

CALENDAR

- June 27:** Kiwassee picnic at Emerson Park (5 p.m.)  
**July 17:** Kiwassee Kiwanis For Kids Golf Outing (Betsy Sullivan and Porter Brown)  
**July 20-21:** Eagle Village painting (Duane Townley—see Duane if you have a paint sprayer the group can use.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- John Congleton:** Young Children Priority One presented John with a check for pack-and-plays for New Hope Village. Also, John reported that the Dow High Class of '71 fundraiser Sunday collected over \$8000!
- Brian Goodwill:** Please sign up to give the invocation; a sheet is circulating. In related news, **Millard Kent** asked for someone to give the invocation in his place next week; **Walt Rupprecht** stepped up to the task.
- Larry McCoy:** Meet at the corner of Ellsworth and St. Nicholas Streets at 9:30 this Monday (5/29) to walk with the Kiwanis Family Clubs in the Memorial Day Parade.
- Bruce Rayce:** Sign up to help at the Golf Outing, Monday 7/17—many jobs are available. Buy a Michigan District Foundation raffle ticket or more to win a 7-night cruise + up to \$400 in air fare/person. \$10/1 and \$50/6. Ross Ahlich won last year!
- Diane Stevens:** An enterprising Midland Blooms planter upgraded to a cooler trowel—switch with Diane—no questions asked!
- Duane Townley:** Sign up to paint the exteriors of the guest cottages at Eagle Village July 20-21. See additional note above.
- Dave Winegardner:** The deadline for grandfathered flag customers is TODAY. Flag Day (6/14) will be the first installation for orders added after today, or you can pick up and plant late flag orders yourself. Dee Howe will send out the route assignments later this week, including a map and details. This year's routes will be lettered rather than numbered to reduce confusion; Dave expects 8-9 routes. To date, residential orders are down from 2016.
- Jim Young:** Flag installers should replace EVERY rubber band; grab what you need from the giant bag in the storage unit.
- Fred Honerkamp:** Promote the Golf Outing July 17—players may register up to July 1. Last week's Pastor Appreciation Day was quite successful: in fact, Aldersgate pastor Michael Sawicki said he had such a good time, he just might join our club!
- May 18 Board Meeting highlights:** funding requests granted—Senior Youth for Eagle Village painting costs and SHARE counselor salaries; Mike Cronenberger for flag stands used at the recent Wake Up Midland! Meeting. Three committees have 30 days to reply to the Audit Committee's suggestions. Mary Lou Myers' application for membership was approved, as was Diane Stevens' request for a leave of absence. She'll be back in October—in the meantime, we'll do our best to soldier on without her.

PROGRAM: Junior Youth—"What to Say When You Don't Know What to Say"

Junior Youth Chair Rudy Phillips introduced Carol Alver, whose professional training is in the area of grief and bereavement. Acknowledging that death and dying are difficult for our culture to discuss, Carol used a mobile to illustrate the ripple effect the loss of one family member has on the extended family. She offered several practical suggestions to anyone who wants to support either someone who is dying or someone who has lost someone close.

"People live until they die." Someone who is dying experiences a gradual loss of abilities and is most afraid of dying in pain and dying alone. Visit often, and continue to do so as the person declines. Go through the mail together, read aloud from the newspaper, watch a movie, share memories, laugh. Most importantly, LISTEN, and keep listening.

In fact, Carol stressed that simply listening helps people work through their loss. When you do speak, choose your words carefully: statements like, "It could be worse," "It's for the best," "You'll get over it," "I know how you feel," diminish the depth of loss the person is experiencing.

Instead, offer specific support: fetch family members at the airport, pick up dry-cleaning or items from the grocery store, take the kids on an outing. Give restaurant gift cards or pay for house cleaning services. If you send a greeting card, include a personal anecdote or reflection about the person. Offer to stay with the patient so a family caretaker can get out to run errands or meet with a friend for coffee or simply be alone for awhile. Facilitate group meal-delivery via helpful websites such as <https://www.takethemameal.com> or <http://lotsahelpinghands.com/>. Remind everyone to deliver those meals in disposable dishes.

Keep in mind that children grieve losses differently than adults do; they're often concerned with the concrete, immediate effects of someone's death on themselves. Again, your best response is to listen to them and respect their concerns, however self-centered or trivial those concerns may seem to you.

Carol praised Hospice for its commitment to keeping the patient pain-free and supporting the caretakers. Often the biggest mistake families make is waiting until the patient's final days to bring in Hospice; this service can be invaluable to everyone if invited sooner than later.

Following her presentation, Fred Honerkamp shared details about the file he's created for his family: it includes information they'll need when he dies, such as passwords, contacts, account numbers, details for his obituary, and instructions for his funeral.

And Sam Choo talked about his own experiences with grief, agreeing with Carol that honest conversation is especially helpful. He emphasized the effectiveness of three "H's" – Hug (touch), Hush (listen), and Hang Around (Be there and continue to be