

MCC to stop mail delivery

For all of its 43 years, the MCC has mailed a monthly newsletter, the **Miller Message**, to each of its members, to keep them informed about the organization and the community. For the past 20 years, the newsletter has been published in the advertising paper, the **Lakeshore Shopper**, and copies of the 'shopper' have then been sent to each of our members in the mail. **For some time now, we have been alerting our members that we plan to switch to the internet and use e-mail to distribute the newsletter.** This will greatly reduce our costs for postage, which is the MCC's biggest expense; and it will also get the news to members a lot faster. **As a result of this change, this will be the last bulk mailing of the Miller Message.** The newsletter will continue to be printed in the Lakeshore Shopper; we just won't send it to members in the mail.

Members who do not have e-mail accounts can still get the community news by picking up the free Lakeshore Shopper at one of the many stores and public places where it is distributed. We have also identified a small number of members who are house-bound who will continue to receive the newsletter in the mail. Additional members who need this service should call the MCC at 938-8831 and have their names added to this list.

For this month only, we will be sending the Lakeshore Shopper in the mail and we will also be sending out the e-mail version of the Miller Message, so we can see how the new system works. After that, we will only be sending the e-mail version. If you have an e-mail account but do not receive the Miller Message by e-mail in the next few days, it means we don't have your address or we have recorded it incorrectly. Let us know and we will update our records to include your current e-mail address.

It's cleanup time in Miller

THE BIG ANNUAL CLEANUP. We're coming to the end of a long and hard winter, with record amounts of trash lining our streets. We need a record number of volunteers to pick up all the rubbish during the annual **Miller Spring Cleanup**, scheduled for **Saturday, May 3, from 7:00 am (or when you get there) to 11:00** (the latest that trucks can pick up the rubbish and take it to the dump). The starting point for the cleanup will be the parking lot of the former Ralph's grocery, at Miller Avenue and Grand Blvd. Sponsors of the event are the Miller Citizens Corp., the Miller Business Association, and the Miller Garden Club, but everyone is welcome to

pitch in. Last year the event attracted a record 100 participants, collecting trash and planting flowers on the main streets into Miller. **Come help out!**

CLEANUP CONTINUED. Cleanup organizer George Rogge has scheduled this year's cleanup a week early, because he thinks there may be so much trash to collect that we will need a second cleanup day on May 10. Garden Club volunteers may also be out planting annuals on May 10, after the danger of frost has receded. So, volunteers should be prepared for a second round of cleaning up.

JOIN THE PICKER-UPPERS. Trash is not a one-time scourge, so picking up cannot be a one-time effort. Local volunteers get together every **Monday and Thursday** when the temperature is above 50 degrees, to pick up trash in Marquette Park. The group starts out at 8 (or 9) am, near Montgomery St., and works through the park to Grand Blvd. It's good exercise, you can enjoy good company, and you'll have a sense of accomplishment at the end. NOW is the time to help out. If you have questions, contact Carol Smith at 765-0298 or at pandcsmith@comcast.net.

BEACH CLEANUP PLANNED. Green Gary and the Charter School of the Dunes have scheduled an Adopt-A-Beach Day on Saturday, April 26, at the Marquette Park beach. Additional volunteers are welcome to join in this cleanup effort.

Duly noted . . .

LUNCH IN THE DUNES. St. Barnabas Church (601 Pottawatomie Trail) is again presenting **Soup on Saturday, on April 26 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.** The event will include a lunch of soup or chili with salad and bread, plus a bake sale and an "estate type" sale. The cost is \$6 to eat in or \$3 per pint of soup or chili to take out.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND. The Signal – A Rhapsody drew an overflow crowd to the Aquatorium in February, and it's coming back to the Gardner Center on Lake Street on **Sunday, April 27 at 4:00 pm.** The show features rhythm and blues by **the Spaniels; Willie Rogers of the Soul Stirrers; and a cappella singers Stormy Weather**, with some of the top tunes of a generation. Tickets are available in advance for \$22 at the Lake Street Gallery, Ayers Realtors, and the Miller Beach Market on Shelby St. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$27.

SPRING BAZAAR. The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District has scheduled a **Spring Bazaar** for the evening of **Saturday, May 10** at the Gardner Center on Lake Street. Art and craft works will be on display. A Call for Artists has gone out, with a deadline of April 26. The fee for a display space is \$20. To apply, contact judybielak@gmail.com.

PIZZA AT THE AQUATORIUM. The Aquatorium Society is holding a pizza party on **Friday, May 9, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**, featuring pizza from Miller Pizza, the Flamingo Pizzeria, and hopefully others. The price is \$25 per person, for the benefit of the Aquatorium

WINNING SPEAKERS. The Wirt-Emerson speech team recently took second place in the state-wide competition, while Latrice Young finished sixth in individual competition. Congratulations to our local students.

