

CALENDAR

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, April 13, 14, 15: State robotics competition, SVSU. Bullock Creek will compete. Go to www.firstinmichigan.org/eventinfo for more information. (CarolAnne Guillemette)

Saturday, April 14: Adopt A Highway pickup, meet at Police Station at 9a.m. (Bruce Rayce)

Wednesday, April 18: Children's Grief Center Fundraiser Luncheon, Great Hall (Fred Honerkamp)

Thursday, April 19: WMFC Volunteer Appreciation Event. RSVP by 4/6. (Susan Love)

Tuesday, May 22: Panel discussion: "What Are the Most Pressing Problems for Midland County's Youth?" bring a guest (let Bruce Rayce know headcount for caterer).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Cronenberger: Use the Midland Waves brochure to approach sponsors and subscribers about flags. Please don't approach those organizations that already support the golf outing. There is a list of potential Midland Waves flag sponsors available from Mike. He would be glad to email it to you.

Al Forster: Bills have been mailed! Check your spam folder if you didn't receive yours.

CarolAnne Guillemette: Robotics! Bullock Creek and three other local robotics teams will compete on April 12-14 at the State competition at SVSU. At the end of April, the world competition will be held, with half the teams traveling to Detroit and Cobo Hall, and the other half to a Missouri venue.

Susan Love: WMFC "Under the Sea" Volunteer Appreciation Event is 4/19, Thursday, 6:15pm-8pm at WMFC, for program and dinner. Please RSVP by 4/6 to rothh@wmfc.org, 989-832-3256. Also, if you are interested in volunteering for Tall in the Saddle or want more information, contact Susan Love.

Gene Moore: Gene was pleased to hear from The Legacy Center last week regarding the concerns about marijuana use and the data to support those concerns. This is an important issue for the community.

Jim Morgan: Always label deposit receipts for Chemical Bank with project/fundraising account information!

Bruce Rayce: On 5/22, there will be a panel discussion with Sheriff Scott Stephenson, Judge Doreen Allen, Midland Public Schools' Superintendent Michael Sharrow, and Bev Wenzel, Director of The Rock. The topic will be pressing issues facing our Midland County children and youth. The Evening Club has been invited and please feel free to invite guests to this interesting program. If you do have guests attending, give Bruce a headcount for Pat/food.

Doug Snoddy: Doug has two tickets from the Saginaw Downtown Club (Dave Skolnik and Bob Waskoviak were here last week.) for their 101st anniversary fundraiser. He bought them and anyone is welcome to chip in and share the ticket(s) with him, then share the winnings. Adopt A Highway pickup will be Saturday, 4/14. This is our 25th year of AAH participation! A spring pickup usually provides lots of interesting trash, plus this will be on M-20, a highly traveled road. Meet at the Law Enforcement Center at 9am. Key Club members will be helping Kiwassee volunteers.

Jim Young: In a week or two, help is needed to locate the placement pipes for flag displays. Please volunteer to get this year's Midland Waves program started.

GUESTS: Gene Moore's granddaughter, Madilyn Moore, joined us for our meeting.

MEMBER NEWS: Cecelia Myers is home and recuperating. Home healthcare is coming in to help. Cathy Honerkamp had spinal surgery yesterday. Keep her in your prayers. Jack Higgins is weak and unable to get out of bed on his own. It is becoming increasingly difficult for Nancy to help him. Bruce will coordinate help for Nancy with Jack. Call, send a note, or visit (contact Nancy first). Laurie Ireland was inducted today into Kiwassee, with Gail Sarnowski as sponsor. Laurie worked for Chemical Bank for more than 20 years, and now works for Habitat for Humanity. She has two married adult children and four granddaughters. Welcome, Laurie!

MICHIGAN WILDFLOWERS ON THE RAIL TRAIL & AMERICA IN BLOOM 2016

Gina Pederson, Master Gardener, on a cold and rainy spring day, reminded us that, eventually, the sun will shine, temperatures will warm up, and the Michigan wildflowers will bloom. Many of them bloom along the Rail Trail, and a huge project since 2012 has been to photograph, identify, and catalogue the wildflowers found. Great Lakes Gardeners, Wild Ones, Chippewa Nature Center, Little Forks Conservancy, Midland County Master Gardeners, and other interested volunteers have helped with this effort. Gina herself has walked the Rail Trail every week in the summer to see what wildflowers are blooming and to take photographs. A volunteer from Northwood has designed a website, which is www.PereMarquetteWildflowers.com. Approximately two hundred and fifty photographs of wildflowers are posted, with descriptions, locations along the Trail, timing of appearances and botanical names. A search feature can be used with common or botanical name. Gina also maintains a weekly blog about the Rail Trail and the wildflowers. Comments are welcomed, and if a better picture of a flower can be provided, with stems and foliage, feel free to contact Gina. Community help is encouraged to update, maintain, and share this website. Adams Elementary's fifth grade class had a science/gardening project with the Rail Trail flowers. Hopefully, other schools will take advantage of this natural resource in the city. Pine Haven is also a place for wildflower viewing. The Hepatica bloom is beautiful there in the spring.

Some invasive species are common buckthorn, autumn olive, and garlic mustard, non-native plants that can quickly take over an area and crowd out native plants. These must be continually removed to prevent overrun in the yard or garden. Garlic mustard must be pulled for seven years to completely remove the plant. Volunteers can help by not only working on their own property but also helping to remove invasives in the city.

If a gardener wants to plant wildflowers in their yard, the source of wildflower plants is important. There are laws against removing wildflowers from woods and roadsides. Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills has an annual wildflower sale of rescued plants. Plants are removed from home construction sites or highway construction. WildType Native Plant Nursery, near Mason, southeast of Lansing, grows and sells native Michigan wildflowers, in addition to grasses, trees, and shrubs. Their plant specialists can also help with garden planning.

Gina was instrumental in Midland's 2016 "America in Bloom" (AIB) 5 bloom win in the 30,000 to 50,000 population category. Judges were surprised the win came from a community that was entering for the first time. From 7am to 9pm, Dial-A-Ride buses took the local team members and the two judges around the city for two days in July. There were 6 categories in the judging: floral display, landscape design, urban forestry, heritage preservation, environmental effort, and overall impression. Four levels of involvement were examined: municipal, business, resident, and community involvement.

Five different garden clubs, churches, Master Gardeners, city employees, and citizen volunteers worked for two years to prepare for the judging. A comprehensive 75 page report detailing information in the six categories had to be condensed into a maximum of 25 pages. The judges said "While all AIB communities have higher than normal levels of community involvement, in Midland, the collaboration...is extraordinary." Our Midland Blooms plantings done in May on Eastman Avenue also were praised for not only the beauty the flowers provide, but also for the community involvement.

NEXT WEEK: Nominating Committee, Rogers, Winegardner, Rayce
INVOCATION: Honerkamp GREETER: Spaulding