

## Street signs are in place on Miller beach

After several years of effort, the MCC Shoreline Committee has finally obtained and installed **street signs on the beach side of all 18 access points** between Montgomery St. and Wells St. The signs will enable beach-goers to report exactly where they are on the beach, if they need to call 911 for assistance from police, medical or water rescue personnel. You can now relax on the beach, knowing that, in case of emergency, help is on the way and the helpers can find you. John Pickford has arranged for making the street signs without charge, and the MCC has accepted responsibility for having them set in concrete, at a cost of about \$1,700. Since the MCC had worked so hard to get the signs made, we felt we had to see that they were installed.

### **NOW, PLEASE HELP US PAY!**

**Since the MCC is short of funds (as usual), we are asking MCC members and other residents of Miller to make a special contribution to help pay for the sign installation. You can send checks to MCC, P.O. Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403; or you can contribute on-line at the MCC web site, [www.millercitizenscorp.org](http://www.millercitizenscorp.org). Thanks for your help!**

## Maintain Marquette park

The **Indiana Landmarks Association** has awarded the **Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration** to the city of Gary for the Marquette Park project. The history and the current status of the park are described in a Youtube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEzIADQkIZ8>

Following the renovation, Mayor Freeman-Wilson claims that Gary can manage and maintain Marquette Park, even though most people recognize that the city does not have the resources to handle this responsibility. Luckily, **the Miller people who care for the park are willing to devote their personal effort to keep the park looking good, despite the absence of city manpower.** Currently, the city has assigned a half person to handle park upkeep, and their part-time employee is a good worker who responds quickly to fix problems when they are identified. However, what keeps the park looking good is the hours and hours of (free) volunteer labor.

Shoreline Committee chairman Carol Smith is the leader of a volunteer squad that comes out several times a week to pick up trash from the park. Smith also leads monthly work days to do planting and weeding around Fr. Marquette's statue. She is aided by Chester Baran, who mows the lawn in that area. Meanwhile, members of the Miller Garden Club, led by Sue Rutsen, take care of the gardens inside and outside of the Aquatorium. **If you are willing to help in this effort, you are welcome to stroll through the park any time and pick up whatever rubbish you find.**

## **. . and use Marquette Park**

This summer, the park is especially inviting for visitors. Carmella Saraceno is operating the concession stand near Montgomery Street as **Carmella's Café**, serving breakfast from 6:00 until 10:00 daily, and lunch all day long. The café offers a beautiful place to sit and relax next to the beach, while enjoying a variety of food options. At the adjacent parking lot, there is no charge for parking up to 10:00 am, and after that, patrons of the café can park free for a half hour.

**In addition, the Gary Park Department has scheduled a succession of activities in the park:**

**DRIVE-IN THEATER BY THE LAKE** is back **the first Friday of each month** through October. The first presentation, on **June 6**, features the movies *Frozen* and *Hunger Games*. The gate opens at 7:00 and the show starts at dusk. There is an "inflatable fun" area and concession vendors. Cost is \$10 per car or \$15 for a van or truck.

**WINE TASTING.** The **Alpha Kappa Alpha** sorority is having a wine-tasting fundraiser with music by SayYes, at the Aquatorium, on **Friday, June 13**, from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Cost in advance is \$20 or \$25 at the door. For information call 219-718-5545.

**JAZZ ON THE LAGOON** will be Up Close and Personal on Thursday, June 26. Doors open at 6:30, music starts at 7:30 pm. Cost is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. For information call 746-7374 or 938-7362.

**CLEAN WATER FESTIVAL** on **Saturday, June 28** from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm will offer youth outdoor games, fishing education, canoeing, biking, creative arts, and other presentations. Admission is **free**. The festival can celebrate the fact that the water in the park really is clean.

## But, follow the rules . . .

Gary's public beach stretches from the US Steel breakwater to County Line Road. **IN THE WATER**, boats (including jetskis) are allowed to run at full speed parallel to the shore only when they are **outside the line of buoys**. The **bathing beach** is Marquette Park, from approximately Grand Blvd to Montgomery St. In this area, **boats are not allowed** inside the buoys, and lifeguards are on duty daily from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm from Memorial Day to Labor Day, to protect the swimmers. In the swimming area, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. The rest of the lakefront is a **boating beach**, where boats are allowed to come inside the buoys at idling speed and perpendicular to the shore. The Lake Street area is a boating beach with a lifeguard on duty to protect the boaters. At the rest of the beach, swimmers may enter the water inside the buoys at their own risk. (In the water, boaters are permitted to possess and consume alcoholic beverages, but boat operators must be sober, just like motor vehicle drivers.)

**ON THE BEACH**, the rule is **no alcohol, no glass containers, no littering, and no open fires or grills**. Pets are not allowed in the bathing area, and in other areas they must be on a leash. Owners must clean up after their pets. Place rubbish in the trash cans which are provided.

