



Miller Message for August 2017

Walgreens saga continues

As we left the Walgreens tale last month, Walgreens was adamant about closing the Miller store, but they agreed not to object if another drugstore wanted to take up the space. A Miller group – Charlie Brown, George Rogge, Pat Lee and Roland Walker - discussed with CVS whether they would be interested in taking over the vacant Miller store, but they responded that they had a firm policy of not taking over closed Walgreens stores. The local group along with Gary redevelopment personnel, worked up another proposal for CVS, to move into the north-west corner lot when the new intersection of Rt. 12 and Rt. 20 is built, just east of McDonalds. The Chase Bank agreed to sell the bonds, the city would provide Tax Increment Financing, and CVS would just have to sign the lease. This offer is still pending.

DUAB names Gary manager

The Distressed Unit Appeal Board held a well-attended meeting at Wirt/Emerson High School on July 25, to present all the finalists for the position of Gary schools Emergency Manager. All but one were representatives of school management groups. Most of the candidates focused on reducing the schools' debt, while a few placed more emphasis on academic achievement. In the meantime, the old superintendent and

school board have continued to operate (and spend money) without authorization. At Senator Melton's previous meeting and at the DUAB meeting, the main body of the Wirt auditorium was dark, but the stage, at least, was lighted when the Emergency Manager candidates appeared.

In the background, First District schoolboard member Carlos Tolliver is working up a proposal to make Wirt/Emerson, Banneker and Marquette schools a separate school district. It remains to be seen what the Emergency Manager would think of that!

The Nobel School building is a hazard and needs to be torn down, but the school district has gotten no proposals for market-rate development if the Nobel School property. The Emergency Manager will have to try again.

Algren Museum Presentation

Douglas Cowie, author of *Noon in Paris, Eight in Chicago*, a fictionized account of the love affair between Nelson Algren and Simone de Beauvoir, will be passing through our town on **Friday, August 25** and has agreed to speak at the Nelson Algren Museum of Miller Beach at **7:00 pm**. The author spends much time describing Algren's cabin on the lagoon, the dunes, and Lake Michigan and Marquette Park. Copies of his book will be on hand for purchase and autographing.

Also opening on **August 25** is an exhibit by Frank Joseph Zirbel, who will answer questions about his collection "*Algren(esque): Characters from the Neon Wilderness:*" whose Algren portrait collage is on display at the museum.

Next up: *Somebody in Boots*, Algren's first novel, dealing with his early Texas days, with an introduction by Colin Asher. The museum has copies for sale for \$20. The Algren website is coming along at www.nelsonalgrenmuseumofmillerbeach.com.

Summer in the park

Summer is the time for parks and beaches, so this is when the plans and preparations of the MCC Shoreline committee meet their test.

LAKE STREET BEACH DEVELOPMENT

The Shoreline Planning Committee met with Jack Eskin, Deputy Director of Redevelopment for the City of Gary concerning the development of Lake Street and the Beach area. He said the developers are working on plans that respect the uniqueness of our natural areas and protect pristine fore-dune areas. They will not turn it into an amusement park. There will be opportunities for community input on the project, and for Mr. Eskin to share information with us.

BEACH AND PARK ISSUES

The new Foreman of Park Maintenance is Claude Powers III. The challenging job of collecting trash from the beach and keeping the beach and park litter free is his first priority. The designated swimming areas with high volumes of people are dealt with first. The Summer Youth Work Program and Gary Sanitary District have contributed manpower and equipment to get the jobs done. The beach is quite narrow in several places between Montgomery and Wells Street preventing the use of heavy equipment. The solution during the month of July was to drag the bags of trash up to a truck on Lake Shore Drive. Many thanks to the Beach Can Liner Volunteers who bag up the garbage in the beach cans to be hauled away.

BEACH SAFETY

The usual late-night people who descend upon our beach are still a challenge. The beach is officially closed at dusk. If you see or hear people on the beach at midnight or 2:00 AM, call 911. Day or night, if you see a people drinking alcohol, especially from glass bottles, call 911. If you see suspicious behavior in your neighborhood day or night, call 911. If you see a crime being committed, call 911. Our Park Beach Patrols are at work daily. During the night, Gary Police are to patrol our area.

WATER SAFETY

The Gary Fire Department is not patrolling along our beach this summer. They will come as first responders to an emergency. This is disappointing, since last summer they had patrols on beach with more eyes on the water to keep people safe. They do have a vehicle with a rescue board attached to transport victims quickly from the water's edge to the street. We are supporting efforts to install life rings, life jackets and information signs at each beach easement to help with rescue efforts. If you are interested in sponsoring a rescue station, contact Mary Ann Best at 262-309-9512 or mbest@maandassociates.net.

