

**KIWASSEE**                                  **SMOKE SIGNALS**                                  **KIWANIS**  
**CHAIR: Bruce Rayce**                                  **INVOCATION: Penny Ecarius**                                  **MUSIC: Alex Rapanos**  
**HAPPY \$: Mike Briggs**                                  **GREETER: Penny Ecarius**                                  **MAILER: Roger Briggs**                                  **EDITOR: Diane Stevens**

### CALENDAR

**January 13: AKtion Club meeting, MPS Admin., 5:30-6:30pm**  
**February 23: Items for Whispering Pines due to Susan Love**  
**April 5: Big Project proposals due to BOD from Committees**  
**April 21: Top 2 Big Project proposals chosen by BOD.**  
**April 26: Top 2 presented to General Membership, who then vote by ballot**  
**May 3: Winning Big Project announced to General Membership**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Martha Briggs:** Sign up to attend Wednesday AKtion Club meetings, 5-5:30pm is social time, 5:30-6:30pm is the meeting in Midland Public Schools Administrative Building conference room, 600 E Carpenter.

**Mike Briggs:** Several mentions of Kiwassee Kiwanis have been in recent editions of Midland Daily News related to our many projects...bell ringing, Cleveland Manor Holiday party, donation to New Hope Village, Eastlawn Christmas party.

**Jack Higgins:** There was a tan topcoat mixup after the Kerestes funeral. If you took the wrong one, contact Jack.

**Susan Love:** There will be a Junior Youth meeting next week, BEFORE the general meeting.

**Diane Stevens:** Community Service meeting today.

**Jim Rajewski:** Many members owe \$\$ for nuts and candy! Please pay as soon as possible!

**Roger Briggs:** There will be a Kiwanis Foundation meeting today after the general meeting. Roger still has Kiwanis of Michigan donation receipts if you need yours.

**Brian Goodwill:** On Monday, 1/18, 5pm-7pm, there will be an informational session to discuss the issue of human trafficking. Law enforcement and other agencies will be attending at the Salvation Army Center, 330 Waldo Road.

**Bruce Rayce:** A reminder, Michigan District is having a shoe and boot fundraiser to benefit ELIMINATE. Clean out your closets and bring unwanted footwear to Bruce at the next meeting. Thank you to Penny for being the Greeter and doing the Invocation. Forty-three members attended Gary Kerestes' funeral. What a great show of respect for Gary and support for his family. The bridge at WMFC has been approved to be dedicated, with a plaque, to Gary, his work ethic, his support of Kiwanis, and his friendship. Members of the Kerestes family would like to help with the construction of the bridge. At meetings, please use the microphone so all can hear. There will be a special Board of Directors' meeting today after the general meeting.

### GUESTS

No guests today other than the speakers.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Gordon Rogers has graduated from using a walker to a boot.

### PROGRAM: JUNIOR YOUTH, FRIENDS OF WHISPERING PINES

Whispering Pines (WP) is a trailer park neighborhood on the west side of town. Currently, there are about 150 children and youth in 108 trailers. Generational poverty, addiction, fragmented family lives, and lack of transportation are some of the issues/obstacles residents face. Dave Vercellino, Associate and Children's Pastor of New Life Vineyard Church, and Gail Crosby, Licensing and Volunteer Director of West Midland Family Center (and a co-worker of our Susan Love), spoke to the Club about the efforts of a group called "Friends of Whispering Pines".

Early on, the Friends realized the families needed not just opportunities to improve their lives, but the tools, vision, and confidence to see beyond their current situations. Two current programs, "Earn to Learn" and an in-residence living situation, were highlighted. The keys to successful programs in Whispering Pines have been found to be creating personal connections with residents, modeling a successful and positive lifestyle, focusing on the youth with interactive activities and conversation, and providing families learning opportunities that are reinforced with games and events and incentives from a "store".

communication, stories and testimony, are remembered through games and activities. Participants earn monopoly style money, and, at the end of the now 6 week class, can purchase items from the store.

Listed below are items used as the incentives. Gail and Dave would appreciate any donations that we could make to their store shelves. Susan Love will bring a large storage tote to serve as a collection point and will transport it to WMFC. Items are needed by FEBRUARY 23.

- **CLEANING PRODUCTS:** paper towels, window spray, disinfectant wipes, dish soap, all purpose cleaner, laundry soap, fabric sheets, trash cans/bags, brooms, dustpans, bleach/spray.
- **CHILDREN'S ITEMS:** board books, children's books, markers, games, art materials, puzzles, crayons, puppets, baby dolls
- **PERSONAL HYGIENE:** toilet paper, deodorant, toothpaste toothbrushes, floss, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, hand soap, bandaids, facial tissues, hair brushes, skin lotions
- **MISCELLANEOUS:** first aid kits, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, bath towels, wash cloths, dish towels, dish cloths, sheets, blankets, candles, coffee pot, pillows, plates, pots and pans, floor rugs, snow shovels, toasters, vacuums

As per Gail, "New and gently used items are appreciated. This is not an all-inclusive list. If you have things in your home that are no longer needed, someone else might have a use for it."

In the summer and fall of 2015, young adults (Dave's daughters among others) lived at the park. They played with the children, had casual conversations with residents, sat around campfires. This outreach by lifestyle example made valuable connections with the WP residents, fostered trust, and provided positive role models. There will be a continuing effort to have live-in outreach at WP.

The next big project for Friends is to build a playground. Midland 100 Club has donated \$15,000 and Frank Riggle (a former member of Kiwassee) has designed it. The build date is May 20.

**NEXT WEEK: Program by Community Service, Greeter Rudy Phillips, Invocation Jim Morgan**