

## The Most Recent Malcolm Eaton Enterprises News

### Spring 2025



The arrival of Spring means warmer weather and more opportunities for outdoor recreational opportunities! This year, clients will be able to access the community using two new paratransit vehicles provided by the Illinois Department of Transportation. To see how IDOT is helping agencies like MEE provide transportation to clients, please see page 2.

#### In This Edition

New Vehicles  
New CILA Opens  
Spring Cleaning  
Donations  
Staff Anniversaries

#### **Upcoming Dates**

##### **June 9**

Institute Day  
No Day Services

##### **June 17**

CILA Institute Day

##### **July 4 and 7**

Independence Day  
No Day Services

##### **September 1**

Labor Day  
No Day Services

#### **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.*



One of the two 14-passenger vehicles MEE received from IDOT this Spring.

# IDOT Program Awards MEE Two Paratransit Vehicles

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises added two new buses to its growing fleet of paratransit vehicles this Spring.

The vehicles are funded through a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Program called Section 5310. This program helps provide transportation to individuals with disabilities and the elderly.

The Illinois Department of Transportation administers this program through a process called the Consolidated Vehicle Procurement, or CVP.

Nonprofits like MEE apply for vehicles through the CVP, and IDOT purchases and awards them to organizations using funds provided by the FTA.

This year, MEE added two 14-passenger "Medium Duty" vehicles. Each of the vehicles can seat between

five and 14 passengers depending how the vehicle is configured.

As part of the agreement, MEE provides IDOT with ridership data, including the number of trips we provide each year as well as vehicle mileage. The information is used to help IDOT award vehicles to the groups and areas most in need.

In 2024, MEE provided over 60,000 trips to clients with disabilities in Freeport and surrounding communities.

This program is important to our organization as the cost of paratransit vehicles is very expensive. Each of the vehicles awarded has a unit cost of \$120,000.

MEE currently has twelve vehicles in its fleet that are funded with Section 5310 funds.

## Our Staff



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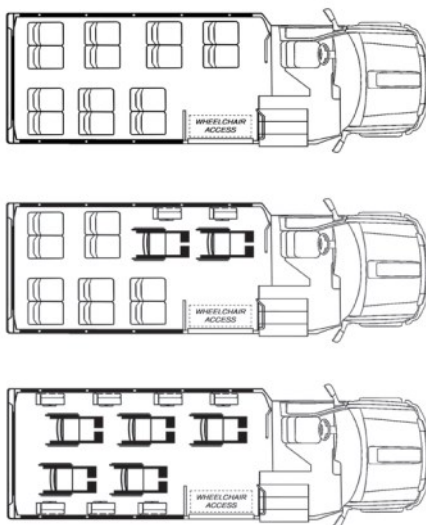


**Brian Babcock**  
Community  
Liaison

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## News



## Safety First

The vehicles that MEE received from the Section 5310 CVP program can be configured to seat anywhere between 5-14 passengers. Each vehicle has been fitted with safety and climate control features ensuring that all riders can travel safely and comfortably, no matter where they go.



Our Transportation and Production Manager, Robert Patrick, uses one of the new vehicles to take clients to Krape Park in Freeport. Last year, MEE provided over 60,000 trips to clients.

## Our Staff





Our newest residential home is scheduled to open later this Spring. The new home features an open floorplan with a spacious living room.

## MEE Opens 6th CILA Home

After months of renovations, MEE will open its sixth CILA home this Spring. The home will provide 24-hour care for five clients in Freeport.

The house has been outfitted with new furniture, appliances and electronics throughout.

The home was funded largely through the Craig Wilson Memorial Trust. The Wilson trust has helped MEE purchase and renovate five homes since 2017. Today, MEE operates six homes and serves 27 clients every day.

In addition, this home received a new roof thanks to a donation by GreenState Credit Union.

Thanks to some additional donations, renovations will continue this summer as the home adds fencing and an outdoor recreational area.



**Above:** The new CILA home features two bathrooms, including one with a low-entry shower. When renovating a home, we always prioritize the needs of the clients we serve.





## News



In an effort to work towards greater independence, many of the clients living in our residential program have goals to learn household skills such as cooking. We can think of no better place to learn how to cook than in this newly renovated kitchen. Look at all of that counter space!



Clients living in one of our residential CILA homes not only get their own room, they get to personalize their room by choosing their own paint color!

## Partners

## Freeport Eagles Donate to MEE

The Freeport Eagles Club, Aerie 679, donated \$500 to Malcolm Eaton Enterprises on Saturday April 12.

