



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS November, 2022

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

THANKFULNESS: Feeling or expressing gratitude

I think it is safe to say everyone at the CICBVI is feeling thankful, particularly for the wonderful turn-out and support shown at the 1st Annual White Cane Day Banquet. We are so appreciative of the Peoria Riverfront Museum for sharing their venue, the City of Peoria for the beautiful lighting of the Murray Baker Bridge, the committee who put it all together, the women of Impact Illinois for volunteering and, most of all, our friends and family who attended. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves, too, and learned a little about the history of the long white cane and the latest technological advances as shown by Lance's demonstration of the WeWalk cane.

A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors:

GOLD: Illinois Eye Center and the Ufrting AutoGroup

SILVER: Deb Conklin

BRONZE: Peoria Production Solutions and
David Vaughn Investments

COPPER: Terry Knollenberg/Pekin Lions,
Matthew and Lesley Vonachen and Darlene Violet

Thank you, also, to our basket donors and those who bid on them. Now, get your calendars out and save the date for next year:
October 15, 2023

TECHNOLOGY IS A WONDERFUL THING

Introducing the WeWalk Cane!

As we all know, technology changes practically on a daily basis. If you were at the White Cane Day Banquet, you were able to see Board Member and Patron, Lance Barke, demonstrate the WeWalk version of the long white cane. This cane is equipped with voice activated GPS and audio directions for the user. It can save common destinations, personalized for the user, as well as identify nearby locations such as restaurants, public transportation and more. We are very pleased to announce the center currently owns one of these canes and are in the process of acquiring two more. We are going to use these canes as “loaners” for patrons who would like to try it out prior to obtaining one of their own. We will offer training on how to use the WeWalk and welcome your inquiries to see if this is something you’d like to try. Just call or e-mail the center at 309-637-3693 or info@cicbvi.org to learn more.

We also plan on offering another basic White Cane training class shortly after the first of the year, along with an advanced training class in the spring. Keep an eye on this newsletter for details and dates.

CHECK THIS OUT!

NEW EVENT FOR NOVEMBER: Its Bingo For Breakfast on November 30th – 9:00 AM at the Center. Join us for a Continental Breakfast and a few games of bingo. Reservations due by November 23rd so call now!

Hi! Its Paula B

Once again, it was a busy month around the center. In October not only did we celebrate White Cane Day, we were out and about in the community. We were on the radio (WCBU – the public radio station hosted by Bradley University) and presented to caregivers and partners at Advocates for Access. We were also guests of the South Side Mission at their groundbreaking for the new thrift store next door to the center. While we were there, we were able to chat with City Councilwoman Denise Jackson about the center and our neighborhood.

Speaking of thrift stores, patrons and volunteers took a field trip to the Spare & Share thrift shop in Gridley. We had a great time – found some bargains – and had a yummy lunch at Woody's in El Paso. Earlier in the month a group of patrons and volunteers invaded the Grand Prairie Dairy Queen to say farewell to summer with ice cream treats.

We wrapped up the month with a Halloween dinner at the Center. We played games and Cora was Pumpkin Princess since she won “pass the pumpkin” with Sharon as Maid of Honor for coming in second. I'm pretty sure everyone enjoyed the “mummy dogs,” too.

Keeping with the spirit of thankfulness, we are very lucky to have our drivers, Artie, Kathy and Mike, helping us out with our events and trips. Be sure to tell them how much you appreciate them next time you see them. Also, please remember that while they are awesome and can do lots and lots of things to help us, they are not your reservation taker or center information desk clerk. The drivers' chief concern is to get you back and forth safely, so please keep that in mind.

Keep reading for more about what's coming up! - Paula B

A FABULOUS FEAST!

Next month we are having a Thanksgiving Feast like you've never seen before. In an effort to include people who either work during the week, can't come in the evening or otherwise have schedule conflicts with week day/night activities, this one will be like a family Sunday Dinner. Please feel free to invite your family to come, too. The dinner for patrons will be free and each guest will cost just \$5.00. The menu will be traditional Thanksgiving food and there will be entertainment! I think we will have a pretty big crowd and the meal is being catered so you need to have your reservations in as soon as possible so we can get an accurate headcount. Also, space may be limited on the bus and van so priority for a ride will be on a first come/first served basis with guests being asked to provide their own transportation.

DETAILS (note the different day):

WHEN: Sunday November 13th at 1:00 PM

WHAT: Lots of food (traditional Thanksgiving meal) PLUS
Entertainment

WHO: You!

And don't forget – new this month: Bingo For Breakfast November 30th, 9:00 AM at the Center!

We were thrilled to have some new volunteers at our Halloween event: U of I med students, Ben, Allison and Grace joined us and helped serve and play games. If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer, particularly for our Thanksgiving Feast, please call the center!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- November 2 Paula B and Board President Kurt Norris present at the Peoria Rotary Club
- November 3 Happy Birthday Brenda Lenne
Happy Birthday Patti Woodworth
- November 7 Happy Birthday Elaine Ahten
- November 8 Election Day – don't forget to vote
CICBVI Board Meeting at IL Eye Center
- November 11 Veterans' Day – thank you to all veterans for their service to our country!
- November 13 Fabulous Feast at the Center – reservations due by November 10th – call yours in right now!
- November 15 Happy Birthday Randall Deemie
- November 16 Midwest Food Bank pick-up
- November 17 Happy Birthday Mickey Mouse
- November 17-18 Food Basket Deliveries
- November 18 Happy Birthday to Winfred Oglivie
- November 20 National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day
- November 21 World Hello Day – brighten someone's day and make the world a friendlier place by greeting a bunch of people today!
- November 24 Happy Thanksgiving
- November 28 On this date in 1895 the first automobile race took place between Chicago and Waukegan, IL
- November 29 Happy Birthday Terry Cooper
- November 30 Bingo for Breakfast at the Center – get your reservations in no later than November 23rd.

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



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

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Quote for the Month

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” -- William Arthur Ward