If there is a problem on the beach or in the water (or even suspicious activity), **call 911** to summon law enforcement or emergency rescue personnel. This number communicates directly with the dispatcher, who will send help. This year, the Gary Police beach patrol is better equipped to communicate with the dispatch center. The non-emergency number is 881-1260, but it should not be used if you really want help to come.

## Duly noted . . .

**MILLER PAINTINGS AND PERFORMANCE.** Jeffrey Baumgartner, a Chicago artist and actor, spent a month in Miller during April and May, creating a painting a day of Miller landmarks. These 30 "**Impressions of Miller**" will be on display at the Gardner Center on Lake St., starting with a reception at **5:30 pm on June 6** and continuing until July 6. The exhibit will be open Fridays from 6 to 9 pm, Saturdays from 3 to 9 pm, and Sundays from 1 to 4 pm. In addition, Baumgartner the actor will present "**Barrimore's Ghosts**", a one-man play by Jason Miller, on **Saturday June 14 and Saturday June 21 at 8:00 pm**. Tickets to the performance can be purchased in

advance for \$20 at Ayers Realtors, Lake Street Gallery, and Miller Beach Market Place; or for \$25 at the door.

**SHAKESPEARE CONTINUES.** The Gary Shakespeare Co. continues its performances of **Romeo and Juliet**, the iconic story of young love, from **June 5 to 8 – Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 and Sunday at 2:00.** The show runs 2 hours and a quarter, with one intermission, and the price of admission is \$10. The new theater is located next to Café 444 on Lake St. For more information, call the box-office at 938-4565. The next Shakespeare production will be **Twelfth Night**, directed by IUN professor Mark Baer, with auditions on June 23, 24, and 25 and performances from August 15 to 31.

**DOUGLAS CENTER EVENTS.** The Douglas Environmental Education Center on Lake Street has started extended hours for the summer and will be open **daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm** through Labor Day. The center offers nature-related play activities every day. There will be a hike through the dunes on their newest trail every **Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00** and three summer fort building contests on **June 14, July 5 and August 3** between 10:00 and 3:00. For additional information, check their schedule on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNL](http://www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNL). One **special event** is a free all-day conference **“Bats Alive”** on **Saturday, June 21**, dealing with bat research and conservation efforts. Contact Julie at [julianne\\_larsen@nps.gov](mailto:julianne_larsen@nps.gov) or call 219-395-1821 to register.

### **JUNE 2014 MCC MEETING**

**THE NEXT MCC BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 9 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](mailto:mceaton@aol.com). You can also visit the MCC website at [www.millercitizenscorp.org](http://www.millercitizenscorp.org).**

**MILLER GARDEN WALK.** The 15<sup>th</sup> annual “Secret Garden” Walk, sponsored by the Miller Garden Club, will be held on **Saturday and Sunday, July 12 and 13, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm** each day. The theme

this year is “Here we go again!”, and the walk will feature five distinctive gardens, hidden away in the Miller dunes. Headquarters for the event is the Aquatorium in Marquette Park, which will host **a dozen vendors** with distinctive garden-related products for sale. Visitors can also buy box lunches and visit the Settler’s Pond traveling zoo. There will also be a **bike tour** Saturday and Sunday mornings at 10:30. Tickets are \$10 and are available from the Lake Street Gallery and Ayers Realtors on Lake Street, from the Miller Beach Market Place on Shelby, and at the Aquatorium during the walk. The Garden Walk weekend will start off on Friday evening, July 11, with a wine and cheese party at the Gardner Center on Lake Street, sponsored by the Arts District and the Garden Club. The event will open an art exhibit featuring paintings of plants and flowers by local artists. Tickets for this event are also \$10.

**MILLER FARMERS’ MARKET.** Don’t forget the Miller Farmers’ Market, just north of the South Shore tracks on Lake Street, open for business every **Sunday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm** through September. Vendors offer fresh fruits and vegetables, processed foods, plants and flowers, handcrafted items, and whatever else they hope will appeal to shoppers.

**.SUPPORT THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB.** The MCC has contributed \$100 to purchase a “brick” to show our support for the Gary Boys and Girls Club. We encourage our members, as individuals or groups, to do the same.

**DAY CAMP IS BACK.** The Miller Beach Day Camp is back for another summer, with sessions every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, beginning June 10 and continuing to August 7. The camp is based at the Marquette Park United Methodist Church on Grand Blvd., and it features diverse activities around the Gary community. For information and to register, e-mail [millerbeachdaycamp@gmail.com](mailto:millerbeachdaycamp@gmail.com) or contact Maggie Mooers (219) 576-3334 or Alison Reba (219)-218-7736.

## **Renew your MCC membership**

Don’t forget to join your community organization, the **Miller Citizens Corp. (MCC)**. We want to know we have your support, and we depend on your dues and contributions to operate. To be a member, just send the \$10 annual dues to **MCC, P.O. Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403**. Include your phone number and e-mail address so we can reach you if necessary and can send you our monthly newsletter, the **Miller Message**. We are eager to have you as a member.