

MCC annual meeting and election set for October 10

At the Annual Meeting of the Miller Citizens Corp., members will assemble to elect half of the board of directors for two-year terms ending in October 2013, and one member to fill the remaining year of the term of Jeannie Friel, who died recently. The Nominating Committee, composed of Chairman Carmen Collins, Marion Joseph, Sarah Hensel, Cullen Ben Daniel, and Chester Baran, have submitted a full slate of sixteen nominees for the available positions:

Candidates for two-year terms

Jason Arndt	Elkhart Street
Richard Barnes	Montgomery Street
Nichole Botsford	Locust Avenue
John Collie	Locust Avenue
Thomas Eaton	Oak Avenue
Marilyn Krusas	Hemlock Avenue
Heather McCarthy	Lake Shore Drive
Pauline Millard	Lakewood Avenue
Eric Reaves	Locust Avenue
Sandy Rodriguez	Jasper Street
Marsha Bradley Smith	Forest Avenue
Louis Stewart	Lake Shore Drive
Roland Walker	Vermillion Street
Rachel Weiss	Morgan Street
Joseph Winfrey	Morgan Street

Candidate for one-year term

Chester Baran	Maple Avenue
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Following the election of board members, the entire board will elect the officers who will lead the corporation during the coming year, including the President, three Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Nominating Committee will recommend candidates for all the executive posts, but they may nominate more than one member for a position, and additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the board meeting. In case of election contests, the board members will vote by secret ballot to choose the winner.

MCC members who have not been included in the slate of candidates recommended by the nominating committee but have paid their dues for the current year (2011-12) can get their names on the ballot by submitting a petition signed by ten paid-up MCC members to the Secretary of the MCC no later than Friday, September 7.

Miller hosts major concert by Chorus Angelorum musicians

For twenty-five years, the annual Chorus Angelorum concerts have been one of the musical highlights in Northwest Indiana. **This year, for the first time, the concert will take place at St. Mary of the Lake Church in Miller. On Friday, October 14 at 8:00 pm, 200 musicians will assemble under the direction of Mark Kruzcek, to present a program of classical music, featuring chorus, orchestra, and organ.**

The evening's program will include short works by Robert Schumann and Felix Mendelssohn, and the major work of the evening will be the **German Requiem of Johannes Brahms**, one of the great works of choral music. Performers will include a full orchestra, a choir of 120 voices, and soloists, all assembled in the sanctuary of St. Mary of the Lake Church, which is newly resplendent in white and gold.

There is no admission charge for the concert, but a free-will collection will be taken up. **If you choose to contribute in advance to the Chorus Angelorum organization, your gift will be matched by a generous donor.** Send checks to P.O. Box 421, Whiting, IN 46394, or visit the website www.chorusangelorum.com to donate on-line.

Don't miss this big-time musical event!

Duly noted . . .

SEARCHING FOR A SUPERINTENDENT. The contract of Gary School Superintendent Myrtle Campbell is expiring at the end of this school year, and, as usual, the school board has decided (even earlier than usual) not to renew her contract. They will be looking for a new superintendent. **The MCC did not have any position on keeping or firing Superintendent Campbell, but we did circulate petitions to the school board to let her finish out her contract and NOT hire (and PAY) an interim executive for the current year.** We cannot claim that our voice was a decisive factor in their decision, but so far the school board has done what we advised and Campbell is still on the job.

BRATS AND BULBS. The Miller Garden Club will present its annual **Brats and Bulbs event from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, October 15**, at the Aquatorium in Marquette Park (if we can find our way through the construction site). Buy bargain spring bulbs

for planting, savor a grilled brat, and enjoy a background of live blue-grass music.

MILLER SIGN REQUESTS. To reserve the Miller Business Association's advertising sign at Miller Ave. and Grand Blvd., contact **Valerie at Curves, 567 S. Lake Street; 939-8711.** The sign is available to non-profits and businesses for \$10 per week to advertise community events.

ACTION IN THE PARK. As everyone can see, work is well under way on the Marquette Park renovation project, with swarms of workers at the Fr. Marquette statue, the Pavilion, the woods (aka oak savannah), and at the Aquatorium. Eric Reaves reports that spending is staying within budget, but there are doubts that progress is keeping pace with the latest and most extended estimates of completion dates. The MCC has reserved the pavilion for a Halloween party in October, which will have to be abandoned, and for the traditional MCC Valentine's Day Dance in February, which is very iffy. On the good side, people who have seen the plans and previewed the work on the Pavilion are enthused by the idea of returning this important building to its original 1926 appearance. Meanwhile, work at the Aquatorium has Miller Garden Club members hustling to move plants which are to be displaced in the revised plan.

