



# AROUND THE CENTER

## CICBVI NEWS September, 2023

2905 W. Garden St., Peoria, IL 61605

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

## LABOR DAY / LABOR OF LOVE

Sometimes it is a little sad to see Labor Day come along since it means the end of summer, but for the CICBVI, this summer has been a “labor of love” in many ways, so let’s celebrate!

Our visibility in the community has ramped up over the last several months and is resulting in many new patrons, more services provided and greater opportunities to get our message out. Part of the reason for this can be attributed to our partnerships with various organizations such as Peoria North Rotary, the Dream Center, District Lions clubs and several area churches. We are so thankful for these groups and individuals that support our work and, well, labor!

We have been more intentional about how we finance our work, too. We depend upon donations, fund-raising and grants in order to keep our services at low or no cost to the blind and visually impaired. This is not always easy but we are working with a grant specialist and, as mentioned above, our increased presence in the community has resulted in new donors. And, coming up is one of our biggest events of the year – our celebration of National White Cane Safety Day October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Peoria Riverfront Museum.

The invitation is in this newsletter and reservations fill quickly so get yours in ASAP – you won't want to miss seeing the Murray Baker bridge lit up in red and white in honor of the day, entertainment by Dexter O'Neal and the Funkyard, a delicious meal, an opportunity to see the latest low/no vision technology and more!

## **BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!**

Here is what is on our social calendar – be sure to put these events on your calendar, too.

**Sept. 5** The patron-led Ladies' Lunch. This time meeting at Avanti's North. If you are a patron and need a ride, please call the center. If you don't need a ride, but want to attend (or have questions) please be sure to call Connie S at 309-232-9002. Please do not call our driver – they are not prepared to keep track of reservations or cancellations! Call Connie or the Center as noted. NOTE: The October Ladies' Lunch is October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Original Pancake House (near Grand Prairie).

**Sept 6** Lunch at the Center plus we will have visitors from Wild Times Exotic Animals. These are a variety of animals you rarely get to meet in person. You will have an opportunity to learn about them and, if you choose, pet them, too! Reserve your spot no later than September 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Sept 20** Lunch at the Center with an opportunity to have your voice heard about what can make a doctor visit or hospital stay easier. Our guest is Cindy Kiel, Clinical Support Services Integration Program Manager at OSF. She wants to know what you want or need if you are at a doctor's office or in the hospital. Think about what questions you have and she will be happy to answer them!

**Sept 26** – NOTE, this is a Tuesday! The plan is to visit Ackerman Farms Orchard and gift shop in Morton that afternoon at 3:30 PM. Afterwards, we will go to dinner at either Culver's or the Morton Pizza Ranch – and which one we go to will be determined by YOUR VOTE! When you call in your reservation, be sure to state which you prefer and majority wins!

## **IF YOU MISSED LAST MONTH, YOU MISSED**

Our first ever Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social featuring the Hearts of Harmony Sweet Adeline singing group (and build your own ice cream sundaes!)

One-Potato / Two-Potato dinner and a celebration of the letter "P." Most of the attendees wore a color that started with the letter "P" plus we played a "P" letter memory game (congratulations to Delilah, who won that) and we had a hot game of Hot Potato which came down to the final wire between Leona and Eliza, with Eliza winning! And, yes, it was HOT! We had special guests from the Armory young adult group from Ignite Church who helped us and provided a lot of laughs! And you missed a rare occasion to hear Paula B play the Piano (after all, it was all about the letter "P!")

**FUN FACT** – did you know that between Memorial Day and Labor Day Americans typically consume 7 billion hot dogs? That's 818 hot dogs eaten every second during that time. The hot dog eating champion ate 70 hot dogs in 10 minutes.

## **PATRON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Our patrons are appreciative of all the no or low cost services they receive and have often asked how they can “give back.” Here are two ways:

1. Volunteer to serve lunch for the volunteers at our partner Midwest Food Bank facility. We distribute monthly food baskets and much of our food comes to us from here. The date is October 9<sup>th</sup> and there is room for 5 patrons to help serve lunch and clean up afterwards. The Center will provide transportation so call right away to save your spot.
2. Volunteer to be on a new, patron-led Social Committee. This committee will plan and execute social events for patrons and tasks may include calling sites for information or to make reservations, working with staff at events with tasks such as preparation, serving, clean-up, etc. You will need to come up with ideas for events, entertainment, field trips, etc. as well. Call right away if you would like to help!

