offering special rewards for high-end donations at the levels of \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000, payable by check to the Miller Community Fund.

The Arts District is also planning events later in the year which will feature actor John Amos and jazz pianist Ramsey Lewis.

A shock for charter schools

Ball State University, which has been the main sponsor of Indiana charter schools, has announced that it is not renewing the charters of the Charter School of the Dunes (CSD) and the LEAD Charter School in Miller. Leaders of the CSD were especially dismayed by this news, since they have just negotiated large bank loans to finance construction of their new school buildings at the corner of Rt. 20 and Old Hobart Road. All the bank deals were closed with support from Ball State, with no hint that the school’s charter might be withdrawn. The CSOD has about 400 students from kindergarten into high school and would be offering a K through 12 education in their new facility. Charter School board president Danielle Sleight reports that the school is appealing the decision by Ball State, with a hearing to be held in the next several months. They are also exploring the possibility of obtaining sponsorship from some other 4-year college. Meanwhile, construction of the new school facility is continuing.

The CSD is encouraging supporters to **call the office of Ball State’s President, Dr. Gora, at 765-285-5555 to request that the charter be renewed.** They could make a plea for the LEAD school as well. Supporters can also sign a petition through Change.org at the following address: **https://www.change.org/petitions/ball-state-university-keeping-charter-school-of-the-dunes-open-is-in-the-best-interest-of-our-students-and-the-community?share_id=eqVEFmSyqa&utm_campaign=**

mailto:link&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share
[petition](#).

The MCC has supported the CSD since its inception, as a desirable alternative for educating local students.

Duly noted

LEONTYNE PRICE FILM. The Miller Beach Arts District is presenting a documentary film celebrating the life of opera singer Leontyne Price, with an introduction by Larry Lapidus, at the Gardener Center on Lake Street, Saturday, February 9 at 7:00 pm. Admission is \$12 per person.

TAKE OUT OR EAT IN. St. Mary of the Lake Church on Miller Avenue is holding its annual bake sale on **Saturday afternoon, February 2 and Sunday morning, February 3**. A wide selection of home-made baked goods will be offered in the vestibule of the church at 5:00 to 6:00 pm on Saturday and in the school gym on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 12:15.. On Sunday morning, coffee will be served, so visitors can enjoy a relaxing breakfast and taste the goodies right on the spot. Proceeds go to the parish funeral committee, which provides dinners after funerals of the church for families and friends of the deceased.

PLANNING A SUMMER EVENT. For several years, the MCC has considered having an event in the summer which would bring together all segments of the community. Now, Barb Hansen has volunteered to head a committee which will plan and organize such an event. Hansen is stil looking for additional committee members who are interested in helping with this project. If you would like to join in, contact Hansen by e-mail at bhansen252@hotmail.com.

MARQUETTE TRASH STATION STILL AN ISSUE. Many Miller residents have been offended by the placement of the trash collection station at the east end of Marquette Park, where it is the first thing **all** visitors to the park see when they pass the intersection of Oak Avenue and Montgomery St.,which is the only way into the park. Mayor Freeman-Wilson has been presented with several options for dealing with this eyesore, all of which seem unreasonably expensive, but she has made no decision on what to do. Meanwhile, George **Rogge has solicited independent bids for simply removing the offending structure. He has obtained an offer from a registered Gary contractor to dismantle the trash collection station for \$2,500 and he has located private funding to pay the bill.** The Aquatorium Society has

also offered to let the operators of the sandwich stand dump their rubbish in the Aquatorium dumpster. These offers have been conveyed to the Mayor through City planning director Dwayne Williams, but there has so far been no response.

GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY. Ron Gholson has announced that the MCC Government Committee and the Public Safety Committee have been combined to meet as one group. The meetings will be held on the last Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Datamine office, 330 S. Lake Street. The next meeting date will be February 28. All MCC members are invited to attend and participate.

WANTED: DENNY DAVIS PAINTINGS. The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District is trying to organize a Denny Davis Retrospective for March or April. They are currently looking for people who would be willing to lend artworks for this exhibition. If you have art or would be willing to volunteer to help with the event, contact Corey Hagelberg at cwhagelberg@bsu.edu.

