

Arts District excitement comes to downtown Miller

Since its inception several years ago, the Miller Beach Arts and Creative district (MBACD or 'Arts District' for short) has been bringing to the Miller neighborhood a continuous stream of exhibits and events, designed to develop the reputation of the community as a place where artists can live and work; creating, exhibiting (and selling) their works. The Arts District has deliberately recruited a wide variety of artists with diverse followings, to make Miller a familiar place to display and view art, for all segments of the art community.

GRAFFITI ART—JUNE'S POP-UP EVENT. This summer brings a wide array of creative work to Miller, beginning with the June pop-up art event, which featured big time, in-your-face street art, that for some time to come will decorate empty wall space in downtown Miller. **If you haven't yet seen the results of this project, now is the time to wander around (and behind) the Lake Street business district to see what has been created.**

TORLUEMKE EXHIBIT—NOW UNTIL JULY 20. At the Gardner Center (former Miller Drugs), the graffiti art project was accompanied by an exhibit of artworks by Tom Torluemke, which are related in spirit to the street art outside. This exhibit will continue until July 19.

POP-UP ART STREET FEST—JULY 20. On Saturday, July 20, from noon to 8:00 pm, Lake Street will be the scene of a street festival, with the street closed to through traffic. Musical combos will perform and there will be an exhibition of more than 20 classic automobiles, mostly loaned by local owners. Food vendors will be on hand and artists will be displaying their works at indoors locations.

TIBETAN MONKS AT WORK—JULY 29 TO AUGUST 1. From Monday, July 29 to Thursday, August 1, eight monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in Southern India will be working in Miller at the Gardner Center, during their 2013 Sacred Arts National Tour, which aims to raise funds for the support of Tibetan monks living in exile in India, and to spread a message of peace and compassion to the communities they visit. They will be creating a **sand mandala** – a complex and colorful table-size artwork made with individual grains of colored sand; and at the closing ceremony, their work will be swept away, as an example of the impermanence of all things. The sand will then be ceremonially returned to nature, probably in the Marquette Park lagoon. There will be an opening

ceremony on July 29 and a closing ceremony on August 1, and there will be seats for visitors to watch the work. The process of creating the mandala is described in a video at http://www.gomang.org/2013_gomang.html if you want to see what it is all about. The event has been proposed by Cari Kniola, a Miller resident who has been working with the monks for the past ten years. Here is another opportunity to see artists at work!

TOSCANINI NIGHT. On Friday, **August 2 at 7:00 pm**, Larry Lapidus will introduce a film on Arturo Toscanini, who epitomized the classical music conductor when serious music was first available to a mass audience on television. Tickets are \$12 per person, including refreshments.

SYMPHONY IN THE PARK. Keeping up the classical music theme, the **Northwest Indiana Symphony** will present a free concert in Marquette Park on **Saturday, August 3 at 7:00 pm**. Seating will probably be on the lawn across the road from the Aquatorium.

ART AT THE GARDNER CENTER. Beginning with a reception at 6:00 to 9:00 pm on **Saturday, August 10**, the Gardner center will present an exhibit of works by artist Hannah Barnes.

Duly noted . . .

COMMUNITY FORUM. First District committeemen Mike Chirich and Robert Bullock invite all area residents to a **Community Forum** on **Wednesday, August 14 at 6:00 pm at the American Legion Hall on Old Hobart Road**. Sheriff John Buncich and First District Councilwoman Mildred Shannon will be on hand to comment on current issues and to answer questions from the public. Refreshments will be served. For additional information, call 938-9856.

OUR NEW COUNCILWOMAN. Mildred Shannon, the new First District Councilwoman, attended the June MCC board meeting, to introduce herself and make a few remarks. **She invited residents with questions or problems to contact her on her cell phone, 219-576-3090.** Councilwoman Shannon also introduced herself and spoke briefly during the Mayor's forum at the Marquette Park pavilion on June 26.

ANOTHER LAKE STREET EVENT. Students and alumni from Gary and Merrillville schools will be performing the play **The 12th Hour** at **Theatre on the Lake on Lake Street (next to 444), Friday, July 12 at 7:00 pm**. Tickets are \$5 at the door and \$3 in advance.

Contact Ebony Lott at 805-6461 for tickets in advance.
Support our kids, even our grown kids.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN MILLER.

---A **local dentist, Dr. Nicholas Cain**, has opened an office at 4629 Melton Road, just west of the Dollar Store.

---The former **Dairy Queen on Miller Avenue** has a new owner, who is sprucing up the building. He isn't yet sure what he wants to do with the property.

