



SPRING  
2018

# NEWSLETTER

## MILLER'S BIGGEST CHEERLEADER GETS HELP FROM RESIDENTS

I've always felt my Realtor Viewpoint column has been written as though I am a cheerleader for the Miller Beach community. Many of my columns have been written about informative topics such as the ins and outs of appraisals, special mortgage programs to help people achieve homeownership and staging a home to increase value. Other columns were about an interesting book or lecture I experienced with a Real Estate connection. (A recent talk I attended where Adrian Smith, an architect who designed the world's tallest building, The Burj Khalifa, comes to mind.) But more than any other topic Miller Beach boosterism was and is my favorite subject for a column.



In the summer of 1997 the Realtor Viewpoint column had this; "As the Lake Street renovation, made possible by a volunteer architect, Greg Jenkins and a volunteer lawyer, Greg Reising, nears completion, the impact of how dramatic the improvement is going to be is being felt. Here's a couple of examples: Several investment buyers have been looking at commercial property on Lake Street and each has mentioned the makeover as a reason they are interested. Potential home buyers from Lincoln Park, Bucktown, and Hyde Park neighborhoods have cited the physical improvements as corresponding to their experience in Chicago emerging hot neighborhoods."

Also, in the same issue; "Nancy Gronning says 'Thanks!' to the hundreds of people who worked together to make Marquette Kids Park a reality. Hopefully, by the end of September signs will be posted and the donor brick plaza and glider will be completed. It's great to drive around the park and see children enjoying the results of a tremendous team effort. Thanks to Nancy and to all the volunteers!" Most of us know Nora Glenn, who picked up Nancy's mantle when Nancy moved and has been dedicated to the Kid's Park for many many years.

A year later in the summer 1998 issue volunteerism, as reason to love Miller Beach, was highlighted as follows: "Coming together for a common good, rallying around an issue, and having fun while you do it should not be surprising to long-time Miller residents. It has happened before and will continue to be a part of the soul of this community. However, this familiar character to us as a community is also a discovered joy to some of our newcomers."

In my role of introducing our community to many people, I get a perspective of seeing Miller through the eyes of potential residents. I also often get to hear what they think weeks, months, or even years later. Most of the time you would be pleased, even heart warmed to hear their comments.

Two recent examples come to mind, both couples from Chicago who have discovered Miller was more than they expected. Last year at the benefit for Robin Mack-Ward, I was approached by a couple who had been Miller homeowners for a year. They wanted to tell me they were enjoying their home. But more than the physical surroundings and comfort of their home, they emphasized the wonderful personalities of the people they had met. This, they explained, was Miller's biggest surprise for them; interesting people, friendly people, so different from their Chicago neighborhood."

In the same article two volunteers who owned homes in Miller and Chicago were helping beautify Lake Street, came up to me and said "they were selling their Chicago condo and making Miller Beach their fulltime home. I must have seemed surprised at their decision to give up the luxury of two homes, 'Because', they went on to explain, 'it's the people we've met.' The sense of community here among their neighbors was stronger than the suburban towns they'd lived in and certainly more than at their condo in a Chicago neighborhood.

That's right. Beyond our natural assets of dunes, trees, walking trails, bike paths, beaches, and Lake Michigan, it's the people of our community that make a lasting impression on our newcomers. I think our new promotional slogan should be: Come for the Beach. Stay for the People."

So, on May 5<sup>th</sup> come out to participate in the annual community cleanup. You will not only feel good about helping but you will meet people and have fun. Cap off the day with St. Mary's Festival Italiano and the Farmers Market's fund raiser at the Gardner Center, Chili and Dancing. All of which makes me think it's still true as it was in 1998: Come for the Beach. Stay for the People.

## BEACH BITS

### Aquatorium

Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm: Aquatorium's Annual Pizza Party, Pizza, Salad & Refreshments from Miller Pizza, Flamingo's, Tommy-B's Clubhouse (Chef Carl). Tickets are \$25 (kids with parent are free), pay in advance by sending a check payable to The Society, 607 S. Lake Street, Gary, IN 46403 or pay at the door.

