

Midland Daily News



Local 'tourists' get freebies this weekend

By CHERYL WADE
of the Daily News

For the second year in a row, Midland-area residents can get passports for free.

They won't clear their passage to Europe or even Canada, but it will get them into many of Midland's attractions to learn something new, play a sport or game, or maybe eat.

This is the second year for "Be a Tourist in Your Town," a Saturday and Sunday event that gives local residents a chance to see 21 of the community's attractions for free. Goals are to encourage Midland residents to become familiar with all there is to offer in terms of attractions, events and leisure

activities and to increase awareness of the importance of tourism in Midland.

"Passports" will be distributed throughout town, recognizing and listing all the participating organizations, including sponsors and prize donors. Midland "tourists" will be encouraged to use the passports for free admission to area attractions and events. When a person visits one of the places offering special events, the passport gets a stamp. A total of five stamps must be validated to be entered into a drawing for prizes. Passports will need to be returned at any host destination or to the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce by 5 p.m. on Oct. 31.

Tracy Miller, communications director for the chamber, tried the "cardio tennis" workout the Midland Community Tennis Center will offer. It definitely keeps a person in constant motion, she said. The tennis "drills" involve fast hitting with a racket and running back and forth and around the court.

"You're playing tennis but not a tennis match," she said.

New this year is Grandma's Pumpkin Patch, which will offer a petting zoo and a run through the corn maze. Cold Stone Creamery will give away free cups of ice cream, and Dow Diamond representatives will conduct tours and have an open house at the suites

level.

"For people who went to the stadium but didn't get up to the suites, it's a great chance for them to check it out," Miller said.

Space Studios will be open to passport holders again, and visitors may throw clay onto a potter's wheel. The Midland Center for the Arts will have backstage tours and, on Sunday, passport holders will have a chance to sit in on a Camerata Singers rehearsal.

The Chippewa Nature Center will have a scavenger hunt, show off its new preschool and take visitors to see local archaeological digs.

For those who like sports, the Midland Community Center will offer wall climbing, basketball,

racquetball, wallyball and swimming. The Midland Civic Arena will offer free skating and Currie Municipal Golf Courses nine-hole golf for free.

The Ashman Circle is expanding its "lunch on the Circle" by adding a portable stage for music and other entertainment throughout the day. Glow sticks, helium balloons, stick-on tattoos, face painting, pumpkins, ice cream and popcorn will be offered. Food also will be available for purchase.

For more information, visit www.macc.org. "Be a Tourist" is presented by the Midland Area Marketing Partnership, a committee of the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce.