



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS – July 2021

2905 W. Garden St., Peoria, IL 61605

Phone: 309-637-3693

Email: info@cicbvi.org

Website: www.cicbvi.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cicbvi

Paula Balistreri, Editor

THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU

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Additional thank you this month for donor gifts from the following:
Greg Lara, Gayle Workman and the District 1-H Lions

July may be the lazy month of summer, but not for us! We have lots of things planned, but first a shout out and congratulations on pulling off a successful Annual Banquet. The program on Leader Dogs was informative and entertaining, the service and room arrangements were top notch, the award winners were deserving, the food was delicious and the raffle winners were lucky ducks!!

Special thanks go out to Darlene Violet for her overall organization, Kurt Norris for his leadership, David Murphy for his IT/AV expertise, Steve Knecht and Mark Bean for 50/50 sales and greeting guests, Matt Violet for helping with raffle sales, Felisa Durr for organizing seating and making sure everyone got the right meal, Cora Quinn for telling her story, our drivers and volunteers who assisted and helped patrons attend the event and last but not least, Leslie and TimTam for their keynote presentation.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to everyone who bought a ticket or otherwise donated to this fund-raising event. And while our fund raising is not over, this event has allowed us some space to continue to provide the services we do and everyone from patrons to employees is most grateful.

DID YOU KNOW – the Blind Center Social Club was instrumental in getting the Center as we now know it started. They are planning their 100th gathering – to be held at the Center – for August 7th. Be sure to save that date and watch your mail for more info!!

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Golf Outing at Weaver Ridge
September 13, 2021.

UPCOMING PATRON EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WASHINGTON SQUARE – On July 8th, for lunch, we will be going to Monical's Pizza in Washington. We have the "party room" reserved for us – woo hoo! Cost is \$5.00 and includes pizza, salad & drink. After Monical's, we will head to town and enjoy the seating and fountain in the middle of the square. Those who wish to will have time to visit Holland's Candy & Ice Cream Shop. This date is coming up fast – if you are attending, please call the Center NO LATER than July 6th. If you get the answering machine, don't forget to leave your name, phone number and whether or not you need transportation.

BREAKFAST FOR LUNCH – Our next gathering at the Center will be July 14th when we will be having Breakfast for Lunch! Menu will be homemade biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, fruit cup, muffin and juice. Cost is \$5.00. Call in your reservation NO LATER than July 12th.

CHILLICOTHE CHEESECAKE & MORE – July 22nd we will start our adventure in Peoria with a visit to the life size animal statues at Keller Primary School – weather permitting and as long as they are still there. NOTE: This requires some walking so if you prefer to wait in the bus, that's okay. Then, it is off to Grecian Gardens in Chillicothe where lunch is on your own (hint – awesome burgers, and saganaki, which is flaming Greek cheese). But, save room because next stop is Triple Dipple's famous homemade cheesecake where you will not only get to purchase cheesecake, we will meet owner Harold! Please call in your reservation NO LATER than July 19th.

DOWN HOME DINNER – July 28th at the Center. Tentative menu is ham, macaroni & cheese, veggie, dinner roll and dessert. Cost is \$5.00. Again, call in reservations NO LATER than July 26th, leave your name, number and whether or not you need transportation.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT – Edward Kimbrough

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 volunteer Edward Kimbrough.

You have probably seen Edward around – he works closely with Facilities Committee Chair, Mark Bean and is always lending a helping hand. Edward got started about a year and a half ago when work was being done on our furnace and basement. Then he wielded a paintbrush – both outside and inside, upstairs and down – and soon made himself known as a guy who would do whatever it takes to get the job done.

When not helping around the Center, Edward is a member of the Peoria Suburban Lions Club where he holds the office of Lion Tamer (which means he is responsible for set-up and clean-up for monthly meetings, plus sells 50/50 tickets).

Edward is a life-long Peorian and early in his career worked as a nurse's aide at Bellwood Nursing Home. He also was a Peoria Schools bus driver and, most recently worked as a cook for Manual High School.

When asked what he likes about volunteering at CICBVI, he immediately shared he just likes being helpful. He then went on to say it is extra that he genuinely cares for the people and likes the feeling of being able to help other people.