CALL THE CENTER AT 309-637-3693 or e-mail [info@cicbvi.org](mailto:info@cicbvi.org)

## **YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED . . .**

- We had two potholes in our parking lot repaired.
- We had a limb fall off a tree and crush a side fence in the back
- We have a chimney leak that needs repair before winter
- The bus is in dire need of work (or replacement) of the air conditioning

It is wonderful to be able to provide services but we couldn't do so without taking care of these sorts of things, too! Thank you for your support!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 1	Happy Birthday John Hairston Happy Birthday Brian Rodgers
September 2	Happy Birthday Gyla Grigsby
September 4	Labor Day
September 5	Ladies' Lunch at Avanti's North
September 6	Lunch at the Center and a visit from Wild Times Exotic Animals! Reservation deadline Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup>
September 7	Happy Birthday Christina Hite
September 11	Patriot Day / Never Forget 9/11 Happy Birthday Linda Eddy
September 12	Board Meeting Happy Birthday Paula B
September 13	Happy Birthday Ron Selby
September 14	Food Basket deliveries
September 15	Happy Birthday Melinda Sell
September 17	Happy Birthday Ashley Edwards
September 20	Lunch at the Center/ presentation by OSF – Reservations due September 15 <sup>th</sup>
September 21	Demonstration of WEWalk Cane by Deanna B at Peoria North Rotary
September 26	Visit to Ackerman Orchard and dinner call in your reservation and vote where to have dinner no later than September 21 Happy Birthday Keith Nielson
September 30	Happy Birthday Bill Harrell
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ladies' Lunch at Original Pancake House



## FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

2905 W Garden St., Peoria, IL 61605  
**September, 2023 Newsletter**

### **Quote for the Month**

“Life doesn’t require that we be the best, only that we try our best.”

~ H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

“Just try new things. Don’t be afraid. Step out of your comfort zone and soar.”

~ Michelle Obama





# You're Invited

## NATIONAL WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

10.15.23 | PEORIA RIVERFONT MUSEUM  
\$100/PERSON | SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

benefitting Central Illinois Center  
for the Blind & Visually Impaired

FEATURING  
**DEXTER O'NEAL**  
AND THE FUNKYARD

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



DINNER  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
TECH DEMONSTRATIONS  
RAFFLES & MORE

SCAN FOR RESERVATIONS  
or SPONSORSHIP



*Banack's*  
Hospitality Group

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [info@cicvbi.org](mailto:info@cicvbi.org) | 309.637.3693

# 2023 WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

**10.15.23**

**Peoria Riverfront Museum | 222 SW Washington St. Peoria, IL 61602**

5:45 Doors Open

6:00-7:00 p.m. Cocktails & Hors D'oeuvres

Murray Baker Bridge Lighting viewed in Sculpture Garden

Music Entertainment by Dexter O'Neal and the Funkyard

7:00-9:00 p.m. Dinner & Program

## **\*SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE\***

**Gold \$3,000** - 8 Event Tickets, Recognition in Event Program, Mention in CICBVI Newsletter, Social Media, Website and Peoria Magazine Ad

**Silver \$2,000** - 4 Event Tickets, Recognition in Event Program, Mention in CICBVI Newsletter, Social Media and Website

**Bronze \$1,000** - 2 Event Tickets, Recognition in Event Program, Mention in CICBVI Newsletter, Social Media and Website

Reservations & payment can be made online using the QR code  
or mail the form along with a check to

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

**2905 W Garden St. | Peoria, IL 61605**

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Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ State / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

# Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship Level**    ☐ Gold \$3000    ☐ Silver \$2000    ☐ Bronze \$1000

### **Dinner Options (Select Qty for Each)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ BBQ Beef Brisket with Au Gratin Potatoes, Malibu Blend Vegetables
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tuscan Chicken with Long Grain and Wild Rice, Malibu Blend Vegetables
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pork Loin with Whipped Potatoes and Gravy, Malibu Blend Vegetables
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian - Penna Pasta w/ Gouda Sauce & Sun-Dried Tomato, Malibu Blend Vegetables

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6**