FRIENDS OF MARQUETTE PARK

We are in the midst of our membership drive for Friends of Marquette Park. New Members are always welcome to join our efforts to raise funds for projects in Marquette Park. We encourage Charter members to continue giving annually to help us accomplish our goals.

Friends of Marquette Park Levels of Giving

What It Will Provide the Park

- \$25+ Mulch for landscaping gardens & trails
- \$50+ Concrete walkways & stairs
- \$100+ Native landscaping for Pavilion area
- \$200+ Seasonal displays for Fr. Marquette
- \$300+ Mighty Oaks - Major projects

Please write checks to: **Friends of Marquette Park/Legacy Foundation**

Mail to: **Friends of Marquette Park, PO Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403**

Or Donate online to Legacy Foundation:

www.legacyfdn.org, click on DONATE NOW and search for Friends of Marquette

Park. Donations are tax deductible.

RESCUE STATIONS ALONG THE BEACH

Support rescue stations with a life ring for victim, life jacket for rescuer and information sign could be installed at the beach easement street signs. Contact Mary Ann Best for more information: 262-309-9512 mbest@maandassociates.net

MILLER BEACH CLEANUP DAY

United Way, City of Gary and Marquette Park are sponsoring a Day of Caring at Miller Beach to Clean up our shoreline **Thursday, August 3, 9:00 AM - noon**. Meet at Area 5 in Marquette Park (north of the lagoon). Please sign up and come join the effort at www.lauw.org.

Duly noted

RENT A BIKE IN MILLER.

The Miller Spotlight group, in cooperation with the nation-wide Zagster organization, has set up a bike rental network in Miller. For \$2 an hour or \$30 for a monthly pass, you can pick up a bike for a few hours and drop it off at one of four locations in Miller – the South Shore stop/farmers market, the Lake Street Beach, the concession stand at Montgomery St. and the beach, and at “The Stage” by Shelby and Locust. The system caters to visitors, but is also helpful for residents who want to take an occasional ride. To download the AP, go to www.zagster.com

CARMELLA’ STAGE TRANSFORMED.

Since earlier this year, Carmela Saraceno’s **Stage at 925 Shelby Street** has turned into “**The Stage Small Business Incubator and co-working space.**” It aims to bring small business owners together for management assistance, marketing support, access to financing, and technical support services. It also provides shared office spaces, light industrial space, networking opportunities, and basic information needed to create a

successful new business. On Thursdays and Saturday evenings it is also available for entertainment events.

TEENS AT WORK.

The City of Gary hired over 100 teens this summer, (ages 15 to 18) to work for 6 weeks, 5 days a week, 4 hours a day. Friends of Marquette Park paid for one student. Five excellent, on time, hard-working students were assigned here, and helped keep Miller clean and weedless, with supervision from the Marquette Park friends

AUGUST 2017 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 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, www.millercitizenscorp.org.

STORIES FROM THE HEART.

The Family Folklore Foundation presents “Shoreline Stories From the Heart”, a storytelling show, from **5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Saturday, August 19** at “The Stage”, 925 N Shelby St. These stories bring to life personal experiences in an intimate, face-to-face setting. Admission is \$5 in advance at www.indiganstoryteller.com. or \$7 the night of the show. Children under 12 are free. For more information, contact Dr. Meg

G. DeMakas, Family Folklore Foundation, Phone: (219) 616-7299 Email:
famfolkfound@gmail.com.

FEST IN THE FIRST – SEPTEMBER 16.

This year's Fest in the First, sponsored by the First District Precinct Organization and the Miller Spotlight group will take place in the Lake Street business district **from noon until 6:00 pm on September 16**. The event will feature music, dancing, free activities for kids, food vendors, and a whole range of craft vendors. Additional vendors are still being accepted. Just call Mike Chirich at 219-938-2277 to reserve a space.

Miller Beach Arts' August show: Bobby Talamine Photographs Music

The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) presents "**Not Fade Away: Music Photography by Bobby Taming**" from August 4 through August 27 at the Gardner Center on Lake Street. The exhibit will open with a reception on **Friday, August 4 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm**, at which Talamine will be present to answer questions.

Bobby Talamine has been photographing music legends and new upcoming musicians for over three decades. More than 50 of his framed photographs will be on display and are for sale. Talamine's tastes are eclectic and range from rock n'roll giants like Bob Dylan, Pink Floyd, David Bowie and Paul McCartney to tool, SLIPKNOT, the Pet Shop Boys and Johnny Cash. The first concert he ever photographed was Led Zeppelin in 1975. He is a self-taught photographer, whose love of music drove him to improve his image making. The show will be open weekends starting **Friday, August 4 until Sunday August 27 at the Gardner Center. Gallery hours are Fridays and Saturdays 6-9pm and Sundays 1-4pm. Opening reception is Friday August 4th**

6pm.

Visit us at www.MillerCitizensCorp.org

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