

Miller cleanup time is now

Like last year, the main Miller organizations are working together on the annual spring cleanup. **The Miller Citizens Corp. (MCC), the Miller Business Association (MBA) and the Miller Garden Club** are all combining forces to finish collecting trash from our principal streets. You do not have to belong to any of these organizations to volunteer – everyone is welcome.

THE BIG DAY. On Saturday, May 3, volunteers are asked to check in at the corner of **Miller Avenue and Grand Blvd, in the parking lot of the former Ralph's grocery, starting at 7:00 am and finishing by 11:00.** They will be dispatched to clean up areas of their choice. Gloves, trash bags and water will be provided and there will be some “grabbers” to borrow.

ALREADY DONE. A lot of spring cleanup work has already been done. On April 26, **Students from the Charter School of the Dunes** cleaned up a major part of Old Hobart Road and the beach. The **Lake County Sheriff** provided personnel to supervise **work release prisoners**, who cleaned up a large area of Rt. 12 and Acheson Drive. Members of the **MCC Shoreline Committee** raked and trimmed the area around Fr. Marquette's statue in the park. They will continue this effort on the **last Saturday of each month from May to October.** Many thanks to all these workers.

CONTINUING EFFORT. A few members of the **MCC Shoreline Committee** pick up trash in Marquette Park **every Monday and Thursday morning**, starting about 9:00 am in the vicinity of the Kids' Park and making their way westward. Additional helpers are welcome. The **Miller Garden Club** will be working throughout the summer, weeding and watering public gardens and planters. They will have a major planting day on **Saturday, May 10**, starting around 8:00 am.

May is a busy time in Miller

Here is a recap of upcoming activities in the Miller neighborhood, in sequence by date:

FIRST FRIDAYS ON LAKE STREET Starting on **Friday, May 2**, and continuing through the summer, the **Lake Street Gallery** and **Indi Indi Bang Bang** are staying open until **8:00 pm every First Friday.** They will be offering snacks and “libations”, along with bargain specials, to attract shoppers. (These events fit in with the cocktail hour at the Miller Bakery Café, which offers half-price small plates every Friday from 4:00 to

6:00 pm.) After shopping and cocktails, you can move on to:

MOVIES IN THE PARK. Also starting on **Friday, May 2 at dusk**, the Gary Park Department will resume its evening movies in the main parking lot at Marquette Park. The movies for this opening night will be "Frozen" and "Saving Mr. Banks". Next month's outdoor movie event will be on Friday, June 6. (In June, attendees can stop on the way in and pick up popcorn or snacks at the concession stand, Carmella's Café, near Montgomery St.)

JACKSON POLLACK DOCUMENTARY. On **Saturday, May 3 at 7:00 pm**, the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) will present a documentary film on the troubled life and work of avant-garde artist, Jackson Pollack, with an introduction by Larry Lapidus, at the Gardner Center, 500 S. Lake Street. Cost of admission is \$10, including refreshments. For more information, reference www.millerbeacharts.org, or call 773-456-4316.

THE MARKET IS STARTING 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. For more information, call Kathy at 219-678-0288.

PIZZA-SUSHI PARTY. On **Friday, May 9, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm**, the **Aquatorium** in Marquette Park will host a fundraiser **festival of pizzas** from Miller's popular local pizzerias – Miller Pizza, the Flamingo Pizza, and Ono's Pizza, plus sushi from Tommy Z's in Valparaiso as a change of pace. All our local pizza restaurants have their loyal fans -- here is a chance to taste and compare all their pizza pies side-by-side. Refreshments will be served as well. The price is \$25 per person. Also on display will be a mockup of the Chanute glider that will be erected at the Aquatorium in August. Come and enjoy!

SPRING BAZAAR. On **Saturday, May 10**, the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District has scheduled a **Spring Bazaar** at the Gardner Center on Lake Street. Art and craft works will be for sale. For information, contact judybielak@gmail.com.

GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE. On **Saturday morning, May 17, from 9:00 am to noon**, the Miller Garden Club presents its annual **Plant Sale** at the Aquatorium in Marquette Park. Featured at bargain prices are perennials donated by club members, plus a

selection of herbs and annual flowering plants at below-market prices. In addition, there will be a wide selection of “garden-related” tchotchkes, which have become a big component of the sale. Here is a chance to fill in the holes in your garden on the cheap.

BRUNCH AT THE TEMPLE. On **Sunday, May 18 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**, the **Temple Israel** Sisterhood will host a Brunch and Vendor Fair at the Temple, 601 N. Montgomery St. The food includes bagels, lox and more. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door.

RACING THROUGH THE DUNES. The **21st Annual Gallery Gallop**, sponsored by the Lake Street Gallery, will take place on **Saturday, May 17, starting at 6:30 pm.** from 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.