---Drew Fox, the owner of the proposed **micro-brewery and tap room** on Lake Street (in the Artistic Cleaners location) is slogging his way through the permitting process. George Rogge's comment is "The hurdles are high and many". Fox might need expressions of community support to get approval from the City Council.

---The **former K-mart building** has been purchased by a long-time NW Indiana resident, who wants to open a truck sales business. The City would rather make this part of a light industrial park. The same person also owns the former Payless and Aldi buildings.

JULY 2013 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MILLER CITIZENS CORP. BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 8, 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.

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. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Ayers Realtors and the Lake Street Gallery; at the Aquatorium on the days of the walk; at any participating gardens, and from Garden Club members.

Come see what beauty lies hidden in the byways of Miller.

LEGACY FOUNDATION GRANT REQUEST.

After months of discussion and negotiation, involving a half-dozen Miller community organization “stakeholders”, **Miller Beach Arts District** has finally succeed in submitting a grant request to cover improvements to their Gardner Center headquarters on Lake Street (the former Miller Drugs). They need air conditioning and access improvements to make the building usable for summer activities. They are now waiting to see how the Legacy Foundation responds to the request.

APARTMENT UPGRADE. Exterior changes to the **Miller Village Apartment Complex** on County Line Road are obvious to all passers-by, with new windows and colorful panels on all the buildings. In the background, the new owners have pledged to implement higher standards for approving tenants. As a result of proactive management and police presence, reported crimes at the complex have been cut in half in recent months.

MILLERITES DO SHAKESPEARE. The Gary Shakespeare Company, with Millerites Norm Caplan as Director and Corya Channing as Producer, will present an inaugural production of Shakespeare’s **King Lear** at the Indiana University Northwest Theater, 3660 Grant St. The opening performance will be on **Friday, August 16 at 7:30, with additional performances on August 17, August 23 and August 24 at 7:30 and on August 18 at 2:30 pm.** Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door. A number of familiar Miller residents are included in the cast. For more information, call 938-8532.

GARY 311 LINE. Citizens who want to report non-emergency problems, such as potholes, fallen trees, abandoned homes, etc. can now call (219)-881-1311. Citizens can also download the 311 app at no cost by visiting www.gary.in.us, or they can report a problem directly on the city’s website. So, keep those calls coming! We haven’t yet run out of problems.

DEATHS IN THE FAMILY. **Frank Roman**, a long-time Miller activist and MCC board member, died on June 20, after a long illness. **Frank Persic**, long-time Miller pharmacist and owner of Miller Drugs on Lake Street, died of cancer on Monday, June 24. Persic had a multitude of friends in Miller during the many years he distributed medicines and advice at his drugstore. **Garrett Cope**, who had a long career as a public school educator, a college professor of theater and dance, and the director of programs for senior citizens, died in May.

MORE AND BETTER RECYCLING. In an effort to increase the use of recycling by Gary residents, the City has announced that new, large-size covered recycling containers will be available (like the waste management trash cans only red), which residents can then use to discard and recycle yard waste without placing clippings, leaves, etc. in bags. The city will also eventually collect the old blue (or gray) waste cans, once they catch up on removing trees felled by storms.

FARMERS' MARKET. Don't forget the Miller Beach Farmers' market, every **Sunday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**, on Lake Street between the Old Miller School and the railroad tracks.

Beach committee keeps trying

The MCC Shoreline Committee continues to work on problems at Marquette Park and the beach, in collaboration with Park Superintendent Lori Peterson-Latham, Police and fire personnel, and local volunteers.

Sharon Webb, Carol Smith, and other volunteers have been picking up trash in the park on Monday and Thursday mornings at 9:00 am. They can use more volunteers.

-----The problem of getting trash on the beach picked up and trash barrels emptied is being approached by off-scheduling park employees to cover weekends and seeking work-release participants from the county and city courts to help.

-----Beach signs are an ongoing project, including metal signs to mark beach locations in relation to the access streets and signs with beach rules.

-----Other issues include no-parking signs to keep the bike lanes clear in the vicinity of the kids' park; clearly marked barrels for hot coals from cooking fires; equipment like umbrellas for lifeguards and 'grabbers' for picking up litter; weeding the Fr. Marquette garden; and getting the boat launch cleared of sand and open for use.

-----There are continuing issues with the east parking lot by Montgomery St – whether it should be open or closed, pay or free. People would like it to be open, but it then gets trashed by irresponsible users.

In short, the list of problems never ends.