### Bethel Lutheran Church

Sunday School for children ,Wednesday Mornings Bible Study  
Special event: Feed your Soul – Thursdays 6:30-8pm, with a light dinner served; for more information contact Pastor Joy Heine, 219-938-6677 or pastorjoy@bethelmiller.org

### Marshall J. Gardner Center

May 4,5, & 6: Last weekend for "Time Ghost: Greg Hertzlieb" art exhibit Fri and Sat. 6-9pm, Sun. 1-4pm  
May 5: Farmers Market Fund Raiser – Chili Cook Off between local non-profit organizations, silent auction, cash bar, and dancing w/ Chicago's own old –time band GLASS MOUNTAIN! Tickets available at the door, children under 10 are free – Tickets are \$50 - \$10 sliding scale  
Chili Tasting is 5-6pm, Glass Mountain – 6pm-8pm  
May 11 & 12: Roosevelt High School student art exhibit and silent auction entitled "Just Us".  
May 18 – June 17: Fri's & Sat's 6-9pm, Sun.'s 1-4pm: Art exhibit with artists Carole Stodder and Tom Brand. Opening Reception Friday May 18<sup>th</sup>.  
June 29-July 22: Area Artist Assoc. in Michigan Center, which is associated with the Lubenik Center for the Arts, art exhibit. Approx. 15 artists will be participating with a variety of media.  
July 27-Aug.12: Fri. & Sat.s 6-9pm, Sun.'s 1-4pm. Exhibit & fundraiser; paintings by local artists. Opening Reception, Fri. July 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Lake Street Gallery

Sat. May 19<sup>th</sup> – The Gary Rotary Club sponsored Gallery Gallop 6:30pm – Lake Street Beach parking lot, Gallery Gallop T-shirts to participants. For registration details call Lake Street Gallery 219-938-4566.

### Miller Pizza

May 4 – FIRST FRIDAY ON LAKE STREET! Live music by The Erly (debut of the band) from 6-9pm.  
June 1 – FIRST FRIDAY ON LAKE STREET! Live music by Jim Bulanda from 6-9pm.  
July 6 – FIRST FRIDAY ON LAKE STREET! Live music by Nicole Jamrose Band (first time on the MPC stage!) from 6-9pm.  
Dinner Specials, free tastings and giveaways!

### St. Mary's of Lake Church

Sat. May 5 – 4<sup>th</sup> annual Festa Italiana! All you can eat spaghetti with delicious sides, bake sale, basket-rafts, silent auction, music and cash bar. Fee - \$10  
June 25-29 – Bethel Lutheran and St. Mary's of the Lake are seeking volunteers who are interested in helping coach youth for our summer basketball camp 9am – Noon. Volunteers must complete a background check and complete a special volunteer training. For more information email [jwerhowatz@yahoo.com](mailto:jwerhowatz@yahoo.com)  
New Community Garden at SML! 44 plots available to grow your own fresh, organic produce. Season fee is \$25 for one plot and \$40 for two plots. For more information or to donate supplies, contact Bill Carey at [wcarey1010@aol.com](mailto:wcarey1010@aol.com)

## BOTH BUYERS, SELLERS AFFECTED BY LOW INVENTORY

*The statistics included in this section of the newsletter are from the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of Realtors MLS. Because the high priced houses and the lower priced houses in all neighborhoods are included, the average for your specific neighborhood will be substantially different.*



The 2018 first quarter statistics are now available in the market area within the National Park boundaries defined by the Lake on the North, County Line Road on the East, Ash Place on the South, and Gibson Street on the West. The average list price was \$112,535 down from \$133,885 in the first quarter of 2017. Correspondingly, the average sales price was down to \$105,741 from \$128,324 during the same time period. In 2016 these statistics were \$104,540 list price and \$98,420 sale price. We were dramatically down from last year but substantially up from the previous year. What's up?

