

# STROM CENTER NEWS



FEBRUARY, 2021 EDITION 371

## LENTEN BREAKFASTS UPDATE



Strom Center has received some calls inquiring about the Annual Lenten Breakfast....Unfortunately, we will not be hosting the breakfasts due to the lingering Covid19. This is yet another effect of this pandemic.... But what we have to remember is that even though we won't be together during Lenten Season, Lenten Season is still real....so we can all take the time to fellowship with others through safe ways.....phone calls, internet, cards... Hopefully, we will all be back together for our breakfast in 2022....

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## STROM CENTER'S UPDATES



Strom Center will be making few changes to our ways of operating in February. Our hours will continue from 9 AM – 4 PM. For assisting persons we will continue to take appointments only (which will be ongoing), and masks upon entering as well as ringing the doorbell before entering will continue. However we are very excited that we plan to make **significant** changes in March, which will

be highlighted in our March edition of the Strom Center News. ...And when I say significant changes, we are hoping at this point that they will be significant. So...stay tuned!

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## “BRING YOUR OWN” Lunch in February

Even though we can't yet host one of our special potluck dinners at Strom we have decided to host a Bring Your Own Lunch on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at Strom Center. The event will begin at noon, and each person will bring their own lunch ...just no sharing.... But we can still get together. Unfortunately to ensure safety, social distancing is necessary and we will limit the lunch to the first 25 persons who sign up. Coffee will be available.

Afterwards, Bingo will be played with a few small changes. So, if you are interested...please call Lisa at Strom Center to sign up (309 734 5677).

*Reminder...Strom Center will be closed on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> in observance of Presidents Day.*

# ZOOM Bingo sooo much fun!!

Keeping with the current times, Strom Center recently hosted our very first **Zoom Bingo** game! It was great fun! We purposely limited the number of participants so we could have a 'trial' run and it went vey smoothly! I have to say Stephanie Reading did a great job of setting it up with the help of Lisa Ray and Anne Liby who was the official 'caller'. Some participated by landline phone (and yes, it is very possible to joined in by phone) some by cell phones, some by tablets, and computers. (See winners in our Recognitions Article in this newsletter). Thanks to a great staff who took the 'Zoom ball' and ran with it!!!



We have two more Zoom Bingo afternoons planned: **Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM** and **February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1 PM**. Please call Lisa (309 734 5677) by February 4<sup>th</sup> if you would like to participate...this will give staff enough time to prepare Zoom Bingo packets (including Bingo cards, markers, etc) for each person.



Stephanie Reading & Anne Liby setting up and conducting Zoom Bingo in Stephanie's office (AKA: THE ZOOM STUDIO)



## Strom still adding names to the automated call list....

Especially during this time of year with the threat of dangerous weather conditions, Strom Center will soon be offering automated phone calls (much like those that the schools utilize) to inform persons of weather closings, special events, reminders of time-sensitive programs and other important announcements. Also, for persons in Henderson County such calls will inform persons of office closings, or early closings. There is no cost to anyone receiving the calls, but sign ups are required. If you would like your name on the list, please call Strom Center (309 734 5677) to let her know you wish to be included on the program.



## We're updating our Strom Center News Newsletter list!!

From time to time we hear from persons who have stated they are no longer receiving the Strom Center News by mail or email. We apologize for that! If you would like to receive the newsletter, please email that request to me, Carol McCrery at [StromSeniors@gmail.com](mailto:StromSeniors@gmail.com) with "Newsletter Request" in the Subject line. You may also email me at this email address if you would like to include information in the monthly newsletter.

*From Staff Member, Lynda Melvin...*

## **People often inquire, what is Benefit Access?**

Often referred to as "BA" Benefit Access provides seniors and persons with disabilities, benefits such as a FREE discount on license plates and free rides on fixed-route transits. Eligibility is determined by age, disability, residency and income.

### **First and Foremost you must be an Illinois Resident**

#### **Income eligibility is:**

- 1 person = \$33,562.00
- 2 person = \$44,533.00
- 3 person = \$55,500.00



#### **Age Eligibility:**

Persons age 65 and over

#### **Eligibility for Disabled:**

You must be at least 16 years of Age prior to January 1 of the current year and be totally and permanently disabled from the following:

- Social Security Administration
- Veterans Administration or Civil Service or Railroad Retirement.

#### **Or have one of the following:**

- Class 2 disability card from the Illinois Secretary Of States Office or a completed Physicians Statement
- Eligibility is good for two years under the Benefit Access Program.

