

**KIWASEE**  
July 17, 2007

**SMOKE SIGNALS**  
kiwassee.org

**KIWANIS**  
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“Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to  
changing the world one child and one community at a time.”

**CHAIR:** Duane Townley  
**PIG:** Don Winger

**INVOCATION:** Walt Rupprecht  
**MAILER:** John McClellan

**MUSIC:** B. Ralston/C. Rumba  
**EDITOR:** John Mier

### CALENDAR

July 19 Board of Directors meeting, noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church.  
Aug. 24 Regular meeting, noon at District Convention. Replaces Aug. 21 meeting.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

\*\*\*Dick Skochdopole, representing Junior Youth, presented a check for \$500 to Gaye Terwillegar from the Circle of Health Partnership. Gaye thanked Kiwassee for our continued support and said this contribution will be used to support alternative education programs in Midland County.

\*\*\*Dick Jellum, on behalf of Community Service, presented a check to Patricia Tiernan who is the Executive Director of the Midland/Gladwin Chapter of the American Red Cross. Patricia thanked Kiwassee and said the money will be used to support the Emergency Dental Assistance Program.

\*\*\*President Duane and Jack Higgins explained that our regular noon meeting on Aug. 21 will be replaced with a noon meeting on Aug. 24 at the District Convention. There will be an extra charge, and Jack will need to know attendance by the end of July. A sign up sheet was circulated for members to indicate their attendance at the noon lunch on Aug. 24. It is not necessary for members attending the conference to sign this.

\*\*\*President Duane also reminded folks of the Board of Directors meeting at noon this Thursday (July 19<sup>th</sup>) at the Memorial Presbyterian Church.

### WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER IS VALUABLE ASSET TO MIDLAND COMMUNITY

Bob Wise, representing Young Children Priority One, introduced Greg Dorrien, who is the Executive Director of the West Midland Family Center. Greg said the WMFC was born during the Dow strike in 1974. It was originally located in an abandoned school building and utilized federal funding which was available at that time for community family centers. This funding dried up six or seven years later, but WMFC was rescued by the United Way of Midland County which recognized its value to the Midland community. WMFC moved into a new facility in 1989, which was further expanded in 2001. Financial support now comes from foundations, individuals, United Way, and service clubs. WMFC is located in a part of the county where there are many low income families. It offers a very wide variety of services, ranging from an emergency food pantry to recreational activities to computer classes to parenting educational programs. He center helps provide basic needs to low income families, including food, clothing, and transportation. Staff members work hard to define and identify high risk families in need of help, with emphasis on parental education and involvement. People that are socially isolated are identified and helped. There is recognition by the staff, however, that people must be made to feel comfortable and welcome so that they want to attend WMFC activities--- otherwise, the programs would not work. The Center offers a preschool which is currently attended by over 50 children. Friday night programs are attended by over 100 teenagers. Organized sports and physical fitness activities bring neighbors and families together in a positive environment. The Center has worked with over 1000 high risk families in the past eleven years, with a 99% success rate in terms of keeping children out of foster care. Summer programs have been especially successful and now have a waiting list of about 200 people. The Dow College Opportunity Program prepares young people for college through a number of activities including tutoring, team building, public speaking, and community service opportunities. Current budget is \$1,452,000. WMFC also has an endowment fund in which donations are matched 3 to 1 by the Dow Foundation.