

# Miller Message for August 2015

## South Shore meetings set

The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) has scheduled two meetings to gather public input on planned improvements to the South Shore commuter railroad. Proposals include the development of retail businesses and housing around South Shore train stations, including the Miller station, and the addition of a second track on the railroad between Gary and Michigan City, to eliminate delays and help trains run on time. The first meeting will be held from **6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, Aug. 5 at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center**, 1215 N. Ind. 49, in Porter (just south of Rt. 20). The second meeting will be held from **6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Aug. 6 at the Indiana Welcome Center, 7770 Corinne Drive, Hammond**. The public input will be used in the RDA's application for funds from the state's Regional Cities Initiative. **Miller residents are encouraged to speak in favor of the South Shore improvements.**

Apart from the RDA meetings, NICTD is conducting a survey to see what factors would increase ridership on the South Shore railroad. Just log on to <http://www.survevgizmo.com/s3/2229887/South-Shore-Commuter-Rail-Line> to add your opinion.

## Spotlight on Miller advances

The Legacy Foundation, with its history of funding small-scale projects in Lake County, has decided to focus on more comprehensive revitalization efforts directed at whole communities, like the Miller neighborhood of Gary. They have provided funds for hiring a 'Com-munity Builder' – Jessie Renslow – who has recruited a team of volunteers with support from the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District. They have interviewed more than 200 Miller residents to see what people feel are the opportunities to be exploited and the problems to be overcome in revitalizing the Miller neighborhood. This substantial effort has resulted in the identification of seven areas of activity, for which "action groups" are to be formed, including:

- Area context**
- Infrastructure and transportation**
- Education/child and youth programming**
- Safety and code enforcement**
- Environment and eco-tourism**
- Property (including blight)**
- Economy and jobs**

The public in general is invited to join one of these action groups by attending a startup session on **Wednesday, August 5, either at 8:00 to 10:00 am or at 6:30 to 8:30 pm**, at the Gardner Center on Lake Street. Each group will then meet three to six times in August and September, to devise plans which address the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified in the previous interviews. Find an area of interest that appeals to you and join a group to work on ideas for revitalizing the Miller community.

## Duly noted . . .

**THE JEWISH CARDINAL.** Temple Israel and St. Mary of the Lake Church are coming together to present a film biography (in French with English sub-titles) of Jean-Marie Lustiger, a Jewish convert to Catholicism who became a priest and rose to be Archbishop of Paris, all the while retaining his Jewish cultural identity. The film will be shown at the Temple on Montgomery St., Thursday, September 3 at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

**SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK.** The Gary Shakespeare Co. will perform “**Much Ado About Nothing**” by **William Shakespeare** in Marquette Park on Sundays in August – **August 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 7:00 pm**, in the area between Carmella’s Café and the Aquatorium. The entire show, including set, lights and costumes, will travel to the park for outdoor performances. The cost will be a free-will donation. For reservations or information call 219 938 4565 or go to the website: [www.garyshakesco.org](http://www.garyshakesco.org)

**MUSIC BY THE LAKE.** Carmella’s Café, at the east end of Marquette Park, is hosting smooth jazz, featuring musician and composer Keenan Baxter, on **Friday, August 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm**. Enjoy good music, along with food and refreshments from the Café, against the background of Lake Michigan and a view of the Chicago skyline.

**GARY POLICE PAY AND STAFFING.** Problems of low pay and shortage of manpower at the Gary Police Department (GPD) have been highlighted recently by the departure of many experienced officers, who are seeking higher salaries and better work conditions at other police departments in the area. A local ad hoc group has scheduled a meeting on **Thursday, August 6 at 6:00 pm at the Woodson Library** on Lake Street, to discuss these problems. They will specifically be looking for ways to increase police salaries to a level which is comparable to other departments in the region. **The public is invited.**

**A BIG YARD SALE.** Temple Israel presents a multi-family yard sale, Sunday, August 30 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Proceeds will benefit the community garden, to fund garden expansion and watering. You can enjoy visiting the lush garden as well.

**RUMMAGE SALE AND 'SIDE OF SALAD'.** St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in the Dunes (across from old Nobel School) will host a rummage sale on Friday, August 14 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and Saturday, August 15 from 9:00 am to noon. Items available for purchase will include books, housewares, clothing, lamps, knick knacks, furniture, and one-of-a-kind items. There will also be baked goods for sale. Everyone is invited.

**GPD ON NIXLE.** Barb Hansen reports that the Gary Police Department is now connected with the NIXLE computer application, which broadcasts emergency alerts, advisories, and traffic information. Residents can sign up by accessing <https://local.nixle.com/register/> and following instructions.

**A PLAYGROUND CONTEST.** Nora Glenn is challenging all First District organizations to take part in a Kids’ Park Cleanup on **Saturday morning, August 15**. She wants this to be a competitive effort, and the winning organization will receive a playground brick as their prize. Contact Nora at [noraglenn@threedognet.com](mailto:noraglenn@threedognet.com) to participate.

**FALL SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES OPEN.** Tracy Brough reports that the Miller Little League will have **fall baseball** this year for youngsters aged 9 to 15. The games will be interleague, competing against several other leagues nearby. Players 12-15 (**who didn’t play high school ball**) are welcome to play with the Juniors, and any players 9-11 are welcome to play with the minors. Call Tracy at 219--801-4774 if you are interested. Tracy also notes that the Portage Soccer Club is looking for girls 12-13 to fill out their roster. Miller residents would be eligible to play for the team. For more information, call Tracy Brough at 219-801-4774.

