



Expansion Project Funded – Architect and Contractor Named

Derek Smith Named New Coordinator For Wellness, Recreation

You'll find a new face at the Center these days. Derek Smith has joined the staff, ready to tackle new challenges and help with the transition



Derek Smith

into the soon to be expanded facility. As part of the ongoing growth of programming, and the preparation for the expansion, Derek was recently hired as our first full-time Recreation and Wellness Coordinator, thanks to a United Way of Midland

County Venture grant.

Derek is a recent graduate of CMU's Parks and recreation Administration program. He grew up in Durand, and currently calls Mount Pleasant home. Among his many hobbies are fly fishing, softball and hockey... (he has appointed himself the official staff cheerleader for the Red Wings).

Derek has enthusiastically jumped into his new job with both feet. In addition to overseeing the Center's leagues and recreation programs, he is making a significant contribution to the development of the Center's SKOOL's Out after-school program and our youth and teen recreation programs. Most mornings he can be found making friends and

See DEREK SMITH, Page 5

The West Midland Family Center Expansion project is a "go"!

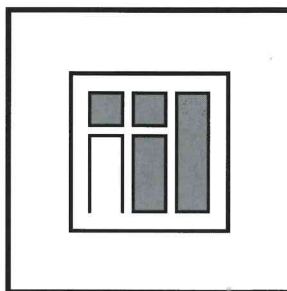
Five local foundations have pledged the \$2.8 million necessary to fund the project which is scheduled for completion in late 2000. The Swimming Pool portion will probably be delayed to coincide with the arrival of summer weather.

With the money "in hand", detailed planning is now possible. Dow-Howell-Gilmore Associates Inc. has been selected as the Architect, with Jack Lee as the Project Architect. Three Rivers Construction, with Bob Crivic acting as the Senior Project Manager, has been named General Contractor.

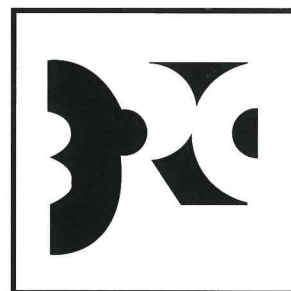
Jerry Schaar, a Dow retiree with extensive experience in commercial building, has been

engaged as Owner's Representative for the project. He will receive input from Orrin Barrett and Jim LaBean, former members of the Center Board, who were very much involved in the planning and construction of the current facility.

The project and its four major elements will nearly double the size of the center. There will be



DOW HOWELL GILMORE, ASSOC.



THREE RIVERS CONSTRUCTION

additional areas for educational programs and services, a second gym, an outdoor pool, and modifications and additions to provide additional study rooms, conference rooms and office space.

Center President Bob Dostal said: "I know I express the heartfelt thanks of our Board, our Staff... and particularly the West Midland Community... for the confidence expressed in our performance by the five foundations who have supplied the funds. It makes us want to work even harder!" (See expansion project contributors Page 3)

Center Executive Director Greg Dorrien said: "We will be able to expand our services in every area. Adult recreational activities will expand by 125%, youth and teen activities by

See EXPANSION PROJECT FUNDED, Page 5

Two Spectacular Events Mark WMFC's Silver Anniversary

Two more very successful events have been added to West Midland Family Center's year-long celebration of its 25th Anniversary. Regular Center patrons and the general public were invited to attend

the Silver Celebration... a combination open house, miniature carnival and gigantic picnic – August 5... and more that 700 attended. The event was

advertised as "fun and games for all ages from babies to seniors"... and it turned out to be just that. The Dunk Tank, the

90-Foot Caterpillar, the Moon Walk, the Star-Walk, the Tumble Bus and the Wet T-Shirt Throw were just some of the many features which kept "kids of all ages" entertained for several hours.

SEE PAGES 2 AND 3 FOR
COLOR PICTURES OF BOTH EVENTS.

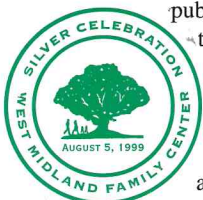
Prizes were awarded to winners in many of the events which were "competitive"... and all participants received a special Olympic-type medal, cast especially for the event. And many families had their pictures taken and presented

in a special souvenir folder.

