

MCC works at reorganizing

Not-for profit organizations typically recruit board members who have a lot of money, or whose friends have a lot of money, and are willing to contribute it to the cause. The MCC has been different. This has always been a truly volunteer organization – no paid employees, no office, no overhead. (Our biggest expense has been for postage, plus an annual donation of \$1,000 to the Miller Community Fund, which supports other Miller activities.) We have recruited board members who cared about specific community issues and were willing to donate their time and energy, rather than their money, to improve our community.

The MCC has also tried to keep its dues low, to encourage widespread support from the community, rather than to raise a lot of money. In 43 years, the annual dues have gone up from \$5 at the start to \$10 today. In recent years, we have had many generous members who have contributed more than the small yearly dues to help out with our modest expenses.

All this has worked. Although our city has become largely deserted during these past 40 years, Miller has remained an attractive residential neighborhood for a wide variety of people.

GETTING TO THE POINT.

During most of this time, the MCC has had a board of directors with 30 members, but we have increasingly felt this was an unwieldy number for conducting meetings and for doing business. Individual board members have had limited opportunities to express their opinions and to influence the direction of the organization. Last year, the MCC decided to cut back the number of directors from 30 to 20, in two stages. Instead of electing 15 board members each year for two-year terms, we would only elect ten, starting in 2014 and concluding next year.

The following is the list of ten nominees for positions on the MCC Board of Directors for terms beginning in October, 2014 and continuing to October 2016:

Cullen Ben Daniel
Ron Gholson
Doug Grimes
Barb Hansen
Ed Johnston
Dee King
Wendy Prettyman
George Rogge
Carol Smith

Wardella Roby

In addition, two members have been nominated to fill one-year terms ending in October, 2015:

Cari Kniola

Brian DeFries

THE ACTUAL ELECTION

All the dues-paying members of the MCC are entitled to participate in the election of the Board of Directors, which will take place at the Annual Meeting of the MCC on **Monday, October 13 at 7:30 pm** in the downstairs meeting room of the Marquette Park United Methodist Church on Grand Blvd. To be eligible to vote, members must pay their dues for 2014 prior to October 6, to allow time for updating the membership list.

If there are members of the MCC who want to be elected to the Board of Directors but have not been slated on the "official" list, they can add their names to the ballot by submitting a petition to the Secretary, signed by at least 10 MCC members in good standing, prior to October 8, 2014. This will give the Secretary time to print ballots and arrange for counting votes for the election of board members.

NEEDING NEW BLOOD. Many leaders of the Miller community have been around for a long time, but they probably won't live forever. The MCC needs a continuing stream of new activists to step in and take over. If you see yourself in such a role, join a committee (or start a committee, if you see problems which are not being addressed). It will not be hard to ease into a leadership role.

KEEPING AN EYE ON GOVERNMENT.

Northwest Indiana has a huge number of governmental and quasi-governmental agencies which are having meetings all the time. These include obvious bodies like the City Council, the County Council and the School Board, but also Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), and myriad other boards, all of which can potentially affect the quality of life in our community. Keeping track of all these groups can be very time-consuming (and boring), but we would all benefit if we had groups of people to watch them all.

SEPTEMBER 2014 MCC MEETING

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

SEPTEMBER 8 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.

Duly noted . . .

FIRST FRIDAYS CONTINUE. Businesses on Lake Street schedule extended hours and offer special deals on the First Fridays of the month. On Friday, September 6, **the Lake Street Gallery will** host a “taking down the show” party for the exhibit **Vignettes of Gary, 1909-1970** by Leslie Green. Visitors could win a piece of her original art. Coming next to the Gallery will be new work by Jean Bargeron, with an opening reception on October 17 at 7:00 pm.

MAYOR’S COMMUNITY MEETING. Mayor Freeman-Wilson held a community meeting in Miller on August 14, and talked about the Northside Redevelopment Project which has brought federal agencies to Gary to help formulate and execute plans for revitalizing the area. She also touted the city’s “311 System” for reporting requests for service from city departments. Comments from city residents focused on access problems to Miller, with increased train traffic and the closure of Old Hobart Road. The work on the Rt. 12 bridge will not be completed until November, and the Mayor indicated that she cannot do anything to speed up completion. In the wake of the recent fatality at the Lake Street train crossing, residents also stressed the need for median barriers at crossings to prevent drivers from bypassing closed crossing gates.

