

The Center's News

Note from the Director:

It hardly seems possible, but summer is almost over. For most of us, the pandemic has changed our routines dramatically, leaving us struggling with something as simple as the passing of time.

It has been a challenge for The WILL Center, too. We had hoped to make May, 2020 a special time for us all. The WILL Center was founded in May 2000, so our 20th birthday passed far more quietly than we hoped. But any chance of a celebration was short circuited by our need to protect consumers and staff from spreading a dangerous virus. Sad as it seems to say, it was a bad time for a party. With or without it, however, we're now more than 20 years old.

We had hoped to use the celebration as a fundraiser, but with more immediate concerns we pushed that aside to be there for consumers. We'll find other chances.

We're honored that so many people look to us to help them achieve their goals. You are the reason we exist, and we're looking forward to 20 more years of being there for you. Stay safe.

Living with Low Vision

National White Cane Day Celebration:

On Thursday October 15th at 10:15 a.m. the staff and volunteers of The WILL Center will gather in Terre Haute at the Northwest corner of Seventh & Wabash Ave to celebrate "National White Cane Day". Mayor Duke Bennett will read a Proclamation recognizing this event in Terre Haute.

For blind people, the white cane is an essential tool that gives us the ability to achieve a full and independent life. It allows us to move freely and safely from place to place—whether it is at work, at school, or around our neighborhoods. We use our senses of hearing and touch to explore and understand the world around us. The white cane, in effect, makes our hands and arms longer, so that we can assess the situation, and move quickly and confidently. The white cane allows us to avoid obstacles, find steps and curbs, locate and step over cracks or uneven places in the sidewalk, find doorways, get into cars and buses, and much more. Please join us to celebrate.

The Youth Transition Program

How can I best help my child with disabilities succeed in school?

Routine helps.

This may surprise you, but developing good habits early will pay off in your child's future. When your child comes home from school, he or she will need time to unwind. Give your child 20 to 30 minutes to decompress and get a snack.

Now it's time to get to work! Helping your child to get organized is the first step to getting things off on the right foot. This can be accomplished by color coordinating the color of a notebook with a corresponding folder. This will allow your child the opportunity to start getting a handle on their homework. It will also teach your child a simple way to stay organized.

Another tool that your child can use is a daily planner or assignment notebook. Have each of your child's teachers initial each of the homework assignments. Your child can also use the buddy system to make sure that they get the appropriate assignments down for the day. You can also sign your child's planner indicating that you have acknowledged the assignments and that your child has completed them.

If your child has an Individualized Education Plan, IEP, it is imperative that you take an active role in helping develop your child's educational goals with the school. It also may be beneficial for your child to have an independent educational evaluation completed by a licensed professional to provide the IEP team with recommendations. It may be worth requesting a second set of books for home use. This can come in quite handy for your child so that they do not have to lug heavy textbooks back and forth from school. With the advent of virtual learning,

it is also possible that your child's textbooks and other learning materials may be accessed online through their learning platform.

As your child continues to progress through school, reading will become a large part of their homework. For those children who have difficulty reading it may be a good idea to see if the book can be downloaded into an audio format. Or another option may be to have your child read one side of the page and you could read the opposite side. This will also give you a chance to ask questions and see if your child comprehends the material. Make sure to set aside time for your child to take breaks. This will help them to refocus and get back on track. A little bit of planning goes a long way! If your child has a large assignment that is worth a large portion of their grade, it may help them divide the assignment into manageable pieces. Once everything has been completed, give your child a specific place to leave their finished assignments. They can then place the completed assignment into the corresponding folder.

If you are in need of assistance, please call us.

Independent Living Program

Covered Bridge is Cancelled; Now what?

As many have already heard the Parke County Commissioners decided to cancel the annual Covered Bridge Festival for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is one of the largest annual festivals in Indiana. For more than 60 years, millions have made their way to Parke County to enjoy the fall weather and festival attractions. Interruption of this event cuts income for many who count on the festival every year. Nevertheless, the commissioners felt they couldn't safely enforce health guidelines for festival attendees and vendors. Making sure individuals were safely social distancing and that everyone was masked would have been an impossible task.

