

BETTER BEYOND 50

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By Jill Pfister, For the Post-Tribune

Village Park Enrichment Center at Banta

MANY WILL KNOW ANONYMOUS NOMINEE

Since coming to Village Park Enrichment Center at Banta in May, I have had the pleasure and honor of becoming acquainted with many unique and wonderful people.

I have been amazed at the generosity and kindness of the people who go above and beyond to support the center and help their fellow members.

When the time came to choose this year's nominee for the Honored Senior Award for Senior Day at the Porter County Fair, I faced a difficult decision. There are many kind, devoted people who have been a part of the center for many years, and the ones who deserve the recognition are the ones who shy away from it.

I believe strongly in letting people know how they have made a difference in the lives of those around them. Too often, these opportunities are missed and we never have a chance to express our appreciation.

That is why I chose to honor a member of Village Park, despite the fact he asked to be passed over for another member who, in his opinion, was more deserving.

This very special person has been a member of Village Park since 1993. He has been a supporter, an advocate, a spokesman and volunteer.

Very few days go by that he is not helping with the lunch program, organizing the pinochle group or singing with the Young at Heart singers.

And, at the age of 91, he has earned respect for his willingness to speak his mind and speak out about issues that affect Village Park members. I am sure this is a trait that has carried over from a long career of providing for individuals with special needs.

Out of respect, I will not mention this person's name. But anyone who has come in contact with him will know who he is and agree he is the right choice for this year's Honored Senior Award.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT VILLAGE PARK ENRICHMENT CENTER AT BANTA

* The annual Hawaiian luau and concert will be at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5. The Hawaiian-themed menu will be followed by entertainment featuring Peter Oprisko. Tickets are available at Village Park.

* 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 of age and older.

* Fitness memberships are available to people 50 years of age and older at Village Park. Nu-Steps, water rowing and treadmills are available for a healthy workout without the crowds. Call Village Park for details.

* Bridge, anyone? Village Park will start a bridge club when enough people have signed up. Anyone interested in joining should call 462-1301.

* Line Dancing for all skill levels takes place at 1 p.m. each Wednesday.

* Sing your heart out with the Young at Heart Singers at 1 p.m. each Thursday.

