

“Crawpuppies” to highlight MBA and Rotary fundraiser

The **Rockin’ Sockin’ Dance party** at the Gardner Center on Lake Street will feature the live sounds of the “**Crawpuppies**”, a top local band, on **Saturday, March 29 from 7:00 to 11:00 pm**. Tickets will be \$35 each or two for \$60, and the proceeds will go to the Miller Business Association (MBA) to support the Miller Community Fund, and to the Gary Rotary Club for their Helping Hands Project. The ticket price includes beer and food, with a cash bar for other drinks. There will also be a silent auction. Attire is casual. Tickets are available from Ayers Realtors, the Lake Street Gallery, and the Miller Beach Marketplace. Call 938-4566 for more information.

MCC committees revised

The work of the MCC is carried on chiefly in committees, and people are signing up, right now, for the various standing committees. Note that MCC board members are **required** to be active participants in at least one committee, but **all MCC members are invited** to take part in committee activities.

Each committee is subject to oversight by one of the MCC officers, and by the MCC board as a whole, but the committees are encouraged to set their own goals and objectives and to determine what actions are needed to achieve those goals. Here is the list of standing committees:

SHORELINE COMMITTEE

Deals with the beach area and Marquette Park, with emphasis on public safety, park maintenance, and beach cleanup. The committee keeps in contact with police and fire departments – from Gary and Lake County – and with the Gary Park Department. Members have also been volunteering to collect trash from Marquette Park and from the beach. In addition, the committee has “adopted” the area around Fr. Marquette’s statue, at the entrance to the park, where committee members do planting and weeding.. The committee meets the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm from March to October.

Carol Smith is responsible. Call 938-4225, or e-mail pandcsmith@comcast.net.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Deals with all Gary school issues, with emphasis on increased access to training at the Career Center and more dual-credit courses in cooperation with regional college

campuses. The committee meets each month prior to the MCC board meeting.

Carol Smith is responsible. Call 938-4225 or e-mail pandcsmith@comcast.net.

GOVERNMENT-LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Deals with government services and government policy decisions at all levels. Subjects of interest include community development, the South Shore Station, street maintenance, and any current issues in city and county government.

Eric Reaves is responsible. Call 938-8170 or (preferably) e-mail ericreaves@aol.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Focuses on police and fire protection, with emphasis on neighborhood block clubs, community policing, the COP office, and occasional public safety alerts – for crime spurts, traffic problems, or whatever.

Barb Hansen is responsible. Call 939-6208 or e-mail bhansen252@hotmail.com.

PR/MARKETING/EVENTS COMMITTEE

This area involves publicity, the potential return of the annual MCC dance in the winter of 2015, and maintenance of the MCC website (www.millercitizenscorp.org).

Ron Gholson is responsible. Call 939-9987 or e-mail rgholson@datamine.net.

MEMBERSHIP/NOMINATIONS/NEWS-LETTER COMMITTEE

This area includes the annual MCC membership renewal drive, membership solicitation at public events in Miller, and the nominating committee for board elections. If you have ideas for expanding MCC membership, your ideas are welcome. Everyone can help by providing information on upcoming events and issues.

Tom Eaton is responsible. Call 938-8831 or (preferably) e-mail mceaton@aol.com.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Reviews and recommends spending requests from MCC committees.

Wendy Prettyman is responsible. Call 938-1214 or e-mail wprettyman@sbcglobal.net.

Duly noted . . .

ELLA FITZGERALD DOCUMENTARY. Ella Fitzgerald, the ‘First Lady of Song’ will be the subject of a documentary film presented by the Miller Beach Arts District at the **Gardner Center on Lake Street, Saturday, March 8 at 7:00 pm.** The film will be introduced by Larry Lapidus. The cost of admission is \$12, and refreshments will be available.

SAVE-THE-DUNES FUNDRAISER. The Miller Bakery Café and the Save-the-Dunes Council are collaborating in a First Annual Fundraiser, on **Sunday, April 13 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm.** The event includes a wine tasting with over 20 selections, an all-you-can-eat buffet, a silent auction, a wine raffle and live music. Tickets are \$50 per person. The aim is to raise money and increase membership in Save-the-Dunes, and to draw customers to the Bakery Café.

CAFÉ WINE TASTING. The Miller Bakery Café is also holding a **wine tasting** on **March 26 and 27** (Wednesday and Thursday), offering samples of 10 wines for \$10. Patrons will have a chance to evaluate and vote on wines to be added to the restaurant’s menu. There will also be food pairing menus and a gift card drawing. Call 219-427-1446 for reservations.