THE ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD MEETING OF THE MILLER CITIZENS CORP. WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE MARQUETTE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON GRAND BLVD. Members are invited to attend and participate.

Contact the MCC between meetings at P.O.Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403, or call 938-8831 or e-mail mccceaton@aol.com. You can also visit the MCC website at www.millercitizenscorp.org.

MILLER BEACH HISTORY REVISITED. Miller resident Linda Simon and her aunt, Jane Ammeson, writer and Times contributor, are working on a book of Miller Beach history. to be published by Arcadia Publishing, a publisher of local and regional histories. The book will feature photographs of Miller from its beginning through the 1950s or so. If you have pictures or histories you are willing to share for the book, please contact Linda Simon at lindajsimon@hotmail.com Thanks!

FINANCE CLASS PROJECTS. The MCC Education Committee recommends **DonorsChoose.org**,

which brings teachers and students who need funds for class projects together with potential donors. Teachers define their needs at the website www.donorschoose.org, then encourage friends and neighbors to make on-line donations to meet the need. Jason Arndt has obtained \$100 in seed money, to help local projects get started. If you have a classroom project which merits support, let him know at jarndt@peacebuilder.org.

IMPROVING MILLER. In the past month, the Miller Improvement Group has conducted a cleanup on Lake Street from 3rd Ave. to Birch St. and they are cleaning up Grand Blvd. on Saturday, October 1. Community members are invited to attend their next meeting on Saturday, October 22, at 11:00 am in the Woodson Library.

Pop-up Art animates Lake Street – rerun October 29

The newly-born Miller Beach Arts and Creative District brought a stream of visitors to its first EVENT, **Pop-up Art on Lake Street**, on Saturday September 24. Storefronts both functional and empty were turned into instant art galleries, and dozens of serious local artists presented their works to an admiring (and, sometimes, buying) public. The South Shore Dance organization, in the Old Miller School, also presented recitals by its talented students.

The reaction of local visitors and participants was overwhelmingly positive, and everyone—those who were there and those who missed—can look forward to two reruns of the event, on **Saturday October 29**, with a Halloween theme and appeal to kids, and on **Saturday December 3**, with a Christmas theme and appeal to gift buyers. Seeing Lake Street in the evening with people walking around may not become a routine experience, but enjoy it while you can! **See you there on October 29?**

Local COP program revived

Continual reorganization of the Gary Police Department (GPD) has brought constant flux to the Community-Oriented Policing (COP) program. The Miller COP officers were reassigned in August, and, for a month or more, were not replaced. The MCC complained about the general lack of police protection and the absence of officers to follow up on COP office complaints. Now, the COP officers are back. **Ray Robinson and Marla Guye** have been assigned to the Miller-Aetna sector and are following up on COP complaints, along with responding to routine police calls.

Residents with public safety and code enforcement problems are encouraged to phone reports to the Miller COP office, where complaint forms will be filled out and tracked. If you need immediate police response, call 911; but if you have long-term problems like abandoned vehicles, derelict homes, suspicious neighbors, call the COP office at 938-0281 and the COP officers will follow up. There is also a need for COP Office volunteers, to spend a couple hours a week taking calls and maintaining a presence at the COP office. To sign up, visit the office at 601 S. Lake Street and fill out an application.

Seeking relaxation at the beach

The MCC Lakeshore Committee continues its efforts to make an afternoon at the beach pleasant and **safe**. In a season punctuated by drownings and disruptions, the MCC has worked to bring together residents, the Gary Park Department, a variety of police departments and the owners of the Wells Street concession to resolve issues which range from collecting refuse to avoiding fights.

Unruly conduct on the beach is thought to be closely related to alcohol consumption, especially by underage drinkers. Efforts to reduce drinking include changes in police patrolling patterns, as well as signs to remind people that alcohol is not permitted on the beach. As a result of the committee's activities, everyone associated with the beach was geared up for the Labor Day weekend, but bad weather kept all the beachgoers away. The committee plans to work with the incoming city administration to assure that all parties are ready for next year's beach season.

The next committee meeting will be Thursday, October 20 at 6:00 pm at St. Barnabas Church.

2011 MCC membership drive is under way – sign up now!

Don't forget to send in your MCC membership renewal. If you've lost your renewal form and return envelope, do not despair! Just send the \$10 dues to MCC, P.O. Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403, along with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. We'll welcome you as a member and supporter of your community organization.