



## JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

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### ZOOM ON IN TO THE VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE!

So far there have been seven virtual open houses averaging thirteen participants! Different Board Members have volunteered to host each week with a great mix of conversation, games and opportunities to get to know each other. And, every week it seems there is a new surprise bit of information along with a lot of fun and laughter. If you haven't already, please consider joining in – The virtual open houses are every Wednesday from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM – and you are welcome to stay for part or all of the session.

Here's how to join:

1. Dial 1-312-626-6799 to call in to the meeting. You will be prompted to enter the meeting ID.
2. The meeting ID is 846 8230 8371#
3. You will be prompted to enter a password.
4. The password is 969199

SAVE THIS INFO – it is the same every week. If you want to join by e-mail or if you have a smartphone, please contact the Center, leave a message, and we will help you get set up.

As always, CICBVI is dedicated to meeting the social and emotional needs of our community of patrons.

## **Hi! I'm Paula B!**

It's me again! I am still coming into the center and working on getting information up to date, organizing material, taking phone calls and assisting with plans for re-opening. I hear you are anxious for that reopening to happen soon, but I want to remind you that there are a lot of details to work through to be sure we are fully ready and capable to open. Above all, we want our patrons and volunteers to be safe so we are taking care to make sure we cover all the bases and are truly ready for you all when the time comes. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Meanwhile, one of the more striking improvements to the center is the parking lot. Thanks to Mark Bean and his leadership, the parking lot has been resurfaced and restriped. The concrete parking space "bumpers" have been repainted to designate spots for our van, visitors and handicapped. It is so bright and fresh, and really compliments the new paint on the building and fence.

## **Technology Help Center**

We are waiting to receive information on when in-person trainings can be scheduled. Our next session would be Screen Readers for the Blind.

## **GOT NEWS?**

If you have something you would like to have printed in the newsletter, please let us know by calling the center (309-637-3693).

## SPOTLIGHT ON . . . . . LEIA STEWART!

This new feature is to spotlight a patron each month to help us get to know each other better and, especially now, keep in touch. This month the spotlight is on Leia Stewart.

Leia has been blind since infancy and a part of the Center for more than 30 years. Along with Illinois she has lived in Tucson, Arizona and in South Carolina – just a short distance away from one of her most favorite places, Myrtle Beach and the Atlantic Ocean. Leia now lives in Pekin with Mojave, a yellow lab, and three cats: Angel, Needles and Shadow. Not too far away, she has one son, one grandson and three honorary granddaughters.

Did you know this about Leia?

--She was an active gymnast and won a state award for her trampoline skills;

--She has a very eclectic taste in music, from Foreigner to Dan Fogelberg and more;

--She was a member of the National Honor Society for Academics;

--She loves wind chimes and has quite a collection of them

--If she hears somebody say “You can’t do that” to her . . . . her first reaction is “Oh, yes I can.....watch me!”

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### JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 4 The United States of America

July 6 Ken Gray

July 8 Connie Phillips

July 14 Sharon Colburn

July 16 Susan Schoenbein

July 27 JT Taylor

July 28 Mary Turner

H A P P Y B I R T H D A Y !

## AMAZING ANIMAL FACTS

A cat's nose print is as unique as a human fingerprint: no two are alike!

The first official service animals were established in Germany during WW I. However, references to service animals date back as far as the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century!

The tongue of a blue whale weighs more than most elephants!

Honeybees have tiny hairs on their eyes to help them collect pollen!

If you cut off a snail's eye, it will grow a new one!

Butterflies taste with their feet!

And, last but not least, turtles can breathe through their butts!



**Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired**

2905 W Garden St., Peoria, IL 61605  
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**Quote for the Month**

**“You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think, and loved more than you'll ever know.”**

**— A.A. Milne.**