

Contracts awarded for street resurfacing in Miller area

To the surprise of many observers, the City of Gary has awarded contracts for \$6.4 million in street repairs to contractor Rieth-Riley, who will subcontract the milling work to a Gary business, Day's Asphalt. Under the terms of the contract, streets in all sections of Gary will be resurfaced, including the following streets in the Miller-Aetna area:

- Oak Ave. from County Line Rd. to Montgomery St.**
- Locust Ave. from Montgomery St. to Shelby St.**
- Indian Boundary from Montgomery St. to Randolph**
- Lake St. from 7th Ave. to the bridge over the lagoon**
- Grand Blvd. from Miller Ave. to Forest Ave.**
- 7th Avenue from Lake St. to Clay St.**
- Clay St. from 6th Ave. to 13th Ave.**
- County Line Rd. from Rt. 12 to Oak Ave.**
- Acheson Drive from Old Hobart Rd to Rt. 12**
- 13th Ave. from Clay St. to Decatur St.**
- Wayne St. from 5th Ave. to 6th Ave.**
- Warrick St. from 5th Ave. to 6th Place (cul de sac)**
- 5th Ave. between Union St. and County Line Rd.**

Side streets throughout the city are largely neglected in the resurfacing plan, but the main streets in the Miller area are included (except maybe Miller Avenue). It is not clear when the work will be completed.

Aquatorium Society hosts weekend of fundraisers

For more than twenty years, the Aquatorium Society has been busy transforming the derelict Marquette Park bathhouse into a living memorial to flight pioneer Octave Chanute and the Tuskegee Airmen. The historic and monumental edifice has become a favorite place for celebrations and meetings and a key landmark on the restored beachfront.

At the end of the 19th Century, Octave Chanute, whose career was dedicated to building bridges, developed some of the initial calculations of what it would take to allow humans to fly. He then constructed a glider, which he brought here to the Indiana dunes, and conducted a series of flights in 1896 to test his theories. His work contributed directly to the Wright brothers' first powered flight in 1903.

Friday, August 15 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm – A reception at Sue Rutsens's home on Vigo Street for Dr. Tom

Crouch, Curator-Emeritus of the Space Museum at the Smithsonian, who has been a long-time supporter of the Aquatorium project. Tickets are \$60 per person or \$100 per couple.

Saturday, August 16 at 12:00 noon – Enjoy a box lunch while watching workmen attach a full-scale replica of the Chanute glider on top of a 25-foot pole at the Aquatorium. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Saturday, August 16 at 3:00 pm – A free lecture by Dr. Crouch on the significance of the Chanute Garden.

Saturday, August 16 at 7:30 pm – the Annual Meeting and fundraiser of the Aquatorium Society. Tickets are \$75 (or the age of the attendee) including food, drink, and music.

An order blank for tickets can be found at the aquatorium.org website under “Newsletter Spring 2014”, or just send a check to The Society, 607 S. Lake St., Gary, IN 46403, stating the event and the number of tickets you want. Note: No paper tickets will be issued for these events.

Park and beach activities

The Gary Park Department has been sponsoring programs and activities throughout the summer to lure visitors to Marquette Park and the Gary beaches:

2014 LAKESHORE MUSIC FESTIVAL – Sunday, August 31 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Worship service at 10:00, Jazz, R&B and House music from noon until 8:00 pm. The featured performer is R&B/Jazz singer Lalah Hathaway. In the background, there will be an interactive kids’ zone, beer garden, food, and vendors. THIS IS A FREE EVENT – just come and enjoy.

SANDCASTLE AND SAND SCULPTURE COMPETITION – Saturday, August 9 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm, at the Lake Street Beach. There are categories of competition for sandcastles and sculptures and levels of competition from children to professionals. Registration is still open until August 5 at the Arts District website www.millerbeacharts.org. There will also be entertainers, vendors, and beer from the 18th Street Brewery. The public is invited to stop by and see the artists at work starting Friday morning.

JAZZ ON THE LAGOON – Thursday, August 28; doors open at 6:30, music starts at 7:30 in

the downstairs lounge and the terrace at the Marquette Park Pavilion. Entry fee is \$25 in advance, \$26 at the door. For information, call (219) 746-7374 or 938-7362.

FIRST FRIDAY MOVIE NIGHTS – The main parking lot at Marquette Park turns into a drive-in theater with double-feature films starting at dusk. The show for August 1 was postponed because of threatened thunderstorms, and has not yet been rescheduled. The next scheduled show is on **Friday, September 5**. Admission is \$10 for cars, \$15 for vans and SUVs.