There are additional specifics to consider when applying for Benefit Access.

Strom Center encourages persons to make an appointment to check on qualifications / eligibility and applying for the program. Call 309 734 5677 to make an appointment in either our Monmouth Strom Center office or our Henderson County office! This program is often-times overlooked but the benefits are great! If you have questions, please feel free to email me at: [Lynda.StromCenter@gmail.com](mailto:Lynda.StromCenter@gmail.com)

# **YEAH !!! Monmouth College is again offering The VITA TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM!!!**



**Thank you, thank you, thank you to Accounting Professor JUDY PETERSON  
For sharing the following information ... (taken in part from the website)**

"The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program is an IRS program designed to assist low-income taxpayers with filing their tax returns. Each spring, the Monmouth VITA program offers computerized tax preparation and e-filing (federal and Illinois state) at no cost to the taxpayer.

This year because of the pandemic, will be a different one though... it will be provided through a **Drop-off process**. Instructions and other information may be found on the Monmouth College website: <http://monmouthcollege.edu/academics/accounting/vita/>

Some of the information you will find on the website are the following:

## **Maximum income to qualify for assistance through Monmouth College VITA Program:**

Single: \$66,000      Married filing Jointly: \$105,00

### **Returns that include the following will not be prepared through the program:**

- Small Business
- State Returns other than Illinois
- Reporting of large number of capital gain transactions (Schedule D)
- Other complicated tax situations as determined by the site coordinator

Volunteers are Monmouth College students that have been trained and certified by the IRS to prepare tax returns. They can help you with special credits, such as the Premium Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Child Tax Credit, education credits such as the American Opportunity Tax and Lifetime Learning Credits, and the Savers Credit.

In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, we offer free electronic filing. You can expect refunds in half the time compared to returns filed on paper – even faster if you have your refund deposited directly into your bank account.

Strom Center will have available instructions information regarding the VITA program. It will be ready for pick-up by February 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, if persons wish to check out the website on our client laptop at Strom, please call and make an appointment (309 734 5677)

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Drop-off Begins: February 2, 2021

Volunteer Tax Preparation Begins: February 13, 2021

Document Drop-off Ends: April 7, 2021

***The above are only excerpts from Professor Judy Peterson.....please check out the website to find instructions, time-lines and other important information!***

Thank you to Thrift Shop Manager for the following article!

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SHOPPING LOCAL



The Strom Thrift Shop is a community based, money match program benefiting the Strom Senior Center in Monmouth Ill.

The Strom Thrift Shop is located at 211 South A in Monmouth Illinois ...named after Les Strom, formerly the Bowman Colwell Building, the tallest structure in Monmouth...

Our Mission Statement is "Involving, enriching, and empowering seniors in the community, while providing services in health and fitness, lifelong learning, recreation, arts, and community service."

Our shop is self-reliant and is funded by the resale of donations that are checked, tested and washed, to the best of our ability, by volunteers... We have two laundry rooms, an ironing & sewing room and an electrical room.

The proceeds from the sale of these items is for the funding of programs that do not cover or only partially cover programs benefiting seniors, disabled and the community. We are able to help more people due to this program.

The Strom Thrift Shop, in addition to the financial benefit, helps in many other ways most are not aware of. We have a benevolent fund (non-financial) that helps with items at greatly reduced prices or free for a variety of emergency situations. We are active with the Lions Club in Warren County to help those who have lost their belongings due to natural disaster. We have reached out to other charities, 23 as of May 2020, we offered them our overflow items and items that we have been unable to sell for their use in helping other communities. In the years I have been with the Strom Thrift Shop we have helped locally (our city, county and state), we have sent items to other states and have went international twice. We are very fortunate to even have an outlet for the damaged clothing, by sending it to where it can be recycled and repurposed.

Shopping locally is vital and is a way to support our local economy and help each other in times that are both good and trying. We Thank everyone who has volunteered, donated, and checked on us during this time.

#weareallinthistgether

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## Welcome to our Thrift Shop Corner.....

Strom Thrift Shop News Corner... February 2021

Open: Tuesday thru Saturday 8:30AM - 1:30 PM

There will never be a better time to dress up and save at the same time.

The Sales this month are a carry over the last months due to a large inventory...

★ Kids sizes 2T to 18 are on a **BOGO Sale** (Buy One Get One). Pay full price on the first item & get a second item of equal or lesser value for free, this includes shirts, pants,

Continued on next page...

underwear and socks...

