

A Bi-Monthly Update of the Most Recent Malcolm Eaton Enterprises News

## Winter 2020

Welcome to our Winter issue of News and Views!

### Consumer Spotlight



Jarrod is one of 28 people attending Malcolm Eaton Enterprises who works in our vending program. The vending program began in 2019 as a way to provide employment opportunities to people receiving services at MEE.

## Embracing New Opportunities

Jarrod has been attending Malcolm Eaton Enterprises for the last 12 years. Last year, Jarrod was presented with a new and exciting opportunity - working in our newly developed vending program.

Workers in our vending program help stock several vending machines throughout our building with drinks and snacks. They also have an opportunity to work in our "Snack Shack" during lunch. Workers in the snack shack help MEE staff sell a variety of affordably priced items including drinks, chips, ice cream, cookies, and fresh fruit.

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### In This Edition

Consumer Spotlight  
New Vehicles  
New Website  
Spirit Lounge  
2020 Calendar

### Upcoming Dates

#### March 13

Institute Day  
No Day Services

#### May 25

Memorial Day

#### June 12

Institute Day  
No Day Services

#### July 3-4

Independence Day

### Our Mission

*Malcolm Eaton Enterprises encourages and assists people with disabilities, and those who touch their lives, by promoting informed choice and creating opportunities which foster independent community living, work and play.*

## Consumer Spotlight

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Jarrod's favorite part about working in the vending program is being able to spend time helping staff.

The vending program began in 2019 as a way to create additional hourly work opportunities for people receiving services at Malcolm Eaton Enterprises. Each year, the vending program generates hundreds of hours of paid work for people with disabilities in our programs!

There are currently 28 individuals who work in the vending program.

In addition to working in the vending program, Jarrod's favorite part about going to Malcolm Eaton is going to class to work on his hand-writing.

When he is not at Malcolm Eaton, Jarrod enjoys going to dinner with his roommates and attending local dances in Freeport.

## News



Pictured are two of the three new 26-passenger vehicles that arrived at Malcolm Eaton this winter. The new vehicles are made possible by a grant program that helps provide transportation to seniors and people with disabilities.

## MEE Gets New Vehicles From IDOT

We are happy to announce that we have recently added four new vehicles to our growing fleet!

The vehicles were obtained from the State of Illinois as part of a grant program called Section 5310. This program was designed to assist non-profit agencies that provide transportation to the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Malcolm Eaton Enterprises applies for assistance from the program annually to replace vehicles that meet the State's criteria for age and mileage.

Three of the new vehicles are categorized as "Super Medium Duty" vehicles. These vehicles can transport up to 27 individuals at one time. A fourth vehicle, a five-passenger minivan, was also received.

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## Our Motto



## Our Staff



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MEE expects to receive one additional vehicle, a medium duty bus, capable of transporting up to 14 individuals, later this Spring.

Each of these vehicles replaced an existing vehicle in Malcolm Eaton’s fleet.

Currently, Malcolm Eaton Enterprises has 11 Illinois DOT vehicles in its fleet. Seven of those vehicles are model year 2016 or newer.

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises provides transportation to almost 180 individuals each day. Each year, Malcolm Eaton’s fleet collectively travels over 200,000 miles.

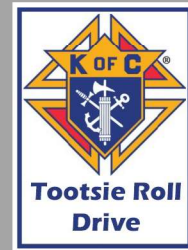


This is a look inside of the new vehicles that Malcolm Eaton acquired through the State’s Vehicle Procurement Program. The new vehicles feature some of the newest safety innovations available, ensuring that everyone is transported as safely and comfortably as possible.

## MEE Launches Website

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises launched an updated website this January. The new website (still located at [www.malcolmeaton.org](http://www.malcolmeaton.org)) has an updated, mobile-friendly, interface that is much easier to use on smartphones and tablets.

We look forward to keeping it updated with the latest news, job openings and community resources! Stop by and take a look!





