

## BETTER BEYOND 50

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By Jill Pfister, For the Post-Tribune

Village Park Enrichment Center at Banta

### PROGRAM CROSSES GENERATION GAPS

Last spring, Village Park Enrichment Center at Banta joined the Family and Youth Services Bureau of Porter County to develop a program for not-for-profit radio station WVLP-LP, 98.3 FM. It was called Generation Links and was intended to create connections between generations of yesterday, today and tomorrow. At 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Ann Baas and I invite people from around the area to share information about programs trying to link multiple generations.

Last week, our guests were representatives for Project CARE, a program at Boone Grove High School that gives students the chance to learn from senior citizens and vice versa. The results were phenomenal; it's been a great experience for the young people, and they have created a virtual "center" for seniors.

Junior and senior students sign up for this noncredit class and spend the semester doing everything from playing competitive games of Scrabble to having lunch together. Field trips, crafts and exercise also are included.

Project CARE is the only high school program of its kind in Indiana.

Because of its success, it is hoped other small towns without funds to operate a full-fledged senior center will do the same for the students and seniors of their communities.

\* Village Park's annual Red Hat Tea will start at noon Saturday, Sept. 26. Area Red Hat Club members are invited to enjoy entertainment and a delicious luncheon.

Tickets are \$10, and advance purchase is required.

\* Free hearing checks will be provided from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11. Appointments are required.

\* Purdue University Cooperative Extension will present "All About Apples" during its monthly nutrition program at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17.

\* The AARP Drivers' Safety Program will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16. The cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for nonmembers. Call 873-3049 to register.

\* Sing your heart out with the Young at Heart Singers at 1 p.m. Thursdays.

\* Ready for a mini vacation? Several trips are available this fall, including Cirque du Soleil in Chicago, the 76th annual Purdue Musical Organization Christmas Show in West Lafayette, or a four-day trip to Branson Mo.

Stop by or call Village Park Banta for more details. New trips are added regularly.

\* Enjoy a nutritious lunch with friends at 11:30 a.m. daily for only \$1.50. The meals, sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Senior Nutrition Program, are provided to qualified people 60 years and older.

\* Fitness memberships are available to those 50 and older at Village Park Banta. Nu-Steps, rowing and treadmills can create a healthy workout without the crowds.

Call Village Park Banta for more details.

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