

CALENDAR

January 9 & 25: Kiwassee Board of Directors meeting (January 9: after the regular meeting) (**Doug Snoddy**)

January 24: Aktion Club's Jolly January Party (**Martha Briggs**)

January 31: Kiwassee featured service club at the Dow Tennis Classic (Jan 27-Feb 4) (**Doug Snoddy/Diane Stevens**)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martha Briggs: Sign up to attend Aktion Club's Jolly January Party on January 24! Also, review the options to support the outfitting of Kiwassee's apartment at New Hope Village; a detail-filled clipboard sign-up sheet is circulating.

Al Forster: Pay your first quarter club dues soon; thanks to a change in Al's software, you may now pay your dues on an annual basis, in which case your subsequent quarterly bills will show a zero balance and serve as a receipt.

Brian Goodwill: Celebrate another successful Salvation Army Kettle Campaign! Not only did SA reach its \$108,000 goal, it exceeded it, and Kiwassee helped big, with our total hours of ringing second only to Midland High Key Club's, \$7000+ raised when we rang outside at Kroger and inside at the Midland Mall, and \$5000+ raised at our annual Christmas Party!

Dick Jellum: Grab one more pack of candy &/or nuts at the Fire Sale! Community Service meets here today at 1:00.

Jim Morgan: Help reduce the number of mystery checks Jim receives, including one for \$660 currently in his possession by remembering to note in the memo space the purpose of any check donation you turn in to him.

Diane Stevens: Sign the card circulating for Paul Walker's family. Paul passed away last week after a nine-year battle with ALS. Club members will meet at 11:30 this Thursday (1/4) to walk together into Paul's funeral service at Midland Nazarene on Jefferson Av. The New Hope Village painting crew will meet briefly with John after today's CS meeting.

Duane Townley: Thanks to EVERYONE who helped to make the Central Park Elementary Holiday Party a tremendous success: the set-up/clean-up crew, the food servers, the shoppers for last-minute additions to the guest list, Eminent Elf Diane Stevens for her able assistance, and Martha Briggs for greasing a few wheels at the last minute to get us all in!

PROGRAM: Jillian Westphal, West Midland Family Center

Representing Junior Youth, Susan Love introduced Jillian, who serves as WMFC's Recreation Director and School Age and Childcare Program Director at WMFC. Jillian provided a comprehensive summary of the variety of programs and services WMFC offers to children from infancy through age 17 and along with their parents.

WMFC has two on-site pre-school classrooms for three-year olds, and collaborates with the Great Start Readiness Program to offer a free developmentally appropriate preschool experience to four-year-olds at seven different sites in Midland and Isabella Counties. Both programs are amply staffed to maintain a low teacher-student ratio; the qualified, experienced, and caring staff provides a fun learning environment both inside and outside. In addition, WMFC is a licensed onsite childcare center that offers an affordable and developmentally sound and education program for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. each weekday, including snow days and public school professional days.

A robust K-12 after-school program provides daily bus transportation for students from Floyd Elementary School to WMFC, as well as home afterward in case their families cannot pick them up. Students enjoy snacks, crafts, recreation time, homework time, computer access, and guest speakers from area agencies. High school students tutor younger students and volunteer in other capacities.

The Center's summer program for K-8 children uses a STEM model to provide nature and outdoor activities, recreation, swimming, and learning. These activities inspire children to develop their natural curiosity via hands-on learning. An especially popular summer program is Family Camp at Camp Neyati, which includes 3-day and 4-day family camping experiences.

Jillian explained that WMFC has many opportunities for parents to become involved in their child's development through activities that give families a chance to spend time together. In fact, the Center utilizes a unique incentive program that invites parents to offset the cost of various offerings by earning points for participating in Center events and activities with their children. This approach makes programs more affordable while it strengthens families—WMFC's major focus.

Fees for many of the WMFC programs for children and families are either income-based or no/low-charge; scholarships are also available. In addition to on-site parenting classes and frequent Parent Nights, services that support families include home visits, individual consultations, and referrals to area agencies.

For more information about the West Midland Family Center, visit www.wmfc.org