

Miller Message for May 2017

Community cleanup - May 6

The annual Miller cleanup started with the MCC, but as new groups arose, they have also joined in this rite of spring. Everyone is invited to help out, and support will be coming from the **MCC, the MBA, the Miller Garden Club**, church groups and ordinary citizens. This year's cleanup is planned for **Saturday, May 6, from 7:00 to 11:00 am**, starting at the corner of Grand Blvd and Miller Avenue (former Ralph's parking lot). **Participants can start work whenever they like**, but the finish of the cleanup is set for 11:00 am, because the trash must be hauled to the land-fill before it closes at noon. Private individuals keep trash under control year-round in many areas, but there is still plenty of work to be done in the spring.

May brings a riot of activity

FIRST FRIDAY OF MAY – MAY 5

Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy Lake Street, busy with shoppers and diners, when the shops stay open late, offering nibblies and special deals.

THE NELSON ALGREN MUSEUM, next to the Miller Bakery Café on Lake Street, will be open, free of charge, from **4:00 to 7:00 pm on the "First Friday", May 5**. Feel free to stop in and check it out.

AT MILLER PIZZA, **Kathouse Acoustic Duo** will perform "retro" classic rock, blues, and southern rock on the patio from **6:00 to 9:00 on May 5**.

'CONFLICT' EXHIBIT, with **sculpture, prints and assemblage** by Corey Hagelberg, Aaron Nicholson, and Jason Bord, will open at the Gardner Center on **May 5 from 6:00 to 9:00**

pm and will be open on **Fridays and Saturdays from 6 to 9 and Sundays from 1 to 4 until May 28.**

WIRT-EMERSON MUSICAL

Wirt-Emerson students present an original musical “Gary”, highlighting the culture and history of Gary with music, dance, theater and art. **May 5 and 6 at 7:00 pm and May 7 at 4:00,** at the school auditorium. Admission \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors.

MARQUETTE METHODIST SALE. Marquette Park United Methodist Church on Grand Blvd is holding a **white elephant, garage, and bake sale** on **Saturday, May 6 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.** On a recurring basis, the Methodist Church also offers Yoga instruction for seniors at noon on **Tuesday and Friday for \$3.00 and on Thursday for \$4.00,** which includes lunch. For additional information contact Connie Nichols at 219-938-4106.

FARMERS’ MARKET OPENS

The Miller Farmers’ Market will open its season on **Sunday, May 7,** and will be open **every Sunday through September from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.** offering a diverse mix of produce, cheese, prepared food to eat in or take out, flowers, arts and crafts.

On **May 7,** the popular band **Tantrum** will perform at noon, the Gary Poetry Project will be on-site, and the new micro-golf course will be unveiled. On **May 14,** the market will focus on health and wellness, with free yoga at 10:30 and a Cycle Miller ride at 1:00. The **last Sunday of the month,** the market will feature educational and youth programming. To find out more about upcoming programs, subscribe to the weekly newsletter by sending an e-mail to **market@millerbeacharts.org.**

ANNUAL PIZZA PARTY

The **Aquatorium Society** is throwing a pizza party on **Friday, May 12, starting at 5:30 pm.** Pizza, pop, wine and beer are included in the \$25 price. The event will also include the dedication of the memorial plaques next to the Tuskegee Airman statue. **There is still space for**

20 more names on the plaques, at \$250 each. The final day for additions and corrections is May 8. Call 938-1986 with corrections or additions.

GALLERY GALLOP AND DANCE

The Rotary Club of Gary and the Miller Community Fund will present the **24th Annual Gallery Gallop on Saturday, May 13th at 6:30 pm**, at the Lake Street Beach, with race-day registration starting at **5:00 pm**. The computer-timed 8.5K run follows a strenuous course along the beach, through the dunes and streets; the walk starts on the beach and then winds through the dunes. All runners get a T-shirt featuring art by local artists. There are cash prizes for overall and age-group winners. Entry fees for the race are \$20 in advance, \$25 on race day; for the walk, \$12 in advance, \$18 on race day.

After the race, there will be a **Rockin Sockin after-Gallop Dance/Pizza Party, May 13 from 7:30 to 11:30** at the Gardner Center, 540 S. Lake St., sponsored by the Miller Business Association & Miller Pizza Company. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door with a cash bar. Tickets are available at the Shops on Lake Street and Ayers Realtors. **Runners who have registered for the Gallery Gallop get in free for the dance.**

LAKE EFFEKT FESTIVAL

On Wednesday, May 17 from noon to 10:00 pm, sixty artists will transform more than 20 walls into works of art during **the Third Lake Effekt Public Art and Street Festival**. In the background, purchase art, crafts, food and drink from a host of eclectic and innovative vendors while you enjoy live music up and down Lake Street's business district. Family fun for everyone!

FRIENDS OF THE PARK EVENT

The Friends of Marquette Park are holding an annual meeting and celebration on **Thursday, May 18 at 6:00 pm** at the Fr. Marquette statue in the park. There will be snacks, dessert and a cash bar. Admission is \$10. The event will honor the Charter Members of Friends of the Park. In case of bad weather, the celebration will be held in the downstairs lounge at the

Marquette Park Pavilion.

