



Miller Message for November 2015

George Rogge is back as President of the MCC

THE MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

At the Annual Meeting of the Miller Citizens Corp., the general membership elected half of the board of directors for terms beginning in October, 2015 and ending in October, 2017. This election completes the reduction in the size of the board from 30 members to 20. The current board members are:

Jason Arndt	Elkhart Street
John Collie	Locust Avenue
Cullen Ben Daniel	Lake Street
Thomas Eaton	Oak Avenue
Ron Gholdon	Lake Street
Douglas Grimes	Ironwood Avenue
Ed Johnston	Warren Street
Demuth King	Lakewood Avenue
Pauline Millard	Lakewood Avenue
Samantha Norton	Hickory Avenue
Wendy Prettyman	Oak Avenue
Eric Reaves	Locust Avenue
Wardella Roby	Ironwood Avenue
George Rogge	N. Union Street
Carol Smith	Ripley Street
Louis Stewart	Lake Shore Drive
Judy Tonk	Randolph Street
Deb Weiss	Oak Avenue

Rachel Weiss

N. Morgan Street

THE MCC OFFICERS FOR 2016:

Following the election, the board members chose the officers of the MCC for the 2015-2016 term:

President	George Rogge
Vice President	Carol Smith
Vice President	Eric Reaves
Secretary	Tom Eton
Treasurer	Wendy Prettyman

Rogge announced that his full time job is to preserve, protect and promote the interests, lifestyle, history and diversity of Miller. He will be available almost all the time at georgerogge88@gmail.com. Rogge began by describing how he wants the MCC to function in the coming year. He expects the work of the organization to be accomplished in committees which will present brief reports at the monthly board meetings, so the meetings will not take longer than an hour. The MCC meetings will continue to be scheduled at 7:30 pm on the **second Monday of the Month** at the Marquette Park United Methodist Church on Grand Blvd. The MCC committees will be:

Shoreline Committee	Carol Smith
938-4225	pandcsmith@sbcglobal.net
Government Relations Committee	Eric Reaves
938-8170	ericereaves@aol.com
Social Justice Committee	Cullen Ben Daniel
256-3933	cullenbdaniel@yahoo.com
Membership Committee	Tom Eaton
938-8831	mcceaton@aol.com
Education Committee	unassigned

All MCC members are encouraged to participate in these committees.

Membership drive continues

Since 1971, the MCC has been dealing with critical local issues like **taxes, public safety, park and shoreline use, schools, community cleanup, government services**

and community development. Successfully confronting all these issues has required a long-term, continuing organization.

Two months ago, the MCC sent membership renewal notices to all the people on its mailing list, but the response has been slow and we have not yet heard from many long-time members. **We are therefore continuing the membership drive, contacting by phone all people on our mailing list who have so far not paid their dues for 2015.** If you are a sometime MCC member, you can expect a call in the next several weeks, urging you to renew your commitment to our community organization. The cost is small – just \$10 per year – but the rewards are great.

To renew your MCC membership through PayPal, visit the MCC website www.millercitizenscorp.org and click on the button that says “join the MCC”. You can also update your membership by sending a check or cash for \$10 to MCC, P. O. Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403, along with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address (which will be used to send you the monthly Miller Message.)

MCC forms new committee

At the October board meeting, the MCC initiated a new Social Justice Committee, whose mission is to promote equality, dignity, accessibility and human rights for all residents of the Miller/Aetna/Glen Ryan community. The committee is currently seeking new members who are interested in socioeconomic diversity, racial integration, gender equality, environmental justice, and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. Area residents who would like to work for these aims or want more information about the committee should contact the committee chairman, Cullen Ben Daniel at MCCSocialJustice@gmail.com.

Lake Street events planned

The shops on Lake Street are moving into holiday mode.

On the **First Friday, November 6 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm**, the Lake Street Gallery is hosting a “poster signing” for Mitch Markovitz’s new Go Hawks! poster and a book signing for Jane Amesson’s Jazz Age Murder in NWI (she co-authored our Miller Beach history book, along with Linda Simon).

Then, the “Shops on Lake Street” are doing two Ladies Night Out shopping events, on **Thursday, November 19 and Thursday, December 10 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm**, with wine & cheese, special offers and prizes.

On the **First Friday, December 4 from 5 to 8 pm**, dog owners are invited to bring their pooch in holiday attire and stroll Lake Street.

Stores will be open until 9:00 pm on **Black Friday, November 27** and until 7:00 pm on **Small Business Day, November 28**.