The Eagles have been generous supporters of MEE and many other local charitable groups for many years. We want to thank the Eagles for their generosity and continued support of charitable organizations in our community.

Pictured, Jimmy Rhea, Abe Kunkle, and Roger Larson of the Eagles Club along with Brian Babcock, Malcolm Eaton Enterprises.



## First Free Methodist Church Visits MEE, Donates Gift Cards

Representatives from the First Free Methodist Church in Freeport visited Malcolm Eaton Enterprises in March to generously donate gift cards that were collected by the church.

Pictured from left, Liz Wagner and Jeanna Strader of First Free Methodist Church, and Brian Babcock, MEE.

The First Free Methodist church supports many charitable organizations in our community through their mission work and partnerships.

On behalf of all of us at MEE, thank you for your generosity and support!!



Interested in making a donation? Checks can be sent to Malcolm Eaton Enterprises at 570 West Lamm. Road, Freeport, Illinois, 61032.

Donations can also be made online at [malcolmeaton.org](http://malcolmeaton.org)

# Sprucing Up For Spring



A group of clients got a chance to try their hand at painting this May. The project spanned about two weeks and covered many areas of our offices and work floor.

The clients tasked with the project worked under the supervision of staff as they removed artwork, laid down drop cloths, taped trim, and painted.

MEE provides paid work opportunities and training to about 80 clients each day. The jobs they perform include assembly, packaging, cleaning, vending, and more.



## Eats & Beats Returns August 22-23

Freeport Area Eats & Beats, a two-day food and music festival hosted by local nonprofit groups, will return this Fall on August 22-23.

The event will be held at the FAM Arts Plaza in downtown Freeport from 5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. each night.

Daily admission to the event is \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for kids 6-17, kids 5 and under are admitted free.

This year, the following nonprofit groups will be hosting food booths;

Children's Hands-On Museum of Northwest Illinois, DD Homes Network, Friends Forever Humane Society, Grace Episcopal Church, Hope Wins, Malcolm Eaton Enterprises, Norman C. Sleezer Youth Home, RAMP, Salvation Army, and Voices.

Since 2019, Eats & Beats has raised over \$55,000 for local nonprofits.

For more information and announcements, please visit the Eats & Beats page on Facebook.



# Eats & Beats Wins Tourism Award



Freeport Area Eats & Beats, a two-day food and music festival spearheaded by Malcolm Eaton Enterprises, won the Greater Freeport Partnerships inaugural Tourism Achievement Award.

The event features live music and food served by ten local nonprofit groups. Since the event began in 2019, it has raised and distributed \$55,000 for local nonprofits. The next event will be held at the FAM Arts Plaza on August 22-23.

## Anniversaries

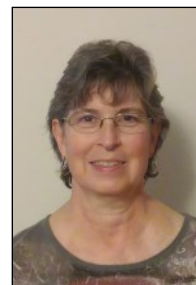
### 15 Years

**Tracey Kempel** celebrated her 15-year anniversary in April. Tracey began working for MEE in 2010 as a QIDP at MEE's West Campus. In her current position, as our Director of Program Compliance, Tracey plays an important role in making sure that MEE adheres to state guidelines and follows established standards and best practices. Tracey plays an important part not only in our clinical services, but also our grant compliance, agency policies, staff training and much more.



### 10 Years

**Renee Carmody** celebrated her ten-year anniversary in April. Renee works as a DSP in our residential CILA program. CILA DSPs work directly with clients in their homes to help them manage daily tasks and live as independently as possible. This includes teaching skills like self-care, housekeeping, meal preparation, and money management. Thanks for all that you do, Renee!





### 5 Years

**Steven Mischler** celebrated his five year anniversary in March. It would probably be easier to list the things that Steve doesn't do than to list what he does. Steve is responsible for maintaining, installing and repairing virtually everything in our building. In addition, Steve has been invaluable in helping us grow our residential program by rehabbing and renovating homes for our CILA program. We are very lucky you are here, Steve!



### 5 Years

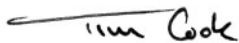
**Erik Walton** celebrated his five year anniversary in March. As a QIDP, Erik conducts assessments and helps develop individualized service plans for our clients. This includes developing goals and objectives to help each client work towards greater independence. Erik works with clients every day, monitoring and tracking their progress towards their goals, and to suggesting revisions to the service plan when appropriate. Thanks for all that you do Erik!



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

Sincerely,



Tim Cook  
Executive Director  
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