

Mid-summer festival of art set for Lake St. on June 15

The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) is planning a big event in June.

For the first half of the month, a platoon of artists will be creating semi-permanent artworks on the outside walls of buildings in downtown Miller.

Then, on **Saturday, June 8, at 7:00 pm**, the Arts District will present a film Exit Through the Gift Shop by Banksy, a well-known British street artist, with an introduction by Corey Hagelberg, a well-known local artist. The film deals with the life of Thierry Guetta, a French cameraman, who encounters Banksy and photographs his work as a documentary on street art.

The effort will culminate in the **Lake Effects Graffiti Art Expo on June 15 – an all-day festival when Lake Street will be closed to through traffic from noon until 8:00 pm**, so the street can be given over to live music, a beer garden, food, and a wonderful variety of art. As in other pop-up art events, a wide variety of artists in various media will be presenting their work. A well-known Dyer artist, Tom Torluemke, will be featured in the Gardner Center for the Arts at 540 S. Lake Street.

And, in the background, visitors will have a chance to check out all the public art created by graffiti artists on the walls of Lake Street buildings. (Check out a video about the project at <http://www.millerbeacharts.org>.)

Looking ahead, the next subsequent pop-up art event will be on **July 20**.

Duly noted . . .

SECRET GARDENS REVEALED. The Miller Garden club will present its 14th annual **Secret Garden Walk on Saturday and Sunday, July 6 and 7, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Seven gardens will be on display at 5 stops. Tickets are \$10 per person and include free van transportation from garden to garden. Headquarters for the event is at the Aquatorium in Marquette Park, where box lunches are available for purchase and a variety of vendors are selling their wares. **Come see what beauty lies hidden in the byways of Miller.**

WELCOME BACK TO THE BAKERY! Jack Strode and his family have been easing the Miller Bakery

Café back into operation. First, they only offered cocktails and small plates on Friday afternoons. Then, they had a “soft” opening and started serving dinner every evening except Monday. Now, they are also serving lunch, Tuesday through Friday. **On Friday, June 14, the restaurant will have its “Grand Opening”, with champagne and a special menu.** Strode is a veteran manager of well-known Chicago restaurants, whose family has long-time ties to Northwest Indiana. The chef is Cheryl Bernacchi, whose cooking has won enthusiastic reviews from food critics and customers. The décor is eye-catching, beginning with the newly-painted façade. Get all the details at www.millerbakerycafe.com. For reservations call 219-427-1446

BREWERY COMING TO LAKE STREET. The **18th Street Brewery** is preparing to open a **tap room** on Lake Street in the former Artistic Cleaners building. The lease has been signed and the brewing equipment is being moved in. Owner Drew Fox, a Gary resident with experience in the micro-brewing business, hopes to be open for business in late summer. The brewery will make beer for consumption on the premises and for distribution in 22-oz. “bombers” throughout the Region. They plan to have a half-dozen beers on tap at a time. They will not sell food, but customers can BYOF from nearby provisioners like Miller Pizza or Armans.

CONVENIENCE REDEFINED. The Miller Beach Marketplace on Shelby Street continues to expand its offerings, which range from staples like milk and bread to fresh produce and a wide range of gourmet items, making it a place to stop in and browse, even when you haven’t run out of some critical item. On weekends, Rosie is turning out a wide range of Mexican favorites, including tacos, tamales, guacamole, salsa, and other condiments. The owner, Carmela Saraceno, is applying for a liquor license and expects to add beer and wine to her offerings later in the summer.

AND ACROSS THE STREET . . . Also at Shelby and Locust, the Marquette Perk is offering a wide selection of decadent breakfast and lunch dishes, while the Flamingo and the Beach Café continue to present old favorites with an expanded beer selection to wash down the food.