The Spirit Lounge recreation area was opened in February. The Spirit Lounge provides individuals at Malcolm Eaton with a fun, safe place to play games with their friends. The project was funded with the financial support of the Don Morse Golf Invitational.

## MEE Opens “Spirit Lounge” Rec Area

Everyone at Malcolm Eaton Enterprises was treated to a surprise this February with the grand opening of the “Spirit Lounge.”

The Spirit Lounge was previously used as one of six classrooms. However, thanks to a generous donation from the Don Morse Golf Invitational, we were able to transform the room into a full arcade!

The room has a pair of retro-styled arcade games including a Joust-themed standup machine, and a Pac-Man themed cocktail table where players can play games seated. Unlike the arcade machines you may be familiar with, these games offer unlimited free play and have over 80 games built in!

The Spirit Lounge features many more recreational options including an air hockey table, foosball table, and a 65” television with a Nintendo Wii and Playstation 4. There are two additional tables where people can play board games, card games, or even do puzzles.

The Spirit Lounge has something fun for just about everyone!

The Spirit Lounge is part of a broader effort to focus more time on recreation and play.



# A Look Inside the Spirit Lounge



## The Spirit Lounge Has Something Fun For everyone!

**Top:** One part of the lounge area features a 65" flat screen television. This television is connected to a pair of video game consoles. We can also play movies, television shows or music on the TV.

**Right:** There are two full size retro-themed arcade machines in the Spirit Lounge. Each arcade machine is a full-size replica of the original. Both can accommodate two players at once. There are over 80 games programmed into the machines.



## 2020 Calendar

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| JAN 1       | New Years Day                          |
| MAR 13:     | Institute Day                          |
| MAY 25:     | Memorial Day                           |
| JUN 12:     | Institute Day                          |
| JUL 3-4:    | Independence Day                       |
| JUL 9:      | Don Morse Golf Invitational            |
| AUG 28-29:  | Freeport Area Eats and Beats           |
| SEPT 7      | Labor Day                              |
| SEPT 12:    | Bocker Customer Appreciation Day       |
| SEPT 18-19: | Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive |
| SEPT 18:    | Institute Day                          |
| NOV 26-27:  | Thanksgiving Break                     |
| DEC 11:     | Institute Day                          |
| DEC 24-31:  | Christmas Break                        |



## Eats and Beats Returns in 2020 with New Date and Location

Freeport Area Eats and Beats will be returning this year with a new date and location. The event will be held on August 28-29 at the new Downtown Freeport Art plaza located on the corner of Douglas and Chicago. This year Eats and Beats will share the weekend with another popular event, Paint the Port. Paint the Port is a family friendly event hosted by the Freeport Art Museum where hundreds of artists transform 4'x4' squares on Chicago Avenue into vibrant, fun and unique canvases of their own imagination!

By holding the events on the same weekend, we hope to create a fun weekend of art, music and food that our entire community can enjoy. Eats and Beats will feature a great selection of great local musical performers like Carson Hartog, Kris Valkema, Mr. Ed, The Ryan and Joe Trio, and the Exiles.

Headlining the event this year will be two great bands. On Friday, Hello Weekend, Chicago's top Pop/EDM cover band, will be taking the stage for a fun performance the whole family can enjoy! On Saturday, set your watches for island time as Unity the Band brings its unique reggae sound to downtown Freeport.

Eats and Beats will once again invite more than 20 local nonprofit groups to prepare a wide selection of unique food choices. All funds raised from the sale of food will be kept by the participating nonprofit groups.

Last year, the event featured a number of tasty food options including Freeport Area Church Co-op's "Mac-Daddy" mac and cheese, the Salvation Army's "Piggy Nachos," and of course, MEE's pork chops on a stick!

More information about the event will be coming soon. We hope to see you there!

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We want to thank you for your interest in Malcolm Eaton Enterprises.

Sincerely,

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Malcolm Eaton Enterprises  
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