During and after the "entertainment", more than 600 enjoyed a Pig Roast with all the trimmings, with hot dogs for the little ones. Throughout the event, the Dale Hafer Band provided both vocal and dance music for all to enjoy.

Greg Dorrien, in reflecting on the spectacular success of the event, said: "We've never done anything like this before... and we could never have imagined this kind of enthusiastic turnout.

See SPECTACULAR, Page 2



A BIRTHDAY GIFT...

Brandon Crane Gives His to West Midland

Brandon Crane is one special young man. To celebrate his eighth birthday, his parents, Marie and Jerry Crane, invited his friends to a pizza and swimming party at the Midland Community Center. What made the party unusual was Brandon's request to his friends not to bring him any birthday presents. Instead, he asked them to make a donation to West Midland Family Center. "I wanted to help other people and I wanted to give to people who help kids," said Brandon. Brandon's friends donated \$125 to the Center which will help purchase a piece of wheelchair accessible play equipment for the Center's new playground.

Way to go Brandon!



Brandon Crane

— Calendar of Events —

October 17: ..Sunday Volleyball League Begins
 October 18: ..Monday Volleyball League Begins
 October 19:sKOOL's Out
 After School Program Begins
 October 21:Greendale Diner's
 25th Anniversary Dinner
 October 25:Computer Club Begins
 October 27:Flue Vaccination Clinic
 October 29:Halloween Bash Teen Dance
 October 30:Fall Carnival
 November 1:Board Meeting
 November 6:Saturday Tutoring Begins
 November 6:Together for Kids Workshop
 November 14:Marathon Bingo
 November 15:Deer Widow –
 Make It Take It Night

November 18:Preschool Positive
 Discipline Workshop
 November 19:Hoe Down Teen Dance
 November 20:3-on-3 Tournament
 November 25:Thanksgiving
 (Building Closed)
 November 25:Thanksgiving
 (Thanksgiving Meal)
 November 30:Tuesday Night
 Basketball League Begins
 December 1:Wednesday Night
 Basketball League Begins
 December 5:Holiday Toy Drive
 January 1:New Year's Day (Building Open)

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President.....Bob Dostal
 Vice PresidentJim Anderson
 SecretarySue Thumma
 Treasurer.....Joe VanderKelen
 Directors: Julie Arbury, Ben Dollard, Ch
 Infante, Don Koster, Amber Phillips, Jo Ann
 Winchester

Advisors: Jim Burlingame, Michael Custer,
 Gene Dauer, Tom Misner, Chuck Norisez, Joe
 Rodgers, Roland Weaver, Ralph Wirtz, Win
 Zacharias

STAFF

Executive DirectorGreg Dorrien
 Program Director.....Gail Crosby
 New Initiatives & Promotions Director...Alan Oman
 Office ManagerRebecca Lampman
 Office Supervisor.....Diane DeMott
 Receptionists: Teri Booth, Christy Chappel,
 Diane Dauer, Mary Helton, Jenny Yarch
 Maintenance DirectorBarry Lenski
 Maintenance Staff: Gerald Burkett, Mike Kirby,
 Karen Leath
 Dow College Opportunity Director.....Tracy Meister
 Youth & Teen Coordinator.....Wyndy Johnson
 Youth & Family Education Coordinator .Renee Shauger
 Youth & Teen Staff: Alex Bartlett, Jessica Booth,
 Nicki Gainsforth, Stacie Gath
 Family Support Coordinator.....Lois Burton
 Family Resource CoordinatorJessica Pieper
 Recreation and Wellness CoordinatorDerek Smith
 Preschool Teachers.....Sarah Batch, Elaine Fabinski
 Preschool Student Teacher.....Pat Hertema
 Preschool Teacher Assistant.....Barb Simons
 Preschool Aides.....Missy Finney, Karen Hall
 Preschool Van DriverCari Smith
 NEMCSA Head Start AideKim Hach
 Child Care DirectorGinger Yarch
 Child Care Aides: Sarah Amick, Eileen Burch,
 Connie Billings, Tricia Chappel, Anabelle Curtis,
 Mary Ladd, Penny Owen, Nicole Schlese, Eva
 Searfoss, Becky Sexton
 Senior Program Staff.....Susan Wells
 Council On Aging Site Manager.....Judy Wirtz
 AmeriCorps Member.....Kari Maples

Spectacular...