Marquette Park maintenance

The Park Department has hired an outside firm to mow the lawns at Marquette Park, and they have been doing a good job. However, there appear to be no other maintenance employees assigned to the park. If problems are reported, someone will be sent out to make repairs. **Otherwise, the park is entirely dependent on volunteer workers for its normal upkeep.**

Carol Smith, the chairman of the MCC Shoreline Committee, along with an increasing number of helpers, cleans up trash in the park several times a week and also does planting and weeding around the Fr. Marquette statue, where the next work days are scheduled for **August 28 and 30, about 9:00 am**. We owe these concerned local residents a great debt for keeping the park beautiful.

Shoreline issues persist

Gary's new police chief, Larry McKinley, attended the July meeting of the Shoreline Committee, and participated in a discussion of police patrols in the beach area, which have been less frequent than last year, both day and night. He offered to start immediately having regular police officers check the beach late at night.

Meanwhile, people who live near the beach and are complaining about unlawful activity late at night are urged to call police (i.e., dial 911). If they do, officers will come and will disburse groups who are involved in improper activities.

Some of the late-night beach problems come from visitors who park at the business district on Shelby St. and walk down to the beach. A sub-committee has been working on this problem, but it is difficult to control beach parking without harassing legitimate customers.

The MCC is still collecting special contributions to pay for the street signs on the beach, which are nearly

complete. You can contribute through the MCC website, millercitizenscorp.org. The Miller Community Fund is also accepting contributions to the Frank Roman memorial fund, to be used for special projects in the park.

Gary Shakespeare Theater Presents “Twelfth Night”

The **Gary Shakespeare Co.** at 500 S. Lake St. (next to Café 444) will present *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*, a comedy by **William Shakespeare**, directed by Mark Baer, Assistant Professor of Theater at IUN, on the final three weekends of August:

Friday and Saturday performances on August 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30 will start at 8:00 pm. Sunday performances on August 17 and 31 will be at 3:00 pm. On Sunday, August 24 there will be a special free performance at 7:00 pm at Carmella’s Café on the beach at Montgomery St.

Tickets are \$15 sold at the door, cash only. Contact the theatre at 219-938-4565 for more information and to make reservations, or write to artisticpartners@att.net.

Duly noted

NEW BAKERY ON LAKE STREET. **Be Creative Cakes** has opened at 615 S. Lake Street (next to the Lake Street Gallery), offering a selection of home-made cakes and cookies, to take out or eat in. Cupcakes and cake slices are available at the counter; larger cakes can be ordered in advance. Creative Cakes is open from Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday from 10:00 to 4:00. For more information, call (219) 512-0940.

CRIME REPORTING CHANGE. Because there is limited coverage at the COP office on Lake Street, please report incidents to lakest-cop@hotmail.com. This will assure that information is received on a timely basis and action will be taken, if necessary.

AUGUST 2014 MCC MEETING

**THE NEXT MCC BOARD MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST
11 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.

OPENING RECEPTION. Friday, August 8 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, there will be an opening reception at the Gardner Center on Lake St. for the video *Gas Man* by Trinidadian artist Christopher Crozier, filmed on the shores of Lake Michigan while he was a student at Northwestern. The video investigates the environmental and sociopolitical challenges of commercial expansion. Subsequently, there will be a talk by Crozier on Sunday, August 10 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, and gallery hours for the video on Saturday, August 10 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

FARMERS' MARKET CONTINUES. Don't forget that the Miller Beach Farmers' Market will continue each Sunday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm next to the South Shore tracks on Lake Street. A variety of produce, specialty foods, art and craft items will be available to buy.

'Strong Cities' symposium

More than a score of Miller residents attended the symposium "Strong Cities, Strong Communities, Strong Northwest Indiana" on July 22 and 23 at the Genesis Center in Gary. The event was sponsored by the White House Council on Strong Cities, along with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), City of Gary, and Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), in partnership with the Legacy Foundation. It featured presentations by city leaders who have implemented successful programs to revive failed cities and neighborhoods, along with a discussion of approaches and techniques for revitalizing cities.

So far, the main accomplishment of the Strong Cities group has been collecting funds for the demolition of the Sheraton Hotel in Gary, which is viewed as a symbolic step – getting rid of a conspicuous eye-sore.

A follow-up meeting, Strong Cities, Strong Communities Engagement Forum, will be held at the Genesis Center on **Wednesday, August 13**. Details have yet to be announced. **the beach is not a highway.**