**RAILROAD REPAIR AT LAKE ST.** Closing Lake Street for two weeks at the CSX railroad crossing is, at least, an inconvenience for Miller businesses and residents. However, there is no doubt the repairs are needed and summer is the time to make them. The closing is scheduled to last until August 13. Thanks to Diana Twyman from the Miller Bakery Café for representing Lake Street businesses in discussions with the railroad and the city concerning the proposed detour routes. The 'official' detour goes from Lake Street east on Rt. 12 to Atcheson Drive, then west on Miller Avenue back to Lake Street. An "unofficial" option, used by Miller residents, goes from Lake Street via E. 6<sup>th</sup> Place to S. Howard St. to Miller Avenue. During the closing, pedestrians are able to cross the tracks at Lake St.

**BEACH WATER QUALITY.** The Gay Sanitary District collects and tests water samples daily at the Wells Street, Marquette Park, and Lake Street beaches. The results, including any advisories which are issued, can be viewed at the Indiana State website: <https://extranet.idem.in.gov/beachguard/...> Records show that the Gary beaches have generally excellent water quality. Marquette Park, in particular, has had only one day per year when results were out of line.

### **AUGUST 2015 MCC MEETING**

**THE NEXT MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 10 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](mailto:mcceaton@aol.com). You can also visit the MCC website at [www.millercitizenscorp.org](http://www.millercitizenscorp.org).**

**TRAGEDY AT MURPHY'S.** The Miller community was shocked, last month, by the tragic murder of a young man in the parking lot of Murphy's House of Pain on Rt. 12. MCC representatives have been unable to contact the bar's owner, whose phone has been disconnected, and currently, the bar does not appear to be open. The Lake County Liquor Board revealed that the bar's license was up for renewal in June, and the owner was required to appear before the Liquor Board to explain how several violations have been resolved. The owner has failed to appear at any of the last three liquor board hearings, so the renewal application has been continued from month to month. At the August Liquor Board meeting, the board resolved that the application will be continued one more time, to the next meeting at 9:00 am on September 1 at the Lake County Courthouse in Crown Point. If the owner again fails to appear, the fate of the license will, in any case, be decided. The MCC is prepared to oppose renewing the bar's license.

**GARY AIR SHOW.** As the weekend for the Gary Air Show approached, many Miller residents were concerned about preparations for the event. People wanted to know whether plans for air acts, parking, shuttle buses, vendors, and other details of the show had been properly resolved. However, when the time for the show actually arrived, everything went remarkably well, and the many people who attended were pleased with the results. Even the weather cooperated. Mayor Freeman-Wilson was quoted as saying that the air show would be back next summer.

## **The Arts District keeps busy**

**BUDDHIST MONKS RETURN.** Buddhist monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery are again visiting Miller, and are working on a new Sand Mandala at the Gardner Center on Lake Street. They started their work with an opening ceremony on August 1, and will continue their efforts until August 8. The public is invited to stop by any day from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. through Friday, August 7; or Saturday, August 8 from 10:00 am until the deconstruction ceremony takes place at 1:00 pm. Other events will include a Community blessing and drumming circle at the Aquatorium on Tuesday, August 4 at 6:00 pm.

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**NEW SERIES OF ART CLASSES STARTING:**

**INTRO TO CARTOONING** (ages 9 to adult) will be offered on 6 **Saturdays at 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, from August 29 until October 3**, with a free demo on Saturday, August 22 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Instructor is Nikki Kutansky and cost is \$100.

**INTRO TO DRAWING** (ages 13 to adult) will be offered on 6 **Saturdays starting August 29, from 1:45 to 3:45 pm**, with a free demo on Saturday, August 22 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Instructor is Nikki Kutansky and cost is \$100.

**WATERCOLOR AND MORE** (ages 16 to adult) will be offered on **Thursdays, September 10 to October 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm**. Instructor is Marsha Browne and fee is \$90 plus supplies. To register, call South Shore Arts at 219-836-1839, X103. The deadline for demos is August 15 and for classes is August 22.

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**PHOTO EXHIBIT.** "Collective Perspectives" Group Photography Exhibit will open with a reception on **Friday, August 14 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm**. The gallery will be open on **Fridays and Saturdays from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm through August 30**. Subject matter will include scenic, landscapes, nature and travel. Eight different exhibitors will be showing their works. A portion of the sale proceeds will go to Hospice of the Calumet Area.

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**MAKING ART FROM SAND.** The second annual **Sand Castle Competition** will be held this year at the Marquette Park Beach on **Saturday, August 15 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm**. Anyone interested in being a competitor, sponsor, vendor or volunteer should sign up at the MBACD website, [www.millerbeacharts.org](http://www.millerbeacharts.org). Volunteers, please call Roz Mitchell at 219-713-3954.

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**MBACD FUNDRAISER.** The Arts District will hold a themed fundraiser, featuring period dress and unusual food/drink combinations at the Miller Bakery Café from **6:00 to 10:00 pm on Saturday, August 29**. [Watch Miller Bakery Café](#) and [Miller Beach Arts and Creative District](#) on Facebook for additional information as it is available.