

Miller cleanup set – May 11

As anyone can see, Miller streets and roads are lined with rubbish. **May 11 is the date of the annual Miller Cleanup**, when members of the **Miller Citizens Corp.**, the **Miller Business Association**, and the **Miller Garden Club**, along with other public-spirited **residents**, will come together to clean up the trash and plant flowers in public places. Volunteers will meet across from the Miller town hall, Miller Ave. and Montgomery St., starting around 7:00 am and later, and they will work until about noon. Last year, more than 65 people participated in the annual cleanup. Maybe this year we can beat that record. **To participate, you don't need to belong to any of the sponsoring organizations. Everyone is invited to come out and lend a hand to keep Miller looking good.**

Duly noted

ANNUAL PLANT SALE – MAY 18. The **Miller Garden Club**, which has been “digging Miller” since 1998, will hold its yearly **sale of donated flower and vegetable plants, garden tools, garden-related knick-knacks and baked goods** on **Saturday, May 18 from 9:00 am to noon, at the Aquatorium in Marquette Park.** The sale offers plants which prosper in the Miller Beach climate and you can get them at really low prices. There will also be herb plants for sale. **This is a great opportunity to start or expand your garden!** In addition, the Miller Garden Club is taking orders for **tumbling composters, rain barrels and rain barrel accessories**, for pickup at the Aquatorium on June 1.

SCONES, TEA AND ARTS. **St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 601 Pottawatomie Trail, will present its annual spring tea on Saturday, May 18 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.** Guests are invited to enjoy home made scones, tea sandwiches and hot tea, amidst paintings from their “art gallelry”. There will also be **entertainment by local artists (free), baked goods (to purchase),** and a raffle basket filled with special gifts. Seating is limited, so **make your reservation by calling Sarah Hensel at 219-938-3027.**

TRIBUTE TO DR. Q. The Aquatorium Society is presenting a tribute to the late **Quentin Smith**, who was one of the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II and was subsequently a prominent public figure in Gary for the next sixty years. Smith was a long-time board member of the Aquatorium Society. This is a fundraiser for the society and tickets are \$25.

CHICKEN AND RIBS ON THE RUN. The Marquette Park United Methodist Church on Grand Blvd. is holding its annual Chicken and Ribs Dinner the afternoon of **Saturday, May 11 from 11:00 am to 5:30 pm.** Dinners of barbeque chicken and barbeque ribs, with sides of coleslaw and beans, will be available to eat in or carry out. Tickets are available in advance at the church office (call 938-4106) -- \$8 for chicken and \$12 for ribs. You can also just stop and buy meals on the day of the event, but prices are higher: \$10 for chicken and \$15 for ribs, and they might run out. **When you've finished cleaning up and planting Miller, you'll be too tired to cook dinner, so you can stop by Marquette Methodist and let them cook for you.**

RUNNING IN THE DUNES. This year marks a landmark anniversary - the **20th enactment of the Gallery Gallop, an 8.5 K run and 3 K walk** through the dunes, starting at the Lake Street beach. The runners make a loop to the east, while the walkers hike through the dunes to the west. Race day is **Saturday, May 18, 2013, with registration from 5:00 to 6:00 and the starting gun at 6:30 pm.** Entry costs \$16 in advance or \$20 the day of the race. Register in advance online at www.thtiming.com or at the Lake Street Gallery, 613 S. Lake Street. This is a grueling (up and down dunes) CRS Gold Cup Series Race, with cash prizes for the top finishers. **However, it's also a fun event, even for slow runners and (non-competitive) walkers.**

INTRODUCTION TO TENNIS. Again this summer, Chester Baran is offering **tennis instruction for adults and children** who are new to the sport. He will be putting up the nets at the tennis courts next to **Banneker School** and will offer basic instruction for **adults** on the **five Wednesdays of May from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.** Anyone who is interested can contact Baran at chet1bar@hotmail.com. **Beginning on Wednesday, June 5,** Baran will provide instruction, without charge, for **children ages 8 to 12,** each week until school starts in August. Participants should bring a tennis racket, a bottle of water, and an adult if possible. To sign up, call 219-384-4863 or e-mail to chet1bar@hotmail.com.

DAY CAMP RETURNS. For the third year, Maggie Mooers and Alison Reba are conducting their Miller Beach Day Camp. The camp will operate from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm daily, and will involve a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, with the Marquette Park United Methodist Church on Grand Blvd. as headquarters. The cost is \$20 per day for each participant (\$15 for each additional child from the same family) and does not include lunch. For more information, contact Maggie Mooers at (219)-576-3334, Alison Reba at (219)-218-7736, or e-mail millerbeachdaycamp@gmail.com.

MUSIC STUDENTS PERFORM. Wirt-Emerson music students have won a ton of awards in individual and group competitions with other high school students. Upcoming public performances will now give Miller residents a chance to hear for themselves how good they are.

Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 pm – Spring Band Concert

Thursday, My 16 at 6:30 pm – Orchestra Concert

Tuesday, May 21 at 6:30 pm – Jazz Tornadoes Concert with special guests

Come and check them out at the Wirt-Emerson Auditorium.

FARMERS' MARKET. The Miller Beach Farmers' Market, sponsored by the Miller Beach Arts District, will operate this year on **Sunday, rather than Saturday (like last year), starting on Sunday, May 5.** The market is located on Lake Street, between the South Shore tracks and the Old Miller School. Offerings will include produce, other food products, and various items of merchandise. Market hours will be 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. An added feature this year will be the Miller Market University, a weekly series of lectures and workshops by local talent. The first presentation will be a talk by Tim Petrites, a natural products advocate, on Sunday, May 5 from noon to 1:00 pm: **Be yourself only better – how to keep disease at bay and feel outstanding every day.**

MAY 2013 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MILLER CITIZENS CORP. BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 13, 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.

AIR SHOW GROUNDED. Budget constraints have caused the US Air Force to cancel participation in air shows around the country, including the one here in Gary. Without the attraction of the top-billed air force planes, the private acts don't draw enough sponsors to support the Gary/South Shore Air Show, so the event, scheduled for July 12 to 14, has been cancelled for this year.

Fortunately, you can still party, party, party on your own.

KEEPING GARY GREEN. Gary's Department of Green Urbanism will hold another free **Rain Barrel Workshop** at the Douglas Center on Lake Street, **Saturday May 4 from 9:00 am to noon.** Participants will get a free rain barrel at the end. The Green Gary department also has a grant, associated with stormwater management, for planting trees in Gary, and is investigating where additional trees would be aesthetically and functionally desirable.

News from the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District

ED ASNER EVENT.

Recovered from the health problems which aborted his previously-scheduled performance, Ed Asner returned on April 23 to make good on his parting pledge: "I'll be back!" The venue for the return performance was the Wirt/Emerson auditorium, an attractive and comfortable theater. Tickets from the earlier date were exchanged at no charge, and the Arts District was able to sell additional tickets because the new location had a larger capacity than the Marquette Park Pavilion. This time, everything went well and the larger audience was able to enjoy a memorable performance by Ed Asner as **FDR.**

JUDY GARLAND DOCUMENTARY.

Saturday, May 4 at 7:00 pm. The MBACD presents a documentary on *Judy Garland – the Concert Years*, which will include reminiscences by family and friends, "live" recordings from the stage and television, and appearances with other stars, with an introduction by Larry Lapidus. At the Gardner Center, 540 S. Lake Street. (This program is rescheduled from an earlier date).

WIRT-EMERSON EVENTS

In May, the Arts District will feature art work by students at the Wirt-Emerson Visual and Performing Arts High Ability Academy (aka Wirt-Emerson) as a backdrop to appearances by choral, instrumental and dance performers from the school.

SATURDAY, MAY 11 AT 7:00 PM. Four groups will perform at the Gardner Center, including the highly acclaimed Concert Choir, directed by Marion Lynn Boynes; a Dance Ensemble directed by Larry Brewer; a woodwind quintet from the band department directed by

Lea Larson, and a string quartet from the Orchestra Department, directed by Rovelli Grib.

FRIDAY, MAY 17 AT 7:00 PM. Two younger groups will perform: the Junior High Choir, directed by Kamille Brinker, and a Dance Troupe in a tribute to Michael Davis, a recently retired and long time dance instructor at Wirt-Emerson. In addition: “What We Sow,” produced by Carolyn McCrady, will highlight the success of Wirt-Emerson over its 25 year history because of its priority for the arts.

GRAFFITI ART IN JUNE

WEEKEND OF JUNE 15 AND 16. The “Lake Effect Festival” will be a pop-up art event, with music in the street and wall art on Lake Street buildings. An associated event will be a showing of the documentary film “Exit through the gift shop” about London graffiti artist Banksy.

LATER

The Arts District is planning a **jazz festival in July** in collaboration with the Chicago Blues Museum. There will also be a performance of the **Northwest Indiana Symphony in August** for which money is already available. The annual **Chorus Angelorum concert will also be returning in October.**

Beach plans set for summer

The Gary park department, public safety personnel, and the MCC Shoreline Committee have been working in the off season to make the upcoming beach season a pleasure for everyone. They hope to start with vigorous enforcement of the rules at the beginning of the season, which proved effective last summer. With this in mind, the park budget will provide for six beach security officers, up from four last year.

The buoys which separate boating areas from swimming areas are expected to be in place before Memorial Day. The person who stores and installs the buoys has been paid for last year and money has been set aside to pay him this year, so only the weather should interfere with their deployment.

Parking fees have been equalized between Marquette Park and Lake Street, and more reasonable prices have been set for season passes. The main unresolved issue is **trash collection on weekends**, when, the few employees available will be tied up operating the boat launch.