

# AROUND THE CENTER



## CICBVI NEWS

June 2023

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## GROWING LIKE WEEDS!

The CICBVI is growing in more ways than one! First, did you know we have nearly TRIPLED the number of patrons we serve in just a little under two years?? Yes, you read that right! We are closing in on 200 registered patrons and that doesn't even count the many people who call us from farther away with questions or seeking resources.

Through May this year, we have provided 155 rides and delivered 141 food baskets. Events have included tactile art, trivia, a piano concert and grilling out. We have gone to restaurants, the fire station, shopping, out to eat and had both vehicles in the St. Patrick's Day parade. We have provided several tech training services as well as multiple assistive devices. We have done one White Cane Training event, and have another scheduled for July.

We have had 14 site visits – either potential new patrons, committees interviewing us for potential grants or other interested representatives from organizations wanting to learn more about what we do and how we can partner. Paula B has gone to 29 different organizations to speak about who we are and what we do. We offered one volunteer training class and our tech committee has met multiple times plus gone on one field trip to

investigate the latest and greatest in technology. We have been on TV and radio and even have been quoted in a report by NPR on the challenges low/no vision people face when trying to vote.

So, it is safe to say, half-way through the year, we are busy and there are no signs of slowing down. Looking ahead, we are planning several unique social events (see more elsewhere in this newsletter) a few field trips to places such as the Rockford Sight & Hearing Center a farmer's market and more. We are working very hard on exploring grant options and applying for them as well as two more fundraisers: our annual golf outing in July and the celebration of White Cane Safety Day October 15th (to be held once again at the Peoria Riverfront Museum).

This is only a partial list of what we have been up to this year. So hang on – the ride is getting more and more exciting and we are happy to share it with all of you!

## **CICBVI AWARDED GRANT FROM ROTARY CLUB PEORIA-NORTH FOUNDATION**

We are so excited to announce that the CICBVI has been awarded a significant grant from the Rotary Club Peoria-North Foundation to go towards our efforts to be current and relevant when it comes to technology and technical assistive devices for our low and no vision patrons. In particular, this grant will help obtain WeWALK GPS equipped canes, in-home Alexa devices and the updating of our technology center. The Rotarians' motto is "Service Above Self" and we are so appreciative of our partnership with them. Several Rotary members have already helped us by volunteering, they are highly interested in what we do and we are looking forward to working together. This is the link to the news coverage:

<https://www.25newsnow.com/2023/06/12/new-gps-walking-canes-available-visually-impaired-blind-thanks-generous-donation/>

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **WHITE CANE TRAINING**

We will be offering another white cane training day on July 18th at 11:00 AM. Participants must register no later than July 10th. NOTE: This is a different date than what was posted in last month's newsletter. Each participant will receive a free, properly sized, long white cane along with the free training. Call 309-637-3693 to reserve your spot!

- **LADIES' LUNCH**

Due to the July 4th holiday, the Ladies' Lunch will be WEDNESDAY, July 5th at 11:00 AM. They will be going to a new location this month – Peoria Pizza Works in Peoria Heights. Be sure to call in your reservation ASAP – 309-637-3693. Also, let us know if you need transportation.

- **SUMMERTIME SALAD DAY**

We will be having lunch at the Center on July 20th at 11:30 AM. Menu will be a variety of summer salads and the cost is \$5.00. There just may be some special visitors that day, too! NOTE: This is a Thursday due to multiple calendar conflicts during July.

- **SAVE THIS DATE!**

On August 3rd we will be having an Ice Cream Social featuring a Barbershop singing group. Transportation for this event will fill up fast so be sure to get your reservations in as soon as possible. We will have traditional Ice Cream Social food, and, of course ice cream. You are encouraged to wear "old fashioned" clothes and join us for games and lots of fun! You won't want to miss this!

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

- July 3 Happy Birthday Crystal Scott and Carol Turner
- July 4 Happy Birthday America!
- July 5 LADIES' LUNCH at Peoria Pizza Works – 11:00 AM  
Happy Birthday Jean Sheets
- July 6 Happy Birthday Ken Gray
- July 7 Happy Birthday Beverly Sundlie
- July 8 Happy Birthday Adrian Garner and Connie Phillips
- July 11 CICBVI Board Meeting
- July 12, 13 & 14 Food Bank pick up and Delivery
- July 14 Happy Birthday Sharon Colburn
- July 16 Happy Birthday Susan Schoenbein
- July 17 16th annual CICBVI GOLF OUTING  
Happy Birthday Brandon Love
- July 18 White Cane Training at Center – 11:00 AM
- July 19 Tech Committee Field Trip to Springfield Tech Center
- July 20 Summertime Salad Lunch at Center – 11:30 AM
- July 26 ADA/CityLink WOW Conference at Civic Center
- July 27 Happy Birthday JT Taylor
- July 28 Happy Birthday Mary Turner
- July 31 Visionaries Lions Club meeting at the Center – 11:00 AM
- August 1 Presentation at Grace & Peace Lutheran Church
- August 3 Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social & Barbershop Music at the Center – 11:30 AM – call in your reservations now!

## **COMING THIS FALL**

The very first CICBVI Fall Festival featuring exotic animals, food and fun! Save the date of September 6th and stay tuned for more information



***FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND  
AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED***

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***Quote for the Month***

***"True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom and equality not only for Americans but for all people on earth." — Eleanor Roosevelt***