(continued from page 1)

Although it's a heck of a lot of work, we have to think about making something like this an annual event."

Our second recent celebration was a special reception, held September 10 for West Midland Family Center's many benefactors. Approximately 100 were in attendance, including representatives of the major foundations, who have been so instrumental in the remarkable growth of the Center over the past 10 years. WMFC President Bob Dostal and Executive Director Greg Dorrien made brief presentations about the Center's past, present, and plans for the future.

Commemorative medals were presented to all attendees, with representatives of the foundations receiving special recognition with an "Olympic-style" presentation for their support of the Center's Expansion Project.

2ND ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, November 25 at 12:00 noon

TURKEY... and all the Trimmin's

FREE TICKETS

Available at front desk at WMFC

PREPARED AND SPONSORED BY

The Midland Jaycees & Gordonville United Methodist Church

Donations of canned goods for food pantry welcomed



Expansion Project...

(continued from page 1)

100%, family support services by 50%, daycare services by 50% and preschool by 25%. Just imagine how much this means to this community!"

Dostal commented further: "This accomplishment is really the capstone of our year-long 25th Anniversary Celebration. It will take us into the new millennium... and the next quarter century... on a very high note."

Contributions to WMFC Expansion Project

Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation	\$1,500,000
Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation	750,000
The Dow Chemical Company Foundation	240,000
Charles J. Strosacker Foundation	220,000
Dow Corning Foundation	90,000
WMFC Auxiliary	6,928
Community Fundraising	673
Individual Donors	1,442

Derek Smith...

(continued from page 1)

sharing activities in the Center's intergenerational and seniors' programs.

Derek says; "I really enjoy working with the enthusiastic staff," adding, "It's been great to make new friends and I'm really looking forward to the new challenges the Center has to offer."

Derek will also be playing a key role developing programs for the Center's expansion. The expansion will include a second, larger gymnasium and an outdoor pool, both of which will keep him busy.

Director of Programs Gail Crosby says; "Derek has fit in so well and connects very quickly with folks out here. He's going to be a great addition to our staff family."

Diane Dauer Celebrates 20 years of Service

This October marks not only the 25th anniversary of the Center but also Diane Dauer's 20th year of service to the organization. As everyone knows, Diane is WMFC's nighttime Building Supervisor as well as a very dedicated volunteer and member of the Center's Auxiliary. As well as overseeing the front desk, Diane voluntarily coordinates the Center's Sharing Tree effort, which distributes over a thousand gifts each year. She is also organizing her own Holiday Toy Drive fund raising event at the Center on Sunday December 5th.

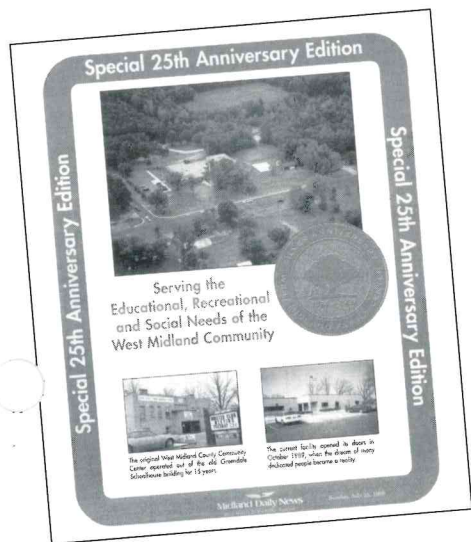


Diane Dauer

Diane says "I love the people in the community. You get to know them really well, and you get to know their families. That's the number one reason why I'm here." Which is exactly why we think she's one outstanding member of the West Midland family.

TOLL-FREE NUMBER

If calling WMFC is long distance for you, please use our new toll-free phone number: 1-877-631-WMFC (9632).



25th Anniversary Special Edition Available in Limited Quantities

The Midland Daily News published a special 12-page Silver Anniversary supplement featuring West Midland Family Center in late July. A limited number are available for Center patrons who may wish to "collect" them for historical or "sentimental" reasons.

ASSISTANCE

WMFC is committed to providing quality programs for all community members regardless of background or economic circumstances. We will assist one who is in financial need to participate in our programs. We reserve the right to cancel any program due to lack of registration.

