



# AROUND THE CENTER

## CICBVI NEWS – May 2021

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Isn't it nice to have decent weather? Along with the flowers popping up and trees budding out, the Center is going to spring into some real action! We are going to have an event AT THE CENTER – actually not just one, but TWO!

The first one is a lunch open house on Wednesday, May 12. The plan is to eat around 11:30 AM and for those needing transportation, our drivers will contact you once the route is determined for what time to expect to be picked up. Menu will be grilled pork chop sandwiches, chips, baked beans, dessert and a drink. The chops are going on the grill and board member and Master Chef Mark Bean will be overseeing the grill. Cost is \$5.00 and RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!! You MUST call the center and get your name on the list no later than May 7 – and if you get the answering machine, please be sure to clearly say your name, phone number and whether or not you need a ride.

The second one is a dinner open house on Wednesday May 26. Will eat around 5:30 PM and same thing with transportation. The menu will be some form of chicken dish prepared by the food services crew at TCRC. If you have ever had anything prepared by them you know it will be delicious!!!! There will be a cost of \$5.00 and again, RESERVATIONS are required – no later than May 19.

It will be so good to have everyone together for yummy food, good conversation and fun games (and yes, we will play some bingo!!)

NOTE: There are some rules and procedures we MUST follow in order to make this all happen safely so please keep reading.

1. Temperatures will be taken prior to boarding the CICBVI vehicle or, if you arrive on your own, at the door.
2. Masks are required while riding in the CICBVI vehicle and inside the center if you are up and moving about. Masks are not required while sitting at your table.
3. We will be socially distanced as much as possible regarding seating.
4. The following notice will be posted:

“While our staff and volunteers will attempt to take all appropriate precautions consistent with the advice of the public health authorities, all guests should understand that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 anytime they enter a group setting since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.”

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us all work together to be safe!

## IN SYMPATHY

We were just recently notified that Joan McNeeley and Vickie Elston both passed away – Joan in December and Vickie in November. Our thoughts and prayers go to their families.

THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU

During the past month, the CICBVI received donation gifts from the following:

Dennis and Christina Jurewicz

Margaret Weygard (in memory of Amy Smith, Pastor Gabe Wendt, Joan Mesmore and Bob Gorey)

Bob Coney

The Tremont Lions Cub

Without the support of our donors we could not provide the services we do. These gifts are very much appreciated by our staff, patrons and volunteers.

**Did you know** you can specify the Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired on your Kroger card and a percentage of your purchases will be donated by Kroger to the Center? If you don't have this option already set up, just visit the customer service counter the next time you are in Kroger. You can also shop using Amazon Smile (check out the link on our web page) and a portion of your purchase will be donated as well. That's like FREE MONEY to support our efforts!

**Check out our Facebook page and our Web Page.** New pictures have been posted! And coming soon, there will be videos describing some of the products and assistive devices available to you. Website: [www.cicbvi.org](http://www.cicbvi.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cicbvi](http://www.facebook.com/cicbvi)

## SPOTLIGHT ON TERRY COOPER

Each month the Spotlight shines on a person connected in some way to the Center. It may be a patron, volunteer, employee or board member. This month the spotlight is on an active patron, Terry Cooper.

Terry is a life-long Central Illinoisian – born and raised in Creve Coeur. He has the best phone voice ever and it always sounds like he is smiling. He is also very diplomatic, which I learned when I asked him about his favorite foods. He answered steak, and when I commented “never well-done” he immediately said it depends on how the customer likes it – which makes sense when you learn he is a restaurateur and has owned the Hilltop Grill in Creve Coeur for the last 14 years. Prior to that he said he has always been involved in the food business one way or another.

Terry has family, including two adult children (who are not in the restaurant business). When asked what he likes to do in his spare time, he laughed and said in the restaurant business you have no spare time. He is generally there from late morning to late night.

Terry did say he had a great adventure, however. He was able to cruise to all the Hawaiian islands several years ago and said it was absolutely gorgeous.

Hopefully Terry will be able to make it to a future Center event, but in the meanwhile, if you are looking for a good meal – visit him at the Hilltop Grille in Creve Coeur! He is there every day!

**Do you need a new White Cane?** If you are a patron, and it has been over a year, you may be eligible to receive another one. Just contact the Center to make arrangements.