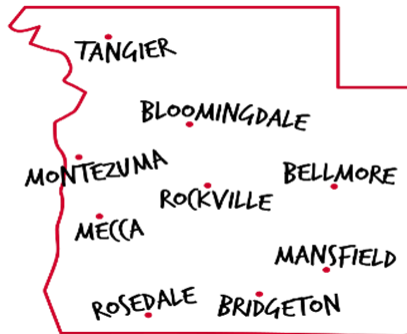
We can still celebrate these historic bridges without a festival. The Parke County Covered Bridge Festival showcases 32 of the 98 historic covered bridges in Indiana. Fourteen of these bridges were built before 1870 and represent the most common truss styles: the Burr Arch. The festival embraces six counties that surround it. They all have covered bridges in this small area: Park County (32), Putnam County (9), Fountain County (3), Vermillion County (3), Montgomery County (2), Owen County (1) and Vigo County (1).

Here's a list of their names and locations.

- Baker's Camp Bridge: in Bainbridge, Putnam County
- Big Rocky Fork Bridge: Mansfield, Parke County
- Billie Creek Bridge: Billie Creek Village, Rockville, Parke County
- Beeson Bridge: Billie Creek Village, Rockville, Parke County
- Leatherwood Station Bridge: Billie Creek Village, Rockville, Parke County
- Bowsher Ford Bridge: Tangier, Parke County
- Bridgeton Bridge (newly rebuilt): Bridgeton, Parke County
- Jeffries Ford Bridge: Bridgeton, Parke County
- Cades Mill Bridge: Steam Corner, Fountain County.
- Cataract Covered Bridge: Cataract, Owen County
- Catlin Bridge: Rockville, Parke County
- Conley's Ford Bridges: Mansfield, Parke County
- Cornstalk Bridge: Raccoon, Putnam County
- Cox Ford Bridge: Annapolis, Parke County
- Jackson Bridge: Annapolis, Parke County
- Crooks Bridge: Rockville, Parke County
- Dunbar Bridge: Greencastle, Putnam County
- Edna Collins Bridge: Clinton Falls, Putnam County
- Eugene Bridge: Eugene, Vermillion County
- Harry Evans Bridge: Coxville, Parke County.
- Houck Bridge: Manhattan, Putnam County
- Irishman Bridge: Youngstown, Vigo County
- Mansfield Bridge: Mansfield, Parke County
- Marshall Bridge: Tangier, Parke County
- McAllister Bridge: Catlin, Parke County
- Mecca Bridge: Mecca, Parke County
- Melcher Bridge: Montezuma, Parke County

- Phillips Bridge: Montezuma, Parke County
- Sim Smith Bridge: Montezuma, Parke County
- Mill Creek Bridge: Tangier, Parke County
- Narrows Bridge: Marshall, Parke County
- Neet Bridge: Catlin, Parke County
- Nevins Bridge: Catlin, Parke County
- Newport Bridge: Newport, Vermillion County
- Portland Mills Bridge: Guion, Parke County
- Rolling Stone Bridge: Bainbridge, Putnam County
- Sanatorium Bridges: Rockville, Parke County
- South Hill Bridge: Universal, Parke County
- Thorpe Ford Bridge: Rosedale, Parke County

Make a day trip and discover some of these astonishing bridges in West Central Indiana. For Hoosiers all things FALL include these historic covered bridges and features of authentic arts and crafts, fantastic food, and beautiful fall foliage. You will still be able to visit most shops that are open year round; stop in along your adventure. Take time to see all the fall colors, be safe, and don't forget to smell all the good things along the way.



The State Health Insurance Assistance Program

Ship News:

SHIP counselors offer free counseling services that help seniors understand their Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medigap (Medicare Supplemental Insurance) and Medicaid benefits. Anyone with Medicare related questions is free to call a SHIP counselor even if they are not currently enrolled in Medicare. Ship counselors assist seniors with one-on-one counseling to help them take full advantage of available benefits.

Beginning Thursday, October 15th, 2020 Medicare enrollees have 54 days, until December 7th, to review their medical and prescription drug coverage and make sure the plans they sign up for best meet their needs.

The decisions you make during this open enrollment period will take effect in January, 2021. After reviewing your options, if you decide to stay with your current coverage you don't have to do anything. But remember, with a few exceptions, this is your one chance during the year to make changes. Enrollees need to make sure to double check that the medicines they take are covered under the plan they choose. The SHIP counselor will be able to help you with this.

Please call ahead and schedule your appointment in advance as our calendars start filling up quickly. We are already booking into the first week of Open Enrollment. So, call today and make your appointment and we will see you soon!

Please feel free to call 812-298-9455 and ask for either Denise or Gloria.