In recent first quarter newsletters the small statistical sample available has been emphasized. Last year had 21 sales, but 2016 had 10 sales and 2015 had 9 sales. This year the first quarter had 17 sales. The turnaround to more activity continues even though it was a bit down from 2017. A small sample from which to draw averages is susceptible to change up or down with one or two outliers. The first quarter of last year reflected the sale of just one lake front home of near \$800,000 which bumped last year's average sales price up dramatically. Without that sale the average list and sale prices would have been \$92,496 and \$89,455 respectively.

Low inventory of available homes actively listed in the MLS is even lower than the 31 reported in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2017. The last 90 days has seen the inventory of actively listed homes hovering in the low 20's; at the time this is being written, there are 24 available listings in all of 46403 and just 12 in market area we are reporting on. This statistic is one to watch through 2018. Both buyers and sellers are affected by available inventory.

The bargaining percentage is typically influenced by the lower inventory reducing sellers' willingness to bargain as much. In 2016 it was 94.15%. In the first quarter of 2017 it was 95.8% and in 2018 it was 90.19%. Whoops! Here again we have outliers to investigate. We took the 17 sales, cut the list approximately in half and found that a repo house at the lowest end of the price range at \$20,000 up to a sale at \$59,000 halfway up the value scale had a bargaining percentage of 82.22%. While the sales from \$84,000 to \$249,000 has a percentage of 96.88%. The small statistical sample strikes again! It will be interesting to follow subsequent quarters this year as more data is available and the traditional "selling season" is in full swing. Ayers Realtors, Inc. handled over 42% of the volume of single family transactions in the first quarter. In the reemerging lot sale market there were 5 lot sales in the first quarter of this year and Ayers Realtors handled 4 of them. It remains a FACT in our MARKET Ayers Realtors is leader in our area.

## MILLER GARDEN CLUB HAS PLANS TO SHARPEN SUCCULENTS, KNICK SOME KNACKS

May 4<sup>th</sup> is First Friday in Miller and there will be a Cinco de Mayo theme. Participating local businesses will auction piñatas in which the contents will be personalized for individual businesses. Come join the fun and shop local.

STREET  
BEAT

Don't stay out too late at First Friday events because volunteers are needed for the annual Community Clean Up Saturday morning, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 7am to 11am. Meet at the corner of Miller Avenue and Grand Boulevard for assignments, gloves, garbage pickers and garbage bags. Every litter bit of help makes our community look clean and welcoming.

Mother's Day shopping couldn't be easier this year due to timing for the Miller Garden Club's annual Plant and Paraphernalia sale Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm with huge selections of perennials, annual, succulents and more. Have your garden tools sharpened and enjoy a box lunch from Marilyn's Bakery while you shop for gently used garden items, household items, knicks and knacks and other treasures.

The May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Miller Garden Club features speaker David Durstewitz who will be talking about "Urban Foraging". On June 16<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Nikki Witkowski who will speak on "Fruit Trees". Meetings begin at 10am with speakers at 11am. If you attend both lectures and you might learn how to forage for fruit.

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Secret Gardens walk, "Pedal Pushers", will take place Sat. & Sun July 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10am to 3pm begins at the Aquatorium and features 6 gardens. Bike tours on both days at 10:30am, vendors, box lunches, plant sale, admission \$10, rain or shine. The art work for this year's poster was done by artist Jeff Gale who was born and raised in Miller. Jeff was a very good friend of Jim Wilson's, the artist who designed many of the garden walk posters in the past. The illustration on this year's poster, Jeff's first for the garden club, literally and figuratively gives a tip of the hat to Mr. Wilson.

And this potentially could be the most exciting Miller news of the season. Vernal King, who owns a building on Lake Street, has purchased equipment from a shop in Chicago and hopes to have an ice cream/gelato shop open this summer. You scream. I scream. We all scream for ice cream!

Looks like we are headed toward another great summer in Miller Beach!

