



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS – June 2021

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

IS JUNE BUGGING YOU?

Ah, June – the first real month of summer! Of course, along with nice weather, good sun and fun outdoor activities come the dreaded bugs. There are always June bugs. Sometimes I think they get confused about the month and arrive in May, but they don't last long. This year, of course, we are all anticipating the arrival of the 17-year cicadas. These bug-eyed bugs are generally classified into two groups – the annual ones that show up every year and the periodical ones that come out every 13 or 17 years. So, what have they been doing all that time?

They start as eggs laid in trees. They hatch and burrow into the ground where they feed on fluid from tree roots, sleep and slowly grow. When the ground warms up after 13 or 17 years (depending upon the cicada) they come out and start the cicada party. Kind of like we are doing here at the Center now that the pandemic restrictions are lifting. So, what's up around here??

In short, we will have a lunch at the Center June 9th, a Chiefs' baseball game outing June 18th and our Annual Banquet June 24th. Here are the details:

ANNUAL BANQUET

One of our two major fund raisers is our annual banquet. As you know, having to cancel last year left us in dire straits financially so we are really going all out to make sure this year's banquet is a huge

success. If you are getting this newsletter, you should have already received your invitation and we hope you can join your friends and CICBVI family at the June 24th event.

The banquet is being held at Mt. Hawley Country Club and social hour starts at 6:00 PM. You must reserve your place as soon as possible and can do so by either returning your RSVP card, visiting our website at www.CICBVI.org or calling the Center at 309-637-3693. There will be your choice of meal - either chicken, salmon or a vegetarian risotto (reserve in advance), an exciting and informative program by the Leader Dogs for the Blind organization, raffles and more.

If you are a patron and would like to attend, please call the center for details and to reserve your place and arrange for transportation. We have been fortunate in having some sponsors help to defray the cost of patrons attending and that is very much appreciated.

Hope to see you there!!

LUNCH AT THE CENTER

June 9th will be here before you know it and once again all patrons are invited to come for lunch at the Center. We will be having a pizza party and plan to eat around noon. The cost is \$5.00 for your meal and if you would like to play Bingo, it costs \$1.00. Transportation will be provided but you MUST get your reservation in no later than Monday, June 7th, please. If you have a special pizza request, please mention it when you call in and we will try to accommodate you. Remember if you get the answering machine, be sure to leave your name, phone number and whether or not you need a ride. See you then!

CHIEFS' BASEBALL GAME

We tried to go to a Chiefs' game last year, but the pandemic caused us to have to cancel. But we are set for this year on June 18th. The game starts at 5:30 – our drivers will be in touch with you

for pick up times if you are using the Center's transportation. We have our own room so if the weather is iffy, we can enjoy the game from inside, or, if the weather is nice, we can sit out on the balcony. There will be typical baseball stadium food. Reservations must be in no later than June 14th and, as usual, if you get the answering machine, be sure to include your name, phone number and whether or not you need transportation. PLAY BALL!

Oh, and if you were wondering, cicadas don't live forever, they pop out, make a lot of noise, mate and die within anywhere from two to six weeks. The warmer and drier it is, the sooner they're gone. Of course, then the annual cicadas start showing up in July and August.

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WELCOME NEW PATRONS

Venessa Dixson

Mike Ingram

Airyanna Jason

Carol Turner

Evon Dixon

Jaramiah Richardson Brock

Brandon Love

Do you know anyone who is blind or otherwise visually impaired? Don't forget to invite them to become a patron of CICBVI!

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

During the past month, the CICBVI has received donor gifts from the following people:

Bob Coney

Margaret Weygand (in honor of B. Polence, B. McLaughlin and N. Beichy – editor's apologies if these names aren't exactly right - corrections will be published as received)

Eugene Pish

Catholic Women's League

Mike Waldron in memory of Kim Smith

*Banquet related gifts will be listed at a later date

TECHNOLOGY TUESDAY (and every day!)

Have you visited the CICBVI website lately? If not, you are in for a treat. The Training & Education committee has started a new feature – Technology Tuesdays – that puts a focus on various devices appropriate for and helpful to our patrons through You Tube videos on our website. They have already featured videos showing how to use Alexa and describing a Script Reader. Check in often, the team has more videos in the works. There are also pictures and videos about the events at the center you may want to check out.

And since you are already on-line checking out the CICBVI website, why not hop on over to our CICBVI Facebook page? There you will find more pictures and descriptions of our events. Be sure to click on that “like” button, too, since that helps get us in front of more people.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA NEWSFLASH – Did you know our very own patron Deanna Bruce has published a children’s book??? You will find out about it on our social media and can order it through Amazon right now! And you heard it here: she has a second book coming out soon. Congratulations to Deanna for becoming a published author!

Social Media can be such a useful tool. Did you know since a reminder was posted there about designating the CICBVI for donations through your Kroger card we had over a dozen new people sign up? If you haven’t done so yet please consider doing so. Just go to the Kroger website – click on Community Relations and look for the Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired.