TAILS OF LOVE FUNDRAISER. The Humane Society of Northwest Indiana, located next to Jonathan's on Rt. 20 in Miller, is holding a big fundraising event "**Tails of Love**" on Sunday, February 24, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at Maxine's Restaurant at 521 Franklin St. in Michigan City. Maxine's is donating space and food for the event, which will include a silent auction from 4:00 to 6:30 and a live auction at 6:00. Artwork, jewelry, electronics and other items will be up for bid. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. For reservations, call 938-3339 by February 19. Tickets will be sold at the door, but reservations are preferred. **Proceeds will support the Humane Society's work taking care of animals.**

FEBRUARY MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MILLER CITIZENS CORP. BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 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 DUES. When you pay your modest \$10 and become a dues-paying member of the MCC, when does your membership expire? We finally have a clear answer to this question, which the MCC board has just approved: MCC memberships are for a calendar year, regardless of when, during the year, you pay. The corollary is: if you are already paid up for the current year and you pay again the same year, that will extend your membership a year into the future. As an aside, to be eligible to vote at the MCC annual meeting in October, when board members are elected, your payment for that year must be made before September 30.

WIRT/EMERSON EVENTS. A large number of Wirt/Emerson students are involved in some area of the arts as their major school activity, so that practice, performance and production are more than just extra-curricular activities. Some of their upcoming performances include:

Chamber concert in the band room featuring state-qualifying soloists and ensembles – February 19

Drama production “Bud, not Buddy” – February 14 and 15 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium

Ceramics and sculpture exhibit at the Lake Street Gallery – Friday, March 1 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm

Come out and see what our students are doing.

Wirt/Emerson Arts Auditions will be held on Friday afternoon, March 15 and Saturday, March 16. For more information, call 938-1161.

THE LEGION INVITES YOU. The Miller-Dunes Post of the American Legion on Old Hobart Road is throwing a **Valentine Party on Saturday, February 16 from 7:00 to 11:00 pm**, with music, dancing, karaoke and a cash bar. **Everyone is invited** to join the festivities. The public is also invited to a Fish Fry **every Friday from 2:00 to 8:00 pm**. Day in and day out, the Legion Post invites veterans who have served during any of our (many) wars to become members, enjoy the socializing, and help all veterans secure and access benefits. For information on all of the above, contact Commander Billy Rose at 219-512-0795.

Tax issues are forever

Last summer, workers prowled the neighborhood, measuring and photographing properties as part of the mandated general reassessment, to assure that records accurately reflected the size, composition and other features of each property. Meanwhile, the MCC Tax Committee was working behind the scenes to assure that the land values assigned to properties were consistent and

reasonable. In the previous several years, there were significant problems with land values in the area of Miller north of Oak Avenue but south of the lakefront.; Many of these properties were assessed with beachfront rates which greatly exaggerated their value.

Last fall, a group of Miller residents, led by George Rogge, met several times with county assessor Hank Adams, to assure that these anomalies would not be included in the new reassessment. They ended up with an agreement that all residential properties involved would be assigned to the same neighborhood code – 2500 – with a value of \$900 per front foot. However, when the assessment notices came out, the assigned value was \$1,500 per front foot—an unpleasant surprise for the property owners. Going back to the county assessor’s office, Rogge determined that the State Log of Tables did assign a value of \$900 per foot to Code 2500, and this information had been transmitted to the Township Assessor in time to have it reflected in the Form 11 documents which were recently sent out. We are now pressing Jackie Collins to correct the assessment records, so they agree with the state-authorized values, before the tax bills are sent out.

Apart from this particular problem area, it appears that assessments rose slightly compared with last year. If this results in a valuation which the property owner feels is out of line, his only recourse is to submit an appeal, which he must do within 45 days of receiving his Form 11 notice of assessment. Hopefully, there will be fewer appeals than in the past several years, and appeals will be heard on a more timely basis.

Education committee influences Gary Career Center expansion

The MCC Education Committee, represented by Jason Arndt, has been urging the Gary Community Schools to make classes at the Gary Area Career Center available to a larger number of students. The Career Center focuses on vocational education in a variety of crafts, but only high school juniors and seniors with a grade-point average above 2.5 have been allowed to attend. Our committee members felt that younger students would also benefit from this curriculum, and the opportunity for vocational training might keep in school many of the students who currently drop out.

Arndt has recently heard from Dr. Pruitt, the School Superintendent, that the schools’ policy has changed and freshmen and sophomores are now being admitted to the Career Center. Pruitt is also working to expand the course offerings at the Career Center.