

In This Issue

Kiwanis 100th Birthday.....	1
Aquatics Celebrates 21 Years....	2
WMFC Supports Families.....	3
Board Member Matt Metcalf.....	4
WMFC Board of Directors.....	4
WMFC Advisors.....	4

WMFC Hosts 100th Birthday Party for the Kiwanis Club of Midland

Does one sing Happy Birthday to a club? Maybe not. However, celebration is certainly in order when that club has its 100th year to commemorate, so that happened. On July 25, 2021 *West Midland Family Center (WMFC)* played host as the venerable *Kiwanis Club of Midland (KCM)* celebrated its 100th anniversary. Upon its establishment in July of 1921, Kiwanis Club of Midland was the 548th club to become part of *Kiwanis International*. Now in 2021, the Kiwanis Club of Midland is still going strong and making a difference in our community.

The organization's focus is on improving the quality of life in the community with an emphasis on the children. That

legacy is evident in the club's investments in *Camp Neyati, Midland High School Key Club, Northwood University Circle K*, mini-grants to elementary schools in *Midland County, Playground Builders* and WMFC early childhood programs.

In honor of KCM's contributions to WMFC, the evening began with a tour of WMFC's most recent addition. The tour was provided to shine a light on the spaces that have benefitted through KCM's generosity. This included: preschool classrooms, the two-lane bowling alley and multi-purpose rooms. The KCM has donated children's raincoats and boots, playground equipment and has funded preschool scholarships since

2012. All are integral to children's well-being and enhance the possibility of child success. According to *Greg Dorrison, WMFC Executive Director*, "Time spent outside is an important feature of learning, so regardless of weather, we strive to get children outdoors daily. Without the rain gear donated by KCM there are definitely children who would not have appropriate outdoorwear to join in the



Kiwanis Club of Midland members (L-R) John Anderson, Bart Buechner and Frank Aerstin entertain the crowd of 80 well wishers at the Kiwanis Club of Midland's 100th Birthday celebration.



P.O. Box 1985
Midland, MI 48641-1985
989.832.3256

www.wmfc.org

...continued on page 4

WMFC Aquatic Staff Celebrates Record Breaking 21st Summer

Much to the delight of **West Midland Family Center (WMFC)** families, after being closed in 2020 because of the pandemic, the WMFC swimming pool was open for business this summer providing expanded hours for open swim sessions. As a result, the WMFC pool surpassed all open swim attendance numbers of previously summers.

“It was a successful summer on many fronts,” shared **Renee Allen, WMFC Aquatic Director**. “After a summer of no pool it was great news to the community and our aquatic staff when we got the green light to open the pool this summer. As aquatic facilities across the country struggled to find lifeguards because of a 2-year nationwide lifeguard shortage, WMFC was pleased to return our entire staff from 2019,” continued Allen. “Our aquatic staff is fully committed to WMFC and the families in our community. They don’t want to work anywhere else.”

“Our maintenance staff got a heads up and preordered our chlorine in January. This allowed us to remain open when facilities across the United States were either having to close, or having to limit their hours, as a result of a nationwide chlorine shortage,” shared Allen. “In addition to breaking attendance records, we also completed our 21st summer of ZERO life-threatening emergencies at the pool. That stat is the result of our vigilant lifeguard staff who takes safety seriously and enforces our pool rules to keep everyone safe. I would be surprised if any aquatic facility in the country can match that statistic. All said, we had a very successful summer,” concluded Allen.

In a new twist this summer, the **WMFC Aquatic Staff** held a weekly prize drawing for visiting swimmers. Every time a swimmer came to the pool they were given a **Swim to Win Prize Drawing Entry Blank** to complete and drop into the magic fish bowl, located at the **WMFC Welcome Center**. Three prize winners were chosen each week.

Later in the summer when COVID restrictions lifted making it safe to do so, the aquatic staff hosted a few special events. In July and August the **WMFC Preschool Department** hosted free swim nights for families of preschoolers to showcase WMFC’s highly successful preschool program. Families of preschoolers were given free admission into the pool and lawn games were set up on the pool deck. **Missy Finney, WMFC Preschool Enrollment Specialist**, was on hand to answer

questions and share information on WMFC preschool offerings. As families left the event, they were given prize bags, snacks and drinks. The August preschool event broke a record for the most swimmers at the pool for any one day during the summer of 2021!

On August 11, 2021 WMFC kicked off the first **WMFC Recreation Family Night** of the year by hosting a party at the pool. Families swam, played lawn games and took part in prize drawings. **WMFC Lifeguards** grilled up hotdogs and burgers to add to an incredible buffet filled with delicious foods that fed all in attendance. It was a great way to kick off the **2021 Recreation Family Night Schedule!** For more information about upcoming Recreation Family Nights please contact **WMFC Recreation Director, Chelsea Davis** at 989-832-3256.



Families enjoying WMFC's warm, shallow, family friendly pool this summer.