444 “FREESTYLE”. **Tuesday, May 27** and every last Tuesday of the month is **open mic night** at Café 444 on Lake Street, from **7:00 to 9:00 pm.** Enjoy the free show, along with the menu of Caribbean style food.

The Tragedie of Romeo and Juliet. After months of preparation – not only rehearsing the actors but outfitting the theater – the Gary Shakespeare Company will be presenting their initial offering of Romeo and Juliet, beginning with a preview performance on **Thursday, May 29.** Regular performances will be **Friday and Saturday evenings, May 30 and 31, June 6 and 7 at 7:30 pm; Sunday afternoons, June 1 and June 8 at 2:00 pm.** The show runs 2 hours and a quarter, with one intermission, and the price of admission is \$10. The theater is located next to Café 444 on Lake St. For more information, call the box-office at 938-4565.

SUNSET TIKI TORCH RACES. On **Saturday evening, May 31 at 6:30,** start summer at the beach in Marquette Park with a 5k, 10k or kids’ 1k race from the lakefront through the park and the Miller neighborhood. The race will have a Hawaiian theme, with leis for all the finishers and pineapples as prizes for age-group winners. There will also be a beach-front post-race party with a live band and beer garden. Run or walk, then dance into the night. The race will begin at the east end of the park, near the concession stand. Fees range from \$20 for the 5k run, early registration, without shirt, to \$35 for the 10k

run, race day registration, with shirt. Check at <http://cause2compete.com/tiki5k/> for details, including race-course maps.

Duly noted . . .

MARQUETTE PARK CONCESSION STAND.

Starting **May 26 or earlier**, Carmella Saraceno, owner of the Miller Beach Market Place on Shelby Street, will be operating the concession stand at Oak Avenue and Montgomery Street, at the east end of Marquette Park. The business will be named **Carmella's Café**, and it will be open daily from early in the morning until after dark. Coffee and rolls will be available in the mornings, while hot dogs, deli sandwiches, fruit and vegetable specialties will be offered throughout the day. Parking in the adjacent lot is available without restriction before 10:00 am. From then until 6:00 pm, this will be a paid lot for beachgoers, but patrons at the café can park free for a half hour. Carmella hopes to have charge of the rest rooms, so they can be kept open and kept clean.

INTRODUCTION TO TENNIS.

Once again, Chester Baran is offering **free tennis lessons for beginners, ages 8 to 12** (more or less) at the tennis courts adjacent to Banneker School. Sessions will begin on **Wednesday, June 11 at 4:00 pm** and will last about one hour. Trainees need to bring a racquet, a water bottle, and a parent. For further information, contact Chester Baran at 219-384-4863 or e-mail chet1bar@hotmail.com.

UPS PICKUP.

Dan Divich has arranged for a new **UPS drop box**, located on the south side of the Centier Bank Building, at the corner of Lake Street and 7th Avenue. The pickup hours will be between 4:30 and 5:30, Monday through Friday. Mailing supplies are also available.

UPGRADING THE GARDNER CENTER.

Not all the volunteer effort in Miller is visible and above ground. The Miller Beach Arts District (MBACD) has initiated a major project to solve water problems in the basement of the Gardner Center by installing new perimeter drain tiles. A dozen people showed up for a work day on April 26, to start removing concrete, and there will be a follow-up session later to finish the job. The result will be a dry and usable 6,000 square foot space. As MBACD President Karren Lee noted, "Miller is a do-it-yourself community."

STREET SWEEPING.

In keeping with the Miller tradition of self-help, the Miller Business Association (MBA) has contracted with Steve Schwenkel to sweep

Lake Street and its sidewalks from the train station to 4th Avenue every Sunday morning. This will keep the street clean at least some of the time.

MAY 2014 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MCC BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 12 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 mceaton@aol.com. You can also visit the MCC website at www.millercitizenscorp.org.

POTHoles ARE FOREVER. Everyone is aware that the winter has had a disastrous impact on our streets. Our Councilwoman, Mildred Shannon, has submitted requests for patching and repaving major streets, and action is expected now that the weather is warming up. The city has been restricted to ineffective cold patching during the winter, because the factories which produce asphalt for hot patching and paving were closed.

Fun for all on the beach

The MCC Shoreline Committee has been meeting with representatives of the **Gary Police Dept., the Gary Fire Dept., the Lake County Sheriff's Dept., and the DNR**, who are responsible for order and safety on the beach and in the water. They had success last year with vigorous enforcement of rules at the start of the season, which kept the beach calm and safe throughout the summer.

STREET SIGNS ON THE BEACH. John Pickford has manufactured 18 signs, to be installed on the beach side of all access streets between Montgomery St. and County Line. They will display the street names, so that, in case of emergencies, responders can be directed to the exact location where they are needed. We are now making arrangements to get the signs installed.

Don't forget to send in your MCC membership renewal.