IMPORTANT JUNE DATES

June 8th – CICBVI Board Meeting at the Center

June 9th – Happy Birthday to Elaine Butler
Pizza lunch at the Center

June 10th – Happy Birthday to the ball point pen, patented in 1943

June 12th – Happy Birthday Deanna Bruce

June 14th – Flag Day

June 18th – Peoria Chiefs Baseball Game event

June 20th – National Bald Eagle Day. In 1982, Congress proclaimed the bald eagle as our national symbol.

June 22nd – Doughnut Day! Eat a lot of them!

June 24th – 10th Annual CICBVI Banquet

June 30th – Happy Birthday to Robert Quinn

GET WELL SOON!

Please keep Bob Coney and Leiah Stewart in your thoughts and prayers. Both are working on rehabilitation following medical situations – Leiah is at home and Bob at Generations Rehab Center.

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).

DID YOU KNOW

- . . . the strongest muscle in your body is your tongue?
- . . . speaking of tongues, your tongue has a print as unique as your fingerprint.
- . . . rubber bands will last longer if stored in the refrigerator?
- . . . the first CD pressed in the U.S.A. was Bruce Springsteen’s “Born in the USA?”
- . . . and, finally, one more thing about tongues. A crocodile can’t stick its tongue out and both my mother and my granddaughter can touch their nose with theirs.

Hi! Its Paula B.

It was great to see many of you at the lunch and dinner events at the Center in May. Special thanks go out to everyone that helped, especially to our lunch grill master, Mark Bean, dinner chef, Kelly Meals from TCRC, super-volunteer Jamie Lang, our drivers Artie, Earl and Mike, who got you here safe & sound and, of course, to all you patrons and friends who attended! So good to see you and, hopefully we will see you again soon at our June events.

Meanwhile, lets talk a little about change – mainly because change is unavoidable, and we all have certainly been seeing a lot of it – big and small – in our lives lately. We all handle change differently – some embrace and welcome change, some dread it. But for the most part, change is good. It means we are growing and evolving and becoming more creative in how we adjust. Can you imagine being one of those pesky cicadas, laying around for 17 years doing absolutely nothing, coming out and doing the exact same thing cicadas have been doing for centuries (mainly making a lot of noise and reproducing) then dying? Me, either.

So, as we ease into these changing times, I encourage a couple of things: First, be aware of how others react to change and be understanding. Second, don't automatically assume change is bad – give it a chance, you may be surprised! And, finally, don't be a cicada and lay around for 17 years – get active and BE the change!!

-Paula B

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This month, instead of spotlighting a person, and in keeping with our focus on our Annual Banquet, the spotlight is on aspects of how the Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired works. Our mission statement states we exist to provide programs that meet the emotional, educational and social needs for the blind and visually impaired of our area. But, of course, in order to do that, we need a certain amount of structure and “behind the scenes” activity.

We are governed by a Board of Directors that are responsible for overseeing everything. We are served by employees and volunteers that carry out all the duties to make things happen. But just what does that mean?

First, it means we must be financially able to exist. We strive towards that by a combination of gifts, grants and fundraising. We are NOT tax supported. Gifts are obvious. Generous people who believe in our work give us gifts that we, as good stewards, put towards critical needs and programs. We apply for various grants, such as the Oppenheim grant. Grants are funny things. They can be any monetary amount, are not guaranteed from year to year. Sometimes the grant may carry restrictions. For example, some grants may say the monies received may only be used on specific capital improvements, others may restrict spending only for direct patron support and still others may have no restrictions at all. And we hold fundraising events and programs such as our Annual Banquet, our Golf Outing and our partnership with Kroger and Amazon Smile.

As for employees, as we exist today, Felisa and Paula work together in specific areas. Felisa’s main responsibilities are for fundraising (such as managing grant applications and supporting the fundraising committee, particularly for large events such as the banquet and golf

outing). She is also responsible for enhancing community awareness of our organization (such as social media and outreach through programs like the well mobile or the Chamber of Commerce). Paula's responsibility is geared to more "everyday" activities such as social events, responding to requests, the newsletter, overseeing the building and employees in general and communicating between all the moving parts of an organization such as ours (in other words, trying to juggle the balls and make sure the right hand knows what the left hand is doing). Our other employees are our drivers, Earl and Artie, who not only provide safe transportation for our patrons to and from events but also pick up and deliver food bank boxes and anything else we may need driven around. Earl has the additional responsibility for keeping our facility clean on a regular basis.

Our volunteers are super important in making sure this all works together. They help with everything (and I do mean everything) from collating the newsletter, to serving meals to accompanying patrons on outings. We would be nothing without them and they are greatly appreciated!

You know that old saying about ducks? They look calm on the surface but are paddling like crazy underneath the water? In a way, that's us. But we love what we do here and appreciate the opportunity. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out. If you know anyone who may need our services, or if you, or anyone you know, would like to know more about volunteering, please let us know.



Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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Quote for the Month

Don't cry because it is over. Smile because it happened. – Dr. Suess