



Miller Message for February 2016

Lakeshore Dunes Apartment management follows through

The MCC has followed up with Stella Vanderhere, Manager of the Lakeshore Dunes Apartments, to assure that the apartment owners have completed the security improvements they promised last fall. George Rogge finds that new lights have been installed outside every door, and security cameras have been purchased. There are regular meetings with the Gary police, who have access to patrol the property and have keys to every building (but NOT every apartment). A system for resident parking permits has been established, to assure that all residents have been vetted and approved. Two off-duty Gary police officers have been hired, and the police have an updated list of residents each month.

Out of 680 apartments in the Lakeshore Dunes complex, only 22 do not have market-rate tenants.

Duly noted . . .

FISH ON FRIDAY. St. Mary of the Lake Church on Miller Avenue is holding a big Fish Fry to mark the **first Friday of Lent, February 12, from 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm.**, in Lessard Hall (AKA The Gym). Dinners are \$12 for adults, all-you-can-eat (dine in) or \$6 for children under 12. Take-out is also an option. Grilled cheese sandwiches will be available for non-fish eaters. Every-one is welcome!

ST. PATRICK'S OPEN HOUSE. The American Legion Miller Dunes Post 279 is holding an Open House beginning at noon on **Saturday, March 12**, in honor of St. Patrick's Day. The public is invited to stop in.

ROCKIN' SOCKIN' DANCE PARTY. The Rotary Club of Gary and the Miller Business Association are holding a fundraising event at the Gardner Center on Lake Street, on **Saturday, March 19 from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm**. The Corey Dennison Band will provide live entertainment, along with snacks, a cash bar, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door. They can be purchased at Ayers Realtors and the Lake Street Gallery on Lake Street. Call 219-938-4566 for additional information.

LAKE STREET PLANTER REPAIR. Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson has responded to the urging of Miller organizations to repair the planter on Lake Street at 4th Avenue which was smashed by a reckless driver last fall. A contract has been signed and the first step – shoring up the planter to keep its contents from spilling out – has been completed. Permanent repairs will be finished when the weather permits -- hopefully this month. .

FEBRUARY 2016 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MCC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE VERY EARLY THIS MONTH, -- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, AT 7:30 PM, IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE MARQUETTE PARK UNITED METHOD-IST 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.

MEET THE CHEF. The Marquette Park Pavilion has contracted with Fuze Catering as their new exclusive caterer, and Chef James Sanders is meeting with the public and presenting a sample of his food preparations, on **Friday, February 5 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm**. The public is invited to stop by and check out the food.

WINTER CLEANUP. The Lake County Jail Road Crew, supervised by local precinct committeeman Mike Chirich, has performed a major cleanup in the Miller area. They have picked up and hauled away trash from Rt. 12 between the South Shore station and Clay Street; from Old Hobart Road; and from County Line Road. The City of Gary then promptly hauled away the bags of rubbish. Chirich notes that the work crews have cleaned up literally thousands of locations in Lake County during the past year.

AWARD TO MILLER SPOTLIGHT. The Miller Spotlight project began with hundreds of interviews, in which local residents discussed ways to improve our neighborhood. It resulted in the formation of seven continuing committees, carrying out projects to implement these changes. The Miller Spotlight has been selected by the Indiana Chapter of the American Planning Association to receive the Outstanding Public Outreach Award for 2016, which will be presented at the APA Indiana Spring Conference on Friday, February 19 at Ball State University in Muncie. Congratulations! If you are interested in joining the Miller Spotlight effort, contact Jessie Renslow via millerspotlight@gmail.com.

LOCAL SCHOOLS NOT CLOSING. A rumor has been circulating that Bannecker School and Wirt-Emerson school in Miller might be closed. However, our first district representative on the Gary Community School Board, Doretha Rouse, reports that no such action has been proposed or discussed by the school board.

ARTERY SCREENING. The Marquette Park United Methodist Church on Grand Blvd. is hosting a Life Line Screening event on **Wednesday, February 17**, in which ultrasound technology will be used to view plaque build-up on carotid arteries which carry blood to the brain and can be a cause of stroke if they are blocked. Cost of the Wellness Package with Heart Rhythm is \$149 and screenings take 60 to 90 minutes to complete. Visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners or call 888-653-6441 for more information or to pre-register.

Aquatorium ‘Talk Theater’

The Aquatorium in Marquette Park will host informative and entertaining events

on Sunday afternoons in February and March:

FEBRUARY 21 AT 3:00 PM. Author Ruth Nelson will recount the history of Fr. Jacques Marquette, who passed by this neighborhood in the 17th Century, and whose statue stands at the entrance to Marquette Park, which was named in his honor. (Snow date February 28) Admission is \$10, including punch and cookies.