EXPERIENCE MILLER BEACH. Tom Taylor, who organized the initial Miller Beach Marathon last fall, has created a new organization, with the **Facebook page “Experience Miller Beach”.** He is applying for 501-C-3 status so he can attract funding for additional events. Already on the schedule is the second annual marathon, set for Sunday, October 26, and the **Sunset Tiki-Torch 5K and 10K race (a gold cup event) on May 31.** Taylor is also working on a Miller Beach triathlon, some time in between. **“Experience Miller Beach” on Facebook also collects notices from a variety of other Miller businesses and activities, so it’s a good place to look to see what’s going on in the neighborhood, day by day.**

GALLERY GALLOP, ETC. Also looking ahead, the umpteenth running of the Gallery Gallop – 8.5K run and 3K walk -- is scheduled for Saturday, May 17. The Lake Street Gallery, 613 S. Lake Street, will also be having a **21st Anniversary Clean Out the Basement Sale, March 20 to 22,** with big discounts on selected items.

TRANSFORMATION. Angela’s Pantry on Miller Avenue has morphed into the **Fab 4 Restaurant and the**

Yellow Submarine Lounge. The new business promises a full bar and ‘great appetizers’. They are planning a grand opening party later in March and a big blast on St. Patrick’s Day. Stay tuned for further news. (**The Baker’s House** on Miller Avenue will be open for breakfast and lunch later in the spring, when the weather warms up.)

MARCH 2014 MCC MEETING

THE NEXT MCC BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 10 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 at www.millercitizenscorp.org.

LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION. Now that spring is almost here, it’s time to sign up for the **Miller Little League**. Register any Saturday until March 22, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, at the Gardner Center, 540 S. Lake St. The fee is \$65 per player (\$75 for late registrations, after March 31). Each player needs to present a **birth certificate** and **proof of residence**. If you have questions, call Tracy Brough at 938-5253 or Nakia Hemphill at 313-6605. Players can also register on-line at www.millerlittleleague.com.

HARBINGER OF SPRING. The **Miller Garden Club** will hold its first regular meeting of the year on **Saturday, March 15 starting at 10:00 am** at the Aquatorium in Marquette Park. The featured speaker will be **Sue Eleuterio, beekeeper and master gardener**. Everyone is welcome. Contact Corya Channing, channing@purduecal.edu with any questions.

HELP HOMELSS PETS. The **Humane Society of Northwest Indiana**, located on Rt. 20 next to Jonathan’s, has announced its 2014 fundraiser, “Pet Rock”, to be held at the **County Line Orchard in Hobart on March 29**. This family-friendly event will feature live music,

comfort foods, a drawing, and both silent and live auctions. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit “PetRock2014” at www.eventbrite.com/e/pet-rock-2014-tickets-10724572485.

NATIONAL LAKESHORE ATTRACTIONS.

Last year at this time we were enjoying beach weather, but this year you may still have an opportunity to try **cross-country skiing and trekking in the snow**, with equipment you can borrow without charge at **the Douglas Center on Lake Street**. Check them out on Saturday mornings.

Shakespeare settles in at new Lake Street location

The empty storefront at 500 S. Lake Street, next to Café 444, will be the new home of the **Gary Shakespeare Company** and the venue for upcoming theatrical productions. Norm Caplan and Corya Channing, who worked together last year to present King Lear at IUN, are the principals in a new theater venture which will bring Shakespeare plays and other productions to Miller.

The first presentation at the new location will be Romeo and Juliet, scheduled for later in the spring.

ACTING WORKSHOP. Gearing up for the production of Romeo and Juliet, the Shakespeare Company has announced its **first public workshop**, to develop professional performance skills. The program will involve a minimum of 30 hours of training between March 10 and April 6, with specific dates to be determined. **Auditions for the workshop will be held on Tuesday, March 4 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm and on Saturday, March 8 from 1:00 to 5:30 pm.** at the theater location, 500 S. Lake St. For an audition appointment, and for further information, contact the theater by e-mail at garyshakes@gmail.com. The primary instructor for the workshop will be Morgan McCabe, who has over 30 years of teaching experience in Chicago-area theater.

ACTING CLASSES. In the background, Corya Channing, John Lisbon Wood and Vincent Banks are offering acting classes on Saturday mornings at 10:30 am, beginning March 1. They will continue work they did with students at the South Shore Dance Alliance – theater games, improv, monologue, and audition preparation. Everyone is welcome to participate in the sessions, which will be held at the theater, 500 S. Lake St. E-mail inquiries can be sent to artisticpartners@att.net.