

# AROUND THE CENTER

## CICBVI NEWS

February 2024



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Paula Balistreri, Editor

### A MOST FUN EVENT!

We hope you have already saved the date for our 2nd annual Trivia Night fundraiser being held April 18. This is a fun event and tickets go FAST. A flyer is included in this newsletter with all the details (although we've saved some surprises for that night!). You can order your tickets on-line by scanning the QR code or by calling the CICBVI. Choose your favorite decade and dress the part!

Can't make it? There are other ways to help – if you have a Kroger card, you can designate the Center to receive a percentage of your purchases – and it costs you NOTHING – and it doesn't affect your fuel points! You can also support us through your donations of time, in-kind services, or a check. Every little bit helps, and we are very appreciative.

Reminder – if your employer offers a matching donation, as a 501c3, the CICBVI is eligible – all you have to do is check with your employer and follow their process. (PS – Trivia tickets are eligible for most of these match programs!)

**NEW THIS YEAR** – as citizens it is important that we vote. This election year, we will provide rides to anyone wanting to vote in person at the polls (for both the primary and general elections). Just call and reserve your spot. We also will have people able to assist you with the ballot.

## **NOMINATIONS STILL OPEN**

We are accepting nominations for PATRON OF THE QUARTER. Criteria includes good attitude, attendance at center social and volunteer events and general helpfulness and positive promotion of the center. Any patron can be nominated, and the winner will be eligible for Patron of the Year. Just tell us why you think your nomination should win! The patron selected will win a gift card.

## **WHAT YOU MISSED**

Last month our activities were a bit limited – but for a GOOD reason. Work is ongoing in our kitchen and tech room – new flooring, cabinet and countertop upgrades and more. We can't wait to show it off when it is done! We also have been doing much needed repair work to our chimney and basement door. We are looking forward to our outdoor workday on April 27 when we will be repairing part of our fence, doing planting and much needed general yard work. We are fortunate to receive help through the Dream Center's Serve the City program but can always use extra hands. Would you like to help? Just call the center!

## **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Every once in a while, we get a request for a ride to an appointment. We are unable to accommodate these requests with our staff but if we had a list of potential volunteers that could help, that would be great. Would you be interested? Please call the Center for details. Training is provided on how to guide someone who is visually impaired.

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news long-time patron, Cora Quinn, passed away February 22, 2024. Cora was not only an active patron, but a long-time board member, recently retired and was named Director Emeritus. Cora was a fervent fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, loved birds and animals (especially her beloved pets), a good joke and believed wholeheartedly in the mission of the Center. Cora will be fondly remembered as being humble and kind and a friend to everyone she met. She will be sorely missed but her spirit will always be in our hearts, and she will be forever remembered as the unofficial matriarch of the Central IL Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

## **COMING IN MARCH**

First up is the Ladies' Lunch on February 5th at the Billboard Bistro in Bartonville and it isn't too late to reserve your spot. While this event is enabled by the CICBVI, it is patron led – in other words, attendees choose where they will go next and whether or not they want to have a speaker or just visit. Attendees are “on their own” for the cost of their meal but the CICBVI will provide free transportation – just call and save your spot! And, go ahead and mark your calendars now for April 2 at Red Robin in East Peoria.

It is becoming a tradition to be in the St. Patrick's Day parade. Patrons and friends have a great time riding in our bus and hearing the crowd cheer for us. This year St. Patrick's Day (March 17) is on a Sunday so the parade is at 2pm. If you want to ride along, be sure to get your reservations in right away. NOTE: This is typically a fairly long day with a period of time with no access to restroom facilities.

March 19 is primary election day – if you need a ride so you can go vote, please call the center.

March 21 we will have a “pick-up” lunch at the Center. Don't know what that is? It means we will pick up lunch and bring it to the center!

We will be doing an Easter dinner March 26 – and we will play some trivia with prizes for the winning team. Be sure to wear your Easter bonnet!

## **LOOKING AHEAD IN APRIL**

**Get fit for Spring** with a dinner and fitness session lead by Evan from Cane & Able Fitness. You may recall him from last year – he has a program specifically designed for the blind and visually impaired. Save the date: April 9!

**Outdoor workday at the center** – and we can use some muscle! If you can help, please let us know! The date is April 27 starting at around 9am.

Do you receive your newsletter via usb/flash drive? If so, please don't forget to “flip the address card” and return it to the Center. Without that card, we have no idea who has returned their cartridge so we can send out the next month's newsletter!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 3	Happy Anniversary Dena & Warren Lybarger
March 5	Ladies Lunch @ Billboard Bistro – Bartonville
March 7	Happy Birthday Brian Waldon
March 8	Happy Birthday Fiona Barke
March 10	Spring Forward – Daylight Savings Time begins Ramadan begins
March 11	Happy Birthday Gayle Workman
March 12	Board Meeting
March 13	Food Basket pick-up
March 14-15	Food Basket delivery
March 17	St Patrick’s Day parade – if you are riding, rsvp by March 14
March 18	Happy Birthday Margaret McCain
March 19	Primary Election – VOTE! Happy Birthday Ed Meyers FIRST DAY OF SPRING!
March 21	“Pick-Up” Lunch at the Center – rsvp by March 15
March 22	Happy Birthday Addison Abernathy
March 24	Palm Sunday
March 26	Easter dinner at the Center–rsvp by March 22
March 27	Happy Birthday Irvin Johnson
March 28	Happy Birthday Tom Bogue
March 29	Good Friday
March 30	Happy Birthday Evon Dixon
March 31	Easter
April 02	Ladies’ Lunch at Red Robin in East Peoria
April 18	CICBVI Trivia Night – see flyer for more info



## FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

2905 W Garden St., Peoria, IL 61605

**March 2024 “Around the Center” Newsletter**

### Quote for the Month

“In the fancy spectacle of life, aspire to find a joy that does not need an audience.”

– Joyce Rachelle

“Be less curious about people and more curious about ideas.”

– Marie Curie