WELCOME NEW PATRONS:

Philip Irwin (returning former patron)

Bonnie Gudat

Terri Peplow

Keith Nielsen

AWARD WINNERS

One of the fun things that happens during the Annual Banquet is recognizing individuals who have made a significant contribution of their time to the CICBVI. Since there was no banquet last year, those awards were also presented.

“Newcomer of the Year” – this award, which would have been awarded last year, went to Deb Conklin. Deb is a Board Member and is chair of the Human Resources committee. She “hit the floor running” and it was soon obvious that she has a high level of commitment to the Center and assuring that things are done the right way for the right reasons. It was a pleasure to present this award to Deb and we all look forward to working with her going forward.

“Volunteer of the Year 2019” – this award also was to be presented last year and went to Mike Waldrin. Mike is also known as “Penny Mike” for the art work he creates from pennies. He has donated his pieces for the benefit of the Center and is someone always willing to step in and help. This was a very deserved award and we are happy to have Mike with us.

“Volunteer of the Year 2020” – this was the only award presented for 2020 and was given to Mark Bean. As we all know, 2020 was a difficult year for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that we spent much of the year unable to host our usual activities for patrons. Mark, who is also a Board Member and chair of the Facilities/Transportation committee, got right to work and spearheaded several improvements to the Center that we may have not been able to accomplish otherwise. He also recruited and revitalized our relationship with area Lions Clubs and was instrumental in recognizing and promoting White Cane Day. Going forward, he is hard at work planning our much needed roof replacement and is also active on our fund raising committee.

Congratulations to these three very important contributors to the success of our organization!!

IMPORTANT JULY DATES

- July 1 The first postage stamp came into being
- July 4 Happy Birthday America!
- July 6 Happy Birthday Ken Gray
- July 8 Happy Birthday Connie Phillips
Outing to Monicals and Washington Square (get your reservations in!)
- July 13 Board Meeting at the Center
- July 14 "Breakfast for Lunch" at the Center (get your reservations in!)
Happy Birthday Sharon Colburn
The first no-hitter was pitched in 1876 by St Louis player, Washington Bradley
- July 16 Happy Birthday Susan Schoenbein
- July 22 Chillicothe Cheesecake outing (get your reservations in!)
- July 27 Happy Birthday JT Taylor
- July 28 Down Home Dinner at the Center – with a special musical (Get your reservations in!)
Happy Birthday Mary Turner

Please visit our social media pages. Every "like" and visit helps us become more visible and, in turn, gets the word out about our services. You will find fun posts, news about upcoming events, pictures and more!

Website: www.cicbvi.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/cicbvi

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Bob Coney as he continues his rehabilitation at Generations Rehab Center

Ron Selby as he recovers from a fall (latest word is he is doing well!)

Condolences to the family of Mary Garrett who passed away at age 77

Hi! Its Paula B.

If you have read this far, I hope you fastened your seatbelts because it has been a wild and crazy month and it doesn't look to slow down any time soon. I am basically a slug at heart so when we have events and activities going on every week I find myself getting frazzled and have to remind myself to slow down and take time to smell the roses. So, I am sitting here at my desk doing just that while I am writing to you. I am making an effort to find peace in the little things. Here is what I am noticing:

We have a lot of special people around us: not special in that they discovered a cure for the common cold but special because they share an encouraging word, call just to say hi or give us a hug right when we need it.

Even in the worst of times there is something good. For me, this month my daughter's family had to put their 15 ½ year old dog – and my first fur grandbaby, older than her children – asleep. It was heartbreaking. But, it was an important life lesson for my grandkids and it was heartwarming to see them express their love for their pet and their kind and caring support to each other. I don't know why, but it made me feel my grandkids were developing into fine, loving people and that was good.

I am appreciating the power of words and it is a reminder to be more deliberate in what I say. I am also reminded that not only does a kind word have power, but repeating gossip, or stating something as fact when you may not have the whole story is harmful. A positive word will outweigh a negative word every single time.

The air smells different when it rains. Fresh, clean, and a reminder that we can always "start over."

And, with that, I wish you peace, joy and laughter. And, I hope to have the chance to be with you at one of our July events! - Paula B



Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

2905 W Garden St., Peoria, IL 61605
June 2021 Newsletter

Quote for the Month

May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.