

KIWASSEE

MAY 30, 2006

SMOKE SIGNALS

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KIWANIS

kiwassee.org

CHAIR: Brian Jackson

INVOCATION: Don Petersen

MUSIC: B. Burk/ W. Meyer

PIG: Don Winger

MAILER: John McClellan

EDITOR: John Mier

CALENDAR

June 3,4 Summer Art Fair. Volunteers needed. Dick Skochdopole, Jim Struthers.
June 6 Noon Roundtable at Shirleen's.
June 6 Steak Fry and Cookout, 6:00 p.m. at Emerson Park. Duane Brooks.
June 15 Board of Directors meeting, noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church.
June 19 KIWANIS FOR KIDS Charity Golf Classic. ***Support this new fundraiser!!***
July 11 Annual Pinecrest Picnic. Volunteers needed. Dick Jellum, Stan Englund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Diane Stevens thanked members who helped plant flowers on Eastman during the Midland Blooms program.

***Duane Brooks reminded members that the Annual Steak Fry and Cookout is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on June 6 at Emerson Park (Section D). Please indicate if you're bringing a guest. Duane also said that there will be a noon Roundtable at Shirleen's.

***Renee Yates said our "Kiwans for Kids" golf fundraiser at the Midland Country Club is less than three weeks away. *We still need golfers!* Mike Cronenberger commented that Mary Dalton and Nina Cronenberger have signed up and would like to have two more ladies to make up their foursome. Mary said men would be OK with them--but they couldn't play from the red tees.

***Jim Struthers reported they would welcome more volunteers for the Art Fair on June 3 and 4.

***Dick Jellum thanked members who helped with the Highway Pickup a few weeks ago. Dick also said that the Annual Pinecrest Picnic will be on July 11. Volunteers will be needed to help.

***Jack Higgins said monthly reports are due now. E-mail is preferred.

MIDLAND COMMUNITY CENTER IS SERVING MIDLAND COUNTY WELL

Renee Yates introduced Chris Tointon, C.E.O. of the Midland Community Center, Inc.. Chris pointed out that this organization is actually an umbrella organization for the Midland Community Center, Coleman Community Network, Midland Community Tennis Center, Midland Curling Club, and North Midland Family Center. The vision is to enhance the quality of life for people in Midland County by developing individuals and creating community. He said the Community Center concentrates on providing affordable recreational opportunities for people of all ages. They had 62,000 active participants last year with 80% of Midland households using the facility. A number of new programs have been added recently, including free swim lessons during spring break for kids who stay in town, a Family Fun night each month, and free weight loss programs. Last year there were 25 specialty camps in the summer camp program that attracted 1,500 children and youth. They are expecting over 2000 to attend this summer with the addition of even more programs, such as youth volleyball and preschool sport classes. MCC Membership growth has been astounding, with 94,000 members in 2003 growing to 108,000 in 2004 and 164,000 in 2005. Chris said that 46% of funding comes from program fees, 17% from the United Way, 13% from membership fees, and 12% from individual, foundation, and corporate donations. The Midland Community Center has been in operation for 85 years and is now the 5th largest employer in Midland County. Future problems include the age of the Center which is now 50 years old and requires an increasing amount of renovation and upkeep. A recent \$541,000 project involved improvements in the men and women's locker rooms. Another issue will be an \$85,000 wage increase due to the new minimum wage legislation. The Center has recently won a number of prestigious awards, all well deserved. The Center is clearly a valuable asset to the Midland community.

STEAK FRY NEXT WEEK, 6:00 P.M. AT EMERSON PARK, AREA D.