



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS – August 2021

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

GOOD NEWS & BAD NEWS

Yep – it has been that sort of month – lots of good news with a sprinkling of bad news. So, let's get that out of the way:

BAD: Our big refrigerator got so hot cookies could have been baked in it. We lost some food but.....

GOOD: not a whole lot of food was lost. And, we were able to get it repaired within 24 hours and it is working just fine right now.

BAD: Our embosser has become so temperamental it is not usable and we have to suck it up and figure out a solution. . .

GOOD: Several VERY generous donors came to our rescue – Kirk Johnson, The Pekin Lions Club and the Princeville Lions Club all gave monetary gifts specifically for a new embosser.

BAD: The new embosser isn't here yet so those of you who normally get the newsletter in Braille will receive it this month in large print AND via e-mail that is compatible with a screen reader if you have one.

GOOD: The new embosser is ordered and should be here any day now.

BAD: Our roof is in need of replacement and it will be a major undertaking in more ways than one – not the least of which it will be expensive AND it will mean no power (translate – no air conditioning) for probably three days – AND this will happen with very little notice.

That means that anything we plan to be held at the Center during the week could very well face a last minute cancellation.

GOOD: We have had some donations to cover the cost (and are still seeking more) and once it is done it is DONE! No more leaks! Also, we have an alternate location in the event we have to cancel our in-house activity – there is only going to be one this month, however. Read on for more details. Also, the Social Club 100th meeting, which is scheduled for August 7th, is on a Saturday so we don't (shouldn't) have to worry about no A/C for that date.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Our golf outing will once again take place at Weaver Ridge and will be held September 13, 2021. There is a flyer with all the details included in this newsletter. But, I do want to highlight one new thing: WE HAVE AN APPARAL STORE! That's right – you can go directly to the store and order men's and/or women's polo shirts, T-shirts or jackets with the CICBVI logo on them and have them delivered directly to your home.

THE STORE IS OPEN – GET YOUR CICBVI LOGO WEAR TODAY!

The link is <https://cicbvi-21.itemorder.com> . The store closes August 15th and items ordered will not ship until the store closes. However, they will arrive in time to wear to the golf outing. This is a fundraiser as a percentage of each item cost comes back to the Center. If you are a patron and need help ordering, please call the Center and we will help you. We want EVERYONE to be proudly displaying our logo!

Don't forget to sign up your Kroger card and for Amazon Smile for the Center so every time you shop, CICBVI receives a donation. Also – feeling a little nutty? Or sweet? Shop this TerriLynn link for some goodies and benefit CICBVI at the same time.

<https://www.cicbvi.terrilynn.com>

UPCOMING PATRON EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 3rd – Wellmobile is here at the Center – get free testing for blood sugar, blood pressure, cholesterol and more. They are here in the morning until noon.

August 7th – IL Social Club meets all day at the Center. Contact Alice Bledsoe-Lopez if you have questions: 309-688-2431

August 10th – CICBVI Board Meeting at the Center

August 11 – 14 – Midwest Food Bank pick up and delivery. If you are in need of basic food items, please contact the center to be added to the list.

August 12 – outdoor clean up day at the Center. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to weed, rake, sweep, trim and generally clean up around our lots. If you can make it, please contact Mark Bean at 309-922-5171. There is something to do for everyone – even a few indoor tasks. If you are a patron and want to help but need transportation, please call the Center.

August 15th – Saturday Night Fever dinner theater (Circa 21 Theater, Rock Island). This is an event that was originally scheduled for last year but was postponed due to the pandemic. The original people signed up have been contacted and are still signed up but there is room for ONE more person. If you would like to go, please contact the Center ASAP as we need to confirm with the venue. This event is on Sunday afternoon, August 15th (arrival time about 3:45 PM - dinner at 4:00 PM) and the cost for the meal and show is \$54.55. Your hosts are Earl and Linda Kalb.

August 18th – Get taken out to the Ball Park at the Center for lunch! Menu is typical ball park fare – hot dogs, chips, etc. and the cost is \$5.00 plus \$1.00 for Bingo. We may even play a round of Ball Park Bingo with a special prize. Call in your reservation but REMEMBER – IF THE ROOF IS BEING WORKED ON, THIS EVENT WILL BE CANCELED OR POSTPONED so if you leave a message, be sure to include your phone number.

August 25th – FAST FOOD FRENZY! – Instead of a dinner meal at the Center, we will be taking a trip to Culver's near Grand Prairie for Butter Burgers or whatever you choose from the menu (cost is on your own). We plan to be there at 5:00 PM – please call the center to reserve your spot and to let us know if you need a ride. We will have a chance to hear a little bit about Culver's and the manager is providing some trivia prizes if we pay attention well!