- ★ Men and Woman Dress Pants ...\$1.50 each
  - ★ Men and Woman Sweatshirts...\$1.00 each
  - ★ Woman Shirts (pullover and button down)...\$1.00 each
- BONUS Sale .. Men’s button down, short & long sleeve shirts \$2.50 each  
All washed and ready to wear...

**CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALES** weekend will be Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. & 6<sup>th</sup>.  
25% OFF everything...including monthly sale items and the backroom!!!

Valentine decorations and clothes are out filling racks and shelves...  
Check out our Facebook Page “Strom Thrift Shop” for any and all special announcements and special Sale dates...

The **BACKROOM** is **OPEN**

In the spirit of love... . We have filled it Wedding apparel for the whole Party and we also have vintage items and a display of designer purses along with lots of miscellaneous items...

We are looking forward and are getting everything ready for the day we are open our regular hours with no restrictions, when we can take donations and when we can have the ever-asked about Parking Lot SALE...

#weareallinthistogether

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## RECOGNITIONS....



### **December, 2020...**

NEWSLETTER ASSISTANT: **GENE RAES**

V.O.P.A. Winners: Week #1: **BEV VANRIPER** Week #2: **DONNA SMOCK**

Week # 3: **DONNA SMOCK** Week #4: **ANNE LIBY** Week# 5: **DONNA SMOCK**

GRAND FINALE WINNER: **BEV VANRIPER**

**MIND EXPLORER WINNERS:** Warren County: **BILL OLSON**

Henderson County: **DEBBIE GILLAM**

### **JANUARY ZOOM BINGO WINNERS:**

- BARB LUNG ...3 WINS
- SALLY MCVEY ...2 WINS
- TERESA PERIEN... 1 WIN
- MARILYN PERRIN... 2 WINS
- BETTY STEELE...2 WINS

**REMINDER:** ALL HENDERSON COUNTY SENIORS AND DISABLED PERSONS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN WARREN COUNTY EVENTS AND ALL WARREN COUNTY SENIORS & DISABLED PERSONS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN OUR HENDERSON COUNTY EVENTS!!!

## FEBRUARY 2021 Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Lynda in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Kathy in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Stephanie in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Erica in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Lynda in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Kathy in Oquawka) 1 pm Zoom Bingo	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Stephanie in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Erica in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only	<i>BYO Lunch &amp; Bingo At Noon</i>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
 Valentine's Day	 <b>Presidents Day (Strom closed)</b>	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Kathy in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Stephanie in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Erica in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Lynda in Oquawka) <b>Mind Explorer Due!</b>	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Kathy in Oquawka) 1 pm Zoom Bingo	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Stephanie in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Erica in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only	
28	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thrift Shop open:</b> Tues. – Sat. : 8:30 AM- 1:30 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thrift Shop #: 309-224-8657</b></p>					

**There is an error on Page 1 of this Strom Center News....Strom Center will be closed on Monday, February 15 (not the 12!) in observance**

## LISTING OF STAFF AND THEIR EMAILS AND FAX #s

NAME	EMAIL	PHONE	FAX
Carol N. McCrery, Director, SHIP Coordinator, I & A, Outreach	<a href="mailto:StromSeniors@Gmail.com">StromSeniors@Gmail.com</a>	309 734 5677	309 539 4256
Kathy Ferrenburg, SHIP Worker, I&A, Outreach	<a href="mailto:KathyFerrenburg.StromCenter@Gmail.com">KathyFerrenburg.StromCenter@Gmail.com</a>	309 734 5677	309 403 0556
Erica Pence, SHIP Worker, I&A, Outreach	<a href="mailto:Erica.StromCenter@Gmail.com">Erica.StromCenter@Gmail.com</a>	309 734 5677	309 205 5692
Lynda Melvin SHIP Worker, I&A, Outreach	<a href="mailto:Lynda.StromCenter@Gmail.com">Lynda.StromCenter@Gmail.com</a>	309 734 5677	309 214 9367
Stephanie Reading SHIP Worker, I&A, Outreach	<a href="mailto:StephanieR.StromCenter@Gmail.com">StephanieR.StromCenter@Gmail.com</a>	309 734 5677	309 205 5867
Anne Liby, Building Manager, Options Counseling	<a href="mailto:AnneLiby.StromCenter@Gmail.com">AnneLiby.StromCenter@Gmail.com</a>	309 734 5677	N/A
Crystal Vanskike, Thrift Shop Manager	<a href="mailto:StromThriftShop@Gmail.com">StromThriftShop@Gmail.com</a>	309 224 8657	N/A
Lisa Ray, Office Manager & Clerical	<a href="mailto:LisaRay.StromCenter@Gmail.com">LisaRay.StromCenter@Gmail.com</a>	309 734 5677	N/A

### Note:

To Contact Strom Program Staff please call our main number: 309 734 5677 or Toll-Free 833 856 9624.

