

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

Jim Heffel: These eight members joined Kiwassee in the month of May; their years of membership are in (): Dave Bender (30), John Clary (22), Larry McCoy (8), Bruce Rayce (7), John Russell (34), Ray Senesac (24), Ben Tierney (2), Jim Young (17).
Larry McCoy: Twenty-one Kiwanis Family members walked in the Memorial Day Parade, representing 5 of the 6 local clubs: Kiwassee and Midland Kiwanis, Northwood Circle K, Dow High Key Club, and Aktion Club. Missing: Midland High KC.
Duane Townley: Eagle Village painting takes place July 20/21. Sign up for either or both days. Al Burmester encouraged folks to give this project a try: it's fun to paint, to meet the Eagle Village teens, and (per Sam Choo) to get ice cream on the way back!
Jim Young: Thanks to yesterday's flag installers; special thanks to new Route Master Dee Howe, and to Mike Cronenberger for his Chamber presentation, signs at the public displays, and additional flags at the Circle and North Saginaw/Dublin Rds.
Betsy Sullivan: The Golf Outing Committee is working hard behind the scenes to get ready for July 17. Now is the time for everyone to encourage folks to register as golfers! Forms are due to Betsy July 1; players can pay now or the day of the outing.
Kim Clark: Great news: the Bill Marklewitz Pavilion at Longview is complete! Kim says it's "gorgeous" – check it out!
Dee Howe: Please consider signing up to install flags; complete the form at your table; there's lots of flexibility!
Fred Honerkamp: A special shout-out to Mike Cronenberger for his yeoman's work on the flag project (see Jim Young's announcement); to Alex for installing his Midland Towne Center flags AND for sprinting from Larkin St to the MCFTA to fetch Martha Briggs' car so she could transport to King's Daughters an Aktion Club member who couldn't walk in the parade with the Kiwanis group; AND to Ross Ahlich for organizing the entire parade—he even gave us a prime spot in the parade queue!

PROGRAM: Senior Youth—For a Brighter Tomorrow

Senior Youth committee member Alex Rapanos introduced Terry Hanley, who serves with him on the Board of Directors of For a Brighter Tomorrow. Terry shared his own story: four years ago, after a seven-year struggle with addiction, his son died of a heroin overdose at the age of 27. Terry avoided dealing with this painful event and refused to talk about it. After meeting Lori Wood, who founded For a Brighter Tomorrow after she lost her own daughter to addiction, Terry became involved in this organization that helps both drug users and their loved ones address this growing problem.

The numbers are startling: drug use can begin as young as age 12. In 2016, for the first time, heroin killed more people in the United States than guns did. Here in Midland, nine people have died from heroin overdoses since the beginning of 2017.

Most of the people FABT sees are in their 20's; their struggle with addiction begins after being prescribed opiate pain relievers after an injury of surgery. Over time, they form a dependence on medication they can no longer afford; at this point, they discover that heroin provides comparable relief at a much lower price. That first hit creates a high they cannot duplicate, no matter how much more heroin they use. If they don't get help, an overdose can lead to death.

For a Brighter Tomorrow helps addicts by providing financial assistance for counseling, court-ordered drug/alcohol testing, transportation to and from detox centers and rehabilitation facilities, and other services that aid in recovery. The non-profit organization also helps families deal with a loved one's addiction or death.

Terry's particular interest is education. He has given presentations on heroin and prescription drugs to students in several area middle schools and high schools, and to teachers on professional development days. He works with Beaverton, Bullock Creek, Coleman, and Meridian schools and hopes to broaden his reach to include Midland Schools. FABT also has also sponsored summits on heroin and prescription drugs, with panels that included local police, EMTs, and 1016 Executive Director Sam Price. FABT works with the Legacy Center, hospitals, doctors, and area athletic directors to be sure people are fully informed about the dangers of both prescription drugs and marijuana, which Terry believes is a gateway to heavier drugs.

FABT and other organizations are working on legislation to crack down on doctors who prescribe opiates "like candy." Research continues into the varying effects opiates can have on individuals as well as on teens, whose brains aren't fully developed until they're in their 20's. Locally, people can get help from 211, which will point them to various hot-lines and 1016 Recovery Network, which will help them on a path to recovery. EMT's carry Narcon, which can reverse an overdose.

Duane Brooks explained the value of Families Anonymous, a self-help group for parents that was a tremendous support to his wife and him when their son struggled with addiction. After several years of inactivity, the group has started up again and will meet June 7 in Freeland. (<http://www.ourmidland.com/news/article/New-Families-Anonymous-group-plans-first-meeting-11181939.php>)

Reminders: Next week's program—Foundation Update; Invocation—Al Klashak. Sign up to paint at Eagle Village Thursday, July 20 and/or Friday, July 21. Register your own team for the golf outing, and encourage other players to do so as well!