MARCH 20 AT 3:00 PM. Sue Rutsen, President of the Nelson Algren Society, will present a program about Algren, his lover, Simone de Beauvoir, and their cabin on the lagoon in Miller. Dramatic readings will feature Eve Botando. Rutsen is looking for Miller residents who have actual first-hand memories of Algren in this neighborhood. Admission is \$10 and there will be beer for sale in the background.

Looking ahead, there will be an Algren festival on Lake Street on **June 24 and 25**, with an Algren biographical movie, speakers, and music by the Frankie Machine Blues Band.

Upcoming Arts District events

As usual, the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) has a full lineup of exhibits and activities at the Gardner Center on Lake Street in the next several months:

VANGUARDS: MOVING 'OUT HERE' TO MILLER will display professional photographic portraits of 20 to 30 persons who moved from other parts of Gary and the Region to Miller from 1964 to 1976, along with their typed answers to ten questions about their experience and their reflections on life in Miller. James Oliphant took the photographs. There will also be some paintings done by one of the interviewees – Mrs. Edna L. Freeman. The exhibit will have an opening reception on **Friday, February 5 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.**, a **closing reception on February 28 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.**, and a film on Nina Simone on **February 20 at 7:00 pm.** The usual gallery hours will prevail – **Fridays and Saturdays from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.** The exhibit is free but there will be a fee of \$10 for viewing the film, which includes an introduction by Larry Lapidus with popcorn and soft drinks on the side. The

presentation has been assembled by the MBACD, with Kathy Long, Mary Ann Torian and Barbara Freeman taking the lead roles.

ART FROM EXCESS – THE SEQUEL is a free found-art workshop facilitated by resident “Art from Excess” creator Chris Toepfer, assisted by local artists and educators. All the art will be created from discarded materials, some of which will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own “found” objects – bottle caps, plastic bags, driftwood, and whatever other items. At the Gardner Center, **Saturday February 5 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.** The MBACD welcomes donations of glue guns and paint brushes to be used in the workshop. To donate these items, contact Marcy Huttas at mhuttas@gmail.com.

STRAIGHT SHOOTERS - photography by Larry Lapidus and Bob Palmieri. These days, cell phones with digital cameras produce sharp photos and presets can immediately transform their “look” to emphasize a particular mood. In contrast, the 20th Century photos displayed in this exhibit represent a style called Straight Photography, typified by higher contrast, rich tonality, sharp focus, aversion to cropping, and a modernist-inspired emphasis on the abstract geometric structure of subjects. The opening reception will be on **Friday, March 4 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm**, and subsequent gallery hours will be 6:00 to 9:00 on Fridays and Saturdays, 1:00 to 4:00 on Sundays until March 20.

ALL THE DOORS WERE SOLD! The recent Doors to Miller project used interior doors as canvasses, and 83 artists came out to paint them. The resulting art works were on display at the Gardner Center the last two weeks of January, and viewers were invited to bid on them in a silent auction. In the end, all the doors were sold, with proceeds going to the Miller Spotlight Property Improvement action group and the MBACD. Look for more volunteer opportunities coming soon!

MBACD NEEDS MONEY. After five years of presenting diverse exhibits, performances and events, the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) needs financial support. The numerous MBACD events have been essentially self-supporting, but the organization’s accounting, marketing and programming functions, as well as the salary of the Executive Director and repairs to the Gardner Center take money, so contributions are urgently needed. Donations,

which are tax-deductible, can be sent to MBACD, P.O. Box 2405, Gary, IN 46403. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Douglas Center stays active

We often think of America's national parks in terms of gigantic mountains and canyons, but millions of visitors come right here to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, to appreciate our gentle landscape of lake and sand. The Douglas Center on Lake Street complements this experience with its constant stream of exhibits and activities, geared to the needs of young people growing up in an urban environment. Currently on display:

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS EXHIBIT, continuing through February. Children can do an indoor scavenger hunt of this exhibit and earn a small prize.

FIND YOUR PARK FILM SERIES takes place every **Saturday at 2:00 pm**, celebrating the 100th birthday of the National Park Service. The programs highlight a different park each week.

YOGA INSTRUCTION AND NATURE STORIES. Volunteer instructor Angela Appleton-Carver will present adventurous nature stories while participants learn yoga poses and stretching exercises. **Saturday, February 20 at 1:00 to 2:00 pm.**

AMPHIBIANS IN AN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE. Professor Bob Brodman will discuss farming practices which protect and encourage amphibians. **Saturday, March 26 at 1:30 pm.**

SKI AND SNOWSHOE LOANS. Any time there is more than an inch of snow on the ground, visitors can borrow (for free) ski and snowshoe equipment to wander through the Miller Woods.

For more information, contact the park's information desk at 219-395-1882 or check the park's website at www.nps.gov/indu, or just stop in any time. The Douglas Center is open to the public daily except Sunday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm., with exhibits and activities aimed mostly at children.

Visit us at www.MillerCitizensCorp.org

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PO Box 2645
Gary, In 46403

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