MCC SEEKS BOARD MEMBERS. The MCC Nomination Committee is being organized, with Cullen Ben Daniel as chairman and members Ed Johnston, Judy Tonk, and Terry Payonk (plus one to be named later). The committee is charged with recruiting and evaluating candidates for the MCC Board of Directors election in October. If you would be interested in serving for a two-

year term on the board, contact Cullen Ben Daniel at millerhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

CLEANUP SETS RECORD. Carol Smith from the MCC and George Rogge from the Miller Business Association (MBA) organized the May 11 community cleanup which set a 40-year record for participation. More than 100 persons from the MCC, the MBA, the Miller Garden Club, the Miller Historical Society, the Lakeshore Baptist Church, the Warren/Vigo Block Club, and unattached individuals came together to pick up trash and plant flowers in key Miller areas.

LAKE STREET BLOSSOMS. With leadership from Dawn Vanzo, (and a cash contribution from the MBA) the Miller Garden club has added new plants to all the corner flower beds on Lake Street, which will bring color to the street as the summer advances. The planters in the middle of the street have already impressed passers-by with their display of spring flowers.

LEARN TENNIS. Beginning on Wednesday, June 5, **Chester Baran** will be giving **tennis instructions, without charge**, for children ages 8 to 12 at the tennis courts of Banneker School. Sessions are every Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:00 pm, 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 chet1bar@hotmail.com.

DAY CAMP RETURNS. For the third year, Maggie Mooers and Alison Reba are conducting their Miller Beach Day Camp for children ages 5 to 10. The camp will operate from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 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 (discount for additional children 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.

AT THE LAKEFRONT. The buoys, which separate swimmers from boats at the beach, were in place before Memorial Day this year! (This means the city has paid the man who stores and sets out the buoys). The trash collection station at the east end of Marquette Park, which offended many passers-by, has been removed. It will be rebuilt in a less conspicuous location. Water has been turned on for Marquette Park facilities, including the Aquatorium (where the kitchen has a newly-installed sink). Unfortunately, there is still no plan for collecting trash from the beach on weekends.

JUNE 2013 MCC MEETING

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

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.

ENCOUNTER NATURE. The Douglas Center for Environmental Education on Lake Street, between the viaducts, is now **open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Labor Day weekend.** Sundays, beginning June 9, a special ranger-led hike begins at 1:30 from the center and may go as far as Lake Michigan's shoreline on the new extension trail. The Douglas Center invites the public to see the Miller Woods bursting with green colors and new life after the recent prescribed burns. As always, children can make a free craft or help feed the resident turtles, salamander and fish.

TRY THE NEW TRAIL. A feature of the Marquette Park renovation is a new trail, paved in asphalt for accessibility, which links the Pavilion with Lake Street Beach. Many people thought it was sacrilege to put a paved path through the dunes and there were doubts it could be kept clear of sand, but now that the path is built, the people who use it give it strong favorable reviews. Give it a try and see what you think.

Miller groups hope for Legacy Foundation support

For the past several months, “stakeholders” from the Miller community have been meeting periodically with representatives of the Legacy Foundation, to determine if there are any local projects which the foundation could help to finance. The participants started out thinking in terms of “transformative” projects, but ended up presenting

proposals which could be accomplished in the short term.

The participating groups include the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD), the Miller Business Association (MBA), the Miller Citizens Corp. (MCC), the Miller Garden Club, the Miller Historical Society, and the Miller Community Fund, along with several private individuals. Each of the groups was asked to suggest a number of projects which they think would have a beneficial effect on the community. After the proposals were discussed by the group, four final projects remained:

The **Miller Garden Club** wants to install a watering system in the Lake Street planters, to support the bright display of flowers which brighten the street in spring and summer.

The **Miller Historical Society** wants to stabilize and, eventually, renovate the Old Miller Town Hall. The **MBA and the MCC** want to tear down derelict structures, especially in the Lake Street development area, to make the area more attractive to potential investors.

The **Miller Beach Arts District** wants to install air conditioning and make access improvements to their headquarters and principal exhibition space, the Gardner Center (formerly Miller Drugs).

In the end, all the groups agreed to make the improvements to the Gardner Center the first proposal they would ask the Legacy Foundation to support. The Arts District has already scheduled summer events for which air conditioning and other improvements are important, to protect the art works on display and make the building comfortable for visitors.

At present, the Arts District, led by Karren Lee, is working to describe this project in the format the Legacy Foundation prescribes. A further meeting is scheduled later in June, to see where we go from here.