



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS September, 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

NOTE: Your opinion matters! There is a survey included in this newsletter – please share what you think!

FALLING FORWARD

Yes, normally we “Fall Back” if we are setting our clocks for the end of Daylight Savings Time, but since that won’t be for several weeks yet, and the first day of Fall is in September, let’s talk about moving forward.

Here at the CICBVI, we are moving forward in what sometimes appears to be a myriad of directions. But, we really do have a goal set and all our activities are in keeping with our effort to reach that goal. What is it, you ask? The primary goal is to grow the CICBVI. That growth initiative is geared towards increasing the number of patrons served, increasing our presence in the community and improving our ability to offer up-to-date and useful services. Some of the things we have already begun, for example, Technology Tuesday videos posted on our web page and on You Tube and intentionally working to partner with other local agencies.

In the works are several action items for the future. We are ramping up our communication with other groups and offering more speaking engagements. We are planning higher profile events such as the celebration of White Cane Day in October. We are working to increase

our training and education services, such as holding regular long white cane training and learning more and more about how to best take advantage of technology. We are streamlining some of our services in order to be more efficient and encourage independence. With that in mind, and thanks to a generous donation from the Miles C. Hauter Foundation, we are seriously investigating how to redesign our transportation services in order to increase the number of patrons we serve, particularly in outlying areas.

But, please note: all of this takes time – and while you may hear stories about this is going to happen, or that is going to change, please remember to consider all the facts, not just random conversations that may or may not be entirely accurate. All of this is a work in progress and a lot of thought is going into it in order to keep what is working well, improve what isn't working quite so well and minimize any disruption to patrons or employees. So, your patience is much appreciated! You will be rewarded with great things coming in the future!!

TRAVELING WHITE CANE

Redeemer Lutheran Church is one of the CICBVI's supporters and recently asked for our help with their book club. Linda Couri called and said they were reading "All The Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr which is a book about a blind woman's experiences during WWII. We loaned her an old white cane and some Braille material for her to share with the group. When she returned the items she said the entire group was very appreciative and happy to continue to support the Center. By the way, this book is available in audio versions if you would like to check it out.

IMPORTANT: Our Bus has to have some needed repairs and we are unable to get it into the shop until September 9th. That means it is out of service until after it is fixed. At this time, we don't know if parts will need to be ordered, but if so, and if there is a delay, it could mean a change in activities. We will keep you posted!

UPCOMING PATRON EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 7th – Well Mobile is here at the Center – get free testing for blood sugar, blood pressure, cholesterol and more. They are here in the morning until noon.

September 13th – CICBVI Golf Outing at Weaver Ridge

September 14th – CICBVI Board Meeting at the Center

September 15th – 18th Midwest Food Bank pick up and distribution. If you are in need of basic food items, please contact the center to be added to the list.

September 22nd – Dinner at the Center “Italian Festa” – spaghetti, salad, rolls, dessert. You will NOT want to miss this so **CALL IN YOUR RESERVATION!**

September 25th – 8:00 AM - ?? 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.

September 29th – Lunch at the Center – Italian Beef sandwiches, pasta salad, chips & dessert. Bingo and trivia contest (with prizes!)
REMEMBER TO CALL IN YOUR RESERVATION.

If you missed our August events, you missed yummy Ball Park style food, a dinner theater outing to see Saturday Night Fever plus a great trip to Culver's – with gifts & prizes! Congratulations to Tom V. – he won a year's supply of Culver's frozen custard! Don't miss out in September! Call in your reservations now – and if you get the answering machine, be sure to speak clearly, leave you name, phone number and whether or not you need transportation.

PATRON UPDATE

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. NOTE: We are working with St. Joseph's to arrange a date when a few of us can visit – if you are interested, please call the Center and you will be put on the list.

Ron Selby took a tumble at home and landed in the hospital. He is doing well but will be spending time for rehabilitation at Liberty Village. If you would like his address, please call the Center.

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!

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

Feeling a little nutty? Or sweet? Shop this TerriLynn link for some goodies and benefit CICBVI at the same time.
<https://www.cicbvi.terri Lynn.com>.

CICBVI STORE

The on-line store for summer apparel is now closed so if you ordered, your items should be arriving at your address within the next couple of weeks (definitely before the golf outing). Next month we will announce the re-opening of the store for fall/winter items such as sweatshirts, hoodies and more. This is a fundraiser as a percentage of each item cost comes back to the Center. We want EVERYONE to be proudly displaying our logo!

LONG WHITE CANE TRAINING PROVIDED

We were able to have three individuals come into the Center for long white cane training with certified orientation and mobility specialist Julie Adams. The plan is to have 3 or 4 regular training events like this during each year. The training went well and each participant was fitted for and given their own long white cane.

NEED A JOB?

Peoria Production is looking for individuals to work on various assembly jobs. These positions may be assembling bottles used to feed large and small animals, putting popcorn into tins, wrapping items to package and other, similar tasks that be done sitting or standing, sighted or not. The starting pay is \$12/hour either full time Monday-Friday 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM or part time three days a week. All positions include holiday pay, paid time off and bonuses. Full time benefits also include health and dental insurance plus a retirement plan. If you (or someone you know) are interested please contact Erika at ewilson@peoriapros.com or Pamela at pcreager@peoriapros.com or call 309-683-0733.

IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES

- September 3 – Happy Birthday Joyce Feix
- September 6 – Labor Day
- September 11 – Patriot Day
- September 12 – Happy Birthday Paula B!
- September 13 – CICBVI Golf Outing at Weaver Ridge
- September 14 – CICBVI Board meeting at the Center
- September 15 – 18 – MW Food Bank pick up and deliveries
- September 17 – Happy Birthday to the National Football League (Go Packers!)
- September 18 – Happy Birthday Leia Stewart!
- September 22 – Italian Festa! – Dinner at the Center – be sure to call in your reservations!
- September 23 – Happy Birthday Kelly Walker
- September 24 – Happy Birthday to Bullwinkle the Moose!
- September 25 – rescheduled Work Day at the Center 8:00 AM - ?? – if you would like to help, just show up!
- September 26 – National Good Neighbor Day – do something nice for your neighbor!
- September 29 – Lunch at the Center – homemade Italian Beef sandwiches, chips, pasta salad, dessert – be sure to call in your reservations
- September 30 – Ask a Stupid Question Day – but there are no stupid questions. Ask your questions freely!

Did you know . . .

- . . . peanuts are one of the ingredients in dynamite?
- . . . the original name for a butterfly was flutterby
- . . . ketchup was first sold in the 1830's as medicine
- . . . the average lifespan of a major league baseball is 7 pitches

Hi! Its Paula B.

September has always been a fun month for me since it is my birthday month. I was just chatting with a friend who doesn't like to think about getting "old." I told her it doesn't really bother me at all – mainly because "old" is really a nothing more than a state of mind. (And, being totally honest here, people tell me I have a "young" voice, which makes me feel good and helps to improve that "state of mind").

Now, that doesn't mean I don't have the typical old-age memory lapses, aches, pains and general grouchiness that seems to come along with getting older. On the other hand, old age is a great excuse for not being able to run a marathon, calling my kids every name in the family before actually hitting upon theirs, or asking someone else to climb on a ladder to change a light bulb.

But, best of all, getting older means my library of experiences is huge, creating a store room where I can look back and reflect upon what went right or wrong, what was funny or sad, think about what I have learned over the years and, most importantly develop more empathy for my fellow human beings because of a similar experience. Walking a mile in another person's shoes is a wise saying for a reason!

Writing about birthdays naturally lends itself to also writing about cake and candles. Cake is good. Very good. And, for me, even better is the frosting. Another wise saying: when something extra special happens we refer to that as the "frosting on the cake." Makes sense.

As for candles: they are pretty, they burn bright but there is always the risk of them burning out before their time. A good reminder not to "burn your candle at both ends" and take care of yourselves. So: happy birthday to me and best wishes for you all to enjoy lots of frosting with your cake, take care of your physical and mental needs and celebrate getting one day older (and wiser!)

-Paula B

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE FOOD BANK DELIVERIES

As you know, every month we pick up food from Midwest Food Bank and deliver it to patrons who have signed up for it. We need to update this list and process and share a few reminders about how it works.

1. If you want to be on the delivery list (or if you want to be taken off the list) please **CALL THE CENTER**. Do not rely on telling the driver and expecting them to remember to pass the message along. There are no special requirements to receive food, other than to be a CICBVI patron so don't be shy – feel free to call.
2. We have very little control over what is in the food box. We share what is given to us and are not able to “customize” boxes. If you don't like or want something, please just share it with your friends or neighbors or, if you must, just throw it away. **WE CAN NOT TAKE IT BACK!** We also can't “pre-sort” your box based on what you may want. Everyone gets more or less the same stuff. In the long run, it all evens out.
3. Our drivers do their best to accommodate you when they deliver the food. However, due to safety, health and other regulations, as CICBVI employees they technically are not allowed to come into your home and put your food away for you. If you are unable to identify what is in your box, and don't have a reader or a sighted person to help you, they will tell you what is in the box. But, again, please do not expect them to unload or put away your food.

Thank you for your help and understanding with this.

SURVEY – your opinion matters!

The CICBVI Social Committee consists of Cora Quinn (chair), Xin Lu, Gyla Grigsby, Leia Stewart and Linda Kalb, with Paula B sitting in as staff. They recently met and determined they would like to hear from as many patrons as possible regarding what activities, events, menus etc. they would like to see. Please take some time to read this casual survey and either mark it and mail it to the Center or call the Center or any social committee member with your thoughts.

1. I am interested in the following event(s) – mark as many as you want

Dueling Pianos

Tanners

Theatre/Play

Riverfront events (such as markets, concerts, festivals, etc.)

Lunch out at restaurants

Dinner out at restaurants

Outdoor activity such as a picnic or park visit

OTHER:

2. I am willing to travel/ride this far: (time or miles) _____

3. I would like to go to the following restaurants:

Cracker Barrel

Gil's

Pizza (any particular place?)

Fast Food

Alexanders or other steak house

Chinese/Asian restaurant (any particular place?)

Mexican restaurant (any particular place?)

OTHER:

4. Menu ideas for lunch/dinner at the Center:

Central Illinois Center
for the **Blind**
& **Visually**
Impaired



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

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

Quote for the Month

- “Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.” – Mark Twain