WMFC Supports Families Year Round...Year After Year

Almost nothing is more precious than a young child's introduction to school. The wonder and anticipation with which children approach learning and experience new things is heartwarming. Every fall, WMFC teaching staff are privileged to welcome fresh-faced little children, eager to jump into their role of student. **WMFC Preschool** classrooms are ideal to nurture that transition. The unique thing about WMFC Preschool is that not only do our teachers welcome the children, they welcome the entire family. One such family is the **Sanders family**. Over the years, **Jazalyn and Paul Sanders's** three children have attended WMFC preschool. Jazalyn Sanders shared some thoughts about her family's participation.

The **Sanders children, Monica, Tucker and Mia** will all be attending **Floyd Elementary** this fall. According to Jazalyn, "Each is thriving

in their own way. They are well-established, engaged and highly curious. Mia is shy in part due to speech challenges."

A referral from **WMFC 3's Preschool Teacher, Julie Smith**, resulted in Mia receiving speech services in her 3's class and will continue to access that service in her 4's preschool classroom at **Floyd Elementary**.



The Sanders family decorated masks for Trick or Treat at family camp.

"Mia still talks about Ms. Julie and all she learned," continued Jazalyn. "My kids all benefited from WMFC preschool, they love school and I think that's in part because they began their schooling at WMFC."

Jazalyn has seen valuable behavioral changes in her children as a result of attending WMFC Preschool, "They know how to calm themselves. They have learned to get a book, sit quietly in a corner and do relaxation breathing. Our home is much calmer now. The only type of yelling you hear, is when the kids are

hollering because they are having fun," continued Jazalyn. "In Parent Education, I learned my children's love languages and that children's learning develops in stages. Their emotions speak to their needs." This summer, the Sanders family had a blast at WMFC's **Family Camp Neyati**

"My husband works from sun-up to sun-down so he misses occasions to be with the kids. Being at camp was wonderful for our family. Paul had time to play with and enjoy the kids. I saw his heart just melt with happiness. This has prompted Paul to take every opportunity to engage with the children. Now when he gets home from work, if the children are still up, he runs around playing with them. They have so much fun, laughing and laughing," concluded Jazalyn. "We will definitely participate in WMFC programs as long as we can. I want to continue being a part of this community and encourage everyone else to do the same!"



Each year families make something together to represent their family and remind them of their camp experience.



This year WMFC families had a special visitor during "Christmas in July" at WMFC Family Camp Neyati.

2021

Board of Directors

Officers:

Ben Dollard, President
Bill Bowen, Vice President
Brooke Alba, Treasurer
Joy Buchanan, Secretary

Directors:

Christian Allemang
Wally Mayton
Amy McGinnis
Matt Metcalf
Jamie Moses
Jesse Traschen
Gina Wilson

Honorary Board Members:

Bob Dostal
Tom Misner
Charles Noriszcz
Bill & Beth Schmidt

Advisors:

Greg Bergtold
Sally Bowen
Carl Coons
Dave Parrillo
Ann Schmitz

Executive Director:

Greg Dorrien
dorrieng@wmfc.org

Family Focus Newsletter

Publisher and Webmaster:

Renee Allen
allenr@wmfc.org

Metcalf Happy to Serve

Matt Metcalf joined the WMFC Board of Directors in 2019. He is a Senior Managing Counsel at Dow, where he is the leader of Dow's Operations, Regulatory & North America legal group. Matt is a member of Dow's Legal Leadership Team reporting to Dow's General Counsel, Amy E. Wilson. Matt's team includes several lawyers in the U.S. and Canada who provide legal counsel to Dow's operations and regulatory teams across North America. Matt joined Dow in 2005 as a litigation attorney and since then has served in a variety of legal roles in both the US and Europe. Before joining Dow, Matt was in private practice in Chicago. A mid-Michigan native, Matt received his B.A. from Swarthmore College and his J.D. from The University of Michigan Law School. Matt lives in Midland with his two teenage sons, Thomas and Adam. When asked why he gives his time and financial gifts to the Center Matt replied "I've been very impressed by the extraordinary commitment of the WMFC staff in support of the local community's needs. WMFC demonstrates incredible agility to shift as needs change. This was particularly evident over the course of the pandemic period. I'm very proud to support this outstanding community resource."



Matt Metcalf

Kiwanis...continued from page 1

fun. Those children could end up feeling different and less than. The awesome rain togs and boots supplied by KCM allow all the children to experiment and learn in the weather. We wouldn't be able to offer daily outdoor opportunities without an equal playing field for all the children, which they now have. This is just one example of how KCM has helped us provide for the needs of "our" children."

After the building tour came a barbeque dinner prepared by WMFC staff, along with musical accompaniment by the **KCM "Music Guys."** A slate of local leaders and the former president of Kiwanis International, all touted KCM's successes.

"KCM is a foundational element of our community. Over the years this organization has included thousands of Midlander's who value service to others. Their community generosity has benefitted the children of Midland County for 100 years. For all the children yet to come, I wish KCM 100 more years of service." concluded Dorrien.



To learn more about Kiwanis Club of Midland, visit midlandkiwanis.org or the organization's Facebook page.