Finally, the annual **Holiday Sing-along** at the Lake Street Gallery will be on **Saturday, December 5, starting at 7:00 pm**.

Duly noted . . .

NEW FOOD PANTRY. St. Mary of the Lake Church on Miller Avenue is reinstating its food pantry, under the direction of Carole Barnes and Lupe Becze. They are starting out with distributions once a month, beginning on Monday, November 16 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, at the St. Mary of the Lake gym. The food pantry welcomes donations of non-perishable goods which can be dropped off on Sunday mornings.

POLICE DISPATCH CENTRALIZED. After years of effort, Gary has finally switched over to Central Dispatching for emergency calls for police, fire and ambulance service. Just call 911 as always. What has changed is the **non-emergency police number**. For requests which do **not** require immediate response, the new number is **219-660-0000**.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR. St. Mary of the Lake Church on Miller Avenue will be holding its annual Christmas Bazaar, on **Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**. On sale will be baked goods, homemade crafts, trinkets and treasures, new gift items, basket raffles, and jewelry, along with plants, books, CDs, magazines, and ornaments, Also **LUNCH**. Come for soup and sandwiches and look around! In the background there will also be a cash raffle for \$5 a ticket, with prizes from \$50 to \$1,000.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MCC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 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. You can also visit the MCC website, www.millercitizenscorp.org.

SPECIAL 'SHOPPEER' EDITION. The monthly Miller Message also appears in print as a feature of the advertising paper Lakeshore Shopper, which can be picked up at many businesses in Miller and surrounding communities. The current issue of the Lakeshore Shopper for November 2015 features articles about the history of Miller and the MCC, and highlights a number of local businesses. Check it out!

DOUGLAS CENTER WORKSHOP. On **Saturday, November 14**, educators, naturalists, scout leaders, and other youth leaders are invited to try their hands at a wide variety of activities they can use to teach about the environment during a Project Learning Tree Workshop at the Douglas Center on Lake Street. The workshop will run from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm is designed for formal and informal educators working with grade-school children who will try out a wide variety of activities they can use to teach students about the environment. The cost is \$35, including lunch. For information or to register, contact duneslearningcenter.squarespace.com/educators-adults/ or call Dunes Learning Center at (219)395-9555.

Volunteers earn our thanks

As we come to the end of another beautiful summer, we need to thank all of our neighbors who have volunteered their time and energy to make Miller a place of beauty.

Marquette Park and the Gary beaches have been clean and safe, because of the continuous involvement of the **MCC Shoreline Committee, led by Carol Smith**. Carol has been constantly in touch with the Gary park department, police department and fire department, to make sure they are serving the public. Then, she has been

joined by about 50 volunteers, to augment the work of public employees by picking up trash, pulling noxious weeds, and planting flowers. The result is a beautiful and relaxing summer playground.

Miller residents and visitors have also enjoyed colorful plantings in public spaces, thanks to the **Miller Garden Club, led by Karin Crane**. Club members have bought, planted and tended a world of flowers and shrubs, which beautify Lake Street, the South Shore stop, the fire station, the old Miller town hall, and other locations around the community. Volunteers from the Miller Garden Club finished off the season by planting over 100 trees and shrubs on the Wirt/Emerson campus during October.

Arts District events continue

The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) is hosting a number of events during November and December at the Gardner Center on Lake Street.

AT THE HEADWATERS. A show by 18 artists and students from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, looking at the Calumet River system. There will be an opening reception on November 6 and a workshop on November 15. Entry is free.

ART CLASSES at the Gardner Center:

WATERCOLOR AND MORE (age 16 and up) 4 Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Starting November 5. Cost is \$60. Tel. 219-836-1839 x 103

CREATIVE FINGERS (5 & 6 year olds) 4 Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30. Cost is \$45. Tel 836-1839 x103

ZENTANGLE DRAWING – 2 sessions, November 14 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm or Thursday, November 19 from 6:45 to 8:45 pm. Cost is \$35. Tel. 773-822-8086

RICK POCIASK. An exhibition of multi-media paintings, drawings and sculptures from November 27 to December 13, with an opening reception on November 27 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Gallery hours are Fridays and Saturdays from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Entry is free.

“FOOTSTEPS IN THE DUNES” – A diverse cast will perform a radio play with costuming, dealing with ecologists Cowles, Diana, and Douglas. There will be a workshop for children after the play. Tickets at the door are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12.

As an aside, the Arts District has space for rent at 601 S. Lake Street (by the COP office). They are also welcoming additional volunteer workers. Contact Meg Roman at megromanmbacd@gmail.com.

Visit us at www.MillerCitizensCorp.org

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