August 27th – 9:00 AM – noon - White Cane Training at the Center. Please call the Center for more information if you would like to sign up.

If you didn't join us for our events in July, you missed Breakfast for Lunch, a trip to the old-time candy store on Washington Square, a down home dinner at the Center with a band for entertainment and yummy cheesecake at Triple Dipple's. Be sure to join us in August so you don't miss out on any of the fun!!!

He is doing well, but special thoughts continue to go out to Bob Coney who is now at St. Joseph's Home in Lacon. If you would like to send him a card, the address is Bob Coney, c/o St. Joseph's Nursing Home, 401 9th St., Lacon, IL 61540

CENTER SPOTLIGHT

Every month we highlight a patron, employee or volunteer so you can get to know a little about them. This month the focus is on Alice & Terry Lopez.

Some of you may remember Alice as Alice Bledsoe. Alice has been a part of the Center since it started. As a child she went away to school at the Jacksonville School for the Blind but has fond memories of coming to the summer activities for children that the Center used to sponsor. Later in life, she actually worked for the Center in a variety of roles from teaching life skills to organizing volunteers. Today, she is in charge of the IL Social Club gathering being held August 17th.

Terry is originally from Arizona and he and Alice share a “later in life” love story, having both lost their spouses. Alice and Terry connected and got married in 2019. They have no children, but Alice has what she calls a loveable, irresponsible beagle named Molly and Terry has a guide dog – a German shepherd named Tanner.

Alice is a Michigan State University graduate, majoring in Music Therapy and Terry is a graduate of Arizona State University where he obtained a B.S. in exercise therapy. Terry had quite a circuitous career path in that he also worked in the hotel industry and in a brokerage firm.

Alice and Terry like a variety of activities from playing cards to reading to knitting and sports. They are looking forward to seeing many of their friends at the IL Social Club gathering August 7th.

IMPORTANT AUGUST DATES

- August 1 – Happy Birthday Terry Lopez
Happy Birthday Ayla Dickey
- August 3 – Wellmobile at the CICBVI
- August 5 – On this date in 1989 the world's largest hamburger was cooked and served in Seymour, Wisconsin. It weighed 5,520 pounds and was 21 feet in diameter.
- August 6 – Roll out the barrel – National Polka Festival begins
- August 7 – IL Social Club meets all day at CICBVI
- August 9 – Happy Birthday Smokey the Bear
- August 12 – Clean up day at CICBVI – volunteers encouraged!!
- August 15 – Outing to Rock Island to see Saturday Night Fever
- August 16 – Happy Birthday Priscilla Whipp
- August 18 – Ball Park Bingo/Lunch at CICBVI – call the center to get your reservations in
- August 19 – Thoughtful Thursday – do something nice for somebody
- August 20 – Happy Birthday Eliza Barke
- August 25 – Fast Food Frenzy outing to Culver's – call the center to get your reservations in
- August 28 – Happy Birthday Larry Irwin
Happy Birthday Esther Knott
- August 26 – After being invented in 580 by the Chinese, toilet paper was first sold on a roll in 1871
- August 29 – Happy Birthday Courtney Harper

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, videos, Tech Tuesdays, news about upcoming events, pictures and more!

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Hi! Its Paula B.

For the first time in over a year, I am going to take a few days off and visit my home state of Michigan. I am so excited to revisit the lake where I grew up and, most importantly see my best friend whom I have known since we were 4 years old. Let me tell you about this friend:

She and I are only one day apart in age (she's older) and even though we are opposites in a lot of ways, we immediately bonded. She is quiet and often shy – I am loud and never met a stranger. She is a neat freak (and the only person I know who regularly scrubs – not just hose off - her driveway) where I am, shall we say, clean but sometimes chaotic. She refinishes furniture like a pro. I paint rocks. She can identify nearly any plant or flower. I can identify authors. She hates green beans, I love them. We both love ice cream.

So how did it happen that we are closer than sisters? When we were raising families, long periods of time may have gone by without seeing or hearing from each other, but when we connect it is as if we were never apart. And, we know everything – and I do mean everything - about each other but accept it as part of what makes us who we are. We may disagree or call each other out at times but it is always done with love. We also brag on each other. Plus, we have a trust and loyalty that has never been betrayed. That is the key, I believe. I also think it is something that doesn't need to be unique to long-term friendships.

Acceptance of differences, disagreeing with love, and keeping trusts make us better people so why limit it to just our dear friends and/or family. Spread it out. Consider that another person may be coming from an entirely different perspective than yours. Brag on people. Give them credit, lift them up, share the praise. It won't cost you a thing and the world will be a better place. 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 August events! - Paula B



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Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Quote for the Month

My mother always used to say: The older you get, the better you get, unless you're a banana."

—Rose (Betty White), *The Golden Girls*