Once you call the Main number or Toll-Free number you will be connected to the appropriate staff member or you will receive a return call from the staff member.





**MIND EXPLORER**

'Mind Explorers' is a monthly feature of STROM CENTER NEWS. Answer the questions and turn them in or mail them in by the 20th of the month. The person with the highest number of correct answers will be recognized in our next Monthly Newsletter.!(The winners will be drawn). This month's quiz is " Be My Valentine!" with a difficult-o-meter rating of 6.5+.....!!!

1. This cartoon caveman named Fred was married to \_\_\_\_\_
2. For many years, who was Katherine Hepburn's mate (both onscreen and off) although they never married? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What were the first names of the TV 'Brady Bunch" parents? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
4. Delilah coaxed this man to divulge the secret of his strength. The result? He got a haircut! Who was he? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Mark Antony and his love were immortalized on the big screen, but in real life they both committed suicide. Who was his special love? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Scarlet may have been pursued by Rhett in "Gone With the Wind" but she had her eyes on this married character whose name was \_\_\_\_\_
7. This cartoon character, which thrived on spinach, had one true love. We know them as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
8. This 20th century First Lady had the same married last name as her maiden name. Who was she? \_\_\_\_\_
9. King Edward VIII gave up his kingdom for this twice-divorced American. What was her name? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10.This famous country singer married another singer with the same initials as his. Who was he? \_\_\_\_\_

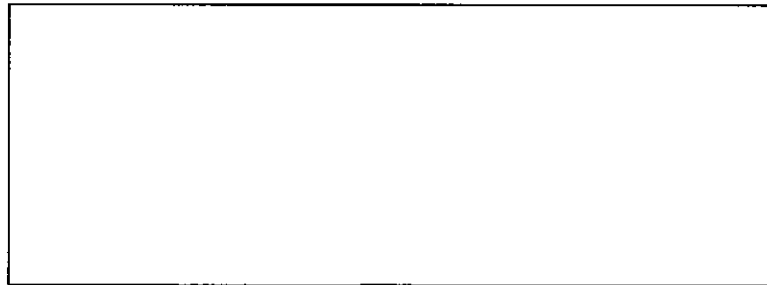
**Answers to the Previous Mind Explorer (Winner is in "Recognitions" in this newsletter)**

- 1.Who played Jackie Gleason's wife in "the Honeymooners"? **AUDREY MEADOWS**
- 2.This TV show was about the misadventures of the staff of a struggling Top 40 rock radio station: **WKRP IN CINCINNATI**
- 3."Just the facts, ma'am" was a saying by this TV character: **SERGEANT JOE FRIDAY**
- 4.This show which debuted in 1974 was about the cases of an easy-going ex-convict turned private investigator: **THE ROCKFORD FILES**
- 5.Unscramble the letters to find a TV character who is always connected to a murder case: NOSPRYMARE: **PERRY MASON**
- 6."Meat-head" was the nickname given to a cantankerous man's son-in-law. What was the name of the TV show and who was the actor who played "Meat-head"? **ALL IN THE FAMILY , ROB RYNER**
- 7.What was the name of Andy's girlfriend in the TV show "The Andy Griffith Show"? **HELEN CRUMP**
- 8.This popular TV show which ran from 1978 to 1991 featured Miss Ellie and Jr. among other main characters: **DALLAS**
- 9.This comedy/drama television series was set on the luxury passenger cruise ship S.S. Pacific Princess: **THE LOVE BOAT**
- 10.What famous star hosted the TV show, "You Bet Your Life"? **GROUCHO MARX**

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Monmouth, IL 61462

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**STROM CENTER, INC.**

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Henderson County Site: 410 Schuyler Street, Oquawka, IL 61469

Fax: 309-539-4256 Toll-free: 833 856 9624

Strom Center Monmouth Site: 309 734 5677

Strom Center Oquawka Site: 309 536 2558

Carol Neal McCrery, Director

***Non-Discrimination Policy:***

Strom Center does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; the U.S. Civil Rights Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Employment Act; and the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department on Aging. For information call 800-252-8966 (Voice and TDD) or contact Programs and Services Manager at Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging at 800-322-1051.

Strom Center is partially funded by:

**The Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging and The Warren County United Way**