SAVE-THE-DUNES FUNDRAISER. The **Miller Bakery Café and the Save-the-Dunes Council** are collaborating in a First Annual Fundraiser, on **Sunday, April 13 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm**. The event includes a wine tasting with over 20 selections, an all-you-can-eat buffet, a silent auction, a wine raffle and live music. Tickets are \$50 per person. The aim is to raise money and increase membership in Save-the-Dunes, and to draw customers to the Bakery Café.

GEARING UP FOR SHAKESPEARE. The Gary Shakespeare Company is holding auditions right now at their location at 500 S. Lake Street (next to Café 444), in preparation for their presentation of Romeo and Juliet, which is set to open at the end of May. Auditions will be held on **Thursday, April 3, Friday, April 4, and Tuesday, April 8 from 5 to 9 pm each day**. Applicants should bring a photo, a resume and be prepared to read from a script. Intensive rehearsals will begin on April 9, leading up to a preview performance on May 29 and opening on May 30. More information about the Shakespeare Company can be found on Facebook.

ACTING CLASSES ARE ON. Corya Channing announces that the Gary Shakespeare Company will continue to teach basic acting technique at their location on Lake Street, every Saturday from 10:30 to 12:30. Persons of all ages and levels of experience are welcome.

MARKET TIME IS COMING UP. The **Miller Beach Farmer's Market** will be opening for business on **Sunday, May 4 and will be operating every Sunday through September from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**. On sale will be produce, processed foods, sandwiches to eat in or take out, and a variety of craft works. It's right on Lake Street, just north of the South Shore Tracks. Check

it out! For more information, call Kathy at 219-678-0288.

THE GALLOP COMES OF AGE. The 21st Annual Gallery Gallop, sponsored by the Lake Street Gallery on Lake Street, will take place on **Saturday, May 17, starting at 6:30 pm.** at the Lake Street beach in Miller. The 8K race is a timed contest with a demanding course along the beach, in the dunes, and up and down streets. There are prizes to overall and senior winners. The entry fee is \$20 in advance or \$25 on race day. The event also includes a 3K walk through the dunes, which is not timed. You can sign up at the Gallery, 613 S. Lake St. For information call 938-4566.

RUN THEN PARTY. Tom Taylor, who organized last fall's Miller Marathon, is also promoting a shorter race on **May 31.** There will be 5K and 10K runs, starting at the east end of Marquette Park and winding through the park and Miller streets. Then, after the race, there will be a party on the beach with a beer tent, refreshments and music. For more details, visit www.cause2compete.com

APRIL 2014 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MCC BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 14 AT 7:30 PM, IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE MARQUETTE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON GRAND BLVD.

MCC members are invited to attend and participate.

Contact the MCC between meetings at P.O.Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403, or e-mail mcceaton@aol.com. You can also visit the MCC website at www.millercitizenscorp.org.

DISCOVERY FUNDRAISER. The Discovery Charter School, which a number of Miller children attend, is holding the **Fourth Annual Discover Our World** fundraiser at the **Marquette Park Pavilion on Saturday, April 26 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.** Tickets are \$50 and include one drink, substantial hors d'oeuvres and dessert. There will be a live auction and live music as well as a silent auction. Proceeds will be used for expanding the school cafeteria. To register on-line, go to discpac.ejoinme.org/dow.

DRIVE-IN THEATER. The Gary Park Department is planning to bring back drive-in movies in Marquette Park this summer. The first presentation will be on **Friday, May 2.** Keep on the lookout for further information.

WEEKLY MEDITATIONS. Jason Kniola is leading a meditation class at the Marquette Park United Methodist Church on Grand Blvd. Sessions began on March 25 and are continuing every **Tuesday at 6:00 pm.** Classes consist of 90 minutes of meditation, and Jason will provide a curriculum, a notebook, and a mala.

SEDER FOR EVERYONE. Temple Israel, at 601 N. Montgomery St. invites the public to attend their Peace and Justice Seder on Saturday, **April 19 at 6:30 pm.** The event will include a traditional meal and Seder service. The cost is \$20, payable in advance, and checks can be made out to Temple Israel. To make a reservation on-line, go to <https://millerbeach.nextdoor.com/events/113609/?s=ee>.

Douglas Center presents nature programs every week

The Paul Douglas Environmental Education Center on Lake Street continues to present open house programs every Saturday, aimed at introducing children and parents to aspects of the natural world. Every week there is free instruction in some craft skill and an opportunity to help with feeding the small animals which are housed at the center – salamander, turtles, fish and snakes. In addition, there are special presentations every week from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm:

- April 5 Preparing flower or vegetable gardens**
- April 12 Upcoming Save-the-Dunes projects**
- April 19 Junior ranger programs across the country**
- April 26 Green Gary and Earth Day - How to get out and enjoy nature**
- May 10 Migratory Bird Day**
- May 17 National Kids-to-Parks Day**

The Douglas Center brings the concept of “National Park” down to the neighborhood level. Take advantage of the opportunities this presents.