

**KIWASSEE**  
July 13, 2010

**SMOKE SIGNALS**  
kiwassee.org

**KIWANIS**  
Volume XXI No. 38

**CHAIR:** Vicki Briggs  
**PIG:** Joe Malan

**INVOCATION:** Penny Ecarius  
**MAILER:** John McClellan

**MUSIC:** D. Winegardner/W. Meyer  
**EDITOR:** John Mier

#### CALENDAR

July 15 Board of Directors meeting, noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church  
July 19 Annual Golf Outing at Midland Country Club's new course. Renee Castellon.  
July 20 Club News and Publicity committee meeting, 1 p.m.. Mike Briggs.  
July 21 Kiwanis Night at the Loons. See Renee or Ron Beech.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

\*\*\*Penny Ecarius asked members to get photos, new articles, etc., to her for the Scrapbook ASAP.  
\*\*\*Dick Skochdopole announced that an athletic "triathlon" for children and youth ages 5-16 is scheduled for 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 17 at Dow High. Volunteers are needed to provide safety for the bicycle event. Please call Diane Stevens (832-0051) if you can help.  
\*\*\*Bill Spaulding reminded members that the Annual Golf Outing is next Monday, July 19. It's not too late to register for the event. Also, members that don't participate in the golf event can still attend the dinner at the MCC starting at 5:30 for \$30. Call Bill (695-9791) if you would like to sign up.  
\*\*\*Mike Briggs reported that the Club News and Publicity committee is making progress on increasing the reporting of Kiwassee activities in the Midland Daily News. A recent edition published photos of new members as well as an article about the Golf Outing. In addition, the MDN web site provided a link to the Kiwassee website. Mike also scheduled a meeting of the Club News and Publicity committee for 1 p.m. next week (July 20).  
\*\*\*Diane Stevens reported that Stan Englund is in the hospital after suffering a stroke. Gordon Rogers and Max Bottomley said Stan is doing well and making progress on his recovery. Stan and his wife plan to move to Independence Village later this month. John Russell reported that his wife is recovering from gall bladder surgery. Please keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers.  
\*\*\*President Elect Vicki reminded members of the Board of Directors meeting this Thursday, July 15 (noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church). Vicki also said she will be calling committee chairs in the next few weeks to discuss their plans for the 2010-2011 Kiwanis year. She asked all members to be thinking about where they would like to serve the club next year.

#### MARTHA BRIGGS JOINS KIWASSEE KIWANIS

A very warm welcome to Kiwassee's newest member Martha Briggs. Dave Bender officially made this a family affair by asking Vicki Briggs to perform the induction ceremony. Roger Briggs (who was absent) served as Martha's sponsor, so brother Mike filled in. Martha, of course, is no stranger to Kiwassee. She has been an Honorary Member for ten years because of her role as Faculty Advisor to the Dow High Key Club. Martha, who retired from Dow High in June, said she has always had great respect and admiration for Kiwassee Kiwanis because of the service the club provides to the Midland community—and especially for the positive influence Kiwanis has on students at Dow and Midland High Schools. She is proud and delighted to become a full member of the club.

#### THE CHIPPEWA NATURE PRESCHOOL

Karen Adams, representing the Young Children Priority One, introduced Rachel Larimore from the Chippewa Nature Center's Nature Preschool. Rachel said the Nature Preschool is in its fourth year, and can accommodate 36 children (age 3-4) in two classrooms—with three teachers for each classroom. It is affiliated with the West Midland Family Center and is partially funded by Great Start Readiness Program. About 40% of the parents pay full tuition. The unique feature of the school is that much of the time is spent outdoors. A typical six hour day includes outdoor play, group excursion, classroom time, small group sessions, and group meetings plus a snack time. The emphasis on the daily outdoor experience has a positive influence on children in a number of ways. The children learn social skills and learn to work together, as well as developing reading, literary, and math skills. Rachel said the Chippewa Nature Preschool is essentially full even though the Midland community is still becoming aware of it. She added that they plan to work with other preschools to share the value of integrating "nature" and other outdoor activities in the preschool program.