SHAKESPEARE LIVES IN MILLER. The Gary Shakespeare Theater on Lake Street has completed a successful three-week run of Twelfth Night, and is getting ready for their next offering, a performance of **Macbeth** later in the fall which Norm Caplan will direct. **Auditions** will be held at the theater on Thursday, September 11 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm; Friday September 12 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm; and Saturday, September 13

from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. For additional information call 219-938-4565 or write artisticpartners@att.net

BEACH ISSUES CONTINUE. The Shoreline Committee is working with the Park Department to create removable barriers at access points to the beach – Wells St., Shelby, Randolph and Sullivan, which would discourage people from driving cars or ATVs onto the beach; but the proposed chains would have to be removable when emergency vehicles have to get through. This is an innovation which may actually happen.

CHOIR OF ANGELS. Looking ahead, the annual **Chorus Angelorum concert** is slated for Friday evening, October 24 at St. Mary of the Lake Church on Miller Avenue. The program will feature Haydn's 'Mass in Time of War'. This yearly concert is one of the major musical events in Northwest Indiana.

HUMAN ATTACK ON STICKER PLANTS.

In Miller, community action does not only involve meetings and protests, it means you get out there and work. This coming **Saturday, September 6, from 8:30 to noon**, residents are urged to join together in **pulling up nettles at the Marquette Park playground**, so that children will not face this hazard when they come there to play. Bring gloves and start pulling! Long sleeves and long pants are suggested. Water and snacks will be provided by the playground committee. Right now, most of the stickers are not fully mature. This is a good time to pull the plants with seeds attached to prevent a massive reseeding for next year.

BEACH PARTY ON LAKE ST. On Saturday, September 27 from 12:00 to 5:00 pm, Renee Patikas presents Fun by the Beach, with 2 live bands, speakers and vendors. The location will be 860 N. Lake St., the grounds of the former charter school next to the Lake Street Beach parking lot. "Back to school" packages will be available for the first 30 students who attend. For further information, call 219-805-3283.

Arts District keeps busy

MUSIC THIS WEEKEND. The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District is presenting a weekend of live jazz, blues and R&B music at the Gardner Center. Doors open at 7:30 and performances start at 8:30 on Friday and Saturday; doors open at 6:00 and concert starts at 6:30 on Sunday. Performers are:

--- **Friday - September 5th -"The Everett Moore Sextet**

---Saturday - September 6th - "Jimmie J and the Hard Drives"

--- Sunday - September 7th - "Positive Feedback" -
Admission is \$20, with a special rate of \$10 for seniors and children on Sunday. Refreshments are available for sale.

PARTNERING WITH MICHIGAN CITY ARTISTS. The Gardner Center will present an exhibition of works by members of the Area Artists Association of Northwest Indiana, from September 12 until October 5, starting with an **opening reception on Friday, September 12 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.** The Exhibit will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 6:00 to 9:00 and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The exhibit will showcase a broad sample of diverse works in two and three dimensions.

BUDDHIST MONKS RETURN. The Drepung Gomang Monastery Sacred Arts Tour will be returning from September 16 to September 21.

The visit will begin with a Taste of Tibet – a community dinner prepared by the monks at the Marquette Park United Methodist Church on **Tuesday, September 16 at 6:00 pm.** Registration is required. A suggested donation is \$15.

Subsequent events will take place at the Gardner Center on Lake Street:

-----**Opening ceremony – Wednesday, September 17** at Noon.

-----**Viewing of sand mandala construction – September 17 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm; September 18 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; September 19 from noon to 7:00 pm; September 20 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; and September 21 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

-----**Mani Stone Workshop: Saturday, September 20 - 10am to Noon.** Registration required, bring your own stone, suggested donation \$25/person

-----**Butter Sculpture Workshop: Saturday, September 20 - 2pm to 4pm.** Registration required, suggested donation \$25/person

-----**Closing Ceremony: Sunday, September 21 - 1-3:30pm**

-----**Community Peace Puja and Drumming Circle: Thursday, September 18 - 6:00** at the Gary Aquatorium in Marquette Park. - Suggested donation \$10/person

To register or for additional information, contact Cari Kniola at ckniola@gmail.com or [765-404-51921](tel:765-404-51921)