THE GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE

The Miller Garden Club is holding its **20th Annual Plant and Rummage Sale** on **Saturday, May 20, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm** at the Aquatorium in Marquette Park. On sale will be divided plants donated by members, plants purchased for resale, and artfully-displayed treasures at rock-bottom prices. This year's sale will feature shorter and faster check-out lines. In the background, **box lunches and baked goods will be for sale. In addition, garden tool sharpening will be available.** Proceeds from the sale will help support the garden club's work, planting and maintaining gardens in public places around Miller.

FESTA ITALIANA RETURNS

St. Mary of the Lake Church is presenting its annual spaghetti dinner, **Festa Italiana** on **Saturday, May 20 from 4:00 to 9:00 pm**. The cost is \$10, eat in or carry out, including additional helpings if you're eating in. Baked goods, wine and beer are for sale separately, and there will be music in the background. This has been a **community celebration**, so come one and all.

ALGREN MUSEUM PLANS EVENT

On **Sunday, May 21, at 3:00 pm**, the Nelson Algren Museum of Miller Beach will present "**Simone de Beauvoir, Nelson Algren and his Poetry**", by Richard Bales, an Algren scholar who is working on a new book disclosing previously unpublished facts about Algren.

To celebrate Algren's circle of friends and colleagues, Chicago artist **David Lee Csicsko** will be exhibiting portraits of Algren and his French friends in colorful framed prints available for purchase. And to get the party going, there will be a special appearance by "Simone", accompanying herself on the accordion.

The entry fee is \$10, with wine and 18th Street beer available for purchase.

MAY 2017 MCC MEETING

THE MONTHLY MCC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 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 mceaton@aol.com. Also visit the MCC website, www.millercitizenscorp.org

Important legislation approved

Several bills which are important to Gary residents have now been signed by Governor Holcomb:

House bill 1144 authorizes the establishment of Transportation Development Districts (TDDs) around stations on the existing South Shore Line and the proposed West Lake Extension. They will capture increases in property and income taxes to pay for bond issues used to finance the expansion and improvements.

Senate bill 128 requires the state treasurer to intercept local funds if a county or municipality that has contracted with the RDA to support the South Shore Line fails to make its required payments. **These bills assure that the South Shore extension and improvements will be built, and they were generally supported by the MCC and local residents.**

Senate bill 567 puts a state-appointed emergency manager in charge of the Gary Community schools, who will supplant the elected school board and exclusively exercise all financial and academic authority over Gary schools. **This bill eliminates local control of education**, and its key focus is **eliminating the debt**, rather than educating the children. Local leaders, for the most part, don't like it, but they have few alternative ideas.

MCC Lakeshore Committee gets beachfront organized

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

On Thursday, April 20, the Shoreline Committee held its traditional annual meeting with all the public officials who share responsibility for public safety and operations on the beach and Marquette Park - Police Chief Larry McKinley, Park Superintendent McKenya Dilworth, a Deputy Sheriff,, and Marquette Park Manager Tiffany Merrills were all present.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Officer Simon Lillie announced that there will be additional beach patrol officers this year, stationed in zones for quick response in emergencies. There will be more parking signs and enforcement will focus on drinking, especially by teenagers. **Parking lots will remain open until 9:00 pm**, to accommodate visitors who want to stroll the beach at sunset. There will be a ticket booth for the small parking lot at the Montgomery St. concession stand. **(The cost for parking will be \$5 for Gary people and \$7 for others.)** Equipment will include a new 4-wheel drive ATV and a drone.

Lake County contributes a marine unit, including jet skis to patrol on the lake, and a helicopter equipped with floodlight.

From the Gary Fire Department, **Dave Evans** is the dive-master and rescuer. He will be on duty before Memorial Day if the weather merits. He advised that **all emergencies should be reported to 911**, and the dispatcher will find the right responder to call.

PARK OPERATIONS

Tiffany Merrills, Marquette Park manager, reported that 70 events are booked at the Pavilion, including all weekends for the remainder of the summer.

With additional income from the park's non-reverting fund, a new maintenance man has been hired and a new aquatic manager will supervise the life-guards. The use of plastic liners for the trash cans on the beach will be continued, and a 'Rhino' with a trailer will pick up the trash, in place of the front-loaders previously used. A contract has been signed for maintenance of the Lake Street boat launch. Bike lanes in the park will be repainted.

Numerous events have been planned at the park. **Taco Tuesdays**, the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, have already started. The Fuze caterers offer all-you-can-eat tacos for \$10 with drinks from a cash bar to wash them down. **Drive-in movies** have been scheduled on the last Friday of each month through September, starting at dusk. A **Mothers' Day brunch** on May 14 will offer an elaborate buffet, \$24 for adults or \$15 for children.

MISCELLANEOUS

No-parking signs at Locust and Shelby, along with additional late-night patrols, aim to reduce the number of after-hours revelers on the beach. The Locust/Shelby group is also advocating resident-only parking in some of the area.