WMFC BENEFACTORS

OrganizationAmount

Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation	\$1,000,000*
State of Michigan	250,063
United Way of Midland County	144,375
Towsley Foundation	45,000
Vada B. Dow Charitable Trust	41,000
WMFC Auxiliary	26,428
Children's Trust Fund	17,915
Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation	17,333
Midland Foundation	12,646
United Way Venture Grants	11,500
The Dow Chemical Company Foundation	10,000
Stuart Bergstein Foundation	4,700
Midland Kiwanis Club	4,000
Hudson's	3,400
Snow Machines Inc.	3,100
Charles J. Strosacker Foundation	3,000
Greendale Township	2,500

OrganizationAmount

Blessed Sacrament Church	1,200
Midland County Child Protection Council	1,000
Dow High School Student Body	984
Sunrise Optimist Club	607
Homer United Methodist Church	591
First United Methodist Church	500
Childcare Concepts	435
Quantum Composites/ Premix Foundation	250
American Express	200
TOPS Michigan	150
Caltech Industries	100
Bailey Insurance Agency	100
Gordonville United Methodist Church	50
Midland County Deputy Sheriff's Association	35
Delta Child Study Group	20

INDIVIDUAL BENEFACTORS

Timothy & Nancy Aeschliman, Ken & Laurie Babinski, Gary & Jennifer Breneman, Jim and Arlene Burlingame, Mark & Judy Burt, Ruth Caldwell, Kar Wah Chan & Brunella Gallace, Brandon Crane, Ben & Kathy Dollard, Mary Gieselmann, Lawrence & Kimberley Hale, James

Hampton, Virginia Harlow, Robert & Mary Kasprzyk, Robert Keil, Joseph & Lynn Krkoska, Pete & Gloria Lehman, Alan & Julie Oman, Mike & Noreen Parker, Michael & Lori Pekala, Scott and Janice Sovereign, Bill & Linda Stavropoulos, Jim Williams, Win Zacharias

*5 year matching grant pledge towards the Center's Program Endowment Fund.

Dow COP Students Are "Helping Hands" at West Virginia Work Camp

BY CRYSTAL LISCUMB
Meridian High School
Dow COP Class of 2001

The summer of 1999 held many exciting events for the Dow College Opportunity Program classes of 2001 and 2002. COP students Amber Anibal, Rachel Cook, Nicole Cornejo, Amy Haskin, Curt Holsinger, Crystal Liscumb, Ashley McCann, Anneliese Pfruender, Wendy Russell, Damian Sanderson, Danielle Schaefer, Kevin Smith and James Stevens took a journey south to the mountainous state of West Virginia to volunteer at a week-long service project. Their theme for the year was service and self-giving, so this summer trip fit the concept perfectly.

The students, along with COP Director Tracy Meister and volunteers Kathie Smith and Cliff Holsinger, decided to spend a week in Webster County, West Virginia, where they could meet their challenge through volunteer work.

On the way, the group stopped in Columbus, Ohio, for a day's stay on their way to West Virginia. While in Columbus, they got a chance to visit the Planet Hollywood Mall and spend a morning at the Columbus Zoo.

Once the group reached the High Divide Work Camp in West Virginia, they were assigned individual tasks. The Camp is a Christian-focused service program that helps renovate and repair homes for low-income families. COP students helped with a variety of tasks including replacing windows and digging drains.

In addition to the COP students, there were volunteer groups from twelve other states at the Camp. Thus, the students not only got the opportunity to help others, but they also got the chance to make new friends and expand their horizons.



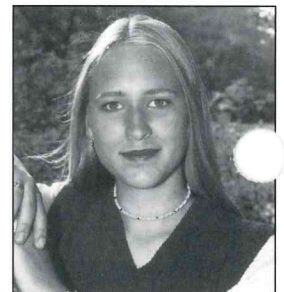
Dow COP students were part of West Virginia Work Camp Project.

CONGRATULATIONS to Special Dow COP Grads



Alisha Mitchell

Dow COP students are doing an excellent job in the classroom. The 1999 graduating class featured Alisha Mitchell, Valedictorian at Shepherd High School, and Tammy Reamsma, Salutatorian at Bullock Creek High School. A special "Well Done" to them... and all their classmates.



Tammy Reamsma

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Shepherd, MI 48883



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