## **WELLMOBILE RETURNS!**

The Unity Point Well Mobile will be at the center again on May 4! Screenings will be offered on a first come, first served basis, from 10:00 AM – noon on those dates. Transportation will be provided for patrons who want to take advantage of this. Next visits are the first Tuesday of June, August, September and October. Screenings will be offered on a first come, first served basis, from 10:00 AM – noon on those dates. Transportation will be provided for patrons who want to take advantage of this.

## **THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY – Important dates!**

May 1 – Happy birthday to Batman (born in 1939)

May 5 – in 1904 Cy Young pitched the first perfect baseball game

May 7 – Happy birthday to Brenda Pierce

May 9 – Hooray for buttons day; the button hole was invented in 1247

May 11 – Happy birthday Angie Porter

May 12 – Happy birthday Bob Coney

May 20 – Happy birthday Cora Quinn

May 23 – Ben Franklin announced he had invented bifocals

May 30 – traditional Memorial Day – a day to honor those who have left us, especially those who fought and died for our freedom

## **HISTORY OF THE CICBVI**

Over the last several months of cleaning and organizing around the Center, lots of pictures and other items about the history of the Center have been found. Linda Kalb is hard at work organizing them and putting them into chronological order in various albums so these memories can be preserved. She may be calling on some of you to help in identifying events and/or people involved.



And, while Linda is hard at work organizing Center artifacts, her husband, Earl is taking care of their new family addition: “pocket beagle” puppy, Hunter. In the picture above, Earl is sitting on one of the (newly donated) recliners at the center with Hunter the puppy curled up right beside him with his head on Earl’s lap. And, yes, you guessed it. Both are sound asleep!!!!

**Hi! Its Paula B.**

It feels like April just zoomed by and here it is May already with lots of things going on. Of course, the big thing is we are having not one, but two events at the Center!! I hope to see lots of you there!

The Board is in the process of transition with new officers being formally elected next month – please be sure to look for more news on this in the June “Around the Center” newsletter. The Board is also very hard at work preparing for one of our two major fundraisers for the year.

As you know, last year we couldn't do fundraising as usual – and that has put the Center in a difficult place operating on a reduced budget while still experiencing our usual operating expenses and trying to provide as many services as possible. Luckily, this year, we are able to have our annual Community Banquet – it is scheduled for June 24 and invitations are going out soon. Please watch your mail for yours and consider attending. The featured speaker is Leslie Hoskins from Leader Dogs. This is where they train service dogs for blind and visually impaired people. It is amazing to learn how the dogs are trained and what they are capable of doing to help open the world for the blind, offering independence, confidence and companionship. This will be a virtual presentation and you will not want to miss it!

Now, back to the upcoming lunch and dinner events at the Center. First of all, I hope you will give me some grace in that even though it may seem like I've been hanging around here forever, these two events will be the first I have overseen for the Center. Yes, there will be some differences – remember we have some new furniture around the edges of the room (we will guide you to learn where it is), we have to follow all the health and safety guidelines (masks, temperatures, only paper place settings and utensils, slightly

different method of serving, etc.) and it may take me a little bit to become more familiar with how you like things done. (But there WILL be Bingo!) That being said, however, I hope you will also look forward to having things “shook up” a little, and enjoy new experiences.

Also, if you have been fully vaccinated (I have) then be forewarned. I plan on shaking your hand and maybe even throwing a hug or two around. I can't wait!!

-Paula B

### YELLOWIES

These are kind of like Brownies only, well, yellow!

1 cup chopped pecans	½ cup butter, melted
3 large eggs	1 package yellow cake mix
1 package cream cheese, softened	
16 oz powdered sugar	

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Combine pecans, melted butter, 1 egg and cake mix until blended. Press into bottom of lightly greased 13 x 9 inch pan.

Beat remaining 2 eggs, cream cheese and powdered sugar at medium speed until smooth. Pour over cake mix layer.

Bake at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes. Cool in pan, cut into pieces, store in refrigerator.

GOT NEWS? If you have something you would like to see printed in the “Around The Center” newsletter, please send it in – you can e-mail, call or mail (all contact info is on the top of the first page).



## Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

2905 W Garden St., Peoria, IL 61605  
**May 2021 Newsletter**

### Quote for the Month

People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. -- [Maya Angelou](#)