# MILLER BEACH!



941 N Vanderburg St.

\$169,900

View the virtual tour of this home at  
[www.MillerBeach.com](http://www.MillerBeach.com)



## *Charming Cottage!*

Just a couple blocks to beach, this charming cottage features original fireplace, hardwood floors, and sconces. It also has an updated kitchen and beautifully finished walk out basement with 2nd bath. The outside has 2 decks, fenced yard and wooded setting. This won't last long!

# MILLER BEACH!



1121 N. St. Joseph

\$279,900

View the virtual tour of this home at  
[www.MillerBeach.com](http://www.MillerBeach.com)



## *1927 Cottage less than a block to the Beach!*

A rare opportunity to own a 1927 Cottage, this home boasts charm with the hardwood floors, white washed pine paneling and French doors.





The Ayers Realtors' Team  
Gene Ayers, GRI, CRS  
Nancy Del Prado, GRI, CRS



See our beach cam and virtual tours at [www.MillerBeach.com](http://www.MillerBeach.com)

Block to Beach!



9317 Oak Avenue  
\$75,000

PENDING!

Quality Brick Ranch!



6725 Birch Place  
\$125,000

Close to Park!

Park View!



6711 Forest Avenue  
\$99,900



8515 Lake Shore Dr  
\$473,500



6908 Ironwood  
\$249,775



8618 Juniper Terrace  
\$249,900

Dune top Getaway!



7524 Harold  
\$248,900

1 House from Lake Michigan!



1222 N. Vigo St.  
\$325,000





## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Gallery Gallop

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Gary & The Miller Community Fund

Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30PM

Lake Street Beach

8.5k Beach/Dune Run & 3k Beach/Dune Walk

Register at [thtiming.com](http://thtiming.com) or pickup form at Lake Street Gallery, 613 S. Lake St

For more information contact [eric\\_tonk@prodigy.net](mailto:eric_tonk@prodigy.net) or 219-793-5200

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THAT'S THE AQUATORIUM'S ANNUAL PIZZA PARTY

FRIDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 5:30PM - UNTIL ?

PIZZA, SALAD & REFRESHMENTS FROM MILLER PIZZA,  
FLAMINGO'S, TOMMY-B'S CLUBHOUSE (CHEF CARL)

\$25 PER TICKET

KIDS WITH PARENT FREE (SEND CHECK TO 607 S. LAKE ST. OR PAY AT DOOR)

## COLUMNIST UNLEASHES DECADES OF RAGE ON UNSUSPECTING BOOK CLUB MEMBERS



Books to the ceiling  
Books to the sky  
My pile of books is nearly sky high  
How I love them  
How I need them  
I will be 102 by the time I read them

It has dawned on me recently what a nice invention book clubs has been. I have read statistics that say 56% of women 25 years old and older read at least one book a month, 37% are in a book club and 19% are in two or more book clubs. 89% belong to a group that meets in person and 17%, believe it or not, belong to a club that meets on line. Most clubs are comprised of all women. Others, although none that I know of, are open to men joining the group.

In the book club I attend first comes food, wine and friendly conversation that progresses to a discussion of the book which is led by the member who suggested the book. I am often not able to attend book club get togethers but still find the books selected to read are a great source of good books – some of which I might not read on my own without the endorsement of others.

Recently the book of the month was a book I had previously read and concluded it was just OK. Once it was selected as a book club read I read it again to refresh my memory. And much to my surprise there was more there than had met my half mast eyes as I read it the first time while nodding and bobbing for 15 minutes before falling asleep at night.

It seems I have learned a thing or two since high school English class when our first assignment was to read “The A Scarlet Letter”. I read it just as I had read all other books up to that point and on the day we were to have completed reading the book, right off the bat, the teacher, Miss Otterbacher, called on me to give my interpretation of the story. I was mortified to have to stand in front of the class and even more so as I noticed the look on the teacher’s face as well as the grimacing of my classmates as I reduced Mr. Hawthorne’s masterpiece to a story about a woman named Hester who didn’t have a husband, wouldn’t tell where her daughter, Pearl, came from and wore a red letter on her dress. Humiliated as I was, I began to realize not all books should be read as I had done during the summers of my youth in competition for blue ribbons in summer reading programs at the Miller Wildermuth Library.

Not to say we all don’t read some books for fun or predictability or for happy endings....beach books, airplane books, series books be they crime fiction or the moral dilemmas as in Alexander McCall Smith books. But after all – one of the main reasons book clubs exist is for those who love to read to discuss books and to shed light on characters and hear other’s interpretations. Also, some venting may occur as it did at my book club the night we discussed the book I reread because after reading it the first time I was surprised it would be chosen as a book club selection. Right then and there I vented the 53 years of pent up anxiety I have had over an English teacher and a girl named Hester. I’m over it now and think I can move on. And by the way – I have a barely used copy of “The Scarlet Letter” I would be happy to loan to any one looking for a good summer read.

Here is a salad that would be good to serve at a book club meeting, a picnic or for a summer supper. It’s quick and easy and once it’s made you can get back to reading your beach book, your book club book or maybe this will be the summer you tackle the 900 pages of Ulysses.

### Chicken and Feta Tabbouleh

¾ C uncooked bulger  
1 C boiling water  
2 C chopped skinless, boneless rotisserie chicken breast  
1 C chopped plum tomato  
1 C chopped English cucumber  
¾ C chopped fresh cilantro  
½ C (2 oz) crumbled feta cheese with sun dried tomatoes  
1/3 C chopped green onions  
2 TBS fresh lemon juice  
Zest from one lemon  
1 TBS olive oil  
½ tsp chopped fresh garlic  
¼ tsp salt  
¼ tsp ground cumin  
¼ tsp black pepper

Place bulger in a medium bowl; cover with 1 cup boiling water. Let stand 15 minutes or until liquid is absorbed.

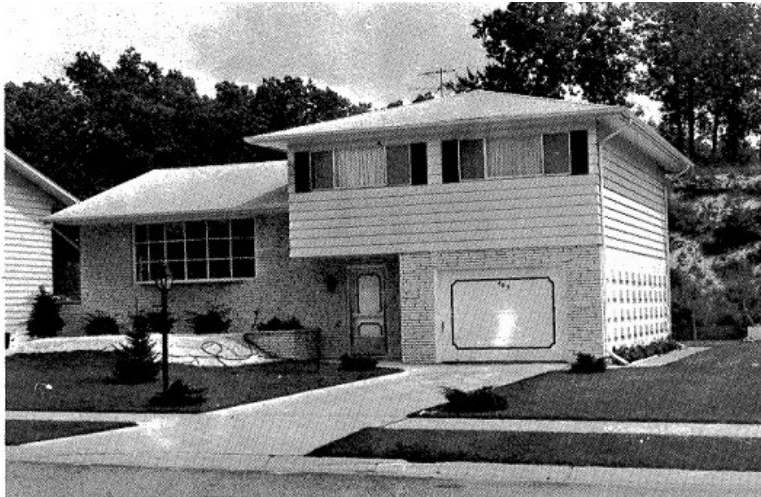
Combine chicken and remaining ingredients in a large bowl. Add bulger to chicken mixture; toss gently to combine. Yields 4 (1½ C) servings



646 S. Lake Street  
Gary, IN 46403  
(219) 938-1188



**INSIDE: Neighborhood “Playhouse” home to car thieves,  
gypsy con artists!**



## **NAME “THIS OLD HOUSE”...**

This is a picture from many years ago of a house in Miller. The first person to call the office between 9AM—5 PM

Monday-Friday and give the correct address will win a \$50.00 gift certificate to

their choice of Miller Pizza Station, Beach Café, 18th Street Brewery, Miller Bakery Café, Captain’s House, Cultivated Culture Café or the Flamingo.

Sorry, the present owner and family cannot win. You’ll have a chance next newsletter.

## **... AND WIN \$50.00**

Check out [www.MillerBeach.com](http://www.MillerBeach.com) today!

Virtual home tours and more! **To sign up to receive our newsletter electronically, email**

**Newsletter@MillerBeach.com Or view our newsletter online at [www.MillerBeach.com](http://www.MillerBeach.com)**